



Redefining love

Katrina Kaif says she underwent a transformative period that shaped her understanding of love, relationships and self-worth

LEISURE | P2



Onslaught continues

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip kill at least 24 people, including over a dozen women and kids, as per local health officials

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FPIs pull out ₹10,355cr

Foreign investors withdraw ₹10,355 crore from the country's equity markets in the last four trading sessions due to US tariffs

BUSINESS | P11



Shining campaign

The Indian boxing contingent comes up with an impressive performance at World Boxing bagging six medals

SPORTS | P12



TAKING TO STREET: Protesters shout slogans as they march during a “Hands Off!” protest against President Donald Trump Saturday, in New York, US

Odisha leads in Forest Rights implementation

OVER 65% CLAIMS RESULT IN TITLE DISTRIBUTION

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Odisha has emerged as one of the top-performing states in implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, with more than 65% of claims resulting in the distribution of land titles to tribal and forest-dwelling communities. This makes Odisha one of the few states where a significant portion of claims under the landmark legislation have translated into legal recognition of rights over forest land.

According to data from the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Odisha received over 7.2 lakh claims under the FRA — the second highest in the country after Chhattisgarh. Of these, more than 4.68 lakh titles have been distributed, reflecting a relatively better implementation rate compared to most other states.

Despite recording over 1.44 lakh claim rejections, Odisha stands out for maintaining a balance between disposal and recognition of rights. Experts say this reflects a comparatively proactive state mechanism in processing and approving genuine claims under the FRA. The Forest Rights Act, enacted in 2006, aims to correct historical injustices by recognising the tra-

KEY FIGURES (as of Jan 31, 2025 across India)	
Total FRA claims filed:	51.03L
Claims disposed of:	43.57L
Titles distributed:	24.98L

ditional rights of Adivasis and forest-dependent communities to inhabit and manage forest land. It allows for both individual and community claims.

Across India, more than 51 lakh claims have been filed under the Act till January 31, 2025. However, only 24.98 lakh titles have been distributed so far — less than half the total claims. In contrast, Odisha's title distribution rate is well above the national average, which stands at just under 50 per cent.

Alongside Odisha, Kerala (64.69%), Tripura (63.79%), Jharkhand (55.95%), and Gujarat (54.24%) are among the states with relatively high title distribution rates. On the other end of the spectrum, states like Karnataka (5.54%), Bihar (1.51%), and Uttarakhand (2.77%) have recorded alarmingly low success in converting claims into titles.

While Odisha has made notable progress, civil society groups continue to caution that

a significant number of legitimate claims still face rejection, often due to procedural lapses or lack of adequate support for claimants during verification. Activists urge the state to strengthen the review process and ensure that community forest rights—which are often sidelined—are also fully recognised.

Meanwhile, a report submitted by the Union Environment Ministry to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently revealed that more than 13 lakh hectares of forest land remain under what is officially termed “encroachment” in 25 states and Union territories. Ten states are yet to submit data on forest encroachments. The report was submitted to the NGT March 28, just ahead of a scheduled Supreme Court hearing Wednesday in a case challenging the constitutionality of the FRA.

While the hearing in the apex court could not take place as a three-judge Constitution bench is yet to be formed, tribal and forest dwellers' organisations have alleged that the report submitted to the NGT shows that the Central government continues to doublespeak on the issue of protecting tribal and forest-dependent communities' rights under the FRA.

4-yr-old raped by minor in Deogarh

Deogarh: A 4-year-old girl was raped by a 16-year-old boy under Rimal police limits in Deogarh district, police said Sunday. The matter came to the fore after family members of the survivor lodged a complaint at Rimal police station alleging rape of the girl child by the minor boy. The incident has spared shockwaves in the area after reports surfaced. Police launched an investigation into the incident as it detained the accused minor boy and interrogated him in this connection. The health condition of the survivor is stable and a medical examination will be conducted on her Monday, police said.

Probe on as water offered to cheetah

Bhopal: Authorities in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park have initiated disciplinary action after a video showing a man offering water to a cheetah and her cubs went viral on social media. In this incident, field staff violated the instructions and have shown indiscipline, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) Uttam Kumar Sharma said in a statement Sunday. “Further, a video was made and shared in the media disregarding every discipline and instructions in this regard. Action is being taken against the concerned staff,” Sharma added. KNP is located in Sheopur district, some 420 kilometres from Bhopal.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Congratulations! You're in! You failed the IQ test spectacularly

7 DIE AFTER OPERATION BY 'FAKE' CARDIOLOGIST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Damoh (MP), April 6: Seven persons have died allegedly after being treated by a fake cardiologist at a missionary hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, prompting the NHRC to launch a probe into the matter, officials said Sunday.

A team of the National Human Rights Commission will camp in Damoh from April 7 to 9 to conduct an investigation into the matter, NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo said.

As per a complaint lodged by a local resident with the NHRC, a person using the name 'Dr N John Camm', who was said to be working at the hospital, had shown himself to be educated and trained from abroad.

The complainant claimed the real name of the person is Nar-

endra Vikramaditya Yadav. He misused the name of a famous cardiologist from the United Kingdom, Professor John Camm, to mislead the patients and they died due to his wrong treatment, the complaint alleged.

The Mission Hospital authorities could not be contacted on the issue.

Kanoongo in a post on X Friday said a case of the untimely death of seven persons has come to light in a missionary hospital in Damoh where a fake doctor was operating on patients in the name of the treatment of heart disease.

According to the complaint, the said missionary hospital is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Yojana and hence government money has also been misused. The NHRC has ordered an investigation, he said.

PM launches new Pamban bridge in TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rameswaram, April 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday inaugurated the new Pamban bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge and flagged off train service linking Rameswaram island to the rest of the country. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin skipped the event.

Modi flagged off a Coast Guard ship that sailed under the bridge and also laid foundation stone for and dedicated to the nation various rail and road projects totally worth over ₹8,300 crore. In his address, Modi said the day marked the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami and that Lord Ram's good governance is the foundation for nation building.

He also outlined the connect Tamil Nadu had to Lord Ram



by quoting Sangam era literature. On the fishermen issue vis-a-vis Sri Lanka, he said over the past decade, more than 3,700 fishermen have been brought back from Sri Lanka, including over 600 in the past year alone.

While Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin skipped the event and upped the ante on the delimitation issue saying Modi should allay the fears

of the people on the proposed exercise, the PM, without naming anyone, hit back by picking the Tamil pitch. He batted for imparting medical education in Tamil medium to help the poor and said the state got 11 new medical colleges in recent years.

Modi said efforts were on to take Tamil language, heritage to all corners of the world.

Without naming anyone, the PM said he gets letters from leaders of Tamil Nadu and they do not sign in Tamil, and asked them to at least sign in Tamil. Earlier, the Prime Minister prayed at the Ramanathaswamy temple here.

Lauding the hard work of Tamil Nadu's fisheries community, he said that over the past five years, Tamil Nadu has received substantial funds under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, stressing the government's efforts to provide modern facilities for fishermen.

Against the background of DMK regime crying foul over fund allocation to the state, Modi said over the past decade, the Central government has allocated three times more funds for Tamil Nadu's development compared to the period before 2014.

MA Baby elected CPI(M) gen secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai, April 6: Former Kerala minister MA Baby was elected as the CPI(M) general secretary at the 24th party congress here Sunday, sources said.

A section of the party leaders had backed All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) president Ashok Dhawale for the post.

Born to PM Alexander and Lilly Alexander in Kerala's Prakkulam in 1954, Baby's first exposure to politics came when he joined the Kerala Students Federation, the predecessor of the Students Federation of India, during his school days. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1986 to 1998.

Baby has been a member of the Politburo, the highest decision-making body of the CPI(M), since 2012.

Is US headed for a recession?

AGENCIES

Washington, April 6: Just days ago, the US economy was showing signs of solid momentum. Job growth was strong, wages were rising, and consumer spending remained resilient. But a sudden escalation in trade tensions has drastically shifted the economic outlook — and not for the better.

On April 2, President Trump announced sweeping new tariffs on nearly all US trading partners, calling it ‘Liberation Day.’ Markets reacted swiftly. In just two trading sessions, more than \$6 trillion in stock market value was erased, with the S&P 500 suffering its sharpest back-to-back losses since 2020. The index fell 4.8% Thursday and another 6% Friday after China retaliated with 34% tariffs on US goods. Some analysts predict a ‘Black Monday’ when the markets open April 7.

The fallout has raised fresh concerns that a recession may be closer than previously



thought.

“The size and disruptive impact of US trade policies, if sustained, would be sufficient to tip a still-healthy US and global expansion into recession,” said Bruce Kasman, chief economist at JPMorgan. In a note titled “There Will Be Blood,” Kasman raised the firm's global recession risk estimate to 60% from 40%. JP-Morgan now expects U.S. GDP to shrink 0.3% in the fourth

quarter of 2025 compared to the year prior — a stark reversal from its earlier forecast of 1.3% growth.

Other forecasters are more cautious, but still concerned. David Seif, chief economist at Nomura, said there isn't yet enough data to definitively call a recession — typically defined as two consecutive quarters of contracting GDP — but warned that it could feel like one regardless.

“Real consumption could be extremely anaemic, and it could feel worse for people than the GDP numbers indicate,” he said. Nomura now forecasts just 0.6% GDP growth in the fourth quarter.

Trump, who has long claimed that international trade deals disadvantage the US, insists the tariffs will bring jobs back from overseas. Still, economists widely agree that, in the short run, they will weigh heavily on household spending — the engine of the US economy, accounting for 70% of GDP.

