

May 4, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Pakistan permits export of donkey meat to China

(i) Pakistan took this step after the Chinese company Hangeng announced last Friday that it had completely suspended its operations in both Pakistan and China.

(ii) As part of efforts to strengthen bilateral economic ties, China is implementing the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan. Under this project, the Hangeng company operates a slaughterhouse at Pakistan’s Gwadar Port. Donkey meat exported from here to China is used in the production of traditional medicines for skin ailments.

(iii) In this context, the company alleged that despite complying with international food safety standards and meeting Chinese customs regulations, permission to export its products from Pakistan had been continuously withheld. It also announced on May 1 that it would halt its operations.

(iv) Following this, Pakistan allowed the export of donkey meat to China after intervention by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This announcement comes at a time when he is expected to visit China later this month to participate in an investors’ conference.

2. Tamil Nadu athlete sets national record

- At the Indoor Open Athletics Meet held in Odisha, Tamil Nadu athlete Paranika Ilangovan won the championship in pole vault by clearing 4.23 meters, setting a new national record.

3. Jannik Sinner wins Madrid Open

(i) Italy’s Jannik Sinner won the Madrid Open, a clay-court Masters tournament held in Spain. He became the first player in history to win five consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles — Paris Masters (last year), and this year’s Indian Wells, Miami Masters, Monte Carlo Masters, and Madrid Open.

(ii) There are a total of nine Masters tournaments in the tennis calendar, and Sinner has now won eight of them. The only title missing from his collection is the Rome Masters. Notably, the tournament, held in his home country, is set to begin on the 6th of this month.

4. Nepal refuses permission for Kailash–Manasarovar Yatra via Lipulekh Pass

(i) On April 30, India’s Ministry of External Affairs announced that the Kailash–Manasarovar Yatra would be conducted from June to August through two routes: the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and the Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.

(ii) This sacred pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar in China’s Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance for Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists. The yatra had been suspended for five years following the India–China clash in the Galwan Valley. It resumed last year after efforts by both countries to improve bilateral relations.

(iii) In this context, Nepal’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, opposing this year’s yatra, stated in a press release that according to the 1816 Sugauli Treaty, the regions of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani—located east of the Mahakali River—belong to Nepal. It also said that India did not consult Nepal before finalizing the pilgrimage route. Therefore, Nepal reiterated to both India and China that it cannot permit the use of

the Lipulekh Pass route for the yatra.

(iv) Responding to this, India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that territorial claims cannot be made arbitrarily.

- He further added that the Kailash–Manasarovar Yatra has been conducted through the Lipulekh Pass since 1954 and is not a new practice. India is ready to resolve the boundary issue with Nepal through dialogue.

5. 'Drishti' satellite successfully launched by Bengaluru startup

(i) A satellite named Drishti, developed by Bengaluru-based startup GalaxEye, was successfully launched into space from California, USA, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

(ii) The company stated that this is the world's first "OptoSAR" satellite, which has been placed into orbit.

(iii) An OptoSAR satellite integrates two different imaging technologies—electro-optical sensors and synthetic aperture radar (SAR)—on a single platform.

(iv) Electro-optical sensors capture high-resolution images using sunlight in clear weather conditions, while SAR sensors use radar pulses to capture images in all weather conditions and at any time of day or night.

(v) In a statement, GalaxEye founder and CEO Suyash Singh said that following the successful deployment of the Drishti satellite into orbit, the company is now focusing on operationalizing it. He added that the OptoSAR satellite addresses limitations in conventional imaging systems and ensures consistent and reliable data collection across varying conditions.

(vi) As a dual-use Earth observation satellite (civilian and military applications), it will support sectors such as defense, agriculture, disaster management, maritime surveillance, and infrastructure planning.

(vii) The company aims to expand the Drishti project into a constellation of 10 satellites by 2030, building a strong and self-reliant Earth observation infrastructure for India.

