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**BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | APRIL 25, 2025** 

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# every village by 2026

Majhi distributes new ration cards, lays foundation stone for stadiums in all 314 blocks; over 2L get 'Subhadra' money



CM Mohan Charan Majhi hands over new ration card to a beneficiary during an event organised to mark state-level celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day at Talabania in Puri, Thursday. Deputy CMs KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, FS&CW Minister Krushna Chandra Patra and PR&DW Minister Rabi Narayan Naik are seen

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 24: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said his government is committed to providing drinking water to every village of the state by 2026.

While addressing the state-level celebration of Day at Talabania in Puri, Majhi said many people in rural areas are still deprived of basic facilities like drinking water, electricity supply, pucca house and road.

"After taking oath June 12, 2024, our government has launched 'Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha' programme for overall development of villages,"

Raj and Drinking Water department has allocated ₹10,000 crore for the special programme, he added.

"The government has set a target to provide drinking water and roads to every village by 2026," he said, adding that the government is National Panchayati Raj also committed to provide pucca houses to all.

Majhi said many eligible persons were deprived of ration under the government's food security schemes as they were not included in the public distribution system. "After our government bitious scheme. came to power, we opened the portal for receiving applications from such poor Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

he said. The Panchayati people. We've selected 6 lakh eligible people," Majhi said while launching the distribution of new ration cards on the occasion.

The CM Majhi laid the foundation stone for construction of stadiums in all 314 blocks of Odisha at a cost of ₹4,124 crore. He also distributed through DBT a total financial aid of ₹200 crore to over 2 lakh beneficiaries under Subhadra Yojana. These women received ₹10,000 each (two instalments). So far, over 2.09 crore women have been covered under the am-

Majhi also distributed subsidies to beneficiaries of PM

# CM: Drinking water to PM vows punishment

In his first speech after the April 22 attack in J&K's Pahal gam in which 26 people were killed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday promised that India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their handlers beyond their imagination for the ghastly act. "We'll pursue them to the ends of the earth. India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished," Modi said in English during a public meeting in Bihar. On the other hand, in response to India's Wednesday's action against Pakistan, Islamahad hit back with an almost identical set of reciprocal measures. Pakistan closed its air space for Indian airlines, suspended Simla Agreement and rejected New Delhi's suspension of a water sharing treaty, saying any move to divert water meant for it under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an act of war. Meanwhile, the Centre briefed leaders of political parties on the terror attack and heard their views at an all-party meeting. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri informed envoys of countries, including the US, UK, France, China and Russia, about the massacre and its link to cross-border terrorism.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madhubani (Bihar)/New Delhi, April 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday declared that India will 'identify, track, and punish' every terrorist and their 'backers' involved in the Pahalgam carnage and pursue the killers to the 'ends of the earth', as it stepped up the diplomatic offensive against Pakistan.

Delivering a stern message in his first public speech after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, Modi vowed that terrorism will not go 'unpunished' and that every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done, adding India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism.

The PM told a public gath-

Islamabad: Pakistan Thursday put Simla Agreement and ering in Madhubani in poll-

this attack would get a punishment 'bigger than they could have ever imagined'.

glish and said, "Friends, to-**PAHALGAM MASSACRE** 

Modi spoke briefly in En-

bound Bihar that time has

come to destroy the 'remain-

ing ground' of the terrorists

and that the Pahalgam killers

and those who 'conspired' for

day from the soil of Bihar, I say to the whole world India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers. We'll pursue them to the ends of the earth. India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism." "Every effort will be made to ensure that justice the terror strike. is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone without naming the country, remaining ground of the terwho believes in humanity is Modi said in Hindi, "I want rorists. The willpower of 140 with us. I thank the people of to say in very clear words, crore Indians will now break

PAKISTAN HITS BACK other bilateral accords with India on hold, suspended all trade closed its airspace for Indian airlines and said any attempt to divert the water meant for it under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an act of war. Islamabad also closed the Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SVES and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave -mirroring steps taken the previous evening by India over the terror attack in J&K. The Pakistani announcements followed a meeting here of its National Security Committee chaired by PM Shehbaz Sharif in response to the Indian decision Wednesday to suspend the Indus Water Treaty and downgrade diplomatic ties with

based Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility for the attack. A statement issued after the Islamabad meeting, which included key minister and the three services chiefs, said Pakistan's armed forces 'remain fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any misadventure'.

Islamabad. The Resistance Front, a proxy of the banned Pakistan-

various countries and their those terrorists who have leaders who have stood with carried out this attack and us in these times," Modi said amid a nationwide outrage and global condemnation of

those who conspired for this attack will get a punishment bigger than they could have ever imagined. Now, the In a message to Pakistan time has come to destroy the

ror." As the last rites of several of the 26 gunned down by terrorists in Pahalgam were held Thursday - from Odisha to Gujarat and from Rajasthan to Karnataka, the attack has sparked a demand for decisive action from the Modi government.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced suspending visa services to Pakistani nationals with immediate effect in line with its retaliatory measures against Islamabad in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. It said all existing valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals stand revoked with effect from April 27. Medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals will be valid only till April 29, it said

India Wednesday down graded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures including expulsion of Pakistani mil itary attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam attack.

The government also briefed leaders of various political parties on the Pahalgam massacre and heard their views at an all-party meeting in Delhi. After the meet, Union minis ter Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the government assured leaders of action against terror He also said that all parties are with the government against **MORE INSIDE** 

#### Missing minor found dead; dad detained

Jajpur: A day after a six-year-old boy went missing, his body was recovered from an abandoned stone quarry on the outskirts of the village in Jajpur district Thursday, The deceased was identified as Shibu Rout, son of Bauribandhu Rout of Chargotha village under Jenapur police limits, they said, Jenapur IIC Nirupama Jena said police have detained the boy's father.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No agreements, no deals, no talk of tough issues - but we've made significant progress

much personal data – like

your home address, phone

number, and email - is ex-

posed online. Despite previ-

ous removal requests, info

like your birthdate and fam-

ily details may still surface

Easily accessible personal

on people-search websites.

info can open the door to un-

wanted spam, identity theft,

or scams. Data brokers gather

these records, plus your social

media profiles, and compile

dossiers on millions of people.

There are hundreds of

people-search websites, and

while many offer opt-out op-

tions, your data can reappear

when they update their data-

bases. That's why you might

consider using a service that

helps delete your data from

## Patient dies in Bhadrak hosp elevator mishap

PNN & GENCIES

Bhadrak, April 24: A 45-year-old female patient died after the elevator in attendants outside were waitwhich she was being shifted to a ward at Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) suddenly went up, sandwiching her between two floors Thursday, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Minati Parida, wife of Abhaya Parida of Narasinghpur village under Randia panchayat and Bhadrak rural police limits.

Family members said Minati was suffering from cold functioning, the CDMO said. and fever for which they took her to the DHH in a 108 ambulance. Hospital sources said she had respiratory problems. After receiving preliminary treatment, she was being shifted to the female ward of Medicine department tration of a saline when the elevator mishap occurred.

down. Here's how it all works.

build on individuals are be-

coming increasingly detailed.

Now, they include not only in-

fo about your friends, family

members and children, but al-

so specifics like your location

and vehicle details. "In 2023,

we would find about 300 pieces

of someone's personally iden-

tifiable info out there. Now,

there are over 600 pieces,"

Data profiles that brokers

**Check what's out there** 

oogle's updated 'Re-services can't remove every-

sults about you' tool thing, they can make it much

reveals just how harder for people to track you

"Minati was being shifted to the ward. While half of the stretcher carrying her was inside the elevator, her ing to get in. However, the elevator suddenly went up, jamming the woman between two floors. She is believed to ity under Section 35(4) of the have died of suffocation. The exact reason for her death 1972, the state government decan be said only after arrival of the post-mortem report," Bhadrak CDMO Sudhansu Sekhar Bal told reporters.

An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the exact cause of the elevator mal-

Meanwhile, tension ran high as family members cried foul over her death as they claimed that she died due to negligence of the hospital authorities. The autopsy was conducted only after the district administration on the first floor for adminis- handed over financial assistance of ₹8 lakh to the hereaved family

Delete yourself from internet as data brokers are on prowl

### **NAT'L PARK TAG** FOR SIMILIPAL

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, **24:** The state government Thursday declared Similipal in Mayurbhanj district as a national park.

