

Rashmika's advice

Actor Rashmika Mandanna shares a thoughtful message with her followers, especially young girls and boys LEISURE | P2



Wong retains power

Singapore's long-ruling People Action Party (PAP) led by PM Lawrence Wong returns to power in a landslide victory

INTERNATIONAL | P10

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | MAY 5, 2025



Buffett hands over baton

Berkshire shareholders mourn the stepping down of legendary investor Warren Buffett from the conglomerate he built over 60 years

BUSINESS | P11

KKR edge out RR

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Rajasthan Royals by one run to keep their IPL play-off qualification hopes alive

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

Houthis' missile lands near key Israel airport

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Israeli defence minister threatens retaliation

REUTERS

Ben Gurion Airport (Israel), May 4: A missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels towards Israel Sunday landed near Ben Gurion Airport, the country's main international airport, sending a plume of smoke into the air and causing panic among passengers in the terminal building. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houth-

is, who claimed responsibility for the missile strike, have recently intensified missile launches at Israel, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

A senior Israeli police commander, Yair Hetzroni, showed reporters a crater caused by the impact of the missile, which airport authorities said had landed beside a road near a Terminal 3 parking lot.

"You can see the scene right behind us here, a hole that opened up with a diameter of tens of metres and also tens of metres deep," Hetzroni said, adding that there was no significant damage.

In a statement after the strike, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said, "Whoever harms us will be harmed sevenfold.'

Israel's Channel 12 News said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would meet

AI flight diverted

New Delhi: An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources. The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said. They said the flight will be coming back to Delhi. As per information available on flight track-ing website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi. Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday. A statement from Air India was awaited.

security ministers and defence officials Sunday to discuss a response.

Most missile launches from Yemen have been intercepted by Israel's missile defence systems, apart from a strike that hit Tel Aviv last year. The military said it was investigating what happened with Sunday's launch, which caused sirens to be activated across central Israel, including nearby in the major city of Tel Aviv.

Sunday's strike came as Israeli ministers were reported to be close to signing off on plans to expand the military operation in Gaza, which resumed in March following a two-month truce, drawing a pledge from the Houthis to hit Israel with more missiles.



BUFFALO BATH: Children play with buffaloes as they take a bath in a pond to cool themselves during a hot summer day, in Nadia, West Bengal, Sunday



n the aftermath of the politi-*L* cal instability in Bangladesh following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, and more recently the Pahalgam massacre, India's borders Paramilitary force to get 16 new battalions, two field HQs

raise 16 more battalions, comprising around 17.000 troopers.



Shot in the arm for BSF

surveillance of the Bangladesh border, they said.

Air Chief Marshal

SANTHARA RITUAL

3-yr-old fasts to death over Jain monk's advice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Leaves cancelled to maintain output. No clarity yet on whether the ammunition is for war-or elections

CM's one-on-one talks with tycoons

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi held a series of one-on-one meetings with industry leaders in Mumbai. seeking investments for the state. Maihi held the meetings on the sidelines of WAVES 2025 Saturday, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement Sunday. He held meetings with the senior leadership of Tata Steel. Shapoorii Pallonii Group, Waaree Energies, and Indian Rare Earths Ltd. He also met officials of Jain Irrigation Ltd and JSK Aluminium Industries to attract investments in agro-processing, irrigation equipment manufacturing, and aluminium downstream sectors. the statement said.

Digha temple row: Servitor guizzed

Bhubaneswar: The Shree

Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) of Puri Sunday questioned a senior servitor over the alleged use of surplus sacred wood of the 12th century shrine in crafting idols in a temple at Digha in neighbouring West Bengal, officials said. The servitor, 'Daitapati Nijog' secretary Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, attended and supervised the consecration ceremony at the Digha temple in presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee April 30. Apart from Mohapatra, around 56 other servitors from the Puri temple had reportedly attended the event. P4

face renewed challenges. These developments underscore the urgent need to strengthen vigilance along both western and eastern frontiers. The Border Security Force (BSF), tasked with guarding 6,726 km of international borders, is all set to raise 16 new battalions-adding nearly 17,000 personnel-to meet these demands. Particularly concerning is the 4.097 km-long India-Bangladesh border, the longest India shares with any nation, much of which remains

unfenced due to difficult riverine

and jungle terrain. A more hos-

tile Bangladesh could worsen

the already prevalent cross-bor-

der infiltration and smuggling.

Additionally, the approval to es-

tablish new forward headquar-

ters in Jammu and Mizoram

dvnamics shift.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and set up two forward headquarters for its western and eastern commands guarding the Pakistan and Bangladesh frontiers, respectively, official sources have said. The plan has already re-

ceived an in-principle approval.

Once sanctioned, it will be a shot in the arm for the force that has heightened vigil in the east following last year's fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh and in the wake of a renewed challenge on the Pakistan front after the April 22 Pahalgam massacre.

The BSF is soon expected to get the final sanction for raising 16 new battalions which will be raised over the next few years, sources in the security establishment told PTI. Some final approvals includ-

will enhance command efficiency ing sanction from the Union in vulnerable regions as security Finance Ministry are pending and are expected to be granted soon, they said.

The paramilitary force has New Delhi, May 4: The Border 193 battalions as of now to Security Force is all set to get guard the two fronts. A battalthe government's final nod to ion of the border force consists

of over 1.000 troopers. Hence, the overall strength of the 16 new battalions will be around 17,000 personnel.

These new battalions will help the BSF in its primary task of guarding the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders as per a blueprint being prepared by the border force, they said.

The sources said two field command bases for the force have also been approved by the Union Home Ministry

One sector will come up in Jammu to strengthen security along the India-Pakistan International Border (IB) in Jammu and Punjab and the second will be based in Mizoram for better

The current sectors, headed by deputy inspector general (DIG) rank officers, in its Jammu frontier are located at Ra jouri, Sunderbani, Jammu and Indreshwar Nagar. Under its Mizoram and Cachar frontier headquartered in Assam, the sectors are located at Silchar, Aizawl and one in Manipur.

Sources said the BSF will initiate recruitment drives to hire men and women for these new battalions, followed by their training. The force is expected to raise these units over a period of five to six years, they added.

According to officials, the 2.70 lakh personnel strong force had sent a proposal to the Home Ministry a few years ago to raise 20-21 new battalions owing to the fast-changing security dynamics, profile of the terrain and related issues in its primary task area of guarding the two borders apart from combat duties in the anti-Naxal operations theatre.

The government finally agreed to raise 16 new battalions, they said.

and inconsistent effectiveness.

lv different. Scientists collect-

ed a sample of Friede's blood

and isolated the most effective

The new approach is radical-

calls on PM Modi

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh Sunday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is understood to have discussed the security situation arising out of the rising tensions between India and Pakistan over the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. The meeting came less than 24 hours after Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi apprised the PM on the overall situation in the critical sea lanes in the Arabian Sea. The Air chief held a meeting with PM Modi, sources said without giving further details. There is no official word on the Modi-Singh meeting yet.

Pak flouts ceasefire for 10th day on trot

Pakistani troops continued unprovoked small arms firing in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, prompting effective retaliation by the Indian army, officials said Sunday. The ceasefire violation by Pakistan was reported from eight places spread across five districts in the Union Territory during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday but there was no report of any casualty, the officials said. This was the 10th consecutive night of unprovoked firing from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indore, May4: A three-year old girl suffering from brain tumour died after her parents initiated her into the Jain religious practice of fasting unto death as advised by a spiritual leader in Madhya Pradesh's Indore.

The girl, Viyana Jain, who was their only child, breathed her last March 21, her parents said.

Santhara, also known as Sallekhana, is a Jain ritual of voluntarily fasting unto death As per this practice, a person gradually reduces his or her intake of food and water until death as a means of achieving spiritu al purification and detachment from the world. According to her parents, the Golden Book of World Records has taken note and issued a certificate in the name of Viyana for being the youngest person in the world to vow the Jain ritual Santhara.

Her parents, who work as In formation Technology (IT) pro fessionals, say that they decid ed to make their daughter take the Santhara vow after being advised by a Jain muni (monk)

Bitten for science: DIY daredevil behind a revolutionary antivenom

AGENCIES

Washington, May 4: For nearly two decades. Tim Friede has voluntarily injected himself with the venom of some of the world's deadliest snakes including cobras, mambas, kraits and taipans. In total, Friede has endured

more than 200 bites and more than 700 injections of venom he prepared from some of the world's deadliest snakes.

He's not a daredevil or a stuntman, but a self-taught herpetologist on a personal mission-to build immunity against venom and help create an "unparalleled" antidote. Now, his extreme experiment may be paying off.

Scientists in the US recently harnessed antibodies from Friede's blood to develop a potential breakthrough: a "universal" antivenom effective against the neurotoxins of at least 19 different snake species. These socalled "super antibodies" offer hope for a safer, more efficient alternative to the outdated antivenom production methods still in use today.

Traditional antivenoms are made by injecting small doses of venom into animals like horses, then collecting and



purifying the antibodies from their blood. While life-saving, this century-old technique comes with many risks, including severe allergic reactions

antibodies his immune system had produced. They then sequenced the DNA responsible and used genetically modified viruses to produce these antibodies in the lab.

