



Janhvi's view

Actor Janhvi Kapoor says audiences consume women's images eagerly, yet judge their character

LEISURE | P2



Easter truce

Ukrainian officials urge Russia to extend a ceasefire it announced for Orthodox Easter this weekend and restart talks to end the war

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Profitable week

India's main stock indices snap a six-week losing streak, posting their biggest weekly gain in over five years

BUSINESS | P11



Shetty's giant kill

Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty stuns world No 4 Christie to enter SF, confirms medal Badminton Asia Championships

SPORTS | P12

US, Iran head for peace talks in Islamabad

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, April 10: With the ceasefire in Iran still shaky, US Vice President JD Vance headed Friday to Pakistan for high-level talks with Iranian officials, as Israel and Hezbollah traded fire and Tehran maintained its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz.

Many issues could derail the truce and the negotiations aimed at making a broader deal to stop the fighting permanently. Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, close to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, claimed that the talks set for Saturday would not happen unless Israel stopped its attacks in Lebanon.

And US President Donald Trump said on his social media platform that Iran has no leverage except to restrict ship traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's traded oil once passed.

P10



FESTIVE VIBES

School teachers and students perform 'Bhangra', a traditional folk dance, ahead of the Baisakhi festival, in a wheat field, near Jammu, Friday

PTI PHOTO

₹3,400 crore for Atal Bus Stands

The government has set aside ₹3,400 crore for setting up Atal Bus Stands across the state. However, public infrastructure funded by the taxpayers of Odisha should honour the state's own icons, freedom fighters, social reformers, litterateurs and cultural figures who have shaped its identity and heritage. Naming local bus stands after nationally known leaders from outside the state risks sidelining Odisha's rich historical legacy and disconnecting public spaces from local sentiment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: The Odisha government Friday announced the Atal Bus Stand scheme to establish bus stands across the state with a budgetary provision of ₹3,400 crore for a period of six years. The proposed modern bus stands will feature facilities such as digital information display boards, hygienic waiting rooms and commercial spaces, officials said.

At a state Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the scheme was approved along with 10 other proposals of various departments, Chief Secretary Anu Garg told mediapersons here.

The scheme, named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was launched with the objective of construction, development, renovation, operation, maintenance & management of all public bus stands across the state, she said.

The government aims to bring all public bus stands of the state under one umbrella management of the "Atal Bus

Stand" scheme, including all existing bus stands, to ensure uniformity in development, renovation, operation, maintenance and management across the state, Garg said.

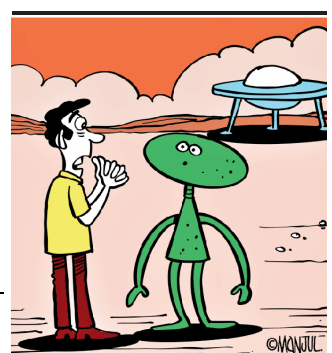
She said that Atal Bus Stands will be established across the state at the levels of district headquarters, sub-divisional towns, and tourist and other key locations. The scheme will be implemented by Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) under the Commerce & Transport department. A total budget of ₹3,400 crore till the financial year 2031-32 has been approved for the scheme, she added.

At the meeting, the government has also approved the construction of a power grid sub-station at Basudevpur along with associated transmission lines, with a total estimated cost of ₹1,647 crore.

Out of the total project cost, 30 per cent (₹494.10 crore) will be borne by the state government, while the remaining 70 per cent (₹1,152.90 crore) will be arranged by OPTCL through banks and financial institutions, the chief secretary said. The project, targeted to be completed in three years, will cater to the power requirements of upcoming industries in Keonjhar district and adjoining Koida area of Sundargarh district, she stated.

Garg also informed that the Cabinet has approved the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Policy for rural drinking water supply to guarantee uninterrupted water supply, strict compliance with drinking water quality standards, preventive maintenance of assets, and transparent financial management.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why do we want to migrate? Because our children, at an impressionable age, are learning from our leaders

Justice Varma resigns before impeachment hearing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: Embattled Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma, who was facing heat after wads of burnt currency notes were recovered from his residence here last year, has submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, rendering the impeachment proceedings against him as infructuous.

The purported discovery of a huge stash of cash took place after a fire broke out at Lutyens' Delhi residence of Justice Varma, then a Delhi High Court

judge, at around 11:35 pm on the night of Holi March 14, 2025, prompting the fire department personnel to rush to the spot and douse the flames.

In a letter sent to the President April 9, the 57-year-old Jus-

CASH ROW

stice Varma said he was tendering his resignation with "deep anguish" and it was an honour to serve the office.

The pending impeachment proceedings, intended to remove Varma from his office, becomes infructuous due to his



resignation.

Consequently, a three-member inquiry committee comprising Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice

Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and senior advocate B V Acharya was conducting an inquiry, a condition precedent, before an impeachment motion.

Justice Varma's case saw many twists and turns after he refused to heed to the advice of then CJI Sanjiv Khanna to resign following two damning reports of judges.

Left with no option, Justice Khanna wrote to the President to proceed further to impeach Justice Varma.

He was later repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High.

ANANT AMBANI'S VANTARA LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST GLOBAL UNIVERSITY FOR WILDLIFE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

Envisioned as a modern day Gurukul and purpose-led university, the varsity aims to position India as a global hub for wildlife and veterinary education



Jamnagar (Gujarat), India: Vantara, the global wildlife conservation organisation founded by Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, has announced the launch of Vantara University in Jamnagar, Gujarat. It is the world's first integrated global university dedicated to wildlife conservation and veterinary sciences. Vantara University is rooted in animal welfare, scientific advancement, and the future of wildlife conservation. The institution aims to develop future leaders in veterinary medicine, conservation, and wildlife care. Its curriculum will utilise India's enduring knowledge traditions to shape a purpose-led and future-facing model of education. "The future of conservation will depend on how we prepare minds and institutions to serve life with compassion, knowledge, and skill. Vantara University is shaped by a deeply personal journey of witnessing animals in distress and recognising the need for greater capability in their care.

Inspired by the ethos of the ancient Nalanda University, and the spirit of Ā no bhadrā kratavoyantuśivata, which means let noble thoughts come to us from all directions, the university seeks to nurture a new generation committed to protecting every life," Anant Ambani said.

Reflecting this ethos in the ceremonial setting, two Bijoliya

sandstones were incorporated into the design of the foundation venue. Drawn from the ancient Vindhyan formation, the same geological foundation associated with ancient Nalanda in present day Bihar, these stones symbolised India's enduring legacy of knowledge and learning.

The foundation ceremony, conducted in accordance with Hindu traditions, brought together representatives from academia, science, conservation, and public life, including Anant Ambani's teachers and mentors. A central element of the event was the ritual placement of soil, water, and stones as a symbolic act of laying the foundation, with these elements collected from biodiversity-rich landscapes across India, spanning grasslands, forests, wetlands, arid ecosystems, and Himalayan and other high-altitude habitats across the northern, southern, eastern, western, and central parts of the country, symbolising India's ecological richness and the vision of

building the university on the foundation of the nation's natural heritage.

Vantara University will unite diverse disciplines within a single academic ecosystem, rooted in real-world conservation practices. Drawing on Vantara's on-ground expertise, the university will translate field knowledge into academic programmes, professional training, and globally relevant frameworks. By mixing compassion, science, and conservation, it will mould professionals to address complex and evolving challenges in wildlife and ecosystem health.

The university will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, fellowship, and specialised programmes across disciplines. These include wildlife medicine and surgery, nutrition, behavioural sciences, genetics, epidemiology, One Health, conservation policy, and naturalistic animal care environment design. Organised into specialised colleges aligned with Vantara's operational capabilities, the university will also offer scholarships to support students from socially and economically marginalised backgrounds.

Vantara University will be supported by advanced academic and clinical infrastructure, international collaborations, and a residential campus. It will focus on action-oriented research to strengthen animal welfare and advanced conservation practice. The educational model will integrate in situ and ex situ conservation, linking natural habitats with scientific care and long-term wildlife welfare and management.

Recognising that the future of conservation will be built in classrooms, laboratories, and human conscience, as well as in forests, the university aims to advance wildlife veterinary sciences and conservation education. It will simultaneously develop knowledge resources in wildlife health, animal care

environment design, and conservation, serving as a long-term platform for education, research, and innovation.

The foundation ceremony marked the start of a broader national effort to advance compassionate conservation education. This included the announcement of 'Vantara University Founding Fellows' and 'Every Life Matters' scholarships, alongside a call

About Vantara



to use knowledge not only for progress, but for protection. In its stated vision, Vantara University is positioned as more than an academic platform. It reflects the view that the wild requires not only admiration, but also knowledge, systems, and trained hands.

Vantara is a pioneering wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, healthcare, and conservation initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India. Combining advanced veterinary medicine, welfare-led care, applied science, and conservation planning at scale, Vantara delivers specialised treatment, recovery,

VANTARA

and long-term support for animals across species. With a growing role in conservation breeding, species recovery, and future re-wilding pathways, Vantara is emerging as an international centre of excellence in wildlife healthcare, conservation science, and species restoration.

leisure



EVE HEWSON JOINS ISLE OF MAN CAST

Irish star Eve Hewson became the latest addition to Amazon MGM Studios' film *Isle of Man*, where she will star alongside Channing Tatum. The film is directed by Reid Carolin and will be produced by Tatum and Carolin's Free Association, Brad Pitt's Plan B and Entertainment 360's Guymon Casady

CAMERON DIAZ REFLECTS ON THE PRICE OF FAME

Cameron Diaz reflects on the price of fame, calling her decades in Hollywood a journey shaped by highs and lows. While discussing her film *Outcome* with Keanu Reeves, the actress admits stardom takes time to understand, revealing the film also delves into the darker, more challenging side of celebrity life



FORTUNE FORECAST



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ARIES
Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesha.

TAURUS
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesha. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

GEMINI
You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will dampen your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool and return to your charismatic self.

CANCER
There is nothing extraordinary about today. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill and adventure doesn't mean that you'll be free for most part of the day. By evening, you may get indications that tomorrow may not be this boring.

LEO
The complete family man that you are, it is your near and dear ones who have always laid the foundation of your success. So why should today be any different. The auspicious tides of the day begin from your home and follow you everywhere. Be it work or play, you have a tempo that is undiminished.

VIRGO
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesha. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

LIBRA
Put up that 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door today. That's because Ganesha feels the tingle in your bones to want to stick to your preferred subject matter. This will help you achieve good progress in your research. Also, expect to be hit by a wave of nostalgia, as loving memories from the past sweeten your heart.

SCORPIO
Ganesha predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements. But after a waiting game, you may go ahead with your plan with much fanfare, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN
Today, you will get back to playing the power game, using both fair and unfair means to achieve your goals, says Ganesha. Intellectual growth will be phenomenal; equally good will be your intuitions. In fact, your gut feelings will guide all the decisions you take today, and rest assured, none will leave you in a soup. You will be sensitive to and understanding of others' problems, and will lend a helping hand to those who seek your assistance.

AQUARIUS
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

PISCES
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesha.



FILM REVIEW

Dacoit: A gritty tale of love and revenge

Dacoit: A Love Story is not your conventional romance, it's a brooding, intense exploration of love gone wrong, where emotions bleed into violence and redemption feels just out of reach. Director Shanel Deo crafts a narrative that sits somewhere between a character study and a revenge drama, attempting to balance raw action with emotional depth.



DIRECTOR: SHANEIL DEO
CAST: Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan & Kamakshi Bhaskarla

lingers, allowing scenes to breathe, though this approach occasionally affects the pacing.

Where the film stumbles slightly is in its screenplay. While the premise is strong, certain plot developments feel predictable, and the narrative could have benefited from tighter editing. The first half, in particular, takes its time to build the world and relationships, which may test the patience of some viewers. However, the second half redeems this with more focused storytelling and a gripping emotional payoff.

What sets *Dacoit: A Love Story* apart is its refusal to simplify its characters. There are no clear heroes or villains here, just flawed individuals making irreversible choices.

In the end, *Dacoit: A Love Story* is a moody, character-driven film that prioritizes emotion over spectacle. It may not appeal to everyone, but for those willing to engage with its layered storytelling and restrained performances, it offers a haunting and memorable cinematic experience.

JANHVI'S truth bomb

MUMBAI: Janhvi Kapoor has struck a nerve with her stark observation: audiences often judge a woman's character by her clothes. Her remark goes beyond personal frustration, exposing a deeper contradiction within celebrity culture. The same ecosystem that thrives on a woman's image, fuelled by glamour, social media visibility, and algorithm-driven engagement, is quick to impose moral scrutiny on her.

Bollywood continues to blur the line between visibility and judgment. Actresses are encouraged to be desirable, their images amplified through promotions, paparazzi culture and digital platforms. Yet once that image circulates, it shapes perception far beyond its moment. It begins to define credibility, seriousness, and even morality. What starts as visual consumption turns into long-term career consequences.

Janhvi's admission that she now thinks carefully before posting reflects not insecurity, but survival within this system. Every image carries a reputational cost, influencing how audiences and filmmakers perceive her. The troubling reality is that objectification does not end with attention, it evolves into judgment.



AGENCIES

CONTROVERSIAL FEMINISM REMARK

MUMBAI: Nora Fatehi, currently focusing on building her global music career, has addressed the controversy surrounding her past remarks on feminism, clarifying that her views were taken out of context.

Nora clears air



lated on social media without context, creating a distorted narrative. During an interview, Nora said she opposes extremism in any form and advocates for balance. Opening up about her personal life, Nora shared that she was raised by a single mother and

often felt the absence of a two-parent household. She emphasised the importance of emotional security, love, and stability that a supportive family structure can provide, regardless of its composition. Reflecting on modern ideas of independence, she noted that they sometimes overlook a child's emotional needs.

Nora further stressed the need for shared responsibility between men and women, advocating for independence alongside mutual support. She called for greater accountability for men, urging them to step up as equal partners.

Reiterating her stance, she said feminism is valuable at its core, but becomes problematic when it turns extreme, highlighting her belief in a balanced approach to gender roles and relationships.

MUMBAI: Actress Neha Sharma made a candid confession, saying she believes she looks "worse with make-up."

UNFILTERED NEHA

Neha took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself flaunting her makeup and flipping her hair.

The actress went on to share that she doesn't know how to do hair and make-up and needs to learn the skill. "I really need to learn how to do my hair and make-up right," Neha wrote a the caption of the video.

The actress then spoke about her make-up look. "Also am I the only girl that thinks I look worse with makeup #lastnightmakeuplook."

has appeared in several films, including *Yamla Pagla Deewana 2*, *Solo* and *Tanhaji*. It was in 2020, when she stepped in to the web world with the series *Illegal* in 2020 and has also been part of the short film *Kriti* and *Vikalp*, where she played the title roles.

Her debut was in 2007 with *Chirutha*, a Telugu-language

action drama film directed by Puri Jagannadh. The film also marked the debut of Ram Charan.

It also stars Prakash Raj, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Sayaji Shinde. The story follows Charan, a young man on a mission of vengeance against Mattu Bhai, a crime lord responsible for the deaths of his parents. This film is an unofficial remake of *Swept Away*, directed by Guy Ritchie.



