Nora's dream

Actor Nora Fatehi reflects on her journey and shares a wishlist that every dance lover would envy.

LEISURE | P2



English rule

US president Donald Trump signs order requiring English proficiency for US truckers, sparking concern among Sikh groups

INTERNATIONAL | P10

CELEBRATION PARTY: Abigail, the albino kangaroo at Marlow Bird Park, gets flowers for breakfast on her first birthday in Marlow, Germany, Tuesday.



Growth outlook at risk

Trade tensions and geopolitical risks pose a challenge to India's economic growth this fiscal, a Finance Ministry report said

BUSINESS | P11



Chithambaram joint first

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram finishes joint first at Superbet Rapid and Blitz tournament

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

Carney's Liberal Party

Toronto, April 29: Prime

Minister Mark Carney's Lib-

eral Party won Canada's fed-

eral election Monday, capping

a stunning turnaround in for-

tunes fuelled by US President Donald Trump's annexation

After polls closed, the Liber-

als were projected to win more

of Parliament's 343 seats than

the Conservatives, though it wasn't immediately clear if

they would win an outright ma-

jority — at least 172 — or would

need to rely on one of the small-

er parties to form a government

The Liberals looked headed for a crushing defeat until the

American president started

attacking Canada's economy

and threatening its sovereignty, suggesting it should be-

come the 51st state. Trump's

actions infuriated Canadians and stoked a surge in nationalism that helped the Liberals

flip the election narrative and win a fourth-straight term

"We were dead and buried in December. Now we are going

to form a government," David

Lametti, a former Liberal Jus-

tice Minister, told broadcaster

in power.

and pass legislation.

threats and trade war.

wins Canadian polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | APRIL 30, 2025

JUSTICE GAVAI APPOINTED CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was Tuesdy appointed the next Chief Justice of India.

He would enter the office of the CJI May 14, a day after incumbent CJI Justice Sanjiv Khanna demits office.

The Law Ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Gavai's appointment as 52nd chief justice of India.

As per laid down procedure,

his name was recommended by CJI Khanna April 16 to the Central government. Justice Gavai will have a tenure of six months and he would demit office December 23 on attaining the age of 65 years. He is the senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Khanna.

WOMAN KILLED OVER SUSPECTED WITCHCRAFT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bisoi/Rairangpur, 29: In a shocking incident, a 57-year-old woman was hacked to death allegedly by her nephew over suspicion of witchcraft in Judia village, under Bisoi police jurisdiction in Mayurbhanj district, Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Shakar Hembram. The accused, Dularam Hembram, 28, surrendered at the local police station. A case has been registered while the body was sent for a post-mortem.

According to the police, Dularam had suspected his aunt of practicing witchcraft and harbored a grudge against her following the untimely death of his five-year-old son. The incident occurred when the woman was relaxing on the verandah of her house after having lunch Tuesday. Acting under deep-rooted superstition, Dularam reportedly struck her on the head with an axe. She collapsed and died at the scene, bleeding profusely.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What do you mean by PM is missing? He is there in every poll rally

Snooping for national security not wrong: SC

■ In 2021, the Centre faced attacks from all quarters over its alleged role in surveilling politicians, journalists, and activists using the Israeli military-grade spyware Pegasus. Soon, the Supreme Court ordered a probe into the claims and set up both technical and supervisory committees to investigate the matter. However, in a significant development, the top court, while hearing a batch of petitions seeking an inquiry into the alleged use of spyware, observed Tuesday that the report of the technical panel In the case will not be made public asserting that any findings touching on the 'security and sovereignty' of the country will not be disclosed. While individuals who want to know whether they are included will be addressed, the report cannot be made a document for public discussion, the apex court assured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: The Supreme Court Tuesday wondered what was wrong in using the 'spyware against terrorists' and said any report which



touched upon the country's 'security and sovereignty' won't be made public.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh indicated it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach but the report of the technical committee was no document to discuss 'on the

The bench said, "Any report which touches the security and sovereignty of the country will not be touched. But individuals who want to know whether they are included, that can be informed. Yes, individual apprehension must be addressed but it cannot be made a document for discussion on the streets."

The top court added it will ex-

amine the extent to which the technical panel report could be shared in public.

Advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the question was whether the government had the spyware and used it.

bench responded, "Please make submissions with regard to disclosure regarding individuals. The kind of scenario we are facing nowadays, let us be slightly responsible... We will see to what extent the report can be shared.'

The top court went on, "What is wrong if the country is using the spyware against the terrorists? To have spyware is not wrong, against whom you are using is the question. You can't compromise with the security of nation. Private civil individual who has right to privacv will be protected under the Constitution," the bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal represented journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta while Solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for the government.

The apex court posted the hearing July 30.

ED attaches assets worth ₹1,428cr of **Goldenland Group**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Enforcement Directorate Tues day said it has attached assets worth Rs 1,428 crore of Goldenland Group of Companies in a chit fund case.

In a statement, the ED claimed that its investigations have revealed persons, entities and companies associated with Golden Land Developers Ltd and GLP Developers Ltd illegally raised huge amounts of money from the public in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in the garb of real estate development.

It had floated illegal financial businesses of lump sum deposits, recurring deposits, and monthly investment schemes. among others, in the guise of plot booking by alluring innocent people with the false promise of higher returns, the ED alleged.

"Large-scale diversion of cash to sister concerns and to the accounts of Directors and associates has also been unearthed," it alleged.

"Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bhubaneswar Zonal Office has provisionally attached assets having present value of Rs. 1428 Crore of M/s Goldenland Group of Companies under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA), 2002," the statement said.

Armed forces free to decide targets: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted Tuesday that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, as he chaired a meeting with the top defence establishment.

During the high-level meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services. Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the armed forces

"They have complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets and timing of our response," a source quoted Modi as saving.

Modi has vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the attack and their patrons, a clear reference to Pakistan which has a history of sponsoring terror strikes in India, to the "ends of earth" and inflict the harshest punishment on them "beyond their imagination.'

CONGRESS ASKS FOR SPECIAL PARL SESSION

New Delhi: Leader of

Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and demonstrate a collective resolve. The letter read: "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, the opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest. "This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and willpower to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens on April 22. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened."

The PM's tough assertions coupled with his government's avowed muscular stand on the issues of national security have heightened expectations of a stringent counteraction from India.

Zipline operator's 'Allahhu Akbar', gunshots go viral caped after witnessing gun-

Ahmedabad, April 29: A video shot by a tourist in Pahalgam, appearing to have captured the moment the April 22 terrorist attack broke out, has gone viral on social media, showing the man capturing himself ziplining and the zipline operator saying 'Allahhu Akbar' thrice.

As the tourist, identified as Rishi Bhatt from Ahemadabad, begins ziplining, the operator chants "Allahhu Akbar" three times before releasing him.

The tourist recounted the terrifying moments of the terror attack, describing how he and his family narrowly esfire from terrorists while he was ziplining.

Bhatt can be seen smiling and enjoying the ride, but in the background, gunshot-like sound can be heard, while tourists on the ground can be seen starting to scatter.

The video ends as Bhatt realises what's happening and begins to panic.

Bhatt recalled that before he took the zipline, his wife, son, and four other people had already crossed.

"When they were there, this person did not say 'Allahhu Akbar.' But when I was on the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Axiom-4 to the International Space Station (ISS), piloted by Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla with three other crew members, will be launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 10.33 pm IST May 29.

The announcement was made by Axiom Space, a USbased commercial human spaceflight firm, at a virtual

press conference late Tuesday. Shukla's travel to space, onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, comes four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's Sovuz

crew includes members from Poland and Hungary, marking each nation's first mission to the ISS in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in

over 40 years. Shukla will conduct seven experiments in space that are aimed at encouraging microgravity research in India, which hopes to build its own space station by 2035 and send astronauts to the moon by 2047.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on the ISS, including sprouting methi (Fenugreek) and moong (green gram) in microgravity conditions.



iment which tries to sprout

which are believed to have medicinal properties," Tushar Phadnis, Group Head for Microgravity Platforms and Research, said at the virtual press conference organised

"The idea is not just to stop with sprouting it there. The idea is also to see how these India-specific sprouts behave when they come back. They will undergo a lot of analysis in the labs of the respective PIs (principal investigators)," Phadnis said.

The Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission will also include Slawosz Uznanski, European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut, who will be the second

astronaut since 1980.

Peggy Whitson will command her second commercial human spaceflight mission, adding to her standing record for the longest cumulative time in space by an American astronaut.

The Ax-4 crew will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft to the space station and spend up to 14 days at the orbiting laboratory.

"And when they're brought back to Earth, they'll be cultivated in plants not just once but over generations," he

Overall, Ax-4 has a research complement of around 60 scientific studies, including the

zipline, he said it thrice, and Polish astronaut since 1978. spacecraft in 1984. green gram or moong and then the firing started.' Besides Shukla, the Ax-4 "We have a sprouting expermethi or fenugreek seeds, Tibor Kapu will be the seven from India.

eisure



Mumbai: For Nora Fatehi,

dance has never been just a

profession-it's a language

of dreams. As she reflects on

her journey this Internation-

al Dance Day, she shares a

wishlist that every dance lover

would envy: performing along-

side Hrithik Roshan and facing

off in an unforgettable dance

fortless style are unmatched.

Dancing with him on screen

would be a dream come true,"

savs Nora, who's admired for

her explosive energy in hits

like Dilbar, O Saki Saki, and

Naach Meri Rani. As for Mad-

huri Dixit, Nora imagines a

has

"Hrithik's precision and ef-

battle with Madhuri Dixit.

GARY OLDMAN TENDERS APOLOGY TO DEMI MOORE

NORA'S WISHLIST

Hollywood legend Gary Oldman tendered an apology to actress to Demi Moore for his 'destructive' behaviour on the set of *The Scarlet* Letter. Oldman starred opposite the actress in the 1995 romance classic. He has recalled how his 'intermittent bouts of boozing' on set left his castmate 'disappointed' in him.

JACKIE CHAN TO BE HONOURED AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

Action star Jackie Chan will receive the career achievement honour at the 78th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, the organisers announced Tuesday. Chan, who has featured in films like The Fearless Hyena, Who Am I? and Police Story, will be honoured August 9, according to the festival's official website.



FORTUNE **Forecast**

😽 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

The stars urge you to focus on your finances and sayings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesha, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS

This day you will have an urge to take a trip, be it a small one. Ganesha sees you enthusiastically making detailed plans and arrangements, arranging for funds and getting in touch with all those you desire to take along. It is possible that you may ultimately scrap your plans and choose to stay at home.

Your physical appearance and personal attitude will see a marked improvement today, predicts Ganesha. A well-groomed you will climb up the popularity chart among peers, friends and members of the opposite sex. You will keep people under your spell with your wit and wisdom both at the workplace and at social gatherings. Romance is also in the air.

CANCER

You will be firing all cylinders in the creativity department, says Ganesha. Even your colleagues may pitch in, and will give you new ideas to make your work better. Those looking for a new job will ace the interview and clear the selection process as easily as clearing the fog from their glasses.

LEO

Karmic balance dictates an equitable distribution of joy and sorrow, says Ganesha.
So if your day seems drab and depressing today, rest assured, your evening shall be all the more refreshing and exciting. Surround vourself with family and friends, as you will receive royal treatment from them.

Play dodge ball with prejudice today. Do not let intolerance

find shelter in you today, advises Ganesha. Instead, chances are you will seek to find love, affection and goodwill among those around you. Stay away from negativity as it may bog you down. Ganesha counsels you to have the courage to stand by your convictions.

Lights, camera, and action! Be prepared as the limelight is focused on you on this very motivating and inspiring day, enabling you to attract excellent public praise. Today is an encouraging day to set in motion innovative projects, especially for those who desire fulfilling self-financed ideas.

SCORPIO

You are most likely to resent the dominating and overbearing nature of your partner today. Patience will probably go to the dumps in this case then. But Ganesha advises you to sit together and resolve all personality clashes and quarrels in view of the larger scheme of things.

SAGITTARIUS

Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesha. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer. No wonder they like that sensible head on your shoulders.

CAPRICORN

You will start the day with verve and vigour, and will appear a completely different person at work. There will be a discernible change in your way of working, especially in terms of the level of energy and concentration you will put in. The switch to the new strategy will better your performance considerably and will make you feel that it was a good change after all.

AQUARIUS

A productive day, as you will receive unrestrained support from your bosses and colleagues. Your creativity will reach its zenith and the resulting work will augment your reputation. The day will seem complete when you spend quality time with your family in the evening, says Ganesha.

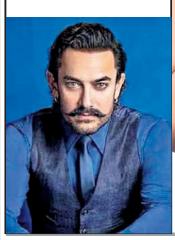
PISCES Happiness shared is double the joy; sorrows shared are half the burden. Your family is the foundation of your success, and it is to them you will turn to in times of failure as well. With their support, getting back to the top of the game will take no time, says Ganesha

Aamir's career turning point

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan shared an insightful story about how a seemingly disappointing moment in his early career led to his big break in the film industry.

Reflecting on his college days, Khan revealed how being unexpectedly thrown out of a play set the stage for his first film role, ultimately shaping his path to stardom. In a heartfelt recount of how fate and timing aligned, the actor emphasised how crucial moments in life can lead to opportunities one least expects.

Aamir Khan reminisced about his college days, recalling his small role in a Gujarati play, Pasiyo Rangaro, where he was a background extra responsible for setting up bamboos. Though his only line, "We want Rangara," never made it to the stage, the experience was memorable. Just days before the inter-college competition, he was removed from the play as his mother wouldn't let him out due to a Maharashtra shutdown. Heartbroken, he watched rehearsals from the sidelines. But destiny intervened—a friend introduced him to a student filmmaker needing an actor. That film led to Holi, directed by Ketan Mehta, which eventually paved the way for his acting career. "If Maharashtra hadn't closed, I wouldn't be sitting here today," said Aamir.



Kusu Kusu and Kamariya. she continues to push her limits. She calls classical Indian dance forms her most challenging pursuit, demanding precision, grace, and cultural depth.



sistence. Known for her signature moves in songs like

Yet, it's in styles like Afro, belly dance, hip hop, and urban fusion where she feels most at home-raw, expressive, and instinctive. Through her initiative Dance With Nora, she hopes to inspire others to dream big, just like she

Mouni on being typecast journey in the entertainment industry and the challenges of being typecast.

Mumbai: Mouni Roy, who made a mark in Bollywood with films like *Gold* and Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva, is now gearing up for her next theatrical release, *The Bhootnii*. The upcoming horror comedy, directed by Sidhaant Sachdev, is slated to hit theatres May 1 and features an ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, Sunny Singh, and Palak Tiwari. During the film's promotions, Mouni opened up about her

In an interview, Mouni reflected on the struggles of transitioning from television to OTT platforms and eventually to big-screen cinema. She admitted it wasn't an easy road and emphasised that "there's no shortcut to success." She believes in consistency, clarity, and hard work, and mentioned that from the beginning she knew what kind of roles she didn't want to do. When asked about being typecast, Mouni respond ed with optimism and resolve. "I don't see it that way. People will always try to pull you down and typecast you, but why let them? You have the pow-

er to reinvent yourself, again and again," she said. Mouni, who made her acting debut with the 2011 Punjabi film Hero Hitler in Love, continues to evolve, making bold choices and carving her own path in the industry.



into a night of terror that she'll never forget. 'I was in a hotel for just five hours. I don't remember the name, but I remember the room number," she said. "Later, I told the receptionist never to assign that room to anyone again. I told them, 'This is a haunted room. She explained that she was in transit and staying alone in the room before an early morning

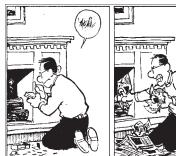
flight. Her hard-top suitcase was half-open on the bed, one side upright, the other flat, when she dozed off. "Suddenly, I heard a sound and thought the staffhad come to wake me. I called out, 'Are you guys here? Is it time?' But there was no answer," she recalled. To her shock, she

found her bag on the floor, in the same position, with three items lying outside it. "I screamed and ran out in my nightdress. I told them, 'I'm leaving now-you can send the bag later. I'm never going back," she said. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES







BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**

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16 Seek damages 3 Team spirit

18 Coquettish

19 Young pigeon

24 Russian chess

21 Willow twig

22 Antagonist

master

23 Clamour

Across					
1	Béa	rna	ise		

- 4 Joyous
- 8 Possess

- 9 Jeu de mots 10 Terrestrial lizard
- 11 Welsh dog
- 12 Honey maker
- 13 Sixth sense, for
- short 14 Cracker
- adornment?

- (7,6)
- Down

2 Rattle

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 25 Twilled fabric
- 1 Zeno, notably
- 7 Case in point
- 12 Small edible fruit 14 Traditions

(6,2,5)

5 Theatre cues

6 Boiling mad

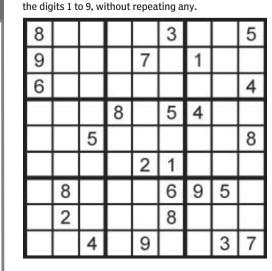
4 Flipper

(5,8)

- 15 Andes land
- 17 True heath 20 Pig out
- 22 Recipe direction

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD CLOBBER LITRE N L U L PAL

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

SUDOKU

6 4 5 8 2 9

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



owntown

Pahalgam: NIA records statement of Cuttack family who survived attack

Cuttack, April 29: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday recorded the statements of a Cuttack-based family who survived the Pahalgam attack, officials said.

A three-member team of the NIA met the family of Ranjit Bhol, 69, who, along with his wife Sashi Kumari Nayak, 65, younger son Sandeep, 35, and daughter-in-law Lelina Subhadarshini, 33, were in Pahalgam's Baisaran April 22 when the attack happened, they said.

The investigators spent two hours at their residence in Deuli Sahi of Tulasipur.

The NIA had April 26 recorded the statement of Priya Darshani Acharya, the wife of Prashant Satpathy, who was among the 26 people killed in the attack.

