

# Dumani Mail

Published simultaneously from Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha) and New Delhi.



## Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar takes oath as Rajya Sabha member



New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today took oath as Rajya Sabha member. Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath to Nitish Kumar in the Parliament House.

Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha J P Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Samrat Choudhary among others present on the occasion.

## Supreme Court dismisses plea seeking direction to Centre to stop caste Census

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today dismissed a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to stop the caste Census. The bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi dismissed the plea, which also sought a direction to the Centre to formulate policies to provide economic incentives to families with a single child.



On 2nd February, the top court had refused to entertain a separate PIL questioning the procedure to be adopted to record, classify and verify the caste data of citizens in the 2027 general Census. The 2027 Census, officially the 16th national census, will be the first to include comprehensive caste enumeration since 1931, and it will also be the country's first fully digital census.

## President Droupadi Murmu nominates former Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh to the Upper House



New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has nominated former Deputy Chairman of the Upper House Harivansh as a Rajya Sabha member. The tenure of Harivansh as a member of the Upper Houses ended yesterday. He has been nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha after the vacancy was created following the retirement of former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. The Ministry of Home Affairs today issued a notification in this regard.

## Allahabad HC judge Justice Yashwant Varma resigns

New Delhi: Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, facing impeachment proceedings after wads of burnt currency notes were found at his residence here, has submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, sources said on Friday.



"Your Excellency, While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of Judge of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, with immediate effect. It has been an honour to serve in this office," the resignation letter sent to the President on April 9 said.

Justice Varma was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after burnt wads of currency notes were found at his official residence in New Delhi on March 14 last year.

# Delhi Police bust major ISI-backed espionage-terror module; 11 arrested

New Delhi: The Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Friday busted a major espionage network allegedly operated by Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the banned outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and arrested 11 persons connected with it.

As a result of the crackdown, 11 individuals were arrested from various places in Delhi and Punjab. Police said they had been installing cameras across different parts of the country.

According to police, the accused were in direct

contact with Pakistan-based handlers through encrypted applications and were receiving instructions to carry out espionage and subversive activities targeting national security.

In the first operation, six accused were arrested and nine solar-powered CCTV cameras installed near sensitive security and defence establishments were recovered. These cameras were transmitting live feeds to Pakistan-based handlers through mobile applications.

Police also recovered four pistols, including three PX5 foreign-made



weapons and one country-made pistol, along with 24 live cartridges. Investigations revealed

that the module was being funded through UPI transactions, with a portion of the funds coming from

illegal arms smuggling.

In the second operation, acting on inputs from military intelligence, five more accused were arrested from Punjab. They were involved in conducting reconnaissance of sensitive Army and paramilitary installations and sharing photos and videos with Pakistan-based handlers.

During the investigation, it was also found that the network was involved in radicalising and recruiting youths for terror activities, espionage, and arms trafficking.

Police said that the accused had installed

CCTV cameras at multiple locations across states including Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, to monitor sensitive areas.

The probe further revealed that the module was planning possible terror attacks, including grenade attacks on security establishments, which have now been averted.

Further investigation is underway to identify other members of the network and uncover the full extent of the conspiracy.

A similar network was also busted in Ghaziabad just a few days ago.

## Delhi CM advocates women's reservation in legislature, joins signature campaign at DU

New Delhi: March 10 Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday participated in a signature campaign at Delhi University's (DU) Faculty of Arts in support of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Act), where she highlighted the need to enhance women's participation in governance and policymaking.

Speaking on the act, Gupta said, "I often wonder why we all need this



reservation. Every person, every woman, every

daughter may not be able to reach this far on their own through normal courses. But today, women should play a much bigger role in running this country, in administration, in policy-making."

Gupta said meaningful change can be achieved only when women occupy decision-making positions, enabling them to address issues that directly affect society, families and their own lives.

## Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project Put on Hold, Not Cancelled: Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): The proposed Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project has not been scrapped but temporarily put on hold, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra clarified on Friday amid intensifying political debate.

The clarification follows recent concerns raised by Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, which brought renewed focus on the status of the project. Responding

to the issue, the minister said the proposal is still under consideration by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and no final decision has been taken.

Mahapatra noted that the Bhubaneswar Metro Corporation office continues to function, indicating that the project has not been abandoned. He added that the plan is currently under review, with discussions ongoing regarding its structure and implementation.

