

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You are a literary person and today your power of expression will come in very handy. If you are trying to woo your beloved, an intimate conversation will prove beneficial. However, make sure not to avoid office duties, and complete your pending work before your superiors come checking.

TAURUS
Your efficiency and resourcefulness will, today, be functioning on overdrive. You will manage difficult problems and sort out complex issues with a sweat. You may have to take instant decisions on vital and central issues, without any forewarning, or time to think things out.

GEMINI
You will be unable to cope with the flurry of demands made upon your time and person by those around you. You will try to break free of the rut and look for some new things to do in the evening. Some creative and constructive work will provide you with much needed respite from the demands of the day, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will trail a path of success in the face of hurdles. You will spare no efforts in achieving your goal. You will try to somehow pro-cure your favourite things. So Ganesha counsels you to guard your prestige, at any price.

LEO
It will be difficult for you to achieve a specific goal you have set for yourself in the morning, but as the day progresses, your problems will ease out. Your inherent capability will help you scale the ladder of success. When you sit down to analyse your weaknesses and strengths, do so with an unyielding and unbiased critical eye, advises Ganesha.

VIRGO
Your amazing ability to play with words will stand you in good stead today. So much so that with your silken talk you will be able to charm your way into the heart of a member of the opposite sex later today. Work that has been postponed too often will be finished.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will use your creative and artistic skills in decorating and renovating your home. You will experience a feeling of pride when all will appreciate your home décor. You will want to spend the evening all alone as you may feel uneasy in the company of your friends and not particularly in the mood to socialise.

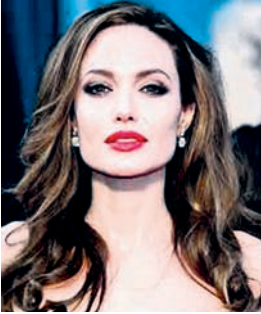
SCORPIO
Being a constructive day, you may take up an uphill task at work, predicts Ganesha. You are miles ahead of your competitor and this fact shall relax you for the time being. In a nutshell, a day to make a note of, in your memories.

SAGITTARIUS
The day begins with lots of challenges, says Ganesha. Isolated or a one man army, you may have to resolve problems and cross hurdles on your own. Your skills and resourcefulness will go through a rigorous polishing today, may be in a not-so-happening style.

CAPRICORN
While your neighbours are irritating and troublesome, you will strike a conversation with them and build a cordial relationship with them. You will feel inclination for poems, novel, stories, and literary material like that during the later part of the day.

AQUARIUS
You have worked hard, and now you want to party harder. You catch up with some old friends, hang out with them and relax your mind. You are in a mood to celebrate and as a result, you will go out of your way to please your loved ones, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES
Today you will take the decision on a long standing matter or problem to find a lasting solution. Today, with your head firmly on your shoulders, you will be able to see both sides of the coin and make meaningful decisions. There may be some doubt over what you decide but stand your ground and do not let your confidence waiver, says Ganesha.



ANGELINA JOLIE TO STAR IN ANXIOUS PEOPLE

Actor Angelina Jolie is set to star in *Anxious People*. The upcoming film will be directed by Marc Forster, best known for *Stranger Than Fiction* and *World War Z*. It is an adaptation of Fredrik Backman's novel, reported entertainment news outlet *Deadline*.

LADY GAGA BREAKS MADONNA'S RECORD

Lady Gaga made global music history after 2.1 million people attended her free concert in Brazil, smashing Madonna's record. The pop star appeared at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro Saturday night for her tour promoting her latest album, *Mayhem*, over a decade after she last performed in the Latin American country.



Babil's emotional breakdown



Mumbai: After sharing a shocking video of himself breaking down in front of camera, actor Babil Khan has now deleted his Instagram profile.

The web search of the actor's Instagram profile doesn't yield any result, and shows the webpage wired to Instagram account as non-existent.

Earlier, Babil shared a video (which was later deleted), where he appears visibly upset and in tears as he speaks about feeling alienated in the film industry.

In the video, the actor as heard saying, "What I mean to say is that, I just want you guys to know that there are people like Shanaya Kapoor, Ananya Pandey and Arjun Kapoor and Siddhant Chaturvedi and Raghav Juyal and Adarsh Gourav and even... Arijit Singh? There are so, so many more names. Bollywood is so f*****. Bollywood is so, so rude".

Earlier, Babil reflected on the legacy of his late father, as he said that even though his 'baba' is no longer here, he is still here through his powerful performances on screen. Babil, who appeared as a guest on Bharti Singh and Harsh Limbachiyaa's podcast, was seen talking about his father and his legacy.

IANS

Rashmika shares life lessons for young hearts



Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna recently took to Instagram to share a personal diary entry, reflecting on an unexpected day and offering heartfelt advice to her young followers.

May 2, 2025, she began her morning in Ooty, ready to travel to Hyderabad for a scheduled shoot. However, the shoot had been cancelled. While many would have been frustrated, Rashmika chose to see the silver lining. She returned home and used the free time to reconnect with herself and her loved ones.

In the same post, Rashmika used the opportunity to speak directly to young boys and girls, encouraging them to be mindful of the people they let into their lives. She explained that while no one is inherently bad, some individuals may not be the right influence. "Your friends today might not be your friends tomorrow or they might stick around for the rest of your life but that choice is yours. Respect your parents.. they love you the most in the entire world.. respect their words.. listen and trust them to help you choose well.. don't take them for granted - EVER!" she urged.

On the professional front, Rashmika is set to appear in *Kuberaa*, a social thriller featuring Dhanush and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

AGENCIES

First actress with ₹1000 cr hit



Sonam's regret

Mumbai: Sonam Kapoor, who did not complete her college education, recently shared her plans to save for her son Vayu Kapoor Ahuja's education.

In an interview, she revealed that when her husband, Anand Ahuja, took her to his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, she felt a sense of envy. "When he recently took me around the campus, it was the first time I felt envy. So I've been saving up for Vayu's education. I want him to be a reader," she said. Sonam also reflected on how having a child has brought back a sense of wonder and idealism in her life, admitting that she was "one hundred per cent jaded before Vayu's birth."

This isn't the first time Sonam has spoken about her interest in education. In a 2017 interview, she mentioned wanting to take a course, although she wasn't sure exactly what she wanted to study. She emphasised her desire to learn something new, stating that while she had worked with many acting coaches and attended workshops, she still wanted to pursue formal education. Sonam had enrolled in the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore, studying theatre and arts, and also started a correspondence course through the University of Mumbai.

AGENCIES



SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

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

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- Across**

7 Periphery
8 Kind of courtyard
9 Early Peruvian
10 Vista
11 God of the sea
13 Gawk
15 Ocean predator
17 Nightspot
- 20 Taste sensations
21 Broad valley
23 Nail polish
24 Evades

Down

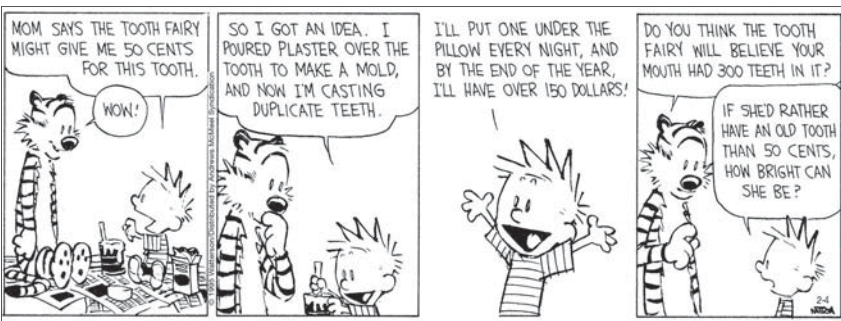
1 Sheepish look
2 Wee one
3 Answer
4 Hot spot
- 5 Turkey's highest peak
6 Put under water
12 Levels
14 Irish spirit
16 Overhaul
18 Fervour
19 Cunning
22 Empty promises

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

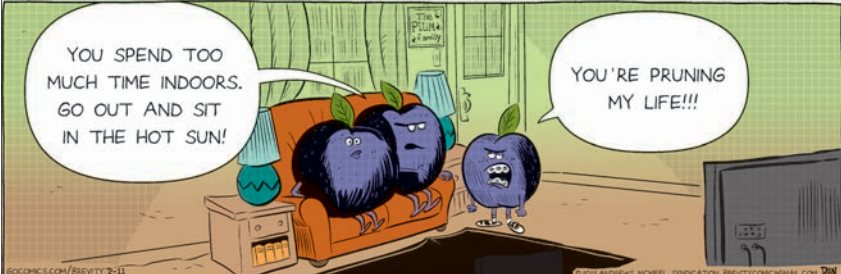
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



Odisha pushes MICE tourism at conclave



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: In a bid to position Odisha as a premier destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism, Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravati Parida is leading a state delegation at the Meet in India Conclave 2025, currently underway in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Sunday, Parida engaged with leading international MICE tour operators to explore investment opportunities and promote Odisha's emerging potential in experiential MICE tourism. Highlighting the state's tourism roadmap, she said Odisha is actively integrating immersive experien-

ces such as wellness retreats, cultural showcases, and heritage-based activities to enhance its appeal to the global MICE market.

“Odisha is evolving as a preferred MICE destination by blending traditional charm with modern hospitality. We are promoting locations like Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Konark, which are already popular for destination weddings and corporate events,” said Parida during the discussions.

Addressing the inauguration of the Meet in India Conclave and the Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB) 2025, Parida noted, “This conclave presents a great opportunity for Odisha. With heritage landmarks like Konark, we have immense po-

tential in the tourism sector. Events like this will help accelerate our growth in the global tourism market.”

She also thanked Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for acknowledging Odisha's initiatives and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for supporting the state's aspirations in tourism development.

Odisha is steadily gaining attention among corporates and event organisers for business meetings, exhibitions, and retreats. Cities such as Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Cuttack are becoming hotspots, offering a blend of spiritual ambiance and modern infrastructure, ideal for both professional and leisure experiences.

The state is capitalising on its cultural richness — from ancient temples and tribal heritage to scenic beaches and wildlife sanctuaries — to attract a wider audience. Each region, from Bhubaneswar to Sambalpur, presents a unique combination of religious and historical significance, making Odisha a versatile destination for both domestic and international travellers.



BMC installs durable road shade at AG Square

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: In a move aimed at improving commuter comfort and addressing recurring weather-related damage, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed a permanent, weather-resistant road shade at the AG traffic junction in the City.

The newly-constructed structure, made with high-quality tensile fabric, stretches from AG Square to the Capital Hospital road. The

initiative follows the repeated failure of previously installed temporary sheds that were unable to withstand the region's harsh summer conditions and frequent nor'wester storms.