The Bhol family had told multiple news channels Sunday

Bhubaneswar, April 29: City

Cyber sleuths Tuesday arrested

a 29-year-old man for allegedly

uploading morphed obscene

pictures of his ex-girlfriend

on social media to avenge the

Cyber police station Inspec-

tor-in-Charge (IIC) Tereskova

Mohapatra identified the ac-

cused as Sumit Kumar Dash, a

native of Bhadrak district. He

happened to be a batchmate of

the victim at a private college

She said last year, the victim

lodged a complaint stating that

in the City, Mohapatra said.

POST NEWS NETWORK



within a distance of 5-10 feet from me," said Sashi Kumari, who had gone to Kashmir to celebrate the third wedding anniversary of her son.

She had fractured her left hand and right leg while attempting to run from the gunfire.

"Lord Jagannath and Sai Ba-

that he had to kneel in front of the terrorists and recite 'kalma' to save himself.

"However, I was all along thinking about Lord Hanuman. Though I used to wear a locket having a photo of Lord Hanuman, that day I had missed it. Probably, that was the wish

of the lord, because of which I could escape such a major tragedy," he said.

"I have seen terrorists killing people from close quarters, Sandeep said, recounting that he had asked his mother to remove the 'bindi' from her forehead.

His father, Ranjit, said that those who died received bullet wounds either on the head or

15 minutes after we reached the spot. We had clicked pictures before hearing the gunshots," he said. Ranjit said the security personnel rescued his injured wife and took her to the hospital to treat her.

"Though they wanted us to stay in the hospital, we lied to the doctor that the injury did not happen at the site of the attack," he said, noting that they were in a hurry to leave

Spurned lover posts obscene photos of ex-girlfriend, held

lodged a complaint, police said. Though the police began a hunt for Sumit following the receipt of the complaint, he managed to evade arrest by changing his locations. Recently, the cops were tipped off about his visit to the City. Accordingly, they mounted surveillance and arrested him when he showed

proached the Cyber police, and

Sumit under IPC Sections 294. 384, 500, along with Sections 66 (c) (d) (e), and 67 (a) of IT act. He was produced before a local court during the day

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Minister Mukesh Mahaling Tuesday launched a comprehensive set of Informa tion, Education and Communication (IEC) materials aimed at accelerating the measles and rubella elimination programme in the state. The launch was a part of the

celebrations for World Immunization Week 2025, observed globally from April 24-30 under the theme - Immunization for all is humanly possible - with the goal of strengthening public health and safeguarding future

Speaking at the event here, the H&FW minister reaffirmed state's unwavering commit-



State launches IEC materials for

elimination of measles & rubella

and rubella by 2026 — in alignment with the national target.

Highlighting state's outstanding performance in child healthcare, Mahaling proudly shared that Odisha has achieved a remarkable 90.5 per cent immunization coverage — the highest among all Indian states — according to the National Family Health Survey

This milestone, he said, is a testament to the dedication of

healthcare workers, communi ty support, and strong inter-departmental coordination.

He emphasised that the success of the measles and rubella elimination programme depends on a collaborative approach involving multiple government departments.

Mahaling appealed for the active participation of parents, caregivers, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PRI members, community leaders, NGOs, SHGs and civil society to help create a grassroots movement for immunisation awareness and action.

He urged all stakeholders to work together to make Odisha a measles and rubella-free state — a shining model of public health excellence for the entire nation.

the chest. "The incident took place only that they witnessed the killing ba saved me and my family, of three tourists by terrorists. she said. "They killed three people Her son, Sandeep, claimed

she had met Sumit around five years ago in college. "We eventually got into a relationship as we grew closer. However, after a few days, Sumit started losing temper and hurled abuses at me over trivial matters. I tolerated his misbehavior for a while before I decided to end

into an FIR. The IIC said the breakup did not go down well with Sumit and he became vengeful. "Sumit started blackmailing the victim. He demanded Rs 10 lakh from her by threatening to

the relationship," said Moha-

patra as quoting the victim's

complaint which was converted



media if she failed to comply. When the victim refused to give in to his demands, Sumit made fake profiles on Meta and Instagram, and uploaded the doctored obscene pictures of the victim. Eventually, she ap-

up Tuesday, Mohapatra added. The Cyber police has booked

NCERT textbook revisions spark debate over historical accuracy

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 29: In a signifthe National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the newly-framed National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), 2023, the NCERT has revised the Class VII history textbooks. Among the most debated changes is the complete removal of chapters covering the Mughals and the Delhi Sultanate — eras that have for decades formed a core part of understanding Medieval Indian history.

Among the most notable additions is a chapter highlighting India's 'sacred geography' that choreographs revered religious sites such as the 12 Jyotirlingas, Shakti Peeths and Char Dham Yatra. Also there is a stronger emphasis on government programmes like 'Make in India' and 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'

While NCERT officials claim that these edits are aimed at reducing repetition and that the second volume of the textbook may provide additional context, the omission of the Mughal era from the current volume has triggered nationwide concern. Critics fear this is not a restructuring—but a rewriting of history.

Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar has defended the move, asserting that the intent was not to erase any era but to remove repetitive content from the curriculum. However, his controversial statement referring to the Mughal period as 'the darkest part of Indian history' has intensified scrutiny, prompting questions over whether ideological motivations are eclipsing educational integrity.

While a section of historians and archaeologists Orissa POST spoke to argue that focusing on indigenous traditions and local knowledge could offer a more inclusive perspective on India's heritage, others caution that omitting key historical periods might distort the nation's complex and diverse history, and deprive the new generation of knowing the actual past that shaped the present.

According to noted Mumbai-based archaeologist historian and Dr Kurush Dalal, the Mughal Empire, spanning over three centuries, is more than just another chapter in



India's past. It is a foundational pillar in understanding the country's historical, cultural, and economic trajectory, Dalal points out.

"It is sad to see that one of the most important chapters in the history of Medieval India, and a critical chapter in understanding the history, society and economy of India has been casually rubbed out by the NCERT," he adds. Dalal says under the Mughal reign, India accounted for nearly 24.5 per cent of the world's GDP - a flourishing subcontinent that became the

The intricate tapestry of India's food, architecture, language, music, and even bureaucracy owes a deep debt to the Mughal legacy. It was their decline that created the vacuum exploited by European colonial powers. "In fact, it was the decline of the Mughals that allowed the Europeans to colonise us," he notes

To erase such an era, Dalal asserts, "borders on the criminal." While he acknowledges the complexities of the empire — Aurangzeb's iconoclasm being a case in point — Dalal stresses that history should be taught with 'its light and its shadows' not sanitised or amputated.

"We need to realise that this will result in an even more lopsided view in the minds of our children. This will also result in a very myopic view. If we want to make a course correction, we need to point out the good and the bad, and lay it clearly at our students' desks. This cutting out of the most important dynasty in Indian History is sadly extremely unfortunate and reeks of a short cut," he emphasises.

Dr Sabyasachi Nayak, an expert on ancient Indian history at Utkal University, compares history to mathematics. "If you skip one step, your answer is wrong. So, it is with history - omit a period, or era, the truth cannot be presented in clear terms. The narrative becomes misleading," he says

Nayak highlights the importance of preserving historical narratives, especially the Mughal era, which he believes is integral to understanding India's rich cultural heritage. To drive home his point, he refers to iconic structures like the Taj Mahal and Humayun's Tomb. "These are not just monuments, but physical chapters of our past," he says.

Prof Sanjay Acharya, a retired History professor, agrees to Nayak's suggestions and says that rather than erasing Mughal history entirely, the key aspects of the empires' contributions should be retained. He, however, stresses the need for emphasising local history in textbooks. "Given that many aspects of India's and, especially Odisha's, regional heritage remain underexplored in education, those should be given adequate snace in textbooks," he argues

Laxmidhar Bhol, head of History department at BJB (Autonomous) College, emphasises that conclusions on decisions made by experts should be drawn after thorough verifications. He cautions against historical bias, where the creator of a source may present a strongly skewed view - either in favour of or against a particular event, person, or regime - based on their context.

"This bias often results in unbalanced or one-sided narratives through

the use of selective language or omission of facts. Such distortions should be critically examined to ensure that future generations receive an accurate and objective understanding of histo-

ry," he says Meanwhile, Ajit Sahoo, Assistant Professor of History at Utkal University, offers a measured voice. He believes it's too early for blanket conclusions, noting that the second part of the textbook is still to come.

"It would be premature to draw any hasty conclusions. Although omissions have been identified in the Grade VII history textbooks, I am hopeful that the excluded portions will be incorporated into the Grade VII curriculum," Sahoo says, adding, "In the past too, there were considerable concerns regarding the removal of certain narratives from history textbooks, but such apprehensions proved largely unwarranted.'

However, he also warns of a growing pattern of underrepresentation of Indian kingdoms and the oversimplification of complex narratives.

"In terms of impact, I believe it will be minimal, as the curriculum of a particular grade does not significantly shape a child's perception of a specific dynasty. Discussions around the elimination of the Mughal dynasty are relatively recent. However, for quite some time now, our history textbooks have tended to be somewhat dismissive of Indian kingdoms and their contributions," he observes.

The experts agree that while the intent to diversify historical narratives is laudable, particularly the emphasis on overlooked local traditions, the method raises alarms. Rebalancing the curriculum should mean adding neglected voices, not subtracting foundational ones. India's history is not a tale of binaries—it is a grand mosaic woven with threads of contradiction, convergence, and complexity.

In a nation as vast and varied as India, the past must not be edited to fit a present-day mould. If history must serve as a mirror, let it be one that reflects everything-flaws, glories, and all, they conclude.

> With inputs from Debasish Panigrahi & Debadurllav Harichandan.



Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar...

J&K: Cong seeks spl Assembly session

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam Tuesday wrote to Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, urging them to convene a special session of the Assembly to express solidarity with the families of those killed in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Kadam said the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed, has shocked the nation and the world.

"The death of two visitors from Odisha makes this tragedy even more personal for our state. In this grave moment, we urge for a special session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly be convened at the earliest," he wrote in the similarly worded letters. "If a special session of the Assembly is convened, it will allow all members to express

their condolences, stand in unity with the victims and their families. It will also demonstrate that our fight against terrorism knows no political divisions," he added.

Congress chief Mal likarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have also written to Prime Minister Naren dra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and demonstrate a collective resolve.

Man arrested for abducting, assaulting relative over dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Badagada police Tuesday arrested a 33-year-old man for allegedly abducting his relative last month, and making a ransom demand of Rs 50,000 to the latter's family for his release.

Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) Trupti Ranjan Nayak said the victim was found with serious injuries on the same day - March 31, near Balianta main road. Navak identified the accused as Sunil Rout, a resident of Budhipada village. His two associates are still at large,

Police said Sunil had a long standing dispute with Milan Hati who is related to him over some past issues. To settle scores, Sunil March 31

asked Milan to meet him at Sai Temple near Budhipada village. "Upon reaching the spot, two unidentified miscreants threatened Milan with a knife and took him to a secluded area in the village on a motorcycle. Sunil joined the duo there. Soon the trio rained blows on Milan, before snatch ing away Rs 7,000 cash from him," Nayak said while quoting the FIR.

Sunil then called up Milan's family members, asking them pay a ransom of Rs 50,000 for his release However, when Milan fell unconscious due to the beatings, the trio panicked and abandoned him near Balianta main road before fleeing the scene, Nayak said.

Sunil has been booked under BNS Sections 296 (b), 117 (2), 126 (2), 127 (2), and 109(1).

Odisha, Gates Foundation join hands for agri reform

New partnership to align Odisha's agri policies with global best practices in sustainability, innovation, and climate resilience



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 29: In a major stride toward agricultural transformation, the Odisha government Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The partnership is aimed at revolutionising agriculture in the state through inclusive, sustainable, and climate-smart practices. By integrating cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, precision farming, and data-driven innovations, the collaboration seeks to enhance productivity in the agriculture, dairy, and fisheries

The MoU was signed in the presence of key state officials and representatives from the Gates Foundation, with implementation set to unfold through a multi-year framework.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DAFE) and Fisheries

LLIANCE TO SUPPORT ACLIMATE-SMART PLANNING THROUGH DATA AND RESEARCH

NITIATIVE AIMS TO STRENGTHEN POLICY WITH TECH-LED, **INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL**

& Animal Resources Development Department (FARDD) will jointly lead the effort, with a strong emphasis on grassroots-level impact and capacity building.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo lauded the agreement as a landmark moment, calling it a "significant leap toward future-ready agriculture." He emphasised that the collaboration would directly benefit farmers by fostering innovation, improving livelihoods, and strengthening the overall food system across

A key highlight of the event was the launch of the Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Odisha. This new initiative will serve as a collaborative platform, bringing together government agencies, research institutions, startups, NGOs, farmer organisations, and private sector stakeholders. The alliance will play a pivotal role in scaling climate-resilient practices and technologies across diverse agro-ecological zones in the state.

The event also witnessed the release of two important research reports. The Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) unveiled its district-level Scoping Report Series, offering data-rich insights for the formulation of targeted Climate Action Plans.

In parallel, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) presented findings from its evaluation of the Comprehensive Rice Fallow Management (CRFM) programme, which highlighted improved utilisation of fallow lands and significant gains in pulse and oilseed production.

Principal Secretaries Suresh Kumar Vashishth and Arabinda Kumar Padhee reiterated the state's vision to integrate science, technology, and global expertise into its agricultural policies.

They stressed that the MoU would help unlock long-term, scalable solutions tailored to Odisha's unique needs. The collaboration also aims to enhance digital infrastructure, boost agri-tech adoption, and promote inclusive development that is both climate-resilient and gender-sensitive.



GRACEFUL MOVE: Artistes from cultural organisation Udra perform at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday to mark World Dance Day organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture department

RIE Bhubaneswar hosts cultural fest

Bhubaneswar, April 29: The Regional Institute of Education (RIE). Bhubaneswar recently came alive with colour, music, and creativity during a vibrant two-day cultural festival organised under the banner of Students' Council Activities for the academic vear 2024–25.

Inaugurated by Principal PC Agarwal, the event underscored the value of cultural engagement in building awareness, confidence, emotional well-being, and critical thinking-especially among aspiring edu-

The festival featured a diverse array of competitions designed to promote holistic development. Day one included events such as Flower Dec-



oration, Solo Classical Dance, Solo Freestyle Dance, Group Skit, Solo Song, Instrumental Music, and Group Classical Dance. The energy continued into day two with Rangoli Competition, Group Song, Solo Folk Dance, Mono Acting, Group Folk Dance, and Group

Freestyle Dance.

Students participated with great enthusiasm, filling the campus with artistic expression and cultural vibrancy. Faculty members served as judges, offering constructive feedback and motivating participants through their encouragement

Dean of Instructions Ritanja li Dash addressed the audience, while Laxmidhar Behera, head of the department of Education and Advisor to the Students Council, provided valuable guidance. The event was efficiently coordinated by Kalinga Ketaki, head of DESSH and convener of the programme.

Beyond celebrating talent. the festival nurtured leadership, teamwork, and cross-cultural appreciation. Its success reflected the strong collabora tion among student leaders, faculty, deans, cultural coordinators, and support staff.

With this event, RIE Bhubaneswar reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a dynamic, inclusive, and culturally en riched academic environment

Odisha ramps up storm preparation

Bhubaneswar, April 29: With the summer cyclone season approaching, the Odisha government conducted a high-level preparedness meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja here Tuesday. The session reviewed departmental disaster management strategies, drawing on lessons from Cyclone

Ahuja stressed the importance of early action despite the absence of any current cyclone alert. "Even though no storm warning has been issued yet, we must prepare as if one is imminent," he said, urging all departments to maintain close coordination and stay on high alert.

He also directed the Odisha State Disaster Management



Authority (OSDMA) to ensure timely dissemination of cyclone alerts at the grassroots level.

Special Relief Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh presented the state's preparedness roadmap. OSDMA officials highlighted advancements in weather monitoring, noting the operationalisation of Doppler Weather Radars in Baleshwar and Sambalpur, and ongoing up-

grades in Gopalpur and Paradip. Director General of Fire Services Sudhanshu Sarangi emphasised the need to strengthen telecom infrastructure to maintain connectivity during

extreme weather. Chief Administrative Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh proposed reinforcing the unified command system for post-disaster response, while prioritising essential services in cy-

Heatwave plan

Bhubaneswar: Anticipating intense Family Welfare department has intenall 30 districts of the state. Spearhead ed by Public Health director Nilakantha Mishra, the initiative includes distribution of ORS, IV fluids, air coolers, and power backups to health facilities. Special attention is being given to high-risk areas such as mining and industrial zones, where mobile health units and additional medical teams are being deployed. Meanwhile, frontline health workers are undergoing special ised training to effectively identify and manage heat-related illnesses

clone-prone areas. Urban flood mitigation was also discussed, with Municipal Administration Director Arindam Dakua outlining drainage system im-

BOSE Cuttack embarks on new era of tech growth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 29: Bhabananda Orissa School of Engineering (BOSE), Cuttack, marked a significant milestone Tuesday with the foundation laying of a new Academic Block (G+4) and a 150-seated Ladies Hostel, alongside the inauguration of two advanced laboratories: the Mechatronics Lab by Festo India and the Geodetic Research Lab by Hexagon Geosystems India, both established under CSR initiatives.

The ceremony was led by Industry, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, who commended BOSE's innovative strides and assured full support for setting up a Centre of Excellence in emerging technologies. BOSE Principal

New academic block, girls' hostel, and industry-backed labs signal BOSE's push toward modern, inclusive technical education

Hrushikesh Mohanty presented the institute's transformation journey and its unique "DNA model" - Design, Engage, Adapt focused on industry-academic synergy

The Mechatronics Lab, developed by Festo India, and the Geodetic Research Lab by Hexagon India, represent BOSE's commitment to hands on, future-ready learning Foundation stones were also laid for the new academic block (Rs11.49 crore) and ladies' hostel (Rs 10.03 crore), boosting infrastructure and promoting gender inclusivity.

In an interactive session students shared how initiatives like the Sudakshya Scheme empowered them to pursue careers in technology. The Minister praised Odisha's emergence as a hub for technical education, noting that students now come to the state for quality learning.