"The project is under

consideration, and an inter-ministerial committee is examining all aspects. Any decision will be taken in the best interest of the people," the minister said.

He further stated that the earlier metro plan had several shortcomings and was not considered viable. The government is also exploring the development of a bypass and preparing a comprehensive urban mobility plan, based on which further steps will be taken.

## 5 rescued after fire breaks out at house in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Five people and two pet dogs were



rescued after a fire broke out at a residential building in Delhi's Chander Vihar on Friday, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

The (DFS) received a call about the blaze at 11:32 am. The fire broke out on the ground floor of a six-storey building.

## MCD targets removal of 1.41 lakh MT silt before monsoon

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has targeted to remove 1.41 lakh metric tonnes of silt from drains by June 30 as part of its annual desilting exercise from city drains ahead of the monsoon, officials said on Friday. The civic body has allocated a budget of approximately Rs 36 crore for the exercise this year, covering around 545 km of drains that are wider than four feet in the national capital, they said. According to the officials, about 16 per cent of the desilting work has been completed so far, while most of the tenders for the project have already been awarded.



# Life imprisonment for the rapist

Keonjhar: Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra today sentenced Shibu Maharana (35) to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000 in the rape case of a 13 year old tribal girl. Un payment of fine, the court ordered one year more in prison. The court has ordered to pay the

victim, the fine money collected from the convict. According to Special Public Prosecutor Patitapaban Natha who is handling the case on behalf of the government the victim was wandering around. At that time, Shibu Maharana, the convict from her village promised to marry her and

had sexual relations with her without her consent several times in different places. He had sexual relations with her in an abandoned house near the Karanja bus stand and Shiva Temple premises in her village, under the town police station. She could not tell anyone because he threatened to kill her. When

she became pregnant on 18 May, 2025 she lodged a complaint in Town police station. In this regard, the Town Police Station registered a case under Section 6 of POCSO act and arrested the accused. Keonjhar SDPO Sudarshan Gangoi supervised the incident. "The court passed

the above sentences today based on the statements of 14 witnesses and the police investigation report. Similarly, the court recommended that the District Legal Services Authority to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the victim" said Special Public Prosecutor. (EOM)

## Indian LPG vessel 'Green Asha' carrying 15,400 tonnes of LPG crossed Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi: An India-flagged LPG vessel 'Green Asha' carrying 15,400 tonnes of LPG has successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and reached Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), marking a key milestone amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. According to a government statement shared on social media, the vessel has moored at JNPA's liquid berth operated by BPCL-IOCL on Thursday.

It stated, "Green Asha --an India-flagged LPG vessel that has successfully crossed the #StraitofHormuz, has moored at JNPA's liquid berth operated by BPCL-IOCL today". The arrival is significant as it is the first such LPG vessel to reach JNPA since the onset of the war involving Iran, the United States, and Israel.

The government stated that the vessel, its cargo, and all crew members are safe and secure. It added that the

successful arrival highlights the resilience of maritime operations in ensuring uninterrupted energy supplies even under complex geopolitical conditions. "This arrival highlights the ability of maritime operations to function amid complex geopolitical conditions while ensuring the steady supply of essential LPG to the nation," the government said. Meanwhile, Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, reiterated that the LPG supply situation in the country remains stable despite the ongoing tensions.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Mittal said that vessels have continued to arrive through the Strait of Hormuz without disruption.

"Ships have been continuously coming even when there was a blockage. It takes its normal travel time. We are not talking about any delay in crossing the Strait," he said.

## Sr. BJP leader Nikunja Kishore Pattnaik nominated as BJP state executive member

Khordha-10/4- BJP state president Manmohan Samal today announced the list of names of state executive members, special invitees members and permanent invitee members. Nikunja Kishore Pattnaik, a senior BJP leader from Khordha and an active member of BJP, has been nominated as a state executive member. There has been a wave of joy in the local area after the announcement. He worked as an active member of RSS, from 1975-1994 and has been working for BJP since 1994 till date. Mr. Pattnaik was the



key role of the election campaign of Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP and Khordha MLA

during the 2024 general elections. He expressed gratitude to State President Manmohan Samal, State Organization Secretary Manas Ranjan Mohanty, Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP, Aparajita Sarangi, Khordha MLA Prasanta Jagdev for being nominated as a state executive member by the BJP party. He received congratulations from various quarters after nominated as BJP state executive member. Mr. Pattnaik said that he worked hard to work the strengthen of BJP party from the grassroots level.

