



Neetu's take

Actor Neetu Chandra shares how actors from non-industry backgrounds face challenges in Bollywood

LEISURE | P2



Iran-US rift

US President Trump claims Iran admits 'state of collapse' while seeking to reopen Hormuz

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Indices decline

Sensex & Nifty buckle under selling pressure amid a sharp rally in oil prices and foreign fund outflows

BUSINESS | P11



Golden lift

Indian lifters impressed in Apia, Samoa, winning four gold on Day-II of the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Championships

SPORTS | P12

UAE decides to quit OPEC, OPEC+ May 1

The UAE has decided to exit both OPEC and OPEC+ after reassessing its energy strategy and production goals. This means UAE is no longer bound by quotas. The Emirates aims to increase its capacity from 3.4 million barrels per day by 2027, according to reports. As the world's largest oil importers, India and China generally benefit when major producers break away from price-fixing cartels, claim experts. If UAE's exit leads to a 'price war' or increased global supply, India's import bill would significantly decrease. India currently sources about 70% of its crude oil from OPEC

But it has been increasingly trying to leverage its own foreign policy in the Middle East that has contradicted some positions of Riyadh over time - particularly as Saudi Arabia began to directly challenge the Emirates in trying to draw foreign investments as the kingdom opened up under assertive Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"This decision reflects UAE's long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile, including accelerated investment in domestic energy production, and reinforces its commitment to a responsible, reliable, and forward-looking role in global energy markets," the UAE said. "Following its exit, the UAE will continue to act responsibly, bringing additional production to market in a gradual and measured manner, aligned with demand and market conditions," the country added.

Saudi Arabia long has been considered a heavyweight of OPEC, an oil cartel based in Vienna that has seen some of its market power wane as the US increased its production of crude oil in recent years.



COOLING OFF: Mahouts bathe Soman, an 85-year-old elephant from Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, in Neyyar Reservoir on a hot summer day, in Thiruvananthapuram, Tuesday PTI PHOTO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, April 28: The UAI announced Tuesday that it will leave the oil cartel OPEC and its wider OPEC+ group effective May 1, a move rumoured for some time as the Emirates chafed under production restrictions and had increasingly frosty relations with neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The UAE had been a longtime member of OPEC, first through its emirate of Abu Dhabi in 1967 and later when the UAE became

3 CHILDREN KILLED IN PICKUP VAN CRASH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Titilagarh, April 28: Three minor boys were killed, and as many others seriously injured when a pickup van in which they were travelling in overturned in Bolangir district Tuesday, police said.

The accident took place near Marlad Square in Titilagarh Tuesday when the vehicle carrying some children was moving from a marriage site to a nearby market to fetch drinking water, said Titilagarh IIC Manoj Kumar Munda.

Police have seized the vehicle and launched an investigation. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep grief over the death of the three children and announced ex gratia of ₹4 lakh for the deceased's families from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

RUPEE SLIDES 53P TO CLOSE AT 94.68

Mumbai: Rupee depreciated 53 paise to close at 94.68 against US dollar Tuesday, as elevated crude oil prices and unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiments. Forex traders said rupee has already weakened quite sharply, factoring in the likely widening of the Current Account Deficit (CAD) and volatile capital flows.



The signs don't look good, sir. Mr Kejriwal has started quoting Gandhi ji again

Remote-operated grids in state soon

CM lays stone for ₹1,647cr power grid project in Keonjhar, vows to transform the mineral-rich district into 'Golden Keonjhar'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Highlighting that Odisha's power sector is undergoing a major transformation through technology-driven infrastructure upgrades, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said that 70 grid stations across the state will soon be remotely operated, enabling real-time fault detection and immediate resolution.

The CM said this during his visit to Keonjhar where he laid the foundation stone for a 420/220 kV grid substation at Uchhabali in Barbil area, a project estimated at ₹1,647 crore, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das.

During the event, Majhi announced an ambitious vision to develop Keonjhar as the "second Jamshedpur of Eastern India." He also laid foundation stone for five new transmission lines along with the substation project.

The initiative is expected to benefit over 7,17,000 consumers across Keonjhar Sadar, Telkoi, Jhumpura, Joda, and Barbil regions by ensuring reliable and uninterrupted power supply. Emphasising the importance of quality electricity for a developed society, the CM reiterated the government's commitment to turning mineral-rich Keonjhar into a "Golden Keonjhar."

Majhi stated that the region would be integrated into a robust power network through 400 kV LILO lines and connections to TTPS-Joda and Turumunga-Rairangpur lines. This would help balance industrial and domestic electricity demand.

In a significant move to reduce power outages, Majhi announced the implementation of "hotline maintenance," a system that allows repair work



to be carried out without interrupting power supply. Upgradation of Barbil and Palaspanga grids has been prioritised under this plan.

On modernisation, Majhi said Odisha is moving toward digitisation in power management. The newly constructed State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) at Mancheswar will act as the "heart" of the state's electricity system. Additionally, under State Transmission Asset Management System (STAMS) project, 70 grid stations will be remotely monitored for faster fault detection and resolution.

Discussing future infrastructure, he revealed that Odisha

plans to build 34 new grid substations by 2036. For the first time, 765 kV grids are planned in Bhubaneswar, Jajpur, Jhar-suguda, and Gajapati districts. He noted that the number of electricity consumers in the state has grown from 1.6 million in 2000 to over 10 million today.

Reaffirming his commitment, Majhi said, "The responsibility for Keonjhar's development is mine." He also shared plans for the Barbil ring road and a proposed mega steel plant, mentioning that Japan's JFE Steel has been invited to set up a facility in the district to produce advanced electrical steel.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo also addressed the gathering, assuring expansion of power infrastructure across the state. He stated that the new grid would not only benefit Keonjhar but also extend power supply to Sundargarh, Angul, and nearby regions. The government aims to provide electricity to all remote areas and eliminate power shortages in Odisha by 2028.

AI, IndiGo, SpiceJet seek ATF price relief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 28: Air India (AI), IndiGo and SpiceJet have told the government that the country's airline industry is under extreme stress and on the verge of "stopping operations", as they sought revision in ATF pricing and financial support.

The West Asia turmoil has pushed up oil prices, and airspace restrictions have increased airlines' operating costs, especially on long-haul routes. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) accounts for around 40% of a carrier's operational expenses. Against this backdrop, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has written to the civil aviation ministry, seeking steps to extend the same fuel pricing mechanism uniformly across both domestic and international operations as was done in the past with the establishment of the crack band.

With an unprecedented rise in jet fuel prices and exorbitant crack/differential between crude and ATF, the federation



said the operation of airlines is being challenged in totality. "... any ad hoc pricing (domestic vs international) and/or irrational increase in the price of ATF will result in unsurmountable losses for airlines and will lead to grounding of aircraft, resulting in cancellation of flights," the federation, which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, said.

"In order to survive, sustain and continue operation, we request your urgent intervention for immediate and meaningful financial support to tide over the current situation," it said in a letter April 26.

Also, the airlines have sought temporary deferment of excise duty on ATF, which is at 11%.

MUMBAI MAN ASKS RELIGION, STABS TWO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 28: The stabbing of two security guards by a knife-wielding "self-radicalised" man appears to be a 'lone wolf' attack, while initial probe showed he assaulted the duo after allegedly asking their religion and telling them to recite 'Kalma' in Thane district, an official said Tuesday.

Investigators have found a note referring to 'lone wolf' attacks and the Islamic State terrorist group at the house of the man, Zaib Zubair Ansari, 31, who was removed to the custody of Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) till May 4 by a Thane court a day after his arrest.

The 31-year-old accused, who had lived in US for several years, seemed to have un-

dergone "self-radicalisation", Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said.

Prima facie, the incident appeared to be a 'lone wolf' attack, and Ansari allegedly asked the guards at an under-construction building site in Mira Road area to recite the 'Kalma' (Islamic declaration of faith) before stabbing them early Monday, an ATS official said. Ansari had returned to India from the US in 2020, the ATS official said.

One of the victims claimed the accused asked them to recite the 'Kalma', and when they could not, he stabbed them with a knife, causing them serious injuries, as per the official. The Maharashtra government handed over the probe into the incident to the ATS Monday evening.

Orangutan uses canopy bridge to cross road

ASSOCIATED PRESS

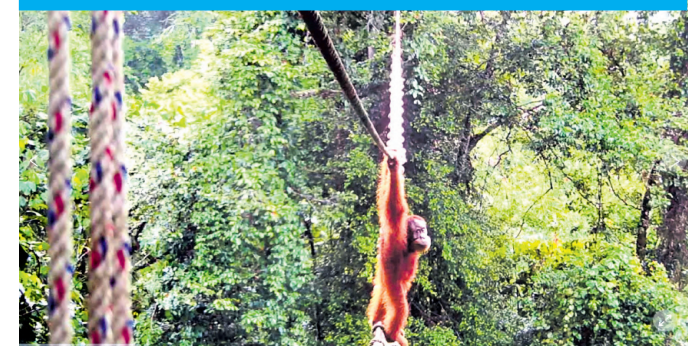
Jakarta, April 28: A Sumatran orangutan has been filmed for the first time using a human-made canopy bridge to cross a public road on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, conservationists said Monday.

Rapid development has been shrinking the jungle habitat of the critically endangered species, while fatal conflicts with people are on the rise.

The fleeting scene, captured by a motion-sensitive camera, showed a young Sumatran orangutan pause at the forest's edge, grip a rope with deliberate care and step out into open air. Halfway across, it stopped, casting a glance down at the road below. Moments later, it crossed.

Conservationists said that it marks the first documented case of an Sumatra orangutan using an artificial canopy

FIRST DOCUMENTED CASE



bridge to cross a public road that had divided its habitat.

"This was the moment we had been waiting for," Erwin Alamsyah Siregar, executive director of Indonesian conservation group Tangguh Hutan Khatulistiwa, or TaHuKah, told The Associated Press. "We are very grateful that the canopy here provides benefits for orangutan conservation efforts."

He said the bridge spans Lag-an-Pagindar road in Pakpak Bharat district, a vital corridor connecting remote villages to schools, healthcare and government services.

But the road also cuts directly through prime orangutan habitat, splitting an estimated 350 orangutans into two isolated forest areas: the Siranggas Wildlife Reserve and the Siku-

lapping Protection Forest. When the road was upgraded in 2024, the gap in the forest canopy widened, eliminating natural crossings for tree-dwelling wildlife.

"Development was necessary for people," Siregar said. "But without intervention, it would have left orangutans trapped on either side."

TaHuKah, working with the Sumatran Orangutan Society, or SOS, and local and national government agencies, proposed a simple solution: rope bridges suspended between trees, allowing arboreal animals to cross above traffic.

Five canopy bridges were installed each with a camera trap, carefully positioned after surveys of orangutan nests, forest cover and animal movement. The structures were designed to support the orangutan's weight - no small feat for the world's largest tree-dwelling mammal.

leisure

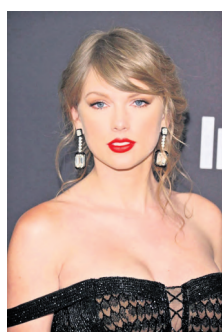


STYLES, KRAVITZ GET ENGAGED

Singer-actor Harry Styles and actress Zoe Kravitz have exchanged rings, as the couple is now engaged, and onto the next chapter. Styles, 32, and Kravitz, 37, have shared their engagement news with "a small circle", and that the actress has been showing off her ring to friends

SWIFT FILES TRADEMARKS TO PROTECT AGAINST AI CLONING

Pop icon Taylor Swift is safeguarding her interests as an artist. The singer-songwriter has taken a new legal step seemingly aimed at protecting her identity in the age of AI, following in the footsteps of actor Matthew McConaughey. Swift's company recently filed three trademark applications with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesha advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.

TAURUS
Ganesha sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do.

GEMINI
The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch - whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

CANCER
Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesha needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO
Even slender shoulders gain the strength when the time comes to handle responsibilities. And so shall you, says Ganesha, as today brings with it an increased amount of responsibility. You may find yourself drained of all your energy by the end of it. After all, handling important tasks is a tough thing.

VIRGO
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesha. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
"Efforts made are never in vain, even when they may seem otherwise". Let this be your motto for the day. Today may not seem to be the most productive day, especially when it comes to interviews. You may feel like the rook in the chess set - sometimes coming back to square one despite making many moves forward to the ultimate checkmate! So remember, persistence is the key, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesha. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesha, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

CAPRICORN
Ganesha can hear the wedding bells. There is all the likelihood that you will find your perfect match today and will let him/her know about your feelings, says Ganesha. Your family means the world to you and you will be more expressive about this today than you have been in the past few years. In fact, your warm feelings will be reciprocated in equal measure and you will be showered with love - unconditional and unrestrained.

AQUARIUS
Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesha says, you receive as much as you give.

PISCES
A highly productive day awaits you. You will be driven to succeed, and filled with energy and enthusiasm to achieve your goals. Meetings with your superiors ought to yield some much anticipated results, says Ganesha.

Celebrating MJ on World Dance Day

In Michael Jackson's world, dance was not merely performance, it was expression, innovation, and storytelling rolled into one

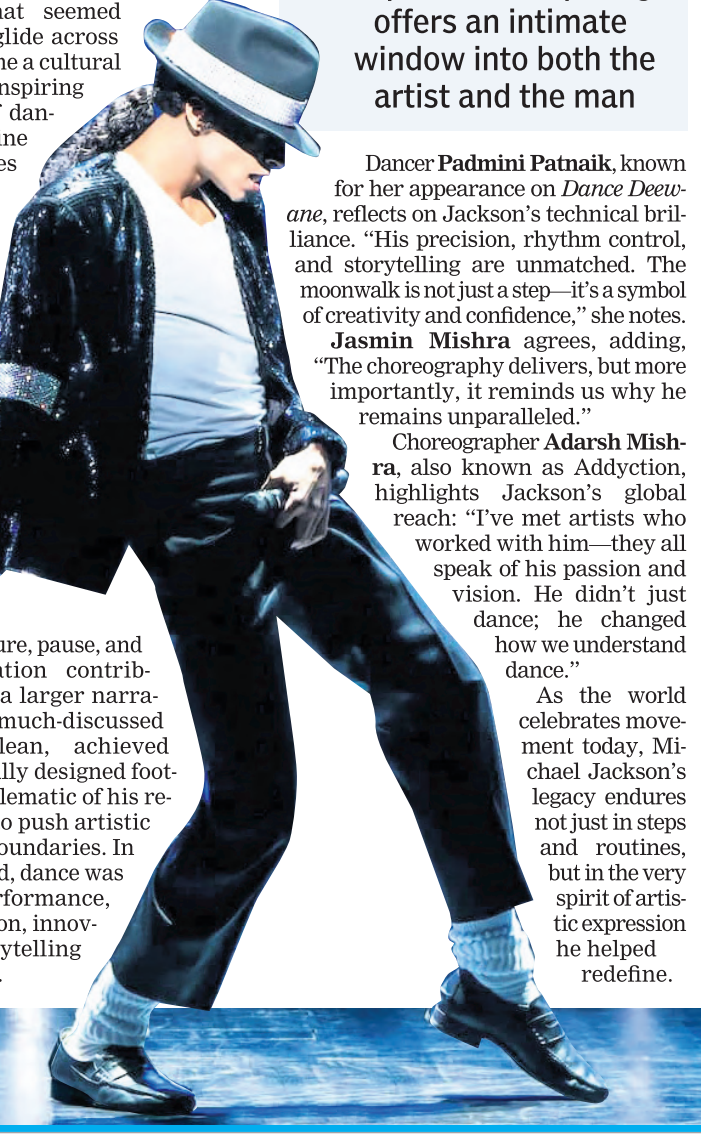
Every year, World Dance Day turns the spotlight on movement as a universal language. Yet, few artists have shaped that language as profoundly or as permanently as Michael Jackson. Decades after he first stepped onto the global stage, Jackson's influence continues to define how the world sees, feels, and performs dance.

This year, World Dance Day carries added resonance with the global release of *Michael* April 24. Directed by Antoine Fuqua and featuring Jaafar Jackson in the titular role, the film revisits the life behind the legend. It traces his journey from his early years with the Jackson 5 to his complicated relationship with his father, Joe Jackson, and his eventual emergence as a global icon. For city-based dancers and lifelong fans, *Michael* offers an intimate window into both the artist and the man. Choreographer Dibya Samal recalls being inspired the first time he watched *Smooth Criminal*. "His gravity-defying moves pushed me to pursue dance seriously," he says, calling the film "a gift for fans," even as he hopes a sequel will delve deeper into unexplored chapters of Jackson's life.

From the moment he debuted the moonwalk during *Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever* in 1983, Jackson transformed performance into spectacle. What seemed like a simple glide across the stage became a cultural phenomenon, inspiring generations of dancers to reimagine the possibilities of movement.

For city-based dancers and lifelong fans, Michael, the biopic of the Pop King, offers an intimate window into both the artist and the man

What set Jackson apart was not just technique, but intention. His movements carried emotional depth; each ges-



Dancer Padmini Patnaik, known for her appearance on *Dance Deewane*, reflects on Jackson's technical brilliance. "His precision, rhythm control, and storytelling are unmatched. The moonwalk is not just a step—it's a symbol of creativity and confidence," she notes. Jasmin Mishra agrees, adding, "The choreography delivers, but more importantly, it reminds us why he remains unparalleled."

Choreographer Adarsh Mishra, also known as Addyction, highlights Jackson's global reach: "I've met artists who worked with him—they all speak of his passion and vision. He didn't just dance; he changed how we understand dance."

As the world celebrates movement today, Michael Jackson's legacy endures not just in steps and routines, but in the very spirit of artistic expression he helped redefine.

Neetu's take on nepotism

Mumbai: Actress Neetu Chandra recently shared her perspective on the forever ongoing debate over nepotism and the concept of privilege and non-privileged backgrounds of actors. The actress, in an exclusive conversation with this news agency, opened up sharing a refreshing and honest perspective on it all.

