

## MORE INSIDE



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

**GaneshaSpeaks.com**  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in a Art of Living course? Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

**TAURUS**  
Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesha. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today. Money lenders and brokers will have a profitable day, says Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Your long-term goals seem to be shaping up well. You may also expect some good news, which will change the course of your life. Play a waiting game in matters of auctions and sealed tenders. And memorise these words: Prevention is better than cure.

**CANCER**  
Ganesha advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesha.

**LEO**  
You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time leisurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be unable to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesha. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

**LIBRA**  
Letting things build up inside you is never a good idea. Learn from this as there is every possibility that today might turn out to be an aggravating and exasperating day for you. You may feel that way due to all the amassed emotions and resentments, so let it all go.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, Ganesha is in the mood to give you health tips. Cultivate healthy eating habits and exercise regularly to stay away from disorders like obesity. Irregular eating habits and unhealthy lifestyle may lead to many other troubles. Eat healthy, stay happy.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You have been experiencing the adverse effects of stressful lifestyle off-late. But not anymore, as you realise the importance of good health. Maintaining good health will begin with good news of either promotion or increment at work. This leaves you happy and satisfied, says Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
It may seem too far-fetched, but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesha. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients.

**AQUARIUS**  
Eat, drink, and make merry. But watch out: don't empty your pockets in one go. Also, guard your reputation. A lot depends on your behaviour, and the big daddies may be watching you. You have a lot at stake, and there should be no regrets later.

**PISCES**  
You will feel very emotional about those who are close to your heart. Those people who know you will endear you because of this quality of yours. But Ganesha adds a word of caution; take care of those people whom you hold close to your heart because in your sentiments for them you might not notice their bad qualities or forgive their mistakes.

## OLIVIA WILDE TO DIRECT PENELOPE CRUZ IN NEXT

Hollywood actress-director Olivia Wilde is set to take the reins on a new comedy movie called *The Invite*. What's even better is that the film will star Penelope Cruz. The 41-year-old star, who made her directorial debut with *Booksmart*, is set to helm the upcoming date-night comedy movie.

## GLASER APOLOGISES FOR 'MEAN JOKE' ABOUT SELENA, BLANCO

Nikki Glaser has opened up about a 'mean' joke that she cracked over the newly engaged couple, Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco. During an interview, the American comedian, who hosted the Golden Globes award show in 2025, candidly discussed that one of her jokes 'ruined' the event for the couple.



## NUSHRRATT ON dark side of fame

**Mumbai:** Nushrratt Bharuccha recently opened up about the emotional challenges of life in the film industry, offering a candid perspective on the often lonely side of fame. In an interview with *Bollywood Bubble*, the actress revealed how isolating her journey has been, despite her success on the big screen. She spoke about the rarity of authentic friendships in the industry, saying, "It's not okay, and it's terribly lonely. And it's terribly mindfuck."

Nushrratt recalled a poignant moment when she won an award but had no one to share the joy with. "I sat in the car with the trophy and asked myself, 'Whom do I tell, yaar? Who do I celebrate with?'" she said, adding that the moment felt hollow without companionship.

She also questioned why society glorifies emotional toughness while discouraging vulnerability. There's a constant pressure to appear strong, she noted, even when one is struggling inside.

Reflecting on the cost of ambition, Nushrratt said she no longer wants to chase career milestones at the expense of real human connection. "What's the point of reaching the top if you're screaming into the void?" she asked, emphasising her newfound focus on meaningful relationships and emotional well-being.

AGENCIES



## Priyanka's skincare secret

**Mumbai:** Global icon Priyanka Chopra took to social media to share her go-to beauty tip for keeping her skin fresh, hydrated, and glowing in summer.

She posted a photo of herself wearing a sheet face mask, giving fans a peek into her seasonal skincare ritual. Thursday, the desi girl took to her Instagram stories to share a photo of herself wherein she is seen sitting in a car wearing a sheet mask. Alongside the image, she wrote, "Skin care on the go...what's your skincare routine? The *Baywatch* actress often shares photos giving fans a glimpse into her skincare regime, offering tips and tricks she swears by to maintain her radiant glow.

Besides sharing her photos and skincare routine, Priyanka Chopra also uses social media to voice her thoughts on important issues.

Recently, she condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam, expressing her sorrow and solidarity with the victims and their families. She wrote on her IG, "What happened in Pahalgam is reprehensible. People were there on vacations, honeymoons, celebrating with their families. Just taking in the beauty of Kashmir. So many innocent lives were caught in a storm they never asked for. Targeted, right in front of their loved ones."

AIANS

## Taapsee's gesture for schoolgirls

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu traveled to Barabanki for the fourth time with her husband Mathias Boe.

Taapsee visited a primary school Garri located in the Ramnagar development block of Barabanki. During this visit, she inspired the female students to empower themselves through education and sports. The *Thappad* actress even provided them with educational materials, danced with them, and encouraged them to study hard and move forward in life. Taapsee also gifted bicycles to the girls, so that they could ride them to school.

When asked about the same, the *Badla* actress shared, "I have been coming here to meet these girls every year since 2022, when I took on the responsibility of their education. They were in standard 1 back then and now they will be graduating from 5th to 6th standard, moving from the primary to the elementary school. I do not want any girl to opt out of school because their elementary school is far away. So, I decided to come and boost their morale and gift them bicycles so that they could travel to school on their own."

Work-wise, Taapsee will next be seen in the much-anticipated drama *Gandhari*. Made under the direction of Devashish Makhija, the project has been written and produced by Kanika Dhillon.

AIANS



## Sidharth loses calm

**Mumbai:** Expecting their first child, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were spotted outside a clinic Wednesday evening, where they had gone for a routine check-up. As the couple exited the building and made their way to their car, they were quickly surrounded by paparazzi.

In a video that has since gone viral, Sidharth appears visibly frustrated by the chaotic media presence, particularly around his pregnant wife. The actor confronted the photographers, asking them to maintain some distance and decorum. "You guys start behaving now. One second, get back, get back! Behave yourself, yaar. You want me to get angry now? One second, boss! Behave yourself," he was heard saying.

The couple had announced their pregnancy February 28, sharing an adorable photo on social media featuring a tiny pair of baby socks. The caption read, "The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon."

On the professional front, Sidharth was last seen in *Yodha* and is currently filming *Param Sundari* alongside Janhvi Kapoor. Kiara, meanwhile, is awaiting the release of *War 2*, where she stars opposite Hrithik Roshan. Her most recent appearance was in *Game Changer*.

Sidharth and Kiara tied the knot in an intimate ceremony February 7, 2023, at the stunning Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

AGENCIES

## SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

W	A	R	R	E	N	S	G	R	E	E	D
E	E	O	L	R	G	O					
L	E	A	S	T	O	R	E	R	O	O	M
L	L		E	E	T	E					
D	A	M	A	S	K	I	N	E	R	T	
O		T	E	H	I	C					
N	E	O	I	N	T	R	O	P	I	A	
E	L	M	E	R		R					
S	Y	R	U	P		A	N	G	L	E	R
F	M	L	P								
E	M	P	A	S	I	S	E				
T	I	T	E	L	E	E	G				
A	W	A	R	E							

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

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			8			
9				10		
11			12			
						13
14	15		16	17		
			18			
	19		20	21	22	
23						
24			25			
				27		
26						

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### Across

- 1 Clandestine
- 4 Shirt closer
- 9 Type of study (2-5)
- 10 Swindle
- 11 Charter
- 12 Shade of red
- 14 On pins and needles
- 16 Royal family member
- 19 Kind of test
- 21 Long suit

### Down

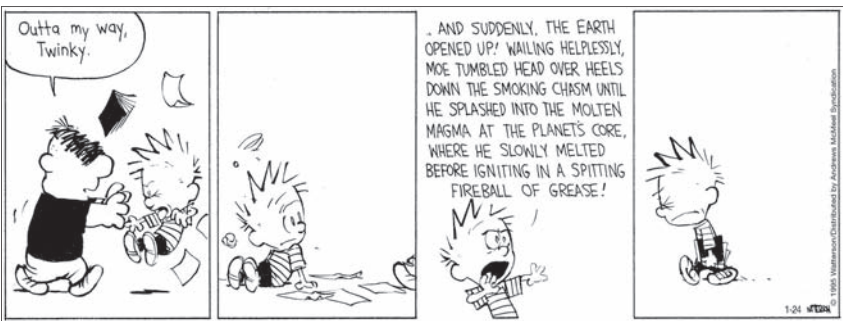
- 24 Flower feature
- 25 Gate-crash
- 26 Without warning
- 27 Leafy salad plants
- 6 Betrayal
- 7 Alliance acronym
- 8 Hovel
- 13 Sparrow hawks
- 15 Forced out
- 17 Cooking pan
- 18 Port of old Rome
- 20 Donnybrook
- 22 Marchand de vin, e.g.
- 23 Simians

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

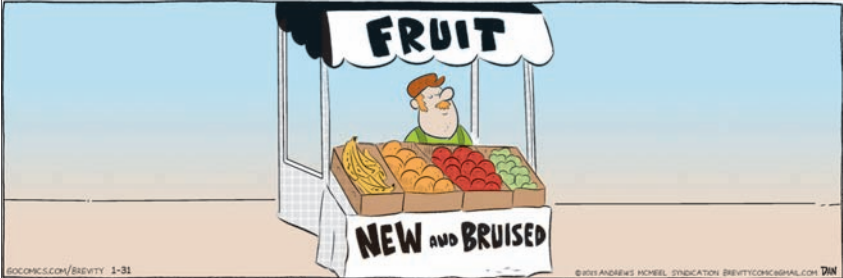
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY





## India will give befitting reply: CM

AGENCIES

**Puri, April 24:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said the country will give a befitting reply to the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir April 22.

Majhi said this while addressing the state-level Panchayati Raj Day function at Puri. He paid homage to the Pahalgam terror attack victims and described the incident as most barbaric.

“I, on behalf of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha, convey my condolence to the victim families. The country will give a befitting reply to this terror activity under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” Majhi said.

He said: “The horoscope of this soil and this country did

not mention to concede defeat. Our beloved Bharat Mata holds arms in one hand and books on the other. Therefore, the nation will soon give the strongest reply to this terror attack.”

Majhi refused to accept flower bouquets at the function as a gesture of respect to the victims of Pahalgam victims.

Food Supplies Minister KC Patra said, “We are all waiting for India’s action against terrorism. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has already stated that strong action will be taken,” he said.

Addressing the same function, Puri MP and BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said the entire country is stunned over the merciless killing of innocent people at Pahalgam.



**GREEN CAUSE:** **Orissa POST** and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, along with students and faculty members, participates in a plantation drive organised on the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebration of Utkal University's Commerce department, at the university campus, in Bhubaneswar Thursday

OP PHOTO

# National Park tag for Similipal after 4 decade-long wait

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, April 24:** The state government Thursday declared Similipal in Mayurbhanj district as a ‘National Park’, thus putting an end to over four decades of wait.

State Forest, Environment and Climate Change department in a notification said that by exercising its authority under Section 35(4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the state government declared Similipal as a National Park.

The CMO Odisha in a post on X said, “A landmark step towards Viksit Bharat, Viksit Odisha! Similipal is now officially a National Park—the 107th in India and the largest in #Odisha at 845.70 sq km. This long-awaited declaration strengthens our ecological lega-

cy, uplift tribal aspirations, and reaffirms Odisha’s commitment to sustainable development.”

Similipal will be the second National Park in Odisha after Bhitarkanika National Park which is spread over 145 sq km in Kendrapara district.

Initially proposed as a National Park in 1980, Similipal could not get the status due to several factors, including human habitation in the core area. The final notification acknowledges Similipal’s multi-layered significance — as a Wildlife Sanctuary, Project Tiger, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and Elephant Reserve — now united under the highest national ecological recognition, it said.

Similipal is one of India’s most unique ecological landscapes. It is home to 40 wild tigers, including the world’s only home to wild



melanistic tigers, shelter to 25% of Odisha’s elephant population, host to 104 orchid species and many endemic to the region. Similipal is also a haven for over 360 species of birds, and diverse mammals like leopards, sambar, and mugger crocodiles and others, apart from being a lifeline forming key river catchments in northern Odisha. The official said that

to secure the newly designated National Park and its surrounding ecological corridors, the Forest department is implementing the Greater Similipal Landscape Programme, which includes AI-powered camera towers and trail guard camera systems, V-SAT communication networks for surveil-

lance in remote zones and a dedicated security force including one company of trained police personnel and ex-servicemen.

Meanwhile, environmentalist Sanjukta Basa said the decision had been pending since 1986, and was a long-standing demand. “We are happy that this long-awaited step has finally been taken to declare Similipal as a National Park. This will significantly contribute to wildlife development and protection, with stricter vigilance and enforcement of laws against poaching and other wildlife crimes,” Basa said.

“The National Park tag will elevate Similipal’s stature, as it already holds the status of a Wildlife Sanctuary, Project Tiger Reserve, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and Elephant

Reserve,” she added.

Environmental expert JK Panigrahi said, “This is a long-awaited decision that had been delayed due to the presence of villagers and some families living in the core area. The new status will bring greater responsibility towards wildlife conservation. It is now the government’s duty to ensure the protection of the forest and wildlife from two major threats — poaching and wildfires.”

Wildlife conservationist Akash Ranjan Rath said, “Declaring just about 845.70 sq km as a national park is not enough. Many vital eco-sensitive areas, including important corridors like Kuldiha and Hadgarh, are being left out. We urge the government to protect the entire 2,750 sq km for more effective conservation.”

## Min: Action against infiltrators soon

**Bhubaneswar:** Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Thursday said the government will soon initiate required action against infiltrators staying for long in the state. “A discussion with the Chief Minister has already been made in regard to the presence of infiltrators and required action will be taken soon,” Harichandan said while replying to a question in the wake of Pahalgam terror strike in which 26 people including a man from Balasore, were killed. He said: “They (Pakistani terrorists) have pinned the last nail in their coffin. The consequences will be too harsh. This is for the first time that the terrorists have gunned down unarmed and innocent visitors to the valley. The Central government and all the states are solidly behind the families of the victims.” CM Mohan Charan Majhi had last month informed the Assembly that as many as 3,738 infiltrators mostly from Bangladesh have been identified across the state.

