

Sreeleela's philosophy

Actor Sreeleela emphasises the importance of staying grounded and prioritising growth over glamour

LEISURE | P2

Vance in Budapest

US Vice President JD Vance slams European Union's 'interference' in Hungarian vote on Budapest trip

INTERNATIONAL | P10

₹ plunges 16 paise

Rupee depreciates 16 paise to close at 93.06 against US dollar, ahead of US Prez Donald Trump's deadline for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz

BUSINESS | P11

Ring queens

World champions J Lamboria, M Hooda progress to the finals at the Asian Boxing tourney, taking India's total finalists to eight

SPORTS | P12

Trump's latest threat to Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran (Iran), April 7: US President Donald Trump warned Tuesday that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his latest deadline for the Islamic Republic to agree to a deal that includes reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz. The warning came as airstrikes hit two bridges and a train station in Iran, and Iranian officials urged young people to form human chains to protect power plants.

Trump has extended previous deadlines but suggested the one set for 8pm in Washington was final, and the rhetoric on both sides reached a fever pitch, leaving Iranians on edge.

Trump threatened to destroy all of Iran's power plants and bridges if Tehran



does not allow traffic to fully resume in the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil transits in peacetime. Iran's president said 14 million people, including himself, have volunteered to fight.

"Iran will not stand idle in the face of such egregious war crimes. It will exercise, without hesitation, its inherent right of self-defence and will take immediate and proportionate reciprocal measures," Tehran's United Nations representative Amir-Saeid Irvani said later in the day.

Meanwhile, US Vice President JD Vance said he is confident Iran will respond to US demands by evening deadline. "I hope they're smart," he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I miss those old days when a press conference of allegations was countered by a press conference of rebuttals

Gene-edited wheat to make toast safer

Bread and biscuits made from CRISPR-edited wheat showed substantially reduced acrylamide levels, even after toasting

AGENCIES

London, April 7: Scientists have successfully developed gene-edited wheat which can make bread less carcinogenic when toasted.

According to a report by 'The Guardian', wheat contains free asparagine, an amino acid, which is used by the plant to store nitrogen. However, when bread is baked, fried or toasted, this amino acid converts into a toxic compound called acrylamide. This has been classified by scientists as a probable carcinogen.

Researchers at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden at Hertfordshire, England used CRISPR genome editing which allows researchers to



ON WARPATH: People stage a road blockade in protest after two children were killed and their mother was injured in a bomb attack in Bishnupur district of Manipur, Tuesday (Report P3)

Over 100 injured in Vedanta mine clash



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Rayagada, April 7: More than 100 people – 58 policemen and over 50 villagers – were injured Tuesday after violent clashes broke out between security forces and tribals, who were protesting a road project linked to Sijimali bauxite mine allotted to Vedanta in Rayagada district.

According to officials, the local tribals strongly opposed the road construction at Shagabari village under Kashipur block of the district. The protesters allegedly hurled stones and attacked police and officials of the district administration with swords, axes, and other sharp weapons in their bid to stop road construction, police said.

"People from Sijimali village launched a fierce attack on policemen who had gone to the village to execute non-bailable warrants pend-

ing against law-breakers. Locals stiffly resisted and attacked the cops. As a result, as many as 58 policemen were injured with six of them critically injured. The seriously injured policemen have been rushed to a hospital in Visakhapatnam, said Rayagada SP Swathi S Kumar.

"Locals launched an attack without any provocation. In self defence, police were forced to use force to restore order. It has resulted in some local people getting injured," she said.

On the other hand, the Odisha unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPM] rubbished the police version saying that police crackdown was unprovoked and barbaric on peace-loving tribal settlers of the area.

"Armed police forces cordoned off the village during wee hours today and unleashed a reign of terror by launching a midnight operation," alleged Suresh Chandra

Panigrahi, Secretary, CPM, Odisha State Committee.

Power supply was snapped ahead of the operation that included the use of tear gas, breaking into houses, and firing blank shots to intimidate residents, the Panigrahi said.

Significantly, locals in Kashipur area are opposed to Sijimali bauxite mine project ever since the state government allotted it to the private company. The administration was facilitating the company to construct a road to the bauxite mine.

Meanwhile, the district administration has imposed prohibitory orders at Shagabari village to maintain law and order, an official said, adding that additional police forces have also been deployed in the area. Rayagada Collector Kulkarni Ashutosh C went to the spot and held discussions with the agitating tribals, an official said. MORE P4

CM calls for hike in iron ore output

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Keeping in view the rising ore demand and rapid industrialisation in the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday urged mining leaseholders and industries to increase iron ore production.

Presiding over a high-level meeting with mining leaseholders and industrialists, Majhi assured that the government would provide full support for mining activities.

He called for enhanced



production and dispatch, in line with the minimum mandatory limits under the Mine Development and Production Agreement, and encouraged setting up manufacturing facilities in the state's mineral-rich districts.

Noting that the number

religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre, however, said courts can always intervene if religious practices violate 'public order', 'morality' and 'health'.

The top court observed that if there is a social as well as de-nominational religious practice then the court can examine whether it is an essential religious practice or a social evil.

The bench also comprising Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joydip Bagchi was told by Mehta that if there is something unscientific, the remedy is with the legislature.

Referring to the right of

OrissaPOST BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

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BARRYMORE REVEALS BODY INSECURITIES

American actress and talk show host Drew Barrymore has tearfully revealed her body insecurities after undergoing two c-sections. The 51-year-old was emotional as she revealed that she related to a mother-of-four on her programme who was uncomfortable wearing 'form-fitting clothing'.

HELEN FLANAGAN'S DATING STRUGGLES

Reality star Helen Flanagan is opening up on the struggles of dating. The 35-year-old actress has shared that it's not easy for her to form real connection owing to her fame. The actress fears being recognised when meeting someone because it gets in the way of real connections, reports *Female first UK*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS
You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
A day of conflicting emotions awaits you. Your personal and professional life will both be important. Hence you will experience anxious moments as you try to balance the demands made by both. However, the good news is you will succeed in your attempts and will do justice to all your duties, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will love to stroll in a world of fantasy. Religious impact will prevail over you. You will charter your fantasy to a mysterious level. You will have communion with God at a temple, mosque or church, you will try to draw lessons from your experience.

LEO
You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesha says your amiable nature will help you in getting along easily with people.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength. You will have to be careful about your health today and will need to watch your diet.

SCORPIO
Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

SAGITTARIUS
Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break, says Ganesha. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

CAPRICORN
Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesha. Family life will be smooth and it will enable you to fully concentrate on your career and increasing your efficiency level.

AQUARIUS
With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesha gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES
Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your will-power strong to remain positive. Increasing your awareness will help you see things with more truth and clarity, says Ganesha.

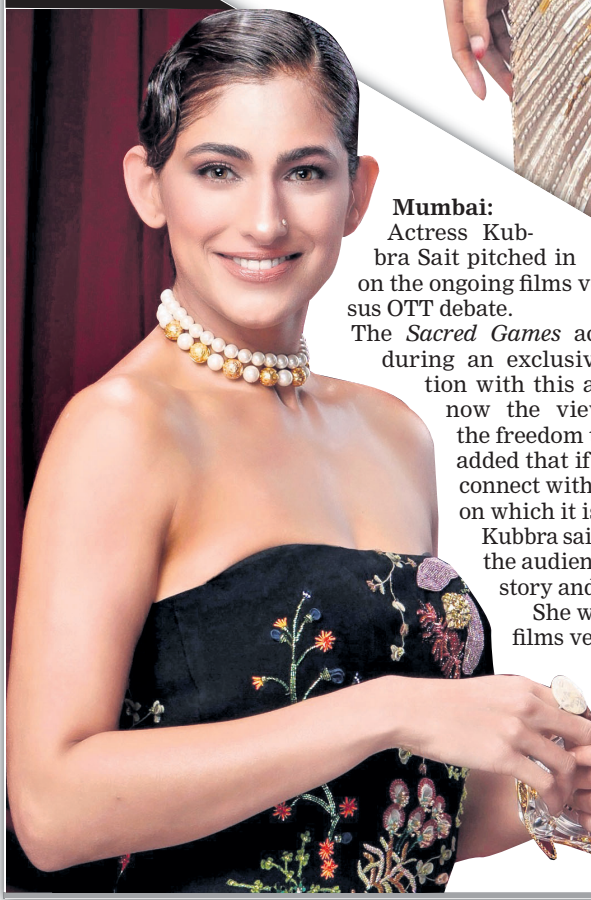
Harnaaz promotes inner healing

Mumbai: On the occasion of World Health Day, Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu used her voice to spotlight the growing importance of mental health awareness, advocating for a more open and compassionate approach towards emotional well-being.

The global icon, who has often spoken about self-acceptance and resilience, continues to leverage her platform to inspire meaningful conversations around mental health.

In recent years, discussions around mental well-being has gained momentum, with several public figures stepping forward to share their experiences. Harnaaz Sandhu has emerged as one of the prominent voices in this space, consistently encouraging people to acknowledge their struggles without fear or judgment. Her journey, marked by both personal challenges and public scrutiny, reflects a commitment to breaking stigmas and normalizing conversations around emotional health.

Opening up about her own experiences, Harnaaz shared, "I realized that mental health is intrinsically linked to physical health and that together, we can break the stigmas and help people realise the purpose of their existence to extract the best of their potential. I have been advocating about this issue in my circle of influence that distress and depression should not be a barrier to our growth, and letting go of it can lead us on the path towards our dreams."



AKSHAY GETS AN 'AGE REALITY CHECK'

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar recently was sent on a trip down memory lane by two fans of his who appeared on the quiz reality show *Wheel of Fortune*, hosted by Akshay.

In a surprising turn of events, the fans revealed that they had met the superstar back in the 2000s when he was still building a successful career.

The trip down memory lane began with Neetu, who shared a heart-warming story from her school days in Rajasthan. She recalled being in the 9th grade

when she spotted Akshay shooting for a film decades ago.

She revealed that in a sweet gesture, Akshay had spotted her and her friends in the crowd thrilled to see him and had personally called them over to distribute autographs.

Akshay was visibly amused, realizing just how much time had passed since that very Rajasthan schedule.

The nostalgia trip continued with another contestant An-dell, who revealed his own brush with stardom.

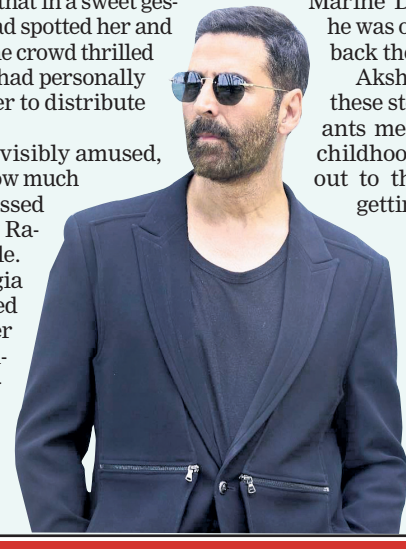
He shared that he had met

Akshay during the filming of the 1997 hit *Aflatoon* at Mumbai's iconic Marine Drive and revealed he was only in the 5th grade back then.

Akshay after listening to these stories of the contestants meeting him in their childhood made him point out to the audience about getting an age-check.

"Aaj lagta hain, meri beizzati ka din hain, kuch karna padega meri umar ka."

Akshay Kumar, all of 58, has been a part of the Bollywood industry for over three decades.



Sreeleela on staying rooted

Mumbai: Actress Sreeleela is becoming known across social media and silver screens for all the right reasons. With her infectious energy and fine performances, she is making heads turn.

From her screen presence to acting chops, her rise has been swift and widely watched.

The actress recently opened up about her ascent in an interview with *Harper's Bazaar India*, painting it less as a glamorous rocket launch and more as a grounded, introspective path.

"It felt a lot less like a rise and more like a series of steps that are small, quiet ones that suddenly became visible," she shared. "It is a journey where you are constantly learning, unlearning, and relearning. And what I try to do

is to be centred through this process because the key is always

to hold a sense of normalcy, and remind myself why I started in the first place."

Her words capture the humility behind the hype. In an industry that often spotlights overnight sensations, Sreeleela emphasized staying rooted and focusing on growth over glamour.

Sreeleela will next be seen alongside *Dhanush in D55* and will be debuting in Bollywood with Anurag Basu's musical drama, which also features Kartik Aaryan.



Kubbra joins films-OTT debate

Mumbai: Actress Kubbra Sait pitched in on the ongoing films versus OTT debate.

The *Sacred Games* actress said during an exclusive conversation with this agency that now the viewers have the freedom to choose. She added that if people are able to connect with the story, the medium on which it is shown takes a backseat.

Kubbra said it all comes down to how much the audience is able to emotionally invest in a story and its characters.

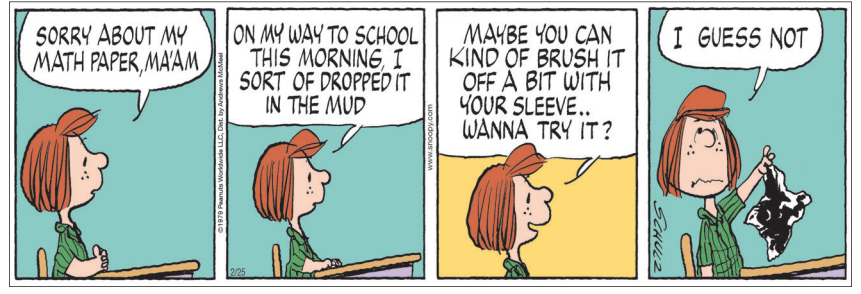
She was asked, "There's an ongoing debate about films versus OTT. How do you see it?"

Kubbra responded to this by saying that she does not think there is a winner or loser here.

"These are simply different mediums—one long format, one limited format," she said.

The Farzi actress went on to add, "Today, the audience has the freedom to choose. If a story connects, it doesn't matter whether it's on a big screen or a phone. Ultimately, it's about your emotional investment in the story and the characters."

PEANUTS



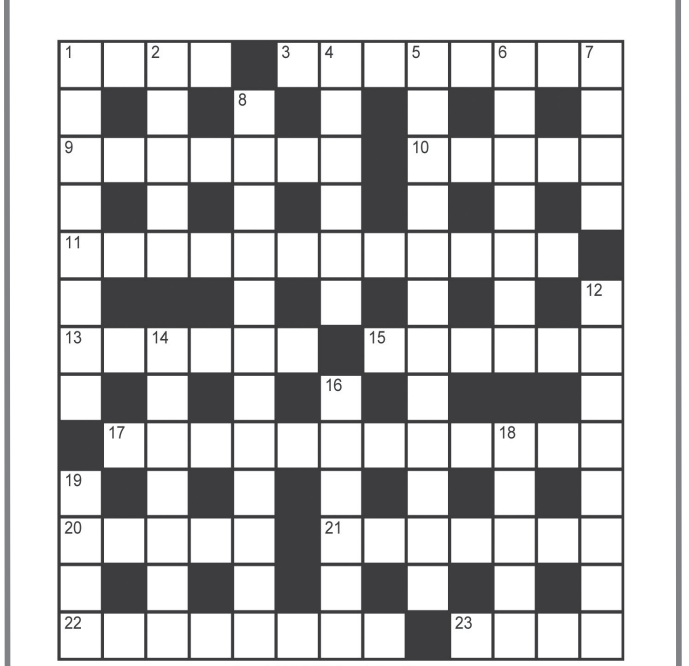
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



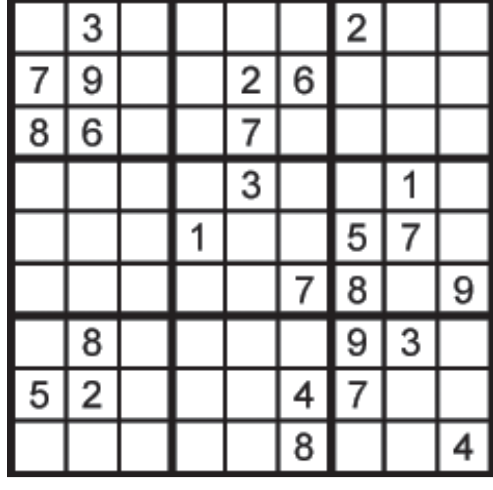
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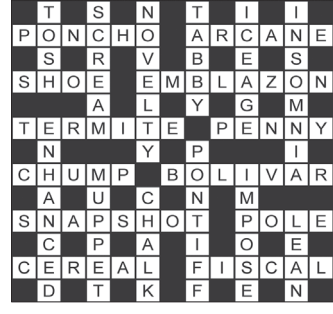
- Across**
- 1 Ringlet
 - 3 Slaughter
 - 9 WWII battle site
 - 10 Egg cell
 - 11 Electrical problem (5-7)
 - 13 Noggin
 - 15 Spirit session
 - 17 Chef's utensil (7,5)
 - 20 Blubberer
 - 21 Under
 - 22 Not used (5-3)
 - 23 Sea swallow
 - 6 Wariness
 - 7 ___ and anon
 - 8 Like some Frank Lloyd Wright buildings
 - 12 TV fundraiser
 - 14 Egg-shaped instrument
 - 16 Incapable
 - 18 Ludicrous
 - 19 Healing sign

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

MANIPUR TENSE AGAIN

2 kids killed in bomb attack; 2 protesters shot dead in CRPF camp firing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, April 7: Violence broke out in Manipur's Bishnupur district Tuesday as two children were killed in a bomb attack on their home, while two persons were shot dead when a mob stormed into a CRPF camp during a protest against the blast, police said.