But the journey isn't without its dangers. Friede nearly died several times during his self-immunisation regimen, a practice called "mithridatism" that dates back to ancient times but is fraught with peril. Immunity can fade quickly, and the approach is not feasible-or advisable—for others to replicate. Despite its promise, the new

antivenom doesn't yet neutralise

all venom types. Some deadly components, like the blood-attacking prothrombinase found in taipans and eastern brown snakes, remain untargeted Nonetheless, combining these lab-made antibodies with venom inhibitors like varespladib-another promising drug currently in clinical trials-could finally give doctors a reliable, fast-act ing snakebite cure.

And we need it. Snakebite is one of the world's deadliest and most overlooked public health crises. Every year, up to 2.7 million people are bitten and around 138,000 die.















Isure



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.

First

hit



IE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy 🖕 reliability 🖕 trust

You are a literary person and today your power of expression will come in very handy. Ifyouaretryingtowooyourbeloved,anin-timateconversationwillprovebeneficial. However, make sure not to avoid office duties, and complete you pending work before your superiors come checking.

TAURUS

Your efficiency and re-

sourcefulness will, today, be functioning on overdrive. You willmanagedifficultproblemsandsortout complexissueswithanysweat.Youmake 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

LEO

prestige, at any price.

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

VIRGO

eye, advises Ganesha.

Your amazingability to play with words will stand you in good stead today. Somuch 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 ren ovating 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 un easy in the company of your friends and not particularly in the mood to socialise.

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 Insta-

gram 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 de-<u>leted), where he appears vis-</u> ibly upset and in tears as he speaks about feeling alienat-

ed 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 <u>Ka</u>poor, Ananya Pandey and Arjun Kapoor and Siddhant Chaturvedi and Raghav Juval and Adarsh Gouray and even... Arijit Singh? There are so, so many more names. Bollywood is so ******. 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 Harssh Limbachiyaa's podcast, was seen talking about his father

Rashmika shares life lessons for young hearts / actress with ₹1000 cr

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 tomor

row or thev 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 vou choose well.. don't them take for granted -EVER!"she urged. On the professionfront, Rashmika is set to appear in Kuberaa, social

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thriller

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Nagarju-

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AGENCIES

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Sonam's regret Mum-

her

bai: Sonam Kapoor, who did not complete college education, recently shared her

plans to save for her son Vayu Kapoor Ahuia'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 Vavu'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 correspon-

dence course through the University of Mumbai. Agences

Mumbai: Having a successful career in entertainment the industry is no easy feat, whether you're a star kid or an out sider. Hard work and determination are key to delivering a hit movie. In recent times, films like Pushpa 2 and Pathaan have been

massive successes, largely driven by male leads. However, female actors have also played crucial roles in the success of these films.

Looking back, the first movie to cross Rs 1000 crore at the box office was Baahubali, with Tamannaah Bhatia and Anushka Shetty making significant contributions to its success. Tamannaah, in particular, became the first actress to be part of a Rs 1000 crore hit in India, thanks to her chemistry with Prabhas. Baahubali: The Beginning (2015) earned around Rs 600 650 crore, while the sequel made a staggering Rs 1810 crore worldwide.

Tamannaah, who debuted at just 15 in Chand Sa Roshan Chehra (2005), is now a prominent figure in the South film industry. She was recently seen in Ajay Devgn's Raid 2 for an item song and in Odela 2. In her personal life, Taman naah's relationship with actor Vijay Varma has ended, making headlines as well.

AGENCIE

SCORPIO

Being a constructive day, you may take up an uphill task at work, predicts Ganesha. Youaremilesaheadofvourcompetitorsandthisfactshallrelaxyouforthetime 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.

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

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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 waver, says Ganesha.

PEANUTS

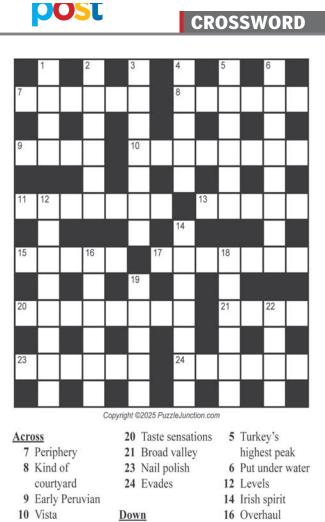
and his legacy.



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY YOU SPEND TOO YOU'RE PRUNING MUCH TIME INDOORS. MY LIFE !!! GO OUT AND SIT IN THE HOT SUN!



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

Ρ	1	R	А	Т	E	S		А	0	R	Т	A
Е		1		н		Q		R		Е		V
А	Ρ	Ρ	L	1	Q	U	Е	S		S	Е	Е
R				Μ		Α		0		Е		R
S	н	R	U	В		S	Α	Ν	G	R	1	A
		Е		L		н				V		G
D	0	D	G	Е	D		R	Е	Μ	0	Т	Е
Е		С				S		L		1		
S	Н	A	L	L	0	Т		А	R	R	0	W
1		R		А		0		Ρ				0
S	A	Ρ		С	0	R	Κ	S	С	R	Е	W
Т		Е		Е		Κ		Е		U		Е
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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

FUN

7	Periphery	21 Broad valley		highest peak
8	Kind of	23 Nail polish	6	Put under wat
	courtyard	24 Evades	12	Levels
9	Early Peruvian		14	Irish spirit
0	Vista	<u>Down</u>	16	Overhaul
11	God of the sea	1 Sheepish look	18	Fervour
3	Gawk	2 Wee one	19	Cunning
5	Ocean predator	3 Answer	22	Empty
7	Nightspot	4 Hot spot		promises

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW









1

1

1

1





SUDOKU

EXAM TIME

Candidates wait for their turn to enter a NEET-UG centre at Kendriva Vidvalava-1 in Bhubaneswar Sunday. The examination, which was held in 27 places across the state. commenced at 2pm and concluded at 5pm. CCTV cameras were installed in the examination centres, while senior police officers were in charge of the security. The National Testing Agency conducted the NEET UG-2025 for admission to the MBBS course



Health dept to ramp up services for Rath Yatra

rissapo

owntown

MONDAY | MAY 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Taking stock of the preparedness for Rath Yatra, H&FW secretary Aswathy S secretary directed the senior department officers to ensure adequate arrangements for sevayats, pilgrims and tourists, starting from Nabajauban Darshan to Niladri Bije

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Puri, May 4: A high-level meeting, reviewing the preparedness ahead of Rath Yatra was held under the chairpersonship of Health and Family Welfare department secretary Aswathy S at Lok Seva Bhawan conference hall here recently

Taking stock of the available and required healthcare facilities, the secretary directed the senior officers of the department to ensure adequate arrangements for sevayats, pilgrims and tourists, starting from Nabajauban Darshan (June 26) to Niladri Bije (July 8). "The facilities and services with required manpower will be placed well in advance of the scheduled dates," she added.

Key issues related to strengthening of hospitals across the district, with special focus on government health facilities, setting up first aid centres, stationing ambulance services at strategic sites, deputation of additional man-



power, including specialists, doctors and paramedics, vigil on food safety measures, prevention, combat and control of any possible outbreak were discussed in the meeting with required interventions. Aswathy assured that necessary funds would be made available

for setting up facilities during the festivity. Additional beds and facilities at district head quarter hospital (DHH), KDMM home urban public health centre, police hospital, Chandanpur CHC, Sakhigopal CHC, Mangalpur CHC, Pipli CHC, TB and IDH hospital, Jagannath Medical College and Hospital, Station Road, and Rebana Nuagaon

CHC will be reserved. Around 33 first aid centres (FACs), out of which 12 at grand road, three near sea beach, three at Talabania and railway station, nine in Puri-Bhubaneswar road, four in Puri-Konark road, and two in Puri-Satapada road would function round the clock in three

shifts, having necessary logistics and emergency medicines, with at least one doctor, pharmacist, multipurpose health worker and an attendant.

Similarly, 31 additional ambulance services will be stationed at strategic locations and would be facilitated by ambulance corridor with the help of volunteers. Seven 108 ambulance services will be stationed

at National Highway-203. More than 300 specialists, doctors, nursing officers, epidemiologists, pharmacists, multi-purpose health workers, dressers and attendants would be deputed at the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Puri. Sufficient units of blood would be kept ready for meeting emergency. Preventive actions, including disinfection of water sources will be carried out before and during the festival along with IEC activities. Rapid response teams along with 24x7 health control rooms would be set up

OAM against plan to shift Sainik School

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: Members of Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasangha (OAM) Sunday staged a demonstration near the main gate of Sainik School here opposing the proposed relocation of the school and demanded removal of Gadakana dumping yard from the existing site.

The protesters led by OAM president Basudev Bhatta held placards, banners and raised slogans in support of their demands.

They alleged that the government is planning to shift the school to a place nearly 50 km away. Pressure is being mounted to vacate more than 20 acres of land belonging to the school to accommodate the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation's (BMC) growing dumping yard in Gadakana.



OAM president Basudey Bhatta said, "Sainik School was established in 1962 during India-China war. Over decades, the school has produced officers for the Indian Armed Forces and produced many doctors, engineers, bureaucrats, politicians, and social reformers. But the state government is disrespecting its legacy by shifting it from its original location."

Bhatta further said, "The state government should remove the dumping yard from this area. We will intensify our agitation if the government fails to concede our demand."

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Panel to probe crane collapse

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: A day after the fatal crane collapse during construction of a bridge over Kathajodi River, the state government Sunday constituted a high-level technical committee to investigate the causes of the mishap. The incident occurred during the ongoing project titled "Improvement to Cuttack Ring Road to 6-Lane Standard from 19/600 Km to 21/700 Km (Khannagar to Link Road), including a three-lane elevated corridor of 993 metre,"

under the State Plan. The committee will be chaired by the Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Special Secretary to the Works department. Other members include the Chief Engineer Roads-II, and the

The incident at **Khannagar Saturday** evening resulted in the death of three

persons and severe injuries to two others

Additional District Magistrate (General), Cuttack.

