

DSPL-22



ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନୂତନ ଯୁଗର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ଆସନ୍ତାକାଲି ଠାରୁ ଲାଗୁ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି

ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ଭାରତ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା
ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ଏବଂ
ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଦନା ଯୋଜନା

- ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ପରିବାରର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସଦସ୍ୟଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ଏ.ବି.ପିଏମ୍.ଜେ.ଏ.ୱାଇ - ଜି.ଜେ.ଏ.ୱାଇ କାର୍ଡ
- ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା
- ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଦନା ଯୋଜନାରେ ୭୦ ବର୍ଷ କିମ୍ବା ୭୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ବରିଷ୍ଠ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ୧.୦୩ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପରିବାରର ୩.୪୭ କୋଟି ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମାଗଣା ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା
- ଦେଶର ୨୯,୦୦୦ ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ଘରୋଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesha. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

TAURUS
You may feel frustrated and stranded in family matters today, says Ganesha. Shower your warmth and care to make up for past mistakes. Your spouse will be supportive and lend you a helping hand to regain your mental composure. Reciprocate with intimacy and go with the flow, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
A favourable day to put an end to all the doubts surrounding your ability to do well, especially in the field of communication. People around you will find you incredibly charming and enchanting. You will win hearts with your verve and panache. You may want to spruce up your surroundings at work and at home. It will fetch you crucial brownie points from those you want to impress.

CANCER
It is quite possible that your personal life will take precedence over your professional life. You will not be able to repress or ignore your feelings, and you should not either, says Ganesha. But you should be careful about how you express yourself in public.

LEO
No matter how far you go, there is always a horizon that you desire to reach. And what holds true for all outer projections of life most certainly holds true for one's inner self as well, reminds Ganesha. Bear this in mind as you strive to improve yourself in as many ways as possible.

VIRGO
Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesha foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

LIBRA
Today will be fabulous for you, especially if you are in the world of business. Long-term deals seem to be on the cards for you. If you happen to be a government officer, luck favours you today. Keep your ears and eyes open, there may be news of a possible promotion. All Ganesha has to say to you today is, keep your options open and hopes alive.

SCORPIO
Ganesha feels that your intuitive feelings will rule your actions today. You will need to break past your stress threshold and tackle work with zeal and zest. Follow your instincts and relax to some good music when the burden of work is overwhelming.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesha sees a spectacular day in store for you, especially if you are an artist. Radio jockeys will be heard and cheered for. Television anchors will receive thundering applause and golden opportunities. Go ahead – seize the day!

CAPRICORN
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following. But while the inspired lot may achieve success and move on to target higher goals, you are likely to miss out on the best of opportunities to make money.

AQUARIUS
Spirituality is your new passion and Calvin Klein matters less today! Mysticism attracts you, says Ganesha. This may lead you to seek solace in holy books and religious places. It's going to take some time for you to understand that spiritual attainment can be had in the flesh-and-blood world as well.

PISCES
You are ceaselessly driven to find room for improvement. A part-time course to enhance your skills or to increase your efficiency is what you will likely be pursuing today, says Ganesha.



ROBERT PATTINSON EYES VILLAIN ROLE IN *DUNE 3*

Hollywood star Robert Pattinson may soon onboard the upcoming part of the superhit *Dune* franchise. Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve has his sights set on the A-lister to join the starry ensemble cast of *Dune: Messiah*.

JON HAMM FEELS HOLLYWOOD HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA

Hollywood star Jon Hamm feels the concept of a "leading man" belongs to a different era. The 54-year-old actor has enjoyed huge success during his career, but Hamm doesn't see himself as a leading man, claiming that the movie industry has now entered a new era.



Tamannaah on public scrutiny of actors

MUMBAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who will be soon seen in the upcoming movie *Odelia 2*, has said that actor's involuntarily sign up for the public scrutiny of their personal and professional lives on public platforms.

The actress, who reportedly parted ways from her rumoured beau Vijay Varma, recently spoke with the agency about the widespread scrutiny about her life on both personal and professional fronts, and how there's no escape for an actor from it.

Tamannaah told the agency, "When you become an actor, you have agreed to scrutiny of your career and your personal life. To be honest, I don't take anything personally, I just try to put out my perspective in the most honest possible way. People will always have an opinion, and that's fine. It's their opinion, and we respect that. Having said that, I don't take any of it personally, and I feel like the job of an actor is pretty much the same".

She further mentioned, "The formats are going to change, technology is going to evolve, we are going to consume cinema and content differently as times move. A creative person's or an artiste's job is to make you feel something, I'll try and do that in every format or genre that I work in".

IAN S



Kritika backs sustainable living

DELHI: Actress Kritika Kamra has talked about the underrated mindset that more people should adopt is embracing the beauty and practicality of secondhand items.

Asked what's one underrated habit or mindset she believes more people should adopt, Kritika told the agency: "I think we need to get over the shame around hand-me-downs. We should be able to pass on the things that we are bored of, and it's absolutely fine to thrift or get things from family/friends that they don't want anymore."

"Different people wear the same hinge differently. So even if you're wearing something used, the way it looks on you will be unique and new."

The actress, who has launched a fashion initiative called Cinnabar to empower women artisans in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh, urged people to "stop throwing things out."

"Also, shop in your closet. I promise you if you're organised and can see every-

thing you own, you'll be able to make many sets from things you already wear and haven't yet. Get creative."

Talking about how her style has evolved over the years, both on and off screen, the actress, who stepped into the world of acting in 2007 with the college drama *Ya-haan Ke Hum Sikander*, said: "On screen my style is always a collaboration with the stylist, the director, and the cinematographer."

IAN S

DDLJ gets a statue erected in Leicester Square

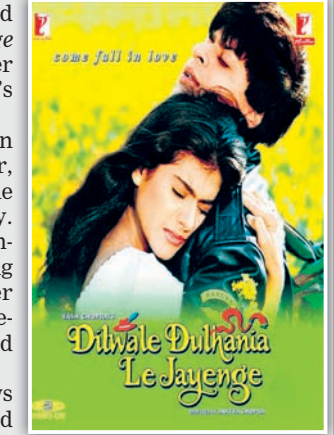
MUMBAI: Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's 1995 blockbuster *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)* by Yash Raj Films is set to become the first ever statue honouring Indian cinema to be erected in London's Leicester Square.

The bronze statue will showcase SRK and Kajol, in an iconic *DDLJ* pose. Set to be unveiled in Spring this year, the announcement spotlights how the film is loved by the over five million strong British South Asian community.

Wednesday, the Heart of London Business Alliance announced that Yash Raj Films' *DDLJ* statue will be joining the 'Scenes in the Square' movie trail in Leicester Square. This will mark the start of 30-year celebrations of the romantic film, which marked the directorial debut of Aditya Chopra.

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge follows two non-resident Indians, Raj and Simran, and their star-crossed love story across Europe and India, beginning on a train from King's Cross Station.

The location couldn't be more fitting, with Leicester Square featuring in *DDLJ* in a scene when Raj and Simran first cross paths, albeit unbeknown to one another, before setting off on their European adventure. The scene features two of the square's cinemas prominently, with Raj seen in front of the Vue cinema, and Simran walking past the Odeon on Leicester Square.



IAN S

Khushi's fitness goals

MUMBAI:

Khushi Kapoor shed some serious fitness goals as she attempted a 240 kg hip thrust during her latest session at the gym.

Kushi dropped a video on the stories section of her Instagram which showed her sweating it out in the gym in a stylish black athleisure. As the diva tried on a new challenge by doing a 240 kg hip thrust, her trainer assisted her in pushing her limits.

On the professional front, Khushi was last seen opposite Ibrahim Ali Khan in the romantic entertainer *Nadaaniyan*. She faced a lot of criticism for her questionable acting skills in the drama.

Hitting back at the trolls for criticising Nadaaniya, Karan Johar quoted a popular song, "Kuch Toh Log Kahenge".

Addressing the media during an event, KJo said, "People will say something or the other. It's the job of people to say something. Forget all these useless things."

Produced by Karan, *Nadaaniyan*, marked the acting debut of Saif Ali Khan's son Ibrahim Ali Khan along-

side Khushi. Ever since the project premiered on Netflix, the romantic drama received widespread backlash from netizens, making it a topic of ridicule on social media.