Anant Ambani completes 180-km Dwarka padyatra



PNN & AGENCIES

Dwarka, April 6: Anant Ambani completed a 180-kilometre spiritual walk from Jamnagar to Dwarka Sunday, coinciding with both Ram Navami and his birthday on the Hindu calendar.

The 29-year-old Reliance scion embarked on what he calls his spiritual quest March 29 and walked 12-15 km a day on an average. This is no ceremonial march. It is an act of pure devotion—an offering of the body, mind, and spirit to

Lord Krishna. With every step, Anant surrendered to the grace of Dwarkadheesh and the ideals of Sanatan Dharma. His walk is not about making a statement; it is about seeking the Divine in stillness, solitude, and sweat.

What makes this journey even more extraordinary is that Anant undertakes it while battling Cushing's Syndrome—a rare hormonal disorder—and morbid obesity, along with chronic conditions like asthma and fibrosis that have challenged him since childhood.

Contd..P4

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today you will feel mushy and forlorn. Ganesha says you will make special efforts to strengthen your relationships. You look upon commitment as a security for the future. As a result, you will develop strong, long-term bondings.

TAURUS

You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the opposite. It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesha. If per chance there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love. It is near certain that the wedding bells will be ringing for you sooner than you think.

GEMINI

You will spend your day fulfilling the demands made upon you by your family members and colleagues. You will need to devote time to matters at home. Pay attention to the needs of your relatives for they will be helpful to you in the near future, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Watch out for winds of change and ac accordingly. Ganesha warns you of drowning in a strong current. Your task will be easier if you adjust to circumstances. Fun and entertainment are today's password. In the social sector business, you will have success.

LEO

Financial gains in shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Though you are a Cancerian, you will not bother people too much today. On the other hand, they will show more empathy for you. Ganesha says that you are too stubborn while carrying out your responsibilities, and also hold very strong convictions.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will give more importance to your family and there may be concerns about the health of a family member. There may be news from abroad regarding the health of a close family member, which may disturb you today. Do maintain your mental balance today and remember that this too shall pass.

SCORPIO

You are all set to paint the town red as you feel romance and love creeping into your life slowly. You may bump into 'someone special' today and see love blooming for you. There are also chances of marriage proposals and meeting prospective candidates, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You are all set to groom your skills as a professional. Talking about work, determination and dedication are likely to rule you today. Putting your heart and soul, your work speaks volumes about your efforts. Appreciation, though slow in pace, is on its way to encourage you.

CAPRICORN

You'll be popular today at your workplace. Your honesty and efforts will be recognised, which will be fulfilling for you. But, tomorrow will be a different day and times may not be favourable for you.

AQUARIUS

You know how to examine the nuts and bolts of every assignment or project, and it consumes your resources to a great extent. But, like a stitch in time saves nine, your meticulous planning minimises the chances of a loss or a failure, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

You will communicate with your friends or relatives living abroad today. There is a chance that these communications could translate directly into substantial gain for you. You will find yourself in the mood for socializing. You will likely invite friends over to dinner at your place in the evening, says Ganesha.



ELTON JOHN RETURNS TO SNL AFTER A DECADE

Veteran musician Elton John made a solid return to the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live* with Brandi Carlile. He graced the show despite his vision loss. The two made up for a dynamic duo as they appeared as the musical guests on the latest episode of the show.

HOWARD MAKES SHOCKING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DIDDY

Terrence Howard has alleged that Sean 'Diddy' Combs made inappropriate advances towards him under the pretext of music and acting discussions. Howard emphasised the power dynamics in the entertainment industry, advising young talents against compromising their principles. Meanwhile, Combs faces multiple lawsuits related to sexual assault and trafficking.



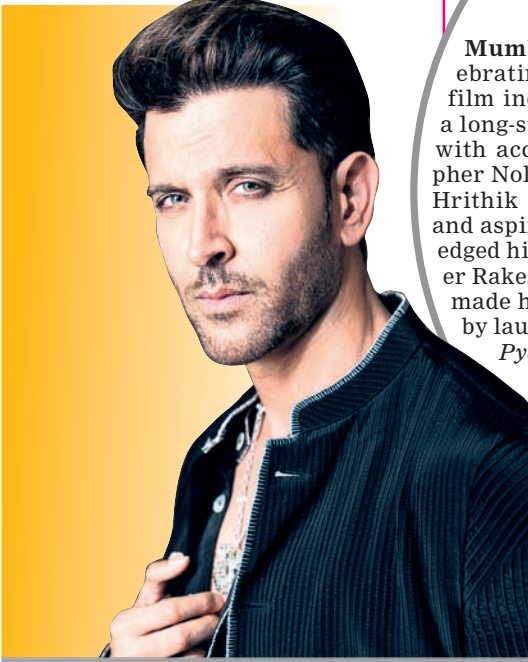
Survival lessons by Harshvardhan

Mumbai: Bollywood seldom gets the perfect combination of drop dead good looks and superb acting in its male actors. The industry got it right with Harshvardhan Rane, who is currently zipping around the town in his new custom-made muscular bobber bike.

The actor has built his life from scratch and learnt skills on the go after he left his home in Gwalior in pursuit of something meaningful, and something different.

Harshvardhan recently spoke with news agency, and shared how leaving home early is the best thing that could've happened to him, straight from a neutral setting to first gear transmission to scale the rough terrain of life.

The actor shared, "I'm studying psychology honors, I'm in my second year. It is one of the very important aspects that when you take an individual out of the family set-up and place them in the real world, the whole environment changes. You may be a Raja Beta or Bekar Beta in your home but when you step into the world, you get a reality check. The person, who leaves his house, gets feedback from the world, and then they mould their life around those feedbacks and the experience".



Taapsee's cryptic post

Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu has sparked a fresh wave of speculation among fans and film enthusiasts with a cryptic post on her Instagram story, reading, "Off We Go." Though she offered no further details, the simple message has led many to believe that she might have begun work on a new project.

While there has been no official confirmation, fans are guessing whether this is linked to her upcoming film *Gandhari* or a completely new venture. This post comes after a period of relative silence on her social media, increasing the curiosity around her next move.

Known for her choice of content-driven films, Taapsee has built a strong presence in Indian cinema through roles that challenge conventional narratives. From *Pink* to *Thappad* and *Rashmi Rocket*, her filmography often focuses on strong female leads and socially relevant themes. She also made history as the first Indian actress to headline her own OT T franchise with *Haseen Dillruba*.

Currently, Taapsee is preparing for the release of *Gandhari*, a film directed by Devashish Makhija. The movie, also starring Ishwak Singh, delves into a mother's desperate quest to rescue her kidnapped daughter, exploring themes of revenge, trauma, and redemption. Fans eagerly await more details as Taapsee's cryptic post keeps them guessing about her next big project.

AGENCIES

Hrithik's aspiration

Mumbai: Hrithik Roshan, celebrating 25 years in the Indian film industry, recently revealed a long-standing dream — to work with acclaimed director Christopher Nolan. Speaking at an event, Hrithik reflected on his journey and aspirations. He first acknowledged his father, veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan, as the one who made his early dream come true by launching him in *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai* in 2000. "Rakesh Roshan—that dream happened right in the beginning," Hrithik said.

The actor then shared his admiration for Nolan, calling him one of his all-time favou-

rite directors. "Now, I'd actually like to work with Christopher Nolan," he added, expressing hope for a future collaboration.

On the professional front, Hrithik is stepping into a new role — that of a director — with *Krrish 4*. His father recently announced the milestone on Instagram, expressing pride in Hrithik's new avatar. The film will be co-produced by Rakesh Roshan and Aditya Chopra.

Additionally, Hrithik is set to appear in *War 2*, part of Yash Raj Films' spy universe. The action-packed film, also starring NTR Jr and Kiara Advani, is scheduled for release August 14, 2025.

AGENCIES



Katrina on true love

Mumbai: Before marrying Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif underwent a transformative period that shaped her understanding of love, relationships, and self-worth.

In a candid moment on *Koffee with Karan*, Katrina shared how being single allowed her to reconnect with herself and learn valuable lessons about emotional independence. She revealed that she never felt it was necessary for a woman to have a man to feel complete, emphasising that this belief applied to her, though she couldn't speak for all women.

Reflecting on her past, the *Ek Tha Tiger* actress admitted that her self-esteem had often been tied to the love and attention she received in relationships. When things were good with a partner, she felt confident, but when challenges arose, her self-worth took a hit. She realised that emotional dependency was unhealthy and unsustainable.

Katrina came to understand that no one could be responsible for her happiness, and depending on others for emotional validation was unfair and could damage relationships. True love, she believed, should be based on mutual respect, admiration, and support, rather than neediness. This empowered mindset now shapes her marriage to Vicky Kaushal, where she embraces a relationship built on understanding, balance, and self-confidence.

AGENCIES

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.