DSPL



## ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧାତ ସତର୍କତା

### ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧାତର ଲକ୍ଷଣ



ପ୍ରବଳ  
ଝାଳ ବୋହିବା



ମୁଣ୍ଡ ବୁଲାଇ ଅନ୍ଧାର  
ଦିଶିବା ଓ ବାନ୍ତି ଲାଗିବା



ପ୍ରବଳ  
ଶୋଷ ଲାଗିବା



ମାଂସପେଶୀ  
ଟାଙ୍କି ହେବା



ଅଚେତ ହେବା  
କିମ୍ବା ବାତ ମାରିବା

### ପୂର୍ବ ସତର୍କତା



ସକାଳେ କିମ୍ବା ଉପରବେଳା ଖରା  
କମ୍ ଥିବାବେଳେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ



ବାହାରକୁ ଯିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ  
ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ



ହାଲୁକା ରଙ୍ଗର ଢିଲା ପୋଷାକ,  
ଛତା ଓ ଜୋତା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ



ଖରାରେ କଠିନ ପରିଶ୍ରମ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ  
/ଅଧିକ ଦୂର ଉଲଟୁ ନାହିଁ



ମଝିରେ ମଝିରେ  
ଛାଇରେ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ

### ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧାତର ପ୍ରତିକାର



ରୋଗୀକୁ ଖୋଲା ଓ ଥଣ୍ଡା ଯାଗାକୁ  
ନେଇଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ଓ ଆର.ଏସ୍./ଟିନି ଲୁଗା  
ସର୍ବତ୍ର/ସାବାପାଣି ପିଆନ୍ତୁ



ପୋଷାକ ଯଥାସମ୍ଭବ  
ଖୋଲି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଧୋଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ  
ଓବା କପଡାରେ ପୋଛନ୍ତୁ



ରୋଗୀକୁ ପଙ୍ଖା/କୁଲର/ଏସି  
ପବନରେ ଶୁଖାଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ନହେଲେ  
ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ  
କିମ୍ବା ଆମ୍ବୁଲାନ୍ସ ଡାକନ୍ତୁ

ବୟସ୍କ ତଥା ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧାତର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ

ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



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# NCST seeks ATR on man’s death during eviction drive



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the authorities concerned into the death of a tribal man during a recent eviction drive in Rourkela city, an official statement said.

A 35-year-old tribal protester, identified as Ettua Ekka from Barkani village in Sundargarh district, died allegedly after coming under an excavator engaged in the construction of a railway line to the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) April 19.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the incident, the NCST has issued notices to the District Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP) and the officials

concerned of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) seeking a factual report and the action taken in response to the incident, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said in a statement Thursday.

The RSP is operated by SAIL. The incident took place during a protest by the local tribal community against the proposed construction of a railway line by Rourkela Steel Plant, extending up to Dumertha, it said.

During the protest, a tribal villager was killed after being run over by an earth-moving machine. Subsequent unrest was also reported in the area, the statement said.

As many as 19 people, including 16 police personnel, were injured in stone-pelting by the

## BJD seeks OHRC intervention

**Bhubaneswar:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has urged the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) to intervene in the tragic death of Ettua Ekka. In a memorandum submitted to OHRC, the BJD highlighted serious human rights violations surrounding the incident. The protest aimed to prevent the encroachment of traditional tribal land — a cause rooted in the defense of constitutional and ancestral rights. The party demanded a suo motu inquiry by the Commission into the incident and the circumstances that led to Ekka's death. The memorandum further called for an independent investigation into the role of local administration, police personnel, and RSP officials present at the scene. It also sought the immediate registration of FIRs against those responsible for Ekka's death. The BJD delegation urged the rights panel to protect tribal land rights, review previous land acquisitions in the region, and withdraw all FIRs filed against innocent tribal protesters.

agitators, sources said.

Earlier, a BJD delegation had submitted a memorandum to the NCST, through its regional office in Bhubaneswar, and sought its intervention into Ekka's death.



## UU CAMPUS TENSE Non-students asked to vacate hostels

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** Tension gripped the Utkal University here Thursday after the administration put up a notice asking unauthorised occupants, mostly former students, to vacate the Fakir Mohan Chhatrabasa (hostel) in view of the growing instances of anti-social activities in the campus.

The move came amid allegations that these former students, or alumni, who are continuing their stay in various hostels without any authorisation from the university administration, are indulging in nefarious activities, ranging from narcotics trade to extortion, a university official said.

However, soon after the notice was put up, a group of alumni and students met Vice

Chancellor Sabita Acharya and demanded her make alternative lodging arrangements for the alumni who have been residing in the hostels due to financial issues while preparing for various competitive exams and jobs. They alleged that these needy students have intentionally been termed as 'non-students' by a rival group of students having some vested interest.

Saswat Anurag Sahoo, who is pursuing his Masters in Journalism at the university, said, "The university administration should make a distinction between non-students and alumni. The latter are staying in hostels due to their financial issues, while the non-students have no academic interest or background in the university."

He continued, "Instead of

blaming the alumni, the administration should rather enhance security in the campus to curb criminal activities. They rather initiate action against university officials who have rented out their official quarters."

Meanwhile, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) national executive body member from state, Biswajit Patra, along with some students, staged a fast unto death protest in front of the administration building demanding immediate eviction of non-students from hostels.

Patra, who is a student at the university, said, "The non-students, who claim to be alumni, are disturbing the peace of the campus. They are illegally occupying the hostels, thereby, depriving students from availing the facility. They are also extorting

money from shops. Moreover, they have also formed a syndicate that muzzles the voice of students."

He claimed 90 out of 187 rooms in Fakir Mohan hostel are presently 'under the grip of' non-students. Similarly, 32 out of 371 rooms at Gopabandhu hostel, and 27 out of 240 rooms of Madhusudan hostel, are occupied by non students. "The administration should vacate the non-students from hostels and let present students stay there," demanded Patra.

Vice Chancellor Sabita Acharya said the police should stop anti-social activities inside the campus. "Those who really want to study and make good careers will be allowed to stay in the campus. Those who indulge in anti social activities will be thrown out," Acharya said.

## WASH, climate meet at RD Women’s University

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** A two-day Knowledge Fair-cum-Symposium focusing on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and climate resilience was inaugurated Thursday at Ramadevi (RD) Women's University.

The event, themed "Sustainability through Innovative Technologies and Community Approaches," aims to foster dialogue on sustainable development through grassroots innovations and inclusive participation.



Organised by Development Initiatives for Change (Di4C) in collaboration with Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA), the PG Department of Gender Studies, RD Women's University, and other partners, the event brings together academics, practitioners, and community leaders from across Odisha.

Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, who inaugurated the symposium, stressed the need for "community-centred solutions that marry technology with local insight." She was joined by Vice-Chancellor Chandni Charan Rath, Di4C Strategic Mentor Debanjani Khan, and Di4C Founder Malika Basu.

The fair showcases grassroots projects with a strong focus on youth and gender dimensions. "Knowledge sharing is at the heart of this initiative," said Basu. "By uniting stakeholders working on water and climate, we aim to foster collaboration and amplify impact."

Friday, technical sessions will compile insights and case studies into a policy brief with actionable recommendations for the state government. The event will conclude with a valedictory session graced by Sports and Cultural Affairs Minister Suryajanshi Suraj.

## City Utkal Hospital adopts Salesforce for digital leap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** Utkal Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha's largest stand-alone private healthcare institution, Thursday became the first hospital in Eastern India to adopt Salesforce Agentforce, marking a significant milestone in the region's healthcare digitisation journey.

The transformation is being implemented in partnership with Salesforce, the global leader in AI-powered CRM, and Coserve Software Solutions Private Ltd, a certified Salesforce consulting partner. This initiative brings together cutting-edge tools such as Salesforce Health Cloud, Agentforce, Salesforce Scheduler, and AI-powered chatbots to enhance patient engagement, streamline internal operations, and automate key services.

By integrating data from multiple sources—including the Hospital Information Management System (HIMS), Electronic Medical Records (EMR), and spreadsheets—Utkal Hospital aims to create a unified 360-degree view of each patient.

This will ensure seamless coordination across its call centers, medicine distribution, and patient self-service portals.

Salesforce India vice president (Sales) Kamal Kanth stated that the collaboration is designed to help the institute deliver more connected and efficient healthcare services. Utkal Hospital CEO BK Subodh Singh added that the move aligns with their vision of building a scalable, tech-enabled healthcare ecosystem.

Coserve Software Solutions partner Arun Parija, said, "Coserve brings a deep understanding of the healthcare landscape and the strategic vision required to leverage Salesforce effectively—making this a business win grounded in both insight and alignment."

The platform also includes real-time integration with computer telephony systems, reducing manual work and enabling faster, automated support. Future plans involve incorporating Tableau for data-driven decision-making and delivering hyper-personalised patient experiences.

## Ranjit Patra reappointed Odisha Youth Cong prez

**Bhubaneswar:** Ranjit Patra has been re-appointed as president of Odisha Pradesh Youth Congress, Indian Youth Congress (IYC) president Uday Bhanu Chib said in a statement Thursday. Along with Patra, the party has appointed Krishna Chandra Mohanty and Ganesh Kumar Saho as state working presidents and Rukmani Mangaraj and Narayan Bari as vice presidents of the Odisha Pradesh Youth Congress. Similarly, Pradeep Kumar Sahu has been appointed as state legal cell chairman. The youth Congress president has also named 28 general secretaries and nine state secretaries in its team. "I am confident that all the newly-appointed members will work with dedication towards strengthening the Congress party as well as the Youth Congress, under the leadership of party president Mallikarjun Kharge ji, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi ji and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi ji," Uday said in the press statement.

## Odisha okays green projects worth ₹1,191.47cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** In a significant boost to Odisha's green energy ambitions, the state government recently granted in-principle approval for seven renewable energy projects worth Rs 1191.47 crore.

The decision was taken during the 10th meeting of the Single Window Committee (SWC) under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy-2022, chaired by Energy department principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev.

The newly-approved projects have a cumulative capacity of 149.97 MW and include two wind power projects totaling 95.7 MW, four ground-based solar projects adding up to 53.97 MW, and the state's first battery storage project with a capacity of 0.6 MWh.

These initiatives are expected to significantly enhance



Odisha's renewable energy infrastructure and support the state's transition to sustainable energy sources. Dev highlighted the government's commitment to promoting renewable energy as a key driver of sustainable economic growth. "Odisha is leveraging its natural advantages in renewable resources to attract investment and drive development," he said.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of projects approved in the previous SWC session. Officials from key de-

partments and agencies—including the Energy department, Water Resources department, Revenue & Disaster Management department, GRIDCO, OPTCL, electricity distribution companies, OHPC, and EIC (Electricity)—participated in the deliberations.

So far, the Single Window Committee has granted in-principle approval to renewable energy proposals to-talling Rs 12,387.36 crore with an overall generation capacity of 1,707.56 MW.

## Nat’l Panchayat Awards: State scores a hat-trick

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 24:** Odisha Thursday clinched the prestigious National Panchayat Award for the third consecutive year, showcasing its commitment to grassroots democracy and inclusive development, said an official.

The National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated in Madhubani of Bihar witnessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferring awards to the winning Gram Panchayats (GPs) and other institutions, with Odisha continuing its legacy of excellence for the third time in a row. In addition to this remarkable achievement, the State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR) secured the Second Prize in the category of 'Panchayat Kshamata Nirman Sarbottam Sansthan Puraskar'. This accolade recognises SIRD&PR's

exceptional efforts in capacity building, mentoring, and providing handholding support to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the state, the official added.

Similarly, Hatbhadra GP of Kusumi block in Mayurbhanj district was awarded the Second Best Gram Panchayat under 'Atmanirbhar Gram Panchayat' category. This award celebrates Hatbhadra panchayat's impressive achievement in enhancing its own source of revenue (OSR), fostering financial self-sufficiency, and embracing sustainable development practices at grassroots level.

These accomplishments have been made possible through the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the proactive guidance of Minister for Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Rabi Narayan Naik, and the



## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



# Over 8mn Olive Ridley hatchlings emerge at Gahirmatha sanctuary



PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara/Rajnagar, April 24:** Over 8 million endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle hatchlings have emerged from their eggs at the mass nesting sites of Nasi-2 in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary, marking the culmination of the annual nesting season of the marine species.

Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the Rajnagar Mangrove and Wildlife Division, stated that while 5.1 million hatchlings emerged Wednesday, the remaining came out Thursday at the tranquil sandy nesting ground of Nasi-2, located near Wheeler's Island under the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary.

As many as 6,06,399 Olive Ridley sea turtles arrived for mass nesting on the beaches within the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary—the world's largest rookery for this species—from March 5 to March 10. Of these, 3,11,000 turtles nested at Nasi-2 beach, while 2,95,000 laid eggs at Ekakula Nasi beach.

The DFO said the emergence of hatchlings is expected to continue for a few more days.

After breaking out of their eggshells, the hatchlings wandered on the sandy beach for nearly an hour before making

their way to the swirling seawater. It is expected that more baby Olive Ridley turtles will hatch at Ekakula Nasi Friday, Yadav added.

Once hatched, the turtles dig their way to the surface and scurry toward the ocean. Some experts believe that imprinting on the Earth's magnetic field occurs during this journey, guiding them back to the same breeding grounds as adults.

If the hatchlings successfully reach the ocean, they will spend several years drifting in ocean currents, often associated with sargassum rafts and floating debris, which provide them with food and shelter.

This phenomenon is one of nature's rare events, where babies grow without any maternal care. The mortality rate for this endangered species is alarmingly high—only one in every 1,000 eggs laid results in a hatchling that survives to adulthood, the DFO noted.

As bright lights can disorient turtle hatchlings heading toward the sea, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Wheeler's Island has masked its bright lights to ensure a safe and congenial path for the baby turtles as they crawl into the seawater, Yadav said.

# 9-yr-old lights funeral pyre of father killed in Pahalgam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasore, April 24:** A traumatised nine-year-old Tanuj was dumbstruck, just following the directions of his elders, as he lit the funeral pyre of his father, Prashant Satpathy, Thursday morning.

Prashant's wife Priyadarshini was also inconsolable, refusing to let relatives take the body to the crematorium and kept on hugging it as long as she could before fainting.

Many of those waiting on the two sides of the road to the crematorium also broke down when they saw Tanuj throwing puffed rice while accompanying his father's body as per the ritual.

Prashant, a native of Balasore district, was killed in the terror attack in Jammu and

Kashmir's Pahalgam Tuesday. Hundreds of people from far and wide had gathered in Ishani village in Remuna block to pay their respects to Prashant.

Among them was a physically challenged man who was close to Prashant. Though he came to the village on a specially designed three-wheeler, he crawled to the crematorium from Prashant's house as a mark of respect.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, and Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi were among those who accompanied Tanuj from his home to the crematorium, around a kilometre away.

Amid chants of 'Jai Hind' and 'Prashant Satpathy Amar Rahe', Tanuj lit the funeral pyre of his father.



Prashant's elder brother, Shashant, collapsed at the crematorium multiple times, watching the scenes in disbelief. The youngest of the three brothers,

Jayant, said he would perform the nine-day rituals according to the customs, as Tanuj was too young to bear the pain of it all.

Prashant, 41, was an employee of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET). He went to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife and son on vacation.

The CM met his family in the morning and spent around an hour at their house, consoling his wife and elderly mother.

"I strongly condemn the incident, and the state government solidly stands with the family of Prashant Satpathy at this hour of crisis. The state will provide financial assistance of ₹20 lakh, a job for his wife and take care of his son's education," he told reporters after paying floral tributes to the mortal remains of Satpathy.

Majhi also expressed concern over the health of Priyadarshani, who fainted while talking to him.

# Missing boy's body found in stone quarry; dad detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, April 24:** A day after a six-year-old boy went missing, his body was recovered from an abandoned stone quarry in Jajpur district Thursday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Shivu Rout, son of Bauribandhu Rout of Chargotha village under Jenapur police limits, they said.