The Forest, Environment and Climate Change department, in a notification, said that by exercising its author-Wildlife (Protection) Act, clared Similipal as a national park. The CMO, in a post on X, said, "A landmark step towards Viksit Bharat, Viksit Odisha! Similipal is now officially a National Parkthe 107th in India and the largest in #Odisha at 845.70 sq.km. This long-awaited declaration strengthens our ecological legacy, uplifts tribal aspirations, and reaffirms Odisha's commitment to sus-

tainable development." Similipal is the second national park in Odisha after Bhitarkanika National Park, which is spread over 145 sqkm in Kendrapara. P3

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removal service, told WSJ. To check what's out there, start by googling your name and location. You might come across a profile, or two,

on people-search websites. For a thorough look, use the internet. Though these Google's free tool - go to



you'. Here, you can see where

your personal info appears in

search results and request

that Google remove it. Rob Shavell, chief executive However, it only helps of DeleteMe, a personal-info with search results. To fully protect yourself, you'll need to go directly to data brokers. Services like DeleteMe and Optery offer free exposure reports, and for a

fee, they'll handle opt-out requests on your behalf. Opt out or automate

yourself, you might want to set aside a weekend. People-search sites have different removal processes. Some sites may ask for more personal info to remove your profile. Only provide details they already have about you. If they ask for a photo ID, be sure to mask your license number and photo. For extra privacy, consider using a burner phone number or a temporary email. Alterna tively, you can pay for a service (like Optery, DeleteMe and Aura) that will handle the removal process for you. **Repeat & reduce** 

If you prefer to do it

Even after you opt out of a people-search site, your data may not vanish immediately. You should scan the web a few times a year and repeat the process. Or, again. just pay an info-removing service to keep running.









OOO+ Students

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#### **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.



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.

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 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

You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the ofbe full of joy and will be looking to pass your time lesiurely. You will spend time to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesha

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.

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 exasperatdue 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.

## **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.



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 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.



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

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

7

3

2

6

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9

4 2

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

## 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.

Priyanka's

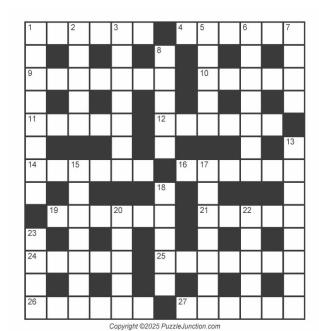
Γhursday, the desi girl took to her Instagram stories to share a photo of herself wherein she is seen sitting in a car wearing a sheet mask. Alongside the image, she wrote, "Skin care on the go...what's your skincare routine? The *Baywatch* actress often shares photos giving fans a glimpse into her skincare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

tine, Priyanka Chopra also uses social media to voice her thoughts on important issues.

Recently, she condemned the terror attack n 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.

## FUN

#### **CROSSWORD**



#### Across

- 1 Clandestine
- 4 Shirt closer 9 Type of study
- 10 Swindle 11 Charter

(2-5)

- 12 Shade of red
- 14 On pins and needles
- 16 Royal family member
- 19 Kind of test 21 Long suit

<u>Down</u>

- ingredient
- 5 Gastric woe
- 1 Simmer down

24 Flower feature

25 Gate-crash

warning

27 Leafy salad

plants

26 Without

- (5,3)2 Bloody Mary
- 3 Fencing swords
- 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

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4

1

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

#### CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### 3 4 **SOLUTIONS**

1

9 2 4

SUDOKU

2

5 3

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

### **PEANUTS**

WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED, BIG BROTHER I BOUGHT THAT STUPID KID A NEW RULER ...









#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



MOE TUMBLED HEAD OVER HEELS DOWN THE SMOKING CHASM UNTIL HE SPLASHED INTO THE MOLTEN MAGMA AT THE PLANET'S CORE WHERE HE SLOWLY MELTED BEFORE IGNITING IN A SPITTING FIREBALL OF GREASE! 国



#### BREVITY





## downtown

### India will give befitting reply: CM

**ATTACK** 

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

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

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Keonihar.

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 Prithiviraj 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.





ପ୍ରବଳ ଝାଳ ବୋହିବା



ମୁଷ୍ଡ ବୁଲାଇ ଅନ୍ଧାର ଦିଶିବା ଓ ବାନ୍ତି ଲାଗିବା



ପ୍ରବଳ ଶୋଷ ଲାଗିବା

ସତକିତା



ମାଂସପେଶୀ ଟାଙ୍କି ହେବା



ଅଚେତ ହେବା କିମ୍ବା ବାତ ମାରିବା



ସକାଳେ କିୟା ଉପରବେଳା ଖରା କମ୍ ଥିବାବେଳେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ



ବାହାରକୁ ଯିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଯଥେଷ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ



ହାଲୁକା ରଙ୍ଗର ଢ଼ିଲା ପୋଷାକ, ଛତା ଓ ଜୋତା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ





ମଝିରେ ମଝିରେ ଛାଇରେ ବିଶ୍ୱାମ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ

### ଅଂଶୁଘାତର ପ୍ରତିକାର



ରୋଗୀକୁ ଖୋଲା ଓ ଥିଷା ଯାଗାକୁ ନେଇଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍./ଚିନି ଲୁଣ ସର୍ବତ/ସାଦାପାଣି ପିଆନ୍ତୁ



ପୋଷାକ ଯଥାସୟବ ଖୋଲି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ମୁଷ୍ତ ଧୋଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଓଦା କପଡାରେ ପୋଛନ୍ତୁ



ରୋଗୀକୁ ପଙ୍ଖା/କୁଲର/ଏସି ପବନରେ ଶୁଆଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ନହେଲେ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କର୍ମୟରୀଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ କିୟା ଆୟୁଲାନ୍ସ ଡାକନ୍ତୁ

୍ ବୟୟ ତଥା ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅଂଶୁଘାତର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ

1

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



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



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

WASH, climate meet at

**RD Women's University** 

24: A two-day Knowledge

Fair-cum-Symposium focus-

ing on Water, Sanitation and

Hygiene (WASH) and climate

resilience was inaugurated

Thursday at Ramadevi (RD)

The event, themed "Sustain-

ability through Innovative

Technologies and Community

Approaches," aims to foster

dialogue on sustainable de-

velopment through grassroots

innovations and inclusive par-

Organised by Development

Initiatives for Change (Di4C)

in collaboration with Youth

Council for Development Al-

ternatives (YCDA), the PG

Department of Gender Stud-

ies, RD Women's University,

and other partners, the event

brings together academics, practitioners, and community leaders from across Odisha.

Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secre-

tary Anu Garg, who inaugurat-

ed the symposium, stressed the

need for "community-centred

solutions that marry technology with local insight." She

was joined by Vice-Chancel-

lor Chandi Charan Rath, Di4C

Strategic Mentor Debanja-

ni Khan, and Di4C Founder

The fair showcases grass-

roots projects with a strong fo-

cus on youth and gender dimen-

sions. "Knowledge sharing is

at the heart of this initiative,"

said Basu, "By uniting stake-

holders working on water and

climate, we aim to foster collab-

oration and amplify impact."

Friday, technical sessions

will compile insights and

case studies into a policy

brief with actionable rec-

ommendations for the state

government. The event will

conclude with a valedictory

session graced by Sports and

Cultural Affairs Minister

Malika Basu.

Women's University.

ticipation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar.

concerned of the Steel Authori ty 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

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.

# City Utkal Hospital adopts Salesforce for digital leap

Bhubaneswar, April 24: Utkal

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

This will ensure seamless coordination across its call centers, medicine distribution, and pa-

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.



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 camstudents. pus to curb criminal activities. They rather initiate action He claimed 90 out of 187 against university officials who have rented out their official quarters.

Meanwhile, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (AB-VP) 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

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

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.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

360-degree view of each patient.

tient self-service portals.

Salesforce India vice president (Sales) Kamal Kanth

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**

The move came amid al

legations that these former

students, or alumni, who

are continuing their stay in

various hostels without any

authorisation from the uni-

versity administration, are

indulging in nefarious activ-

ities, ranging from narcotics

However, soon after the

notice was put up, a group of

alumni and students met Vice

trade to extortion, a university

POST NEWS NETWORK

campus.