The committee has been tasked with conducting a thorough technical and administrative inquiry into the circumstances that led to the crane collapse, which resulted in the death of three personsan engineer and two workersand left two others critically injured.

As per the official directive, the committee will submit a

comprehensive report within 15 days. The report is expected to detail the causes of the mishap, identify any lapses or violations of safety protocols, and name the individuals or entities responsible.

The formation of the probe committee follows instruc tions from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who has expressed deep concern over the loss of lives and has emphasised the need for accountability and preventive measures.

Locals said around 50-60 peo ple were working at the spot near Khannagar when the accident occurred. The work has been in progress for the last two years. They alleged that no safety measures were taken during the work.

Administrative units' limits to be frozen July 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: In a bid to ensure a disruption-free Census, the state government has officially announced that any changes to the boundaries of administrative units like districts, sub-divisions, tehsils, revenue villages and urban local bodies will be allowed only until June 30, 2025. The boundaries will be frozen July 1, 2025, as part of the preparations for the ensuing Census. This measure is being taken to ensure that the Census is conducted based on accurate and finalised administrative divisions, thereby avoiding any disruptions or inconsistencies in population data collection, officials said. The directive has been issued by the Revenue & Disaster Management department and is in consistence with similar actions taken during previous Census exercises.

The officials have further clarified that the revised and final boundaries will not only be applicable for the Census but will also serve as the basis for future panchayat and municipal elections, thereby aligning electoral

6 held for ₹78L cyber fraud

during the festival.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bhubaneswar, May 4: Police

have arrested six people for their alleged involvement in a ₹78-lakh cyber fraud case in Cuttack, an officer said Sunday. The accused are residents

of Bolangir district and all of them were arrested from there by a police team of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate of Police, the

Servant held for sexually abusing landlady, daughter POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: Badagada police Sunday arrested a 22-year-old manservant for allegedly blackmailing and sexually assaulting the landlady and her minor daughter by threatening to upload their sensitive pictures on social media. The victims underwent re-

peated abuses, before finally

The victims underwent repeated abuses, before finally mustering courage to lodge a complaint with police

mustering courage to lodge a complaint with police, said

Badagada IIC Trupti Ranjan Nayak. The accused, Saroj Kumar Behera of Jajpur, was hired by the victim's husband to help her in household chores a few months ago. However, Saroj clandes-

tinely captured a few pictures

of the woman, as well as her

daughter, and began black-

mailing them, and also made

sexual advances at them,

woman's husband who approached the police with the victims and lodged a complaint against the abuser. Saroj was booked under BNS Sections 77, 64 (2) (m), along

Nayak said. Later, Saroj also

forwarded the pictures to the

with Section 6 of POCSO Act and 66 (e) of IT Act. He was produced before a local court for remand Sunday.

processes with updated demographic realities.

While the decision has been widely welcomed as a step toward administrative clarity and data accuracy, it has also sparked discussions among from him by promising high returns, the Deputy Commissionlocal authorities and citizens regarding the potential imer of Police of Cuttack, Khilari pact of boundary revisions on Rishikesh Dnyandeo, said. governance structures and "During the equitable distribution of our cyber police team found

resources For any clarifications or related inquiries, stakeholders are advised to contact the R&DM department.

officer said. A person filed a complaint at Cuttack cyber police station in February alleging that some cyber fraudsters looted ₹78 lakh

that it was a trading applica-

tion-based fraud. Sending a

link on telegram, the fraudsters

have looted ₹78 lakh from the

complainant," he said.

3 of family killed in mishap

Bhubaneswar: Three members of a family, including a teenager, were killed after a tractor carrying them overturned in Jajpur district, police said Sunday. The accident occurred in the early hours of Sunday at Bahadur Nagar under the jurisdiction of Balichandrapur police in the district when they were travelling back home from their farmland, the police said. The deceased, a 15-year-old boy and his grandparents, were seated on the tractor when the accident occurred. They had gone to the farmland to collect the harvested crop to protect it from getting destroyed during thunderstorms, an officer at Balichandrapur police station said. Locals admitted them to Barchana hospital where doctors declared them dead on arrival, he said. A case was registered and investigation is underway.

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Fishing ban poses livelihood risks



OST NEWS NETWORK

Astaranga, May 4: Fishermen in this block of Puri district are grappling with severe livelihood challenges as fishing bans restrict access to the sea for seven to eight months each year. These restrictions, imposed for various reasons, are pushing thousands of fishermen into financial distress, threatening their ability to sustain their families.

The bans are enforced to protect Olive Ridley turtles during their breeding season, promote fish stock replenishment, and ensure safety during natural calamities like cvclones. As a result, fishermen are barred from venturing into the sea

for nearly two-thirds of the year. In the remaining four months, when fishing is permitted, escalating costs of diesel and ice, coupled with dwindling fish catches, make it difficult for fishermen to break even. This has left many in villages such as Nagar, Alashahi, Balidia, Kaliakana, Patasundarpur, Sahana, Sudikesha, and Daluakani struggling to survive.

The coastal region of Astaranga. near the Devi River estuary, is a critical nesting site for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles, prompting strict fishing bans to safeguard their breeding. Additionally, restrictions to boost fish populations and weather-related prohibitions have further curtailed fishing activ-

ities. Many boats and trawlers have been damaged due to low-pressure systems and cyclones, exacerbating the fishermen's woes.

investigation,

The state government provides financial assistance of ₹15,000 during the ban period, but fishermen argue this is insufficient to meet their needs

Prasanna Behera, president of the State Traditional Fishermen's Association, has demanded an increase the financial aid to ₹30,000, alongside other measures to support the community. These include raising compensation for fishermen's families in case of death to over ₹2 lakh, strictly implementing the fishermen's card system, regulating fish export companies, and declaring a minimum support price for fish.

Local fishermen warn that without urgent government intervention, their livelihoods will remain at risk. They urge authorities to prioritise alternative support systems to mitigate the impact of prolonged bans and ensure sustainable income sources. If these issues are not addressed, the fishing community in Astaranga fears continued hardship and economic instability.



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 experienc-

ASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit No.-

es 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 Odis ha'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

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, en-

trepreneurship, and capacity building in the fields of electronics and IT. The MoU, titled "From Tem-

ples 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.



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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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.³

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.

Camp court held for **ODA** appeal disposal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 4: In a sig nificant move towards enhanc ing citizen-centric governance and timely justice delivery, a special Camp Court was organised at UNNATI Bhawan here Sunday. The session was led by Housing and Urban Development principal secretary Usha Padhee.

The initiative is being undertaken as per the directive of CM Mohan Charan Majhi, who has emphasised a governance model rooted in accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to public grievances. Padhee, who serves as the appellate authority for matters related to the Bhu baneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Guv backs women entrepreneurs Bhubaneswar, May 4: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Sunday urged for a supportive ecosystem that fosters ambi-

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.

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 conve-

WEATHER

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.

Max Temp

CTC BBSR 36.6° 35.2° Min Temp 19.4° 20.8 84% Humidity 76% 19.6 20.8 Rainfall 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

WOMEN'S BUSINESS MELA 2025



The Governor acknowledged

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.

noted the mela's 240+ stalls had become a hub for showcasing talent, exchanging ideas, and nurturing business connections.

tion, risk-taking, and empow-

erment for women entrepre-

neurs. Speaking at the valedic-

tory ceremony of the Women's

Business Mela 2025, organised

by the ICC National Women

Entrepreneurship Council (IN-

WEC), he praised the event as

a celebration of innovation and

family progresses; when thou-

sands rise, the nation trans-

forms," he said. Commending

INWEC and the ICC for cre-

ating a dynamic platform, he

'When a woman succeeds,

resilience.

ner Preeti Pallavi Pattnaik, and co-conveners Swati Kejriwal and Suma Devi Das also addressed the gathering, with Das delivering the vote of thanks.

presided over the proceedings Out of more than 800 appeal cas es currently pending, 200 cases were taken up and resolved during the day-long hearing.

Servitor quizzed over 'use' of Puri temple wood

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 Adminis-

trator Arabinda Padhee. The administration sought clarity on whether he had taken sacred neem wood from the Puri temple's "Daru Gruha'



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 Benga

(wood store) for 'use' in the surplus wood from the 2015 Digha shrine. Dasmohapatra Nabakalebara ritual—when had attended and supervised new idols of Lord Jagannath. Balabhadra, and Subhadra the Digha temple's consecration ceremony on April 30 in are carved—had been used in the presence of West Bengal the Digha temple. Padhee also Chief Minister Mamata Baquestioned Dasmohapatra on who controls the Daru Gruha The controversy arose folkevs and whether the sacred lowing reports that 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 Suvendu 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 reli gious sentiments.'

Meanwhile, Odisha Congress president Bhakta Charan Das called for spiritual leaders, not politicians, to ad dress the matter. "Let us seek the opinion of Puri Shankara charya and Gajapati Maharaj. They are the true authorities. he said.

As tensions continue, the SJTA's investigation is like ly to determine whether any sacred traditions were violate ed. The controversy adds to the growing dispute between Odisha and West Bengal over cultural ownership and reli gious symbolism, triggered by the West Bengal government referring to the Digha shrine as 'Jagannath Dham.

