

Dumani Mail

Published simultaneously from NEW DELHI, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha).



IMD forecasts heavy rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry



New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, East Rajasthan, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha and Vidarbha. The weather agency has predicted a rise in maximum temperatures by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over the northwest parts of the country tomorrow.

hailstorms at isolated places. Similar conditions are also likely to be expected over Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, East Rajasthan, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha and Vidarbha. The weather agency has predicted a rise in maximum temperatures by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over the northwest parts of the country tomorrow.

Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concludes with grand closing ceremony in New Delhi

New Delhi: Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concluded today with a grand closing ceremony in New Delhi. The event marked the culmination of a 19-day celebration of tribal culture, craftsmanship, and enterprise. The closing ceremony witnessed the felicitation of top-performing tribal artisans and sellers across ten categories – Pottery, Cane and Bamboo, Jewellery, Cuisines, Gifts and Assortments, Metal, Naturals, Paintings, Textiles, and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.



The festival's record sales and over 1 lakh 50 thousand attendees demonstrate the growing desire for tribal goods

and empowerment. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs said over 200 stalls showcased a diverse range of tribal handicrafts, handlooms, and

natural products. The festival featured more than 300 artisans and representatives from over 75 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Visitors enjoyed 17 live craft

demonstrations and explored more than 30 tribal food stalls run by over 120 tribal chefs, offering a vibrant cultural and culinary experience.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to visit Washington DC for three days



New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be on a three-day visit to Washington D.C. in the United States, from tomorrow. During his visit, Foreign Secretary will hold discussions with senior officials of the U.S. Administration on a wide range of issues, including trade, defence, science and technology, as well as regional and global developments of mutual interest. The External Affairs Ministry said that this visit will provide an opportunity to review the full spectrum of India and U.S. bilateral relations and advance ongoing cooperation across key areas.

The visit follows the External Affairs Minister's visit to Washington D.C. in February this year and is in keeping with the regular high-level exchanges between the two sides.

Govt doubles allocation of 5 kg LPG cylinders for migrant labourers



New Delhi: The government has decided to double the daily allocation of five kilogram free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders available for distribution to migrant labourers across states. Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dr Neeraj Mittal has written a letter to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories in this regard. He said, these five kilogram LPG cylinders will be made available to State Governments and their Food and Civil Supplies Departments for supplying only to migrant laborers in their State, with the support of Oil Marketing Companies.

The Petroleum Ministry said, the enhanced allocation will be based on the average daily supply of cylinders provided to migrant workers. The revised allocation goes beyond the earlier cap of 20 per cent specified in March announcement. About six lakh 75 thousand five kilogram LPG cylinders have been sold since 23rd of last month.

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman discuss enhancing bilateral engagement



New Delhi: The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday, reaffirming both sides' commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

According to the Indian Mission in Bangladesh, the meeting focused on enhancing bilateral engagement with an emphasis on people-centric cooperation across multiple sectors, aligned with the national development priorities of both countries.

Discussions covered a wide range of areas, including public health, financial inclusion, women's empowerment, rural development, trade and investment, ease of doing business, technology partnerships, and power and energy cooperation. Both sides

also highlighted the importance of boosting connectivity and cultural exchanges to deepen people-to-people ties.

High Commissioner Verma underlined that India and Bangladesh should leverage their geographical proximity to unlock new opportunities by strengthening economic linkages and regional connectivity.

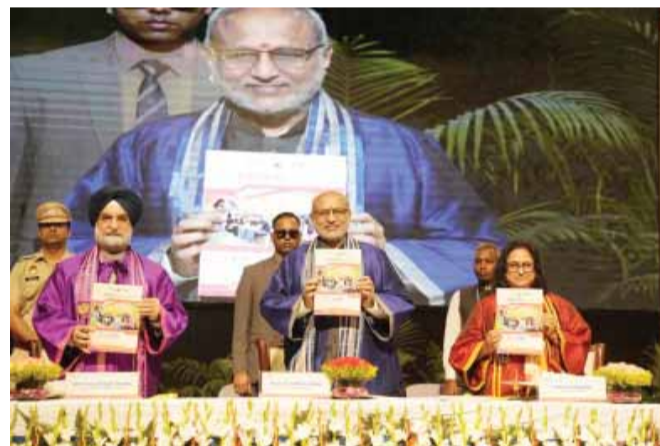
He also conveyed India's intent to work closely with the Government and people of Bangladesh in a positive, constructive, and forward-looking manner, guided by principles of mutual interest and shared benefit.

The meeting reflects continued diplomatic engagement between Dhaka and New Delhi, aimed at fostering regional stability, prosperity, and deeper cooperation across key sectors.

VP says nation's strength lies in knowledge and skills at IGNOU convocation

New Delhi: Vice President CP Radhakrishnan today said that the true strength of a nation lies in the knowledge, values and capabilities of its people. He said institutions like IGNOU are playing a key role in strengthening the national skills ecosystem through their regional centres by providing vocational certification and skill training. The Vice President added that such efforts will help India achieve the goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Addressing the 39th Convocation Ceremony of IGNOU held in New Delhi, Mr Radhakrishnan said that the Indira Gandhi National Open University- IGNOU has made the country proud by connecting the entire nation through



accessible education and transforming the learning landscape. The Vice President described IGNOU as a pillar of the nation's open and distance learning ecosystem, noting that it has brought education closer

to people, especially those who lacked opportunities in their early years.

He said the university has played a transformative role by extending higher education to working individuals, rural

populations, financially disadvantaged groups, and women. Mr Radhakrishnan said over 3 lakh 24 thousand students were awarded degrees, making it one of the largest graduating events in the country.

He noted with satisfaction that 58 percent of the graduates are women, and a significant number come from rural and marginalised backgrounds, reflecting the university's role in promoting equity and social mobility. He also praised initiatives like e-GyanKosh, which has attracted over one crore users, demonstrating the growing reach of digital education. He also appreciated the adoption of the National Education Policy, describing it as a step towards strengthening India's education system.

Heavy rain hits Noida, several streets waterlogged; yellow alert in Delhi and Gurgaon

Noida: Noida witnessed heavy rainfall and thunderstorms on Tuesday, leading to waterlogging in several areas and traffic disruptions. The India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for Delhi, warning of light rain and thunderstorms in the coming hours, though no significant rainfall had been recorded in the city yet. Heavy rain lashes Noida, streets waterlogged. In contrast, Noida experienced intense spells of rain through the day, with several low-lying stretches reporting water



accumulation. Commuters faced slow-moving traffic and delays as key roads struggled with drainage issues.

Amid the shifting weather conditions across the NCR, IndiGo issued a travel advisory, cautioning passengers about possible disruptions due to

adverse weather in the region.

"Bad weather over Delhi has impacted flight schedules. We are closely monitoring the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly," the airline said, urging passengers to check flight status before heading to the airport.

Rain likely to reach Delhi Weather officials have indicated that thunderstorm activity could extend into Delhi later in the day or by Wednesday, as the system continues to move across the region.

NDA govt always prioritised women empowerment in every form: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that his government has always prioritised women's empowerment in every form, and said that with the Women's Reservation Act, India is moving towards greater women-led governance. This is also a key pillar of Viksit Bharat!"

He was commenting on a newspaper article written by Union Minister Annpurna Devi on "Enhancing women's legislative leadership", which highlighted "how greater representation of women is key to stronger, more inclusive governance and a developed India".

In an X post, Modi said, "Representation must translate

into real influence. The government has always prioritised Nari Shakti in every form. Hence, with the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam laying the foundation, India is moving towards greater women-led governance. This is also a key pillar of Viksit Bharat!"

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, more popularly known as the Women's Reservation Act, was passed by Parliament in 2023. Under the law, 33 per cent reservation will be given to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The law, brought by amending the Constitution, will come into effect after completion of the delimitation exercise.



The prime minister on Saturday announced an extension of the budget session of

Parliament by three days -- from April 16 to 18 -- so that the Women's Reservation Act can be

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amended for its implementation from 2029.

Officials said that if the proposal to implement the law even before the delimitation exercise actually materialises, another amendment to the Constitution will be required. The government is expected to amend the law in this effect in the three-day sitting of Parliament.

Modi had also urged all political parties to fully support it with an open mind and without political calculations, since "this is an issue related to women's empowerment".

He had asked them to "become partners in winning the trust of the country's mothers and sisters".