IAN S



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

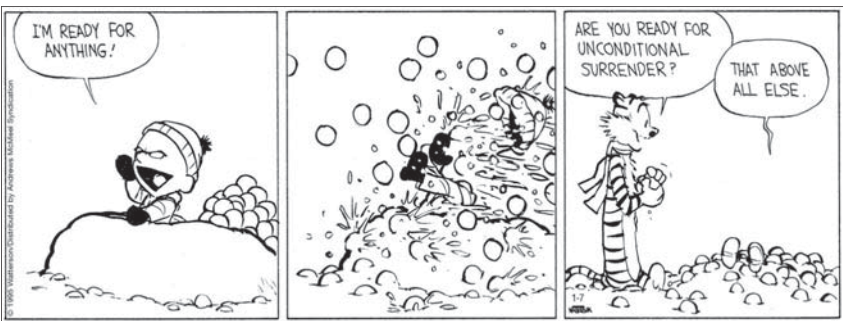
SUDOKU

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

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



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							25					
26										27		

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Across

- 1 Catcall
- 3 Left
- 9 Pit viper
- 10 Penalised
- 11 Young haddock
- 12 Hot and humid
- 14 Inflict
- 16 Blood disorder
- 19 Holiday destination
- 21 Kingdom
- 24 Speechify

Down

- 25 Social media service
- 26 Union
- 27 Genuine
- 1 Adversity
- 2 Weasel relative
- 4 Means of escape
- 5 Horrible
- 6 Display of bad temper

- 7 Extinct bird
- 8 Playground equipment
- 13 Raffia ruffia, e.g. (4,4)
- 15 Triumph
- 17 Ski type
- 18 Radio interference
- 20 "La Bohème," e.g.
- 22 Hitching post?
- 23 Davenport

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Land to displaced

J&K government grants 9.23 lakh kanals, 2,421 urban plots, and quarters to PoJK displaced persons in Jammu region

TWO STATES | **P5**



Rana's extradition

Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana is set to be extradited to India soon, with legalities underway

NATIONAL | **P7**



Oil prices slide

Oil prices fall for a fifth day Wednesday to their lowest since February 2021 after Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs took effect

BUSINESS | **P9**



Arsenal in dreamland

Arsenal' Declan Rice nets two free kicks in shock 3-0 quarterfinal first-leg win against defending champions Real Madrid

SPORTS | **BACK PAGE**

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Now, Aadhaar app with face ID

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 9: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has unveiled the Aadhaar app, designed to enhance accessibility and security. This new application integrates face ID authentication and artificial intelligence (AI), allowing Indian citizens to access digital Aadhaar services via their mobile devices.

Showing the features of the app, Vaishnaw shared a video on X. "New Aadhaar App Face ID authentication via mobile app. No physical card & No photocopies," he wrote.

The app was developed in partnership with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It includes QR code-based instant verification and real-time facial recognition for authentication, removing the necessity for individuals to carry physical photocopies or cards.

Once out of beta testing phase and widely implemented across the country, this would mean that individuals, when asked for ID - say, at a hotel, airport, or by a train ticket checker - no longer have to hand over a paper Aadhaar, as is mostly the case today.

"Now with just a tap, users can share only the necessary data, giving them complete control over their personal information," Vaishnaw said. The new Aadhaar App (in beta) is currently in its testing phase.

He also mentioned that Aadhaar verification will now be as easy as making a UPI payment. "Users can now digitally verify and share their Aadhaar details while ensuring their privacy. Simply scan a QR code or use a requesting application," he added.

With this app, users will no longer need to carry around a physical Aadhaar card or hand over photocopies of it during travel, hotel check-ins, or even shopping. The Aadhaar app is shareable only with the user's consent.

UIDAI's technology centre demonstrated the new Aadhaar app saying it will empower Aadhaar holders to share only the necessary data while availing services of their choice. "It will give Aadhaar number holders complete control over their personal information. The app allows digital verification and exchange via a requesting application or by scanning a QR code, eliminating the need for physical photocopies while ensuring privacy," an official release said.

LAW & ORDER MEET: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of a meeting on the new criminal laws, in New Delhi, Wednesday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Seems like we need to step back a little - and rely more on ED, CBI, I-T...

India to buy 26 Rafale jets in ₹64,000-cr deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday cleared a proposal to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets from France at a cost of around ₹64,000 crore for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, sources in the defence establishment said.

The delivery of the jets will begin around five years after the signing of the contract under an inter-governmental framework between India and France. In July 2023, the defence ministry accorded the initial approval for the mega acquisition following a series of deliberations and evaluation tests of the platform.

Under the deal, the Indian Navy will also get associated ancillary equipment including weapon systems and spares from Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of Rafale (Marine) jets. The Indian Air Force bought 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in fly-away condition.

There is a thinking in the IAF that it should go for at least two more squadrons of Rafale jets.

The defence and strategic ties between India and France have been on an upswing in the last few years. In July 2023, India and France announced a raft of ground-breaking defence cooperation projects including the joint development of jet and helicopter engines.

RBI cuts repo rate again, trims GDP growth forecast

AGENCIES

Mumbai, April 9: Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates Wednesday for a second consecutive time while lowering India's growth forecast to 6.5 per cent from 6.7 per cent estimated earlier for the current financial year on account of impact of global trade and policy uncertainties.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consisting of three central bank members and an equal number of external members, voted unanimously to cut the repurchase or repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent. It had reduced rates by an equal measure in February -- the first cut since May 2020.

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term funding needs. With a 25 bps

Rupee dives deeper

MUMBAI: The rupee extended its losing streak for the fourth straight session and settled 42 paise lower at 86.68 against the US dollar Wednesday, amid escalating tariff turbulence globally. Even though crude oil prices fell sharply to a record low level and the American currency remained weak, the Indian currency stayed under pressure due to incessant outflow of foreign funds and lacklustre sentiment in the domestic equity markets, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.52 and moved between a high of 86.47 and the low of 86.76 against the greenback during intraday, facing extreme volatility. The unit settled at 86.68 against the dollar, sharply lower by 42 paise from the previous closing level.

cut in the repo rate, all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) linked to it will come down. And if the banks fully pass on this to the borrowers, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, auto and personal loans

Stock markets decline

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower Wednesday in line with losses in global markets amid escalating trade tensions. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 379.93 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 73,847.15. During the day, it slumped 554.02 points or 0.74 per cent to a low of 73,673.06. The NSE Nifty declined 136.70 points or 0.61 per cent to 22,399.15. Intra-day, it tanked 182.6 points or 0.81 per cent to 22,353.25. Mirroring weak trends in Asian equities, domestic key equity indices opened lower and remained in the negative territory throughout the session after the US imposed a fresh set of tariffs, including a whopping 104 per cent levy on Chinese imports.

will decline by 25 bps.

The move lowers borrowing costs to the lowest level since November 2022, amid easing inflation and a fall in oil prices. RBI changed its policy stance to 'accommodative' from 'neu-

tral', indicating the possibility of more rate cuts in future, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said while announcing the MPC decisions.

The rate cut came on a day when the full 26 per cent additional tariffs on Indian goods exported to the US came into effect. The US tariffs exacerbate uncertainties, with some economists predicting a 20-40 basis point drag on Indian GDP growth in the current fiscal year that started on April 1.

RBI also lowered its estimate for economic growth to 6.5 per cent for 2025-26 fiscal year from 6.7 per cent earlier. The inflation projection was also lowered to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent, keeping it within the target range of 2-6 per cent.

The Indian economy grew by 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31 (2024-25), its weakest pace since the pandemic.

90-day tariff pause for all but China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, April 9: Facing a global market meltdown, US President Donald Trump Wednesday abruptly backed down on his tariffs on most nations for 90 days, but raised the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125 per cent. It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the US and most of the world to a showdown between the US and China.

Stock markets in the US rose sharply after the development. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2,541.92 points, or 6.73%, to 40,180.98, the S&P 500 rose 392.26 points, or 7.87%, to 5,375.03 and the Nasdaq Composite rose 1,529.03 points, or 10.00%, to 16,794.65 at about 11:57 PM GMT.

Trump posted on Truth Social that because "more than 75 Countries" had reached out to the US government for trade talks and have not retaliated in meaningful way "I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Recip-

rocal Tariff during this period, of 10 per cent, also effective immediately."

The 10 per cent tariff was the baseline rate for most nations that went into effect Saturday. It's meaningfully lower than the 20 per cent tariff that Trump had set for goods from the European Union, 24 per cent on imports from Japan and 25 per cent on products from South Korea. Still, 10 per cent would represent an increase in the tariffs previously charged by the US government.

The announcement came after the global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect Wednesday, a signal that the US president was not immune from market pressures.

Naveen backs Pandian again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 9: Amidst the ongoing flip-flop over supporting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, BJD president Naveen Patnaik Wednesday came out in support of his close aide VK Pandian and clarified that the bureaucrat-turned-politician was not involved in any of the party activities.

Referring to a remark of former BJD MLA Pravat Tripathy, who directly blamed Pandian for the party's defeat in the last election, Patnaik said, "I want to state here clearly that the former legislator was expelled from the party a few years ago because he was indicted in a chit-fund case and spent some years in jail. I want to clarify again that he doesn't belong to the party."

While issuing a clean chit to Pandian, Patnaik said, "I also

want to state clearly that Kartikeyan Pandian, in the past, has done a lot of good work not only for the state, but also for the party. So, he shouldn't be criticised or blamed for anything. Also, he left the party more than 10 months ago and is not involved in any of the party's activities."

Patnaik's remark comes at a time when a section of party workers have been demanding action against those responsible for changing the BJD's official decision of opposing the Waqf Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

130,000-yr-old mammoth goes under scalpel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Yakutsk, April 9: Making incisions and carefully taking samples, the scientists at a laboratory in Russia's far east looked like pathologists carrying out a post-mortem.

But the body they were dissecting is a baby mammoth who died around 130,000 years ago.

Discovered last year, the calf -- nicknamed Yana, for the river basin where she was found -- is in a remarkable state of preservation, giving scientists a glimpse into the past and, potentially, the future as climate change thaws the permafrost in which she was found. Yana's skin has kept its greyish-brown colour and clumps of reddish hairs. Her wrinkled trunk is curved and points to her mouth. The orbits of her eyes are perfectly recognisable and her sturdy legs resemble those of a modern-day elephant.

This necropsy -- an autopsy on an animal -- "is an opportunity to look into the past of our planet," said Artemy Goncharov, head of the Laboratory of Functional Genomics and Proteomics of Microorganisms at the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Saint Petersburg.

Scientists hope to find unique ancient bacteria and carry out genetic analysis of the plants

and spores Yana ate to learn more about the place and time she lived. The calf largely avoided the ravages of time because she lay for thousands of years encased in permafrost in the Sakha region in Siberia.

