



Pope Francis the 267<sup>th</sup> head of Catholic church, called the people's pope, died on Easter Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> April triggering a period of global mourning. He was aged 88. Pope Francis gave the traditional Easter blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on the 20<sup>th</sup> Easter day, which happened to be his last public appearance. The Pope was revered across the globe for his simplicity and humility. The Vatican conclave of cardinals will meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> May to elect the new pope.

The second picture above is from a flower field near the Israel Gaza border. That is the Buttercup flower field in full bloom during spring. As is said Nature knows no war. Meanwhile on the war front 15 Palestinian medics were killed by the forces in Gaza, the shootings outraged many in the international community, with some calling the killings a war crime. Medical workers have special protection under international humanitarian law. The International Red Cross/Red Crescent called it the deadliest attack on its personnel in eight years.

In another ongoing war of Russia Ukraine, the Easter ceasefire saw the two sides carrying out the largest prisoner exchange since the start of the war, swapping more than 500 prisoners in total. In the midst of the ceasefire there were claims and counterclaims of ceasefire violations from both sides. Another ongoing saga seeing no signs of an end. The situation in Myanmar nearly 1 month after the terrible earthquake of 7.7-magnitude, the extent of the devastation in the capital Naypyidaw is still evident, with widespread damage to people's lives and essential infrastructure. Although the official death toll nationwide has exceeded 3,700, local sources and aid organizations believe the actual number could be higher.

In sports, at the Formula 1 racing Oscar Piastri of McLaren won the Bahrain grand prix and took the championship lead, earlier in the month Current champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Japanese GP. There is a lot more of sporting action going on across the world. Let's read on ...

### Light Moments– Some silly Husband/Wife jokes

A couple were Christmas shopping. The shopping centre was packed and the wife was busy looking into the shops. She later realized that her Husband was not to be seen. She was very upset because they had a lot of purchasing to be done and no time to waste, Irritated she picked up her phone and called her Husband and asked in an annoyed tone where the hell he was. The husband in a very soft tone spoke back, "Honey, do you remember that jeweller we went into about five years back, where you fell in love with a diamond ring. Unfortunately we could not afford it at that time and I told you that I will ensure I get that for you one day".

The overwhelmed wife choked and said, "Yes dear, I very well remember that shop, how could I ever forget, that was such a lovely ring. I can walk over to that place even with my eyes closed". Said the wife in anticipation

"Oh that is very good". Said the husband, "I am in the pub next to that shop, meet me there."

## News from Sevenseas

These are trying times for the trade . Global trade was already struggling with the Panama canal re-routing on Ocean trade and the increased air trade leading to space crunch and rate variations. This has led to a slowness in terms of order processing and sourcing . Now the latest developments and uncertainty of the US tariffs has furthermore dented the global trade . The issues are universal and effecting all logistics service providers and business . Sevenseas is no exception . We have had difficulty on Space and rate sourcing both for Ocean and Air movements . It has been tough but we have managed to a great extent .

Sevenseas operates out of 24 offices Pan India . We have been in the Indian market since the 2001. The growth story has been steady and measured . With a comparatively low attrition our team has grown into the job and this gives us a continuity in terms of the team that handles both the domestic and overseas shipments . In short we have a competent team well versed in terms of technical knowledge as also handling . Most of our overseas partners have been with us for over a decade , similar is the case with our local customers .

To add to this we have gone about improving and enhancing our infrastructure Pan India . We have taken up bigger and better premises at most of our locations and enhanced our Services and support .

During these trying times , we have been doing our best to take care of the service requirements of our local customers and overseas partners . Please do feel free to get in touch with us on any India requirements . You are welcome to visit us on [www.sevenseasexpress.com](http://www.sevenseasexpress.com)

## Around the world, one Plate at a time – Pupusa, El Salvador



El Salvador's national dish Pupusa is so wildly popular, it has its own day of celebration. Pupusa is a thick griddle cake or flatbread that's traditionally made with cornmeal or rice flour and stuffed with all kinds of delicious ingredients, from cheese to refried beans and chicharrón (fried pork belly). Crispy on the outside and soft and doughy on the inside, it's utterly moreish and readily available from street stalls, carts and restaurants all over El Salvador. You'll usually find them served with curtido (a pickled cabbage slaw) and salsa to cut through the richness.