Tension Erupts in Kashipur Over Sijimali Mining Road Project; Police Injured, Section 144 Imposed

Rayagada : Tension escalated in the Kashipur block of Rayagada district following a violent clash between police and local protesters over the proposed road construction to the Sijimali mining area. Despite having government approval for mining operations, the project has been facing strong resistance from local communities for a long time.

The dispute centers around the construction of a road from Shagabari to the Tijimali mining zone by Vedanta Limited. Locals have been opposing the project, staging protests, road blockades, and sit-ins, alleging threats to their land, environment, and livelihood.

In an effort to bring the situation under control,



Rayagada District Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni visited the area and held discussions with the agitating villagers. However, the protesters remained firm in their opposition and refused to accept the administration's assurances.

The situation took a violent turn on Monday night when agitated locals allegedly attacked police personnel with stones and sharp weapons. Several officers, including SDPO Gaur Hari Sahu, Kashipur IIC Deba Mallik, and

Andirakanch IIC, along with more than 30 police personnel, sustained injuries in the attack.

Following the incident, the administration has imposed Section 144 in the area to maintain law and order and

prevent further escalation. Security has been tightened, and additional police forces have been deployed in the sensitive zones.

The standoff between the police and protesters continues, with the region remaining tense. Sources indicate that negotiations may resume to find a peaceful resolution, but no breakthrough has been achieved so far.

Local residents have reiterated their opposition to the road construction, demanding that their concerns be addressed before any further development work proceeds. Meanwhile, officials have assured that all steps will be taken to restore normalcy and ensure safety in the area.

Rayagada Celebrates "Barnabodha Day" to Promote Odia Language and Early Education



Rayagada : "Barnabodha Day" was observed across Rayagada district on Tuesday under the initiative of the district administration, aiming to promote the Odia language and strengthen foundational learning among young students.

The celebration was held at Gandhi Nagar and Indira Nagar Upper Primary Schools, where several dignitaries participated in the program. Among those present were District Culture Officer Sushmita Bauri, Additional Block Development Officer (ABDO) Kalu Charan Nayak, Gram Panchayat Development Officer Smruti Rekha Nayak, senior teacher Nilanchal Mishra, and headmasters Pratap Chandra Bataria and Pramila Panda.

On this occasion, "Chhabila Barnabodha" books were distributed to pre-school, Class I, and Class II students, while children of Classes III and IV received storybooks to encourage reading habits. Teachers of the respective schools actively supported the event and ensured smooth conduct of the event.

As per the directive of the Rayagada District Collector (Letter No. 949 dated March 30, 2026), "Odia Paksha" is being celebrated across the district starting from Odisha Day. In line with this, Barnabodha books along with sweets were distributed among children by the Panchayat

Samiti, Rayagada.

Students were also sensitized about the importance of Barnabodha in preserving Odia language and literature. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from children, who recited poems, sang songs, and narrated stories, captivating the audience.

Similar programs were organized at various schools across the block, where Barnabodha books were distributed and the day was celebrated at the grassroots level.

"Barnabodha," known for its simple poems, short stories, and lessons on Odia alphabets and conjunct letters, is considered a cornerstone of Odia language and culture. It plays a vital role in strengthening language skills and ensuring proper pronunciation and spelling from the early stages of education.

District Culture Officer Sushmita Bauri highlighted that the Department of Odia Language, Literature & Culture and the Odia Language Institution are giving special importance to Barnabodha as a tool for preserving linguistic heritage.

ABDO Kalu Charan Nayak emphasized that introducing Barnabodha at the beginning of school education will significantly enhance children's language development and improve spelling accuracy.

RTI Row in ITDA Gunupur: Allegations of Tender Irregularities and "Non-Payment" Rejection Spark Controversy

Rayagada : A major controversy has surfaced in ITDA Gunupur over alleged irregularities in the tender process and denial of information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Two Assistant Executive Engineers—Shambhu Charan Mundari and Hare Krishna Panda—have come under suspicion following serious allegations raised by an applicant.

According to reports, the applicant had filed an RTI application on January 27, 2026, seeking detailed information regarding alleged misuse of reservation quotas (SC and physically challenged categories) in a government tender process. The complaint also pointed to manipulation of tender outcomes to benefit specific parties, proxy bidding practices, and discrepancies between actual beneficiaries and registered bidders.

It has further been alleged that the licensed bidder involved did not personally sign the bidding

documents, and their identity may have been misused to avail reservation benefits. Questions were also raised about submission of false information and financial inconsistencies in the tender process. Additionally, concerns were expressed over the bidder's financial capability, as the family was reportedly availing benefits under the Right to Education (RTE) scheme meant for economically weaker sections.

To verify these allegations, the applicant sought information through RTI and was instructed via official letters (No. 597 and 598 dated March 27, 2026) to deposit ₹2,280 as the required fee. Accordingly, the applicant remitted ₹2,415 through an Indian Postal Order (IPO) on March 10, 2026, addressed to the ITDA authorities.

However, despite receiving the fee, the department allegedly returned the acknowledgment letter on March 23 citing "insufficient address." Subsequently, on March



25, 2026 (Letter No. 769), the RTI application was rejected via email on the grounds of "non-payment," triggering serious questions over the conduct of the officials.

The sequence of events has raised suspicion of deliberate suppression of information and misuse of official authority. While Shambhu Charan Mundari has reportedly been transferred,

attempts to contact Hare Krishna Panda yielded no response.

Reacting strongly to the issue, Jitu Jakshika, State Coordinator of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), criticized the alleged misuse of rights meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in a tribal-dominated district like Rayagada. He stated that he would personally investigate the matter and demand suspension of

the responsible officials from the departmental secretary.

The applicant has asserted that despite complying with all RTI provisions and depositing the required fee, the denial of information amounts to violation of legal rights, abuse of power, and breach of service conduct rules. He has confirmed that a case has already been filed before the Hon'ble High Court against the concerned officials.

Furthermore, the applicant indicated plans to file another case seeking investigation into the tender process, alleged violations of PWD norms, undue benefits to private contractors, and possible suspension of the tender proceedings. Intellectuals and local observers have termed the incident as a serious case of professional misconduct by government officials. Meanwhile, demands for a high-level inquiry into the matter are gaining momentum.

Valedictory ceremony of 'Kallola' Mahotsav held in Jagatsinghpur

Paradip/Jagatsinghpur - The District Festival Kallola-2026, which was going on for the last five days at the Nabakrishna Choudhury Stadium in Jagatsinghpur, came to an end successfully on Sunday evening. Jagatsinghpur MP Dr. Bibhu Prasad Tarai attended the event as the chief guest and said in his speech that the contribution of the freedom fighters of the district in the history of India is unforgettable.

Attending the meeting as the guest of honor, District Superintendent of Police (SP) Ankit Kumar Verma said that

Jagatsinghpur district is a district of culture and tourism. Kallola Mahotsav has maintained the art, culture, heritage and tradition of our district. If we come together and strive for the development of our district, our district will definitely achieve a special place on the map of India in 2036. Similarly, Additional District Magistrate Jyoti Shankar Roy, who was the guest of honour, said that Jagatsinghpur district has a special place in the map of Odisha. The Kallola Mahotsav has preserved the art, literature and culture of the district. We will try our best

to showcase the importance, significance and value of the district in the world.

Presiding over the closing ceremony, District Collector and Chairman of District Cultural Council J. Sonal called upon the youth to work with honesty, integrity and principle. He encouraged the youth to bring glory to the district in the future.

At the beginning of the valedictory session, Block Development Officer Girija Sankar Mallick delivered the welcome speech and introduced the guests. District

Information and Public Relations Officer Smt. Prachi Tanaya Mohanty proposed the vote of thanks.

At the Ormas Pallishri Mela, Maa Champeswari Self Help Group from Barghar district was honored for the highest sales, Neelamadhav PG from Kalahandi for the best innovative product, Maa Sarala Tailoring PG for the best performance, Rajasthani Food Stall for the best food stall, Baba Nageshwar Divyang Group from Sundargarh for the best discipline, and Sai Ram Self Help Group from

Sambalpur awarded for the best sales.

On the occasion of Kallola Mahotsav, the winners of the traditional Jhota, Hulhuli, and various competitions were awarded. The administrative officers and police administration officers were felicitated for the success of the Mahotsav. Besides, the media friends who were the main partners in the success of the district festival were felicitated on this occasion. Finally, a cultural program was presented by Ollywood Musical Night Antara Chakrobarty and her troops.