She stated that she considers herself lucky to not belong to any privilege or Bollywood family, saying that way she has nothing to lose or any pressure of carrying forward a legacy.

"I feel it's a good thing that I come from a non-privileged, non-film background. I will tell you why, I don't have a legacy to carry forward. I don't have anything to lose."

She added, "Let's be honest, nepotism will always exist. It's just like how a doctor would want their child to become a doctor. It's the same in Bollywood and every industry."

"There is a big difference between being privileged and non-privileged, having a film background or coming from a non-film background. I come from a non-film background and not from a privileged class. That's why I have to fight every single time. And honestly, everyone has to go through their own struggles."



ODIA CINEMA @90 Fraternity seeks Odia Film Day tag

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Several leading artists, filmmakers, and technicians got together Tuesday here at Gitagobinda Sadan to mark the 90 years of Odia cinema. They reflected on its legacy, discussed future possibilities, and urged the state government to officially recognise the occasion as "Odia Film Day."

The milestone gained added significance as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi paid tribute to the industry, calling it "a golden moment in the history of Odisha's cultural pride and identity." In a message, he recalled that the release of *Sita Bibaha*, the first Odia talkie, on this day in 1936 marked the beginning of a cinematic journey that continues to inspire generations.



Highlighting the industry's evolution, Majhi said Odia cinema has overcome multiple challenges while showcasing the state's art, language, and traditions with a distinct voice. "It is not merely entertainment, but a mirror of society and a strong medium for cultural awakening," he noted.

At the artists' meet, participants flagged per-

sistent concerns, particularly the shortage of cinema halls despite nine decades of filmmaking. They stressed the need for improved infrastructure and greater opportunities as the industry gains national visibility by 2026.

The event was attended by prominent figures including Sabyasachi Mohapatra and Siddhanta Mahapatra, along

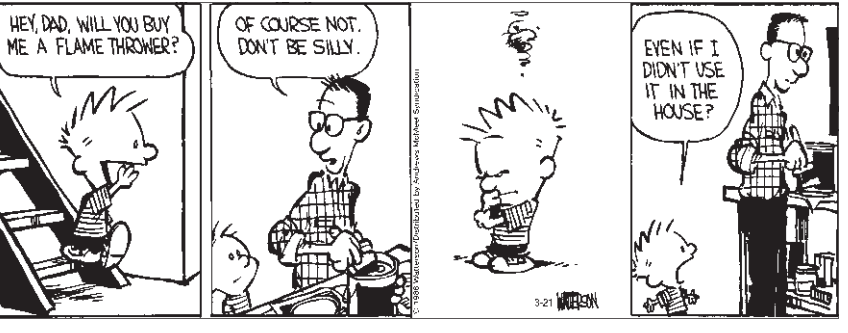
with other senior members of the film fraternity and organiser Sukanta Rath. A documentary screening by Surya Deo and musical performances by noted singers added to the celebratory mood.

Participants expressed hope that the government will soon accord official "Film Day" status, recognising the growing cultural significance of Odia cinema.

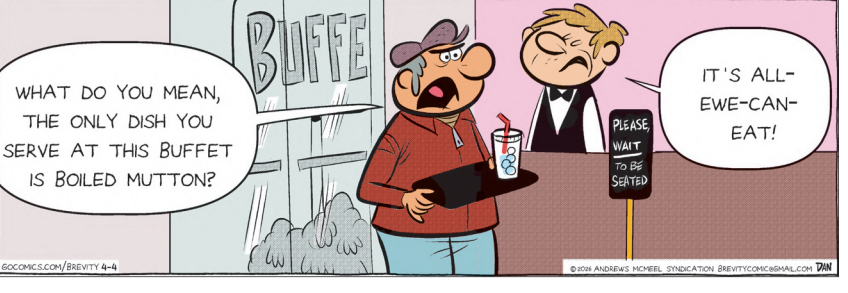
PEANUTS



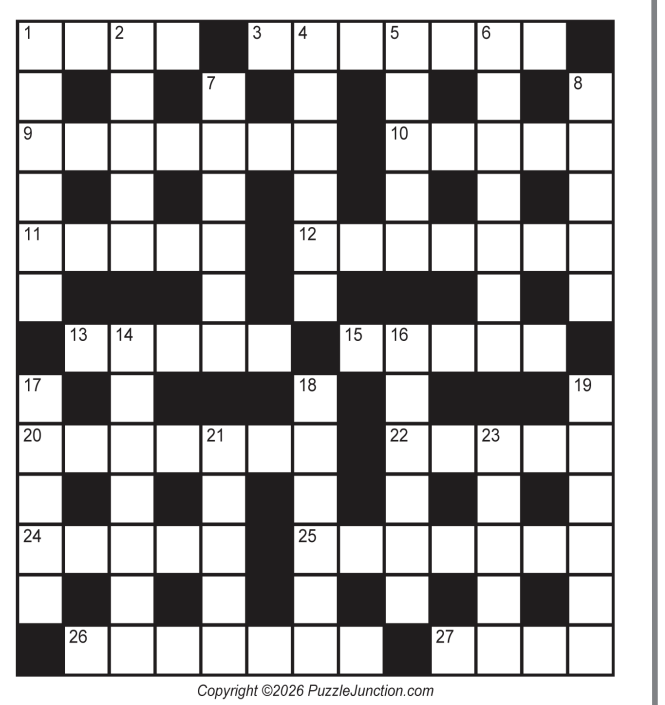
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



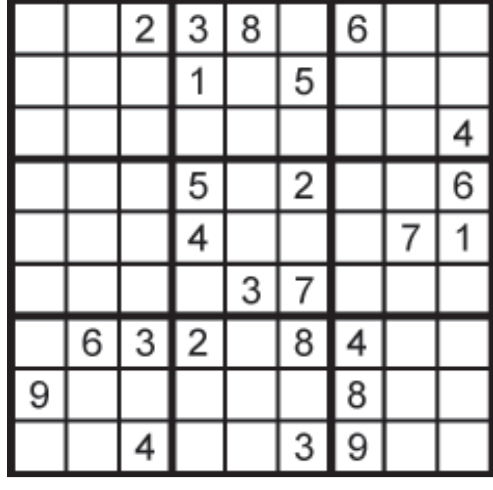
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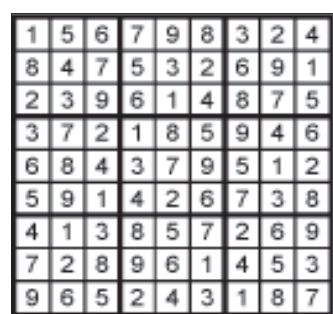
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|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Across | 24 Sensational | 7 Stringed instrument |
| 1 Glitch | 25 Enumerate | 8 Sacred hymn |
| 3 Bit-by-bit | 26 Beryl variety | 14 Connoption fit |
| 9 Bridge type | 27 Flock | 16 Heaps |
| 10 Expels | | 17 Sufficient |
| 11 Gate fixture | Down | 18 Antenna |
| 12 Shirts and pants, e.g. | 1 Horse hangout, at times | 19 Fresh and animated |
| 13 Harsh | 2 English race place | 21 Hot or cold drink |
| 15 Reef material | 4 Landing strip | 23 <i>Shoot 'Em Up</i> actor Owen |
| 20 Eyeglass | 5 Wilt | |
| 22 Designer's concern | 6 Graz locale | |

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

Heatwave relief centres soon

Bhubaneswar, April 28: As Odisha continues to reel under intense and prolonged heatwave conditions, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari Tuesday said the government is working on establishing heatwave relief centres across high-temperature zones to protect citizens. "We are working to establish heatwave relief centres across high-temperature zones. These centres, modelled on cyclone and flood shelters, will provide temporary relief to people exposed to extreme heat," he said. The minister said the centres will offer drinking water, shaded resting spaces, ORS packets

Protect vulnerable groups, Odisha told
New Delhi: Pointing to the disproportionate impact of the rising frequency and intensity of heatwaves on marginalised sections, the NHRC Tuesday asked Odisha, 20 other states and Delhi to take advance action to protect vulnerable populations. Meanwhile, at 45.3 degrees Celsius, Jharsuguda was the second-hottest place in the country and the hottest in the state. **MORE P5**



SHOWDOWN TODAY: Women officials depart for polling stations Tuesday on the eve of voting in the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections (Report P8)

March IIP growth slips to 5-month low of 4.1%

New Delhi, April 28: India's industrial production growth decelerated to a five-month low of 4.1 per cent in March on account of subdued manufacturing growth and almost flat expansion in the power sector amid the West Asia crisis, according to official data released Tuesday. The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), expanded by 3.9 per cent in March 2025, an official statement said. The National Statistics Office (NSO) revised the industrial production growth for February 2026 to 5.1 per cent from the provisional estimate of 5.2 per cent released last month. The previous low of IIP growth was recorded at 0.5 per cent expansion in October 2025. The NSO data further showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth remained subdued at 4.3 per cent in March 2026 compared to 4 per cent in the year-ago month. Mining production growth improved to 5.5% from a meagre growth of 1.2% per cent recorded a year ago. Power generation grew marginally by 0.8% in March against 7.5% expansion in the year-ago period.

NSO DATA

- ▶ Manufacturing sector's output growth remained subdued at 4.3% in March 2026 compared to 4% in March 2025, with 14 out of 23 industry groups recording a positive growth
- ▶ Mining production growth improved to 5.5% from a meagre growth of 1.2% recorded a year ago
- ▶ Power generation grew marginally by 0.8% in March against 7.5% expansion in the year-ago period

In the manufacturing sector, 14 out of 23 industry groups have recorded a positive growth in March 2026 over March 2025, it stated. The top three positive contributors for March 2026 are 'Manufacture of basic metals' (8.6 per cent), 'Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (18.1 per cent) and 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (11.2 per cent). In the industry group 'Manufacture of basic metals', item groups 'MS slabs', 'Flat products of Alloy Steel' and 'HR coils and sheets of mild steel' have shown significant contribution in growth. As per the use-based classification, the indices stand at 173.3 for primary goods, 156.2 for capital goods, 181.4 for intermediate goods and 229.0 for infrastructure/ construction goods for March 2026. Further, the indices for consumer durables and consumer non-durables stand at 146.2 and 150.6, respectively.

Skeleton shocker: Aid pours in; CM orders probe

Bhubaneswar, April 28: A video clip showing a 50-year-old man carrying his sister's skeletal remains from a graveyard to a bank branch in Keonjhar as proof of her death in order to withdraw money from her account Monday triggered widespread condemnation, prompting the district administration to step in to help the tribal man and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to order an RDC probe into the incident Tuesday. R&DM Minister Suresh Pujari said there was a "lack of humanitarian approach" and that the government would en-

sure strict action against the officials responsible, while the Opposition took potshots at the BJP dispensation. In a social media post, the BJD said the sight of the man carrying his sister's skeleton on his shoulder in the CM's district was "unimaginable, crossing all limits of cruelty". In a post on X, the state unit of Congress said, "This is truly unfortunate. Such harassment by bank officials must stop." Sources said Jitu Munda of Dianali Chaturisahi had been trying to withdraw ₹19,300 from the account of his sister, Kalara Munda, maintained at Malipasi branch of Odisha Grameen







Bank (OGB). Kalara, 56, died in January this year and was buried as per local customs. However, bank officials refused to release the funds, stating that the account holder had died, and asked Jitu to produce a death certificate and other documents as proof of her demise. Being illiterate

and unfamiliar with banking procedures, Jitu failed to understand the requirements and returned disappointed. A hapless Jitu then exhumed Kalara's skeletal remains and carried them in a sack on his shoulder for 4 km to the bank to prove her death to officials Monday. A video of the incident has since gone viral on social media. OGB's sponsor, Indian Overseas Bank, Tuesday clarified that "bank officials did not demand the physical presence of the deceased customer for withdrawal". They sought valid documents, including a death certificate. Following criticism, the

Keonjhar administration provided ₹30,000 to Jitu from the District Red Cross Fund. Later, the tehsildar coordinated with the bank authorities and handed over ₹19,402, including interest, to Jitu. The administration also assisted Jitu in applying for a death certificate and legal heir certificate. "The medical officer has provided the death certificate," the district Collector said. Later in the evening, the CM, who was on a visit to the district during the day, directed the Northern Division Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) to initiate a probe into the incident.

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ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କର ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବାର ଏକ ପ୍ରୟାସ...

- ଶିଶୁବାଚିକାଠାରୁ ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମଗ୍ର ଶିକ୍ଷା ଯୋଜନାରେ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- “ନୌଲିକ ସାକ୍ଷରତା ଓ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଜ୍ଞାନ” ଦକ୍ଷତା ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ମନ୍ତ୍ରାଳୟ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ “ନିପୁଣ ଭାରତ ମିଶନ” ଅଧୀନରେ “ନିପୁଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା-ନିପୁଣ ଭାରତ” କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପ୍ରଚଳନ ।
- ପିଏମଶ୍ରୀ ଅଧୀନରେ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ୭୨୨ ଗୋଟି ସରକାରୀ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୀତି-୨୦୨୦ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ପ୍ରଥମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀରୁ ଦଶମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସମସ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ “ସମଗ୍ର ଶିକ୍ଷା”, “ଗଙ୍ଗାଧର ମେହେର ଶିକ୍ଷା ମାନକ ବୃଦ୍ଧି” ଯୋଜନା ଏବଂ “ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ପରିଧାନ ଯୋଜନା” ଅଧୀନରେ ପୋଷାକ ବିତରଣ ।
- “ଆସ ସ୍କୁଲ ଯିବା ଅଭିଯାନ” ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଅଧାରୁ ପାଠ ଛାଡ଼ିଥିବା ଏବଂ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଆଦୌ ନାମ ନ ଲେଖାଇଥିବା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସ୍ରୋତରେ ସାମିଲ କରିବା ।
- ଭିନ୍ନସମ ଶିକ୍ଷାର୍ଥୀମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଓ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ସ୍ତରରେ ୩୧୨ଟି ସମ୍ବଳ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଖୋଲାଯାଇ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଭିନ୍ନସମତା ଆକଳନ, ତାଲିମ, ଥେରାପି ଓ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ।
- ଆଦିବାସୀ ଅଧ୍ୟୁଷିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତିର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିଜ ମାତୃଭାଷାରେ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ‘ମାତୃଭାଷାଭିତ୍ତିକ ବହୁଭାଷୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ’ ପ୍ରଚଳନ ।
- ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଥିବା ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ଗୁଣାବଳୀର ପରିପ୍ରକାଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ “ସୁରଭି” କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆୟୋଜିତ ।

OIPR-27001/27068/2/26-27/0003

2 arrested from Bengal in ₹5.14cr cyber fraud case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: In a major breakthrough, the cyber wing of the State Crime Branch has arrested two persons from Darjeeling district of West Bengal in connection with an alleged ₹5.14 crore online investment fraud involving a fake trading platform.



The arrested accused have been identified as Kiran Gurung 55, a resident of Tiumal Para, Siliguri Bazar in Darjeeling district, and Randheer Kumar Ray, 46, a resident of Gurung Basti near Kali Mandir, Pradhan Nagar, in the same district.

The case was registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station under the Odisha CID, Crime Branch, April 9, 2025. It was filed under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, related to cheating, fraud and identity theft.

According to the complaint, the victim was lured by unidentified cyber fraudsters into investing in the stock market through a fake online trading platform that promised unusually high returns. Believing the claims, the victim transferred a total of ₹5.14 crore to multiple bank accounts over a period of 20 days, beginning March 17, 2025.

To gain the victim's trust, the fraudsters initially showed fake profits on the platform. However, when the victim tried to withdraw the returns, the requests were denied and additional payments were demanded. Realising the fraud,

the victim reported the matter to the Cyber Crime Helpline (1930), which led to the blocking of suspect accounts, and later lodged a formal complaint with the Cyber Crime Police Station in Cuttack.

Following registration of the case, an investigation team led by Inspector Rajakishore Behera carried out a detailed probe by analysing financial transactions, digital evidence and the money trail. This led to a raid in Darjeeling, where the two accused were identified and apprehended.

Investigators revealed that one of the accused was linked to a joint bank account used in the first layer of the fraud network, which received ₹49.1 lakh out of the total defrauded amount.

During the raid, police seized several incriminating items, including mobile phones, SIM cards, Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, and other documents believed to have been used in executing the fraud. Both accused were

Cong seeks probe, alleges PESA, FRA breach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: The Congress Tuesday slammed the Centre over protests by tribals against the bauxite mining project in Sijimali and demanded an independent inquiry into the unrest.

It also asked the government to ensure that Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 and Forest Rights Act, 2006, are implemented both in letter and spirit.

Congress general secretary in-charge (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said, "Odisha is no stranger to public protests by tribal and other communities when mining projects that

SIJIMALI UNREST



have major ecological impacts are sought to be bulldozed, bypassing all legal and constitutional safeguards."

"The latest in this depressing saga involves a bauxite mining

project with associated infrastructure in Sijimali in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts," Ramesh said on X.

There appear to have been serious violations of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, he claimed.

Rights of affected individuals, local communities, and local institutions like Gram Sabhas guaranteed by these laws passed unanimously by Parliament have reportedly been deliberately diluted or even bypassed, Ramesh said.

When agitation inevitably took place a few days back, the police used disproportion-

ate force in a targeted manner against Scheduled Tribe communities, especially women, thus violating the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, he alleged.

This has happened in a state where the chief minister himself is from a tribal community, Ramesh said.

"The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs is also from Odisha. He should demonstrate greater sensitivity and order an independent inquiry into the unrest at Sijimali and ensure that PESA, 1996 and FRA, 2006 are implemented both in letter and spirit in a credible, transparent and participatory manner," he said.

Cyber security conclave at SOA from today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) will organise a two-day national conclave on 'Cyber Security, AI and Emerging Technologies—Securing Tomorrow's Intelligent Systems' here from April 29 to 30.