Cuttack Mayor Subash Chandra Singh and MLA Souvic Biswal proposed upgrading BOSE into a Degree Engineering College and setting up a second campus to meet growing

Puri servitors urge boycott of Digha temple rituals

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I Smt Kalpana Kumari Sadangi, Spouse of Pradeep Kumar Sadangi, Raniguda Farm, Panchabati Street, PO/Dist-Rayagada, Odisha, 765001. I have Changed my name from Geetanjali Sadangi to Kalpana Kumari Sadangi and Son name Asutosh Sadangi to Ashutosh Sadangi vide affidavit no.-261 dt. 29-04-2025 of Executive Magistrate Rayagada in all purpose.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, April 29: Two prominent servitor associations of the Srimandir in Puri — the Suar Mahasuar Nijog and the Puspalaka Nijog — have urged their members to refrain from participating in the consecration rituals of the newly-constructed Jagannath temple in Digha, West Bengal.

The consecration is scheduled for Wednesday, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Akshav Trithiya, and will be attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The Digha Jagannath temple, built by the West Bengal government at a cost of nearly ₹250 crore, is a replica of the 12th-century shrine in Puri. Located around 350 km from Puri, the new temple spans 24 acres and is expected to draw significant footfall from devotees.

especially from West Bengal, where the Jagannath cult has a strong following.

Despite acknowledging the religious significance of the new temple, the servitor groups in Puri have taken a firm stand on preserving the sanctity and scriptural integrity of rituals performed at the original Shree Jagannath Temple. Padmanava Mahasuar, president of the Suar Mahasuar Nijog, clarified that while there is no objection to servitors visiting the Digha temple as devotees, engaging in ritualistic duties, especially

cooking, is strictly prohibited. "There are hundreds of Jagannath temples across India, but the rituals at Puri are deeply rooted in scriptural traditions. Suars and Mahasuars are not just cooks - they are blessed sevayats chosen to serve the Lord directly. Their roles are unique and sacred, and should not be



Similarly, Puspalaka Nijog, whose members are responsible for decorating the sibling deities — Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, and Lord Jagannath — has also cautioned its members.

Secretary

reduced to catering services,'

Mahasuar said

Harekrushna Singhari warned that anyone found participating in rituals at the Digha temple would face disciplinary action, including

the servitor community. Sudarshan Pujapanda, a se nior servitor at the Puri temple, echoed this sentiment, stating that servitors must uphold the honour and tradition of Shree Jagannath Dham. "Our service

possible social boycott within

of unwavering devotion to Maha Vishnu in His Jagannath form," he said.

Meanwhile, Rajesh Daitapati of the Daitapati Nijog confirmed that about 50 servitors from Puri have travelled to Digha upon invitation from the temple trust. However, he did not specify whether any were from the two opposing Nijogs.

A senior official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration stated that while individual servitors are free to act on their conscience, the administration's focus remains on maintaining the sanctity and continuity of rituals at the Puri temple. The Digha temple will be managed by ISKCON, while lakhs of devotees from West Bengal continue to visit the original shrine in Puri every year.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with

possibility of develop-

BBSR CTC Max Temp 35.2° 36.7° Min Temp Humidity Rainfall

MARKET WATCH **VARIATION** SENSEX 80,288.38 A 24,335,95 DOLLAR 85.130 EURO 97.0840 GOLD ₹93.316

₹96.873

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Man found dead with throat slit in Chikiti

Chikiti, April 29: A man was found dead with his throat slit near a pond alongside Dhanaghara-Maa Balakumari road under Chikiti outpost and K Nuagaon police station in Berhampur. The deceased was identified as Balaram Mahankuda, 35, a resident of Rampur village under Ramchandra-

Following a complaint lodged by the victim's father Balmiki Mahankuda, a murder case (147/25) has been registered with K Nuagaon police who, with the help of a scientific team and a sniffer dog unit, have begun an investigation. Two suspects from Dhanaghara area were held for questioning.

Although the family claimed Balaram had no known enmity with anyone, police have launched an in-depth investigation. CCTV footage from



several key junctions is being examined. Preliminary findings suggest that the murder was premeditated. A mobile phone found in the victim's pocket may help police identify the culprits.

Some youths suspected of involvement are under police surveillance. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M stated that the accused will be apprehend-

Balaram had worked outside the state for many years. He returned home about a month ago and was sustaining his family by working as a driver. He visited his sister's house at Chikiti Pentha on his motorcycle (OD 07 AV 5359) Monday evening. Around 9pm, he left his sister's home informing his sister that he would return home, but he did not.

Passersby spotted a body lying by the pond side Tuesday morning and alerted the police. Chikiti outpost officer Ranjit Kumar Mahapatra reached the scene and seized both the body and the motorcycle.

The victim's father has alleged that his son was murdered in a planned manner. Chikiti sub-divisional police officer Bishwamitra Harpal and K Nuagaon IIC Kishore Kumar Samal have visited the spot and are supervising the investigation.



SUMMER SOLACE: People buy ice apples from a roadside vendor at Munda Market in Sector-19 of Rourkela Tuesday as blistering heat makes life miserable

Man dies as house collapses on him

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, April 29: A 41-year-old man died Monday night after a thatched house he had taken shelter in collapsed on him during a thunderstorm at Godhimara Chhak under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The deceased was identified as Chaitanya Shankhuala, a resident of Bahubandha village. Police have sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation.

According to sources, Chaitanya was returning home from work when a thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rain and gusty winds struck the area. In an attempt to protect himself, he rushed into the roadside thatched house for shelter.

However, a tree got uprooted and fell on the thatched house which caved in on him, killing him on the spot. Firefighters later recovered his body from the debris after being alerted by locals.

Curtains down on Thakurani Yatra

Berhampur: The biennial Thakurani Yatra that began April 3 concluded here Tuesday with the idol of Goddess Budhi Thakurani being taken back to the temple dedicated to her in the morning. Thousands of devotees joined the return iourney of the deity, which started Monday midnight from pandal was set up, signifying the goddess's paternal home. The rituals continued till 9:30am. Around 11 platoons of police, led by 50 officers, were deployed for crowd management and security, officials said. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said no untoward incident was

reported in the incident.

POST NEWS NETWORK

a similar legacy.

palm leaf manuscripts

Basudevpur, April 29: When people speak of library movement

in Odisha, they often think of Nay-

agarh's legendary Dasarathi Pat-

tnaik, popularly known as 'Dashia

Ajaa'. But another figure from Ba-

sudevpur region of Bhadrak dis-

trict, 59-year-old Bikash Kumar

Satapathy, has quietly carved out

Satapathy, who runs a library

His vast archive also includes

more than 1,100 antique coins

from India and abroad, rare and

discontinued postage stamps, cen-

tury-old radios, fossils of marine

species, ancient clocks, tradition-

al weights and measures, ancient

betel box, lanterns, oil lamps, and

Satapathy said a passion grew

in him when 'Dashia Ajaa' had

visited his village carrying his

iconic headwrap and staff. He

pur, a coastal village in Balasore

handcrafted tools and weapons.

and museum in Basudevpur, has preserved a rare collection of 1,200

Jajpur oil reserve project hits roadblock OISF vehicle mows down man in Talcher security and contribute to the



the foothills of Dankari hill in

Dharmasala tehsil area. As part

of this process, Jajpur Collector

P Anvesha Reddy, through a let-

ter (No 5768/ Dt. 16/04/2025) has

issued instructions to the Dep-

uty Director of Mines (DDM)

A crucial underground oil storage project aimed at bolstering India's energy security has hit a roadblock in Jajpur district, as delays in land acquisition and rampant mining activities have stalled its progress despite official directives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, April 29: The Jajpur district administration has initiated steps for establishment of the country's fourth-largest underground oil storage facility, known as Indian Strategic

13 black stone mines operating across the identified 400 acres of land in Dankari hill. However, neither the Mines department nor the Revenue Petroleum Reserve (ISPR), at

department has reportedly initiated any significant action, though 14 days have elapsed to the passing of the directive.

and Dharmasala tehsildar to

immediately halt operations in

 $An\,agreement\,regarding\,ISPR$ was signed between the state government and SPR authori-

ties January 28, 2025. To ensure national energy

development of Odisha, efforts were made by the then Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to establish this project with a storage capacity of 4 million tonne (MT). An estimated investment of ₹8,743 crore was proposed for the project.

The objective of the project was to facilitate crude oil dis tribution during emergencies in the eastern region of the country. Accordingly, the Ministry of Petroleum had requested the Chief Secretary of the state to provide the necessary land by July 29 in 2019.

In 2017-18 Union Budget, the Centre had allocated ₹3,800 crore for this underground oil reserve project. However, due to the presence of multiple black stone quarries in the proposed area, the process got delayed and the then BJD government could not provide the required land. It was also alleged that owing to the inaction by the then government, illegal black stone mining operators felt protected and continued to operate, thereby leaving the project in limbo.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, April 29: A 40-yearold man was crushed to death by a speeding Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) vehicle in Balandha area of Talcher Tuesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sushant Sahu, a resident of Gurudwara area. Eyewitnesses claim that Sushant was on his way to Balandha market on a scooter when the OISF vehicle hit him head-on, resulting in his death on the spot.

The incident sparked outrage, with a large crowd staging a protest at the mishap site. According to sources, the vehicle fled the scene following the accident.

On being informed, Kaniha

police reached the spot and held discussions with the agitating locals, who dispersed later.

The locals have demanded adequate compensation for the victim's family and strict action against the driver responsible for the accident.

TENDER NO.: 06255009, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: WIDER PRESTRESSED CONCRETE SLEPPER, QUANTITY: AS PER TS.

Tender Opening Date: dt. 23.05.2025. legarding detailed notice, EMD urchase restrictions and detailed www.ireps.gov.in and www Principal Chief Materials Manager

Bhubaneswa

Tusker found dead in Salachua forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Thakurmunda/Anandapur. April 29: A tusker was found dead

near Salachua village under Karanjia forest division and Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhani district Tuesday morning. Though the cause of the death

remains unclear, a special team arrived from Baripada in the afternoon to probe the incident. A post-mortem of the carcass was conducted at Thakurmunda Veterinary hospital.

Officials, including Karanjia divisional forest officer (DFO) Sri-



kant Nayak, ACF Madanmohan Mahanta, Satkosia range officer Rabindranath Mahanta, and other forest staffers reached the spot and are investigating the incident.

The dead tusker is estimated to be around 10 years old. The Forest department has stated that the exact

Bhadrak man conserves 1,200 rare palm leaf manuscripts

cause of death will be ascertained after the post-mortem report is received. According to reports, the tusker had been roaming alone in Salachua forest area for the last few days. The elephant had come to the pond behind the panchavat office to drink water around 7am Tuesday However, around 9am, locals found the elephant dead a few metres away from the pond and informed the Forest department.

As the elephant had been in seemingly good health and was roaming normally just days prior, locals grew suspicious about its sudden

Undeterred by

numerous challenges

including financial

Name & Address of Borrowers /

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA **ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR** First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, E-mail: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

NOTICE The Sale by public Auction of ornaments pledged with the Bank in the following Gold Loan Accounts

Weight

GOLD

AUCTION

letails of which are given under will be held at the Concerned Branch Premises on 16.05.2025 at 1.00 P.M. The interested parties have to contact the Concerned Branch Manager For the Reserve Price of each Account. The interested parties for purchase of Gold ornaments may contact the Concerned Branch Manager for ascertaining the details of Gold ornaments put to sale & for terms & conditions of ale or the details of the ornaments. Parties interested in purchase of the Gold ornaments may participat

Balance as on

28.04.2025 (exclusive of U.A.I.

Note: This Notice is also deemed to be 15 days Final Reminder Cum Auction Notice to Borrowers.

No.	Gold Loan A/c. No.	and other charges) plus future interest w.e.f. 28.04.2025	Weight (in Grams)	Weight (in Grams)		
	DEBAGARH BRANCH (2305), PLOT NO.: 1200 STAND, PO./P.S./DIST.: DEOGARH, OI			EBUS		
1.	Sushant Bhukta, Vill: Khaparsahi, PO.: Debagarh, P.S.: Debagarh-768108 / 60476617967	₹31,214/-	6.800	9.250		
2.	Babulal Bagha, Vill: Khaparsahi, PO.: Debagarh, P.S.: Debagarh-768108 / 60479864221	₹21,300/-	4.600	5.700		
3.	Babulal Bagha, Vill: Khaparsahi, PO.: Debagarh, P.S.: Debagarh-768108 / 60481026035	₹65,000/-	14.00	24.050		
4.	Jamuna Patra, Vill: Badamanpur, PO.: Madhyapur, P.S.: Barkote-768110/60465347287		5.00	5.220		
В	BYASANAGAR BRANCH (2035), AT: RADHARANI MARG, BANK STREET, NEAR IDFC FIRST BANK, JAJPUR ROAD, JAJPUR, ODISHA-755019, MOB.: 6370704862					
1.	Mamina Behera, At: Dando Kenduapada, Bhadrak-756112 / 60510712375	₹55,000/-	10.00	15.670		
2.	Mamina Behera, At: Dando Kenduapada,	₹2,23,457/-	46.50	51.83		

Bhadrak-756112 / 60488009759 Mamina Behera, At: Dando Kenduapada, Bhadrak-756112 / 60488113761 ₹1,00,000/-19.75 20.290 BARIPADA BRANCH (2094), AT: LAL BAZAR, WARD NO.: 10, BARIPADA

ODISHA- 757001, MOB.: 6370704869 S K Raja, At: Pyared Padia, Baripada Town-6.900 ₹30.401/-8.180 757001 **/ 60435847626** Sourav Nayak, S/o.: Sannat Nayak, At: Kalika, PO.: Hatigarh, Raibania-756033 / 60432328647 ₹13.507.78 4.000 4.89

PARADIP BRANCH (1891), AT: AKSHARA MARKET COMPLEX, AT/PO./P.S.: PARADEEPGARH, DIST.: JAGATSINGHPUR, ODISHA-754141, MOB.: 6370704856 Laxman Das, At: Padampur Sankha, PO. 9.200 Olarah, Near Baghadi Bridge, P.S.: Erasama Jagatsinghpur-754110 / 60509446291

The said Auction will be held on the following Conditions:

1. It is " as is where is" condition.

The Successful bidder shall pay the entire bid amount by the next working day after the auction date and take delivery of the ornaments at his/her absolute risk and Responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to our Bank for any reason whatsoever.

The Bank reserves its right to put to auction all or any of the ornaments pledged in the account as considered necessary or stop auction at any time without any prior notice and at its absolute

The Bank has absolute discretion to either reject or accept any bid without assigning any reasons

whatsoever. The Bank has right to adjourn/postpone the auction sale at any stage to any future date at the

convenience of the Bank and no person shall be entitled to claim any prior notice or right therefore. 6. If the successful bidder does not clear the bid amount and/or does anything which may give rise to a necessity of adjourning/holding Fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify the Bank to the extent of loss, If any caused on account of his/her lapses which may come in the way of completing the auction.

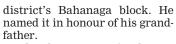
The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the Jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise and Auction purchaser shall ensure to check the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins by himself/herself by its own and post Auction no claim in this reference will be entertained by Bank.

9. If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.04.2025

The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra



What began as a simple passion for books soon turned into a full-fledged mission. Satapathy scoured several beaches for marine life specimens, contacted authors for books and magazines, reached out to scholars for palm leaf manuscripts, and even obtained rare coins from people staying abroad.

Today, his library has grown and learning.

movement. Undeterred by numer-

ous challenges including financial hardship, personal setbacks, and family issues, Satapathy transformed the library and museum into a major institution.

across Odisha.

In 1996, he launched a children's magazine titled 'Bai Chadhei', adding a new dimension to his editorial work. In 2006, he relocated the library and museum to ward no-12 under Basudevpur Municipality. Since then, researchhardship, personal setbacks, and family issues, Satapathy transformed the library and museum into a major institution

ers, students, and visitors have frequented the space to access reference materials and view a wide collection of rare artifacts, all offered to the public free of cost.

He has been actively leading the 'Quit Mobile, Read Books' campaign for the past 10 years. He, along with his colleagues, visits schools and educational institutions to encourage children to adopt reading habits and minimise their screen time.

He also participates in various cultural fairs and public events, where he showcases rare exhibits to educate younger generations about Odisha's ancient heritage and traditions.

According to him, the library and museum, which he runs independently, aim to inspire young people to protect their roots, environment, and native villages.

was in Class VIII then. He met the library legend and interacted from a modest collection of 15 magazines to over 35,000 books with him. Inspired by his words and periodicals, a testament to a Man is greater than wealth. Help as many people as you can – lifelong devotion to preservation Satapathy began to envision his Despite doing post graduation own contribution to the cause of in Odia language and literature, mankind. In 1990, he founded Lokanath he turned down job opportunities Library and Museum in Madanato dedicate himself to the library

Following his matriculation, he published his first children's book, Shukhila Gachhara Dashati Patra 'O' Dashati Phula' (Ten Leaves

and Ten Flowers of a Dry Tree). After completing his higher secondary education, he published another book titled 'Kau Koili' (Crow and the Cuckoo), which helped him build connections with several prominent writers



We have every one of us a role to fulfill, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy.





Spirited Victory

ronically, US President Donald Trump's threat to reduce Canada into the 51st state of the United States of America has become instrumental in the remarkable victory of Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal Party in the just concluded Canadian election. The Centre-Left party of Carney has got a reversal in electoral fortunes, courtesy Trump's audacious announcement after he assumed office for the second term in January that Canada would be merged with the USA. Predictably, Carney made his neighbouring country his main electoral plank that seems to have paid rich dividends. His victory speech reflected it as well as the mood of Canada as a whole. He asserted: "President Trump is trying to break us so that America can own us. That will never ever happen."

Trump has also queered the pitch for Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party which looked highly probable to win the polls due to general dissatisfaction with the state of the Canadian economy and almost a decade of Liberal government under then leader Justin Trudeau whom Carney replaced just before the election.

The past year has witnessed incumbent governments around the world falling like nine pins, with parties all along the political spectrum losing ground or outright control. This happened in the US, the UK, Japan, Germany and France among the most prominent examples. Even India saw a spectacular fall in fortune of the ruling party in the 2024 Parliament election. But, the Canadian general election stopped this trend as the Liberals forced Trudeau to resign and picked a political outsider, former Bank of England and Bank of Canada chief Carney, as their leader. It goes to the credit of Carney that he turned the real threat Trump posed to Canada's economy and its very sovereignty into his advantage to rally the voters behind him and his party which had been going down in public reckoning till Trudeau resigned.