PPA celebrates National Maritime Day with Focus on Sustainability, Safety and Growth

Paradip - April 5, 2026 — Paradip Port Authority (PPA) celebrated the 63rd National Maritime Day under the theme "Maritime India: Empowering the Progress" and "Prosperous Seas - Developed India & Youth for Blue Economy & Green Growth," highlighting the vital role of the maritime sector in India's economic progress and global trade connectivity.

The celebration began with flag hoisting, reflecting the rich maritime legacy of the nation. A.K. Bose, Advisor (Traffic), PPA and former Deputy Chairman, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Capt. P. Rout (Master Mariner) and P.C. Majhi (SIC, MMD) attended as Guests of Honour. During the occasion, Capt. P. Rout and P.C. Majhi were felicitated by A.K. Bose in recognition of their valuable contributions.

In his address, Shri Bose emphasized the growing importance of the maritime sector,

Aligned with the Maritime India Vision 2030, PPA is steadily progressing towards becoming a "Green Port" through modernization and sustainability initiatives. These include the adoption of green fuels, expansion of port electrification, increased mechanization, and the implementation of smart logistics systems. The port is also focusing on renewable energy integration and digital transformation to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen global competitiveness.

the role of youth in shaping the future, and the need for sustainable and environmentally responsible development.

The speakers also paid tribute to seafarers, acknowledging their dedication and resilience in ensuring the seamless movement of essential commodities, energy resources, and cargo across the globe, even under challenging conditions. Their contribution continues to be a backbone of national and global supply chains.

Under the leadership of Shri P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA has achieved remarkable operational milestones over the past year. The port successfully handled over

2,526 vessels and recorded significant cargo growth, including more than 6 million metric tonnes of additional traditional cargo. It also played a crucial role in stabilizing supply chains during the West Asia crisis, ensuring the steady flow of key commodities such as limestone, fertilizer raw materials, and liquid cargo.

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implementation of smart logistics systems. The port is also focusing on renewable energy integration and digital transformation to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen global competitiveness.

Reinforcing its commitment to safety, the observance echoed the importance of maintaining high safety standards following the recent National Safety Week. PPA continues to prioritize safe working conditions, operational excellence, and the welfare and dignity of seafarers and the maritime community.

Capt. Alekha Charan Sahoo, Deputy Conservator, presided over the meeting. Harbour Master

Capt. Indranil Mukherjee delivered the welcome address, and Er. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, Senior ME, extended the vote of thanks. The program was compered by Capt. S.B. Panigrahi, ensuring a smooth flow of the event.

From heaving line throw and swimming to rope climbing and seamanship challenges, the day was packed with action and skill. Participants pushed their limits, reflecting the true spirit of the maritime profession. The celebrations concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing the dedication, discipline, and performance of the winners. The event concluded with a collective call for continued collaboration among stakeholders, including port authorities, shipping companies, and policymakers, to build a resilient, sustainable, and globally competitive maritime ecosystem for the future.

Toxic Water in the Daya River, Fish Deaths and Risk of Disease Spread



Puri : The water of the Daya River in the district has now become toxic. Due to pollution, a large number of fish are dying. There is also a growing fear of a diarrhea outbreak in the area, which has left local residents worried.

Water hyacinth is spreading rapidly in the river, and polluted water from the Gangua drain is mixing into it. Garbage, sewage, and silt have reduced the oxygen levels in the water, leading to the death of fish. Dead fish of several species—such as shrimp, kantia, kalabaichi, kau, sarana balia, kerandi, and phali—are being seen floating in the river.

Experts warn that if the condition of the water continues like this, fish eggs will also be destroyed and their reproduction will stop. This will seriously

impact the livelihood of fishermen. The problem has persisted for the past 4-5 years, but no solution has been found.

Local residents have repeatedly complained to the administration and the government, but no concrete action has been taken so far. People are demanding that instead of directly releasing dirty water from the Gangua drain into the river, a treatment plant should be set up.

Due to polluted water, cases of skin diseases and other illnesses are increasing among people. Diarrhea outbreaks are occurring frequently, especially in the Kanas area. Residents have urged the district administration to take immediate action on this serious issue.

Workshop on “Reimagining Capacity Building for Grassroots Governance” Held in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, 07 April (H.S.): A workshop titled “Reimagining Capacity Building for Grassroots Governance” was successfully organised at Krushi Bhawan in Bhubaneswar as part of the nationwide Sadhana Saptah campaign. The programme was jointly organised by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), the Department of Personnel and Training, Karmayogi Bharat, and the Government of Odisha.

The workshop focused on strengthening grassroots governance by integrating technology, tradition, and tangible outcomes.

Addressing the event as the chief guest, Odisha’s Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati

Raj and Drinking Water, Rabi Narayan Naik, said that strong panchayats form the foundation of inclusive and sustainable development. He emphasised the need for continuous, skill-based training systems to empower Panchayati Raj representatives. The minister also expressed his commitment to bringing transformative changes at the panchayat level with the support of dedicated and skilled government officials under the Mission Karmayogi initiative.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR) of the Capacity Building Commission, highlighted the vision of Mission Karmayogi and the role of the CBC in strengthening capacity building

across government institutions. He stressed the importance of shifting governance from a rule-based system to a role-based system, with a stronger focus on citizen-centric service delivery.

The event was also attended by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India; Girish S.N., Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department; Madhusmita Samal, Director of the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD); along with other senior officials of the Odisha Panchayati Raj Department, who shared their insights during the discussions.

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Jajpur BJD Leaders Meet Naveen Patnaik, Discuss Strengthening Party Organisation



Bhubaneswar, 07 April (H.S.): Leaders of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) from Jajpur district met party supremo Naveen Patnaik at his residence to discuss strategies for strengthening the party organisation.

The meeting took place after a discussion held at the residence of Jajpur MLA Pramila Mallik.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Mallik said that more meetings will be organised at the district level in the coming days. She added that special emphasis is being placed on strengthening the party’s student, youth and women’s wings in Jajpur district.

Mallik said that the strategy prepared to further consolidate the organisation was presented to the party supremo. According to her, Naveen Patnaik expressed satisfaction with the proposed plan and advised leaders to proceed accordingly.

She also stated that the BJD is a large and strong political organisation. “If one person leaves, ten others will join,” she remarked.

Mallik expressed confidence that many people would return to the party in the coming days, further strengthening the organisation.

Odisha CM Mohan Majhi Hails PFBR Milestone at Kalpakkam as Major Boost to India’s Energy Future

Bhubaneswar, 07 April (H.S.): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has praised India’s latest achievement in nuclear energy, calling it a landmark moment in the nation’s scientific and technological progress. In a social media post, Majhi credited the milestone to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that the successful attainment of first criticality at the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) marks a transformative leap in India’s energy journey. He described the development as a testament to India’s scientific excellence and strategic foresight in mastering advanced nuclear technology. The Chief Minister emphasized that the breakthrough would enable the country to unlock the vast potential of thorium-based energy, paving the way for long-term energy security and sustainability. Majhi further stated that the achievement strengthens India’s path toward self-reliance and reinforces its ambition to emerge as a global leader in clean energy. He also extended heartfelt congratulations to the scientists, engineers, and stakeholders involved, acknowledging their dedication and relentless efforts in turning this historic vision into reality.

PhonePe SBI Card Now available with Zero Joining Fee; Offers 5% Rewards on ALL Online Spends

Bhubaneswar : PhonePe announced a limited-time offer on the recently launched PhonePe SBI Card credit card. Aiming to democratize access to premium financial rewards, the card is now being offered completely free for the first year with a zero joining fee. Designed for the modern digital consumer, the PhonePe SBI Card (available on both RuPay and VISA platforms) stands out for online transactions, enabling users to earn rewards on every online purchase. Users can enjoy the premium benefits of the card at no cost for the first year. 5% Rewards on ALL Online Brands: A universal reward structure that ensures users earn on every digital checkout, regardless of the merchant. 10% Rewards on PhonePe Categories: Exceptional savings on routine essentials including Recharges, Utility Payments such as cylinder booking, mobile recharges, and Bill Payments. Save 10% on Insurance: Meaningful rewards on insurance premium payments on the PhonePe platform. 1% Rewards on RuPay Scan n Pay: Even regular UPI spends become fulfilling with 1% rewards on every QR scan. Travel Perks: Complimentary access to Domestic Airport Lounges (up to 4 per year with no spend limits) and Priority Pass membership for 2 years at International Lounges, providing a premium travel

experience to users. Reward points earned on the SBI Card can be used to set off the users’ credit card bill. Each point is worth ₹1, and the total points accumulated can be settled towards the monthly statement bill - helping users save on what they need to pay. All rewards earned are subject to the card’s limits and terms & conditions. The PhonePe SBI Card is available for application directly through the PhonePe app, offering a seamless, digital-first onboarding experience.