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 Krushna Chandra Mohanty and Ganesh Kumar Saho as state working presidents and Rukmani Mangarai and Naravan 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 newlyappointed members will work with dedication towards strengthening the Congress party as well as the Youth Congress, under the leadership of party president Mallikariun Kharge ii. 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

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

during the 10th meeting of the

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

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

to attract investment and drive

development," he said.

partments and agencies—in cluding the Energy department, Water Resources department, Revenue & Disaster Manage ment 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 totaling 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 Panchavat 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 ac-

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 Panchavati Raj & Drinking Water. Rabi Narayan Naik, and the



unwavering support of the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department.

Naik expressed his pride in the state's achievement, stating, "This national recognition for the third time in a row is a matter of immense pride for Odisha. I sincerely thank all the PRI members, officials, and the entire SIRD&PR team for their tireless efforts. It reflects our collective vision for empowered and self-reliant GPs.

Echoing the sentiments, SIRD&PR Director Surendra Kumar Meena said, "Our commitment to empowering Panchavats through capacity building, digital innovation, and guided mentorship is yielding transformative results. This achievement is dedicated to every PRI member, official, and village community who made it possible.

### WEATHER

BBSR CTC Max Temp 37.0° 36.8° Min Temp 28.1° Humidity Nil Rainfall **FORECAST** Partly cloudy sky.



#### Suryabanshi Suraj colade recognises SIRD&PR's FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMEN BOOKING CONTACT

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

## **Over 8mn Olive Ridley** hatchlings emerge at **Gahirmatha sanctuary**



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 Rainagar 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,

Yaday 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 sea water, Yadav said.

Mr. Satya Ranjan

Priyadarshini Jena

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

**Branch Name** 

SAMANTARAPUR

**BRANCH** 

BIJU PATTNAIK **PARK BRANCH** 

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

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

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, Sushant, collapsed at the crematorium multiple times, watching the scenes in disbelief. The youngest of the three brothers,

Javant, said he would perform the nine-day rituals according to the customs, as Tanuj was too young to bear the pain of ployee 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 inci dent, 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

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 under-

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

**AUCTION** 

suspicion on Shivu's father Bauri Rout, who had thrown out his wife and son from his house some days ago. Shiyu 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-yearold 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, iden-

tified 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 Niranjan Sethy

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 up-

set over the food pre pared at home and re fused to eat Thursday noon. He later visited the shop and asked his father for ₹200.

When Gagan declined, Santosh al legedly 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.

statutory dues)

₹2,83,000/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹36,20,000/

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹3,62,000/- /

₹ 50,000/-

₹10,77,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹1,07,700/-

₹ 50.000/-

₹23,11,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹2,31,100/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹2,54,87,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues

₹25,48,700/-

#### **Minor sisters** drown in pond

sisters drowned in a pond into the water accidentally Sanakrushnapur panchavat and this block in Bhadrak district Thursday morning as Krishnarani Mallik, 7, and of Basant Mallik of the village The incident occurred when their grandmother bathed the girls in the pond located in the backvard of their house and leaving them unattended. Family members grew apprehen e after they failed to find t 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 police personnel from Kashia marine police station rushed to the hospital and sent the bodies for post-mortem. A case was registered in this regard,

### Man injured in exchange of fire with police

Dhenkanal: A man was injured in an exchange of fire with security personnel in Dhenka nal district Thursday, police said. The injured person has been identified as Debasish Behera alias Handa of village Godisahi Aiatinagar 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 to attack businessmen pass ing through the road. When sub-inspector of police Pradip Kumar Patra of Dhenkanal Sadar police station asked fire but the bullet missed the policeman. When Behera again opened fire, the policemen 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 pending against his name at Kamakhyanagar police station

#### Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli,

SALE OF **VEHICLE** Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amoun		
ARUTI SUZUKI DZIRE ZXI+,	₹ 5,52,500/- /		
Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-1043,	₹ 55,250/- /		
ear of Manufacturing: 2021	₹ 5,000/-		
CITROEN C3, 1.2 PETROL,	₹5,41,000/- /		
Regd. No.: OD-02-CD-9394,	₹54,100/- /		
ear of Manufacturing: 2022	₹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

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 amoun within 15 days failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cos of transfer of ownership & statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successfu 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/cance 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

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 25.04.2025

Zonal Manager



e-auction on the above mentioned date.

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

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.

Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors						
BHATLI CHOWK BRANCH /						
Borrower: M/s. Naw Durga Textiles						
Prop.: Mr. Amarnath Bhagat						
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Amarnat						
Bhagat, S/o: Mr. Hemnath Bhagat						

BRANCH / Name & Address of

Bhagat, S/o: Late Biswanath Bhagat, All are At: Ward No.: 11, PO./PS./Dist Bargarh-768028 **DUNGURIPALI BRANCH** /

Borrower: M/s. Sharma Fertilizer &

Gunny, Prop.: Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, S/o.: Lal Chand Sharma, At/ Balangir, Odisha-767021 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Ashok Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Parkhit Sahu, At/PO.: Bharsuja, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha-767061, **2) Mr. Atulya Satapathy,** North: Road, South: Land of Buddhad S/o.: Brundaban Satapathy, At/PO.: Road, West: Land of Balgopal Mishra Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha-767021

#### Demand, Liabilities Due Possession as per Notice **Notice Date** ₹ 18,30,836.11

Secured Assets 20.11.2024 Land measuring Area

Description of

 further Interest 8 Ac.0.050 Dec, bearing expenses thereon 21.04.2025 MS Khata No.: 2414/ 10616, Plot No.: 3180/13346, situated at Mouza Bargarh, PO./P.S./Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028, in the Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Hemnath name of Mr. Hemnath Bhagat, Bounded by East: Land of Krishna Kumar Mishra, North: Road, West: Land o Bharati Mishra and Pradipta Kumar Dash, South Plot No.: 3043/17685

₹ 15,78,283/- 11.12.2024 All that part of the property + further Interest & consisting of Land of ar expenses thereon 22.04.2025 Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, with Residential Plot, bearing Khata No.: 458/869, Plot No. PO.: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: 927/4028 and 930/2656/4029, Kissam: Gharabar situated at Mouza: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Tahasi Agalpur, Dist.: Balangir, State: Odisha, PIN-767021, ir the name of Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, Bounded by North: Road, South: Land of Buddhadeb Tripathy, East

Place: Sambalpur Sd/- Authorised Officer Date: 24.04.2025 Union 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** 

Where as 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 (SAREAESI) has decided to put up for F-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.						
SI. Io.		Description of the Properties	Reserve Price EMD / Bid Increment Amor				
•••		Land and Building over Khata No.: 162, Plot No.:					
	Darramer Mr. Dibbuti Dhugan Maile Clay Damach Ch. Maile	583(P), Plot Area: Ac.0.041 Dec. i.e. 1786 Sqft,	(excluding				

/ Co-Applicant: Mrs. Nomita Naik, D/o: Binod Cri. Naik, DOI! | SRO/Tahasil: Pipili, Tahasil No.: 162, Dist.: Puri, are At/P.O.: Kinjirma, P.S.: Bhasma, Dist.: Sundargarh, PIN-770019 / Total Dues: ₹28,69,371/- + interest, costs and Mr. Sachidananda Paikara, Mr. Saroj Kumar expenses, less any part amount repaid. Paikara, Mr. Suryakanta Paikara, Mr. Mrutyunjaya Paikara, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paikara, 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 ASTRI NAGAR BRANCH, PH.: 9438456140 /

/ Co-Applicant: Mrs. Nomita Naik, D/o: Binod Ch. Naik, Both

Borrower: Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain, S/o.: Fakir Charan Swain, At: Sorbha, P.S.: Gop, Dist.: Puri, PIN- 752107 **/ Total |** sqft., Mouza: Nijagarh Kurki, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No. Dues: ₹25,59,487.57 + interest, costs and expenses, less any | 04, SRO/Tahasil: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing part amount repaid.