It all started with suspected militants hurling a bomb at a house in Moirang Tronglaobi at around 1 am, killing a five-year-old boy and his six-month-old sister and injuring their mother, when all of them were sleeping, police said.

Following the incident, locals, who condemned the incident, staged a protest in the morning and torched two oil tankers and a truck near a petrol pump in the area. They burnt tyres in front of the Moirang police station and destroyed a makeshift police outpost.

Protesters also stopped the movement of vehicles at Pangei and Khurai in Imphal East and Langthabal in Imphal West, and burnt tyres in the middle of the roads. Security forces have been deployed in the area to control the situation, the officer said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh visited a private hospital in Imphal, where the injured mother of the two deceased was being treated. The CM termed the



attack as a "barbaric act" and "an outright assault on humanity and a direct attempt to derail the hard-earned peace in Manipur".

"I condemn it in the strongest possible terms. Let there be no doubt, those responsible will be identified, hunted down and dealt with firmly under the law. Such acts of terror will not be tolerated under any circumstances," he said.

An explosive device was also recovered in a nearby area of Tronglaobi Tuesday, another senior officer said.

Later, a mob - unhappy with the security forces for allegedly failing to take action against the militants - stormed a CRPF camp at Gelmol in the district, burnt vehicles and vandalised portions of the camp, leading to firing by security personnel, which claimed the lives of two persons.

Briefing reporters soon after the incident, Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam claimed that two persons were killed and five others injured in the firing. "I had urged the protesters not to enter the CRPF camp and to allow security forces to focus on conducting an operation to

apprehend those involved in the bomb attack," the minister said, adding, "But the demonstrators did not pay heed to the appeal."

Later in the evening, Manipur Police said in an X post that 20 people were injured in the incident.

The state government imposed indefinite curfew in Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Kakching districts in the wake of violence. Authorities also ordered suspension of internet and mobile data services in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts for three days.

The CM said the state government has decided to hand over the probe into the bomb attack to the NIA. Appealing to the public, the CM urged people to remain calm and not give in to emotions. Singh also chaired an all-party meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat to review the prevailing situation.

At least 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kuki-Zo groups in Manipur since May 2023.

SIR: Nearly 91L names deleted from Bengal electoral rolls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 7: Nearly 91 lakh voters were deleted from the electoral rolls in West Bengal following the completion of the adjudication process of the SIR exercise in the state, Election Commission (EC) data revealed, opening up potential for a significant impact

in the upcoming Assembly polls in the state.

While Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the poll body of undertaking "targeted deletions of Matua, Rajbanshi and minority community members" of the state, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari maintained that "Bangladeshi Muslims have no

place in West Bengal".

The EC is yet to officially announce the finally altered voter base for the state after the roll revision process. Available figures, however, showed that the proportion of total deletion at this stage, based on the 7.66 crore elector base identified in October 2025, remains at

over 11.85 per cent.

The final deletion figure, since the beginning of the SIR process, stood at a little over 90.83 lakh.

Over 27.16 lakh of 60.06 lakh 'under adjudication' voters have been deleted during the now-concluded scrutiny by judicial officers, the EC data said.

In terms of ratio, the

figure revealed that some 45.22 per cent of the cases under judicial scrutiny following the publication of the post-SIR electoral rolls February 28 were deleted.

More than 32.68 lakh of those in the 'under adjudication' category have been retained and included in the final rolls.

No exit polls from April 9 to 29: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Exit polls can neither be held nor disseminated from 7 am of April 9 till 6.30 pm of April 29 for the five Assembly elections taking place this month, the Election Commission (EC) has said.

It has also cautioned that conducting or broadcasting exit polls in the period is violative of Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and is "punishable with imprisonment up to a period of two years, or with fine or both".

While Kerala, Assam and Puducherry are going for Assembly polls April 9, the electoral exercise will be held in Tamil Nadu April 23. In West Bengal, state polls will be held April 23 and 29. While the 48 hour 'silence period' in Kerala and Puducherry commenced at 6 pm Tuesday, it started at 5 pm in Assam.

Silence period means end of campaigning 48 hours ahead of the end of voting hour in a particular constituency or the entire state.

Ganjam man kills wife, hangs self

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar (Ganjam), April 7: A man allegedly killed his wife before ending his own life at Saranuaapalli village under the Belaguntha police limits in Ganjam district Monday night.

The deceased have been identified as Chitrasen Naik and Puja Nayak. They were married about seven years ago and had two children.

According to sources, Chitrasen suspected his wife of having an extramarital affair, and the couple frequently argued over the issue. As the dispute escalated, Puja, along with her children, started staying with a relative in Bhubaneswar a few months ago.

"Puja had returned to the village two days back, while the children remained in Bhubaneswar," sources said. The couple reportedly entered into an argument Monday night. "Soon a mountain was made out of a molehill and, in a fit of rage, Chitrasen attacked Puja with a sharp weapon, killing her on the spot. He later hanged himself from a tree near the house," they said.

CCTVs in Police Stations

All issues will be sorted out within 2 wks: Centre to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Centre Tuesday told the Supreme Court that all issues concerning the installation of CCTVs in police stations across the country would be sorted out within two weeks.

Attorney General R Venkataramani told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that he was taking stock of the issue and a lot of things were happening. The Union Home Secretary also appeared in court in pursuance of the apex court's April 6 order asking him to remain present before it Tuesday so that appropriate assistance might be drawn from him in implementation of the scheme for installation of CCTVs in police stations.

The SC was hearing a batch of pleas, including a suo motu case over the lack of functional CCTVs in police stations.

"I am taking stock of the issues," the Attorney General told the bench.



Justice Nath said the SC had earlier asked the amicus curiae in the matter to hold meetings with all the states and Union Territories (UTs), and the Union of India was represented by an under secretary in the deliberations. "Does it look nice?" Justice Nath said.

The top law officer said a lot of things are happening in the matter and he would have a series of meetings with the amicus and the Home Secretary.

The bench said during the hearing Monday, it was pointed out that Kerala has come out with a very nice software and they have implemented it fully.

"So, we were requesting the additional solicitor general (who appeared for the Centre Monday), why can't you follow it uniformly for

all the states. Instead of every state creating its own software and spending money and time, there is already a ready software which is in use," the bench said.

It said that according to the amicus, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have already set up centralised dashboards.

"You can issue guidelines to all the states requesting them or directing them to follow the same pattern as that of Kerala," the bench said. Venkataramani said he would hold meetings with the amicus and the authorities.

"Upon instructions, the attorney general has stated that within two weeks, he would make sure that all the issues are sorted out by holding regular meetings with the amicus and the other relevant officers. List this matter again April 28," the bench said.

The SC had in 2018 ordered the installation of CCTV cameras across police stations to check human rights abuses.

Gurgaon India's most polluted city in March

5 cities from Odisha were among those showing an increase in PM10 levels: CREA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Gurgaon was India's most polluted city in March this year, with Haryana accounting for four of the country's 10 most polluted cities, according to a new report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The other cities in the top 10 polluted list for

March were Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Singrauli, Mandideep, Ghaziabad, Manesar, Bhiwadi, Noida and Nandesari. For the entire financial year 2025-26, Ghaziabad was the most polluted city.

"Gurgaon was India's most polluted city in March, with a monthly average PM2.5 of 116 µg/m3. Haryana accounted for four of India's top 10 most polluted cities, followed by two cities each from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Rajasthan and Gujarat," the report said.



"Haryana had the highest number of cities exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), with nine out of 24 recording PM2.5 higher than the NAAQS. That was followed by Uttar Pradesh with eight out of 21 cities exceeding the NAAQS," it pointed out.

An analysis of India's Na-

tional Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which evaluates PM10 reductions on a financial year basis, showed that just a few cities met the NCAP targets after seven years of implementation.

"States with the most cities showing an increase in PM10 levels included Odisha with five cities, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh with each two cities. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu each had one city with an increase in concentration with reference to the baseline year," it added.

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Strong panchayats key to devpt: Min

Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik participates in workshop on "Reimagining Capacity Building for Grassroots Governance" during Sadhana Saptah campaign



The workshop launches the "Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi" initiative, introducing an AI-based WhatsApp chatbot and dedicated e-learning modules for Panchayati Raj functionaries.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: "Strong panchayats are the foundation of sustainable and inclusive development. Continuous, competency-based training is essential to empower Panchayati Raj representatives, and with dedicated, mission-driven officials, we are committed to bringing transformative changes at the grassroots level," said Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a workshop titled "Reimagining Capacity Building for Grassroots Governance," held Tuesday at Krushi Bhavan here as part of the nationwide Sadhana Saptah campaign (April 2-8). The programme was jointly organised by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), the department of Personnel and Training, Karmayogi Bharat, and the Government of Odisha.

The workshop focused on strengthening grassroots governance through the integration of technology, tradition, and

outcome-based approaches. R Balasubramaniam, Member (HR) of the Capacity Building Commission, elaborated on the vision of Mission Karmayogi and the CBC's role in strengthening capacity building across government sectors. He highlighted the shift from a rule-based to a role-based governance system, with an emphasis on citizen-centric service delivery.

Other dignitaries, including Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India; Girish SN, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department; and Madhusmita Samal, Director of SIRD, also shared their insights during the session. A key highlight of the workshop was the launch of the "Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi" initiative. An AI-based "Viksit Panchayat" WhatsApp chat-

bot and dedicated e-learning modules were introduced for Panchayati Raj functionaries. These resources, accessible through the iGOT Karmayogi platform, will help grassroots representatives enhance their technical knowledge and address local issues more effectively.

Under the initiative, select Gram Panchayats from Baisipariguda block in Koraput district and Thakurmunda block in Mayurbhanj district have been chosen as pilot projects. Nationwide, the pilot is being implemented in 60 panchayats, aiming to promote digital learning, boost active participation in Gram Sabhas, and facilitate need-based local development planning.

The workshop concluded with a collective acknowledgment of the vital role empowered panchayats play in building a Viksit Bharat and a Viksit Odisha.

Forum urges CM to act on police violence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: An open letter issued by the "Concerned Citizens Forum, Odisha" and addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has alleged widespread police violence and repression in the tribal districts of Rayagada and Kalahandi, urging immediate government intervention to safeguard the rights of local communities.

The letter claims that the alleged incidents occurred between the night of April 6 and the early hours of April 7 in Kantamal village under Kashi-pur block in Rayagada district.

Forum member Narendra Mohanty stated that villagers were subjected to "barbaric police action" in the presence of senior police and administrative officials.

The forum stated that the unrest stems from tribal and Dalit protests against bauxite mining by Vedanta Limited and its contractors. Since Ju-



ly-August 2023, communities have been opposing the project, claiming it threatens their land, water, forests, livelihoods, and cultural-religious heritage. The affected areas fall under India's Fifth Schedule, which provides special protections for tribal populations.

It noted that local groups, led by "Maa Mati Mali Surakhya Mancha," have been using democratic means, including petitions to local authorities and national leaders, and par-

icipation in public hearings. However, instead of dialogue, the forum alleged that authorities have resorted to repression, filing hundreds of criminal cases and detaining over 100 people, including women and children.

Citing key incidents, the forum mentioned a March 10 midnight raid on Talampadar village, where 21 tribal residents, including 10 women, were arrested and homes damaged. It further alleged that April 6,

police entered Kantamal village at night, used tear gas, and injured several villagers, including two women. The forum also claimed that armed patrols, drones, and heavy police presence have disrupted daily life, preventing farmers and labourers from accessing fields, forests, and markets.

The forum urged the state government to immediately withdraw prohibitory orders cancel the mining project halt related construction activities, release all detained protesters, and enforce tribal protection laws such as PESA and the Forest Rights Act. It also called for the withdrawal of police forces and an end to the alleged harassment of tribal communities.

Noting that the region falls under a Scheduled Area, the forum appealed to the Chief Minister, who also heads the Tribal Advisory Council, to ensure that the constitutional and democratic rights of the residents are fully safeguarded.

Swosti rolls out Biryani & Kebabs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Swosti Group Tuesday launched 'Grand Biryani and Kebabs' in Bhubaneswar. The new takeaway and online ordering outlet is located at Swosti Grand, near the railway station in the Master Canteen area.

The outlet specialises in traditional cooking methods, with its signature matka biryani as a key highlight—where rice, spices, and vegetables or meats are slow-cooked in sealed clay pots to preserve rich aroma, flavour, and texture. The menu offers a



wide range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian biryanis, including popular styles such as Lucknowi, Hyderabad, and Bengali.

Complementing the biryanis is an extensive selection of kebabs, ranging from paneer and mushroom varieties to flavourful chicken and mutton options, all prepared with time-honoured marinades and expertly grilled to

perfection. Designed exclusively as a takeaway and online ordering outlet, Grand Biryani & Kebabs does not offer dine-in facilities. The concept enables the brand to focus on superior food quality, secure packaging, and efficient service, catering to families, corporate orders, and customers seeking restaurant-quality meals at home.

Speaking on the launch, Abhishek Nath, Area Vice President, Swosti Group, said, "With Grand Biryani and Kebabs, we aim to bring authentic flavours in a convenient takeaway format while maintaining the quality and hospitality standards that Swosti is known for."

Khurda Road Division achieves record ticket checking revenue

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway (ECOR) has set a new benchmark in ticket checking performance during the financial year 2025-26, recording its highest-ever earnings from ticket checks across the zone.

The division collected a total of ₹39.71 crore through fares and penalties from approximately 7.38 lakh unauthorised or irregular passengers. This marks a notable 21 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year.

This achievement is the result of systematic planning and efficient execution by the Commercial department, in close coordination with the Security department. Around 3,000 intensive and special ticket-checking drives were conducted across various trains and stations within the division. The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Anil Kumar S. He has appealed to passengers to travel with valid tickets and cooperate with railway authorities to ensure better services for genuine travelers.

Daily commuters have also been encouraged to make use of concessional travel facilities such as MST, QST, and YST for regular journeys on MEMU and local trains. The division has further strengthened its ticket-checking drives to curb unauthorised travel, promote discipline, and ensure a hassle-free journey for bona fide passengers.

JHW: A journey through ancient faiths



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, April 7: Around 25 heritage enthusiasts from across the state took part in the 14th edition of the Jagatsinghpur Heritage Walks (JHW) recently, exploring a trail that showcased the region's rich blend of Jain, Buddhist, and Hindu traditions.

The walk, designed to promote awareness of Jagatsinghpur district's historical legacy and archaeological treasures, covered three key sites on the town's outskirts. The initiative

highlighted the importance of preserving ancient monuments, sculptures, art forms, and cultural traditions that reflect the district's vibrant past.

Starting at Oushuni Pitha in Banamalipur village, participants viewed a rare twelve-armed idol of Goddess Chamunda installed beneath an ancient banyan tree. This sculpture, a unique representation of the Shakti cult in classical Odisha, offers profound insights into the region's spiritual heritage. The next stop was the historic Bhagabati Temple in Pana-

sapada village. Participants expressed concern over the theft of a centuries-old Durga idol from the temple in 2015—a loss that still affects the local community.

Ending at Khandeshwar Mahadev Temple in Nasik village, the walk highlighted a site notable for its rare coexistence of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions. The temple houses an impressive collection of antiquities, including Buddhist depictions of Chakrasamvara (Bhairava) and Vajrasattva, a Jain idol of Shantinath, the 16th Tirthankara, and several Hindu deities.

Local resident Chaudhury Barada Prasanna Das highlighted the village's Jain heritage, noting remnants of a once-thriving community. The event, coordinated by JHW convenor Srikanta Singh, saw senior members Biswaranjan Dehuri, Bhagaban Das, and Sasanka Sekhar Panda in attendance, while young participants were felicitated.

'Scientific approach vital for health, resilience'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The theme of this year's World Health Day, "Together for Health - Stand with Science," was echoed at an event jointly organised by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and the Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, at the RSC auditorium Tuesday.

Speakers at the event underscored that a scientific approach is vital for ensuring good health and building resilient societies. They noted that the theme calls for unity, trust in evidence-based knowledge and a shared responsibility toward public health. While science provides solutions to understand diseases, develop treat-

ments and prevent outbreaks, its effectiveness ultimately hinges on public awareness, participation and informed decision-making.

The event was chaired by OES working president Jayakrushna Panigrahi, while former Scientist-G of RMRC, Bhubaneswar, Manoranjan Ranjit attended as the chief guest. Drawing on his extensive research experience, Ranjit spoke on vector-borne diseases, explaining how pathogens are transmitted to humans and animals through blood-feeding arthropods such as mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and sandflies. He stressed the need to rely on scientific evidence rather than misinformation and superstition while addressing health issues. Panigrahi underscored the

need for evidence-based solutions to safeguard the health of people, animals, plants and the environment, while calling for collective support for healthcare professionals who play a critical role in society.