AGENCIES

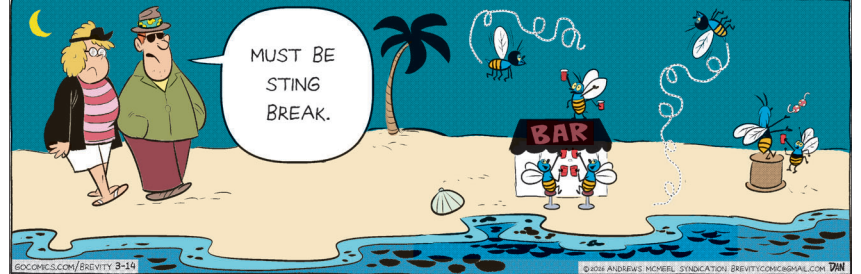
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

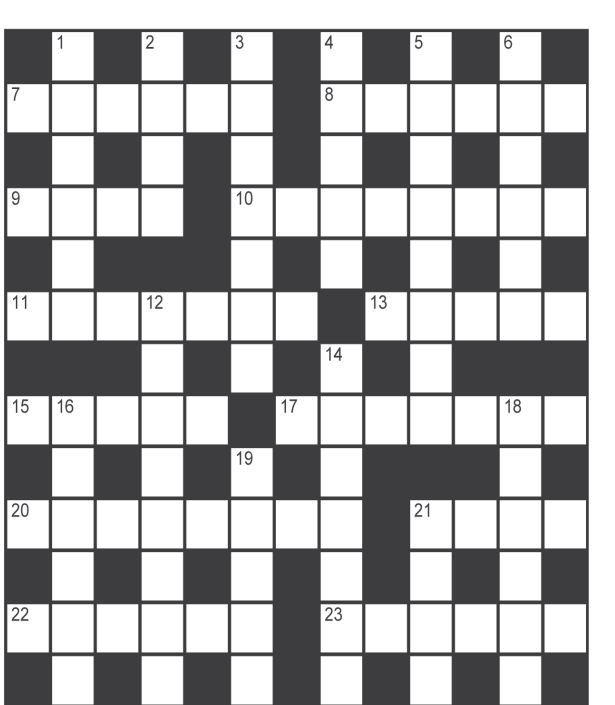


BREVITY



FUN POST

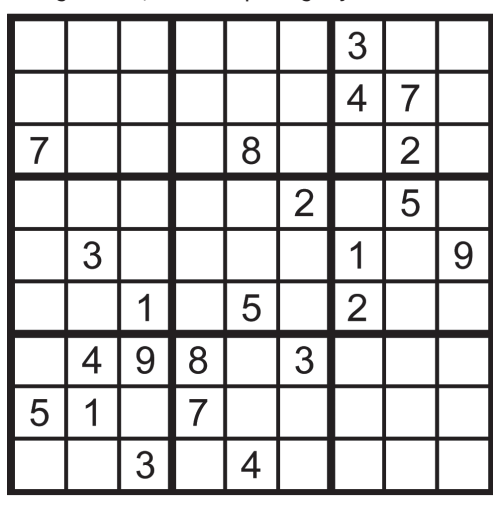
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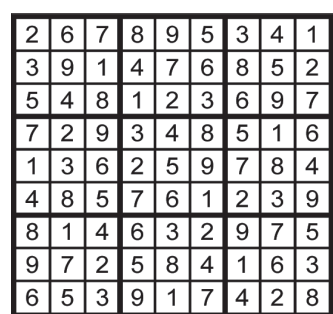
- Across**
- 7 Potent
 - 8 Snapper
 - 9 Relative of an epee
 - 10 Unwelcome visitor
 - 11 Hate
 - 13 Small candies
 - 15 Train stop
 - 17 Fossilise
 - 20 Wine starter
 - 21 Inspid
 - 22 Lowlife
 - 23 Regal fur
- Down**
- 1 Went boldly
 - 2 Essence
 - 3 Opposed to
 - 4 Sports figures, briefly
 - 5 Monte Carlo figure
 - 6 Customer
 - 12 Safeguards
 - 14 Saltwater lake (4,3)
 - 16 Migrator
 - 18 Damon, to Pythias
 - 19 Aches
 - 21 High point

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



AMID WAR: Displaced families extend their hands for donated food beside the tents they use as shelters after fleeing Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon, in Beirut

Man gets death for kid's rape, murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: A POCSO court in Angul Friday awarded death penalty to a 40-year-old man after finding him guilty of raping and killing a four-year- and 10-month-old girl under the Industrial Police Station (Nisa) limits in the district in 2025.

The court found Babula Jena, a resident of Dehury Sahi in Jereng village under Jarpada police limits of the district, guilty of offences under Sections 137(2), 103(1), 65(2), and 238(a) of BNS and Section 6 of POCSO Act,

Special Public Prosecutor Dillip Kumar Das said.

"On March 13, 2025, the minor went missing while playing in front of her house. Despite extensive searches by family and neighbours, she could not be traced. Her father later lodged a missing report at the Industrial Police Station (Nisa) March 14, 2025. Tragically, the child's body was recovered March 15, 2025 under a tree near her residence," a police official said.

then sent for a post-mortem. The autopsy confirmed death due to compression of the neck, with findings consistent with forcible penetrative sexual assault, the official said.

Locals suspected the involvement of Babula, a mason, in the heinous crime, as he was present when the girl was playing outside and later disappeared around the same time as the girl. Babula was arrested March 17. Police, during

investigation, found that Babula, after kidnapping the minor, took her to his residence, where he raped her. He later strangled the minor to death and disposed of her body near the village.

The court, after examining the evidence, including witness statements as well as medical and scientific reports, found Babula guilty of the offence and pronounced the judgment.

The court also asked the Angul District Legal Services Authority to take necessary steps to provide ₹10 lakh as compensation to the victim's family.



Diarrhoea claims one in Jajpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, April 10: One person died, and 10 others fell ill due to diarrhoea in Jajpur district, officials said Friday.

The diarrhoea outbreak was reported from Baunsadola village under Anjira panchayat of Dharmasala block. The deceased was identified as Badal Mohanty, 36, of the village, they said. The waterborne disease was first reported Wednesday night as Badal was admitted to Dharmasala CHC. Later, two others from the village were admitted to the hospital after being affected by diarrhoea the same day.

Eight others from the same village were also admitted to the CHC Thursday. However, Badal, who was admitted to the CHC as the first patient, died Thursday night.

While four of the affected persons were discharged from the hospital, six others are undergoing treatment at the CHC.

Jajpur CDMO Dr Bijay Kumar Mishra reached the village to assess the situation Friday.

Search operations are being carried out by police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), fire services, civil defence teams, the Army and local divers, while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams are also expected to join the efforts soon, officials said.

Locals told the media that the boat began to sway violently due to gusty winds, picked up speed and collided with a pontoon bridge, causing it to overturn. Officials, however, said that the boat collided with a floating pontoon left behind after the pontoon bridge was dismantled recently. CM Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and expressed deep grief over the loss of lives. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann spoke to Adityanath and said all necessary assistance will be provided to the victims.

10 dead as boat capsizes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura/Chandigarh, April 10: A boat carrying tourists, primarily from Punjab, capsized in the Yamuna in Vrindavan Friday afternoon, leaving at least 10 people dead, 22 injured and five missing, officials said.

The accident occurred near Kesi Ghat when the boat, carrying over two dozen tourists, moved into deeper waters and hit a floating pontoon, they said. Authorities noted that a pontoon bridge had recently been dismantled in the area due to rising water levels, leaving some pontoon drums in the river, one of which the boat is believed to have collided with.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh reported six fatalities earlier and later rescuers recovered four more bodies, taking the toll to 10, the district adminis-



tration officials confirmed. The deceased have been identified as Kavita Rani, Charanjit, Sapna Hans, Rikesh Gulati, Madhur Behl, Asha Rani, Pinki Behl, Anju Gulati, Ishan Kataria and Minu Bansal, according to an official statement.

Those missing have been identified as Manik Tandon, Pankaj Malhotra, Rishab Sharma, Yash Bhalla and Monika. "Sixteen to 17 people have been rescued safely so far. Efforts are ongoing to locate the missing," the DM said ear-

lier, adding that all tourists onboard were from Punjab. Among the 22 injured, Pinki, Manju, Savita, Tanish Jain, Rekha, Rajinder Kaur, Saroj and Dolly are undergoing treatment, while the condition of others is stated to be stable.

Medical authorities at the Vrindavan Joint Hospital said the deceased include four women. The tourists were part of a larger group of around 150 pilgrims from Ludhiana and Muktsar in Punjab who had come to Vrindavan.

Rupee falls 32p to close at 92.83

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 10: The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day 32 paise lower at 92.83 against the US dollar Friday, weighed down by risks from rising global tensions, especially the US-Iran conflict.

Forex traders said the rupee witnessed high volatility as the deadline for the RBI's instructions to banks to curb their overnight positions to \$100 million closes Friday amid heightened

geopolitical uncertainty.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.58 against the US dollar and hit the day's high of 92.41, before losing ground to eventually settle at 92.83, down 32 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled with a marginal gain of 3 paise at 92.51 against the US dollar. "US-Iran truce is on shaky ground. There is still a lot of uncertainty around how the situation will unfold. The Strait of Hormuz remains ef-

fectively closed," IFA Global said in a research note.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was higher by 0.03 per cent at 98.84 as the safe-haven demand has come down after the ceasefire, but as the ceasefire is fragile, the US dollar is getting bids at lower levels.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.97 per cent at \$96.86 per barrel in futures trade.

Woman, son die as iron bar falls on them

AGENCIES

Balalore, April 10: A woman and her six-year-old son died when a heavy iron bar fell on them while travelling on the rear end of a truck from Chandikhole to Balalore, police said Friday.

A police official said the truck was carrying bundles of heavy iron bars, and seven members of a family were travelling in the vehicle, hunched in between spaces among the bunched.

When the driver suddenly applied the brakes to the

vehicle, an iron bar slipped off a bunch and fell on the mother-son duo, killing them, the official said, adding that another woman, belonging to the same family, was injured in the incident.

The deceased were identified as Sambari Soren, 25, and her son Saurabh Soren, residents of Shyamsundarpur village in Balalore. Police said the accident took place at about 6 am when the family was returning from Paradip. They took a lift in the truck loaded with iron plates from Chandikhol in Jajpur district.

Wild chimpanzees engaged in a 'civil war'

For two decades, researchers observed members of the Ngogo chimpanzee group of Kibale National Park in Uganda spend their days eating fruits and leaves, resting, travelling and grooming in their tropical rainforest abode. But this stable community then fractured and descended into years of deadly violence.

The researchers are now describing the first clearly documented example of a group of wild chimpanzees splitting into two separate factions, with one launching a series of coordinated attacks against the other. Adult males and infants were targeted, with 28 deaths.

"Biting, pounding the victim with their hands, dragging them, kicking them - mostly adult males, but sometimes adult females participate in the attacks," said University of Texas primatologist Aaron Sandel,



lead author of the study published Thursday in the journal Science. The researchers began studying the Ngogo chimpanzees in 1995. This was the largest-known group of wild chimpanzees anywhere, peaking at around 200 members. Chimpanzee groups typically number about 50. Researchers have long known chimpanzees will attack and kill members of neighbouring chimpanzee groups - essentially strangers - but this was different.

"It is hard for me to wrap my head around the fact that yesterday's friend

turned into today's foe. Males in the two groups grew up with each other, knew each other their entire lives and cooperated and collaborated with each other, benefiting in the process," said primatologist and study senior author John Mitani, a University of Michigan professor emeritus. "So why split? Perhaps they became a victim of their own success when the group grew to an intolerably large size," Mitani said.

The researchers said a combination of factors may have destabilized the group.

Its original large size may have intensified feeding competition for everyone and competition among the males to mate with females. The 2014 deaths of seven chimpanzees amid signs of illness may have disrupted social relationships, creating hostilities.

Chimpanzee communities are male-dominated. There was a change in the alpha male - the group's highest-ranking chimpanzee - around the time tensions began in 2015, with a chimpanzee called Jackson deposing another male.

Before the split, the group was one cohesive community, although social clusters existed. Members of two clusters began avoiding each other in 2015. Months after an illness in 2017 killed 25 chimpanzees, mostly infants, members of one of the clusters attacked Jackson, though he survived. By the end of 2017, two distinct groups had formed, labelled

the Western and Central groups. The subsequent violence was perpetrated by the Western group against the Central group, starting in 2018.

The published study included observations through 2024, with seven adult males and 17 infants killed, for a total of 24. The violence has continued. Last year and this year, one adult male, one adolescent male and two infants were killed, raising the death toll to 28. Many chimpanzees have disappeared without a clear cause, suggestive of additional unrecorded killings.

The Western group began as smaller in size and territory but eventually surpassed the Central group in both. The Western group apparently has experienced no casualties. While the scientists preferred not to call these events a civil war, a term with specific meaning in human conflict, they saw important similarities.



BGU
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State issues MCC to reinforce academic integrity, discipline



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: State Higher Education department issued a comprehensive Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for all state public universities, government and private degree colleges, and teacher education institutions to reinforce discipline, academic integrity, and mutual respect on campuses.

In an official communication, issued by Joint Secretary Mousumi Nayak, the department stated that the code has been designed to ensure a safe, respectful, and conducive learning environment amid evolving teacher-student dynamics and changing social conditions within educational institutions.

The guidelines were finalised after recommendations from academic committees and

consultations with multiple stakeholders. Institutions have been directed to implement the code immediately and ensure its wide dissemination among students, faculty members, and administrative staff.

Colleges and universities have been instructed to incorporate MCC into prospectuses, admission materials, student handbooks and official websites. They have also been asked to conduct orientation programmes and awareness drives to familiarise stakeholders with the provisions of the code.

The directive mandates strict adherence to academic discipline, including compulsory attendance rules, with repeated absence treated as a serious disciplinary offence. Students must seek prior permission

for absence, and guardians are to be informed in cases of prolonged absenteeism. Unauthorised protests, strikes, or violent activities on campus have been prohibited, with violations liable to disciplinary and legal action.

The code also emphasises accountability in cases of damage to institutional property, requiring compensation from responsible individuals, failing which expulsion may be enforced. Consumption of intoxicants, on or off campus, was strictly banned.

Sexually inappropriate or lewd behaviour will not be tolerated, and such cases will be referred to Internal Complaints Committees for action. Institutions are required to establish monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms for timely resolution of complaints.

For faculty members, the code highlights their role as mentors, responsible for maintaining professional ethics, ensuring fair evaluation, and avoiding misuse of authority. Discrimination, harassment, or intimidation by teachers will invite strict disciplinary and legal action. Institutions have also been asked to promote constructive discipline and uphold inclusive, respectful campus environments across the state.



An artiste enralls audience during Ekamra Nrutya Mahosav-2026 at GKCM ORC in Bhubaneswar Friday



A parakeet feeds on a withered sunflower in Bhubaneswar, Friday



Advocate General and BJP leader Pitambar Acharya and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik seen together in a flight to New Delhi Friday. Acharya had unsuccessfully contested Hinjili seat in 2019 Assembly election as a BJP candidate against the BJD supremo

BJD to observe Biju Babu death anniv

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 10: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will observe the 29th death anniversary of former chief minister Biju Patnaik across all Assembly constituencies in the state.

Senior party Vice-President Debi Prasad Mishra said that local party units have been directed to organise commemorative events under the observance titled 'Prabada Purusha Divas'.

The programmes, to be planned at the local level, will include traditional rituals 'Tila Tarpana', garlanding statues, distribution of fruits to needy and patients in hospitals, and blood donation camps.

The party has also instructed units to hold intellectual discussions highlighting Patnaik's contribution to India's freedom struggle and his role in shaping modern Odisha. Leaders of various frontal organisations of the party will assist in the smooth conduct of these events.

At BJD headquarters here, observances will also be held. The day will begin with 'Tila Tarpana' at Bindusagar, followed by garlanding of Patnaik's statue and distribution of fruits to patients.

An intellectual discussion will also take place at Sankha Bhawan, the party office, said Bhubaneswar district president and former minister Ashok Panda.

STATE OBSERVES WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: World Homoeopathy Day was observed across the state recently, commemorating the 271st birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German origin physician who founded the system of holistic treatment known to the world as homoeopathy.

Four government homoeopathic medical colleges—located in Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Rourkela, and Berhampur—led the celebrations with great enthusiasm and scientific zeal.

In Dr Abhin Chandra Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar, the programme was inaugurated by AYUSH Director Anjana Panda, followed by fruit distribution among indoor patients. A meeting highlighting life and contributions of Hahnemann was conducted. Prizes were distributed by the Homoeopathy Joint Director Dr Bharat, former

principal Dr Chaturbhuja Nayak and Principal Dr Pushpanjali Patra. A scientific session was delivered by Utkal University former professor Narayan Pati, followed by cultural programme by the students.

Similarly, in OMCHR, Sambalpur, a commemoration meeting and scientific sessions were organised by Students' Union in presence of Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra.

In Biju Patnaik Homoeopathic College, Berhampur, a statue of Hahnemann was inaugurated in presence of Dr PK Paty and Dr UN Das, following which a quiz and prize distribution ceremony was organised.

In UHMCH, Rourkela, commemoration meeting was followed by prize distribution ceremony and speech by Panposh Sub-collector Bijay Kumar Nayak who joined as chief guest and Dr Ajay Kumar Biswal. Apart from this, several health camps are organised throughout the week across the state.

LPG CRACKDOWN

4,691 cylinders seized; 31 FIRs registered; 5 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: A total of 4,691 LPG cylinders have been seized, 31 FIRs have been lodged, and 5 individuals have been arrested for their involvement in illegal hoarding and black marketing activities during raids and inspections at 2,136 locations in 30 districts of the state, said Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department Friday.

The raids were conducted at gas agencies as well as other suspected premises, according to report. In addition, 360 cases



have been registered in courts of various District Collectors under Essential Commodities Act.