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

JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 Borrower: Mrs. Namita Das, W/o.: Mr. Santosh Kumar Das / Co-Borrower: Mr. Santosh Kumar Das, S/o. Mr. Sanatan Das, Both are At: Rallbari, P.O.: Palli, P.S. Balikuda, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103 / Total DSRO/Tahasil: Jagatsinghpur (Tahasil No.: 331

Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1271, West: Plot No.: 1273, North: Plot No.: 1262 & 1263, South: Plot No.: 1206

Dues: ₹6,21,000/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid. (15 ft Bitumen Road)

JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 Borrower: M/s. Rajnandini Fashions, Prop.: Mr. Keshab Kumar Das, S/o.: Mr. Bishnu Charan Das / Guarantor: Mrs. Manorama Das, W/o.: Mr. Keshab Kumar Das, Both are At/PO.: Jankoti, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha. PIN-754103 / Total Dues: ₹10,75,300.43 + interest

Plot No.: 936, South: Plot No.: 938 (Rev. Road & earthen Road connect to main Road) NIMPUR BRANCH, PH.: 8197259271 /

costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid

1) (For Housing Loan & Mortgage Loan) Borrower: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda / Co-Borrower: 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) Sqft, Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (No.: 72), Tahasil Borrower: M/s. Asha Suppliers, Prop.: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda / Guarantor: Mrs. Lira Dash, W/o: Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, Both are At: 2063, Barabati Housing Colony, Tarol, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / Total Dues: ₹55,88,656.14 + interest,costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 /

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o.: Mr. Jalandhar Baral 2) Mrs. Binata Baral, W/o.: Mr. Pandab Baral, Both are at Ac.0.067 Dec. i.e 2919 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari Vill: Badapadar, P.O.: Nachuni, Dist.:Khurda, Odisha - Standing in the name of **Mr. Pandab Baral,** S/o 752027 **/ Total Dues: ₹25,59,522.68** + interest, costs and |Mr. Jalandhar Baral, Mouza: Badapadar, PS

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).

amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.

by East: Plot No.: 930, West: Plot No.: 935, North G+2 storied Residential Building situated ove 1) Khata No.: 620/364, Plot No.: 2063, Plot Area: Ac.0.060 Dec. 2) Khata No.: 620/405, Plot No. 2063/2622, Plot Área: Ac.0.040 Dec, 3) Khata No. 620/396, Plot No.: 2063/2617, Plot Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, Total Plot Area: Ac.0.160 Dec. i.e. 6,970 Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha Standing in the name of Mr. Sidhartha Kuma Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda, Bounded by East: Pananga Narayan Khatua, West: Road

No.: 583/1921, Plot Area: Ac.0.041 Dec. i.e. 1786

in the name of Mr. Chinmava Kumar Swain, S/o.

Residential Land and Building pertaining to Khata

No.: 869/110, Plot No.: 1272, Area: Ac.0.110 Dec

.e. 4791.6 Soft, having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza

Raibarai, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No.: 331)

Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Standing in the name

of Mrs. Namita Das, W/o.: Mr. Santosh Kumar Das

/acant Land situated over Mouza: Jankoti, SRC

Tahasil: Jagatsinghpur, Tahasil No.: 217, P.S. Jagatsinghpur, P.S. No.: 217, Dist.: Jagatsinghpu

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 **Mr. Keshab** 

Kumar Das, S/o.: Mr. Bishnu Charan Das, Bounded

Panchanan Khatua G+1 Storied RCC framed Residential Building over Khata No: 320/187, Plot No.: 173/952, Plot Area

North: Vendee & Namita Mohanty, South: Vendee

expenses, less any part amount repaid. Banapur (359), Tahasil.: Banapur (359), Dist Khurda, Odisha, Bounded by East: Road, West: Hill (Pahad), North: Bibhuti Bhusan Baral, South: Paramananda

₹ 50,000/-₹44,04,000/-(excluding GST & other tatutory 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

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 **Authorised Officer** 

Date: 25.04.2025 Bank of India



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

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



## Flipping The Script

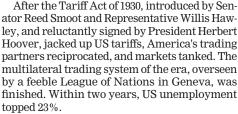
or the past week, commentators have almost universally framed US President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" as an economic Armageddon. So have investors; reeling financial markets have resulted in a 90-day pause on most of the new tariffs, with the important exception of those imposed on China.

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 turned a crash into a depression.



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



Jeremy Adelman

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

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

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. Ob-

viously, 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 muddle 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

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

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

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall

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

HELEN KELLER

**KASHMIR** 

## **HOW'S IT NORMAL?**

n the vocabulary of the long-running Kashmir conflict, one word has crept in periodically, namely 'normalcy'. Politicians and pundits have often spoken triumphantly of how 'normalcy' is being restored in the Valley. And yet, the stark truth is that for three and a half decades, Kashmir has been anything but 'normal' The latest tragic terror attack in which at least 28 civilians were massacred is only a stark reminder of how in a bloodied Valley, every time a window of hope is opened, it is firmly shut by merchants of terror. From a ray of sunshine to a dark abyss, Kashmir is trapped in a deadly schizophrenia.

Recall how Prime Minister Narendra Modi expounded on his vision of a 'Naya Kashmir' soon after abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Modi spun a dream of how this was a major step towards 'normalcy': Kashmir would soon see, promised the PM, a flood of investments, of massive infrastructure development and even a return of Bolly wood to the snow-capped mountains and verdant meadows. This would be a 'new normal' where J&K would be rapidly 'mainstreamed' into a 'new' India.

The promised 'normalcy' was a façade. Sure, new roads, highways and tunnels were built as a positive symbol of change. It was now possible to whizz from Srinagar to Anantnag or Baramullah with a speed that was perhaps unthinkable a few years ago. But 'normalcy isn't just about physical infrastructure. It is ultimately about winning the hearts and minds of the people. And that is where long-standing resentments on the ground refused to go away.

How is it 'normal' when India's only Muslim-majority state is split and downsized into a Union Territory by an overnight legislative firman? How it is 'normal' when three former chief ministers are detained and placed under house arrest? How is it 'normal' when thousands of Kashmiris are arrested under draconian preventive detention laws and packed off into prison? How is it



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 Hurrivat 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 Makhan 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

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 'iihadi' network. How it is 'normal' when young men still seek solace in the gun amidst persistently high unemployment and a growing drug menace?

Truth is the Modi govern-

ment 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

Rajdeep Sardesai

**FROM A RAY** 

**OF SUNSHINE** 

**ABYSS, KASHMIR** 

**SCHIZOPHRENIA** 

**TO A DARK** 

**IS TRAPPED** 

**IN A DEADLY** 

## 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

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

There were recent produring 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 claimed that funds to Tamil 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 iob scheme have been delayed beyond the stipulated 15 days. In a written reply in Rajya velopment Girirai 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 coordinate 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

Sabha, Minister for Rural Deled to the accumulation of un-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.

### 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..

#### 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 50per cent of Kashmir's population. The government needs to act now as citizens have conveyed 'enough is enough'.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

*RS Narula*, PATIALA



## TWO STATES





# Stranded tourists return from J&K Explosive presidential debate

Mumbai, April 24: The first batch of 65 tourists from Maharashtra stranded in Jammu and Kashmir landed in Mumbai early Thursday as part of the evacuation efforts launched by the Shiv Sena led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Efforts were also being made

for the safe return of the other tourists soon, state minister Girish Mahajan said.

Shinde went to Srinagar Wednesday evening to expedite the process of bringing back tourists stuck in Jammu and Kashmir after 26 persons. including six from Maharashtra, were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack Tuesday.

"Following the dreadful terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the first special flight carrying 65 stranded Maharashtrian tourists arrived in Mumbai at 3:30 am April 24 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport," a Shiv Sena functionary said.
"This is part of a coordinated

**PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK** 



the Shiv Sena, under the leadership Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, to ensure the safe and dignified return of every citizen," the functionary added. Two more special flights carrying additional tourists will arrive in Mumbai later in the day.

"Our priority remains the safety, comfort and swift return of all affected individuals. The Shiv Sena reaffirms its commitment to stand with every Marathi Manoos in every mo-

added. The Shiv Sena had sent its delegation to coordinate the efforts to bring stranded tourists back to Mumbai

Maharashtra minister Girish Mahajan also reached Srinagar Wednesday to help tourists from the state return home safely.