IInvenTiv 2026: IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts High-Level Roundtable to Accelerate India’s Research, Development & Innovation Ecosystem

April 7, 2026 : IIT (ISM) Dhanbad successfully hosted a high-level Roundtable on Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) during IInvenTiv 2026, bringing together leading academicians, industry leaders, venture capitalists, and global experts on a unified platform to shape the future of India’s innovation landscape.

The roundtable served as a strategic forum fostering meaningful dialogue between academia and industry, with a

focus on scaling innovation across key sectors and strengthening the pathway from research to real-world applications.

Participants emphasized the importance of creating a seamless innovation pipeline—transforming ideas generated within academic institutions into scalable, market-ready solutions with tangible societal impact. The discussions also highlighted the need for co-creation models, cross-sector partnerships, and stronger global integration.

Ministry of Mines Notifies Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2026 for Faster Operationalisation of Mines and Improving Ease of Doing Business in the Mining Sector

New Delhi (DMS) : The Ministry of Mines has notified the Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2026 on 30th March, 2026 for faster operationalisation of mines. This is the latest step of the Government in series of reforms for enhancing efficiency, transparency, and ease of doing business in the mining sector.

Previously, the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 were amended on 17th October 2025 to, inter alia, introduce intermediary timelines for various activities to be completed after issue of letter of intent (LoI) till execution of mining lease. An amount of 1% of performance security will be appropriated for each month of delay in completion of timelines by the preferred bidder. The said amendment also provided incentives for early operationalisation of mines and for automatic declaration of preferred bidder on completion of auction. The rules also provided that in case the State Government does not issue LoI to the preferred bidder within 30 days of performance security or 1st instalment of upfront amount or both (as applicable) by the bidder, the amount of 2nd instalment of upfront payment payable to the State Government shall reduce

Odia Film Producer Rabi Swain Passes Away at 75 in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, 07 April (H.S.): Odia film producer, industrialist, and social worker Rabi Swain passed away early this morning while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He was 75.

According to sources, Swain had been battling liver-related complications and was under medical care at the time of his demise. His passing marks the end of an era in the Odia film industry, where he made notable contributions through a series of widely appreciated films.

Over the years, he produced several popular Odia movies, including Jora Jara Mulaka Tara directed by Raju Mishra, Ki Heba Shua Poshile directed by Basant Sahu, Panjuri Bhitare Sari directed by Avatar Singh, and Udandi Sita. These films earned significant appreciation from audiences across Odisha.

Beyond cinema, Swain was also a respected educationist and philanthropist. He founded several institutions, including the Kshetramohan Memorial Trust, Om Shanti College of Science and Technology, Kshetramohan ITC, and Daitari ITC, contributing extensively to education and social development, particularly in the Pipili region.



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His demise has cast a shadow of grief over the Pipili area, with many remembering him for his multifaceted contributions to society.

Over Rs.50 Lakh Cash, Gold and Silver Seized in Cattle Smuggling Crackdown: DIG Pinak Mishra

Bhubaneswar, 07 April (H.S.): A large-scale crackdown on alleged cattle smuggling networks is currently underway across the Eastern Range of Odisha, with coordinated police raids conducted in multiple districts. The operation has so far led to the seizure of over ₹50 lakh in cash, large quantities of gold and silver, several vehicles used for transportation, and weapons. Several individuals suspected to be involved in the illegal trade have also been detained.

The operation is being carried out under the supervision of Eastern Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Pinak Mishra. Acting on complaints related to cattle theft and smuggling, police teams conducted simultaneous

searches at multiple locations across Mayurbhanj, Balasore, and Bhadrak districts.

According to officials, the targeted locations were identified following a series of complaints from residents and farmers regarding cattle theft and suspicious transportation activities in the region.

“We had received numerous complaints about cattle theft, and several related incidents had occurred across our range. Based on these inputs, we initiated a coordinated operation under the supervision of the Superintendents of Police of the three districts. The operation is still ongoing,” DIG Mishra said.

Given the scale of the operation, a substantial police



force was deployed to carry out the coordinated raids. The operation involved 18 platoons of police personnel, along with senior officers from multiple

ranks. According to DIG Mishra, the team included eight Additional Superintendents of Police (Add SPs), 17 officers of Deputy

Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank, 25 Inspectors, and 67 Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

Police teams carried out searches at houses and premises suspected to be linked to cattle smuggling networks, with the aim of uncovering financial records, transportation links, and other evidence associated with the illegal trade. During the raids, police recovered substantial amounts of cash and valuables believed to have been generated through illegal cattle smuggling activities.

“So far, we have raided 32 locations and seized over ₹50 lakh in cash. This is a preliminary figure, as counting is still ongoing at some locations,” DIG Mishra stated.

Trump's Eruption

RESTRAINT and moderation are certainly not the strong suits of US President Donald Trump. In the thick of the US-Israel war against Iran, he has vented his growing frustration in an expletive-laden social media post. Peppered with profanity and religious references, Trump's warning to Tehran over the Strait of Hormuz is nothing but an impulsive provocation. Such language is not merely undignified; it is a recipe for disaster. His bluster will only embolden Iran to retaliate more fiercely rather than push it towards the negotiating table.



The US President is giving the impression that the ongoing war is a throwback to the medieval Crusades, which pitted Christians against Muslims for centuries. Playing the religious card to the hilt, he has described the rescue of an American airman in Iran as an "Easter miracle". The invocation of a sacred day in Christianity that symbolises resurrection and hope is a blatant attempt to cast the military operation in moral and divine terms. Such rhetoric risks transforming a complex geopolitical conflict into a simplistic narrative of righteousness.

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Trump's reckless threats can endanger the lives of US defence personnel in West Asia and also derail backchannel diplomatic efforts. Being the most powerful leader in the world, he must realise that his words can cause irreparable damage. Strong leadership demands responsibility as well as clarity. His bid to weaponise faith reeks of sheer desperation; it's a belated admission that he has bitten off much more than he can chew.

Pharma Impact

THE West Asia conflict has stung pharmaceutical hubs in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. These regions, which power a significant share of India's drug manufacturing, particularly through MSMEs, are grappling with a sudden and severe disruption in the supply of key raw materials. At the heart of the crisis lies the sharp escalation in prices of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), solvents and petrochemical derivatives. Many of these inputs are either sourced from or routed through West Asia. With shipping routes under strain and energy prices volatile, costs have surged by as much as 30 per cent in some segments. Packaging materials, often petroleum-based, have also become



costlier, squeezing already thin margins.

But the impact is not confined to factory balance sheets. As highlighted in concerns over migrant vulnerabilities, disruptions in essential supplies like fuel and small LPG cylinders have already begun to affect daily life and worker stability. For pharma units that rely heavily on migrant labour, any such insecurity can translate into workforce disruptions, lower productivity and, in some cases, reverse migration. The industry's resilience is thus tied not only to supply chains but also to the well-being and confidence of its labour force. For Himachal's Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh belt and Haryana's pharma clusters, the fallout is twofold. Production costs have spiked, forcing smaller manufacturers to cut output or absorb losses, while export competitiveness has weakened amid rising logistics costs and delays.

The crisis exposes the vulnerability of India's dependence on imported intermediates and fragile global supply chains. While recent duty relaxations on critical inputs offer temporary relief, deeper reforms, such as diversified sourcing, domestic API capacity and social protections for migrant workers, are imperative. A distant war is testing both India's medicine supply and the stability of those who produce it.

Will Balen heal the wounds of India?



Dr Vijay Darda

Sujata Shah Sejkan, sister of Nepal's new Prime Minister Balen Shah, lives in Bengaluru, India. In an interview with an international news agency immediately after Balen's landslide victory, she remarked that the bonds between India and Nepal are centuries old and no one can embitter them. This is the moment to write a new chapter in India-Nepal relations. If India can fulfil Balen's expectations through respectful cooperation, warmth can be restored in the relationship. The initiative, however, must come from India.

She suggested that recent frictions were merely a temporary phase and expressed optimism for the future. Furthermore, she voiced her conviction that bilateral relations would only truly improve once Balen Shah became Prime Minister.