Jenapur police station Inspector in-Charge Nirupama Jena said police have detained the father on the basis of the complaint lodged by the deceased's maternal uncle and further investigation is underway.

According to reports, Shivu was last seen playing on the



road in front of his maternal uncle's house Wednesday evening before he went missing.

His body was found floating in the water accumulated in the abandoned quarry of the village Thursday morning.

The local people including the boy's grandfather raised

suspicion on Shivu's father Bauri Rout, who had thrown out his wife and son from his house some days ago. Shivu and his mother were staying at his maternal grandfather's house. They alleged that the father eliminated his own son in order to marry another woman.

Officials from Jenapur police station recovered the body of the boy from the abandoned stone quarry. Scientific teams have been pressed into service to get leads on the crime and police investigation is on.

As tension mounted in the area and local people started searching for Bauri, the police deployed one platoon (30 personnel) force at the village to maintain law and order in the locality.

# YOUTH BEATS FATHER TO DEATH OVER ₹200

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, April 24:** A 62-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by his son Thursday at IDL Gopabandhunagar area under Tangarpali police limits in Rourkela after he refused to give ₹200, police said.

The deceased, identified as Gagan Bihari Malla, was attacked inside his betel shop. Police arrested his younger son, Santosh Malla, 24, from the spot. A case was registered in this connection and the accused will be produced in the court Friday, Tangarpali IIC Niranjana Sethy said.

Police said Gagan lived with his wife and two sons and

earned a living by running a small betel shop at IDL Square. The incident occurred when Santosh reportedly became upset over the food prepared at home and refused to eat Thursday noon. He later visited the shop and asked his father for ₹200.

When Gagan declined, Santosh allegedly struck him on the back of the head with a wooden plank inside the shop. Gagan collapsed and was then brutally thrashed by his son, police said.

Local residents rushed the injured man to Rourkela Government Hospital, where he was declared dead. The victim's wife, Pramila Malla, 60, filed a formal complaint with police.



# Minor sisters drown in pond

**Basudevpur:** Two minor sisters drowned in a pond after they reportedly slipped into the water accidentally at Chandimal village under Sanakrushnapur panchayat and this block in Bhadrak district Thursday morning. The deceased were identified as Krishnarani Mallik, 7, and Koel Mallik, 5, both daughters of Basant Mallik of the village. The incident occurred when their grandmother bathed the girls in the pond located in the backyard of their house and got busy in household works leaving them unattended. Family members grew apprehensive after they failed to find the two sisters near their house. They searched for them and finally rescued the two sisters in unconscious condition from the pond. They rushed them to the Basudevpur Community Health Centre (CHC) where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival. On being informed, police personnel from Kasia marine police station rushed to the hospital and sent the bodies for post-mortem. A case was registered in this regard, police said.

# Man injured in exchange of fire with police

**Dhenkanal:** A man was injured in an exchange of fire with security personnel in Dhenkanal district Thursday, police said. The injured person has been identified as Debasish Behera alias Handa of village Godisahi Ajiatnagar under the Kamakhyanagar police station area. The encounter took place near Mangalpura under Dhenkanal Sadar police station limits in the early hours while he along with two others was planning to attack businessmen, police said in a statement. The police said a patrolling team at about 4.30am found Behera and his two associates waiting near a forest area and planning to attack businessmen passing through the road. When sub-inspector of police Pradip Kumar Patra of Dhenkanal Sadar police station asked him to surrender, he opened fire but the bullet missed the policeman. When Behera again opened fire, the policeman fired at him. He sustained bullet injuries on his right leg, police said. He was initially rushed to Dhenkanal District Headquarters Hospital and later referred to SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack for further treatment. The police seized one country-made pistol, one used cartridge and two live ammunition from his possession. So far police have found three criminal cases pending against his name at Kamakhyanagar police station.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया  
Bank of India

**Bank of India**  
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

**SALE OF VEHICLE**

Branch Name	Name of the Borrower	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
SAMANTARAPUR BRANCH	Mr. Satya Ranjan Pradhan	MARUTI SUZUKI DZIRE ZXI+, Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-1043, Year of Manufacturing: 2021	₹ 5,52,500/- / ₹ 55,250/- / ₹ 5,000/-
BIJU PATTNAIK PARK BRANCH	Mrs. Priyanka Priyadarshini Jena	CITROEN C3, 1.2 PETROL, Regd. No.: OD-02-CD-9394, Year of Manufacturing: 2022	₹ 5,41,000/- / ₹ 54,100/- / ₹ 5,000/-

**Parking Yard Address:** M/s. City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar

**Date of Auction:** 15.05.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M., E-Auction Portal- <https://baanknet.com>

**Last Date of submission of EMD, Application & Documents:** on or before 15.05.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 02.00 P.M.

**Terms and Conditions:** Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles at the premises of the stock yard as mentioned above on or before 14.05.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is successful and the balance amount within 15 days failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership & statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser. Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicle(s) from stockyard after full payment is made within a period of 15 (fifteen) days. Vehicles will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction sale process of the vehicles at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. **For further information regarding Inspection & Details of the Vehicles contact at Ph. No.: 8337911737 & 7008351259. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s) of the aforesaid loan accounts for settlement of their outstanding dues with the bank and to participate in the public auction/e-auction on the above mentioned date.**

**Place:** Bhubaneswar  
**Date:** 25.04.2025

**Zonal Manager**  
**Bank of India**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया  
Union Bank of India

**REGIONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR**  
1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

**[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors 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 **Union Bank of India** for an amount mentioned below & interest 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 Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors	Liabilities Due as per Notice	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of Secured Assets
<b>BHATLI CHOWK BRANCH / Borrower:</b> M/s. Naw Durga Textiles, Prop.: Mr. Amarnath Bhagat / <b>Borrower/Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Amarnath Bhagat, S/o: Mr. Hemnath Bhagat / <b>Guarantor/Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Hemnath Bhagat, S/o: Late Biswanath Bhagat, All are At: Ward No: 11, PO./PS./Dist.: Bargarh-768028	₹ 18,30,836.11 + further Interest & expenses thereon	20.11.2024 / 21.04.2025	Land measuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec, bearing MS Khata No.: 2414/10616, Plot No.: 3180/13346, situated at Mouza: Bargarh, PO./P.S./Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028, in the name of <b>Mr. Hemnath Bhagat</b> , Bounded by East: Land of Krishna Kumar Mishra, North: Road, West: Land of Bharati Mishra and Pradipta Kumar Dash, South: Plot No.: 3043/17685
<b>DUNGURIPALI BRANCH / Borrower:</b> M/s. Sharma Fertilizer & Gunny, Prop.: Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, S/o: Lal Chand Sharma, At/PO.: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha-767021 / <b>Guarantors:</b> 1) Mr. Ashok Kumar Sahu, S/o: Parkhit Sahu, At/PO.: Bharsuja, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha-767061, 2) Mr. Atulya Satapathy, S/o: Brundaban Satapathy, At/PO.: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha-767021	₹ 15,78,283/- + further Interest & expenses thereon	11.12.2024 / 22.04.2025	All that part of the property consisting of Land of an Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, with Residential Plot, bearing Khata No.: 458/869, Plot No.: 927/4028 and 930/2656/4029, Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Tahasil: Agalpur, Dist.: Balangir, State: Odisha, PIN-767021, in the name of <b>Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma</b> , Bounded by North: Road, South: Land of Buddhadeb Tripathy, East: Road, West: Land of Balgopal Mishra

**Place:** Sambalpur  
**Date:** 24.04.2025

**Sd/- Authorised Officer**  
**Union Bank of India**

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया  
Bank of India

**Bank of India**  
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Whereas the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Co-Borrower/ Co-Applicant/Guarantor / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	<b>SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH, PH.: 9438456140 / Borrower:</b> Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Naik, S/o: Ramesh Ch. Naik / <b>Co-Applicant:</b> Mrs. Nomita Naik, D/o: Binod Ch. Naik, Both are At/P.O.: Kijirima, P.S.: Bhasma, Dist.: Sundargarh, PIN-770019 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹28,69,371/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Land and Building over Khata No.: 162, Plot No.: 583(P), Plot Area: Ac.0.041 Dec. i.e. 1786 Sqft, Mouza: Nijagarh Kurki, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No.: 4, SRO/Tahasil: Pipili, Tahasil No.: 162, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Sachidananda Paikara, Mr. Saroj Kumar Paikara, Mr. Suryakanta Paikara, Mr. Mrutyunjaya Paikara, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paikara</b> , All are S/o: Bhabagrahi Paikara, Bounded by East: Road left by the Vendors, West: Revenue Plot No.: 581, North: Sub Plot No.: 11, South: Road	₹28,30,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,83,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	<b>SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH, PH.: 9438456140 / Borrower:</b> Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain, S/o: Fakir Charan Swain, At: Sorbha, P.S.: Gop, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752107 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹25,59,487.57 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Land and Building over Khata No.: 240/1678, Plot No.: 583/1921, Plot Area: Ac.0.041 Dec. i.e. 1786 sqft., Mouza: Nijagarh Kurki, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No.: 04, SRO/Tahasil: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain</b> , S/o: Fakir Charan Swain, Bounded by East: Internal Road left by Land Owner, West: Plot No.: 581, North: Sub Plot No.: H-6, South: Sub Plot No.: H-8	₹36,20,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,62,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	<b>JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 / Borrower:</b> Mrs. Namita Das, W/o: Mr. Santosh Kumar Das / <b>Co-Borrower:</b> Mr. Santosh Kumar Das, S/o: Mr. Sanatan Das, Both are At: Ralibari, P.O.: Palli, P.S.: Balikuda, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹6,21,000/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential Land and Building pertaining to Khata No.: 869/110, Plot No.: 1272, Area: Ac.0.110 Dec. i.e. 4791.6 Sqft, having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Raibarai, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No.: 331), DSRO/Tahasil: Jagatsinghpur (Tahasil No.: 331), Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Standing in the name of <b>Mrs. Namita Das</b> , W/o: Mr. Santosh Kumar Das, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1271, West: Plot No.: 1273, North: Plot No.: 1262 & 1263, South: Plot No.: 1206 (15 ft Bitumen Road)	₹10,77,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,07,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-
4.	<b>JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 / Borrower:</b> M/s. Rajnandini Fashions, Prop.: Mr. Keshab Kumar Das, S/o: Mr. Bishnu Charan Das / <b>Guarantor:</b> Mrs. Manorama Das, W/o: Mr. Keshab Kumar Das, Both are At/PO.: Jankoti, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754103 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹10,75,300.43 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land situated over Mouza: Jankoti, SRO/Tahasil: Jagatsinghpur, Tahasil No.: 217, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur, P.S. No.: 217, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103, Khata No.: 805/146, Plot No.: 937, Area: Ac.0.120 Dec. i.e. 5227.2 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Keshab Kumar Das</b> , S/o: Mr. Bishnu Charan Das, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 930, West: Plot No.: 935, North: Plot No.: 936, South: Plot No.: 938 (Rev. Road & earthen Road connect to main Road)	₹23,11,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,31,100/- / ₹ 50,000/-
5.	<b>NIMPUR BRANCH, PH.: 8197259271 / 1) (For Housing Loan &amp; Mortgage Loan) Borrower:</b> Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda / <b>Co-Borrower:</b> Mrs. Lira Dash, W/o: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, Both are At: 2063, Barabati Housing Colony, Tarol, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha-754021, 2) (For Cash Credit) <b>Borrower:</b> M/s. Asha Suppliers, Prop.: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda / <b>Guarantor:</b> Mrs. Lira Dash, W/o: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, Both are At: 2063, Barabati Housing Colony, Tarol, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹55,88,656.14 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G+2 storied Residential Building situated over 1) Khata No.: 620/364, Plot No.: 2063, Plot Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, 2) Khata No.: 620/405, Plot No.: 2063/2622, Plot Area: Ac.0.040 Dec, 3) Khata No.: 620/396, Plot No.: 2063/2617, Plot Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, <b>Total Plot Area: Ac.0.160 Dec. i.e. 6,970 Sqft</b> , Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (No.: 72), Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda</b> , S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda, Bounded by East: Pananga Narayan Khatua, West: Road, North: Vendee & Namita Mohanty, South: Vendee & Panchanan Khatua	₹24,58,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹25,48,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-
6.	<b>BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrowers:</b> 1) Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, 2) Mrs. Binata Baral, W/o: Mr. Pandab Baral, Both are at Vill: Badapadar, P.O.: Nachuni, Dist.:Khurda, Odisha - 752027 / <b>Total Dues:</b> ₹25,59,522.68 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G+1 Storied RCC framed Residential Building over Khata No.: 320/187, Plot No.: 173/952, Plot Area: Ac.0.067 Dec. i.e. 2919 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Pandab Baral</b> , S/o: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, Mouza: Badapadar, PS: Banapur (359), Tahasil.: Banapur (359), Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Bounded by East: Road, West: Hill (Pahad), North: Bibhuti Bhusan Baral, South: Paramananda Baral (N.B.: The Borrower has availed Housing Loan and one covid personal Loan from our Bhubaneswar SME Branch and two business Loans from our Haripur Branch).	₹44,04,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹4,40,400/- / ₹ 50,000/-

**Date & Time of E-Auction:** 27.05.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

**Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents:** 27.05.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.

**Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 26.05.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer**

**\*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.**

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>

**Place:** Bhubaneswar  
**Date:** 25.04.2025


**Authorised Officer**  
**Bank of India**



“

Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God

SRI AUROBINDO



## Flipping The Script

For the past week, commentators have almost universally framed US President Donald Trump’s “Liberation Day” as an economic Armageddon. So have investors; reeling financial markets have resulted in a 90-day pause on most of the new tariffs, with the important exception of those imposed on China.

But we have fallen into a narrative trap if our only choice is between Liberation and Armageddon. Both narratives assume “endism”: one era – and all its characters, ideas, and institutions – will be replaced by another. For Trumpians, this is a heroic story about a savior, unrestrained by old norms, who will deliver American greatness. For critics, it is a tragic story of loss, dominated by malevolent characters pursuing their own private interests over the common good.

But endism is not the only way to frame the current crisis. There could also be an opportunity to renew and reform the world order, but only if we change the script. Liberation Day was a shock, but what kind? Some shocks lead to collapse, others cause malaise but do not bring the system down, and still others lead to renewal. Right now, the collapse narrative is dominant. But that could change.

Many are likening the Trump shock to the anti-globalism that underpinned the Great Depression. But the parallel to the 1930s should not be pressed too hard. The global system was more fragile then than it is now, with far fewer instruments to prevent disaster. After World War I, the United States emerged as the global banker, but this status rested on an overheated, under-regulated, brittle domestic banking system. When the 1929 financial crisis came, it unleashed a bankruptcy wave that sent unemployment rocketing toward 9%. Then protectionists piled on and triggered a crash into a depression.



Jeremy Adelman

Many are likening the Trump shock to the anti-globalism that underpinned the Great Depression. But the parallel to the 1930s should not be pressed too hard

After the Tariff Act of 1930, introduced by Senator Reed Smoot and Representative Willis Hawley, and reluctantly signed by President Herbert Hoover, jacked up US tariffs, America’s trading partners reciprocated, and markets tanked. The multilateral trading system of the era, overseen by a feeble League of Nations in Geneva, was finished. Within two years, US unemployment topped 23%.