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nerjee.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.











state



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

OrissaPO

MONDAY | MAY 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

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, Ranitaila, Madikupa, Baliajhara, 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 severd other areas, access to potable water remains a major concern. Although the Soil Conservation

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 Saturdav 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.

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 Bedinanali 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 Sagadabhanga 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. Bharati-Meanwhile,

ya Bikash Parishad's state vice-president, Niranjan 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

Malkangiri, May 4: An elderly woman was set ablaze allegedly by her daughter-inlaw - after she found the latter stealing money and jewellry from the household - at MV-18 village under Malkangiri police limits in this district, police said Sunday. Renuka Vaidya, 55, sus-

tained 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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



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.



and fell off 30-feet under the bridge, Sunday. The driver of the vehicle managed to escape.

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

DISPUTE OVER MONEY THEFT

Woman sets mom-in-law ablaze in Malkangiri

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 Java of Konta village in neighbouring Chhattisgarh 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 Renu ka in a critical condition and rushed her to the hospital, Kindo said, adding that the accused will be arrested soon.

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



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.



through municipal authorities or scrap collectors. The cam-

Girl dies; mother, sibling

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 Keonihar district. The deceased was identified as Somabari Juanga, daughter of Sambhunath Juanga. Sambhunath's wife

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 Bengalore. 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.

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. Gochhavat 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

paign 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 cleanup," said Gochhayat, adding, "It's a cultural shift. We must take responsibility for our en-

vironment 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.

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 arrested 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 regis tered cases under Section 111 (or ganised 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.



CBC-01146/12/0001/2526













power post

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THE MOTHER

Mandal-Kamandal 2.0

he decision taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that caste enumeration will be part of the upcoming census exercise represents a tectonic shift in the BJP's politics. It not only suggests the saffron party is ready to hijack the main poll plank of the Congress and its allies - the RJD and the SP -, but also to make it an integral component of its Hindootva politics. This is a variation of what was once known as the Mandal-Kamandal politics which was a combination of Dalit politics unleashed by the Mandal Commission report and the Hindootva ideology of the BJP. In 1979 the Morarji Desai-government appointed a commission under the chairmanship of Bindheshwari Prasad Mandal, who was then the Member of Parliament from Madhepura constituency in Bihar. The commission was entrusted with the task of identifying socially and educationally backward classes in India. In its findings the commission identified a total of 3,743 different castes and communities as backward on certain parameters. These castes comprised nearly 52 per cent of the country's population. The commission proposed the idea of giving 27 per cent reservation to these backward castes/classes in public employment along with SCs and STs.

However, after VP Singh became Prime Minister in 1989, he decided to implement the Mandal Commission recommendations to consolidate the votes of backward castes in his favour. But, the whole exercise became embroiled in bureaucratic procedures and continuous judicial interventions. It was finally implemented in 1993 during the tenure of the PV Narasimha Rao government. To counter this politics, the BJP launched its Kamandal politics to rally and unite the Hindoo population behind it. Many fence sitters who earlier were not supportive of the BJP did change their minds and stood with the BJP.

The irony this time is that the BJP itself is espousing caste census to get electoral mileage along with its core Hindootva politics. The Assembly election in Bihar is due later this year and the caste composition of the state offers the best opportunity to test the efficacy of the new policy. The strategy of the BJP shows its nervousness over the Opposition's move to consolidate its support base among the backward castes – mainly the OBCs – through its vocal demand for a caste census. Such a conclusion is inescapable considering the fact that the PM during the 2024 Lok Sabha poll launched a scathing attack on the Congress election manifesto that promised a caste census as a reflection of its "Urban Naxal" thinking. With that electoral propaganda, the BJP then asked the people for a massive LS majority so that it could overhaul the Constitution. The OBC and the Dalit groups saw in it a threat to dismantle caste reservations. This fear translated into votes for the Opposition for which the BJP failed to get a simple majority and fell far short of its expected tally of over 400 seats.

Though the BJP has recovered much ground since then winning the elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, it seems it is not sure whether its hard-core Hindootva politics will pay the dividends as it expects in the next LS polls, given the undercurrent in favour of caste census. Till recently, the PM was telling the nation that there are only four castes in the country - women, youth, farmers and the poor. This was obviously an attempt to slam the Congress' demand for caste census and removal of 50 per cent cap on reservations for SC/ST and OBCs.

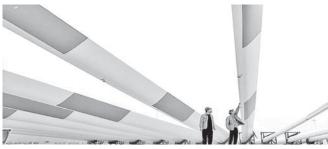
The government decision in a way follows the predictable pattern of functioning which is to spring surprises and catch the Opposition unawares. There is no doubt that the Opposition is indeed flummoxed by the announcement as is clear from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's response: "Modiji used to say there are only four castes in the country. I don't know what caused the change of heart in the BJP." The country was happy that he was clueless.

However, the decision appears to be well thought out and a huge gamble. The BJP can ill afford to let the ground slip further. Pahalgam has been a mortal blow on the already fragile support frame work. Another clumsy Balakot style 'surgical strike' will not help quieten the vociferous groups trying to push India into a vortex of war. The people in power well understand that the Indian armed forces may not be willing to get entangled into a long drawn war. The world is watching current wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The minimum time that it has taken these yet unresolved conflicts has stretched to a few years. Those countries are not able to see the end of the fighting. The Indian populace and its economy are in no position to get into a long drawn military operation in which, most likely, China could play a direct role. Announcement of caste census has been a great help and hopefully it will divert attention from war to politics and, better still, caste based petty politics.

he ocean economy supports millions and underpins some of the world's most critical industries. From maritime shipping, which carries 80% of global trade, to the undersea fiber-optic cables that transmit 95% of international data, the ocean is deeply embedded in our societies and daily lives. According to one projection, ocean-based industries could generate more than \$3 trillion annually by 2030. But the ocean is far more than an economic engine. It's also the planet's largest natural climate regulator, absorbing nearly 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, capturing 90% of excess heat, and storing 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere. And yet the ocean's capacity to provide these vital services is now nearing a tipping point.

The case for investing in sustainable solutions has never been stronger, and doing so offers a unique opportunity to unlock financial flows at scale. After all, today's ocean economy represents a multi-trillion-dollar investment frontier, spanning multiple sectors that depend on a healthy marine environment: renewable energy, coastal infrastructure, ports, maritime transport, sustainable fisheries, and aquaculture. The cost of inaction is simply too high and is increasing.

But these opportunities remain largely untapped. Although the sustainable blue economy is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years to over \$3.2 trillion by 2030, a substantial funding gap continues to hinder sustainable ocean-related development and innovation. As extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and shifting coastlines increasingly disrupt coastal areas and key industries, this shortfall poses a grave threat to both climate resilience and long-term eco-



From maritime shipping, which carries 80% of global trade, to the undersea fiber-optic cables that transmit 95% of international data, the ocean is deeply embedded in our societies and daily lives

nomic growth.

Between 2012 and 2022, just \$13 billion was invested in ocean sustainability, mostly from official development assistance and philanthropic sources. This reflects the widespread perception that ocean-based ventures are more risk than reward, with investors frequently pointing to regulatory uncertainty, fragmented markets, and a shortage of bankable projects.

To unlock the full potential of a sustainable ocean economy, policymakers and business leaders must focus on three key priorities. First, they must recognise the ocean as a highgrowth investment opportunity.

Blue finance has traditionally focused on conservation and restoration efforts, which are necessary but insufficient to drive the systemic change needed to safeguard ocean health. Achieving such change will require recognising that large-scale projects can, in addition to providing financial returns, help build climate resilience and promote inclusive economic growth.

Second, attracting private capital requires de-risking ocean investments. Developers and industrial stakeholders must work closely with multilateral development banks,

insurers, and philanthropies to reduce perceived risks through concessional financing and first-loss guarantees, thereby reducing capital costs and encouraging private-sector participation.

Third, the pipeline of bankable ocean-based projects must be expanded. While developers often point to a lack of funding, one of the main obstacles to capital deployment is the limited availability of mature, scalable projects. Bridging this gap will require coordinated action across borders and industries.

Governments, investors, and business leaders must work together to establish supportive regulatory frameworks, form public-private partnerships, and facilitate targeted investments that can bring viable, high-impact ventures to market. The main challenge for emerging and developing economies across the Global South is addressing investors' concerns about regulatory and policy uncertainty, currency volatility, underdeveloped capital markets, and inadequate financial infrastructure. Alongside technology transfers and knowledge-sharing, these economies must embrace nature-positive approaches to ocean-based industries and infrastructure development. The

offshore wind sector offers a promising model. For example, innovations such as Shanghai Electric Wind Power's recyclable wind turbine blades demonstrate how integrating capital, cutting-edge technologies, and shared expertise can drive progress.

These efforts can be complemented by developing policies such as Costa Rica's National Decarbonization Plan, which aims to transition the country to 100% renewable energy by 2050. With strict biodiversity and land-use protection measures in place, it has since 2019 unlocked more than \$3 billion to finance investments in renewable infrastructure.

By protecting marine ecosys tems and incorporating social and environmental resilience into their investment models. ocean-based industries can also deliver long-term value to local communities. The next five years will be pivotal. Two upcoming events - the United Nations Ocean Conference and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in June – will provide investors, development banks, and policymakers with a platform to advance innovative investment mechanisms, foster cross-sector partnerships, and align financial strategies with the long-term vision of a thriving, sustainable ocean economy. Admittedly, this is a mo-

Admittedly, this is a moment of unprecedented risk. But it is also a moment of unmatched opportunity. By aligning capital flows with ocean regeneration, we can bring about the systemic change needed to build a resilient blue economy that protects marine ecosystems, empowers communities, and provides broad-based prosperity for future generations.