With Carney's victory, the political and policy interests of Canada and the US under Trump appear destined to diverge. Already there are indications that Canada is looking more toward Europe as a reliable partner than Trump's America. However, the real test of Carney's new policy will be made in the next few days as he has pledged to quickly begin new trade negotiations with Trump in an attempt to stave off US tariffs on Canadian auto exports set to kick in on 3 May. The Canadian economy is heavily dependent on exports to the US and it is at considerable risk if a full scale trade war erupts. Carney, who is an economist by training and a veteran central banker, has promised voters that he will do everything in his power to keep Canada from plunging into a recession.

It indeed defies understanding how Trump could go on threatening to merge Canada into the US while voters were casting their ballots 28 April. He called the US-Canadian border "artificially drawn" and said the nation would be better off as a "cherished" American state.

Carney's rise to political power has been rather sudden and it has happened when his country is facing an unprecedented challenge from its superpower neighbour. The US and Canada falling apart from each other is something the world would not have believed as possible even

It is interesting that soon after it became clear Carney's Liberals retained power in the country's federal election, China's foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said Beijing was willing to develop China-Canada relations based on mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. Obviously, China will try to drive a wedge between Canada and the US just to get a strong and legitimate foothold on the North American continent.

The defeat of Jagmeet Singh, the leader of Canada's New Democratic Party and a known pro-Khalistan figure, is good news for India as it offers an opportunity to reset diplomatic and trade relations that were frozen by allegations levelled by both Singh and Trudeau that Indian "agents" were involved in the killing of the Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Overall, the spirited victory of the Liberals in Canada is a sign of encouragement for the international community at a time when global tension is rising due to Trump's attempt to impose a new world order and a general increase in hate and intolerance on the global political and diplomatic stage.

WISDOM CORNER

different and yet the same.

Never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine.

We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all

The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to be

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1789: George Washington becomes the first U.S. President. Washington took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. In the United States, he is venerated as one of the country's founding
- **1897:** English physicist J.J. Thomson announced that he had discovered the electron, which helped revolutionize the knowledge of atomic structure; he later was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.
- 1916: Germany and its World War I allies become the first countries to use daylight saving time (DST). The rationale was to save energy to aid the war effort. Other European countries, such as the United Kingdom, first introduced DST later that year.
- 1926: Aviator Bessie Coleman, the first American woman to obtain an international pilot's license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, died after her plane crashed during rehearsal for an
- 1945: German dictator Adolf Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, committed suicide in a bunker in Berlin.
- 1975: The fall of Saigon marks the end of the Vietnam War. As Communist forces gained control of Saigon, South Vietnamese President Duong Van Minh, who had only been in office for 2 days, surrendered unconditionally.
- 1989: Italian director Sergio Leone-who popularized the "spaghetti western" with his hugely successful Dollar trilogy, which included the masterpiece The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (1966)—died at age 60.
- 1993: Tennis ace Monica Seles is stabbed by an obsessed fan. Although the stab wound proved to be relatively harmless, the psychological ramifications meant that Seles did not play any tournaments for over

FOCUS SECURITY

HOW INTEL 'GAPS' OCCUR

n the wake of the massacre in Baisaran (Pahalgam), some reports claimed that it was an "intelligence" or "security" failure. As of now it is not clear why the Baisaran meadows, a popular picnic spot of tourists, which is 50 km from the Amarnath shrine, was left unguarded by any security group in the state working under the "Unified Command." An unconfirmed report said that the picnic site was not "officially opened" and hence no security was detailed.

The purpose of this column is not to apportion blame for this lapse but to explain how "security threats" are processed by governments in general, and how these "gaps" occur. Since J&K is a sensitive area, intelligence agencies belonging to national civil, military and paramilitary departments have a large presence there, in addition to the state police intelligence department.

Vappala

Balachandran

AGENCIES

IN A

INTELLIGENCE

AND SECURITY

OFTEN RECEIVE

INFORMATION

HAPHAZARD

IN BITS AND

PIECES, NOT

REVEALING THE

FULL PICTURE,

ESPECIALLY

TRENDS ARE

SHORT TERM

WHEN THE

MANNER,

Although national intelligence agencies report to their headquarters, they do keep the Lt. Governor and the "Unified Command" under him apprised of any changes in the security scenario so that preventive mechanisms can be suitably altered depending on the local threat perception. However, such intelligence when reported to higher echelons like the Lt. Governor (in J&K law and order is still under the Lt. Governor) must be carefully verified as the action following such alerts has national and international ramifications.

Raw intelligence becomes policy for action only after an alchemic process of collection, collation, analysis, dissemination, arbitration, policy adjudication and decision-making. Any inter-space in this process would lead to a situation in which intelligence, including technical pointers already available in some form with any wing of a government, does not result in policy or action. This leads to an impression of "intelligence or security failure."

Intelligence and security agencies often receive information in a haphazard manner, in bits and pieces, not revealing



As of now it is not clear why the Baisaran meadows, a popular picnic spot of tourists, which is 50 km from the Amarnath shrine, was left unguarded by any security group in the state working under the 'Unified Command'

the full picture, especially when the trends are short term. On several occasions agencies produce varied, incomplete, or even conflicting intelligence on security related subjects needing an able arbiter to sort out the differences to obtain a fuller picture for the decision-makers. This is the process of "Intelligence Arbitration." If this fails, gaps occur as has happened many times. An intelligence arbitrator also brings in his own perspective to plug missing gaps in intelligence, even using media information, which is called "Open-Source Intelligence".

There is a big difference between the processing of intelligence produced by law & order authorities and by national intelligence agencies. While national agencies produce what is called "strategic" intelligence, the state units churn out "tactical" information. "Strategic' intelligence is usually the longterm indication affecting the whole country or over a longer time frame while "tactical" is short term trends, affecting smaller areas like police action. However, counter-terrorist action especially with foreign interference could assume strategic and tactical dimensions, which necessitates the ability to study and anticipate how inimical foreign governments or foreign based groups like Lashkar would be working against us, which only national agencies are capable of handling.

Yet, there are cases when this process had failed even in Western countries. The US 9/11 Commission which discussed these trends in detail in chapter 11 of their report ('Foresight and Hindsight') said that despite Osama bin Laden's anti-American activities assuming serious proportions all over the world, no agency foresaw a scenario like 9/11 when US passenger planes were weaponised against the mainland: "The CIA did not write any analytical assessments of possible hijacking scenarios' while the North American Aerospace Defence Command imagined the possible use of foreign aircraft carrying weapons of mass destruction. None thought that al-Qaeda would use American planes. The Commission also hinted that the large presence of intelligence and security agencies in America had resulted in confusion and dilution of responsibility. The post of "National Intelligence Officer for Warning" in the CIA created in 1992 after the Gulf War who had the responsibility of issuing such warnings was abolished and the Counter-Terrorism Center (CTC) was given this responsibility. However, CTC did not issue a single warning on the possibility of weaponising passenger aircraft. In other words, a topheavy intelligence structure

In a similar manner I, as a member of the 26/11 Committee set up to enquire into police response, noticed the failure of the Maharashtra government in observing cer-

did not result in better alerts.

tain happenings outside their jurisdiction which, if studied, could have prevented the ghastly Mumbai attacks.

On 30 July 2006 CNN-IBN TV channel aired a survey of our Western coastal protection measures in the wake of the then National Security Adviser's warning that our atomic energy installations might be targeted through sea borne Pakistani terrorists. Following this it was expected that the Maharashtra police would have strengthened coastal patrolling. The channel's team found that coastal patrolling was nowhere to be seen: "Even though BARC is now heavily guarded by the CISF, it's the approachability through the sea that is a cause for concern."

The same channel aired another news item on 16 June 2007, which should have worried Mumbai and New Delhi. But it did not. The report said that eight suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba militants had infiltrated through the sea-route near Mumbai and two of them, Abdul Majeed and Mohammad Jameel, were arrested in Rajouri in March by J&K police. This was the first such known incident of terrorists taking the sea route.

The story reconstructed by the TV channel indicated that eight militants had left Pakistan on 23 February, transferred themselves into an Indian boat operated by alleged LeT operatives Asif and Abbas. On the Indian shore they were received by another operative named Sameer. The channel also interviewed J&K DGP Gopal Sharma who had said, "Two LeT men were arrested in Rajouri and they have informed that eight men came in and yes, sea route was used."

Less than eighteen months later ten 26/11 terrorists used the same modus operandi with fake Indian (Hindu) identity documents to indulge in mayhem in Mumbai. The 2007 report had said: "Jameel initially had a student ID as Dheeraj from Chembur in Mumbai. The men even had fake documents from Delhi and Chandigarh and in Jammu they even had voter I-cards.'

The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

IN JEST THIS

Ultra-processed foods may shorten your life



Melvin Durai

ANYTIME YOU SEE THE WORDS 'MECHANICALLY SEPARATED' ON A FOOD PACKAGE, THE BEST THING **YOU CAN DO IS MECHANICALLY SEPARATE** YOURSELF FROM THE FOOD

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

y wife, Malathi, en-joys cooking fresh A new global study shows us eases, including cardiovascular in syrup and canned fish. Even disease, obesity, diabetes, some bread, cakes and snacks can VI vegetables, fish and meat. Rather than buying a ready-to-eat meal from a store and just heating it up in minutes, she prefers to stand in the kitchen for an hour or more, cooking a meal that is usually both tasty and healthy. I say "usually" because some oily or fatty foods are not particularly healthy, and some non-oily, non-fatty foods are not particularly tasty.

For the most part, Malathi works hard to keep her family healthy through her cooking. That's what many women (and some men) do in countless homes, of course. But store-bought processed foods are becoming a larger part of diets around the world, especially among people with busy lives and higher incomes. Just buy a frozen pizza or frozen rice-and-curry meal, pop it in the microwave and you have a tasty meal that won't kill you — not right away, anyway.

It eventually might, though.

be causing by eating ultra-processed foods (UPFs).

The study, which analysed data from eight countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States), found that a 10 per cent increase in the calories you get from UPFs gives you a 3 per cent higher risk of dying prematurely — between the ages of 30 and 69. (Once you hit 70, you can only die maturely.)

The study, which appears in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, describes UPFs as ready-to-eat-or-heat industrial formulations that are made with ingredients extracted from foods or synthesised in laboratories, with little or no whole foods in their composition. You won't find the words "industrial formulation" on any food package though, because no one would want to eat an "industrial formulation."

A high consumption of UPFs has been associated with 32 distypes of cancer, and depression.

Study co-author Carlos Augusto Monteiro, emeritus professor at Brazil's University of São Paulo, coined the term "ultra-processed" in 2009 when he developed the Nova classification, which assigns foods to one of four groups based on processing. Group 1 consists of unprocessed or minimally processed foods, such as fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, grains, legumes, fresh meat, eggs, milk and crushed spices. If you get all your calories from this group, you might live to be 200.

Group 2 consists of processed culinary ingredients, such as olive oil and other oils produced through crushing seeds, nuts, or fruits; salt, sugar, vinegar, honey, butter. and other substances used to season and cook.

Group 3 consists of processed foods, which are made by adding Group 2 to Group 1. These include cheese, canned vegetables, salted nuts, fruits

fall into this group, as long as they're made predominantly from Group 1 foods with Group 2 ingredients.

Group 4 consists of the foods we should all try to avoid: ultra-processed foods (UPFs). To identify a UPF, just look at the list of ingredients and if you have no idea what some of them are it's probably a UPF. UPFs might have varieties of sugar such as fructose, high-fructose corn syrup, invert sugar, maltodextrin, dextrose and lactose. It might have modified oils such as hydrogenated or interesterified oils; and protein sources such as hydrolysed proteins, soya protein isolate, gluten, casein, whey protein and "mechanically separated meat."

Anytime you see the words "mechanically separated" on a food package, the best thing you can do is mechanically separate yourself from the food.

Nurture human resources Sir, This refers to "Human capital formation key to economic

growth," Orissa POST, 29 April. India's journey toward sustained economic growth hinges on one critical factor: human capital formation. In a country where over half the population is under 30, strategic investments in education, healthcare, and skill development are not just desirable—they are essential. Education serves as the foundation for a skilled and innovative workforce. Government initiatives like the National Education Policy (NEP) and Skill India are reshaping the learning landscape, aiming to improve outcomes and prepare youth for demands of a modern economy. Equally important is healthcare, which ensures that the workforce remains productive and capable of contributing to national development. But to unlock this on a broader scale, access must be expanded to rural and underprivileged communities. Human capital formation is not merely a social good—it is an economic necessity. If India can effectively nurture and mobilise its human resources, it will not only sustain growth but lead the world in the new knowledge-driven global economy.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Roaring success

Sir, The successful breeding of an Asiatic lioness at the Delhi Zoological Park is good news as these lions are exclusive to India in Asia. The Gir wildlife sanctuary of Gujarat is home to 674 lions, as against 523 in 2015, as per the 2020 census. The 30 per cent rise in the big cat number, over five years, was a much-needed shot in the arm for lion conservation efforts in the area. Asiatic lions are long extinct in both Turkey and Iran, two other countries that boasted of them. Way back in 2015, Gir had adopted the "direct sighting" method to count lions because of its accuracy. Also, modern techniques like the global positioning system (GPS), geo-reference and videography were put to good use by the government. Limiting mining activities and the speed of trains on tracks close to the sanctuary, too, have clicked. Availability of livestock for lions as prey base and CDV vaccines have saved the big cats besides flyovers and underpasses.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



TWOSTATES





Crackdown on illegal Bangladeshi settlements

While the demolition drive is being spearheaded by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, around 2,000 policemen, headed by Joint Commissioner of Police-Crime Sharad Singhal, were deployed at the site to maintain law and order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 29: The civic authorities and police in Ahmedabad Tuesday launched a mega demolition drive in the Chandola lake area, days after illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were detained from the settlements built on the periphery of the water body, officials said.

While the demolition drive is being spearheaded by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, around 2,000 policemen, headed by Joint Commissioner of Police-Crime Sharad Singhal, were deployed at the site to maintain law and order, Police Commissioner GS Malik said.

Malik, who reached the lake to take stock of the demolition drive, told reporters that all police stations in the city were put on 'alert' to deal with any

situation in view of the demolition drive at Chandola Lake, a Muslim-majority area.

Singhal said the AMC started the drive early in the morning with 50 teams, each equipped with an earthmover machine.

"The last demolition drive at Chandola Lake was carried out in 2009. Recently, a survey conducted by the AMC revealed that government land had been encroached upon again, and shanties were constructed around the lake. Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants lived in areas like Siyasatnagar and Bengali Vaas surrounding this lake,"

According to Malik, an FIR is being registered against Mehmood Pathan alias Lallu Bihari, the mastermind behind the encroachment on government land at Chandola Lake. He MASSIVE ENCROACHMENT DRIVE IN AHMEDABAD



also helped illegal Bangladeshi immigrants get rental accommodation and Aadhaar cards.

"We have deployed 2,000 policemen along with 20 companies of the State Reserve Police (SRP) to assist the AMC in clearing illegal constructions at Chandola Lake, which includes areas like Siyasatnagar and Bengali Vaas. Police in the entire city have also been put on alert. Strict action will be taken

if anyone tries to take the law into their hands," Malik said.

He said even the minority community residing near the lake wants the authorities to take action against Bangladeshi immigrants living in illegal settlements.

The top cop said the authorities have also razed Pathan's farmhouse built illegally on the banks of the lake.

"We have started the process

of registering a first information report against Pathan. He helped illegal immigrants get accommodations using bogus rent agreements and procured Aadhaar cards. It is also suspected that some people in the area had also acquired passports," Malik said.

Deputy Municipal Commissioner DC Parmar said nearly 2,000 illegally built houses and other properties were identified for demolition, and 50 per cent of the work was completed by noon.

He said Chandola Lake is a water body, and no construction is allowed around the lake.

Earlier Monday, DGP Vikas Sahay said around 450 Bangla deshi nationals were found to be residing illegally in Gujarat after police launched a crackdown and detained nearly 6,500 undocumented people who are suspected to be citizens of the neighbouring country.

Sahay said following mega search operations in Ahmedabad and Surat, similar exercises were undertaken across the state, with 6,500 suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants detained and their identities be-

were on the ground asking

people about their religion

and shooting them. The rest

were hiding in the bushes and

firing. There may have been

four to five terrorists, from

the way the bullets were being

fired. Two people were on the

ground, but we have no idea

how many were firing from the

He said the zipline opera-

tor sent nine people for the

that the firing started after he

said 'Allah hu Akbar,'" Bhat

claimed. He recalled that there

was no presence of the Indian

Five cheetah cubs born in Kuno National Park



Bhopal, April 29: In a ground-breaking global effort to protect the endangered cheetah, a remarkable development has taken place in Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district

Nirva, a five-year-old female cheetah, has given birth to five cubs, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing translocation project.

Dr Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, shared this news on his X platform, stating, "Once again, Kuno National Park has brought us great news. Nirva, a fiveyear-old female cheetah, has delivered five healthy cubs, bringing the total number of cheetahs in the state to 31."

He applauded the dedication of the Kuno National Park team and credited the achievement to India's biodiversity conservation efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav also joined in celebrating the event, sharing the update on X as well.

Earlier in the month, two cheetahs, Prabhas and Pavak, were relocated to Gandhisagar in Mandsaur as part of an intra-regional translocation initiative, reducing the cheetah population in KNP to 24. However, with the birth of these five cubs, the KNP cheetah

population has now risen to 29. India's own Asiatic cheetah

Once again, Kuno **National Park has** brought us great news. Nirva, a five-year-old female cheetah, has delivered five healthy cubs. bringing the total number of cheetahs in the state to 31

DR MOHAN YADAV | CHIEF MINISTER. MADHYA PRADESH

went extinct in the mid-20th century, with its survival limited to a small, critically endangered population in Iran. To reintroduce chee tahs to Indian wildlife, eight Southeast African cheetahs -- a non-native subspecies -- were brought from Namibia in Sep tember 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released them into enclosures at Kuno National Park September 17, 2022, This historic moment signalled the return of the cheetah to India Subsequently, in February 2023, twelve more cheetahs were brought from South Af

Efforts to reintroduce chee tahs in India date back to the mid-20th century. While proposals were made to Iran in the 1970s and Kenya in the 1980s, they met with limited success.