According to official sources, unscrupulous individuals have been illegally stockpiling LPG

cylinders without any valid reason. Taking serious note of the issue, the department has initiated strict enforcement measures to curb such activities.

Special teams comprising de-

partmental officials have been formed in various districts to investigate such incidents. The teams are conducting regular inspections based on intelligence inputs and submitting daily reports to higher authorities. District Supply Officers, under the supervision of respective collectors, are ensuring that the inspection process is carried out rigorously.

The government has reiterated its commitment to ensuring fair distribution of LPG and has warned that strict action will continue against those violating the law.

VIT Chennai celebrates University Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Vellore, April 10: Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai celebrated its University Day Tuesday. Indian Bank MD and CEO Binod Kumar graced the occasion as chief guest. Alumnus of the institution Major Vaibhav Chaurasia attended as guest of honour. The event was presided over by VIT founder and Chancellor G Viswanathan, in presence of VIT vice-president GV Selvam.

In his address, Kumar encouraged students to prepare themselves for a rapidly changing world. He stressed the importance of continuous effort and adaptability to overcome challenges and seize opportunities. He also highlighted the need for innovation with a focus on improving



the end-user experience. "Always keep this in mind, in banking we think how we can make the life of customers easy. I am emphasising this point because this will help you in striving perfection within yourself," he said.

Emphasising the role of knowledge and character, he said that knowledge is one thing which will help you in shaping yourself. "Knowledge can take you up to a stage. Beyond that,

it is your characteristics which will shape you," he noted.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaurasia urged students to draw inspiration from their surroundings and focus on positive influences. He urged them to remain resilient, maintain self-belief. "Never give up and never doubt yourself. Things will not work out and things will go wrong, but you have to keep working hard and always do things right," he added.

Finish quota list for rural polls by April-end, govt tells Collectors

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has directed all District Collectors to complete reservation of seats for SC, ST, OBC and women categories for various posts in the panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) for the upcoming rural polls, officials said Friday. In a recent letter to the Collectors, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water secretary Girish SN said the general elections to PRIs are likely to be held in 2027. "Accordingly, the exercise for reservation of seats for various PRI posts is required to be completed within the time frame at the level of district and government as per the provisions of PRI Acts/Rules," he said. For ward member, sarpanch, panchayat samiti member and chairman posts, the final seat reservation list is to be completed by April 29, while the deadline for zilla parishad members and presidents is April 30. The Collectors have been asked to ensure completion of the reservation process by the end of April.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Nabarangpur. I, Mohan Nayak, S/o. Bankumar Nayak, resident of Vill: Bobria, P.O.: Beheramunda, P.S.: Chandahandi, Dist.: Nabarangpur declare that for and on behalf of my minor son Champalal Nayak I wholly renounce, relinquish and abandon the use of former name Champalal Nayak and in place do assume the name of Chuleswar Nayak. Henceforth he shall be called, known and distinguished not by his former name of Champalal Nayak, but by assumed name of Chuleswar Nayak for all purposes. Sd./- Deponent

City to host MY Bharat Budget Quest finale

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: The grand finale of MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 for Andaman and Nicobar (A&N)/Odisha zone is set to take place here April 12 and 13, bringing together some of the brightest young minds from across the country. The event is being organised by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, marking the culmination of a nationwide youth engagement initiative linked to Union Budget 2026.

The two-day finale will be held at Campus-2 of Siksha O' Anusandhan University. This milestone event represents the final stage of a rigorous, multi-level national competition that has engaged over 12 lakh youth across the country. With more than 46,500 essay submissions and participation spanning 17 locations, covering all states and UTs, the quest stands as one of the largest youth policy engagement exercises in the country, said MY Bharat district youth officer Prasanna Meher at a presser here Friday.

Launched February 2, 2026,



by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the initiative has emerged as a transformative platform connecting young citizens with the Union Budget process. Widely regarded as a 'Yuva Shakti-driven Budget', the budget has drawn inspiration from the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD), underscoring the government's commitment to youth-centric policymaking.

Rooted in the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and participatory governance, the programme unfolded in three stages—a national quiz, an essay competition across nine development themes, and a final engagement with national leadership.

At the Bhubaneswar finale, 471 selected participants from the A&N/Odisha zone will take part in high-level discussions alongside academicians, industry leaders, and subject experts. The deliberations will focus on key themes aligned with Union Budget 2026, including agriculture, rural economy, farmer welfare, and women-led inclusive development.

The event will begin April 12 with participant registration, followed by a special Women's Youth Parliament session in the afternoon. The session, themed 'Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz', will feature a structured parliamentary-style debate on the

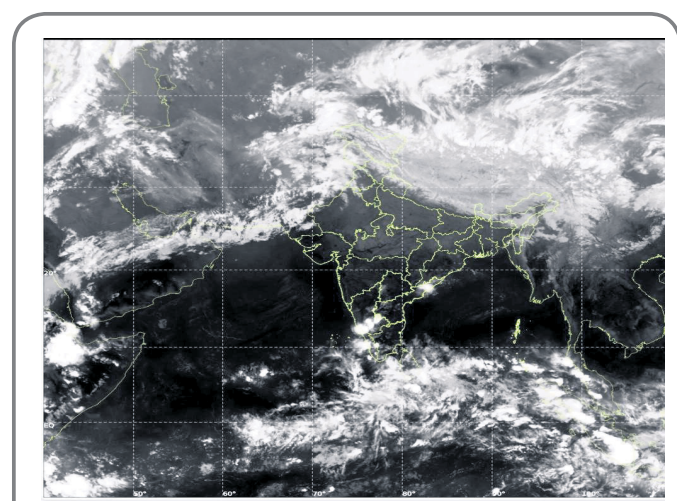
Women's Reservation Bill, culminating in the adoption of a collective resolution reflecting the voice of young women.

Adding an element of community engagement and sustainability, a 'Sundays on Cycle' rally will also be organised on the evening of April 12, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, promoting environmental awareness and the vision of a Green Viksit Bharat.

The main programme April 13 will include the inaugural ceremony, a MY Bharat session, and expert panel discussions. The highlight will be an interactive engagement where participants will present their ideas and policy perspectives to national and state-level leaders—an embodiment of participatory governance in action.

The finale celebrates the spirit of India's 'Amrit Peethi'—a generation that is not only inheriting the nation's future but actively shaping it. The MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 finale stands as a testament to the power of youth voices in driving India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	93.17 ↓ 0.04	SENSEX	77550.25 ↑ 918.60	GOLD	₹152,450 ↓ ₹984
EURO	109.17 ↑ 0.21	NIFTY	24050.60 ↑ 275.50	SILVER	₹242,656 ↓ ₹1,112



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.1°	34.6°	Light to Moderate rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	24.2°	22.6°	
Humidity	80%	82%	
Rainfall	10.4mm	Nil	

PADDY ROTS IN RAIN AS LIFTING STALLS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tihidi, April 10: More than 70,000 quintals of paddy lie heaped in the open outside mandis across Tihidi block in Bhadrak district, with continuous rain soaking the stocks and even leading to sprouting, as delayed lifting by millers leaves farmers without payments and authorities struggling to prevent further damage.



The situation has arisen as millers have failed to lift procured paddy on a regular basis, leading to a massive backlog across multiple procurement centres. With no adequate storage facilities in place, mandi authorities have been forced to keep the paddy bags in the open, exposing them to inclement weather.

At Bamanbindha mandi, around 14,000 quintals of paddy are lying in the open. The centre is also linked to Bahabpur panchayat, adding to the procurement load. Similar conditions prevail at several other mandis across the block.

However, continuous rain has rendered these measures inadequate, leading to water seepage and damage. In several instances, sprouting has been reported, forcing mandi authorities to engage labourers to dry the paddy in the sun whenever weather permits.

Over the past few days, persistent Nor'wester rainfall has worsened the situation, with large quantities of paddy getting drenched and beginning to germinate. Officials at various mandis said they are under severe strain trying to safeguard the stocks, even as losses mount.

Shyamsundarpur mandi has about 6,000 quintals of paddy yet to be lifted, with nearly 2,000 bags already damaged by rain. Other centres facing significant backlogs include Mangalpur (7,000 quintals), Andarai (5,000 quintals), Jamajodi (8,000 quintals), Gandhinagar (8,500 quintals), Charitaraf (3,800 quintals), Amritpur (5,500 quintals), Laxminarayan SHG at Sindol (8,000 quintals), Maa Saraswati SHG at Harsinghpur (5,000 quintals), and Paliabindha and Nischintapur mandis (2,200 quintals each).

Mandi officials said they are struggling to manage the crisis and have urged immediate intervention to prevent further losses. Representatives of cooperative societies and self-help groups have also demanded that millers lift the paddy without delay.

The procurement deadline for the current kharif season was initially fixed at March 31. However, after reports emerged that many farmers were unable to sell their produce within the stipulated period, the deadline was extended by seven days, allowing wider participation.

Block Supply Inspector Prithvi Samal said higher authorities have been informed of the situation and steps will be taken to ensure early lifting of paddy by millers.

The unfolding crisis highlights persistent gaps in procurement logistics, leaving farmers vulnerable to both natural vagaries and systemic delays.

Despite this extension, hundreds of farmers who have already sold their paddy are yet to receive their dues, sparking widespread resentment. Many are now struggling to manage daily expenses and repay loans, as payments remain pending.

Elephant tramples woman, 8-year-old daughter to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bantala, April 10: A woman and her eight-year-old daughter were killed in an elephant attack while returning home after watching a Danda Nacha performance late Thursday night in Angul district. The father narrowly escaped.

The incident occurred near an orchard at the entrance of Madhupur village under the Bantala forest range. The deceased have been identified as Pankajini Pradhan, 36, and her daughter Pushpa Pradhan, 8.

Kashia Dehuri, a native of Kantapada village under Thakurgarh police limits, had been living with his family in Pokatunga village under Nandapur panchayat for the past two years, where he and his wife worked as labourers.

The family went to nearby Madhupur to watch a Danda Nacha performance Thursday night. Around midnight, as they began their return journey, locals warned them about elephant movement and advised them to wait until morning.



The animal attacked, trampling Pankajini and Pushpa to death on the spot, while Dehuri managed to escape and alert villagers.

Ranger Prasanna Kumar Sahu, For-ester Srinivas Sahu, along with staff and Gaja Sathis, reached the spot after being informed. Police recovered the bodies and sent them for post-mortem.

Villagers alleged lack of timely alerts on elephant movement, but Ranger Sahu said awareness drives are regularly conducted. Assistant Conservator of Forests Krushna Chandra Sahu met the family. An immediate assistance of ₹2 lakh has been provided, with the remaining compensation to follow.

2-month sea fishing ban begins April 15

Baliapal: Thousands of fisherfolk along Odisha's coastal belt are set to face a livelihood crisis as a two-month ban on sea fishing begins April 15. Once the ban comes into force, families dependent on daily catches will face a sudden loss of income with no immediate alternative means of sustenance. The restriction, which will remain in force until June 14, prohibits fishermen from venturing into the sea during this period. The move, implemented as per directives from the Fisheries department, coincides with the breeding season of marine species, including fish and turtles.

Parkinson's Disease: Causes, Symptoms and Treatment – What Everyone Should Know

Parkinson's disease is a common brain disorder that mainly affects movement. It develops slowly and usually affects older adults, though younger people can also be affected. With growing life expectancy, Parkinson's disease is being seen more often worldwide, including in India. Early awareness can help people seek timely medical care and lead a better quality of life.

What is Parkinson's Disease?
Parkinson's disease is a long term (chronic) neurological condition caused by damage to nerve cells in a deep part of the brain called the substantia nigra. These cells produce dopamine, a chemical essential for smooth and controlled movements. When dopamine levels fall, movement becomes slow, stiff, and uncoordinated.

Causes of Parkinson's Disease
The exact cause is not known in most cases, but experts believe it results from a combination of factors:



Dr Subhansu Sekhar Jena, MD, DM, DNB, MNAMS, Senior Neurology Consultant, Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar

1. Loss of Dopamine Producing Cells
Damage or death of dopamine producing nerve cells leads to the typical movement problems seen in Parkinson's disease.

2. Age
The risk increases with age. Most people develop symptoms after the age of 60, though early onset Parkinson's can occur in younger adults.

3. Genetic Factors
A small number of cases run in families due to inherited gene changes, but most patients have no family history.

4. Environmental Factors
Exposure to pesticides, air pollution, and certain chemicals may increase the risk, especially with long term exposure.

Clinical Features (Symptoms)
Symptoms usually begin gradually and may first appear on one side of the body.

A. Movement Related (Motor) Symptoms
The four main signs are:

- Tremor – shaking of hands, fingers, jaw, or legs, usually at rest
- Slowness of movement (Bradykinesia) – difficulty starting movements, reduced arm swing while walking
- Muscle stiffness (Rigidity) – tight, painful muscles
- Balance and posture problems – tendency to fall, stooped posture

Other movement issues include shuffling walk, soft speech, and small handwriting.

B. Non Movement (Non Motor) Symptoms
These symptoms are common and can sometimes appear before tremors:

- Constipation
- Sleep problems
- Depression and anxiety
- Memory and concentration difficulties
- Reduced sense of smell
- Fatigue and dizziness

Non motor symptoms can affect quality of life as much as movement problems.

How Is Parkinson's Disease Diagnosed?
There is no single blood test or scan for Parkinson's disease. Doctors diagnose it mainly based on:

- Medical history
- Physical and neurological examination
- Response to Parkinson's medicines

Brain scans may be done to rule out other conditions.

Treatment of Parkinson's Disease
Although there is no cure, treatment can control symptoms effectively for many years.

1. Medicines
•Levodopa (with carbidopa) – the most effective medication; it replaces dopamine and improves movement
•Dopamine agonists – mimic dopamine action
•Other medicines – help control tremor, stiffness, and movement

fluctuations
Treatment is tailored to each patient and adjusted over time.

2. Physiotherapy and Exercise
Regular exercise and physiotherapy improve balance, flexibility, and muscle strength. Activities like walking, yoga, and stretching are highly beneficial.

3. Speech and Occupational Therapy
•Speech therapy helps with soft voice and swallowing difficulty
•Occupational therapy helps patients remain independent in daily activities like dressing and eating

4. Surgery (Deep Brain Stimulation)
For selected patients who do not respond well to medicines, deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery can significantly reduce symptoms like tremor and stiffness.

Living Well with Parkinson's Disease
With proper treatment, many people live active and meaningful lives. Early diagnosis, regular medication, physical activity, family support, and positive mental health make a big difference. Public awareness helps reduce fear and stigma and encourages early medical consultation.

Key Message for the Public
Tremor, slowness, and stiffness are not just signs of aging. If such symptoms persist, consult a doctor early—Parkinson's disease can be treated, and quality of life can be maintained.

World Parkinson's Day – 11 April 2026
Official Theme 2026
"Bridge the Care Gap"
many people with Parkinson's disease do not get timely diagnosis, proper treatment, rehabilitation, or long term support, even though effective care exists.

The "care gap" means:
•Difficultly reaching specialist doctors
•Delayed diagnosis
•Limited access to medicines and physiotherapy
•Lack of counselling, nursing, and caregiver support

This gap affects patients, families, and caregivers every day. World Parkinson's Day 2026 calls on society, healthcare systems, and governments to close this gap and provide continuous, compassionate care to all.

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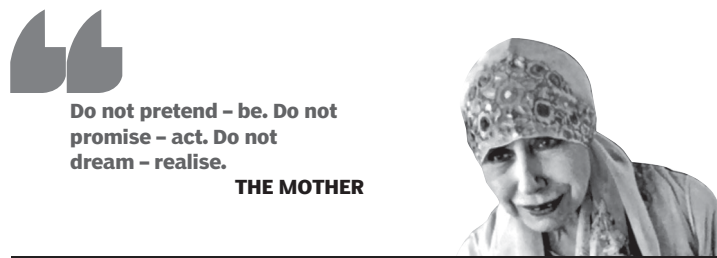
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Capacity Crunch

At what point does a staffing shortage become a governance failure? Madhya Pradesh may have already crossed that line. The state is short of over 150 IAS officers against its sanctioned strength. By all appearances, that's not a marginal gap but a systemic deficit. Strip out deputations and election duties, and the administrative bench looks even thinner. The result is one babu juggling multiple roles, with files piling up and decisions slowing to a crawl.

To be fair, Madhya Pradesh isn't uniquely mismanaged; it's just more exposed. Uttar Pradesh, despite a larger absolute shortage, absorbs the shock better because it starts with a deeper pool. MP doesn't have that luxury. When numbers are tight, every vacancy bites harder.