RSC coordinator Kapil Jain highlighted the importance of investing in science and research to tackle emerging health threats, including zoonotic diseases and the impacts of climate change. He also stressed the need for a pollution-free and healthier environment to minimise additional health risks.

Earlier, RSC education officer Nikunja Bihari Sahu delivered the welcome address and introduced the guests. The programme also featured a range

Record as BPUT publishes results in 2 days after exam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: In a remarkable demonstration of efficiency and commitment to academic excellence, Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) has published the results of the Odd Semester Examination 2025-26 Phase-II within just two days of the final examination.

This achievement is going to be placed in Asia Books of Records and India Books of Records, sources said.

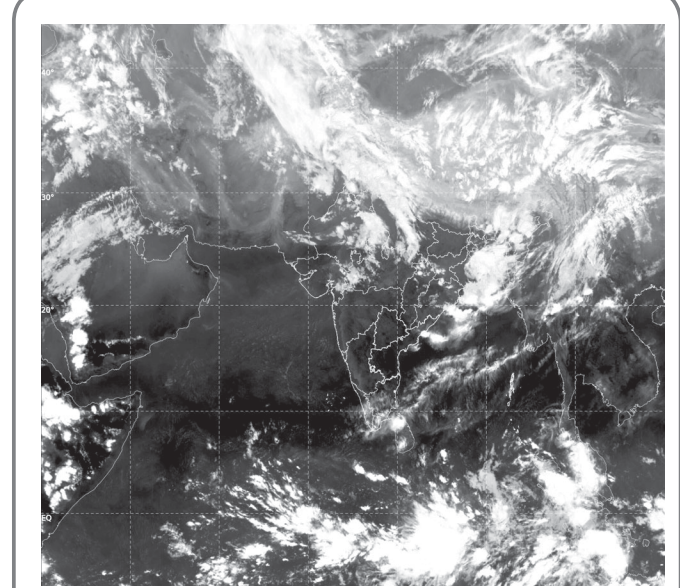
The semester examinations commenced January 12, and concluded February 3, covering BTEch, BArch, BAAC, BPharm, BBA, BCA, IMBA, MArch, MPharm, MSc, MSc I,

MTech, MBA, MCA, and PhD coursework. A total of 67,963 students appeared the examination.

A total of 3,51,264 answer scripts were digitally evaluated. The evaluation was carried out by the university's 1,457 registered faculty members across 58 dedicated nodal centres.

Following the formal approval of conducting board, the university officially declared the results February 5. This timely release of results reflects BPUT's dedication to integrating technology with transparency and academic responsibility, setting new benchmarks in higher education administration.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	93.50 ▲ 0.10	SENSEX	74616.58 ▲ 509.73	GOLD	₹149,353 ▼ ₹628
EURO	108.32 ▼ 0.08	NIFTY	23123.65 ▲ 155.40	SILVER	₹227,910 ▼ ₹5469



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.3°	33.6°	Light to Moderate rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	22.6°	20.6°	
Humidity	81%	86%	
Rainfall	4.6mm	3.4mm	

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Loisingha, No.40 Dated- 06.04.2026, I, Sri Satyabrata Barik, At/P.O.- Jogisarda, P.S.-Loisingha, Dist.-Balangir, Odisha, PIN No.- 767020 declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from PARIDHI BARIK to NITU BARIK. Henceforth, she shall be known as NITU BARIK for all purposes. Satyabrata Barik

Police crackdown on cattle-smuggling network

The coordinated operation involved 18 platoons of police force, along with eight additional Superintendents of Police, 17 DSPs, 25 Inspectors and 67 Sub-Inspectors

and silver ornaments from the residences of suspected smugglers were seized in the raid. Police detained 11 suspects including six from Bhadrak and five from Mayurbhanj for questioning. Several motorcycles and vans allegedly used in cattle transportation were also confiscated. Firearms and other weapons were recovered during the searches, Mishra said.



Police officials counting seized cash in Bhadrak

The coordinated operation involved 18 platoons of police force, along with eight additional superintendents of police, 17 DSPs, 25 inspectors and 67 sub-inspectors.

In Balasore district, raids were conducted in multiple areas under Town, Sadar, Soro and Khaira police limits. According to Superintendent of Police Pratyush Divakar, authorities seized ₹21.80 lakh in cash, 50 grams of gold and 1.20 kilograms of silver ornaments from nine suspected smugglers.

Additionally, 13 vans, four motorcycles, 10 mobile phones and five land pattas (RoR) were confiscated from the district, while 32 cattle were rescued during the operation, police said.

Nine locations were raided in Purunabazar and Gujdarada areas of Bhadrak, seizing cash, gold, silver, vehicles and weapons, officials said. During the operation, officers recovered ₹12.13 lakh in cash, 1.595 kg of

gold and 4.230 kg of silver. They also seized five four-wheelers, six two-wheelers, 17 bank passbooks, checkbooks, land documents, ATM and debit cards, along with firearms and sharp-edged weapons, including swords and knives.

Six people have been arrested in Bhadrak, while three others remain absconding, Superintendent of Police Manoj Raut said at a press conference held

at the Town police station. The raids were carried out at the houses of Sheikawat Khan, Sarfaraz Khan and Rohit Khan in Neelakanthapur under Bhadrak Town police limits; Zahid Khan in Santhia Jena-sahi under Purunabazar police limits; Mohammad Azmir Ali of Alalpur; Nasir Hossain Khan and Sheikh Asidul Kadri of Mirzapur Tinapati; and Gulam Ali Akhtar Khan and Gul Mo-hammad Khan of Gujdarada.

Police said the accused were previously involved in multiple cases registered at different police stations.

Efforts are underway to arrest the absconding suspects. To curb cattle smuggling in the district, police have intensified checks, sealed border areas and alerted all roadside police stations, the SP said.

City DSP Anil Kumar Pradhan was also present at the press conference.

2 SCHOOLGIRLS DROWN IN POND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, April 7: Two minor schoolgirls died after drowning in a village pond in Ganjam district Tuesday morning.

The incident occurred around 10am in Patanda village under Digapahandi block. The deceased were identified as Pranjali Dora (11), a Class VI student and the only daughter of S. Dinabandhu Dora, and Mani-ni Dora (12), a Class VII student, daughter of S. Prakash Dora.

According to reports, the girls had gone to bathe in the pond after returning from school. However, they slipped into deep water and drowned. Locals present at another part of the pond attempted to rescue them but were unsuccessful.

The fire services team from Digapahandi later reached the spot and recovered the girls in an unconscious state. They



were rushed to the Community Health Centre, where doctors declared them dead.

Following a complaint, police registered a case (18/26) of unnatural death and Inspector-in-charge Kishore Kumar Samal initiated an investigation.

The bodies were sent to MK-CG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for post-mortem. After the examination, the bodies were handed over to their respective families.

The last rites were conducted at the village cremation ground amid a pall of grief. The tragic incident has left the village in deep mourning.

Rushikulya river – Tampara lake water linkage on cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, April 7: The Ganjam district administration has initiated steps towards building a channel connecting the waters of Rushikulya river and Tampara lake soon. The decision came following a meeting convened by the Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan including the Chhatrapur MLA Krushna Chandra Nayak here Monday.

Additionally, the Nolianuagan sea beach that lies right behind the Tampara lake opens the door for connectivity with the Bay of Bengal as well. Nayak said that a new pathway or bridge will be planned to join the beach with the lake depending on the feasibility for tourists to access the beach.

The preparations are at the final phase for conservation of the Nolianuagan sea beach by turning it into a blue flag beach, the Collector said. Important criterion and standards required for conversion of the beach into blue flag beach were also taken up in the meeting.

Notably, the water level in the Tampara lake is on the decline due to irregular rainfall. Opening a channel between the river and the lake may give rise to the water level. While beautification and restoration of the Tampara lake park is already underway, the park is set to attract more tourists with a cultural initiative under the banner 'Tampara Tarangini' that is scheduled every Sunday evening.

Other attendees included Chhatrapur Sub Collector Sibashish Baral, Chhatrapur Tehsildar Dibya Mohanty, District Tourism Officer Janak Tarai, irrigation and public works department officials.

Moonlighting in govt! One teacher, two salaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, April 7: Allegations of a fake physical education teacher appointment at Sinapali College in Nuapada district have triggered demands for a high-level inquiry, amid questions over delays in official action.

The controversy centres on claims that Gangaram Meher allegedly held jobs simultaneously at two institutions and drew salaries, leading to suspected misappropriation of government funds. Sources said Meher, a teacher at Gandabahal Panchayat High School, drew salary for 22 months—from June 1, 1994, to March 31, 1996—while also serving at Sinapali College.



Sinapali College building

Following a complaint, the Directorate of Education, in Letter No. 15457 dated June 16, 2025, directed the Nuapada District Education Officer to conduct an inquiry. However, nearly 10 months later, the officer issued Letter No. 255 dated March 26, 2026 to the headmaster of Gandabahal Panchayat High School, bringing the matter into focus.

Meher has denied the allegations, terming them baseless and

claiming a conspiracy to implicate him. He said he was appointed at the school in 1987 and submitted his C.P.Ed certificate from Sambalpur University in 1989. He alleged that someone else may have used forged documents in his name to secure employment and filed a complaint at the local police station March 31.

Despite a week having passed, police are yet to take any action. Station officer Durga Madhab Bagh said the case is over three decades old and would require time for a thorough investigation. Sinapali College principal A.B. Dzungdung said she joined in 2022 and has no prior knowledge of the matter, adding that the college has been busy with ongoing examinations.

Jajpur youth shot dead

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, April 7: A youth was killed after getting shot by unidentified assailants in Jajpur town Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Soumya Sagar Samal (23), a resident of Kuansarpur under Jajpur Town police limits, police said.

According to officials, Samal was returning home after closing his shop at Shitaleswar in Jajpur municipal town Monday night when two men on a motorcycle allegedly opened fire on him near Kalimegha. He sustained critical gunshot wounds and collapsed on the spot.

Passersby rescued and admitted him to Jajpur district headquarters hospital. Later, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for better treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment Tuesday, police added.

Police said the exact motive behind the act and the identity of the shooters remain unknown so far. Jajpur police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

"We are working to ascertain who was behind the shooting and the reason for the attack. Investigation is under progress," Jajpur Town SDPO P K Majhi said.

Youth's bravery saves friend from bear attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bonai, April 7: A youth's timely intervention saved his friend from a bear attack while they were collecting mohua flowers in a forest near Chordhara village under the Barsuan forest range in Sundargarh district Tuesday morning.

The injured man, identified as Ram Munda of Chordhara village narrowly escaped death. The incident occurred

around 9am when he and his friend, Silai Munda, were in the nearby forest gathering mohua flowers.

In a display of courage, Silai confronted the bears and drove them away using a tree branch, forcing the animals to retreat into the forest. His swift action is credited with saving Ram's life. Ram suffered severe injuries in the attack. Silai later rescued him from the forest, brought him home and shifted him to Bonai sub-divisional hospital by ambulance.

After receiving primary treatment, Ram remained in a critical condition and was referred to Rourkela Government Hospital for advanced care. Forest officials have taken necessary steps to ensure his treatment, said Bonai divisional forest officer Lalit Kumar Patra.

Ganjam DPC gets new chairman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, April 7: Khallikote MLA Purna Chandra Sethi Tuesday formally assumed office as Chairman of the District Planning Committee (DPC) in Ganjam district. He was accorded a grand welcome by party leaders and workers, who escorted him in a procession to the Zilla Parishad office.

After taking charge, Sethi said he would work impartially for the district's development and called for coordination among all stakeholders, including elected representatives, panchayat functionaries

and government officials. He emphasised the need to make Ganjam a migrant labour-free district and pledged to expedite the revival of the Aska Sugar Mill.

Sethi also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, BJP state president Manmohan Samal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for entrusting him with the responsibility. Several dignitaries, including Ganjam Collector V. Keerthi Vasan and MLAs Krushna Chandra Nayak, Siddhanta Mohapatra, K. Anil Kumar and Pratap Chandra Nayak, were present on the occasion.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KHORADHA IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHORADHA
email: eekhurdairrigationdivision@gmail.com

NOTICE

No. 32001/24/2627: It is notified that tender invited vide "e" Procurement Notice No. 06 (KHD) 2025-26 dated 04.02.2026 is hereby cancelled as per DTCN Clause No. 12, due to administrative ground and unavoidable circumstances.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Khoradha Irrigation Division, Khoradha
OIPR-32001/32078/1/26-27/0001

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. 13001/72/2627
OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI
Email: enfipuri.od@gov.in

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. PMC-01/2026-27

Notice No. 3470 Dated: 04.04.26

- Type of Work : Civil Work
- Total No. of works : 30 Nos. of individual works
- Estimate Cost : Rs. 369551/- to Rs. 4217613/-
- Period of Completion : 45 to 120 days
- Date & time of availability : From 03 P.M. of 10.04.2026 to 05 P.M. of 28.04.2026
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Upto 05 P.M. of 28.04.2026
- Date of opening of Bid : 11 A.M. of Dtd.29.04.2026
- Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri.

Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Officer Puri Municipality, Puri
OIPR-13001/13159/1/26-27/0002

संस्कृत संस्थान
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
15 A, Sector - 7, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075

CCRT/11011/01/2026 08/04/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement for the post of Director, CCRT Level-12, GP-7600

With reference to CCRT advertisement No. CCRT/11011/01/2026/01 dated 07th - 13th February, 2026, inviting applications for the post of Director on Composite Method: Deputation (including short-term contract) plus promotion; failing which by Direct Recruitment basis, published in the Employment News (07th - 13th February, 2026) and in other newspapers on 7th February, 2026 on a PAN-India basis, it is hereby notified that the last date for submission of applications has been extended up to **20/04/2026 (17:30 hrs.)**.

2. All other Terms & Conditions shall remain the same.
Sd./- Dy. Director (Administration)
cbc 09101/11/0001/2627 CCRT, New Delhi

OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN - 769012
Website: www.rmc.nic.in, Email Id: rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com
No. 2800 Date: 02.03.2026

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. 13001/63/2627: The Municipal Commissioner on behalf of Rourkel Municipal Corporation invites sealed applications in conformation with Detailed Tender Call Notice from the reputed firms/agencies for "Plantation of Flora and Development of landscape over the area along with establishment of irrigation system and maintenance for 02 years near NH entry towards Rourkela".

Detail technical specifications, along with terms & conditions etc. may be seen from the tender Odisha website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and website of Rourkela Municipal Corporation i.e. www.rmc.nic.in. Date of issue of tender document 30.03.2026.

Sd./- Commissioner
OIPR-13001/13131/1/26-27/0006 Rourkela Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SONEPUR TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. 940 No. 13001/80/2627 Date: 30.3.26

1.0 Sonepur Municipality invites online tender from experienced, competent and eligible bidders in two packet system for work under jurisdiction of Sonepur Municipality as scheduled under:

Name of the Works:
PART 1: IT Enabled Day and Night Illuminated Acrylic LED Graphics including Design, Technological beautification of an OSD in Sonepur with the theme of Dandi March, on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode contract.
Cost of DTCN: 6000/- (Non-refundable) only Demand Draft from any Nationalized Bank of India in favour of Executive Officer, Sonepur Municipality.
DCCN available from: 31.03.2026
Last date of receipt of DCCN: 09.04.2026 upto 5.00 P.M. (The bid is to be submitted in 2 packets. Packet 1 should contain the technical proposal and required documents; Packet 2 should contain the Financial Bid). Bid submit on Online.
Date of opening of Technical Bid: 10.04.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
Opening of Financial Bid document: To be intimated latter
The DTCN may also be downloaded from the website: www.subarnapur.nic.in / www.sonepurmunicipality.in.
Each tender should be accompanied with:
(i) Applicable EMD as 1% of quoted value in shape of NSC, FD etc. except money receipt.
(ii) Attested photo copies of PAN Cards.
(iii) Attested photo copies of GST Clearance Certificate.
Sd./- Executive Officer, Sonepur Municipality
OIPR-13001/13098/1/26-27/0001

School Code-17567 U-DISE Code-21300603103 Affiliation No.- 1520454

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, MATHILI
AT-Mendukuli, DIST-MALKANGIRI, ODISHA, PIN-764044
(National Education Society for Tribal Students)
(Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)
Establishments Year 2022-23
EMAIL ID: emrsmathili@gmail.com & emrsmathili2024@gmail.com
Letter No: 118 /EMRS(Mathili)/33/2/2026 Date: 06.04.2026

(WALK-IN-INTERVIEW)

Walk-in interviews are being conducted for preparation of panel to fill up various vacant posts in Eklavya Model Residential School, Mathili & Chitrakonda on a Guest Teacher / Part-Time Contractual basis for the session 2026-27. Eligible candidates are requested to appear at the school campus on the mention date and time along with their original certificates and self-attested photocopies thereof.