Ever since, Smoot-Hawley has become a watchword for economic idiocy, and Trump’s critics cannot resist invoking it. But doing so ignores other crises that might point to alternative narratives. It also misses a crucial irony: one outcome of the Great Depression was the establishment of buffers and guardrails to prevent another collapse. Those instruments, burnished and updated through many financial upheavals since 1945, did indeed create a more resilient system. Moreover, what happened in finance also applied in global health, security, and cultural awareness.

While pointing to the Great Depression favors calamity narratives, another storyline is almost as dangerous, because it usually kicks in only after the voices of doom have gone hoarse. This is the “muddling through” narrative, which tends to be most favored by crisis managers, who just want to get back to business as usual. One can already see it taking shape as trading partners line up at the White House or Mar-a-Lago to strike a deal. Many will offer to pay tribute to the scowling aggressor to prevent escalation, offering concessions like the creation of a “fentanyl czar” or a promise to buy Iowa corn. We could hear the muddlers’ collective sigh of relief on 9 April, when Trump paused Liberation Day.

Muddling through is what happened during the 2008 financial crisis. At first, alarmists warned of a repeat of 1929. But the global managerial class had the tools to stave off a collapse. The situation became what one political scientist called a “status quo crisis”: severe enough to impose a toll on millions of homeowners, Greeks, and Ukrainians, but not to force systemic reform. In the event, the managerial class relied on cheap credit (quantitative easing) and cheap carbon (thanks to shale energy and liquefied natural gas) to fuel a recovery, the price of which has now come due.

Muddling through looks effective at first (recall all the executive bonuses handed out in 2009), but fails to address the root of the problem. What we needed after 2008 was a course correction in globalisation – a renewal of the global compact to make it fairer and more inclusive. Obviously, that did not happen.

Muddling through worked until 2016, when Brexit, Trump’s first election, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s weaponization of energy interdependence, and pandemic-era “vaccine nationalism” left Davos Man no middle room. Globalists’ legitimacy has been draining away ever since.

Are we repeating century-old errors, nudging a crisis into a collapse? Are we about to muddle through again? Or could this moment be a renewal, spurred by recognition that the earlier model of globalisation was not working for enough people?

The renewal narrative has been crowded out, but history is full of such moments. World War II led to the dismantling of empires and the making of a new world order. The collapse of the Soviet Union spurred democratization in many parts of the world, new human-rights norms, and efforts (limited as they were) to take the environment and climate change seriously.

The world order was in trouble well before the rise of Trump. Nuclear proliferation was back, inequality was rising, pledges to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions were in retreat, and the global trading system was adrift. The Doha Round of trade negotiations ended in ignominy, and the World Trade Organization’s charter became obsolete. If we limit ourselves to patching up this flawed interdependence, we will join the post-2008 muddlers.

The world needed renewal before Liberation Day, and it needs it even more now. As misguided as Trump’s trade warfare is, it does not have to lead to collapse or another Pyrrhic victory for the managerial class. The path to renewal begins with more creative thinking. We should focus on the globalisation we need. Attempting to rescue status quo globalisation or to accept the White House’s caricature of American supremacy are not the only options. By favoring calamity over possibility, they are both dead ends.

The writer is Director of the Global History Lab at the University of Cambridge. ©project syndicate

### WISDOM CORNER

- “When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves

VIKTOR E. FRANKL
- “Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall

CONFUCIUS
- “What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us

HELEN KELLER

# power post

### FOCUS KASHMIR

## HOW’S IT NORMAL?



How is it ‘normal’ when Islamist terrorists, openly wearing their religion on their sleeves, backed by the Pakistani ISI-army network continue to spread their tentacles in the region?

‘normal’ when schools remain shut for months and internet shutdowns are routine? How is it ‘normal’ when thousands of security troops are swarming across every nook and corner of the Valley, their overwhelming presence a constant reminder of how the Indian state could not afford to take any risks on the ground? How is it ‘normal’ when a rogue and dysfunctional Pakistani state continues to arm and train young men to spread fear and violence?

The drumbeat of ‘normalcy’ was spurred on when elections were finally held last year and the turnout in both the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha was far higher than before. No boycott calls by separatist groups and no sign of voter coercion. The Hurriyat Conference – once projected as the voice of separatists – was now a rump, effectively emasculated by the all-powerful Indian state machine. Omar Abdullah was the ‘elected’ CM, his party winning an absolute majority. But how is it ‘normal’ when the CM has almost no powers, not even the powers to appoint or transfer key bureaucrats? How is it ‘normal’ when an unelected Lieutenant Governor with no Kashmir connect was vested with all authority, including crucially law and order? The people of J&K had voted in large numbers in hope that an election was a prelude to a restoration of statehood as promised by the Centre. That promise remains unfulfilled.

The ‘normalcy’ narrative also pointed to the record number of

tourists who thronged the Valley in a post-COVID tourism boom. The tulips were blooming in Srinagar’s gardens, the shikaras and house-boats on Dal lake were over-booked in peak season, trekking in Pahalgam and skiing in Gulmarg were attracting visitors and new hotels were being planned. The Centre had even promoted J&K as a tourist-friendly destination, with Srinagar hosting a G20 tourism summit in May 2023.

But tourism alone is not a sign of ‘normalcy’. ‘Normalcy’ also means the absence of fear, zero terror and the inability of terrorists to strike at will. The Centre claimed, justifiably, the number of civilians killed in terror attacks had come down in recent years. What the figures masked is a grim reality where encounters between armed forces and terrorist groups continued unabated, where the dense forests in the Poonch-Rajouri region saw a fresh spate of attacks, where in just the first month when the new government was elected in October 2024, there was a marked spike in violence.

How is it ‘normal’ when terrorists continued to indulge in targeted attacks: recall how in October 2021, a prominent Srinagar city chemist, a food vendor and a taxi driver were all gunned down within an hour. The chemist Makhn Lal Bindroo was a Kashmiri Pandit, amongst the few who had stayed back after the 1990s exodus. How is it ‘normal’ when Kashmiri Hindu families still can’t

return to their ancestral homes? How is it ‘normal’ when a religious divide has been stoked by those who used the gun to drive away Kashmiri Pandits? How is it ‘normal’ when the Amarnath Yatra remains vulnerable to a terror strike?

Which brings us to the real source of mischief and terror in the turbulent Valley. How is it ‘normal’ when Islamist terrorists, openly wearing their religion on their sleeves, backed by the Pakistani ISI-army network continue to spread their tentacles in the region? How is it ‘normal’ when Pakistan continues to shelter Lashkar modules, when its army chief peddles the two-nation theory and describes Kashmir as Islamabad’s ‘jugular vein’? Recent years have seen the emergence of ‘hybrid’ terrorists, groups that are a mix of Pakistani ‘foreign’ terrorists along with local Kashmiris who are enticed and indoctrinated into the ‘jihadi’ network. How is it ‘normal’ when young men still seek solace in the gun amidst persistently high unemployment and a growing drug menace?

Truth is the Modi government hasn’t been able to eliminate cross-border terror just as previous governments also failed. The language of muscular nationalism in TV studios has been cruelly exposed on the ground. From Pathankot to Pahalgam, there is enough evidence to show that the Pakistani state continues to sponsor terror and conflict in the region. What fuels this is not just the ‘Islamisation’ of the Pakistani state but also the creeping religious divide within our society. How is it ‘normal’ when the political establishment and their cheerleaders are seen to ‘normalise’ hate and bigotry? The rogue Pakistani army-state wants to use Pahalgam to further widen a Hindu-Muslim divide. We must not succumb to their evil desires. Pakistan must pay the price for its actions. India must remain united in grief and rage.

The writer is a senior journalist and author. His latest book is 2024: The Election That Surprised India.

### SPECTRUM ECONOMY

## Dismal rural employment scenario



Dhurjati Mukherjee

40 LAKH CLAIMS FOR WAGE PAYMENTS UNDER THE 100-DAY RURAL JOB SCHEME HAVE BEEN DELAYED BEYOND THE STIPULATED 15 DAYS

There were recent protests in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament regarding long delays in release of funds to some states under the rural employment guarantee scheme, stressing that the livelihood of the poor has been badly affected. MPs from various parties, including the Congress, raised the issue but the junior rural development minister alleged misappropriation of funds and other irregularities in the implementation of the scheme.

A Congress MP from Kerala said workers had not received wages for three months and the delayed payment and low wages had led to a sharp decline in MGNREGA workforce. Another member from DMK Nadu amounting to over Rs 4000 crore had been pending for five months.

It is understood that over 40 lakh claims for wage payments under the 100-day rural job scheme have been delayed beyond the stipulated 15 days. In a written reply in Rajya

Sabha, Minister for Rural Development Giriraj Singh highlighted the hardships faced by poor rural workers, owing to the payment delay. According to the Centre, the state governments have approved 49.18 lakh claims for delayed compensation in 2024-25 till March 25 this year, of which 12.94 lakh claims have been settled.

Delving into the matter, one finds that in 90% of cases, the delay happens at the end of the rural development ministry in processing the FTOs (funds transfer order) but the Centre does not pay any compensation. It may be mentioned here that a parliamentary committee on rural development had recently expressed concern over the delay in MGNREGA wage payment. The committee urged the government to release funds in time and co-ordinate with the states to prevent delay in wage disbursement. As of date the pending liability under the scheme is a massive Rs 27,000 crore! At the same time, the committee had noted slow implementation of projects by states, which had

led to the accumulation of unspent balances.

The government cannot allocate adequate funds and in time for the job guarantee programme though some renowned economists have urged the need for starting a similar programme for urban and semi-urban areas. But all this is not of primary concern for the government which is more interested in subsidising land and other facilities to industry so that they gain in wealth. Or is there any justification of a resource-constrained country to exempt people drawing up to Rs 12 lakhs per annum in the recent budget?

Economists and planners cannot fathom the rural employment scenario sitting in a metro city like Delhi. The scenario is indeed quite distressing as is revealed from NSSO facts. As per NSSO, 2023, of the total rural workers, 63% belonged to the category of self-employed, comprising their own account workers and employers and helpers in household enterprises, earning a very low income.

Another 24.8% are casual labourers, who only get a few days of employment in a year due to seasonal nature of their work. Additionally, only 12% who are salaried receive a regular income from rural employment. The earnings of the self-employed are around Rs 11,612. Do the above figures in any way reveal that the country will attain the status of a developed country within a few years?

Why can’t the government impose an employment cess of just 0.5% for those who earn more than Rs 10 lakh per month? There is need to generate productive employment for at least 150 days in rural areas and say 50 days in urban and semi-urban areas.

In the present scenario, what is needed is balanced development, that is, allocation of more resources to the rural sector to create job opportunities. The priorities should include modernising schools and health centres apart from ensuring more job opportunities in rural areas.

INFA

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

### Stressed pilots

Sir, Recently, a pilot, who captained an Air India flight from Srinagar to Delhi, passed away shortly after landing due to a medical condition. Indian domestic aviation industry is fast growing, and it is estimated that the country may need more than thirty thousand pilots over the next decade whereas currently there are about seven thousand. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is reportedly pondering over rescheduling the duty and rest hours of pilots in a phased manner from July. It is also imperative to put in place an exhaustive mental health support system that is accessible as well as transparent not only at airports but within all airlines. At present, although pilots are assigned fixed working hours, they are compelled to work more. Heavy workload, physical and mental stress, fatigue, and sleeplessness take a heavy toll on them..

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### India responds

Sir, In response to the Pahalgam attack, India has undertaken several diplomatic measures. The Indus Water Treaty is currently in abeyance, creating difficulties for Pakistan, especially in Punjab during the summer months. All existing Pakistani visas have been revoked, requiring the return of Pakistani nationals currently in India. Military advisors from the Army, Navy, and Air Force will be withdrawn from Islamabad, and similar actions will be taken concerning the Pakistani High Commission in India. The total number of personnel in both High Commissions will be reduced from 55 to 30 by May 1, 2025. The Attari border crossing has been closed with immediate effect, and no visas will be issued to Pakistani citizens for SAARC events. Armed forces remain on high vigil. Speculation is rife that military action may be planned at suitable place, date and time. Beyond the tragic human loss, the tourism-driven economy, including the saffron industry, has suffered greatly, affecting over 50 per cent of Kashmir’s population. The government needs to act now as citizens have conveyed ‘enough is enough’.

RS Narula, PATIALA








of the day

quote

Our grief is doubled by the fact that there is a Keralite among those who lost their lives there. We share in the grief of the relatives of the deceased N Ramachandran



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

The highly gruesome massacre of tourists by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Pahalgam, one of the country's prominent tourist destinations, has deeply shocked the nation



MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

Not only strict decisions, but there should also be a discussion on how to implement them strictly. Only statements should not be given. We will put forward our views and suggestions in the all-party meeting



AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

14 Maoists surrender before police in T'gana

**Hyderabad:** Fourteen members of the outlawed CPI (Maoists) surrendered before the Telangana police Thursday. The Maoists belonging to different cadres, including two Area Committee Members (ACMs) surrendered before the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Multi Zone-I, S Chandrashekhara Reddy, at Warangal Police Commissionerate, an official release said.

President to represent India at Pope's funeral

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu will attend the state funeral of Pope Francis in Vatican City this week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday. Murmu will pay a two-day visit to Vatican City beginning Friday. "President Droupadi Murmu will be visiting Vatican City April 25 to 26 to attend the state funeral of Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the government and people of India," the MEA said. Francis, who was the first non-European Pope in nearly 1,300 years, died on Easter Monday. He was 88.

India donates 4.8 tonnes of vax to Afghanistan

**New Delhi:** India has donated 4.8 tonnes of various vaccines to the people of Afghanistan, officials said Thursday. These vaccines are for the treatment of diseases such as rabies, tetanus, hepatitis B, and influenza, they said. "India has donated 4.8 tonnes of vaccines to the people of Afghanistan," the External Publicity (XP) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Heatwave: J'khand govt revises school timings

**Ranchi:** Jharkhand government Thursday announced revised school timings because of intense heat sweeping across the state, an official said. Students from kindergarten to Class 8 will attend school from 7 am to 11:30 am, while senior students will continue classes until noon, the official added. "Considering the increasing impact of heat in the state, classes from KG to class 8 in all categories of government, non-government aided, unaided (including minority) schools, and all private schools will operate from 7 am to 11.30 am and classes from standard 9 to 12 will operate from 7 am to noon until further notice," according to the order issued by the school education and literacy department.

Pahalgam terror attack

Victims cremated-with flowers, tears & resolve



*On Thursday, the last rites of several of the 26 gunned down by terrorists in Baisaran in the upper reaches of Pahalgam were held – from Odisha to Gujarat and from Rajasthan to Karnataka*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur/Ahmedabad April 24:** Flames leapt from funeral pyres, suppressed sobs and anguished cries mingled with the sound of mantras and the fragrance of flowers and incense lingered. It was the final adieu for the families of those killed in Pahalgam and also for a country in mourning with them.