And yet, the larger story is national. India is short of roughly 1,300 IAS officers. That's nearly 20% of the sanctioned strength missing in action. For a system that still relies heavily on a generalist administrative elite to deliver everything from welfare schemes to crisis response, this is not a small problem.

What's worrying is the quiet normalisation of this deficit. The system has adapted, but in the worst possible way, by stretching officers thinner, diluting oversight, and lowering the bar on responsiveness. When a single babu is handling multiple critical functions, accountability inevitably becomes fuzzy, and governance becomes reactive. All the talk about reforms, digitisation, dashboards, and "ease of governance" cannot compensate for a basic lack of human capacity. Right now, India's administrative machinery isn't just overworked but underpowered.

Until cadre strength, recruitment, and deployment are treated as urgent policy issues rather than routine staff management, this gap will persist. And states like Madhya Pradesh will continue to function in survival mode.

Who speaks for India abroad?

At its core, the Information & Broadcasting Ministry's push to station Indian Information Service (IIS) officers in foreign missions isn't misguided. In fact, it's overdue. Modern diplomacy isn't just about closed-door negotiations but also about narratives, perception management, and media engagement. Governments that don't tell their story globally risk having it told for them.

The original plan to deploy IIS officers across 40 missions ran straight into a brick wall. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) pushed back, citing familiar concerns: functional overlap, lack of language expertise, and the small matter of "this is already our job". The result is a scaled-down proposal: just 10 officers now, positioned as a pilot in key global capitals.

The real issue isn't the number but the unresolved question of ownership. Who speaks for India abroad? Diplomats trained in statecraft, or communication professionals trained in messaging.

The MEA's resistance isn't entirely insecurity. There's a legitimate concern here. Foreign missions are not PR outposts; they are extensions of sovereign policy. Blurring that line risks confusion, both internally and externally.

At the same time, dismissing IIS officers as redundant misses the point. These are communication specialists, not competitors in diplomacy. If anything, India's global messaging often suffers precisely because diplomats are expected to double up as media strategists. This leaves us somewhere between a necessary reform and a bureaucratic stalemate.

If the government is serious about shaping India's global narrative, it needs less turf protection and more clarity on its role. Co-location without coordination will fail. But so will clinging to outdated silos in an age where perception is policy.

Must be something in Haryana's water

There are transfer records. And then there is Haryana. Take Pradeep Kasni. The babu saw over 70 transfers in a career spanning three decades. Clearly, that's not a career path but a cycle of perpetual movement. At one point, he was even sent to a "department" that didn't exist, without staff, files, or even a salary for months.

Kasni's case is not an "outlier". Consider the supporting cast. Ashok Khemka, with over 60 transfers. And then there's Sanjiv Chaturvedi, who also did a stint in Haryana before taking his battles elsewhere, exposing corruption and collecting transfers along the way. At this point, one is tempted to ask — slightly tongue-in-cheek — what exactly is in Haryana's water?

Because this isn't just about individual officers being "difficult" or "upright" or "unlucky." When a pattern repeats this often, across governments and personalities, it stops being anecdotal and starts looking systemic.

Frequent transfers are the oldest tool in the political playbook, subtle enough to avoid headlines, but effective enough to send a message. Stay in line, or pack your bags. The problem is, governance pays the price. Institutional memory evaporates. Continuity disappears. And administration becomes a game of musical chairs.

To be fair, transfers are sometimes necessary. Not every move is punitive. But when the exception becomes the norm, credibility takes a hit. You can't build long-term policy outcomes on short-term postings.

Kasni's record is a cautionary tale. A system that treats its officers as disposable eventually finds its governance just as transient. And that raises an uncomfortable possibility: maybe the issue isn't the officers. Maybe it's the ecosystem they're trying to survive in.

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BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian



Shlomo Ben-Ami

A CIVILIZATION ANIMATED BY IDEOLOGICAL FERVOR, WHICH HAS ENDURED CENTURIES OF WARS OF SURVIVAL, WAS NEVER GOING TO SURRENDER EASILY

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Is progress abandoning people?

There was a time when the dawn of technology was celebrated as a sunrise of hope—machines that would assist, not replace; systems that would empower, not erase. Today, however, beneath the glittering sky of Artificial Intelligence and the so-called "cloud revolution," a silent storm is gathering. It does not roar like thunder—it whispers through termination emails, vanishes livelihoods overnight, and leaves behind a haunting question: Is progress abandoning people?



Bruhaspati Samal

A FUTURE WHERE MACHINES THRIVE WHILE MILLIONS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL CANNOT BE CELEBRATED AS ADVANCEMENT

The unfolding reality across the global technology sector gives this question a disturbing urgency. Leading corporations such as Oracle Corporation have reportedly eliminated thousands of jobs—figures reaching nearly 30,000 globally, with around 10,000 employees affected in India alone—as the company reallocates massive investments into Artificial Intelligence infrastructure. Similarly, Amazon has cut approximately 16,000 jobs in the early months of 2026 as part of its AI-driven restructuring. The pattern is not confined to a few firms; across the industry, an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 technology jobs have already disappeared within a short span of time this year. Even companies like Meta Platforms are expected to follow similar paths, with projections

indicating potential workforce reductions of up to 20 per cent.

These are not isolated corporate decisions; they represent a structural transformation of the global economy. The so-called "cloud economy," once celebrated as a democratizing force, is revealing its centralizing character. Far from distributing opportunity, it is concentrating power within a handful of corporations that control data, infrastructure, and digital ecosystems. The cloud, often romanticized as an invisible and inclusive space, is in reality a highly capital-intensive domain where machines are replacing human labour at an unprecedented pace. What was promised as technological empowerment is increasingly manifesting as technological displacement.

Academic and industry studies deepen this concern. Research indicates that Artificial Intelligence can enhance productivity by 20 to 60 percent, but this efficiency often comes at the cost of reduced demand for routine and entry-level jobs. Even before the widespread adoption of advanced AI tools, employment trends showed a steady decline in roles that are easily automated. Young job seekers are among the worst affected, as traditional entry points into the workforce are rapidly shrinking. The emerging labour

market places disproportionate emphasis on high-end skills, making continuous re-skilling a necessity rather than an option—yet access to such opportunity remains unequal.

Case studies from within the industry further highlight the contradiction. While companies justify layoffs as necessary for AI investment, several analyses suggest that only a limited portion of these investments have translated into immediate financial returns. This raises an uncomfortable possibility: that Artificial Intelligence is sometimes being used not only as a tool for innovation but also as a convenient rationale for workforce reduction. The human cost, in such cases, is neither incidental nor temporary—it is systemic.

If this trajectory continues unchecked, the future points toward a deeply divided society. On one side will stand a small, powerful elite controlling AI systems and cloud infrastructure; on the other, a vast population grappling with job insecurity, underemployment, or complete exclusion from the economic mainstream. This is not merely an economic shift; it is a transformation of social structures. Work has always been more than a means of livelihood—it is a source of dignity, identity, and social participation. Its erosion threatens the very fabric of soci-

ety. At this decisive moment, the responsibility of all stakeholders becomes paramount. Governments cannot afford to remain passive observers; they must intervene with strong regulatory frameworks, social security measures, and policies that ensure a just transition for affected workers. Corporations must recognize that their long-term sustainability is inseparable from the well-being of their workforce.

Progress, if it is to retain its moral legitimacy, must remain anchored in humanity. A future where machines thrive while millions struggle for survival cannot be celebrated as advancement. The cloud may store limitless data, and Artificial Intelligence may process infinite possibilities, but neither can replace the human spirit, resilience, and aspiration.

The time has come to reclaim the meaning of progress. It must not be a journey that leaves people behind but one that carries humanity forward with dignity and justice. The question that echoes through this moment of transformation is not merely rhetorical—it is a call to action: Will we allow progress to abandon people, or will we ensure that it serves the collective future of humanity?

The writer is a Service Union Representative and a Columnist.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

IRAN'S STRATEGIC VICTORY



Even as the US and Israel have killed much of the Islamic Republic's political and military leadership, and demolished much of its military capacity, the regime has waged a war of attrition against the global economy

When the news that the United States has agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran broke, I was immediately reminded of an exchange described by the American Colonel Harry Summers in 1982. "You never defeated us on the battlefield," Summers said to a former North Vietnamese colonel. "Yes, but we won the war," was the categorical response.

Make no mistake: the ceasefire deal seals the strategic defeat of the US-Israel alliance in Iran. This war will be remembered as yet another episode of powerful countries falling into the trap of asymmetric warfare, in which the mightiest militaries invariably fail to translate tactical gains into strategic victories.

The US and Israel—especially Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is better versed in history than US President Donald Trump—should have known this. The principles of war, laid out by Carl von Clausewitz in 1812, make clear that the destruction of enemy forces should have a terminal impact on their will to resist. Asymmetric wars defy this norm of "decisive battle." And there was no reason to think that Iran would be an exception.

A country that sacrificed some 750,000 of its people's lives, including thousands of children, in its eight-year war against Iraq in the 1980s always had a tremendous advantage over enemies that crumble under the emotional impact of a few dozen body bags.

Even as the US and Israel have killed much of the Islamic Republic's political and military leadership, and demolished much of its military capacity, the regime has waged a war of attrition against the global economy. As any competent military planner would have predicted, Iran has blocked transit through

the vital Strait of Hormuz, and ensured that its Houthi allies are poised to close the only alternative, Bab al-Mandeb. Add to that strategic drone and missile attacks, and Iran has managed largely to offset its enemies' military advantage.

In the process, Iran has managed to replenish its budget: it is now earning nearly twice as much from oil sales as before the war, while raking in profits from taxing ships for passage through the Strait. Russia has also profited, thanks to the easing of US sanctions on its oil. Meanwhile, the earnings of America's allies in the Gulf have plunged, raising questions about whether they will be able to fulfill their pledges to invest billions of dollars in the US and in their own economic diversification.

To top it all off, the US and Israel have failed to achieve any of their war aims. Even the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz cannot be considered a victory, since it was open before the war. Iran's ballistic-missile capabilities and its enriched uranium supplies remain a problem that will be addressed through diplomacy, just as they were before the war. And the upcoming ne-

gotiations in Islamabad are not going to produce an American diktat: the Iranians can still teach US negotiators a lesson, especially since Trump is eager to cut his losses and shift his attention to the politically vital domestic front and to the neglected East Asia theater.

As for regime change, though different individuals now lead Iran, they are no more moderate than their predecessors. Quite the contrary: the Islamic Republic has been transformed into an outright military dictatorship, with the Ayatollahs providing religious legitimacy to the hardline Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The broader regional implications are no more favorable to the US and Israel. The war is bound to lead to a redrawing of the geopolitical map of the Middle East. Ties among the countries most overtly challenging the Western-led global order—China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea—might be strengthened, and their resolve hardened.

At the same time, the Gulf states, which have borne the brunt of Iran's retaliatory strikes, might start viewing US military bases as more of

a liability than an effective deterrent and move to diversify their alliances. They may consider aligning with a regional power like Turkey, which already has ties to the Gulf Cooperation Council, or Pakistan, which has a defense treaty with Saudi Arabia and has shown a willingness to share its nuclear know-how with Islamic states.

In fact, the likelihood of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East has now grown, as leaders in Iran and elsewhere come to view nuclear weapons as the ultimate insurance policy.

As for Israel, unless it holds Netanyahu accountable for leading the country into the abyss, its democracy is doomed. With his violent and poorly conceived policies, he has torn apart a once-cohesive society and undermined Israel's standing in the US to the point that Americans' alienation poses a strategic threat. His attempt to use Iran to distract from Israel's escalating brutality toward the Palestinians—which has been essential to Netanyahu's political survival—only compounds the catastrophe.

During the Cold War, the late US diplomat and strategist-George Kennan recognized that internal dysfunction and external overreach would cause the Soviet Union to collapse on its own. So, he devised a strategy of containment, focused on preventing Soviet expansion while avoiding an unnecessary military showdown.

The same strategy could have worked against the Islamic Republic, which sooner or later would have collapsed under the weight of its internal contradictions. Instead, the US and Israel initiated a confrontation that was never going to go their way.

The writer is a former Israeli foreign minister.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth.
LEO TOLSTOY

What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist.
SALMAN RUSHDIE

The last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the wrong reason.
T S ELIOT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1633: People gathered outside a shop window in London to stare at something few of them had ever seen before: a cluster of strange, curved fruits recently arrived from Bermuda. These bananas were nothing like the sweet, familiar Cavendish variety many of us eat today; they were most likely intended to be cooked, not eaten fresh.

1849: The safety pin was patented by Walter Hunt in the United States; he later sold his rights to the fastener for \$400.

1866: Three years after stopping a carriage driver in Russia from beating his horse, Henry Bergh of the United States founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York City. The ASPCA became one of the largest organizations dedicated to halting cruelty to animals.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Indo-Bangladesh ties

Sir, India's attempts to restore amicable relations with Bangladesh are a welcome development. India has been trying to establish cordial relations with Bangladesh since the government of Tarique Rahman took over from the interim government. India working to expedite the process of recommencing the issuance of visas to Bangladeshis is a right step towards mending strained relations. India has taken a good step by addressing Bangladesh's fuel needs by exporting diesel during the Iran war. In the present circumstances, Dhaka is not in a position to strongly demand the extradition of Sheikh Hasina, as she faces a death sentence. Although Bangladesh will follow a "Bangladesh first" policy, it will not become a barrier to establishing good relations between the two countries. Bangladesh's attempts to establish cordial relations with India while balancing its ties with China and Pakistan are positive signs for both India and Bangladesh.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

The common thread

Sir, Indians are a diverse lot. Travelling from state to state is almost like moving from one country to another. Language, dress, food habits, etc., vary not only from state to state but also from district to district within the same state. Sadly enough, a few common traits bind all Indians, as the cliché goes, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari—corruption, a lack of respect for punctuality and public places, and utter nonchalance towards maintenance schedules. We keep our houses scrupulously clean, yet we have no hesitation in contributing to the dirt and filth immediately outside our homes. Seldom do Indians follow maintenance schedules for their cars, two-wheelers, or factory equipment. We prefer to postpone maintenance until the machine or equipment literally breaks down. Poorly maintained buses, roads, fire tenders, fire extinguishers and other infra are often the cause of fatal accidents. Yet, no lessons are learnt. These, then, are the observations of a humble Indian about India and its people. The onus to change for the better lies on all of us—the political class as well as the common people.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MP)

national

of the day uote

Government schools in Delhi will receive textbooks by April 20

We removed the AIADMK rule, which pushed Tamil Nadu into a deep pit for 10 years, and with your support, we established the Dravidian Model government as a new dawn for Tamil Nadu.

Today, only those with money can contest and win elections, while the common man is left behind

POST OF THE DAY

Reporter: Should there be Hindu Rashtra? Youth: No, infact India should never be Hindu Rashtra

SHORT TAKES

6 killed as 2 cars collide

Kanker: Six members of a family were killed and three others seriously injured after two cars collided on National Highway-30 in Kanker district of Chhatisgarh, police said Friday.

UP: Woman dies after acid attack

Kushinagar: A 23-year-old woman succumbed to her injuries following an alleged acid attack on her and her mother while both of them were sleeping inside their house here, police said Friday.

Three dead in Kangra tractor-trolley mishap

Dharamshala: A tractor-trolley carrying devotees from Punjab overturned and plunged into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Friday, killing three and injuring 26 others, police said.

Patanjali Research Foundation wins national honour again



Haridwar, April 10: The Patanjali Research Foundation has once again underscored its commitment to scientific innovation by securing First Prize in the Private Industry Category at the Dr. P. D. Sethi National HPTLC Awards 2025.

The award recognises Patanjali's outstanding work on Amla (Phyllanthus emblica) seed oil, extracted using the SCFE technique, which demonstrated strong antimicrobial and antibiofilm properties.

He further added that this research on Amla seeds has also earned the foundation the "Award of Merit" from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the 10th International "Waste to Worth" Conference and the 4R Awards 2025.

Missing Kerala student found dead near Chandradrona hills

Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka), April 10: Three days after a class 10 student from Kerala went missing during a family trip to Manikyadhara Falls in the Chandradrona hill range, she was found dead Friday, police said.

The deceased, identified as Kumari Shrinanda, had been missing since Tuesday evening after she went trekking in the Chandradrona hills, they said.

"The body has been traced, and the clothes she was wearing are intact. The body will be sent for a post-mortem, and further procedures are underway," Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama told PTI.

An investigation is underway to determine whether the death was due to an accidental fall into the gorge or some other cause, with all angles being probed, they added.