Commuters have welcomed the move. One passerby commented, “This is a much-needed improvement. The earlier sheds couldn't survive strong winds, but this looks like a more lasting solution.”

BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil confirmed that feedback from citizens played a key role in the de-

cision. “The temporary sun sheds made of synthetic cotton and bamboos were not sustainable. Several were damaged or blown away during nor'westers, which frustrated commuters,” he said.

In response to these challenges, BMC has now decided to construct permanent sun shades at key traffic junctions across the city. “We've identified four to five high-traffic locations where we plan to replicate this model,” the Commissioner added.

It is noteworthy that the civic body had earlier installed 19 temporary shades at major traffic signals to shield commuters from the scorching sun.

However, the majority of these structures were either damaged or dismantled by strong winds, prompting the need for a more reliable and long-term solution.

The new initiative marks a step forward in improving urban infrastructure and enhancing public convenience in Bhubaneswar.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit No.- 4430, dated 01.05.2025 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Kamal Kumar Agarwal, S/o- Hardayal Agarwal, Vill- Baralapokhari, P.O- Charampa, P.S.- Bhadrak (T), Dist.- Bhadrak- 756101, Odisha declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Kamal Kumar Agrawalla instead of Kamal Kumar Agarwal in my Passport document. I shall be known as KAMAL KUMAR AGARWAL for all future purposes.

By affidavit No.- 4429, dated 01.05.2025 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Kabita Agarwal, W/o- Kamal Kumar Agarwal, Vill- Baralapokhari, P.O.-Charampa, P.S.- Bhadrak (T), Dist.- Bhadrak- 756101, Odisha declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Kavita Agrawalla instead of Kabita Agarwal in my husband Passport document. I shall be known as KABITA AGARWAL for all future purposes.

By affidavit No.- 4428, dated 01.05.2025 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Hardayal Agarwal, S/o- Anandi Lal Agarwal, Vill- Baralapokhari, P.O.-Charampa, P.S.- Bhadrak (T), Dist.- Bhadrak- 756101, Odisha declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Haradayal Agrawalla instead of Hardayal Agarwal in my son's Passport document. I shall be known as HARDAYAL AGARWAL for all future purposes.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.6°	35.2°
Min Temp	20.8°	19.4°
Humidity	76%	84%
Rainfall	20.8	19.6
FORECAST Partly cloudy sky		

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Salipur, Cuttack, dated: 06.02.2025. I, Reshma Sahoo, D/o. Nilakantha Sahoo, declare that I was Student of Montfort School Complex, Kansbahal. My ICSE Pass Certificate of 10th and ISC Pass Certificate of 12th has been fully destroyed due to eaten by white ant. Hence, I request the concerned authority to provide me the duplicate Pass Certificate for 10th and 12th.

Notice is hereby given to General Public that, Binod Kumar Barik has lost the original link ROR No. 136 in the name of Gouranga Charana Mohanty with other documents which was kept in my hand bag some where around Purighat area and inspite of my best efforts.

If any one has found the same please contact Advocate N.C. Pattnaik, Mob.: 9853311189 or Branch of Shriram Finance at Mahanadi Vihar, Cuttack within 7 days from the date of the publication and any mis-use of the document will be punishable under law.

IIIT-Bhubaneswar, ESC ink MoU to boost innovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The International Institute of Information Technology, Bhubaneswar (IIIT-Bhubaneswar) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) of India during the Innovators Meet held here recently. The partnership aims to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and capacity building in the fields of electronics and IT.

The MoU, titled “From Temples to Tech: Odisha's Leap into Global Electronics and IT Markets”, was signed by IIIT-Bhubaneswar registrar Sabyasachi Hota in the presence of dignitaries, including Electronics and IT Minister Mukesh Mahaling.

IIIT-Bhubaneswar director Ashish Ghosh stated that the collaboration would open new avenues in innovation, incubation, and research development. “We envision establishing a Centre of Excellence in technological innovation through this strategic partnership,” he said.

Probe deepens amid growing controversy over temple rituals and state sentiments

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday questioned a senior servitor in connection with allegations of using sacred wood from the Puri temple in idol-making at the newly-consecrated temple in Digha, West Bengal.

Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, secretary of the Daitapati Nijog—a prominent servitor body at the Jagannath temple in Puri—was summoned and interrogated for over 90 minutes by SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee.

The administration sought clarity on whether he had taken sacred neem wood from the Puri temple's “Daru Gruha”

WOMEN'S BUSINESS MELA 2025

Guv backs women entrepreneurs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Sunday urged for a supportive ecosystem that fosters ambition, risk-taking, and empowerment for women entrepreneurs. Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the Women's Business Mela 2025, organised by the ICC National Women Entrepreneurship Council (INWEC), he praised the event as a celebration of innovation and resilience.

“When a woman succeeds, family progresses; when thousands rise, the nation transforms,” he said. Commending INWEC and the ICC for creating a dynamic platform, he noted the mela's 240+ stalls had become a hub for showcasing talent, exchanging ideas, and nurturing business connections.



Highlighting women's evolving roles—from caregivers to leaders in business, tech, and social innovation—he said each entrepreneur reflects the spirit of Viksit Bharat, a developed and inclusive India.

The Governor acknowledged challenges women face, including access to finance, skills, and markets, and spotlighted government schemes such as Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi, and NITI Aayog's WEP. He urged banks, corporates, and civil society to step up support and

applauded the state's initiatives like Mission Shakti and Startup Odisha.

Congratulating awardees and participants, he said, “You are scripting a new chapter in India's growth story—with dignity, creativity, and courage. Dream fearlessly, build boldly, and lead with pride.”

ICC Odisha chairperson Rajib Sahoo, INWEC event convener Preeti Pallavi Pattnaik, and co-conveners Swati Kejriwal and Suma Devi Das also addressed the gathering, with Das delivering the vote of thanks.

Servitor quizzed over 'use' of Puri temple wood



Members of 'We For Bhubaneswar' stage a sit-in protest in the Cty, Sunday opposing the naming of the newly-consecrated temple in Digha, West Bengal

(wood store) for 'use' in the Digha shrine. Dasmohapatra had attended and supervised the Digha temple's consecration ceremony on April 30 in the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The controversy arose following reports that sacred

surplus wood from the 2015 Nabakalebara ritual—when new idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra are carved—had been used in the Digha temple. Padhee also questioned Dasmohapatra on who controls the Daru Gruha keys and whether the sacred Brahma (soul element) was

installed in the new idols—a practice strictly followed only in Puri.

The SJTA has also issued notices to all servitor associations to submit their views. At least two police complaints have been filed in Puri regarding alleged theft of sacred wood for 'use' in Digha.

Dasmohapatra, who is also referred to as Rajesh Daitapati in Bengal, refused to speak to reporters after the inquiry. Earlier, he had claimed the idols taken to Digha were made from neem wood but not from the Daru Gruha.

He also stated he attended the event on the invitation of ‘his disciple’ Mamata Banerjee and denied claiming Puri wood was used.

Political reactions have been swift. BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari criticised the move, calling it an “affront to Jagannath culture” and accused the Bengal government of deceitfully branding the project as a “Jagannath

Dham Cultural Centre” while promoting it as a full-fledged temple.

Odisha's ruling BJD also objected strongly. “There can't be another Jagannath Dham apart from Puri,” said BJD MLA Prasanna Acharya. “Such projection hurts religious sentiments.”

Meanwhile, Odisha Congress president Bhakta Charan Das called for spiritual leaders, not politicians, to address the matter. “Let us seek the opinion of Puri Shankaracharya and Gajapati Maharaj. They are the true authorities,” he said.

As tensions continue, the SJTA's investigation is likely to determine whether any sacred traditions were violated. The controversy adds to the growing dispute between Odisha and West Bengal over cultural ownership and religious symbolism, triggered by the West Bengal government referring to the Digha shrine as ‘Jagannath Dham.’

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Darkness still prevails in over 20 Nayagarh villages

Tribal communities continue to suffer despite repeated promises



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, May 4: Despite years of promises and changes in government and administration, the fate of tribal communities in Nayagarh district remains unchanged. Even 77 years after India's Independence, more than 20 villages under the Badasilinga panchayat in Gania block are still deprived of basic facilities like electricity, clean drinking water, and proper roads.

Thousands of people in villages including Kumuri, Adikupa, Damaghati, Bedadi, Tudungi, Bhaliasahi, Serenda, Duising Harijan Sahi, Kuturi, Raikhol, Badabankajhari, Dumuduma Bedininali Sahi, Landia Kutibari, Talabari, Dhaurabani, Ranaitaila, Madikupa, Baliajharra, Mushuguda, and Salapaganda continue to live in darkness. In the absence of electricity, the villagers are forced to burn large wooden logs to carry out their night-time activities.

With no proper water supply or tube wells, villagers are compelled to rely on water from streams, which is often unsafe. Villages such as Rekadi, Janakajhola, Bedadi, and Kumuri lack both ponds as well as tube wells. In Rashitaila and several other areas, access to potable water remains a major concern. Although the Soil Conservation

department has constructed ponds in some areas, tribal villages have been largely left out.

Irrigation facilities are non-existent, and villagers are unfamiliar with the concept of lift irrigation. The Water Resources department has allegedly failed to provide any support. Mobile connectivity is equally poor, with BSNL towers either non-functional or absent. In some villages like Mushuguda, residents mount their mobile phones on bamboo poles to catch weak signals. Requests for installation of private mobile towers have gone unanswered, it is alleged.

Despite repeated demands, several interior villages are yet to be connected with proper roads. People rely on makeshift jungle paths from locations such as proper roads from Buriapaju Chhak to Gedi Chhak, and Basaganda Chhak to the Boudh border are yet to be constructed. Appeals for pucca roads from Sanabankajhari to Badabankajhari, Bankajhari Chhak to Duising, Dhipisahi Pataraphadi to Bedinanal Sahi, Badasilinga to Tolakapatia and Bahamula Chhak to Kuturi have seen no action so far.

Post offices in Tudungi, Bedadi, and Buriapaju allegedly remain closed most of the time due to the absence of staff. Locals have demanded the relocation of

these offices to permanent buildings on government land instead of rented accommodations. Village development committees, where present, do not function effectively. There are no signboards to indicate their presence, and there is no transparency on how development funds—often as much as ₹10,000 per village—are being utilised.

Anganwadi centres are inconsistently allocated in these villages. While Dhamaghati, with only four households, has one, Jankajhola with 16 households does not have any. Similarly, villages like Sagadabhangra are in need of such centres, but have yet to be considered.

Though there is presence of ASHA workers in villages like Buriapaju, residents report receiving no government healthcare benefits. Areas like Mushuguda, Salapagandha, and Kuturi continue to demand ASHA worker appointments without success.

Local residents, including Bhanu Pradhan, have expressed frustration over the lack of basic amenities. "The government has forgotten to build roads or ensure proper water supply. We are forced to use contaminated water and often falling ill," she said.