> The writer is Head of Ocean at the World Economic Forum. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM STATE A blueprint for Odisha's orange economy

n upcoming investment meets, whether in Odisha or beyond, the government must prioritise enterprise interests in culture and creativity as a key agenda. PM Modi's vision of making India a global hub for music, film, and gaming presents a strategic opportunity for Odisha—a call for the state to take a calculated deep dive into the sector. His recent emphasis on orange economy at WAVES, addressing filmmakers, artists, musicians, and investors, underscores the promise it holds. Odisha is uniquely positioned to become a leader in this space. With abundant land and infrastructure, a culturally seamless foundation, a relatively less complex bureaucracy, and an innate dexterity among its communities, Odisha offers advantages few other states can match. What is missing is sharp planning and strategic execution. Whether under Odisha 2036 or Viksit Odisha 2047, seasoned industry experts, professionals, and institutions must be included in shaping policv. Innovation will come from practitioners who have risked high stakes in their vocations, careers, and startups-not just theoreticians. While orange economy and creative economy are closely intertwined, the former highlights economic activities driven by emerging creative industries such as graphics, gaming, and animation. To truly leverage this, Odisha should introduce dedicated budgetary provisions to host and support the national and international screen industry. Tax rebates and cash subsidies—often termed "soft

At WAVES, Modi underscored India's rise as a global powerhouse in film, music, gaming, and digital storytelling, with the sector projected to reach \$100 billion by 2036. The question remains-where does Odisha, in 2036, stand in this creative revolution, which not only assures financial stability but also positions itself for exponential growth? By 2036, Odisha should be able to establish a thriving creative industry generating around half a million jobs across advertising, content creation, and cultural enterprises. It could employ more young people than any other sector, with women comprising nearly half the workforce. However, realising this vision requires both commitment and meticulous execution. A structured transition to digital platforms and greater emphasis on individual content creators is essential. Rapid advancements in digitalisation have ushered in streaming services and blockchain-driven creative assets, such as NFTs. Thanks to accessible digital

tools, high-quality content cre-

ation is now achievable with

minimal financial barriers,

opening new revenue streams.

versities in Odisha mention the

creative economy within their

economics programmes, out

of 14 institutions teaching the

At present, hardly three uni-

subject. Despite its relevance. it remains neither a standalone discipline nor an elective. Even Utkal University of Culture does not explicitly offer it as a dedicated field of study. While courses on cultural heritage, applied art & design, and media studies touch upon aspects of creative industries, a structured academic framework for the orange economy remains absent. Odisha must elevate art and culture beyond administrative arbitrariness to ensure youth see creative careers as financially viable and socially prestigious. The "double engine sarkar" should promote initiatives like WAVES 2025 alongside Skill India Mission and Start-Up India, but funding for creators remains critical. A mission-driven blueprint for Odisha's orange economy, aiming for its 8-10% GDP contribution within a decade. could dramatically reduce reliance on the unsustainable brown economy (mining). It would also lead to a healthier, wealthier, and more engaged youth population. The most pressing concern is not merely physical health but mental well-being and the preservation of Odisha's rich cultural fabric, which currently faces a precarious future.



INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER, AND DOING SO OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

> TO UNLOCK FINANCIAL FLOWS AT

> > **SCALE**

WISDOM CORNER

I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

The wise have always said the same things, and fools, who are the majority have always done just the opposite.

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.

CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1813:** Danish religious philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, regarded as the founder of existentialist philosophy, was born in Copenhagen.
- **1862:** Mexican victory in the Battle of Puebla. On this day in 1862, Mexico repelled the French forces of Napoleon III at the Battle of Puebla, a victory that became a symbol of resistance to foreign domination and is now celebrated as a national holiday, Cinco de Mayo.
- **1927:** English author Virginia Woolf published To the Lighthouse, one of her most successful and accessible experiments in the stream-of-consciousness style.
- **1945:** US soldiers and renegade German troops turned back a Waffen-SS assault on a stronghold in Tirol, Austria, where French prisoners were being held by the Nazis; known as the Battle for Castle Itter, it is thought to be the only time that Americans and Germans fought as allies during World War II.
- **1960:** Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev told the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. that a U.S. spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers had been shot down on May 1 over the Soviet Union; Khrushchev referred to the flight as an "aggressive act" by the United States.
- **1961:** Alan Shepard, Jr., made a 15-minute suborbital flight in the Freedom 7 spacecraft, becoming the first U.S. astronaut to travel in space.



Charudutta Panigrahi

BY 2036, ODISHA SHOULD BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A THRIVING CREATIVE INDUSTRY GENERATING AROUND HALF A MILLION JOBS ACROSS ADVERTISING, CONTENT CREATION, AND CULTURAL ENTERPRISES money"—could attract big-budget film productions to the state. Given that Odisha Film Development Corporation has existed for nearly five decades, it is time to critically assess its contribution to Odia cinema and its role in the state's socio-cultural and economic landscape.

To revitalise Odisha's film ecosystem, the government should host an annual international film festival, inviting globally renowned producers. This would enhance film/ screen tourism, expose youth to cutting-edge developments in content creation, elements of IPR, animation, and global training programmes. Odisha's Film Policy 2019 outlines such possibilities, yet it remains largely underutilised in governance frameworks. Despite over 50 Odia films being produced annually, the industry has stagnated. However, there is immense potential to develop a cost-effective talent pipeline for content creation—a fundamental pillar of the orange economy, which thrives on creativity, culture, and digital innovation

The writer is an author and a futurist.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact

numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Offensive image

Sir, US President Donald Trump posting an AI generated image of himself dressed as Pope Francis is distressing and a lot hurting. The image is a great insult to the global community, and particularly to the Catholics, as the mourning of the global spiritual leader is still observed across the world and his successor is yet to be elected, which is a matter of utmost solemnity. Trump's image as Pope is lamentable and is offensive, given that the period of official mourning is still underway. The image is incredibly embarrassing and the Trump administration has barely displayed Christian values since returning to office.

> Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Crowd control

Sir, This refers to "6 killed, over 70 injured in Goa temple stampede," Orissa POST, May 4. It is regretted that the stampede in one temple or the other in India continues unabated resulting in loss of precious human lives. The latest stampede in Goa, as reports suggest, could have been averted had the forces deployed in and around the temple been alert, particularly about the rumour mongers. And, these people who played havoc with the lives of devotees could not have done the mischief. The need of the hour is to train the law enforcing agencies to control crowd more efficiently.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Soldier exchange

Sir, The apprehension of a Pakistani Ranger by India's Border Security Force (BSF) on 3 May could pave the way for the return of a BSF constable apprehended by Pakistan days earlier, potentially on a quid pro quo basis. However, it remains uncertain whether a country whose Army Chief is reportedly seeking to provoke conflict to secure an extension of his tenure would hesitate to sacrifice one of its own. By disowning the captured Ranger, Pakistan might aim to retain custody of the BSF constable, possibly using him as a bargaining chip for broader strategic leverage in the future.

RS Narula, PATIALA















FROM PROTEST TO PROSPERITY

Vizhinjam port offers hope for local youth

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 Vizhiniam 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 op-

erators. 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

anhatta—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

Churu/Meerut, May 4: In a

noisy roadside eatery along

the Delhi-Haridwar highway,

Subhash Nayak sits in a cor-

ner, quietly playing the Rav-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



RAJASTHAN

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

> 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." savs 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 sav they don't have land to allocate.

Village Development Officer Manju Choudhary confirms that a proposal to convert pas tureland into gram panchayat land for such use is pending with the state government.

The situation is dire. Outside Singh's brother Dharampal's house in Khabarpura, broken earthen pots lie scattered under a Khejri tree. A dry well stands nearby. The house itself is a structure of four bare walls with an asbestos roof. There's no fan, no power-only a plastic water drum, two trunks, and a cot. His six-year-old son lies sick from the heat on a jute sack.

According to the India Mete orological Department (IMD), Churu has recorded nine of its ten highest-ever temperatures-each above 48°C-in the past 15 years. Last year Rajasthan hit an all-time high of 50.5°C, and April alone saw 11 heatwave days, well above the usual four to seven.

"We are seeing more heat wave days and warmer nights, says climate expert Abhiyant Tiwari. The extreme heat is now limiting Bhopas' ability to travel and perform, further threatening their livelihoods.

The Bhopas once performed Pabuji ki Phad up to ten times a month, earning well enough to live with dignity. Today, migration, fading patronage, and a changing climate have pushed them to the edge. As the heat intensifies and traditions vanish, their 700-year-old art-and their identity-hangs by a thread.

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.



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

He said the opposition has many questions to ask the government regarding the circumstances that led to the terror at tack, 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 Paki stan--the Congress leader said,

He said that the locals had also demanded the construction of flowers 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

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

PRESSS 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. Fes-

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

tivals 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, through microphones and public meetings? The country is waiting for action from you, Mr Modi," Venugopal said.

"The country wants to see vour 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

"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 sup pressed? The Indian govern ment. We have not yet begun asking these questions," Venu gopal said, adding that the Con

gress 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 situationbased reasoning. Many students reported that time management became a hurdle due to the complex nature of the problems, they said.











a report within a week.