On Thursday, the last rites of several of the 26 gunned down by terrorists in Baisaran in the upper reaches of Pahalgam were held – from Odisha to Gujarat and from Rajasthan to Karnataka. A snapshot as it were of the prime holiday destination that Kashmir has been for people across the country and indication of the belief that all was well in the volatile Valley.

The dead in Tuesday's terror strike were all men, 26 lives of promise that ended in a hail of bullets. And back in their homes, families grieved for


Security forces kill 3 women Naxals in Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Raipur, April 24:** Three women Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border Thursday, police said, days after a massive anti-Maoist operation involving around 10,000 personnel was launched in the Bastar region.

They are suspected to be members of the strongest military formation of Naxals, they said. The gunfight took place at a forest in Kareguttha hills in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district along the inter-state border in the morning when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a senior police official said. So far, bodies of three women Naxalites, clad in 'uniform', along with weapons have been recovered from the encounter site, while several other Maoists are also suspected to have been killed in the fierce gun battle, he said.

Following the gunfight, a huge cache of firearms, explosives and Maoist related materials were also recovered from the spot, he said. The operation, one of biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in the Bastar region, involved around 10,000 security personnel belonging to different units, including the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force (STF), all units of the state police, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA), he said.



The state is entering a new era of governance powered by Artificial Intelligence—one that prioritises smart systems, human-centric solutions, and real-time delivery of services

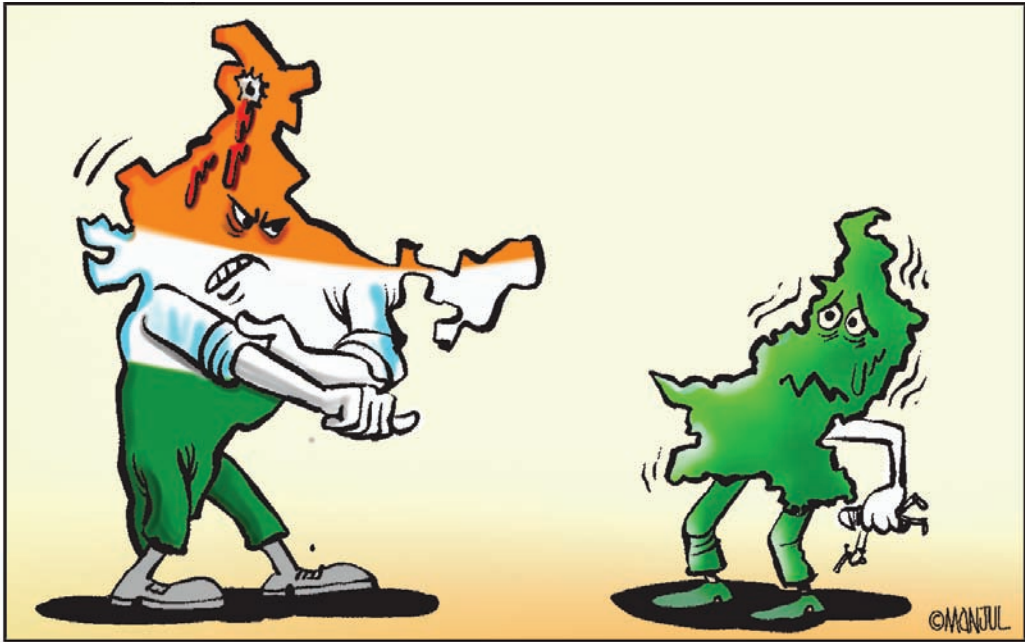
N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

COURT JUNKS RANA PLEA TO TALK TO KIN

A Delhi court Thursday dismissed the plea of jailed 26/11 terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana seeking to talk to his family members. "Not allowed," special Judge Chander Jit Singh held



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



India briefs envoys of several countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** India Thursday briefed New Delhi-based envoys of almost all G20 nations and those from its strategic partners on the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack and its link to cross-border terrorism, people familiar with the matter said.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri apprised the diplomats about various aspects of Tuesday's terror attack that killed 26 innocent people and India's firm policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism, they said.

The briefing was held a day after India announced a raft of measures against Pakistan including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post. The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi firmed up the punitive measures against Pakistan in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam attack.

Envoys of G20 member nations such as the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Australia, Indonesia and China attended the briefing. Envoys of India's close



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri apprised the diplomats about various aspects of Tuesday's terror attack that killed 26 innocent people and India's firm policy of “zero tolerance” against terrorism

strategic partners including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Malaysia also joined it.

Last night, Misri said the cross-border linkages to the Pahalgam attack was "brought out" in a briefing to the CCS following which it decided to take the measures against Pakistan. The new retaliatory actions shut down the few existing diplomatic mechanisms between the two sides taking bilateral relations to yet another new low.

Mizoram-Assam border talks toady

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Aizawl, April 24:** A seven-member Mizoram delegation led by state Home secretary Vanglalmawia left for Guwahati Thursday to engage in official-level discussion with Assam to resolve the long-standing boundary dispute between the two Northeastern states, an official said.

The official-level talks will be held at 11 am Friday, the official said. The official-level discussion may also focus on

preparing and finalising the groundwork and modalities for the next round of ministerial-level talks, he said.

The official said that the next round of ministerial-level talks might be held depending on the outcome of Friday's official-level discussion.

He, however, said that further official-level discussion may be required to be convened before the next ministerial-level talks. Earlier April 16, Mizoram Home minister K



Sapdanga chaired a meeting of state boundary committee to review the state's stance and necessary documents to be presented at the official-level talks. He told the meeting that the Mizoram government's top priority is to ensure that the

Pak airspace curbs impact AI, IndiGo flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/ Mumbai, April 24:** International flights, especially from Delhi and other northern cities, will take a longer time to reach their destinations and fares are also likely to rise in the range of 8-12 per cent in the near term, with Pakistan closing its airspace for Indian airlines.

Air India and IndiGo Thursday said some of its international flights have been impacted by the Pakistan airspace closure, with the Tata Group-owned airline mentioning that its flights connecting North America, UK, Europe and Middle East are likely to take an alternative extended route.

Apart from IndiGo and Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air also have international operations. All West-bound flights flying from north Indian cities, including



Delhi, will be impacted due to the closure. These flights will have to take alternative routes that will be longer over the Arabian Sea, according to senior airline officials and pilots.

With longer routes, airlines will need more fuel to operate the flights resulting in higher costs as well as deal with payload issues. Amid escalating tensions between India and Pa-

kistan due to Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Thursday said it will bar Indian airlines from using its airspace. The airspace cannot be used by India-registered aircraft as well as planes owned or leased by Indian operators.

"Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen airspace closure that is outside

state's border is secure so that people can live in peace.

Three Mizoram districts - Aizawl, Kolasiib and Mamit - share a 164.6 km long border with Assam's Cachar, Sribhum (formerly Karimganj) and Hailakandi districts.

The decades-old border dispute mainly stemmed from two conflicting colonial-era demarcations - one from 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) and another from 1933.

In a post on X, Air India said that due to the announced restriction of Pakistan airspace for all Indian airlines, it is expected that some Air India flights to or from North America, UK, Europe, and Middle East will take an alternative extended route

Increased operational costs with payload restrictions is not a financially viable proposition for airlines, which already operate on wafer thin margins

our control. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," the airline said. IndiGo said that due to the sudden announcement of air space closure by Pakistan, a few of our international flights are being impacted.

A senior pilot told PTI that the duration of some of the US

Another NEET aspirant found dead in Kota

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, April 24:** Another NEET aspirant has been found dead in Rajasthan's Kota, just 10 days before the exams. The deceased was identified as a 23-year-old Roshan Sharma who was found dead near a railway track close to Landmark City in Kota Thursday.

The body was discovered in the bushes and identified through a call made from the student's mobile phone by his family. According to the police, Roshan, a resident of Tughlakabad, Delhi, had last spoken to his family Wednesday night.

During the call, he reportedly said: "Neither will I come home, nor will I appear for the exam." Kunhadi Police Station officer Arvind Bhardwaj confirmed that the student's body was recovered near the railway track. Preliminary reports suggest Roshan may have died by suicide after allegedly consuming the poison, 10 days ahead of the NEET exam.

The family stated they had been in regular contact with Roshan even after returning to Delhi. Their last conversation with him took place Wednesday night.

While poisoning is suspected, the exact cause of death has not been officially confirmed. The body has been placed in the mortuary of MBS Hospital, and a postmortem will be conducted once the family arrives in Kota.

A few days ago, another NEET aspirant committed suicide. He was from Bihar. On Tuesday, he died by suicide just weeks ahead of his scheduled exam in the first week of May. The student, a resident of Chhapra, Bihar, was staying in a private hostel in the Kunhadi police station area.

The student took the extreme step at around 6 a.m. Tuesday. Police recovered a suicide note from the room, in which the student clearly stated that the NEET exam was not the reason for his decision. He had also sent a message to his sister on WhatsApp reiterating the same.

and European flights operated by Indian airlines will increase in the range of 2 to 2.5 hours.

According to the senior airline officials, Pakistan airspace is a crucial airspace in the region and is vastly used by the Indian airlines.

Longer routes & higher operational costs

Aircraft taking longer routes mean they will be burning more fuel, resulting in increased operational costs for the airlines.

Since the flight time will be longer than it is now, airlines will be keeping more fuel. Such a situation will pose pay load issues for the airlines and they will be forced to reduce the overall weight of the aircraft.

For example, lower payload can be achieved by reducing the number of passengers and baggage. Lesser number of passengers in an aircraft means lower revenues, presenting financial challenges for the airlines.



of the day quote

The Prime Minister will be visiting for the opening of the birth centenary celebration of Bharat Ratna Bhuben Hazarika September 8. He has also offered his suggestions for a befitting celebration. We will soon be forming the organising committee, for which we have invited the chief ministers of the North Eastern states to be members

**HIMANTA BISWA SARMA** | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

At the meeting, we passed a resolution condemning the Pahalgam terror attack. We will also take out candlelight marches across the state tomorrow

**TEJASHWI YADAV** | RJID LEADER

For a strategically sensitive border state like Sikkim, Military-Civil fusion is not just desirable but essential for national security, infrastructure development, economic progress, and social integration

**PREM SINGH TAMANG** | SIKKIM CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Landslides leave 1K tourists stranded

**Gangtok:** Around 1,000 tourists were stranded in picturesque North Sikkim Thursday following landslides in the Himalayan state which is also witnessing heavy rain, the police said. Around 200 tourist vehicles were stranded at Chungthang and the occupants are staying in a Gurudwara there, they said. Chungthang is nearly 100 km from the state capital Gangtok. The police said that massive landslides have occurred at Munshithang on the Lachen-Chungthang road and at Lema/Bob on the Lachung-Chungthang road. The situation was aggravated by continuous rain. The district administration has instructed all tour operators not to send tourists to North Sikkim Friday and until further notice, officials said. The authorities have cancelled all permits given to tourists for visiting the region April 25. Access roads to Lachung and Lachen have been severely affected, leaving around 1000 tourists stranded.

Savarkar row: Rahul moves SC

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court which refused to quash summons against him in a case of defamatory remarks against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan is scheduled to hear the matter Friday.

Kashmiri students receive threats

**Dehradun:** Days after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed, Hindu Raksha Dal Thursday issued online threats to Kashmiri students living in Dehradun, asking them to leave the state immediately. Scared by the threats issued through videos floating on social media platforms, the Kashmiri students approached the police, seeking protection.

Heroin worth over ₹1 crore seized

**Aizawl:** In a major drug haul, heroin worth over ₹1 crore was seized and three persons were arrested in two separate operations in Mizoram in the past two days, an official said Thursday. Volunteers of the Central Anti Drugs Squad (CADS) constituted under the Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) seized 4.8 kg of heroin from two vehicles in Saitual town near the Manipur border on early Thursday.



There should be no compromise on terrorism. The need of the hour is to take care of the nation. Whatever steps the government takes for the national interest, security, and protection of Kashmiris, the AIMIM will support them. In this critical time, we have to be united for national interest

**ASADUDDIN OWAISI** | AIMIM PRESIDENT

IAF CARRIES OUT 'EXERCISE AAKRAMAN'

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is carrying out 'Exercise Aakraman' in the central sector with its mainstream fighter aircraft taking part in it, sources said Thursday. However, this is a "routine exercise", a source said. India's frontline fighter jets include Rafales, Su-30s and other aircraft



ALL-PARTY MEET ON PAHALGAM ATTACK

Leaders demand action to destroy terror camps



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** Leaders across party lines Thursday sought decisive action for destroying terror camps and Opposition MPs raised the issue of security lapses but assured during an all-party meeting on the Pahalgam terror attack that they are with the government in dealing with the issue of terrorism.

Coming out of the meeting, Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that all parties demanded action by the government for the destruction of terror camps. Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandhyopadhyay said the issue of possible security lapses was also discussed but the Opposition assured that it was with the government in the fight against terrorism. "The nation must be totally united in this fight to eliminate terrorism," he said.

The government briefed leaders of various political parties on the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists, and heard their views at the all-party meeting here. At the beginning of the meeting, a moment of silence was observed for the victims of the attack. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju were present from the government's side. Leader of the House in Rajya

Pak govt's X account suspended in India

**New Delhi:** In the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, the official X (formerly Twitter) account of the Pakistan government has been suspended in India, escalating tensions between the two countries. India's measures, including the suspension of a key water-sharing Indus Waters Treaty and closure of the main land border crossing in Kashmir, come a day after terrorists killed tourists in Baisaran near Pahalgam. India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 and announced downgrading diplomatic ties with Pakistan, including expulsion of its military attaches, in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Sabha J P Nadda, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi were present at the meeting chaired by Singh.

Those who attended the meeting included NCP-SP's Supriya Sule, NCP's Praful Patel, AIM-IM's Asaduddin Owaisi, BJD's Sasmit Patra, TDP's Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, AAP's Sanjay Singh, TMC's Sudip Bandopadhyay, RJD's Premchand Gupta, DMK's T Siva and SP's Ram Gopal Yadav.

The all-party meeting comes a day after the government announced a host of measures targeting Pakistan in the aftermath of Tuesday's Pahalgam terror attack.

The decision to call the all-party meeting was taken Wednesday, with Singh

BSF jawan detained by Pakistan Rangers

**New Delhi:** A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan has been detained by Pakistan Rangers after he accidentally crossed the Punjab border and talks are on between the two forces to secure his release, officials said Thursday. Constable PK Singh of the 182nd battalion was apprehended by the Pakistan Rangers across the Ferozepur border Wednesday, they said. The jawan was in uniform and carried his service rifle. He was accompanying farmers when he moved ahead to rest in shade and was apprehended by the Rangers. A flag meeting is on between the two forces to secure the release of the BSF jawan, the officials said. They said such incidents were not uncommon and have happened in the past between the two sides.

and Shah reaching out to various parties.

It has been a convention to call an all-party meeting following an incident with serious repercussions related to national security, as was seen after the Pulwama terror attack in 2019 or during the India-China standoff in 2020. It helps present a picture of national unity in moments of crisis and allows opposition leaders to convey their views to the government and be briefed in detail on the official position. Targeting Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack, India Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with it and announced a raft of measures, including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post.