Sujata's wish has been granted. At just 35, rapper-singer

Balen Shah has assumed the office of Prime Minister. Can we now hope that Balen will attempt to heal the deep wounds inflicted by the turbulent storms in India-Nepal relations over the last decade and a half? Will he succeed in such an attempt? Does he sincerely wish for the relations to be the same as they were before the rise of the Communist Party? What kind of relationship will he maintain with China? Strategically and diplomatically, Nepal remains a vital nation for global superpowers. As a result, many such questions are being raised, in Nepal as well as in other neighbouring countries. However, the people of Nepal have placed immense trust in him. Since 2008, the country has seen a number of coalition governments, but now the people have brought Balen's Rastriya Swatantra Party to power with a significant majority. In short, Balen holds the mandate. He possesses the power to reshape Nepal's destiny.

Immediately after assuming the office of Prime Minister, Balen Shah demonstrated his resolve during his very first cabinet meeting. The Gen Z movement that propelled him to power saw many young lives lost to government gunfire. A commission, headed by Gauri Bahadur Karki, was established to investigate these incidents, and it subsequently submitted its report to the interim government led by Sushila Karki. Balen has



now ordered immediate action based on the commission's recommendations. Following this directive, former Prime Minister and Nepal Communist Party leader KP Sharma Oli, along with former home minister Ramesh Lekhak, were arrested. Oli is a leader known for aligning closely with China, both during and after his tenure; it is often said that the strikingly beautiful Chinese ambassador Hou Yanqi held significant influence over Oli.

Ramesh Lekhak was also seen as a promoter of the Chinese agenda. The arrest of Oli and Lekhak serves as a stern message to Beijing: China should not attempt to turn Nepal into a colony under the guise of leftist solidarity. While China has yet to offer an official reaction, it is undoubtedly monitoring these developments closely. Notably, Balen has

sidelined Chinese interests earlier too. During KP Sharma Oli's premiership, the foundation stone was laid for the Nepal-China Friendship Industrial Park in the Jhapa parliamentary constituency. However, Balen pointedly removed this project, a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), from his election manifesto. These signals suggest that Balen has no intention of operating under China's shadow.

Does this, then, signal a positive turn for India? To a large extent, yes, but India must not assume that distancing itself from China means it will simply embrace India. Two examples of his past conduct warrant attention. As the mayor of Kathmandu, he had banned the film Adipurush because it depicted Sita as the daughter of

India, whereas her birthplace, Janakpur, lies in Nepal. Furthermore, when KP Sharma Oli released a controversial map claiming parts of the Indian state of Uttarakhand as Nepalese territory, Balen not only supported the move but prominently displayed the map in the mayor's office. We must accept that Balen Shah will prioritise actions that fortify his brand of Nepalese nationalism. He will avoid any move that alienates Nepal's youth, while keeping a sharp eye on Nepal's strategic interests.

Nepal is landlocked, sharing a 1,250-kilometre border with India and a 1,414-kilometre border with China. However, the Chinese border consists of high mountains and icy peaks; trade with India is inherently more feasible than with China. Beyond logistics, there is the matter of cultural affinity. Although Balen rarely addresses it explicitly, he is a Madhesi, a group of Indian origin. In contrast, Nepal shares no such deep-rooted social or cultural ties with China. I believe Balen will certainly look towards India with hope. If the Indian government can meet this expectation through respectful cooperation, it will not only heal old wounds but also usher in a fresh breeze of warmth in bilateral ties. This is a new opportunity for both nations to rebuild their relationship. Let us hope all goes well!

Beyond Fluency: Rethinking Spoken English Education

Dr Vijay Garg

Teaching a language requires an understanding of how learners acquire language, how errors can be addressed, and how communicative competence can be developed.

A classroom full of learners stands with their hands over their hearts, repeating in unison: "From today, I will speak only in English. I can speak in English." The exercise resembles a pledge — solemn, collective, and hopeful. For many, it marks the start of a journey toward confidence and self-improvement. Yet, one cannot help but wonder: can fluency in a language truly be achieved through such declarations?

This scene is not unusual. With the onset of the vacation season, several spoken English centres appear across towns and cities, offering attractive packages and persuasive promises. Advertisements assure learners that fluency can be attained within two to three months. Some even guarantee a refund if the goal is not achieved. For students preparing for higher studies or job interviews or looking for social mobility, such claims are difficult to resist since English has become a global necessity and the pressure to acquire it quickly is immense. However, beneath these assurances, lies a more complex reality about how languages are actually learned.

In many centres, training is built around predictable conversational patterns. Learners are taught to introduce themselves, describe their hobbies and discuss their ambitions, and respond to routine questions. These are useful starting points but the method often relies heavily on memorisation. Students internalise fixed sentences and reproduce them with confidence, creating the impression of fluency in controlled environments.

Thinking in English

Yet, language is not a set of ready-made expressions to be recalled on demand. It is a system that must be actively constructed in the mind. The first step in communication occurs in thought, where ideas take shape before being articulated. When learners rely primarily on memorised phrases, they struggle in unfamiliar

situations that require spontaneous expression.

The reliance on translation further complicates this process. In many classrooms, concepts are explained in the regional language and then translated into English. While this may make learning appear easier, it prevents learners from thinking directly in English. Instead, they become dependent on a mental translation process, which slows communication and restricts originality. True fluency emerges only when the language becomes a medium of thought rather than a tool of conversion.

A striking feature of some spoken English programmes is the neglect of essential components of language learning. Grammar, for instance, is often dismissed as unnecessary with the argument that spoken English requires only practice. While an excessive focus on rules can indeed hinder fluency, the absence of grammatical awareness leaves learners without the structural framework needed to form coherent and accurate sentences.

Pronunciation is another overlooked area. Few centres offer systematic training in phonetics, which is crucial to develop clarity and intelligibility. Without this guidance, learners rely on approximations influenced by their first language, leading to persistent errors that can affect academic and personal communication in academic and professional settings.

Equally important is vocabulary. Effective communication depends not merely on confidence but on the availability of words to express thought. Many students, including those educated in English-medium institutions, struggle with limited vocabulary. This restricts their ability to think and articulate ideas in English. Vocabulary building is a gradual process that requires sustained exposure to reading, listening, and meaningful interaction. It cannot be achieved through short-term courses alone.

Quality and regulation

The issue of trainer qualifications raises further concerns. In several centres, instructors are graduates, or even less, with minimal training in language pedagogy and limited professional experience. Teaching a language is not just about speaking it but requires an understanding of how learners acquire language, how errors can be addressed, and how

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This situation bears an unsettling resemblance to the phenomenon of pseudo-medical practitioners who, without proper qualifications, work in clinics or set-up their own practice. Reports of such cases frequently appear in the news, raising serious questions about public safety and professional standards. While the consequences in language education may not be as immediately visible, the long-term impact on learners' confidence and competence can be significant.

It would, however, be unfair to dismiss all spoken English centres. For many learners, especially those who hesitate to speak, these spaces provide an initial platform to overcome fear and build confidence. The concern lies not in their existence but in the methods they employ and the expectations they create.

Given the increasing importance of English in education, employment, and everyday communication, there is a need to view language training as a serious and responsible enterprise. Regulatory oversight could help ensure that centres maintain basic standards. Fluency cannot be packaged, priced, and delivered within a fixed duration. It is cultivated over time, through consistent practice, meaningful exposure, and intellectual engagement.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal? Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

"The Road to 2030: How Skill-Based Learning Can Transform India's Workforce"

Dr Vijay Garg

India stands at a defining moment in its economic journey. With one of the world's youngest populations, the country has the potential to transform its demographic advantage into a powerful engine of growth. Yet, this promise hinges on a critical factor—skills. Bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world employment through vocational education may well determine whether India becomes a global talent powerhouse by 2030.

The Skill Gap Challenge

Despite progress in higher education, India continues to face a significant mismatch between education and employability. A large share of the workforce lacks formal training, with nearly 65% of people never receiving vocational or technical education. At the same time, industries report difficulty finding job-ready talent, highlighting a deep disconnect between academic knowledge and practical skills.

The scale of the challenge is immense. India is projected to need millions of skilled workers every year until 2030, while also facing a potential shortage of around 29 million skilled professionals. Without urgent action, this gap could slow economic growth and limit opportunities for millions of young people.

Vocational Education: The Missing Link

Vocational education offers a direct solution by focusing on hands-on, industry-relevant skills. Unlike traditional academic pathways, it prepares students for specific careers—from manufacturing and healthcare to digital technologies and green energy.

India has already taken steps in this direction through initiatives like the Skill India Mission and a vast network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), which number nearly 15,000 across the country. These institutions play a crucial role in equipping youth with practical skills and improving employability.