## POCSO court ordered 20 years' imprisonment for the rapist.

Keonjhar: Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra today sentenced Shibu Maharana (35) to 20 years in prison and a fine of Rs 20,000 in the rape case of a 13-year-old tribal girl. For non payment of fine money, the court ordered one year more in prison. The court has ordered to pay the victim, the fine money collected from the convict. According to Special Public Prosecutor Patitapaban Natha who is handling the case on behalf of the government the victim was wandering around. At that time, Shibu Maharana, the convict from her village promised to marry her and had sexual relations with her without her consent several times in different places. He had sexual relations with her in an abandoned house near the Karanja bus stand and Shiva Temple premises in her village, under the town police station. She could not tell anyone because he threatened to kill her. When she became pregnant on 18 May, 2025 she lodged a complaint in Town police station. In this regard, the Town Police Station registered a case under Section 6 of POCSO act and arrested the accused. Keonjhar SDPO Sudarshan Gangoi supervised the incident.

"The court passed the above sentences today based on the statements of 14 witnesses and the police investigation report. Similarly, the court recommended that the District Legal Services Authority to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the victim" said Special Public Prosecutor. (EOM)

## A Memorial Meeting in Remembrance of Sadananda Tripathy Organized by Fakirmohan Golei Sahitya Khati



Balasure, April 10 : A condolence meeting was organized by Fakirmohan Golei Sahitya Khati at 'Shrikaksha' near ADM Square in Balasure, mourning the demise of noted Odia short story writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Sadananda Tripathy.

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of poet Utpal Mohanty.

Paying tribute to the departed writer, speakers including Prasanta Das, Srideb, Gangadhar Biswal, Nibaran Jena, and Dr. Laxmikanta Tripathy shared their personal associations with him. They highlighted his distinct identity as a literary critic, organizer, and an eloquent speaker.

As many of the speakers had close personal ties with Sadananda Tripathy, they reflected on how their relationships began and continued meaningfully over time.

Anjan Chand, Sanjay Panda, Shashiranjali Mallik, Smruti Das and others spoke about his life and literary contributions. They also expressed the view that the recognition and awards he received should have come much earlier.

Chairperson Utpal Mohanty, in his address, emphasized the need to organize similar memorial meetings at various places and to encourage deeper discussions on Tripathy's short stories. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Rajesh Giri.

# Alleged Land Classification Scam in NLC Coal Block Raises Questions in Sambalpur

Sambalpur-09/04(DMS) Serious allegations have surfaced regarding irregularities in land classification during the transfer of land to NLC India Limited for the Talabira II and III coal mining projects in Odisha's Sambalpur district.

According to reports, large parcels of land—valued at nearly ₹200 crore—were allegedly misclassified to facilitate their transfer to the company. Land that has long been recorded as "Patharabani" (rocky land) in official records, including the government's Bhulekh portal and Jharsuguda tehsil documents since 1980, was reportedly shown as "Patita" (wasteland) in company records. This discrepancy has raised serious concerns about possible manipulation by certain



officials. Locals allege that some government authorities, in alleged collusion with corporate interests, altered land categories to reduce the financial liabilities associated with land acquisition.

The issue came to light after villagers from Malda, Rampur, and Patrapali filed complaints

with the district administration. They questioned how land consistently classified as "Patharabani" could suddenly be changed to "Patita" during the acquisition process.

Notably, while both categories can be used for mining, "Patharabani" land attracts

*The land in question includes about 327,240 acres across six plots under Khata No. 165 in Patrapali village. Despite official records indicating otherwise, the company reportedly treated the land as wasteland.*

significantly higher royalties. Due to the alleged reclassification, the state government is believed to have suffered a potential revenue loss of around ₹200 crore over the total leased area of approximately 1038.187 hectares.

The land in question includes about 327,240 acres across six plots under Khata No. 165 in Patrapali village. Despite official records indicating otherwise, the company reportedly treated the land as wasteland. Villagers have warned

of strong protests if corrective measures are not taken. They have demanded proper reclassification of the land and compensation to the state exchequer. Additionally, they have opposed tree felling in green belt and safety zones within the lease area, warning of serious consequences if environmental norms are violated.