Sl. No.	Post Details	Interview Date & Time	Address	Google Form
1.	Post Graduate Teacher (PGT) – Mathematics, English, Physics, History. (Maximum Remuneration-35000/- (As per NESTS guidelines.)	Date: 16.04.2026 Reporting Time: 08:00 AM Day: Thursday	Eklavya Model Residential School, Mathili, Post – Mathili, Dist. – Malkangiri, Odisha – 764044	
2.	Trained Teacher (TGT) – Graduate Hindi, Odia, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Music, Art, PET(Female), PET(Male), Computer Science. (Maximum Remuneration-33000/- (As per NESTS guidelines.)			

Important Instructions: 1. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview. 2. Educational qualifications and other details of the posts can be viewed on the official school website <https://www.emrsmathili.com> & WWW.emrschitrakonda.com & Malkangiri district website WWW.malkangiri.odisha.gov.in 3. All posts are on a guest teacher / Part-Time Contractual basis. 4. Candidates must apply at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1n2Xv3q4Ams3tN4pwxJW99q2X7Y98d02EwbcAQPXc6o/edit> on or before 5:00pm on 14/04/2026. 5. Candidates must arrive at 08:00 AM for the interview. 6. No post in the school is permanent – it is entirely on a guest teacher/part-time basis.
Sd./- Principal EMRS Mathili

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Notification No.-CSU/36014/AdvT./2026-27/S-1 Date:- 01.04.2026

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 UNDER "SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION"

Central Sanskrit University, Delhi is the nodal agency for implementing Central Schemes of Ministry of Education, Government of India for the Promotion of Sanskrit Language. Accordingly, applications are invited from interested NGOs/Voluntary Organizations/Universities/Institutions/Publishers/Individuals/Students, through online as applicable under the following Schemes for Sanskrit Promotion:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme
1	Sanskrit Teaching – Engagement of Sanskrit or Modern Subject Teachers for teaching in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas/Government Schools/Guru-Sishya Parampara Institutions and Residential Scholarships.
2	Samman Rashi - Annual grant to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits living in Indigent Circumstances.
3	Publication, Bulk Purchase and Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books
4	Shastra Chudamani - For utilization of Services of Eminent Shastric Scholars or Retired Sanskrit Scholars.
5	Programmes & Activities for Promotion of Sanskrit.
6	Vocational Training - Conduct of Vocational Training in Registered Sanskrit Institutions.
7	Ashtaadashi – Eighteen Projects for sustaining the Growth of Sanskrit.
8	Scholarships - Award of Scholarships to the students regularly studying Sanskrit/Pali/Prakrit languages from 9th class to Ph.D level in Traditional/Modern Stream.

Online Registration Starting date – 01.04.2026
Online Registration Closing date – 30.06.2026 and for Scholarship scheme closing date will be 31.08.2026
Note:- However, Portal will be open in the entire year for application.

i) Before filling the application form, it is advised that the scheme guidelines be referred of each scheme, remuneration, required documents, how to apply in online and application forwarding process etc., please visit the Central Sanskrit University's website www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes.

ii) In each scheme, automatic renewal shall not be considered. Hence, it is mandatory for all grantee institutions of previous years to apply afresh for each scheme, as per schematic norms.

iii) Further, consideration or rejection of the application for financial assistance will depend upon the availability of funds and approval of the GIAC etc., as per schematic norms. Therefore, it is mandatory to apply every year on scheme-to-scheme basis separately for financial assistance.
cbc 21212/12/0001/2627 Sd./- Registrar I/c



Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO



Armageddon

The world is forced to pass through harrowing moments by the rantings of US President Donald Trump. In his latest, Trump has said "a whole civilization will die tonight" if Iran does not make a deal after saying he will take Iran to "stone age" by bombing it "like never before," with his latest deadline expiring 7 April night. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkin showed equal determination, declaring that more than 14 million people of his country are committed to sacrificing their lives to defend Iran. Most would hope that this level of brinkmanship would not lead to devastating consequences for the Middle East and the rest of the world. Article 52 of the first additional protocol to the Geneva conventions prohibits attacks on civilian targets. On these grounds, the international criminal court has issued arrest warrants for Russian military officers and officials responsible for attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The same measure should have applied to the US and Israel after the bombing of the primary school and killing of some 600 schoolgirls in Iran. But everyone is aware that rules don't apply equally, if at all.

Trump is least bothered about allegations of committing war crimes. He explicitly said so at a Press briefing where he threatened again on 6 April to destroy Iran's bridges and power plants if Tehran does not meet his deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told media that international law bars attack on such infrastructure. Even if specific civilian infrastructure were to qualify as military objectives, an attack would still be prohibited if it risks "excessive incidental civilian harm," the spokesman clarified. It is known to all how little Guterres' and the UN's opinion matters to Trump.

As the deadline approached in the afternoon in India time of 07 April, there was little indication that Iran was ready to agree to Trump's ultimatum. Instead Iran joked about the exact time of the impending attack and asked if it was in India time. It has rejected a temporary ceasefire and issued its own list of demands, which a US official described as "maximalist."

In this dangerous showdown in which neither side is showing signs of backing down, the US President found himself in a delicate position. Trump would have probably never dreamt of a possibility where a country like Iran would be standing up against America, rejecting its offers and threatening military action. Trump would suffer loss of face if he backed down from his position of power after issuing detailed threats. It would signal to the world that despite America's military might and supposed tactical skill it has failed to take up a position of strength in this war. This feeling has already begun to take roots, what with social media flooded with memes ridiculing Trump and the US.

Trump started the present war unprovoked and unplanned. Even now, he doesn't seem to have a concrete and coherent exit strategy. Failure at this stage will have a disastrous effect on his presidency in the mid-term polls scheduled in November.

In another one of his continuing rants, Trump has declared he would take Iran's oil after inflicting a crushing defeat on the country since he is essentially "a business man." His NATO allies have refused to buy his logic and have refrained from being parties to the madness by joining the war. Instead, they have pointed out the absence of a clear cut strategic plan.

The US President appeared to be unsure of the outcome of his apocalyptic rhetoric since he has been alternating between his dire warnings and assertion that there was a "good chance" of a ceasefire agreement with Iran before the latest deadline expired. Yet, hours later, Israel bombed a key petrochemical plant in Iran's biggest natural gas field.

The silence of China and Russia at this stage is significant. This is notwithstanding Iran being a friend to both and a member of BRICS. It is an open secret that the two countries have been in a supposed proxy war, helping Iran by secretly supplying intelligence inputs and weaponry to face the US and Israel. It is interesting to note the cover of the recent Economist magazine which has Xi Jinping looking on from the background as Trump's blurry image is seen shouting in the foreground. The heading says "Never Interrupt Your Enemy When He's Making A Mistake." Maybe letting Trump dig his own end is the strategy.

WISDOM CORNER

One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Every human has four endowments - self awareness, conscience, independent will and creative imagination. These give us the ultimate human freedom... The power to choose, to respond, to change.

STEPHEN COVEY

I don't believe people are looking for the meaning of life as much as they are looking for the experience of being alive.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1820: The Venus de Milo, one of the most famous ancient statues in the world, was found in pieces on this day in 1820 on the Aegean island of Melos. Those bits were collected and shipped to France, presented to King Louis XVIII, reconstructed, and put on display in the Louvre. The statue is commonly thought to represent Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of sexual love and beauty, though some have suggested it's the sea goddess Amphitrite. The arms have never been found.

1904: France and the United Kingdom sign the Entente cordiale. The treaty, which was initially designed to regulate the countries' colonial interests in Africa, later evolved into the Triple Entente to fight Germany in World War I.

1913: The Seventeenth Amendment, which called for the direct election of U.S. senators by voters of the states, was ratified. Adopted during the Progressive era, it represented a rejection of the corruption and inefficiency that had taken hold in legislative elections of U.S. senators in many states.

1950: Jawaharlal Nehru concluded the Delhi Pact with Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan, providing for the safe passage of refugees displaced after the two countries severed economic relations in December 1949.

1959: One of the first modern programming languages is created. The Common Business-Oriented Language or COBOL was primarily designed by a woman, Grace Hopper. Also known as Amazing Grace, she is regarded as one of the pioneers in the field.

1973: Pablo Picasso, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, died in France at age 91.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

BOMBING FOR FREEDOM

Perhaps Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sincerely believed that Israelis would prompt the Iranians to topple their theocratic dictatorship and establish a democratic state. It seemed for a moment that US President Donald Trump did, too. But given Trump's capriciousness about most things, including America's war aims in Iran, this possibility should be taken with a grain of salt.

The idea that bombing civilians will create the conditions for "regime change" is more than a century old. Between the two world wars, British, American, and Italian strategists argued that extended bombing raids would demoralize civilians enough to turn them against their leaders.

This strategy was carried out in devastating fashion during World War II, when much of urban Germany and Japan was flattened, and hundreds of thousands of civilians killed. A few decades later, the United States dropped three times as many bombs on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In none of these cases did a demoralized population turn on its leaders.

On the contrary, civilians subjected to terror from the air have generally shown remarkable resilience, adapting to appalling conditions and coming together to defy a common enemy. Londoners during the Blitz proudly proclaimed that "London can take it." Shopping for a new jacket in London in the fall of 1940, my grandmother was caught in a serious air raid. The shop assistant quietly guided her to the shelter while discussing the quality of different tweeds.

Berliners were no different, and neither were the people in Hanoi. Iranians, especially those in Tehran, are now showing the same grit. Najmeh Bozorgmehr, the Financial Times correspondent in



You cannot simply assault another country and hope that freedom and democracy will follow. And you certainly can't bomb people while claiming to liberate them

Tehran, described how, in the midst of being bombed day and night, and knowing you could die at any moment, "life insists on continuing." For her, that means contemplating what to have for lunch the next day, and the day after that. "The questions," she wrote, "are not asked because tomorrow feels certain, but because it does not."

Even in 1944, when Berlin was being demolished by US bombs during the day and British bombs at night, the cinemas were packed, and it was hard to get tickets to concerts. The Berlin Philharmonic played in improvised theatres with holes in the roof, while musicians and audience members wrapped themselves in winter coats.

This kind of stoicism has little to do with ideology or loyalty to a particular set of rulers. By the end of the war, most Berliners were sick of the Nazis. Most Iranians today loathe the fanatical Islamist regime. But as Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, a German resistance member in Berlin, wrote in her diary in 1943: "Clearing the rubble ... has nothing to do with being a Nazi. ... No one thinks of Hitler when he boards up a kitchen window.

But everyone knows you can't live in the cold."

Many Iranians have risked—and lost—their lives in uprisings against the Islamic Republic. But not while missiles rained down on them. In these conditions, mere survival is hard enough. To go into the gutted streets and face heavily armed members of the murderous Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps would be suicidal.

There is another reason why civilians won't rebel while being attacked from the air. Government authorities are often the only people who can provide food and shelter in such moments. When people are expending all their energy trying to make it to the next day—in wartime Berlin, Bleib übrig ("stay alive") was a common way of saying goodbye to friends—they don't have any left over for rebellion.

Trump was right about one thing on the presidential campaign trail: starting "wars of choice" in the name of toppling foreign regimes and constructing democratic states is a foolish enterprise. During the 2003 Iraq War, neoconservatives defended the invasion by pointing to US success in Germany and Japan in 1945.



Ian Buruma

THE IDEA THAT BOMBING CIVILIANS WILL CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR "REGIME CHANGE" IS MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD

IN JEST THIS

Insurance protects you from unexpected events

While conducting research on insurance online, I came across a LinkedIn article by the insurance platform BimaPay. The article is titled, "5 Insurances Every Indian Should Have, Including You."

By "every Indian," they do not actually mean "every Indian." In their second paragraph, they are more specific: "No matter your age, once you gain financial independence, whether at 23 or 35, these 5 insurance policies are a must-have for you."

If you are wondering what "financial independence" means, it means that you are NOT financially dependent on your parents, siblings or rich uncle. Instead, you are financially dependent on your employer.

BimaPay recommends that you purchase these five insurances:

1. Health insurance. This is important because private hospitals can be quite expensive. A single surgery or ICU stay in a world-class hospital can make your savings disappear faster than a

world-class scam artist can.

2. Life insurance. If you're the primary breadwinner in your family, life insurance ensures that if you happen to die, whether through illness or accident, your family will not miss you. They will get a large payment from the insurance company and spend their days vacationing in Goa. No, of course this isn't true. Your family may vacation in New Zealand. In all seriousness, life insurance relieves the financial burden on your family following your untimely (or timely) demise. They will still miss you. Even if you're an abusive tyrant at home, your family will probably still miss you, especially when they're throwing darts at your portrait on the wall.

3. Home insurance. If you own a home, you'd better have home insurance. There are a number of calamities that can damage or destroy your home, such as a fire, a cyclone or even a drunk driver mistaking your home for a McDonald's drive-thru. Home insurance can protect not just the structure of your home,

but also its contents, including expensive electronics and jewellery. If someone breaks into your home and steals your precious iPhone 14, guess what - you can now upgrade to iPhone 17.

4. Motor insurance. Motor insurance will cover you if the motor in your Preeti mixie goes bad. Actually, you need to get mixie insurance for that. Motor insurance is for vehicles and will pay the cost of repairing or replacing your vehicle if it's involved in an accident. The insurance will also pay for medical expenses and third-party liability, covering damage, injury or death to a third party. Just to clarify, if you buy motor insurance, you are the "first party," your insurance company is the "second party," and the idiot who caused the accident is the "third party."

5. Critical illness insurance. If a serious illness such as cancer or stroke deprives you of your ability to continue working, critical illness insurance will give you a lump-sum payment to compensate for your lost earnings. But few people

Hadn't the Americans built up fine democracies in those defeated countries?

The analogy is false. Americans did help rebuild democratic institutions in those countries. But the US entered WWII only after being attacked by Japan, and then moved to democracy-building only after it forced Germany and Japan into unconditional surrender, including through the use of atomic bombs. You cannot simply assault another country and hope that freedom and democracy will follow. And you certainly can't bomb people while claiming to liberate them.

Trump, however, is not a neoconservative. Democracy-building was never his thing. His strategy is more akin to the one used by organized crime: threaten, and if necessary, employ brute force to compel the other side to submit to a deal it cannot refuse. But this works only if the other side is just as cynical and transactional. In a world of gangsters, it is almost inconceivable that a person would consider a principle or belief worth dying for. Whatever else the Iranian clerics may be, they are not gangsters.

The chance that US-Israeli military intervention could help Iranians turn their theocracy into a democracy is almost nil. There was a time when America's liberal aspirations, the main source of its soft power, could offer hope and alleviate suffering by welcoming people seeking freedom from tyranny. Alas for such people, and for the US itself, the current administration is doing the exact opposite.

The writer is the author of numerous books, most recently, Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024).

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Melvin Durai

A SINGLE SURGERY OR ICU STAY IN A WORLD-CLASS HOSPITAL CAN MAKE YOUR SAVINGS DISAPPEAR FASTER THAN A WORLD-CLASS SCAM ARTIST CAN

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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Language row

Sir, The Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) announcement that it will implement the three-language formula in all states raises concerns in Tamil Nadu, especially, due to past experiences with perceived Hindi imposition. Learning a new language has always been of personal interest depending upon the individual's parameters or personal goals, and not to be the bread and butter of livelihood. TN government's premonition lies in the possibility that the Union government could leverage the three-language formula to promote Hindi in non-Hindi-speaking states, and the state of Tamil Nadu might be compelled to include Hindi in its curriculum, which it perceives as a threat to the state's linguistic and cultural autonomy. This concern is rooted in the belief that such measures could lead to the gradual erosion of regional languages and their identities. The Union government must respect state autonomy in education while aligning with national goals.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Surveillance lapse

Sir, Reports reveal how a radio-collared tigress in Satpura—the tiger being India's national animal—was first presumed "lost" due to alleged satellite disruption during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, but was later found poisoned, her collar destroyed and carcass buried, clearly indicating that it was an case of poaching. Radio-collaring involves tranquilising the animal, fitting a GPS-enabled collar, and tracking its movement through global satellite networks for continuous monitoring. The claim of signal failure exposed gaps in response rather than any real technological breakdown. To curb such incidents, India must strengthen real-time monitoring, ensure swift ground checks when signals stop, deploy drones, involve local communities, and enforce strict punishment for offenders along with accountability of forest staff. This tragic episode shows that technology alone cannot save wildlife—human vigilance and responsibility are crucial. Poaching must be firmly rejected, for protecting the tiger is akin to safeguarding India's pride and ecological heritage.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Thane gets 1st direct metro link to Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also inaugurated the first phase of Metro Line 2B from Mandale to Chembur, which provides first metro connectivity on the Harbour Line in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: The inauguration of the opening phase of Metro Line 9 linking Dahisar East to Kashigaon Tuesday marked the first direct connectivity between a suburb in Mumbai and a part of Thane city in the metropolitan region.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also inaugurated the first phase of Metro Line 2B from Mandale to Chembur, which provides first metro connectivity on the Harbour Line in Mumbai.

With regular services on both lines set to start from Wednesday, the financial capital of the country will have six operational Metro lines.