Encouragingly, employability levels are rising, reaching over 56% in recent years. However, this progress must accelerate to meet future demands.

The Changing Nature of Work

The future workforce will require more than basic skills.

Rapid technological change is reshaping job roles across industries. By 2030, a majority of workers will need retraining or upskilling, while nearly 40% of current skills may become outdated.

Emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data analytics are already driving demand for new capabilities. Recent insights highlight that these digital skills are becoming essential for employability in India's evolving job market.

Vocational education must therefore move beyond traditional trades and embrace modern, technology-driven training.

Bridging the Classroom–Industry Divide

One of the biggest challenges in India's education system is the lack of alignment with industry needs. Vocational education can bridge this gap by fostering closer collaboration between schools, training institutes, and employers.

Key strategies include: Industry partnerships: Companies can help design curricula and offer internships.

Apprenticeships: Real-world experience ensures students are job-ready.

Flexible learning pathways: Combining academic and vocational streams allows students to explore multiple career options.

Such integration ensures that learning is not just theoretical but directly linked to employment opportunities.

Empowering Youth and Inclusive Growth

Vocational education also plays a crucial role in social inclusion. It provides opportunities for students who may not pursue higher education, enabling them to secure stable livelihoods. Increasing participation of women in skill programs is another positive trend, contributing to a more inclusive workforce.

Moreover, as India expands its manufacturing and service sectors, skilled workers will be essential to drive productivity, innovation, and global competitiveness.

The Road to 2030

To fully harness vocational education, India must:

Expand access to quality training programs

Update curricula to match emerging technologies

Delhi CM Inaugurates 12th India Rubber Expo

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the 12th India Rubber Expo at Bharat Mandapam on Tuesday, extending a warm welcome to representatives from various countries. The expo features participation from over 14 nations, including China, alongside leading international and Indian rubber industry players, organized by the All India Rubber Industries Association from April 7-10—as Asia's largest rubber sector event. In an X post, the Chief Minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership for establishing India as a robust manufacturing powerhouse through 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, positioning the rubber industry as a key pillar. She



highlighted India's entry into the second phase of its civil nuclear program as a historic milestone reflecting scientific prowess, self-reliance, and growing global confidence. The Chief Minister

affirmed the Central government's sustained efforts in accelerating industries, with the Delhi government committed to bolstering investment, innovation, and an industry-friendly ecosystem.

Government Doubles Supply Quota for 5-Kg LPG Cylinders, Easing Burden on Migrant Workers and Students

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Amid supply disruptions in cooking gas triggered by ongoing conflicts in West Asia, the Central government has announced a doubling of the quota for 5-kilogram Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders. This measure primarily benefits migrant workers and students who migrate from villages to cities for jobs or education and rely on these connection-free small cylinders for cooking. According to a notification from the Petroleum Ministry, the enhanced quota is calculated by doubling the average daily supply of these cylinders to open markets on March 2 and 3. These 5-kg FTL cylinders will be distributed exclusively to migrants through state food and civil supplies departments, requiring only a valid identity proof—no permanent address or gas connection needed. This accessibility proves especially vital for transient city dwellers



like outstation laborers and students in rented accommodations. Since the West Asia conflict began, the government has intensified efforts to secure petroleum product availability, including petrol, diesel, and LPG. Officials have reiterated ample stocks at distributor points, with over 5.1

million domestic cylinders delivered on April 4 alone, and urged the public to avoid panic buying, shun rumors, and use digital booking platforms. Priority has also been assigned to domestic LPG, piped natural gas (PNG), hospitals, and educational institutions to prevent shortages in critical sectors.

PM Modi Calls for Building a Healthy Society on World Health Day

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt greetings to the nation on World Health Day, reaffirming his commitment to constructing a healthy society. He expressed profound gratitude to all those who tirelessly serve others and work towards a healthier planet. The Prime Minister emphasized that healthy citizens are essential for a strong and robust nation. Urging collective efforts in this direction, he stressed prioritizing the well-being of every individual and the need for sustained action



Air India and Air India Express to Operate 32 Flights to West Asia Today Amid Crisis

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Amid the West Asia crisis, Tata Group-led Air India and Air India Express will jointly operate a total of 32 scheduled and non-scheduled flights to and from the region today. IndiGo will also maintain its select services. India's two largest airlines, Air India and IndiGo, issued travel advisories on Tuesday for flights to and from West Asia on April 7, detailing revised schedules and rebooking options for passengers. Middle East airspace disruptions continue to impact travel. The airlines announced adjustments to flights serving Dubai, Jeddah, and Abu Dhabi, urging passengers to confirm bookings before heading to airports. The Air India group stated that both carriers will run 32 regular and irregular flights connecting India with West Asia. Of these, 16 flights are non-



scheduled services to and from the United Arab Emirates, approved by Indian and UAE regulators.

Operations remain subject to departure stations.

Chhattisgarh CM presents Bastar 2.0 development blueprint to PM Modi

Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and presented a development blueprint for the Bastar region focusing on tourism, start-ups, infrastructure and innovation. During the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted the improvement in the security situation in Bastar and outlined a roadmap aimed at accelerating economic growth, improving connectivity and strengthening basic infrastructure in the region. He also invited the Prime Minister to visit Bastar after the monsoon for the foundation laying and inauguration of key development projects. The development plan includes completion of pending works under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by 2027, construction of 228 new roads and 267 bridges and proposals for additional projects seeking central assistance. The Chief Minister also highlighted initiatives to



strengthen education and healthcare infrastructure, including upgrading residential schools, expansion of primary health centres and development of advanced medical facilities in the region. In the irrigation sector, projects on the Indravati River are expected to expand irrigation coverage and strengthen

agricultural productivity. A three-year livelihood plan has also been outlined with the objective of increasing household incomes and improving economic stability in the region. The Chief Minister said the Niyad Nellanar 2.0 initiative is being expanded to additional districts to ensure wider delivery of development benefits

and government welfare schemes. To promote entrepreneurship, a startup policy has been introduced with a target of supporting 5,000 startups by 2030 to encourage innovation and employment generation. Tourism development plans include infrastructure improvement at major waterfalls and national parks in Bastar along with promotion of adventure tourism to attract more visitors. The Bastar Munne initiative will organise camps in gram panchayats to improve access to government services, facilitate delivery of welfare schemes and ensure grievance redressal at the local level. Among the major projects proposed during the Prime Minister's expected visit are railway connectivity expansion, airport development, a super speciality hospital, a medical college and education infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening regional growth.

Prime Minister Modi Congratulates Vietnam's New President To Lam

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt congratulations to To Lam on Tuesday for his election as President of Vietnam. PM Modi expressed confidence that under Lam's leadership, the friendship between India and Vietnam will further strengthen. In a post on the social media platform X, he voiced optimism about collaborating with President Lam to advance the progress and prosperity of both nations and the region. He emphasized that India-Vietnam ties will grow even more robust in the future, opening new avenues of cooperation. Notably, To Lam, aged 69, was



unanimously elected by Vietnam's National Assembly during its 16th session for a 2026-2031 term, committing to serve five years on the post. Following the election,

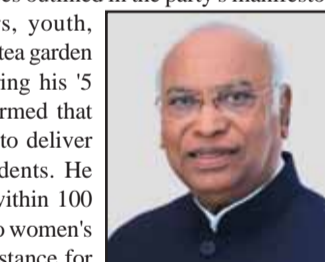
he took the oath of office on Tuesday as per the constitution, pledging unwavering loyalty to the country, its people, and the constitution.

Prime Minister Pays Tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur on Prakash Parv

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid heartfelt tribute to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur on the occasion of his Prakash Parv on Tuesday. Describing this great spiritual luminary as an inspiration to India's civilization, he recalled the Guru's timeless ideals. A message on X, PM Modi stated that Guru Tegh Bahadur's life exemplifies unparalleled courage, sacrifice, and profound sensitivity towards humanity. Even in adverse circumstances, he steadfastly protected truth, dignity, and faith, guiding society on the righteous path. The Prime Minister emphasized that Guru Tegh Bahadur's eternal message remains profoundly relevant today. It inspires us to build a just, compassionate, and harmonious society.