				8		1	3	
			4					
		3	8		5			
4					3			
5			1	9			4	
	6					7		
	2		6			4	8	
				5				
3		4	8				9	

SOLUTIONS

I	T	C	H	S	U	R	F	A	C	E	D
N	R	S	N	L	O	I					
T	R	I	B	U	T	E	Y	E	M	E	N
R	E	P	A	I	P	E					
E	A	S	T	E	R	S	U	N	D	A	Y
P	R	Y	G	R	A						
I	M	P	O	S	E	A	S	C	E	N	D
D	O	T	S	A							
A	L	L	I	N	C	L	S	I	V	E	
U	A	T	O	C	N						
V	E	R	D	I	P	I	E	R	C	E	N
E	I	O	E	R	U						
A	R	S	O	N	I	S	T				

7	9	1	6	5	2	3	8	4
2	5	8	9	3	4	6	7	1
6	3	4	7	8	1	2	9	5
1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5	2
8	4	5	2	7	6	9	1	3
3	2	9	8	1	5	4	6	7
5	7	6	3	4	9	1	2	8
4	1	2	5	6	8	7	3	9
9	8	3	1	2	7	5	4	6

FUN post

CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10						11				12		
13		14						15				
								16				
17											18	19
20						21		22				
23								24				

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Across

- 1 Auto skeleton
5 Shish follower
8 Sainly glow
9 Large feline
10 Sermon subject
11 Seaside promenade
13 Colouring tool
15 Beginning
17 Playing a banjo
18 Tavern

Down

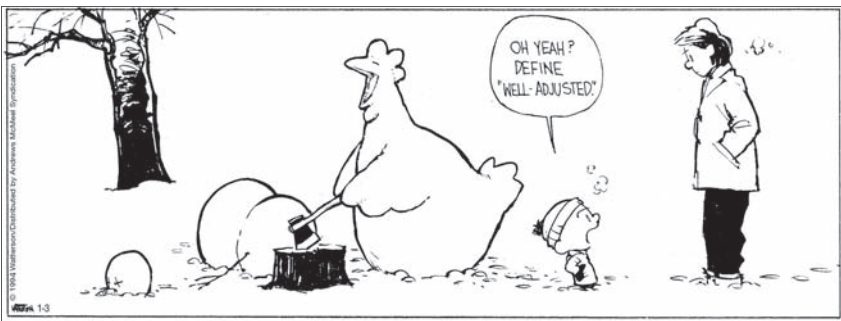
- 20 Crystal clear
22 Line of descent
23 Lustrous fabric
24 Latticework
1 Bedlam
2 Kitchen garment
3 Pantry
4 Type of dresser

- 5 Young fox
6 Theory of the universe (3,4)
7 Enter uninvited (5,2)
12 Haughtiness
13 Rooks
14 Brandy flavour
16 Shoat
18 Oyster's prize
19 Sanctify
21 Hibernation site

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



JML 5794.2025 ENG

75-DAY COUNTDOWN TO INT’L DAY OF YOGA

Capital to celebrate Yoga Mahotsav today



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Odisha is all set to host Yoga Mahotsav-2025 Monday to mark the 75-day countdown to International Day of Yoga (IDY) June 21.

The event, organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Ministry of Ayush, will be held at Kalinga Stadium, joint secretary of Ayush Monalisa Dash said in a press briefing Sunday.

“This grand event, coinciding with World Health Day, will feature a spectacular demonstration of the common yoga protocol from 6:30am to 8am at Kalinga Stadium, in the presence of several dignitaries,” Dash said.

Union Minister of State for Ayush and Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, will attend the event as chief guest, she said.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, Puri MP Sambit Patra, Bhubaneswar Central

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, Puri MP Sambit Patra, Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and Ministry of Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha will grace the occasion

MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and Ministry of Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha will grace the occasion, Dash added.

Dash highlighted the significance of the common yoga protocol, saying, “It forms the foundation of International Day of Yoga and is available in 22 different languages. Last year, we launched the Braille edition of the Common Yoga Protocol to promote inclusivity.”

To date, more than 24 crore people have directly participat-

ed in IDY events, with the number of participants increasing every year.

“We are proud of the growing global participation, setting new records annually,” Dash said.

“As IDY celebrates a decade of its journey, we are now preparing for its 11th edition, and we are expecting to set a new milestone in participation this year,” she stated.

In recognition of this achievement, the ministry is organising 10 signature events as part of the grand yoga festival: Yoga Sangama, Yoga Bandhan, Yoga Parks, Yoga Samavesh, Yoga Prabhava, Yoga Connect, Harit Yoga, Yoga Unplugged, Yoga Maha Kumbh, and Sam Yogam, the joint secretary said.

“These events will be complemented by a series of impactful initiatives and activities across the country in the run-up to IDY 2025,” she added.

Through a video message, Jadhav said, “Following the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations General Assembly took a historic decision in 2014 to declare June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. This global recognition of Yoga is a matter of immense pride for our nation, as Yoga is an integral part of our heritage.”

“The central highlight of the International Day of Yoga each year is the mass yoga demonstration, graciously led by the Prime Minister himself. Preparations for day are already underway,” he added.



DIVINE BLESSING: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati visits Ram Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Sunday to offer prayers on the occasion of Ram Navami OP PHOTO

Rail boost for northern Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Indian Railways is making significant strides in the redevelopment of Northern Odisha’s railway stations under the Amrit Station Scheme. Seven key stations across the region—Kendujhargarh, Barbil, Jaroli, Baripada, Rairangpur, Betnoti, and Badampahar—are undergoing extensive upgrades aimed at transforming these stations into modern, state-of-the-art transport hubs.

This initiative will improve the travel experience for passengers while fostering regional economic growth.

Kendujhargarh railway station is undergoing a transformation with an investment of ₹10.16 crore, while Barbil railway station, which is receiving a major overhaul, has a budget of ₹17.7 crore. Similarly, Jaroli railway station is being revamped with an approved budget of ₹8.6 crore. Baripada railway station, one of the most significant stations in the region, is receiving an upgrade



worth ₹15.354 crore.

Budget has also been allocated for Rairangpur (₹7.4 crore), Betnoti(₹14.146 crore), and Badampahar (₹12.22 crore). While the stations are at different stages of completion, the entire redevelopment project is expected to be finished within the next two years, according to sources.

The redevelopment will focus on improving infrastructure, modernising amenities, and ensuring seamless connectivity to support both passenger comfort and commercial growth.

The selected stations in the northern region of the state are expected to undergo significant enhancements in design, technology, and passenger services. The initiative is in line with the ongoing efforts to modernise the Indian Railway network and provide an efficient and user-friendly travel experience for all. The stations will feature modern platforms, upgraded ticketing facilities, waiting areas and improved cleanliness standards, ensuring convenience and comfort for all passengers.

The redevelopment will include FOBs with lifts and escalators to improve accessibility for senior citizens, differently-abled passengers, and families with children.

The stations will adopt green building principles, integrating

renewable energy solutions, water conservation practices, and waste management systems, in line with Indian Railways commitment to sustainable development.

Through these developments, a perceptible improving in the station circulating areas have been planned with drop-on and drop-out lanes along with adequate parking spaces.

Amenities like Wi-Fi, digital displays, advanced security systems, improved catering services and modern waiting lounges will enhance the overall travel experience.

The redevelopment project aims to stimulate local economies by boosting tourism, improving connectivity and creating employment opportunities in the region.

The Northern Odisha region, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes, will benefit significantly from these upgrades.

In total 59 railway stations in Odisha are being developed currently as part of Amrit Station scheme.

WEATHER

BBSR

CTC

Max Temp

38.0°

37.6°

Min Temp

25.4°

24.5°

Humidity

76%

71%

Rainfall

Nil

Nil

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By Virtue of an Affidavit before Notary, Bhubaneswar I, Santosini Dash, W/o - Nilambar Dash resident of Villa No.6, Aurovilla, 594, Gautam Nagar, Vivekananda Marg, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751002, declare by this Affidavit No.222, dated 07.03.2025 that from now onwards I shall be known as Santoshini Dash for all Purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 6195, dated 02.04.2025 before the Executive Magistrate, Sadar, Cuttack, I, ANSULA BHAWSINKA, W/o- Lokesb Bhawsinka, R/o- Balu Bazar, Biswanath Lane, Cuttack- 753002 declare that my former name “Ansula Agarwal” has been changed and I shall be known as “Ansula Bhawsinka” for all future purposes.

Bottled water alert amid heatwave

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 6: With temperatures steadily rising and the demand for drinking water surging, health and environmental experts are raising red flags over the increasing reliance on bottled water during summer. While it may seem like a convenient and safe option, excessive use of packaged drinking water could come at a serious cost—both to human health and the environment.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had officially classified packaged drinking and mineral water as a high-risk food item. This classification has sparked renewed public interest in the possible health hazards associated with bottled water, especially when exposed to high temperatures during transport and storage.

“FSSAI’s warning is ground-



ed in scientific evidence,” said Priyanka Singh Deo, a Bhubaneswar-based nutritionist and fitness consultant. “Research, including a 2022 review published in Environmental Science & Technology, shows that plastic bottles, when subjected to heat, can release microplastics and chemicals like BPA. These can accumulate in the body over time and potentially damage organs like the liver, kidneys, and even affect hormonal balance.”

In contrast, traditional materials such as copper, brass, terracotta, and stainless steel are being highlighted as safer, more sustainable options for storing drinking water. “Brass and copper vessels have natural antimicrobial properties, while terracotta naturally cools and mildly purifies the water,” Deo added.

Priyanka Parida, another Bhubaneswar-based nutritionist, pointed to growing concerns over hygiene, stating, “In many cases, used plastic bottles are picked up by rag-pickers and may find their way back into circulation, leading to microbial contamination. Reusing such bottles without proper sterilisation poses serious health risks.”

She further emphasised that microplastic pollution has now reached alarming levels, with traces even found in human bloodstreams, pointing to widespread exposure.