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

The devaswom minister's

warning came in the wake of re-

cent controversies regarding the

usage of such symbols in some

sheen off the iconic temple fes-

tival last year due to alleged

restrictions imposed by po-

lice and their reported inter-

ference in the rituals on the

For the first time in the his-

tory of the festival, the display

of fireworks, one of the major

attractions, which was sched-

uled in the early hours, was

held in broad daylight the next

day, which turned out to be a

disappointment for the people.

the police in the Pooram fes-

tivities and delaying the fire-

works display triggered sharp

political reactions in the state

as the opposition Congress and

BJP criticised the LDF govern-

The Kerala government,

April 21, had directed the state

police chief to investigate con-

troversies with regard to the

Thrissur Pooram and submit

ment on the issue.

The alleged interference of

Pooram night.

Controversies had taken the

temple festivals in the state.





national



From railways to rocket launches, India is building for the future. With a record USD 688.13 billion in (forex) reserves, India has one of the strongest financial cushions on the planet

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

PORTALS OF BADRINATH OPEN

The portals of the Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district were opened for devotees Sunday after a six-month closure. Amid Vedic chants, the doors of the temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu were opened at 6 am



New EC platform

to subsume 40

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

mobile, web Apps

New Delhi, May 4: The Elec-



Environment clearance is the only road block. Scared of Goa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

is not giving it (environmental clearance) to us. Pralhad Joshi does not talk there SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The GMRT holds great scientific significance, having been established with collaboration

from 23 countries. Its opera ions could be hampered by the earlier alignment, so a realignment is being prepared to avoid any interference. Once the state government approves the new route, work can proceed

ASHWINI VAISHNAW UNION RAILWAY MINISTER

All Muslims aren't bad and the community is becoming infamous due to some

people

ISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

SHORT TAKES

Businessman shot at; 2 held

New Delhi: A businessman was shot at by two motorcycle-borne assailants near the Bhairon temple in central Delhi's Tilak Marg, police said Sunday. A 21-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the incident and a juvenile detained, they added. Police said the incident occurred at around 10:15 pm Friday, when the victim, Rajendra, a Noida resident and owner of a perfume shop at Chandni Chowk, was returning home

3 minors killed in road mishap

Bareilly (UP): Three teenage boys were killed, and another was seriously injured after being hit by a speeding car in Anandpur village of Bareilly district Saturday night. police said. The deceased. Mohit(14), Sachin (15) and Rohit (14), and the injured.

uote **India looking for partners,** Accident-prone site, not preachers: Jaishankar



India always advocated for "Russia realism" and there is an "important fit" and "complementarity" between India and Russia as a resource provider and consumer, he said in remarks that came amid persistent efforts by the Trump administration to strike a ceasefire deal between Moscow and Kyiv

New Delhi. May 4: India is looking for "partners" and not "preachers". External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday, in a veiled message to Europe in the context of the conflict in Ukraine as he explained nuances of New Delhi's "Russia realism" and why the relationship between the two sides is an "important fit".

In an interactive session, Jaishankar, delving into broader geopolitical upheavals, said Europe has "entered a certain zone of a reality check" and must display some sensitivity and mutuality of interest for deeper ties with India.

India always advocated for "Russia realism" and there is an "important fit" and "complementarity" between India and Russia as a resource provider and consumer. he said in remarks that came amid persistent efforts by the Trump

administration to strike a cease fire deal between Moscow and Kviv. In the course of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. New Delhi remained engaged with Moscow and enhanced its procurement of Russian crude oil which triggered criticism from the West. India, however, maintained its ties with Russia are driven by national interests.

The external affairs minister also criticised earlier attempts by the West to find a solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict without involving Russia, saying it "challenged the basics of realism"

"Just like I am an advocate of Russia realism, I am also an advocate of America realism," he said at the 'Arctic Circle India Forum'

"I think the best way to engage today's America is also through finding mutuality of interests rather than putting ideological differences upfront and then allowing it to cloud the

3 soldiers killed as army vehicle falls into gorge



possibilities of working together," he said.

The external affairs minister was broadly delving into the global consequences of developments in the Arctic and how the changing world order impacts the region. On the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Jaishankar said India has always been "very careful not to prescribe a solution".

'We have not told one or the other party to do this or do that. And that is important to remember because that is a courtesy that is not always granted to us. So we get advice on what we should be doing," he said, in another dig at the West.

Answering a question on India's expectations from Europe, Jaishankar said it has to get be yond preaching and start acting based on a framework of mutuality. The external affairs minister said Europe has "entered a certain zone of reality check".

"And I think these are all work in progress to differing degrees with different parts of Europe. So some have moved further, some a little bit less. Jaishankar said. On India-Russia ties, he said there is such an "important fit and complementarity" between the two countries as a "resource provider and resource consumer"

The external affairs minister criticised the thinking of the West in the past that a solution to the conflict in Ukraine could emerge without involving Russia.

"The idea that you will get a solution out of Russia without inviting Russia challenged the basics of realism. We have always felt that there is a need to engage Russia. Nobody wants war, particularly in a very interdependent world. These are lose-lose situations," he said. Jaishankar said India is not necessarily siding with one party or the other.

congested lanes could be causes, says official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, May 4: The sloping ground near the temple in Goa where a deadly stampede claimed six lives was accident-prone with a similar but minor incident reported in the past, an official said Sunday as the condition of the critically injured victims remained stable. Rituals continued at the Sree

Lairai Devi temple at Shirgaon in North Goa district with hun dreds of devotees arriving on foot despite the temple committee appealing to people to stay away. A stampede broke out in the wee hours of Saturday as thousands of devotees thronged the narrow lanes leading up to the temple. While six persons died. about 70 were injured.

The fact-finding committee constituted by the Goa govern ment is recording the statements of senior officials in charge of crowd management at the event. The committee is headed by Sandeep Jacques. commissioner and secretary (revenue), with deputy inspector general Varsha Sharma, Director of Transport Pravimal Abhishek and Superintendent of Police Tikam Singh Verma are its members.

Talking to PTI, a senior government official said the stampede broke out on a sloping ground which is prone to such accidents.

The committee will investigate why precautions were not taken this year, he added. "The committee has recorded the statements of Collector Sneha Gitte, Superintendent of Police Akshat Kaushal, Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi, Deputy Collector Bhimnath Khorjuvekar, members of the temple committee and others.' he said. The panel will need at least a couple of more days to



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 While six persons died, about 70 were injured.

gather inputs and file a report, the official said.

It is also looking into reports that a fight between two groups of devotees triggered the stampede, he said. Despite the lanes leading to the temple being narrow, the temple committee had allowed shops to be set up on the route, adding to congestion, the official said.

Director General of Police Alok Kumar had on Saturday said 30,000 to 40,000 people had gathered for the annual festival when some people standing on the slope fell, causing others to tumble and fall on each other. Goa Medical College and Hospital's medical superintendent Dr Rajesh Patil, meanwhile, said three out of the five persons who were seriously injured in the stampede were showing signs of improvement on Sunday.

A total of 14 patients were admitted and only one has been discharged so far, he told PTI. Importantly, the condition of none of the critical patients has worsened, said Dr Patil. Goa Governor P S Sreed-

haran Pillai who visited the families of those who were killed in the stampede said the incident was "beyond human expectation"

tion Commission is developing a new digital interface for voters, poll officials and political parties which will integrate over 40 of its existing mobile and web applications. ECINET will provide a singu-

lar platform for all electoral-related activities, the poll panel said Sunday. The new platform will reduce the burden of users from downloading and navigat ing multiple Apps and remembering different logins.

The platform was proposed by the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a recent conference of chief electoral officers. ECINE will also enable users to access relevant electoral data on their desktops or smartphones. To ensure that data is as accurate as possible, the data on ECINE' will be entered solely by the au thorised EC official.

Entry by the official con cerned would ensure that the data made available to the stakeholders is as accurate as possible. However, in case of any conflict, the primary data as duly filled in statutory forms will prevail, the poll panel un derlined.

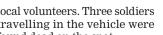
ECINET will subsume exist ing Apps like the Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, cVIGIL, Suvidha, Saksham and KYC App, which togeth er have clocked over 5.5 crore downloads.

IIT student found hanging in hostel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 4: A third-year BTech student of IIT Kharag pur was found hanging in his hostel room Sunday, an official said. The body of Mohammad Asif Qamar was found hanging in his hostel room in Madanmohan Malviya Hall in IIT Kharagpur campus, the of ficial said.

The institute in a statement said, "It is with deep sadness that the IIT Kharagpur condoles the untimely demise of Md Asif Qamar a third year under graduate student in the department of civil engineering at around 2:53 am May 4





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

local volunteers. Three soldiers travelling in the vehicle were ound dead on the spot The deceased were identified as Naib-Subedar Sujeet Kumar, driver Amit Kumar and sepoy Man Bahadur, said officials, who added that their bodies were retrieved from the gorge after several hours of hectic efforts. The crash has reduced the vehicle into a mangled heap of metal, they said. Confirming the death of the JCO and two soldiers, Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police Kulbir Singh said preliminary investigation suggested that the accident was caused by a technical glitch in the vehicle and an investigation was underway to ascertain the exact reason. "An Army vehicle moving as part of routine convoy May 4 slid off the road and fell into a gorge near Ramban. All three Army personnel travelling in the vehicle succumbed to the injuries in this tragic accident," the Northern Command said.

Sanieev (14), were residents of Bakaniya Dheerpur village and worked for a marriage band in Anandpur. The accident took place when they were standing in front of their band shop in Anandpur after performing at a marriage function in Fidai Pur village.