Following the complaints, the district administration has taken note of the issue, and an investigation is expected. The matter has reportedly caused concern among officials involved, as well as the company. With tensions rising, all eyes are now on the district authorities to uncover the truth, fix accountability, and address growing public discontent.

## Youth seriously injured in bear attack and hospitalised

Keonjhar: A 36 year old man of Kolimati village in Anandpur block, Keonjhar district, has been seriously injured in a wild bear attack and admitted to Anandpur sub divisional hospital for treatment. The man is identified as Prakash Barik (36). According to sources, Prakash was working near the Kantogadia pond when a wild bear suddenly appeared and attacked him. During

the attack, the bear bit and clawed him on various parts of his body including to his private part, caused serious injuries. Hearing the screams, the locals reached the spot and found him lying in a bloody state. They immediately rescued and took him to Anandpur Sub Divisional Hospital for treatment. He is undergoing treatment there and condition is stable.

## Tata Steel Foundation enables Sanjapada Women to Build Sustainable Livelihoods from Palm Leaves

Meramandali : In the serene village of Sanjapada in Hindol block of Dhenkanal district, where palm trees have flourished for generations, a quiet transformation is underway led by women who are turning tradition into opportunity and skills into self-reliance. For years, the abundant palm leaves in the region remained an underutilized resource, despite their deep cultural roots in Odisha's heritage, once used for sacred manuscripts, horoscopes, and artistic depictions of epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Today, these same leaves are being reimagined as products of value and pride.

This transformation began when Tata Steel Foundation, under its Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship (WEE) project, introduced a four-month palm leaf value addition training programme for 25 women shareholders of the Gruhalaxmi Cooperative Society in Sanjapada Panchayat.

The training opened new doors. Women who had never engaged in income-generating activities began crafting coasters, bookmarks, and stitched palm leaf mats, learning not just a skill, but a pathway to independence. During the programme, each participant earned ₹3,000, marking their first step towards financial empowerment.

The journey didn't stop at skill-building. With support and guidance, the women came together to form the Jagannath Producer Group in December 2025 in convergence with Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, giving their efforts a collective identity and stronger market access.

Their growing confidence found a public stage at the Dhenkanal Mahotsav (December 20-24, 2025), where they showcased their craft through a live demonstration stall. Their work drew admiration from visitors and officials alike, earning them recognition under the "Innovative Business Idea" category along with a cash prize of Rs.10,000.

What makes this story remarkable is not just the income earned, but the shift in mindset. From homemakers to artisans and emerging entrepreneurs, these women are redefining their roles within their families and communities.

Mamta Gadnayak, a member of the Gruhalaxmi Cooperative Society, said, "This initiative has helped us realise the value of what we already had around us. We are now more confident, skilled, and hopeful about building a better future for our families through our own efforts."

Another member, Smita

Biswal added, "Being part of this journey has changed my outlook completely. From learning a new craft to earning my own income, I now feel empowered and motivated to grow further and support other women in our community."

Today, the palm leaves of Sanjapada are no longer just part of the landscape—they are symbols of resilience, creativity, and new beginnings. With enhanced skills, growing confidence, and increasing market exposure, these women are poised to scale new heights, proving that when opportunity meets determination, even the simplest resources can transform lives. Speaking about this journey, Kumar Saurabh, Unit Lead, Tata Steel Foundation, Meramandali, said: "This initiative reflects our commitment to enabling community-led and sustainable livelihoods by building on locally available resources and traditional knowledge. The women of Sanjapada have demonstrated how skill development, collective effort, and the right support can translate into meaningful economic opportunities. It is encouraging to see their growing confidence and entrepreneurial spirit, and we remain committed to supporting them as they expand their reach and strengthen their livelihoods."