Cleanliness drive held during Odia Pakhya

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: As part of the ongoing Odia Pakhya celebrations—being observed for the first time across Odisha from April 1 to 14—a massive state-wide Swachhata Abhiyan (cleanliness drive) was carried out Sunday.

The initiative focused on cleaning temple premises, heritage sites, and tourist destinations across districts, aiming to promote hygiene and preserve the cultural charm of these significant places. The drive highlighted the spirit of cultural pride through community participation and civic responsibility.

Spanning all blocks and districts, the cleanliness campaign witnessed active involvement from district and block admin-

istrations, municipal bodies, Panchayati Raj institutions, youth groups, voluntary organisations, local residents, and elected representatives. Participants enthusiastically joined hands to clean temple complexes, village shrines, and prominent heritage landmarks.

Beyond cleaning efforts, the drive also served as a platform to raise awareness about maintaining hygiene in public spaces. Many participants took to the official Odia Pakhya website (www.odiapakhya.com) to upload photos and share their experiences, contributing to a growing sense of collective celebration and pride.

The campaign received widespread appreciation and became a symbolic expression of how cultural heritage and civic sense go hand in hand.

Anant Ambani completes...

FROM PAGE 1

The physical toll of this padyatra would daunt even the fittest among us. Yet, for Anant, this pilgrimage is not about proving strength. It is about placing faith above fear, devotion above discomfort, and discipline above ease.

This is a solitary quest, accompanied only by a few close aides and spiritual guides. There are no cameras, no media briefings, no social media footprints—just the sound of footsteps on dusty earth, and the silent whisper of unwavering belief. In every grain of sand and every breath drawn under the open sky, Anant is living a truth few dare to embrace: that real strength often walks quietly.

In a world of constant noise, endless distractions, and shifting values, Anant Ambani’s walk to Dwarka is a rare act of clarity, courage, and conviction. For a generation searching for depth in the superficial, and meaning in chaos, his padyatra offers something powerful—a reminder that faith is timeless, and that resilience doesn’t always roar.

Anant’s walk is not about ritual. It is about responsibility to the self. About waking up each day and choosing to walk a harder path—not for praise, but for peace.

Not to impress the world, but to express his gratitude to the Divine. His journey says:

“I will walk through pain to say thank you. I will bear discomfort to show my belief. I will bow down—not because I am weak, but because I choose surrender over pride.”

Through this sacred and deeply personal trek, Anant Ambani speaks to a generation, “Let your devotion guide you. Let it humble you. Let it build you. And when the weight of life feels heavy, let your faith carry you forward.”

‘Nurturing health early key to lifelong wellbeing’

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 6: World Health Day 2025 has placed a spotlight on the theme “Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Future,” prompting thoughtful reflections from healthcare professionals, educators, and wellness advocates across Odisha.

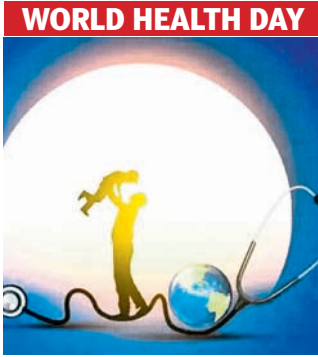
The message resonates deeply—prioritising physical, emotional, and mental health from the earliest stages of life is essential for building a brighter, healthier future.

Noted psychiatrist and head of the department at Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar Dr Amrit Patojoshi believes this year’s theme is more than just a slogan—it’s

a timely reminder to focus on the roots of wellbeing.

“The journey to a healthy life doesn’t begin in adulthood; it starts right from childhood,” he emphasised. “A child’s home, school, and community play vital roles in shaping their emotional and mental resilience.” According to Dr Patojoshi, wellness must be viewed holistically—not merely as the absence of illness, but as the presence of consistent care, compassion, and emotional connection.

“Families don’t need to be flawless—they just need to be present. Something as simple as a warm hug, an encouraging word, or a quiet moment of listening can have a life-



long impact on a child’s mental health,” he said.

He further stressed the significance of preventive care, encouraging early habits like good sleep, meaningful relationships, movement for joy,

digital discipline, and emotional check-ins. “Self-awareness is crucial. We must create a culture where children feel safe to talk about their feelings and ask for help without fear or shame,” he added.

Akankshya Satapathy from District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Puri echoed similar sentiments, underlining the importance of healthy routines.

“Healthy beginnings should start at home—by waking up early, drinking clean water, eating nutritious food, and caring for mental wellbeing,” she said. She also advocated for schools to take a proactive role by organising routine health checkups, vaccination

drives, and health awareness programs.

Associate professor at SCB Dental College in Cuttack Dr Subasish Behera highlighted the power of positive habits. “A solid foundation is built on daily practices like physical activity, meditation, proper nutrition, and rest. A hopeful future is cultivated through goal setting, emotional growth, and avoiding negativity,” he shared. His advice: seek joy, stay optimistic, and nurture human connections.

Orthopaedic surgeon and senior Joint replacement consultant at Utkal Hospital, Bhubaneswar Dr Dibya Singha added that early interventions carry lifelong value.

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Machhkund river still missing from Odisha, AP revenue maps



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, April 6: Although a year has passed since the National Green Tribunal (NGT) confirmed about the absence of Machhkund river in the official revenue maps of both Nandapur tehsil in Koraput district and its Andhra Pradesh (AP) counterpart, while investigating complaints over the destruction of the river's ghats due to illegal sand mining, the river is yet to appear in the records of either states.

A year ago, a team from NGT, along with revenue officials from both the states, had visited the Machhkund river near Shobhaput and Suduba ghats in Panthlung panchayat of Nandapur block in Koraput district to investigate into complaints made by Pooja Khil, the sarpanch of Panthlung panchayat. She had alleged that illegal sand mining was destroying the river ghats and the river, with sand being smuggled across to Andhra Pradesh.

During the investigation, officials were surprised to discover that the Machhkund river - used as a natural boundary between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh - was missing from the revenue records of both the states. Following media reports, the issue sparked state and national outrage, drawing criticism towards the state government and the

revenue department.

However, though a year has passed, neither the ruling party nor the Opposition has taken any concrete step toward marking the boundary, launching a thorough investigation, or including the Machhkund river in the states' official maps. The Nandapur tehsil office, district administration, and state revenue authorities have also failed to take initiative, fueling public dissatisfaction, reports stated.

Local intelligentsia and observers say that the ongoing illegal sand mining by mafia from Andhra Pradesh continues unchecked at various ghats of the Machhkund river. They warn that this is only escalating border disputes between the two states.

Sources said that the Godavari river splits into two near Raipahad in Andhra's Goluru panchayat. One branch, known locally as the Patalganga, flows through Chatua-Padua and merges into the Jolaput reservoir. While, the other branch, identified as the Machhkund river, flows past Dugana village and Muchimaput, serving as a natural boundary between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

The NGT team was shown the toposheet map of the geology department and Google maps on mobile phones of both the state officials. The team members were left wondering how the

Machhkund river could miss out from the official revenue maps. Benudhar Sabar, Chief Development Officer of the Koraput Zilla Parishad, was present during the inspection.

It was alleged that the state revenue department, district administration, and the Nandapur tehsil office have been negligent in safeguarding the border. Meanwhile, Nandapur tehsildar Anadi Charan Sahu has retired.

QJ Khan, joint director of the Geological Department, stated that a report regarding the absence of the Machhkund river in the maps would be submitted to the state government and the tribunal.

The team members advised that in the coming days, administrative and revenue department representatives from both the states should hold a joint meeting to identify the boundary lines and accurately mark the river on the maps.

Meanwhile, residents of Panthlung panchayat and surrounding blocks expressed their disappointment that the NGT investigation and recommendations have remained only on paper. No concrete steps have been taken to officially mark the Machhkund river in the revenue maps, they alleged.

Locals have urged the Odisha revenue department, district administration, and the Nandapur tehsil office to treat the issue with the seriousness it deserves. They emphasised that identifying the state boundary, and including the Machhkund river in the revenue records, is essential not only for administrative clarity but also for protecting the cultural identity of Odia people and ensuring dignity and peace for the border communities.

When contacted, Koraput Sub-Collector Premlal Hial said he would take up the issue with the District Collector and initiate prompt steps for border demarcation.



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Children dressed as Lord Sriram, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman participate in a procession at Agarpada Bazar in Bhadrak on the occasion of Ram Navami Sunday. Odisha Police had deployed 100 platoons of force across the state, including 26 platoons in Bhadrak, to ensure safety during the celebrations

NDRF, SAIL HOLD JOINT MOCK DRILL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 6: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) recently conducted a joint mock drill at Propane Plant-3 of the Oxygen Plant, simulating a propane gas fire incident.

The exercise aimed to assess the effectiveness of RSP's onsite disaster management system and personnel, in line with statutory safety requirements. The mock drill Friday was attended by Biswaranjan Palai, executive director (Works), Anita Naik, deputy commissioner of the Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Bibhu Prasad, deputy director (Factories & Boilers), SK Rout, assistant director (Factories & Boilers), along with senior officers from RSP, CISF, NDRF, and ODRAF. During the exercise, Palai emphasised the importance of expanding such drills to other areas of the plant and leveraging the expertise of the NDRF team. Naik highlighted the need for meticulous coordination between different agencies for effective management of emergency situations.

Elephant herd destroys crops, spreads panic in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 6: A herd of 18 elephants that strayed near a canal in Bhatunia village - under the Sadar forest range in the district - a day ago, has destroyed several acres of vegetable crops in the area, a report said.

The presence of the giants has sparked panic among the residents in the area. They said they have been spending sleepless nights as chances of wild attack looms large.