Jankajhola's village head also raised concerns. "We have repeatedly submitted complaints to the district Collector, MLA, and various departmental officers, but our appeals continue to be ignored. While promises are made, nothing ever changes on the ground," he rued.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Bikash Parishad's state vice-president, Niranjana Dash, announced that a protest will be staged in front of the Gania block office Tuesday (May 6) over the continued neglect of these villages.



CLOSE SHAVE: Police and Fire officials conduct a probe after an oil tanker broke barricades of a flyover on National Highway-326 in Rayagada town and fell off 30-feet under the bridge, Sunday. The driver of the vehicle managed to escape.

OP PHOTO

DISPUTE OVER MONEY THEFT

Woman sets mom-in-law ablaze in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, May 4: An elderly woman was set ablaze allegedly by her daughter-in-law - after she found the latter stealing money and jewellery from the household - at MV-18 village under Malkangiri police limits in this district, police said Sunday.

Renuka Vaidya, 55, sustained 60 percent burns after her daughter-in-law Jaya, 23, allegedly poured petrol on her before setting her afire. She is now battling for her life, and has been shifted to a private hospital in Raipur after being administered primary treatment at the Malkangiri headquarters hospital. According to reports, Jaya too sustained burns to her both hands in the process.

The incident occurred April 27 at MV-18 village under Mal-



JAYA BAIDYA



RENUKA BAIDYA

kangiri police limits. Renuka's son Abinash Vaidya lodged a complaint at the police station the next day. Police have registered a case (No. 225/25) in this connection and launched an investigation.

However, matters came to the light after police disclosed about the case before mediapersons Sunday.

IIC Ringan Kindo of Malkangiri police station said that Renuka's son Abinash, who works outside the state, was married to Jaya of Konta village in neighbouring Chhat-tisgarh two years ago. During his absence, his wife Jaya and mother Renuka lived together at the family home. The family also owns a small grocery

shop in the village which was run by Jaya, Renuka and one of their kin.

Sometime ago, Renuka found money and gold missing from the house in frequent intervals and suspected her daughter-in-law. She informed her son and advised installing CCTV cameras. Following this, Jaya tried to get rid of her mother-in-law, Kindo said.

The incident occurred when Renuka was asleep at home. "Taking advantage of the situation, Jaya poured petrol on her and set her ablaze. She then locked the house and fled to her native village in Konta, taking her four-month-old son with her," the IIC said as quoting the FIR.

Villagers, alerted by the smoke and cries, rescued Renuka in a critical condition and rushed her to the hospital, Kindo said, adding that the accused will be arrested soon.

Odisha youth dies in Bangalore, kin cry murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, May 4: Family of a 25-year-old Odia youth, who died under suspicious circumstances in Bangalore, lodged a complaint with the Humma police outpost Saturday alleging that he had been murdered by a colleague at the security firm where he worked.

The complaint was lodged after the body of Rabindra Sahu arrived in his native Kushapalli village Saturday morning. Eagle Security, the private security firm in the Karnataka capital city where Rabindra worked as a supervisor, had arranged the transportation of the body back to the village.

Just five days before his death, Rabindra had come to the village to attend his cousin sister's wedding

Family members alleged that Rabindra was stabbed to death by a colleague. They said they were informed of Rabindra's death over phone by one of his friends. On receiving the news, his brother-in-law, Silu Swain, travelled to Bhubaneswar by car, and then flew to Bangalore. He allegedly found Rabindra's body at a morgue and claimed that officials of the firm where Rabindra worked did not cooperate despite repeated pleas.

Rabindra, who lost his father years ago, had worked outside Odisha for the past 11 years to support his mother and two younger sisters. Just five days before his death, he had come to the village to attend his cousin sister's wedding.

Following the return of the body, Chhatrapur MLA Krushna Chandra Nayak visited the grieving family and offered condolences. Malada sarpanch Mamata Behera and sarpanch representative Sudam Behera were also present.

The motive behind the attack remains unclear, and an investigation is on, a police official said.

SAND ARTIST BAPI GOCHHAYAT'S CAMPAIGN ENTERS 289TH DAY

4-tonne plastic waste handed over to Paradip Municipality

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, May 4: On the 289th day of the campaign to rid the shores of Paradip of plastic pollution, four tonnes of plastic waste was collected and handed over to the civic body here for disposal, Sunday.

The pioneering environmental initiative is being led by renowned Odia sand artist Bapi Gochhayat.

According to reports, the campaign includes regular weekend awareness sessions for schoolchildren and tourists, using placards and engaging storytelling to highlight the dangers of plastic waste.

To give a creative twist to the campaign, Gochhayat would appear during local festivals, such as Vishwakarma Puja and Bali Yatra, dressed as 'plastic man' - a character draped in discarded plastic - to spark public consciousness about responsible usage.

The initiative promotes three key actions - reducing plastic consumption, reusing materials, and recycling waste



through municipal authorities or scrap collectors. The campaign warns against the common practice of disposing of plastic into rivers and drains, which ultimately leads to ocean pollution, thereby, threatening marine life and ecosystems.

Environmental scientists estimate that by 2050, plastic in the oceans may outnumber fish if current habits continue. Microplastics, formed over time, enter the food chain and may cause severe health risks to humans.

"This isn't just a beach clean-up," said Gochhayat, adding, "It's a cultural shift. We must take responsibility for our environment before it's too late."

His campaign is a call to action for communities, visitors and authorities to work together for a cleaner, plastic-free future, reports added.

Girl dies; mother, sibling critical in snakebite

Keonjhar: A 10-year-old girl died while her mother and 2-year-old brother are critical after they were bitten by a poisonous snake in their house at Krushnapur village, under Telkoi block in Keonjhar district. The deceased was identified as Somabari Juanga, daughter of Sambhunath Juanga. Sambhunath's wife Kaianta Juanga, 32, and his son, Parameswar Juanga, 2, are in critical condition and undergoing treatment at the Telkoi community health centre (CHC). The incident occurred when the family members were asleep at their home Saturday night. According to sources, Kaianta and her two children were sleeping on the floor of their home after dinner Saturday night, as the family lives in poverty and lacks proper bedding or raised sleeping arrangements. Sometime during the night, they were allegedly bitten by a venomous snake. The matter came to the fore when Sambhunath tried to wake up his wife and children Sunday morning. He found his wife and children lying unresponsive and spotted a large snake inside the house. Later, he rushed them to the Telkoi Community Health Center with the help of villagers, where doctors declared Somabari dead and admitted the woman and son her for treatment.

Ganjam: 18 held, 17 pistols seized in major crackdown

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 4: Ganjam police have arrested 18 persons and seized 17 pistols along with 66 live rounds during a special crackdown against illegal firearms across multiple locations in the district.

Acting on intelligence inputs, police conducted coordinated raids Saturday night on the direction of Ganjam SP Subhendu Kumar Patra. The seizures also included 16 mobile phones and four cartridges.

Southern Range Inspector General of Police (IGP) Niti Shekhar told a press conference at the SP office Sunday that the firearms were sourced from outside Odisha. "A special team has been formed to trace the interstate arms supply network," he said.

Giving details of the operation, Shekhar said that the Sheragada police arrested six persons, including Rintu alias Prashant Kumar Pradhan, Kunna Nahak, and Pinku Sahu, and seized five pistols, 22 bullets and four mobile phones



from them. Asika police arrested four individuals, including A Shrikant and Pabana alias Shiva Gouda, and recovered three pistols, 12 bullets and four phones from them.

Kotinada police apprehended five suspects, recovering four pistols and 16 live rounds, while Polasara police arrested one Rakesh Dash and seized a pistol, motorcycle and mobile phone from him, the IGP said. Chamakhandi police arrest-

ed Pintu alias Balakrushna Satapathy and recovered a pistol and nine rounds. Moreover, the Bhanjanagar police arrested Kanhu Gouda, and seized from him a pistol, a magazine and a bullet, he added.

This police, for the first time in the district, have been registered cases under Section 111 (organised crime) and related provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the accused, along with the Arms Act.

Boy makes e-Scooter by watching YouTube tutorials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 4: In an inspiring story of innovation and self-learning, a 17-year-old matriculation student from Bhadrak district has built a fully functional e-Scooter by watching YouTube tutorials, showcasing the power of curiosity and digital learning.

Binod Maharana, son of Kartik Maharana, a resident of Patharadi village under Charampa, recently appeared for his Class-X examinations at Happy Home School, and secured 64.4 per cent. While Binod's father works as a mechanic at a garage, his mother is a homemaker. According to reports, the boy's journey into innovation began when he aspired to own an electric scooter, but found the prices unaffordable.



Undeterred, Binod decided to build his own. Using scrap materials and spare parts available around - a broken bicycle handlebar, steel pipes, and a seat - Binod designed and assembled a working scooter. He

sourced wheels and a motor online and, even manufactured a battery by himself. A switch and accelerator were mounted on the handlebar, along with a brake for speed control.

The scooter, which cost

around ₹15,000 to make, can travel up to 15 km on 90-minutes of charge. It can carry load of one or two passengers, and took him about a month to complete.

"I learnt everything by watching videos on YouTube," said Binod humbly, adding, "I now want to build a drone and a two-seater electric bike."

With plans to pursue a diploma in engineering, Binod hopes his creation will inspire other young minds to innovate. His message to fellow youth is simple: "Don't sit idle—start exploring and inventing. There's so much you can do from home."

Meanwhile, Binod's feat has drawn laurels from locals and educators alike who see him as a role model for next-generation innovation in rural India.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES
AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY



Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Website: "www.plantauthority.gov.in"

Plant Genome Saviour Award 2024-25

Applications are invited for Plant Genome Saviour Community Award/Farmer Reward & Recognition for the year 2024-25 in prescribed format from the farming communities and individual farmers. The detailed advertisement and application format are available on the website of the PPVFR Authority, i.e. <https://plantauthority.gov.in/>
Last date: 3 months from the date of the advertisement

CBC-01146/12/0001/2526

FROM PROTEST TO PROSPERITY

Vizhinjam port offers hope for local youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 4: Just a few years ago, the name Vizhinjam was at the heart of fierce protests. Now, it is being spoken of as a symbol of opportunity and progress, especially among the youth in this coastal village.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport, a project once met with strong resistance from the local fishermen community Friday. Today, it stands as a source of pride and employment for many of those same residents.

“Who wouldn’t want a good job in their hometown?” asked Rahul, a young man from the fishermen community, stepping out of the port wearing his safety helmet and uniform.

He is among the 35 per cent of port workers who are from Vizhinjam. Many more are hoping to follow his lead.

The port has slowly changed public opinion in the area. Years of protests, supported by the local Church, brought life in Vizhinjam to a standstill for over four months.