The conclave, being organised by SOA in association with the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)-SOA Foundation, aims to foster collaboration, innovation and policy alignment to strengthen India's resilience against evolving cyber threats while promoting the responsible and ethical adoption of Artificial Intelligence.

Through this conclave, lead-

ers from government, industry, academia and defence sectors will engage in a strategic dialogue on building a secure and intelligent digital future.

"It aspires to contribute meaningfully towards creating a trusted, self-reliant and future-ready digital ecosystem for the country," said Manas Kumar Mallick, Director, AIC-SOA Foundation, at a news conference held Tuesday.

A Memorandum of Understanding will also be signed during the conclave between NK Goyal, President of the Cybersecurity Association of India, and university Vice-Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda for strategic collaboration in the cybersecurity and AI ecosystem.

Odisha to reuse 50 pc of used water by 2036

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The state government Tuesday came up with a new policy with an aim to reuse at least 50 per cent of used water by 2036, when Odisha will complete 100 years of formation.

The Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department has notified the Policy on Reuse of Treated Used Water (TUW) of Urban Odisha, 2026.

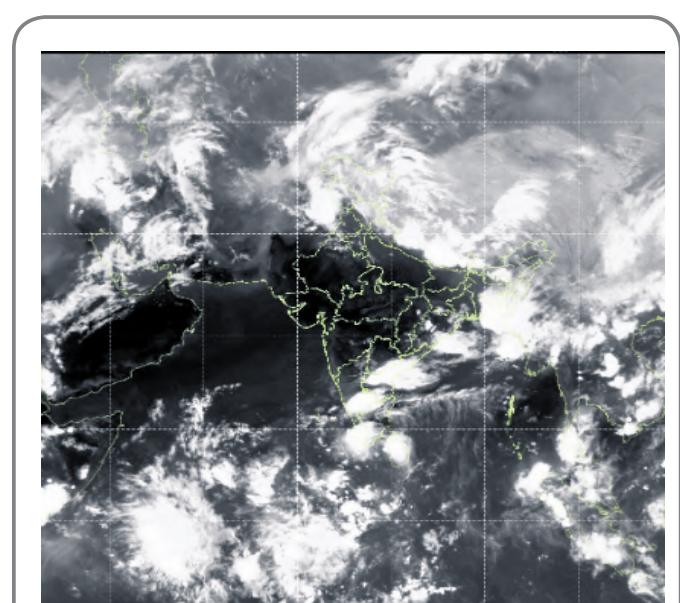
In a move towards ensuring water sustainability and advancing a circular economy in urban development, the policy provides a comprehensive roadmap to transform used water from a waste by-product into a valuable economic resource, addressing the growing seasonal and spatial water stress across urban centres of the state, said a statement issued by the H&UD department.

It sets ambitious and time-bound targets, including achieving 100 per cent collection, conveyance, and treatment of used water across all urban local bodies (ULBs) by 2030, ensuring at least 20 per cent reuse of treated water by the same year, and scaling up reuse to a minimum of 50 per cent by 2036, the department said.

At present, Odisha generates approximately 1,104 MLD (mega litres per day) of used water, of which only about 190 MLD is treated. So, the policy seeks to bridge this gap by mandating treatment and ensuring adherence to prescribed safety standards for non-potable applications, it said.

Aligned with the National Framework on Safe Reuse of Treated Water (2023) and the objectives of AMRUT 2.0, the Policy positions Odisha as a leading state in sustainable urban water management and environmental stewardship.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	94.54 ▲ 0.35	SENSEX	76886.91 ▼ 416.72	GOLD	₹149,526 ▼ ₹2195
EURO	110.74 ▲ 0.32	NIFTY	23995.70 ▼ 97.00	SILVER	₹236,700 ▼ ₹5124



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.5°	34.6°	Light to Moderate rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	27.1°	25.0°	
Humidity	79%	82%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Bhub-Dhanbad Express upgraded with LHB coaches

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: In a significant move towards modernisation and improved passenger comfort, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has completed the full upgrade of Train No. 18403/18404 Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad Express with state-of-the-art LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches. The transition was carried out in phases, with the first LHB rake introduced from Bhubaneswar April 21 and from Dhanbad April 22. The second and final LHB rake was inducted from Bhubaneswar April 28 and will begin service from Dhanbad April 29. With this, the train will now be fully operated with LHB coaches. The move marks a complete transition from conventional ICF coaches to the more advanced LHB design, underscoring Indian Railways' continued commitment to enhanced safety standards, higher speed potential and better passenger amenities. The revised coach composition includes 1 AC 2-Tier coach, 3 AC 3-Tier coaches, 8 Sleeper Class coaches, 4 General Second Class coaches, and 2 Luggage-cum-Generator-cum-Brake Van coaches with Divyang-friendly facilities.

Patha Utsav turns Cuttack into cultural hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 28: Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) Tuesday successfully organised 'Patha Utsav' near Barabati Stadium, transforming a key stretch of the Silver City into a lively hub of culture, fitness and community engagement. The event was held from 6am to 9am, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens across all age groups.

By reclaiming public spaces for people-curricular activities, the event created an inclusive environment where families, youth and senior citizens could come together to celebrate community spirit. The event was graced by several eminent dignitaries, including Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, Cuttack Municipal Corporation Mayor or Subhash Singh, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, Barabati-Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous, Choudwar-Cuttack MLA Souvic Biswal, CMC Dep-



uty Mayor Damayanti Majhi, Indira Gandhi Women's College principal Bandita Dash, and other distinguished dignitaries. Prominent personalities from the Odia film industry, including Sritam Das, Arindam Roy and Bidusmita Dash Mantry, also attended the celebration.

The programme began with paying rich tributes to Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das on his birth anniversary. Speakers highlighted his immense contribution to the formation of Odisha as a separate state and his enduring legacy in shaping Odia identity and pride.

The festival featured a vibrant mix of activities designed

to engage the public. Yoga sessions and fitness demonstrations encouraged participants to adopt healthier lifestyles, while sports activities brought energy and enthusiasm to the venue. Music and dance performances by local artistes created a festive atmosphere, showcasing the rich cultural talent of the region.

Adding to the excitement, popular Odia actors Suryamayee Mohapatra, Nikita Mishra, Subhasish Sharma and Subham entertained the audience with power-packed performances, drawing loud cheers from the crowd. Singer Antara Chakraborty mesmerised the audience with her melodious voice.

Pay hike for contractual AYUSH college faculty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The state government Tuesday announced a significant salary revision and increase for contractual lecturers, readers and professors working in government ayurvedic and homeopathic medical colleges across the state.

According to the Health and Family Welfare department, the monthly salary of contractual lecturers has been fixed at ₹70,000. The pay of readers and professors has also been substantially increased. Readers will now receive ₹80,000 per month, up from ₹40,000, while professors' salaries have been doubled from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh per month.

The proposal received approval from the Finance department. Expressing gratitude to CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling said the initiative is expected to strengthen AYUSH education in the state and motivate faculty members.

CUO bags top prize at INNOVISION 2026

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) bagged top honours at INNOVISION 2026, winning first prize among 65 registered innovations for developing a practical solution to a major challenge in large-scale agriculture.

The award-winning innovation was showcased at "Innovative Solutions for Technical Problems," organised by Synergy Institute of Technology, Phulnakhara, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with SKD Patent Services, Kolkata recently.

The breakthrough was presented by Swapnarani Biswal, a third-year BSc Agriculture student, and Abhisikta Sahu, a second-year BSc Agriculture student, who represented CUO's Agriculture department with distinction.

Their achievement has brought pride to the university and underscored the growing role of young innovators in finding practical solutions to real-world farming challenges. It also reflects the rising potential of student-led research in advancing sustainable agriculture.

Vice-Chancellor in-charge Prof NC Panda congratulated the students, faculty members and collaborating scientists for



their dedication to innovation and for addressing pressing agricultural issues through practical, research-driven solutions.

The innovation addresses a longstanding problem associated with conventional broadcasting methods of sowing, where small and lightweight seeds are often displaced during irrigation—particularly flood irrigation. This frequently leads to uneven seed distribution, poor germination rates and reduced crop productivity.

To address this challenge, the CUO team developed a solar-powered seed pelleting (coating) machine that enhances seed size and weight through a protective coating process. The technology improves seed stability during irrigation while enriching the seeds with essential fertilisers and micronutrients, thereby supporting healthier germination and stronger

early-stage crop growth. Designed to operate on solar energy, the machine is cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. Its user-friendly and low-cost nature makes it particularly suitable for rural and off-grid farming communities, where access to reliable power sources is often limited.

The project was developed in collaboration with scientists from Navsari Agricultural University, including Vipul Shinde, head of the department of Agricultural Engineering, Ashish, and Subham Dhakad, along with Manjushree Singh, head of the department of Agriculture at CUO, Koraput.

The technology has also been refined to suit the unique soil conditions, geographical features and farming practices of the Koraput region, enhancing its local relevance and practical usefulness for farmers.

Entrepreneurs feted on Madhu Babu Jayanti

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 28: The Biswa Odia Parivaar (BOP) celebrated Madhu Babu Jayanti at Kalinga Stadium here Tuesday by honouring young entrepreneurs with the Kula Gourab Samman 2026 during a cultural ceremony.

Welcoming the gathering, Tapan Kumar Swain said the event was organised to pay tribute to Madhu Babu's enduring legacy and inspire contemporary social and economic leadership. Addressing the function, BOP president Sajjan Sharma stressed the need to recognise individuals contributing to Odisha's growth trajectory.

He hailed MP Baijayant Panda as an Odia Ratna, lauded Industry Minister Sampad Chandra Swain for his emerging leadership, and appreciated Jagannath Pradhan for his consistent support to community

initiatives. He also reflected on Odisha's historic trade networks and indigenous industrial knowledge systems, stressing the need to reconnect the younger generation with this legacy through initiatives that honour young entrepreneurs.

Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy underscored Madhu Babu's role as the architect of Swatantra Utkal Pradesh, India's first linguistic state, and highlighted his contributions to industrialisation, women's empowerment, and institution-building.

A highlight of the ceremony was the conferment of the award on emerging young entrepreneurs from across Odisha for their contributions to innovation, enterprise creation, and local economic development. The awardees represented diverse sectors, reflecting the state's evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Heatwave singes western Odisha Andhra lawyer bails 3 in Kotia Census row

AT 45.3°C, JHARSUGUDA RECORDS SEASON'S HIGHEST DAY TEMPERATURE, TURNS SECOND HOTTEST CITY IN INDIA

Jharsuguda, April 28: A severe heatwave has gripped western Odisha, pushing temperatures to alarming levels and severely disrupting daily life, with Jharsuguda emerging as one of the hottest places in the country.



A deserted street in Jharsuguda FILE PHOTO

On Tuesday, Jharsuguda recorded a maximum day temperature of 45.3 degrees Celsius, the highest of the season so far and nearly 4.7 degrees above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The industrial town ranked as the second hottest city in India, just behind Banda in Uttar Pradesh, which recorded 45.6 degrees Celsius.

western Odisha have reported similarly high temperatures. Boudh recorded 43.7 degrees Celsius, Sambalpur 43.5 degrees Celsius, Hirakud 43.4 degrees Celsius, Bargarh 42.9 degrees Celsius and Nuapada 42.5 degrees Celsius. Temperatures in Titilagarh, Talcher and Bolangir also exceeded 42 degrees Celsius. Sonapur recorded 41.9°C, Bhawanipatna 41.8°C, Sundargarh 41.5°C and Rourkela 40.7°C, according to the IMD.

ditions have offered little relief, with the minimum temperature remaining high at 27.2 degrees Celsius.

Meteorological officials have forecast that the heatwave conditions are likely to persist over the coming days. In response, local authorities have issued advisories urging people to avoid stepping outside between 11am and 3pm unless absolutely necessary.

Health officials have recommended adequate hydration, the use of umbrellas or damp clothes when outdoors, and wearing light cotton clothing to minimise heat-related illnesses.

Experts attribute the early and intense heat this April to reduced atmospheric moisture and the influx of dry winds, raising concerns over a prolonged and harsh summer season across the region.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, April 28: Three persons from Upper Sembi village under Kotia panchayat in Koraput district, arrested by Odisha Police for allegedly instigating villagers to disrupt an ongoing census exercise, were released from jail Tuesday after securing bail a day earlier, following intervention by an advocate from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in a Koraput court, officials said.

Pradesh, reflecting long-standing sensitivities in the border region.

Bail for the three was secured Monday after advocate K. Laxman Rao, who is associated with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), moved the court in Koraput on their behalf. The advocate was accompanied by villagers from Upper Sembi and nearby areas, who expressed support for the detainees.

However, due to evening procedural constraints, their formal release from custody took place Tuesday. Meanwhile, following the arrests, a joint team of local administration and block officials visited Madkar and Upper Sembi villages to review the status of the census operations. During the visit, residents reportedly assured officials of their full cooperation with the census being conducted by the Odisha government.

The situation in Kotia region, a disputed border area between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, remains sensitive, with administrative and political developments closely watched.

Illegal firearms trade busted in Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Brajarajnagar, April 28: Police in Brajarajnagar busted an illegal firearms syndicate, arrested three persons and sent them to court in connection with the case Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Banti Prasad, Vishal Bag and Santosh Khedkar — residents of the OPM area under Brajarajnagar police limits in Jharsuguda district. Police seized five country-made pistols and 30 rounds of ammunition from their possession.

3 ARRESTED, 5 PISTOLS SEIZED

Jharsuguda Superintendent of Police Gundala Reddy Raghavendra said at a press conference that Banti Prasad had brought illegal firearms from outside the state and sold those to two individuals, while planning further sales.

Acting on intelligence inputs, Brajarajnagar police led by Inspector-In-Charge Dhableswar Sahu, along with sub-inspectors Prabhakar Patra, Abhaya Mohanty and Purnima Oram, conducted raids Monday night.

Police first detained Vishal Bag and recovered two country-made guns from him. Based on his interrogation, Santosh Khedkar was arrested and two more firearms were seized. Later, Banti Prasad was arrested, and one more country-made pistol was recovered from his possession. A case (95/26) has been registered at Brajarajnagar police station.

NIT Rourkela ranks 186th in THE Asia Rankings 2026

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 28: National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela has climbed to 186th place in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2026, improving from its 191st rank last year and reinforcing its standing among Asia's leading academic institutions.

The rankings assessed 929 universities across 36 countries



and territories. Among Indian institutions, NIT Rourkela ranked eighth and emerged as the highest-ranked NIT. It is also the only NIT to feature in the top 200 this year.

Director K Umamaheshwar Rao said the improvement reflects the institute's focus on academic excellence, research impact and global engagement. He credited the accreditation and ranking team for its role in the achievement and said the milestone would drive further efforts to strengthen research collaborations and the academic ecosystem.

The THE Asia University Rankings are based on 18 performance indicators spanning teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

MAN BEATS FATHER TO DEATH, CRITICALLY INJURES MOTHER

TENSA: A man allegedly beat his father to death with a bamboo cane following a domestic dispute in Kadamadihi village under Koida block in Sundargarh district Monday night, police said. The deceased has been identified as Pandu Munda. His son, Sana Munda, is absconding, and police have launched a search operation to trace him. According to police, the incident occurred after a quarrel between them over food. During the altercation, Sana allegedly turned violent and attempted to attack his mother, Raibari Munda. When Pandu intervened to protect her, Sana attacked him with the bamboo stick leading to his death on the spot, officials said. Police said Raibari sustained injuries, including a fractured hand, and was undergoing treatment. A case (110/26) was registered at Koida police station and a scientific team from Rourkela visited the spot to collect evidence and assist in the investigation. Police sent the body for post-mortem examination and later handed it over to the family after completion of formalities. Further investigation is underway.

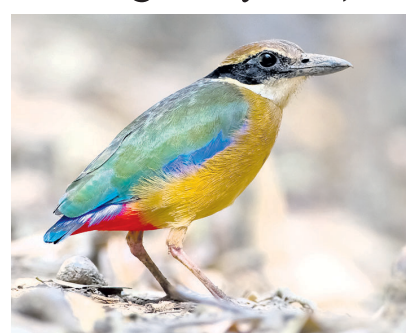
4 dead, over 20 injured in bus-trailer collision

BONAI: A horrific road accident on National Highway 143 near Chandiposh in Bonai subdivision of Sundargarh district claimed at least four lives and left more than 20 passengers injured Tuesday night. According to reports, a private passenger bus named 'Pramila', en route from Rourkela to Jajpur Town, lost control around 8:35pm after departing at 7:45pm. The bus reportedly crossed the divider and collided head-on with a trailer coming from the opposite direction. The trailer driver, bus driver, conductor, and helper lost their lives in the impact. The collision was so severe that locals reported hearing the sound from a considerable distance. Chandiposh police and emergency services rushed to the site, using gas cutters to extricate bodies trapped inside the mangled vehicles. The bodies of the deceased were sent to Rourkela Government Hospital for post-mortem examination. The injured were first taken to Lahuni para hospital and later shifted to Rourkela for advanced treatment. Officials said at least four of the injured are in critical condition. Eyewitnesses alleged that the bus was speeding at the time of the crash. Police have launched an investigation into the cause of the accident.

Elderly man found dead with throat slit; probe begins

JEYPORE: An elderly man was found murdered with his throat slit in Kumuliput under Jeyapore Sadar police limits, prompting an investigation by a police team, officials said Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Raghunath Gouda, 60. According to police, his body was found in a drain near the village with injury on the neck, suggesting a brutal attack. Police said the victim's son, Bhagaban Gouda, lodged a complaint at Jeyapore Sadar PS following the discovery. Acting on the complaint, police registered a murder case and launched an investigation. Officials said the scientific team visited the spot and collected evidence, while SDPO Archita Mittal and the local station officer also inspected the scene. The body was sent for post-mortem examination before being handed over to the family.

