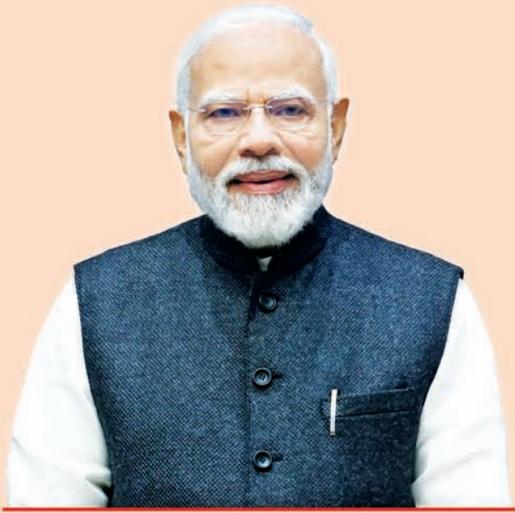


DSPL-22



ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନୂତନ ଯୁଗର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ଆସନ୍ତାକାଲି ଠାରୁ ଲାଗୁ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି

ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ଭାରତ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ଏବଂ ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଦନା ଯୋଜନା

- ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ପରିବାରର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସଦସ୍ୟଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ଏ.ବି.ପିଏମ୍.ଜେ.ଏ.ୱାଇ - ଜି.ଜେ.ଏ.ୱାଇ କାର୍ଡ
- ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା
- ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଦନା ଯୋଜନାରେ ୭୦ ବର୍ଷ କିମ୍ବା ୭୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ବରିଷ୍ଠ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପରିବାର ପିଛା ବାର୍ଷିକ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ୧.୦୩ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପରିବାରର ୩.୪୭ କୋଟି ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମାଗଣା ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା
- ଦେଶର ୨୯,୦୦୦ ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ଘରୋଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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leisure



ROBERT PATTINSON EYES VILLAIN ROLE IN DUNE 3

Hollywood star Robert Pattinson may soon onboard the upcoming part of the superhit *Dune* franchise. Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve has his sights set on the A-list to join the starry ensemble cast of *Dune: Messiah*.

JON HAMM FEELS HOLLYWOOD HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA

Hollywood star Jon Hamm feels the concept of a "leading man" belongs to a different era. The 54-year-old actor has enjoyed huge success during his career, but Hamm doesn't see himself as a leading man, claiming that the movie industry has now entered a new era.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesha. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

TAURUS
You may feel frustrated and stranded in family matters today, says Ganesha. Shower your warmth and care to make up for past mistakes. Your spouse will be supportive and lend you a helping hand to regain your mental composure. Reciprocate with intimacy and go with the flow, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
A favourable day to put an end to all the doubts surrounding your ability to do well, especially in the field of communication. People around you will find you incredibly charming and enchanting. You will win hearts with your verve and panache. You may want to spruce up your surroundings at work and at home. It will fetch you crucial brownie points from those you want to impress.

CANCER
It is quite possible that your personal life will take precedence over your professional life. You will not be able to repress or ignore your feelings, and you should not either, says Ganesha. But you should be careful about how you express yourself in public.

LEO
No matter how far you go, there is always a horizon that you desire to reach. And what holds true for all outer projections of life most certainly holds true for one's inner self as well, reminds Ganesha. Bear this in mind as you strive to improve yourself in as many ways as possible.

VIRGO
Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesha foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

LIBRA
Today will be fabulous for you, especially if you are in the world of business. Long-term deals seem to be on the cards for you. If you happen to be a government officer, luck favours you today. Keep your ears and eyes open, there may be news of a possible promotion. All Ganesha has to say to you today is, keep your options open and hopes alive.

SCORPIO
Ganesha feels that your intuitive feelings will rule your actions today. You will need to break past your stress threshold and tackle work with zeal and zest. Follow your instincts and relax to some good music when the burden of work is overwhelming.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesha sees a spectacular day in store for you, especially if you are an artist. Radio jockeys will be heard and cheered for. Television anchors will receive thundering applause and golden opportunities. Go ahead — seize the day!

CAPRICORN
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following. But while the inspired lot may achieve success and move on to target higher goals, you are likely to miss out on the best of opportunities to make money.

AQUARIUS
Spirituality is your new passion and Calvin Klein matters less today! Mysticism attracts you, says Ganesha. This may lead you to seek solace in holy books and religious places. It's going to take some time for you to understand that spiritual attainment can be had in the flesh-and-blood world as well.

PISCES
You are ceaselessly driven to find room for improvement. A part-time course to enhance your skills or to increase your efficiency is what you will likely be pursuing today, says Ganesha.

Tamannaah on public scrutiny of actors



MUMBAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who will be soon seen in the upcoming movie *Odela 2*, has said that actor's involuntarily sign up for the public scrutiny of their personal and professional lives on public platforms.

The actress, who reportedly parted ways from her rumoured beau Vijay Varma, recently spoke with the agency about the widespread scrutiny about her life on both personal and professional fronts, and how there's no escape for an actor from it.

Tamannaah told the agency, "When you become an actor, you have agreed to scrutiny of your career and your personal life. To be honest, I don't take anything personally, I just try to put out my perspective in the most honest possible way. People will always have an opinion, and that's fine. It's their opinion, and we respect that. Having said that, I don't take any of it personally, and I feel like the job of an actor is pretty much the same".

She further mentioned, "The formats are going to change, technology is going to evolve, we are going to consume cinema and content differently as times move. A creative person's or an artiste's job is to make you feel something, I'll try and do that in every format or genre that I work in".

DDLJ gets a statue erected in Leicester Square

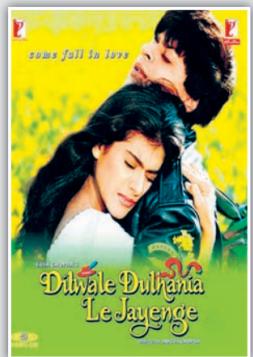
MUMBAI: Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's 1995 blockbuster *Diwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)* by Yash Raj Films is set to become the first ever statue honouring Indian cinema to be erected in London's Leicester Square.

The bronze statue will showcase SRK and Kajol, in an iconic *DDLJ* pose. Set to be unveiled in Spring this year, the announcement spotlights how the film is loved by the over five million strong British South Asian community.

Wednesday, the Heart of London Business Alliance announced that Yash Raj Films' *DDLJ* statue will be joining the 'Scenes in the Square' movie trail in Leicester Square. This will mark the start of 30-year celebrations of the romantic film, which marked the directorial debut of Aditya Chopra.

Diwale Dulhania Le Jayenge follows two non-resident Indians, Raj and Simran, and their star-crossed love story across Europe and India, beginning on a train from King's Cross Station.

The location couldn't be more fitting, with Leicester Square featuring in *DDLJ* in a scene when Raj and Simran first cross paths, albeit unbeknown to one another, before setting off on their European adventure. The scene features two of the square's cinemas prominently, with Raj seen in front of the Vue cinema, and Simran walking past the Odeon Leicester Square.



MUMBAI:

Khushi Kapoor shelled some serious fitness goals as she attempted a 240 kg hip thrust during her latest session at the gym.

Kushi dropped a video on the stories section of her Instagram which showed her sweating it out in the gym in a stylish black athleisure. As the diva tried on a new challenge by doing a 240 kg hip thrust, her trainer assisted her in pushing her limits.

On the professional front, Khushi was last seen opposite Ibrahim Ali Khan in the romantic entertainer *Nadaaniyan*. She faced a lot of criticism for her questionable acting skills in the drama.

Hitting back at the trolls for criticising *Nadaaniya*, Karan Johar quoted a popular song, "Kuch Toh Log Kahenge".

Addressing the media during an event, KJo said, "People will say something or the other. It's the job of people to say something. Forget all these useless things."

Produced by Karan, *Nadaaniyan*, marked the acting debut of Saif Ali Khan's son Ibrahim Ali Khan along-

Khushi's fitness goals

side Khushi. Ever since the project premiered on Netflix, the romantic drama received widespread backlash from netizens, making it a topic of ridicule on social media.



Kritika backs sustainable living

DELHI: Actress Kritika Kamra has talked about the underrated mindset that more people should adopt is embracing the beauty and practicality of secondhand items.

Asked what's one underrated habit or mindset she believes more people should adopt, Kritika told the agency: "I think we need to get over the shame around hand-me-downs. We should be able to pass on the things that we are bored of, and it's absolutely fine to thrift or get things from family/friends that they don't want anymore."

"Different people wear the same hinge differently. So even if you're wearing something used, the way it looks on you will be unique and new."

The actress, who has launched a fashion initiative called Cinnabar to empower women artisans in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh, urged people to "stop throwing things out."

"Also, shop in your closet. I promise you if you're organised and can see every-



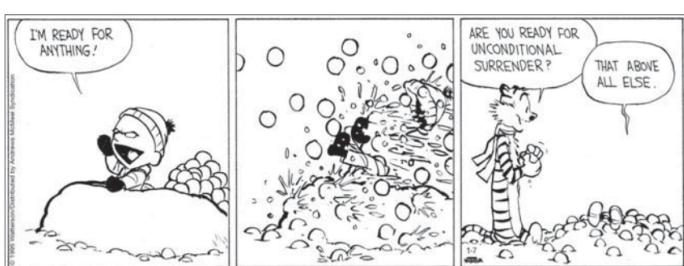
thing you own, you'll be able to make many sets from things you already wear and haven't yet. Get creative."

Talking about how her style has evolved over the years, both on and off screen, the actress, who stepped into the world of acting in 2007 with the college drama *Yaahaan Ke Hum Sikander*, said: "On screen my style is always a collaboration with the stylist, the director, and the cinematographer."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

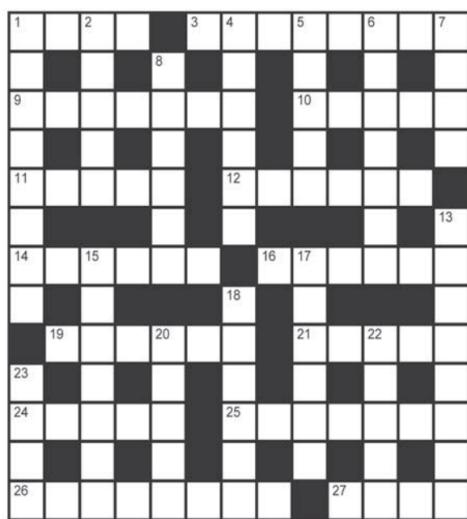


BREVITY



FUN POST

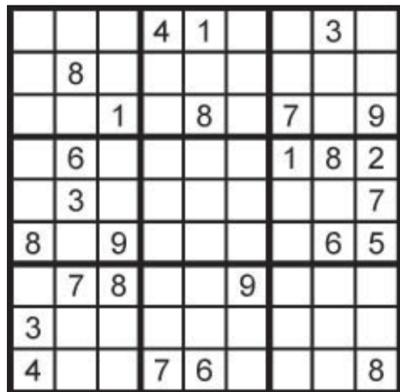
CROSSWORD



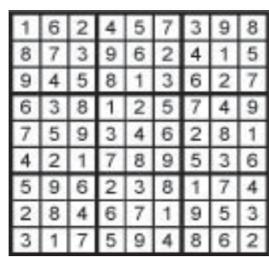
- Across**
- 1 Catcall
 - 3 Left
 - 9 Pit viper
 - 10 Penalised
 - 11 Young haddock
 - 12 Hot and humid
 - 14 Inflict
 - 16 Blood disorder
 - 19 Holiday destination
 - 21 Kingdom
 - 24 Speechify
- Down**
- 25 Social media service
 - 26 Union
 - 27 Genuine
 - 1 Adversity
 - 2 Weasel relative
 - 4 Means of escape
 - 5 Horrible
 - 6 Display of bad temper
 - 7 Extinct bird
 - 8 Playground equipment
 - 13 Raffia ruffia, e.g. (4,4)
 - 15 Triumph
 - 17 Ski type
 - 18 Radio interference
 - 20 "La Bohème," e.g.
 - 22 Hitching post?
 - 23 Davenport

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.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

 Land to displaced J&K government grants 9.23 lakh kanals, 2,421 urban plots, and quarters to PoJK displaced persons in Jammu region TWO STATES P5	 Rana's extradition Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana is set to be extradited to India soon, with legalities underway NATIONAL P7	 Oil prices slide Oil prices fall for a fifth day Wednesday to their lowest since February 2021 after Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs took effect BUSINESS P9	 Arsenal in dreamland Arsenal's Declan Rice nets two free kicks in shock 3-0 quarterfinal first-leg win against defending champions Real Madrid SPORTS BACK PAGE
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Now, Aadhaar app with face ID

New Delhi, April 9: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has unveiled the Aadhaar app, designed to enhance accessibility and security. This new application integrates face ID authentication and artificial intelligence (AI), allowing Indian citizens to access digital Aadhaar services via their mobile devices.

Showing the features of the app, Vaishnaw shared a video on X. "New Aadhaar App Face ID authentication via mobile app. No physical card & No photocopies," he wrote.

The app was developed in partnership with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It includes QR code-based instant verification and real-time facial recognition for authentication, removing the necessity for individuals to carry physical photocopies or cards.

Once out of beta testing phase and widely implemented across the country, this would mean that individuals, when asked for ID - say, at a hotel, airport, or by a train ticket checker - no longer have to hand over a paper Aadhaar, as is mostly the case today.

"Now with just a tap, users can share only the necessary data, giving them complete control over their personal information," Vaishnaw said. The new Aadhaar App (in beta) is currently in its testing phase.

He also mentioned that Aadhaar verification will now be as easy as making a UPI payment. "Users can now digitally verify and share their Aadhaar details while ensuring their privacy. Simply scan a QR code or use a requesting application," he added.

With this app, users will no longer need to carry around a physical Aadhaar card or hand over photocopies of it during travel, hotel check-ins, or even shopping. The Aadhaar app is shareable only with the user's consent.

UIDAI's technology centre demonstrated the new Aadhaar app saying it will empower Aadhaar holders to share only the necessary data while availing services of their choice. "It will give Aadhaar number holders complete control over their personal information. The app allows digital verification and exchange via a requesting application or by scanning a QR code, eliminating the need for physical photocopies while ensuring privacy," an official release said.



LAW & ORDER MEET: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of a meeting on the new criminal laws, in New Delhi, Wednesday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Seems like we need to step back a little - and rely more on ED, CBI, I-T...

RBI cuts repo rate again, trims GDP growth forecast

Mumbai, April 9: Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates Wednesday for a second consecutive time while lowering India's growth forecast to 6.5 per cent from 6.7 per cent estimated earlier for the current financial year on account of impact of global trade and policy uncertainties.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consisting of three central bank members and an equal number of external members, voted unanimously to cut the repurchase or repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent. It had reduced rates by an equal measure in February - the first cut since May 2020.

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term funding needs. With a 25 bps

Rupee dives deeper

MUMBAI: The rupee extended its losing streak for the fourth straight session and settled 42 paise lower at 86.68 against the US dollar Wednesday, amid escalating tariff turbulence globally. Even though crude oil prices fell sharply to a record low level and the American currency remained weak, the Indian currency stayed under pressure due to incessant outflow of foreign funds and lacklustre sentiment in the domestic equity markets, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.52 and moved between a high of 86.47 and the low of 86.76 against the greenback during intraday, facing extreme volatility. The unit settled at 86.68 against the dollar, sharply lower by 42 paise from the previous closing level.

Stock markets decline

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower Wednesday in line with losses in global markets amid escalating trade tensions. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 379.93 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 73,847.15. During the day, it slumped 554.02 points or 0.74 per cent to a low of 73,673.06. The NSE Nifty declined 136.70 points or 0.61 per cent to 22,399.15. Intra-day, it tanked 182.6 points or 0.81 per cent to 22,353.25. Mirroring weak trends in Asian equities, domestic key equity indices opened lower and remained in the negative territory throughout the session after the US imposed a fresh set of tariffs, including a whopping 104 per cent levy on Chinese imports.

cut in the repo rate, all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) linked to it will come down. And if the banks fully pass on this to the borrowers, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, auto and personal loans will decline by 25 bps.

The move lowers borrowing costs to the lowest level since November 2022, amid easing inflation and a fall in oil prices.

RBI changed its policy stance to 'accommodative' from 'neutral', indicating the possibility of more rate cuts in future, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said while announcing the MPC decisions.