Sources said that the herd, including calves, moved from the Ambadahara area to Tikarapada village Saturday evening. The elephants later crossed a railway line and reached a mango orchard in Bhandanalisahi, further alarming the residents living in the vicinity.

In an effort to protect their crops, farmers from Tikarapada, Kudiaghara, Mahadeijoda, Kadgarh, Bhatunia, Narsinghpur



and Kenduposhi villages joined Forest personnel and hundreds of locals to drive the elephants away. On Sunday morning, the herd was spotted bathing in the canal, drawing large crowds of onlookers.

Farmers alleged that the elephants trampled and destroyed several acres of vegetable fields while feeding on various crops in the area. Although the Forest department has been monitoring the movement of the herd, officials said they plan to drive the elephants back into the forest at the earliest. Meanwhile, residents have demanded immediate government assistance for those affected by crop loss.

While many villagers are trying to protect their fields and property, officials say some individuals are unnecessarily disturbing the elephants, causing the animals to become agitated and wander unpredictably.

There is also a concern that people approaching the elephants for selfies or photographs may provoke attacks.

Forest officials have urged the public to maintain a safe distance from the animals. "We are making people aware not to go near the elephants," said Ajit Das, range officer of the Sadar forest range, adding, "Compensation will be provided for any damage."

2 critical in bear attacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 6: Two persons sustained grievous injuries after they were attacked by bears in two separate incidents under Sadar forest range and Patna forest range, respectively in the district Sunday.

In the first incident, 60-year-old Alomani Mohanta was mauled by a bear at Raghunathpur village under Sadar forest range in the wee hours when she went out to collect Mahua flowers near her house. The animal which had strayed into the area to eat Mahua flowers inflicted serious injuries to her on head and hands. Villagers rushed her to Keonjhar DHH where she is presently recuperating.

In the other incident, 35-year-old Markand Munda of Swamunda Sahi under Patana forest range was attacked by a bear during the day when he was standing in the courtyard of his house. He has been admitted to Patana CHC in a critical condition.

Man dies as trailer ploughs into backyard of house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 6: A 32-year old man was killed after the driver of a trailer lost control over the vehicle and rammed it into the backyard of a house at Bankamaruni village, under Sadar police limits, in Keonjhar district Sunday morning.

The deceased was identified as Rajesh Munda, 32, alias Chemuttu in the village.

Sources said that the incident occurred when Rajesh went to shoo away some stray cattle which were consuming straw from the haystack in his backyard. In the meantime, a trailer heading towards Joda from Keonjhar on NH-20 rolled down the roadside and ploughed into his backyard, knocking him down.

Rajesh died on the spot. On being informed, Sadar police personnel reached the spot and recovered the body. They also seized the vehicle for investigation.

The incident sparked tension in the area as locals staged a blockade on National Highway-20 demanding compensation to the bereaved family, and installation of safety measures. They said Rajesh was the sole bread winner of his family, comprising his wife, and two sons.



The road blockade disrupted

traffic as it left hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides of the highway. Later, police and administrative officials reached the spot and placated the agitators from withdrawing the blockade, following which the blockade was withdrawn. ASI Prasad Chandra Khatua said, "The road has been cleared for traffic and an investigation is underway."

Meanwhile, sources said that the NH-20, and other roads, in Keonjhar district has become death a trap. Accidents occur almost on a daily basis, resulting in loss of lives and properties while many are injured and maimed.

As a result, commuting on the highway has become unsafe and the villagers living on the roadside are living in perpetual fear. As hundreds of heavy vehicles ply on this route every day to transport minerals, the condition of the road is getting worse day by day. Moreover, rash driving by some vehicles is contributing to accidents almost on a daily basis, sources added.

Jackfruit cafes coming up in Keonjhar

Women to receive skill training under Odisha Jackfruit Mission (OJM)

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 6: The Odisha Jackfruit Mission (OJM) has taken root in Keonjhar district as plans are afoot to open 'jackfruit cafes' with an aim to help tribal communities and farmers make better use of the crop and prevent distress sale.

With the rising demand for jackfruit, especially the raw variety, the state Horticulture department has launched an ambitious initiative to promote jackfruit-based food production.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi officially inaugurated the mission during a recent visit to Keonjhar. Under the initiative, a jackfruit processing unit funded by the department has been established in Kuanr village under Banspal block



at a cost of ₹3.29 crore.

To run the unit efficiently, Hingula Farmer Producer Company from Brahmagiri in Puri district signed an agreement with the district administration in Keonjhar Wednesday. The company will provide training to local women's groups in food processing and help them market the products.

Various jackfruit-based items

such as chips, jams, pickles, flour, and even fermented drinks will be prepared. The district will soon see the opening of kiosk-style 'Jackfruit Cafes' modelled after 'Millet Cafes' in various urban areas and towns, where snacks like jackfruit upma and fast food variants will be available, said Soumendra Narayan Panigrahi, Deputy Director of district Horti-

culture department said.

He added that other jackfruit products, including beverages and sweets, are in the pipeline. The soil and climate of Keonjhar district are highly favourable for jackfruit cultivation, making it ideal for year-round farming. Farmers will also receive training to produce two harvests per year.

The mission is expected to create numerous employment opportunities while also offering local residents healthy and tasty food options. Future plans also include processing other fruits like mango, papaya, and guava, and producing items such as juices and pickles.

Jackfruit is grown in abundance in Banspal, Sadar Harichandanpur, Telkoi, Ghatagaon, Patana, and Joda blocks in the district along with other fruits. With increasing shipments of raw jackfruit to other states, the mission is poised to help farmers and forest dwellers get better value for their produce.

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The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy.



SRI AUROBINDO

Economic World War

One American – a poet (TS Elliot) – wrote many years ago, “April is the cruellest month.” Another American – President Donald Trump - has now in a different context proved the poet right. For, after weeks of threats and backtracking, Trump has finally unveiled the details of the protectionist measures he intends to deploy to ‘Make America Wealthy Again,’ as stated in the title of the presentation he made 2 April in the White House Rose Garden. By implementing reciprocal tariffs, the US President claimed to want to correct years of unfair trade relations that have allowed other countries to “rip off” America. The claim by Trump of other countries taking undue advantage of America cannot be denied. However, his politics aimed at the rest of the world threatens to profoundly reshape international trade and commerce. While the vast majority of economists have contested the merits of his policy, Trump unabashedly declared 2 April the US’ “Liberation Day.” Despite the linguistic hyperbole his whole intent is to force US trade partners to either pay their dues or relocate their production to American soil. Unlike demonetization and other politically motivated economic steps seen by Indians in the last decade, Trump’s prescription favoring America may seem tough to the outside world now but will certainly bring in more jobs, opportunities and prosperity to the US. The man has been consistent for the past forty years on this subject.

A generalized minimum rate of 10 per cent on exports to the US is imposed on all, with additional tariffs added country by country depending on the size of their trade surplus. Chinese products will thus be hit with 34 per cent, those imported from the European Union (EU) at 20 per cent, the rate for Japan has been set at 24 per cent, while for India it is 26 per cent. Trump said that these new taxes could be added to those already existing.

This whole exercise is an attempt to demonstrate America’s might in a very open manner that has become associated with the style of Trumps governance. But, the new economic regime he is trying to impose on the world is problematic for three reasons. First, these tariff rates seem to be calculated in a haphazard manner. They were not only based on the tariff barriers implemented by the targeted countries, but also on other, more contentious criteria. Alleged “currency manipulation,” standards and regulations, or even certain taxes (such as VAT, in Europe), which have been accused of adversely affecting the US, were taken into account. The decision to force a trade turmoil on the rest of the world is itself a grave matter but Trump alone can demonstrate this attitude in the present day world.

The second problem stems from the climate of uncertainty that results from these power plays. Trump seeks to monopolise the right to adjust US tariffs based on trade partners’ willingness to comply with American demands. This system of one-sided bargaining does not guarantee good business. This is because industrialists and investors need certainty and stability before they make their decisions to pump in their money.

Finally, Trump’s cry of Liberation Day has the potential to throw the global economy into a recessionary spiral which many respected American economists seem to be parroting. Many of them claim that contrary to what Trump has claimed, the tariffs will not be paid by exporting countries but by American consumers, who could see prices rise. While predictions already show inflation on the rise, growth forecasts, financial markets and the dollar are trending downward.

The other side of the fallout of Trump’s economic muscle-flexing is that many countries will be forced to take retaliatory measures. The EU has indicated that it would respond, while China has already retaliated. What trajectory this retaliation will take depends on the way the affected countries can handle their own trade and commerce. It is impossible for them to make a common cause. The only thing that is clear is that Trump is pushing the world to unprecedented economic changes the globalized economy has ever seen. It may result in a more balanced and divided global economy which could compel countries like India to learn to fend for themselves.

WISDOM CORNER

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1724:

Johann Sebastian Bach's St. John Passion is premiered. The sacred oratorio is the oldest extant Passion by the German composer. The highly popular work is a dramatization of the final days of Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel of John.

1927:

The first public demonstration of a one-way videophone occurred between Herbert Hoover, then U.S. secretary of commerce, in Washington, D.C., and officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in New York City.

1933:

Some eight months before Prohibition was repealed, low-alcoholic beer became legal in the United States; the day subsequently was celebrated as National Beer Day.

1939:

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini made Albania a protectorate of his country, installing Italy's Victor Emmanuel III as king, while Albanian King Zog I went into exile.