- Director General of the Indian Space Association – A.K. Bhatt

6. Public sector banks have decided to increase spending on cybersecurity and information technology development to protect themselves from the threats posed by advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technologies like "Claude Mythos."

(i) At the global level, India is considered one of the countries where financial frauds related to banking transactions are highly prevalent. These frauds initially targeted innocent people by deceitfully obtaining their banking details and stealing money. Now, such scams have evolved into various forms, including "digital arrest" scams and fake QR codes.

(ii) Since these frauds primarily target bank customers, the Central Government has been creating awareness among the public. Statistics indicate that almost every bank account holder in India has, at some point, received fraudulent calls or scam messages related to online financial fraud.

(iii) In this context, the AI technology "Claude Mythos," developed by the American company Anthropic, is

considered a major threat to the banking sector, if misused.

(iv) This is because the AI has the capability to detect even minor vulnerabilities in cybersecurity systems and exploit them to infiltrate computers and servers. If used by hostile actors, it could lead to theft of customer data and even compromise the overall cybersecurity infrastructure of the banking system.

(v) Why is “Claude Mythos” dangerous?

- “Claude Mythos” AI specializes in identifying and exposing even the smallest flaws in digital systems. It can detect extremely subtle errors in software that humans may not be able to find. It has reportedly identified software vulnerabilities that remained undiscovered for up to 27 years, even in systems previously considered highly secure.
- When used constructively, it can significantly improve technology. However, if misused, it has the potential to disrupt entire banking systems using just a single computer. This is why not only India but also countries worldwide are taking precautionary steps to strengthen cybersecurity.

7. Analysis of the World Inequality Report 2026, highlighting the disparities in income and wealth both globally and within India.

- Income Disparity: Globally, the top 10% of the population earns more than the remaining 90% combined. The top 10% currently holds 53% of the world's income.
- Wealth Concentration: The top 10% of the wealthy hold 75% of global wealth, with the top 1% alone owning 37%. In contrast, the bottom 50% of the population owns a mere 2% of global wealth.
- Carbon Inequality: The environmental impact is also unbalanced. The poorest 50% of the world contribute only 3% to carbon emissions, while the top 10% are responsible for 77% of emissions (largely through their investments and infrastructure). The top 1% alone contributes 41% of carbon emissions.

(i) Impact on Women (Gender Inequality)

The report highlights significant gender-based economic gaps:

- When unpaid domestic work is included, women work an average of 53 hours per week, while men work 43 hours.
- Even excluding unpaid labor, women receive only 61% of the hourly wage paid to men. When unpaid labor is factored in, women's effective income ratio drops to just 32%.
- The income of female workers has not seen significant growth since the 1990s, and their workforce participation remains restricted.

(ii) State of Inequality in India

- Income Concentration: The top 10% of earners in India capture 58% of the total national income, while the bottom 50% receive only 15%.
- Wealth Gap: The top 10% own 65% of the nation's wealth, with the top 1% owning 40%. The bottom 50% of the population owns less than 6% of the total wealth.
- Female Workforce Participation: In India, women earn only 18% of the total labor income, which is significantly lower than the global average of 34%. Female participation in the labor market stands at a low 15.7%, a figure that has not improved in the last decade.

(iii) Analysis and Proposed Steps

- **Failure of Current Policies:** The report points out that modern neoliberal tax policies, which favor tax cuts for the wealthy, are a primary cause of increasing inequality.
- **Consequences:** These policies reduce the Government's ability to spend on essential services like education, healthcare, and climate change challenges.
- **Recommendations:** To function as a welfare state, the report suggests implementing progressive taxation to collect necessary revenue and reduce the wealth gap.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Economist Thomas Piketty emphasizes that achieving equality requires more than just economic theory; it requires a collective effort involving politics, anthropology, sociology, and history.
- **Conclusion:** Economic growth has failed to create social and economic balance, and without addressing these disparities, addressing global issues like climate change remains nearly impossible.