The rate cut came on a day when the full 26 per cent additional tariffs on Indian goods exported to the US came into effect. The US tariffs exacerbate uncertainties, with some economists predicting a 20-40 basis point drag on Indian GDP growth in the current fiscal year that started on April 1.

RBI also lowered its estimate for economic growth to 6.5 per cent for 2025-26 fiscal year from 6.7 per cent earlier. The inflation projection was also lowered to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent, keeping it within the target range of 2-6 per cent.

The Indian economy grew by 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31 (2024-25), its weakest pace since the pandemic.

90-day tariff pause for all but China

Washington, April 9: Facing a global market meltdown, US President Donald Trump Wednesday abruptly backed down on his tariffs on most nations for 90 days, but raised the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125 per cent. It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the US and most of the world to a showdown between the US and China.

Stock markets in the US rose sharply after the development. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2,541.92 points, or 6.73%, to 40,180.98, the S&P 500 rose 392.26 points, or 7.87%, to 5,375.03 and the Nasdaq Composite rose 1,529.03 points, or 10.00%, to 16,794.65 at about 11:57 PM GMT.

Trump posted on Truth Social that because "more than 75 Countries" had reached out to the US government for trade talks and have not retaliated in meaningful way "I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10 per cent, also effective immediately."

The 10 per cent tariff was the baseline rate for most nations that went into effect Saturday. It's meaningfully lower than the 20 per cent tariff that Trump had set for goods from the European Union, 24 per cent on imports from Japan and 25 per cent on products from South Korea. Still, 10 per cent would represent an increase in the tariffs previously charged by the US government.

The announcement came after the global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect Wednesday, a signal that the US president was not immune from market pressures.



India to buy 26 Rafale jets in ₹64,000-cr deal

New Delhi, April 9: The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday cleared a proposal to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets from France at a cost of around ₹64,000 crore for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, sources in the defence establishment said.

The delivery of the jets will begin around five years after the signing of the contract under an inter-governmental framework between India and France. In July 2023, the defence ministry accorded the initial approval for the mega acquisition following a series of deliberations and evaluation tests of the platform.

Under the deal, the Indian Navy will also get associated ancillary equipment including weapon systems and spares from Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of Rafale (Marine) jets. The Indian Air Force bought 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in fly-away condition.

There is a thinking in the IAF that it should go for at least two more squadrons of Rafale jets.

The defence and strategic ties between India and France have been on an upswing in the last few years. In July 2023, India and France announced a raft of ground-breaking defence cooperation projects including the joint development of jet and helicopter engines.

Naveen backs Pandian again

Bhubaneswar, April 9: Amidst the ongoing flip-flop over supporting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, BJD president Naveen Patnaik Wednesday came out in support of his close aide VK Pandian and clarified that the bureaucrat-turned-politician was not involved in any of the party activities.

Referring to a remark of former BJD MLA Pravat Tripathy, who directly blamed Pandian for the party's defeat in the last election, Patnaik said, "I want to state here clearly that the former legislator was expelled from the party a few years ago because he was indicted in a chit-fund case and spent some years in jail. I want to clarify again that he doesn't belong to the party."

While issuing a clean chit to Pandian, Patnaik said, "I also



want to state clearly that Kartikeyan Pandian, in the past, has done a lot of good work not only for the state, but also for the party. So, he shouldn't be criticised or blamed for anything. Also, he left the party more than 10 months ago and is not involved in any of the party's activities."

Patnaik's remark comes at a time when a section of party workers have been demanding action against those responsible for changing the BJD's official decision of opposing the Waqf Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

130,000-yr-old mammoth goes under scalpel

Yakutsk, April 9: Making incisions and carefully taking samples, the scientists at a laboratory in Russia's far east looked like pathologists carrying out a post-mortem.

But the body they were dissecting is a baby mammoth who died around 130,000 years ago.

Discovered last year, the calf - nicknamed Yana, for the river basin where she was found - is in a remarkable state of preservation, giving scientists a glimpse into the past and, potentially, the future as climate change thaws the permafrost in which she was found. Yana's skin has kept its greyish-brown colour and clumps of reddish hairs. Her wrinkled trunk is curved and points to her mouth. The orbits of her eyes are perfectly recognisable and her sturdy legs resemble those of a modern-day elephant.



This necropsy -- an autopsy on an animal -- "is an opportunity to look into the past of our planet," said Artemy Goncharov, head of the Laboratory of Functional Genomics and Proteomics of Microorganisms at the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Saint Petersburg.

Scientists hope to find unique ancient bacteria and carry out genetic analysis of the plants

and spores Yana ate to learn more about the place and time she lived. The calf largely avoided the ravages of time because she lay for thousands of years encased in permafrost in the Sakha region in Siberia.

Measuring 1.2 metres at the shoulder and two metres long, and weighing 180 kilograms, Yana could be the best-preserved mammoth specimen ever found, retaining internal organs and soft tissues, the Russian scientists said.

Yana was first estimated to have died around 50,000 years ago, but is now dated at 'more than 130,000 years' following analysis of the permafrost layer where she lay, said Maxim Cheprasov, director of the Mammoth Museum. As for her age at death, "it's already clear that she is over a year old because her milk tusks have already appeared," he added.

Both elephants and mammoths have early milk tusks that later fall out. Scientists are yet to determine why Yana died so young.

At the time when this herbivore mammal was chewing grass, "here on the territory of Yakutia there were not yet any humans," Cheprasov said, since they appeared in modern-day Siberia between 28,000 and 32,000 years ago.

State govt to fill up 12K vacancies in police dept

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 9: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday announced that his government would fill over 12,000 vacant posts in the police department.

Majhi made the announcement after returning from New Delhi, where he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, besides attending a two-day investors' conclave.

He said that at the meeting with Shah, the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) in the state was discussed.

Rising number of cases of cybercrime was also discussed in the meeting, Majhi said, adding that he told Shah that the state was planning to set up 20 cyber



police stations, and create the post of Crime Scene Officer in every police station.

Majhi said the Union Home Minister assured the state government of all support needed for maintaining law and order and the justice delivery system.

He said, "The state government will soon fill up the 12,000 vacancies in the Home department, which will help maintain the law and order situation in

the state."

Among them are 3,003 vacancies in the Odisha Special Striking Force (OSSF), 3,000 in Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF), 2,000 traffic personnel, 5,000 home guards, 267 in the Directorate of Public Prosecution, and 254 in the State Forensic Science Department, the Chief Minister said.

The announcement comes amid persistent protests by the Opposition Congress, alleging that the law and order situation has worsened with an increase in crimes against women after the BJP formed the government in the state last June.

At the investors' meet that Majhi hosted in New Delhi, the state government signed 13 agreements and received 15 investment proposals worth ₹1.03 lakh crore, which have the potential to create employment for over 95,000 people.

Online application process begins at WSC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: In a bid to equip youth with cutting-edge skills for global employment opportunities, online application process has started for enrolling in

2025-26 batch at the World Skill Center (WSC) here.

Established by the Odisha Skill Development Authority, the centre aims to provide industry-relevant training to youth, opening doors to major foreign companies

post-training.

The online registration for enrollment in seven advanced courses under the School of Engineering and School of Services departments is now open. Interested candidates can apply until May 3, 2025.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.1°	34.8°
Min Temp	24.4°	23.2°
Humidity	65%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder/lightning

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	73,847.15 ↓ 379.93
NIFTY	22,399.15 ↓ 136.70
DOLLAR	86.78 ↑ 0.55
EURO	95.78 ↑ 1.27
GOLD	₹89,764 ↑ ₹2,315
SILVER	₹90,280 ↑ ₹1,407

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Priti Priyadarshni D/o of Prasanta Kumar Behera, At- MIG 11, H.B. Colony, P.O./P.S./ Dist.- Khordha-752055, I declare by this affidavit No.842 dated on 28.3.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Priti Priyadarshni for all purpose.

Smt. Sunali Lima, W/o- Sukant Lima, declare by this affidavit No.- 348,dt- 09.04.2025, sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Gudari, that now onwards I want to correction my son's name from Arin Lima to Ariyen Lima, bearing Aadhaar No.- xxxx xxxx 2387 of village karlaghati, P.O.- Karlaghati, P.S./Tahasil- Gudari, Dist- Rayagada, for all future purpose.

Manipal Hospitals, Google Cloud in AI healthcare pact

POST NEWS NETWORK

Las Vegas, April 9: Manipal Hospitals has announced a strategic collaboration with Google Cloud to revolutionise digital healthcare delivery in India through the integration of artificial intelligence and secure cloud technologies.

Unveiled Wednesday, the partnership marks a significant milestone in Manipal Hospitals' digital transformation journey. By adopting Google Cloud's AI tools, advanced analytics, and robust cloud infrastructure, the healthcare group aims to boost operational efficiency and improve patient outcomes across its nationwide network.

With Deloitte providing implementation support, Manipal Hospitals has already deployed AI-based solutions on Google Cloud to enhance its ePharmacy platform and optimise nurse handover procedures.

The impact has been substantial: ePharmacy order processing time has dropped from 15 minutes to under five, while nurse handoffs have been reduced from 90 minutes to just 20—an impressive 78 per cent reduction, translating into millions of minutes saved each month in caregiver productivity.

Karthik Rajagopal, Group Chief Operating Officer at Manipal Hospitals, stated, "Google Cloud has been instrumental in helping us unlock high levels of scalability, performance, and security. By offloading infrastructure management, our teams can focus entirely on solving critical healthcare challenges."

Echoing the sentiment, Bikram Singh Bedi, Vice President and Managing Director of Google Cloud India, said, "We are deeply committed to helping healthcare providers accelerate their digital transformation journeys. Our collaboration with Manipal Hospitals is designed to eliminate inefficiencies, enhance patient experiences, and broaden access to quality healthcare across India."

A key outcome of the partnership is the development of a next-generation ePharmacy platform, built entirely on Google Cloud. Powered by Gemini on Vertex AI, the system ensures accurate, real-time prescription processing, minimising errors previously common with manual data entry.

The platform also utilises the Cloud Healthcare API and Apigee API Management to securely connect systems and deliver instant, error-free prescription data to patients.

Odisha, Unicef plan social protection push

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The Odisha government, in collaboration with Unicef, has taken a significant step toward strengthening social protection systems in the state by initiating discussions on the Social Policy and Social Protection Action Plan (SPSP) for the period 2025-2027.

A high-level meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, where officials from various state departments and Unicef representatives came together to outline strategies aimed at ensuring that the state's most vulnerable populations—particularly children, adolescents, and women—benefit from inclusive and responsive policies.



The action plan focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of social protection systems by making them more gender-responsive, climate-adaptive, and shock-resilient.

It reflects a long-term vision to integrate these frameworks into the existing governance and welfare structures. During



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy lights the ceremonial lamp during Lingaraj Mahotsav organised by Ekamra Sanskritika Prakashani in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Among dignitaries, noted linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak is seen. (R) Artists perform during the event
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK



MARCH 27 VIOLENCE

FIR against 11 Cong leaders, 5K unnamed party workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The twin city Commissionerate Police has registered an FIR against 11 senior Congress leaders, including Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das, and 5,000 other unnamed party members for the violence that occurred during the 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' programme here last month.

The Congress had organised the 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' programme March 27 in protest against the 'rise in atrocities' against women and girls. Several people, including police personnel, were injured in the clash during the protest.

The case was registered March 28 at the Capital police station here on the basis of a report of inspector-in-charge (IIC) Dayanidhi Nayak. However, the details of the case were shared with the media Wednesday.

Apart from the OPCC chief, other senior Congress leaders whose names have been mentioned in the FIR are Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam, MLAs



Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Ramesh Chandra Jena, Pabitra Saunta, Sagar Charan Das, Prafulla Chandra Pradhan, Mangu Khila, CS Raazen Ekka, Mohammed Moquim and Suresh Chandra Routray.

As per the complaint, some protesters pelted eggs, tomatoes, stones and plastic chairs at security personnel deployed on Mahatma Gandhi Marg. In order to control the situation, police had to use water cannon and tear gas. As the protest intensified, the police resorted to mild lathi-charge to disperse the protestors.

"Charges like unlawful assembly, rioting, wrongful restraint, use of criminal force against public servant, and criminal intimidation have been framed against the lead-

ers and 5,000 other unnamed members of the Congress," police said.

"So far, at least three persons have been arrested in connection with the case and further investigation is under progress," said a Capital police official.

Meanwhile, state Congress spokesperson Prashant Satpathy said, "Democracy gives us the right to protest against unlawful action. However, state government's action (FIR registration) shows that is scared of us."

"Our party fought with Britishers for the freedom of our nation, and we are not scared of this government. Even if they put us in jail to suppress our voice, we will continue our fight over women safety issue," added Satpathy.

Manoj Parida new info panel head

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: The state government Wednesday appointed retired IAS officer Manoj Kumar Parida as the Chief Information Commissioner of the state Information Commission.

Parida will succeed JK Tripathy. Parida, a 1986-batch IAS officer, was serving as Insurance Ombudsman in Bhubaneswar since July 2022.

Earlier, he had served as the chief secretary of Pondicherry and adviser to the Chandigarh Administrator. An official release issued by CMO said retired IPS officer Pranabindu Acharya, High Court Advocate Kalpana Pattnaik and Pabitra Mandal, a retired IAS officer, were named as Information Commissioners.

OUTR to hold second convocation April 11



BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) will hold its second convocation ceremony April 11 at the Railway Auditorium here. At a press conference held Wednesday, vice chancellor Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal announced that a total of 756 students from B.Tech programmes, 181 from M.Tech, MCA and M.Planning, and 94 from Integrated M.Sc and M.Sc programmes will receive their degrees. Governor and University Chancellor Hari Babu Kambhampati will preside over the event. Industries and Skill Development Minister Sampada Chandra Swain will attend as the chief guest, and AICTE Chairman P.T.G. Sitharaman will grace the occasion as the special guest. Shrivansu Mishra has been selected for the prestigious Chancellor's Gold Medal, while Saurav Satpathy (UG) and Sofa Pradhan (PG) will be honoured with gold medals. Twenty-seven other students will receive silver medals across different categories. The university also announced the launch of two new B.Tech programmes—one in Computer Engineering and another in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering.

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Cyber fraud racket busted; 9 arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, April 9: Odisha Police Wednesday claimed to have busted an international cyber fraud racket and arrested nine people from the Steel City here. The police also seized ₹1.41 crore from 23 bank accounts, a senior police officer said Wednesday.

The arrested were identified as Kishan Agarwal, 26, Kunal Agarwal, 25, Arjun Singh of Rudraprayag (Uttarakhand), 27, Giridhari Singh of Jashpur (Chhattisgarh), 24, Ajay Kumar of Korba, 25, Sandeep Soni of Balodabazar, 28, Soumendra Singh Rajput of Champa, 28, Abhijit Bharadwaj of Raigarh, 27, and Dinesh Sahu of Janjgir-Champa, 25.

They were arrested Tuesday evening, the police officer said.

Briefing reporters here, Western range DIG Brijesh Kumar Rai said, "Acting on a tip-off, our team kept two apartments in Rourkela city under surveillance. The watch was carried out because of



information from sources who informed that there were movements of many unknown persons in the locality."

In the first raid, two persons were taken into custody and in the second, five more were found with various incriminating documents such as fake SIMs, mobile phones and laptops, he said.

"They were swindling money using a fake app, which they had created, known as Trade-Now," the officer said.

The team was operating mule

accounts and used to transact more than ₹50 lakh every day, Rai said. During further investigation, two other accused involved in the cyber fraud racket were arrested.

Kishan, mastermind of the racket, used run the racket from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and operated in India and other countries, the DIG said, adding he was also nabbed from Rourkela.

"During interrogation, the accused persons revealed that they were using the fake mobile

app to lure investors by promising very high returns in the share market within a short span of time," Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhvani said.

Explaining the gang's modus operandi, the officer said that initially, they used to give profits of smaller amounts ranging between ₹1,000 and ₹4,000 to the investors and, later, when people put in a higher amount of money, the accused used to grab the amount by showing it as loss in the share market.

To gain the confidence of the investors, the accused used a purported video of a renowned Bollywood actor promoting their app, the SP said, adding he would be informed soon about this. Police seized five laptops, 31 mobile phones, 68 SIM cards, 20 ID proofs, four passbooks and cheques, two pen drives, 19 ATM cards, a currency counting machine, a car and a scooter.

Besides, ₹1.41 crore has been seized from 23 accounts so far. In all, 176 accounts are under scrutiny, police said.