Kharge Reminds Assam of Congress Guarantees, Promises Benefits for All Sections

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge reminded the people of Assam of the guarantees outlined in the party's manifesto, stating they will benefit farmers, youth, women, small business owners, and tea garden workers alike. In a post on X sharing his '5 Pratisrutti' campaign, Kharge affirmed that Congress will take concrete steps to deliver justice and relief to Assam's residents. He pledged justice for Zubeen Garg within 100 days, unconditional cash transfers to women's bank accounts, and Rs 50,000 assistance for women starting or expanding businesses. Kharge announced free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh for every family, permanent land pattas for 10 lakh indigenous sons of the soil, and a monthly pension of Rs 1,250 for senior citizens. He emphasized that these guarantees aim to strengthen the state's social and economic fabric, providing direct benefits to every section of society.



Government Extends TRP Suspension for News Channels Amid West Asia Crisis



New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): The Central government has extended the suspension of Television Rating Points (TRP) for TV news channels by another four weeks. This measure aims to curb speculation and sensationalism during the ongoing crisis. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting directed the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to halt TRP reporting following the dissemination of inaccurate and fabricated news during the Israel-Iran conflict, preventing panic among the public. The ministry's order noted that certain news channels were broadcasting war scenarios in an unnecessarily sensational manner. Such content risks creating confusion and fear, particularly heightening anxiety among families of those in affected regions. During this period, channels' performance will not be evaluated through standard TRP processes. Notably, the government had initially ordered a four-week TRP suspension for news channels on March 6 in view of the West Asia crisis.

India's Healthcare Exemplifies Integration of Traditional Knowledge and Modern Medicine: JP Nadda

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): On World Health Day, Union Health Minister JP Nadda urged people across India to stay vigilant about their health and adopt balanced lifestyles. In a message shared on X today, he described India's healthcare system as a prime example of harmonizing traditional wisdom with modern medicine, contributing to better lives both domestically and globally. Nadda highlighted transformative changes in the health sector under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana have made treatment more accessible and affordable for the poor and needy, benefiting millions nationwide. He commended the contributions of doctors, nurses,



and frontline health workers, crediting their dedication for strengthening the country's health infrastructure. Nadda called for collaborative efforts from government and society to build a healthier, more robust India. Notably,

World Health Day is observed annually on April 7 to commemorate the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948. The day aims to raise global awareness about health issues and promote improved healthcare services worldwide.

US-Israel Strike Hits Iran's Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility as Trump Issues Strait Ultimatum

Tehran/Washington, 7/4 (H.S.): Iran has acknowledged a US-Israel attack on its nuclear fuel cycle center amid the 38-day war, while panic grips the nation over America's threat to devastate the country if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed past Tuesday's deadline.



hit on its reactor fuel supply chain, vowing that Iran's nuclear program for peace and humanity will persist despite heavy bombardment—though details on timing or damage remain undisclosed.

striking enemy nations and allies. Israel reported pre-dawn strikes Tuesday on Tehran and other areas, targeting Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps bases, missile sites, and petrochemical plants via missiles, rockets, and drones, per The Times of Israel, CBS News, and Al Jazeera.

International Airport—a near-daily target. Monday's US-Israel attacks across Iran killed at least 34, as Iranian missiles and drones continued hitting key Gulf sites.

to the Stone Age overnight, with Trump's national security team—including VP JD Vance, Secretary Marco Rubio, envoy Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law Jared Kushner—pushing talks.

Nepal Supreme Court Challenged Over Government Ban on Private Media Ads



Kathmandu, 7/4(H.S.):Nepal's government decision to withhold state advertisements from private media outlets faces a legal challenge in the Supreme Court.

Secretariat, the directive mandates that all government advertisements appear exclusively in state-owned media, extending instructions to federal ministries, other agencies, provinces, and local bodies.

Nepal Recalls Ambassadors to Six Countries, Including India, Over Political Appointments

Kathmandu, 7/4 (H.S.):The Nepal government has decided to recall ambassadors appointed on political grounds to six countries, including India, following approval in a recent Cabinet meeting.

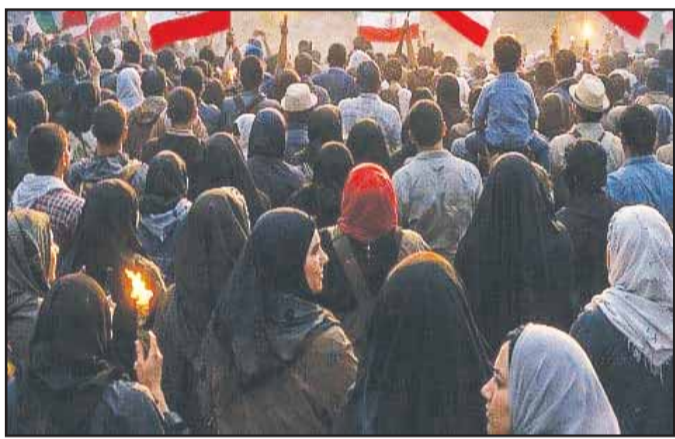


to Nepal, effectively ending their remaining terms. The government plans to initiate appointments for these vacant diplomatic posts

soon, with parliamentary hearing committees required to vet nominees before agreement requests are sent to host countries.

Iran Urges Youth to Form Human Chains Around Power Plants Amid Trump's Strait Ultimatum

Tehran/Washington, 7/4(H.S.): Iran has mobilized in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's stark warning that failure to reopen the Strait of Hormuz by Tuesday night could lead to strikes obliterating the country's public infrastructure, including power plants.



Bright Future" as a unified stand across beliefs, signaling that attacks on critical infrastructure

constitute war crimes. Trump reiterated that Iran could be "completely destroyed in one

night," possibly Tuesday, tying the threat to Tehran's actions amid a fragile situation. He dismissed concerns over civilian hardship, claiming readiness to endure it if it secures Iranian freedom.

Artemis II Astronauts Triumph Over Lunar Blackout in Historic Flyby

Houston, 7/4(H.S.):NASA's Artemis II crew reestablished contact with mission control after a planned 40-minute communications blackout, marking a pivotal moment during their groundbreaking lunar flyby mission.

capabilities following its April 1 launch from Kennedy Space Center. Hansen challenged future explorers to eclipse this milestone swiftly.

understanding of lunar features during the ongoing observation phase set to conclude around 9:20 p.m. ET. Emotional Tributes and Mission Milestones

Israel Launches Pre-Dawn Strikes on Tehran Amid Escalating US-Iran Conflict

Tehran/Tel Aviv/Washington, 7/4, 2026 (HS): The US-Israel joint military campaign against Iran, initiated on February 28, has intensified into its 39th day, with Israel conducting heavy pre-dawn airstrikes on Tehran and surrounding areas on Tuesday.



of Hormuz by Tuesday's deadline would prompt destruction of Iran's power plants and bridges within hours.

Trump's national security team including Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, envoy Steve Witkoff, and adviser Jared Kushner.

"To the Victor Belong the Spoils": Trump's Transactional Vision Turns Iran's Oil Into Strategic Bargaining Chip

Washington, 7/4(H.S.):U.S. President Donald Trump has publicly floated the idea that the United States could seize and monetise Iranian oil reserves as a potential outcome of the current military escalation.

Zelensky Stands Firm on Energy Truce as Russia Hammers Odesa Port

Kyiv, 7/4 (H.S.):Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has reiterated his proposal for a mutual ceasefire targeting energy infrastructure, conveyed to Russia via U.S. intermediaries.

diplomatic efforts. The overture follows a deadly overnight Russian drone barrage on Odesa, the vital Black Sea port city, which claimed three lives—including two women and a toddler—and inflicted severe damage on residential structures and port operations.



designed Shahed drones on civilian and energy targets. Kremlin spokespeople have insisted on Zelensky's personal accountability for any accord, while Ukrainian advances against Russian oil infrastructure highlight the escalating tit-for-tat dynamics.

Jindal Steel Leads India's Coal Gasification Revolution for Energy Self-Reliance & Sustainable Steel

New Delhi, 7/4(DMS): Jindal Steel has pioneered the use of swadeshi coal through advanced coal gasification, significantly strengthening India's energy security while enabling low-carbon steel production. The company achieved a global first by establishing India's first coal gasification-based Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant, using syngas for iron-making. In response to shortages of natural gas, LPG, and propane, Jindal Steel has now successfully deployed syngas in galvanising and colour coating line furnaces—marking the first such application in the steel industry. This has helped the company better mitigate fuel shortages in these unprecedented times.