By 2012, India's Supreme Court had initially deemed such translocation projects illegal, citing concerns about introducing a new species rather than restoring a native one. However, recent developments have revived this ambitious project, which is now showing promising results.

MP first state to launch Al-based real-time forest alert system: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 29: Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement an AIbased real-time alert system on a pilot basis for active forest management using satellite images, mobile feedback, and machine learning, an official said Tuesday.

The Artificial Intelligence system will enable the forest department to detect land encroachment, land use change, and forest degradation.

"Madhva Pradesh has become the first state in the country to implement an AIbased real-time forest alert system. This historic step has been taken towards active forest management in the state. This system works with the help of satellite images, mobile feedback and machine learning," the official said.

This system is being implemented as a pilot project in five sensitive forest divisions including Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur and Khandwa, which have reported several encroachment and tree felling incidents.

It will be implemented at the state level, the official added. He said that based on Google Earth Engine, the AI alert system analyses multi-temporal satellite data and identifies land use changes using a custom AI model.

Every possible change is

sent to the field staff through a mobile app so that they can confirm it by visiting the site. Guna Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Akshay Rathore,

who conceptualised the AI system for forest management, said this is the first time the forest department has combined satellite, AI, and field feedback in a continuous cycle, which improves itself over time.

The system is implemented under the leadership and institutional support of the Head of Forest Force (HoFF), Aseem Shrivastava, and Additional Principal Chief Forest Conservator of IT BS Annigeri.

"This system empowers forest staff to monitor and take immediate action. Alert generation and feedback process includes initial alert generation using Google Earth Engine to compare satellite images of three dates, identify changes in crops, wasteland, construc-

tion etc." Rathore said. An official stated that each alert includes over 20 features, such as polygon alerts triggered by notable pixel changes, field verification for mobile app alerts, and uploads by field staff, including GPStagged photos, voice notes, and comments.

It also involves data enrichment with indexes like NDVI. SAVI. EVI. and SAR attributes.

Tourist captures Pahalgam attack while ziplining The 53-second Bhat said, "Two terrorists

video, shot using a selfie stick, showed people running for their lives, with one of them falling, apparently after being gunned down by a terrorist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 29: A tourist from Ahmedabad who was on a zipline ride at Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam inadvertently captured on video the terror attack in which 26 people lost their lives last week.

In the video, which has gone viral on social media. Rishi Bhatt is seen enjoying the ride even as the attack unfolded on the ground below at Baisaran Valley April 22.

The 53-second video, shot using a selfie stick, showed people running for their lives, with one of them falling, apparently after being gunned down by a terrorist. Talking

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 29: The Madhya

Pradesh cabinet, in a move that bal-

ances leniency with determination,

has announced the cessation of ben-

efits under the 'Kisan Samman Nidhi'

scheme and the procurement of farm

produce at minimum support prices

for farmers who burn wheat or other

Kailash Vijayvargiya clarified the gov-

ernment's stance, emphasising that

while legal penalties will be avoided

as far as possible against farmers, the

importance of environmental conser-

He stated, "The government will

neither procure the produce from such

farmers nor transfer the yearly 'Kisan

Samman Nidhi' for those farmers who

They may lose other benefits too, the

Under the 'PM Kisan Samman

Nidhi' Central scheme, farmers cur-

rently receive Rs 6,000 annually in

equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each, and

wheat is procured at a rate of Rs 2,600

per quintal, including Rs 175 per quin-

will keep on burning stubble.'

minister said.

State Urban Development Minister

crop stubble in their fields.

vation cannot be overlooked.



to reporters, Bhatt said he had gone to Baisaran Valley with his wife and a child, and they decided to enjoy a zipline ride. While his wife and child took the ride safely and reached the other side, the firing started just as his ride began, said the Ahmedabad resident, who is in the event management business.

"When my son and wife reached down safely, and I started my zipline ride, the

with the highest instances of stubble

(locally known as Parali) burning,

surpassing even Punjab and Uttar

Indian Council of Agricultural Re-

search-Consortium for Research on

Agroecosystem Monitoring and Mod-

elling from Space (ICAR-CREAMS),

the state reported 28,705 fire incidents

of stubble burning, generating 281,171

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

CREAMS, a governmental body,

employs satellite technology to over-

see incidents of stubble burning na-

tionwide. This data underscores the

For example, from April 1 to April

17. Madhva Pradesh recorded a stag-

gering 13,411 incidents compared to

only 13 in Punjab. While Punjab has reached only 444 cases of fire incidents

in 23 districts by April 28, Madhya

Pradesh's numbers remain alarm-

Efforts to curb this practice have

ramped up across the state. Written

appeals and video campaigns urging

farmers to halt post-harvest stubble

burning are being disseminated wide-

ly. Yet, in 2024 alone, Madhya Pradesh

documented 11,382 fire incidents of

tally with 2,508 cases, while Punjab's

ther revealed 176,237 fire occurrences

linked to stubble burning across 177

districts within five major wheat-pro-

In Madhya Pradesh, Sheopur led the

The satellite data as of Monday fur-

this harmful activity.

Sangrur trailed with 1.725.

persistent nature of the issue.

across its 50 districts as of April 28.

According to satellite data from the

MP stubble burning

Pradesh.

ingly high.

alarmingly high

first shots were fired. As soon as I landed, I saw that someone was asked about his religion and then shot," he recalled.

Bhatt said he detached himself, jumped off the zipline and ran with his family. They hid in a blind spot where three to four others had taken refuge.

After around eight to 10 minutes, when the shots subsided, they started running again and managed to escape, he said.

ride before him. "When I got ready and got the selfie stick ready, he (the operator) said, 'Allah hu Akbar' three times. And the firing started. He kept looking down while uttering the words. When we saw the video the next day, I realised

Army, and the place was under the local police's security.

"Within 20 minutes of the incident, the Army had covered all tourists and brought them to the parking lot," he said, expressing hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would act against terrorists within 15-20 days.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.II. BERHAMPUR

Phone/Fax:0680-2233996, e-mail:sernb2.ganjam@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Bid Identification No.SC (R&B)-GM-II-01/2025-26 No.5001 Dated 23.04.2025 No.B-62: 1) The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No. II Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover System to be received in ONLINE MODE only for the work

Nature of Work **Building Work** 03 Nos.

3) No. of Work

Tender Cost
 Class of Contractor

Rs.6,000/-

'D' Class & 'C' Class 6) Availability of bid documents From 03.05.2025 10.00 AM

in the website to 15.05.2025 4.00 P.M. 7) Date of Opening of Bid

16.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M B) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in

9) The bidders must submit all the original uploaded docume days from opening of the tender

(Sd./-S.Panigrahi)

OIPR-34080/11/0014/2526

Superintending Engineer Ganjam (R&B) Division No.II

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer,

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.-ACEM/MDL-03/2025-26 Name of the Work Mechanical Gate Works

Mechanical gates

Rs.11.80,243/-

ACEM/MDL-03/2025-26

02 (Two) Calendar Months

dt.08.05.2025 (5.30 PM)

dt.08.05.2025 (upto 5.30 PM)

in the O/o the undersigned)

From Dt.28.04.2025 (10.00 AM) to

dt.09.05.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards

No. of Works 01 (One) SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/

3. Category of executors

MSME for Irrigation Shutters/Hydro

Bid Identification No.

Estimated Cost

Period of Completion Date & Time of availability

of bid documents in the portal

8. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal

9. Date and Place of Opening: of Bid

10. Name of the Officer Inviting:

Addl. Chief Engineer bid Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:// tendersodisha.gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/

Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer OIPR-32405/11/0050/2526 Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.-ACEM/MDC-07/2025-26

Mechanical Gate Works Name of the Work

No. of Works 01 (One) Category of executors

Bid Identification No.

Period of Completion

of bid documents

of bid in the Portal

in the portal

of Bid

Date & Time of availability

Last date/time for receipt

Estimated Cost

SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/

MSME for Irrigation Shutters/Hydro Mechanical gates

ACEM/MDC-07/2025-26

Rs.10.01.421/-02 (Two) Calendar Months

From Dt.28.04.2025 (10.00 AM) to

dt.08.05.2025 (5.30 PM)

dt.08.05.2025 (upto 5.30 PM)

Date and Place of Opening: dt.09.05.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)

10. Name of the Officer Inviting: Addl. Chief Engineer Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:// tendersodisha.gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only. Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer

OIPR-32405/11/0056/2526 Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.-ACEM/MDL-04/2025-26

Name of the Work Mechanical Gate Works 01 (One) SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/

No. of Works Category of executors

4. Bid Identification No.

Estimated Cost

6. Period of Completion

Date & Time of availability of bid documents

in the portal 8. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal

Date and Place of Opening: of Bid

10. Name of the Officer Inviting:

dt.09.05.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)

Addl. Chief Engineer Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

dt.08.05.2025 (upto 5.30 PM)

MSME for Irrigation Shutters/Hydro

From Dt.28.04.2025 (10.00 AM) to

Mechanical gates

Rs.12.20.490/-

ACEM/MDL-04/2025-26

02 (Two) Calendar Months

dt.08.05.2025 (5.30 PM)

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:// tendersodisha.gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda.

Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer



tal bonus for the ongoing Rabi season. Despite stringent measures, Madmagnitude of this environmental chalhya Pradesh has emerged as the state lenge and the urgency to address it.

ducing states of India, signifying the Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.





bid

Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

OIPR-32405/11/0049/2526 Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

national



Kashmir is ours. Talking about terrorism for political gain is shameful. National unity and strong action is must to curb communal violence PAWAN KALYAN AP DY CM

841 PAK MINORITY CITIZENS APPLY FOR LONG TERM INDIAN VISA

In the wake of the Centre's directions after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, 109 Pakistani nationals have been sent back from Rajasthan, while 841 people from minority communities in the neighbouring country have applied for a long-term visa (LTV) to stay in India





the Kashmi incident, the central government will take a decision. For the first time

terrorists have indulged in such a violent act on tourists. The government has information in its hands that the terrorist attack was carried out with the support of Pakistan H D DEVE GOWDA | FORMER PM

Eventually. the Manmohan Singh government collapsed, and since then, under the clownish leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress lost over 50 elections



government has decided to give an assistance of Rs 50 lakh each to the families of those



(from Maharashtra) killed in the Pahalgam terror attack **DEVENDRA FADNAVIS I** MAHA CM



Major fire at mall in Bandra

Mumbai: A major fire broke out in an electronics goods showroom in a mall in Mumbai's Bandra area in the early hours of Tuesday, and the firefighting operation is still underway after more than 14 hours, officials said. There was no report of anybody getting injured in the incident, they said. The fire erupted around 4.10 am in the Link Square Mall located on Linking Road in Bandra West area, the officials said.

Dietitian booked for 'anti-India' remark

Mangalore: A case was registered against a woman dietitian Tuesday for allegedly posting an "anti-India message" on social media, police said. The private hospital where she was emploved terminated her services following the incident, they added. The woman has been charged under Sections 196(1)(a) and 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for promoting enmity and disturbing public tranquillity. Police noted that she has not been arrested vet. In the controversial video post, the healthcare professional can purportedly be heard saying, "I hate India."

Man beaten to death; 15 held

Mangalore (Karnataka): A man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people over a dispute during a cricket match in the outskirts of the city following which 15 people have been arrested, police said Tuesday. Terming the incident as "mob lynching" Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said, he has not yet received the report but assured that the case will be taken very seriously. The incident occurred at around 3 PM April 27 near the Bhatra Kallurti temple in Kudupu village on the outskirts of Mangalore, police said.

Bus gutted

Varanasi (UP): A bus going from Azamgarh to Varanasi caught fire on an overbridge near Mohaw in the Cholapur area Tuesday, prompting passengers to jump out of the bus for safety, police said. The fire broke out when the bus was crossing the overbridge. Alerted by the driver about engine overheating, the conductor asked the passengers to disembark, officials said.

US puts India on IP violators watch list Top court defers plea

New Delhi, April 29: The US Tuesday once again placed India on its 'priority watch list', stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

The US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Special 301 report, an annual review of the global state of IPR protection and enforcement, said that over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement.

It said that although India has worked to strengthen its IP regime, including raising public awareness about the importance of the subject, and engagement with the US on IP issues has increased, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns. "India remains one

3 NSCN cadres killed

in Assam encounter

Guwahati, April 29: At least

three suspected NSCN cadres,

who entered Assam allegedly

to demand extortion money

from the National Highway

Authority of India (NHAI).

were killed in an encounter

with security forces in Di-

ma Hasao district Tuesday,

A cache of arms and ammu-

nition were also recovered from

their possession by the special

units of the state police and

Assam Rifles who conducted

a search for the militants for

Senior officers of Assam Po-

lice headquarters told PTI that

the encounter took place at a

place between N Kubin and

Herakilo under Haflong police

station limits after the NSCN

the presence of the militants,

a joint team of Assam Police

and central forces launched

an operation in the area.

Once face-to-face, a heavy

exchange of fire between the

security team and militants

ensued," a top officer said.

In the gunfight, which lasted

for 3-4 hours, three militants

were killed on the spot, he

47 rifles, one pistol and a cache

of ammunition from the spot,"

another senior officer said. He

said the area is slightly interior

and further details are awaited.

Assam Police Chief Public Re-

lations Officer said a faction of

NSCN had given an extortion

letter to the NHAI, which was

implementing the Golden Quad-

rilateral project in Dima Hasao.

operation was launched by As-

sam Police Special Units and

Assam Rifles in the evening of

After almost 60 hours of

searching, the security team

came across the armed group,

which fired on the government

Saturday, he added.

forces, the CPRO said.

Based on a tip-off, a search

Issuing a press release later,

"We have recovered two AK-

"Acting on a tip-off about

cadres came from Nagaland.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

officers said.

around 60 hours.



he report comes in the backdrop of India-US negotiating a bilateral trade agreement to boost two-way commerce to \$500 billion by 2030

he US is looking at bridging its trade deficit with India, which was \$41.18 billion in 2024-25. through this pact

of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP... India remains on the Priority Watch List in 2025," it said. The country had earlier stated that this report is a unilateral measure taken by the US

under their Trade Act, 1974 to create pressure on countries to increase IPR protection beyond the TRIPS agreement. Besides, India has maintained that its IPR regime is fully compliant with global trade norms.

The report comes in the back-

bilateral trade agreement to boost two-way commerce to \$500 billion by 2030. The US is looking at bridging its trade deficit with India, which was \$41.18 billion in 2024-25, through this pact. A trade expert said India has

a well established legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPR that meets its obligations under the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related IPRs (TRIPS). The report also said patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India. "Among other concerns, the potential threat of patent revocations and the procedural and discretionary invocation of patentability criteria under the Indian Patents Act impact companies across different sectors. Moreover, patent applicants generally continue to confront long waiting periods to receive patent grants and excessive reporting requirements," the report said.

to stop convicts from forming political parties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: The Supreme Court Tuesday deferred to August 11 a plea to restrain convicted persons from forming political parties and holding posts in them.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar refused the final hearing on the PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Updhyay. "I

do not want to reserve any more judgement," the CJI, posted the case's who demits final hearing August 11 office May 13,

said.

The bench The PIL, filed in 2017, sought parring convicts from forming then posted the case's fiolitical parties and becoming nal hearing office-bearers during August 11 and the period they were disqualified allowed the parties to file written submissions. The PIL, filed in 2017, sought unregister political parties.

barring convicts from forming political parties and becoming office-bearers during the period they were disqualified. The bench previously won-

dered how convicted persons, who are barred from electoral politics, could decide candidates in polls and ensure maintenance of probity in public life. "Here is a person who is convicted and disqualified from contesting an election. How can he decide the candidates for election? How can the purity of democracy be maintained?" the

bench asked. The plea claimed 40 per cent of the legislators were either convicted or faced "That is why there is resistance. They do not want probity," it added.

The top court December 1 2017 sought the response of the Centre and the Election Commission on the PIL and agreed to examine the constitutional validity of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 (RPA), which deals with the power of the pol

political party. The and allowed the parties to plea, as a result, file written submissions sought a direction to declare Section 29A of the RPA as "arbitrary, irratioto the Constitution and to authorise the poll panel to register and

panel to register a

The petitioner also sought a direction to the Election Commission to frame guidelines to decriminalise the electoral system and ensure inner par ty democracy, as proposed by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution.

convicted of heinous crimes like murder, rape, smuggling, money laundering, loot, sedition, or dacoity, can form a political party and become its president or office bearer, it added.

Even a person who has been

by authorities to go with her, at the Attari-Wagah border checkpost near Amritsar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, April 29: A 16-yearold medical aspirant hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in Kota, just 20 days after joining a coaching centre here to prepare for

NEET, police said Tuesday. This is the 13th case of suspected suicide by a coaching student in the country's coaching hub since January and the third in April alone. A native of Bihar's Katihar. Tameem Igbal was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in Talwandi area Monday evening, the police said.

No suicide note was recovered from the room and the reason behind the extreme step by the boy is yet to be ascertained, Jawahar Nagar Circle Inspector Ramlaxman

_ said. He added that the hostel caretaker informed police after the boy did not open the door Monday night, despite repeated knocking. The police team broke open the door and found the minor boy hanging from the ceiling fan, he said.

A Pakistani woman gets emotional while leaving for Pakistan after her son, with Indian citizenship, was stopped

Initial inquiry revealed Iqbal was a class 11 student and came to Kota just 20 days ago. He also enrolled in a coaching institute to prepare for NEET, the officer added.

The boy's uncle, who lives in Delhi, reached Kota Tuesday morning after learning about the tragic incident and the body was handed over to him after the post-mortem, he said, adding that further probe is underway. Seventeen coaching students died by suicide in Kota in 2024. In 2023, the number stood at 26.