1939:

American director Francis Ford Coppola—whose films included the classics The Godfather (1972), The Godfather, Part II (1974), and Apocalypse Now (1979)—was born.

1947:

American industrialist Henry Ford, who revolutionized factory production with his assembly-line methods and was the founder of the Ford Motor Company, died at age 83.

1948:

The World Health Organization, a specialized agency of the UN, was formally established.

1963:

Jack Nicklaus's first Masters victory. American professional golfer Jack Nicklaus, a dominating figure in world golf from the 1960s to the '80s and the winner of 73 PGA tour events in his career, won the Masters Tournament at age 23 on this day in 1963.

FOCUS

TARIFFS

ACCELERATING DECLINE



While Trump's tariffs fly in the face of conventional economic wisdom – from Adam Smith and David Ricardo to John Maynard Keynes and Milton Friedman – his confidence may lead some to think there's a hidden logic behind them



Kaushik Basu

INSTEAD OF CLINGING TO OUTDATED INDUSTRIES THROUGH PROTECTIONIST TRADE MEASURES, COUNTRIES SHOULD EMBRACE INNOVATION

On 26 March, President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing a 25 per cent tariff on all cars and light-duty trucks imported into the United States. This measure took effect on 3 April – one day after the administration rolled out its “reciprocal tariffs” on US trading partners. Trump tried to reassure nervous Americans, promising that “our automobile business will flourish like it's never flourished before.”

It won't. While Trump's tariffs fly in the face of conventional economic wisdom – from Adam Smith and David Ricardo to John Maynard Keynes and Milton Friedman – his confidence may lead some to think there's a hidden logic behind them. Presumably, the tariff on cars and trucks aims to incentivise automakers to establish factories in the US.

But on closer inspection, it becomes clear that this rationale is deeply flawed. And while it will negatively affect many countries – especially Canada, Mexico, and Japan – its most devastating impact will be felt in the US itself.

Trump's critics rightly point out that the tariff will raise US car prices, but that is just one of its many drawbacks. Consider, for example, that industries like automobiles (and semiconductors) have substantial fixed production costs. Given that a sudden tariff reduction after these sunk costs – such as acquiring land, building factories, and obtaining permits – have been incurred could lead to significant losses, investors would need to be assured that the tariffs will remain in place for at least 10-15 years. If the government could somehow signal to investors that the tariffs will remain in place for the foreseeable future, it is likely that new car factories will be

established in the US, increasing demand for labour.

But that may not be a positive development. Far from making American automobiles great again, the artificial boost in demand for traditional labour could harm the US economy's long-term health. With the US market protected behind its tariff wall, domestic production would become increasingly costly, and countries with naturally lower labour costs, like China, India, Mexico, and Indonesia, would be able to produce cars at much lower prices, thereby outcompeting the US and gaining a stronger foothold in the global market.

Trump's desperate attempt to bring back auto manufacturing contrasts sharply with how the US handled the decline of its textile industry. In the early nineteenth century, the US was a leader in textiles, with cotton and woolen mills operating at full capacity. The textile and garment sectors continued to thrive well after World War I, with North Carolina in the lead. But as the US grew wealthier

and labour costs increased, it gradually lost its comparative advantage and pivoted to sectors that required research and innovation – areas where it was well-positioned to lead. Today, the textile industry is dominated by countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Turkey.

Had the US decided to impose heavy tariffs on imported textiles and clothing in the second half of the twentieth century to encourage domestic production, it might have remained a garment manufacturing hub. But this would have come at a steep cost: the US economy would not be where it is today. Instead, it would have large factories where workers toiled at labour-intensive jobs.

This is not to suggest that tariffs, when used strategically and sparingly, are not effective and perhaps even necessary in certain circumstances. But when they undermine a country's competitive edge, as Trump's tariffs undoubtedly will, they can only cause harm.

History offers valuable

lessons about the dangers of hyper-nationalism and protectionist trade policies. In the early twentieth century, Argentina was growing rapidly and was among the world's richest countries, surpassing Germany and France. Some even predicted that it would overtake the US economically.

Everything changed in 1930, when José Félix Uriburu led a military coup and declared himself president. Within three years, he restricted immigration and nearly doubled tariffs. Meanwhile, the US was opening up its economy to both goods and people, investing in higher education, and conducting cutting-edge research. The American economy surged while Argentina's stagnated, dashing any hopes of rivaling the US.

The takeaway is clear: instead of clinging to outdated industries through protectionist trade measures, countries should embrace innovation. Yet, while technological advances create economic opportunities, they also tend to reduce the demand for labour. The solution lies in redistributive taxation and profit-sharing to ensure that the benefits of growth are allocated equitably, rather than being hoarded by corporations and concentrated among billionaires.

To be sure, redistributive taxation is no easy feat. It must be carefully crafted to avoid discouraging innovation and distorting incentives. But it is far more desirable than Trump's misguided policies, and in an era of rapid technological change, it is absolutely essential.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

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SPECTRUM

WORLD HEALTH DAY

An ailing system in need of overhaul



Harish Barthwal

THE SOCIO-CULTURAL MILIEU WE ARE IN, FOR ANYONE STAYING HALE & HEARTY IS BECOMING TOO DIFFICULT BY THE DAY

Indian healthcare scene presents multiple challenges on various counts: ignorance, infrastructure, manpower, patients' affordability, and above all commercial stance of healthcare system at every level. The socio-cultural milieu we are in, for anyone staying hale & hearty, although a foremost pre-requisite for good living, is becoming too difficult by the day.

During times of epidemics or other health threats, local governments run awareness campaigns, issue advisories that are hardly taken in earnest. Gross ignorance persists about basics of health, hygiene and diseases in urban and rural areas. Most in the countryside do not distinguish between MBBS, MD and RMP degrees. The patient tells the attending doctor, the 'red' capsule you gave me is not as effective as the 'green' one you gave earlier, although the ingredients, even brand was same, only colour was changed. More pathetic than lack of knowledge about health & disease is unwillingness

to learn. Most of them own smartphone, but they seem to prefer its use elsewhere!

Thanks to government initiatives, the Ayushman Bharat scheme has benefited the underserved poor; the low patient-doctor ratio in the country, an issue till recent years has improved to near satisfactory level matching the WHO norm of 1 doctor per 1,000 people. Yet the fact remains that spread of doctors is not equitable, they are concentrated in cities and towns, and avoid rural postings. In rural and interior regions conditions are appalling. Majority of dispensaries are managed by non-qualified personnel like pharmacists who runs the show. The doctors, if posted, occasionally visit their workplace, and stay far off in the city with their family. Some years ago the pharmacists' association of Uttarakhand sought clarification from the state health department whether they can dispense the medications in their stock which they account for every year-end. Axiomatically, the question was too difficult, hence no response.

Master practitioners of medicine have laid time-tested premises to follow, like: help the patient or at least do no harm; all diseases begins in the gut; all doctors treat, but a good doctor lets nature heal; warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife; a doctor's mission is not just to add years to life but to add life to years; the best doctor gives the least medicines. In sharp contrast, these days, doctors focus on minting money. They earn many times more by referrals (read: commission) than consultation fees. You witness them saluting the patients, even young ones, and act more like a salesperson. Recall what happens when a patient in critical condition is brought to emergency of a hospital. After a cursory overview of symptoms what is assessed duly is the quantum of money that can be shelled out. The invariable query is about medical insurance; if not, total expenditure involved is conveyed with advice to deposit the same. Then, the trail of diagnostic tests that were in many cases got done recently at the hospital of similar credibility! Financial capacity determines the line of treatment.

Patient is seen as consumer, to be extracted to fullest. Focus is on catapulting billing compromises with proper diagnosis enhancing chances of medical errors. Consequently, we witness phenomenal increase in litigations against doctors. Over 5.2 million cases demanding compensation for damages and injuries from doctors are currently pending in civil, criminal and consumer courts.

As mental health cases shall exceed other diseases in a decade in India and globally, and medical practices under scanner, nothing short of a paradigm shift to traditional Indian model may do. It already has time-tested, elaborate treatises on all aspects of health, well-being and peaceful living. It is time we espouse it.

The writer is a blogger. He writes on general, social and spiritual issues for major newspapers.

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



Prohibition no solution

Sir, This refers to “Dry Bihar recorded 190 hooch deaths in last 9 years: Official,” **Orissa POST**, Apr il5. Until now, according to official estimates, 190 people have died in a tragically commonplace “hooch tragedy” in dry Bihar. The champion of prohibition in the state, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has not expressed sympathy or concern, only an unbecoming peevishness. The fact is that from 2016, when prohibition was imposed in Bihar, there have been over 200 hooch-related deaths in the state. Time and again, other state governments have experimented with prohibition. Nitish Kumar, it seems, has not learnt the lessons from their failures — or his own. Alcohol abuse does indeed have terrible social consequences. It is also undeniable that it is women, including and especially from among the poor and marginalised sections, who often bear the brunt of alcoholism in the family. But the fact remains that there is mounting evidence that prohibition is not the solution to alcoholism. Several states experimented with it in the past. In each case, the policy has been withdrawn because it pushes consumption underground, places an undue burden on the law and order machinery, increases criminalisation, and depletes revenues. The ban in Bihar has caused reported huge losses of revenue to the government, while treating citizens as incapable of making responsible choices.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

A pertinent question

Sir, This refers to “Cash row judge sworn-in secretly,” **Orissa POST**, April 6. I am at a loss how can a judge of questionable integrity be allowed to take oath as high court judge when prima facie case of holding unaccounted money was proved against him. How can the government at the Centre clear Varma's name pending the final outcome of the probe? The pertinent question may arise whether the apex court is forced by vested interests to cover up the alleged corruption. The protests by lawyers should continue to thwart all attempts to dilute the honesty and integrity of judges.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

of the day

Quote

Every country must accept the return of its citizens in a timely manner when another country, including the United States, seeks to remove them

MARCO RUBIO | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

The economic consequences, here and across the globe, could be profound. We already have a balanced trading relationship with our American allies and work continues on a new economic prosperity deal

KEIR STARMER | PM, UK

Those who trivialise the far-right party are ignoring the fact that the Alternative for Germany's ideology is creating a breeding ground for people to feel uncomfortable in Germany and that they are actually in real danger

CHRISTIAN WULF | FORMER PRESIDENT, GERMANY

SHORT TAKES

Spl gesture: SL frees 14 Indian fishermen

Colombo: Sri Lanka Sunday released at least 14 Indian fishermen as a special gesture, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for resolving the vexed fishermen issue with a "humane approach". The fishermen issue figured prominently during talks between PM Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Saturday. "We also discussed issues related to fishermen's livelihood. We agreed that we should proceed with a humane approach in this matter," Modi said in his media statement after meeting Dissanayake.