Mangrove Pitta census held across 5 ranges of Rajnagar forest division



PNN & AGENCIES

count method. Teams either traversed forest areas on foot or used country boats to access creeks and interior mangrove zones.

The Mangrove Pitta is a small bird measuring about 18-20 cm in length and weighing between 90 and 120 grams. It inhabits low-altitude coastal ecosystems, typically ranging from sea level up to 100 metres. Its natural habitats include tropical and subtropical mangrove forests, wetlands, rivers, estuaries, coastal marshes, streams, and creeks.

Feeding primarily on molluscs, crustaceans, crabs, beetles, ants, termites, and insect larvae, the bird forages on the forest floor and seeks refuge in trees and shrubs during high tide. Its breeding season in the Indian subcontinent spans from April to August.

The species is monogamous, with both partners sharing responsibilities such as nest building, egg incubation, and caring for chicks.

The Mangrove Pitta constructs dome-shaped nests using sticks, dead leaves, grass, and coconut fibres, typically on slightly elevated ground with a side entrance. Females lay four to five pale eggs, which hatch in about two weeks.

Forest officials noted that the species is approaching the threshold of being classified as "Vulnerable" based on its range size, population trend, and overall population size, underscoring the importance of continued monitoring and conservation efforts.

Guided by Maa Ganga, Driven by Progress

Ganga Expressway

Inauguration of Uttar Pradesh's grand 594-km long Ganga Expressway (Meerut-Prayagraj) built at a cost of ₹36,230 Crore

by **Narendra Modi** Prime Minister

Progress in Full Speed : 6 lane (expandable to 8 lane) Ganga Expressway connects 12 districts • Designed for speed 120 km/hr; Meerut to Prayagraj distance to be covered in 6-8 hours • Long bridges spanning 960 m over the Ganga river at Hapur and 720 m over the Ramganga river at Budaun • 21 ramp interchanges including 2 main entry-exit gates at Meerut and Prayagraj • Fully access-controlled Greenfield Ganga Expressway is equipped with Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) • 3.50 km long airstrip near Shahjahanpur for emergency landing and take-off of fighter aircrafts • 3.75 m wide staggered service lanes on both sides of the expressway

Development and Welfare : 9 large Public Facility Centres with fuel and e-charging facilities • Industrial corridor development underway across 12 districts of Ganga Expressway • Rapid connectivity to Delhi for industrial units and agricultural production zones • Increased revenue in agricultural, commercial, tourism and industrial sectors • New centres for storage and processing of milk, fruits and vegetables • Expansion of trade and employment opportunities; boost to tourism • Immense potential for new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), higher education and medical institutions

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel Governor, Uttar Pradesh		Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	
Pankaj Chaudhary Minister of State, Finance, Government of India	Jitin Prasad Minister of State, Commerce and Industry, Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India	Keshav Prasad Maurya Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	Brajesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Suresh Kumar Khanna Minister, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs, Uttar Pradesh	Asim Arun Minister of State (Independent Charge), Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare, Uttar Pradesh	Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh	Jayendra Pratap Singh Rathore Minister of State (Independent Charge), Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh
Nitin Agrawal Minister of State (Independent Charge), Excise and Prohibition, Uttar Pradesh	Jaswant Singh Saini Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Development, Uttar Pradesh	Rajni Tiwari Minister of State, Higher Education, Uttar Pradesh	Jai Prakash Member of Parliament, Haryana
Arun Kumar Sagar Member of Parliament, Shahjahanpur	Dr. Swami Sachidanand Hari Sakshi Maharaj Member of Parliament, Unnao	Mithlesh Kumar Member, Rajya Sabha	Shakun Singh Chairman, District Panchayat, Unnao
Priya Shakya Chairman, District Panchayat, Kannauj	Premavati P.K. Verma Chairman, District Panchayat, Haridoi	Archana Verma Mayor, Shahjahanpur	Shyam Prakash MLA, Gopamau
Ashish Kumar Singh 'Ashu' MLA, Bilgram-Mallawan	Rampal Verma MLA, Balamau	Alka Singh 'Arkavanshi' MLA, Sandila	Pankaj Gupta MLA, Unnao
Ashutosh Shukla MLA, Bhagwantnagar	Arvind Kumar Singh MLA, Bahadur	Salona Kushwaha MLA, Tilhar	Kailash Rajput MLA, Tirwa
Arun Pathak MLC	Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC	Er. Awanish Kumar Singh MLC	Dr. Veer Vikram Singh 'Prince' MLA, Katwa
Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC	Dr. Sudhir Gupta MLC	Ashok Agarwal MLC	Brajesh Kumar MLA, Mohan
Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC	Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC	Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC	Dr. Manuendra Pratap Singh MLC

and other dignitaries

Date: 29th April, 2026 | Time: 10:00 AM | Venue: Mallawan cut, near chainage 351 km Ganga Expressway, Tehsil-Bilgram, District-Hardoi, U.P.

Superfast State - Uttar Pradesh : 8 expressways operational, 14 in various development stages • 55% of the country's total expressways in Uttar Pradesh • Industrial Corridors at 27 locations of 26 districts along the expressways • Implementation of Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission for industrial development • Uttar Pradesh is a leading state in implementing PM Gati Shakti • Work underway for establishing Integrated Manufacturing Clusters at Prayagraj and Agra under the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor • Junction of the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors located at Dadri, Uttar Pradesh • Largest rail network in the country in Uttar Pradesh (16,000 km) • 17 airports operational (5 international airports), 7 in various development stages • Work in progress for extending National Waterway-1 (Varanasi-Haldia) up to Ayodhya

Vikas ki Gati Apaar-Double Engine Sarkar

Information and Public Relations Department, U.P. | Live telecast | DD News & Youtube.com/DDNews



A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.

THE MOTHER

Gunman & Trump

Americans must have heaved a sigh of relief that a man rushing with a gun and firing shots at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, where President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance and other top officials of the administration were present April 25, could not succeed in fulfilling whatever his target was. The President is safe and unhurt. Trump himself claimed, in reply to a question later, that he was the target, though investigators are yet to ascertain the motive of the attack. Trump had survived an earlier assassination attempt during a July 2024 campaign rally in Pennsylvania. A few months later, a man tried to assassinate him while he was golfing at his golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida. Such repeated attempts on the life of the US President do not reflect well either on America's security apparatus or on Trump himself coming under the assassin's radar at frightening regularity. Photographs released later of bewildered and confused looking security personnel, with weapons drawn, show how low the American secret service covering the PoTUS has sunk.

Trump and the first lady were seated on the stage of the cavernous Washington Hilton ballroom playfully engaging with the evening's entertainment. Just outside, a man sprinted through a security checkpoint with a shotgun in hand, exchanging fire with Secret Service agents who chased behind him. Mercifully within seconds, the gunman was grabbed and immobilised before he could reach the ballroom where the President, Trump administration officials, members of Congress and some of America's most prominent reporters and editors were all in attendance for the annual dinner. Inside the jammed ballroom, guests had taken their seats and within minutes the evening took a frightening turn. The President himself was not immediately sure what had happened. Trump's first thought was a tray full of dinner plates crashing to the floor: "I've heard that many times," he would say later from the White House.

Investigators are trying to ferret out information from the arrested gunman about his motive and whether he was or was not alone in the too close for comfort attack. The President himself felt he was a "lone wolf," but there is speculation whether the shooting is in any way linked to the ongoing conflict between Iran and the US and Israel. Trump was initially very cautious ruling out any such link, but he later meaningfully suggested it could be, saying "you never know."

The speculation on the link to the Iran crisis is only natural considering the timing of the ongoing diplomatic tensions between Washington and Tehran. However, early findings and official remarks suggest there is no concrete evidence pointing towards foreign involvement at this stage. While authorities continue to examine all possibilities, officials have urged caution against drawing premature conclusions about international links. During a press interaction after the incident, Trump was asked whether the attack could be linked to tensions with Iran or stalled diplomatic efforts. He responded cautiously, stating, "I don't think so. You never know. We're going to know a lot." While saying so Trump iterated that his stance on Iran remains unchanged. He emphasised that the incident would not affect US strategy in the region. He asserted that it was not going to deter him from "winning the war in Iran." Interestingly, amid the unfolding situation, Trump also revealed that Iran had recently sent a revised proposal following the cancellation of planned negotiations. He suggested that the updated offer came shortly after he halted diplomatic efforts. According to Trump, the new proposal was an improvement on earlier terms, though he did not provide specific details.

The timing of this exchange has added another layer of context to the broader geopolitical backdrop surrounding the incident. Trump explained that the decision to cancel talks was based on practical and strategic concerns. He cited extensive travel requirements and the absence of direct engagement with Iran's top leadership as key reasons. He indicated that US representatives were not meeting decision-makers at the highest level, reducing the effectiveness of negotiations. Instead, he suggested that future discussions could take place remotely, signalling a shift in diplomatic approach. It is clear from the drift of his Press statements that while negotiations may continue in some form, the issue of Iran's nuclear programme remains non-negotiable. The administration continues to frame its Iran policy around this central objective.

The shooting incident could be an outcome of the climate of war-mongering and arrogance shown so far by Trump and his comrade in arms Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who was primarily responsible for starting the unilateral war with Iran. Hatred has been spawned by the two leaders so much that unhinged persons may take to violence with total disregard to democratic norms. This ideally should not be tolerated but the responsibility for restoring people's faith in the rule of law rests far more on the top leaders than on gun toting individuals.

WISDOM CORNER

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."
EDMUND BURKE

"The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice."
ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

"People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar."
THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1429: French national heroine Joan of Arc and her troops entered the besieged city of Orléans during the Hundred Years' War.

1916: About 10,000 British troops surrendered to Ottoman Turks at Al-Kut in Iraq, following a five-month siege during World War I.

1945: A day before committing suicide, Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun marry. On the same day, U.S. troops liberated the Dachau concentration camp near Munich.

1954: Jerry Seinfeld, whose television show Seinfeld was a landmark of American pop culture in the late 20th century, was born in Brooklyn, New York.

1991: A tropical cyclone struck Bangladesh, killing an estimated 140,000 people and causing 10 million to lose their homes. It remains one of the deadliest cyclones ever recorded.

FOCUS MULTILATERALISM

RULES FOR THE REST OF US

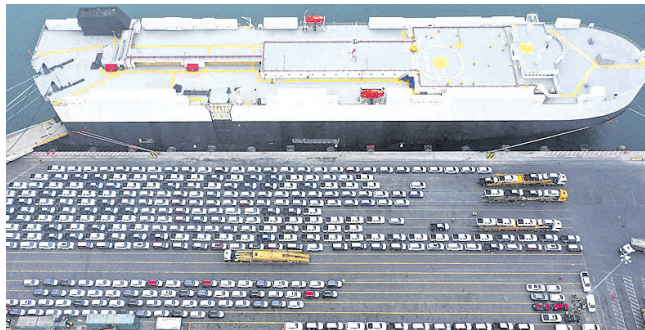
For decades, global power emanated from Europe and the United States. That was certainly my view when I first set foot in the Northern Hemisphere as a graduate student at the University of Cambridge. But managing Chile's international economic relations under former President Gabriel Boric revealed just how much power the Global South can wield, if it chooses to do so.

This is apparent not only in the data but also at the negotiating table. In 2025, I travelled with Boric, other cabinet members, and Chilean business leaders, academics, cultural figures, and entrepreneurs to India to negotiate a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Both sides were following development economists' long-standing policy prescriptions: diversify trade partners, open new markets, and deepen South-South integration.

But during the trip, US President Donald Trump announced his "reciprocal" tariffs against most of America's trading partners, ripping up global trade rules. For the Global South, this was a slap in the face. We never expected development to be free of struggle and contradictions. But the direction was clear: greater global economic integration would enhance growth. And the rules and institutions were shared—until the country that designed them decided to exempt itself.

Perhaps most strikingly, the rules-based multilateral system worked for the developing world. In 1952, the United States, with just 6 per cent of the world's population, produced around 40 per cent of global GDP. By contrast, the US now produces 15 per cent of global GDP (in purchasing power terms), while China has risen from near zero to 20 per cent.

The redistribution extends beyond the US-China axis. In



Some of the greatest challenges the world faces today, including climate change and managing AI, can be addressed only through common rules, shared institutions, and cross-border collaboration

the 1970s, Germany's economy was twice the size of India's; today, India's is nearly three times larger than Germany's. The City University of New York economist Branko Milanovi has called this "the greatest reshuffle of individual incomes since the Industrial Revolution."

As Milanovi and Christoph Lakner of the World Bank showed in a landmark study, the largest relative income gains between 1988 and 2008 went to hundreds of millions of people around the global median, mostly in Asian countries, lifting them into the middle class. The same process led to stagnant incomes for working- and middle-class people in rich countries. The system reduced global poverty and shifted the international power balance.

Integration into the global economy was a necessary but insufficient condition for development. The countries that gained the most from globalization had a plan. China is the most obvious example, but South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and others followed a similar path: they devised long-term development strategies; invested in education, industrial policy, and technology; and integrated selectively

into global markets.

The countries that lacked a plan, particularly in the developed world, opened their economies without building domestic capacity to redistribute the gains. That failure to manage the risks of globalization has become everyone's problem, because it has generated the political discontent now engulfing the West and fracturing the international order.

Some of the greatest challenges the world faces today, including climate change and managing AI, can be addressed only through common rules, shared institutions, and cross-border collaboration. We know that technological change is one of the main drivers of rising inequality within countries, and that the world's poorest and most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. Both problems demand dialogue, and neither can be solved by the strongest acting alone.

Many of the critical resources required to fight climate change and power the technological transition, from copper and lithium to rare earths and rainforests, are concentrated in Latin America, providing the region with new leverage. But leverage without coordination creates risk. And right

now, Latin America lacks a regional strategy.

Devising one is not a utopian aspiration. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was built on the recognition that smaller economies need collective positions, shared frameworks, and coordinated strategies to negotiate with major powers from a position of strength. As the rules that once constrained these powers weaken, regional solidarity has become only more important.

Forging closer ties between Latin American governments, private sectors, and civil societies is no longer an option. It is an imperative that calls for strong national agendas.

The last wave of globalization illustrated the importance of policies that distribute gains equitably and strengthen education systems, as well as fiscal frameworks that convert resource rents into public investment. State institutions must be strong enough to resist capture. Long-term industrial and technology policies must be put in place. Such planning is the difference between development and dependency.

When this period of Trumpian disorder eventually gives way to reconstruction, the Global South must come to the table with proposals, not just complaints. The order that is now fracturing was built largely without us, but that need not be true of the next one. Countries that cannot impose their preferences by force must continue to do the unglamorous work of coordination and collaboration—much like we did in India last year. Only by coming together now can we create a global system where the rules apply to all.

The writer is a former deputy finance minister and former undersecretary of international economic relations of Chile.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Insurance fraud can be hard to bear

Insurance fraud is nothing new: it has existed since the days of the cavemen. That's when a man named Bongah collected shiny stones from his fellow cavemen, as he convinced each of them to buy wife insurance. If someone steals your wife, he told them, you will either get her back or 50 stones. It wasn't long before a man named Dongah faked his wife's disappearance and ended up with both a wife and 50 stones, some of which he threw at an angry Bongah.

If you do not believe the story of Dongah and Bongah, you may be equally skeptical about a recent case of insurance fraud in California. A group of four people collected a total of \$141,839 from insurance companies, claiming that a bear, in three separate incidents, had caused extensive damage to their luxury cars. They even submitted video evidence of the bear attacks to the insurance companies.

One insurance company became suspicious and sent the video to the California Department of Insurance,

where detectives determined that the bear was a human in a costume. But just to be absolutely certain, the department got a second opinion – from a biologist at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This biologist, evidently an expert in identifying real bears, reviewed the footage and concluded that the animal shown was definitely a human in a bear suit.

Detectives got a warrant to search the suspects' home and found a bear costume, along with meat-shredding kitchen implements, often marketed as "bear claws." Three of the defendants have pleaded "no contest" to felony insurance fraud and been sentenced to 180 days in jail (to be served through a weekend jail programme) and two years of supervised probation. Two of them will each pay more than \$50,000 in restitution, while restitution for the third has not been determined. A court hearing for the fourth defendant will be held in September.

You are probably saying to yourself, "Weekend jail programme? If that's all they

got, maybe it's time for me to consider insurance fraud. After all, my landlord keeps increasing my rent."

Insurance fraud might be tempting, but it's a serious crime that hurts us all. It not only results in higher premiums for everyone, it also hurts the reputation of bears. Imagine how we'd feel if a bear wore a human costume and robbed a store, making off with all its honey. Trust me, the bear would face serious consequences.

Bear's lawyer: "Your honor, my client pleads 'no contest' and requests the weekend jail programme."

Judge: "Ha ha! The weekend jail programme is only for humans impersonating bears. A bear impersonating a human, according to my guidelines, will be placed in a zoo."

Lawyer: "Oh God, no!"

Judge: "Does your client think that's inhumane?"

Lawyer: "No, just unbearable."

Thankfully, bears are rarely used in insurance fraud schemes. More commonly, humans stage accidents and

submit fraudulent claims, not just for damage to vehicles and other physical objects but also for bodily injury.

Here's what could happen: You are driving down the road when the driver in front of you suddenly slams his brakes, causing you to rear-end his car. It appears to be a minor accident, but there are four people inside the other car and all four claim to have "nearly died." Soon they have hired a lawyer and are trying to reach a lucrative settlement with your insurance company.

A former Metropolitan Police officer in Britain recently admitted his role in a scam to bilk insurance companies. In one incident, Kuldip Singh, who was a cop at the time, was driving a white Citroën when it was rear-ended by a Tesco delivery van driven by Singh's accomplice, Raiyaan Anwar. Not surprisingly, Singh was carrying four passengers, resulting in five personal injury compensation claims.

Singh has not been sentenced yet, but I hope he isn't spending just weekends in jail.