Measuring 1.2 metres at the shoulder and two metres long, and weighing 180 kilograms, Yana could be the best-preserved mammoth specimen

ever found, retaining internal organs and soft tissues, the Russian scientists said.

Yana was first estimated to have died around 50,000 years ago, but is now dated at 'more than 130,000 years' following analysis of the permafrost layer where she lay, said Maxim Cheprasov, director of the Mammoth Museum. As for her age at death, "it's already clear that she is over a year old because her milk tusks have already appeared," he added.

Both elephants and mammoths have early milk tusks that later fall out. Scientists are yet to determine why Yana died so young.

At the time when this herbivore mammal was chewing grass, "here on the territory of Yakutia there were not yet any humans," Cheprasov said, since they appeared in modern-day Siberia between 28,000 and 32,000 years ago.

State govt to fill up 12K vacancies in police dept

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 9: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday announced that his government would fill over 12,000 vacant posts in the police department.

Majhi made the announcement after returning from New Delhi, where he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, besides attending a two-day investors' conclave.

He said that at the meeting with Shah, the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) in the state was discussed.

Rising number of cases of cybercrime was also discussed in the meeting, Majhi said, adding that he told Shah that the state was planning to set up 20 cyber



police stations, and create the post of Crime Scene Officer in every police station.

Majhi said the Union Home Minister assured the state government of all support needed for maintaining law and order and the justice delivery system.

He said, "The state government will soon fill up the 12,000 vacancies in the Home department, which will help maintain the law and order situation in

the state."

Among them are 3,003 vacancies in the Odisha Special Striking Force (OSSF), 3,000 in Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF), 2,000 traffic personnel, 5,000 home guards, 267 in the Directorate of Public Prosecution, and 254 in the State Forensic Science Department, the Chief Minister said.

The announcement comes amid persistent protests by the Opposition Congress, alleging that the law and order situation has worsened with an increase in crimes against women after the BJP formed the government in the state last June.

At the investors' meet that Majhi hosted in New Delhi, the state government signed 13 agreements and received 15 investment proposals worth ₹1.03 lakh crore, which have the potential to create employment for over 95,000 people.

Online application process begins at WSC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: In a bid to equip youth with cutting-edge skills for global employment opportunities, online application process has started for enrolling in

2025-26 batch at the World Skill Center (WSC) here.

Established by the Odisha Skill Development Authority, the centre aims to provide industry-relevant training to youth, opening doors to major foreign companies

post-training.

The online registration for enrollment in seven advanced courses under the School of Engineering and School of Services departments is now open. Interested candidates can apply until May 3, 2025.

Manipal Hospitals, Google Cloud in AI healthcare pact

POST NEWS NETWORK

Las Vegas, April 9: Manipal Hospitals has announced a strategic collaboration with Google Cloud to revolutionise digital healthcare delivery in India through the integration of artificial intelligence and secure cloud technologies.

Unveiled Wednesday, the partnership marks a significant milestone in Manipal Hospitals' digital transformation journey. By adopting Google Cloud's AI tools, advanced analytics, and robust cloud infrastructure, the healthcare group aims to boost operational efficiency and improve patient outcomes across its nationwide network.

With Deloitte providing implementation support, Manipal Hospitals has already deployed AI-based solutions on Google Cloud to enhance its ePharmacy platform and optimise nurse handover procedures.

The impact has been substantial: ePharmacy order processing time has dropped from 15 minutes to under five, while nurse handoffs have been reduced from 90 minutes to just 20—an impressive 78 per cent reduction, translating into millions of minutes saved each month in caregiver productivity.

Karthik Rajagopal, Group Chief Operating Officer at Manipal Hospitals, stated, "Google Cloud has been instrumental in helping us unlock high levels of scalability, performance, and security. By offloading infrastructure management, our teams can focus entirely on solving critical healthcare challenges."

Echoing the sentiment, Bikram Singh Bedi, Vice President and Managing Director of Google Cloud India, said, "We are deeply committed to helping healthcare providers accelerate their digital transformation journeys. Our collaboration with Manipal Hospitals is designed to eliminate inefficiencies, enhance patient experiences, and broaden access to quality healthcare across India."

A key outcome of the partnership is the development of a next-generation ePharmacy platform, built entirely on Google Cloud. Powered by Gemini on Vertex AI, the system ensures accurate, real-time prescription processing, minimising errors previously common with manual data entry.

The platform also utilises the Cloud Healthcare API and Apigee API Management to securely connect systems and deliver instant, error-free prescription data to patients.

Odisha, Unicef plan social protection push

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The Odisha government, in collaboration with Unicef, has taken a significant step toward strengthening social protection systems in the state by initiating discussions on the Social Policy and Social Protection Action Plan (SPSP) for the period 2025-2027.

A high-level meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, where officials from various state departments and Unicef representatives came together to outline strategies aimed at ensuring that the state's most vulnerable populations—particularly children, adolescents, and women—benefit from inclusive and responsive policies.



effit from inclusive and responsive policies.

The action plan focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of social protection systems by making them more gender-responsive, climate-adaptive, and shock-resilient.

It reflects a long-term vision to integrate these frameworks into the existing governance and welfare structures. During



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy lights the ceremonial lamp during Lingaraj Mahotsav organised by Ekamra Sanskritika Prakashani in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Among dignitaries, noted linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak is seen. (R) Artistes perform during the event
PICS: BIKASH NAYAK



MARCH 27 VIOLENCE

FIR against 11 Cong leaders, 5K unnamed party workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The twin city Commissionerate Police has registered an FIR against 11 senior Congress leaders, including Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das, and 5,000 other unnamed party members for the violence that occurred during the 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' programme here last month.

The Congress had organised the 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' programme March 27 in protest against the 'rise in atrocities' against women and girls. Several people, including police personnel, were injured in the clash during the protest.

The case was registered March 28 at the Capital police station here on the basis of a report of inspector in-charge (IIC) Dayanidhi Nayak. However, the details of the case were shared with the media Wednesday.

Apart from the OPCC chief, other senior Congress leaders whose names have been mentioned in the FIR are Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam, MLAs



Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Ramesh Chandra Jena, Pabitra Saunta, Sagar Charan Das, Prafulla Chandra Pradhan, Mangu Khila, CS Raazen Ekka, Mohammed Moquim and Suresh Chandra Routray.

As per the complaint, some protesters pelted eggs, tomatoes, stones and plastic chairs at security personnel deployed on Mahatma Gandhi Marg. In order to control the situation, police had to use water cannon and tear gas. As the protest intensified, the police resorted to mild lathi-charge to disperse the protestors.

"Charges like unlawful assembly, rioting, wrongful restraint, use of criminal force against public servant, and criminal intimidation have been framed against the lead-

ers and 5,000 other unnamed members of the Congress," police said.

"So far, at least three persons have been arrested in connection with the case and further investigation is under progress," said a Capital police official.

Meanwhile, state Congress spokesperson Prashant Satpathy said, "Democracy gives us the right to protest against unlawful action. However, state government's action (FIR registration) shows that is scared of us."

"Our party fought with Britishers for the freedom of our nation, and we are not scared of this government. Even if they put us in jail to suppress our voice, we will continue our fight over women safety issue," added Satpathy.

Manoj Parida new info panel head

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The state government Wednesday appointed retired IAS officer Manoj Kumar Parida as the Chief Information Commissioner of the state Information Commission.

Parida will succeed JK Tripathy. Parida, a 1986-batch IAS officer, was serving as Insurance Ombudsman in Bhubaneswar since July 2022.

Earlier, he had served as the chief secretary of Pondicherry and adviser to the Chandigarh Administrator. An official release issued by CMO said retired IPS officer Pranabindu Acharya, High Court Advocate Kalpana Pattnaik and Pabitra Mandal, a retired IAS officer, were named as Information Commissioners.

OUTR to hold second convocation April 11



BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) will hold its second convocation ceremony April 11 at the Railway Auditorium here. At a press conference held Wednesday, vice chancellor Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal announced that a total of 756 students from B.Tech programmes, 181 from M.Tech, MCA and M.Planning, and 94 from Integrated M.Sc and M.Sc programmes will receive their degrees. Governor and University Chancellor Hari Babu Kambhampati will preside over the event. Industries and Skill Development Minister Sampada Chandra Swain will attend as the chief guest, and AICTE Chairman PTG Sitharaman will grace the occasion as the special guest. Shrawansu Mishra has been selected for the prestigious Chancellor's Gold Medal, while Saurav Satapathy (UG) and Sofa Pradhan (PG) will be honoured with gold medals. Twenty-seven other students will receive silver medals across different categories. The university also announced the launch of two new B.Tech programmes—one in Computer Engineering and another in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering.

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THE RISE OF BILLIONAIRES



The Washington Consensus of 1989 has played a pivotal role in creating new billionaires and concentrating wealth among both old and new elites

a free market; v) adopt single exchange rate led market driven exchange rate to encourage exports; vi) reduce trade restrictions and encourage tariff based trade over quotas; vii) abolish barriers to foreign direct investment; viii) private state owned enterprises; ix) abolish policies that restrict competition and finally; x) provide secure, affordable property rights, incentivise investment and provide access to credit. These policies were heavily backed by American and Western European establishments, who sought to create a global consensus among ruling and non-ruling elites. Proponents of such a set of ruling class project consensus promoted them as the ultimate policy solution for economic growth, development, and crisis recovery. However, in practice, these reforms have often led to wealth concentration, economic inequality, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, exploitation and the deepening of class divides.