Fadnavis first inaugurated the first phase of Metro Line 9, flagging off a train from Dahisar East, and travelled to Kashigaon along with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, and Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde. The line connects the northern suburb of Dahisar with neighbouring Mira Bhayandar in Thane district.

Speaking to reporters, Fadnavis said that an easy and accessible transportation system is being developed in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), integrating metro, e-buses and water transport to make the city the most accessible in the country.

Mumbai now ranks second



in the country after Delhi in terms of metro network with more than 100 km of operational metro lines, he said, adding that most of the remaining projects will be completed in the next two years.

Mumbai now has six operational metro corridors, including Metro Line 1 (Ghatkopar-Andheri-Versova), Line 2A (Andheri West-Dahisar East), Line 7 (Dahisar East and Andheri East) and Line 3, known as Aqua Line (Colaba-Bandra Kurla Complex-SEEPZ).

The first phase of Metro Line 9 comprises a 5.6-km elevated stretch with four stations - Dahisar East, Pandurangwadi, Miragaon and Kashigaon.

The chief minister stated that nearly 96 per cent of the work on the second phase, between Sai Baba Nagar and Subhash

Chandra Bose Maidan in Mira-Bhayandar, has been completed, and the 4.3-km stretch with four additional stations will be inaugurated later this year.

"This metro line will allow us to complete a journey which currently takes one to two hours in about 30 minutes," he said, adding that the project has been built at a cost of Rs 6,607 crore.

Line 9 will provide seamless connectivity from Mira-Bhayandar to Colaba in south Mumbai through interlinking with Metro Line 7, and with Lines 7A and 3 in the future, the CM said.

Features such as rainwater harvesting, LED lighting, regenerative braking and solar panels make the metro line environmentally friendly, he said.

According to the MMRDA,

the newly opened stretch of Line 9 will provide seamless connectivity with the existing metro network, linking commuters to Line 7 and further to Line 7A, offering access to Andheri (East) and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

Later in the afternoon, the chief minister inaugurated the 5.53-km first phase of Mumbai Metro Line 2B from Mandale to Chembur in the eastern suburbs.

Deputy Chief Ministers Shinde and Sunetra Pawar were also present at the function held at Diamond Garden Metro Station. The stretch between Diamond Garden and Mandale comprises five elevated stations.

Phase I will connect with the Harbour Line of the Central Railway at Mankhurd.

Metro Line 2B (Phase I) will operate from 6 AM to 10:30 PM, with a frequency of about nine-and-a-half minutes and a total of 209 services daily. The full corridor will run between DN Nagar (Andheri) and Mandale in the eastern suburbs.

All Phase I stations have received IGBC Green Platinum ratings and are equipped with modern amenities, Divyang-friendly access and energy-efficient systems, officials said. The Mandale depot will be India's largest elevated metro depot with a capacity to house 72 metro trains.

Maharashtra appoints custodians to preserve living wills in urban areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: The Maharashtra government has decided to appoint designated custodians across all urban local bodies to permanently preserve citizens' living wills, formally known as advance medical directives.

A government resolution (GR) issued Tuesday stated that municipal commissioners, chief officers of municipal councils and nagar panchayats will act as custodians, responsible for safeguarding and maintaining these legal documents, in line with directions of the Supreme Court and the Bombay High Court.

According to the GR issued by the Urban Development Department, the move aims to ensure secure, permanent preservation of living wills submitted by citizens in urban areas and to streamline access to such documents when required.

The government has developed a uniform digital platform on the MahaULB portal to facilitate storage and management of living wills. A dedicated module has been created to enable citizens to upload their directives and seek appointments with the designated custodians for verification and processing, it said.

The government has allocated Rs 6.49 lakh for development of the digital platform and stated that maintenance expenses will be met through provisions under the Urban Development Department's e-governance budget.

Himachal govt aims to bring 1L farmers under natural farming in 2026



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, April 7: The Himachal Pradesh's Department of Agriculture has set a target to integrate one lakh farmers with natural farming in 2026, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said Tuesday.

The CM said the state government is actively promoting natural farming and continuously encouraging farmers to adopt this method, as it enables them to earn higher profits at lower costs.

"So far, as many as 2,22,893 farmers and horticulturist families have adopted natural farming practices. The method has reached 99.3 per cent of the state's panchayats and is currently being practised on 38,437 hectares of land" he said.

"Also, more than two lakh farmers engaged in natural farming have been registered, of which 1,98,000 have already

been issued certificates," he added.

The CM also said under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana, the use of chemical inputs is discouraged, while inputs based on indigenous cow dung, cow urine and local plant resources are promoted.

"The key objectives of the scheme include environmental conservation, promotion of crop diversification, and reduction in the cost of cultivation" he said.

The CM asserted that the state government is offering the highest minimum support price (MSP) in the country for naturally grown produce to ensure fair returns for farmers.

"This year, the MSP for naturally grown wheat has been increased from Rs 60-80 per kg, maize from Rs 40-50, barley from the Pangri Valley from Rs 60-80, and natural turmeric from Rs 90-150 per kg," he said.

India's first driverless pod taxi system to decongest BKC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the driverless Pod taxi project, an Automated Rapid Transit System being developed between Kurla and BKC in Mumbai, to provide last-mile connectivity for daily commuters.

Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar were present at the function along with the chief minister at the Diamond Garden metro station in Chembur. Fadnavis said that all necessary approvals for the project have been received.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is executing the pod taxi project between Kurla and Bandra Kurla Complex to provide last-mile connectivity to the biggest business district in the financial capital.

Bandra Kurla Complex is a premier commercial business district in Mumbai, India, developed by MMRDA to decentralise commercial activities. It hosts multinational corporations, banks, and the National Stock Exchange. Known for its modern infrastructure, it also features restaurants, hotels, and the Bharat Diamond Bourse.

The 8.85-km Automated Rapid Transit System (ARTS)

is expected to boost last-mile connectivity when it is developed in phases, MMRDA officials said.

The project route will have 22 air-conditioned stations spaced at intervals of about 200 metres, with Phase I covering a 3.36-km stretch between Bandra (East) and Kurla.

The system will connect key locations like LBS Marg, Kalanagar, and BKC, linking Bandra and Kurla suburban railway stations.

The driverless, AI-based pods will run on battery power along a dedicated guideway, each carrying up to six passengers at a maximum speed of 40 kmph with a headway of 15 seconds. The pods will stop only at stations selected by passengers, enabling faster and more efficient travel.

The project will be implemented on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis without any financial burden on the state government or MMRDA, while still generating revenue for the authority.

The system will integrate with Metro Line 3 at BKC and with Metro Line 2B at ITO and IL&FS stations, strengthening the city's multi-modal transport network. A depot is planned at the RLDA plot in Bandra East to support operations.

Officials said the pod taxi system is expected to reduce traffic congestion, cut travel time and promote eco-friendly mobility, with a projected daily ridership of over 1.09 lakh passengers by 2031.

Addressing the function, Fadnavis said the pod taxi project has been planned in such a way that passengers travelling to Kurla or Bandra won't be required to use any other public transport.

Row erupts in Shimla over proposed 'Nikah' at Ram Mandir Hall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHIMLA: A major controversy has surfaced in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, after tensions escalated over a proposed 'Nikah' ceremony scheduled to be held at a hall in the Ram Mandir premises of the city, drawing strong objections from several Hindu organisations. The issue has triggered sharp reactions from Hindu groups, who have opposed the idea of conducting a Muslim wedding ceremony at a venue associated with a temple. These organisations have termed the move inappropriate and have warned of protests if the event is allowed to proceed as planned. The matter has also been formally raised with the temple authorities, with Hindu groups lodging their protest before the managing committee - Sood Sabha. The situation further intensified following public statements made by members associated with the temple administration. Mohammed Nasir, a resident of Eidgah Colony in Shimla, had planned to organise his daughter's Nikah ceremony at the Ram Mandir Hall. The proposal has drawn strong resistance from the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, which has openly opposed the decision.



Tourists gather at a snow-covered area near the Atal Tunnel south portal, in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

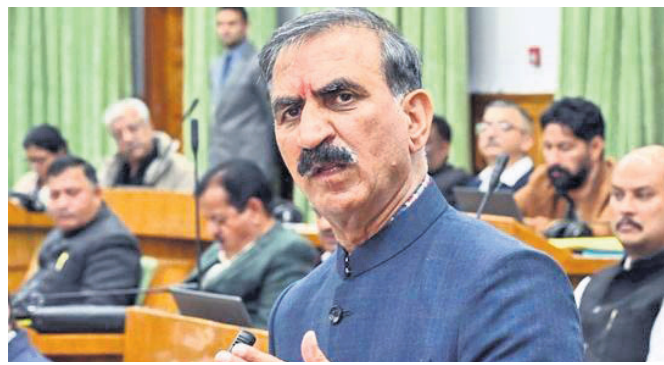
HP: Ban on service extensions, reappointments for govt employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, April 7: Himachal Pradesh Government Tuesday decided not to entertain proposals for service extensions, reappointments or re-engagement for any employee in the state.

The decision by the state government comes at a time when several austerity measures are being implemented during the current financial year to stabilise the state's fiscal position.

"It has been decided by the government that henceforth no proposal seeking extension in service, re-employment and re-engagement of any officer



or official shall be submitted by the Administrative Departments," the order issued by the acting Chief Secretary said.

Such proposals, if any, shall not be entertained at any level and all departments are advised to ensure strict compliance

with these directions, it said.

Officers and officials who are presently on extension, re-employment or re-engagement will be deemed to have retired upon completion of their tenure, it said. The order came on a day the state government re-engaged an Assistant Engineer (Civil) of the Public Works Department posted at Kunihar in Siolan district for six months.

Significant announcements regarding the control of expenditure had been made in the state budget recently presented by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

A decision was taken to de-

fer a portion of the salaries - ranging from 50 per cent to 3 per cent - of the chief minister, deputy chief minister, ministers and senior officials for the next six months.

The chief minister has indicated that the government may take even stricter measures to facilitate fiscal reform.

Limiting the processes of service extension and re-employment will bring greater transparency within the administrative framework and increase opportunities for the new generation of officers and employees, said a retired bureaucrat.

'Koyna Daulat Dongri' festival draws 1.5L visitors

The state government extends the festival by three more days till April 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: A festival organised to showcase tourism potential and cultural heritage of Maharashtra's Satara district attracted more than 1.5 lakh visitors in just five days, prompting the state government to extend the event by three days.

The five-day 'Koyna Daulat Dongri Festival 2026', which

began April 2, was organised at Patan in Satara district by Maharashtra Tourism in collaboration with the local administration and the Regional Tourism Directorate, Pune, to boost tourism in the region, an official said Tuesday.

The festival in the western Maharashtra district witnessed impressive footfalls and drew more than 1.5 lakh visitors. This prompted the state government to extend the festival by three more days (till April 9), he said.

Encouraged by the popularity of the festival, Maharashtra



Tourism plans to launch another event on similar lines, the Koyna Backwater Festival, in December-January.

"Festivals like the Koyna Daulat Dongri Festival play a

very important part in developing the tourism infrastructure in Maharashtra as they combine cultural heritage with emerging tourism offerings in one package. Apart from promoting lesser-known tourist destinations such as Patan, events of this kind help establish Maharashtra as a tourist destination with wide appeal across the country and beyond," said Dr BN Patil, Director, Directorate of Maharashtra Tourism.

The success witnessed at the Koyna Daulat Dongri Festival shows increasing popularity

of tourism of multiple kinds like rural, cultural and adventure in the state, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Neelesh Gatne said.

"Such festivals serve to recognise talents present in a region and offer sustainable economic growth opportunities to the local community. Moving forward, we aim to replicate and launch similar initiatives to further strengthen Maharashtra's position as a diverse and experience-driven tourism destination," Gatne maintained.

Heavy rains trigger massive landslide in Himachal Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, April 7: Heavy rains in the past 24 hours have triggered a massive landslide on the border of Chamba and Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal, cutting off the tribal Pangri valley from the rest of the state.

The local meteorological station Tuesday issued orange and yellow warnings of hailstorm, thunderstorm and lightning in the plains and higher hills and also predicted a wet spell up to April 13.

The remote Pangri valley of Chamba district was completely

cut off from the rest of the state after a massive landslide Monday night destroyed a 60-metre stretch of the Sansari-Kullu-Manali road in the district. About 40-50 people in private vehicles and taxis were stranded at Sugulwas and Kadu Nullah, with nearly all of them spending the night under severe cold wave conditions.

The severity of the landslide can be gauged from the fact that there is no trace of any road as a massive stretch of the hillside has collapsed, leaving no space, not even for pedestrians, to pass, eye-witnesses said.



The LDF is sitting in the government. They want to stay in the government. We have been sitting in the opposition. We want to replace them in the government. These are incompatible fundamental objectives

SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS LEADER

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT A DISTINCT EMPLOYEE RIGHT, NOT MERE EXIT: SC

The Supreme Court said Tuesday that voluntary retirement is not a mere act of leaving or discontinuing but is rather a distinct right of an employee that is available on completion of the requisite number of years of service. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi delivered its verdict on appeals filed by a bank challenging two separate 2019 orders of the Chhattisgarh High Court



of the day uote

Farmers find themselves entangled in the bureaucratic maze of fulfilling requirements such as portal registration, gate passes, guarantors, biometric verification, tractor registration numbers, and general verification, and they are consequently forced to wait for several days just to sell their produce



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

In our family, when elders speak, we listen, and personal advice is given at home, not publicly. I was brought up with this principle and follow it in both my family and in politics



SUPRIYA SULE | NCP (SP) MP

Today, the recruitment process in Arunachal Pradesh is among the most transparent in the country. Even candidates who could not make it to the final list have expressed satisfaction with the fairness of the system



PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Farmer found dead by hanging at CPI office

Kottayam (Kerala): A farmer was found dead by hanging at a CPI office premises in Kottayam district of Kerala Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred at Thalayazham near Vaikom, and the deceased was identified as Chellappan Pulikkasheri, a local farmer. "He was a farmer and reportedly a local public activist. Inquest proceedings have been completed. Further details need to be confirmed," a police officer said.

Lokayukta sleuths raid 8 govt officers

Bangalore: The Karnataka Lokayukta sleuths Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids on eight government officers across the state in connection with alleged disproportionate assets cases, officials said. According to Lokayukta sources, the raids were carried out in the morning at the residences and offices of at least eight officials serving in different departments and districts, including Kodagu, Bidar and Mysore. Among those searched is I K Puttaswamy, an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) posted at Harangi Dam sub-division in Kodagu district.

Madhya Pradesh govt to release 87 prisoners

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government will release 87 prisoners undergoing life-imprisonment for good conduct April 14 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, an official said. This will be a premature release of these prisoners.

Pak issues over 2,800 visas to Indian pilgrims

New Delhi: The Pakistan high commission Tuesday said it issued over 2,800 visas to pilgrims from India to facilitate their participation at the Baisakhi celebrations. Under the provision of a bilateral protocol on visits to religious shrines, Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan every year. Pakistani pilgrims also visit India every year under the protocol.

WB SIR TURNS POLITICAL FLASHPOINT

Mamata, BJP battle over 91L deleted names

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 7: The EC's disclosure Tuesday that around 91 lakh names had been deleted from West Bengal's electoral rolls after the Special Intensive Revision triggered a political slugfest, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accusing the BJP of targeting Matuas and minorities, and Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari claiming the exercise had merely exposed "Muslim infiltrators" protected by the ruling TMC.

The EC figures, which pushed the total deletion to over 90.83 lakh names from an original voter base of 7.66 crore, injected a new edge into an already polarised campaign, turning the SIR from a bureaucratic exercise into the defining political faultline of the 2026 assembly polls.

Addressing a rally in Chakdaha in Nadia district -- a Matua heartland where the voter list revisions have caused unease -- Banerjee alleged that the deletions were neither random nor administrative, but a deliberate attempt to target social groups seen as politically inconvenient to the BJP.

"Why this discrimination? You are excluding Matuas, Rajbanshis and minorities. Do you think people do not understand



this?" Banerjee said, accusing the Centre of using the SIR to redraw Bengal's political map before the elections to be held April 23 and 29.

Standing before a crowd in Chakdaha, with Matua-dominated localities and refugee colonies spread across Nadia and adjoining North 24 Parganas forming the backdrop, the chief minister sought to turn anxiety into resistance.

The TMC supremo said the party would provide legal help to those whose names were still missing, and asserted that after her intervention in the Supreme Court nearly 32 lakh names out of around 60 lakh cases placed under adjudication had been restored.

Banerjee also sought to broaden the issue beyond com-

munities traditionally seen as the TMC's support base. She claimed that names of around 300 members of the Missionaries of Charity had disappeared from the rolls, along with those of monks associated with the Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

Trying to blunt the BJP's efforts to consolidate the Matua vote through the citizenship plank, Banerjee accused the saffron camp of engineering deletions precisely in those districts where the community has a sizeable presence.

Yet the BJP dismissed Banerjee's charges as an attempt to shield illegal immigrants.