Shiv Sena (UBT) raises questions on intel failure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** Shiv Sena (UBT) Thursday raised questions about intelligence failure and accountability over the Pahalgam terror attack, while offering its support to any strong response the government gives to the horrific incident that left at least 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead.

Party leader Arvind Sawant wrote to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju ahead of the all-party meeting called by the government on the attack, as he informed him about his and Sanjay Raut's inability to attend it.

Raut is a Rajya Sabha MP of the party. He said both of them were on an official tour as members of parliamentary committees. Sawant, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, shared the text of his communication with Rijiju and later provided a revised version of it.

He said, "Let it also be known that while there will be questions about intelligence failures and on why and how this attack happened, we see this meeting as a medium to offer our sup-

'Lack of security at tourist place'

**Ahmedabad:** The terrorist who shot her husband laughed as his victim collapsed and died, the wife of Surat resident Shailesh Kalathiya said Thursday, while also questioning the lack of security in Pahalgam. Shitalben Kalathiya, who lost her husband in the massacre, asked why no security personnel were present at the spot and why "taxpayers do not get the services" that "VIPs" get; while her son also vented his anger claiming that authorities came to know about the events late. "Kashmir is not bad, but the security there is bad," Shitalben told reporters. Three men from Gujarat were among the 26 persons killed in the terror attack in south Kashmir Tuesday. Shailesh Kalathiya was from Surat while Yatish Parmar and his son Smit were residents of Bhavnagar city.

port to any strong response the government chooses to give to this barbaric and dastardly attack on our country."

He added, "The question about accountability, too, not for this meeting but soon after, also stems from the same sense of patriotism that binds us together, seeking to better serve our country."



Students take part in a prayer to pay tribute to Pahalgam terror attack victims, at a school in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Macron, Netanyahu, Meloni dial PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** French President Emmanuel Macron, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Thursday dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and conveyed their solidarity with India over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

The barbarism displayed in the terror attack is totally unacceptable, Macron said during his phone conversation with Modi, according to external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also spoke to Modi and conveyed condolences to the families of the victims.

In his phone conversation with Modi, Ishiba said terrorism cannot be justified. "Both leaders emphasised that terrorism is a grave threat to humanity.

Macron conveyed his personal condolences on the "brutal killing" of innocent people in the heinous terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, Jaiswal said in a social media post. "He strongly condemned the attack and expressed full support and solidarity with the people of India adding that this kind of barbarism is totally unacceptable," Jaiswal said. The prime minister thanked him for his message of support and conveyed India's strong resolve to bring the perpetrators to justice, he added.

Jaiswal said Meloni strongly



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday declared that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued "to the ends of the earth" and promised to "identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers"**

condemned the terrible terror attack on Indian soil and conveyed her thoughts and prayers for the victims.

Assam: AIUDF MLA held for 'defending' Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, April 24:** Assam's opposition AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam was arrested Thursday on sedition charges for allegedly defending Pakistan and its complicity in the Pahalgam terror attack, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) distanced itself from the legislator's comments, stating that the views were his own and not of the party. "We have seen a video where the MLA is defending Pakistan and its complicity in the attack. I had instructed the police to take action and accordingly, the DGP has informed me that he has been ar-

rested," Sarma said at a press conference here.

In the viral video shot during the panchayat poll campaign by Islam Wednesday, the Dhing MLA was heard alleging that the Pahalgam and Pulwama attacks were perpetrated by conspirators who want to polarise the country on communal lines. On February 14, 2019, 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a suicide attack in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

A three-term legislator from the Dhing constituency, Islam was arrested from his residence in Nagaon district. "The MLA will be produced before a court and we will take the case to its logical conclusion," Sarma added.

Busy day at Attari border as Indians, Pakistanis return home

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Attari, April 24:** The Attari border in Punjab's Amritsar district Thursday witnessed hectic activity with travellers from both India and Pakistan returning to their respective countries after New Delhi announced travel curbs in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

While most Indians returning from Pakistan expressed happiness on the safe conclusion of their trips, there were others – both Indians and Pakistanis – who said they were forced to abruptly change their plans for spending time with relatives living across the border.

Talking to IANS, a man from

Dera Bassi who returned to India Thursday afternoon, said, "Last night, I came to know about the Indian government's tough measures and instructions to citizens to return. So, I packed my bags and did that this morning."

The Punjab resident said he had gone to Pakistan on a month's visa to meet his relatives, but had to come back in 20 days due to diplomatic measures.

Amreek Kaur, another Indian returning from Pakistan, said she had a fruitful visit to Dera Baba Nanak. "Our trip ended, so we came back," she said, adding that she did not experience any hatred or tension during her visit.

Pakistani national Sajid



Khan also reached the Attari border on the way back to Pakistan. "I was in Ahmedabad for the past 10-12 days to meet relatives. Now, I will cross the border today or tomorrow," he said, pointing to the diplomatic

row. Nisar Ahmed, an Indian national from Gujarat, said he was shocked when people in Amritsar told him that he could not go to Karachi to attend his niece's wedding April 28.

"I am yet to meet officials,

**E**scalating the diplomatic standoff, India announced the immediate closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari, a vital land route between the two nations

**P**akistani nationals currently in India with valid travel documents were directed to return home via the ICP by May 1, 2025

**A**fter the end of this deadline, all overland travel between the countries will be suspended indefinitely

but the buzz about travel curbs is indicating that I cannot go to Pakistan despite a valid 30-day visa. I shall return home if I am not allowed to go to Karachi," he said, add-

ing that he has no opinion on the issue once the government has taken a decision.

Tuesday's Pahalgam terror attack, believed to be orchestrated by Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front, left 26 tourists dead and many others injured.

Escalating the diplomatic standoff, India announced the immediate closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari, a vital land route between the two nations. Pakistani nationals currently in India with valid travel documents were directed to return home via the ICP by May 1, 2025. After the end of this deadline, all overland travel between the countries will be suspended indefinitely.



of the day

Quote

India also has fewer non-tariff trade barriers, obviously, no currency manipulation, very, very little government subsidies, so that reaching a deal with the Indians is much easier

SCOTT BESSENT | US TREASURY SECRETARY

China and the US are not having consultation or negotiation on tariffs, still less reaching a deal

GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

The decision to forgo the increase follows extensive consultations with political parties, and careful consideration of the recommendations of the parliamentary committees

ENOCH GODONGWANA | FINANCE MINISTER, SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

UK court discharges Virkaran Awasty

**London:** A court in London Thursday discharged a businessman wanted in India for fraud allegations on unconditional bail pending a UK High Court appeal, which it noted would be disposed of “shortly”. Chief Magistrate Paul Goldspring discharged Virkaran Awasty at a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court, not attended in person by the parties involved. While he did not go into any details of the extradition case against Awasty, the senior district judge said he wanted to hand down his ruling in open court to ensure “fair and balanced” coverage given the press interest in India.

Gangs in Haiti kill 4 soldiers, 4 civilians

**Port Au Prince (Haiti):** Gangs trying to seize full control of Haiti’s capital have killed at least four soldiers and four armed civilians who worked with law enforcement to protect their communities, an official said Thursday. Lionel Lazarre, spokesman for Haiti’s National Police, told Radio Caraïbes that two soldiers and four civilians were killed in Kenscoff, a once peaceful community on the outskirts of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Two other soldiers and an undetermined number of civilians were killed in the community of Pacot inside the capital, he said.

Maldives bars Israeli travellers

**Male:** The Maldives has changed its immigration law to bar people from entering the country with Israeli passports in a show of outrage over the war in Gaza. The amendment was passed by Parliament Monday and approved by President Mohamed Muizzu Tuesday, according to a statement from the president’s office. The Maldives immigration service clarified that Israeli citizens who have a second passport would be able to enter the country.

Pak foreign min defers Dhaka visit

**Dhaka:** Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has postponed his planned Dhaka visit next week amid escalation of tensions between his country and India following the terrorist attack in Kashmir. “Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan is unable to undertake the visit to Bangladesh 27-28 April 2025,” the Pakistan High Commission said.



Kenya wants to learn from China’s remarkable journey of transformation in governance, economic development and global leadership

WILLIAM RUTO | PRESIDENT, KENYA

NEPAL CELEBRATES 19TH DEMOCRACY DAY

Nepal is celebrating the 19th Lokatantra Diwas or Democracy Day Thursday to offer tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the struggle to establish democracy after ending the monarchy



US updates travel advisory after Pahalgam terror attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York/Washington, April 24:** The US has issued an updated advisory after the Pahalgam terror attack asking Americans not to travel to Jammu and Kashmir and also within 10 kilometres of the India-Pakistan border.

The update was issued Wednesday, a day after terrorists opened fire in Kashmir’s Pahalgam killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

“Terrorist attacks and violent civil unrest are possible in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Do not travel to this state (with the exception of visits to the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh).

“Violence happens sporadically in this area and is common along the Line of Control (LOC) between India and Pakistan. It also occurs in tourist spots in the Kashmir Valley: Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam,” the US Department of State’s updated travel advisory for US citizens said.

It also asked its citizens to avoid going within 10 kilometres of the India-Pakistan border “due to the potential for armed conflict.”

Pak talks tough on Indus Treaty

Pakistan closes air space for Indian airlines, warns against water treaty violation as ties plummet

REUTERS

**Islamabad/Srinagar, April 24:** Pakistan closed its air space for Indian airlines and rejected New Delhi’s suspension of a critical water sharing treaty Thursday in retaliation for India’s response to a deadly Islamist militant attack on tourists in Indian Kashmir.

The tit-for-tat announcements took relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours, who have fought three wars, to the lowest level in years.

The latest diplomatic crisis was triggered by the killing of 26 men at a popular tourist destination in Indian Kashmir Tuesday, in the worst attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai shootings.

New Delhi said there were cross-border elements to the attack and downgraded ties with Pakistan Wednesday, suspending a 1960 treaty on sharing waters of the Indus River and closing the only land crossing between the neighbours.

Indian police published notices naming three suspects and saying two were Pakistanis, but New Delhi has not offered any

proof of the links, or shared any more details.

Pakistan Thursday said it was closing its air space to Indian-owned or operated airlines, suspending all trade including through third countries and halting special South Asian visas issued to Indian nationals.

Islamabad will also exercise the right to hold all bilateral accords with India, including the 1972 Simla Agreement, in abeyance until New Delhi desists from “fomenting terrorism inside Pakistan”, Pakistan’s Prime Minister’s office said in a statement. The Simla Agreement was signed after the third war between the two countries and lays down principles meant to govern bilateral relations, including respect for a ceasefire line in Kashmir.

There was no immediate response from New Delhi to Pakistan’s announcement.

Pakistan’s dollar-denominated government bonds dropped more than 4 cents Thursday as the tensions escalated.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been at the heart of the animosity between India and Pakistan, with both claiming it in



- Pakistan closes airspace, suspends trade with India
- India suspends Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan calls it act of war
- Modi vows to punish Kashmir attackers, diplomatic tensions rise
- Pakistan’s bonds drop over 4 cents amid escalating tensions

full and ruling it in part. It has been the cause of two of their three wars and also witnessed a bloody insurgency against Indian rule.

Islamabad also said it “vehemently rejects” India’s suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said that any attempt to stop or divert water belonging to Pakistan would be considered an “act of war and responded with full force

across the complete spectrum of national power”.

The water treaty, mediated by the World Bank, split the Indus River and its tributaries between the neighbours and regulated the sharing of water. It had so far withstood even wars between the neighbours.

Pakistan is heavily dependent on water flowing downstream from this river system from India for its hydropower and

Israeli fire kills 44 in Gaza

REUTERS

**Cairo, April 24:** An Israeli airstrike hit a police station in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip Thursday, killing at least 10 people, local health authorities said, and Israel’s military said it had struck a command centre of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad groups.

Medics said two Israeli missiles hit the police station, located near a market, which led to the wounding of dozens of people in addition to the 10 deaths. The identities of those killed were not immediately clear.

The Israeli military said in a statement apparently referring to the same incident, that it attacked a command and control centre operated by Hamas and the allied Islamic Jihad groups in Jabalia, which militants used to plan and execute attacks against Israeli forces.

It accused Palestinian militant groups of exploiting civilians and civil properties for military purposes, an allegation Hamas and other factions deny.

Local health authorities said Israeli strikes have killed at least 34 other people in separate airstrikes across the enclave, bringing Thursday’s death toll to 44.

The Gaza Health Ministry said the Durra Children’s Hospital in Gaza City had become non-operational, a day after an Israeli strike hit the upper part of the building, damaging the intensive care unit and destroying the facility’s solar power panel system.

Trump tells Putin to ‘STOP’



Russian attack kills 12 in Kyiv

REUTERS

**Kyiv, April 24:** Russia pounded Kyiv with missiles and drones overnight, killing at least 12 people in the biggest attack on the Ukrainian capital this year and drawing a rare rebuke from Donald Trump, who told Vladimir Putin: “Vladimir, STOP!”

The attack, which the US president said was “not necessary” and “very bad timing” as he pushes for peace, also wounded 90 people, smashed buildings and set off fires, Ukrainian officials said. Rescuers were still recovering bodies from the rubble over 12 hours later.

The attack comes at a critical moment in Russia’s war in Ukraine, which began with Moscow’s full-scale invasion in 2022. Both Kyiv and Moscow are trying to show Trump they

Russia launches drones, missiles on Kyiv, other regions

At least 12 dead, 90 wounded in Kyiv, officials say

Trump tells Putin: 'Vladimir, STOP'

Ukraine says attack shows Moscow is the obstacle to peace

Ukraine and Russia told to agree peace deal

are making progress towards his goal of a rapid peace deal.

“I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV. Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers a week are dying. Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!” Trump said on Truth Social, referring to the Russian president.

The White House has threatened to abandon its efforts if no progress is made soon. Trump upbraided Zelenskiy on Wednesday over a comment

in which the Ukrainian leader repeated that Kyiv would not recognise Russia’s occupation of Crimea.

Trump has used a markedly more gentle tone in his statements about Putin than with Zelenskiy, whom he at one point referred to as a “dictator”. Trump’s special envoy is expected to meet Putin Friday for more talks, a US official has said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio decided at the last minute to skip talks between US, Ukrainian and European officials in London Wednesday amid American ire over Zelenskiy’s comment about Crimea.

The talks went ahead, albeit in a downgraded format, and Zelenskiy said Thursday that the meeting with a US representative had not been easy but that it had been constructive.

He said he believed that a document with proposals that emerged from the talks was now on Trump’s table.

Trump’s trade war, annexation threats upend Canada’s election

US President Donald Trump’s trade war boosts Canada’s Liberal Party, challenges Conservative Party’s dominance in upcoming election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Toronto, April 24:** US President Donald Trump’s trade war and aggressive rhetoric toward Canada have dramatically shifted the landscape of the upcoming Canadian federal election, unexpectedly boosting the Liberal Party’s fortunes. Once poised for a major defeat, the Liberals—now led by Prime Minister Mark Carney following Justin Trudeau’s resignation—are back in contention for a fourth consecutive term.