NEET aspirant hangs self; 13th suicide this yr EAM speaks to counterparts from 7 non-permanent members of UNSC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday spoke to his counterparts from seven non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council and is understood to have apprised them of cross-border links to the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack

that killed 26 civilians. The phone conversations came days after the UN Security Council (UNSC) issued a statement condemning the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, but not before Pakistan, backed by China, worked to water it down. Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Algeria, Greece, Guyana, Pana-

ma, Slovenia, Sierra Leone and Somalia and discussed the Pahalgam attack. Besides these seven countries, other non-permanent members of the UNSC are Denmark, Pakistan and Republic of Korea.

There is a possibility that the UNSC may again discuss the Pahalgam attack. In its April 25 statement on the attack, the UNSC condemned the terror attack in the "strongest terms" and reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the "most serious" threats to international peace and se-

However, the statement was seen as "inadequate". The non-permanent members

are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, and their membership rotates In his phone talks, Jais

hankar is understood to have conveyed to the foreign ministers India's policy on "zero

tolerance" towards terrorism. "A warm conversation with FM Hugh Hilton Todd of Guyana today. Discussed the Pa halgam terrorist attack and the need to combat terrorism in all forms and manifestations," the external affairs minister said on 'X'.

On his discussion with Slovenian foreign minister Tanja Fajon, Jaishankar said he thanked her for Slovenia's condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Pahalgam tragedy opens floodgates of misinformation on social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Moving to contain a surge of misinformation following the Pahalgam terror attack, the government has blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels. But the floodgates of fake news are open on social media platforms with scores of unverified posts peddling false, inflammatory

The fact check unit examined 10 of the most widely circulated claims, nine on X (previously Twitter) and one on Instagram, falsely portraying heightened tensions, retaliatory strikes and internal unrest in the aftermath of the April 22 tragedy in Kashmir in which 26 people were killed.

All 10 were debunked as misleading or completely false. **ONE:** A viral claim suggest-

ed the Pakistani Army had destroyed two Indian checkpoints in the Leepa Valley of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The post was accompanied by an image of a fire in the hills. PTI's verification traced the image to a 2025 wildfire in Northern Ireland's Mourne Mountains, an incident unrelated to any military action. The photo, shared by a user named 'Pakistan' on X April 27, has garnered 54,000 views so far, and 61 other users reposted it.

TWO: Another video circulating online claimed to show an Indian journalist confronting Army officers over their alleged refusal to engage with Pakistan. However, the footage was from a March 2025 joint press conference by Gauray Yaday, DGP of Punjab Police, and Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa, chief of staff, HQ West-



case of a colonel in Patiala. THREE: A post alleged that

Pakistani military posts suffered heavy losses along the Line of Control (LoC), backed by visuals of shelling. The video was found to be from May 2023, showing security forces clashing with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters during protests demanding Imran Khan's release in Pakistan.

FOUR: Claims that the Indian Army targeted innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir and demolished their homes were also found to be false. News footage and reports confirmed the structures were linked to Pakistan-sponsored terrorists operating in the region.

FIVE: A video showing an explosion in the mountains was shared with the claim that the Pakistan Army had targeted and destroyed an Indian Army post on the Indian side of the border. However, the investigation revealed that the same video has been available on the internet since 2020 and is unrelated to any attack by the Pakistan Army along the LoC.

SIX: An image falsely claiming four Indian soldiers were recently killed at the LoC was actually from a 2020 operation in Kashmir's Handwara area, when five security personnel, including a colonel, a major and a sub-inspector, and two unidentified militants were killed during an 18-hour anti-militancy operation.

SEVEN: A baseless allegation that China would block rivers to India in retaliation for a supposed violation of the Indus Water Treaty was unsupported by any credible source.

EIGHT: A fabricated video showed a senior Indian Army officer allegedly blaming security lapses for the Pahalgam attack found wide traction. A senior Army official, contacted by PTI, confirmed that the vid eo was fake.

NINE: A clip showing a building being struck by a missile was misattributed to Indian action in PoK. It was actually footage from 2024 Israeli air strikes on Lebanon.

TEN: A video claimed that the Indian Air Force had conducted surgical strikes on Indian civilians, resulting in casualties. In reality, April 25, 2025, a non-ex plosive drop tank accidentally fell from an IAF aircraft in Madhya Pradesh, damaging a house but causing no injuries, a fact confirmed by the local district administration.

national



goods exports accounted for 14.65 million USD and this was nearly 41.23 percent share in the country. Last year, the state mopped up Rs 5.80 lakh crore through commercial tax

CISCE TO ANNOUNCE CLASS X, XII RESULTS TODAY

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) will announce the results for Class X and Class XI board examinations at 11 am on Wednesday, CISCE chief executive Joseph Emmanuel said Tuesday





foundation and torchbearers

that through your service in every corner of the country, you will not only strengthen the spirit of unity in diversity but also bring glory to

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

Festivals couldn't be celebrated peacefully, youth were forced to migrate, and farm ers were driven to suicide. Communities like the Musahars and Vantangivas were

facing starvation YOGI ADITYANATH I UP CM

government

India has raised se rious humanitarian concerns, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. Many affected are women who came to India 30-40 years ago, married Indian citizens, raised families and have long been part of our society

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT



Narendra Modi didn't brief LoP Rahul Gandhi on the Pahalgam But he is meeting RSS chief Bhagwat

Does PM need Nagpur's green signal before acting on Pakistan? BJP must set aside ego for national #TerrorStatePakistan

@Politicx2029

SHORT TAKES

ED seizes Rs 7.44 cr in liquor cases raids

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday said it has seized Rs 7.44 crore in cash after conducting searches at multiple locations in Madhya Pradesh as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged about Rs 50 crore worth irregularities in the liquor trade between 2015-16 and 2017-18. As many as 13 premises belonging to different liquor contractors in Bhopal, Indore and Mandsaur were raided under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Monday.

Tamil Nadu Assembly adjourned sine die

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Assembly Tuesday adopted as many as 18 Bills including the Tamil Nadu Money Lending **Entities (Prevention of** Coercive Actions), Bill 2025 and the House was later adjourned sine die by Speaker M Appavu. When a Bill to amend the Goondas Act, to bring economic offences and violations of Bio-Medical **Waste Management Rules** under its ambit was taken up for scrutiny, main opposition AIADMK's Thalavai Sundaram spoke on dumping of waste

3 men injured in police encounter

Gopalgani: Three persons. accused of sexually assaulting a girl at a railway station in Bihar's Gopalganj district, were injured in an alleged gunfight with the police, officials said Tuesday. One of the accused was arrested from Bind Tola in the Kuchaikote police station area, they said.



Electronic



People take part in a procession taken out for the departure of palanquin of mother Ganga for Shri Gangotri Dham

PAHALGAM ATTACK

Kharge, Rahul ask PM for special Parl session

Several Opposition MPs have made a similar demand to the

government in the wake of the dastardly attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed last week, evoking anger and public outrage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and demonstrate a col-

Several Opposition MPs have made a similar demand to the government in the wake of the dastardly attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed last week, evoking anger and public outrage.

In the letter to the prime minister. Kharge said, "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, the opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest. "This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and willpower to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens April 22. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened." the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha

added. Gandhi too wrote a letter to Modi with the same request and said the Pahalgam massacre has outraged every Indian.

While the government has not made any response to the call for a special session of Parliament, sources discounted such a possibility and noted that the all-party meeting was called for the purpose of presenting a picture of national unity. A BJP leader claimed that the Opposition's demand is driven more by politics and cited the recent sharp attack on Prime Minister Modi by some Congress leaders.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared in an X post the letters of the leaders of Opposition in both Houses and said it was a request for a special session regarding the Pahalgam terror attack

Ramesh said the Parliament is the supreme political body in the country and it is not new as special sessions have been held earlier. "An all-party meeting happened, but the PM didn't attend, he was campaigning in Bihar. We hope that the PM will agree, attend, and take Parlia-

ment into confidence. After all, this is 'Team India', the PM is the captain of the team," he also said. In another post, Ramesh said that February 22, 1994, both Houses of Parliament had passed a resolution unanimously on J&K. The time has come to reiterate. renew, and refresh it - and more The Union Government should heed the call of the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Raiva Sabha and convene a special session of the Parliament at the earliest," he said.

The Congress leader tagged the Parliament resolution which states the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is and shall be an integral part of India and any attempts to separate it from the rest of the country will be resisted by all necessary means and that India has the will and capacity to firmly counter all designs against its unity, sovereignty

and territorial integrity. The resolution also demanded that Pakistan must vacate the areas of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which they have occupied through aggression.

CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE

SC denies bail to ex-IPS Sanjiv Bhatt

New Delhi, April 29: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of convicted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. A bench comprising justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said there was no merit in his plea for bail or the suspension of sentence in this case.

"We are not inclined to grant Sanjiv Bhatt bail. The prayer of bail is dismissed. The hearing of appeal shall not be affected. The hearing of appeal is expedited," Justice Nath said while pronouncing the verdict. The bench also said the order on bail will not have any impact on the merit of the appeal pending before the top court.

The detailed judgement is awaited. Bhatt's appeal against his conviction and life imprisonment is

presently pending in the top court. Bhatt moved the top court in 2024 challenging the Gujarat High Court's January 9, 2024, order dismissing his appeal. The high court also upheld the conviction of Bhatt and co-accused Pravinsinh Zala under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. The high court also dismissed the state government's appeal seeking to enhance the sentences of five other accused, who were acquitted of murder charges but convicted under Sections 323 and 506 of the IPC On October 30, 1990, then additional superintendent of police Bhatt detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamiodhpur town after a 'bandh' call against the halting of BJP leader L K Advani's 'Rath Yatra' for the construc-



tion of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. Prabhudas Vaishnani, one of the detained persons, died at a hospital after his release. Vaishnani's brother accused Bhatt and six other police officers of torturing him in custody and causing his death.

Bhatt was arrested on September 5, 2018, in another case where he was accused of falsely implicating a man for drugs possession. The trial in the case is underway. Bhatt is also an accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat DGP R B Sreekumar.

Bhatt also hit the headlines when he filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court, alleging then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's role in the 2002 riots. The allegations were debunked

by a special investigation team. He was suspended from service in 2011 and sacked by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015 for "unauthorised absence". In the custodial death case, the Jamnagar court sentenced the other five policemen -- sub-inspectors Dipak Shah and Sailesh Pandva, and constables Pravinsih Jadeja, Anopsinh Jethva and Keshubha Jadeja -- to two years in prison.

BSF lodges protest with Pak Rangers on jawan's apprehension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Amritsar, April 29: The Border Security Force (BSF) has lodged a protest with Pakistan Rangers in the case of apprehension of a jawan a week back after he had mistakenly crossed the international bor der in Punjab, official sources said Tuesday.

Earlier such inadvertent crossings on either side were resolved quickly, but this time the Pakistani side has re mained "non-committal" on the whereabouts and the date of return of the jawan which could be due to rising India-Pakistan tensions after the Pahalgam attack, they said. The border force has also instituted an inquiry into the incident where Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw of the 24th battalion was caught by the Rangers April 23 after the jawan inadvertently crossed the IB along the Ferozepur district.

Officials told PTI that a protest note has been sent to Pa kistan Rangers and they have remained "non-committal" or the whereabouts and the date of return of the jawan. About 4-5 flag meetings have taken place between the two sides but there is no final word on his return A protest note has been given to the sector commander of the Rangers by the BSF, the officials said.

They said that the jawan is understood to have been moved to a Rangers' base along the La hore-Amritsar sector and may be handed over to the BSF soon The Rangers have maintained a stoic silence and have neither issued a protest note nor communicated about his condition

Social media handles from Pakistan had issued pictures of Shaw last week where he was seen blindfolded and sitting in a vehicle and standing under a tree with his rifle, magazine with bullets, belt and other belongings kept on the ground, according to officials

Maha govt seeks to boost electric mobility under new EV Policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 29: The Maharashtra cabinet Tuesday ap proved Electric Vehicle Policy 2025 as per which certain elec tric vehicles plying on highways will be given a toll waiver, and subsidies on purchase of such vehicles to boost their use to

help bring down air pollution. The policy was approved in the state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister De-

vendra Fadnavis. "The state government has approved a new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy, under which passenger EVs will be given subsidies. EV manufacturing and their use should increase in the state," Fadnavis said after the meeting. He said the charging infrastructure will be strengthened under the new policy and there will be charging facilities on the national highways at a distance

Inconsistent judicial decisions shake public trust: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: The Supreme Court Tuesday observed inconsistent decisions from different benches shook public trust and outlined their consistency to be hallmark of a responsible judiciary.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a matrimonial matter where two different single benches of Karnataka High Court had passed contradictory verdicts.

"The case at hand portrays a disturbing picture. While one judge refused to quash proceeding against the in-laws, inter alia, observing the wound certificate demonstrates the appellant was assaulted and

suffered simple injuries, another judge by the impugned order quashed the proceeding against respondent husband holding the medical certificate was not consistent with the allegations in the complaint, i.e., the wound certificate does not show the injuries were caused by a blunt weapon.'

Justice Bagchi, who authored the verdict, censured the order passed by the second judge, who quashed the proceedings against the husband. "Having perused the impugned judgment, we are of the view the judge erred in law by embarking upon an enquiry with regard to the credibility or otherwise of the allegations in the

FIR/chargesheet.' The top court opined the



judge compared the nature of assault described in the FIR in relation to the wound certificate and held the allegations to be untrue. In the process, the bench said, the judge per-

formed a mini-trial to quash the proceeding -- an exercise impermissible in law. The top court said though the order refusing to quash the proceeding against some of the in-laws was passed

earlier, it was inexplicable why it did not find a mention in the order quashing the proceedings against the husband.

"It was incumbent on the judge while quashing the proceeding against the respondent husband to refer to the earlier decision of the co-ordinate bench and distinguish the reasons therein to arrive at a different conclusion. Failure to do so infracts judicial propriety and discipline," the bench said. Consistency in judicial outcomes, it underscored, was the hallmark of a responsible

"Inconsistent decisions coming out from different benches shake public trust and reduce litigation to a punter's game. It gives rise to various insidious sharp practices like forum shopping spoiling the clear stream of justice."

The top court said the high court judge "misdirected himself" in holding that the proceeding was malicious and an abuse of the process of the court as the matter was pending in the matrimonial court "Offences involving cruelty on wife would invariably arise out of matrimonial disputes, it added

Notably, the top court said the pendency of the matrimonial case couldn't per se lead to an inference that institution of criminal proceeding alleging assault supported by medical evidence and independent witness was a "product of malice and abuse of the court".

international



We've protected our kids before from cigarettes, alcohol, and drunk driving, and now we're protecting them from addictive technology designed to hijack their attention

A 6.2-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS OFF NEW ZEALAND

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake has hit off the west coast of New Zealand. There is no tsunami warning. The US Geological Survey says the quake occurred shortly after 1 am local time. It was 300 kilometers southwest of Invercargill, New Zealand, and 10 kilometers under the sea



anyone else to have to go through this,' Aspinwall told reporters. "You see it happening all over

the country. It's got to stop. Some way or another, it's got to stop BRIAN KEMP | GOVERNOR, GEORGIA





sistance complied 100 per cent with the (ceasefire) deal and I tell state officials that it's your duty to guarantee protection



NAIM KASSEM | LEADER OF LEBANON'S HEZBOLLAH

SHORT **TAKES**

Spain, Portugal switch back on

Madrid: Spain and Portugal switched their power back on after the worst blackout in their history, though authorities offered little explanation for what had caused it or how they would prevent it happening again. Traffic lights were back on, train and metro services slowly returned and schools reopened. Commuters battled with delays to get back to work after an outage that had left people stranded in lifts and cut off from phone contact with their families. The sudden outage had seen the equivalent of 60% of demand in Spain drop in five seconds around midday Monday.

Japan, Philippines to start talks on 2 defence pacts

Manila: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said Tuesday that his country and the Philippines would start talks on two proposed defence pacts to further boost their security alliance and would continue to fight aggression in disputed Asian waters in an obvious rebuke of China. Ishiba and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Ir. also discussed in Manila the impact of the barrage of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump and China's countermeasures on the global economy and free trade system, the Japanese premier said in a news conference with Marcos after their talks.

\$108mn sanctioned for **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

Peshawar: The World Bank has sanctioned additional funding of \$108 million for improving the lives of women and girls by enhancing their access to essential services and economic opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan. The Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development (KITE) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KPRAP) projects have an estimated value of \$30 million and \$78 million respectively.

Turkiye, Italy deepen trade, defence ties

Rome: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni Tuesday observed the formal exchange of a dozen cooperation agreements, including on defence, as part of efforts to strengthen ties between the two Mediterranean nations. Erdogan was in Rome to attend a fourth so-called Intergovernmental Summit between Italy and Turkiye that aims to boost trade and cooperation. His visit comes at a time when Turkiye and Italy have expanded defence partnerships.

Carney takes aim at Trump globally

Ottawa, April 29: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney completed a comeback victory for the governing Liberals in Monday's election, positioning himself for a global role as a champion of multilateralism against US President Donald Trump's more protectionist policies.

The first person to lead two G7 central banks has the experience to earn immediate international credibility, experts say. Carney's tough words for Trump during the campaign have been closely watched in other parts of the world.

"Canada is ready to take a leadership role in building a coalition of like-minded countries who share our values," Carney said April 3 in Ottawa. 'We believe in international cooperation. We believe in the free and open exchange of goods, services and ideas. And if the United States no longer wants to lead, Canada will.' Carney's Liberals beat the

Conservatives, led by Pierre Poilievre, whose slogan "Canada First" and sometimes acerbic style evoked comparisons with Trump that may have cost him the election. The Conservatives for months had held a wide lead in the polls that evaporated after Trump slapped tariffs on Canada and threatened to annex the country. Canadians are shunning US goods and

Khalistan sympathiser Jagmeet Singh guits as NDP leader

nce a kingmaker in Canadian politics, Jagmeet Singh announced Tuesday that he is quitting as the leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP) after he lost his own election to parliament and his party suffered a rout. A Khalistan sympathiser at heart, Singh influenced former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who depended on him to keep his minority government in power, against India. Now, he has been personally defeated, and his party faces irrelevance. From the 24 seats the NDP had in the last House of Commons, it was down to an expected seven seats this time, having won four and leading in three. "I'm disappointed that we could not win more seats, but I'm not disappointed in our movement." Singh told his supporters. He said that he would give up the party's leadership as soon as a new leader is elected. He came in third in the Burnaby Central constituency in British Columbia. trailing the Liberal Party winner and the Conservative Party candidate.

trips in response.