Adhikari said the TMC was worried because the SIR had begun to expose what he described as its "infiltrator

EC may roll out SIR in remaining 22 states

New Delhi: The Election Commission may roll out the third and final phase of special intensive revision of voters' list in the remaining 22 states and Union territories, including Delhi, after the polls to five assemblies this month, officials said. Assembly elections are taking place in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal this month and counting will take place May 4. The officials said special intensive revision (SIR) could be rolled out after the polls conclude April 29. Another possibility is to begin the massive exercise after the declaration of results.

vote bank".

The BJP leader's remarks reflected the party's larger attempt to frame the election not as a contest over deleted names, but as a battle over identity, citizenship and illegal immigration.

The highest number of names placed under adjudication had earlier come from minority-dominated Murshidabad, followed by Malda, South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas. After judicial scrutiny, more than 27 lakh of the 60 lakh adjudication cases were deleted.

TRP reporting withheld for TV news channels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The government has extended for four weeks its order to withhold the reporting of Television Rating Points (TRPs) for TV news channels with the aim of "curbing display of sensationalism and speculative content" amidst the West Asia conflict.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had March 6 issued the first directive to the television rating agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to immediately withhold reporting the TRPs for TV news channels for a period of four weeks or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

"The said direction was aimed towards curbing the display of unwarranted sensationalism and speculative content by some news genre channels amidst the West Asia conflict, which may potentially create panic among the general public, especially those having friends and family in the affected areas or residing in affected areas," the fresh order from the Ministry said, adding the "conflict situation still largely prevails at the moment".

In the public interest, the Ministry said, it directs M/s BARC to withhold reporting the TRPs for news TV channels for a further period of four weeks or until further directions, whichever is earlier.



A traffic police official walks across a road during rain, in Gurugram, Haryana

PTI PHOTO

IRCTC complies with CIC order, says RTI filed by rival bidder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has said it has complied with the CIC order, which had directed it to furnish reasons for denying information to an RTI application seeking whether some vendors who had applied for cluster tenders had declared that they faced cases registered by CBI and ED.

In a statement Monday, the IRCTC said the Central Information Commission (CIC) di-

rective has been complied with by giving a speaking reply to the RTI applicant.

"As the information sought by the applicant was exempted under 8 (d) of RTI act, IRCTC, vide its reply 16/07/24, submitted that the information sought is exempted under RTI. Further, the matter went to Hon'ble CIC and Hon'ble CIC, vide order dated 07/01/26, advised IRCTC to provide a fresh speaking reply to the applicant. The same has been complied by giving speaking reply to the applicant," it said.

MEA issues advisory for Indians in Iran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: As the West Asia crisis reaches a critical flashpoint following Washington's ultimatum to Tehran, India Tuesday advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours.

In an urgent advisory, the Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors and strictly avoid military installations, power infrastructure and the upper floors of multi-story buildings.

US President Donald Trump warned that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline (5:30 am



Indian time, Wednesday) to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper floors of multi-storey buildings, remaining indoors and coordinating any highway movement strictly with the

around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began following strikes on Iranian targets by Israel and the US February 28

Nearly 1,800 Indians have returned to India so far

embassy," the mission said.

"Those in embassy-hired hotels should stay put indoors while maintaining regular contact with on-site embassy teams. All are requested to monitor official updates closely," it said.

The embassy said its emergency numbers remain operational.

42.5% Indians neglect health; 46% lack consistency: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: With as many as "42.5 per cent" of Indians admitting they sideline their health during busy periods and "57.8 per cent" saying they understand what is good for them but struggle to follow through, a survey released Tuesday has flagged a growing gap between awareness and action.

The data-led study by wellness platform Habuuild, based on responses from over 5,000 individuals across metro and tier one, two and three cities, on the occasion of World Health Day also found that "46 per cent" of respondents actively try to stay fit but fail to maintain consistency.

Nearly 90 per cent of partici-

pants were women aged 45 and above. "While 57.8 per cent of respondents say they understand what's good for their health, they are unable to sustain it, and 46 per cent report actively trying to stay fit but failing to maintain consistency. This indicates that the challenge is no longer about awareness, but about integrating healthy habits into everyday life," revealed the report.

The survey underscored how everyday trade-offs—such as skipping workouts, delaying walks due to household responsibilities, or compromising on sleep—continue to push health down the list of priorities.

The findings also revealed gender-specific barriers to consistency. Women were found to be more likely to deprioritise

The survey found daily trade-offs—like skipping workouts, delaying walks, and losing sleep—push health down the priority list

Women often neglect health due to household duties, leading to irregular routines, while men struggle with discipline despite good intentions

Lifestyle pressures emerged as key obstacles to maintaining health

their health due to family and household responsibilities, resulting in irregular routines, while men, despite higher intent, struggle with discipline and follow-through.

Lifestyle pressures emerged



as key obstacles to maintaining health.

According to the study, "28 per cent" of respondents cited family responsibilities as the biggest barrier, followed by "19.6 per cent" who attributed it

to work-related stress and "17.5 per cent" who pointed to lack of motivation.

"Notably, one in ten Indians reported not spending even 30 minutes a week on their health, underscoring how easily wellness is sidelined amid competing priorities," it added.

The survey also pointed to rising awareness around preventive health.

Over "51.5 per cent" of respondents believe lifestyle diseases will be India's biggest health challenge in the next decade, while "27.4 per cent" identified mental health as a growing concern, though this awareness has yet to translate into consistent behaviour.

The study further highlighted evolving preferences in how individuals approach wellness.

About "58.7 per cent" of respondents said structured programmes would help them take their health more seriously, while "71 per cent" believed that community-driven wellness improves consistency. Additionally, over "54 per cent" expressed greater trust in structured wellness platforms over informal advice or influencers

"Every morning, I see lakhs of women show up in Habuuild yoga sessions after fulfilling household and work responsibilities. They are often the last to prioritise themselves. This survey reflects that India's health challenge is not about lack of information, but about making self-care a priority," said Saurabh Bothra, Co-Founder, Habuuild.

national

of the day quote

The Assembly then witnessed unprecedented scenes and chaos. Stalin (then leader of the Opposition) had walked out with a torn shirt



EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI | AIADMK CHIEF

In the coming time, the entire agricultural system will be based on Farmer ID. Distribution of fertilisers and several schemes will be linked to it, and seeds and fertilisers will also be distributed through this ID



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE MINISTER

BJP's anti-Dalit mindset has been exposed with remarks made by the Assam chief minister against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge



ASHOK GEHLOT | SENIOR CONG LEADER

POST OF THE DAY

Imagine having an employee who doesn't listen to you spend your money on personal luxury use your office for making illegal money You will fire him on DAY ONE. These politicians waste crores of our tax money every day and people still turn a blind eye. Why?

@talk2anuradha

SHORT TAKES

Man held for raping minor girl in Thane

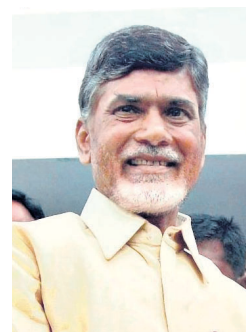
Thane: A labourer has been arrested for allegedly raping a seven-year-old girl at a construction site in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said Tuesday, adding that the victim is undergoing treatment at the civil hospital. The incident triggered outrage with political parties demanding verification of migrant labourers employed at the construction sites. The 45-year-old accused was nabbed within hours of the crime, which occurred in the Naupada area Monday evening, an official said.

Woman hunts down son's killer

Dehradun: A woman, who lost her son in a hit-and-run here two years ago, hunted down the accused driver after more than a year, when the police closed the case citing a lack of evidence. Armed with clinching evidence, the woman Lalita Chaudhary met Dehradun SSP Prameendra Singh Dobal April 4 and requested him to reopen the case. The police officer assured her that strict action would be taken against the accused and that the case would be reopened. Lalita's 18-year-old son, Kshitij Chaudhary, was hit by an overspeeding vehicle while walking on a road in Prem Nagar years ago. The driver fled.

TMC delegation to meet EC today

New Delhi: A Trinamool Congress delegation will meet the Election Commission Wednesday and raise the issue of people being "disenfranchised" due to the SIR in West Bengal, the party said. TMC's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien said they had written to the EC Monday seeking an appointment, and the reply came around 3 pm Tuesday. The four-member party delegation, which includes Saket Gokhale and Menaka Guruswamy, besides O'Brien and Sagarika Ghose, will meet the EC Wednesday morning, he said.



The new fire department vehicles and equipments were launched as part of strengthening the emergency response infrastructure

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

DELHI COURT GRANTS BAIL TO 'CONMAN' SUKESH

A Delhi court Tuesday granted bail to alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhar in an ED case related to the AIADMK's "two leaves" election symbol, noting that he had undergone detention exceeding half of the maximum seven-year sentence prescribed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act



Assam Police searches Kherra's residence after Sarma's wife files plaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: An Assam Police team Tuesday reached the Delhi residence of Congress leader Pawan Kherra for questioning him and carried out a search in connection with a case filed by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife over his allegations of multiple passports and undeclared assets, officials said.

Speaking with reporters outside the Congress leader's house, Assam police DCP Debojit Nath said that Kherra was not found at his residence. However, he said, a search was carried out and electronic devices were seized.

Some "incriminating material" was found but its details cannot be disclosed at this stage, he said, adding the case had been registered at the Crime Branch Police Station in Guwahati. Sarma had warned of legal action against Kherra, who had in a press conference Sunday alleged that the chief minister's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in the CM's election affidavit.

Sources said that over a dozen police personnel descended on Kherra's house in Nizamuddin in central Delhi at around 11 am and left after around two hours. The Congress hit out at Sarma, alleging that he was "disturbed and rattled" due to "imminent" defeat in the April 9 polls and was using state machinery to muzzle the Opposition's voice, but the chief minister said the police will hunt down Kherra from "pataala (netherworld) to question him on the "false documents" that he had used to target his family.

In Delhi, the DCP said that the whereabouts of the Congress leader are currently unknown, but he will be traced.

The team formally informed Delhi Police upon arrival, following which a local police team joined in assisting in the proceedings, official sources said.

Govt doubles 5kg LPG cylinder quota to ease supply concerns



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The government has doubled the daily quota of market-priced 5kg LPG cylinders for migrant workers as part of a broader push to stabilise fuel supplies amid disruptions linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.

Unlike the subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders that are used in household kitchens for cooking, the 5kg bottles are priced at market rates. A 5kg cylinder costs ₹549 in Delhi as against the ₹913 price for a 14.2-kg domestic cylinder.

The 5kg cylinders are available across-the-counter at LPG distributorships on production of a simple identity card (no address proof needed). Regular domestic connections are given after a complete KYC.

With the war in West Asia disrupting energy supplies, the government has prioritised cooking gas supply to households as the cost of commercial users, who were initially given only 20 per cent of their requirement and in steps raised to 70 per cent.

Migrant workers mostly do not have regular cooking gas connections. To ease their burden, the government has now made available higher numbers of 5kg cylinders.

At a news briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the government vide letter dated April 6 has conveyed that daily quantity of 5 kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders in each state available for disbursal to migrant labourers is being doubled based on the average daily supply (number of such cylinders) during March 2-3.

She said in February, 77,000 kg FTL cylinders were sold and the sale March 2-3 was higher than that.

Since March 23, about 7.8 lakh 5kg FTL cylinders have been sold, she said, adding that Monday more than 1.06 lakh 5kg FTL cylinders were sold across the country.

The government has also increased commercial LPG allocation to about 70 per cent of pre-crisis levels and stepped up enforcement, with over 4,300 raids conducted to curb

This decision prioritises household cooking gas amid global energy supply disruptions

Migrant workers can access 5-kg LPG cylinders with a simple identity card, without needing address proof

The government has increased commercial LPG allocation and is cracking down on hoarding and black marketing

Citizens are urged to avoid panic buying as fuel supplies are stable, and the government is taking measures to ensure domestic availability

hoarding and black marketing. She urged citizens to avoid panic buying of petrol, diesel, and LPG, stressing that adequate stocks are available and retail outlets are operating normally.

Supplies of LPG and piped natural gas (PNG) have been prioritised for households and critical sectors such as hospitals, while refinery output has been ramped up and alternative fuels promoted.

Natural gas supplies to priority segments, including domestic piped natural gas (PNG) and transport CNG, remain fully protected, with additional allocations to fertiliser and industrial sectors. The government is also accelerating expansion of city gas networks to boost PNG adoption.

Despite a surge in global crude prices, India has cut excise duty on petrol and diesel to shield consumers, while imposing export levies to ensure domestic availability.

She said fuel supplies remain stable and urged states to counter misinformation through regular public briefings.

'Woman can't be untouchable for 3 days in a month'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: A woman cannot be treated as "untouchable" for three days in a month and then cease to be considered untouchable on the fourth day, Supreme Court judge BV Nagarathna remarked Tuesday.

The remark came while a nine-judge bench was hearing on petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including Sabarimala temple of Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths. The constitution bench comprised Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joyimala Bagchi.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that he has strong objection to an observation in the 2018 Sabarimala judgment that the exclusion of women in the age group of 10-50 years from the temple was a form of 'untouchability', violating Article 17 of the Constitution.

In the Sabarimala case, Justice DY Chandrachud was of the opinion that exclusion of women, based on age or menstrual status, from entering Kerala's Sabarimala temple is a form of "untouchability" which places them in a "subordinate" position, perpetuated "patriarchy" and is "derogatory to their dignity." Mehta said, "India is not that patriarchal or gender stereotyped in the way that the West understands."

Justice Nagarathna, then said, "Article 17 in the context of Sabarimala, I don't know how it can be argued. Speaking as a woman, there can't be a three-day untouchability every

SABARIMALA ROW



JUSTICE BV NAGARATHNA

month, and on the fourth day, there is no untouchability."

Mehta stated that he was not on the issue of menstruation. He said the bar on women entry in Sabarimala temple was not related to menstruation, and said the restriction was only on the basis of age group.

"Let us be clear. Sabarimala concerns only a particular age group. There should be no confusion. Lord Ayyappa temples across the country and the world are open to women of all ages. It is only one temple which has this restriction. It is a sui generis case," he said.

The hearing is currently underway. In September 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench, by a 4:1 majority verdict, had lifted the ban that prevented women between the ages of 10 and 50 from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple and held that the centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

On November 14, 2019, another five-judge bench headed by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, by a majority of 3:2, referred the issue of discrimination against women at various places of worship to a larger bench.

The bench had then framed broad issues on freedom across religions, saying they cannot be decided without any facts of the particular case.

ED attaches over ₹39-crore assets of Al-Falah chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has attached a house in Delhi's Jamia Nagar, agricultural land in Faridabad, and several bank deposits, worth more than ₹39 crore, as part of a money laundering probe against Al-Falah Group chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui and his charitable trust. Al-Falah University, based in Haryana's Faridabad, came under the scanner of probe agencies during an investigation into a "white-collar" terror module linked to the November 10, 2025, Red Fort area blast in which 15 people were killed.



Farmers inspect their damaged wheat crop after heavy rainfall, in Patiala, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

Experts hail indigenous 500 MWe PFBR reaching first criticality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, April 7: The attainment of first criticality at the indigenously designed and built 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu was Tuesday hailed as a "seminal moment" to help India move closer to realising the full potential of its nuclear power programme and providing long-term energy security.

With the 500 MWe PFBR reaching criticality Sunday to mark the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme.

The milestone carries substantial global significance since once fully operational, India will become only the second country after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor, according to an official statement. Attaining criticality means that the

nuclear reaction in PFBR has become self-sustaining and will eventually lead to generation of electricity.

Formulated in the 1950s by Dr Homi Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme, the three-stage programme seeks to make the country self-reliant in the nuclear power sector by exploiting the vast thorium reserves found in the monazite sands of coastal regions of South India. India holds limited uranium reserves but one of the largest thorium reserves in the world.

Nuclear power has consistently accounted for around three per cent of India's total electricity generation. According to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the technology development and design of PFBR was indigenously done by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, its R&D Centre.

K N Vyas, former secretary of the DAE, said the development



was significant as the technology involved is very advanced. However, the reactor will not start producing electricity immediately and will undergo a variety of tests, he added.

Countries like France and the US were unable to scale up their breeder reactors, Vyas said.

Concurring with Vyas, Kakodkar said that after Russia, which is the only country to run two breeder reactors with

a capacity of 600 MW and 800 MW, India is the only country to develop a reactor with a capacity of 500 MW. France and the US operate breeder reactors but not at this scale, he said.

Rajeshwari Rajagopalan, resident senior fellow at Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra, said the development is impressive despite the huge delays.

Debasish Mishra, partner at Deloitte India, said the PFBR

With the 500 MWe PFBR reaching criticality Sunday to mark the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme

reaching criticality is a "seminal moment" in India's technical progress toward nuclear self-reliance.

Fast breeder technology forms the vital bridge between the current series of pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) and the future deployment of thorium-based reactors, leveraging the country's abundant thorium resources for long-term clean energy generation. They are a cornerstone of India's long-term

nuclear strategy, an official statement said.