Asked about the number of tourists awaiting return, the minister told a news channel, "About 180 have already returned, while another 370 are looking to return today or tomorrow. The chief minister's OSD is in Delhi helping passengers with ticketing arrangements."

Mahajan, who visited 10 to 15 hotels in Srinagar where tourists from Maharashtra were staying, said many of them already have return tickets but want to advance their travel.

"Most of them wish to cut their trip short due to the fear caused by the incident. But I urge them not to rush. The situation is under control, and secu-

Those with tickets for the coming days should not panic. So many flights cannot be arranged immediately, Mahajan said.

The airlines such as IndiGo and Air India have already arranged additional flights to help ease the situation, he said.

"There is also an issue with phone connectivity in some areas, and we are trying to sort that out as well," Mahajan said.

On concerns about the high air fares, he said last minute tickets are expensive as it is the peak tourist season.

# sets JNU abuzz ahead of polls

New Delhi, April 24: The air at Jawaharlal Nehru University crackled with energy as drums rolled, slogans roared, and flags fluttered during the presidential debate for the JNU Students Union elections - a spectacle that blended political theatre with pas sionate student activism.

From cries of "Kashmir hamara hai' and "Hindu lives matter" by ABVP to chants of "Azadi" and the sight of a Palestinian flag by AISA in solidarity, the amphitheatre turned into a mini-parliament of India's most politically conscious campus

Every inch of the venue told a story. Handwritten posters demanded answers, "Where is our hostel?" one asked. Some bore portraits of Nehru, faded but firm, peeking from the crowd as reminders of the university's roots. The Election Committee

frequently had to intervene as the deafening clash of dhaplis, drums, and chants drowned out the microphones.

The debate began at 11:30 pm Wednesday and stretched into the early hours of Thursday, concluding around 4 am. All 13 candidates were allotted 10 minutes each to present their views, turning the campus amphitheatre into a charged arena of ideological face-offs and political expression.

Before the speeches commenced, a two-minute silence was observed in memory the 26 people killed in the re cent terrorist attack in Pahal gam, Jammu and Kashmir. The two-minute stillness briefly cut through the intense atmosphere of the night.

As the speeches began, the air was thick with competing slogans. AISA and SFI activists drowned out the ABVP candidate's address, while ABVP volunteers beat dholaks and clanged metal plates whenever Left-aligned speakers took the stage.

## BJP set to regain control of MCD after two years

The Congress also put forward its nominees, with Mandeep Singh filing for mayor and Ariba Khan for deputy mayor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 24: The BJP is set to reclaim power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) after a gap of two years, with the elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor scheduled to

With the AAP boycotting the election and the Congress reduced to a marginal presence, the BJP is expected to comfortably sweep the civic posts, solidifying its control over Delhi through the Centre, the nominated MLAs in the Assembly and now the MCD.

Senior BJP leader and former Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, who mayoral post, told PTI that Delhiites have entrusted the BJP with the responsibility of fixing the city's problems.

"AAP has already accepted its defeat. We will eliminate corruption and complete all the pending work that was stalled over the past two years," he

He further stated that once the mayor is elected, elections for the standing committees will be held promptly.

Meanwhile, AAP councillor and former Mayor Shelly Oberoi and Leader of the House Mukesh Goval held a press conference Thursday where they reiterated their party's decision



"The MCD election is scheduled for tomorrow, and we will completely boycott it," Oberoi said, accusing the BJP of turning the civic polls into a farce with its socalled "triple engine power."

They added that under Arvind Kejriwal's leadership, several people-centric decisions were taken, but the BJP's only objective has been to "seize power."

The current strength of the MCD is 238, as 12 seats lie vacant due to some councillors getting elected to the Delhi Assembly and one to Lok Sabha.

Out of 250 seats, BJP now has 117 councillors, up from 104 in 2022, while AAP's tally has dropped to 113 from its earlier 134. Congress holds just eight seats.

The electoral college for the mayoral election includes 238 councillors, 10 MPs (seven from the Lok Sabha and three from the Rajya Sabha) and 14 MLAs – Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has nominated 11 BJP and 3 AAP MLAs as the electors.

The BJP has nominated Jai Bhagwan Yadav from Begumpur ward for the Deputy

Meanwhile, Congress also entered the fray, with Mandeep Singh (Nangloi, ward 47) and Ariba Khan (Abul Fazal Enclave, ward 188) filing nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively.

The mayoral poll will be held Friday at 2 pm, alongside the Ordinary April Meeting of the civic body.

#### **NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

Chandra Shekhar Behera that he has applied for loan to LIC HFL. But at present, he has los the Original Link Documents i.e Sale Deed No. 10241902327 dtd 05/08/2019 and Original Mutatior ROR of Khata No. 789/2007 which were kept with him and inspite of his best efforts, failed to

Therefore, notice is hereby given to General Public that is anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing documents, he/she has to claim before the LIC HFL at Cuttack within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its lega force and LIC HFL, Bhubaneswar will not be responsible for any what-so-ever Address for Communication

LIC HFL. Cuttack Cuttack, B. K. Pattanaik, Advocate,

Mob. No. 9337395558

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. MSM-STN-HKG-RAIR-9-25

NAME OF WORK : CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES OF RAIRAKHOL & HIRAKUD STATION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. Approx. Cost of the Work:

₹2,99,66,313.31, <u>EMD</u> : ₹2,99,800/ Cost of Tender Document : ₹11,800/ Completion Period of the Work: 24

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 09.05.2025

lo manual offers sent by Post / Courier Fax or in person accepted against such a enders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered valid and shall be rejected summaril rithout any consideration

complete information including e-tend ocuments of the above e-tender vailable in website: www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Mechanical Enginee

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No.SBP-ELECT-2025-T-237A

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRAC FOR MAINTENANCE OF RMPU WITH CONTROL PANEL IN SELF GENERATING (SG) RMPU AC COACHES AT SAMBALPUR COACHING DEPOT FOR A PERIOD OF

Approx. Cost of the Work ₹ 16,58,456.72, <u>EMD</u> : ₹ 33,200/-Completion Period of the Work: Two ears from the date of issue of LOA

Tender Closing Date and Time

No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted again such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be rejecte mmarily without any consideration omplete information including e-tender

Note: The prospective tenderers an advised to revisit the website fifteen (15) advised to revisit the website litteen (15 days before the date of closing of tende to note any changes/corrigenda issuer for this tender. The tenderers/ bidder must have Class-III Digital Signaturn Certificate and must be registered or IREPS Portal. Only registered tendering.

Se Divisional Electrical Engineer (6)

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-68/Q/25-26 Sambalpur PR-68/Q/25-26

#### SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LIMITED CIN: U70101WB2006PLC109898 Website: www.srei.com; Email: sefl@srei.com

Registered Office: "Viswakarma", 86C Topsia Road (South), Kolkata - 700046 ead Office: Plot No. Y-10, Block EP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 70009 Branch Office: 1st Floor, Plot No. 11, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007 E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below de immovable property owned by Srei Equipment Finance Limited ("SREI"), i going to be sold by way of public e-auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis, on 6th May, 2025. The reserve price will be Rs. 90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakhs Only).

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY** Owner of Property: - Srei Equipment Finance Limited Details of the Property: - Land comprised of 28 (Twenty-Eight) plots naving a total area of Ac 7.29 Decimals in Two Mouzas situated at District Jajpur, SRO- Dharamsala in the State of Odisha. The land is divided into:

4 Plots measuring a total area of Ac 3.25 decimals situated at Mouza: POBAL

Khata No. Plot Nos. Bounded by Plot Nos. East: Pakhara Mouza West: 1322; North: 1310; East: 1302; West: 1297; North: 1300: South: 1307 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, East; 1309, 1370 and 1371; 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375 South: 1393

4 Plots measuring a total area of Ac 4.09 decimals situated at Mouza: ARUH/ Khata No. Plot Nos. Bounded by Plot Nos. 763/274 East: 271: West: 279: North: 274: South: 281 East: 270; West: 280; North: 272; South: 297 East: 272; West: 275; North: 16 and 273; East: 71 and 72; West: Pobala Mouza; 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17,

he Reserve price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Bid increm amount and time of E-Auction and last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents for immovable properties to be sold will be

South: 281 and 282

Below which the property will not be sold)	Deposit (EMD)	Bid	Date and
	10% of the	Increment	Time of
	Reserve Price	Amount	E-Auction
Rs.90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakhs only)	Rs.9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs only)	Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)	Date: 6th May, 2025 Time: From: 12.30 pm To: 1.30 pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each)

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" 'WHATEVER THERE IS" basis. As such, sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. All the above mentioned properties will be sold together.