If British born American economist John Harold Williamson is the father of the Washington Consensus, then the American Brady Plan (named after U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady) is its mother. The Washington Consensus was designed to serve the objectives of the Brady Plan, which presented market-based solutions for debt relief. However, its underlying goal was to establish

US dollar dominance in the global economy by strengthening commercial banks. The policy prescriptions of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation unleashed the animal spirit of corporates and aggressive expansion of capitalist forces, allowing them to exploit both labour and nature in pursuit of ever-growing pyramid of profits. This led to the dismantling of the welfare state and the undermining of democratic governance, which was replaced by a security state—one that exists primarily to protect capitalist interests and facilitate wealth accumulation through the exploitation of human and natural resources.

While capital was subsidised, ordinary people were taxed under a rent-seeking state, justified as a means of revenue generation. The rich received tax benefits while the financial burden fell on the working class. In practice, it is socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor. This hypocrisy reveals the true nature of modern capitalism—it privatises profits while socialising risks and losses. When the rich make risky financial bets and fail, governments step in to rescue them. But when ordinary people struggle, they are left to bear the full brunt of economic downturns. Thus, the rise of the ultra-wealthy is neither accidental nor a matter of destiny. It is not the result of merit, creativity,

divine blessings, or karma from a past life. Instead, it is the product of deliberate economic policies—crafted by a shrewd elite under the guise of the Washington Consensus—that laid the foundation for a neocolonial and neoliberal economic order.

After 35 years of implementation of the Washington Consensus, the real outcomes are undeniable. These policies have successfully achieved their true objective—creating millionaires and billionaires—while simultaneously impoverishing the working class, dismantling the welfare state, undermining democracy and citizenship rights. The legacy of the Washington Consensus is not one of shared progress, but of deepened class divides and systemic exploitation. It helped in the rise of millionaires and billionaires.

The current proposals for alternatives, such as universal basic income and other cluster-based approaches to economic justice, human welfare, and development, are not real solutions. Instead, they serve as short-term relief programmes designed to distract the public and maintain the status quo. A genuine and minimalist alternative is to nationalise all wealth and resources accumulated during the era of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation of 1990s. These resources must be redistributed among the working poor to correct decades of economic injustice. The other alternative to capitalism can be based on collective ownership of natural resources to ensure that wealth benefits all, rather than a privileged few. This is possible by pursuing a politics of economic redistribution that prioritises the well-being of the majority over corporate interests. However, the first and most critical step is to defeat capitalism—along with its politics, culture, and policies—that have systematically enabled inequality and exploitation.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University. Vies are personal.

SPECTRUM COMMERCE

Tariffs: An opportunity for Odisha



Debashish Mitra

ODISHA IS WELL POSITIONED TO OFFER ITSELF AS A LOW COST MANUFACTURING BASE FOR LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, ASIDE FROM INDUSTRIES LIKE STEEL AND ALUMINIUM

At a recent seminar that I attended in Delhi, before the declaration of ‘Liberation Day’ for America by POTUS Donald Trump, discussions were held on how to deal with the potential impact of the impending tariffs centred around possible Indian retaliations to American tariffs, how to deal with possible forced opening up of Indian agriculture, and the auto sector and the need for a nuanced response. Attendees were unfortunately mainly academics, and researchers, practitioners or business people were a notable absence. In the words of the Commerce Secretary of India, at the seminar “is there a need to protect Apple farmers in Himachal who drive a Mercedes, or, an auto industry that sells outmoded technology of five to ten years,” suggesting that India may have to negotiate on these sectors, important to the Trump administration.

India will have a 10% plus 26% duty on all its industrial and agricultural goods exported to the US. Is this a terrible set back? The answer is no. The impact of these tariffs on the US economy will be managed by either of three ways, or a combination of all. A reduction in prices by suppliers, a reduction in profit margins of the importer (highly unlikely) or a pass through to the consumers. Whilst the latter two are not in the control of the Indian exporter, the first is.

Manufacturing costs have a number of elements in them, but key for labour intensive industries like garments, fisheries, food processing and gems and jewellery is labour and energy costs as well as transportation to ports or Inland Haulage Charges.

Odisha is well positioned to offer itself as a low cost manufacturing base for labour intensive industries, aside

from industries like steel and aluminium. The reason is that the average costs in Odisha of these major elements are almost 50% of that of the more developed states in India, and the current major export hubs in the Southern states and Gujarat and Maharashtra.

With three major ports of Dhamra, Paradip and Gopalpur, Inland Haulage is also cheaper compared to the more land locked regions in the South. Agri raw materials are also cheaper, especially horticulture crops and shrimps and fisheries. It is perhaps not so well known, that the largest shrimp exporter from India is a company from Odisha, the Falcon Group. Odisha is also a surplus power state.

Odisha offers an opportunity to offset these enhanced tariffs, without any loss of profits to the exporter. Lower factor cost is what drives the movement of manufacturing glob-

ally, and is also true domestically. Odisha can become the lowest cost producer in India for these sectors. What Odisha lacks is the trained manpower and experience of manufacturing at scale, all of which can be easily developed. Millions from Odisha, who work in the textile and gems and jewels sector in Gujarat and the South, would be happier to work closer to home, even with a lower salary. The lower cost of living in Odisha, as well as the social benefits of being close to home can be a powerful incentive.

All that is needed is a focused effort by an active state government with the benefits of a ‘double engine’ sarkar to put this into action, and develop a ‘Visksit Odisha’.

The author has substantial experience in developing small farmer based Global value chains

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

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M Pradyu, KANNUR



Pray to the Divine Grace to make you always do the right thing in the right way

THE MOTHER

The Will to Power

In the days since US President Donald Trump unleashed his tariff tsunami on the world, economists, investors, and business leaders have almost universally questioned its rationality. As a policy matter, they are right to be scratching their heads. But Trump’s tariffs are not simply about policy. They are of a piece with the animating features of his MAGA (“Make America Great Again”) movement: contempt for science and the rule of law, persistent lying, and a propensity for irrational theorizing.

We have witnessed this embrace of unreason before, accompanied by similarly grandiose assertions of power. Hitler’s well-known fascination with Theosophy, Gnosticism, and eugenics was not an isolated phenomenon. During the 1930s, psychoanalyst Carl Jung’s idea of self-growth or “individuation” was viewed by many (including Jung) to be the special destiny of the Aryan race. The well-known Eranos gatherings during this period, which included esteemed scholars such as Mircea Eliade (who publicly supported Romania’s fascist Iron Guard), Henry Corbin, and Gershom Scholem, have been shadowed (not entirely fairly) by the taint of anti-Enlightenment politics.

For Trump, tariffs are about much more than a change of economic policy. They are part of a toolkit for political and cultural transformation. 2 April was “Liberation Day.” Trump sees himself as single-handedly and fundamentally altering the global order by a Herculean act of sheer will. To be sure, Trump’s tariffs are likely to make life materially worse for people around the world – not least Americans. But the particulars matter less than the heroic spectacle itself, the leader’s demonstration of MAGA’s capacity to rivet our attention by arousing shock and awe. To borrow the Silicon Valley mantra (which echoes in Gnostic reveries), one must move fast and break things to release creative energy, including the spirit of the homeland. Mystical leaders liberate crippled instincts from conventional cultural shackles – like the “wholly incongruous Christianity” that, as Jung put it, had been “grafted upon the stumps” of the Aryan spirit.

Who else could mobilize such transformative forces but the great leader – the one who, as Nietzsche put it, carries chaos within to give birth to “a dancing star”? That’s the MAGA pitch. The test follows: Are you willing to accept the pain that ensues? This is less an implementation of policy than a collective initiation rite, or a massive psyop. As Soviet propagandists understood, inducing friends and foes alike to repeat obvious falsehoods is a reliable test of power.

So is declaring a state of emergency, as Trump did in order to justify his tariffs. Declarations of this sort embody a claim to ultimate sovereignty. As the Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt wrote, the executive decision to initiate a “state of exception” determines what sovereignty means in practice. It is a self-fulfilling act: declaring an emergency is the emergency. It is one way in which the rule of law ends.

A state of emergency addresses both how the nation will survive and who will survive. That is why Schmitt separates people into friends and enemies. For example, Elon Musk’s definition of friends can be inferred from the companies he owns, such as X.AI, Neuralink, and SpaceX. On this reading, Musk’s friends are the evolving vanguard of humankind: those who are the most AI-informed, even cyber-enhanced, and perhaps destined to colonize Mars.

Enemies, by contrast, have no claim either to society’s concern or its resources. In this vein, Trump focuses above all on “illegal aliens,” whom he routinely describes as “vermin” and “animals.” By defining any “de-nationalized” class of “others” as a discrete sub-species, Trump places them beyond law’s safeguards.

Trump’s tariffs reflect the MAGA movement’s broader anti-Enlightenment impulses. He may claim to be concerned with “rebalancing” global trade, restoring America’s manufacturing industries, and raising revenue. But, more fundamentally, his tariffs are an expression of the will to power – spiked with a jolt of metaphysics.

The embrace of irrationalism in Europe during the 1930s facilitated the rise of fascism. Today’s mythic narratives – from AI-enhanced “evolving” consciousness to Russian Cosmism and Vladimir Putin’s “Noöcracy” (which lays claim to a species of Russian nationalism likewise rooted in man’s destiny to evolve, and which shares Musk’s desire to colonize other worlds) – serve a comparable function: totalizing power.