Melvin Durai

IMAGINE HOW WE'D FEEL IF A BEAR WORE A HUMAN COSTUME AND ROBBED A STORE, MAKING OFF WITH ALL ITS HONEY

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Timeless visuals

Sir, Legendary Indian photographer Raghu Rai, who passed away a few days ago, was widely revered for capturing the "soul of India" through his black-and-white images. His evocative images chronicled decades of the country's political, social and cultural transformations. Rai photographed some of the most defining moments of modern Indian history, including the Bangladesh refugee crisis of 1972 and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984. His portraits captured the many dimensions of Indian public life - from political leaders such as Indira Gandhi to spiritual and cultural figures including the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Satyajit Ray, and Bismillah Khan - offering intimate and often unseen perspectives into their lives. More than events, Rai's photography focused intensely on everyday people and ordinary moments. Working largely in black and white, he elevated routine scenes into timeless visual narratives.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Healthcare snapshot

Sir, India's National Sample Survey (NSS) 80th round, which tracks household health expenditure for the full year of 2025, provides a comprehensive snapshot of how Indians access and pay for healthcare today. At one level, the data reflects clear progress, greater use of formal healthcare services, wider insurance coverage, and near-universal institutional deliveries. Yet, a closer reading reveals that these gains are uneven and often superficial. Rising disease burden, persistent out-of-pocket expenses, and a visible shift toward private providers suggest that the system is expanding in scale without adequately addressing questions of affordability, quality, and trust. The survey, therefore, is less a story of success and more a reminder that structural gaps continue to shape healthcare outcomes. One of the most striking findings is the sharp rise in reported ailments—from 7.5% in 2017-18 to 13.1%. While this can reasonably be linked to improved diagnostic reach and awareness, the steep increase in chronic illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions is harder to dismiss. These are long-duration, cost-intensive diseases that place a sustained financial burden on households. In that sense, better detection may signal progress in access, but it also expands the pool of individuals requiring continuous and often expensive care.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Israel life comforts Haryana youths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 28: Many youths from Haryana who went to Israel to work in construction firms claimed that life is comfortable there with little visible anxiety over regional tensions following the recent Israel-Iran war.

"The salary is commensurate with your skill and experience. I save nearly ₹3 lakh every month," said Praveen Vats (33), a diploma holder in mechanical engineering from a Haryana polytechnic who is currently working in Israel.

Over the past two years, more than 390 youths have gone to Israel in two phases through overseas placement initiatives and are employed there, drawing handsome salaries. Many are engaged in construction-related work. Vats, who moved to Israel April 7, 2024, told PTI over the

phone, "I work as a foreman in a leading construction company in Tel Aviv."

Vats, who hails from a village in Jind district, returned home February 12 for a vacation and went back to Israel April 26. Asked about the conflict, he said, "We don't even think about this. We go about our daily routine, and we have never faced any problem because of this ongoing conflict. Israel's safety and security system is quite good."

Vats said he went to Israel after applying through the government's Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN). "There are so many from Haryana who have come to Israel for work and are happily settled here, and no one wants to return. I would advise our youth to follow authorised channels and never use those treacherous donkey routes by falling into the trap of unscrupulous agents," said Vats, who



comes from a middle-class family. Nishan Thakur (23), a bachelor from a village in Jind, said he moved to Israel July 4, 2024.

"I come from a farming family. I moved to Israel through the HKRN, and now I work in a construction company," said Thakur, who completed a technical course at an Industrial Training Institute in Haryana.

Thakur said he wanted to improve his family's financial condition. "So, I thought if I took this chance and since the offer

to work in Israel seemed good, I decided to take the step. I am happy with my decision, and now I can earn well, save, and send money back to support my family," he said.

He said, "There is no fear, and life is going on normally. People don't think about this conflict; they go about doing their job. We feel safe, and there is nothing to worry about."

In February this year, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told the State Assembly that the Foreign Cooperation Department was created to assist youth seeking education and employment abroad, offering reliable guidance and preventing exploitation by unauthorised agents. He said under the Panchjanya-2026 programme, 210 youth received offer letters to work in Dubai, while 390 youths have already been sent to Israel in two phases.

NEW MILESTONE FOR ECOSYSTEM

Wild buffaloes reintroduced in MP after 150 yrs

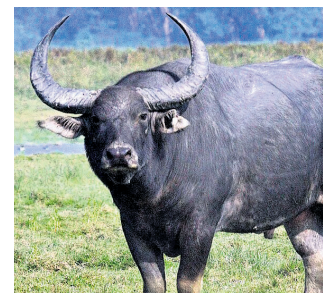
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balaghat (MP), April 28: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Tuesday released four wild buffaloes brought from Assam's Kaziranga National Park into the Kanha Tiger Reserve, marking the species' return to the state 150 years after being considered "extinct".

Termed it as a very special day for Madhya Pradesh's wildlife and ecosystem, Yadav said the move will enrich the state's forest and positively impact tourism.

As part of its efforts to revive the population of wild buffalo, Madhya Pradesh is bringing 50 huge animals, weighing 500 kg each, from Assam, according to officials.

The four buffaloes -- three of them females -- were brought to MP in specially-designed vehicles from the Kaziranga



National Park in the northeastern state.

CM Yadav released them in the Supkhar-Topla area of the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Balaghat district.

"The arrival of the wild buffalo will enrich the state's forests and positively impact tourism. It will also boost local employment," he told reporters on the occasion.

Today is a historic day for Madhya Pradesh. After 150 years, these animals have once again returned to the Kanha Ti-

ger Reserve. A new history of Kanha's land is being written, he noted.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our environment and ecosystem. It is an opportunity to welcome onto our land these long-gone guests. Their arrival will strengthen the ecosystem," he said.

Yadav said that it is through such opportunities that the forests prosper.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the wild animals that had become extinct are now returning to the forests of Madhya Pradesh, he said.

These animals will enhance the beauty of the forests and will also become a centre of attraction for visitors. This will have a positive impact on tourism, the CM said, adding that the development has also forged a new relationship between MP and Assam.

CIVIC-SOLAR-EMISSIONS

Indore solar plant to slash annual carbon by 1.46L tonne



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, April 28: The Indore Municipal Corporation's solar power plant is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 1.46 lakh tons annually through this 60 MW renewable energy unit and reduce the monthly electricity bill incurred by the civic body for transporting Narmada river water.

A bulk of ₹308 crore cost of the plant, spread over 211 acres in Khargone district, was raised through a public issue of green bonds, making it the country's first renewable energy facility to be built with this type of financing.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will inaugurate the plant Wednesday, officials said, adding that the project is established mainly on barren land.

Officials Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the solar power project December 25, 2023.

The IMC raised ₹244 crore of the plant's ₹308 crore cost through a public issue of green bonds, making it the country's first renewable energy facility to be built with this type of financing, officials added.

The civic body incurs a monthly electricity bill of approximately ₹25 crore to transport Narmada river water from Jalud in Khargone district, 80 kilometres away, to Indore and supply it to households.

The solar power plant will reduce the power bill by approximately ₹5 crore per month, officials said.

They said the plant's operation will prevent approximately 1.46 lakh tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Notably, there will be no direct emissions during its operation.

Officials said the project is in line with India's goals of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070, and will also help reduce dependence on coal-fired power for essential public services.

The power plant is also expected to generate approximately 96 million units of electricity annually, with the estimated cost of around ₹3.50 per unit, while grid electricity rates range from ₹6 to ₹9 per unit.

MP forms 6-member panel for UCC draft bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 28: The Madhya Pradesh government has hastened the process of implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state by constituting a six-member panel headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to draft a bill recommending provisions within 60 days, an official said Tuesday.

In a notification issued late Monday night, the government announced that retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prasad Desai will head the panel comprising a retired IAS officer, a legal expert, and an academician, among others.

The committee has been given 60 days to submit its recommendations, the official said.

As per the notification, there is a growing need for a uniform civil code to govern matters such as marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance and related social customs in the state.

The official said that the panel will study practices related to the above matter across various communities, and examine the UCC models implemented in Uttarakhand and Gujarat, before submitting its report in line with the state's social, cultural, and economic context.

Apart from this, the panel will also seek suggestions and objections from various stakeholders and ensure the protection of the rights of women and children, he said.

The panel has also been directed to ensure that its proceedings and recommendations are legally sound and do not create any complications for stakeholders.

The other members of the panel include retired IAS officer Shatrughan Singh, legal expert Anoop Nair, academician Gopal Sharma, social worker Budhpal Singh, and Ajay Katsariya, Additional Secretary in the General Administration Department.

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Roads were in bad shape; the water supply was affected. Delhiites were struggling for basic amenities during the AAP rule. In the last two years, the Rekha Gupta government has tried to resolve these issues

SWATI MALWAL | RAJYA SABHA MP

DIGITAL ARREST: WHATSAPP BANNED 9,400 ACCOUNTS

A multi-pronged action involving telecom regulators, service providers, the RBI, tech giants and the CBI has been taken to tackle the rising menace of digital arrest scams, besides WhatsApp banning 9,400 accounts involved in such offences, the Centre has told the Supreme Court



HONEYMOON MURDER

Court grants bail to Sonam Raghuvanshi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, April 28: A court in Meghalaya Tuesday granted bail to Indore resident Sonam Raghuvanshi, who allegedly got her husband killed during their honeymoon in the northeastern state in 2025.

Sonam's husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, went missing May 23 last year during the couple's honeymoon, and his mutilated body was found on June 2 from a deep gorge near a waterfall in Sohra area of East Khasi Hills district. Sonam and several others, including her alleged boyfriend, were arrested in the case.

"The accused has been granted bail by the court. However, necessary legal procedures are being followed and the police will continue to pursue the matter as per law," SP Vivek Syiem told PTI.

According to police, Indore-based transport businessman Raja Raghuvanshi married Sonam May 11, 2025, in Indore, and the couple left for their honeymoon in Meghalaya May 20.

BJP eyes breach of TMC's south WB fortress amid SIR shadow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 28: When West Bengal votes in the second and final phase of the Assembly elections Wednesday, it will not only be choosing 142 MLAs across the state's political heartland, but also deciding whether the TMC still holds its southern fortress or the BJP has finally found a viable road to power.

If the first phase April 23 tested whether the BJP could retain its traditional edge in north Bengal and adjoining districts, the final round shifts the battle decisively to the TMC's home turf - Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and Purba Bardhaman.

The stakes are blunt. Of the 142 seats going to polls, the TMC had won 123 in 2021, the BJP just 18 and the ISF one. Despite the BJP's aggressive



push five years ago, Mamata Banerjee's party swept south Bengal and retained control of the state with ease.

The verdict reinforced a familiar axiom: without breaking south Bengal, there is no road to Nabanna, the state secretariat.

At the symbolic centre of this phase stands Bhabanipur - Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's political refuge and the BJP's chosen psychological battleground,

where she faces Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari in what many here call the "mother of all electoral contests".

For the BJP, phase two is not merely the final round - it is the real test of whether anti-incumbency, corruption charges and citizenship politics can breach the ruling party's strongest wall. For the TMC, holding this belt means the road to a fourth straight term remains firmly open.

EC asks NIA to ensure bombs not used to disrupt WB polls today

New Delhi: Ahead of phase two of polling in West Bengal, the Election Commission has asked the National Investigation Agency to ensure bombs are not used by miscreants to disrupt voting and target workers of political parties, poll authority officials said Tuesday.

"This has always been our strongest zone. In 2021 and even in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections,

people here stood with us. If we retain this belt, Bengal stays with Mamata Banerjee," a senior TMC leader said.

A BJP state leader countered: "Without breaking south Bengal, there is no route to power for us. North 24 Parganas, Kolkata and Howrah are the real battlegrounds. This is where change has to happen."

The geography explains the urgency. North 24 Parganas alone has 33 seats, South 24 Parganas 31, Howrah 16, Nadia 17, Hooghly 18, Purba Bardhaman 16, while Kolkata's 11 seats remain symbolically the most prestigious.

North and South 24 Parganas remain the heart of that contest - what state politicians often call the "Uttar Pradesh of Bengal's electoral map", the twin districts whose electoral weight can make or unmake power at Nabanna.

Khalistan terror module behind railway track blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 28: A pro-Khalistan terror module carried out a late-night blast at a freight corridor railway track near the Shambhu area in Patiala, in which one of its members was killed while attempting to detonate the explosives, police said Tuesday, adding that four members of the module have been arrested.

The explosion, which occurred Monday night on the Shambhu-Ambala rail track, was initially described as a low-intensity blast. However, an investigation later determined it was an attempt to blow up the track, police stated.

The explosion occurred near Bothonia village on the rail track dedicated to freight trains, causing damage and leaving a small crater beneath the railway line, police said. Noting that the incident marks the second blast at a freight corridor in the past three months, a senior police officer indicated that a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the matter is likely.

Police found an unidentified body, which had been blown into pieces, at the scene. Parts of the body were scattered along the railway track.

The person who was trying to carry out the detonation died in the attempt, Patiala SSP Varun Sharma said.

Police identified the deceased suspect as Jagrup Singh, a resident of Panjwar village in Tarn Taran district.

CCTV footage captured Jagrup parking his motorcycle in Amritsar, according to Special Director General of Police (Railway) Shashi Prabha Dwivedi, who visited the explosion site.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Kuldeep Chahal stated



PATIALA SHOCKER

A pro-Khalistan terror module was behind the Patiala railway track blast, resulting in one death

Four members of the Khalistan module have been arrested, including the alleged kingpin Pardeep Singh Khalsa

The module has links to Malaysia-based pro-Khalistan handlers, who provide terror training

This is the second blast at a freight corridor in three months, likely triggering an NIA investigation

Authorities recovered explosives, weapons, and communication devices from the arrested module members

that the four arrested individuals are Pardeep Singh Khalsa, a resident of Mansa; Kulwinder Singh, also from Mansa; and Satnam Singh and Gurpreet Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran.

Pardeep Khalsa was identified as the main kingpin of the module due to his close ties with Malaysia-based pro-Khalistan handlers. He sent radicalised youth to Malaysia for terror training and assigned them tasks for carrying out terror activities, the DIG said, adding that Pardeep was also running a radical organisation

named 'Chalda Vaheer Chakrawarti, Attariye.' Police recovered a hand grenade, two pistols, ammunition, other sophisticated communication devices intended for future detonations, and laptops from their possession, he added. Interacting with reporters at the incident site, Dwivedi said that as a goods train was passing at the time of the blast, the locomotive pilot sensed something unusual and raised an alarm, alerting authorities.

Referring to some "anti-social elements who are against the progress of the country", the officer said this was the second such attempt at a freight corridor.

In response to questions about the NIA's involvement, Dwivedi confirmed that due to the recurrence of such incidents, the NIA will most likely conduct an investigation.

Meanwhile, SSP Varun Sharma said, "Late at night, we had received information about a low-intensity explosion at a railway track near the Shambhu-Haryana border. Immediately, I, along with the deputy inspector general of police and other senior officials, rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation. We found that it was not a low-intensity explosion but an attempted detonation."

Shah vows ruthless action against cartels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: In a major breakthrough, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Tuesday secured the return of notorious international drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Turkiye, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced here.

Dola (59), a "close aide" of international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, was arrested in Turkiye on the basis of an Interpol Red Notice issued on India's request in March 2024, officials said.

He was wanted in multiple narcotics trafficking cases in India and had been absconding from the law enforcement agencies. Over the years, Dola had allegedly established a major transnational drug trafficking syndicate across a number of countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, they said.

Stressing on zero tolerance against the narco syndicate, the Union home minister said on

X, "Under Modi government's mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their claws across borders through a robust network of global agencies."

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said Dola was brought from Turkiye under "Operation Global-Hunt". He was taken into custody on his arrival at IGI Airport, New Delhi, early this morning by the NCB. The federal anti-narcotics agency briefly questioned him too, it said.

"Fugitive Salim Ismail Dola had been hiding in Turkiye for the last two years. The NCB had issued an Interpol Red Notice against him in 2024." "We will produce him before a Delhi court seeking his transit remand for Mumbai where he will again be produced before a competent court for custody," Niraj Kumar Gupta, NCB Deputy Director General (operations), told reporters here.

SHORT TAKES

HC grants one-week interim bail to Rashid

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday granted one-week interim bail to jailed Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, to enable him to visit his ailing father. A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain, however, clarified that during this period, Rashid, who is undergoing jail term in a terror funding case, could either visit the hospital where his father is being treated or remain at home.

India condemns terror attacks in Mali

New Delhi: India Tuesday strongly condemned a wave of terror attacks in Mali and condoled the death of the country's defence minister. Mali's defence minister Gen Sadio Camara was killed in a bomb explosion near the capital Bamako. "We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and express our solidarity with the Government and people of Mali in this difficult time," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "We also express our sincere condolences on the demise of General Sadio Camara, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs of Mali, in the terror attack" it said.

Self-enumeration in J'khand from May 1

Ranchi: The first phase of Census 2027 will begin in Jharkhand May 1 with a self-enumeration exercise that will allow people to provide their household details digitally, officials said Tuesday. Prabhat Kumar, the director of Jharkhand's Directorate of Census Operations, said the exercise will continue till May 15.

Cong functionary held on POCSSO charges

Bangalore: A Congress functionary has been arrested on POCSSO charges for alleged inappropriate behaviour with a 16-year-old minor girl. The 40-year-old complainant has also accused the Congress functionary Anand P of assault, criminal intimidation and coercion, police said.

Pvt bus catches fire; two charred to death

Chandigarh: Two passengers died, and seven others were injured when a private bus caught fire in Haryana's Bhiwani district, police said Tuesday. Police said both men who died in the incident could not get off the bus and were caught in the flames, and their charred bodies were found later.

Jamia students' protest over RSS-linked event turns violent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: A protest against an RSS-linked event in the Jamia Millia Islamia turned violent Tuesday, as a scuffle broke out between the SFI-affiliated students and the varsity's security guards.

Students belonging to the Students' Federation of India (SFI) unit of Jamia alleged that they were injured in the clash, a claim denied by the administration.