It was only after a meeting with Kerala Chief Minister



Pinarayi Vijayan that the strikes were called off, with a promise of jobs and development.

Now, those promises are beginning to materialise. Roshin, another young local who now works at the port, said, “This port is a game changer. Most youths here only had fishing as an option. Now they have a new future.”

The Kerala government had made it clear during its agreement with the Adani Group that local youth must be given priority in hiring.

To support this, a Community Skill Park was set up in Vizhinjam under the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), offering training tailored to port jobs.

Among the most notable

changes is the employment of nine local women as crane operators.

These women, trained at the local skill centre, now handle the massive Cantilever Rail Mounted Gantry cranes, which unload containers from ships.

According to port officials, this is the first time women have been given such a role in any Indian port.

Training doesn’t stop there. Two groups of intermodal truck drivers trained at the skill park have already been hired, and 150 more young people are currently undergoing training.

Manoj Nair, managing director of a mooring company at the port, confirmed they have already hired 24 local workers and plan to recruit more as the port expands.

Folk musicians of Raj battle landlessness

Rajasthan’s rising heat, driven by climate change, is intensifying hardships for landless communities like the Bhopas—traditional folk artists who once thrived under the patronage of wealthy landowners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Churu/Meerut, May 4: In a noisy roadside eatery along the Delhi-Haridwar highway, Subhash Nayak sits in a corner, quietly playing the Ravanhatta—an ancient bowed instrument once used to narrate heroic folk tales of Rajasthan. Dressed in a bright turban and satin waistcoat, Subhash is among the last Bhopas, traditional priest-singers of the desert state. But instead of folk songs, he now plays Bollywood tunes.

“Folk music is my first choice,” he says, “but people prefer Bollywood songs. They help me earn my bread.”

Every summer, Subhash and his wife leave their home in Khabarpura village in Rajasthan’s Churu district—where temperatures routinely cross 45°C—and travel across Uttar Pradesh to survive. The centuries-old art they once lived by, Pabuji ki Phad, is slowly disappearing.

This unique art form involves storytelling through a painted scroll (Phad), accompanied by music and performance, often depicting the life of folk deity Pabuji—considered an incarnation of Lakshman by many in Rajasthan. Bhopas sang these tales, the Koli community wove the scroll cloth, Brahmins painted them, and the Raikas and Rajputs revered the deity.

But today, that cultural network is unraveling.



The Bhopas once performed Pabuji ki Phad up to ten times a month, earning well enough to live with dignity

“Earlier, landowners supported us. Now that support is gone,” says Amar Singh, another Bhopa from Khabarpura, sitting in a dim rented room in Meerut. “Back then, households had camels. People believed in Phad rituals to heal animals and pray for family welfare. Today, tractors have replaced camels, and even those who still rear them don’t hold rituals.”

Singh says they now sing bhajans door-to-door, relying on whatever people can spare. His children haven’t learned the tradition. “It doesn’t pay. Out of 100 Bhopa families, only two still perform today. The tradition is slipping away like sand between fingers.”

The roots of this crisis lie

in two pressing issues—landlessness and climate change. According to Jitendra Sharma from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), nomadic communities like the Bhopas have historically relied on land—not only for sustenance but as a cultural anchor.

Now, with no land titles, Bhopas lack access to basic amenities like housing, water, and electricity. “Without land, they are invisible to many government schemes,” says local resident Narendra, who has helped families apply for homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). Although the scheme prioritizes landless families, officials say they don’t have land to allocate.

Cong urges PM to act on Pahalgam terror attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 4: The Congress Sunday began exerting pressure on the Centre to “teach Pakistan a lesson” over the Pahalgam terror attack, stating that “the country is waiting for action” from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, while addressing the Samvidhan Bachao rally organised by the party here, said that 15 days have passed since the terror attack in Kashmir and questioned why the Centre has not taken any action so far.

“Why has there been no action other than your threats through microphones and public meetings? The country is waiting for action from you, Mr Modi,” Venugopal said.

“The country wants to see your actions, not just challenges through words. The Congress and the INDIA alliance are with you in teaching Pakistan a lesson,” he said.

Taking a dig at Modi, the Alappuzha MP said, “You have a 54-inch chest – now is the time to display it, and we are with you.”

He also referred to the stand taken by the Congress leadership during the All-Party

Meeting and by the party in its Working Committee meeting, extending firm support to the government to take strong action against Pakistan on the matter.

He said the opposition has many questions to ask the government regarding the circumstances that led to the terror attack, and these will be raised at an appropriate time. “You will have to answer point by point,” he added.

Recalling then Gujarat Chief Minister Modi’s statement following the Mumbai terror attack in 2008—when he blamed the Congress-led Centre for not taking action against Pakistan—the Congress leader said, “You put the Congress in the dock, and the Home Minister had to resign.”

“Who propagated that Kashmir is safe and invited people to visit the Valley? Who claimed that terrorism has been suppressed? The Indian government. We have not yet begun asking these questions,” Venugopal said, adding that the Congress government under Indira Gandhi had a history of giving a befitting reply to Pakistan, even in the face of threats from the United States.



Aspirants in Kota bemoan 'tough, lengthy' NEET-UG

Kota (Rajasthan): Many NEET-UG aspirants in the coaching hub of Kota were distraught by what they described as a “tough” exam, with several expressing fear that they might miss the cutoff. Some aspirants, however, said the exam, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), was moderate and expressed hope for a drop in the threshold for selection. The exam was the toughest in the history of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG). It is possible that the cutoff will be low because the exam was tough and lengthy, said ALLEN Career Institute, Kota, director Brajesh Maheshwari. “The paper was lengthy and tough compared to last year’s. Biology and physics questions were mainly from Class 11,” said Shubransh, an aspirant. Another aspirant, Ayushi from Uttar Pradesh, claimed some questions were not from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus. While subject experts said the biology section questions were aligned with the NCERT syllabus, conceptual and meant to assess the students’ understanding rather than recall capability, subject experts in Kota said. Physics and chemistry sections were filled with multi-step questions, cumbersome calculations and situation-based reasoning. Many students reported that time management became a hurdle due to the complex nature of the problems, they said.

Two flyovers to be built on Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, May 4: Two major intersections on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway will soon be congestion-free as the construction work of two flyovers will start by the end of June at the Manesar and Bilaspur intersections on the Expressway.

An official said that for this project, a tender has been opened, and eight construction companies have participated in the tender process.

“The process of allotting work will start during June, and the work will start at the ground level by the end of June,” he said.

He said that the locals had also demanded the construction of flyovers at these two spots multiple times before the government, adding that the construction of both flyovers will not only end the hassle of traffic jams but will also curb accidents.

The official added that more than 40 thousand vehicles pass through Manesar and Bilaspur on average every day, adding that an average of 80,000 vehicles pass through the Kherki Daula toll plaza operated on the Delhi-Jaipur highway every day.

He said that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) receives an average revenue of Rs 48 lakh per day.

“It is also estimated that only 50 per cent of the approximately 80,000 vehicles go beyond Manesar. Apart from Haryana, people from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi pass through the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway,” he said.

He said that people from six states, including Haryana, face traffic pressure every day, adding that the construction of both flyovers will reduce accidents significantly.

He further pointed out that the construction of flyovers at both places will accelerate the pace of development in the surrounding areas as well.

Meanwhile, Prakash Tiwari, Deputy Manager, NHAI, said tenders have been issued for the construction of flyovers at both places, adding that eight companies have come forward.

“One of these is to be selected. The name of the company will be made public as soon as it is selected. Before constructing the flyover, service lanes will be constructed at both places so that the traffic pressure does not increase. By the end of June, work will start at the ground level in any case,” said Tiwari.



A leopard named 'Chanda' drinks water on the International Leopard Day, at the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Jaipur

PTI PHOTO

BJP leader backs Kerala minister’s directive

With the annual Thrissur Pooram just days away, Kerala Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan warned against using symbols, flags, and slogans, that incites religious or political rivalry, as part of the spectacle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), May 4: BJP leader and Union Minister Suresh Gopi Sunday backed state Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan’s directive against using symbols, flags, and slogans that incite religious or political rivalry as part of the festivities of the upcoming Thrissur Pooram.

Billed as the mother of all temple festivals in the state, Thrissur Pooram is an annual spectacle to be held on the sprawling grounds of ancient Vadakkunnathan Temple here.

While talking to reporters here, Gopi, who represents the Thrissur constituency in Lok Sabha, said Vasavan’s directive is good in a way to make the festival acceptable for everyone.

However, the union minister made it clear that the directive should not be a hurdle for the traditional and ritualistic rights in connection with the Pooram festival.

There are some rights in connection with the Pooram that cannot be put on hold for anything, he noted.

“Otherwise, it is good. Festivals



Billed as the mother of all temple festivals in the state, Thrissur Pooram is an annual spectacle to be held on the sprawling grounds of ancient Vadakkunnathan Temple

ivals are the assets of the society. So, it is good that the festivals are held in accordance with the (wishes of) society in a united way and in a manner acceptable to everyone,” he said.

The union minister also wanted the state Devaswom Minister to bring more clarity on his directive in this regard.

After a review meeting in connection with this year’s

Thrissur Pooram, scheduled to be held May 6, Vasavan said here Saturday that the government, district administration, corporation and devaswoms have made all necessary preparations to conduct the Thrissur Pooram in the most remarkable and successful manner.

“Anything that incites religious or political rivalry, such as symbols, flags, and slogans,

should not be used as part of the Pooram,” he has said.

The devaswom minister’s warning came in the wake of recent controversies regarding the usage of such symbols in some temple festivals in the state.

Controversies had taken the sheen off the iconic temple festival last year due to alleged restrictions imposed by police and their reported interference in the rituals on the Pooram night.

For the first time in the history of the festival, the display of fireworks, one of the major attractions, which was scheduled in the early hours, was held in broad daylight the next day, which turned out to be a disappointment for the people.

The alleged interference of the police in the Pooram festivities and delaying the fireworks display triggered sharp political reactions in the state as the opposition Congress and BJP criticised the LDF government on the issue.

The Kerala government, April 21, had directed the state police chief to investigate controversies with regard to the Thrissur Pooram and submit a report within a week.

of the day

quote

While there is no opposition to any language, no one can be distanced from their mother tongue, and Sanskrit is the mother of nearly all Indian languages

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Water is the most precious natural asset of Himachal Pradesh. The state produces 12,000 MW of electricity, yet what has Himachal gained from it?

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

The government tried to crush the protest, leading to growing resentment among teachers. The academic session has begun, but the government seems unconcerned about students' education

JAI RAM THAKUR | MEMBER OF THE HP LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

POST OF THE DAY

WELKER: Your secretary of state says everyone who's here, citizens and non-citizens, deserve due process. Do you agree?