Unlike conventional thermal reactors, the PFBR uses Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel. To make the most of these resources, the DAE designed a three-stage nuclear power programme built on a closed nuclear fuel cycle. The goal is to progressively multiply domestic fissile resources and secure long-term energy independence.

Each stage feeds into the next, making India's nuclear programme one of the most forward-looking energy strategies in the world, the statement said.

In the first stage, natural Uranium is used as fuel in PHWRs to generate power. The spent fuel from these reactors produces plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the next stage. Currently, there are 18-20 PHWRs which form the backbone of the nuclear power programme.

international



CEcile Kohler and Jacques Paris are free and on route toward French territory, after three and a half years of detention in Iran
EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

PAKISTAN ISSUES 2,800 VISAS TO SIKH PILGRIMS FROM INDIA

Pakistan has issued at least 2,800 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to visit the country for Baisakhi festival scheduled to be held in Punjab province between April 10 and 14, an official said Tuesday. "On the occasion of Baisakhi and the 327th Khalsa Janam Din celebrations, Pakistan has issued more than 2,800 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India," Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesperson Ghulam Mohyuddin told PTI



of the day quote

Yes. We were alarmed by the rhetoric seen in that social media post that threatened American attacks on power plants, bridges, and other infrastructure, should Iran not agree to a deal



The current global instability stems from being in a transitional phase between the 'old world order' of the past eight decades and a new world order that has not yet emerged. This interregnum represents the most dangerous phase of geopolitical change



But yesterday our friendship rose to such a high level that I can help in any way - there is a story in our Hungarian picture books where a mouse helps a lion. I am ready to help immediately... In any matter where I can be of assistance, I am at your service.



VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, SINGAPORE

SHORT TAKES

B'desh first female speaker arrested

Dhaka: Bangladesh's former speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was Tuesday arrested by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, according to media reports. Chaudhury was arrested by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch (DB) in connection with a case filed at Lalbagh police station over incidents of violence and vandalism during the mass uprising, Prothom Alo reported. A DB source said that she had been in hiding at various locations. Most recently, she had been staying at a relative's residence in Dhanmondi, from where she was detained Tuesday morning, the report added.

SL introduces fuel subsidies

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Tuesday announced an economic relief package aimed at minimising the impact of the West Asia conflict. Speaking at the parliament, Dissanayake said that India has agreed to provide the island nation with petrol and diesel. "As a government, we have to respond to the difficulties faced by the people," Dissanayake said. "We have focused on four areas: fuel, energy, gas and fertiliser," said the president, who is also the finance minister. "We will grant a concession of LKR (Sri Lankan Rupees) 100 per litre for diesel and LKR 20 per litre for petrol," Dissanayake said, adding that it will cost the government LKR 20 billion per month.

French train collides with truck; driver killed

Paris: A French high-speed train collided with a truck carrying military equipment at a level crossing near Calais Tuesday, killing the train driver, the local prefecture and railway operators said. Sixteen people were injured and two of them were in critical condition, the prefecture said. More than 200 passengers were on the train at the time of the crash and the truck was carrying a military platoon, it said. The train was travelling from Dunkirk to Paris when the incident occurred at around 7 am near the town of Bully-Mines, railway operator SNCF said in a separate statement. Local prosecutor Etienne Thieffry said the police had started an investigation into possible involuntary manslaughter and were holding the civilian truck driver in custody for questioning.

Kremlin helps Iran target allies

Ukrainian assessment alleges Russian satellite imagery aided Iranian strikes on US, regional targets

REUTERS

London/Paris, April 7: Russian satellites have made dozens of detailed imagery surveys of military facilities and critical sites across the Middle East to help Iran strike US forces and other targets, according to a Ukrainian intelligence assessment.

The conclusions, reviewed by Reuters, also found that Russian and Iranian hackers were collaborating in the cyber domain. They represent the most detailed account yet of how Russia has provided secret support to Iran since Israel and the US launched their assault February 28.

Russian satellites, the undated assessment said, made at least 24 surveys of areas in 11 Middle Eastern countries from March 21 to 31, covering 46 "objects", including US and other military bases and sites including airports and oil fields.

Within days of being surveyed, military bases and headquarters were targeted by Iranian ballistic missiles and drones, the assessment said, in what it described as a clear pattern.

A Western military source and a separate regional security source told Reuters that their intelligence also



RUSSIA AND IRAN COLLABORATE ON CYBER OPERATIONS, ASSESSMENT SAYS | **WESTERN AND REGIONAL SOURCES CONFIRM INCREASED RUSSIAN SATELLITE ACTIVITY, IMAGERY SHARING WITH IRAN**

indicated intense Russian satellite activity in the region and said that imagery had been shared with Iran.

Nine surveys covered parts of Saudi Arabia, including five over the King Khalid Military City near Hafar Al-Batin, in what appeared to be an effort to locate elements of the US-made THAAD air defence system, the Ukrainian assessment said.

Areas of Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates also came under satellite surveillance twice,

while places in Israel, Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain and Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia did once, it said.

In an emerging trend, the assessment added, Russian satellites were actively surveying the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for a fifth of global oil and LNG flows where Iran has imposed a de facto blockade to all but "non-hostile vessels".

PERMANENT COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL
White House spokeswoman

Vance slams EU 'interference' in Hungarian vote on Budapest trip

REUTERS

Budapest, April 7: US Vice President JD Vance lashed out Tuesday at what he called "disgraceful" interference from the European Union in an election in Hungary, as he lauded Prime Minister Viktor Orban as an ally of Donald Trump in the defence of Western civilisation.

Vance's visit to Budapest, just days before a vote which independent polls show Orban is likely to lose, underscores how crucial President Trump's MAGA movement deems the veteran Hungarian nationalist's re-election to be.

Meanwhile Vance's attacks on Brussels are likely to deepen divisions between Washington and European leaders unnerved by Trump's war on Iran and other policies.

"What has happened in this country, what has happened in the midst of this election campaign, is one of the worst examples of foreign election interference that I've ever seen or ever even read about," Vance told a news conference.

"The bureaucrats in Brussels have tried to destroy the economy of Hungary. They have tried to make Hungary less energy-independent. They have tried to drive up



Vance meets Orban days before Hungary's election | **Vance says EU is interfering in Hungarian campaign** | **Orban faces tough challenge in April 12 vote**

costs for Hungarian consumers, and they've done it all because they hate this guy (Orban)."

Vance, whose own visit to Budapest on the eve of Sunday's election has drawn its own warning about "foreign interference" in Hungary from Orban's challenger, Peter Magyar, said other European countries should follow Orban's energy policies.

'MORAL COOPERATION'
Trump has already person-

ally endorsed Orban, 62, as "a truly strong and powerful leader" and Vance lavished praise on the Hungarian prime minister's policies on everything from energy to the war in Ukraine.

"I'm here because of the moral cooperation between our two countries, because what the United States and Hungary together represent under Viktor's leadership and under President Trump's leadership is the defence of Western civilization."

Vietnam's top leader To Lam expands power; new PM elected

REUTERS

Hanoi, April 7: Vietnam's lawmakers Tuesday unanimously elected Communist Party Secretary General To Lam as the country's state president for the next five years, making him the most powerful Vietnamese leader in decades.

The widely anticipated move marks a break from Vietnam's traditional collective leadership system, consolidating authority in one figure in ways analysts say could tilt the one-party state toward greater authoritarianism, while also enabling faster decision making, similar to its neighbour China.

The parliament said on its website that all 495 deputies present at Tuesday's National Assembly session endorsed the Communist Party's nomination, while five lawmakers were absent. Officials have said the

nominations for top state leadership posts were finalised in a meeting in late March.

The former head of public security now has a double mandate to rule the country for the next five years, after he secured a second term as general secretary in January.

In another largely expected move later Tuesday, the parliament also unanimously elected Le Minh Hung as the country's new prime minister.

LAM PLEDGES NEW GROWTH MODEL

After the vote, Lam told deputies in a televised address that it was an honour to hold both posts and pledged "a new growth model with science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation as the primary driving forces".

He said his top priorities were to maintain stability,



promote rapid and sustainable national development and improve "all aspects of people's lives".

REFORMIST, BACKS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In his first stint as party chief, 68-year-old Lam launched

China, Russia veto UN resolution on protecting Hormuz



REUTERS

United Nations, April 7: China and Russia Tuesday vetoed a UN resolution encouraging states to coordinate efforts to protect commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, calling the measure biased against Iran, while Washington's ambassador to the world body called on "responsible nations" to join the US in securing the waterway.

The 15-member Security Council voted 11 in favour of the resolution presented by Bahrain, with two against - China and Russia - and two abstentions.

US President Donald Trump threatened that "a whole civilization will die tonight" as Iran showed no sign of accepting his ultimatum to open the Strait of Hormuz by Tuesday evening, Washington time.

Oil prices have surged since the US and Israel struck Iran at the end of February, unleashing a conflict that has run for more than five weeks while Tehran has largely closed the strait that was previously the route for about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas.

"The draft resolution has not been adopted, owing to the

negative vote of a permanent member of the Council," Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said.

US AMBASSADOR CONDEMNS THE VETOES

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, condemned the Russian and Chinese vetoes, saying they marked "a new low" when Iran's shutting of the Strait was preventing medical aid and supplies reaching humanitarian crises in the Congo, Sudan and Gaza.

"No one should tolerate that. They are holding the global economy at gunpoint. But today, Russia and China did tolerate it. They sided with a regime that seeks to intimidate the Gulf into submission, even as it brutalizes its own people."

Iran's UN ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani praised the Chinese and Russian moves, saying "their action today prevented the Security Council from being misused to legitimize aggression."

China and Russia used their vetoes even though Bahrain had significantly weakened its draft after China opposed authorizing force.

Gunfight outside Israeli consulate in Istanbul leaves 1 attacker dead

Istanbul: One attacker was killed and two others were wounded in an extended gun battle with police outside the tower building housing the Israeli consulate in Istanbul Tuesday. Footage showed the backpack-wearing attackers firing with automatic rifles and handguns, and police officers returning fire and seeking cover, as they manoeuvred among parked white police buses near a checkpoint. One body lay on the street. Shots rang out for at least 10 minutes among the glass towers in Turkey's main financial district, Reuters witnesses said. One person was seen covered in blood. No Israeli staff were at the consulate, which occupies a floor in one of the towers, at the time of the attack, Turkish and Israeli authorities said. The three attackers had links to an organisation that "exploits religion", Interior Minister Mustafa Ciftci said, without giving any name. Two of them were brothers, and they had travelled in a rented car from the city of Izmit, he added.



Parliament elects Communist Party chief To Lam as state president

Lam's power consolidation may increase authoritarianism, boost growth, analysts say

Lam is seen as pro-business but his policies raised concerns over favouritism, bubbles

Former central bank governor with close security ties elected as PM

sweeping economic reforms designed to make Vietnam more competitive, which drew both praise and criticism.

Lam wants to pursue double-digit growth through a new development model that is less reliant on low-cost manufacturing, long the backbone of Vietnam's export-driven boom led by foreign multinationals.

His moves have at times un-

settled the administration and businesses, but he has shown a pragmatic flexibility in executing them.

He has supported the expansion of private conglomerates, but before his reappointment, also issued a directive emphasising the leading role of state-owned enterprises in a bid to reassure party traditionalists.

FORMER CENTRAL BANK HEAD BECOMES PM

Newly-elected prime minister Hung, 55, served as central bank governor from 2016 to 2020, becoming the youngest person to hold the post.

He replaces Pham Minh Chinh, 67, who presided over a fast-expanding economy during his five-year term, and was one of Vietnam's most visible leaders, both at home and abroad, thanks to frequent overseas trips and participation in international summits.



“We are at a very important cusp of what I call as return of global colonialism, something which Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) fought from 1927 till 1947, and in 2026, we are at one such cusp”
UDAY KOTAK | FOUNDER, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

SILVER FALLS RS 2,000, GOLD DOWN RS 600

Silver prices declined by Rs 2,000 to Rs 2.40 lakh per kilogram, while gold slipped to Rs 1.53 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday as investors turned cautious ahead of US President Donald Trump's deadline to Iran for reopening the Strait of Hormuz.



of the day quote

AI is fundamentally reshaping how travel is planned, booked and managed
SIDDHARTHA GUPTA | YATRA ONLINE CEO

The price increase is going to happen one more time post the war because the rupee has depreciated
B THIAGARAJAN | BLUE STAR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Eight years into our journey, we have reached the scale and organisational maturity to invest selectively in specialist capabilities aligned with market opportunities
ANURAG MATTHUR | CEO, SAVILLS INDIA

₹ falls 16 paise to close at 93.06 against dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: The rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at 93.06 against the US dollar Tuesday, as investors remained on edge ahead of US President Donald Trump's deadline for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the Reserve Bank's monetary policy review.

Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is trading under pressure, dragged down by unabated withdrawal of foreign capital, a firm dollar, and higher crude oil prices amid a volatile geopolitical situation.

Moreover, market participants will remain watchful of evolving geopolitical headlines and the upcoming RBI monetary policy decision.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 93.05 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day low of 93.12. During the day, the rupee also touched an intraday high of 92.86 against the greenback.

At the end of Tuesday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 93.06, down 16 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee gained 28 paise to close at 92.90 against the US dollar Monday, following the Reserve Bank's measures to curb speculative fervour and dampen volatility in



the Indian currency.

The RBI has tightened its rules to curb speculative positions and capped banks' net open positions at USD 100 million.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel Monday started its three-day brainstorming session on the first bi-monthly monetary policy of the fiscal year. The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra, will be announced on Wednesday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.15 per cent at 99.83.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.97 per cent at USD 107.61 per barrel in futures trade.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump's deadline for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz expires today, with Iran still not relenting on the ceasefire proposal.

According to Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the market is now in a "wait-and-watch" mode ahead of the RBI policy announcement and President Trump's Tuesday night deal deadline.

"Technically, USD-INR spot maintains a range with immediate support at 92.50 and resistance pegged at 93.60," Parmar said.

Stock markets rally for 4th day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher Tuesday, as a drop in crude oil prices and a rally in global markets calmed investors' sentiment.

Also, buying in IT stocks aided recovery in the markets after early losses.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 509.73 points, or 0.69 per cent, to settle at 74,616.58. During the day, it hit a high of 74,686.32 and a low of 73,282.41, gyrating 1,403.91 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 155.40 points, or 0.68 per cent, to end at 23,123.65.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, and Hindustan Unilever were among the major gainers.

InterGlobe Aviation, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Titan were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 0.71 per cent to USD 109 per barrel.

"Indian markets staged a sharp intra-day recovery, with Nifty reversing early losses to reclaim higher levels, driven largely by short-covering and selective sectoral strength rather than broad-based buying conviction," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

A key driver of today's rally was strong outperformance in the IT sector, which acted as a defensive anchor, he said.

AI CEO Wilson resigns; panel to find successor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: Air India CEO & MD Campbell Wilson has resigned after helming the Tata Group-owned airline for four years that have been punctuated by multiple headwinds, including the fatal AII71 crash in June last year.

The Air India board has constituted a committee that will find the successor in the coming months, a statement from the airline said Tuesday.

"Wilson had conveyed his intention to step down in 2026 to Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran in 2024 and, since then, has been working to ensure the organization and leadership team is on a stable footing for the transition," it said.

Wilson had been under fire since June 12 last year following the crash of the airline's London-bound flight soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad airport, killing 241 of the 242 persons on board.

He also came under attack for various regulatory lapses.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing the crash, has already filed its preliminary report while the final report is expected to be submitted in June this year.

Meanwhile, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran appreciated the contribution of Wilson and said under his leadership Air India made progress



on several fronts. "Campbell and his team have demonstrated tenacity and resolve and have aligned an organization drawn from many backgrounds behind the shared goal of building the new Air India that is now emerging," he said.

A former Singapore Airlines' veteran, Wilson took the reins of the airline in September 2022 following the privatization of the then government-owned carrier in January that year.

Within days of him taking over the charge, Air India announced a five-year comprehensive transformation plan, Vihana AI, focusing on five key pillars-- exceptional customer experience, robust operations, industry-best talent, industry leadership, and commercial efficiency and profitability.

As part of this plan, the airline put in place a detailed roadmap with clear milestones focussing on dramatically growing both its network and fleet, taking a leadership position in technology, sustainability, and innovation, while aggressively investing behind the best industry talent.

13th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2026 from April 10



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The "13th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2026" is scheduled from April 10 to 20 at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar, announced Gupta Event Management Pvt. Ltd today.

The event will feature state-of-the-art AC pavilions, ensuring a comfortable and climate-controlled environment for both exhibitors and visitors. With participation from the 22 states and 10 countries, this truly global event will provide an extraordinary platform to explore over 1,00,000 plus international and national products from across the world. The product range will include furniture from all over India, dry fruits from Afghanistan, Jamdani

sarees from Bangladesh, dates, jewellery and herbal oil from Iran, perfumes from Dubai, jewellery, footwear & clothing from Thailand, and much more.