The students were protesting against the university for hosting the 'Yuva Kumbh' programme to mark 100 years of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Personnel from the Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force were deployed around the campus ahead of the protest.

"Over 50 students were injured in the crackdown, with several beaten by guards... Sev-

eral others were attacked and forcibly dragged by university guards," a statement by the SFI said. However, a university official, speaking to PTI, denied all the allegations.

"No such injuries were caused in the scuffle. Moreover, students have expressed objection to an event that was organised through proper channels," the official said.

"Every student, irrespective of their affiliations to any organisation, has the right to approach us regarding any event. Moreover, the discussions in the Yuva Kumbh event Tuesday were around topics like the future of the youth and the Indian knowledge system," the official added.

The event had drawn objections a day earlier from the SFT's Jamia unit, which termed it a "direct provocation".

Rajnath meets Chinese counterpart in Bishkek

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday met his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun in Bishkek to discuss maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and broader regional security concerns including the West Asia crisis.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave, came as New Delhi and Beijing move to repair their frosty relations.

The defence ministry said Singh and Dong shared views on the regional and global security landscape, especially the developments in West Asia. It is learnt that the two ministers also discussed the situation along the LAC and underlined the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in

SCO MEET



the border areas. In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020. Following

a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

In October 2024, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the

last two friction points in eastern Ladakh. Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties. In August last year, PM Modi travelled to Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit.

Modi and Xi held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO summit. In the meeting, Modi said India is committed to take forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity. Defence Minister Singh also met his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov.

Singh also held separate bilateral meetings with his Kyrgyz and Kazakh counterparts.

In the meeting with Kyrgyz Defence Minister Major General Mukambetov Ruslan Mustafievich, Singh discussed ways to strengthen the existing bilateral defence cooperation.



I am sure that the NDA is heading for a big victory in all five states where Assembly poll results are expected May 4. You can mark my words. I am not making a wild guess

NO PROPOSAL TO RAISE DIESEL, PETROL PRICES: GOVT OFFICIAL

The government has no plans to raise petrol and diesel prices, a senior official said Tuesday, dismissing speculation of a hike after polling in West Bengal ends April 29



of the day quote

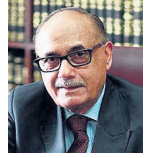
Shiv Sena is a party of workers where no one is big or small. Even as a leader, I function as a common worker, maintaining an open-door policy where no appointment is needed to meet me



If there hadn't been such a massive movement (Ram-janmabhoomi Andolan), would the temple have been built? The movement happened on such a scale. But if those in power weren't committed to building the Ram temple, would it have been built?



We are much better. We are not a hole, but whole in all respects, in adhering to democratic principles, upholding the rule of law and moving towards economic prosperity (said reacting to a post by Trump that referred India with derogatory remark)



LALIT BHASIN | FORMER NATIONAL PRESIDENT, IACC

POST OF THE DAY

All BJP leaders are eating something Bengali to win Bengal elections. - Manoj Tiwari ate fish - Anurag Thakur ate fish - Modi ate Jhalmuri - Himanta challenged Mamata for a fish eating competition But Gyanesh babu did the best during SIR. He ate Bengali votes.

SHORT TAKES

CV Anand new Telangana DGP

Hyderabad: Senior IPS officer C V Anand was appointed as the DGP of Telangana Tuesday. Anand, a 1991-batch IPS officer, currently serves as Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Home Department. He will take charge as Telangana DGP May 1. "C V Anand, Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Home Department, is transferred and, on selection, is posted as Director General of Police (Head of Police Force), Telangana, Hyderabad, in the Apex Scale of ₹2,25,000 (fixed)," an official order said.

Rain brings relief in parts of north

New Delhi: After days of scorching heat, several parts of north India Tuesday witnessed a slight dip in maximum temperatures as light rain, accompanied by gusty winds and thunderstorms, hit most places in Punjab and Haryana, while Delhi readied for similar conditions for the coming days, IMD data showed. In Rajasthan too, the maximum temperature dropped by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in many parts due to an active western disturbance and easterly winds, though parts of Uttar Pradesh continued to bake under the scorching sun as heatwave conditions persisted across many regions of the state. A cyclonic circulation over central Pakistan, northwest Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana is currently active and moving towards northeast India, driving the change in weather, the IMD said.

SNIPPETS

Watermelon death case: Suicide angle under probe

Mumbai: Samples of a watermelon, chicken pulao and other food eaten by a family of four who died of suspected food poisoning here have been sent for chemical analysis, police said Tuesday. It is also being investigated whether the family was under any kind of stress and whether it was a case of suicide, an official said. The Dokadia family, residents of Ghari Mohalla on Ismail Kurte Road in south Mumbai, had hosted a get-together of relatives Saturday night. At around 1 am, hours after the guests had left, Abdullah Dokadia (40), his wife Nasreen (35), and daughters Ayesha (16) and Zaineb (13) ate pieces of a watermelon. All suffered severe bouts of vomiting and diarrhoea in the early hours of Sunday and were rushed to a local hospital before being referred to the government-run J J Hospital where all four died during treatment, said the police official.

IRS officer assault case: Two CBI officers get 3-month jail

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sentenced two CBI officers to three months' simple imprisonment for assaulting and trespassing into the residence of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer during a raid over two decades ago, saying that they acted in "sheer violation of their legal powers as public servants". Judicial Magistrate Shashank Nandan Bhatt was hearing the arguments on the sentence against the convicted retired police officer V K Pandey and Ramnesh, who was serving as a superintendent of police when the raid was conducted in 2000.

J&K seminary declared unlawful under UAPA

Srinagar: Authorities declared Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom an unlawful entity under the UAPA after its 17 alumni allegedly joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, a police official said Tuesday. "As many as 17 former students of the institution joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, indicating a consistent pattern of indoctrination and recruitment," said the official, who wished to remain anonymous. On April 24, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, issued a two-page order based on a dossier presented by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, pointing toward the alleged illegal activities at Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom at Imam Sahib in Shopian. According to the Garg order, there was "credible input and evidence on record to indicated sustained and covert linkages of the institution with Jamaat-e-Islami", which the Centre banned in 2019.

SC: Roads can't be blocked in name of religious activities

NEW DELHI, April 28: Commenting that roads cannot be blocked in the name of religious activities, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said a denomination has the autonomy in the manner of worship and the court cannot sit in judgment over its religious affairs, but if a secular activity is being affected, the government can interfere with its rights. The observation of a nine-judge Constitution bench came while hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of the religious freedom practised by multiple faiths. The bench comprised Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine

George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joyrnalya Bagchi. On the ninth day of the hearing, advocate Akshay Nagarajan, representing the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha in the court, submitted that the government cannot interfere with a religious denomination's rights by citing grounds under Article 25(2)(a). Article 25(2)(a) of the Constitution empowers the State to regulate or restrict any economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practices. Nagarajan said the protection under Article 25 is not confined merely to matters of religious belief and extends equally to outward manifestations of faith, including rituals, observances, ceremonies and practices associated with the worship of a particular deity. The submissions led Justice Nagarathna to observe that



the State can step in if a secular activity is affected by religious activities. "Suppose there is a temple, they want to have an annual festival, like you have the annual cart or chariot festival. You cannot block all the roads around the temple. That has nothing to do with religion. You do your religious activity, but not by blocking the roads. The State can always step in to regulate," she said. Justice Nagarathna asserted that while the court cannot sit in judgment over the religious affairs of a denomination as autonomy has been given to the denomination under

the Constitution, when secular activities are affected, the State can always interfere. "Suppose they say they have a particular way of worship. That is the autonomy which is given in the manner of worship. Court cannot sit in judgment and say, no this cannot be done. But if a secular activity is also affected, then the State can step in to regulate," the judge said. Nagarajan contended that secular rights can be taken care of under Article 26(d). Article 26(d) of the Constitution guarantees religious denominations the right to administer their own movable and immovable properties in accordance with law. During the hearing, advocate Ashwini Upadhyay submitted that "Bharat" was divided into 25 pieces in the last 2,000 years due to denominational conflicts and in the last 200 years, it was divided into seven countries.

BJP SWEEPS LOCAL BODY POLLS IN GUJARAT

Ahmedabad, April 28: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday swept the local body elections in Gujarat by winning all 15 municipal corporations that went to the polls and 33 out of 34 district panchayats in the state. Though final results of 250 taluka panchayats and 84 municipa-

lities were awaited, data from the State Election Commission (SEC) showed that the ruling party has won most of these local bodies while some were bagged by the Congress, AAP and independents. Polling was held Sunday for 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats. More than 4.18 crore voters were

eligible to cast their ballots. The BJP emerged as clear winner in the municipal corporations of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar and Rajkot besides the newly created municipal corporations of Navsari, Gandhidham, Morbi, Vapi, Anand, Nadiad, Mehsana, Porbandar and Surendranagar. Elections were not held for Gandhinagar and Junagadh

corporations as they have a different election cycle. Barring Narmada district, the BJP also captured 33 district panchayats. The ruling party lost the Narmada district panchayat to AAP, which won 15 out of 22 seats while the saffron party managed to win only seven seats. AAP claimed in a statement that it has also won 12 taluka panchayats, including four in Narmada district.

Pan masala: FSSAI pushes for eco-friendly packaging

New Delhi, April 28: Food safety watchdog FSSAI Tuesday proposed replacing plastic packaging materials for pan masala with paper, cellulose and other eco-friendly alternatives. Proposing amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, the regulator said changes mooted are part of ongoing efforts to promote safe, sustainable and eco-friendly packaging practices across the food sector while taking into account industry requirements and technological feasibility.

Pan masala is one of the widely consumed items in the country. In the draft notification, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has sought to expand the list of suggestive packaging materials for pan masala by including naturally derived options, such as paper, paperboard, cellulose and other similar materials. These materials are widely recognised for their suitability in food packaging and their potential to support evolving industry practices, as per the regulator.

AFFIDAVIT I, Shyam Sundar Choudhury, aged about 48 years, S/o Rabintra Nath Choudhury, Resident of Flat No. 330, Tower No. 8, Royal Lagoon Apartment, Raghunathpur, Bhubaneswar, District: Khurda, Odisha - 751024, do hereby, state that my minor son, namely, Shankhadeep Shyam Sundar Choudhury and Shankhadeep Choudhury are the same person and being the father of a minor, I hereby, declare that by this affidavit, from now onwards, my son, Shankhadeep Shyam Sundar Choudhury shall be known as SHANKHADEEP CHOUDHURY for all future purposes.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF PANCHAYATRAJ & DRINKING WATER OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PANCHAYAT SAMITI NAKTIDEUL, SAMBALPUR-768118 e-Procurement Notice No. (PSNKD) 01/2026-27 email address: ori-naktideul@nic.in PERCENTAGE RATE TENDER NO.1408, DT.24.04.2026

EAST COAST RAILWAY File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/26-27/E-Tender/08, Dt. 27.04.2026 (1) Tender No. : e-Tender-estatekur-07-25, dtd. 15.04.2026 Description: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS. 5 LAKHS OR BELOW IN RAIL VIHAR UNDER THE SECTION OF SR. SECTION ENGINEER (SSE) (WORKS)/ CSPR/WEST, BHUBANESWAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2027. Approx. cost of the work ₹ 167.13 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 3,34,300.00 (2) Tender No. : e-Tender-estatekur-10-25, dtd. 15.04.2026 Description: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION CRWS/MANCHESWAR (MCS) COLONY (EXCLUDING WORK SHOP) INCLUDING CENTRAL HOSPITAL UNDER SR. SECTION ENGINEER (SSE) (W/MANCHESWAR (MCS) COLONY/MANCHESWAR (MCS) FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30/06/2027. Approx. cost of the work ₹ 189.45 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 3,78,900.00 (3) Tender No. : e-Tender-estatekur-12-25, dtd. 15.04.2026 Description: ZONAL CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE, ADDITION & ALTERATION OF EXISTING HORTICULTURAL WORKS ETC. AT MANCHESWAR SETTLEMENT (COLONY) AND WORKSHOP EACH COSTING UPTO RS. 5.00 LAKHS OR LESS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (DEN) (ESTATE)/ BHUBANESWAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2027. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 63.47 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 1,27,000.00 Completion period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for all sl. nos.). Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. of 06.05.2026 (for all sl. nos.). No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website ten days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-94/R/26-27, Khurda Road

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 03 2, India Branch Office : 3rd Floor, Sreemaa Construction Building, Naya Chowk, Madhapal, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753010 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE Contact No. : Mr. B. Harikrishna, Mob. No.9937490975, Pinaki Dutta, Mob. 9437479421, Suman Kalyan Satapathy, Mob. 07978744193 E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee (s) that the below-described Immovable Properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred hereinafter as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to the General public that we are going to conduct a public E-Auction through the website https://bankauctions.in/

F. No. 35-4/2025 - TS.III (Pt.) Government of India Ministry of Education Department of Higher Education Appointment of Director, one each, in National Institutes of Technology located at Calicut (Kerala) and Delhi Applications are invited for filling up of upcoming vacancy to the post of Director, one each, in National Institutes of Technology (NITs) located at Calicut (Kerala) and Delhi in the scale of pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (fixed) plus Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- p.m. and other admissible allowances as applicable to the Vice-Chancellor of the Central Universities and the Directors of other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs). Director of an NIT being the academic as well as administrative head is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background (including significant experience in research guidance at the Ph.D. level) with leadership qualities. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for a term of five years or till attainment of the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. Eligible/interested persons may apply ONLINE at www.nitcouncil.org.in. Online application window shall be opened from 30.04.2026 to 29.05.2026 upto 12:00 midnight. Both dates are inclusive. The detailed advertisement along with other necessary information are given in the website http://education.gov.in and www.nitcouncil.org.in. CBC 21275/11/0002/2627

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2026/14, Date: 27.04.2026. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. SI.No.-1. Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-08-2026. Description of work: Kharagpur - Asanboni & Kharagpur - Midnapur section: Improvement of infrastructure at LC gates by providing ROSO type Height Gauges 22.5 sets at 28 Nos. Level X-ings under the jurisdiction of DEN/West/Kharagpur. Tender Value: ₹ 3,60,50,548.75. Earnest Money: ₹ 7,21,000. Date of Opening: 13.05.2026. SI.No.-2. Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-09-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division in Sardiha-Gidhni section in Jhargram district of West Bengal. Tender Value: ₹ 98,07,847.99. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,96,200. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-3. Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-10-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division in Gidhni-Rakha Mines section in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. Tender Value: ₹ 1,93,61,993.47. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,87,200. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-4. Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-14-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division in East Midnapore district in the state of West Bengal. Tender Value: ₹ 1,27,41,731.97. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,54,800. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-5. Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-15-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at West Midnapore district in the state of West Bengal. Tender Value: ₹ 2,72,46,665.65. Earnest Money: ₹ 5,44,900. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-6. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-14-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Baleswar district in the state of Odisha. Tender Value: ₹ 1,81,08,042.65. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,62,200. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-7. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-15-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Mayurbhanj district in the state of Odisha. Tender Value: ₹ 2,16,02,656.35. Earnest Money: ₹ 4,32,100. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. SI.No.-8. Tender No.: E-KGP-East-22-2026. Description of work: Mutation of balance portion of Railway land, duly converting the ownership details, survey of mutated Railway land and supply of Railway land boundary maps in Kharagpur division at Howrah district in the state of West Bengal. Tender Value: ₹ 1,05,71,416.68. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,11,400. Date of Opening: 18.05.2026. Tender Document Cost: ₹ 0 (for SI.No. 1 to 8 each). Completion Period of the work: 12 months (for SI.No. 1 to 8 each). Bidding start date: From 29.04.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 13.05.2026 (for SI.No. 1) & from 04.05.2026 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.05.2026 (for SI.No. 2 to 8 each). Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ descriptions/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these works will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-95)

international



We believe it is important that the country returns to a peaceful and stable situation as soon as possible

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

KING CHARLES ARRIVES AT WH

Britain's King Charles arrived at the White House Tuesday for a meeting with US President Donald Trump, as part of a state visit intended to underscore the importance of unity between the two longtime allies...



of the day quote

There's no doubt in my mind that at some point in the future, if this radical clerical regime remains in charge in Iran, they will decide they want a nuclear weapon



MARCO RUBIO | US SECRETARY

Recent events have evidenced the depth and strength of our strategic partnership. As our relationship continues to grow, we are grateful for solidarity and welcome Russia's support for diplomacy



ABBAS ARAGHCHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

It is true that, logistically, the GCC countries supported each other, but politically and militarily, I think their position was the weakest in history



ANWAR GARGASH | SENIOR UAE OFFICIAL

TRUMP CLAIMS IRAN IN 'STATE OF COLLAPSE'

REUTERS

Dubai/Washington, April 28: Donald Trump said Iran had informed him it was in a "state of collapse" and was figuring out its leadership situation, as efforts to end the conflict appeared at an impasse Tuesday with the US president unhappy at the latest plans from Tehran.

Iran's most recent proposal on resolving the two-month war would set aside discussion of its nuclear programme until the conflict was concluded and disputes over shipping from the Gulf resolved.

Trump wants nuclear issues dealt with from the outset, a US official briefed on Trump's Monday meeting with his advisers said.

In a post on Truth Social Tuesday Trump said, "Iran has just informed us that they are in a 'State of Collapse'. They want us to 'Open the Hormuz Strait,' as soon as possible, as they try to figure out their leadership situation (Which I believe they will be able to do!). Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

It was not clear from Trump's social media post how Iran might have communicated that message.

GULF LEADERS MEET IN SAUDI ARABIA

Meanwhile, Gulf leaders met in person in Saudi Arabia Tuesday for the first time since their states became a front in the Iran war. A Gulf official said the meeting aimed to craft a response to the thousands of Iranian missile and drone attacks they faced since the US and Israel launched the war



IRANIAN PLAN WOULD SET ASIDE NUCLEAR ISSUE UNTIL WAR ENDS TRUMP UNHAPPY WITH DELAYING DEAL ON NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IRAN DEMANDS BLOCKADE BE LIFTED BEFORE ANY NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN TRUMP SAYS IRAN FIGURING OUT ITS LEADERSHIP

Iran February 28.