Trump’s recent attacks on Canada’s economy and sovereignty, including a provocative suggestion that the country should become the 51st US state, have enraged Canadians and triggered a wave of nationalism. This surge in patriotic sentiment has reframed the



election as a battle for Canadian identity, overshadowing earlier concerns about inflation, immigration, and Trudeau’s waning popularity.

“Trump has defined the ballot question,” said former Quebec Premier Jean Charest. Even Quebec separatists, tradi-

tionally at odds with federalist sentiments, have united with other Canadians in rejecting Trump’s rhetoric.

Initially, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre was the clear favorite, riding high in polls and expected to lead the Conservatives back to power after

Trump’s recent attacks on Canada’s economy and sovereignty, including a provocative suggestion that the country should become the 51st US state, have enraged Canadians and triggered a wave of nationalism

This surge in patriotic sentiment has reframed the election as a battle for Canadian identity, overshadowing earlier concerns about inflation, immigration, and Trudeau’s waning popularity

a decade in opposition. A January Nanos poll gave the Conservatives a 27-point lead over the Liberals. But by April 23, the Liberals had overtaken the Conservatives by four points, according to the latest Nanos survey, a stunning turnaround in just a few months.

Carney’s leadership and economic credibility—bolstered by his experience leading both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England—have reassured voters rattled by cross-border uncertainty. He has framed the

election as a question of who can best defend Canada against a volatile US president. “The era of trusted US global leadership is over,” Carney said, warning Canadians of the need for strong, steady leadership.

Meanwhile, Poilievre’s populist tone and Trump-like style, including the adoption of the slogan “Canada First,” may now be backfiring. His campaign has had to shift from focusing on domestic issues to responding to international threats, a pivot that hasn’t

played to his strengths.

Ian Brodie, former chief of staff to Conservative PM Stephen Harper, acknowledged the challenge. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime alignment of forces that works against everything Pierre’s been doing,” he said.

Regardless of the outcome, the next prime minister will face daunting challenges, particularly in navigating a tense trade relationship with the US and an electorate now deeply concerned about national sovereignty.

Historian Robert Bothwell called the situation “inconceivable,” adding that Carney may be fortunate to have surged at the right moment—but he’ll need more than luck to govern effectively in the face of what he called “the Trump problem.”



# Business

## Quote of the day

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims (Pahalgam attack). Our Reliance Foundation Sir HN Hospital in Mumbai will offer free treatment to all the injured

MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN AND MD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

You trade what you understand, and you understand what you trade — if you don't do that, you have a problem

SUNDARAMAN RAMAMURTHY | MD AND CEO, BSE

Corrosion poses a serious threat to our infrastructure and the nation's economy at large. At Hindustan Zinc, we believe awareness is the first step toward real change

ARUN MISRA | CEO, HINDUSTAN ZINC

## Q4 RESULTS

### HUL net profit down

**New Delhi:** FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) Thursday reported a decline of 3.35 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹2,475 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025. The company had logged a net profit of ₹2,561 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago. However, revenue from product sales was at ₹15,416 crore in the March quarter, led by volume growth, up 2.68 per cent from ₹15,013 crore in the year-ago period.

### Nestle net profit dips

**New Delhi:** FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Thursday reported a decline of 6.5 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹873.46 crore for the March quarter of 2024-25. The company had posted a net profit of ₹934.17 crore in the January-March period a year ago. Nestle India's revenue from the sale of products was up 3.67 per cent to ₹5,447.64 crore in the March quarter.

### AESL net profit zooms

**New Delhi:** Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) Thursday reported an 87 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹713.66 crore in the March quarter, on higher income. It had posted a net profit of ₹381.29 crore in the January-March period of preceding 2023-24 financial year. During the quarter, the company's total income surged to ₹6,596.39 crore from ₹4,855.18 crore in the same period a year ago.

### ACC net drops 20.4%

**New Delhi:** Cement maker ACC Ltd Wednesday reported a 20.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹751.04 crore during the March quarter. The company had posted a profit of ₹943.39 crore in the year-ago period, which is now a part of Adani Cement. Its revenue from operations was at ₹5,207.3 crore, up 12.7 per cent in the March quarter. It was at ₹5,316.75 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

### Axis Bank growth flat

**New Delhi:** Private sector lender Axis Bank reported a marginal decline in net profit to ₹7,117.5 crore in the March quarter. The bank had reported a net profit of ₹7,129.67 crore in the March quarter of the preceding fiscal year. Total income rose to ₹38,022 crore in the March quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, from ₹35,990 crore in the year-ago period, Axis Bank said.

# India, Pak trade miniscule: FIEO

In retaliation to India's Pahalgam attack response, Pakistan announces suspension of 'all trade' with India, including routes through third countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** With Pakistan suspending all trade ties with India, including that routes through third countries, the two-way commerce will now come to a complete halt, apex exporters' body FIEO said Thursday.

Following the terror attack in Pahalgam Tuesday, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists, India took a series of measures including immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, used for movement of certain kinds of goods.

Besides, India has announced expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, and suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960.

In retaliation, Pakistan announced suspension of 'all trade' with India, including routes through third countries.

Commenting on the decision of the neighbouring country, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President SC Ralhan said India's bilateral trade with Pakistan is miniscule and is just 0.06 per cent of India's total trade.

"We have minuscule trade with Pakistan, which is constantly declining. During April-January 2024-25, the same was not even \$500 million as against the overall trade of over \$800 billion in the same period. The trade will now come to a complete standstill affecting supply of some key products to Pakistan, hitting their economy further," Ralhan told PTI.

## GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

REUTERS

**Mumbai, April 24:** The decision by India's central bank to cut rates and flood the banking system with cash will do little to immediately boost demand in Asia's third-largest economy as global uncertainties restrain corporate investment, bankers and sources said.

The infusion of liquidity, along with two consecutive rate cuts, will at best prevent further deceleration in growth, which probably fell to a four-year low of 6.5% in the financial year ended March 31, 2025, they said. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) rate actions and liquidity measures are a "welcome relief" for banks but the global macroeconomic outlook has become more uncertain due to the recent trade tariff-related measures and the volatility surrounding them, said Sashidhar Jagdishan, CEO of HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender by assets.

"Corporates have adopted a

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, April 24:** India Inc's revenue growth will remain flat at about 5-6 per cent in the March quarter, but profitability will widen, a domestic rating agency said Thursday.

An arm of Crisil Ratings said the operating profit margins are seen at 8 per cent, a widening of up to 0.60 per cent, when compared with the year-ago performance.

The agency analysed over 400 companies accounting for over 50 per cent of NSE's market capitalisation to arrive at its estimates. Some companies, especially in the information technology sector have already announced their earnings.

Improved showing by the consumer-driven sectors excluding staples will be a key contributor for the topline growth, while the bottom line



The trade will now come to a complete standstill affecting supply of some key products to Pakistan, hitting their economy further

SC RALHAN | PRESIDENT, FIEO

TRADE DATA		
YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS
2024-25	\$447.65mn	\$0.42mn
2023-24	\$1.18bn	\$2.88mn
2022-23	\$627.1mn	\$20.11mn
2021-22	\$513.82mn	\$2.54mn

India's exports to Pakistan in April-January 2024-25 stood at \$447.65 million, while imports were meagre \$0.42 million. The exports and imports in 2023-24 were \$1.18 billion and \$2.88 million, respectively.

In 2022-23 and 2021-22, India exported goods worth \$627.1 million and \$513.82 million, and imported products worth \$20.11 million and \$2.54 million, respectively.

In April-January 2024-25, exports of organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products accounted for about 60 per cent of the country's total outbound shipments to Pakistan. It was \$129.55 million and \$110.06 million, respectively.

The other items include sugar and sugar confectionary (\$85.16 million), certain vegetables (\$3.77 million), coffee, tea and spices (\$1.66 million), cereals (\$1.39 million), petroleum products (\$11.63 million), fertiliser (\$6 million), plastics (\$4.16 million), rubber (\$1.88 million), and auto components (\$28.57 million). The main imports include

fruits and nuts (\$0.08 million), certain oil seeds and medicinal plants (\$0.26 million), organic chemicals, and project goods. Usually, the consignments from India move via Dubai port to Pakistan.

The India-Pakistan trade relations soured after the Pulwama terror attack in 2019. Following that, India raised the import duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from the neighbouring country, including fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore.

In 2017-18, Pakistan's exports to India was \$488.5 million. India also withdrew MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan. That time the two main items imported from Pakistan were fruits and cement. Slapping an import duty of 200 per cent effectively means almost banning the imports.

The country invoked a security exception clause of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to withdraw the MFN status. Both the countries are member of this organization.

wait-and-watch stance, and we are waiting for more clarity," he added.

On April 9, the RBI cut rates by 25 basis points to 6%, a second cut in as many meetings, and slashed India's growth forecast for 2025-26 by 20 basis points to 6.5%. Since January, it has also bought bonds and conducted long-term FX swaps, infusing over \$70 billion into the banking system.

However, banks are now depositing an average ₹2 trillion (\$23.41 billion) at the RBI's overnight cash parking facility versus ₹750 billion in January, indicating that most of the surplus cash is not being lent out.

Banks' lending rates have started declining while corporate bond yields too have fallen 45-60 bps across tenors.

Neither the higher liquidity nor rate cuts are enough to "move the needle" for kick-starting corporate loan growth, said Alka Anbarasu, associate managing director, financial institutions at Moody's Ratings.

# India Inc revenue growth to remain flat, profitability to widen

will benefit from a mixed set of aspects which are unique to a sector, it said.

Crisil Intelligence's director Pushan Sharma said consumer discretionary products, services and staple services segment is expected to see 8-9 per cent on-year increase in revenue. "This would be led by an expected 15 per cent surge in telecom services revenue resulting from significant tariff hikes implemented in the second quarter and the introduction of premium 5G plans by telecom operators. The retail segment likely saw a robust 17 per cent growth, led by demand in the value fashion, and food and grocery segments, as well as an expansion of store networks," Sharma said.

The automobile sector's revenue likely grew 6 per cent as retail momentum for passenger vehicles picked up and realisa-



tions rose owing to a change in the product mix and increasing share of exports, Sharma said. The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment is expected to see 4-6 per cent revenue growth led by price hikes amid subdued volume growth, it said, adding that rural demand has been resilient

With the expanded membership, we are mainstreaming this work across our operations and tying it directly to the jobs agenda that is driving our strategy

AJAY BANGA | PRESIDENT, WORLD BANK

## TRUMP TARIFFS: GLOBAL TRADE TO SLIDE

The World Trade Organisation says the volume of trade in goods worldwide is likely to decrease by 0.2% this year due to US President Donald Trump's shifting tariff policies and a standoff with China, but it would take a more severe hit if Trump carries through on his toughest "reciprocal" tariffs



## PROFIT-TAKING

# Stock markets snap 7-day rally



In the past seven trading days, the BSE benchmark gauge zoomed 6,269.34 points or 8.48% and the Nifty jumped 1,929.8 points or 8.61%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, April 24:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty reversed their seven-day uptrend and settled lower Thursday amid profit-taking and disappointing fourth quarter earnings of Hindustan Unilever.

Selling in blue-chips ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and a largely muted trend in Asian and European equities also dragged the markets down.

The 30-share BSE benchmark declined 315.06 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 79,801.43. During the day, it dropped 391.94 points or 0.48 per cent to 79,724.55. The NSE Nifty went down by 82.25 points or 0.34 per cent to 24,246.70. From the Sensex firms, FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) dropped 4 per cent after the firm reported a decline of 3.35

Fiscal side is still overall neutral, so RBI's accommodative approach will help reduce the downside to growth. The fiscal side push is also essential if one has to help boost growth, right now it is only the RBI which is doing the heavy lifting

GAURA SEN GUPTA | ECONOMIST, IDFC FIRST BANK

stimulus is one of the many factors that can help revive growth and that too works with a lag of 6-9 months," the source said. Inflation eased below the RBI's 4% target in February and March and is seen holding around target in 2025-26.

However, most analysts and sources believe that the government will also need to implement fiscal measures to support the economy if the outlook remains uncertain.

The sources declined to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

In the agriculture sector, including fertilisers, revenues are likely to grow 17-19 per cent with consumption improving, following a stable summer crop acreage and higher disposable incomes stemming from better yields and remuneration for kharif paddy.

In construction-linked sectors, revenue growth is seen limited to 1-2 per cent as cheaper steel imports throughout the year resulted in lower prices. However, steel prices have improved sequentially after the announcement of safeguard duty, it noted.

On the profitability front, its associate director Elizabeth Master said, "the top 10 sectors, which collectively account for over 70 per cent of revenue, showed a mixed trend in EBITDA margins."

Five sectors including export-driven ones such as phar-

ma ceuticals, investment-linked ones such as power, and consumer discretionary such as telecom services, likely saw margin expansion, Master said.

Five other sectors -- automobile, IT services, FMCG, cement, and steel -- saw margins decline in the March quarter.

The automobile sector's EBITDA margin fell by 1 percentage point following a 25 per cent increase in aluminium prices driven by inventory decline and supply concerns in various global regions.

The margin in IT services is estimated to have fallen by up to 0.40 per cent on-year owing to higher marketing and travel spends.

The FMCG sector margin likely slipped 0.50-1 per cent on increased cost of essential inputs such as palm oil, tea and dried coconut kernels, the agency said.

## DISCLOSURE LAPSES

# Sebi slaps ₹10L on Future Retail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 24:** Capital markets regulator Sebi Thursday slapped a fine of ₹10 lakh on Future Retail Ltd for making inadequate and delayed disclosure regarding the interim order passed by Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

The order came after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) examined the concerns raised by Amazon.com regarding the Scheme of Arrangement between Future Group and Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani Group.

In its order, Sebi said Future Retail had disclosed the initiation of arbitration proceedings by Amazon before SIAC November 1, 2020, only after intervention of stock exchanges. The information should have been disclosed within 24 hours of the event -- on or before October 6, 2020 -- as required under the LODR rules.

pharmaceuticals, investment-linked ones such as power, and consumer discretionary such as telecom services, likely saw margin expansion, Master said.

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# ‘No factionalism, nepotism’

PAPER-FREE RECORD-KEEPING: SPORTS MINISTER LAUNCHES DIGILOCKER FOR ATHLETES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 24: National Sports Federations (NSFs) will not be allowed to deviate from an "athlete-centric" approach, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Thursday as he asked them to end factionalism and nepotism to ensure that India's 2036 Olympic bid is successful.

At an elaborate ceremony to launch the first set of certificates in Digilocker, a cloud-based platform for storage, easy-sharing and verification of documents and certificates, the minister did not mince words in addressing the issues that plague NSFs.

"I don't like to interfere in NSFs but it doesn't mean that they are allowed to deviate from the athlete-centric approach of the government," Mandaviya said in his address to representatives from 40 NSFs, who showed up for the digital initiative's formal launch. "I have spoken to various factions in different federations and I have told them to work on it and ensure that athletes don't suffer," he added.

Mandaviya's remarks were, in all likelihood, aimed at the rampant infighting in NSFs of sports like boxing, football, wrestling and equestrian which have forced the hand of international bodies and even the courts of the land.