Speaking during a press meet, Sujeet Gupta, Managing Director, Gupta Event Management Pvt. Ltd said, "We are bringing something new which was not available in the Bhubaneswar market in the 13th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2026. The international products on sale in the Fair will be available with good discount." Payal Acharya Gupta, Director, Gupta Event Management Pvt. Ltd said, "Just like every year something new is happening this year. More than 1 lakh products including A-Z of bridal collection will be available during the Trade Fair."

ISA delegation meets Odisha CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: A high-level delegation from the Indian Steel Association (ISA), led by Member of Parliament and President of ISA, Naveen Jindal Tuesday met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to discuss key challenges and opportunities concerning the steel industry in the state.

The meeting witnessed the presence of senior government officials including the Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary (Steel & Mines) Deorajan Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) Hemant Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Saswata Mishra, and



OMC's Chairman Girish SN and OMC's Managing Director Sudhansu Mohan Samal.

The delegation emphasised Odisha's pivotal role as a leading steel-producing state in India and expressed its appreciation to the state government for its continued support to the steel sector. The ISA delegation sug-

gested a set of measures to the state government and the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) to boost iron ore availability for state-based industries.

The delegation also requested fiscal incentives for the steel industries to attract the investments necessary to meet Odisha's ambitious target of 100

MTPA steel production capacity by 2030.

Furthermore, the ISA urged the government to constitute a dedicated task force to design a comprehensive logistics and infrastructure roadmap capable of supporting this massive 100 MTPA capacity.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Naveen Jindal said, "Under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister, significant progress is being made, with steel plants expanding rapidly and supporting infrastructure being strengthened across the state. The mining policy and auction process followed by Odisha is the best in the country. The state earns highest revenue for this. We thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister for the same."

EV RETAIL SALES UP 24.6% AT 24.52 LAKH UNITS IN FY26: FADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Total electric vehicle retail sales in India grew by 24.6 per cent at 24.52 lakh units in FY26 as compared to the previous fiscal, with every category delivering strong double-digit growth, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said Tuesday.

While electric two-wheelers crossed 14 lakh units, electric passenger vehicle retail sales missed the 2 lakh units by a whisker but surged 83.63 per cent in FY26, FADA said in a statement.

"FY26 has been a watershed year for India's electric mobility story. Total EV retail across two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles, and commercial vehicles stood at approximately 24.52 lakh units, growing nearly 24.6 per cent YoY, with every category delivering strong double-digit



growth," FADA President CS Vigneshwar said.

In the electric PV category, total sales were at 1,99,923 units in FY26 as compared to 1,08,873 units in FY25, a growth of 83.63 per cent.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles was the leader in the electric PV segment by volume at 78,811 units in FY26, followed

by JSW MG Motor India at 53,089 units and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd with 42,721 units in second and third spots, respectively, as per FADA data.

The electric two-wheeler category saw a growth of 21.81 per cent at 14,01,818 units in FY26, up from 11,50,790 units in FY25.

TVS Motor Company was the leader in the segment with

3,41,513 units, followed by Bajaj Auto with 2,89,349 units in second place and Ather Energy with 2,39,178 units in the third spot in FY26.

FADA said the electric three-wheeler category witnessed a growth of 18.97 per cent at 8,30,819 units in FY26 as compared to 6,98,914 units in FY25.

Electric commercial vehicle sales zoomed 120.57 per cent at 19,454 units in FY26 as compared to 8,820 units in FY25, FADA said.

Reflecting on the overall EV sales, Vigneshwar said, "This is not just an automobile industry achievement, it is a testament to India's ability to lead a mass-market energy transition, from the last-mile auto-rickshaw to the family car."

This shows that the structural momentum behind India's EV journey remains firmly intact, he added.

Private banks outpace PSBs deposit growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: Private sector banks reported stronger deposit growth in the January-March quarter compared with their public sector peers, even as the broader banking system continued to face persistent challenges in mobilising deposits.

Data compiled by PTI from banks' provisional numbers disclosures showed that private sector lenders recorded deposit growth in the range of 12-17 per cent in Q4FY26, compared with 2-14 per cent growth among PSU banks.

Banks have increasingly relied on mobilising funds through certificates of deposit (CDs) in recent quarters amid sustained pressure on low-cost deposits.

Deposit mobilisation has remained challenging, particularly on the current account and savings account (CASA) front, as relatively lower interest rates have made such deposits

less attractive compared with other financial instruments.

Among private lenders, IDFC First Bank reported the highest growth, with deposits rising 17.2 per cent to Rs 2.43 lakh crore in Q4FY26, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank with 14.7 per cent growth and HDFC Bank with 14.4 per cent growth, according to provisional data.

In a note, domestic brokerage Motilal Oswal said HDFC Bank's deposit growth will continue to be at 14 per cent till FY28, and the credit deposit ratio is likely to moderate to 94 per cent by end of FY28.

In the public sector banking space, Bank of India reported deposit growth of 14.33 per cent, followed by Bank of Maharashtra at 14 per cent and Central Bank of India at 13.37 per cent.

A majority of the banks have shared the provisional performance data after the end of the quarter, but some like the country's largest lender SBI have not.

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women Pugilists rule ring

Minakshi, Jaismine shine as six women reach final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ulaanbaatar, April 7: India continued their impressive campaign at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026, with a total of eight boxers, six women and two men, storming into the finals. Minakshi and Jaismine led the charge in the women's semifinals Tuesday, while Vishvanath Suresh and Sachin added to the tally with strong performances in the men's category.

In the women's 48kg semi-final, Minakshi registered a confident 4:1 victory over Thailand's Thipsatcha Yodwaree to seal her spot in the gold medal bout. Joining her in the final, Jaismine edged past Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova in a closely contested 3:2 decision in the women's 57kg category.

In the men's division, Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) delivered a dominant performance, outclassing Jordan's Huthaifa Eshish with a unanimous 5:0 win to advance to the final. Sachin (60kg) also impressed with a solid 4:1 victory over Thailand's Sakda Ruamtham in his semi-final clash.

In other results, Akash lost 1:4 to Uzbekistan's Javokhir Abdurakhimov. Lokesh went down 0:5 against Jasurbek Yuldoshev of Uzbekistan. Na-



With eight finalists across categories, India heads into the final day with strong momentum at the continental showpiece

render suffered a 1:4 defeat to China's Bayikewuzi Danabieke, with the bout being stopped in the first round due to a cut. Harsh Choudhary also lost 1:4 to Tajikistan's Parviz Karimov.

India will now look to convert these strong performances into gold as several boxers gear up for the finals. In the women's 48kg final, Minakshi will face Mongolia's Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan. Jaismine is set to take on Thailand's Punrawee Ruenros in the 57kg title clash.

In other key finals featuring Indian boxers, Preeti (54kg) will go up against Chinese Taipei's Huang Hsiao-wen, while Priya (60kg) faces North Korea's Un Gyong Won. Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) is set to meet Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish in her gold medal bout. With eight finalists across categories, India heads into the final day with strong momentum at the continental showpiece.

DUI: David Warner faces legal trouble



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sydney, April 7: Former Australian opener David Warner has landed in legal trouble after being charged with drink driving Sunday. The incident occurred in the suburb of Maroubra during a routine roadside breath-testing operation.

According to a report in news.com.au, the 39-year-old had stopped and parked his vehicle just before reaching the testing checkpoint. However, police officers approached his car and conducted a breath analysis, which confirmed that he was over the legal alcohol limit.

Warner was subsequently taken into custody and transported to Maroubra Police Station, where his blood alcohol reading was recorded at 0.104. He has since been charged and is scheduled to appear in court next month.

The development comes at a time when Warner remains actively involved in franchise cricket despite retiring from international cricket in 2024. He is currently leading Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 and had briefly returned to Australia during a break between matches.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

DC to take on GT

Top order in focus as Delhi Capitals eye hat-trick of victories over winless Gujarat Titans



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Delhi Capitals will be expecting runs from their KL Rahul-led top-order as they look to maintain their winning momentum against a faltering Gujarat Titans in the IPL here Wednesday.

Delhi Capitals have had near perfect couple of games with the ball while 22-year-old Sameer Rizvi has been carrying the bulk of their batting load, having come of age early in the season.

If the likes of Rahul and co get into the groove, the Delhi Capitals will become a more formidable unit.

Rahul can't be blamed for the way he has got out in his first two innings and it is only a matter of time before he finds his consistency. Nitish Rana would be feeling more pressure having got the opportunity to bat at number three.

Pathum Nissanka found his range in the last game here, giving him additional confidence to take on the Gujarat Titans pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj in the

powerplay. Having smashed his third IPL fifty in a row (one came last season), Rizvi is on a rampage. He always had the ability to take spinners to the cleaners but he is now able to change gears even against the fast bowlers.

The first half of his innings against Mumbai Indians was rather measured before he went ballistic to script a comfortable win for his team.

In contrast, Gujarat Titans are a team that is faltering on both fronts.

Titans have been struggling to shed the top-heavy tag. They should have chased 205 against Rajasthan Royals comfortably but the unproven middle-order could not cash in on the start provided by Sai Sudharsan.

The middle order comprising Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar and Rahul Tewatia needs to step up under pressure.

On the brighter side, Rashid has found his rhythm early in the competition but their most impressive bowler has been 23-year-old pacer Ashok Sharma.

SHORT TAKES

Shooters Palak, Mukesh win record gold

Granada (Spain): Indian shooters Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli shattered the world record on way to winning a gold medal in 10m air pistol mixed team competition at the ISSF World Cup for rifle and pistol here Tuesday. The Indian duo aggregated 487.7 to clinch the top prize, which is also a junior world record. The pair showcased strong form in the qualification round too, securing a spot in the medal match with a score of 581-17x. China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu bagged the silver medal with 484.8, while Hungary's Veronika Major and Akos Karoly Nagy settled for bronze with a combined total of 414.9 in the final. While Palak hit 243.0 in the final, Mukesh scored 244.7.

BJKC: India trail 0-1 against Thailand

New Delhi: India's Vaishnavi Adkar faltered under the weight of enforced errors, slumping to a shock straight-set defeat against Aunchisa Chanta as the hosts trailed 0-1 against Thailand in their opening Asia/Oceania Group 1 tie of the Billie Jean King Cup here Tuesday. Ranked 73 places above her opponent at 383, Vaishnavi went down 1-6, 3-6 in one hour and 13 minutes at the DLTA Centre Court after play was delayed by more than three hours due to persistent drizzle which caused unusually cool conditions.

Abhay loses to Ibrahim in five-game thriller

New Delhi: Top-ranked Indian Abhay Singh went down in a five-game thriller to world No 7 Youssef Ibrahim of Egypt in the men's second round of the El Gouna Open squash, a PSA Platinum event, in El Gouna, Egypt. World No 25 Abhay began strongly, winning the opening and third games Monday. But the Egyptian sixth seed wrestled control to advance with a hard-fought 7-11 11-9-11 11-5 11-8 victory in 68 minutes.

Silver for Lalit, bronze for Sunil

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan): Lalit bagged India's first medal of the 2026 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships, claiming a silver in the 55kg Greco Roman category while Nitesh reached the final of the 97kg competition here Tuesday. Former champion Sunil Kumar added another bronze medal to his trophy cabinet to make it a fruitful day for the Indian contingent. Former U-23 Asian Championships bronze winner Lalit, who had packed off China's Huoying Shi in the semifinals, put up a strong resistance against Ikhtiyor Botirov of Uzbekistan in the final but could not avoid a 0-9 loss.

Dhruv-Tanisha win on mixed day for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ningbo (China), April 7: India's leading mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the second round, but the duo of Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani crashed out of the Badminton Asia Championships 2026, which got underway here Tuesday.

Kapila and Crasto won 21-14, 11-21, 21-15 over Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard.

However, Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani went down fighting against Malaysia's eighth seeds Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jamie 13-21 19-21 in a 34-minute contest at the Ningbo Olympic Centre.

The Indian duo of Kapoor and Shivani struggled to find rhythm early on, conceding the first game comfortably, but showed signs of resistance in the second before the experi-



enced Malaysian combination shut the door in straight games. In another match, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also failed to cross the opening hurdle, losing 16-21 15-21 to Malaysia's Wong Tien

Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in 31 minutes.

The Indian pair fought hard but were unable to sustain pressure at crucial junctures against their steady opponents. The focus will shift to singles

competition Wednesday with India's top stars set to begin their campaigns.

Lakshya Sen, fresh from a runner-up finish at the All England Championships, will spearhead the men's singles challenge.

The country's top-ranked shuttler faces a tricky opening match against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu, against whom the Indian has a 2-3 head-to-head record.

In the women's singles, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu returns to action after a disrupted European leg and will open her campaign against Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching.

Apart from Sen and Sindhu, India will also have Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy and Ayush Shetty in men's singles, while Tanvi Sharma, Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod will feature in the women's draw, with all of them slated to begin their campaigns Wednesday.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid-Bayern, Lisbon-Arsenal reignite old sparks to book the first spots in the final four

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Liverpool, April 7: Football at its very best. That was Arne Slot's memory of Liverpool's richly entertaining meeting with Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last season.

OK, Liverpool ultimately went out, beaten at Anfield in a round-of-16 penalty shootout by the team that would go on to win the competition for the first time, but Slot loved the way his side played and still maintains it was "the best game I've managed in my career."

They meet again almost 12 months on, with Liverpool - and Slot - in a very different place.

Indeed, the Dutch coach appears to be fighting for his job heading into the upcoming quarterfinal doubleheader with the European champions that starts

with the first leg in Paris Wednesday.

A 4-0 loss at Manchester City in the FA Cup Saturday was Liverpool's latest poor result of a season that initially began with so much hope after the club's record summer spurge of \$570 million on new players

on the back of cruising to the Premier League title.

With the Reds having long given up hope of retaining their league title, the Champions League is their only remaining chance of a trophy.

On current form, that looks unlikely.

While Liverpool has lost four of its last seven games in all competitions in a run of results that has piled the pressure on Slot, PSG is on a four-match winning run that contains back-to-back victories over Chelsea in the Champions League's round of 16 (5-2 and 3-0).

Only one team has retained the Champions League since the turn of the century - Real Madrid won it for three straight years from 2016 - but PSG looks in good shape to do so.

Slot and Liverpool might just be happy to

get out of the Parc des Princes with a fighting

in the past 14 seasons - and it has been a one-sided Madrid, the

They won't this season, either.

The two European heavyweights are, however, meeting the knockout stage for the sixth time in the past 14 seasons - and it has been a rivalry record

is expected to be available, despite missing Saturday's win over Freiburg in the Bundesliga with a minor ankle issue sustained in national team training last week.

Madrid is coming off a comfortable round-of-16 win over Man City but, more recently, a 2-1 loss at Mallorca Saturday that hurt its Spanish league title hopes.

Europe's iconic matchups, year after year

HEAD-TO-HEAD		
Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich		
UCL knockout record (2010-2026)		
Year	Round	Winner
2011-12	Semifinal	Bayern (3-3 pens)
2013-14	Semifinal	Madrid (5-0)
2016-17	Quarterfinal	Madrid (6-3)
2017-18	Semifinal	Madrid (4-3)
2023-24	Semifinal	Madrid (4-3)

chance of advancing going into the second leg at Anfield.

There are three other quarterfinal matchups: Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich, Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid, and Sporting Lisbon vs Arsenal.

Heavyweights meeting early again

It's one of the more unlikely Champions League facts: Madrid and Munich winners of the title a combined 21 times - still haven't met in the final.

They won't this season, either.

The two European heavyweights are, however, meeting the knockout stage for the sixth time in the past 14 seasons - and it has been a one-sided Madrid, the

Barcelona-Atletico again and again

The players of Spanish rivals Barcelona and Atletico might be sick of the sight of each other by next week's second leg.

That's because their upcoming Champions League doubleheader will complete a barrage of five meetings between the teams in the space of two months, culminating in three matches in 10 days.

On Saturday, Barcelona came from behind to beat Atletico 2-1 on the road to strengthen its hold on the Spanish league lead. In February, they met in the Copa Del Rey with each winning big at home and Atletico advancing on aggregate.

They have met twice in the Champions League knockout stages and both times at the quarterfinal stage, with Atletico going through in

2014 and 2016 on its run to the final each season. Atletico played the second leg at home on those occasions, too.

The first leg of their current head-to-head is Wednesday.

Gyokeres back at Sporting

Fresh from guiding Sweden into the World Cup, Arsenal striker Viktor Gyokeres makes a first return to the club that turned him into a globally renowned striker. At Sporting, Gyokeres scored 97 goals in 102 games, including 54 last season when he outscored the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Mohamed Salah. Quite the rise, then, for someone who previously had barely played a top-tier league game.

Since joining Arsenal for \$85 million, goals haven't been so easy to come by - he has 16 in 42 matches in all competitions - but remains first choice under coach Mikel Arteta, who values his line-leading qualities. And, after his recent heroics for Sweden when he grabbed a

hat trick against Ukraine and then the crucial late goal against Poland in the winner-takes-all playoff, Gyokeres should be full of confidence on his return to Lisbon for Tuesday's match. Sporting will look to make home advantage count like it did in the round of 16, completing a turnaround against Bodo/Glimt by winning the second leg 5-0 for one of the great Champions League fightbacks.