## 'Odia Pakhya- 2026'



Boudh (09.04.2026): On the occasion of 'Odia Pakhya- 2026', which is being held to promote Odia language, literature and culture, the "Let's Buy a Book" program was launched by Boudh District Collector Shri Bibhuti Bhushan Nayak at the District Museum. The District Collector himself purchased the book and launched the campaign and bought a book for students of various educational institutions. He urged everyone to buy and read the book. The guests expressed their opinion that every home should have a book to promote Odia language and literature. During the celebration of Odia Pakhya, we are requested to read books in our mother tongue and gift books to others. On this occasion, Additional District Collector Shri Anirudh Padhan, Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer of the District Council Shri Prabhas Chandra Dandasana, Deputy District

Collector Binay Kumar Bhoi, other senior officers of the district were present. On this occasion, Deputy Collector and District Cultural Officer, Boudh welcomed everyone and conducted the program. The purpose of this program was to create interest in reading books among the new generation of students and the general public. On this occasion, various books of local poets and writers like Utkal Sama, Jagannath Mulayan, Odia Dictionary were sold. In this program, Junior Assistant of District Cultural Office Branch, Sahajit Dani, Librarian Akshay Kumar Mahakud, Employees Jitendra Mohanty, Veer Kishore Karmi, Pinky Behera, Head Teacher Anubhav Pattnaik, Teacher Gopal Amat cooperated and teachers, students, media representatives from various educational institutions participated and made the program a success.

## Accused arrested in Rape of a disabled tribal girl

Keonjhar: Keonjhar police arrested Balaram Ho (28) from Murgagotha village in connection with the rape of a differently-abled minor tribal girl. Police hunted to arrest the man following a complaint lodged on April 6 regarding an alleged rape incident and a subsequent group clash in Murgagotha village under Anandpur police station. According to the allegation the incident took place four months back. The accused is a relative of the survivor, reportedly converted some years ago and was working in Tamil Nadu. On Saturday, family members learned of her pregnancy after she fell ill and was taken to the hospital for treatment. When the family members and villagers learned that she was pregnant by a man from another community,

unrest broke out on Sunday. A group of villagers allegedly vandalised a house belonging to the accused as well as a religious place. Villagers protested, demanding the immediate arrest of the accused. Police forces deployed after the clash occurred. Later police and local administration formed a peace committee to maintain peace and bring the situation under control. The situation normalized after the police assured they would arrest the accused soon upon receiving the complaint and registering a case. SDPO Anandpur Kamal Panda informed today that a police team arrested the accused, who was forwarded to court today. Further investigation is ongoing. The situation is calm in that area."

## Nirmal Parida becomes Delang Block Congress President

Delang : Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee has appointed youth leader Nirmal Kumar Parida as Delang Block Congress President. On this occasion, the name of Nirmal Kumar Parida has been included in the list of chairmen appointed for all blocks and NACs of Puri district released by Pradesh Congress Committee President Bhakta Charan Das, which has caused a wave of happiness among Congress workers in the entire Delang area. Retired from the army, youth leader Nirmal Kumar Parida is well known in the local area as an active worker and efficient organizer of the Congress party. His ability to strengthen the organization from the grassroots level with everyone in various adverse situations has been demonstrated favorably in many areas in the past. Since he has been given the responsibility of Delang Block Congress President, he has been appointed by Pradesh Congress Committee President



Bhakta Charan Das, Puri District Congress Committee President Ing Rajesh Mishra and Delang - Pipili Youth Congress leader Biswa Keshan Harichandan Mohapatra has expressed his heartfelt congratulations and gratitude. The newly appointed Block Congress President Nirmal Kumar Parida has announced that he will continue his work in the coming days to strengthen the Congress from the grassroots level in Delang Block and to build a corruption-free and developed Delang by involving people from all walks of life.

# All India Theater Council National Convention in Puri on April 11 & 12

Puri: Renowned theater personalities from across the country are set to gather in Puri for the 5th National Convention and Cultural Festival of the "All India Theater Council." This premier organization, known for its relentless struggle for the development of art and the welfare of artists, will hold its two-day event at Hotel Surya Beach Inn, Shrikshetra Dham, Puri, on April 11 and 12.

In a press conference held on Thursday at the hotel premises, Rajgopal Padhi, the National Vice President of the Council, informed the media that hundreds of artists from various Indian states are arriving in Puri for this mega gathering.

Key Highlights of the Convention: Organizational Matters: The convention will include the general elections of the organization, a review of the status and work of various state units, and discussions on



organizational expansion. Artist Welfare: Detailed deliberations will be held regarding the diverse challenges and problems faced by artists today.

Day 1 (April 11): The program will begin with the hoisting of the organization's flag, followed by organizational discussions, the formation of a new committee, and an oath-

taking ceremony. Day 2 (April 12): The second day will be dedicated to local visits, including the Puri beach and Swargadwar, along with a visit to the Lord Jagannath Temple for darshan.