Worker hurt in Badmal ordnance factory blast



POST NEWS NETWORK

Saintala, April 9: A worker Wednesday morning sustained critical burn injuries during an explosion at Badmal ordnance factory here in Saintala block of Bolangir district.

Public Relations Officer Dilip Chandra Pattanayak said the explosion took place at Unit-6 of the facility around 9:15am, when the worker was mixing chemicals used in ammunition manufacturing.

The injured worker, identified as Shibashankar Bhoi, was reportedly wearing all the required safety gear but sustained serious burns to his face and both hands due to his proximity to the blast. Bhoi was initially treated at the factory's medical facility before being referred to Rourkela IGH for advanced care.

Debt-ridden elderly couple dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, April 9: Unable to bear the stress arising out of repeated visits by representatives of some finance companies demanding repayment of loans, an elderly couple, whose son is currently staying abroad with his family, died after consuming poison at Bedha Purnachandrapur village under this police station in Khallikote block of Ganjam district Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Ladu Kishore Maharana, 61, and his wife Sajani Maharana, 57, of the village. According to police, a glass with traces of suspected poison was recovered from the couple's residence.

The matter came to the fore when a finance company employee visited their home Wednesday noon and found the couple lying unresponsive. He alerted the locals, who then informed the police.

The cops seized the bodies and sent them to Purusottampur CHC

for post-mortem. Preliminary investigations suggest that the couple had borrowed approximately ₹3 lakh from private finance companies and a few individuals to invest in farming.

Police registered two separate cases of unnatural deaths (7/25 & 8/25) and launched an investigation. The incident spread shock waves in the area even as a pall of gloom descended on the village.

Sources said that the couple's only son Santosh is staying abroad with his family, while their three daughters are married. The couple was living alone in the village and survived by cultivating crops. However, the unseasonal rains damaged their standing paddy crops, pushing them into further financial distress.

In addition, Ladu Kishore had reportedly been unwell for some time and was unable to work. Meanwhile, repeated visits from finance company agents demanding for payback added to the couple's mental burden.

Forests burning as awareness drives fail



POST NEWS NETWORK

Daspalla, April 9: A massive fire is ripping through the forests under Daspalla forest range in Nayagarh district, even as awareness about dangers of shifting cultivation and collection of mahua flowers is falling short to tackle the grave situation, a report said.

Out of 160 fire points under Nayagarh forest division, 122 were reported in Daspalla, 24 in Gania, 10 in Mahipur, and two each in Odagaon and Panchridda forest ranges, according to official sources.

Forest department spends lakhs of rupees on awareness drives aimed at protecting the jungles and wildlife during the dry summer months. Public meetings, folk performances, street plays, and other cultural shows are being organised across villages to educate the residents about the consequences of wildfires. Forest protection committees have also been set up in several areas. However, these initiatives have seen little success in the villages under Daspalla forest range, where the situation is reportedly the most critical.

Satellite data since

January reveals frequent fire outbreaks across the region, with Daspalla topping the list in terms of the number of fire incidents.

A raging forest fire has turned a once-dense jungle into a barren land, leaving it nearly devoid of trees. Many wild animals have perished in the blaze.

Alarmingly, the fire is believed to be human-induced.

Sources said some individuals are setting ablaze jungles to collect mahua flowers, while others are resorting to the dangerous act for shifting cultivation or for extracting charcoal. Poachers have also reportedly set the jungles on both sides of the forest to hunt wild animals.

Adding to the concerns, Daspalla forest range is functioning without a range officer for the past one month. Although some staffers remain stationed in the area, reports suggest most of them are habitual absentees, affecting regular patrolling in their assigned forest ranges.

Residents and intellectuals have demanded an investigation into the truant employees and have called for appropriate action against them.

Weeklong Chaiti Parba begins at Tarini Temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 9: The weeklong Chaiti Parba, also known as Chaiti Yatra, kicked off at Maa Tarini temple at Ghatagaon in this district Wednesday.

Anticipating huge footfall of devotees, elaborate arrangements have been made by Maa Tarini Temple Trust Board in coordination with the local administration.

During the festival, devotees observe fasting to seek the blessings of Maa Tarini, a fierce yet compassionate form of the deity. As one of the temple's most important festivals, Chaiti Parba features special rituals, offerings, devotional songs, chants, and cultural programs, locals said.

Meanwhile, a devotee, Bajrang Agarwal of Sundargarh, has donated a gold crown worth ₹50 lakh to the goddess. The donation includes an eye patch, nose ring, bindi (an ornament

worn on forehead by the women), and the crown itself. According to the temple administration, the crown weighs 445.470 gram, and the additional ornaments weigh 25 gram.

Maa Tarini Temple Trust Board secretary Sanjeev Mohapatra said, "Agarwal had made a commitment to donate the crown after his wish was fulfilled."

"All arrangements have been made with the support of the administration to ensure the smooth observance of Maa Tarini's festival," said Sanjeev Mohapatra, secretary of the Maa Tarini Temple Trust Board.

The deity is adorned in her traditional 'Suna Besh' (golden attire) during the seven-day festival, a spectacle that draws devotees from across the region. It is widely believed that seeing goddess in her 'Suna Besh' fulfills devotees' wishes.

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FOCUS SOCIETY

THE RISE OF BILLIONAIRES

Since the 1980s, there has been a consistent, rapid rise in the number of billionaires. By 2025, the combined wealth of the richest 1%—those with over \$11 million—has reached \$44.6 trillion. The COVID-19 pandemic further accelerated the accumulation of wealth among millionaires and billionaires. From 2020 onward, while the global economy was devastated by the pandemic, the wealth of the top 1% grew by nearly \$15 trillion—an increase of 49%. In 2024 alone, approximately 204 new billionaires emerged, adding to the 2,565 billionaires recorded in 2023. According to Oxfam's latest Annual Inequality Report, 36% of these billionaires inherited their wealth from their family. This raises critical questions: How did the remaining 64% of millionaires and billionaires amass their fortunes? How did they continue to grow their wealth while the working poor faced increasing financial hardship? What policies, processes, economic and political structures enabled such a massive transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich?

The Washington Consensus of 1989 has played a pivotal role in creating new billionaires and concentrating wealth among both old and new elites. British-born economist John Harold Williamson not only coined the term Washington Consensus but also outlined a set of ten economic policy prescriptions, promoted and enforced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank under the guise of economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes. The ten interconnected policy reforms of the Washington Consensus of 1989 are composed of i) reduce national budget deficit by reducing domestic expenditure and government borrowing for economic stability; ii) end subsidies to state owned firms, food and fuel consumption; iii) broaden tax regime; iv) liberalise market and end government control over financial and other sectors for



The Washington Consensus of 1989 has played a pivotal role in creating new billionaires and concentrating wealth among both old and new elites

a free market; v) adopt single exchange rate led market driven exchange rate to encourage exports; vi) reduce trade restrictions and encourage tariff based trade over quotas; vii) abolish barriers to foreign direct investment; viii) private state owned enterprises; ix) abolish policies that restrict competition and finally; x) provide secure, affordable property rights, incentivise investment and provide access to credit. These policies were heavily backed by American and Western European establishments, who sought to create a global consensus among ruling and non-ruling elites. Proponents of such a set of ruling class project consensus promoted them as the ultimate policy solution for economic growth, development, and crisis recovery. However, in practice, these reforms have often led to wealth concentration, economic inequality, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, exploitation and the deepening of class divides.

If British born American economist John Harold Williamson is the father of the Washington Consensus, then the American Brady Plan (named after U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady) is its mother. The Washington Consensus was designed to serve the objectives of the Brady Plan, which presented market-based solutions for debt relief. However, its underlying goal was to establish

US dollar dominance in the global economy by strengthening commercial banks. The policy prescriptions of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation unleashed the animal spirit of corporates and aggressive expansion of capitalist forces, allowing them to exploit both labour and nature in pursuit of ever-growing pyramid of profits. This led to the dismantling of the welfare state and the undermining of democratic governance, which was replaced by a security state—one that exists primarily to protect capitalist interests and facilitate wealth accumulation through the exploitation of human and natural resources.

While capital was subsidised, ordinary people were taxed under a rent-seeking state, justified as a means of revenue generation. The rich received tax benefits while the financial burden fell on the working class. In practice, it is socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor. This hypocrisy reveals the true nature of modern capitalism—it privatises profits while socialising risks and losses. When the rich make risky financial bets and fail, governments step in to rescue them. But when ordinary people struggle, they are left to bear the full brunt of economic downturns. Thus, the rise of the ultra-wealthy is neither accidental nor a matter of destiny. It is not the result of merit, creativity,

divine blessings, or karma from a past life. Instead, it is the product of deliberate economic policies—crafted by a shrewd elite under the guise of the Washington Consensus—that laid the foundation for a neocolonial and neoliberal economic order.

After 35 years of implementation of the Washington Consensus, the real outcomes are undeniable. These policies have successfully achieved their true objective—creating millionaires and billionaires—while simultaneously impoverishing the working class, dismantling the welfare state, undermining democracy and citizenship rights. The legacy of the Washington Consensus is not one of shared progress, but of deepened class divides and systemic exploitation. It helped in the rise of millionaires and billionaires.

The current proposals for alternatives, such as universal basic income and other cluster-based approaches to economic justice, human welfare, and development, are not real solutions. Instead, they serve as short-term relief programmes designed to distract the public and maintain the status quo. A genuine and minimalist alternative is to nationalise all wealth and resources accumulated during the era of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation of 1990s. These resources must be redistributed among the working poor to correct decades of economic injustice. The other alternative to capitalism can be based on collective ownership of natural resources to ensure that wealth benefits all, rather than a privileged few. This is possible by pursuing a politics of economic redistribution that prioritises the well-being of the majority over corporate interests. However, the first and most critical step is to defeat capitalism—along with its politics, culture, and policies—that have systematically enabled inequality and exploitation.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University. Vies are personal.



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THE LEGACY OF THE WASHINGTON CONSENSUS IS NOT ONE OF SHARED PROGRESS, BUT OF DEEPENED CLASS DIVIDES AND SYSTEMIC EXPLOITATION



Richard K. Sherwin

TODAY'S MYTHIC NARRATIVES – FROM AI-ENHANCED "EVOLVING" CONSCIOUSNESS TO RUSSIAN COSMISM AND VLADIMIR PUTIN'S "NOŌCRACY" – SERVE A COMPARABLE FUNCTION: TOTALIZING POWER

The Will to Power

In the days since US President Donald Trump unleashed his tariff tsunami on the world, economists, investors, and business leaders have almost universally questioned its rationality. As a policy matter, they are right to be scratching their heads. But Trump's tariffs are not simply about policy. They are a piece of the animating features of his MAGA ("Make America Great Again") movement: contempt for science and the rule of law, persistent lying, and a propensity for irrational theorizing.

We have witnessed this embrace of unreason before, accompanied by similarly grandiose assertions of power. Hitler's well-known fascination with Theosophy, Gnosticism, and eugenics was not an isolated phenomenon. During the 1930s, psychoanalyst Carl Jung's idea of self-growth or "individuation" was viewed by many (including Jung) to be the special destiny of the Aryan race. The well-known Eranos gatherings during this period, which included esteemed scholars such as Mircea Eliade (who publicly supported Romania's fascist Iron Guard), Henry Corbin, and Gershom Scholem, have been shadowed (not entirely fairly) by the taint of anti-Enlightenment politics.

For Trump, tariffs are about much more than a change of economic policy. They are part of a toolkit for political and cultural transformation. 2 April was "Liberation Day." Trump sees himself as single-handedly and fundamentally altering the global order by a Herculean act of sheer will. To be sure, Trump's tariffs are likely to make life materially worse for people around the world – not least Americans. But the particulars matter less than the heroic spectacle itself, the leader's demonstration of MAGA's capacity to rivet our attention by arousing shock and awe. To borrow the Silicon Valley mantra (which echoes in Gnostic reveries), one must move fast and break things to release creative energy, including the spirit of the homeland. Mystical leaders liberate crippled instincts from conventional cultural shackles – like the "wholly incongruous Christianity" that, as Jung put it, had been "grafted upon the stumps" of the Aryan spirit.

Who else could mobilize such transformative forces but the great leader – the one who, as Nietzsche put it, carries chaos within to give birth to "a dancing star"? That's the MAGA pitch. The test follows: Are you willing to accept the pain that ensues? This is less an implementation of policy than a collective initiation rite, or a massive psyop. As Soviet propagandists understood, inducing friends and foes alike to repeat obvious falsehoods is a reliable test of power.

So is declaring a state of emergency, as Trump did in order to justify his tariffs. Declarations of this sort embody a claim to ultimate sovereignty. As the Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt wrote, the executive decision to initiate a "state of exception" determines what sovereignty means in practice. It is a self-fulfilling act: declaring an emergency is the emergency. It is one way in which the rule of law ends.

A state of emergency addresses both how the nation will survive and who will survive. That is why Schmitt separates people into friends and enemies. For example, Elon Musk's definition of friends can be inferred from the companies he owns, such as X.AI, Neuralink, and SpaceX. On this reading, Musk's friends are the evolving vanguard of humankind: those who are the most AI-informed, even cyber-enhanced, and perhaps destined to colonize Mars.

Enemies, by contrast, have no claim either to society's concern or its resources. In this vein, Trump focuses above all on "illegal aliens," whom he routinely describes as "vermin" and "animals." By defining any "de-nationalized" class of "others" as a discrete sub-species, Trump places them beyond law's safeguards.

Trump's tariffs reflect the MAGA movement's broader anti-Enlightenment impulses. He may claim to be concerned with "rebalancing" global trade, restoring America's manufacturing industries, and raising revenue. But, more fundamentally, his tariffs are an expression of the will to power – spiked with a jolt of metaphysics.

The embrace of irrationalism in Europe during the 1930s facilitated the rise of fascism. Today's mythic narratives – from AI-enhanced "evolving" consciousness to Russian Cosmism and Vladimir Putin's "Noŏcracy" (which lays claim to a species of Russian nationalism likewise rooted in man's destiny to evolve, and which shares Musk's desire to colonize other worlds) – serve a comparable function: totalizing power.

What Putin's Noŏcracy has in common with billionaires like Musk and the MAGA movement (including its New Age "MAHA" (Make America Healthy Again) contingent led by US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.) is the cult of personality that lies at their center. Only Putin can serve as the Russian people's savior. Only Musk can take his acolytes to the next level of evolving consciousness. Only Trump can make America great again by breaking the old order and ushering in the new. Submission to the leader is what makes it all happen.

Yes, the populist "spirit of the people" faction and Musk's libertarian/Silicon Valley faction embody contradictory interests and goals. The intense rivalry and jockeying for influence within MAGA between Steve Bannon (for the populists) and Musk is the tip of the iceberg.

But this division has so far been modulated, and arguably exploited, by Trump and his loyalists. After all, it is the leader who exclusively embodies the mystical, creative-destructive spirit whose power can guide the nation to its destiny. Whether that destiny empowers the masses (as Bannon insists) or billionaire libertarians like Musk and Peter Thiel remains to be seen. It cannot be both.

For now, as Trump's tariffs make clear, sound trade policy takes a backseat to both sides' goal: the consolidation of autocracy. "Liberation Day" has put everyone who has thrown in their lot with MAGA on notice that without Trump at its center the movement that has promised them so much will collapse.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Law at New York Law School.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

When work is a pleasure, life is a joy. When work is duty, life is slavery.
MAXIM GORKY

The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.
HENRIK IBSEN

I may be a lost cause, but I thought if you loved me, it needn't matter.
JOHN OSBORNE

SPECTRUM COMMERCE

Tariffs: An opportunity for Odisha



Debashish Mitra

ODISHA IS WELL POSITIONED TO OFFER ITSELF AS A LOW COST MANUFACTURING BASE FOR LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, ASIDE FROM INDUSTRIES LIKE STEEL AND ALUMINIUM

At a recent seminar that I attended in Delhi, before the declaration of 'Liberation Day' for America by POTUS Donald Trump, discussions were held on how to deal with the potential impact of the impending tariffs centred around possible Indian retaliations to American tariffs, how to deal with possible forced opening up of Indian agriculture, and the auto sector and the need for a nuanced response. Attendees were unfortunately mainly academics, and researchers, practitioners or business people were a notable absence. In the words of the Commerce Secretary of India, at the seminar "is there a need to protect Apple farmers in Himachal who drive a Mercedes, or, an auto industry that sells outmoded technology of five to ten years," suggesting that India may have to negotiate on these sectors, important to the Trump administration.