What Putin’s Noöcracy has in common with billionaires like Musk and the MAGA movement (including its New Age “MAHA” (Make America Healthy Again) contingent led by US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.) is the cult of personality that lies at their center. Only Putin can serve as the Russian people’s savior. Only Musk can take his acolytes to the next level of evolving consciousness. Only Trump can make America great again by breaking the old order and ushering in the new. Submission to the leader is what makes it all happen.

Yes, the populist “spirit of the people” faction and Musk’s libertarian/Silicon Valley faction embody contradictory interests and goals. The intense rivalry and jockeying for influence within MAGA between Steve Bannon (for the populists) and Musk is the tip of the iceberg.

But this division has so far been modulated, and arguably exploited, by Trump and his loyalists. After all, it is the leader who exclusively embodies the mystical, creative-destructive spirit whose power can guide the nation to its destiny. Whether that destiny empowers the masses (as Bannon insists) or billionaire libertarians like Musk and Peter Thiel remains to be seen. It cannot be both.

For now, as Trump’s tariffs make clear, sound trade policy takes a backseat to both sides’ goal: the consolidation of autocracy. “Liberation Day” has put everyone who has thrown in their lot with MAGA on notice that without Trump at its center the movement that has promised them so much will collapse.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Law at New York Law School.

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WISDOM CORNER

When work is a pleasure, life is a joy. When work is duty, life is slavery.

MAXIM GORKY

The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.

HENRIK IBSEN

I may be a lost cause, but I thought if you loved me, it needn't matter.

JOHN OSBORNE

No.O-26

international

of the day quote

Putting money back into the pockets of business owners helps everyone by allowing those businesses to pass on cost savings to consumers and bolster the economy

MAC WARNER | DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, US

If the U.S. and its vassal forces continue to insist on anachronistic 'denuclearization' ... it will only give unlimited justness and justification to the advance of the DPRK aspiring after the building of the strongest nuclear force for self-defense

KIM YO JONG | TOP FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS, NORTH KOREA

India has emerged as a key player in the humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, providing swift and substantial aid that has significantly bolstered relief efforts

SAJJAD MOHAMMAD SAJJID | OCHA HEAD

SHORT TAKES

Israeli strike kills 29 in Gaza City

Cairo: An Israeli airstrike killed at least 29 Palestinians, including children, in a house in Shejaia in Gaza City, local health authorities said Wednesday. Medics said dozens of others were wounded in the attack that hit a multi-floor residential building in the eastern suburb of Gaza City. Many were still believed to be missing and trapped under the ruins of the building. The strike damaged several other houses nearby, medics said. The Israeli military said in a statement it struck a senior Hamas militant responsible for planning and executing attacks from Shejaia in northern Gaza, whom it did not identify.

China issues travel warning for US

Beijing: China Wednesday issued a risk alert for Chinese tourists travelling to the US, according to a statement from the culture and tourism ministry. The ministry said it reminded Chinese tourists to assess the risks of travelling to the US and travel with caution, citing recent "deterioration of China-US economic and trade relations and the domestic security situation in the US".

Japan, NATO vow to deepen security ties

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and NATO chief Mark Rutte vowed Wednesday to further deepen military ties while stressing the need to tackle together growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia. Japan, which has stepped up defence ties with the United States, its key ally, and other friendly nations in the Indo-Pacific, has also sought closer ties with NATO, fearing that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could embolden China's assertiveness in the region.

20 elderly killed at nursing home fire

Beijing: Twenty elderly people were killed in a fire at a nursing home in north China's Hebei province, local officials said Wednesday. A total of 39 elderly residents were residing in the building when the blaze broke out around 9 pm Tuesday (local time) in Longhua County, Chengde City, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The fire was extinguished by around 11 pm. A total of 20 people have been confirmed dead so far while 19 were sent to a hospital for examination.

TRUMP TARIFFS

73% of Americans expect price surge under Trump tariffs

REUTERS

Washington, April 9: Most Americans are bracing for higher prices on a wide range of consumer goods following President Donald Trump's move to impose sweeping new tariffs on imports from most of the world, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found. The three-day poll, which

concluded Sunday, found that 73% of respondents said they thought prices in the next six months would increase for the items they buy every day after the new taxes on almost all imports took effect.

Just 4% of respondents thought prices would fall and the rest expected no change or did not answer the question.

Trump's announcement last week of the biggest US tariff increases in decades shook Wall Street as many economists predicted they would push prices



higher and could trigger a recession in the US and the rest of the world.

Some 57% of poll respondents - including one quarter

- 57% oppose the new tariffs, including a quarter of Republicans
- 52% agree with Trump trade partners take advantage of the US
- Half believe short-term pain will make US stronger long-term

of respondents from Trump's Republican Party - said they opposed the new tariffs, which include levies of at least 10% on imports from almost every country.

RUSSIA INVITES MODI FOR VICTORY DAY PARADE

Russia has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Germany in World War II, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko has said. Moscow is expecting the Indian Prime Minister at the May 9 parade



AMERICANS FACE COST OF LIVING SURGE

China, EU retaliate

REUTERS

Beijing/Brussels/Washington, April 9: China and the European Union announced new trade barriers on US goods Wednesday in response to steep duties imposed by US President Donald Trump, escalating a global trade war that has hampered markets and raised the likelihood of recession.

China announced a tariff hike on US imports to 84% from 34%, shortly after Trump's punitive 104% tariffs on Chinese imports kicked in Wednesday, as a standoff between the world's two largest economies showed no signs of resolution.

The EU said it would impose 25% tariffs on a range of US imports in a first round of counter-measures. The 27-member bloc faces US tariffs of 20% on most products and higher duties on autos and steel. Countermeasures in Canada, a close US ally and major trading partner, also took effect Wednesday.

Targeted US duties on dozens of other countries, from Japan to Madagascar, also took effect, the latest in a thicket of tariffs that are unwinding a global trading order that has been in place for decades. Tariffs in the world's largest consumer market now average above 20%, according to various estimates, up from 2.5% before

TRADE WAR ESCALATES



Trump took office.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, a prominent voice on economic matters, said Trump's tariffs would probably lead to a recession and defaults by borrowers.

Global markets took a pummeling, with the damage spreading beyond stock markets that have seen trillions of dollars in equity evaporate over the past week. Oil prices plunged to four-year lows, while investors dumped US Treasury bonds and the dollar, which are typically seen as safe-haven assets. The damage rolled into corporate funding markets, raising the cost of borrowing for even lower-risk

companies.

Japan and Canada said they would cooperate to stabilize the global financial system - a task usually taken on by the United States during times of crisis.

Trump has shrugged off the market rout and offered investors mixed signals about whether the tariffs will remain in the long term, describing them as "permanent" but also boasting that they are pressuring other leaders to ask for negotiations.

"BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well. The USA will be bigger and better than ever before!" he wrote on social media.

Trump has said the tariffs will help rebuild an industrial base that has withered over decades

- US duties target rivals and allies alike, risk recession
- China lashes back with 84% tariffs on US goods from Thursday
- JPMorgan CEO Dimon expects recession and defaults, urges quick trade talks
- Alarm bells ring for investors as bonds tank
- European Union approves its own tariffs

of trade liberalization, though he says he is open to negotiating down those barriers with trading partners on a country-by-country basis.

Administration officials say those talks could address foreign and military aid as well as trade barriers.

Trump has already spoken with leaders of Japan and South Korea, and a delegation from Vietnam is due to meet with U.S. officials on Wednesday.

"These countries are calling us up, kissing my ass," he said Tuesday.

Administration officials say the tariffs may not be lifted anytime soon, and more could be in store. Trump Tuesday reiterated plans for a "major" tariff on pharmaceutical imports, sending global drugmaker stocks plunging.

US officials say they will not prioritize talks with China.

Germany's Merz unveils coalition deal to spur growth

REUTERS

Berlin, April 9: German conservatives under Friedrich Merz clinched a coalition deal with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) Wednesday, aiming to revive growth in Europe's largest economy just as a global trade war threatens recession.

The deal caps weeks of haggling between chancellor-in-waiting Merz and the SPD after he topped elections in February but fell well short of a majority, with the far-right Alternative for Germany surging into second place.

Pressure to reach a deal has taken on new urgency as the government will take charge

at a time of global turbulence in an escalating trade conflict sparked by US President Donald Trump's sweeping import tariffs.

During a news conference with his coalition partners, Merz directed a message to the White House in English.

"The key message to Donald Trump is Germany is back on track," he said, promising to ramp up defence spending and boost the competitiveness of the economy.

He said the coalition pact provided a "strong and clear signal" both to its own citizens and other European countries, adding, "Germany is getting a government that is capable of action and strong."



Demonstrators sit with portraits of victims and political prisoners while commemorating an anniversary of the so-called 'Tbilisi tragedy', where twenty people were killed on this day in April 1989 during an anti-Soviet demonstration and marking a Day of Unity at the Georgian Parliament's building in the center of Tbilisi, Georgia, early Wednesday PTI PHOTO

Hezbollah ready to discuss weapons if Israel withdraws

REUTERS

Beirut, April 9: As calls for Lebanon's Hezbollah to disarm gain momentum, a senior Hezbollah official told Reuters the group is ready to hold talks with the Lebanese president about its weapons if Israel withdraws from south Lebanon and stops its strikes.

The prospect of talks aimed at securing Hezbollah's disarmament - unimaginable when it was at the zenith of its power just two years ago - underlines dramatic shifts in the Middle East power balance since Israel pummelled the Iran-backed group in a devastating conflict triggered by the Gaza war.