Further strengthening its leadership, Jindal Steel has pioneered syngas injection into its blast furnace, reducing dependence on imported coking coal and lowering carbon emissions per tonne of steel. This integrated deployment of syngas across the steelmaking value chain sets a new benchmark for

efficiency, sustainability, and energy self-reliance. The forward-looking policies and incentives of the Government of India—including the National Coal Gasification Mission, are expected to accelerate the adoption of coal gasification technologies and support the country's push towards energy self-

reliance. Mr. P.K. Biju Nair, Executive Director Angul, Jindal Steel, said: "Synthesis gas from swadeshi coal can replace imported methanol, ammonia, ammonium nitrate, and LNG. India must utilise its vast coal reserves to future-proof low-carbon growth and reduce forex outflow. Coal gasification, coupled with CCUS, will lower emission intensity, support CBAM compliance, and strengthen our export competitive ness". By harnessing swadeshi coal and deploying advanced clean coal gasification technologies, Jindal Steel is advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat while delivering sustainable and cost-competitive steel production.

RBI Governor to Announce MPC Review Outcomes Tomorrow at 10 AM

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) continues its three-day review meeting on the second day amid the West Asia crisis. The meeting began on Monday, with Governor Sanjay Malhotra scheduled to unveil decisions tomorrow at 10 AM. RBI confirmed via an X post that the monetary policy announcement is set for April 8, 2026. Governor Malhotra will disclose the meeting outcomes at 10 AM on Wednesday. Chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, this session unfolds amid challenging conditions from global tensions and rising oil prices. As the first three-



day review for FY 2026-27, it runs through April 8, with economists anticipating the repo rate will hold steady at 5.25%. Economists expect RBI to maintain the repo rate at 5.25% amid global uncertainties, elevated crude prices, and currency pressures. The review will address policy interest rates

and inflation.

The repo rate is the interest rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to banks, directly impacting loans, EMIs, savings, and investments. The last MPC in February 2026 kept it unchanged at 5.25%, following 125 basis points of cuts since February 2025—the final reduction in December 2025.

Stock Market Recovers from Early Losses Despite Pressure, Sensex and Nifty Show Improvement

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): India's domestic stock market opened weak today but staged a recovery from early lows during initial trading. Both Sensex and Nifty indices plunged at the opening bell before buyers stepped in, gradually improving their trajectory.

By 10 AM, Sensex traded 0.28% lower while Nifty slipped 0.37%. Among heavyweight stocks, Hindalco Industries, Wipro, ONGC, Bajaj Finance, and Coal India gained between 0.72% and 3.28%. In contrast, Max Healthcare, InterGlobe Aviation, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Eicher



Motors declined from 1.86% to 2.65%. Out of 2,649 active stocks, 1,387 traded in the green while 1,262 remained in the red. Within Sensex's 30 stocks, 11 showed gains from buying support, but 19 faced selling pressure. Nifty's 50 stocks

saw 14 advances against 36 declines. BSE Sensex opened 372.49 points down at 75,734.36, sliding further to 73,282.41—a 824.44-point drop—before recovering to 73,902.58, down 204.27 points by 10 AM.

Global Markets Send Mixed Signals, Asian Trading Remains Cautious

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Global markets presented mixed cues today, with US indices closing higher in the previous session but Dow Jones futures trading lower. European markets remained closed for a holiday, while Asian bourses showed divided performance. Monday's two peace proposals to halt the West Asia conflict sparked optimism on Wall Street. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 165.21 points or 0.36% to close at 46,669.88. The S&P 500 rose 0.44% to 6,611.83, while Nasdaq climbed 117.16 points or



0.54% to 21,996.34. However, Iran's rejection of both proposals weighed on sentiment today. Dow Jones futures fell 0.15%

to 46,601.01 amid renewed concerns. Asian markets traded mixed, with five of nine major indices in green while three declined.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng remained flat due to a holiday. GIFT Nifty dropped 152.50 points or 0.66% to 22,848.50, Straits Times fell 0.28% to 4,958.44, and Nikkei slipped 64.68 points or 0.12% to 53,349. In contrast, Kospi advanced 0.22% to 5,462.05, SET Composite gained 0.28% to 1,458, Taiwan Weighted surged 1.49% or 485.02 points to 33,057.45, Jakarta Composite rose 0.42% to 7,019.08, and Shanghai Composite edged up 0.03% to 3,881.17.

Vivid Electromech Debuts at Premium on Stock Market, Rewarding IPO Investors

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Shares of Vivid Electromech, a manufacturer of low and medium voltage electrical panels and automation systems, made a modest premium entry on the stock market today. Issued at ₹555 per share through its IPO, the stock listed at ₹565 on the NSE SME platform, marking a 1.80% gain. Post-listing buying pushed shares to a high of ₹593.25, though profit-taking later caused a pullback. By 11:50 AM, shares traded at ₹567, leaving IPO investors with a 2.16% or ₹12 per share profit. The ₹130.54 crore IPO, open from March 25-30, saw tepid response with 1.06x overall subscription. Qualified



institutional buyers subscribed 1.95x their portion, non-institutional investors 1.50x, while retail investors managed only 0.36x. The offering

included 18.84 lakh fresh shares worth ₹105 crore and an offer-for-sale of 4.68 lakh shares valued at ₹25.54 crore. Proceeds will fund a new

manufacturing unit, debt reduction, working capital, and general corporate purposes. Vivid Electromech showed robust growth per its SEBI-filed DRHP. Net profit rose from ₹6 lakh in FY23 to ₹4.28 crore in FY24 and ₹20.24 crore in FY25, with H1 FY26 (Apr-Sep 2025) at ₹9.44 crore. Revenue climbed from ₹59.63 crore (FY23) to ₹89.55 crore (FY24) and ₹155.77 crore (FY25), reaching ₹70.89 crore in H1 FY26. Debt fluctuated, ending at ₹14.17 crore in H1 FY26, while net worth grew to ₹37.03 crore. EBITDA surged from ₹1.76 crore (FY23) to ₹28.39 crore (FY25), with reserves and surplus at ₹44.23 crore by H1 FY26.

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): Gold prices opened lower in early trading at the domestic bullion market today, while silver rates showed no change. The decline pushed 24-carat gold to trade between ₹1,50,650 and ₹1,50,800 per 10 grams across most markets, with 22-carat gold ranging from ₹1,38,090 to ₹1,38,240 per 10 grams. In Delhi, 24-carat gold traded at ₹1,50,800 per 10 grams, and 22-carat at ₹1,38,240. Mumbai saw 24-carat at ₹1,50,650 and 22-carat at ₹1,38,090 per 10 grams, while Ahmedabad recorded ₹1,50,700 for 24-carat and ₹1,38,140 for 22-carat. Chennai and Kolkata both quoted 24-carat gold at ₹1,50,650



and 22-carat at ₹1,38,090 per 10 grams. Bhopal listed 24-carat at ₹1,50,700 and 22-carat at ₹1,38,140, matching Patna's rates. Lucknow, Jaipur, and Patna saw 24-carat gold at ₹1,50,800 and 22-carat at ₹1,38,240 per 10 grams in Lucknow and Jaipur. Silver held steady at Monday's level of

2,49,900 per kilogram in Delhi's bullion market. Weakness extended to Karnataka, Telangana, and Odisha, where Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar quoted 24-carat gold at ₹1,50,650 and 22-carat at ₹1,38,090 per 10 grams.

Government Prepares 2.5 Lakh Crore Special Credit Guarantee Scheme to Aid Industries

New Delhi, 7/4 (H.S.): The ongoing conflict in West Asia continues to pressure India's economy, severely impacting manufacturing, supply, and service sectors. In response to this crisis, the Central government is poised to

announce a major relief package soon. Authorities have finalized the draft for the Special Credit Guarantee Scheme, valued at ₹2.5 lakh crore. Expected to receive Cabinet approval shortly, this package draws inspiration from the 2020

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) during the COVID-19 pandemic but features a significantly larger scope and budget. Experts indicate the scheme will provide financial assistance to all sectors affected by the war,

particularly those grappling with disrupted supply chains and escalated costs. The initiative aims to alleviate liquidity crunches through targeted support. Under the package, the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) will

offer a 90% credit guarantee on loans to companies. This means the government will cover 90% of banks' losses if borrowing firms default on repayments, enabling banks to lend confidently without additional collateral requirements. Like

ECLGS, no extra security or guarantees will be needed from borrowers. The scheme proposes a four-year tenure, with up to one year moratorium on principal repayment while mandating regular interest payments. Unlike the MSME-focused ECLGS,

this relief extends beyond micro, small, and medium enterprises to all war-impacted sectors. A substantial portion remains reserved for MSMEs to combat liquidity issues, alongside aid for firms facing raw material shortages and import-export hurdles.