10 YSR Cong workers held

Tadepalli: Andhra Pradesh Police have arrested 10 workers of the YSR Congress Party for the damage caused to the helicopter during former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to the Sri Sathya Sai district last month. The police arrested the accused, including a local public representative of the YSR Congress party.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ramban/Jammu, May 4: Three Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer, were killed when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 500-metre deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district Sunday, officials said. The Army truck was part of

a convoy moving from Jammu to Srinagar along national highway-44. The accident occurred near Battery Chashma at around 11.30 am, the officials said.

They said a joint rescue operation was launched immediately by Army, police, State Disaster Response Force and



Locals gather after a car caught fire, in Jamshedpur district, Jharkhand. A man was charred to death in the incident

The statement said "A call came at the security emergen cy number from an external source that Md Asif Qamar has committed self-harm. The secu rity response team rushed im mediately to the Pt M M M Hall of Residence (Pandit Madar Mohan Malviya Hall) where the student was found dead in his room." "The team of doctors. administration and police also reached the spot. The family of Qamar has also been contacted

about the incident," it said. An investigation is current lv underway by the police to determine the circumstances surrounding this tragic event And the institute is fully coop erating with the authorities, the statement added. Cops from the police outpost on the cam pus were informed and they broke open the door to find him hanging, an institute official had said earlier.

Heavy rains lash **Andhra Pradesh**

Vijayawada: Two persons were killed as heavy rains, accompanied by gusty winds, lashed parts of Andhra Pradesh Sunday, affecting normal life and causing widespread damage to crops. Two people were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes in the Bapatla district. Low-lying areas and roads were inundated while trees and electricity poles were uprooted due to heavy downpour and strong winds. Vijayawada received heavy rains, throwing normal life out of gear. Roads in several areas in the city were inundated, affecting the movement of vehicular traffic. The rains brought down the temperature, providing relief to people reeling under intense heat for the last few days.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 4: A restaurant born out of a nostalgia for authentic flavours soon after the COVID pandemic is using biryani as its central menu offering to showcase the culinary

plurality of India for diners in the UK. BKC, which stands for Biryani Kebab Chai, recently launched its "Biryani Bharat Yatra" in London to highlight the sheer diversity of cuisine from different regions of India. The month of May has been designated for "Ambur Biryani" of Andhra Pradesh, following the success of the "Kashmiri Yakhni Pulao" last month.

"Our Biryani Bharat Yatra

is a monthly series which is our way of showcasing India's culinary plurality, not just on one menu but across time and geography," said Kolkata-born Subhajit Mitra, founder-director of BKC.

'We're at a beautiful inflection point in the UK. For decades, Indian cuisine outside India has been presented in broad strokes — often reduced to 'curry house' clichés. But now diners, both Indian-origin and otherwise, are seeking nuance. They're curious about the regionality, the stories behind ingredients, the differences between a Seekh and a Galouti Kebab, or between Awadhi biryani and Ambur biryani. And that's incredibly



Biryani Bharat Yatra celebrates India's culinary plurality in UK

exciting," he said. The first of two BKC restaurants in central London opened its doors in 2022 as a modern-day dastarkhwan or a shared space where food brings communities together.

"From the beginning, our goal was clear: to reintroduce Indian food through the lens of regional depth and roval heritage. London is blessed with a diverse Indian culinary

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landscape, but what we often saw were broad, pan-Indian menus — with flavours adapted, simplified, or westernised," explains Mitra.

Working with his partner and Head Chef Arsh Thakur,

BKC has since been on a mission to use its hospitality expertise to also showcase the myriad festivals of India.

Following a hugely successful Poila Boiskakh (Bengali New Year) event last month, the restaurant has plans to become a hub for all major Indian fes tivities in the coming weeks and months.

"We plan to continue cre ating immersive regional experiences. BKC will soon host special menus for Durga Puja Diwali, Eid and more — each rooted in the traditions of the region it celebrates. Our vision is to become a home for Indian festivals in London, where flavours and festivities meet, he added.















Always keep the nation first. Nothing is more important than the national interest JAGDEEP DHANKHAR /ICE 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 postmortem reports



of the day uote 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

The govern ment tried to crush the protest, leading to growing resentment among teachers. The aca-

demic session has begun, but the government seems unconcerned about students' education JAI RAM THAKUR | MEMBER

HE HP LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY





citizens and noncitizens, deserve due process. Do vou 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-yearold 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

NEET-UG held at over 5,400 centres NEET-UG, the NTA identified

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, de-

Mock drills were

hall were

SC to hear batch of pleas

manding accountability after some students from the community were asked to remove their 'janivara (sacred thread)'

before entering the exam Three men detained by the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan institutions

Police for allegedly trying to dupe a candidate of ₹40 lakh by promising him the question paper. question Transporting

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 crackdown on fake claims about

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

held at all National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate 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

chan the nels to prevent the spread of falsehood and unnecessary pan-

take down

ic among the aspirants. The Union edu-

cation 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).



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

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, offi-cials 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 Commissione 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 Ministe 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 Surai Masih, both residents of Ainala. 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



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 stud ies 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 study ing 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 anxi ety 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 Satur day evening, circle inspector at Kunhadi police station Arvind Bhardwaj said, adding the incident came to light at about 9 pm, when they reached home.



The Centre had also strongly opposed the apex court's proposal to pass an interim or-

Gevrai tehsil of Beed district, Friday allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling of a house in Bodhe Nagar area where he was staving, 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 stanched 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.

New Delhi, May 4: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a batch of pleas challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act's constitutional validity, weeks after the government paused two central aspects of the contentious law in the face of probing questions by the top court.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Centre assured the apex court April 17 that it would neither denotify waqf properties, including "waaf b v user". nor make any appointments to the Central Waqf Council and boards till May 5. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre, made the assurance while informing a bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan that the law, passed by Parliament with "due deliberations", should not be stayed without hearing the government.

der against the denotification of Waqf properties, including 'waqf by user', aside from stay ing a provision allowing the inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council and boards. The top court had noted the submissions of Mehta and said that waqf properties, including 'waqf by user', already registered or declared by way of notification, shall not be disturbed and denotified till the next date of hearing.

It had then granted a week's time to the Centre to file a preliminary response to the pleas challenging the validity of the law and posted the matter May 5. The three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will hear on Monday the batch of five petitions which are now titled In Re the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 and other related fresh pleas on the issue.

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.

Kolkata, May 4: West Bengal

Governor C V Ananda Bose

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



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

No suicide note was recov ered 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

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.

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.

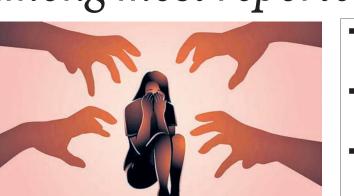
Domestic violence topped the chart with a total of 1,594 complaints filed since the beginning of the year. The total comprised 367 cases in January. 390 in February, 513 in March, 322 in April, and two in May. The category alone accounted for nearly 20 per cent of all complaints, ac-

cording 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,



in April, and 84 in May.

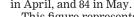
This figure represents more than 50 per cent of all nationwide complaints. Delhi followed with 688 complaints -146 in January, 172 in FebruDomestic violence topped the chart with a total of 1.594 complaints filed since the beginning of the year

- 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

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 re ceived 2,123 complaints - high er than any month in the first quarter.

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





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











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

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



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

PAHALGAM ATTACK



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 ten-sions, citing political grievances and demanding broader political consultation. In a statement, PTI spokesperson Sheikh Wagas 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 be ing 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

the newspaper reported.

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

In fresh punitive measures against Pakistan that came into effect immediately amid height-

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 Paki stani 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.

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.

Nepal lawmakers urge govt to stop sending students to KIIT, Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, May 4: Members of Nepal's National Assembly have urged the government to halt sending Nepali students to Odisha's Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) where two Nepalese female students died in suspicious circumstances within a period of three months.

proposed denying Thev No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) to any student seeking enrolment at the institute, according to the Parliament Secretariat sources.

During an emergency session of the upper house, lawmakers expressed concern over the safety of Nepali students enrolled at the KIIT, following the recent death of a Nepali student under suspicious circumstances -- the second such incident in recent months

Tul Prasad Bishwakarma of the Rastriya Janamorcha and Madan Kumari Shah of the CPN (Unified Socialist) were among those who demanded termina tion of issuing NOCs for KIIT.

Shah also asked parents and guardians to be aware of the matter related to the safety of their children Mohammad Khalid of the Janata Samaibadi Par ty and Krishna Bahadur Rokaya of the Nepali Congress called on the government to ensure a thorough investigation into the death of the female student from Nepal and to provide justice to her family.

Prinsa Sah, a 20-year-old student from Parsa district, al legedly died by suicide Thursday at KIIT. Earlier February 16, Prakriti Lamsal, 21, from Rupandehi, also died at the same institute by alleged suicide.

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 ar 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.

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.

26 people, mostly tourists. decided on case to case basis, The Dawn newspaper had ened Indo-Pak tensions in the



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

WEEK'S BEST PICS



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



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

REUTERS



















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.



of the day uote 🦵

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



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 &

SHORT TAKES

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

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



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.



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 Invest-

ment, 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

effective April 30, 2025, sources

said Saturday. The reasons for

Subramanian's exit have not

The sources said the gov-

ernment 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 corri

dors of the multilateral agency.

been unhappy with some of

the statements made by Subra-

manian, especially related to

Besides, the sources said,

India's debt situation.

In the past too, the IMF has

been officially announced.