Attacks have subsided since a ceasefire April 8, though Gulf capitals remain wary of resumed conflict.

Iran's previous nuclear deal with the United States and other powers in 2015 sharply curtailed its nuclear programme, which it has long maintained is for peaceful, civilian purposes. But that deal fell apart when Trump unilaterally withdrew in his first term in office.

Hopes of reviving peace efforts in a conflict that has killed thousands, thrown energy markets into turmoil and disrupted global trade routes, have receded since Trump last weekend scrapped a

visit by his special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner to mediator Pakistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi shuttled in and out of Islamabad twice during the weekend. He also visited Oman and Monday went to Russia, where he met President Vladimir Putin and received words of support from a longstanding ally.

OIL PRICES RISE AGAIN

With the warring sides still seemingly far apart, oil prices resumed their upward march, with Brent crude rising 3% to \$111.40 a barrel, a three-week high.

The World Bank forecast energy prices would surge by 24% in 2026 to their highest level since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine four years ago, if the most acute disruptions caused by the Iran war end in May.

The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday it was quitting OPEC and OPEC+, dealing a heavy blow to the oil export groups and their de facto leader, Saudi Arabia.

Musk, Sam Altman arrive in court for OpenAI trial

REUTERS

Oakland, California, April 28: A trial that could help shape the future of artificial intelligence begins Tuesday, with billionaires Elon Musk and Sam Altman at odds over the evolution of ChatGPT maker OpenAI from a nonprofit to a profit-seeking juggernaut worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Opening statements in Musk's civil lawsuit against OpenAI and Altman will take place in the Oakland, California, federal court, following the selection Monday of nine jurors.

Musk claims that Altman and Greg Brockman, respectively OpenAI's chief executive and president, betrayed him and the public by abandoning the company's mission to be a benevolent steward of AI for the benefit of humanity, and turning it into a "wealth machine" for themselves and investors.

The world's richest person is seeking \$150 billion in damages from OpenAI and Microsoft, one of its largest investors, with proceeds going to OpenAI's charitable arm.

He also wants OpenAI to revert to a nonprofit, with Altman and Brockman removed as officers and Altman removed from its board. Both Musk and Altman arrived at the courthouse early Tuesday for opening statements.



WH DINNER SHOOTING

Man charged in Trump assassination attempt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, April 28: The man who authorities say tried to storm the White House Correspondents' Association dinner with guns and knives was Monday charged with the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump.

He appeared in court to face charges in a chaotic encounter that resulted in shots being fired, Trump being rushed off the stage and guests ducking for cover underneath their tables.

Cole Tomas Allen was taken into custody after the shooting on Saturday night and was charged in federal court in Washington. Authorities say an officer wearing a bullet-resistant vest was shot in the vest but is expected to recover.

Allen, of Torrance, California, is being represented by lawyers with the federal defender's office and sat beside them in court in a blue jail uniform. He also was charged with transport of a firearm and ammunition in interstate commerce and with discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. He did not enter a plea.

The judge assigned two assistant public defenders to represent Allen. One of them, Tezira Abe, noted that Allen doesn't have a criminal record and "is presumed innocent at this time". Prosecutors have not revealed a motive, but in a message reviewed by The Associated Press that authorities say was sent by Allen to family members minutes before the attack, Allen referred to himself



as a "Friendly Federal Assassin," made repeated references to the Republican president without naming him and alluded to grievances over a range of Trump administration actions.

Investigators are treating the writings, along with a trail of social media posts and interviews with family members, as some of the clearest evidence of the suspect's mindset and possible motives.

Allen, 31, is believed to have travelled by train from California to Chicago and then onto Washington, where he checked himself in as a guest at the hotel where the gala dinner was held with its typically tight security, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said.

Video posted by Trump shows a man, who authorities say was armed with guns and knives, running past a security barricade as Secret Service agents run toward him.

Records show Allen is a highly educated tutor and amateur video game developer. A social media profile for a man with the same name and a photo that appears to match that of the suspect show he worked part-time for the last six years at a company that offers admissions counselling and test preparation services to aspiring college students.

SHORT TAKES

S'pore jails PIO for molesting minor

Singapore: A 33-year-old Indian-origin man was sentenced to 19 months' jail by a Singapore court for molesting his friend's minor sister over a decade ago. The crime took place over the years when the victim was seven to nine years old, and Melvinder Singh Gurmit Singh was 19 to 21 years old. Singh had contested two counts of molestation, claiming among other things that the girl had kissed him consensually and that she was taking revenge on him. The girl had not disclosed the offences earlier as she felt nobody would believe her, but said the molestation impacted her ability to give and receive physical affection, reported Channal News Asia.

Uganda detains 231 foreigners

Kampala: Ugandan authorities said Tuesday that they have detained dozens of foreigners in a crackdown on illegal migration that the internal affairs ministry suggested was linked to human traffickers and cyberscam operations. At least 231 people have been detained since Monday in operations that targeted a group of Nigerians living in the country's north, as well as another group of foreigners living together in a closed compound in Kampala, the capital. The second group included people from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Ghana, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Malaysia, all of whom were staying in "a highly restricted, self-contained apartment complex equipped with its own restaurant and internal facilities designed to restrict movement," according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 5

Cairo/Gaza: Israeli strikes killed five Palestinians, including a 9-year-old boy, in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, health officials said. Medics said an Israeli drone killed the child, Adel Al-Najjar, in eastern Khan Younis in the south of the enclave, while an Israeli airstrike targeted a vehicle in Gaza City, killing four people. Regarding the strike in Khan Younis, the Israeli military said it had targeted an individual who posed a threat to Israeli troops by approaching the "yellow line" that demarcates the part of Gaza occupied by Israel. It did not provide evidence that the individual had posed any threat. The Israeli military said the strike in Gaza City targeted what it said was a "terrorist", without providing evidence.

SNIPPETS

Gunman, 89, arrested after 5 wounded in Athens shootings



ATHENS: Police arrested an 89-year-old suspected of wounding five people in two separate gun attacks in Athens Tuesday, the Greek citizens' protection ministry said. A man opened fire with a shotgun at a branch of Greece's EFKA social security agency, wounding an employee in the leg, police said. The gunman then travelled

by taxi to a court building, where he fired several shots inside, lightly wounding four female court clerks, according to police, court officials and the judiciary employees' union. The gunman left the shotgun at the scene, along with letters addressed to newspapers, and fled on foot, media reported. During the arrest, a second weapon was found, local media reported. Media identified the suspect as a garbage collector from the Athens area. Police have not commented on a possible motive. The man was arrested in a hotel in Patras, some 200 km from Athens.

Indonesia commuter train crash toll rises to 15

JAKARTA: The death toll from a train collision near the Indonesian capital Jakarta has risen to 15 with another 88 injured, a senior minister said Tuesday, as emergency teams completed work to rescue passengers trapped in the wreckage. The collision between a commuter train and a long-distance train happened late on Monday in Bekasi, just outside Jakarta, with a carriage reserved for women bearing the brunt of the crash. Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, Indonesia's senior minister for infrastructure, told reporters the death toll had risen to 15. Mohammad Syafii, the head of Indonesia's search and rescue agency, said all the victims were women and most of them had been pinned inside by crushed metal. It had been a delicate process to extricate them from the mangled carriages, he added, but the evacuation had been completed.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, stranded residents are evacuated on a boat after flooding from heavy rainfall in Qinzhou in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Monday

Robot dogs with Musk, Zuckerberg heads roam Berlin gallery

The installation, titled 'Regular Animals' by world-renowned digital artist Beep (Mike Winkelmann), features a pack of autonomous robotic canines that roam the gallery, 'digesting' their surroundings through AI cameras

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, April 28: Robot dogs with hyper-realistic silicone heads modelled after world-renowned figures - including Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso - can be seen roaming around a Berlin gallery, occasionally "pooping" printed images of their surroundings which they've previously captured

with integrated cameras. The animals are part of an interactive installation by American artist Beep (Mike Winkelmann) currently showing at Berlin's New National Gallery.

Each printed image shows a snippet of reality transformed by AI to resemble the personality of the dog or, in other words, the worldview of the human figure on its shoulders (i.e., the Picasso dog will produce images in Cubist style and Warhol's in pop art).

It's a commentary on how our perceptions are shaped by algorithms and technology platforms, the organisers of the exhibition write in the description of the event.

"In the past, our view of the world was shaped in part by how artists saw the world," Beep told the AP. "How Picasso painted changed how we saw the world, how Warhol talked about consumerism, pop cul-



ture that changed how he saw those things."

Now our view of the world is shaped by tech billionaires who own powerful algorithms that decide what we see and what we don't see, the artist added.

"That's an immense amount of power that I don't think we've fully understood, especially because when they want

to make a change, they don't need to lobby the UN. They don't need to get something through Congress or the EU, they just wake up and change these algorithms."

The dogs also wear heads in Beep's own image.

Lisa Botti, the curator of the exhibition in Berlin, said that artificial intelligence was one

of the phenomena most impacting our lives today and that "museums are the places where society can reflect" on such transformations, which is why she wanted to have Beep's work shown.

The work, entitled "Regular Animals," was first shown at Art Basel Miami Beach 2025.

Beep is a graphic designer from South Carolina who does a variety of digital artworks. He is one of the founders of the "everyday" movement in 3D graphics. For years, he has been creating a picture every day and posting it online without missing a single day.

According to Christie's, he is the third most expensive living artist to sell at auction, after David Hockney and Jeff Koons.

In the spring of 2021, Christie's opened bidding for Beep's digital collage entitled "Everydays: The First 5000 Days," with the sale ultimate-

ly closing at over \$69 million. The auction house described the artwork as "critiques of modern society, the government and social media" in the form of "grotesque, dystopian futures, often featuring celebrities like Donald Trump and Kanye West."

Christie's said the sale marked the first time a major auction house offered a digital-only artwork with a non-fungible token as a guarantee of its authenticity, as well as the first time cryptocurrency has been used to pay for an artwork at auction.

Non-fungible tokens, known as NFTs, are electronic identifiers confirming a digital collectible is real by recording the details on a digital ledger known as a blockchain. The tokens have swept the online collecting world recently, an offshoot of the boom in cryptocurrencies.

of the day **quote**

The system must ensure transparency, time-bound decision-making and accountability. We must use technology to reduce construction costs, but not at the expense of quality

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

FTA discussions are going on with Chile... (Chilean) The minister will be here on May 12. Talks are on with Peru, with GCC... a little bit of pause because of the West Asia war. We will open the other four markets also, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

People who order dinner on Zomato four times a week, or groceries on Blinkit every other day, are not going to reroute those habits through a chat window. The people who are excited about experimenting with ordering food through AI assistants are a real but early segment, and currently, nowhere close to disrupting our business

DEEPIKAR GOYAL | ETERNAL FOUNDER

SHORT TAKES

Maruti Suzuki Q4 net profit falls 6.45%

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Tuesday reported a 6.45 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,659 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, due to mark-to-market impact despite record vehicle sales. The auto major had posted a net profit of ₹3,911.1 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. The net profit declined primarily due to mark-to-market impact, the company said, adding that there was lower non-operating income, a notional loss due to a change in bond yields, which can be recovered at a later stage. Its total revenue from operations inched up 28.2 per cent to ₹52,462.5 crore in the fourth quarter against ₹40,920.1 crore in the same period of 2024-25, it added. Net sales crossed the ₹50,000 crore milestone for the first time in the fourth quarter, the company said.

Eternal's Q4 net profit jumps over fourfold

New Delhi: Food delivery and quick commerce firm Eternal, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit brands, Tuesday reported a multi-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹174 crore for the fourth quarter, supported by higher revenue growth. The company had posted a net profit of ₹39 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. In the quarter under review, Eternal's revenue from operations zoomed to ₹17,292 crore from ₹5,833 crore in the year-ago period. However, its total expenses also surged to ₹17,406 crore from ₹6,104 crore in the comparable January-March quarter of the preceding financial year. Eternal said it is entering into an asset transfer agreement with its subsidiary Wasteland Entertainment Private Limited to transfer the technology stack of the District platform, along with its identified employees, for an aggregate consideration of over ₹24.19 crore. WEPL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, is engaged in the business of providing online/offline ticketing services for events and other activities, booking of slots for sports facilities, and other related ancillary services to event organisers.



RC BHARGAVA | CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

We are going to see in the next few years is (that) every year we will see growth happening in the car industry because of the fact that the demand has once again revived

PEAK POWER DEMAND REACHES RECORD 256GW

The country's peak power demand soared to 255.85 GW Monday, reaching the record level for the second time within three days, driven by intense heatwave conditions that pushed usage of cooling appliances like air-conditioners and desert coolers.



Stock markets decline amid surging oil prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 28: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure Tuesday as a sharp rally in oil prices and foreign fund outflows amid persistent geopolitical uncertainties dented investors' sentiment.

Deep losses in banking, financial and auto stocks also dragged the equity benchmarks lower, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 416.72 points, or 0.54 per cent, to settle at 76,886.91. During the day, it lost 562.57 points, or 0.72 per cent, to 76,741.06.

A total of 2,257 stocks declined, while 1,998 advanced and 172 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share gauge NSE Nifty dropped 97 points, or 0.40 per cent, to end at 23,995.70.

"The session was largely influenced by persistent geopolitical uncertainty, particularly around US-Iran negotiations, which kept crude oil prices elevated and weighed on sentiment. Additionally, pressure



in banking stocks following regulatory developments related to provisioning norms further capped the upside. Despite these headwinds, buying in select index heavyweights and commodity-linked stocks, along with stock-specific earnings triggers, helped cushion the downside," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Inter-Globe Aviation, Maruti, State

vate banks (1.23 per cent), auto (0.98 per cent) and hospitals (0.95 per cent).

"The Reserve Bank of India has finalised the implementation of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework from April 2027, replacing the incurred loss model with a forward-looking system that enables earlier recognition of credit risks and continuous monitoring. In the near term, this transition is likely to increase provisioning requirements and weigh on margins, particularly for PSU banks and lenders with higher exposure to unsecured and MSME segments," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

However, energy, commodities, industrials, telecommunication, utilities, metal and oil & gas were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower, while South Korea's benchmark Kospi settled higher.

New Regional Head of BoB Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, April 28: Pravakar Jhapatsingh took charge as the new Regional Head, Sambalpur Regional Office, Bank of Baroda. Jhapatsingh joined the Bank on May 30, 2005 and has gained vast experience working in rural, urban, suburban and metro areas.

With 21 years of banking experience, he has worked in five states - Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. He has strong expertise in branch banking, administration and credit.



Jhapatsingh said that his priority will be to provide better customer service and advanced banking services to the 16 districts under Sambalpur region.

Jhapatsingh was earlier working as the Deputy Regional Head in Hyderabad. He also worked as the Priority Sector In-charge in Odisha from 2014 to 2016 and excelled in business growth and operational work in the state.

Sambalpur sector officers and employees welcomed Jhapatsingh and hoped that his contribution will bring immense success to the Sambalpur sector and create a new chapter in the business sector.

Aditya Aluminium offers free coaching for aspiring students

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Lapanga, April 28: Under its Community Development Program Project 'Gyanarjan', Aditya Aluminium launched an initiative to provide free entrance exam coaching for students aspiring to study in Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV). The main objective of this programme is to provide quality education to rural students and prepare them for competitive examinations.

The educational programme was initiated with the cooperation of the villagers of Tileimal, who provided a building, and Aditya Aluminium, which provided experienced teachers. This initiative will benefit students of the Class 4 and Class 5 from the Bomaloi gram panchayat.

China supplies over 30% of India's industrial goods: GTRI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: China accounts for around 16 per cent of India's total imports, but its dominance is significantly higher in industrial goods, supplying as much as 30.8 per cent of the country's requirements, think tank GTRI said Tuesday.

The country's imports increased to USD 774.98 billion in 2025-26. Out of this, USD 131.63 billion was from China.

Dependence on a single supplier for critical inputs leaves sectors like pharmaceuticals, electronics and clean energy exposed to disruptions, whether geopolitical or commercial, it said.

The GTRI analysis said that about 66 per cent of India's imports from China, valued at USD 82.6 billion, are clustered in electronics, machinery, computers, and organic chemicals.

China accounts for 43 per cent of India's electronics imports, 40 per cent of machinery and computer imports, and 44

Gold slumps ₹1,800, silver plunges ₹6,500

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Gold prices retreated by ₹1,800 to ₹1.54 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday, while silver plunged ₹6,500 to ₹2.44 lakh per kilogram as a renewed surge in crude oil rates and a firm US dollar rattled global bullion markets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity fell ₹1,800, or 1.15 per cent, to ₹1,54,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The metal had settled at ₹1,56,100 per 10 grams Monday. Silver prices also slumped by ₹6,500, or nearly 3 per cent, to ₹2,44,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had closed at ₹2,50,500 per kg in the previous market session.

"Gold dropped to a three-week low Tuesday as rising energy prices heightened inflation concerns and reinforced expectations for a prolonged period of higher interest rates," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Increased inflation expectations have bolstered the belief in a more hawkish policy stance, leading to higher bond yields. Consequently, this situation adds additional downward pressure on prices, he added.

Traders also appeared to be trimming positions ahead of key central bank decisions, including that of the US Federal Reserve, which further contributes to the downward pressure, Gandhi said.

In the international market, spot gold fell USD 95.37, or 2.04 per cent, to USD 4,586.50 per ounce while silver slipped USD 2.33, or 3.09 per cent, to USD 73.18 per ounce. Spot gold was trading more than 1 per cent lower near USD 4,580 per ounce as crude oil and dollar extended gains following reports that President Donald Trump was dissatisfied with Iran's latest proposal, which reportedly included delaying nuclear talks, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

As a result, inflation concerns and fading hopes of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve are supporting the dollar and weighing on precious metals, he added.