Auction / bidding shall be strictly through "Online Electronic Mode" and only through the website: https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/ on 06th May, 2025 from 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM.

.To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Representative, there is no encumbrance on any property. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/effecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. The Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of SREI The property/ies is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to SREI. SREI shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.

For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD not below 10% of reserve price only by **Demand** Draft (DD)/Pay Order (PO) favouring "Srei Equipment Finance Limited", pavable at Bhubaneswar. No interest shall be payable by the Authorised Representative on the EMD.

.The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (formats available at https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/) along with the DD/ PO and KYC of the Interested Bidder towards EMD addressed to "the Authorised Representative, Srei Equipment Finance Limited", at 1st Floor, Plot No. 11, Satya Nagar Bhubaneswar – 751007, latest by 5th May, 2025 before 4:00 pm The Bid form should be superscribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale - Sale of property at Jajpur, Odisha"

The Bid Form along with details of the property/ies and particulars of terms & conditions of sale, forming part of this sale notice shall be available at https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/.

For participating in the e-auction sale, the intending bidders should register their details with the service provider M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd., B-704-705, Wall Street - 2, Opp. Orient Club, Near Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat.; Contac Persons: Mr. Maulik Shrimali representing Auction Tiger, mob: +91-9173528727; Email: maulik.shrimali@auctiontiger.net, well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider.

.The Bid Amount is exclusive of TDS. The successful Bidder need to pay the TDS amount over and above the Bid amount

The Authorised Representative reserves the right accept/reject all or any of the offers /bids so received without assigning any reason whatsoever

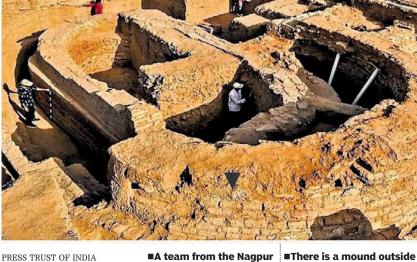
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/ and

> **Authorised Representative** Amarnath Panda

Date: 25.04.2025 Contact:- 03366022723 Email id: amarnath.panda@srei.com Place: Bhubaneswar

### Evidence of 3,000-year-old civilisation found in Maha The research team found structural remains wherein there are circular houses with limestone floors having

wooden posts at their periphery



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yavatmal, April 24: Researchers from the Nagpur University claimed to have found remains of a nearly 3,000-year-old civilisation along with its houses in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district which they believe date back to the Iron Age.

A team from the Nagpur University's Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology conducted excavations at Pachkhed village in Babulgaon taluka here in 2023-24, Head of the Department Dr Prabash Sahu told PTI.

There is a mound outside the Pachkhed village which is an archaeological site, wherein they found around 8.73 metres of cultural deposits during the excavation last year, he said.

"We divided these deposits into four periods...period one-Iron Age, which was divided University's Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology conducted excavations at Pachkhed village in Babulgaon taluka here in 2023-24

cultural sequence of the

findings starts with the

Iron Age on the basis

of pottery and artefact

remains found. It was

followed by the Satava-

hana period, the Medi-

eval period, and then it

(the location which has

been found) was used as

a watch tower during

the Nizam era," he said.

found structural re-

mains wherein there

are circular houses with

limestone floors having

wooden posts at their

"In the evidences

which we recorded, we

found a complete house plan having a chulha

(mud stove), pottery,

iron objects, beads of

semi-precious stones,

periphery, Sahu said.

The research team

the Pachkhed village which is an archaeological site, wherein they found around 8.73 metres of cultural deposits during the excavation last vear into sub periods. The terracotta beads and

bone objects," he said. These findings are most probably from the Iron Age about 3,000 years old, Sahu claimed.

The samples have been sent to the Inter University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi, which carries out AMS dating, to ascertain the time period to which they belong, and it will be known by May-June

this year, he said. "Once we get the dates of these findings, we will be able get the proper chronology, he said.

Sahu said he will be able to corroborate the 3,000-year-old time period claim once he receives the sample results.

### Maharashtra plans monkey, langur sterilisation centres in Konkan to protect farms

Mumbai, April 24: The was considering a proposal to set up centres to steril-

bances caused by monkeys and langurs in Konkan, especially in agricultural areas, has prompted us to explore long-term preventive solutions. We are currently reviewing a proposal to set up sterilisation centres in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to control their population," a statement quoted Naik as saving.

The current approach of

merely providing compensation to farmers for the crop losses caused by these animals was not a permanent solution, he said.

"We must implement sustainable measures to prevent such damages in the future. Wild boars, monkeys, and langurs are not only damaging crops in Dapoli but have also started entering villages and

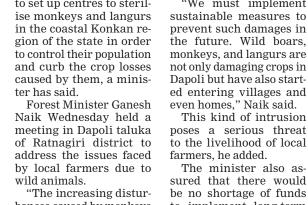
This kind of intrusion poses a serious threat to the livelihood of local farmers, he added.

be no shortage of funds to implement long-term measures. "The government is

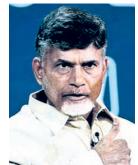
committed to protecting agriculture and will allocate necessary funds for initiatives that prevent wildlife-induced crop damage," he said.

Farmers should be granted permission to use guns within legal limits to protect their crops from wild boars.





# national



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

#### **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







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-spon 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

Hvderabad: 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 Chandrashekhar 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 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

#### India donates 4.8 tonnes of vax to Afghanistan

Easter Monday. He was 88.

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, henatitis 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

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

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

the sons, fathers and husbands they had lost, some stoic and others inconsolate. A hush fell over many villages and towns as funeral corteges wound their way to crematoriums and shops downed shutters.

In Ishani village in Odisha's Balasore district, nine-year-old Tanuj Kumar Satpathy lit the pyre of his father Prashant. It was just two days ago that the family - 41-year-old Prashant, an employee of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology, his wife Priya Darshini and Tanuj - were in Pahalgam.

In Jaipur, the flower-bedecked bier of 33-year-old Neeraj Udhwani made its way down a quiet street with mourners walking silently behind and lining the streets. The chartered accountant had come from Dubai to attend a wedding and on an impulse decided to holiday in Kashmir. As his elder brother Kishore lit the funeral pyre at Moksh Dham in Jhalana, his wife Ayushi fought back her tears. He was shot dead right in front of her eyes.

The funeral was attended by large crowds. Political lines blurred as Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as well as state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra among others visited

A woman in the crowd spoke out loudly. "This is your government's failure. What is the point of deploying security here now?" In response, Shekhawat was seen standing with folded hands, acknowledging the grief and anger of the people.

Gujarat saw three funerals Yatish Parmar and his son Smit from Bhavnagar city and Shailesh Kalathiya, a resident of Surat. Everywhere, local residents and political bigwigs joined the families, an outpouring of grief and anger that united them all.

In Surat, Union minister CR Paatil along with Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi were among the dignitaries who paid floral tributes to Kalathiya. And in Hathipur village in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district, 31-year-old businessman Shubham Dwivedi was given a tearful sendoff with full state honours.

A green corridor was established to transport the body from Lucknow airport to Hathipur. Thousands of mourners, including leaders of the ruling BJP and opposition Congress, attended the funeral.

Accompanied by Speaker Satish Mahana, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also visited Dwivedi's ancestral home and assured the bereaved family of every possible support. In Karnataka, thousands gathered for the funerals of Manjunath Rao and Bharath Bhushan, both in their 40s.

Manjunath, a businessman from Shivamogga, had gone to Kashmir with his wife and son, who had just completed his Class 12 exams. Bharath went for a holiday, also with his wife and three-year-old son. Both lives cruelly cut short. While Manjunath was cremated in Shivamogga, Bharath's last rites were held in Bengaluru. Ministers, political leaders, government officials including police officers and activists joined the family members in their moment of sorrow.