Indian corporates added to the positive sentiment, he added.

Vijavakumar of Geojit Investments attributed two major factors behind this reversal of FPI strategy. Firstly, President Donald Trump's announcement of a 90-day pause on implementation of reciprocal tariffs led to a recovery in global equity markets.

Secondly, the weakness in the dollar halted and reversed the momentum trade towards US that was witnessed after Trump's victory in the elections. The steep decline in the dollar index from 111 on January 11 to 99 recently facilitated FPIs inflows to emerging markets, particularly India he added.

On the other hand, FPIs took out Rs 13,314 crore from debt general limit and withdrew Rs 5,649 crore from debt voluntary retention route during the period under review.

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 da-

ta 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.

mood, Gaurav Garg, Analyst Lemonn Markets Desk, said. "Domestic markets are ex pected 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

1.27 per cent.

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 (Fed eral Open Market Committee) meeting will be closely watched and could significantly influence market direction," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit

Investments Limited, said.

front, prominent companies

including M&M, Coal India,

Asian Paints, Larsen & Tou-

bro and Titan would announce

their quarterly results during

tariffs and trade will also be

Last week, the BSE bench

mark jumped 1,289.46 points

or 1.62 per cent, and the NSE

Nifty climbed 307.35 points or

Concerns over a potential US

recession and ongoing border

tensions between India and Pa

kistan also weighed on market

watched closely, he added.

Globally, updates related to

the week

On the corporate earnings

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

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 ani-

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 No vember 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 Petro-



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.

Govt abruptly terminates IMF ED's services **SEVEN OF TOP 10 FIRMS SEE JUMP** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA tee of the Cabinet has termi-**IN MARKET CAP** nated Subramanian's services

New Delhi, May 4: In an un-

expected move, the government

has terminated services of KV

Subramanian as the executive

director at the Internation-

al Monetary Fund (IMF) six

months ahead of his three-year

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, Bajai 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 Dav'.

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 regulatory overhauls, that could 10,56,029.91 crore. ICICI benefit American firms and ex-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.

long-term focus and culture but

worry about the loss of Buffett's

Following Buffett's surprise

announcement Saturday that

he would step down as chief ex-

ecutive by the end of the year,

Berkshire shareholders and

fans said the Omaha, Nebras-

ka-based company will remain

in good hands once Vice Chair-

man Greg Abel takes the top job.

clear how the \$1.16 trillion con-

glomerate, which has 189 oper-

ating businesses, \$264 billion of

stocks and \$348 billion of cash,

will fare after the man so inter-

twined with it leaves the stage.

Buffett made the announcement

at the end of the Berkshire an-

nual meeting after hours of

taking shareholder questions.

He said Berkshire's board of

directors will meet Sunday to

But they said it remains un-

vision and star power.

tenure. The move comes days before the IMF executive board is to consider financial aid for debt-ridden Pakistan. Post-Pa-

halgam 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-

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 supplyside 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 longduration 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.

porters, 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

mal-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.

leum 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 respec-

tively. This 4% rise in April 2025

is the highest recorded volume for

this month and second highest ev-

Industry officials said diesel

had hit a slow lane in the last

few months, leading to specula-

tions about its future. but this

sudden growth in April has giv-

er volume in anv month.

en a hope of revival.

During April 2025, petrol con sumption 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 consump

While there has been a shift tion growth slowed to 3.25% to in passenger vehicles to petrol, 7,66,000 tonnes as per reports.

The Oracle of Omaha hands over baton at Berkshire

REUTERS

under scrutiny

3300 companies

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 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.

"There has been a premium on Berkshire because of Buf-Omaha, May 4: Berkshire Hafett," said Mark Malek, chief thaway shareholders mourning investment officer at Siebert. the departure of legendary in-NXT. "Will people look at it in vestor Warren Buffett anticithe same way?' Richard Casterline, a compate the conglomerate he built over 60 years will retain its puter programmer from Den-

ver, 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 wellversed 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

when Berkshire disclosed new common stock investments, it routinely sent the stock prices higher even if Buffett himself wasn't doing the investing. **ABEL'S WAY**

Abel has hinted at changes Prior to Buffett's announcement, which Abel hadn't known was coming, the vice chairman told annual meeting attendees he would be "more active, but hopefully in a very positive way," in overseeing Berkshire subsidiaries, though they would continue running "very autonomously.

Berkshire's businesses are

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.

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 of ficer 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 Oma ha, 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 un derstand, 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."



discuss the transition.









PORTS

PBKS push LSG towards exit door

AGENCIES

Dharamshala, May 4: Leftarm 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



(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

SHORT TAKES

New Delhi: Wicketkeeper-batter

Litton Das has been named as

Bangladesh's T20I captain for

the upcoming series UAE and

Pakistan. Das replaces Najmul

appointed as the vice-captain.

Aditi Ashok shoots

66 at Black Desert

Ivins (US): India's Aditi Ashok

Hossain Shanto, who quit the T20I

captaincy earlier this year, while

off-spinner Mahedi Hasan has been

Litton Das new

B'desh captain

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

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

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 yer 45; Akash Singh 2-30, Digvesl Rathi 2-46) beat **Lucknow Supe**l Giants 199/7 in 20 overs (Ayus Badoni 74, Abdul Samad 45; hdeep Singh 3-16, Azmatu Omarzai 2-33) by 37 runs 1 3-16, Azmatull

caught by deep cover in the over. LSG's eighth slide con-

to deep cover, giving Omarzai his second wicket. Samad Badoni and brought out some big-hitblitzkrieg ting

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– smashing 21 runs Pooran's stumps and hit him six, before he hit a slower ball from Jansen back to

> fall for a 24-ball 45. Badoni went on to

credible 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.

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 left-arm pacer and

bring up his fifty off 32 balls by lofting Vyshak over long-on for six, and followed it up with an in-

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

shema

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.



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 Het myer 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 Miam 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.

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 33rd over. After Nilakshi flattened the India bowlers with her three sixes and five fours, Anushka Sanjeewani (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

Sabalenka wins third Madrid Open

shot one of her best rounds of the season as she landed seven birdies against one bogev 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, Fafà 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 leftfooter 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.

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

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.

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



shots around, the former champion dug in to force a second-set tiebreaker and crush any chance of a comeback.

Sabalenka missed a champi onship point on a break chance in the second set, recalling her failure to convert three championship points in a loss to Iga Swiatek in last year's final. After yelling at herself for her missed opportunity, the threetime Grand Slam winner shook

off her demons, settled down and finished off her tour-high 31st win of 2025. When Gauff's final shot hit

the net, Sabalenka thrust her arms into the air.

"It was a really tough match," Sabalenka said. "At the end of the second set it was really intense and I was very emotional. I am happy I was able to handle my emotions," she added.

Mbappe keeps Madrid in

Spanish league title race

'It's been a great qualifying it worked out well and I'm very happy to be on pole," Verstap pen 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.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

Maharashtra archers dominate ranking round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhagalpur (Bihar), May 4: Maharashtra's Tejal Rajendra Salve topped the charts in the girls' compound qualifying round, scoring 697 points at the Khelo India Youth Games Archery competition here Sunday. She set the tone for Maharashtra archers to top ranking

in three of the four events. The archer from Jalna district, who has represented India in the 2024 Asia Cup in Suwon, South Korea, left her competitors well behind with a splendid score of 353 (out of 360) in the second half. Her teammates Vaidehi Hirachandra Jadhav (692) and Prithika (690) claimed the second and third place in the qualifiers.

Andhra Pradesh's Kodan-

dapani Thaurneesh Jathya got

pole position in the boys' re-

curve qualifying round with a

total of 655, two points more than

Meghalaya's Devraj Mohapatra.

points stood him in good

His first half haul of 332

Fireworks light up the skyline as artistes perform during the inauguration ceremony of the 'Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025', at Patliputra Sports Complex, in Patna, Sunday

stead, insuring him against a slide in the second when he shot 323. Dnyanesh Cherale (Maharashtra) behind in the third rank.

Defending champion Shubham Kumar from Bihar's Bhojpur district, did not have the best day on the field, shooting 309 points in either half, to be ranked 14th among 16 athletes. However, he will draw strength from the fact that despite being 11th in qualifying round in Chennai last year, he went on to win gold.

Last year's silver medalist Sharvari Somnath Shende (Maharashtra) was in a league of her own in the girls recurve qualifying round, shooting a score of 667 points.

The Punekar finished 13 points ahead of her team-mate Vaishnavi Baburao Pawar. Haryana's Annu claimed the

third rank with a score of 652. Maharashtra's Manav Ganeshrao Jadhav, who won the mixed team compound gold with Aditi Swami last year, topped the boys qualifying round with 713 points.

Volleyball: J&K, WB win

Meanwhile, on the opening day of volleyball competition in the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna. Jammu and Kashmir overturned a 1-2 deficit to beat Uttarakhand 3-2 (18-25, 25-20, 16-25, 27-25, 15-9) in boys Group A and Gujarat beat Kerala 3-0 (25-12, 18-25, 25-18, 25-19) in girls Group B encounter.

Kabaddi: Haryana excel

In Kabaddi, the Haryana boys' team retained gold with a comfortable 57-30 victory over Karnataka after leading 28-14 at the half-time in the Rajgir Sports Complex.

However, defending champion Haryana girls' team had to strain every sinew to keep Punjab at bay. It rode on the five-point firsthalf lead to win 33-32 despite a gallant attempt by Punjab.

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 semfinal 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.

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