Singh said that investors will also track major US economic numbers, including ADP weekly employment readings and Conference Board consumer confidence figures due later in the day.



per cent of organic chemicals.

"These are not discretionary purchases but core inputs that feed directly into India's manufacturing ecosystem," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said that the Indian industry relies heavily on Chinese inputs such as electronics parts, EV batteries, solar modules, APIs and specialty chemicals.

"As a result, even as India tries to grow exports, its supply chains remain tied to China. This creates clear risks,"

he added. The GTRI suggested that India needs to build domestic capacity in key sectors and diversify supply chains.

"A practical starting point would be to limit dependence on any single country to below 30 per cent of imports in critical sectors," Srivastava said.

India's trade with China is no longer just a deficit story; it is a production-dependence story.

Exports to China remain stuck below FY2021 levels at USD 19.5 billion, while imports have more than doubled to USD 131.6 billion, pushing the deficit to USD 112.1 billion in 2025-26.

Goods moved from SEZs to domestic markets are imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: The government has clarified that when goods are supplied from SEZ units to the domestic market after paying applicable duties and later re-exported, they will be treated as imported goods for the purposes of disbursement of duty drawback.

The instruction clarifies that goods supplied by an SEZ unit to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) after payment of customs duties will be treated as imported goods if later re-exported.

According to an instruction of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to customs authorities, it has been observed by the audit that divergent practices are being followed in the processing of duty drawback claims filed by DTA units under Customs law.

It has been stated that some field formations have not treated clearance from SEZ to DTA as import and have denied the disbursement of drawback under Section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962. "...it is hereby clarified that in cases where goods are cleared

into DTA from SEZ unit on payment of applicable duties and are re-exported thereafter are to be treated as imported goods for the purposes of disbursement of drawback under Section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962," it said.

Commenting on the move, think tank GTRI said this is a welcome and fair clarification by the CBIC. It said by treating duty-paid goods supplied from SEZs to the DTA as imported goods for the purpose of refund under Section 74 of the drawback rules when they are later re-exported, the instruction removes

an unnecessary ambiguity that had led to different practices across customs formations.

"It will bring uniformity, reduce litigation, and ensure justice for exporters who have already paid applicable customs duties. There is no reason such duties should remain locked when the same identifiable goods are exported again," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He added that the change supports fairness, improves cash flows, and provides greater certainty to DTA buyers, exporters, and SEZ suppliers. Federation

of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said the decision provides much-needed clarity on the eligibility of duty drawback for re-exports of goods supplied by SEZ units to the DTA.

"By aligning the treatment with import principles and permitting drawback under Section 74, it removes long-standing ambiguity and supports exporters' liquidity. We welcome this pragmatic step and urge uniform, facilitative implementation at the field level to fully realise its benefits for exporters, especially MSMEs," it said.

Iran war disrupts scrap supplies to Indian aluminium producers

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 28: India's secondary aluminium producers, which rely on imported scrap, are facing shortages as the Middle East conflict disrupts supplies and drives up costs that are likely to be passed on to automakers, industry executives said.

India, one of the world's largest aluminium scrap importers, produces nearly half of its 4.2 million metric tons of aluminium through its secondary sector. The country depends heavily on scrap from the European Union, the U.S. and the Middle

East, which accounts for about 30% of shipments.

"Various units are running at lower capacities and there are production cuts of 20-40%," said Jayant Jain, managing director at GR Metalloys, a leading producer based in the western city of Ahmedabad.

Scrap prices have jumped by nearly 30% since the Iran conflict began earlier this year, executives said, squeezing margins and depleting inventories.

"There is a hand-to-mouth situation in scrap plants because of shortages and price increase," said Sandeep Jain, managing director at Sunalco



Alloys, adding that most companies have exhausted stocks. The strain is expected to rip-

ple through to the auto sector, dominated by companies such as Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors,

Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor India, which together consume about 60% of domestically produced secondary aluminium.

"Due to the squeeze in scrap supplies, prices have been impacted, which will eventually be passed on to carmakers and ultimately, the buyers," said Dhawal Shah, managing partner at Metco Ventures.

India's auto industry body warned earlier this month of potential production disruptions, as well as higher input, fuel and freight costs due to the Middle East conflict.

Secondary producers are

also grappling with a 2.5% import levy on scrap, which executives say is exacerbating cost pressures. A recyclers' body has sought intervention from the Prime Minister's Office to remove the tax, Reuters reported last week. The government is studying the industry's request, Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal said. A European industry lobby group has also asked India to exempt a 10% import duty on glass bottles and aluminium cans amid shortage fears linked to the Iran war. The conflict has already caused a shortage of Diet Coke, which is sold only in aluminium cans in India.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

RR stop PBKS juggernaut

Rajasthan Royals' Ferreira, Dubey hand Punjab Kings first defeat of the season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mullanpur, April 28: Donovan Ferreira's audacious stroke-play handed Punjab Kings the bitter pill of defeat for the first time in this edition of IPL as Rajasthan Royals cantered home by six wickets in a high-octane chase here Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 223, Rajasthan Royals needed 71 off the last six overs when Ferreira smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off 26 balls in company of an unheralded Shubham Dubey (31 not out off 12 balls) to clinch the victory with four balls to spare.

Ferreira was brilliant while picking his areas as PBKS trika of Arshdeep Singh (1/68 in 4 overs), Lockie Ferguson (0/57 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (0/41 in 3.2 overs) would like to forget this day in a hurry.

TODAY'S MATCH
MI VS SRH
TIME: 7:30 PM
Star Sports channels & JioHotstar

Between Ferreira and Dubey, they hit nine fours and five sixes as they undid all the good work done by Yuzvendra Chahal (3/36 in 4 overs).

The manner in which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (43 off 16 balls) started with a deluge of sixes - five - including a couple of flicked maximums off Arshdeep Singh and Lockie Ferguson, it seemed RR would make a meal of the chase.

Arshdeep was lucky that Sooryavanshi missed out on a



sixth six when he mistimed a full-toss only for Shreyas Iyer to grab it with ease.

However, it was the wily Chahal who brought the Royals back in the game just when Yashasvi Jaiswal (51 off 27 balls) looked like slowly taking the game away in company of Dhruv Jurel (20 off 16 balls).

However, Jurel committed a hara-kiri, offering an easy skier off a full-toss but it was the manner in which Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag (29 off 16 balls) were taken out deserved more than honourable mention.

For both, the pace on the ball was considerably taken off and flighted outside the off-stump

line without giving enough room to chance their arms. Both were holed out at long-off.

But then, Ferreira and Dubey had other ideas as Chahal's good work went down the drain.

Earlier, Stoinis muscled his way to a 20-ball half-century despite a gallant effort from

IPL STANDINGS					
TEAMS	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
PBKS	8	6	1	1.043	13
RCB	8	6	2	1.919	12
RR	9	6	3	0.617	12
SRH	8	5	3	0.815	10
GT	8	4	4	-0.475	8
CSK	8	3	5	-0.121	6
DC	8	3	5	-1.060	6
KKR	8	2	5	-0.751	5
MI	7	2	5	-0.736	4
LSG	8	2	6	-1.106	4

young leg-spinner Yash Raj Punja as Punjab Kings posted a competitive 222 for 4 after being put into bat.

While Punjab's top three -- Prabhsimran Singh (59 off 44 balls), Priyansh Arya (29 off 11 balls) and Cooper Connolly (30 off 14 balls) -- all looked dangerous, but none of them went on to play a big knock on a track that was hard and offered appreciable bounce.

It was Stoinis, who bludgeoned his way to an unbeaten 22-ball 62 with a half a dozen of sixes and four boundaries as Royals gave away as many as 55 runs in last three overs. Inexperienced Brijesh Sharma's (0/42 in 4 overs) pace-off play backfired with 24 coming off the final over of the innings.

Stoinis, who hasn't really been summoned this season, was all about brute power and Royals bowlers, including the dependable Jofra Archer (1/40), were guilty of bowling length balls inside his hitting arc.

Brief Scores:
Punjab Kings: 222 for 4 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 59, Marcus Stoinis 62 not out; Yash Punja 2/41) lost to **Rajasthan Royals:** 228 for 4 in 19.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 51, Donovan Ferreira 52 not out; Yuzvendra Chahal 3/36) by 6 wickets

MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS NATIONAL

Odisha's Tapeswar bags bronze



RISHABH PAREKH, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 28: Odisha's Tapeswarnath Das, representing Services, secured the bronze medal in the senior Vault final as curtains drew on the Junior and Senior Men's Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-27 held at the Gymnastics High Performance Centre (HPC), Kalinga Stadium, here Tuesday.

In the junior category, Harschit Damodaran emerged as the standout performer with a dominant haul, winning gold in Floor Exercise, Still Rings, Vault, and Horizontal Bar. SK Nabigh Ali claimed silver medals in Floor Exercise and Pommel Horse, while Nishad Narvane delivered a strong all-around showing with gold in Parallel Bars, silver in Still Rings, and bronze in Floor Exercise.

Other junior medal winners included Swarnim Jaiswal (gold, Pommel Horse), Prasun Amalnarkar (bronze, Pommel Horse), Suman Dutta (bronze, Still Rings), Tulin Tewary (silver, Parallel Bars), Aaroha Sharma (bronze, Parallel Bars), Akshat Bajaj (silver, Vault), Soham Sagar Atrre (bronze, Vault), Md Zaid Ansari (silver, Horizontal Bar), and Is-han (bronze, Horizontal Bar).

In the senior category, Satyajit Mondal led the field with gold medals in both Floor Exer-

cise and Vault, while Siddarth Verma (Pommel Horse), Adari Navin Sai Krishna (Still Rings), Gaurav Kumar (Parallel Bars), and Shayan Sharma (Horizontal Bar) also topped their respective apparatus finals.

Other medalists included Sahil Yadav (silver, Floor Exercise), Niladri Sarkar (bronze, Floor Exercise), Sohom Majumder (silver, Pommel Horse), Harikrishnan JS (bronze, Pommel Horse), Swasthish KP (silver, Still Rings), Omkar Shinde (bronze, Still Rings), Abhijeet Kumar (silver, Parallel Bars), Sidhant P Konde (bronze, Parallel Bars), Uday C Naidu (silver, Vault), Tapeswarnath Das (bronze, Vault), Shreyas Chaudhari (silver, Horizontal Bar), and Tousif Rana Mondal (bronze, Horizontal Bar).

Earlier, Odisha gymnast Tapan Mohanty who emerged as the All-Around Champion in the Senior MAG category Sunday, failed to deliver on the final day. Tapan and Tapeswarnath are both prominent figures of Indian gymnastics who train at the AM/NS Gymnastics HPC.

With Odisha athletes making their presence felt and the championships now shifting focus to the Women's Artistic Gymnastics events starting April 30, the Kalinga Stadium continues to stand as a key hub for Indian gymnastics development.

SHORT TAKES

Madrid Open: Sinner books quarterfinal spot

Madrid: World No 1 Jannik Sinner delivered a clinical performance to move into the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open, easing past Cameron Norrie in straight sets Tuesday. Playing early in the day at the Manolo Santana Stadium, Sinner showed control and composure to secure a 6-2, 7-5 victory in 87 minutes in their first-ever meeting on the ATP Tour. The win extended the Italian's remarkable run, marking his 20th consecutive victory at the tour level and his 25th straight win in Masters 1000 events. With the result, Sinner advanced to the last-eight stage, where he will face either Spanish youngster Rafael Nadal or Czech player Vit Koprieva. Having already lifted titles in Paris late last year and at Indian Wells, Miami, and Monte-Carlo this season, he is now in contention to become the first player to clinch five successive Masters 1000 titles.

United edge closer to UCL return

Manchester: Manchester United edged closer to sealing a return to the UEFA Champions League after a 2-1 victory over Brentford at Old Trafford. United are now 11 points clear of sixth-placed Brighton and Hove Albion with four Premier League games remaining, and their Champions League qualification could be rubber-stamped this coming weekend when they host fourth-placed Liverpool at Old Trafford. A frantic first half saw plenty of chances at both ends, and Michael Carrick's side found the breakthrough thanks to Casemiro's 11th-minute header. Benjamin Sesko doubled the Red Devils' lead in the 43rd minute, finishing well after being picked out by Bruno Fernandes, who registered his 19th Premier League assist of the season, Premier League reports. Harry Maguire then went close from Fernandes' corner, but that duo soon combined for United's opener. Fernandes' delivery was met by Maguire, who headed to the back post, where Casemiro nodded in for his ninth Premier League goal of the season. Jensen did, however, provide a nervy finish when he spectacularly finished from 25 yards out in the 87th minute, but United were able to see out the victory despite a late wave of Brentford pressure.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AND JUNIOR C'SHIPS

Indian lifters bag four gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Indian lifters impressed at the ongoing Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and the corresponding Universal Cup (Senior) in Apia, Samoa, securing four gold medals on the second day of competition.

Sunil Singh lifted a total of 271kg (126kg in snatch and 145kg in clean and jerk) to clinch the gold in the 65kg men's category, while Aisangfa Gogoi won the top prize in women 58kg and Abhinob Gogoi bagged the yellow metal in men's 71kg division.

Aisangfa lifted a total of 185kg (79kg in snatch and 106kg in clean and jerk) to bag gold in the 58kg women's category, while Abhinob totalled 284kg (129kg in snatch and 155kg in clean and jerk) to secure top finish in the 71kg men's division. In the Universal Cup,



Arunachal Pradesh's Charu Pesi bagged the gold medal in the men's 65kg category with a total lift of 289kg (127kg in snatch and 162kg in clean and jerk).

Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) president Sahdev Yadav congratulated the athletes, coaches and support staff for their performances in the tournament.

PSG's crown awaits Bavarian test

Defending champion PSG face 6-time winner Bayern in Champions League semifinal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, April 28: Titleholder Paris Saint-Germain hosts six-time winner Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal Tuesday.

Coach Luis Enrique's PSG is at full strength while Vincent Kompany's Bayern has already clinched a record-extending 35th Bundesliga championship and remains on course for a treble.

Kompany is suspended, meaning he's barred from the dressing room and the touchline at Parc des Princes. Bayern won 2-1 in Paris in the league stage in November with left winger Luis Diaz scoring twice.

Two-time finalist PSG is appearing in its third straight semifinal and faces a Bayern which has not lost in any competition since January 24 and

scored 19 goals in the past five games.

Striker Harry Kane netted his 53rd goal of another prolific season on Saturday and right



wing-olise target ral-down beat the Li-PSG also

er Michael also was on as Bayern ralled from 3-0 at halftime to Mainz 4-3 in Bundesliga. PSG's leader rested some

first-teamers in a 3-0 win at Angers Saturday and hopes to have midfielders Vitorino and Fabian Ruiz ready to start alongside Joao Neves at Parc des Princes.

Paris Mayor Emmanuel Gregoire said he would attend the game and Paris city hall was decked out in PSG's colours. "Tonight I will be beside the team at Parc des Princes," he posted on X. "All Parisians are with

you, we're waiting for a victory. Good luck."

Spanish side Atletico Madrid hosts London club Arsenal Wednesday in the other semifinal first leg.



Vismaya, Srinivas banned by NADA

Quarter-miler Vismaya and sprinter Srinivas receive two and four year suspensions from National Anti-Doping Agency panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 28: Asian Games 4x400m relay gold-winning quarter-miler VK Vismaya has been handed two-year suspension by the NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, nearly two years after she tested positive for a banned substance.

Vismaya, who was a part of the Indian women's quartet that won gold in 4x400m relay in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in 2024 after her urine sample was found to contain



Clomiphene which comes under the hormone and metabolic modulators category and which is prohibited at all times.

DOPING ROW

Her sample was collected at her home at Perumbavur, near Kochi, in an out-of-competition test on August 15, 2024 and the NADA had informed the athlete about her dope flunk the follow-



ing month. She had later claimed that she had submitted Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) during dope sample collection.

Clomiphene is a non-steroidal medication used clinically to induce ovulation in women, and the 29-year-old Vismaya said she had taken it as a fertility drug. She had said she was prescribed the medication by her doctor for a "legitimate

medical purpose -- pregnancy treatment" and it had nothing to do with her performance.

But the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) in an order passed last month handed her two-year ban effective from October 29, 2024, meaning she will complete her ban period in six months. The ADDP decision was published by the NADA only recently.

Meanwhile, sprinter N Shanmuga Srinivas has been handed four-year ban by the ADPP from February 6, 2025 for "Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection". Srinivas is reportedly one of the two athletes who were helped by the former junior national athletics coach N Ramesh to evade dope tests at the SAI Hyderabad Centre.

Ramesh was initially handed provisional suspension. But, the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel of the NADA lifted the suspension on him last month.

Shuttlers outclassed by China

India women crash out after 0-5 defeat to China in Uber Cup Finals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Horsens, April 28: Indian women's campaign at the 2026 Uber Cup ended after losing to defending champions China in their final Group A fixture.

India came up with a spirited performance against China but could not avoid a 0-5 loss. Facing a must-win situation to stay in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth, former world champion PV Sindhu returned to play the first singles and had her chances against world no 2 Wang Zhi Yi.

Sindhu led Wang for most of the third game and even opened up a 18-12 lead in the decider. The Chinese then took seven consecutive points to take the lead and wrapped up the match a couple of points later.

India's other two singles players -- Isharani Baruah



and Devika Sihag -- also built pressure on their much fancied Chinese opponents but could not carve out a win.

Isharani lost to former Olympic Champion Chen Yu Fei 20-22, 13-21 while Devika went down 21-19, 17-21, 10-21 against Xu Wen Jing. India's scratch women's doubles combination of Tanisha Crasto and Kavipriya Selvam raised hopes of winning a point when they took the opening game against Luo Xu Min and Zhang Shu Xian but ended on the losing side of a 10-21, 21-12, 21-19 score line.