India will have a 10% plus 26% duty on all its industrial and agricultural goods exported to the US. Is this a terrible set back? The answer is no. The impact of these tariffs on the US economy will be managed by either of three ways, or a combination of all. A reduction in prices by suppliers, a reduction in profit margins of the importer (highly unlikely) or a pass through to the consumers. Whilst the latter two are not in the control of the Indian exporter, the first is.

Manufacturing costs have a number of elements in them, but key for labour intensive industries like garments, fisheries, food processing and gems and jewellery is labour and energy costs as well as transportation to ports or Inland Haulage Charges.

Odisha is well positioned to offer itself as a low cost manufacturing base for labour intensive industries, aside

from industries like steel and aluminium. The reason is that the average costs in Odisha of these major elements are almost 50% of that of the more developed states in India, and the current major export hubs in the Southern states and Gujarat and Maharashtra.

With three major ports of Dhamra, Paradip and Gopalpur, Inland Haulage is also cheaper compared to the more land locked regions in the South. Agri raw materials are also cheaper, especially horticulture crops and shrimps and fisheries. It is perhaps not so well known, that the largest shrimp exporter from India is a company from Odisha, the Falcon Group. Odisha is also a surplus power state.

Odisha offers an opportunity to offset these enhanced tariffs, without any loss of profits to the exporter. Lower factor cost is what drives the movement of manufacturing glob-

ally, and is also true domestically. Odisha can become the lowest cost producer in India for these sectors. What Odisha lacks is the trained manpower and experience of manufacturing at scale, all of which can be easily developed. Millions from Odisha, who work in the textile and gems and jewels sector in Gujarat and the South, would be happier to work closer to home, even with a lower salary. The lower cost of living in Odisha, as well as the social benefits of being close to home can be a powerful incentive.

All that is needed is a focused effort by an active state government with the benefits of a 'double engine' sarkar to put this into action, and develop a 'Visksit Odisha'.

The author has substantial experience in developing small farmer based Global value chains

Letters 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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Engineering marvel

Sir, The new Pamban rail bridge inaugurated by PM Modi is truly a milestone in our nation's rail connectivity. The state of the art bridge with cutting edge technology can now allow trains to travel with good speed and the globally popular pilgrim town of Rameswaram can be reached from any part of India. This sea bridge with a vertical lift deck is a symbol of modernity, connectivity and security. That the time taken to complete the sea bridge took only a few years and that too encountering nature's hurdles shows the dedication and commitment of the stakeholders. Planning and implementation of mega projects such as these are definitely a herculean task but can be made possible with foresightedness, clear planning, management coordination, indigenous construction technology, simpler and faster government procedures for obtaining clearances and prompt execution by government departments.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Misplaced priorities

Sir, The new CPM general secretary's declared list of priorities shows that the party will continue to prioritise electoral politics over working-class organisation and struggles. After more than two decades, the Marxist Communist Party has elected a general secretary who lacks academic credentials and works outside of the national capital. MA Baby is a leader who emerged from the political dust of Kerala. The party congress also added eight new faces to the Politburo, and 30 new names have been added to the Central Committee. All of this was made possible by the party congress held in Coonoor three years ago, which set the age restriction for leaders to occupy these positions at 75. However, if the party ever conducts a thorough introspection, it will likely discover that the capital-centric leadership with an intellectual background had a significant role in diminishing its roots and political significance. MA Baby identified three priorities for the party: to be part of the maximum political unity against the 'neo-fascist' government of Narendra Modi, to be involved in struggles at the social level, and to advance the struggles of the working class. However, fighting the BJP-RSS' Hindutva programme, which is supported by monopoly capital, has proven to be a faraway dream.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHPUR

J&K allocates 10L kanal to PoJK displaced people

It involved 26,319 families of displaced person, who fled parts of PoJK during the holocaust of 1947 and reached parts of Jammu region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, April 9: The Jammu and Kashmir government has granted over 9.23 lakh kanals of state and evacuee land, besides 2,421 urban plots and quarters, to the Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) displaced persons living in the Jammu region.

These involved 26,319 families of displaced person, who fled parts of PoK during the holocaust of 1947 and reached parts of Jammu region.

This was revealed in a written reply by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to a question of BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia in the Assembly here.

Giving details, the Chief Minister, who holds charge of the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry, said land, plots and quarters were allotted to displaced persons of PoJK of 1947 in 1954 and they were granted proprietary rights on state land in 1965.

"A total land allotted to displaced persons of 1947 is 6,80,850 kanals of evacuee land and 2,43,000 kanals of state land (totaling around 10 lakh kanals)," he said. As per details, 793 urban plots (30 x 60 feet) were allotted to these families (Bakshi Nagar - 629, Udhampur - 2, Natipora Srinagar - 42, Patoli - 120) in six colonies.

Besides, 1,628 quarters were allotted to displaced persons' families of urban areas (Bakshi Nagar - 1,450, Nowshera - 50, Udhampur - 100, Rajouri - 28), it said.



This was revealed in a written reply by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to a question of BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia in the Assembly

The proprietary rights were vested on state land in 1965 and occupancy rights on evacuee land were granted in 1976. Proprietary rights on urban plots and quarters were granted to them in 1971, it said.

The Chief Minister said that 46 rural bastis of displaced persons were regularized under the slum improvement scheme.

Similarly, the government also implemented the allotment order of 1954 for Chhamb displaced persons of 1965 and 1971, he said. As per the documents, 2 lakh kanals of land were allotted to displaced persons of 1965 and 1971 from Chhamb through the Chhamb Displaced Persons Rehabilitation Authority.

As many as 8,000 families of PoJK refugees, who were allotted less than the prescribed scale, reported deficiency in allotment, he said.

In the year 2000, the Government of India sanctioned a package—Rs 5,000 per kanal was given to those who reported a shortfall in land allotment, and the upper ceiling was fixed at ₹25,000, without taking into

consideration the quantum of deficiencies, he said.

Later, in the year 2008, this amount of ₹5,000 per kanal was further enhanced to ₹30,000 per kanal, wherein the upper ceiling was fixed at ₹1.5 lakh and the conditions imposed in the year 2000 were also removed, it said.

Rs 2 lakh was also provided to urban displaced persons who had not been allotted plots, the Chief Minister said.

At the time of partition of the country in 1947, 31,619 families migrated to the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control, he said.

"Around 31,619 families from Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) crossed to this side of the border and settled down in the districts of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch of the Jammu Province," he said.

Out of these 31,619 PoJK families, 26,319 families settled within the state and 5,300 families subsequently opted to settle in other parts of the country, with some of them returning and settling back in J&K, he said.

UP to roll out 6-phase plan to transform Noida into 'Safe City'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 9: The Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday said it is fast-tracking the implementation of the 'Safe City' project in Noida.

Treating Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision as a mission, the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) has initiated comprehensive preparations to roll out the project in six strategic phases with an allocated budget of ₹208.47 crore.

A key highlight of the project is the modernization of Noida's Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), which will serve as the central hub for monitoring and coordination, the government said in a statement.

"Once completed, the project will seamlessly integrate all police stations, the city-wide CCTV network and the traffic management system with the ICCC," it added.

The government said the "system will also feature an advanced Public Address System to disseminate real-time emergency alerts, significantly enhancing the safety and responsiveness of all citizens, especially women".

According to the detailed action plan, six major components will be systematically implemented to transform Noida into a 'Safe City'.

These include a city-wide Communication Network, an Integrated Command and Control Center, Data Center Development, a CCTV-based Surveillance System, an Intelligent Traffic Management System and a Geographic Information System (GIS), it said.

The government said "all these components will be equipped with cutting-edge technologies and integrated into a unified platform for seamless city-wide monitoring and emergency response".

International Potato Research Centre to be set up in Agra

Uttar Pradesh leads the country in potato production, contributing over 35 per cent to India's total yield

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 9: Uttar Pradesh is set to emerge as a hub for advanced potato research and value-added production, with the International Potato Research Centre coming up in Agra and Centres of Excellence being established in Saharanpur and Kushinagar.

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a strategic initiative to elevate the status of this staple crop, according to an official statement issued here Wednesday.

"With the establishment of the International Potato Research Centre in Agra and upcoming Centres of Excellence in Saharanpur and Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh is poised to emerge as a hub for advanced potato research and value-added production," the statement said.

Uttar Pradesh leads the country in potato production, contributing over 35 per cent to India's total yield. The state's productivity is also higher than the national average, which ranges between 23 to 25 tonnes per hectare, it added.

However, a key challenge persists -- the lack of region-specific research and innovation tailored to the agro-climatic conditions of Uttar Pradesh. Even the existing research often does not reach farmers in a timely or effective manner, the government noted.

Additionally, farmers frequently face a shortage of high-quality seed varieties during the sowing season, forcing them to reuse stored potatoes kept in cold storage facilities each year, it said.

"To address this long-standing issue, the Yogi Adityanath government is taking a ma-



ajor step toward a sustainable solution. Plans are underway to establish a branch of the International Potato Research Institute, based in Lima, Peru, in Agra, an area central to Uttar Pradesh's potato belt," it said.

"This initiative will directly benefit lakhs of potato farmers across the surrounding divisions and districts by providing access to cutting-edge research, improved seed varieties, and modern farming techniques," it added.

The government also noted

that 75 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's potato production comes from districts located across six divisions in western Uttar Pradesh—Meerut, Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Moradabad, and Bareilly.

Key districts such as Firozabad, Hathras, Kanauj, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Mathura, Mainpuri, and Badaun contribute significantly to Uttar Pradesh's potato yield, with Agra at the core of the state's potato-producing belt, it said.

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
 Tender Notice
 Ref: ADVT. No.25-26/02
 IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions

Sl. No.	Item / Job Description
1	Structural Design and construction of RCC water tank (3000 Cum capacity) in IREL plant
2	Structural Design and construction of RCC water tank (2500 Cum capacity) near Desalination plant
3	Procurement of Submersible Slurry Pump
4	Supply and installation of 02 Nos. of MCC Panels equivalent to the existing 1 M2 & 1 M3 MCC Panels installed at MSP

UP plants 11,047 saplings at 781 religious sites

The Forest Department carried out the 'Shakti Vatika Aastha Aevam Hariyali' campaign and planted 11,047 across all the districts of the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 9: As part of a special green drive, the Uttar Pradesh government planted over 11,000 saplings at 781 religious sites in the last seven days.

The Forest Department carried out the 'Shakti Vatika Aastha Aevam Hariyali' campaign and planted 11,047 across all the districts of the state, according to an official statement released Tuesday.

The campaign, launched during Navratri by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, concluded April 7.

CM Adityanath inaugurated the initiative by planting a Rudraksha sapling at Atal Resi-

dential School in Bareilly April 1.

"The highest number of plantations took place in the Gorakhpur division, where 1,159 saplings were planted at 44 locations," it stated.

"Shakti Vatikas were established within temple premises, ashrams, schools, and other spiritual or public spaces during the drive," said Deepak Kumar, additional principal chief conservator of forests.

"The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from women, public representatives, temple administrators and priests, villagers, school children, devotees, NGOs, and Nagar Panchayats."



"Many locations also undertook symbolic 'Tri-Shakti' plantation, with 'neem' representing Maa Durga, 'mango' for Maa Saraswati, and 'kadamba' for Maa Parvati. In addition, saplings of medicinal, religious, and ecologically significant species such as Peepal, Banyan, Tulsi, Ashoka,

Hibiscus, and Pomegranate were planted," he added.

He said that during the campaign, school students also adopted saplings and pledged to nurture them, adding a sense of personal responsibility and long-term commitment to environmental conservation.

Wheat procurement crosses 1 lakh metric tonnes in UP

To ensure smooth wheat procurement, the Yogi Adityanath-led government took proactive steps by reaching out to farmers through village-to-village visits before the harvest season, motivating them to sell their produce at government procurement centers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 9: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday said that for the first time, over one lakh metric tonnes of wheat was purchased within the first week of April.

The government said in a statement that it ensured doorstep procurement by deploying mobile purchasing centers directly to villages, streamlining the process for farmers.

"So far, wheat has been procured from 20,409 farmers, while more than 3.56 lakh farmers have registered for wheat sale. The procurement drive will continue until June 15," the government said.

To ensure smooth wheat procurement, the Yogi Adityanath-led government took proactive steps by reaching out to farmers through village-to-village visits before the harvest season, motivating them to sell their produce at government procurement centers, it said.

"Significant improvements were made in the registration



and verification systems, and for the first time, the Food and Civil Supplies Department introduced mobile procurement centers that reached farmers directly in the field. While harvesting is ongoing, wheat is being weighed and processed on-site for immediate procurement," it added.

The government said procurement centers will remain open even on holidays, making it convenient for farmers to sell their wheat.

Additionally, the government introduced a system where registered farmers can sell up to 100 quintals of wheat without the need for verification, it said.

After verification, farmers are

allowed to sell up to three times their total production capacity, ensuring that they face no barriers due to verification errors or discrepancies in records, it added.

CM Adityanath has also directed officials to ensure that farmers receive their payments within 48 hours of selling their wheat, enhancing efficiency and providing financial relief to the farmers, according to the statement.

Registration for wheat procurement began March 1, and over 3.56 lakh farmers in Uttar Pradesh have already registered. It is mandatory for farmers to register or renew their registration on the Food and Logistics Depart-

ment's official portal fcs.up.gov.in or via the department's mobile app UP KISHAN MITRA to sell their produce, it stated.

The department has also advised farmers to bring only cleaned and properly dried wheat-free from soil, pebbles, dust, and other impurities - to the procurement centers, it added.

According to the Food and Civil Supplies Department, wheat is being procured daily from 8 am to 8 pm. The government has directed that farmers should not face any inconvenience during the procurement process.

For assistance in case of any issues, the department has issued a toll-free number: 1800-1800-150. Additionally, farmers may contact their District Food Marketing Officer, the Tehsil's Regional Marketing Officer, or the Block-level Marketing Officer for support.

For the Rabi marketing year 2025-26, the Central Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat at ₹2,425 per quintal, an increase of ₹150 from last year's rate of ₹2,275 per quintal.