US-backed President Joseph Aoun, who vowed when he took office in January to establish a state monopoly on the control of arms, intends to open talks with Hezbollah over its arsenal soon, three Lebanese political sources said.



Hezbollah emerged severely weakened from the 2024 conflict with Israel when its top leaders and thousands of its fighters were killed and much of its rocket arsenal destroyed. The blow was compounded when its ally Bashar al-Assad was toppled from power in Syria, cutting its supply lines from Iran.

The senior Hezbollah official said the group was ready to discuss its arms in the context of a national defence strategy but this hinged on Israel pulling out its troops from five hilltops in south Lebanon.

"Hezbollah is ready to discuss the matter of its arms if Israel withdraws from the five points,

and halts its aggression against Lebanese," the senior official told Reuters. Hezbollah's position on potential discussions about its arms has not been previously reported. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity due to political sensitivities.

Hezbollah's media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The presidency declined to comment.

RENEWED FOCUS ON HEZBOLLAH'S ARMS

Despite a ceasefire since November, Israeli airstrikes have kept pressure on the group while Washington has demanded Hezbollah disarm and is preparing for nuclear talks with Hezbollah's Iranian backers.

Hezbollah has been the most powerful of the paramilitary groups Iran has backed across the region. Reuters reported Monday that several Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq

are prepared to disarm for the first time to avert the threat of an escalating conflict with the Trump administration in the US.

Hezbollah has long rejected calls from its critics in Lebanon to disarm, describing its weapons as vital to defending the country from Israel. Deep differences over its arsenal spilled into a short civil war in 2008.

CALL FOR A DISARMAMENT TIMETABLE

Aoun has said Hezbollah's weaponry must be addressed through dialogue because any attempts to disarm the group by force would prompt conflict, the sources said.

Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rai, the head of Lebanon's Maronite church, said last week it was time for all weapons to be in state hands but this would need time and diplomacy because "Lebanon cannot bear a new war".

Indian banks win UK bankruptcy appeal in Vijay Mallya case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 9: A consortium of Indian banks, led by State Bank of India, Wednesday won their court appeal in London to uphold a bankruptcy order against Vijay Mallya in a long-standing legal battle seeking repayment of a judgment debt owed by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

High Court judge Anthony Mann ruled in favour of the banks to allow an appeal heard in February, while refusing two applications seeking permission to appeal filed by the 69-year-old businessman, declared a fugitive and wanted for fraud and money laundering charges in India.



"The banks' pleaded position on security was one which they were entitled to adopt," Justice Mann ruled.

"The bottom line in relation to this is that the bankruptcy order stands," he concludes.

Law firm TLT LLP, representing the banks, noted that the ruling confirmed the banks did not hold security over Mallya's assets and that the bankruptcy petition was correct. The court also found that the realisations from assets attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were conditional and did not discharge the debt under English law.



The new legislation made several improvements that are important for foreign investors like us

MURRAY AUCHINCLOSS | CEO, BP

ZOMATO REBRANDS AS ETERNAL ON MKTS

Food and grocery delivery platform Zomato officially changed its name to 'Eternal Ltd' on the stock exchanges from Wednesday, following approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. To be sure, the brand name of the company's food delivery business, Zomato, will remain the same, along with the app. However, the name of the corporate entity has been changed to Eternal, along with its stock ticker



of the day **Quote**

We would suggest to fund managers to include PSU stocks in their portfolios so that common investors, senior citizens and minority shareholders can partake in value created by CPSE



ARUNISH CHAWLA | SECRETARY, DIPAM

By 2028, almost 98 per cent of all PCs will be AI PCs that come with new NPUs (neural processing units) that run AI tasks directly on the phone



INDRAJIT BELGUNDI | SENIOR DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF CLIENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, DELL TECHNOLOGIES

As we move ahead, our focus remains on scaling digital payments in a way that is sustainable, responsible, and aligned with the evolving expectations of the ecosystem



NALIN NEGI | CEO, BHARATPE

SHORT TAKES

Gold dips below ₹ 91K

New Delhi: Gold prices plunged ₹1,050 to ₹90,200 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday due to poor offtake by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹91,250 per 10 grams in the previous market close. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated ₹1,050 to ₹89,750 per 10 grams against the Tuesday's close of ₹90,800 per 10 grams. However, silver prices climbed ₹500 to ₹93,200 per kg. The white metal had settled at ₹92,700 per kg Tuesday.

CIL's contribution to exchequer drops 5%

New Delhi: The payment made by state-owned CIL to the government exchequer dropped by 4.7 per cent to ₹5,832.69 crore last month over the year-ago period. Coal India Ltd, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production, had paid ₹6,126.42 crore to the central and state exchequer in March FY24. The company had paid ₹60,959.52 crore to the government exchequer in FY25 which was a marginal rise of 1.2 per cent over the previous fiscal. CIL had made a payment of ₹60,197.8 crore in FY24, according to provisional data of government. Of the total ₹60,959.52 crore paid to the government exchequer in 2024-25, maximum amount of ₹14,047.44 crore went to Jharkhand, followed by ₹12,979.20 crore to Odisha, ₹11,351.84 crore to Madhya Pradesh and ₹11,303.76 crore to Chhattisgarh.

Dixon Technologies to set up ₹1K-cr facility

Chennai: Electronics manufacturing services firm Dixon Technologies is setting up a ₹1,000-crore facility near Chennai and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tamil Nadu government Wednesday. The factory, which will come up at Oragadam in neighbouring Kancheepuram district, is expected to generate 5,000 jobs in the region, the state government said. Top officials from Dixon Technologies, led by Executive Chairman Sunil Vachani and Vice President Prithvi Vachani, exchanged documents with Darez Ahamed, MD and CEO of Tamil Nadu's nodal investment promotion agency Guidance, in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin and Industries Minister TRB Rajaa, among others, at the Secretariat Wednesday.

RBI GUV HINTS AT MORE RATE CUTS

Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to cut the repurchase or repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%. It had reduced rates by an equal measure in Feb -- the first cut since May 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 9: After effecting two back-to-back 25 basis points rate cuts, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra Wednesday hinted at another reduction in key policy rate by changing the central bank's monetary stance to 'accommodative' from 'neutral', which may further lower EMIs for consumers.

The bi-monthly monetary policy is scheduled to be announced June 6.

Unveiling the April monetary policy after meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), Governor Malhotra said that in the context of the RBI, the stance of monetary policy signals the intended direction of policy rates going forward.

"Accordingly, with respect to the policy rate, which is the mandate of the MPC, today's change in stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative' means that going forward, absent any shocks, the MPC is considering only two options – status quo or a rate cut," he said.

He also clarified that the stance should not be directly associated with liquidity conditions.

Dwelling on the monetary policy stance, Malhotra said that from a cross-country perspective, monetary policy stance is typically characterised as accommodative, neutral or tightening.

While an accommodative stance entails easy monetary



policy that is geared towards stimulating the economy through softer interest rates; tightening refers to contractionary monetary policy whereby interest rates are hiked to restrain spending and curb economic activity, all with the objective of reining in inflation.

A neutral stance, he said, is typically associated with a state of economy which neither calls for stimulating economic activity nor calls for controlling inflation by curtailing demand and provides flexibility to move in either direction on the basis of evolving economic conditions.

Accordingly, with respect to the policy rate, which is the mandate of the MPC, today's change in stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative' means that going forward, absent any shocks, the MPC is considering only two options – status quo or a rate cut

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

In February, the MPC slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. It was the first reduction since May 2020 and the first revision after two-and-a-half years.

Governor Malhotra further said while liquidity management is important for monetary policy including decisions related to policy rate, it is an operating tool with the RBI for various purposes including monetary policy transmission.

"Monetary policy decisions to change policy rates do however have implications for liquidity management, being the operational tool to carry out the

BIZ BUZZ

OMFED to enter chocolate, packaged drinking water and ice cream markets



Bhubaneswar: In a significant diversification move, the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) is gearing up to enter the ice cream, chocolate, and packaged drinking water markets. A dedicated chocolate manufacturing plant is in the pipeline, with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) entrusted with preparing the detailed project report (DPR). Speaking to the media during a press tour of the OMFED plant at Arilo in Cuttack, Plant Manager Kartik Pal said, "We are expanding our product portfolio beyond our current offerings like curd, lassi, paneer, chhena poda, flavoured milk, khua, peda, and ghee. Soon, we will be adding three new products – ice cream, chocolate, and packaged drinking water." Pal highlighted that the move is aimed at enhancing value addition to OMFED's dairy products and boosting the brand's presence in the competitive FMCG sector. "This initiative is part of our broader strategy for product diversification and brand strengthening," he added.

Pragati celebrates dealer excellence



Angul: Pragati Edible Processing Pvt Ltd, one of the most trusted names in premium quality parboiled rice, proudly hosted the Pragati Grand Felicitation Program in Angul, to honour the exceptional achievements of its valued partners. The evening was a heart-felt celebration of growth, trust, and shared success. Two standout dealers - Pradeep Trading Co (Pradip Agarwal) and Jagannath Bhandar (Shukanta Kumar Sahoo) - were felicitated for their exceptional annual sales for FY'2024-2025. As a mark of appreciation, both partners were awarded brand new cars for their outstanding performance and long-standing association with the Pragati Rice family. Adding to the celebrations, the company also recognised several other high-performing dealers from across regions who had hit their milestones and earned exciting prizes such as a Dubai trip and other exclusive rewards under the brand's performance-linked incentive programme.