Telangana HC grants arrest protection to Pawan Khera

Hyderabad, April 10: In some relief to senior Congress leader Pawan Khera, the Telangana High Court Friday granted transit anticipatory bail for one week to the party spokesperson in a case registered against him by the Assam police over his allegations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

"Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this court is of the view that the petitioner has made out a case for grant of limited transit anticipatory bail, as his apprehension of arrest appears to be reasonable and supported by material on record," the court said in its order.

Cong: Govt politicising women's reservation

New Delhi, April 10: The Congress Friday accused the Narendra Modi government of playing politics in the name of women's reservation law and asserted that the proposed delimitation exercise linked to it was "not constitutional" and could have "grave consequences" that warrants thorough deliberation after the ongoing Assembly polls.

The Congress Working Committee met here to deliberate on the government's move to amend the women's reservation law, the proposed delimitation exercise and the West Asia conflict.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will now call a meeting of top leaders of all Opposition parties, most likely April 15, to discuss and formulate a joint strategy for the "special session" of Parliament from April 16 to 18, during which the government is set to bring bills for amending the women quota law.

The top Congress leadership while deliberating on the issue said while they were in favour of the women reservation law implementation, but were opposed to the "rushed" delimitation exer-



cise to increase the number of seats in Lok Sabha solely for "political gains".

Both Kharge and former party president Rahul Gandhi said the issue was not women reservation implementation but the manner in which the delimitation exercise was being pushed in the midst of the election process.

Several Congress leaders of the south, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor, opposed the reported proposal of the government to increase Lok Sabha seats by about 50 per cent, which, they claimed, would hurt the

southern states as they would proportionately fall behind the big states of the North.

In his opening remarks, Kharge said the government is convening the Parliament sitting with the sole intention of securing political advantage, which is a "violation" of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

"Therefore, we will formulate a collective strategy by holding discussions on these issues with our colleagues in the Opposition as well. We will move forward unitedly," Kharge asserted.

No DA bias between employees, pensioners: SC

New Delhi, April 10: The Supreme Court Friday held that the State cannot differentiate between serving employees and pensioners when enhancing allowances meant to counter inflation.

In a significant judgment upholding the right to equality for retirees, a bench comprising Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Prasanna B Varale dismissed appeals filed by the State of Kerala and the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and affirmed that inflation hits both serving and retired employees with "equal force".

"Equality is a dynamic concept with many aspects and dimensions, and it cannot be cribbed, cabined and confined within traditional and doctrinaire limits. From a positivistic point of view, equality is antithetic to arbitrariness. In fact, equality and arbitrariness are sworn enemies; one belongs to the rule of law in a republic while the other, to the whim and caprice of an absolute monarch," Justice Mishra, who authored the judgement, said.

Referring to Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution, the verdict said it forbids class legislation but permits reasonable classification which must

satisfy twin tests. As per the twin tests, the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia that distinguishes those that are grouped together from others, and second "that differentia must have rational nexus with the object sought to be achieved by the Act", it added.

The bench said the judgments cited by KSRTC do not deal with a situation where there is no dispute as regards entitlement to the benefit in question. "When those benefits serve a common purpose and are linked

Voter list frozen; two deleted names restored

Kolkata, April 10: Out of the 27 lakh names deleted from the electoral rolls in West Bengal following adjudication, only two have been restored so far, both following intervention by the Supreme Court, even as the final voter list was frozen as per rules, officials said Friday.

The voter list was frozen, though the proposed 19 tribunals, meant to hear appeals against deletions, were yet to become operational. Poll panel officials said that more than two lakh applications seeking hearings before the tribunals had been filed online till Thursday. However, the CEO's office did not say anything officially about this.

The two individuals who got their names back on the electoral rolls are Mahatab Shaikh, the Congress candidate from Farakka, and former MLA Mottakin Alam, who has since filed his nomination as a Congress candidate from Manikchak after his name was reinstated. With no clarity on the functioning of the tribunals, expected to be set up at central government premises near Kolkata, anxious voters continued to queue up at offices of Block Development Officers (BDOs) and District Magistrates (DMs) across the



BENGAL POLLS

state, carrying documents and seeking guidance. "We have submitted documents multiple times, but there is no clarity on whether applying online will be enough," a voter said outside a district office.

Another applicant added, "People are worried as polling dates are approaching and hearings have not begun." According to a poll body official, preparatory work was underway at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation, where one of the tribunals is proposed to be set up. A but operations had not yet started.

"Work has progressed, but the tribunal is not functional yet. It may take another day or two," the official said. In a move seen as an attempt to streamline coordination, a senior IAS officer was appointed on April 7 as an additional chief electoral officer to act as a single-point interface between the Election Commission, the Calcutta High Court and the tribunals.

OFFICE OF THE CDM & PHO, CUTTACK. Notice Inviting Bid. Bid Reference No: ZSS/2026-27/Mobile Dental Van/01. Date: 10.04.2026.

File No. SCMD-10020/4/2025-SCMD. Government of India. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Sustainable Coastal Management Division.

Deputy Secretary. Sustainable Coastal Management Division. 202, Vayu Wing, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi - 110003.

EAST COAST RAILWAY. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SETTING UP OF GATI SHAKTI MULTI-MODAL CARGO TERMINAL AT JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD, RAJATHGARH AND NARANPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.


OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHARIAR ROAD. At/P.O.: Khariar Road, Dist.: Nuapada (Odisha), PIN - 766104. Email: nackhrd@rediffmail.com.

WORKS DEPARTMENT. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA. Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice.

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Tender No. MCSW-Zero-Value-26-27-03. NAME OF WORK : DISPOSAL OF ACCUMULATED ZERO VALUE / VERY LOW WASTE INSIDE WORKSHOP PREMISES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Tender Notice No. 03/ET/SBP/ENGG/2026-27, Dated : 08.04.2026. e-Tender No. 04-eT-DENE-SBP-26. NAME OF WORK : SUPPLY OF ALUMINO THERMIC WELDING PORTION FOR 60KG/60E-R260 RAILS AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / EAST OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Tender Notice No. 01/ET/SBP/ENGG/2026-27, Dated : 07.04.2026. e-Tender No. 01-eT-SDENS-SBP-26. NAME OF WORK : REPAIRING OF TRACK MACHINES BY WELDING AND GAS CUTTING OF VARIOUS PARTS IN CONNECTION WITH IOH AND OTHER MAINTENANCE AT SATELLITE DEPOT/ BALANGIR AND RECONDITIONING OF SPARE PARTS OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF BCM AT BCM MACHINE BASE STATION & AT SITE OF ANY OTHER TRACK MACHINES WORKING IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION UNDER AEN/TM/SAMBALPUR FOR THE PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS.

 AXIS Bank Ltd A.C.Market, 4th Floor ,1, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata- 700071							BRANCH_RAC_NAME	Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight Grams	Net Weight Grams
Public Notice for. Auction Of Pledged assets being Gold Ornaments							DASAPALLA OR	SHIBAJI DALEI	XXXXXXXXXX7376	77787.00	31/Jul/25	18.600	16.400
The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are here buy notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.							DEOGAON SUN OR	RANJITA MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX7973	72259.00	9/Feb/26	13.900	13.500
That the below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the Axis Bank Limited against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in Favor of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on 11-05-2026 at 11:00 AM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis". Auction will be held at Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount							DEOGARH[OR]	SABITA KUMURA	XXXXXXXXXX6250	39008.00	16/Feb/26	6.900	6.600
							DHAMRAPORT [OR]	JITENDRA BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX3399	144225.36	25/Nov/25	24.200	24.000
							DHAMRAPORT [OR]	PINTU JANA	XXXXXXXXXX8552	141186.00	24/Mar/25	26.700	26.500
							DHARAMGARH DMG OR	DEVASHISH SATNAM	XXXXXXXXXX8805	319965.00	9/Mar/26	42.600	39.000
							DHENKANAL [OR]	PRAKASH KUMAR SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX6688	105101.00	19/Mar/26	13.800	13.300
							G UDAYAGIRI	PUSARI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX9922	118998.80	10/Jan/26	23.000	22.800
							G UDAYAGIRI	APARAJITA PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX9780	127856.00	8/Apr/25	28.600	28.500
							G UDAYAGIRI	HINA TIRKEY	XXXXXXXXXX2447	99603.10	6/Nov/25	24.400	24.300
							G UDAYAGIRI	GAGANA KISHORA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX0744	45686.15	12/Sep/25	12.200	12.100
							G UDAYAGIRI	AFRIYAM NAIK	XXXXXXXXXX6307	37124.00	19/Mar/26	8.400	8.000
							G UDAYAGIRI	SANUMA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX3106	44344.00	30/Jan/25	8.800	8.700
							G UDAYAGIRI	SUJATA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX3268	34488.00	3/Apr/25	8.100	7.900
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	GIRDHARI SABAR	XXXXXXXXXX6766	507641.00	9/Feb/26	62.400	59.400
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	KUL MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX8971	91293.00	24/Mar/25	16.000	15.800
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	RAKESH CHINDA	XXXXXXXXXX3477	54991.27	9/Feb/26	6.200	6.200
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	INDRAMANI PATEL	XXXXXXXXXX2448	46619.00	10/Dec/25	8.700	8.300
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	PUSPANJALI MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX6787	17805.00	10/Jan/26	6.000	5.300
							GARVANA BGH OR	HARIKRUSHNA BAG	XXXXXXXXXX6095	54898.00	4/Nov/24	9.410	9.200
							GUNUPUR [OR]	KATAM RUKMANI	XXXXXXXXXX9537	325477.00	16/May/25	87.800	71.800
							GUNUPUR [OR]	KUNI SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX3605	199304.00	9/Mar/26	23.100	22.600
							GUNUPUR [OR]	URMILA GOUD	XXXXXXXXXX7667	63860.00	9/Mar/26	9.000	8.600
							HEMGIR OR	DAYANIDHI SA	XXXXXXXXXX6139	185811.00	27/Sep/24	36.780	36.100
							HINJILICUT OR	CHANDANA MAHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX2893	184410.07	19/Mar/26	30.100	27.500
							HINJILICUT OR	SIBA SANKAR GOUDO	XXXXXXXXXX8098	106826.00	19/Mar/26	21.200	17.400
							HUGULI BALA OR	JANANI SENAPATI	XXXXXXXXXX3015	451660.41	9/Mar/26	67.700	67.500
							HUGULI BALA OR	JANANI SENAPATI	XXXXXXXXXX5532	208433.00	9/Mar/26	30.800	30.700
							ISHARPUR JAR OR	LIPU BEHURA	XXXXXXXXXX2504	342663.68	10/Dec/25	54.200	52.900
							ISHARPUR JAR OR	SARBEESWAR SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX8868	141624.00	10/Dec/25	18.200	18.000
							ISHARPUR JAR OR	RATNAKAR SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX3335	93013.16	23/Feb/26	21.000	19.000
							ISHARPUR JAR OR	RUTURAJ SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX2780	30228.46	26/Feb/26	6.100	6.000
							JAGATPUR [OR]	SHARMISTHA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX9464	510963.00	9/Mar/26	71.400	67.400
							JAGATPUR [OR]	OM PRAKASH NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX0030	210290.00	9/Mar/26	34.000	31.500
							JAGATPUR [OR]	MOHANA BHOI	XXXXXXXXXX6497	145049.00	9/Mar/26	25.400	23.120
							JAGATSINGHPUR,BHUBANESWAR[OR]	SAMIRA KUMAR NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX8410	167479.00	19/Mar/26	22.000	19.500
							JAGATSINGHPUR,BHUBANESWAR[OR]	BANDANA MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX1759	51671.00	10/Jan/26	15.700	15.500
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	BISWARANJAN BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX8032	376678.25	27/Sep/25	77.560	70.270
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	SUPRIYA PUHAN	XXXXXXXXXX1067	86079.00	19/Mar/26	11.650	10.120
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	SK MOZIBUR BEHEMAN	XXXXXXXXXX9167	1528930.20	19/Feb/26	197.000	192.600
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	PRAFULLA SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX4755	282706.00	9/Mar/26	32.800	32.500
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	KSHIROD KUMAR NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX4004	120528.00	9/Mar/26	23.000	22.400
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	SHISHIRA JENA	XXXXXXXXXX1237	51268.00	9/Feb/26	8.100	7.800
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	ASHUTOSH PANIGRAHI	XXXXXXXXXX2778	51245.00	12/Feb/26	9.200	8.500
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	PURNIMA RANEE NANDA	XXXXXXXXXX8899	99937.00	9/Mar/26	16.700	16.300
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	SANDIP KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX7232	15962.80	27/Oct/25	14.700	14.500
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	SUBAS CHANDRA PANDA	XXXXXXXXXX7148	53190.00	19/Mar/26	10.900	10.700
							JALLESWAR [OR]	TAPAN KUMAR DAS	XXXXXXXXXX9847	58017.00	27/Sep/25	13.500	12.900
							JALLESWARPUR BALA OR	AKHIL HOSEN SAHA	XXXXXXXXXX0340	59782.57	19/Mar/26	33.700	32.000
							JANPATH BHU OR	SATYABRATA A PADHI	XXXXXXXXXX7868	1322088.01	9/Mar/26	221.300	211.800
							JANPATH BHU OR	SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX3940	404686.00	10/Jan/26	52.900	51.800
							JATNI [OR]	MS. SWATI SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX6860	82481.00	19/Dec/25	10.800	10.300
							JEYPORE [OR]	MS. SASMITA SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX6822	358131.00	9/Mar/26	42.900	41.100
							JEYPORE [OR]	AJU GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX3111	249654.00	9/Mar/26	31.800	30.600
							JEYPORE [OR]	HARI HARIJAN	XXXXXXXXXX9082	205326.00	19/Mar/26	27.200	26.400
							JEYPORE [OR]	RABINDRA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX4936	163238.00	9/Mar/26	23.600	22.500
							JEYPORE [OR]	SANJUKTA JANI	XXXXXXXXXX6337	59634.81	9/Mar/26	12.800	12.400
							JHARAPADA BHU OR	MOHAMMED MOBIN	XXXXXXXXXX0811	180294.00	19/Mar/26	21.400	20.700
							JHARAPADA BHU OR	JAYASHREE MOHAPATRA	XXXXXXXXXX6495	86852.78	17/Oct/25	14.700	14.400
							JHARSUGUDA [OR]	SUNIL KUMAR SAIDEO	XXXXXXXXXX3956	293596.00	9/Mar/26	63.600	60.300
							JHARSUGUDA [OR]	JYOSNA MISHRA	XXXXXXXXXX2633	113530.00	16/Jan/25	21.100	20.700
							JHARSUGUDA [OR]	JAYA ORAM	XXXXXXXXXX0107	44999.00	19/Mar/26	7.200	7.000
							JIRAMALIA DHE OR	SANJAY MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX1865	58339.54	10/Jan/26	12.100	12.000
							JIRAMALIA DHE OR	NARESH PADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX6246	43867.00	9/Feb/26	9.300	9.000
							JIRAMALIA DHE OR	SAGAR BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6272	35205.00	16/May/25	7.000	6.000
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	MADHAB CHANDRA SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX5726	210168.36	19/Mar/26	40.400	35.100
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	ANIL SETHY	XXXXXXXXXX4290	328710.00	9/Mar/26	54.000	52.200
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	BIKASH CHANDRA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX7906	191612.52	9/Mar/26	21.400	20.800
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	SUSHIL KUMAR DAKUA	XXXXXXXXXX7434	131305.14	9/Feb/26	19.400	18.100
							KANHEIPUR CKANH OR	JITU SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX7284	88577.54	10/Jan/26	13.190	12.810
							KANIKA CHHAK CUT OR	MANORANJAN SUTAR	XXXXXXXXXX2792	106795.00	9/Feb/26	19.000	18.400
							KANTABANI BALA OR	SHANKAR KUMAR NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX4504	54371.00	19/Mar/26	13.370	8.070
							KANTABANI BALA OR	MAMATA GIRI	XXXXXXXXXX2367	81638.00	9/Mar/26	11.640	11.310
							KANTABANJI BOA OR	SUJATA BHOI	XXXXXXXXXX2668	339645.00	9/Feb/26	45.700	43.900
							KANTABANJI BOA OR	KULDEEP BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX4283	222938.00	9/Mar/26	37.300	36.800
							KANTABANJI BOA OR	TUNA BANCHHOR	XXXXXXXXXX9541	84849.00	23/Jan/26	11.100	11.000
							KANTABANJI BOA OR	BIRANCHI SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX7109	76048.00	9/Mar/26	10.200	8.400
							KANTABANJI BOA OR	RAJESH SAMRATH	XXXXXXXXXX8422	48569.73	16/Feb/26	14.700	14.000
							KARANJIA KRJ OR	TARANIKANTA MOHANTA	XXXXXXXXXX9740	70022.00	6/Jan/25	17.300	16.300
							KATAKANA PUR OR	BIBHUPRASAD PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX4052	139985.00	19/Mar/26	26.300	25.300
							KENDUA MYU OR	JAYANTA KUMAR NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX0381	47652.00	27/Oct/25	7.000	6.500
							KEONJHAR [OR]	MANOJ KUMAR DAS	XXXXXXXXXX9372	349300.00	19/Mar/26	43.600	40.920
							KEONJHAR [OR]	MAMATA RANI MAHANTA	XXXXXXXXXX5117	107958.00	9/Mar/26	17.000	15.120
							KEONJHAR [OR]	SIDDHANTA BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX1022	66222.00	9/Mar/26	9.400	8.900
							KEONJHAR [OR]	LALIT KUMAR MAHANTA	XXXXXXXXXX9777	60714.74	19/Mar/26	12.700	12.280
							KEONJHAR [OR]	PRADEEP KUMAR NAIK	XXXXXXXXXX2086	41781.00	9/Mar/26	6.500	6.330
							KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	ASHOK KUMAR SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX1860	201100.00	12/Feb/26	47.200	44.500
							KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	BAPI KUMAR PALAI	XXXXXXXXXX2578	81566.00	10/Jan/26	16.400	15.400
							KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	DIBYAJYOTI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX5289	64854.00	27/Oct/25	12.800	11.500
							KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	CHARCHIT DASH	XXXXXXXXXX4941	18529.00	19/Mar/26	16.200	12.000
							KHORDHA [OR]	KANHUCHARAN GUMANSINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0108	137692.15	9/Feb/26	21.300	20.900
							KHORDHA [OR]	NIRUPAMA BHATT	XXXXXXXXXX0909	51571.00	12/Feb/26	6.400	6.200
							KORAPUT KOU OR	MOHAN DURGA	XXXXXXXXXX0700	264233.00	9/Mar/26	34.400	29.000
							KORAPUT KOU OR	SABITA MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX7930	60618.00	27/Oct/25	10.400	9.500
							KORAPUT KOU OR	MILAN GARADA	XXXXXXXXXX7381	58267.00	16/Nov/25	8.900	8.500
							KOTPAD OR	N.KRANTI	XXXXXXXXXX4141	209263.77	9/Mar/26	28.900	27.000
							KOTPAD OR	BINAY KUMAR UDJOGI	XXXXXXXXXX7472	173763.75	9/Mar/26	25.500	22.500
							KOTPAD OR	BHAGIRATHI HARIJAN	XXXXXXXXXX3205	65855.00	10/Jan/26	9.800	9.000
							KUCHINDA KCHI OR	YAMINI MAHANT	XXXXXXXXXX9064	90140.00	9/Feb/26	13.200	12.500
							LAXMIPUR OR	SALAMI SHASHANKAR	XXXXXXXXXX2411	611124.53	9/Mar/26	68.700	66.000
							LAXMIPUR OR	PRASANT KUMAR BHATRA	XXXXXXXXXX4330	382485.00	19/Mar/26	48.110	45.610
							LAXMIPUR OR	PREM PATRA TURUK	XXXXXXXXXX7026	270560.92	23/Feb/26	63.500	61.500
							LAXMIPUR OR	AMIT BAGH	XXXXXXXXXX4035	135530.43	9/Mar/26	20.200	19.500
							LAXMIPUR OR	AHALYA NAIK	XXXXXXXXXX9288	99998.00	19/Mar/26	10.700	10.200
							LAXMIPUR OR	SUNILA KOUSALYA	XXXXXXXXXX6110	85981.38	9/Feb/26	12.250	11.000
							LAXMIPUR OR	NIRANJANA MANDINGA	XXXXXXXXXX7422	80147.00	9/Mar/26	9.600	9.200
							LAXMIPUR OR	PRAHALLAD MANDINGA	XXXXXXXXXX5236	70876.68	9/Feb/26	12.250	11.000
							LAXMIPUR OR	UMASANKAR TURUK	XXXXXXXXXX5189	64108.00	10/Dec/25	11.400	11.000
							LINGIPUR BHUBAN BHUBA OR	BASUDEB MALBISHOYI	XXXXXXXXXX1953	329015.00	16/Feb/26	51.000	50.000
							LUNAHARA OR	SATYABHAMA SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX7642	80521.00	10/Jan/26	12.640	11.400
							MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	JAGABANDHU AICHA	XXXXXXXXXX2002	509963.00	9/Mar/26	80.560	67.760
							MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	JAGABANDHU AICHA	XXXXXXXXXX5034	137881.00	9/Mar/26	22.510	18.790
							MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	JAYANTI JENA	XXXXXXXXXX5777	91599.00	19/Mar/26	12.240	12.100
							MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	SANYASI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX3066	56048.00	9/Mar/26	8.540	8.090
							MAHANADI VIHAR CUT OR	SASMITA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX1706	222576.00	20/Mar/26	40.200	29.350
							MAHESWARPUR CMAHE OR	RASHMIREKHA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX3871	130560			