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, KEONJHAR
 "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
 Identification No. Online NCB-01/2025-26
 Tel. 06766-258094 (O), Mail: eerw1_kjr@yahoo.com
 1. Name of the Work: 01 No. Building Work. 2. Total Number of Work: 01 No. 3. Estimated Cost: Rs. 39.06 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'C' & 'B' Class. 5. Period of Completion: As per annexure of e-Procurement Notice No.01 of 2025-26. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last date and time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., R.W. Division, Keonjhar
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Keonjhar	Building Online NCB No.01	Di.15.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Di.23.04.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	Di.22.04.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	Di.24.04.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the Website: www.tenderorissa.gov.in
 OIPR-25110/11/0012/2425 Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR
 First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Ruppali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email Id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein referred to as SARFAESI Act, 2002) (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
SAHEED NAGAR BRANCH/ Prop.: Mr. Rabi Narayan Pradhan, S/o: Arjun Pradhan / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Mani Pradhan, W/o: Mr. Rabi Narayan Pradhan, Both are at Mangala Saha, Khandapada, Near Mangala Mandir, Nayagarh, Odisha - 752077	Property-1: All those pieces and parcels of Land situated being and lying at Mouza: Khandapadagarh, in the Registration Dist.: Nayagarh, SRO: Khandapada, admeasuring Area: 1742.4 sq.ft. and bearing CTS/Survey No./Khata No.: 1962/114, Plot No.: 2343/5431, owned by Mr. Rabi Narayan Pradhan and Bounded by East: Pathani Swain, West: Gobinda Das, North: Road, South: Govt. Land & Road, Property-2: All those pieces and parcels of Land situated being and lying at Mouza: Khandapadagarh, in the registration Dist.: Nayagarh, SRO: Khandapada, admeasuring Area: 1742.4 Sq.Ft. and bearing CTS/Survey No./Khata No.: 1962/101, Plot No.: 2343, owned by Mrs. Mani Pradhan and Bounded by East: Raghunath Dalai, West: Kanhei Swain, North: Road, South: Road together with the Building and Structures/Residential Block Constructed or to be constructed thereon and all the fixtures annexed thereto	₹25,47,259/- as on 18.12.2024 + interest & other charges thereon	18.12.2024 / 05.04.2025
BALESHWAR BRANCH/ 1) Borrower: M/s. Sanju Marine, Prop.: Mrs. Sanju Manna, W/o: Mr. Laba Manna / Guarantor: Mr. Laba Manna, C/o: Ganesh Manna, Both are at Mirzapur, PO: Balaramgadi, Dist.: Balasore, Odisha - 756025, 2) Borrowers: Mr. Laba Manna & Mrs. Sanju Manna, Both are at Mirzapur, PO: Balaramgadi, Dist.: Balasore, Odisha - 756025	All those pieces and parcels of immovable properties situate in the Registration Dist.: Balasore, SRO: Balasore, PS: Balasore, 1) Village/Mouza: Parkhi, Balasore, Khata No.: 1808/2622, Plot No.: 3441/9418, Area: Ac.0.07 Dec., Plot No.: 3433/9413/ Both are at Mirzapur, PO: Balaramgadi, Dist.: Balasore, Ac.0.20 Dec., Khata No.: 1808/3023, Plot No.: 3424/9421, Area: Ac.1.60 Dec., Plot No.: 3430/9416, Area: Ac.1.25 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Laba Manna , 2) Village/Mouza: Hidigan, Balasore, Khata No.: 1683/3753, Plot No.: 3877/5680/7817/7981, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Laba Manna , 3) Village/Mouza: Srikona, Balasore, Khata No.: 1478/4513, Plot No.: 3582, Area: Ac.0.06 Dec. standing in the name of Mrs. Sanju Manna .	₹1,80,12,518.14 as on 29.01.2025 + interest & other charges thereon	29.01.2025 / 08.04.2025

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.04.2025 Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra



With today possibly marking the end of this assembly session, the ruling alliance should prioritise passing a resolution to reject this bill rather than prolonging the political spectacle

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

650 MT RELIEF AID SENT SO FAR TO QUAKE-HIT MYANMAR

India has so far extended around 650 metric tons (MT) of relief material to quake-hit Myanmar as humanitarian assistance, sent through seven IAF aircraft and five Indian Navy ships as part of Operation Brahma, the Ministry of External Affairs said Wednesday



of the day uote

The state government aims to provide full respect and security to farmers as well as to get them a fair price for their produce



A beautiful morning walk became a political discussion, echoed even in J&K Assembly too! I briefly came across CM, Omar Abdullah sahib and Farooq Abdullah sahib at the Tulip Garden on early morning visit to avoid inconvenience for the visitors & tourists at daytime



The Medical Education and Public Health departments should prepare a detailed project report to strengthen health institutions. Innovative measures should be adopted to provide quality health services to the citizens



DEVENDRA FADNIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Bihar: 13 killed in lightning strikes

Patna: Thirteen people were killed after being struck by lightning in four districts of Bihar, an official statement said Wednesday. According to the statement issued by the chief minister's office (CMO), Begusarai reported five deaths, Darbhanga four, Madhubani three and Samastipur one. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed condolences over the deaths and announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, it said. Kumar appealed to the people of the state to follow advisories issued by the Disaster Management Department, the statement added.

Northern Railways, RITES sign MoU

New Delhi: RITES Ltd, a government-owned infrastructure company, will provide consultancy to the Northern Railways on crowd management plan and construction of holding areas at five stations in Delhi, a senior official Wednesday said. The Northern Railways and RITES Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the said purpose for five railway stations - New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad, Ayodhya and Varanasi -- as these stations receive high passenger footfall, said Northern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay.

Security forces defuse IED in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces Wednesday averted a tragedy by detecting and defusing an improvised explosive device (IED) weighing eight kg in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. During a routine patrol in the Hafroda forest area of Handwara in the north Kashmir district, security forces found a suspicious object on the roadside, the officials said. A closer inspection revealed that the suspicious object was an IED.

Woman shot dead by husband

Gaya: A 32-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead by her husband in Bihar's Gaya district after an altercation, police said Wednesday. The incident happened in Tetua village in the Atari police station area, they said.

Stalin exudes confidence of getting exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET

Stalin, addressing a meeting of legislature party leaders, recalled that he proposed the anti-NEET Bill September 13, 2021 and following adoption, it was sent to Governor for Presidential assent



es, February 1, 2022 he sent back the bill. Immediately, February 5, 2022, a similar meeting of legislature party leaders was held and it was decided to pass once again the returned bill and send it afresh to the governor. On February 8, 2022, the bill was adopted again and it was sent to governor for getting the approval of the President. The chief minister recalled that he called on governor, the prime minister and home minister in this regard and sought expeditious approval. All party MPs called on the President and presented a memorandum and in view of such continuous follow up work, Stalin said the anti-NEET bill was sent to the union home ministry by the governor and this was conveyed by him on the floor of the Assembly May 4, 2022. Though the state government provided all due explanations to union ministries, the Centre declined to approve the anti-NEET bill and days ago, Stalin said he informed the House about the denial of nod.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, April 9: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Wednesday said that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is not an exam from which the state cannot be exempted and exuded confidence of getting an exemption for the state through legal means.

Stalin, addressing a meeting of legislature party leaders, recalled that he proposed the anti-NEET Bill September 13, 2021 and following adoption, it was sent to Governor to get Presidential assent. "The Governor should have sent the bill immediately to the President. I place it on record with anguish that he began doing politics without doing his Constitutional duty," he said. The chief minister said the government put up a spirited fight to get approval for that bill. Under these circumstances,

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Trump tariffs draw China closer to India

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 9: The simmering trade war between the US and China, the world's two largest economies, has the potential to disrupt trade and geopolitical dynamics in other parts of the world, including India.

While the US Tuesday imposed an unprecedented 104 per cent tariff on Chinese products, the latter retaliated the very next day with an 84 per cent tariff on American goods. The unfolding situation has led China to make several conciliatory statements about India, the latest being the Chinese Embassy calling on New Delhi and Beijing to "stand together to overcome difficulties."

Last month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had called on India and China to work together to "make the dragon and elephant dance." However, China's conciliatory approach seems to be coming with the intent of dump its products on the Indian market. As the tariff war has made it difficult for China to trade with the US, the world's largest consumer market, its focus is now shifting towards India, the world's most populous nation.

As tensions with the US escalated, China recently eased border conflicts with India and worked to strengthen its relationships with other



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neighbouring countries such as Japan and South Korea, preparing for challenging times ahead under Donald Trump's presidency.

India and China should stand together to overcome difficulties in the face of tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India said Tuesday. "China-India economic and trade relationship is based on complementarity and mutual benefit. Facing the U.S. abuse of tariffs... the two largest developing countries should stand together to overcome the difficulties," spokesperson Yu Jing said in a post on X.

Chinese President Xi Jinping Wednesday pledged to

strengthen the strategic relationships with neighbouring countries by 'appropriately' managing differences and enhancing supply chain ties as China's tariff war with the US escalated.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said Wednesday that India and China are moving towards a 'positive direction' in their ties and work needs to be done to normalise the relationship. "I think we are moving in a positive direction," he said. "It's obviously better than the last time I was here. I think the disengagement, particularly the Depsang-Demchok was important," Jaishankar said at the News 18 Rising Bharat Summit in New Delhi.

AI passenger urinates on fellow traveller on Delhi-Bangkok flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Mumbai, April 9: An Air India passenger allegedly urinated on a fellow traveller during a flight from the national capital to Bangkok Wednesday, according to sources.

Air India, in a statement, said that an incident of "unruly passenger behavior" was reported on its Delhi-Bangkok flight April 9 and the matter has been reported to the authorities (DGCA). When asked about the incident, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu Wednesday said the ministry will take note of the incident and speak to the airline.

"If there is any wrongdoing, we will take necessary action," Naidu said on the sidelines of an event in the national capital. "Air India confirms that an incident of unruly passenger behaviour was reported to the cabin crew operating flight AI2336, from Delhi to Bangkok, April 9, 2025," an Air India spokesperson said. The crew followed all laid down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities, it said.

In addition to warning the unruly passenger, the airline said, its crew offered to assist an aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time. "The standing Independent Committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger," the spokesperson said. Air India also said it continues to follow the SOPs as laid out by DGCA in such matters.

2 transport infrastructure projects get CCEA nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Wednesday approved two infrastructure projects related to the transport sector that are aimed at removing congestion and enhancing integrated transport development, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

It approved the construction of the 19.2-km, six-lane, access-controlled Zirakpur bypass worth ₹1,878.31 crore in Punjab and Haryana on the "hybrid annuity mode".

The primary purpose of the project is to ease up congestion in Zirakpur, Panchkula and surrounding areas by diverting traffic from Patiala, Delhi and Mohali Aerocity, and providing direct connectivity to Himachal Pradesh.

The proposal aims at reducing the travel time and ensuring hassle-free traffic movement in the congested urban section of national highways 7, 5 and 152, an official statement said.

The CCEA also gave its nod for the doubling of the Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi single railway-line section of 104 km in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with a total cost of ₹1,332 crore, Vaishnaw said.

SNIPPETS

2020 Delhi riots: Court stays probe against Kapil Mishra

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday stayed till April 21, an order for further probe against Law Minister Kapil Mishra for his alleged role in the February 2020 riots. Special judge Kaveri Baweja stayed the order after Mishra moved court with a plea against the magisterial court verdict. The court also issued notice to complainant Mohammad Ilyas, on whose plea the magistrate ordered the FIR, and asked him to respond by April 21, the next date of hearing. "I have considered the submissions of senior counsel for the petitioner and also gone through the impugned order. Let notice of the revision petition be issued to the respondents returnable on April 21, 2025. The record of the court of ACJM (additional chief judicial magistrate) be also requisitioned for the next date fixed. In the meantime, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed till the next date of hearing," the court said.

Punjab: BSF jawan injured in IED blast; force issues alert

New Delhi/Amritsar: A BSF jawan was "seriously" injured in an IED blast ahead of the fence along the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab Wednesday. It is the first such instance at this front that a dangerous concoction of explosives and shrapnel was used in a bid to kill and maim. A BSF party was undertaking an "area domination" patrol ahead of the fence during the night and it detected "multiple" (about two IEDs according to preliminary inputs) improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with concealed wires "well inside" the Indian territory.

Teacher-police scuffle during protest over loss of jobs

Kolkata: A section of teachers and other non-teaching staff who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court judgment which held that the whole appointment process was tainted, scuffled with the police outside a West Bengal schools department office in south Kolkata Wednesday during a protest over the issue. The protesters alleged that police personnel resorted to baton charge, apart from some of the law enforcers kicking and shoving them around to disperse them from outside the district inspector's (DI) office. The protestors also claimed that some of them were injured in the baton charge.

Mumbai's century-old Elphinstone bridge to close for reconstruction

Mumbai: The century-old Elphinstone Road Over Bridge (ROB), one of the crucial east-west links in Mumbai, will be closed for vehicular traffic in the next few days for a period of two years as it is set to be demolished and reconstructed. As the traffic police had sought feedback till April 13 from the people regarding traffic arrangements, the bridge will be shut after that, an official said Wednesday. The bridge, connecting Parel and Prabhadevi areas of central Mumbai, will be reconstructed as part of the Sewri-Worli Elevated Connector project of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). The closure might cause traffic congestion and disruptions, especially in Dadar, Lower Parel, Curry Road and Bharatmata areas. The Mumbai Traffic Police Tuesday issued a draft notification and invited objections from the public regarding traffic arrangements following the closure. The feedback will be accepted till April 13.

Brutal heatwave grips India as mercury soars past 43 deg C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: At least 26 weather stations recorded maximum temperatures equal to or above 43 degrees Celsius in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh amid persisting heatwave conditions Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Four weather stations in Delhi recorded heatwave conditions. Temperatures soared to a blistering 45.6 degrees Celsius in Gujarat's Kandla, the highest in the country for the day. Rajkot recorded 45.2 degrees Celsius, Amreli 44.3 degrees Celsius and Surendranagar 43.8 degrees Celsius. Porbandar, a coastal city, reported an unusually-high 43 degrees Celsius, 8.8 notches above normal. Deesa and Ahmedabad also recorded

temperatures above 43 degrees Celsius. In Rajasthan, Pilani recorded 44.9 degrees Celsius, Phalodi and Churu touched 43.8 degrees Celsius and 43.5 degrees Celsius respectively, while Bikaner and Jaipur registered 43.4 degrees Celsius and 43 degrees Celsius. Many of these places reported temperature departures of six to eight degrees above normal. In Maharashtra, Akola and Jalgaon both reported a maximum temperature of 43.7 degrees Celsius, while Malegaon recorded 43.2 degrees Celsius. Central India was not spared either. Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh recorded 44.2 degrees Celsius, 6.3 notches above normal, while Hoshangabad touched 43.2 degrees Celsius. The weather department said the ongoing heatwave in north-

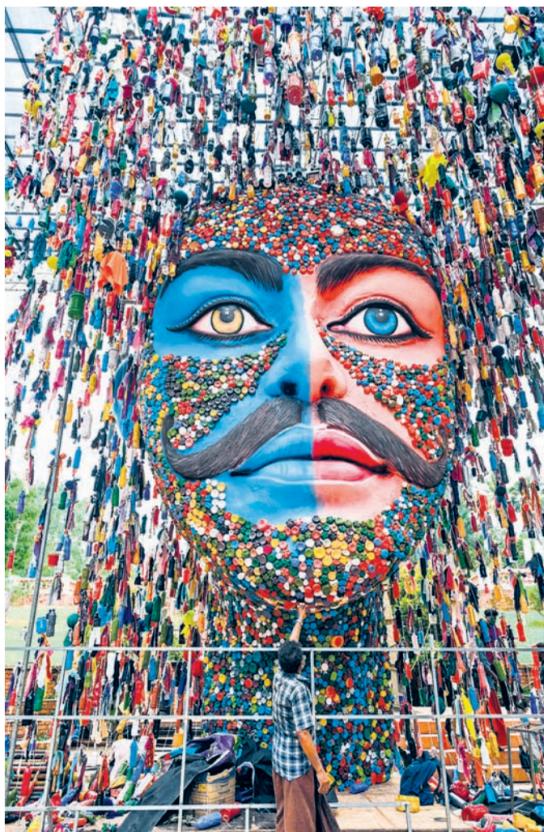


west India is likely to ease from April 10 under the influence of a Western Disturbance and in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, from April 11. IMD scientist and spokesperson Naresh Kumar warned of a fresh heatwave spell from

April 14-15 in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. The IMD declares a heatwave when the maximum temperature is at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas and 30 degrees Celsius in hilly re-

gions, and the temperature is 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure is 6.5 degrees Celsius or more. A heatwave is also declared if the actual maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius and

a severe heatwave if it reaches 47 degrees Celsius, regardless of the departure from normal. Earlier this month, the weather department said the country is likely to experience above-normal temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the north-western plains. Some states, including eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, are expected to have 10 to 11 heatwave days during this period. The year 2024 was the warmest recorded both in India and globally. This year, heatwave conditions were observed as early as February 27-28. A 2022 study warned that the risk of heatwaves could increase 10-fold in the 21st century, with more than 70 per cent of India's land area likely to face extreme heat.



WASTE TO WONDER: An artist gives final touches to an art installation made using plastic waste at the Kanakakunnu Palace premises, as part of the 'Clean Kerala Conclave', in Thiruvananthapuram



The truth has been revealed. Why is the fire burning in (areas) of those who had opposed the changes in the Waqf Act?

RAM DARBAR AT AYODHYA TO BE OPENED FOR DEVOTEES FROM JUNE 6

The Ram temple at Ayodhya will see the installation of a "Ram Darbar" during a three-day ceremony next month, though it would only be open to devotees from June 6, officials said Wednesday



of the day quote

Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's resignation from the post of Law Minister over his decision to give reservation to the OBC community through Article 340 and its non-implementation, and then the BSP's important role in getting reservation for them under the Mandal Commission report is well known, while the anti-reservation attitude of the Congress and the BJP is well known

We are not demanding a new road. We are only demanding that the existing road leading to the temple be repaired as it is ridden with potholes

The state government has planned to hire private doctors for the centres. A panel of specialist doctors should be formed, and their services should be utilised in these health centres as per requirement

India stops trans-shipment for B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: India has withdrawn the transshipment facility it extended to Bangladesh for exports to the Middle East, Europe and various other countries through its ports and airports amid increasing strain in bilateral ties.