TRUMP: I don't know. I'm not a lawyer. I don't know. WELKER: Don't you need to uphold the Constitution? TRUMP: I don't know

@atrupar

SHORT TAKES

NEET aspirant ends life

Latur (Maharashtra): A 20-year-old NEET aspirant allegedly committed suicide here two days ahead of the national examination for medical courses, police said Sunday. Aniket Ankush Kangude (20), a resident of Rui Dhanora in Gevrai tehsil of Beldi district, Friday allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling of a house in Bodhe Nagar area where he was staying, said a police official. A farmer's son, he had enrolled in a private coaching class here to prepare for the National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test and was living in a rented room for the last two years.

India cuts water flow through Baglihar dam

New Delhi: India has stanchd the flow of water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and is planning similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River, a source said. The source familiar with the matter said these hydroelectric dams -- Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in north Kashmir -- offer India the ability to regulate the timing of water releases. The Baglihar Dam has been a longstanding point of contention between the two neighbours, with Pakistan having sought World Bank arbitration in the past.

Five killed in series of freak accidents

Ongole (Andhra Pradesh): Five people were killed, and eight others sustained serious injuries in a series of freak road accidents involving multiple vehicles on National Highway16 near Ongole Sunday morning, police said. The first accident occurred around 4:50 AM near Ongole East Bypass, where a truck parked on Lane 1 due to flat tyre was hit from behind by a poultry vehicle, killing a driver and two cleaners, they added. The crash led to a traffic jam stretching over a kilometre.



Always keep the nation first. Nothing is more important than the national interest

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR MEDICO-LEGAL CASES

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Sunday launched an digital platform that aims to eliminate handwritten documentation and reduce paperwork related to medico-legal cases and post-mortem reports



NEET-UG held at over 5,400 centres



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: Medical entrance exam NEET-UG was held at more than 5,400 centres around the country amid strict monitoring and security measures Sunday, officials said.

More than 22.7 lakh candidates had registered for the test. The official attendance data will be available in a few hours.

Mock drills were held at all National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) centres Saturday to ensure smooth conduct of the nationwide exam. Most of the centres were located in government and government-aided schools, colleges, universities and institutions. While no untoward incidents have been reported so far, members of the Brahmin community held a protest outside an exam centre in Karnataka's Kalaburagi, demanding accountability after some students from the community were asked to remove their 'janivara (sacred thread)'

before entering the exam hall.

Three men were detained by the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan Police for allegedly trying to dupe a candidate of ₹40 lakh by promising him the question paper. Transporting question papers under police escort, monitoring coaching centres to identify organised cheating rackets, multi-layered frisking by district police in addition to designated security personnel at the exam centres were among the steps taken by the National Testing Agency (NTA), led by the Union education ministry.

The strict measures came a year after alleged irregularities, including paper leaks, were flagged in NEET-UG that put the exam's integrity under scanner. In a crack-down on fake claims about

NEET-UG, the NTA identified 106 Telegram and 16 Instagram channels involved in spreading false information.

The NTA's dedicated portal for receiving such concerns has flagged more than 1,500 claims of paper leaks for the exam. In a decisive move to protect the exam process' integrity, the agency had earlier this week initiated action against certain Telegram and Instagram channels that claimed to have access to the question paper.

The NTA requested Telegram and Instagram to immediately take down the channels to prevent the spread of falsehood and unnecessary panic among the aspirants. The Union education ministry had held a series of meetings with district magistrates and superintendents of police from all states and Union territories to ensure there were no lapses in the conduct of the exam.

Under scrutiny over last year's irregularities in NEET-UG and the PhD entrance exam, the Centre set up a panel to ensure "transparent, smooth and fair" conduct of exams by the NTA. The University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) was cancelled last year after the ministry received input that its integrity was compromised. Both matters are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

MURSHIDABAD RIOTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 4: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has submitted a report on the recent riots in Murshidabad district to the Ministry of Home Affairs, stating that the "twin spectre of radicalisation and militancy" poses a serious challenge to the state.

In the report, he suggested a few measures, including setting up an inquiry commission and outposts of central forces or the BSF in districts bordering Bangladesh, besides writing, "needless to add, the provisions under Article 356 of the Constitution also remain". The imposition of Art 356 refers to President's rule in a state.

Asked about this, an official told PTI: "The governor has not proposed implementation of Art 356. He meant that the provisions of Art 356 are open to the Centre if the situation in the state further deteriorates."

The TMC described the report as politically motivated



A security personnel stands guard, at the Lal Chowk in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

Amid India-Pakistan tension, 30-minute blackout drill held at Ferozepur Cantt

Ferozepur (Punjab): A 30-minute blackout rehearsal was conducted at the Ferozepur Cantonment area in Punjab Sunday evening amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. The blackout drill was carried at the border town out from 9 pm to 9:30 pm, officials said. All lights were turned off in the area after a siren went off at 9 pm, they said. Earlier, the Ferozepur Cantonment Board wrote to Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma about carrying out the blackout drill, "You are requested to ensure adequate security arrangements during this period, given the total blackout. This rehearsal aims to ensure preparedness and effectiveness in implementing blackout procedures during prevailing war threats. Your support and cooperation are crucial in making this exercise successful," the letter said.

CRPF trooper challenges dismissal over marriage to Pakistani woman

Jammu: A day after being dismissed from service for allegedly concealing his marriage with a Pakistani woman, CRPF trooper Munir Ahmed Sunday said he married his cousin nearly a month after getting permission from the force's headquarters last year. Addressing a press conference here, Ahmed, a resident of Jammu's Gharotra area, said their marriage was arranged by their families, and he will challenge his dismissal in court. He also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the CRPF to relook into his case, claiming that "he has completed all the formalities as per the rules and had done no wrong."

Two held in Amritsar on charge of spying

Chandigarh: In a counter-espionage operation, the Punjab Police has arrested two men for their alleged role in leaking sensitive information and photographs of Army cantonment areas and air bases in Amritsar. Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said Sunday that the Amritsar Rural Police has arrested Falaksher Masih and Suraj Masih, both residents of Ajnala. They were allegedly transmitting sensitive information to Pakistan's intelligence agency, the DGP said. Police have also seized two mobile phones from their possession. A preliminary investigation has revealed their links to Pakistani intelligence operatives, established through Harpreet Singh alias Pittu alias Happy, currently lodged in the Amritsar Central Jail.

Guv files report to MHA



while the BJP hailed it. Apprehending a "spillover" of the Murshidabad violence to other districts, Bose said the Centre might consider "constitutional options to put a check on the current situation besides generating confidence of people in the rule of law". He also claimed that the riots appeared "premeditated" and the state government was "aware of the imminent build-up of a threat to law and order".

"The twin spectre of radicalisation and militancy poses a serious challenge for West Bengal, especially in two of the several districts sharing an

international border with Bangladesh, viz., Murshidabad and Malda. In both these districts, there is an adverse demographic composition with Hindus being minorities. Another district, viz., Uttar Dinajpur, has a plurality," Bose mentioned in his report.

The governor suggested several measures in the aftermath of Murshidabd violence that left three people dead. The riot occurred amid anti-Waqf Act protests. The report mentioned "formulating an overarching legislation to empower the Union Government to maintain law and order when the state machinery fails to act effectively."

It also said about appointing a commission of inquiry to look into the "reported acts of omission and commission and to suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future and needless to add, the provisions under Article 356 of the Constitution also remain."

KOTA NEET TRAGEDY

Father: No signs of depression



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan) May 4: A NEET aspirant, who allegedly committed suicide a day before the national medical entrance exam, was a studious student and showed no signs of depression, the deceased girl's father said Sunday.

The minor girl, who hailed from Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh, hanged herself using her scarf from an iron grille of her room in the Parshavnath area Saturday night when her parents were outside.

Speaking to media outside the mortuary Sunday morning, Suresh Singh Sikarwal claimed his daughter was good at studies and scored 92 % marks in the class 10 board exam. He said that he bought a house in Kota in 2017, and since then, his children have been studying here and living with their mother, while he used to visit the home frequently.

Sikarwal, who is a teacher by profession, said he had been with his daughter for the past four days, but she displayed no sign of depression or anxiety and had been preparing for NEET at a coaching institute for two years. The parents were in the market at the time she took the extreme step on Saturday evening, circle inspector at Kunhadi police station Arvind Bhardwaj said, adding the incident came to light at about 9 pm, when they reached home.

No suicide note was recovered from her room, and the reason behind the extreme step by the girl was yet to be ascertained through investigation, Bhardwaj said. Notably, this is the 14th case of suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year since January and the fourth in the last 30 days. Meanwhile, 17 cases of suicide by coaching students were reported in the coaching city of Kota last year.

Domestic violence among most reported crimes to NCW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: The National Commission for Women (NCW) received 7,698 complaints this year, with domestic violence, assault, and criminal intimidation the most common grievances across India.

Domestic violence topped the chart with a total of 1,594 complaints filed since the beginning of the year. The total comprised 367 cases in January, 390 in February, 513 in March, 322 in April, and two in May. The category alone accounted for nearly 20 per cent of all complaints, according to official data.

Closely following were complaints of criminal intimidation, which saw 989 cases over

the three months -- 268 in January, 260 in February, 288 in March, 170 in April, and three in May. Assault was the third most commonly reported issue, with 950 complaints -- 249 in January, 239 in February, and 278 in March, 183 in April and one in May.

Other significant categories included dowry harassment with 916 complaints, rape and attempt to rape with 394, and molestation or outraging the modesty of women, with 310 complaints.

Sexual harassment drew 302 complaints, while cybercrimes against women accounted for 110 cases. Though less frequent, categories like bigamy, sexual harassment at the workplace,



and stalking were also reported. Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of complaints, logging 3,921 cases in the first quarter -- 952 in January, 841 in February, 957 in March, 1,087

in April, and 84 in May.

This figure represents more than 50 per cent of all nationwide complaints. Delhi followed with 688 complaints -- 146 in January, 172 in Febru-

ary, 184 in March, 183 in April, and three in May, while Maharashtra logged 473 complaints.

Other states with high numbers included Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Haryana, which registered 351, 342, and 306

complaints.

Officials said the high number may be because of an increasing awareness among women about their rights and ways to reach out to authorities. A spike was noted in April 2025, when the commission received 2,123 complaints -- higher than any month in the first quarter.

A portion of complaints, 881, were still listed as "Not Categorized yet." Last year, a total of 25,743 complaints were received on the NCW portal and complaints under categories of right to live with dignity, domestic violence and dowry harassment were the most common complaints received on the portal.

Pak shuts ports for Indian ships

India Saturday imposed a ban on the import of goods coming from or transiting through Pakistan and also the entry of Pakistani ships into its ports even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country is committed to take 'firm and decisive' action against terrorists and their backers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: Pakistan has banned the use of its ports by Indian flag carriers, hours after New Delhi imposed fresh punitive measures, including a ban on import of goods and entry of Pakistani ships into its ports, against Islamabad.