TRADE WAR TAKING ITS TOLL

Fresh US tariffs unnerve investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 9: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower Wednesday in line with losses in global markets after fresh US tariffs on China, even as the Reserve Bank cut policy rates for a second consecutive time as it sought to bolster the economy in the face of further pressure from damaging US tariffs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 379.93 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 73,847.15. During the day, it slumped 554.02 points or 0.74 per cent to a low of 73,673.06.

The NSE Nifty declined 136.70 points or 0.61 per cent to 22,399.15. Intra-day, it tanked 182.6 points or 0.81 per cent to 22,353.25.

Mirroring weak trends in Asian equities, domestic key equity indices opened lower and remained in the negative territory throughout the session after the US imposed a fresh set of tariffs, including a whopping 104 per cent levy on Chinese imports.

"Global financial markets are witnessing renewed selling pres-

D-St mirrors global rout



sure following the enactment of reciprocal tariffs. A trade war is escalating global risk, with a rise in US bond yields prompting a sell-off in the world's safe treasury assets. In India, a cut in the repo rate, along with an accommodative policy stance, is taken as a constructive step. However, it has done little to uplift overall market sentiment, as the world is embracing recessionary risk," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

State Bank of India was the biggest loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 3.43 per cent amid a fall in banking shares. Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Tou-

bro, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Infosys, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and NTPC were also among laggards. Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement and ITC were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 1.08 per cent and mid-cap index declined 0.73 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT tanked 2.19 per cent, while IT (2.01 per cent), realty (2 per cent), teck (1.57 per cent), metal (1.44 per cent) and industrials (1.42 per cent) also declined. Auto, consumer durables and FMCG were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo's

Exports cross \$820bn in '24-25; 6% rise YoY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: The country's goods and services exports have crossed \$820 billion in 2024-25, marking a nearly 6 per cent increase over the previous fiscal year despite global economic uncertainties, the commerce ministry said Wednesday.

The exports stood at \$778 billion in 2023-24.

The commerce ministry informed exporters about the figure during a meeting called to deliberate on the opportunities arising out of the current situation and to apprise the industry about the steps being taken by the government to deal with it.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held the discussions with the export promotion councils and industry bodies in the light of the imposition of high tariffs by the US.

The ministry assured exporters that the government will work to provide a conducive environment to enable them to successfully navigate the recent changes in the global trade environment.

Exports are in the negative for the fourth month in a row in February due to global economic uncertainties.

India's merchandise exports stood at \$395.63 billion during April-February 2024-25 as against \$395.38 billion in the same period last year.

The estimated value of service exports during April-February 2024-25 is \$354.90 billion as compared to \$311.05 billion in April-February 2023-24.

The detailed data for 2024-25 for exports and imports will be released by the commerce ministry April 15.

Markets slipped after a brief rebound, losing over half a per cent as the choppy trend persisted. Sentiment took a hit following the announcement of fresh US tariffs on China, leading to a gap-down opening and a largely range-bound session thereafter

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

Nikkei 225 index and South Korea's Kospi settled lower while Shanghai SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index dropped nearly 4 per cent. Markets in Europe were trading sharply lower. US markets ended significantly lower Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,994.24 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped 4.23 per cent to \$60.16 a barrel.

After Monday's drubbing, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,089.18 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 74,227.08 Tuesday. The Nifty surged 374.25 points or 1.69 per cent to 22,535.85.

Indian stock markets will remain closed Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti.

Oil falls to lowest since Feb 2021 as Trump's tariffs take effect

REUTERS

Washington, April 9: Oil prices fell for a fifth day Wednesday to their lowest since February 2021 after US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs took effect, including a 104% duty on Chinese goods, intensifying a global trade war.

Brent futures dropped \$2.10, or 3.34%, to \$60.72 a barrel as of 0935 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell \$2.04, or 3.42%, to \$57.54. Both contracts lost as much as 4% before paring some losses.

Brent and WTI have tumbled over the five sessions since US President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs on most imports prompting concerns this will dent economic growth and hit fuel demand.

Trump's 104% tariffs on China kicked in Wednesday, adding 50% to tariffs after Beijing failed to lift its retaliatory tariffs on US goods.

European Union countries are also expected to approve Wednesday the bloc's first countermeasures against Trump's tariffs, joining China and Canada in retaliating.

Beijing vowed not to bow to what it called US blackmail after Trump threatened the additional 50% tariff on Chinese goods if the country did not lift its 34% retaliatory levy.

"China's aggressive retaliation diminishes the chances of a quick deal between the world's two biggest economies, triggering mounting fears of economic recession across the globe," said Ye Lin, vice president of oil



Brent, WTI down as much as 4%

US crude stockpiles fell last week, industry data shows

US imposes 104% tariff on imports from China

commodity markets at Rystad Energy.

"China's 50,000 bpd to 100,000 bpd of oil demand growth is at

risk if the trade war continues for longer, however, a stronger stimulus to boost domestic consumption could mitigate the

Some US analysts suggested that the White House wants to drive oil prices closer to \$50 as the administration believes that the US oil and gas industry can survive a period of disruption. We see this goal as somewhat delusional ... and (it) will merely see US production shut in and open the door for OPEC to reclaim its position as the swing producer

ASHLEY KELTY | ANALYST AT PANMURE LIBERUM

losses," she said.

Exacerbating oil's decline was a decision last week by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies,

including Russia, to raise output in May by 411,000 barrels per day, a move that analysts say is likely to push the market into surplus.

Goldman Sachs now forecasts that Brent and WTI could edge down to \$62 and \$58 per barrel by December 2025 and to \$55 and \$51 per barrel by December 2026.

As oil prices sank, Russia's ESPO Blend oil price fell below the \$60 per barrel Western price cap level for the first time ever on Monday.

In one positive sign for demand, data from the American Petroleum Institute industry group showed US crude inventories fell by 1.1 million barrels in the week ended April 4, compared with expectations in a Reuters poll for a build of about 1.4 million barrels.

Sai extends purple patch

Sai Sudharsan sizzles with majestic 82 as Gujarat Titans secure 58-run win over Rajasthan Royals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 9: Pacer Prasidh Krishna picked 3-24 as a collective bowling performance helped Gujarat Titans secure an emphatic 58-run win over Rajasthan Royals in Match 23 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Narendra Modi Stadium here Wednesday.

After B Sai Sudharsan continued his outstanding run by making a majestic 82 and taking GT to a massive 217/6, Krishna was effective with his lengths on a red-soil pitch as RR were bowled out for 159. For RR, barring Shimron Hetmyer (52), Sanju Samson (41), and Riyan Parag (26), none could get into double digits, as GT's fourth successive win takes them to the top of the points table.

TODAY'S MATCH

Indian Premier League



VS



Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: JioHotstar

In defence of a tall total, GT were on the money from the word go. Yashasvi Jaiswal slashed to deep third off Arshad Khan, while Nitish Rana's up-percut was caught in the same region off Mohammed Siraj. Parag started the fightback by



flicking Siraj for six, while Sanju Samson slashed, punched, and drove off Arshad to take two fours and a six.

Parag lofted Siraj over mid-on for six, while Samson swiped him over mid-wicket for four. Parag's sizzling run continued as he swiped and clipped Krishna for six and four respectively, as RR ended power-play at 57/2. But shortly after, Parag gave a faint edge behind to Jos Buttler off impact player Kulwant Khejroliya, to be dismissed for 26.

Rashid Khan joined the wicket-taker's party when Dhruv Jurel mistimed his pull on a googly and was caught at deep mid-wicket. Samson and Hetmyer brought RR back on track – the latter heaved Rashid for three boundaries before the duo took 16 runs off Khejroliya.

But Krishna ended the brief fightback by getting some extra bounce and having Samson edge to short third man for 41. Rashid was again struck by the trapping impact player Shubham Dubey lbw for just one. Hetmyer continued to wage a

IPL STANDINGS						
TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS	
GT	5	4	1	1.413	8	
DC	3	3	0	1.257	6	
RCB	4	3	1	1.015	6	
PBKS	4	3	1	0.289	6	
LSG	5	3	2	0.078	6	
KKR	5	2	3	-0.056	4	
RR	5	2	3	-0.733	4	
MI	5	1	4	-0.010	2	
CSK	5	1	4	-0.889	2	
SRH	5	1	4	-1.629	2	

lone battle by being dropped twice and bringing up his fifty off 29 balls by driving Prasidh through extra cover for four.

But Krishna effectively sealed the game in GT's favour by having Jofra Archer give a catch to mid-off and the dangerous Hetmyer pulling to deep backward square leg for 52. R Sai Kishore took out the remaining wickets to ensure GT continued its winning run in IPL 2025.