While Carney remains prime minister, his Liberals appeared to win only a minority of seats in the House of Commons, making the government more fragile and dependent on smaller

parties to stay in power.

Australia holds an election May 3, and the major parties have closely watched the polling surge towards Carney. Australian political strategists said. As in Canada, voter Carney's global experience boosts international credibility, experts say

■ PM seen expanding trade with Europe, Australia, Asian democracies

Trump factor moving support in Australia election, pollster says

■ Win not seen as likely template for center-left politicians globally

concern over the global fallout from Trump's policies has tilted support toward the center-left Labor Party

Former Canadian diplomat Colin Robertson, who knew Carney when he worked at the Finance Ministry, said Carney is Canada's best-equipped prime minister since the 1960s, given his experience leading the Bank of England and Bank of Canada.

"He goes in extremely well-prepared, with a superb Rolodex, and people will take his call and look to him because their challenges are economic right now," he said.

Carney will likely start by expanding Canadian trade with Europe, Australia and Asian democracies such as Japan, Robertson said, blunting some of the economic damage from newly imposed US tariffs on cars, steel and aluminum.

found dead in Canada PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AAP leader's daughter

Ottawa/Chandigarh, April 29: A Punjab AAP leader's 21-year-old daughter who went missing three days ago in Canada's Ottawa has been found dead, according to authorities.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa Monday confirmed the death of Vanshika Saini, the daughter of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Davinder Saini from Puniab's Mohali district.

She had gone to Canada two years ago to pursue higher studies after completing her senior secondary in Dera Bassi.

"We are deeply saddened to be informed of the death of Ms Vanshika, student from India in Ottawa," the High Commission said, adding that authorities concerned have taken up the case, which is now under investigation. In Punjab, her family urged the Centre for assistance in bringing back her body.

Vanshika went missing last Friday after leaving her residence at 7 Majestic Drive in Ottawa at around 8-9 pm to view a rental room, according to a social media post by an Indo-Canadian association linked by the High Commission.

According to the post, her phone was switched off at approximately 11.40 pm that night and she missed an important exam the next day, which it said was "completely out of character" for the student.

Vanshika's father said she



school and wanted to do something big in her life.

 $Davinder\,said\,he\,did\,not\,know$ what happened to her, adding that the family was told that the cause of death could be known only after a postmortem examination. "It is a great loss for the family and a tough time for us, said Davinder, who is the AAP's block president and is associated with AAP MLA from Dera Bassi Kuljit Singh Randhawa.

"I want that my daughter's body be brought back here," he said. AAP MLA Randhawa also expressed grief over the death He said that efforts were being made to bring back the body to Puniab. Randhawa said AAF MP Raj Kumar Chabbewal and Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh Seechewal had been approached for their help in bringing back the body, and added that the MPs had contacted the Indian embassy.

The High Commission said it was in "close contact with the bereaved kin and local community associations to provide all possible assistance"

SNIPPETS

Sex offenders to be denied asylum under new UK law

London: Foreign nationals will be excluded from asylum protections in the UK as part of the new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, the British government announced Tuesday. The UK Home Office said any conviction



of a crime that qualifies a foreign national for the sex offenders' register will lead to them being denied refugee status. Under the United Nations' Refugee Convention, countries are entitled to refuse asylum to terrorists, war criminals and individuals convicted of a "particularly serious crime" who present a danger to the community - defined in the UK as an offence carrying a sentence of 12 months or more. "Sex offenders who pose a risk to the community should not be allowed to benefit from refugee protections in the UK. We are strengthening the law to ensure these appalling crimes are taken seriously," said Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Nepal to restrict Mt Everest to only those who have done 7k mtrs climbs



planning to restrict expeditions to Mt Everest only to those mountaineers who have climbed at least one peak above 7,000 metres aimed at reducing deaths in the high altitude zone, a media report said. Ever since New Zealander

Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Sherpa Tenzing Norgay summited the 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) high Mt Everest, popular as Sagarmatha in Nepali, May 29, 1953, thousands of climbers from all over the world, including India and Nepal, have been attracted to the highest peak in the world. Official data shows that since 1953's Hillary-Norgay summit, around 9,000 mountaineers have successfully scaled Mt Everest while over 300 have lost their lives. "The 8,848.86-metre Everest is about to get a stricter gatekeeper. No longer will just any climber with ambition and a permit be able to attempt the world's highest peak. A new draft law says: 'Prove yourself first'.

Trump signs executive order for truck drivers

Sikh advocacy group raises concern

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

York/Washington, April 29: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating that truck drivers in America are proficient in English, a requirement that has raised concerns among Sikh advocacy groups who say it can have a "discriminatory impact" on truckers from the community and create unnecessary barri ers to employment.

The Executive Order 'Enforcing Commonsense Rules of the Road for America's Truck Drivers' says that America's truck drivers are essential to the strength of the country's economy, its security and the livelihoods of the American people.

"Proficiency in English," which Trump has designated as America's official national language, "should be a non-negotiable safety requirement for professional drivers. They should be able to read and understand traffic signs, communicate with traffic safety, border patrol, agricultural checkpoints, and cargo weight-limit station officers," the order issued Monday says.



'Enforcing Commonsense Rules of the Road for America's Truck Drivers' says that America's truck drivers are essential to the strength of the country's economy, its security and the livelihoods of the American people

"Drivers need to provide feedback to their employers and customers and receive related directions in English. This is common sense," the

order said. The order noted that while federal law requires that, to operate a commercial vehicle, a driver must "read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records", this requirement has not been enforced in years, and America's roadways have become less safe. "My administration will

enforce the law to protect the safety of American truckers. drivers, passengers, and others, including by upholding the safety enforcement regulations that ensure that anyone behind the wheel of a commercial vehicle is properly qualified and proficient in our national language, English, Trump said in the order.

Advocacy group Sikh Coalition said it is "deeply concerned" about Trump's order that seeks to "ensure all commercial vehicle operators in the United States are proficient English speakers.

"We understand that, under this order, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy will be directed 'to rescind and replace guidance to strengthen inspection procedures for compliance with English proficiency requirements'," it said.

Sikh Coalition said the Executive Order raises significant concerns for the Sikh community, which has a substantial presence in the American trucking industry.

Beijing, April 29: Twenty-two

China restaurant fire

22 people killed in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

people were killed in a restaurant fire in Liaoyang city of Chi na's Liaoning province Tuesday

The fire broke out at 12:25 pm. killing 22 people and injuring three others, the State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

There are no details about the incident, including the cause of the fire. AP reports the restaurant's manager was in police custody as part of the investigation, Chinese President Xi Jin ping has urged all-out efforts to treat those injured.

He called for efforts to proper ly handle affairs related to the victims and console their families, promptly identify the cause of the fire, and hold those respon sible to account per the law.

Xi also stressed the importance of forestalling major accidents to ensure public safety and social stability as the May Day holiday approaches, Xinhua reported. China celebrates May Day with five holidays

Premier Li Qiang also urged full-scale rescue and treatment, adding that local authorities across the country should screen for safety hazards and strength en the implementation of work place safety measures to prevent such accidents. The Ministry of Emergency Management has dispatched a team to the site.

Fire incidents are common in China owing to staff ignoring safety features and a lack of training or pressure from their superiors.

Gaza's vital community kitchens may soon shut, halt free meals

Cairo/Geneva/Gaza, April 29: It took five hours of queuing at a community kitchen in Gaza's Nuseirat district for displaced grandmother Um Mohammad Al-Talalqa to get one meal to feed her hungry children and grandchildren.

But finding food may be about to get even tougher: Gaza's community kitchens -- lifelines for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians after 18 months of war -- may soon have no more

meals to provide. Multiple aid groups told Reuters that dozens of local community kitchens risk closing down, potentially within days, unless aid is allowed into Gaza, removing the last consistent source of meals for most of the 2.3 million population.

"We are suffering from famine, real famine," said Talalqa, whose house in the Gaza town of Mughraqa was destroyed by Israel. "I have not eaten anything since this morning."

At the Al-Salam Oriental Food community kitchen in Gaza City, Salah Abu Haseera offers what he fears could be one of the last meals for the 20,000 people he and his colleagues serve daily.

Reuters by phone from Gaza.

Since March 2, Israel has

"We face huge challenges in keeping going. We may go out of operation within a week, or maybe less," Abu Haseera told

completely cut off all supplies to the 2.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip, and food stockpiled during a ceasefire at the start of the year has all but run out. It is the longest



such closure the Gaza Strip has ever faced.

Community kitchens vary from one-room businesses to regular restaurants. Thousands of people carrying plastic and aluminum pots to fill with free meals have been a common

sight in the enclave in the past

"The community kitchens, which the population in Gaza are relying more on, because there are no other ways to get food, are at a very big risk to shut down," Juliette Touma, spokesperson for the UN Pales-

tinian refugee agency, UNRWA,

'We have 70-80 community kitchens still working in Gaza...In four to five days, these community kitchens will close their doors," Amjad Shawa, the director of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) in Gaza, told Reuters.

told Reuters.

Shawa put the number of operational community kitchens in Gaza before the crossings closed at around 170. He said an additional 15 kitchens closed

down Monday. **MALNUTRITION**

Gazans' state of nutrition is worsening.

About 10,000 cases of acute malnutrition among children have been identified across Gaza, including 1,600 cases of severe acute malnutrition, since the start of 2025, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a report late Monday.

"There has been an increase in reports of looting incidents, amid the desperate humanitarian situation...Over the week end, armed individuals report edly looted a truck in Deir al Balah and a warehouse in Gaza City," the OCHA report said.

The Gaza health ministry said at least 60,000 children were now showing symptoms of malnutrition.

Business



I would suggest that...despite the global headwinds, India is in a reasonably good spot TUHIN KANTA PANDEY

RUPEE RISES 27 PAISE

The rupee gained 27 paise to settle at 84.96 against the US dollar Tuesday amid a decline in crude oil prices and steady FII inflows. However, recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan capped sharp gains in the domestic unit.





building density of our presence in key markets allows us proximity and

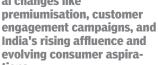
the ability to service our customers readily. The market opportunity associated with building brands and a pure play direct-to-customer business like ours remains immense

NOEL N TATA | TRENT'S CHAIRMAN

The National Career Service portal is a dy namic platform bringing job seekers and employers together, across



demand recovery, we are optimistic due to structural changes like



KAVINDRA MISHRA SHOPPERS STOP MD AND CEO

SHORT **TAKES**

Gold price up **₹1,050 per 10gm**

New Delhi: Gold prices climbed ₹1,050 to ₹99,450 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday on the back of fresh buying by jewellers and stockists ahead of Akshava Tritiva. according to the All India Sarafa Association. Akshava Tritiva, which is celebrated on the third day of bright half of Hindu calender month Vaisakha, falls on April 30 this year. On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity declined ₹1,000 to ₹98,400 per 10 grams. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹1,100 to ₹99,000 per 10 grams against the previous close of ₹97,900 per 10 grams. So far this year, the vellow metal prices have added ₹20.500 per 10 grams or 26 per cent from ₹78,950 on December 31, last year. In addition, silver prices also bounced ₹3,500 -- the steepest in nearly three weeks -- to trade near an alltime high at ₹1.02.000 per kg on Tuesday. The white metal had closed at ₹98,500 per kg in the previous market

Indusind CEO steps down

New Delhi: IndusInd Bank MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia Tuesday resigned with immediate effect, taking moral responsibility of accounting lapses in the derivatives portfolio, having financial implication of ₹1,960 crore to the bank. This comes a day after the bank's Deputy CEO Arun Khurana had tendered his resignation on Monday. Its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Govind Jain had quit in January before the lapses came to light. Kathpalia, Managing Director & CEO, has by his letter dated April 29, 2025, resigned from services of the bank with effect from close of working hours on April 29, 2025, IndusInd Bank said in a regulatory filing. "I undertake moral responsibility, given the various acts of commission/ omission that have been brought to my notice. I would request that my resignation be taken on record at close of working

Growth outlook at risk: FinMin report

New Delhi, April 29: Trade tensions and geopolitical risks pose a challenge to India's economic growth in the fiscal vear that started this month. potentially disrupting supply chains and pushing up prices, a finance ministry report said.

"Uncertainties stemming from global developments constitute a key risk for the growth outlook for fiscal year 2025/26. the Ministry of Finance said in its monthly economic report released Tuesday. The report, prepared by

the ministry's chief economic adviser, warned that beyond trade, the perception of prolonged uncertainty could lead private companies to delay investment plans. Last week, the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) cut its economic growth forecast for India for the current fiscal year, citing increased trade tensions and global uncertainty.

The IMF has lowered its forecast for the South Asian country to 6.2% from the 6.5% it had forecast in January for the fiscal year that started on April 1.

The government said in its report that private companies



and policymakers must remain alert to the growing risks and "act urgently" to prevent uncertainty from feeding on itself.

It added that the federal government's projected path for reducing public debt would help boost the pool of domestic savings available for private investment, thereby supporting the economic growth.

"In contrast to normal times, action and execution have greater impacts now. It is an opportunity not to be missed," the government said.

Observing that the prospects

of the agriculture sector remain bright, supported by healthy reservoir levels and robust crop production in the current financial year, it said, manufacturing activity is showing signs of revival with robust business expectations.

Services sector activity continues to be resilient.

On the demand side, it said. the favourable outlook for the agricultural sector augurs well for rural consumption, which remains robust.

Urban demand is showing steady improvement, supported Last week, the **International Monetary Fund** cut its economic growth forecast for India for the current fiscal year, citing increased trade tensions and global uncertainty

by rising discretionary spending. Several outlook surveys reflect optimism regarding employment conditions in the coming year, although they may have been conducted before the fresh round of tariffs announced in April it said.

Meanwhile, it said, investment activity has gained momentum and is expected to strengthen further, driven by sustained capacity utilisation, the government's continued emphasis on infrastructure development, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, and easing financial

RBI's debt buying binge to act as de facto rate cut

Mumbai, April 29: The Reserve Bank of India's plan to buy 1.25 trillion rupees (\$14.66 billion) of bonds in May will likely lower the cost of overnight interbank funds, effectively acting as a rate cut, according to analysts. The debt purchases are like-

ly to increase the liquidity in the banking system, helping transmit the two rate cuts announced this year and also keep the effective cost of funds below the policy reporate of 6.00%. When the RBI buys bonds, it

injects liquidity into the banking system, making it cheaper for lenders to borrow from each other overnight. This reduces overnight interbank lending rates, which are key short-term interest rates in the economy. The RBL under Governor San-

jay Malhotra, who took charge in December, has flooded the banking system with liquidity. The bond purchase plan in May will follow purchases of 1.20 trillion rupees in April and 2.83 trillion rupees in January-March.

The central bank is targeting bond purchases amounting to a surplus of around 1% of deposits, Malhotra said earlier this month, which works out

2.50 trillion rupees. The weight ed average overnight call mon ey rate was at 5.93% on Tuesday but is expected to ease to 5.75% the rate offered by the RBI to banks parking excess funds at the Standing Deposit Facility

Indian government bond yields declined on Tuesday after the May debt purchase plan was announced, with the 10-year bond yield hitting a low of 6.32%, after rising to 6.40% a day prior. With sufficient domestic liquidity, we can expect the weighted average call rate to fall further and align closely to the SDF rate, said Aditi Gupta, economist at Bank of Baroda.

It seems that for now, the RBI's intent is to target the quantum of durable liquidity and take it to at least 1% of deposits, with enough tolerance for higher values, Samiran Chakraborty, Citi's India chief economist, said.

Wonderla Bhubaneswar unveils two new thrills



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 29: Wonderla Bhubaneswar, Odisha's largest amusement park, expanded its attraction lineup with the launch of two new rides — Funky Monkey and Wonderla Bamba, Tuesday. Popular Odia actor and singer Babushaan Mohanty inaugurated the new attractions ioined by Arun K. Chittilappilly, Executive Chairman & MD; Dheeran Choudhary, COO, and Kalpataru Nayak, Park Head Bhubaneswar, Wonderla Holidays Ltd..

Targeted at both young thrill-seekers and families, the additions bring the park's total count to 23 land and water-based rides. Funky Monkey is a 7-metre-high ride designed specifically for children, offering smooth vertical motion with secure lap locks. Meanwhile, Wonderla Bamba is a high-adrenaline, 360-degree rotating ride for 18 passengers, operating at speeds of up to 10 RPM and secured with shoulder

Chittilappilly said, "The addition of two family rides reflects our commitment to providing safe, clean, and joyful experiences for all age groups. Bhubaneswar is a key growth market, and we are thrilled to strengthen our presence here.

Speaking at the event, Babushaan Mohanty said, "Wonderla is a fantastic place to spend quality time with family. I encourage everyone to visit and create memorable experi-

To celebrate the summer, Wonderla has introduced its first-ever Night Park, allowing visitors to enjoy select rides from 7 PM to 10 PM. The Summer Campaign 2025, running till June 30, includes up to 25% off on advance bookings, 50% off for senior citizens, and various student discounts. Visitors on their birthday month can also avail a Buy-One-Get-One-Free offer.

Tariffs will exacerbate stress for MSMEs: Ind-Ra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) Tuesday said reciprocal tariffs will exacerbate stress for medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) but midsized corporates have a greater cushion against unanticipated financial shocks.

With the worsening of operating conditions owing to the escalation of tariff war in April 2025, Ind-Ra expects MSMEs to turn more vulnerable, especially in the sectors where the impact of tariff war is negative. As of March 31, 2024, the agency's analysis suggested that 23 per cent of MSMEs remained stressed compared to 11 per cent for MCs (mid-corporates). MCs are better positioned than pre-COVID levels to manage business cycles.

A study of 1,898 listed and unlisted MSMEs and 1,055 MCs highlights that MCs have a greater cushion against unanticipated financial shocks than MSMEs, given their healthy financial metrics. "Capex intensity is usually low as MSMEs grapple more with working capital issues than MCs, and need adequate finance at competitive rates to manage those. Additionally, MSMEs - unlike MCs - are largely promoter-driven entities and lack a capable second line of management who have the knowledge and skill sets to bargain with lenders/suppliers/ customers," Neermoy Shah, Associate Director - Emerging Corporates at Ind-Ra. said.