The territorial integrity of Manipur has been safeguarded by the 36 communities inhabited in the state since time immemorial. Thus, Manipur is considered a Mini India

2.22 LAKH APPEALS DISPOSED OF DURING LAST FISCAL: CBDT CHAIRMAN

The Income Tax Department disposed of 2.22 lakh appeals during the last financial year, a nearly 29 per cent increase compared to the previous fiscal as part of its efforts to reduce disputes with taxpayers, according to official data



Pak-ISI espionage module busted; 11 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: An espionage network with direct links to Pakistan has been unearthed, revealing how handlers across the border were remotely monitoring real-time movement of Indian Army personnel through a covert grid of solar-powered CCTV cameras installed at strategically sensitive locations across northern India, an official said Friday.



DELHI POLICE BUSTED AN INTER-STATE TERROR AND ESPIONAGE MODULE WITH ALLEGED LINKS TO PAKISTAN'S ISI AND BABBAR KHALSA INTERNATIONAL

Special Cell of the Delhi Police in a coordinated operation, led to the arrest of 11 accused involved in espionage, arms smuggling and reconnaissance activities.

The use of solar-powered CCTV cameras ensured uninterrupted surveillance even in remote or low-access areas, making detection difficult and allowing the network to function continuously without relying on conventional power sources.

devices, carefully selecting vantage points that offered clear visibility of Army cantonments, border roads and movement routes of security forces. The footage was then analysed by handlers in Pakistan to map patterns, assess vulnerabilities and potentially plan further activities.

Investigations revealed that the accused were lured into the network through monetary incentives and were also involved in ancillary activities such as arranging logistics, procuring SIM cards, transporting equipment and expanding the surveillance grid. Some members were tasked with recruiting local youths to sustain long-term espionage operations.

The police said the bust has potentially averted a major security threat, as inputs suggest that the module was also exploring plans to target security establishments using explosives and other means. The integration of espionage with arms trafficking and terror planning points to a larger and well-coordinated conspiracy backed by external elements.

Security agencies are now analysing digital evidence, including mobile phones and data retrieved from the CCTV systems, to identify further links, handlers and sleeper cells.

The probe is ongoing, with officials not ruling out more arrests in the coming days.

Toddler trapped in borewell taken out after 23-hr operation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ujjain, April 10: A two-and-a-half-year-old boy, who fell into a borewell in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district, was pulled out Friday after nearly 23 hours of rescue operation and taken to hospital where he was declared upon examination, officials said.

The toddler, Bhagirath, slipped into the borewell in Jhalariya village under Badnagar tehsil, about 75 km from the district headquarters, at around 7.30pm Thursday, triggering a massive rescue operation involving multiple teams, including one from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Ujjain Collector Roshan Kumar Singh said the child was rescued and rushed to a civil hospital in an ambulance for medical examination immediately after being pulled out of the borewell.

However, the child was found dead during examination. District Chief Medical and Health Officer (CM&HO) Dr Suyash Shrivastava told PTI.

"After post-mortem we are going to handover the body to the family," he added.

Bhagirath was son of Praveen Devasi, originally a resident of Gudanla village in Rajasthan's Pali district, who works as a shepherd.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

ISRO completes second integrated air drop test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: Space agency ISRO has successfully conducted the second integrated air drop test (IADT-02) for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission at the space station in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

The system is essential to ensure a safe recovery of the crew module -- the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight -- during re-entry and landing.

Union minister Jitendra Singh congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for successfully conducting the test.

"Congratulations #ISRO for the successful accomplishment of Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for #Gaganyaan, India's first Human Space flight scheduled next year. The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Station Sriharikota," Singh said in a post on X.

The IADT-02 follows the successful completion of the first

IADT, which took place August 24, 2025, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Air drop tests recreate the last leg of a spacecraft's return to Earth. An aircraft or helicopter drops the spacecraft from a height to test various systems under different scenarios.

These are the deployment of the parachute system in case the mission is aborted mid-flight, system performance when one parachute fails to open and the spacecraft's orientation and safety during splashdown etc.

In the IADT-02 test, a simulated crew module, weighing about 5.7 tonnes, was lifted by an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter to an altitude of about three kilometres and released over a designated drop zone in the sea, near the Sriharikota coast.

In a statement, the ISRO said, "Ten parachutes of four types were deployed in a precise sequence during the descent of the crew module, gradually reducing the velocity for safe touchdown. Subsequently, the simulated crew module was successfully recovered in coordination with the Indian Navy."

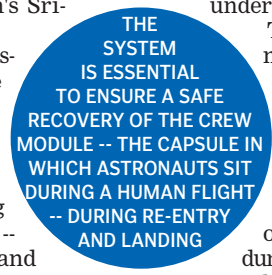


Table with columns: BRANCH_RAC_NAME, Customer Name, Loan A/c No., Amount Outstanding, Date of Demand Notice, Gross Weight Grams, Net Weight Grams. Contains multiple rows of loan data.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS OF TENDER The Base/Reserve price will be given on the auction day/date to the tenderers on which the auction bid will be considered. The bid/offers in the prescribed tender form provided by the bank shall only be considered for bidding. Incomplete bid form/tender are treated invalid and shall liable to be rejected.

international



The measures must be targeted. They must be directed at those areas where the burden is greatest. These include commuters or the logistics sector
KATHARINA REICHE | ECONOMY MINISTER, GERMANY

DEEP PURPLE THRILLS TAKAICHI

Legendary British rock band Deep Purple made Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's day with a brief visit to their high-profile superfan Friday as they returned to the country they first toured more than half a century ago. Takaichi's reputation as an amateur drummer and fan of hard rock and heavy metal has been well documented, and she has referred to Deep Purple as one of her favourite bands along with the likes of Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden



of the day quote

If the Cuban people understand that I am not fit for office, that I have no reason to be here, then I should not be holding this position of president, I will respond to them
MIGUEL DIAZ-CANEL | PRESIDENT, CUBA

Ukrainian military personnel shot down Iranian-designed Shahed drones in multiple Middle Eastern countries during the Iran war
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Once the truth commission firmly establishes the basic facts (regarding the abuses), we intend to cooperate to ensure the process moves swiftly
JUNG SUNG-HO | JUSTICE MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

Vance warns Iran not to 'play us'

REUTERS

Dubai/Beirut/Cairo/Islamabad, April 10: Iran said Friday that Iranian assets must be unblocked and a ceasefire take hold in Lebanon before peace talks with the United States can proceed, throwing last-minute doubt over negotiations scheduled for Saturday in Pakistan.

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on X that the two measures had been previously agreed with Washington and that talks would not start until they are fulfilled, amid mounting dispute over the ceasefire terms.

Iran says ceasefire must include Lebanon, unfreezing of assets
Israeli strikes across southern Lebanon continue Friday
Thirteen Lebanese service members killed



reloaded "with the best ammunition to resume strikes on Iran if peace talks in Pakistan fail". Vice President JD Vance, who will lead the US delegation, said he expected a positive outcome as he headed to Pakistan, but added, "if they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find the negotiating team is not that receptive".

Iran has been unable to obtain tens of billions of dollars of its assets in foreign banks, mainly from exports of oil and gas, due to US sanctions on its banking and energy sectors.

TENUOUS TRUCE
Trump announced a two-week ceasefire in the six-week war Tuesday, just hours before a deadline after which he had threatened to destroy Iran's civilisation.

However, the truce is tenuous with Israel's continuing bombardment of Lebanon and the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz proving key sticking points for both sides.

The ceasefire has halted the campaign of US and Israeli airstrikes on Iran. But it has so far done nothing to end the blockade of the strait, which has

caused the biggest-ever disruption to global energy supplies, or to calm a parallel war waged by Israel against Iran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon.

Iran was doing a "very poor job" of letting oil through the strait, Trump said in a social media post. He also warned Tehran against trying to collect fees from ships crossing it. "That is not the agreement we have!"

Israel and the US have said the campaign against militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon is not part of the agreed ceasefire.

Israel launched the biggest attack of the war hours after the ceasefire was announced, killing more than 300 people in surprise strikes on heavily populated areas, Lebanese authorities said.

Israeli strikes continued across southern Lebanon Friday, with more than a dozen people reported killed in various towns. One strike on a government building in the city of Nabatieh killed 13 members of Lebanon's state security forces, the country's President Joseph Aoun said in a statement.

Hezbollah said in a statement on its Telegram channel that it

fired rocket salvos at northern Israeli towns in response.

Lebanese authorities say at least 1,830 people have been killed in Israeli strikes since March 2.

IRANIAN HARD LINE

The hard line taken by Iran's leaders ahead of the negotiations followed a defiant message from its new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei Thursday. Khamenei, yet to be seen in public since taking over from his father who was killed on the war's first day, said Iran would demand compensation for all wartime damage.

"We will certainly not leave unpunished the criminal aggressors who attacked our country," he said.

Although Trump has declared victory, the war did not achieve the aims he set out at the start: to deprive Iran of the ability to strike its neighbors, dismantle its nuclear programme and make it easier for its people to overthrow their government.

Iran still possesses missiles and drones capable of hitting its neighbors and a stockpile of more than 400 kg (900 pounds) of uranium enriched near the level needed to make a bomb. Its clerical rulers, who faced a popular uprising just months ago, withstood the onslaught with no sign of organised opposition.

Tehran's agenda at the talks now includes demands for major new concessions, including the end of sanctions that crippled its economy for years, and acknowledgment of its authority over the strait, where it aims to collect transit fees and control access in what would amount to a huge shift in regional power.

Iran's ships were sailing through the strait unimpeded Friday, while those of other countries remained hemmed inside.

Melania Trump denies any Epstein connection

REUTERS

Washington, April 10: First lady Melania Trump denied Thursday that she had any relationship with Jeffrey Epstein and said she was not one of his victims, thrusting the Epstein matter back into the spotlight after her husband had sought to put it behind him.

She denied online speculation that the disgraced financier and sex offender had introduced her to Donald Trump, saying she had met her husband at a New York City party in 1998, two years before crossing paths with Epstein at another event she attended with Trump.

She also urged Congress to hold public hearings for Epstein victims to tell their stories under oath, raising the prospect of further public attention on an issue the president wants to go away.

"The lies linking me with the disgraceful Jeffrey Epstein need to end today," Melania Trump said, reading a statement and declining to take questions from reporters.

"I am not Epstein's victim," she said, responding to what she said were false smears against her.

Her extraordinary address, delivered under the presidential seal in the White House foyer, renews scrutiny of the Epstein case that has roiled Donald Trump's presidency as even some supporters say his administration mishandled disclosures from government files. Last week, the president



fired Attorney General Pam Bondi, who had drawn the ire of Trump loyalists over the Justice Department's slow release of millions of Epstein-related files.

Trump, a onetime friend of Epstein who said he cut ties with the financier in the early 2000s, is among many famous people - celebrities, politicians and intellectuals - named in the government files.

Melania Trump did not say why she chose to speak out Thursday, resurrecting an issue that had largely slipped from the headlines amid the US-Israeli war against Iran.

But Marc Beckman, her senior adviser, told Reuters in a statement, "First Lady Melania Trump spoke out now because enough is enough. The lies must stop."

While first ladies have occasionally addressed the nation on political issues, Melania Trump's statement was exceptional.