India Saturday imposed a ban on the import of goods coming from or transiting through Pakistan and also the entry of Pakistani ships into its ports even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country is committed to take "firm and decisive" action against terrorists and their backers.

Pakistan late Saturday ordered that any Indian flag carriers will not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port and also barred Pakistani ships from docking at any Indian port, a Pakistani newspaper, the Dawn, reported.

"In view of the recent development of maritime situation with neighbouring country, Pakistan in order to safeguard



PTI refuses to attend govt briefing on Pak-India tensions

Peshawar: Jailed former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sunday declined the government's invitation to attend a briefing on Pakistan-India tensions, citing political grievances and demanding broader political consultation. In a statement, PTI spokesperson Sheikh Waqas Akram announced the party's decision to boycott the briefing, saying that while PTI firmly condemns all forms of terrorism and recognises the significance of national unity, it cannot participate under the current political circumstances. "Imran Khan, the founding chairman of PTI, is being unjustly imprisoned. Despite this, he has consistently condemned terrorism in his messages from jail and has called for national unity. His position reflects the vision of a true national leader," Akram said. The PTI said that it remained committed to the defence of the country and would be "on the frontlines" if the need arises.

maritime sovereignty, economic interest and national security enforces following measures with immediate effect: Indian flag carriers shall not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port, Pakistani flag carriers shall not visit any Indian port (and) any exemption or dispensation shall be examined and decided on case to case basis," the newspaper reported.

The Dawn newspaper had

quoted an order issued late Saturday by Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs' Ports and Shipping Wing.

Ties between the two neighbouring countries plummeted following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

In fresh punitive measures against Pakistan that came into effect immediately amid heightened Indo-Pak tensions in the

wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, India also suspended the exchange of mails, parcels from the neighbouring country via air and surface routes.

Besides banning entry of Pakistani ships into Indian ports, India also barred Indian ships from visiting Pakistani ports, according to the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS). The restrictions were put into place with immediate effect, officials said.

According to an Indian government order, the complete ban on imports of all goods from Pakistan was imposed on the grounds of national security and public policy.

Though the 200 per cent import duty imposed on Pakistani goods in 2019 after the Pulwama attack had effectively halted direct imports, the latest decision also prohibits the entry of Pakistani goods routed through third countries.



We have enough strength and means to bring what was started in 2022 to a logical conclusion with the outcome Russia requires

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

IRANIAN FM ARAGHCHI TO ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will arrive in Pakistan Monday on a day-long visit to Islamabad ahead of his trip to New Delhi, media reports said Sunday, amid tensions between India and Pakistan following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack



GENERAL ELECTION

Singapore's ruling party secures landslide victory



The results gave Prime Minister Wong the clear mandate he had sought in his first electoral contest as head of government and leader of the PAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, May 4: Singapore's long-ruling People Action Party (PAP) led by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has returned to power in a landslide victory in the country's general election held amid global economic uncertainties.

Voters overwhelmingly endorsed the ruling party, which secured 87 of 97 seats in Saturday's election. The PAP clinched 65.6% of the vote, surpassing the 61.2% achieved in the 2020 contest, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

The results gave Prime Minister Wong the clear mandate he had sought in his first electoral contest as head of government and leader of the PAP.

Wong at a press conference Sunday said the clear and strong mandate that Singaporeans have given the PAP was deeply humbling, and called the results "a clear signal of trust, stability and confidence" by Singaporeans in their government.

The immediate next task is to form the Cabinet and Wong said he was grateful that all his key MPs had been voted in, and he could put together the best team to serve Singapore.

"I will announce the Cabinet line-up when ready," he said.

Against the backdrop of party renewal and leadership transition, Singaporeans chose political stability and

economic safety over the opposition's calls for greater checks and balances, reported Channel News Asia.

The PAP, Singapore's oldest and largest political party, has ruled the city-state ever since independence in 1965.

Reiterating that the bigger contest is not between political parties but between Singapore and the challenges it faces, Wong at the press conference noted that the election took place at a critical time for the country, as the world faces an economic slowdown as well as fundamental shifts in the international order.

"The results will put Singapore in a better position to face this turbulent world," said Wong. "Singaporeans, too, can draw strength from this and look ahead to our future with confidence," the channel quoted Wong as saying.

He added that the PAP will work even harder with this mandate to ensure concrete progress for Singapore.

Wong pointed out that many, international media, investors and foreign governments, were watching this election closely.

"It is a changed world – not just an economic slowdown, but fundamental shifts in the international order," he said.

"To all Singaporeans, I say the results will motivate us to work even harder for you. We will do our best to serve you and improve your lives," said Wong.

This was Wong's first election as prime minister of the global business-focused Singapore which now faces navigating through strong headwinds caused by tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

SNIPPETS

China, Japan clash over aircraft activity near disputed islands

Beijing: China and Japan Sunday exchanged diplomatic protests, accusing each other of violating their airspace over the disputed islands in the East China Sea. Liu Jinsong, Director-General of the Asian Affairs Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Sunday lodged solemn representations to Yokochi Akira, chief minister of the Embassy of Japan here, regarding Japanese right-wing elements intruding into China's territorial airspace over Diaoyu Dao by piloting a civilian aircraft, the state-run Global Times reported. Liu urged Japan to immediately halt all "illegal and provocative actions" and to take concrete steps to prevent similar incidents. He emphasised that China will resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, it said. A Chinese defence spokesperson condemned the "illegal entry of a Japanese civilian aircraft into the airspace" over Diaoyu Dao, reiterating that this territory is an inherent part of China and warning Japan to stop provocative actions that could destabilise bilateral relations.

Lebanon holds first local elections in almost 10 years

Haret Hreik (Lebanon): Lebanese voted Sunday in the country's first local elections in almost a decade, months after a US-brokered ceasefire ended a war between Israel and Hezbollah. The first round of voting, which is taking place by region, was in the Mount Lebanon districts including Beirut's battered southern suburbs, where Hezbollah headquarters are located and much of their leadership including veteran leader Hassan Nasrallah were killed in Israeli airstrikes during the 14-month war. The polls for mayors and municipal councils, though not as significant as Lebanon's parliamentary election set for 2026, are a barometer of how much the devastating war that left over 4,000 people dead and entire neighbourhoods destroyed has impacted support for politicians and parties, especially in the south where Hezbollah and allies are strong. Hezbollah and fellow Shitte party the Amal Movement are expected to win most votes for municipal councils and mayors in Beirut's southern suburbs.

WEEK'S BEST PICS



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and U.S. President Donald Trump meet while attending the funeral of Pope Francis, April 26



People attend the funeral Mass of Pope Francis at the Vatican, April 26

REUTERS



A Palestinian reacts as people gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, April 29



A mandarin duck swims through reflections of spring growth and blossom on a pond in Richmond Park in London, Britain, April 28

REUTERS

of the day

Quote

India has made a significant advancement by allowing 100 % foreign direct investment under the automatic route in most sectors. The move signals not just openness but stability, offering global investors predictable, sector-agnostic opportunities to enter India's vast and growing economy



RUMKI MAJUMDAR |
ECONOMIST, DELOITTE INDIA

I think the capability of the northeast today is paramount. And we need to be able to actualise and make sure that we give them that launch pad, if you will, to be able to contribute to the nation's progress



JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

Looking ahead, there are several priority sectors where we can deepen collaboration. In the energy sector, we can develop oil and gas infrastructure and partner on clean energy. In the field of education and skilling, India can play an important role in education and capacity building, through high tech training and increased number of scholarships



KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH | MOS FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

SHORT TAKES

IEX sees growth expansion in FY26

New Delhi: Indian Energy Exchange, the country's leading electricity exchange, is expected to log a double-digit volume growth in the current financial year that started in April, on the back of increasing sell side liquidity and launch of new products, according to analyst reports post IEX's FY25 earnings. The current financial year is likely to see a capacity addition of 11 GW on thermal side and up to 40 GW on renewable side that is expected to keep supply-side liquidity on exchanges strong, thereby driving down price discovery in key trading segments like Day Ahead Market and Real Time Market (RTM). In line with experts, introduction of new products like green RTM and long-duration contracts (LDC) of up to 11 months will further add to volumes on IEX. In 2024-25, IEX logged the highest-ever traded electricity volume of 121 billion units (BUs), up 18.7 per cent year on year.

3300 companies under scrutiny

New Delhi: The Corporate Affairs Ministry is set to strike off the names of more than 3,300 companies from the official records after receiving applications for removal of their names with the provisions of the Companies Act, as per the latest data available with the ministry. Out of the total, there are over 700 such companies in Maharashtra, nearly 500 in Delhi, more than 350 in Karnataka, over 200 each in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, among other places. The registrar of companies (RoCs) had received applications from the companies under Section 248(2) of the Companies Act on certain grounds, including that they failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation and currently are out of operations. These companies have been requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the official records. However, the RoCs had issued public notice in April for any objections and questions.



The Indian wind industry is fully aligned with the government's clean energy vision. We are investing in capacity, technology innovation, and workforce development to achieve 100 GW of wind energy by 2030

ADITYA PYASI | CEO, INDIAN WIND TURBINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

BHARTI AIRTEL, TATA GROUP CALL OFF DTH MERGER TALKS

Bharti Airtel and Tata Group have terminated discussions for a merger of their direct-to-home (DTH) business, according to a Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) filing Saturday. In the BSE filing, Airtel said this was because the two sides were not able to find a satisfactory resolution.



US Fed decision, Indo-Pak tensions to drive markets



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: The US Fed interest rate decision, trading activity of foreign investors and quarterly earnings from corporates would largely drive the momentum in the equity market this week, analysts said.

Escalating tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack will also remain on investors' radar, they added.

Optimism over a potential trade agreement with the US and sustained FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) inflows helped markets end the last week on a positive note. But market experts said that due to the fragile global environment amid geopolitical tensions and the ongoing tariff war, investors are not betting big on equities.

Among macroeconomic data announcements this week, HSBC services PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) would be watched by investors.

"This week is crucial, packed with key domestic and global triggers. Developments regarding tariff and geopolitical tensions with Pakistan will remain on the radar. On the macroeconomic front, investors would be eyeing the HSBC composite PMI and services PMI data. While on the global front, Fed interest rate decision is due on 7th May," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

On the corporate earnings

front, prominent companies including M&M, Coal India, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro and Titan would announce their quarterly results during the week.

Globally, updates related to tariffs and trade will also be watched closely, he added. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,289.46 points or 1.62 per cent, and the NSE Nifty climbed 307.35 points or 1.27 per cent.