70 pro-Awami League lawyers sent to jail

Dhaka: A court here Sunday sent to prison 70 lawyers known for their support for the Awami League party to face charges of "assault" and "attempt to murder" of fellow advocates during last year's mass uprising that toppled then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

Anti-Trump protests rock US

The US president shook financial markets and upset nations around the world with a raft of trade tariffs this week

REUTERS

Washington, April 6: Thousands of protesters gathered in Washington, DC, and across the US Saturday, part of some 1,200 demonstrations that were expected to form the largest single day of protest against President Donald Trump and his billionaire ally Elon Musk since they launched a rapid-fire effort to overhaul government and expand presidential authority.

People streamed onto the expanse of grass surrounding the Washington Monument under gloomy skies and light rain. Organizers told Reuters that more than 20,000 people were expected to attend a rally at the National Mall.

Some 150 activist groups had signed up to participate, according to the event's website. Protests were planned in all 50 states plus Canada and Mexico.

Terry Klein, a retired biomedical scientist from Princeton, New Jersey, was among those who gathered by the stage beneath the Washington Monument.

She said she drove down to attend the rally to protest



Trump's policies on "everything from immigration to the DOGE stuff to the tariffs this week, to education. I mean, our whole country is under attack, all of our institutions, all the things that make America what it is."

The crowd around the memorial continued to build throughout the day. Some carried Ukrainian flags and others wore Palestinian keffiyeh scarves and carried "Free Palestine" signs, while Democrats from the US House of Representatives blasted Trump's policies on stage.

Wayne Hoffman, 73, a retired money manager from West Cape May, New Jersey, said he was concerned about Trump's economic policies, including his widespread use of tariffs.

"It's going to cost the farmers

- Around 1,200 demonstrations planned in all 50 US states plus other countries
- First major opposition protest since Trump took office in January
- Protesters oppose government cuts, immigration crackdown, tariffs

in the red states. It's going to cost people their jobs - certainly their 401Ks. People have lost tens of thousands of dollars," Hoffman said.

Kyle, a 20-year-old intern from Ohio, was a lone Trump supporter, sporting a "Make America Great Again" hat and walking the fringe of the Washington, DC, rally while engaging protesters in debate.

"Most people aren't too hos-

tile. A few people cuss," said Kyle, who declined to give his last name. Some four miles (6 km) from Mar-a-Lago in West Palm Beach, more than 400 demonstrators gathered on a sunny day in protest. Drivers honked their horns in support of the pastel-and khaki-clad demonstrators as they passed by.

"Markets tank, Trump golfs," read one sign.

DOGE UNDER FIRE

With Trump's blessing, Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team has scythed through the U.S. government, eliminating more than 200,000 jobs from the 2.3 million federal workforce. At times, the effort has been haphazard and forced the recall of needed specialists.

On Friday, the Internal Revenue Service began laying off more than 20,000 workers, as much as 25% of its ranks.

Several hundred people gathered outside the headquarters of the Social Security Administration, a top DOGE target, near Baltimore to protest against cuts to the agency which delivers benefits to the elderly and disabled.

Much of Trump's agenda has been restrained by lawsuits contending he has overstepped his authority with attempts to fire civil servants, deport immigrants and reverse transgender rights.

Russian troops push into Sumy region

Moscow: Russia said Sunday that its troops had taken the village of Basivka in Ukraine's Sumy region, and were battering Ukrainian forces at a host of settlements in the area. More than two years after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Kyiv sent thousands of troops over the border into Russia's Kursk region in August last year though a Russian offensive over recent months has pushed most of Ukrainian forces out of Kursk. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly suggested that Russian forces carve out a buffer zone along the border. Russia's defence ministry said that it had taken the village of Basivka, just over the border from Sudzha, and had struck Ukrainian forces at 12 other points in the Sumy region. It said that Russia had defeated Ukrainian units in the Russian settlements of Gornal, Guevo, and Oleshnya. The pro-Ukrainian DeepState war map shows Ukraine in control of about 63 square kilometres (24 square miles) of Russian territory, down from as much as 1,400 square kilometres claimed by Kyiv last year.

Israeli strikes kill 24, mostly women, kids



Gaza reels under heavy bombing as Netanyahu heads to US to meet Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, April 6: Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed at least 24 people, including over a dozen women and children, local health officials said Sunday, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to the United States to meet with President Donald Trump about the war.

Israel last month ended its ceasefire with Hamas and renewed its air and ground offensive, carrying out waves of strikes and seizing territory to pressure the militant group to accept a new deal for a truce and release of remaining hostages.

It has also blocked the import of food, fuel and humanitarian aid for over a month to the coastal territory heavily reliant on outside assistance.

"Stocks are getting low and the situation is becoming desperate," the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said on social media.

The latest Israeli strikes overnight into Sunday hit a tent and a house in the southern city of Khan Younis, killing five men, five women and five children, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies.

A female journalist was among those killed. "My daughter is innocent. She had no involvement, she loved journalism and adored it," said her mother, Amal Kaskeen.

The body of one child, 1 1/2-year old, took up just one

end of an emergency stretcher.

"Trump wants to end the Gaza issue. He is in a hurry, and that is clear from this morning," asserted Mohammad Abdel-Hadi, cousin of a woman killed.

Israeli shelling killed at least four people in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza.

Netanyahu Monday will meet with Trump for the second time since Trump began his latest term in January. The prime minister said they would discuss the war and the new 17 per cent tariff imposed on Israel, part of a sweeping global decision by the new US administration.

THE TOLL OF WAR

Hundreds of Palestinians since then have been killed, among them 15 medics whose bodies were recovered only a week later. Israel's military this weekend backtracked on its account of what happened in the incident, captured in part on video, that caused anger by Red Cross and Red Crescent and UN officials.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked Israel October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. Fifty-nine hostages are still held in Gaza — 24 believed to be alive — after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's offensive has killed at least 50,695 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants but says more than half were women and children. It says another 115,338 people have been wounded. Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

WEEK'S BEST PICS



Paramotors fly during the Lusail Sky Festival, in Lusail, Qatar, April 3



Palestinian Muslims attend Eid al-Fitr prayer marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip, March 30



Demonstrators post after they spray painted the facade of a Tesla dealership to protest against Elon Musk, in Berlin, Germany, March 31



A Balinese man reacts as he is hit with a burnt dried coconut leaves during a fire fight ritual ahead of the holy day of Nyepi, which is a day of silence for self-reflection to celebrate the Balinese Hindu New Year in Bali, Indonesia, March 31



A rescue worker inspects during a search operation at the site of a collapsed building, in the aftermath of a strong earthquake, in Mandalay, Myanmar April 1

REUTERS

Titans demolish Sunrisers

Gill, Siraj, Washington dominate in GT's easy 7-wicket win over SRH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, April 6: Skipper Shubman Gill led by example with a classy half-century after Mohammed Siraj bowled with fire in his belly to return excellent figures of 4/17 as Gujarat Titans crushed Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in their IPL match here Sunday.

Sent at number four, Washington Sundar too showed his class with a 29-ball 49 as GT registered their third win in four outings, even as SRH suffered their fourth defeat in five matches.

The chase of 153 was completed with as many as 20 balls to spare, with Gill making an unbeaten 61 off 43 balls.

Bowling first, GT restricted SRH to 152 for eight with left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore

TODAY'S MATCH

Indian Premier League

 VS 

Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: JioHotstar

(2/24) and seamer Prasidh Krishna (2/25) too performing admirably on a slow surface.

Mohammed Shami (2/28) and Pat Cummins (1/26) brought SRH back into the contest with their early strikes as GT found themselves at a tricky 16 for two in the fourth over.

B Sai Sudharsan (5) could not keep his shot down and was

caught at square leg off Shami, and Cummins then dismissed Jos Buttler for a three-ball duck with a back of a length delivery that nipped back in sharply, and Heinrich Klaasen did the rest behind the stumps.

The two wickets gave SRH a glimmer of hope but skipper Shubman Gill and Washington Sundar joined forces to stitch a third-wicket partnership of 90 runs to pave the way for their team's win.

Helping the GT duo to get their innings up and running after the early wobble was a horrendous sixth over from pacer Simarjeet Singh, who conceded 20 runs to ease the pressure on the visitors.