## 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.

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Jaipur, April 24: Another

**Another NEET aspirant** 

found dead in Kota

NEET aspirant has been found dead in Rajasthan's Kota, just 10 days before the exams. The deceased was identified as a 23-vear-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 sched uled exam in the first week of May. The student, a resident of Chhapra, Bihar, was staying in a private hostel in the Kunhadi

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

## Mizoram-Assam border talks toady

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, April 24: A sev-

official said. The official-level

discussion may also focus on

en-member Mizoram delegation led by state Home secretary Van-Raipur, April 24: Three womlalmawia left for Guwahati Thursday to engage in official-level disen Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces cussion with Assam to resolve the along the Chhattisgarh-Telanlong-standing boundary dispute between the two Northeastern gana border Thursday, police said, days after a massive anstates, an official said. The official-level talks will ti-Maoist operation involving around 10,000 personnel was be held at 11 am Friday, the

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 Karegutta 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.

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

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

Three Mizoram districts -Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit - share a 164.6 km long border with Assam's Cachar, Sribhumi (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

## WhatsApp reiterating the same

police station area.

## 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 Air India and IndiGo Thurs-

day 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

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

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

In a post on X, Air India said that due to the announced restriction of Pakistan airspace for all Indian airline North America, UK, Europe, and Middle East will take an

proposition for airlines, whic already operate on wafer thi

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 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.

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

# national



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

#### 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



be visiting for the opening of



pen 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 res olution condemn ing the Pahalgam terror attack. We will also take out candlelight marches across the state tomorrow



tary-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

#### 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

#### Kashmiri students

matter Friday.

#### 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.



## Leaders demand action raises questions to destroy terror camps



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 Rainath 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 n 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 crossborder links to the Pahalgam terror

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 Yaday.

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

and Shah reaching out to various parties.

BSF jawan detained

by Pakistan Rangers

Pakistan Rangers after he accidentally crossed the Punjab border and talks are

talion was apprehended by the Pakistan

on between the two forces to secure

his release, officials said Thursday.

Constable PK Singh of the 182nd bat

Rangers across the Ferozepur border

Wednesday, they said. The jawan was

in uniform and carried his service rifle.

He was accompanying farmers when he

meeting is on between the two forces to

secure the release of the BSF jawan, the

officials said. They said such incidents

in the past between the two sides.

were not uncommon and have happened

moved ahead to rest in shade and was

apprehended by the Rangers. A flag

New Delhi: A Border Security Force

(BSF) jawan has been detained by

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) 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 secu-rity 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.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

### **ED** arrests Ex-Rajasthan minister Mahesh Joshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jaipur, April 24: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday arrested Congress leader and former Rajasthan minister Mahesh Joshi in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, of ficials said.

Joshi, 70, was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA) by the federal probe agency after about seven-eight hours of questioning at its office in Jaipur, they said. He is expected to be produced before a special PMLA court in Jaipur on Fri day where the ED will seek his remand for sustained interro

The ED's money laundering case stems from an FIR regis tered by Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to probe the alleged irregularities in the scheme that aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through household tap connections.

The scheme was being implemented in Rajasthan by the state's Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) during the previous Ashok Gehlot gov ernment. Joshi was the minister of this department in the Gehlot government.



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

## Macron, Netanyahu, Meloni dial PM Modi Assam: AlUDF MLA held

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 conveved 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 hu-

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.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson said the Jordan King strongly condemned the "ghastly" terror attack and conveved sincere condolences at the loss of innocent lives.

In a post on X, Netanyahu said he expressed condolences to the people of India following the "Islamic terrorist attack in Kashmir"

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to German Chancellor Jens Plotner

"Pleased to meet Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to German Chancellor Jens Jens Plotner today," Jaishankar said in a social media post. "Appreciate Germany's expression of solidarity on the recent terrorist attack in India," he said.

## 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 arrested," 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 sui-

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

cide attack in south Kashmir's

## 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 mea-

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 row. Nisar Ahmed, an Indian 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 niece's wedding April 28. said, pointing to the diplomatic

national from Gujarat, said he was shocked when people in Amritsar told him that he could not go to Karachi to attend his

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

Pakistani nationals currently in India with valid travel documents were directed to return home via the ICP by May 1.2025

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

but the buzz about travel curbs is indicating that I cannot go to Pakistan despite a

Tuesday's Pahalgam terror attack, believed to be orches trated by Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front, left

ing that he has no opinion on

the issue once the government

has taken a decision.

26 tourists dead and many others injured. Escalating the diplomatic

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

"I am yet to meet officials,

valid 30-day visa. I shall return home if I am not allowed to go to Karachi," he said, add-

# international



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



India also obviously, no currency manipu

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 reaching a deal GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY



follows extensive consultations with political parties, and careful consid-

eration of the recommendations of the parliamentary committees ENOCH GODONGWANA | FINANCE MINISTER

#### 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.

# Pak talks tough on Indus Treaty

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

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 "fomenting terrorism inside Pakistan", Pakistan's Prime Minister's office said in a statement. The Simla Agree ment 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

■ 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 irrigation needs. Suspending the treaty would allow India to deny Pakistan its share of the waters.

#### MODI PLEDGES TO PUNISH **ATTACKERS**

Pakistan's response came hours after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to pursue, track and punish the militants who separated the men among the tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam area and shot them dead.

It also came after the Indian foreign ministry announced the suspension of all visa services to Pakistanis and revoked visas that have already been issued.

Ahead of his public speech at an event in the eastern state of Bihar, Modi folded his hands in prayer in remembrance of the men killed in Kashmir, exhorting thousands gathered at the venue to do the same.

"We will pursue them to the ends of the earth," Modi said, without referring to the attackers' identities or naming Pakistan.

"They have made the mistake of attacking the soul of India. I want to say clearly, that those who have planned and carried out this attack will be punished beyond their imagination," Modi said to cheers from PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**US updates travel** advisory after

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.

Pahalgam terror attack

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 vio lent 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 sporadi cally in this area and is common along the Line of Control (LOC) between India and Paki stan. 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

### Israeli fire kills 44 in Gaza

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

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

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

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

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:** 

**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

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.

## China pushes for tariff cancellation to end US trade war

called for all "unilateral" US tariffs to be cancelled Thursday, as signs emerged that the Trump administration may de-escalate its trade war with Beijing. China also clarified it has not

Beijing, April 24: China

held trade talks with Washington despite repeated comments from the US government suggesting there had been engagement.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said that the US will have a deal with China and Wednesday said there was "direct contact" between both countries. Trump, who calls his tariffs "reciprocal", says the duties aim to correct unfair trade imbalances with the US.

The US should remove all "unilateral tariff measures" against China "if it truly wanted" to solve the trade issue, Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yadong said Thursday.

"The person who tied the bell must untie it," he told reporters at a regular press conference.

The Trump administration would look at lowering tariffs on imported Chinese goods from their current level of 145% to possibly between 50% and 65%, pending talks with Beijing, Reuters reported Wednesday, citing a source familiar with the matter.

China's He also urged the US to pay attention to the "rational



voices" of the international community and domestic parties.

"China and the United States have not conducted consultations or negotiations on tariffs, let alone reached an agreement." Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a separate news briefing, calling reports of such information

At home, China held a roundtable Wednesday to address concerns of more than 80 for eign firms and chambers over the impact of US tariffs on their investments and operations in China, according to a commerce ministry readout.

"false news"

"It is hoped that foreign firms will...turn crises into opportunities," Vice Commerce Minister Ling Ji said at the roundtable, promising to work on resolving problems faced by

foreign firms In Washington DC, China's central bank Governor Pan Gongsheng said China will firmly support free trade rules and the multilateral trading system, in remarks made at a G20 meeting on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Spring

## 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 ear-

lier 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 Con-

servatives back to power after

rump'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

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

the election as a battle for Canadian identity, overshadowing earlier concerns about inflation, immigration, and Trudeau's waning popularity election as a question of who

his surge in patriotic

sentiment has reframed

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, par ticularly in navigating a tense trade relationship with the US and an electorate now deeply concerned about national sov ereignty.

Historian Robert Bothwell called the situation "inconceivable," adding that Carney may be fortunate to have surged at the right momentbut he'll need more than luck to govern effectively in the face of what he called "the Trump problem."