Extraordinary address raises issue Trump has tried to downplay
Melania Trump urges Congressional hearings for Epstein's victims
She denies Epstein introduced her to Trump and says, 'I am not Epstein's victim'

SHORT TAKES

Drone strike hits wedding killing 30

Cairo: A drone strike on a town in Sudan's Darfur region hit a wedding party, killing at least 30 civilians, including women and children, the United Nations said Thursday. Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN's secretary-general, said during a briefing that the wedding ceremony was in the town of Kutum in North Darfur. The strike is the latest in an intensifying dronefare between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, who have been at war since April 2023. The nearly three-year conflict in Sudan killed more than 40,000 people, according to UN figures, but aid groups say the true number could be much higher.

China's top diplomat meets N Korea's Kim

Beijing: China and North Korea should further enhance communication and coordination in major international and regional affairs, China's foreign minister said in a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un Friday, a Chinese official statement showed. Minister Wang Yi is on a two-day visit to Pyongyang from Thursday that aims to advance ties between the two countries after the COVID-19 pandemic froze exchanges and as North Korea's Kim shored up relations with Moscow. "In the face of a turbulent and complex international situation, China and North Korea should further strengthen communication and coordination on major international and regional affairs," Wang told Kim, according to a statement from China's foreign ministry.

Brazil, US unite against organized crime

Sao Paulo: The Brazilian government is set to announce a Brazil-US action against organized crime Friday, according to the Brazilian Finance Ministry. The so-called Project MIT (Mutual Interdiction Team) brings together the Brazilian Federal Revenue Service and the US Customs and Border Protection to combat transnational crime, a statement from the ministry said. It aims to integrate intelligence efforts and joint operations to intercept illicit shipments of weapons and narcotics, the statement said. It is part of a broader agenda between Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and US President Donald Trump. Brazil's Finance Minister Dario Durigan will announce the details at a press conference scheduled for 11:30 am.

Ukrainians sceptical of Easter truce with Russia as Kyiv calls for talks

REUTERS

Kyiv, April 10: Ukrainian officials urged Russia Friday to extend a ceasefire it announced for Orthodox Easter this weekend and restart talks to end the war, but people on the streets of Kyiv remained wary, recalling that previous such truces had been quickly violated.

Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday announced a 32-hour ceasefire starting Saturday afternoon and running throughout Orthodox Easter until midnight Sunday.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who has repeatedly proposed an Easter truce, quickly said Kyiv would abide by the measure, which Moscow had previously rejected as a "PR stunt".

"People need an Easter without threats and a real move towards peace, and Russia has a chance not to return to attacks even after Easter," he said, in comments posted on Telegram early Friday. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Ukraine was proposing that strikes should not resume after Easter, and he drew a parallel with the two-week ceasefire in the conflict between the United States, Israel and Iran, announced Tuesday.

"We believe that a ceasefire is the right strategy to advance diplomatic efforts — whether



Russia announced Easter truce after earlier rejecting idea
Ukraine agreed, called for extension
Kremlin says it wants permanent peace, not ceasefire
Ukraine rejects Russian demand it cede land for peace
Russia says envoy is discussing economy, not peace, in US

we are talking about the Middle East or Russian aggression against Ukraine," he said.

The Kremlin Friday said the Easter truce was a temporary humanitarian measure, and it wanted a permanent peace deal not a ceasefire, a demand that Ukraine has described as a delaying tactic.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a visit by Putin's special investment envoy to the United States was economic and did not signal the resumption of US-mediated peace talks; US sanctions waivers on Russian oil expire April 11.

Putin has said Russia would

be willing to end hostilities if Ukraine hands over the remainder of the industrialised region of Donbas - roughly 6,000 square km (2,317 square miles) - that it has been unable to conquer more than four years since its full-scale invasion. Zelenskiy has said that would betray Ukraine's defenders and that an aggressor should not dictate such terms.

Amid light snow and wintry weather in Kyiv Friday morning, residents were skeptical that the truce would do anything to ease their situation. Many expressed hostility toward the Russian leader.

After years of war with Russia, Ukraine's farmers hit by Iran conflict

REUTERS

Malopolovetske, April 10: Mykola Malienko, who farms the rich, black soil of central Ukraine and exports crops to Europe, is sowing 100 fewer hectares of corn this spring. The 70-year-old needs to save money after fertiliser prices soared following the war in Iran.

His biggest worry is about buying the diesel he will need to harvest his 1,200 hectares later this year. The cost of fuel has nearly doubled since US-Israeli strikes on Iran led to unprecedented disruption of energy supplies. Ukraine exports its food products to 150 countries,

economy ministry data showed, down from around 190 countries before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The geographical distribution of shipments has changed as shipments to Asia, Oceania and the Middle East have declined, exports to Europe have increased and analysts say Russia has taken market share from Ukraine, especially for wheat.

The risk for Ukraine is that the Middle Eastern conflict is increasing Russia's economic advantage.

As a major oil and gas producer, Russia stands to gain from high energy prices and its



farmers have cheap domestic supplies of the fertilisers and diesel Ukraine has to import.

Malienko expects his production costs to climb by at least 10-15%. Unless a rapid resolution is achieved to the

Middle Eastern conflict, they could soar by 60%.

"Our export potential could fall substantially," Malienko said, standing before a row of tractors and seeders at his farm outside the village of Malo-

polovetske, less than 100 kilometres (62 miles) southwest of Kyiv.

"This year it will decline by 15% to 20%, and if the situation continues that could reach as much as 40%."

After Russia invaded and the Black Sea ports through which 90% of agricultural exports flowed were blocked, Ukraine's farmers rerouted cargoes through small Danube River ports and by rail to Eastern Europe.

As a result, logistics costs rose, exports fell and grain surpluses mounted at home. Domestic prices fell and farmers made losses.

The situation began to sta-

bilise in 2023, when a UN-brokered grain corridor opened, allowing shipments to recover.

Last year, farm exports generated more than \$22 billion for Ukraine, according to government figures, over half of its total export revenues - a vital source of hard currency and tax for President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's government.

But exports totalling 47 million metric tons of grain and oilseeds last season were down by a quarter from before the war. Russia's invasion means farmers face a catastrophic labour shortage, as well as disrupted transport links and power supplies.



We will remain a reliable energy supplier to India
SAAD SHERIDA AL-KAABI | ENERGY MINISTER, QATAR

ADB UPS FY27 GDP PROJECTIONS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Friday projected India's GDP growth to remain "robust" at 6.9 per cent in the current fiscal, and rise to 7.3 per cent in next fiscal driven by strong domestic demand, and supported by easing financing conditions and lower US tariffs on Indian goods. In its Asian Development Outlook April 2026 report, the ADB said a prolonged conflict in the Middle East could undermine India's macroeconomic performance through multiple channels, including higher energy prices, trade flow disruptions, and weaker remittance inflows



of the day quote

A paradigm shift has happened. If the world gets more and more de-globalised, we will have more and more problems



ARUN KUMAR SINGH | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, ONGC

As I have stated earlier, we would like to reiterate that a timely listing of Tata Sons is not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution. One that will reinforce corporate governance, deepen transparency and accountability



SHAIPOORHI PALLONI MISTRY | CHAIRMAN, SP GROUP

India is our top market presenting opportunities for all our brands. Over the next couple of years, we are looking at both organic and inorganic growth in the country, focusing on creating distinctive, experience-led destinations



DAVID UDELL | GROUP PRESIDENT, ASIA PACIFIC, HYATT

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves jump

Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped by \$9.063 billion to \$697.121 billion for the week ended April 3, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday. In the previous reporting week, which ended March 27, the overall reserves had dropped by \$10.288 billion to \$688.058 billion. The forex kitty had expanded to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year, before the onset of the West Asia crisis, which led to several weeks of depletion. The rupee has come under pressure since the start of the West Asia conflict, and the RBI has been intervening in the forex market through dollar sales and had to take some surprising policy measures to harness the fall. For the week ended April 3, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$1.784 billion to \$552.856 billion, the central bank's data showed. Value of gold reserves increased by \$7.221 billion to \$120.742 billion during the week, the RBI said.

Bullions rebound

New Delhi: Silver prices rebounded by ₹3,800 to ₹2.47 lakh per kilogram in the national capital Friday, and gold edged higher to ₹1.55 lakh per 10 grams as investors weighed fragile geopolitical developments and a weak US dollar. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal climbed by ₹3,800, or 1.6 per cent, to ₹2,47,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes), reversing Thursday's decline of ₹2,43,200 per kg. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity also went up by ₹400 to ₹1,55,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

INVESTORS BUY THE DIP

Equity MF inflows hit 8-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: Equity mutual funds witnessed a net inflow of ₹40,450 crore in March, marking an increase of 56 per cent from the preceding month, reflecting sustained investor confidence despite market volatility and heightened geopolitical tensions.

This was the highest monthly net inflow after July 2025, when the equity-oriented mutual funds received a net inflow of ₹42,702 crore.

Moreover, monthly contributions through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) rose to an all-time high of ₹32,087 crore from ₹29,845 crore in the preceding month, highlighting the growing preference for disciplined, systematic investing, according to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

Overall, the mutual fund industry recorded a net withdrawal of ₹2.4 lakh crore in March after witnessing an inflow of ₹94,530 crore in February. This was largely driven by a huge outflow of ₹2.95 lakh crore in debt funds.

March typically witnesses a surge in outflows due to higher redemptions, particularly from debt mutual funds, as companies redeem money from liquid funds to meet year-end commitments.

The outflow has pulled the industry's assets under management to ₹73.73 lakh crore



- Inflow in equity MFs surges 56% to ₹40,450cr in March amid volatility
- SIPs investment at all-time high of ₹32,087cr from ₹29,845cr MoM
- Overall, the MF industry recorded net withdrawal of ₹2.4L-cr in March

The surge in inflows reflects sustained retail engagement through SIP contributions, year-end portfolio allocations, and investors using recent market corrections as an opportunity to deploy incremental capital into equities

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | PRINCIPAL RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH

in March-end from ₹82.03 lakh crore in February-end.

According to data, equity inflows rose to ₹40,450 crore in March from ₹25,978 crore in February. This was also the 61st consecutive month of positive net inflows. Apart from equities, hybrid schemes reported net outflows of nearly ₹16,500 crore, largely driven by Arbitrage Funds, which alone saw outflows of ₹21,000 crore. In contrast, Multi-Asset Allocation Funds registered inflows of over ₹5,000 crore,

suggesting a preference for diversified asset allocation strategies amid heightened global uncertainty.

Meanwhile, gold exchange-traded funds saw inflows of ₹2,266 crore in March, which was much lower than the ₹5,255 crore seen in February and ₹24,040 crore in January. While the pace of inflows has moderated sequentially, investor interest in gold-backed products remained positive.

On the other hand, debt funds saw an outflow of ₹2.95 lakh crore in March as compared to a ₹42,106 crore inflow in February.

The sharp reversal in debt fund flows in March was driven largely by heavy redemptions from short-term and liquidity-oriented categories. Liquid Funds saw the biggest outflows at ₹1.35 lakh crore, followed by Overnight Funds at ₹40,228 crore, Money Market Funds at ₹29,207 crore, and Low Duration Funds at ₹25,227 crore.

D-St logs best week in over five years

Nifty 50 climbed 1.16% to 24,050.6, Sensex added 1.2% to 77,550.25, rising nearly 6%, for the week

REUTERS

Mumbai, April 10: India's main stock indexes snapped a six-week losing streak Friday, posting their biggest weekly gain in over five years, as investors took comfort from a fragile US-Iran ceasefire.

The Nifty 50 climbed 1.16% to 24,050.6 and the Sensex added 1.2% to 77,550.25, rising nearly 6%, for the week.

US and Iran had reached a two-week ceasefire Wednesday, pushing Brent crude prices down 12% and providing a respite to equity markets globally.

However, that ceasefire showed signs of strain on Friday as Washington accused Tehran of breaching promises and Israel struck Lebanon.

"A more durable improvement in global risk sentiment would require a cessation of hostilities and the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," said Rita Tahilramani, investment director of Asian equities at Aberdeen Investments.

India imports most of its crude and gas, and soaring en-



ergy prices since the war have raised concerns over growth, inflation and the impact on corporate earnings.

The small-cap and mid-cap indexes rose 7.6% and 7.8%, respectively, this week, with all 16 major sectors logging gains.

High-weight financials rose 9%, while auto stocks index was the top gainer among major sectors with a 10.6% surge for the week.

Sectors including tourism, paints, oil marketing companies also rebounded. Larsen & Toubro jumped 9.6% to log its best week in over five years.

Index-heavyweights HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank gained 7.9% and 8.7%, while oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries was flat.

Tata Consultancy Services fell 2.5% after a rare annual revenue drop and concerns over a clouded FY27 outlook. It led IT stocks down 1.9% on the day.

Jio-BP not to raise petrol, diesel prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: Jio-BP, the fuel joint venture of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP Plc, does not plan to raise fuel prices immediately despite a spike in international oil prices, its chief executive Akshay Wadhwa said Friday.

The country's second-largest private fuel retailer has kept retail petrol and diesel rates steady, just like public sector firms, which have not passed on the surge in raw material (crude oil) cost to consumers for fear of spiking inflation.

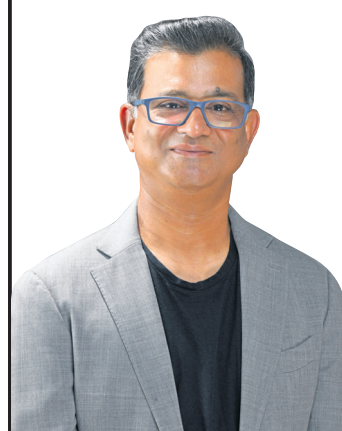
"We are in this with the country," Wadhwa said on the sidelines of an industry event here.

The war in West Asia has driven international oil prices above \$100 per barrel, but domestic consumers have been insulated by the oil companies and the government, which cut excise duty on petrol and diesel to obviate the need for raising prices to some extent.

Nayara Energy, in which Russian oil giant Rosneft hold the largest shareholding, has increased petrol price by ₹5 a litre and diesel by ₹3. Nayara is the country's largest private fuel retailer with 6,967 outlets. Shell India has also reportedly raised fuel prices at its 343 outlets. Wadhwa said Jio-BP is "not planning any increase in prices as of now".

Prevention powers true healthcare: Priyadarshi

Priyadarshi Mohapatra, Founder and CEO, CureBay Technologies, is an industry veteran and serial entrepreneur known for building high-performance teams and driving innovation across global technology companies and startups. Before founding CureBay, he held leadership roles at Google, Microsoft, SAP, Avaya, and Sun Microsystems, contributing to major growth initiatives including Google Cloud in India and Microsoft's Consumer & Devices business. Driven to address healthcare inequity, he launched CureBay, a rapidly growing rural health-tech platform with 190+ eClinics and 1,500+ Swasthya Mitras, serving over 10.5 lakh patients and recently securing \$21 million in Series B funding. Excerpts...



PRIYADARSHI MOHAPATRA | FOUNDER & CEO, CUREBAY TECHNOLOGIES

How is CureBay reimagining health assurance to better serve rural and underserved communities?

At CureBay, we believe healthcare should focus on sustaining wellness rather than just treating illness. Through our Payvider model, we combine care delivery, financing, and digital infrastructure to bring primary healthcare to the last mile. Our eClinics and community health workers, SwasthyaSurakhya, help families access consultations, diagnostics, telemedicine, and preventive monitoring early, reducing delayed treatment and medical debt while making healthcare continuous, preventive, and community-driven.

Do you believe hybrid healthcare models — combining digital platforms with physical clinics — can significantly improve healthcare access in remote regions?

Rural healthcare needs a hybrid model that blends trusted physical infrastructure with scalable digital platforms. At CureBay, eClinics serve as local healthcare anchors, while digital tools enable teleconsultations, di-

agnostics management, and patient onboarding. Community health workers connect villagers to these services, ensuring both access and continuity of care. This approach allows patients to receive physical examinations when needed while accessing specialists digitally, creating a system where technology strengthens human trust and expands healthcare access for underserved communities.

What structural challenges do insurers and healthcare providers face when trying to serve remote and underserved populations?

The biggest challenge is that traditional healthcare systems are built around urban hospitals rather than distributed primary care networks. In rural areas, three key barriers persist: delayed primary care leading to preventable crises, limited infrastructure that restricts hospital-centric insurance models, and financial shocks when families face medical emergencies. When care is accessed only during crises, costs rise for both patients and insurers. Embedding healthcare within communities through clinics, digital platforms, and local health workers can shift the system from reactive treatment to proactive prevention, reducing costs and improving outcomes.

What approaches are most effective in increasing healthcare and insurance awareness in villages and small towns?