The move came days after head of Dhaka's interim government Muhammad Yunus made a controversial statement in China saying India's north-eastern states, which share a nearly 1,600-km border with Bangladesh, are "landlocked" and have no way to reach the ocean except through his country. India has exempted Bangladeshi exports to Nepal and Bhutan as such trade facilitation is mandatory for landlocked countries under the framework of provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India and Bangladesh entered into the transshipment arrangement in 2020 and the facility was formally extended for Bangladeshi exports in 2022.

YUNUS' 'LANDLOCKED' REMARKS



India has exempted Bangladeshi exports to Nepal and Bhutan as such trade facilitation is mandatory for landlocked countries under the framework of provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

person Randhir Jaiswal said. "Logistical delays and higher costs were hindering our own exports and creating backlogs," he said. Jaiswal said the transshipment facility has been withdrawn with effect from April 8. Bangladesh has been using several Indian ports and airports including the Delhi airport for sending its exports to the Middle East, Europe and

many other countries. "To clarify, these measures do not impact Bangladesh exports to Nepal or Bhutan transiting through Indian territory," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. In an address at a business event in China recently, Yunus said the seven northeastern states of India are a landlocked region and they have no way to

reach the ocean except through Bangladesh. In a notification, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) withdrew the transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh.

Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks in Bangkok April 4 on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit. However, the Indian side was upset over Dhaka's version of the meeting between Yunus and Modi, especially attacks on minorities and the extradition request for Hasina.

People familiar with the matter described the version as "mischievous and politically motivated", especially the aspects relating to attacks on minorities and Dhaka's request for extraditing former premier Sheikh Hasina.

Yunus' press secretary Shafiqul Alam, in a Facebook post, on Saturday said the chief adviser raised with Modi Bangladesh's request for the extradition of Hasina and the "response was not negative".

The characterisation of the Indian prime minister's remarks regarding the relationship with Yunus and the previous Bangladesh government were "inaccurate", the people said.

Rana being brought to India in special flight, say sources



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana is likely to be brought to India in a special flight Thursday after all hurdles for his extradition were removed by the US, people familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

Rana, 64, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, was lodged in the Metropolitan Detention Centre in Los Angeles. A multi-agency team has gone to the US and all paperwork and legal issues are being completed with US authorities to bring him to India, they said.

Rana is being brought to India after his last-ditch attempt to evade extradition failed as the US Supreme Court justices rejected his application. "You are all aware that the US Supreme Court has rejected his plea. As far as extradition of Rana is concerned, at this point, I do not have an update," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We will provide you an update at an appropriate time," he said while replying to a question during his weekly media briefing. Rana is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 attacks.

A group of 10 Pakistani terrorists November 26, 2008 went into a rampage, carrying out a

In November 2012, Ajmal Amir Kasab, the lone surviving gunman among the Pakistani group, was hanged to death in Yerawada Jail in Pune

At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the White House in February, President Donald Trump announced that his administration has approved the extradition of a "very evil" man "to face justice" in India

coordinated attack on a railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre, after they sneaked into India's financial capital using the sea route in the Arabian Sea. As many as 166 people were killed in the nearly 60-hour assault that sent shockwaves across the country and even brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

In November 2012, Ajmal Amir Kasab, the lone surviving gunman among the Pakistani group, was hanged to death in Yerawada Jail in Pune. At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the White House in February, President Donald Trump announced that his administration has approved the extradition of a "very evil" man "to face justice" in India.

In his emergency application, Rana had sought a "stay of his extradition and surrender to India pending litigation (including exhaustion of all appeals) on the merits of his February 13 petition."

Kharge's stern warning to partymen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 9: In a stern warning to non-performing leaders, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday said those who do not help in party work should take rest and those who don't fulfil their responsibilities should retire.

In his inaugural address at the AICC session on the banks of the Sabarmati river here, Kharge also alleged "fraud" in elections and said the Maharashtra polls were won like this as he made a strong pitch for return to ballot paper.

He attacked the Election Commission for not stopping the "irregularities" and instead taunting the parties raising questions.

He also hit out at the ruling BJP government accusing it of inciting communalism by raising 500 years-old issues and seeking to divide people and promote hatred among them, instead of preparing for future challenges.

Such dangerous thinking should never be supported, Kharge said. Talking tough, he said, "I also want to say that those who do not help in party work, need to rest, those who do not fulfil their responsibilities must retire," amid applause from Congress leaders and workers.

"There is fraud happening in elections. With the advancement of electronic technology, developed countries of the world have abandoned EVMs and moved towards ballot paper. But our Election Commission is not ready to take cognizance of this. We saw in the Maharashtra elections that fake voter lists are being prepared," he alleged.



BEATING THE HEAT: A herd of deer cool off under a water sprinkler in their enclosure amid heatwave conditions, at the National Zoological Park, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

RAICHUR HONOUR KILLING Three sentenced to death, 9 get life term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raichur (Karnataka), April 9: A court here has sentenced three people to death and handed life imprisonment to nine others for the brutal murder of five members of a family in Raichur district, a crime that stemmed from Opposition to an inter-family marriage.

The killings occurred July 11, 2020, in Sindhanur town, where five members of Mounesh's family—his parents, his siblings were beaten to death.

The attack followed a confrontation at Mounesh's residence between his in-laws and his family, triggered by long-standing hostility toward his marriage to Manjula. Manjula's parents and relatives had earlier threatened Mounesh and his family after the couple, both from the Kuruba community, visited her home six months after their wedding.

In response to the threats, Mounesh had lodged a police complaint, which further enraged her family. On the day of the attack, Manjula's relatives stormed Mounesh's house and carried out the killings. Mounesh and Manjula, who were 21 and 18 at the time, survived the attack as they were at the Sindhanur police station when the violence occurred. Raichur Superintendent of Police Putta Madaiah confirmed that the court awarded the death penalty to Sanna Fakirappa, Ambanna, and Somashekar, along with a fine of ₹47,000.

Will protect minorities, their properties in Bengal: Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 9: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday said Muslims were aggrieved because of the enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act and assured the minority community members that she would protect them and their properties in the state.

Addressing a programme of the Jain community here, Banerjee asserted that she will not allow "any divide and rule policy" to persist in Bengal. Speaking in the aftermath of protests against the newly enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act which triggered large-scale



violence in Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh on Tuesday, the chief minister said, "I know you are aggrieved because of the enactment of the Waqf Act. Have faith, nothing will happen in Bengal by which one can divide and rule. You send out a message that all have to stay together. Jio aur jiney do (live and let live). You don't need to feel rattled." The Waqf

NC to move SC

Jammu: National Conference will move the Supreme Court to file a writ petition against the Waqf Amendment Act "as soon as possible", party's chief spokesperson and legislator Tanvir Sadiq said Wednesday. Sadiq, the MLA from Zadibal constituency of Srinagar, said the NC believes that the Act represents a constitutionally "alarming interference" in the religious affairs of the Muslim community.

(Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha April 3, and by the Rajya Sabha in the early hours of the next day after marathon debates in both Houses of Parliament.

POST OF THE DAY

WOW, JUST WOW from RaGa >April 2 - Rahul Gandhi participated in Parliament debate on Waqf Bill till

midnight. >April 3 - He chaired meeting with DCC presidents at Indira Bhawan, Delhi.

>April 5 - He held Padyatra in Bihar and addressed Congress workers.

>April 8-9 - He attended AICC session in Gujarat

>April 9 onward - He is in Rajasthan to meet grassroots workers No rest. No pause. Just pure dedication

@Amockx2022

SHORT TAKES

7 farmers booked for stubble burning

Chhindwara (MP): Police have registered a case against seven farmers for allegedly burning stubble in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, an official said Wednesday. These farmers burnt the stubble after cutting the crop April 3 in violation of the district collector's order, Amarwada tehsildar Rajesh Maravi said. In an inquiry conducted after local Patwari's report, it was found that these farmers deliberately burnt the stubble, he said.

JD(S) to protest against K'taka govt

Bangalore: The JD(S) will hold a massive protest April 12 against the Congress government in Karnataka over price hike and alleged corruption. The protest led by Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy will be held at Freedom Park here under its campaign "Sakappa Saaku Congress Sarkara" (Enough is Enough Congress Government).

Sule stages hunger strike

Pune: NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule Wednesday staged a hunger strike here demanding that a 1.5 km stretch of road in her constituency of Baramati be repaired, ending the protest seven hours later after receiving an assurance from officials. Sule, along with a group of locals from Shree Kshetra Baneshwar village, sat on fast outside the Pune district collector's office in the morning.

HC gives key ruling on railway luggage theft

The verdict pointed out that the mere absence of the conductor per se might not amount to deficiency of service when there was no allegation with respect to his failure to close the door

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: The Delhi High Court Wednesday said a passenger travelling in train was responsible for the safety of their luggage and Railways was not liable for any theft unless there was negligence or misconduct by its officials.

Justice Ravinder Dubeja passed the verdict while hearing a man's plea alleging he was travelling in a 3rd AC coach and his backpack, having his laptop, camera, charger, eye glasses and ATM cards, was stolen during the journey from New Delhi to Nagpur in January, 2013.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission had previously dismissed his complaint which claimed over ₹84,000 for the loss of goods aside from ₹1 lakh for the harassment due to deficiency in services.

The high court upheld the national commission's decision and said the claim was mainly based on the fact that the attendant was sleeping and rude, and the conductor was not traceable.

However, the court said, there was "not even a whisper" of the doors of the coach being left open to enable some unauthorised intruder to commit



the theft. The verdict pointed out that the mere absence of the conductor per se might not amount to deficiency of service

when there was no allegation with respect to his failure to close the door. "There has to be a reasonable nexus between

the commission of the theft and the negligence of duty by the conductor and the attendant.. There is nothing on record to suggest that the theft could not have been carried out by some co-passenger on board. If that was so, even the presence of the Conductor in the train would have been of no help," the judgement said.

Referring to a Supreme Court decision, the high court found it "abundantly clear" that the passenger was responsible for the safekeeping of their belongings and not the Railways.

The consumer district forum had first held the Rail-

ways to be deficient in service and awarded ₹5,000 as compensation to the petitioner for harassment in 2014.

The State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission enhanced it to ₹1 lakh in 2023. The order of the state commission was set aside by the national commission in 2024 after the authorities filed a revision petition.

"This court finds no perversity or impropriety in the impugned judgment dated 29.08.2024 passed by the NC-DRC. There is no merit in the petition. Petition is accordingly dismissed," the high court held.

international



Since the first tourist visa applications from China and India were processed through this scheme on February 12, the department has been inundated with requests to expand it so that more tour operators can contribute to driving tourism growth

RUSSIA INVITES MODI FOR VICTORY DAY PARADE
Russia has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Germany in World War II, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko has said. Moscow is expecting the Indian Prime Minister at the May 9 parade



of the day quote

Putting money back into the pockets of business owners helps everyone by allowing those businesses to pass on cost savings to consumers and bolster the economy

If the U.S. and its vassal forces continue to insist on anachronistic de-nuclearization' ... it will only give unlimited justness and justification to the advance of the DPRK aspiring after the building of the strongest nuclear force for self-defense

India has emerged as a key player in the humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, providing swift and substantial aid that has significantly bolstered relief efforts

TRUMP TARIFFS

73% of Americans expect price surge under Trump tariffs

WASHINGTON, April 9: Most Americans are bracing for higher prices on a wide range of consumer goods following President Donald Trump's move to impose sweeping new tariffs on imports from most of the world, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found. The three-day poll, which

AMERICANS FACE COST OF LIVING SURGE

concluded Sunday, found that 73% of respondents said they thought prices in the next six months would increase for the items they buy every day after the new taxes on almost all imports took effect.

Just 4% of respondents thought prices would fall and the rest expected no change or did not answer the question.

Trump's announcement last week of the biggest US tariff increases in decades shook Wall Street as many economists predicted they would push prices



higher and could trigger a recession in the US and the rest of the world.

Some 57% of poll respondents - including one quarter

- 57% oppose the new tariffs, including a quarter of Republicans
- 52% agree with Trump trade partners take advantage of the US
- Half believe short-term pain will make US stronger long-term

Some 39% of respondents supported the new tariffs, and 52% said they agreed with the Trump administration's argument that other countries have been taking advantage of the US when it comes to international trade. Trump frequently cites that view as a reason to enact new trade barriers, saying they will lead to a boom in US manufacturing. Forty-four percent of respondents said they disagreed with that view. Americans have mostly split along partisan lines on

whether higher tariffs are a good idea. Half of respondents - including almost all Republicans - said they agreed with a statement that "any short-term economic pain is worth it to make the US stronger in the long term." The other half, including almost all Democrats - disagreed.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll, which was conducted online and nationwide, surveyed 1,027 US adults and had a margin of error of about 3 percentage points.

China, EU retaliate

REUTERS

Beijing/Brussels/Washington, April 9: China and the European Union announced new trade barriers on US goods Wednesday in response to steep duties imposed by US President Donald Trump, escalating a global trade war that has hampered markets and raised the likelihood of recession.

China announced a tariff hike on US imports to 84% from 34%, shortly after Trump's punitive 104% tariffs on Chinese imports kicked in Wednesday, as a standoff between the world's two largest economies showed no signs of resolution.

TRADE WAR ESCALATES



The EU said it would impose 25% tariffs on a range of US imports in a first round of countermeasures. The 27-member bloc faces US tariffs of 20% on most products and higher duties on autos and steel. Countermeasures in Canada, a close US ally and major trading partner, also took effect Wednesday.

Targeted US duties on dozens of other countries, from Japan to Madagascar, also took effect, the latest in a thicket of tariffs that are unwinding a global trading order that has been in place for decades. Tariffs in the world's largest consumer market now average above 20%, according to various estimates, up from 2.5% before

companies.

Japan and Canada said they would cooperate to stabilize the global financial system - a task usually taken on by the United States during times of crisis.

Trump has shrugged off the market rout and offered investors mixed signals about whether the tariffs will remain in the long term, describing them as "permanent" but also boasting that they are pressuring other leaders to ask for negotiations.

"BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well. The USA will be bigger and better than ever before!" he wrote on social media.

Trump has said the tariffs will help rebuild an industrial base that has withered over decades

- US duties target rivals and allies alike, risk recession
- China lashes back with 84% tariffs on US goods from Thursday
- JPMorgan CEO Dimon expects recession and defaults, urges quick trade talks
- Alarm bells ring for investors as bonds tank
- European Union approves its own tariffs

Barack Obama shares surprise news about marriage to Michelle

AGENCIES

New York, April 9: Barack Obama has shared a candid revelation about his marriage to Michelle Obama.

The former US president opened up about the state of his relationship to Michelle while "speaking publicly" for "the first time in a while" during a talk at Hamilton College Thursday (3 April).

While Barack, 63, shared his negative views on Trump's presidency, and rebuked his tariff announcement, he also admitted that he has been in what he called "a deep deficit with my wife".

In the past, Barack has hinted that his presidency affected his marriage to Michelle, 61, stating, "It sure helps to be out of the White House."

The Daily Beast now reports that Obama told Steven Tepper, the president of Hamilton College, that he has been actively trying to spend more time with Michelle, to whom he has been married for 32 years, as life increasingly gets in the way.

"I've been trying to dig myself out of that hole by doing occasionally fun things," he candidly told Tepper.



Michelle previously opened up about her marriage during an interview with Revolt TV, in which she said of the effort her and her husband put in, "There are times I'm 70, he's 30. There are times he's 60, I'm 40."

She also said "there were 10 years" where she "couldn't stand" Barack, but added, "I would take 10 bad years over 30. It's just how you look at it."

According to Michelle, the issue stemmed from a realisation that the couple's marriage wasn't "even" at the time, as she noted that she was taking care of the children and her husband was embarking on his political career.

Barack had two terms as US president, which lasted from 2009 to 2017.

"That's when all the measuring starts," she continued, while acknowledging that couples often "turn that ire on each other".

SHORT TAKES

Israeli strike kills 29 in Gaza City

Cairo: An Israeli airstrike killed at least 29 Palestinians, including children, in a house in Shejia in Gaza City, local health authorities said Wednesday. Medics said dozens of others were wounded in the attack that hit a multi-floor residential building in the eastern suburb of Gaza City. Many were still believed to be missing and trapped under the ruins of the building. The strike damaged several other houses nearby, medics said. The Israeli military said in a statement it struck a senior Hamas militant responsible for planning and executing attacks from Shejia in northern Gaza, whom it did not identify.