SCORECARD

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Samson b Deshpande 82, Shubman Gill b Archer 2, Jos Buttler lbw b Theekshana 36, M Shahrulkh Khan st Samson b Theekshana 36, Sherfane Rutherford c Samson b Sandeep Sharma 7, Rahul Tewatia not out 24, Rashid Khan c Jaiswal b Deshpande 12, Arshad Khan not out 0. **Extras:** (B-1 W-17) 18; **Total:** (For 6 wickets in 20 overs) 217; Fall of wickets: 1/14 2/94 3/156 4/163 5/187 6/201; **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-30-1, Fazalhaq Farooqi 4-0-38-0, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-53-2, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-41-1, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-54-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Rashid Khan b Arshad Khan 6, Sanju Samson c Sai Kishore b Prasidh Krishna 41, Nitish Rana c Khejroliya b Mohammed Siraj 1, Riyan Parag c Buttler b Khejroliya 26, Dhruv Jurel c Sai Sudharsan b Rashid Khan 5, Shimron Hetmyer c Sai Kishore b Prasidh Krishna 52, Shubham Dubey lbw b Rashid Khan 1, Jofra Archer c Shubman Gill b Prasidh Krishna 4, Maheesh Theekshana c Sai Sudharsan b Sai Kishore 5, Tushar Deshpande c Rashid Khan b Sai Kishore 3, Sandeep Sharma not out 6. **Extras:** (W-9) 9; **Total:** (All out in 19.2 overs) 159; Fall of wickets: 1/10 2/12 3/60 4/68 5/116 6/119 7/144 8/145 9/150 10/159; **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-30-1, Arshad Khan 2-0-19-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-24-3, Kulwant Khejroliya 3-0-29-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-37-2, Sai Kishore 2-2-0-20-2.

Kalinga Black Tigers gear up for inaugural Rugby Premier League

The team's unveiling has generated a wave of excitement across the state, with rugby fans and local sports communities rallying behind the newest addition to Odisha's sports ecosystem

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: With the inaugural season of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) on the horizon, Odisha's franchise — the Kalinga Black Tigers — enters the league with a formidable squad and a strong Odia identity.

Officially unveiled at the recently concluded RPL auction in Mumbai, the team marks a new chapter in Odisha's sporting journey. Backed by Karan Pal Singh, founder of Hunch Ventures, a global investment firm with deep ties to the state, the franchise proudly reflects its roots, with Asis Sabar representing Odisha on the field and Rajeev Nath serving as assistant coach.

Drawing inspiration from the rare and melanistic black tigers native to the region, the Kalinga Black Tigers symbolise strength, agility, and the fighting spirit of Odisha.

At the auction, the Kalinga Black Tigers made a strong statement, assembling a high-impact team through a combination of international draft picks and top Indian talent. The squad features global rugby stars like Perry Baker, Rosko Specman, Harry McNulty, Maurice Longbottom, Lucas Lacamp, Kyle Tremblay, Ethan Turner, James Thiel — all selected during the draft.

During the auction, the franchise also secured a strong line-up of Indian players, including Asis Sabar — a proud Odia who is expected to play a key role, along with Ajay Deswal, Pappu Todkar, Pardeep Singh, and Arjun Mahato.



Leading the charge for the Kalinga Black Tigers is Mike Friday, a globally celebrated coach known for his tactical mind and transformative leadership. After a stellar 10-year stint as head coach of the US national sevens team, appointed by USA Rugby, Friday now brings his winning mindset to the Tigers. Joining him in the dugout is assistant coach Rajeev Nath, a former captain of Odisha men's rugby team. A proud Odia, Nath brings a strong connection to the region and a deep commitment to grassroots development — both of which will be key in guiding and nurturing the next generation of local rugby talent.

"Interestingly, rugby has been played in Odisha for a while, especially by the tribal community which has today translated into a large contingent playing at the national level. Rugby has an immense international following and is growing significantly nationally. Odisha, has been a strong supporter in growing an array of sports and rugby in the state will greatly benefit from this," said Karan Pal Singh, co-owner of the Kalinga Black Tigers.

The team practice sessions will begin May 18 and continue until June 1, leading up to the start of the Rugby Premier League, which will run from June 1 to June 15. Fans can catch all the action live on Jio Cinema and Disney+Hotstar, bringing world-class rugby directly to their screens.

Medals rain at shooting World Cup

Arya-Rudrankksh win silver in 10m air rifle mixed team event after Vijayveer's individual gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buenos Aires, April 9: Indian shooters Rudrankksh Patil and Arya Borse combined to win the silver medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup here Wednesday.

Paris Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu fetched India its fourth gold medal at the tournament after he emerged victorious in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event. He shot 29 in a thrilling but low-scoring final to get the better of experienced Italian Riccardo Mazzatti, who was left one short after the eight series of five rapid-fire shots each.

Representing India 1, the duo of Rudrankksh and Arya shot 9 in the gold medal match to



each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won the bronze.

Vijayveer shot 29 in a thrilling but low-scoring final to get the better of experienced Italian Riccardo Mazzatti, who was left one short after the eight series of five rapid-fire shots each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won the bronze.

Representing India 1, the duo of Rudrankksh and Arya shot 9 in the gold medal match to



finish second on the podium, with the Chinese pairing of Zi-fei Wang and Buhan Song winning the top prize with a total score of 17.

The second Indian team of Arjun Babuta and Narmada Nithin Raju finished fourth after losing to Argentina 1's Fernanda Russo and Marcelo Julian Gutierrez 13-17 in the bronze medal contest.

Rudrankksh and Arya were

Interim committee to oversee BFI affairs

The BFI elections, originally scheduled for February 2, have been marred by legal disputes and procedural delays

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: World Boxing has formed an interim committee to oversee the affairs of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to ensure administrative continuity and management of domestic and international competitions.

World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst has written to BFI chairman Ajay Singh, conveying the appointment of a six-member committee.

The committee will be headed by Singh for "a period not extending 90 days."

The six-member committee includes BFI Vice President Narender Kumar Nirwan, Executive Director Arun Malik and Olympian L Sarita Devi.



Bhubaneswar, April 9: In a proud moment for India and the state of Odisha, Aparajita Gochhikar has been awarded the prestigious Fair Play Expert (FPE) title by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

The announcement was made during FIDE's first council meeting of the year, where Aparajita was recognised for her significant contributions to fair play in chess.

Aparajita, an international chess player and international arbiter from Odisha, has made history by becoming the first woman in India to receive this honour. She shares this recognition with Atharva Godbole of Maharashtra, the only other Indian among the twelve recipients worldwide.

The FPE title is a mark of distinction, with honorees selected from countries including India, Armenia, England, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Iran, Italy, Norway, Uruguay, and Zam-



bia. Aparajita earned her four FPE norms during high-level events such as the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai, the FPE Seminar in Gandhinagar, and the World Youth Championship in Italy. Her work was supervised by Yuri Garret of Italy and Howie Andrew of Scotland.



One of the remaining two members of the committee would be a nominee of the India Olympic Committee (IOA), "to be nominated in consultation with the President IOA - Member," the letter dated April 7 said.

IOA President PT Usha is yet to nominate a member.

Singapore Boxing Association's president Fairuz Mohamed is also a part of the committee. He will also serve as a representative from World Boxing as an observer, "to validate the work of this committee".

Factionalism and infighting has become prevalent in the federation in the recent

months leading up to the elections which have faced multiple delays and controversies.

Additionally, Singh suspended BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita and treasurer Digvijay Singh after an inquiry led by former Delhi High Court judge Sudhir Kumar Jain found the duo guilty of "financial irregularities."

Both Kalita and Digvijay have challenged the decision in court.

The infighting among the federation had led several state units to boycott the women's nationals last month, where Singh announced several national championships.

BEND IT LIKE DECLAN

Arsenal secure Champions League win for the ages

Rice curls home two free kicks as Arsenal beat Real Madrid 3-0 in quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 9: Declan Rice put Arsenal on the brink of reaching the Champions League semifinals by curling home two free kicks that Real Madrid's most famous "galacticos" would have been proud of.

Rice opened the scoring by bending one free kick around the Madrid wall in the 58th minute and sent another into the top corner in the 70th as Arsenal won the first leg of the quarterfinals 3-0 at the Emirates Stadium.

With Madrid great Roberto Carlos looking on in the stands, Rice put on a display of power and bend reminiscent of the many free kicks scored by the

Brazilian defender in his day — or by his teammates David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane and Figo for that matter.

Unlike those names, Rice has not been known for his free kick prowess — until now. In fact, he had never scored from a direct free kick before in his career.

"It's been in the locker, but I've hit the wall too many times or it's gone over the bar," Rice told broadcaster Amazon Prime. "Originally we were going to cross it and then I've just seen the wall and the goalkeeper's position. So I thought just go for it."

Mikel Merino added the third in the 75th to put Arsenal on the brink of returning to the semifinals for the first time since 2009.

Making matters worse for Madrid, key midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was sent off for a second booking in the final minutes and will miss the return leg at Santiago Bernabeu

stadium April 16.

While Madrid can never be written off at home, even coach Carlo Ancelotti didn't sound too hopeful of a comeback. "If you look at the game tonight, there is no possibility," Ancelotti said. "But in football everything can happen. We have to believe."

It was the teams' first meeting since 2006, when Arsenal eliminated Madrid in the round of 16. That was also the last time Arsenal came close to winning the competition for the first time, losing the final to Barcelona.

Judging by this display, Arsenal could well be a contender again this year.

It's not going to hit me now because there's another leg to go. ... But in a few years time this will really hit me that what I've done tonight was really special

DECLAN RICE



HOCKEY NATIONALS

Punjab eke out 3-2 win against Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhansi, April 9: Punjab, Chandigarh, Telangana, Delhi and Kerala won their respective matches on the sixth day of the 15th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship here Wednesday.

Punjab eked out a 3-2 win in their Pool A match against Odisha. Jugraj Singh (16th), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (48th) and Pardeep Singh (55th) scored for the winning side while captain Amit Rohidas (37th) and Matiyas Dang (51st) struck for Odisha.

In the opening match of the day, Chandigarh defeated Uttarakhhand with a commanding scoreline of 9-0. Amandeep (22nd, 32nd) and Gurmukh Singh (30th, 36th) scored a brace each for the winning side.