Currently an ad-hoc committee is in place in boxing and matters related to football and equestrian's current administration are in court. The



**You have to serve the athletes and they suffer when there is factionalism. I will not allow that. NSFs have to be responsible**

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | SPORTS MINISTER

issues plaguing wrestling were only recently resolved after the sports ministry lifted the suspension imposed on it for violation of the sports code.

The rebuke did cause its fair share of discomfort among those present with some of them expressing their displeasure in hushed tones. Many of them felt that they are doing their best to adhere to the demands of good governance.

Mandaviya reiterated that NSFs will get all possible infrastructural and financial support from the ministry, including office space in the national capital.

"You will get all support from the ministry. As I had said (earlier), even office space will be provided ministry. 18 rooms are ready at the JLN (Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium). You just have to apply, please do it," said Mandaviya.

"Lekin bhai-bhatija nahi chalega (But nepotism will not

be allowed). Sports administration is not done like that. The other day I met an official who had listed his peon as his secretary. Things don't work like that," he added.

Present united front internationally

The minister also stressed on the need to present a united front for international bodies

## 2036 OLYMPIC BID

given that India has already bid for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and submitted letter of intent to host the 2036 Olympics.

"At international platforms, we should be united. We have to ensure that," Mandaviya said. "We have to give our best to the efforts to bring 2036 Olympics to India. And we have to get the 2030 CWG," he added.

Most recently, the Wrestling Federation of India had repeatedly complained about the issues hampering its functioning to the international parent body.

## COE for every sport with corporate funding

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Thursday said he is planning corporate funding-backed Centres of Excellence (COE) for every discipline in the next decade to ensure a drastic improvement in India's Olympic performance and bolster the country's bid to host the 2036 Games. Mandaviya made the announcement at the launch of government's flagship Digilocker initiative to ease the process of record-keeping for athletes through digitisation of certificates. "In every sport, my aim is to build an Olympic Centre or a Centre of Excellence in the next 10 years. There is no lack of talent in the country," Mandaviya said. Currently, India has 23 National Centres of Excellence operated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Of these, only three are single-sport facilities dedicated to boxing (Rohtak), swimming (Delhi) and shooting (Delhi). The two biggest NCOEs catering to multiple sports are in Patiala and Bangalore. "I have tried to understand the models of Japan, Australia, the USA and even Europe. I have tried to learn from how countries smaller than us are able to achieve more than us in the Olympics. One corporate will be involved in funding one Olympic Centre and it would provide, the best coaching and plan the best exposure for top-tier athletes," he promised.

# RCB's home jinx ends

Hazlewood-inspired RCB triumph in see-saw battle, RR out of play-offs reckoning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, April 24: The unrelenting Josh Hazlewood fashioned Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first win at home this IPL season with an extraordinary penultimate over as his team prevailed over Rajasthan Royals by 11 runs in a see-saw affair here Thursday.

The defeat meant RR are out of the reckoning for a place in play-offs berth in the ongoing edition of the league. They have lost seven matches out of nine.

Coming on to bowl with RR needing 18 off 12 deliveries, Hazlewood (4/33) picked up two wickets in as many balls while giving away just one run, as the visitors were stopped at 194 for nine in a chase of 206 at a packed Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Hazlewood's heroics meant Yashasvi Jaiswal's (49 off 19 balls) blazing knock at the top of the order and Dhruv Jurel's (47 off 34 balls) valiant effort went in vain as RR suffered their fifth defeat on the trot.

This was after RCB star batter Virat Kohli (70 off 42 balls) and Devdutt Padikkal (50 off 27 balls) controlled the middle overs with a partnership of 95 for the second wicket.

Set a target of 206, RR's start was brutal with Jaiswal and 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi amassing 52 runs in 27 balls before the latter was bowled by a Bhuvneshwar Kumar knuckle ball after the teenager went for one too many, having hit two sixes in his 16-run knock. Suryavanshi was RR's impact



player.

Jaiswal, who began the RR innings with a six on the leg side off Bhuvneshwar, smashed Yash Dayal for 18 runs as the visitors started the chase in earnest.

The swashbuckling Jaiswal then went after Hazlewood and clobbered the experienced Australian pacer for three successive fours in an eventful over that also comprised three dot balls.

Batting first after losing their fourth toss at home this season, RCB were off to a decent start after an eventful first over by Jofra Archer, who conceded 11 runs, including bowling a 149.8km bumper that bounced over the keeper for a four.

There was drama in the second over too, as a diving Riyan Parag, leading RR in the absence of injured Sanju Samson, dropped Phil Salt (26 off 23 balls) at mid-off after getting both hands to the ball off the bowling of Fazalhaq Farooqi.

Kohli got to his half-century in 32 balls, his fifth of the season and first at home, after

collecting back-to-back fours off Sandeep. At the other end, Padikkal was in his element as he kept scoring boundaries at will and was also helped by a drop catch by Deshpande in the deep off Hasaranga.

### BRIEF SCORES:

**Royal Challengers Bengaluru:** 205 for 5 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 70, Devdutt Padikkal 50; Sandeep Sharma 2/45) best **Rajasthan Royals:** 194 for 9 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 49, Dhruv Jurel 47; Josh Hazlewood (4/33), Krunal Pandya 2/31)

## IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	8	6	2	1.104	12
DC	8	6	2	0.657	12
RCB	9	6	3	0.482	12
MI	9	5	4	0.673	10
PBKS	8	5	3	0.177	10
LSG	9	5	4	-0.054	10
KKR	8	3	5	0.212	6
RR	9	2	7	-0.625	4
SRH	8	2	6	-1.361	4
CSK	8	2	6	-1.392	4

## NorthEast United thrash Mohammedan Sporting

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 24: Striker Alaeddine Ajaraie scored a triple as NorthEast United FC thoroughly dominated and dismantled Mohammedan Sporting 6-0 in the Kalinga Super Cup Thursday, sealing their place in the quarterfinals of the event. With Alaeddine Ajaraie among four different goal scorers on the scoresheet, NorthEast also issued a statement of intent for the other teams remaining in the draw.

Jithin MS (3') began the scoring early on before Ajaraie (18', 57', 90+2') got into the act. Nestor Albiach Roger (42') and Guillermo Fernandez Hierro (66') scored the other two goals.

NorthEast United have had a penchant for scoring early in games this season and continued that trend, with a goal in the third minute. Jithin M.S. capitalised on some lacklustre Mohammedan defending to smartly volley Nestor Albiach's cross from inside the six-yard box and give his side the lead.

Mohammedan slowly grew into the game and in the 12th minute, Lalremsanga had the best chance for his side, after being played through on the right side of the box by a wavy Robi Hansda run. The angle was acute and yet the winger took a shot which was parried to safety by Gurmeet in North-East's goal.

## SHORT TAKES

### Boxers' stellar show

**Amman:** Five Indian boxers, including three boys and two girls, advanced to the semifinals of the Asian U-15 Championships here. From the men's U-15 championship, Nelson Khwairakpam (55 kg) secured a Referee Stops Contest (RSC) win in the first round over Chinese Taipei's Wang Sheng-Yang on the fifth day of competitions Wednesday. Abhijeet (61 kg) and Lakshay Phogat (64 kg) cruised to 5-0 victories against opponents from Kyrgyzstan and Jordan, respectively in their quarterfinal bouts. Among the girls, Princi (52 kg) delivered a strong 5-0 result over Ukraine's Yeva Kubanova. Samruddhi Satish Shinde (55 kg) wrapped up her bout with an RSC in the third round against Ukraine's Kseniia Savina. Six Indians had already made their way into the semifinals Tuesday.

### Alcaraz withdraws

**Madrid:** Home-crowd favorite Carlos Alcaraz withdrew from the Madrid Open because of leg injuries. The third-ranked Spaniard said he has not fully recovered from the upper leg ailment that bothered him during the Barcelona Open final last Sunday. He also said he has a left leg injury. His first appearance at the Caja Magica in the Spanish capital was scheduled for Saturday. Alcaraz is a two-time champion in Madrid, having won in 2022 and 2023. He was the second seed this week and in the same half of the draw as Novak Djokovic.

### AC Milan enter finals

**Milan:** AC Milan hasn't achieved much this season — except when playing city rival Inter Milan. Milan ruined Inter's bid for a treble and advanced to the Italian Cup final with a 3-0 derby win Wednesday courtesy of two goals from Luka Jovic. It was Milan's third win over Inter this season, having also beaten the Nerazzurri in the Italian Super Cup final in January. "It was a very important game for us. As you know we are not that good in Serie A. We had to show the quality today. We had to show the character," Jovic said. "And we showed it and we are going to Rome."

### Real beat Getafe

**Madrid:** Arda Guler struck the only goal as Real Madrid won 1-0 at Getafe Wednesday to claw back to within four points of La Liga leaders Barcelona. The young Turkey international fired in from outside the area midway through the first half as Carlo Ancelotti's side stayed in title contention after Barcelona won by the same scoreline at Mallorca. Arch-rivals Madrid and Barcelona will meet in the Copa del Rey final in Seville Saturday, with Kylian Mbappe poised to return from injury for the weekend Clasico — one of two remaining this season.

## BLAZING TO GLORY

# Odisha's Animesh smashes 200m NR

With his 20.40 seconds effort, the sprinter becomes the current Asian leader and joint 35th best in the world in the season so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, April 24:** Odisha sprinter Animesh Kujur ran a blazing 200m race as he smashed the 200m national record, clocking 20.40 seconds to win the gold medal on the final day of the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition here Thursday.

The 21-year-old Kujur, who had earlier won a silver in men's 100m, ran a brilliant race to better Amlan Borgohain's earlier national record of 20.52 seconds set in 2022. Borgohain, representing Reliance, finished second with 20.80 seconds.

With his 20.40 seconds effort, Kujur became the current Asian leader and joint 35th best in the world in the season so far.

Kujur, however, missed the World Championships qualifying time of 20.16 seconds which is a very tough ask for an Indian 200m runner.

He, however, bettered the Asian Championships qualifying time of 20.53 seconds set by the Athletics Federation of



India (AFI).

In men's triple jump, Praveen Chithravel equalled his own national record of 17.37m and qualified for the World Championships in Tokyo later this year.

The 23-year-old Chithravel, representing JSW, cleared the national record-equalling distance in his third attempt to take the gold on the final day of competitions. He had first set the national record in Havana, Cuba, in May 2023.

His effort breached the World Championships qualifying distance of 17.22m. The World Championships will be held in Tokyo from September.

## PAHALGAM AFTERMATH

# PSL in Jeopardy: Pak govt decides to send back Indian nationals in broadcast crew

**KARACHI:** The broadcast of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) could be in jeopardy in coming days with all the experienced Indian crew members in PCB roster set to be replaced after escalating cross-border tensions in the aftermath of Pahalgam terrorist attack. Pakistani terrorists are believed to be behind the killing of 26 Indian nationals, who were visiting Kashmir's Pahalgam area. A concerned PCB source said: "Since more than two dozen of the production and broadcast crew of the PSL, included Indian nationals. Steps are being taken to replace them. The broadcast and production crew includes engineers, production managers, cameramen, player-tracking experts (all Indian nationals), who ensure a smooth coverage of the PSL." The National Security Council after a meeting in Islamabad, Thursday, announced that all Indian nationals in Pakistan should leave the country in the next 48 hours.



## Pakistan's Nadeem declines invitation to Neeraj Chopra Classic javelin meet

**MUMBAI:** Pakistan's reigning Olympic javelin throw champion Arshad Nadeem has declined an invitation to participate in the upcoming Neeraj Chopra Classic javelin throw meet in Bangalore, according to reports in Pakistan media. Arshad Nadeem has cited a clash with his existing schedule as the reason for deciding not to participate in the Neeraj Chopra Classic, the one-day event that will be organised at the Sri Kanteerva Stadium in Bangalore May 24. "I have declined the invitation as my schedule was finalised a year earlier, and I am going to attend an Asian meet in South Korea from May 27," Arshad was quoted as saying by Telecom Asia Sport. Arshad is currently on vacation in his hometown, Mian Channu. Though earlier reports claimed that Arshad Nadeem has shown an inclination to accept the invitation, once he officially receives it, the Paris Olympic Games gold medalist made a U-turn and declined the invitation because of the escalating political tensions between the two countries following the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.



# Leicester City great Vardy to leave club

The 38-year-old has firmly cemented his place in Leicester City's history over an incredible 13-year spell with the club

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Leicester, April 24:** Striker Jamie Vardy will leave Leicester City at the end of the 2024-25 season after 13 seasons with The Foxes, which has seen him become the club's greatest-ever player.

The 38-year-old has firmly cemented his place in Leicester City's history over an incredible 13-year spell with the club. He netted 198 goals in 495 appearances and was instrumental in their stunning Premier League title win in 2016.

The former England striker also lifted the FA Cup, Community Shield, and two Championship titles with the Foxes. "I've been here so long that I truly never thought it would end, so this has not only been really difficult for me to write but also a really difficult decision to make," Vardy said in a video published on his social media.

"Leicester City has been my



second home and my extended family, and my life for 13 years. The club, the city, and the people mean so much to me and my family. It's a place that has shaped the lives of our kids, who have been so lucky to call Leicester home for so long. But for me, the time has come to say goodbye," the striker added.

Vardy's final season with Leicester has been a disappoint-

ing one, as the club's relegation has already been confirmed. Under Ruud van Nistelrooy, the team sits 19th in the table with only 18 points.

Vardy is set to play his last match for the Foxes May 18 against Ipswich Town. Despite the downturn, he has made it clear that he's not ready to hang up his boots just yet.

"This isn't retirement. I want to keep playing and doing what

**My only regret, and I'm devastated about this, is that I'm not saying farewell to you (the fans) on the back of a much better season. This isn't the way I wanted my career here to finish**

JAMIE VARDY

I enjoy most: Scoring goals. Hopefully, there are a few more for Leicester between now and the end of the season and many more in the future. I might be 38, but I still have the desire and ambition to achieve so much more."

This season, Vardy has managed only seven goals for Leicester, a far cry from his standout 2015-16 campaign. That year, he formed a brilliant partnership with Riyad Mahrez as the team defied all odds, starting the season as outsiders, to claim a stunning Premier League title.

# Vedanta set to train 80 more budding archers in Kalahandi

## OLYMPIAN RAHUL BANERJEE TO MENTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Lanjigarh, April 24:** Going ahead with its socio-economic commitments to the upliftment of grassroots level community residing in and around its operational areas, India's largest aluminium producer Vedanta has partnered with veteran Olympian Rahul Banerjee in a bid to impart training to over 80 more tribal talents in the sporting art of archery so that they could excel and carve a niche both at the national and international levels.

It is pertinent to note that, Banerjee has not only represented India in more than 50 international events in the field of archery by bagging a gold medal, but has also been the national champion eight times.

In his reactions, he said, "Kalahandi is replete with promising talents in archery. If those talented local tribal youths are



moulded and imparted proper training in the art of archery, they'll definitely work wonders and make a mark at the international platforms."

In his key note address on the special occasion, Vedanta Aluminium Chief Operating Officer (CEO) Rajiv Kumar said, "Sports and games are believed to be playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic transformation of a community. Thus, the precious partnership with a tall talent like Rahul Banerjee reflects our sincere commitments towards and community development and responsibilities."