# Business



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

#### **TRUMP TARIFFS: GLOBAL** TRADE TO SLIDE

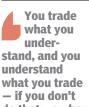
The World Trade Organisation says the volume of trade in goods worldwide is likely to decrease by 0.2% this year due to US President Donald Trump's shifting tariff policies and a standoff with China, but it would take a more severe hit if Trump carries through on his toughest "reciprocal" tariffs



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

MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN AND MD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES



do that, you have a problem SUNDARARAMAN 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

#### 04 **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 guarter 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 guarter, 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

#### 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 guarter. 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 guarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, from ₹35,990 crore in the year-ago period.

# 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

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** 

Mumbai, April 24: The deci-

sion 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

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.

(RBI) rate actions and liquid-

ity 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 sur-

rounding them, said Sashidhar

Jagdishan, CEO of HDFC Bank.

India's largest private lender by

"Corporates have adopted a

The Reserve Bank of India's

The infusion of liquidity,

and sources said.

REUTERS

The main imports include

2021-22

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

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 includ 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).

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

fruits and nuts (\$0.08 million) certain oil seeds and medicinal plants (\$0.26 million), organic chemicals, and project goods. Usually, the consignments

\$513.82mn

\$2.54mn

from India move via Dubai port to Pakistan. The India-Pakistan trade re-

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

India had granted the MFN status to Pakistan way back in 1996, but the neighbouring country had not reciprocated.

Under the MFN pact, a WTO member country is obliged to treat the other trading nation in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to customs duty and other levies. In 2012, Pakistan had com-

mitted to giving the MFN status to India but retracted later due to domestic opposition. Instead of MFN, Pakistan said it was working on granting Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) status to India but that also was not announced.

Pakistan too in August 2019 suspended trade ties with New Delhi following imposition of the heavy import duty by India on imports from Pakistan.

Both countries have a long history of strained relations primarily due to the Kashmir issue as well as the cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Total India-Pakistan trade

in 2017-18 was \$2.41 billion as against \$2.27 billion in 2016-17. India imported goods worth \$488.5 million in 2017-18 and exported goods worth \$1.92 billion. Meanwhile, FIEO has can-

celled its managing committee

meeting, which was scheduled for April 28 in Kashmir due to tensions in the valley following terror attack at Pahalgam. An official of the FIEO said that about 25 members were

'We were planned to discuss issues related to FIEO's internal matters and international trade. But now we have can celled that," the official said.

scheduled to attend the meeting.

Set up in 1965 by the commerce ministry, the federation facilitates redressal of exporters' problems by taking them up with the authorities concerned, besides promoting the

## Stock markets snap 7-day rally

**BSE SENSEX** 

**APRIL 24, 2025** 







+1.26 % *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

overall neutral, so

the downside to growth.

The fiscal side push is also

essential if one has to help

it is only the RBI which is

doing the heavy lifting

GAURA SEN GUPTA | ECONOMIST,

RBI's accommodative

per cent in consolidated net prof it at ₹2,475 crore for the fourth guarter ended March 2025, hit by lower margins. Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Eter

nal, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCI Technologies, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultan cv Services and Bajaj Finance were also among the laggards. IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, Tech Ma-

hindra, Titan and Asian Paints were among the gainers. As many as 2.015 stocks de clined while 1,920 advanced and

151 remained unchanged on the BSE. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹3,332.93 crore Wednesday. The BSE benchmark jumped

520.90 points or 0.65 per cent to set tle at 80,116.49, the highest closing level since December 18, Wednes day. The Nifty rallied 161.70 points or 0.67 per cent to 24,328.95. The National Stock Exchange

(NSE) Chief Ashishkumar Chau han expressed deep sorrow over the tragic terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 people and the bourse pledged ₹1 crore to the next of kin of the

**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 disclo sure regarding the interim order passed by Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

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

In its order, Sebi said Future Retail had disclosed the initia-

## RBI's cash influx to have little effect

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.



- loan growth
- Banks deposit surplus cash with RBI, indicating limited

In fact, private capital spending may slow further amid the global tariff wars, analysts said.

"Private capex is about the future and is always a function of the demand and not so much about the cost of capital," said Gaura Sen Gupta, an economist at IDFC FIRST Bank

**INFLATION COMFORT** 



■ Analysts suggest fiscal

measures needed alongside monetary easing The central bank views mon-

etary easing as a means to curb any further downside to growth with softer inflation giving it the leeway to do so, a source aware of the RBI's thinking said. This was evident in the rate panel's minutes. 'The fact that growth needs

support is clear but monetary

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

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

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

remains uncertain.

RBI's 4% target in February and March and is seen holding Ambani Group.

tion 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.

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

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 profitabilitv 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 ex-

cluding staples will be a key

aspects which are unique to a sector, it said. Crisil Intelligence's director

will benefit from a mixed set of

Pushan Sharma said consumer discretionary products, services and staple services segment is expected to see 8-9 per cent onyear 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 and urban demand has stayed subdued. Overall exports revenue is

likely to grow 4 per cent, including 2-3 per cent growth in IT services revenue following a marginal improvement in demand and project pick-ups and 8 per cent in the pharmaceutical sector.

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 sec-

tors, 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,

Five sectors including export-driven ones such as phar-

showed a mixed trend in EBIT-

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

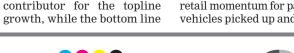
Five other sectors -- automobile, IT services, FMCG, cement, and steel -- saw margins decline in the March quarter.

The automobile sector's EBIT-DA 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

Axis Bank said.







DA margins.'

agency said.

## 'No factionalism, nepotism' RCB's home jinx ends Hazlewood-inspired RCB triumph in see-saw battle, RR out of play-offs reckoning

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

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

At an elaborate ceremony to launch the first set of certificates in Digilocker, a cloudbased 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.

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 intercourts of the land.

Currently an ad-hoc committee is in place in boxing and matters related to football and equestrian's current ad-

You have to serve the athletes and they suffer when there is factionalism.

I will not allow that. NSFs have to be responsible

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

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 interna-

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

"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

### COE for every sport with corporate funding

"You will get all support from

the ministry. As I had said (ear-

lier), even office space will be

provided ministry. 18 rooms

are ready at the JLN (Jawa-

harlal Nehru Stadium), You

just have to apply, please do

"Lekin bhai-bhatija nahi

chalega (But nepotism will not

it," said Mandaviya

**S** ports 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 announce ment 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.

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 Raiasthan Rovals 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 Yashasyi 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 Vaibhay Survayan shi amassing 52 runs in 27 balls before the latter was bowled by a Bhuyneshwar Kumar knuck le ball after the teenager went for one too many, having hit two sixes in his 16-run knock. Suryavanshi was RR's impact



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 four 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 Raiasthan Royals: 194 for 9 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 49. Dh ruv Jurel 47; Josh Hazlewood (4/33), Krunal Pandya 2/31)

#### **IPL STANDINGS** TEAM M W L NRR PTS 8 | 6 | 2 | 1.104 | **12** 8 6 2 0.657 **12** 9 6 3 0.482 **12** 9 | 5 | 4 | 0.673 | **10** 8 5 3 0.177 **10** 9 | 5 | 4 | -0.054 | **10** 8 3 5 0.212 9 2 7 -0.625 4 8 2 6 -1.361 **4** 8 2 6 -1.392 **4**

NorthEast United thrash

Mohammedan Sporting

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

#### 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

#### **Alcaraz withdraws**

semifinals Tuesday.

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



In men's triple jump, Prayeen 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, produc-

tion 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,

### 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



reports claimed that Arshad Nadeem has shown an inclination to accept the invitation, once he officially receives it, the Paris Olympic Games gold medallist 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.

#### Bhubaneswar, April 24: Striker Alaeddine Ajaraie scored a triple as NorthEast United FC thoroughly dominat ed and dismantled Mohammed an Sporting 6-0 in the Kalinga Super Cup Thursday, sealing their place in the quarterfinals

NorthEast also issued a state ment 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

of the event. With Alaeddine

Ajaraje among four different

goal scorers on the scoresheet,

(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.

## 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-ev-

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



ed 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 disappointhas 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

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 transforma tion of a community. Thus, the precious partnership with a tall talent like Rahul Banerjee re flects our sincere commitments towards and community development and responsibilities.

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