Concerns over a potential US recession and ongoing border tensions between India and Pakistan also weighed on market mood, Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

"Domestic markets are expected to remain cautious in the near term amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, although a sharp correction is not currently anticipated. Globally, easing trade tensions between the US and China, coupled with a weakening US dollar, are seen as medium-term positives for emerging markets such as India. However, the recent decline in Q1 US GDP growth adds a layer of uncertainty. In this context, upcoming comments from the Federal Reserve Chair on interest rates and inflation during this week's FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will be closely watched and could significantly influence market direction," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.



The latest flow has helped in narrowing the outflow to Rs 1.12 lakh crore in 2025 so far.

India's equity markets witnessed a sharp resurgence in FPI activity in April, signalling a marked reversal from the outflows seen earlier this year.

This renewed momentum was underpinned by a blend of favourable global cues and robust domestic fundamentals that bolstered investor confidence, Himanshu Srivastava,

Associate director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

One of the key catalysts behind this trend has been the improving outlook for a potential US-India trade agreement. Additionally, the weakening of the US dollar, alongside a strengthening Indian rupee enhanced the appeal of Indian assets to global investors, he said.

Furthermore, upbeat quarterly earnings from prominent

Govt abruptly terminates IMF ED's services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: In an unexpected move, the government has terminated services of KV Subramanian as the executive director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) six months ahead of his three-year tenure.

The move comes days before the IMF executive board is to consider financial aid for debt-ridden Pakistan. Post-Pahalgam terror attack last month, India is making efforts to corner Pakistan diplomatically and at various global fora as New Delhi believes its involvement in the attack that led to killing of 26 tourists.

The Appointments Commit-

tee of the Cabinet has terminated Subramanian's services effective April 30, 2025, sources said Saturday. The reasons for Subramanian's exit have not been officially announced.

The sources said the government would soon find his replacement to be nominated to the IMF board as Executive Director. According to the sources, Subramanian is learnt to have raised questions about the IMF's datasets, which did not go down well in the corridors of the multilateral agency.

In the past too, the IMF has been unhappy with some of the statements made by Subramanian, especially related to India's debt situation.

Besides, the sources said,

US likely to seek tariff cuts in trade deal with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: The US is expected to push for sweeping changes in India's policies, ranging from tariff reductions to regulatory overhauls, that could benefit American firms and exporters, under the proposed bilateral trade agreement with India, think tank GTRI said Sunday.

In the agri sector, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the US demands include scaling back India's minimum price support (MSP) programs for crops like rice and wheat, removing restrictions on genetically modified (GM) imports, and lowering farm tariffs.

Similarly, on dairy, the US

argues that India's GM-free feed certification and facility registration protocols effectively bar American dairy imports.

Indian rules prohibit imports from animals fed with animal-derived feed, for example, butter from a cow fed meat due to religious sensitivities.

"India considers this policy non-negotiable," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. He added that America may also seek easing of restrictions on US retail giants like Amazon and Walmart that face roadblocks due to India's restrictions on foreign-owned inventory-based e-commerce trading. India resists the easing as it has to protect its small domestic retailers from unfair competition from deep-pocketed foreign firms.

FPIs infuse ₹4,223cr in April

FOREIGN INVESTORS TURN NET BUYERS FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE MONTHS AMID A BLEND OF FAVOURABLE GLOBAL CUES AND ROBUST DOMESTIC FUNDAMENTALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: Foreign investors have injected Rs 4,223 crore in the country's equity market in April as they turned net buyers for the first time in three months amid a blend of favourable global cues and robust domestic fundamentals.

The inflow of foreign capital came last month following a back-to-back net outflow of Rs 3,973 crore in March, Rs 34,574 crore in February and Rs 78,027 crore in January.

Going ahead, FPI inflows could remain stable, but will be constrained by the modest earnings growth of around 5 per cent in FY25, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net investment of Rs 4,223 crore in equities in the entire April.

SEVEN OF TOP 10 FIRMS SEE JUMP IN MARKET CAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 valued firms surged by Rs 2.31 lakh crore (Rs 2,31,177.3 crore) in a holiday-shortened last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer amid a largely optimistic trend in equities.

While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys and ITC emerged as the gainers in the top-10 pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever faced losses in their valuation.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,289.46 points or 1.62 per cent. Equity markets were closed Thursday for 'Maharashtra Day'.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 1,64,959.62 crore to Rs 19,24,235.76 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation surged by Rs 20,755.67 crore to Rs 10,56,029.91 crore. ICICI Bank added Rs 19,381.9 crore to Rs 10,20,200.69 crore in its valuation.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank rallied by Rs 11,514.78 crore to Rs 14,73,356.95 crore and that of Infosys zoomed Rs 10,902.31 crore to Rs 6,25,668.37 crore.

ITC's mcap climbed Rs 2,502.82 crore to Rs 5,38,294.86 crore and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 1,160.2 crore to Rs 7,14,014.23 crore.

REUTERS

Omaha, May 4: Berkshire Hathaway shareholders mourning the departure of legendary investor Warren Buffett anticipate the conglomerate he built over 60 years will retain its long-term focus and culture but worry about the loss of Buffett's vision and star power.

Following Buffett's surprise announcement Saturday that he would step down as chief executive by the end of the year, Berkshire shareholders and fans said the Omaha, Nebraska-based company will remain in good hands once Vice Chairman Greg Abel takes the top job.

But they said it remains unclear how the \$1.16 trillion conglomerate, which has 189 operating businesses, \$264 billion of stocks and \$348 billion of cash, will fare after the man so intertwined with it leaves the stage. Buffett made the announcement at the end of the Berkshire annual meeting after hours of taking shareholder questions. He said Berkshire's board of directors will meet Sunday to discuss the transition.

"There has been a premium on Berkshire because of Buffett," said Mark Malek, chief investment officer at Siebert, NXT. "Will people look at it in the same way?"

Richard Casterline, a computer programmer from Denver, said it was a "bit shocking" to learn of Buffett's departure.

"I'm curious to see what the stock price will do on Monday," he said. "I don't think (Abel) elicits the same excitement. It's not any fault of his own, it's just thinking of who could be as legendary as those two are. It's just tough shoes to fill."

BUFFETT'S BABY

Still, many see Abel as right for the job.

"This is Buffett's baby, and he thoughtfully and deliberately planned for an orderly succession that does not disrupt the value of his life's work," said Daniel Hanson, senior portfolio manager at Neuberger Berman. "I have full confidence in Greg's leadership."

Richard Lancaster, an accounting consultant from Charlotte, North Carolina, likened the change to Steve



Jobs handing Apple's reins to current Chief Executive Tim Cook in 2011.

"You have two different personalities, two different approaches," said Lancaster. "Greg has all the qualities Warren likes in a manager: very sharp individual, and well-versed in what's in the business climate today and the changes that will come through disruptive technologies."

Under Buffett, Berkshire's annualized shareholder return has roughly doubled that of the Standard & Poor's 500.

Buffett's aura was such that

concerns were raised over an "alleged impropriety" relating to the promotion and publicity of his latest book, 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse'.

Subramanian was appointed as the executive director (India) at the IMF with effect from November 1, 2022 for a period of three years. Prior to this, he served as the chief economic adviser to the government.

The executive board of the IMF is composed of 25 directors (executive directors or EDs) elected by the member countries or groups of countries.

India is in a four-country constituency, along with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan as members.

Diesel consumption up after months of decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 4: India's diesel consumption surged nearly 4% in April after months of sharp decline as per the latest data available from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Diesel, India's most consumed petroleum fuel and a lifeline of transport and rural agri economy, saw a jump of 2% growth in demand in fiscal year ended March 31, 2024 and no growth in the preceding financial year. The consumption was 5.3% more than April 2023 and 10.45 % higher than the previous Covid-19 period.

The onset of summer escalates rural and urban demand for irri-



gation and air-conditioner respectively. This 4% rise in April 2025 is the highest recorded volume for this month and second highest ever volume in any month.

Industry officials said diesel had hit a slow lane in the last few months, leading to speculations about its future, but this sudden growth in April has given a hope of revival.

While there has been a shift in passenger vehicles to petrol,

diverse, including Geico car insurance, the BNSF railroad, many utility and power companies, a real estate brokerage, and retail brands such as Dairy Queen, Fruit of the Loom and See's Candies.

Buffett is known as a collector of businesses but has made exceptions, as when businesses lose competitive advantages.

In 2019, Berkshire sold its Applied Underwriters workers compensation unit, and the next year shed its newspaper empire as falling ad revenue led Buffett to brand the industry "toast."

Leaders of most Berkshire businesses have since 2018 reported to Abel, while Berkshire's insurance businesses such as Geico, General Re and National Indemnity have reported to Vice Chairman Ajit Jain, which they will continue doing.

Managers praise Abel as a quick study, despite overseeing businesses as varied as aircraft parts maker Precision Castparts, Israeli toolmaker Iscar and Borsheims jewelry.

Quick changes are unlikely.

CNG and electricity, diesel still makes up for around 38% of all petroleum products consumed in the country. It has grown at more than 10 % over pre-Covid volume and will continue to grow for the next many years, they said.

During April 2025, petrol consumption registered a growth of 4.6 % to 3.435 million tonnes. Petrol consumption last year had soared by 19 % due to electioneering. It has added volume equal to four months since 2019. On the other side, LPG continued to be in the fast lane with 6.7 % growth to 2.621 million tonnes, driven by Ujjawala connections. Since 2019, volumes equal to almost 5 months have been added in domestic cooking gas consumption. ATF consumption growth slowed to 3.25% to 7,66,000 tonnes as per reports.

Berkshire's sheer size makes undoing Buffett's work in short order, or making a transformational acquisition, very difficult.

"Buffett has built such an amazing machine," said Nate Garrison, chief investment officer at World Investment Advisors. "It's something that will stand the test of time."

LONG LEGACY

Shareholders said Buffett's legacy will live on. Sameer Naik, a software architect from Omaha, said Buffett taught investors to be patient when investing.

"His biggest legacy is giving investors a lot of confidence they can get rich, slower," Naik said. "If you invest in the right companies that you understand, and invest over time, good things will happen."

Pamela Taylor, a Chicagoan who works in technology sales, said she has studied Buffett's investing style for a long time.

"His strategy of buy-and-hold in particular can be very different from the quick-sell technique that other investors use," she said. "That will be his legacy."

PBKS push LSG towards exit door

AGENCIES

Dharamshala, May 4: Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh stood up with the new ball, getting swing and bounce, to blow away Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) top-order and pave the way for Punjab Kings' (PBKS) move to second place in IPL 2025 points table with a 37-run win at the HPCA Stadium Sunday.

After Prabhsimran Singh's sublime 91 took PBKS to a massive 236/5, Arshdeep removed Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran inside the powerplay to all but virtually set the deal in PBKS' favour. Ayush Badoni (74) and Abdul Samad

TODAY'S MATCH

Indian Premier League



VS



Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: JioHotstar

(45) sharing an 81-run stand for the sixth wicket ensured LSG finished at 199/7, which meant their net run rate didn't suffer much, as PBKS got those crucial two points to boost their playoffs chances.