## Trade News

### Freight charges may rise amid Indian exporters rush for shipments during 90-day US tariff respite

Following US President Donald Trump's decision to halt reciprocal tariffs for 90 days, Indian exporters are anticipated to experience a sharp increase in freight charges. Announced on April 9, the interim reprieve lowers tariff levels to 10% for nations like India, while keeping China out of the equation. Demand for container space has increased as a result of the development, which has caused a boom in front-loaded shipments.

According to industry experts, as exporters rush to ship their shipments before the 90-day window expires, the freight rate increase may approach double digits. This increase reflects a worldwide pattern. Last week, the price of shipping a 40-foot container went up by 3% to \$2,265, according to Drewry's World Container Index.

India's container logistics industry is dealing with a number of complicated issues, such as ongoing instability in the Red Sea and disruptions in international trade. The uncertainty is increased by the nation's reliance on leased containers, primarily from China. Analysts warn that it will take time to achieve container self-sufficiency.

### The Indian air cargo sector flying to new heights

India's air cargo export hit 195,000 tonnes per month, up 13% from 2019, signalling a structural shift in global trade dynamics. India's air freight industry is now charting a dynamic growth trajectory of its own. Over the past five years, the country's cargo sector has emerged from the shadows of pandemic-induced issues, adapting rapidly to shifts in global demand, export composition, and supply chain strategies. While much of the initial growth post-Covid was about regaining lost ground, the momentum has since evolved into a broader, more structural shift.

Recent data from the Airport Authority of India (AAI) underscores this trend. In January 2025, Indian airports handled 184,273.8 tonnes of international freight—a 7.1% increase over January 2024's 171,988.6 tonnes. Over the ten-month period from April 2024 to January 2025, the total international cargo handled showed a 17.2% surge compared to the same period the previous year. India's cargo mix is also undergoing a strategic shift. Traditional mainstays like apparel and footwear, which previously contributed heavily to export tonnage, are on the decline. In contrast, electronics — particularly mobile phones — have become a major volume driver. Another standout is the pharmaceutical sector.

## Travel Diaries – Swakopmund, Namibia



Swakopmund, Namibia is an ideal holiday destination for travellers seeking sun-drenched beaches, unique wildlife, and an array of outdoor activities. Located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, this small town offers a variety of attractions for visitors. Swakopmund is a popular destination for its vibrant nightlife, stunning beaches and a plethora of outdoor activities. Tourists can enjoy everything from kayaking and camel rides to horseback riding and hot-air ballooning. The town also features a number of historic buildings and monuments. The iconic Swakopmund Lighthouse offers stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean. The town has a semi-arid climate, which means that temperatures can reach over 40°C during the summer months.



Off Beat News – Town Introduces Wavy Traffic Lines to Slow Down Motorists



Authorities in Montgomery Township, Pennsylvania, USA, have introduced wavy lane patterns on some streets in an effort to slow down traffic in the area. Driving along Gray Lane in Montgomery Township for the first time must be quite the trip, both literally and figuratively. That's because the regular lane patterns have been replaced by wavy, zig-zag lines that look

like they were painted by a drunk. But they are wavy by design. According to Montgomery Township officials, the unusual patterns were deemed as the best solution to discourage speeding on some of the municipality's streets. Police sources told local media outlets that the "traffic-calming measures" were installed in response to numerous complaints about certain streets being used as "speedways".

Officials claims that this is just the latest solution to the speeding on Grays Lane. In the past, speed bumps were considered, but they were considered incompatible with the steep gradient of the street. Police radar and police cars positioned at the end of the street have also been used, but they couldn't be used at all times, so the wavy pattern was considered the best alternative. Not everyone agrees, though. Authorities have installed traffic cones and signs to help drivers get used to the unconventional traffic patterns, but Grays Lane still manages to shock motorists the first time they drive on it.

Thought for the month...

**Some life lessons that we can value ...**

**Standing alone is better than being around people who don't value you ...**

**- Team Sevensseas - India**