China issues travel warning for US

Beijing: China Wednesday issued a risk alert for Chinese tourists travelling to the US, according to a statement from the culture and tourism ministry. The ministry said it reminded Chinese tourists to assess the risks of travelling to the US and travel with caution, citing recent "deterioration of China-US economic and trade relations and the domestic security situation in the US".

Japan, NATO vow to deepen security ties

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and NATO chief Mark Rutte vowed Wednesday to further deepen military ties while stressing the need to tackle together growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia. Japan, which has stepped up defence ties with the United States, its key ally, and other friendly nations in the Indo-Pacific, has also sought closer ties with NATO, fearing that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could embolden China's assertiveness in the region.

20 elderly killed at nursing home fire

Beijing: Twenty elderly people were killed in a fire at a nursing home in north China's Hebei province, local officials said Wednesday. A total of 39 elderly residents were residing in the building when the blaze broke out around 9 pm Tuesday (local time) in Longhua County, Chengde City, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The fire was extinguished by around 11 pm. A total of 20 people have been confirmed dead so far while 19 were sent to a hospital for examination.

Germany's Merz unveils coalition deal to spur growth

REUTERS

Berlin, April 9: German conservatives under Friedrich Merz clinched a coalition deal with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) Wednesday, aiming to revive growth in Europe's largest economy just as a global trade war threatens recession.

The deal caps weeks of haggling between chancellor-in-waiting Merz and the SPD after he topped elections in February but fell well short of a majority, with the far-right Alternative for Germany surging into second place.

Pressure to reach a deal has taken on new urgency as the government will take charge

at a time of global turbulence in an escalating trade conflict sparked by US President Donald Trump's sweeping import tariffs.

During a news conference with his coalition partners, Merz directed a message to the White House in English.

"The key message to Donald Trump is Germany is back on track," he said, promising to ramp up defence spending and boost the competitiveness of the economy.

He said the coalition pact provided a "strong and clear signal" both to its own citizens and other European countries, adding, "Germany is getting a government that is capable of action and strong."



Demonstrators sit with portraits of victims and political prisoners while commemorating an anniversary of the so-called 'Tbilisi tragedy', where twenty people were killed on this day in April 1989 during an anti-Soviet demonstration and marking a Day of Unity at the Georgian Parliament's building in the center of Tbilisi, Georgia, early Wednesday PTI PHOTO

Indian banks win UK bankruptcy appeal in Vijay Mallya case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 9: A consortium of Indian banks, led by State Bank of India, Wednesday won their court appeal in London to uphold a bankruptcy order against Vijay Mallya in a long-standing legal battle seeking repayment of a judgment debt owed by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

High Court judge Anthony Mann ruled in favour of the banks to allow an appeal heard in February, while refusing two applications seeking permission to appeal filed by the 69-year-old businessman, declared a fugitive and wanted for fraud and money laundering charges in India.

Hezbollah ready to discuss weapons if Israel withdraws

REUTERS

Beirut, April 9: As calls for Lebanon's Hezbollah to disarm gain momentum, a senior Hezbollah official told Reuters the group is ready to hold talks with the Lebanese president about its weapons if Israel withdraws from south Lebanon and stops its strikes.

The prospect of talks aimed at securing Hezbollah's disarmament - unimaginable when it was at the zenith of its power just two years ago - underlines dramatic shifts in the Middle East power balance since Israel pummeled the Iran-backed group in a devastating conflict triggered by the Gaza war.

US-backed President Joseph Aoun, who vowed when he took office in January to establish a state monopoly on the control of arms, intends to open talks with Hezbollah over its arsenal soon, three Lebanese political sources said.

FACING CALLS TO DISARM



Hezbollah emerged severely weakened from the 2024 conflict with Israel when its top leaders and thousands of its fighters were killed and much of its rocket arsenal destroyed. The blow was compounded when its ally Bashar al-Assad was toppled from power in Syria, cutting its supply lines from Iran.

The senior Hezbollah official said the group was ready to discuss its arms in the context of a national defence strategy but this hinged on Israel pulling out its troops from five hilltops in south Lebanon.

"Hezbollah is ready to discuss the matter of its arms if Israel withdraws from the five points,

and halts its aggression against Lebanese," the senior official told Reuters. Hezbollah's position on potential discussions about its arms has not been previously reported. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity due to political sensitivities.

Hezbollah's media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The presidency declined to comment.

RENEWED FOCUS ON HEZBOLLAH'S ARMS

Despite a ceasefire since November, Israeli airstrikes have kept pressure on the group while Washington has demanded Hezbollah disarm and is preparing for nuclear talks with Hezbollah's Iranian backers.

Hezbollah has been the most powerful of the paramilitary groups Iran has backed across the region. Reuters reported Monday that several Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq

are prepared to disarm for the first time to avert the threat of an escalating conflict with the Trump administration in the US.

Hezbollah has long rejected calls from its critics in Lebanon to disarm, describing its weapons as vital to defending the country from Israel. Deep differences over its arsenal spilled into a short civil war in 2008.

CALL FOR A DISARMAMENT TIMETABLE

Aoun has said Hezbollah's weaponry must be addressed through dialogue because any attempts to disarm the group by force would prompt conflict, the sources said.

Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rai, the head of Lebanon's Maronite church, said last week it was time for all weapons to be in state hands but this would need time and diplomacy because "Lebanon cannot bear a new war".



"The banks' pleaded position on security was one which they were entitled to adopt," Justice Mann ruled.

"The bottom line in relation to this is that the bankruptcy order stands," he concludes.

Law firm TLT LLP, representing the banks, noted that the ruling confirmed the banks did not hold security over Mallya's assets and that the bankruptcy petition was correct. The court also found that the realisations from assets attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were conditional and did not discharge the debt under English law.



The new legislation made several improvements that are important for foreign investors like us
MURRAY AUCHINCLOSS | CEO, BP

ZOMATO REBRANDS AS ETERNAL ON MKTS

Food and grocery delivery platform Zomato officially changed its name to 'Eternal Ltd' on the stock exchanges from Wednesday, following approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. To be sure, the brand name of the company's food delivery business, Zomato, will remain the same, along with the app. However, the name of the corporate entity has been changed to Eternal, along with its stock ticker



of the day quote

We would suggest to fund managers to include PSU stocks in their portfolios so that common investors, senior citizens and minority shareholders can partake in value created by CPSE

By 2028, almost 98 per cent of all PCs will be AI PCs that come with new NPUs (neural processing units) that run AI tasks directly on the phone

As we move ahead, our focus remains on scaling digital payments in a way that is sustainable, responsible, and aligned with the evolving expectations of the ecosystem

SHORT TAKES

Gold dips below ₹ 91K

New Delhi: Gold prices plunged ₹1,050 to ₹90,200 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday due to poor offtake by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹91,250 per 10 grams in the previous market close. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated ₹1,050 to ₹89,750 per 10 grams against the Tuesday's close of ₹90,800 per 10 grams. However, silver prices climbed ₹500 to ₹93,200 per kg. The white metal had settled at ₹92,700 per kg Tuesday.

CIL's contribution to exchequer drops 5%

New Delhi: The payment made by state-owned CIL to the government exchequer dropped by 4.7 per cent to ₹5,832.69 crore last month over the year-ago period. Coal India Ltd, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production, had paid ₹6,126.42 crore to the central and state exchequer in March FY24. The company had paid ₹60,959.52 crore to the government exchequer in FY25 which was a marginal rise of 1.2 per cent over the previous fiscal. CIL had made a payment of ₹60,197.8 crore in FY24, according to provisional data of government. Of the total ₹60,959.52 crore paid to the government exchequer in 2024-25, maximum amount of ₹14,047.44 crore went to Jharkhand, followed by ₹12,979.20 crore to Odisha, ₹11,351.84 crore to Madhya Pradesh and ₹11,303.76 crore to Chhattisgarh.

Dixon Technologies to set up ₹1K-cr facility

Chennai: Electronics manufacturing services firm Dixon Technologies is setting up a ₹1,000-crore facility near Chennai and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tamil Nadu government Wednesday. The factory, which will come up at Oragadam in neighbouring Kancheepuram district, is expected to generate 5,000 jobs in the region, the state government said. Top officials from Dixon Technologies, led by Executive Chairman Sunil Vachani and Vice President Prithvi Vachani, exchanged documents with Darez Ahamed, MD and CEO of Tamil Nadu's nodal investment promotion agency Guidance, in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin and Industries Minister TRB Rajaa, among others, at the Secretariat Wednesday.

RBI GUV HINTS AT MORE RATE CUTS

Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to cut the repurchase or repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%. It had reduced rates by an equal measure in Feb -- the first cut since May 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 9: After effecting two back-to-back 25 basis points rate cuts, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra Wednesday hinted at another reduction in key policy rate by changing the central bank's monetary stance to 'accommodative' from 'neutral', which may further lower EMIs for consumers.

The bi-monthly monetary policy is scheduled to be announced June 6.

Unveiling the April monetary policy after meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), Governor Malhotra said that in the context of the RBI, the stance of monetary policy signals the intended direction of policy rates going forward.

"Accordingly, with respect to the policy rate, which is the mandate of the MPC, today's change in stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative' means that going forward, absent any shocks, the MPC is considering only two options -- status quo or a rate cut," he said.

He also clarified that the stance should not be directly associated with liquidity conditions.

Dwelling on the monetary policy stance, Malhotra said that from a cross-country perspective, monetary policy stance is typically characterised as accommodative, neutral or tightening.

While an accommodative stance entails easy monetary



policy that is geared towards stimulating the economy through softer interest rates; tightening refers to contractionary monetary policy whereby interest rates are hiked to restrain spending and curb economic activity, all with the objective of reining in inflation.

A neutral stance, he said, is typically associated with a state of economy which neither calls for stimulating economic activity nor calls for controlling inflation by curtailing demand and provides flexibility to move in either direction on the basis of evolving economic conditions.

Accordingly, with respect to the policy rate, which is the mandate of the MPC, today's change in stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative' means that going forward, absent any shocks, the MPC is considering only two options -- status quo or a rate cut

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

In February, the MPC slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. It was the first reduction since May 2020 and the first revision after two-and-a-half years.

Governor Malhotra further said while liquidity management is important for monetary policy including decisions related to policy rate, it is an operating tool with the RBI for various purposes including monetary policy transmission.

"Monetary policy decisions to change policy rates do however have implications for liquidity management, being the operational tool to carry out the

GLOBAL TURMOIL

Rate cut to cushion economy: India Inc

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank's move to lower its benchmark repo rate for the second time in a row will cushion India's economy against external shocks in the face of reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US that has triggered a global turmoil, industry bodies said Wednesday. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee termed the decision to continue with the rate easing cycle as timely and prudent. "The rate cut coupled with the shift in monetary policy stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative', too, is a big positive," Banerjee said. The RBI's rate cut, and stance change reflect concerns about the impact of slower global growth on domestic economy and a relatively benign outlook for domestic inflation, he added. CII is of the view that RBI's accommodative monetary policy combined with the government's growth-centric fiscal policy will help boost domestic growth amidst global economic turmoil, Banerjee added. MPC's decision to reduce the repo rate to 6 per cent and adopting accommodative stance will provide a cushion to Indian economy from adverse effects of global economic uncertainty, while at the same time boost economic growth, said Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI. The relaxation in income taxes announced during Budget 2025-26 along with reduction in interest rates will improve consumer sentiment, which will accelerate GDP growth via uptick in private final consumption expenditure, he said. On the industry front, reduction of policy rate will lower debt servicing costs providing extra cushion to the industry to absorb the external shocks such as the US tariff announcements recently, added Jain. Buoyed by a strong seasonal correction in vegetable prices, assumption of normal monsoon and substantial reduction in global crude oil prices, we expect inflation to remain within RBI target range in the coming quarters, he said.

policy changes. To summarise, our stance provides policy rate guidance, without any direct guidance on liquidity management," he said.

System liquidity was in deficit in January 2025 with net injection under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) scaling a peak of ₹3.1 lakh crore January 23, 2025.

However, as a result of a slew of measures injecting liquidity of about ₹6.9 lakh crore, the system liquidity deficit tapered during February-March 2025 and further turned into surplus on March 29, the governor said.

Malhotra further said that coupled with government spending picking up pace during the latter half of March, system liquidity further improved and it

stood at a surplus of ₹1.5 lakh crore as on April 7, 2025.

Reflecting these developments, he said the weighted average call rate (WACR) softened and remained near the repo rate since the last policy meeting.

The spreads of three-month CP and three-month CD rates over 91-day Treasury bill rate have also softened since the second half of March, suggesting improvement in liquidity conditions.

The governor said the Reserve Bank is committed to provide sufficient system liquidity.

The RBI, he added, will continue to monitor the evolving liquidity and financial market conditions and proactively take appropriate measures to ensure adequate liquidity.

BIZ BUZZ

OMFED to enter chocolate, packaged drinking water and ice cream markets



Bhubaneswar: In a significant diversification move, the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) is gearing up to enter the ice cream, chocolate, and packaged drinking water markets. A dedicated chocolate manufacturing plant is in the pipeline, with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) entrusted with preparing the detailed project report (DPR). Speaking to the media during a press tour of the OMFED plant at Arilo in Cuttack, Plant Manager Kartik Pal said, "We are expanding our product portfolio beyond our current offerings like curd, lassi, paneer, chhena, chhena poda, flavoured milk, khua, peda, and ghee. Soon, we will be adding three new products -- ice cream, chocolate, and packaged drinking water." Pal highlighted that the move is aimed at enhancing value addition to OMFED's dairy products and boosting the brand's presence in the competitive FMCG sector. "This initiative is part of our broader strategy for product diversification and brand strengthening," he added.

Pragati celebrates dealer excellence



Angul: Pragati Edible Processing Pvt Ltd, one of the most trusted names in premium quality parboiled rice, proudly hosted the Pragati Grand Felicitation Program in Angul, to honour the exceptional achievements of its valued partners. The evening was a heart-felt celebration of growth, trust, and shared success. Two standout dealers - Pradeep Trading Co (Pradiip Agarwal) and Jagannath Bhandar (Shukanta Kumar Sahoo) - were felicitated for their exceptional annual sales for FY2024-2025. As a mark of appreciation, both partners were awarded brand new cars for their outstanding performance and long-standing association with the Pragati Rice family. Adding to the celebrations, the company also recognised several other high-performing dealers from across regions who had hit their milestones and earned exciting prizes such as a Dubai trip and other exclusive rewards under the brand's performance-linked incentive programme.

TRADE WAR TAKING ITS TOLL

Fresh US tariffs unnerve investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 9: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower Wednesday in line with losses in global markets after fresh US tariffs on China, even as the Reserve Bank cut policy rates for a second consecutive time as it sought to bolster the economy in the face of further pressure from damaging US tariffs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 379.93 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 73,847.15. During the day, it slumped 554.02 points or 0.74 per cent to a low of 73,673.06.

The NSE Nifty declined 136.70 points or 0.61 per cent to 22,399.15. Intra-day, it tanked 182.6 points or 0.81 per cent to 22,353.25.

Mirroring weak trends in Asian equities, domestic key equity indices opened lower and remained in the negative territory throughout the session after the US imposed a fresh set of tariffs, including a whopping 104 per cent levy on Chinese imports.

"Global financial markets are witnessing renewed selling pres-

D-St mirrors global rout

BSE SENSEX APRIL 09, 2025
CHANGE: -379.93 (-0.51%)



Stock	Change (%)
Nestle India	+3.24%
Hindustan Unilever	+2.83%
Titan	+1.88%
Power Grid	+1.56%
UltraTech Cement	+1.05%

Stock	Change (%)
SOIN	-5.43%
Tech Mahindra	-3.35%
LT	-3.23%
Tata Steel	-2.30%
Sun Pharma	-2.18%

sure following the enactment of reciprocal tariffs. A trade war is escalating global risk, with a rise in US bond yields prompting a sell-off in the world's safe treasury assets. In India, a cut in the repo rate, along with an accommodative policy stance, is taken as a constructive step. However, it has done little to uplift overall market sentiment, as the world is embracing recessionary risk," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

State Bank of India was the biggest loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 3.43 per cent amid a fall in banking shares. Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Tou-

bro, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Infosys, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and NTPC were also among laggards.

Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement and ITC were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 1.08 per cent and mid-cap index declined 0.73 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT tanked 2.19 per cent, while IT (2.01 per cent), realty (2 per cent), teck (1.57 per cent), metal (1.44 per cent) and industrials (1.42 per cent) also declined. Auto, consumer durables and FMCG were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo's

Markets slipped after a brief rebound, losing over half a per cent as the choppy trend persisted. Sentiment took a hit following the announcement of fresh US tariffs on China, leading to a gap-down opening and a largely range-bound session thereafter

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

Nikkei 225 index and South Korea's Kospi settled lower while Shanghai SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index dropped nearly 4 per cent.

Markets in Europe were trading sharply lower. US markets ended significantly lower Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,994.24 crore Tuesday according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped 4.23 per cent to \$60.16 a barrel.

After Monday's drubbing, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,089.18 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 74,227.08 Tuesday. The Nifty surged 374.25 points or 1.69 per cent to 22,535.85.

Indian stock markets will remain closed Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti.

Oil falls to lowest since Feb 2021 as Trump's tariffs take effect

REUTERS

Washington, April 9: Oil prices fell for a fifth day Wednesday to their lowest since February 2021 after US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs took effect, including a 104% duty on Chinese goods, intensifying a global trade war.

Brent futures dropped \$2.10, or 3.34%, to \$60.72 a barrel as of 0935 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell \$2.04, or 3.42%, to \$57.54. Both contracts lost as much as 4% before paring some losses.

Brent and WTI have tumbled over the five sessions since US President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs on most imports prompting concerns this will dent economic growth and hit fuel demand.

Trump's 104% tariffs on China kicked in Wednesday, adding 50% to tariffs after Beijing failed to lift its retaliatory tariffs on US goods.

European Union countries are also expected to approve Wednesday the bloc's first countermeasures against Trump's tariffs, joining China and Canada in retaliating.

Beijing vowed not to bow to what it called US blackmail after Trump threatened the additional 50% tariff on Chinese goods if the country did not lift its 34% retaliatory levy.

"China's aggressive retaliation diminishes the chances of a quick deal between the world's two biggest economies, triggering mounting fears of economic recession across the globe," said Ye Lin, vice president of oil



Brent, WTI down as much as 4% | **US crude stockpiles fell last week, industry data shows** | **US imposes 104% tariff on imports from China**

commodity markets at Rystad Energy. "China's 50,000 bpd to 100,000 bpd of oil demand growth is at

risk if the trade war continues for longer, however, a stronger stimulus to boost domestic consumption could mitigate the

Some US analysts suggested that the White House wants to drive oil prices closer to \$50 as the administration believes that the US oil and gas industry can survive a period of disruption. We see this goal as somewhat delusional ... and (it) will merely see US production shut in and open the door for OPEC to reclaim its position as the swing producer

ASHLEY KELTY | ANALYST AT PANMURE LIBERUM

losses," she said. Exacerbating oil's decline was a decision last week by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies,

including Russia, to raise output in May by 411,000 barrels per day, a move that analysts say is likely to push the market into surplus.

Goldman Sachs now forecasts that Brent and WTI could edge down to \$62 and \$58 per barrel by December 2025 and to \$55 and \$51 per barrel by December 2026.

As oil prices sank, Russia's ESPO Blend oil price fell below the \$60 per barrel Western price cap level for the first time ever on Monday.

In one positive sign for demand, data from the American Petroleum Institute industry group showed US crude inventories fell by 1.1 million barrels in the week ended April 4, compared with expectations in a Reuters poll for a build of about 1.4 million barrels.

Sai extends purple patch

Sai Sudharsan sizzles with majestic 82 as Gujarat Titans secure 58-run win over Rajasthan Royals

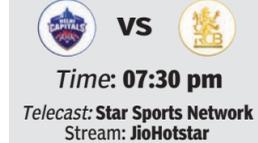
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 9: Pacer Prasidh Krishna picked 3-24 as a collective bowling performance helped Gujarat Titans secure an emphatic 58-run win over Rajasthan Royals in Match 23 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Narendra Modi Stadium here Wednesday.

After B Sai Sudharsan continued his outstanding run by making a majestic 82 and taking GT to a massive 217/6, Krishna was effective with his lengths on a red-soil pitch as RR were bowled out for 159. For RR, barring Shimron Hetmyer (52), Sanju Samson (41), and Riyan Parag (26), none could get into double digits, as GT's fourth successive win takes them to the top of the points table.

TODAY'S MATCH

Indian Premier League



In defence of a tall total, GT were on the money from the word go. Yashasvi Jaiswal slashed to deep third off Arshad Khan, while Nitish Rana's uppercut was caught in the same region off Mohammed Siraj. Parag started the fightback by



flicking Siraj for six, while Sanju Samson slashed, punched, and drove off Arshad to take two fours and a six.

Parag lofted Siraj over mid-on for six, while Samson swiped him over mid-wicket for four. Parag's sizzling run continued as he swiped and clipped Krishna for six and four respectively, as RR ended power-play at 57/2. But shortly after, Parag gave a faint edge behind to Jos Buttler off impact player Kulwant Khejroliya, to be dismissed for 26.

Rashid Khan joined the wicket-taker's party when Dhruv Jurel mistimed his pull on a googly and was caught at deep mid-wicket. Samson and Hetmyer brought RR back on track – the latter heaved Rashid for three boundaries before the duo took 16 runs off Khejroliya.

But Krishna ended the brief fightback by getting some extra bounce and having Samson edge to short third man for 41. Rashid was again struck by the trapping impact player Shubham Dubey lbw for just one. Hetmyer continued to wage a

IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	5	4	1	1.413	8
DC	3	3	0	1.257	6
RCB	4	3	1	1.015	6
PBKS	4	3	1	0.289	6
LSG	5	3	2	0.078	6
KKR	5	2	3	-0.056	4
RR	5	2	3	-0.733	4
MI	5	1	4	-0.010	2
CSK	5	1	4	-0.889	2
SRH	5	1	4	-1.629	2

SCORECARD

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Samson b Deshpande 82, Shubman Gill b Archer 2, Jos Buttler lbw b Theekshana 36, M Shahrulkh Khan st Samson b Theekshana 36, Sherfane Rutherford c Samson b Sandeep Sharma 7, Rahul Tewatia not out 24, Rashid Khan c Jaiswal b Deshpande 12, Arshad Khan not out 0. **Extras:** (B-1 W-17) 18; **Total:** (For 6 wickets in 20 overs) 217; Fall of wickets: 1/14 2/94 3/156 4/163 5/187 6/201; **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-30-1, Fazalhaq Farooqi 4-0-38-0, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-53-2, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-41-1, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-54-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Rashid Khan b Arshad Khan 6, Sanju Samson c Sai Kishore b Prasidh Krishna 41, Nitish Rana c Khejroliya b Mohammed Siraj 1, Riyan Parag c Buttler b Khejroliya 26, Dhruv Jurel c Sai Sudharsan b Rashid Khan 5, Shimron Hetmyer c Sai Kishore b Prasidh Krishna 52, Shubham Dubey lbw b Rashid Khan 1, Jofra Archer c Shubman Gill b Prasidh Krishna 4, Maheesh Theekshana c Sai Sudharsan b Sai Kishore 5, Tushar Deshpande c Rashid Khan b Sai Kishore 3, Sandeep Sharma not out 6. **Extras:** (W-9) 9; **Total:** (All out in 19.2 overs) 159; Fall of wickets: 1/10 2/12 3/60 4/68 5/116 6/119 7/144 8/145 9/150 10/159; **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-30-1, Arshad Khan 2-0-19-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-24-3, Kulwant Khejroliya 3-0-29-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-37-2, Sai Kishore 2-0-20-2.

lonely battle by being dropped twice and bringing up his fifty off 29 balls by driving Prasidh through extra cover for four.

But Krishna effectively sealed the game in GT's favour by having Jofra Archer give a catch to mid-off and the dangerous Hetmyer pulling to deep backward square leg for 52. R Sai Kishore took out the remaining wickets to ensure GT continued its winning run in IPL 2025.

BEND IT LIKE DECLAN

Arsenal secure Champions League win for the ages

Rice curls home two free kicks as Arsenal beat Real Madrid 3-0 in quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 9: Declan Rice put Arsenal on the brink of reaching the Champions League semifinals by curling home two free kicks that Real Madrid's most famous "galacticos" would have been proud of.

Rice opened the scoring by bending one free kick around the Madrid wall in the 58th minute and sent another into the top corner in the 70th as Arsenal won the first leg of the quarterfinals 3-0 at the Emirates Stadium.

With Madrid great Roberto Carlos looking on in the stands, Rice put on a display of power and bend reminiscent of the many free kicks scored by the

Brazilian defender in his day — or by his teammates David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane and Figo for that matter.

Unlike those names, Rice has not been known for his free kick prowess — until now. In fact, he had never scored from a direct free kick before in his career.

"It's been in the locker, but I've hit the wall too many times or it's gone over the bar," Rice told broadcaster Amazon Prime. "Originally we were going to cross it and then I've just seen the wall and the goalkeeper's position. So I thought just go for it."

Mikel Merino added the third in the 75th to put Arsenal on the brink of returning to the semifinals for the first time since 2009.

Making matters worse for Madrid, key midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was sent off for a second booking in the final minutes and will miss the return leg at Santiago Bernabeu

stadium April 16.

While Madrid can never be written off at home, even coach Carlo Ancelotti didn't sound too hopeful of a comeback. "If you look at the game tonight, there is no possibility," Ancelotti said. "But in football everything can happen. We have to believe."

It was the teams' first meeting since 2006, when Arsenal eliminated Madrid in the round of 16. That was also the last time Arsenal came close to winning the competition for the first time, losing the final to Barcelona.

Judging by this display, Arsenal could well be a contender again this year.

It's not going to hit me now because there's another leg to go. ... But in a few years time this will really hit me that what I've done tonight was really special

DECLAN RICE



Kalinga Black Tigers gear up for inaugural Rugby Premier League

The team's unveiling has generated a wave of excitement across the state, with rugby fans and local sports communities rallying behind the newest addition to Odisha's sports ecosystem

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: With the inaugural season of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) on the horizon, Odisha's franchise — the Kalinga Black Tigers — enters the league with a formidable squad and a strong Odia identity.

Officially unveiled at the recently concluded RPL auction in Mumbai, the team marks a new chapter in Odisha's sporting journey. Backed by Karan Pal Singh, founder of Hunch Ventures, a global investment firm with deep ties to the state, the franchise proudly reflects its roots, with Asis Sabar representing Odisha on the field and Rajeev Nath serving as assistant coach.

Drawing inspiration from the rare and melanistic black tigers native to the region, the Kalinga Black Tigers symbolise strength, agility, and the fighting spirit of Odisha.

At the auction, the Kalinga Black Tigers made a strong statement, assembling a high-impact team through a combination of international draft picks and top Indian talent. The squad features global rugby stars like Perry Baker, Rosko Specman, Harry McNulty, Maurice Longbottom, Lucas Lacamp, Kyle Tremblay, Ethan Turner, James Thiel — all selected during the draft.

During the auction, the franchise also secured a strong lineup of Indian players, including Asis Sabar — a proud Odia who is expected to play a key role, along with Ajay Deswal, Pappu Todkar, Pardeep Singh, and Arjun Mahato.



Leading the charge for the Kalinga Black Tigers is Mike Friday, a globally celebrated coach known for his tactical mind and transformative leadership. After a stellar 10-year stint as head coach of the US national sevens team, appointed by USA Rugby, Friday now brings his winning mindset to the Tigers. Joining him in the dugout is assistant coach Rajeev Nath, a former captain of Odisha men's rugby team. A proud Odia, Nath brings a strong connection to the region and a deep commitment to grassroots development — both of which will be key in guiding and nurturing the next generation of local rugby talent.

"Interestingly, rugby has been played in Odisha for a while, especially by the tribal community which has today translated into a large contingent playing at the national level. Rugby has an immense international following and is growing significantly nationally. Odisha, has been a strong supporter in growing an array of sports and rugby in the state will greatly benefit from this," said Karan Pal Singh, co-owner of the Kalinga Black Tigers.

The team practice sessions will begin May 18 and continue until June 1, leading up to the start of the Rugby Premier League, which will run from June 1 to June 15. Fans can catch all the action live on Jio Cinema and Disney+Hotstar, bringing world-class rugby directly to their screens.

Medals rain at shooting World Cup

Arya-Rudranksh win silver in 10m air rifle mixed team event after Vijayveer's individual gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buenos Aires, April 9: Indian shooters Rudranksh Patil and Arya Borse combined to win the silver medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup here Wednesday.

Paris Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu fetched India its fourth gold medal at the tournament after he emerged victorious in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event. He shot 29 in a thrilling but low-scoring final to get the better of experienced Italian Riccardo Mazzatti, who was left one short after the eight series of five rapid-fire shots each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won the bronze.

Aparajita becomes India's first woman Fair Play Expert in chess

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 9: In a proud moment for India and the state of Odisha, Aparajita Gochhikar has been awarded the prestigious Fair Play Expert (FPE) title by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

The announcement was made during FIDE's first council meeting of the year, where Aparajita was recognised for her significant contributions to fair play in chess.

Aparajita, an international chess player and international arbiter from Odisha, has made history by becoming the first woman in India to receive this honour. She shares this recognition with Atharva Godbole of Maharashtra, the only other Indian among the twelve recipients worldwide.

The FPE title is a mark of distinction, with honorees selected from countries including India, Armenia, England, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Iran, Italy, Norway, Uruguay, and Zam-



each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won the bronze.

Vijayveer shot 29 in a thrilling but low-scoring final to get the better of experienced Italian Riccardo Mazzatti, who was left one short after the eight series of five rapid-fire shots each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won the bronze.

Representing India 1, the duo of Rudranksh and Arya shot 9 in the gold medal match to



finish second on the podium, with the Chinese pairing of Zifei Wang and Buhun Song winning the top prize with a total score of 17.

The second Indian team of Arjun Babuta and Narmada Nithin Raju finished fourth after losing to Argentina 1's Fernanda Russo and Marcelo Julian Gutierrez 13-17 in the bronze medal contest.

Rudranksh and Arya were

HOCKEY NATIONALS

Punjab eke out 3-2 win against Odisha

With four gold, two silver and one bronze, India are now placed second on the medal tally behind China, who have a couple of bronzes more

second in the qualification with a total of 630.5, while Babuta and Narmada were fourth with an aggregate score of 629.6.

In the gold medal match-up, the Indians did not do much wrong but the Chinese pair shot at a very high level, looking in control from the beginning to seal the contest in their favour.

Rudranksh and Arya had their best phase from the ninth to the 12th single-shot series, of which they won three in a row and drew the fourth, but they had left too much to cover.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhansi, April 9: Punjab, Chandigarh, Telangana, Delhi and Kerala won their respective matches on the sixth day of the 15th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship here Wednesday.

Punjab eke out a 3-2 win in their Pool A match against Odisha. Jugraj Singh (16th), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (48th) and Pardeep Singh (55th) scored for the winning side while captain Amit Rohidas (37th) and Matiyas Dang (51st) struck for Odisha.

In the opening match of the day, Chandigarh defeated Uttarakhand with a commanding scoreline of 9-0. Amandeep (22nd, 32nd) and Gurmukh Singh (30th, 36th) scored a brace each for the winning side.

Interim committee to oversee BFI affairs

The BFI elections, originally scheduled for February 2, have been marred by legal disputes and procedural delays

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 9: World Boxing has formed an interim committee to oversee the affairs of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to ensure administrative continuity and management of domestic and international competitions.

World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst has written to BFI chairman Arun Singh, conveying the appointment of a six-member committee.

The committee will be headed by Singh for "a period not extending 90 days."

The six-member committee includes BFI Vice President Narender Kumar Nirwan, Executive Director Arun Malik and Olympian L Sarita Devi.



One of the remaining two members of the committee would be a nominee of the India Olympic Committee (IOA), "to be nominated in consultation with the President IOA - Member," the letter dated April 7 said.

IOA President PT Usha is yet to nominate a member.

Singapore Boxing Association's president Fairuz Mohamed is also a part of the committee. He will also serve as a representative from World Boxing as an observer, "to validate the work of this committee".

Factionalism and infighting has become prevalent in the federation in the recent

months leading up to the elections which have faced multiple delays and controversies.

Additionally, Singh suspended BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita and treasurer Digvijay Singh after an inquiry led by former Delhi High Court judge Sudhir Kumar Jain found the duo guilty of "financial irregularities."

Both Kalita and Digvijay have challenged the decision in court.

The infighting had led several state units to boycott the women's nationals last month, where Singh announced several national championships.