PBKS' had a bright start to their defence – Arshdeep took out openers Marsh and Markram in the third over. While Marsh's flick

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

was caught by an attentive deep backward square leg, Markram chopped on to his stumps. Arshdeep again struck in power-play when his inswinger went past Pooran's stumps and hit him on the back leg, thus trapping him plumb lbw, as LSG made 38/3 in the power-play, their lowest score in this phase of the ongoing season.

Rishabh Pant hit three boundaries in his 18 off 17 off balls, before flashing so hard against Azmatullah Omarzai that he lost control of the bat, while the ball was easily

Brief Scores

Punjab Kings 236/5 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 91, Shreyas Iyer 45; Akash Singh 2-30, Digvesh Rathu 2-46) beat Lucknow Super Giants 199/7 in 20 overs (Ayush Badoni 74, Abdul Samad 45; Arshdeep Singh 3-16, Azmatullah Omarzai 2-33) by 37 runs

caught by deep cover in the eighth over. LSG's continued as David Miller sliced to deep cover, giving Omarzai his second wicket. Samad and Badoni brought out some big-hitting blitzkrieg – smashing 21 runs off Vyshak Vijaykumar's first over, before the former dispatched Yuzvendra Chahal for two sixes in the 13th over. Samad's blitzkrieg continued when he whipped Marcus Stoinis for four and six, before he hit a slower ball from Jansen back to left-arm pacer and fall for a 24-ball 45.

Badoni went on to bring up his fifty off 32 balls by lofting Vyshak over long-on for six, and followed it up with an incredible whip and sweep fetching him more boundaries. But Chahal had other ideas – forcing Badoni to miscue to short third man and fall for a 40-ball 74, as PBKS began their crucial home stretch with a complete win.

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SHORT TAKES

Litton Das new B'desh captain

New Delhi: Wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das has been named as Bangladesh's T20I captain for the upcoming series UAE and Pakistan. Das replaces Najmul Hossain Shanto, who quit the T20I captaincy earlier this year, while off-spinner Mahedi Hasan has been appointed as the vice-captain.

Aditi Ashok shoots 66 at Black Desert

Ivins (US): India's Aditi Ashok shot one of her best rounds of the season as she landed seven birdies against one bogey in a round of 6-under 66 that carried her up to the tied 20th place in the Black Desert Championship here. With rounds of 69-71-66 she is 10-under and eight shots behind the leader, Haeran Ryu of Korea, who has shot 63-67-68 to be 18-under.

Picault, Suárez, Messi help beat Red Bulls 4-1

Fort Lauderdale: Lionel Messi had a goal and an assist, Fafá Picault scored a goal for the second consecutive game and Inter Miami beat the New York Red Bulls 4-1. Inter Miami (6-1-3) rebounded from a 4-3 loss to Dallas that snapped its eight-game unbeaten streak to open the season. Messi capped the scoring in the 67th minute on Saturday night. After four consecutive to or from Messi and Telasco Segovia, Messi used his right hip to hold off defender Noah Eile and then calmly slammed home a left-footer from the center of the area.

No guard of honour by Rangers for Celtic

Glasgow: Rangers opted against giving a guard of honour for newly crowned Scottish champion Celtic ahead of the 1-1 draw between the fierce Glasgow rivals Sunday. Celtic was playing for the first time since clinching the Scottish Premiership title last weekend to join Rangers on a national-record 55 championship crowns. Ahead of the game, interim Rangers manager Barry Ferguson had indicated there would be no guard of honour for Celtic, saying it had never happened in the past, and that ended up being the case at Ibrox.

WOMEN'S ODI TRI-SERIES

Nilakshi & Harshita help SL beat India in Colombo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 4: All-rounder Nilakshika Silva brought her years of experience to play during a counter-attacking 33-ball 56 as Sri Lanka humbled India by three wickets -- their first win in seven years against their fancied rivals -- in a women's Tri-series match here Sunday.

The victory, the islanders' second in the tournament, helped them inch closer to the final. This was India's first loss in the event but they are still expected to make the title clash thanks to their convincing wins in their first two matches.

Asked to bat first, India posted a competitive 275 for nine riding on swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh's 48-ball 58.

Sri Lanka completed the chase with five balls to spare after slipping to 152 for four in

the 33rd over.

After Nilakshi flattened the India bowlers with her three sixes and five fours, Anushka Sanjeevani (23 not out off 28 balls) and Sugandika Kumari (19 not out off 20 balls) got the job done for Sri Lanka to push the third team South Africa on the verge of elimination.

In the chase, Hasini Perera (22 off 27 balls) was run out after a direct throw from Deepti Sharma but Harshitha Samarawickrama added 78 runs for the second wicket with Vishmi Gunaratne (33 off 58 balls) to lead Sri Lanka's response.

Harshitha, who played a fine hand of 53 in 61 balls while hitting five boundaries, was dismissed by part-tie off-spinner Pratika Rawal at a crucial juncture to leave the game in the balance. Needless to say, Harshitha was gutted by the manner of her dismissal, as she struck a flighted delivery straight to Arundhati at cover.

Sabalenka wins third Madrid Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, May 4: Aryna Sabalenka beat Coco Gauff in straight sets to win her record-tying third Madrid Open and 20th career title Saturday.

Sabalenka powered through the first set and edged the American in a tiebreaker for 6-3, 7-6 (3) on the Caja Mágica clay court.

Sabalenka added to titles in Madrid in 2021 and 2023 and equaled Petra Kvitova's tournament record. It was also Sabalenka's tour-leading third title of the year after Brisbane and Miami. She also pulled level with Gauff on head-to-head with five wins apiece.

Gauff could have risen to No 2 with a victory. The 2023 US Open champion lost only one set this week until the final. Gauff's great record in finals slipped to nine wins in 11.

Sabalenka battered Gauff with her drive early on, winning 17 consecutive points during one section for a 4-1 start. When Gauff found her weakness by spreading her

KKR clinch one-run win



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 4: Andre Russell roared back to form with a blistering unbeaten fifty as Kolkata Knight Riders resisted Riyan Parag's stunning 95 to edge out Rajasthan Royals by one-run in an IPL thriller that kept the defending champions' slim playoff hopes alive here Sunday.

Russell, who had been under scrutiny for his indifferent form this season, smashed a 25-ball 57 as KKR smashed 85 runs in the last five overs to post a commanding 206/4.

In reply, Rajasthan found themselves in tatters at 71/5 inside eight overs and they needed 105 runs from the last 48 balls, before stand-in skipper Parag kept their hopes alive through his knock off 45 balls (6x4, 8x6).

But smart bowling changes from skipper Ajinkya Rahane ensured that Parag got out five short of his maiden IPL century, before Vaibhav Arora held his nerves under pressure in the final over, keeping RR down to 205/8.

The Royals required 22 runs off the last over but Impact Shubham Dube launched Arora for two sixes and a four to bring the equation down to three runs

off the final delivery.

But a smart field switch by Rahane placing Rinku Singh at long-off proved decisive as his sharp throw found Arora at non-striker's end who ran out Jofra Archer to seal the thrilling win.

KKR now have 11 points from as many games and have moved up to sixth on the points table but still need to win the remaining three matches to have a sniff at the play-offs.

Before the tense finale, RR's chase began in ominous fashion. Vaibhav Suryavanshi (4) departed in the first over and Kunal Singh Rathore followed for a duck, leaving Royals reeling at 8/2 in the second over.

Rahane then made a smart call to bring back Chakravarthy from the other end and it paid off immediately. The mystery spinner bowled a game-changing over, striking twice in three balls, cleaning up Dhruv Jurel and Wanindu Hasaranga with googlies.

But what followed was absolute carnage with Parag launching into Moeen in the 13th over, smashing the off-spinner for five consecutive sixes in a jaw-dropping 32-run over.

In the process, Parag raced to

his maiden fifty of the season in just 27 balls and added 92 runs for the sixth wicket with Shimron Hetmyer.

But Narine's tidy last over heaped pressure on both the batters as Rana dismissed Hetmyer with a lifter in the next over. With 38 runs needed off the last 18 balls, Parag went big but holed out to Arora at long-on.

Earlier, coming into the match with just 72 runs from seven innings at an average of 10.28, Russell changed the ordinary script.

The 37-year-old Jamaican recovered from a slow start (2 off 9 balls) to finish with a staggering strike rate of 228.00.

Russell unleashed his fury in the final five overs, transforming a middling KKR total into a formidable one.

In the 16th over, Russell tore into pacer Akash Madhwal, smashing him for 4, 6, and 4.

Russell found a reliable partner in young Angkrish Raghuvanshi, who made 44 off 31 balls (5x4), as the pair stitched together a 61-run stand from just 33 balls

Rahane (30 off 24) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (35 off 25) earlier added 56 runs off 33 balls.

Verstappen bags pole in Miami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miami Gardens (US), May 4: Max Verstappen celebrated the birth of his first child with a pole-winning run at the Miami Grand Prix.

The four-time defending Formula 1 champion edged Lando Norris of McLaren by .065 seconds to take the top starting spot for Sunday's race. It was a rebound for Verstappen, who was penalised earlier Saturday in the sprint race and finished 17th.

"It's been a great qualifying, it worked out well and I'm very happy to be on pole," Verstappen said of his 43rd career pole. It is his third pole through six races this season and second consecutive.

It wasn't the result Norris hoped for from F1's newest father. There's a myth that having children can slow drivers because they suddenly become a bit more conservative. Verstappen and his partner, Kelly Piquet, announced the birth of a baby girl Friday.

Mbappe keeps Madrid in Spanish league title race

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, May 4: Kylian Mbappe scored in each half as Real Madrid held on to beat Celta Vigo 3-2 Sunday to keep pace with Barcelona in the Spanish league title race.

Arda Guler also scored for Madrid, which opened a 3-0 lead early in the second half but saw Celta get back into the game toward the end of the match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Celta had a couple of great chances to complete its comeback, including a shot by Pablo Durán that stopped just short of the goal line after a deflection by Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in the 78th minute. Courtois had to make a couple of saves near the end to secure the win.

The victory moved Madrid back within four points of leader Barcelona ahead of the teams' last "clasico" of the season next Sunday in Barcelona.

The Catalan club came from behind to defeat last-placed



Valladolid 2-1 Saturday, when coach Hansi Flick rested most of the team's regular starters ahead of its Champions League semifinal match at Inter Milan Tuesday. Barcelona and Inter drew 3-3 in the first leg. Güler put Madrid ahead with a shot into the top corner in the 33rd, and Mbappé scored in the 39th — also finding the top corner — and in a break-away in the 48th. The France star hadn't scored in the league since March.