In rural India, healthcare awareness grows through trust and community engagement rather than advertising. At CureBay, SwasthyaSurakhya—local community health workers—educate families on preventive care,

conduct screenings, and help them enroll in health assurance programs using simple digital tools. Through regular clinic visits, digital check-ins, and community interactions, healthcare becomes part of daily life. As people experience accessible care and predictable costs, awareness gradually turns into adoption.

In emerging rural healthcare ecosystems, how do you balance affordability with comprehensive healthcare coverage?

Affordability comes from redesigning healthcare economics rather than reducing coverage. Traditional systems depend on hospitalisation-driven revenue, while CureBay focuses on preventive care and early intervention to lower long-term treatment costs. Our subscription-based health assurance model replaces unpredictable medical bills with affordable, predictable payments, enabling families to access consultations, diagnostics, and preventive care without financial stress while promoting a system that rewards keeping people healthy.

What inspired you to build a healthcare solution focused on underserved communities, and what advice would you offer to aspiring entrepreneurs in this sector?

The inspiration came from observing a fundamental paradox in healthcare—the system often profits when people fall sick, rather than when they stay healthy. This realisation led us to design a model where our success depends on the well-being of our members. When people remain healthy through preventive care and early intervention, the system becomes economically sustainable and socially impactful.

Vedanta signs strategic MoU for Aluminium Park in Jharsuguda



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two leading manufacturing companies, Singhal Steel & Power Pvt Ltd (a unit of Singhal Group Of Industries) and SCOT-AL Metcon Pvt Ltd (an associate company of Scottish Chemical Industries and UAL Industries) for setting up their downstream aluminium manufacturing facilities within the upcoming Vedanta Aluminium Park in Jharsuguda, Odisha.

The MoU signing ceremony was held here in the presence of senior government officials, including Sampa Chandra Swain, Minister of State, Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education and Hemant Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries, Odisha.

Envisaged as a dedicated

world-class industrial ecosystem for downstream aluminium industries, the Vedanta Aluminium Park in Jharsuguda aims to promote value addition and support the growth of MSMEs while cementing Odisha's position as a global aluminium hub. The initiative is expected to further enhance the state's industrial competitiveness, attract fresh investments of over ₹500 crore, and create around 1,500 direct and indirect employment opportunities within the state.

Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "The Vedanta Aluminium Park reflects our commitment to moving beyond primary production towards value-added manufacturing. By enabling a strong downstream ecosystem, we aim to unlock new opportunities for industries, MSMEs and local entrepreneurs, while further strengthening Odisha's position in the global aluminium manufacturing landscape."

SUMMER DEMAND

India defers plant maintenance to add 10 GW capacity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: India will defer maintenance shutdowns at thermal power plants and operationalise additional capacity to ensure around 10,000 MW of extra supply during peak summer demand, the Ministry of Power said Friday, as it moved to strengthen short-term electricity availability amid global uncertainty.

Power plants have to annual take a shutdown for maintenance and repair of wear-and-tear in the machinery but this has been posted to make available electricity to meet peak demand, said Piyush Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, at a media briefing.

This will help augment 10,000 megawatt (MW) of generation, which will more than compensate for the 8,000 MW of generating capacity lost because of disruption in liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies due to the war in West Asia, he said.

Also, imported coal-based plants are being fully operationalised and adequate coal stocks are being maintained at thermal stations to address short-term supply pressures.

13th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair starts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: The 13th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2026 commenced at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar Friday.

The trade fair will run from April 10-20. It is thoughtfully designed with state-of-the-art, air-conditioned hanger structures, categorized into various segments to offer a diverse and engaging experience for visitors and exhibitors alike.

The event features participation from 22 states and 10 countries, making it a truly global event. Product range in the event includes furniture from all over India; clothes and sarees from



Bhagalpur, Punjab, Banaras, Jaipur, Odisha and Bangladesh; dry fruits from Afghanistan; Jewellery and herbal oil from Iran; perfumes from Dubai; ladies accessories from Korea, jewellery, footwear and clothing from Thailand, beauty accessories,

electronics, consumer goods, marble statues, and much more.

The special attraction in the fair is the Food Zone and it features a variety of tasty and hygienic cuisines. Among all, 'The Champaran Mutton' is expected to emerge as a major crowd-pull-

er. Guests in the inauguration of the event included Samir Mohanty, Odisha Olympic Association President and Former State President, BJP, Rashmikiran Kanungo, State Coordinator, BJP, Bhubaneswar and Priyadarshi Mishra, Former MLA, Bhubaneswar. The event is organised by Gupta Event Management (GEM). Sujeet Gupta, Managing Director, GEM and Payal Acharya Gupta Director, GEM were also present during the inauguration.

Over the span of 11 days, the event is expected to attract more than 5 lakh visitors, offering an excellent platform for both consumers and traders to explore, interact, and do business—all under one roof.

BADMINTON ASIA C'SHIPS

Shetty smashes into history books



Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty stuns world No 4 Christie to enter SF, confirms medal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ningbo, April 10: Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty staged another upset at the Badminton Asia Championships as he stormed into the semi-finals after beating world No 4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia here at Ningbo Olympic Sports Center Friday.

Ayush registered a 23-21, 21-17 win over Olympian and third seed Christie to become the first Indian men's singles badminton player since HS Prannoy in 2018 to secure a medal at the continental meet. This was Ayush's first win over Christie in their maiden encounter.

■ With this big upset, he becomes the first Indian men's singles badminton player since HS Prannoy in 2018 to secure a medal at the continental meet

■ It will also be India's first medal at the Badminton Asia Championships since Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's men's doubles gold in 2023

It will also be India's first medal at the Badminton Asia Championships since Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's men's doubles gold in 2023.

In the semi-finals, Ayush will take on the winner of the match between Paris 2024 silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and Weng Hongyang.

The opening game was fiercely contested, as neither player was able to break clear Christie heading into the break with a slender

11-10 lead. After resumption, the Indonesian took control of the game, stretching his advantage to 18-15 and even earning a game point before Ayush produced a fightback and forced the contest into a tie-break.

The second game was equally hard-fought with the Indian carrying a slender 11-9 advantage into the interval before tightening his grip on the contest and closing it out to book his place in the semi-finals. Earlier in the tournament, Ayush had stunned world No 7 and reigning Asian Games champion Li Shi Feng in the opening round before beating Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu's campaign ended in the second round while Lakshya Sen bowed out in the opening round.

Continental dominance by pugilists

India finished second on the table with five golds, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals overall, 16

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ulaanbaatar, April 10: India capped off a memorable campaign at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026 with Vishvanath Suresh clinching gold in the men's 50kg category, defeating Japan's Daichi Iwai by a dominant 5:0 margin in the final.

Sachin (60kg) added to the tally with a hard-fought silver medal, rounding off a strong showing for the men's contingent. India finished second on the table with five golds, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals overall, 16.

The performance was headlined by a historic outing from the Indian women's team, who topped the medal charts with 10 medals, including four gold, two silver, and four bronze, marking one of their finest showings at the continental level.

Vishvanath's gold marks a significant milestone in his rapid rise through the ranks. Having emerged through the national circuit with consistent performances, he has quickly established himself on the international stage.

His campaign in Ulaanbaatar was particularly impressive, highlighted by his victory over a world number one en route to the final, underlining his temperament and ability to deliver against top opposition.

Speaking on the team's performance, Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh said, "This has been a remark-

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



able campaign for Indian boxing and for our women who have topped the medal charts with four gold medals. Our men's team was impressive again, especially young Vishva with his gold, whose performance shows the strength of our pipeline.

"What stands out is the depth of talent coming through—despite changes from the previous World Championships, this team has shown tremendous character and promise while claiming titles against some of the continent's toughest

■ VISHVANATH CLINCHED AN ASIAN TITLE FOR INDIA IN MEN'S BOXING AFTER 5 YEARS WITH A 5-0 WIN OVER DAICHI IWAI OF JAPAN IN THE FINAL

■ INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM TOPPED THE MEDAL CHARTS WITH 10 MEDALS, INCLUDING FOUR GOLD, TWO SILVER, AND FOUR BRONZE, MARKING ONE OF THEIR FINEST SHOWINGS AT THE CONTINENTAL LEVEL

which bodes extremely well for the future of Indian boxing." Among the standout performers in women's team, Minakshi (48kg), Preeti (54kg), Priya (60kg), and Arundhati (70kg) delivered gold medal-winning performances, showcasing dominance across categories.

The team also saw strong contributions from Jaismine (57kg) and Alfiyan Pathan (80+kg), who secured silver medals, alongside four bronze medalists, underlining India's consistency across the draw.

fighters. We are seeing a new wave of upcoming talent and multiple medal contenders stepping up on the big stage,

SHORT TAKES

Women 3P shooters bow out in qualifiers

New Delhi: India's campaign in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event ended in the qualification stage at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Granada, Spain Friday. Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole and Olympian Anjum Moudgil were the best-placed Indians, finishing 18th and 19th respectively with identical scores of 587. Ayushi Podder shot 585 to finish 27th. The eighth and final qualification spot was secured with a score of 589. In the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event, Ankur Gole emerged as the top Indian after the precision stage, registering a score of 289. Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu was close behind with 287, while Neeraj Kumar shot 282.

Women's 3x3 wheelchair basketball team enters CWG

New Delhi: India's 3x3 women's wheelchair basketball team has qualified for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. The Games will run from July 23 to August 2 with the 3x3 wheelchair basketball competition taking place from July 24 to 29. India have qualified through the Asia Oceania qualifiers alongside Australia. They were the only two participating teams and secured qualification, representing Asia and Oceania respectively. The men's team, however, could not make the cut after finishing fourth in the same competition. So far the confirmed qualified women's teams include hosts Scotland, Nigeria from Africa, India from Asia, Australia from Oceania, Canada from the Americas, and England from Europe. The 3x3 wheelchair basketball matches will be held at the Scottish Event Campus.

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

India blank Mongolia 3-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 10: India enjoyed a dominant outing, blanking Mongolia 3-0 while dropping just one game, as Zeel Desai secured a straight-sets win on her Billie Jean King Cup singles debut against 15-year-old Anu-Vjin Gantor, before Sahaja Yamalapalli followed suit in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie Friday.

Zeel drubbed her rival 6-0 6-0 in mere 37 minutes before Sahaja trounced 32-year-old Jargal Altansarnai by an identical scoreline in 42 minutes at DLTA Complex.

Later, Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale hammered Khongorzul Aldarkhishig and Jargal Altansarnai 6-1 6-0 to complete the rout.

It was not more than a casual hitting session for the home players as unranked rival players did not have the game to hurt them.

India will take on Korea on Saturday, the final day of the competition, in their last outing of the tournament, and most likely, the hosts will keep their place in Group I. For India to make the play-offs, they need



Indonesia to beat Korea and then register a 3-0 win themselves on Saturday.

The defeat against Thailand put India in a spot as it hurt their chances to finish in top-two. The top two sides in the six-team event will progress to play-offs while the bottom two will be relegated to Group II.

Vaishnavi Adkar's defeat in the opening singles against Thailand was unexpected, and she admitted that more than external factors, it was nerves that got the better of her.

Considering the inexperience of Gantor, who has managed to win just one game so far in the tournament, Uppal didn't mind

putting in Desai, giving her some match practice.

Clearly, the unranked Gantor is not yet ready to play at this level. She has a lot to learn but such defeats can be demoralising too. Putting an uncooked player at this level could only be because of lack of options.

Gantor hardly won a point on her own. Only when Zeel made an unforced error, the Mongolian had a point to her name.

The Mongolian teenager seemed to have no will to fight, having resigned herself instead.

She could not return properly as the balls consistently flew outside the lines, reducing it to a drab affair.

Odisha shines at Nat'l School Rugby C'ship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 10: Odisha has delivered an outstanding performance at the 69th National School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Rugby Championship 2025-26, emerging as the champion in both the Under-14 boys' and girls' categories, underlining the state's growing excellence in school sports.

In both categories, Bihar secured the runner-up position, while Maharashtra finished third, reflecting a highly competitive tournament marked by remarkable talent and sportsmanship.

The closing ceremony of the Under-14 events held at Kalinga Stadium, was graced by the Minister of School and Mass Education, Nityananda Gond, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he lauded the determination, discipline, and enthusiasm of the young athletes, stating that such platforms not only nurture sporting talent but also build character, resilience, and confidence among the youth. He extended his heartfelt blessings to all participants and urged them to continue striving for excellence in both sports and life.

Sooryavanshi's fiery knock humbles RCB



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 10: Blistering fifties by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel powered Rajasthan Royals to a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their IPL match here Friday.

Sent in to bat, RCB rode on a fighting half-century by skipper Rajat Patidar (63) to post 201 for 8.

Virat Kohli (32), Romario Shepherd (22) and Venkatesh Iyer (29) also chipped in with useful contributions.

In reply, Sooryavanshi (78 off 26 balls) and Dhruv Jurel (81 not out off 43 balls) shared a 37-ball 108-run partnership for the second wicket to set the platform. Krunal Pandya (2/30) tried to bring them back with back-to-back wickets. But Jurel, in the company of Ravindra Jadeja (24), completed the task with another 68-run stand, with two overs to spare.

For RR, Jofra Archer (2/33), Ravi Bishnoi (2/32) and Brijesh

TODAY'S MATCHES

PBKS vs SRH
TIME: 3:30 PM

CSK vs DC
TIME: 7:30 PM

Star Sports channels & JioHotstar

Sharma (2/37) took two wickets. Earlier Rajat Patidar delivered a masterclass in calculated counter-offensive even as wickets fell regularly at the other end, guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to 201 for 8 against Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Friday.

Patidar nudged and pushed while keeping the scoreboard moving even as a lot of RCB batters, including the great Virat Kohli (32 off 16 balls), got out while trying to force the pace.

Towards the end, it was Impact Sub Venkatesh Iyer, who scored 29 off 15 balls, including 21 off the final over from Sandeep Sharma, which took the score past 200-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: 201 for 8 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 63; Jofra Archer 2/33, Ravi Bishnoi 2/32, Brijesh Sharma 2/37) lost to **Rajasthan Royals:** 202 for 4 in 18 overs (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 78, Dhruv Jurel 80 not out; Krunal Pandya 2/30, Josh Hazlewood 2/44) by 6 wickets

ITALY'S FALLEN EMPIRE

Once football greats now on knees

Italy's football malaise spreads across every front — from elite European nights to the national stage — as defeats mount and stature erodes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rome, April 10: First it was the Champions League. Then came the national team. Now it's the Europa League and Conference League.

Italy's soccer crisis is worsening with Bologna and Fiorentina risking European exits.

Bologna's 3-1 loss to Aston Villa in the first leg of the Europa League quarterfinals and Fiorentina's 3-0 defeat at Crystal Palace in the same stage of the Conference League make it likely that Italy won't have any clubs in a European semifinal

for the first time in seven years.

The latest losses came after Atalanta - the only Italian club to reach the Champions League round of 16 - was eliminated by a whopping 10-2 on aggregate by Bayern Munich last month.

Inter Milan - which was humiliated in a 5-0 rout by Paris Saint-Germain in last season's final - and Juventus were eliminated by Bodo/Glimt and Galatasaray, respectively, in the Champions League playoffs.

Defending Serie A champion Napoli finished 30th in the 36-team league phase and didn't even make the playoffs.



The only goal scored by an Italian club Thursday came from Bologna's English winger Jonathan Rowe. Ollie Watkins completed a brace for Villa in stoppage time. The difference was even greater

between Palace and Fiorentina even though their positions in the Premier League (14th) and Serie A (15th) are similar.

No World Cup
The latest defeats came 10 days

after Italy's penalty shootout loss to Bosnia-Herzegovina meant that the four-time champion will miss a third consecutive World Cup. Italian soccer federation president Gabriele Gravina and coach Gennaro Gattuso resigned after Italy's loss.

Serie A is old and slow
Gravina is staying on in a caretaker role until elections in June and this week released a detailed report on the system-wide failure of Italian soccer.

Among Gravina's findings are that with an average age of 27, Serie A has older players than the leagues in England, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Norway and Belgium.

Italy is also not among the top 10 European nations in terms of building or modernizing stadiums over the past two decades.

IPL STANDINGS

TEAMS	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
RR	4	4	0	2.055	8
PBKS	3	2	0	0.637	5
RCB	3	2	1	1.231	4
DC	3	2	1	0.811	4
LSG	3	2	1	-0.359	4
SRH	3	1	2	+0.275	2
GT	3	1	2	-0.270	2
MI	3	1	2	-0.715	2
KKR	4	0	3	-1.315	1
CSK	3	0	3	-2.517	0