Ind-Ra onined that the reciprocal tariffs will exacerbate stress for MSMEs, with revenue below ₹250 crore and investment in plant and machinery below ₹5 crore as of March 31, 2024.

Sensex extends gain on foreign fund inflows

Mumbai, April 29: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ticked higher for the second straight session in a volatile trade Tuesday as investors turned cautious amid concern over geopolitical tensions.

However, intense buying in blue-chips Reliance Industries. Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services and unabated foreign capital inflows supported the domestic market.

The 30-share BSE benchmark gauge climbed 70.01 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,288.38. During the day, it jumped 442.94 points or 0.55 per cent to 80,661.31.

The NSE Nifty ended marginally up by 7.45 points or 0.03 per cent to 24,335.95.

"After showing a sustainable upside bounce Monday, Nifty shifted into a consolidation with a small high-low range on Tuesday and closed the day higher by 7 points. After opening on a positive note, the market was not able to continue with the morning gains and slipped into minor weakness from the highs in the early part of the session. It later shifted into a range-bound action for the better part of the session,' Nagaraj Shetti, Senior Technical Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

From the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Eternal, HCL Tech, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest gainers.

BSE SENSEX

APRIL 29, 2025



80,288.38

CHANGE: +70.01(+0.09%)

RELIANCE	+2.32 %		
TECH MAHINDRA	+2.14 %	TOP	
ETERNAL	+1.72 %	GAINERS	T
HCL TECH	+1.42 %	O I II VERO	_
INFOSYS	+1.03 %	T	



Intense buving in blue-chips Reliance Industries, **Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services and** unabated foreign capital inflows supported the domestic market

In contrast, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards.

and Mahindra & Mahindra The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.23 per cent and small-

cap index went up marginally

by 0.09 per cent. Among sectoral indices

BSE Focused IT rallied 1.23 per cent, IT (1.13 per cent), capital goods (0.94 per cent), teck (0.76 per cent), industrials (0.70 per cent) and consumer durables (0.60 per cent).

Metal, utilities, commodities, telecommunication, services, bankex and financial services were the laggards.

"The market exhibited large ly range-bound oscillation, as caution prevailed amid geo political concerns over border tensions. The sustained inflows from FIIs provided support to market sentiment and restricted further pessimism. Meanwhile mixed Q4 results have raised the risk of downward revisions to FY26 projections," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Apple investors seek clarity on AI strategy as iPhone sales decline

Unlike rivals such as Samsung and **Alphabet's Google, Apple has also been** slow to roll out some important AI features it promised last year at its developer conference

REUTERS

San Francisco, April 29: Apple is expected to face a string of questions over the delayed rollout of key AI features and the impact of the Sino-U.S. tariff standoff on its business, when

it reports results Thursday. Even as Apple benefited from launched lower-priced iPhone 16e in the January-March period ahead of potential tariffs, Wall Street analysts still expect the company will report a small fall in iPhone sales. That would mark a second straight quarter of declines. The Trump administration

has so far spared electronics from tariffs, but Washington has signaled that some levies could come in the coming weeks. The uncertainty has sent shares of Apple, which makes 90% of its products in China, down more than 16% this year, and wiping off over \$600 billion from its market value.

Apple will try to mitigate tariffs by shifting production of U.S.-bound iPhones to India, Reuters has reported. Analysts expect the company to spread some of the tariff costs through



price increases to a minimum to avoid losing market share.

"Tariffs are a sword of Damocles for Apple – dangling, disruptive and politically charged," said Eric Schiffer, chairman of Patriarch Organization, a California-based private equity firm that

Unlike rivals such as Samsung and Alphabet's Google, Apple has also been slow to roll out some important AI features it promised last year at its developer conference.

Improvements to voice assistant Siri, a common ask from users and investors, have been

delayed to 2026, and Apple pulled a commercial that promoted AI functionalities that were not yet available.

AI features are especially important in China, where Apple has been losing market share to domestic rivals such as Huawei. Apple has partnered with Alibaba to offer AI services in China but hasn't offered a timeline for their roll-out. IPhone shipments in China

fell 9% in the March quarter, the only major smartphone maker to post a decline in the region, according to data from research firm IDC.

Despite these challenges, strong demand for the \$599 iPhone 16e in India helped Apple take the top spot for global smartphone sales in

the quarter, according to Counterpoint Research. Apple's cautious, privacy-first approach to AI deploy ment has slowed its roll-out and left the company playing catch up, said Jacob Bourne, analyst at eMarketer.

"With tariffs threatening cost structures, Apple faces pressure to move faster on Al innovation and supply chain realignment - both of which are capital intensive".

Overall, Apple's revenue is expected to rise 4.2% in the January-March period, its fiscal second quarter, roughly matching the pace in the first quarter. Growth will likely be driven by upbeat iPad demand and growth in

IPad sales are expected to rise 9.1% in the second quar ter, while the services business. Apple's biggest revenue genera tor after the iPhone, will likely grow 11.8%.

the services business.

hours today," Kathpalia said in a resignation letter addressed to the board of a rush of orders for its recently

Chithambaram finishes Narine stars in KKR's joint first in rapid section 14-run victory over DC

Warsaw (Poland), April 29: Delivering under pressure, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram put it across Frenchman Alireza Firouzja in the final game to finish joint first with 11 points after the end of the rapid section of Superbet Rapid and Blitz tournament, a part of the Grand

The Indian wild card entrant needed to match Firouzja and Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev on points, and he got a little lucky after wild complications as the Frenchman lost on time from what could have been a drawn rook and pawns endgame.

Star performer R Praggnanandhaa bounced back in the event and jumped to joint fourth spot, scoring crucial victories over Romanian David Gavrilescu and Duda respectively in the last two rounds.

The Indian shares the fourth spot along with American Levon Aronian on 10 points.

With 18 blitz games still remaining in the first tournament of the Tour, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France is not far behind on nine points, a full point ahead of Deac Bogdan Daniel of Romania and Duda.

Gavrilescu stands ninth in the ten-player tournament on seven points, a couple of points more than former world champion Veselin Topalov who is in last spot.

Aravindh started the day with a victory over Duda who was outdone in the complexities arising out of an early piece sacrifice by the Indian.

The middle game offered chances for Duda but it was never easy to find precise

SUPERBET

STANDINGS AFTER RAPID

- 1-3 ARAVINDH CHITHAMABARAN (IND), VLADIMIR FEDOSEEV (SLO), FIROUJZA ALIREZA (FRA)-11 EACH.
- 4-5: R PRAGNANANDHAA (IND) LEVON ARONIAN (USA) - 10

6: MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA) - 9

7-8: DUDA JAN-KRYZSZTOF (POL), DEAC BOGDAN-DANIEL (ROU) - 8 EACH

9: DAVID GAVRILESCU (ROU) - 7

moves in a jungle of variations vindh lost to Vachier-Lagrave, that had to be navigated. Arabut that did not let his hopes vindh eventually won a rook down and a final victory over back and the resulting posi-Firouzja ensured that the Indition offered little resistance. an would top the list in rapid In the eighth round Arasection that offered two points

for a win and one for a draw.

back to normal in blitz section as the winning side will get a full point. However, with so many games still to come, it could be anyone's overall victory.

Praggnanandhaa found himself back on track after played out a draw with Fedo-

The scoring system will be

an indifferent start that had given him just five points in the first six games. The Indian seev and then the wins in last games ensured that remains within striking distance of the

an off-spinner Sunil Narine snapped up three crucial wickets in the space of seven balls to help Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by 14 runs and keep their playoff hopes alive in the IPL here Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, KKR, who came into the game with three losses in their last five matches, managed to post 204 for nine, riding on a blazing start by their top-order batters.

Chasing the total, DC were 62 for 3 in seven overs, but Faf du Plessis (62) and Axar Patel (43) kept them in the hunt with a 76-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

However, Narine (3/29) picked up three key wickets at a crucial juncture to derail DC's chase, as the hosts were restricted to 190 for nine in their 20 overs to succumb to their third loss in four home games at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

With this win, defending champions KKR reignited their playoff hopes, though they remained at the seventh spot with nine points. DC stayed in the top four with 12 points.

KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane's gamble to hand the ball to Anukul Roy paid off as the spinner dismissed Abhishek Porel (4) with his second delivery. Vaibhav Arora then trapped Karun Nair (15) lbw before a direct hit from Narine found KL Rahul (7) short of his crease, reducing DC to 62 for 3 in the seventh over. Axar Patel, who had left the field in the 18th over due to a hand injury, returned to join opener du Plessis. The duo negotiated the spinners well, adding 76 runs off 42 balls to keep DC in the contest.

Du Plessis smashed Chakravarthy for two fours and a six in the ninth over before bringing up his fifty off 31 balls.

Axar then took charge, clob-

bering three sixes and four boundaries in his 23-ball 43 to keep the scoreboard ticking.

However, Narine's return in the 14th over changed the game as he dismissed Axar and Tristan Stubbs (1) in the same over, before removing du Plessis with the second ball of his next to derail DC's chase.

With 59 needed off 30 balls, Impact Player Ashutosh Sharma deposited Harshit Rana over longoff, but Chakravarthy returned to remove him and Mitchell Starc in successive deliveries. Vipraj Nigam tried to mount a late charge with two sixes and three fours, but it wasn't enough.

Earlier, KKR got off to a flying start as Narine (27) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (26) put on the team's highest opening stand of the season -- 48 runs off just 17 halls.

On a better batting surface compared to the previous game, Narine took the attack to Dushmantha Chameera (1/46), smashing him for 25 runs in an over, including two sixes -- one of them a one-handed slog over midwicket -- and a four.

Gurbaz then took on Mitch-

ell Starc, hitting two boundaries and a six before edging to Abhishek Porel in the third over to end the stand.

Skipper Rahane (26) carried the momentum, hitting Starc for a six and a four, and then adding two more boundaries off Mukesh Kumar to take KKR to 79/1 at the end of the powerplay

However, DC's spinners pulled things back. Vipraj Nigam (2/41) trapped Narine leg-before, before Axar Patel removed Rahane and Venkatesh Iyer (7) in quick succession, reducing the visitors to 117 for 4 in 10 overs. Young Angkrish Raghuvanshi (44) steadied the innings along with Rinku Singh (36), the duo adding 61 runs off 46 balls. Raghuvanshi struck two big sixes off Vipraj, while Rinku targeted Kuldeep Yadav, smashing two boundaries and a six in a 17-run over that helped KKR cross the 150-run mark.

However, KKR lost the momentum again as both Raghuvanshi and Rinku departed in quick succession, falling to Chameera and Vipraj respectively, just when they looked set to

Power restored

Sacramento hires O'Neal as voluntary GM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, April 29: Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal has agreed to become the general manager of the men's basketball program at Sacramento State under new coach Mike Bibby, A person familiar with the situation said Monday that O'Neal will take the voluntary job for the program that his son, Shaqir, recently joined as a player. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the school hadn't made an announcement.

ESPN first reported the news. Bibby, the former NBA star for the Sacramento Kings, was hired as head coach for the Hornets last month as the school tries to raise its profile in collegiate athletics.



One of the first additions Bibby made was signing Shaqir O'Neal as a transfer from Florida A&M. Now Bibby has O'Neal's father involved in the program. O'Neal is the latest high-profile athlete to take on a general manager role at a college program. Stephen Curry was recently announced as the assistant general manager at Davidson and Trae Young has that same role at Oklahoma.

O'Neal won four NBA titles, three NBA Finals MVPs and a league MVP during his 19-year career in the NBA. He is currently an analyst on TNT's 'Inside the NBA' show. He also served as a minority owner of the Sacramento Kings from 2013-22.

Sacramento State went 7-25 this season under interim coach Michael Czepil, who was promoted last spring after David Patrick left to take a job as associate head coach

Carlo Ancelotti seals Brazil deal: Reports

Madrid, April 29: Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to take over the Brazilian national team, several Spanish media outlets reported Monday.

The veteran Italian has one more year on his contract with the Spanish giants but after quarter-final Champions League elimination by Arsenal and Copa del Rey defeat by rivals Barcelona, is poised to depart the Santiago

Ancelotti has not hidden that a potential exit was on the cards and said his future was "a topic for the next weeks" after defeat by Barca Saturday. Spanish media reported

that Ancelotti would take over ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June, leaving Madrid before the Club World Cup starts in the United States this

Brazil sacked Dorival Junior after a 4-1 thrashing by Argentina in March and are fourth in the South American qualifying



table for the tournament in the US, Mexico and Canada.

Ancelotti led Real Madrid to a Champions League and La Liga double last season, with Brazil stars Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes vital parts of the team, and is one of the most successful coaches in the club's history.

In his first spell at Real Madrid, he led them to La Decima — their 10th Champions League triumph.

He has won the competition three times with Los Blancos over two stints, sacked in 2015 but returning in 2021 after Zinedine Zidane resigned.

MAX PURCELL ACCEPTS 18-MONTH DOPING BAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney, April 29: Two-time Grand Slam doubles champion Max Purcell has accepted an 18-month ban after breaching anti-doping rules, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said Tuesday.

The Australian player admitted to a breach of rules relating to the use of a "prohibited method" after unknowingly receiving an intravenous infusion of vitamins above the allowed limit of 100 milliliters in a 12-hour span and entered into a provisional suspension in mid-December.

Purcell said he'd informed the clinic he was a professional athlete and that the infusion had to be less than 100 milliliters.

The ITIA said the 27-yearold had received IV infusions of over 500 milliliters twice but his full cooperation and information sharing during the investigation had allowed



for a 25 per cent reduction in the sanction.

'This case does not involve a player testing positive for a prohibited substance but demonstrates that the anti-doping rules are broader than that, ITIA chief executive Karen Moorhouse said.

"It also shows the ITIA considers intelligence from a range of sources with the overriding aim to protect everyone covered by the tennis anti-doping rules, and ensure a level playing field for all," Moorhouse added.

Purcell said the stress of the ongoing case had been "seriously affecting (his) quality of life" over the past few months.

"From being unable to sleep and eat properly, and refusing to be by myself, to developing nervous and anxious tics which I still currently battle day to day," Purcell said in a statement he posted on Instagram.

at Madrid Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, April 29: Power was restored at Caja Magica tennis complex Tuesday and the Madrid Open resumed with a packed schedule that included second-ranked Iga Swiatek advancing to the quarterfinals.

Swiatek defeated Diana Shnaider 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-4 to stay on track to defend her title in the Spanish capital.

After a major blackout that prompted 22 matches to be postponed Monday, most parts of Madrid regained power overnight.

But the Caja Magica was still without electricity early Tuesday, causing a delay in the opening of the gates for fans.

However, the power came back quickly, and organizers did not have to alter the day's schedule of matches, although there was the possibility of the night session being delayed because of the high number of matches during

Absoultely Insane! Cricket world heaps praise on Vaibhav Suryavanshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 29: "What were you doing at 14?" asked some of cricket's biggest names as they saluted the fearless and evidently gifted Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his blazing hundred in the IPL, describing the child prodigy as a star in the making.

After Suryavanshi, playing for Rajasthan Royals, smashed Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan for a six over mid-wicket in Jaipur to become the youngest centurion in T20s last night, the cricketing world duly applauded his special feat.

"Vaibhav's fearless approach, bat speed, picking the length early, and transferring the energy behind the ball was the recipe behind a fabulous innings. End result: 101 runs off 38 balls. Well played!" the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, himself a child prodigy who went on to become one of the best batters in the game,



wrote on 'X'. Suryavanshi broke former Rajasthan Royals batter Yusuf Pathan's record for the fastest hundred by an Indian with his 35-ball century. Suryavanshi was not even born when Pathan smashed a 37-ball hundred 15 seasons ago.

"Many congratulations to young #VaibhavSuryavanshi

for breaking my record of the fastest @IPL hundred by an Indian! Even more special to see it happen while playing for @ rajasthanroyals, just like I did.

"There's truly something magical about this franchise champ!" wrote Pathan.

for youngsters. Long way to go, India great Yuvraj Singh too

as a 'carnage of an innings'. "Absolutely insane!" he post-

was left hugely impressed.

'What were you doing at 14?!! This kid is taking on the best bowlers in the world without blinking an eyelid! Vaibhav Suryavanshi - remember the name! Playing with a fearless attitude. Proud to see the next generation shine!" wrote Yuvraj.

Former India opener Kris Srikkanth called Survavanshi the next superstar of Indian cricket

"At 14, most kids dream & eat Icecream. Vaibhav Suryavamshi delivers a fabulous 100 against one of the contenders for IPL! composure, class, and courage beyond his years. We are witnessing the rise of a phenomena. Indian cricket's next superstar is here," said Srikkanth.

The national T20 captain and Mumbai Indians star Suryakumar Yadav lauded the teenager as well and described his knock

ed on instagram.

Bihar CM announces ₹10L reward

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Tuesday lauded 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi for becoming the youngest-ever centurion in T20 cricket, and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for his stellar performance. Survavanshi lit up the IPL Monday evening with his 38ball 101 that was dotted with 11 sixes and seven fours. A staggering 94 runs of the young Rajasthan Royals batter came in boundaries in the match against Gujarat Titans. "Congratulations and best wishes to Vaibhav Suryavanshi from Bihar, who has become the youngest player in the history of IPL to score a century. With his hard work and talent, he has emerged as a new hope for Indian cricket. Everyone is proud of him. "I had the opportunity to meet Vaibhav and his father in 2024... After his outstanding performance in the IPL, I congratulated him over phone. He will also be given a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh by the state government. I wish that he creates new records for the Indian team in the future and brings glory to the country," Kumar said in a post on X. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also congratulated Vaibhav in another post on X. "Every Bihari is proud of Vaibhav Suryavanshi. The NDA government stands with athletes at every step. Because of his exceptional performance, CM Nitish Kumar ji has announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for him," he said.

India pacer Mohammed Shami wrote: "Vaibhav Suryavanshi, what an incredible talent.. Scoring a century at just 14 is unreal. Keep shining brother.'

Former India women's team captain Mithali Raj was among the greats of the game who were left in awe of the teenager from Bihar.

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