Simarjeet was guilty of repeatedly bowling short and Washington took full advantage of it by pulling and hooking

IPL POINT TABLE						
TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS	
DC	3	3	0	1.257	6	
GT	4	3	1	1.031	6	
RCB	3	2	1	1.149	4	
PBKS	3	2	1	0.074	4	
KKR	4	2	2	0.070	4	
LSG	4	2	2	0.048	4	
RR	4	2	2	-0.185	4	
MI	4	1	3	0.108	2	
CSK	4	1	3	-0.891	2	
SRH	5	1	4	-1.629	2	

him for two sixes over fine leg after collecting two fours.

Gill was all class reaching his half-century in 36 balls with the help of some delightful shots but Washington got out one

Verstappen bags 4th straight Japanese GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suzuka (Japan), April 6: Max Verstappen won Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix to break a "mini-slump" of two wins from 16 races but needed a drive that his Red Bull team engineer called "perfection" to get it done.

It was Verstappen's fourth straight victory on the Suzuka circuit in central Japan and breaks the momentum of the McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, who won the season's first two races in Australia and China.

"We still have work to do," Verstappen said. "But it does show if we nail everything we can be up there." He did just that.

The four-time defending Formula 1 champion, Verstappen started from pole position after setting a course-record time in qualifying, which he called "insane." Norris placed second and Piastri was third. The track was dry despite rain earlier in the day to produce an incident-free race.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished fourth followed by George Russell of Mercedes and teammate Kimi Antonelli in sixth. Japanese driver Yuki Tsunoda finished 12th in his first drive with Red Bull's top team.

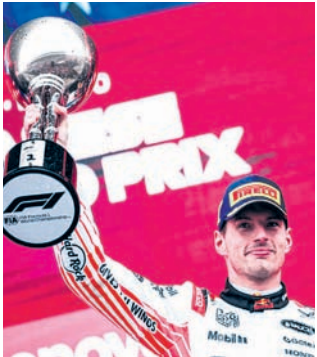
"We keep pushing," Verstappen said. "Unbelievable. A great weekend for us."

Norris leads the driver's standings after three races with 62 points to 61 for Verstappen.

The weekend turned when Verstappen took the pole on his record lap Saturday in qualifying. And there was only one incident of note in Sunday's race — one that's being dubbed the "grass-cutting moment."

Most of the leaders pitted around the 20-lap mark with Verstappen and Norris exiting the pits at almost exactly the same time with Norris forced to drive over the grass, unable to get by Verstappen and he tried to access the track.

"He drove himself into the



It was fun, just pushing very hard at the end. The two McLarens were pushing very hard. We didn't give up improving the car and today it was in its best form. Of course, starting on the pole — that's what made it possible to win this race

I could see Max quite clearly for the whole race but just couldn't quite make any inroads. I don't need anyone to tell me what Max is capable of doing

LANDO NORRIS

grass," Verstappen said on the radio.

Norris said he had no bone to pick with Verstappen. "He had the position and the right to do what he did," Norris said.

Race stewards agreed.

After the race, Verstappen saluted Japanese engine maker Honda, which this season will end its run of supplying the Red Bull team. And of course the win came on the Suzuka circuit, which Honda runs.

Norris trailed right behind Verstappen for almost the whole race, unable to pass on the narrow Suzuka circuit.

Sunday's start was clean with Verstappen taking the lead with the top starters on the grid falling into line behind him. Verstappen slowly stretched his lead and was two seconds ahead of Norris after 10 of 53 laps and kept the same advantage after 15.

Irani triumphs in 18th National Chess Championship for blind

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: In a sensational finale to the 18th National Chess Championship for the Blind, at the SAI International Residential School, Cuttack, Gujarat's Darpan Irani was crowned the National Champion, edging past multiple-time champion Kisan Gangolli on a better tie-break score after both finished with 7.5 points. The championship saw intense competition, with the top four boards producing fiercely contested games in the final round.

The most dramatic battle unfolded between overnight leader Aryan Joshi and Odisha's Soundarya Kumar Pradhan. Although Soundarya was slightly worse in the middlegame, Aryan's inaccurate plan allowed Soundarya to seize control. In a critical moment, Aryan missed a chance to force a perpetual draw,



HISTORIC NAVI MUMBAI CLASH

Real Madrid Leyendas defeat Barcelona Legends

Fans in Mumbai had a memorable night filled with nostalgia, skill, and footballing greatness. With legends rolling back the years, the match was a perfect celebration of football's timeless charm

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Navi Mumbai, April 6: In a landmark moment for Indian sports, Real Madrid Leyendas came out victorious by 2-0 against the FC Barcelona Legends as the two iconic football



SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma c Tewatia b Mohammed Siraj 18, Travis Head c Sai Sudharsan b Mohammed Siraj 8, Ishan Kishan c Sharma b Prasidh Krishna 17, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Rashid Khan b Sai Kishore 31, Heinrich Klaasen b Sai Kishore 27, Aniket Verma lbw b Mohammed Siraj 18, Kamindu Mendis c Sai Sudharsan b Prasidh Krishna 1, Pat Cummins not out 22, Simarjeet Singh b Mohammed Siraj 0, Mohammed Shami not out 6. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-2) 4; **Total:** (For 8 wickets in 20 overs) 152; **Fall of wickets:** 1-9, 2-38, 3-50, 4-100, 5-105, 6-120, 7-135, 8-135; **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-17-4, Ishant Sharma 4-0-25-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-0, Sai Kishore 4-0-24-2.

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Verma b Mohammed Shami 5, Shubman Gill not out 61, Jos Buttler c Klaasen b Cummins 0, Washington Sundar c Verma b Mohammed Shami 49, Sherfane Rutherford not out 35. **Extras:** (W-3) 3; **Total:** (For 3 wickets in 16.4 overs) 153; **Fall of wickets:** 1-15, 2-16, 3-106; **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-28-2, Pat Cummins 3.4-0-26-1, Simarjeet Singh 1-0-20-0, Jaydev Unadkat 2-0-16-0, Zeeshan Ansari 4-0-33-0, Kamindu Mendis 1-0-12-0, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-18-0.

short of what would have been a well-deserved fifty.

A flurry of boundaries from Sherfane Rutherford (35 not out off 16 balls) then helped GT finish the game with plenty to spare.

Earlier, Siraj dismissed struggling openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma cheaply before coming back to add two more wickets to his tally.

Head (8) had a fortuitous start as his edge off Siraj went past the stumps for a boundary.

However, Siraj had the last laugh as the pacer got rid of the danger man from Australia when the opener flicked one for Sai Sudharsan to complete a smart diving catch at mid-wicket.

HOPS FC defeat Odisha 3-2 to continue battle for survival

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 6: HOPS FC defeated defending champions Odisha FC 3-2 in an enthralling relegation battle at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar in IWL 2024-25 Sunday. The two teams were level 2-2 at the break.

The visitors were faced with a difficult situation, where anything short of a win would see them get relegated at the end of the season. However, the Delhi side stepped up their game.

Kiran Pisdar's (13' og) own goal had put HOPS in the lead, while Pooja (34', 90') netted a brace. Neha (14') and Pyari Xaxa (45+1') were the two scorers for Odisha FC.

HOPS took the lead against the run of play, when Gladys Amfoeba ran down the right in the 13th minute, and played a low cross across the goal. Kiran, attempting to clear the ball, turned it into her own net.

Kiran redeemed herself a minute later, when she sent in a cross from the left that struck



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Foz Do Iguacu (Brazil), April 6: The Indian boxing contingent came up with an impressive performance in their first-ever outing in the Elite level international meet organised by World Boxing as they bagged six medals, including a gold and silver in the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025 at Foz Do Iguacu.

Hitesh became the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup. His opponent, Odel Kamara of England, was injured and couldn't take to the ring in the 70kg finale.

Abhinash Jamwal, the other Indian boxer to reach the final in the 65kg category, gave his best against local favourite Yuri Reis but could not do enough to get a favourable verdict and bagged a silver medal.

Four Indian players bagged bronze medals, including Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg) and Vishal (90kg).

Hitesh after becoming the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup, credited the 10-day prepa-

THE COUNTRY WINS SIX MEDALS AT THE WORLD BOXING CUP, THEIR FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OUTING SINCE THE PARIS OLYMPICS

THE STRONG PERFORMANCE WILL BOOST THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PLAYERS AS THEY START PREPARING FOR THE OLYMPIC CYCLE AHEAD OF THE 2028 LOS ANGELES GAMES

ration camp in Brazil ahead of the tournament as something that helped him and the team a lot.

"The camp helped me learn a few tactical nuances that helped me a lot in the competition. This tournament has provided us fantastic exposure at the highest level and I am happy that I could grab the gold medal," said Hitesh.

India had fielded a 10-member contingent for the World Boxing Cup, their first major international outing since the Paris Olympics, and bagging six medals, this will not only boost the confidence of the squad as they start preparing for the 2028 Olympic cycle ahead of Los Angeles Games.



the cross-bar and fell at the feet of Neha, who smashed it in. Odisha had the upper hand, but HOPS took the lead once again. Gladys, from the left this time, sent in another low cross that ricocheted off the far post, and was then tapped in by Pooja.

Odisha FC drew level again in the first half injury time, when their Ghanaian forward

Jennifer Yeboah fed a through ball to Pyari, who finished it at the far post.

Buoyed by the second equaliser, Odisha stepped on the gas and created frequent chances.

Lynda Kom Serto had a couple of close chances after the hour mark. Her 65th minute long ranger went agonisingly over the cross-bar.