Cultural Evening and Awards: On the evening of the second day, a grand cultural program will be organized in the

presence of several special guests. National Art Awards: Talented individuals from various fields will be honored with the National Art Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Performances: The highlight of the evening will be the play "Ram Banabas," written, directed, and performed by Dr. Tirupati Sahu. Additionally,

Odissi, Kathak, and other traditional dance forms will be performed by visiting artists.

Core Demands and Objectives:

Mr. Rajgopal Padhi emphasized that the convention would focus on several critical issues, including: Providing quality stages/auditoriums in every district for rehearsals and performances. Ensuring these stages are available to artists at subsidized/concessional rates. The restoration of Railway Concessions for artists, which were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Securing better government assistance and financial support for the artist community.

The press conference was attended by the Vice President of the Odisha unit, Babita Swain, Treasurer Ch. Devdas, Anil Kumar Patra, Kailash Chandra Panigrahi, Leela Mohanty, Bikram sahu and other key members.

## "Let's Buy a Book Day" Celebrated



Puri : On the ninth day of the Odia Paksha celebrations, "Let's Buy a Book Day" was observed today. Our Odia language, literature, and culture are very rich. It is necessary to further enrich them and inspire the younger generation towards literature and culture, said Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Sarat Chandra Behera and Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Dr. Sarat Chandra Mohapatra.

With the aim of promoting the Odia language, various officials and staff, following the district administration's advice, displayed Odia books. The two Additional District Magistrates expressed hope that such initiatives would encourage the youth to develop a love for their mother tongue.

Among others present were Deputy Collectors Adyasha Rath, Priyadarshini Mallik, Anushraba Gantayat, Saumyashree Panigrahi; Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi; District Sports Officer Chandan Kumar Sahu; District Child Protection Officer Manoj Kumar Tripathy; District Culture Officer Hemanta Behera; Program Officers Suhagi Hemram and Chandraprabha Dei, along with other staff members who participated in the "Let's Buy a Book" program.

# Odisha Cabinet Approves Rs.1,647 Crore Power Project for Keonjhar Industrial Belt

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): In a major push to strengthen power infrastructure in northern Odisha, the State Cabinet has approved a ₹1,647-crore electricity project to meet the rising energy demand in the mineral-rich Keonjhar district.

The project includes the construction of a high-capacity 2x500 MVA, 400/220/33 kV GIS substation at Basudevpur, along with associated transmission lines to enhance power supply and network stability in the region.

The decision comes amid increasing load pressure on existing substations at Barbil, Joda and Palaspanga, which are currently operating at full capacity and are unable to accommodate additional

demand. These locations fall within the Joda-Barbil-Palaspanga industrial belt, one of Odisha's main mineral-rich zones housing several large, power-intensive industries.

The proposed Basudevpur substation is expected to cater to the growing energy needs of upcoming industries in Keonjhar, as well as the adjoining Koida area of Sundargarh district.

Officials stated that the project will significantly improve power reliability, strengthen the transmission network, and support future industrial expansion in the region.

Out of the total project cost, the Odisha government will provide 30% equity support amounting to ₹494.10 crore. The



remaining ₹1,152.90 crore will be mobilised by Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited through loans from

banks and financial institutions. The project is slated for implementation over a period of three years, beginning in the

2026-27 financial year, and is expected to play a key role in boosting industrial growth in Odisha's mining belt.

# Odisha Cabinet Approves New Lift Irrigation Projects Under Parbati Giri Scheme

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): The Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, approved a series of new lift irrigation projects under the Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme on Friday. This initiative aims to enhance irrigation access and improve the livelihoods of farmers in the state's upland regions.

With a total budget of ₹10,759.20 crore, the scheme is designed to provide supplemental irrigation during the kharif season by lifting surplus water from rivers, reservoirs, and canals to areas that have been unable to

access conventional irrigation due to geographical constraints. The initiative targets approximately 2.63 lakh hectares of upland ayacut across Odisha.

In its recent decisions, the Cabinet approved projects in the districts of Sambalpur, Sonapur, Jajpur, and the Keonjhar-Mayurbhanj cluster.

In Sambalpur, four lift irrigation schemes under Cluster-27 were approved to create an additional irrigation potential of about 6,210 hectares. Water will be drawn from the Hirakud Dam and distributed through a pressurised system. The project

has been awarded to Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd at a cost exceeding ₹204 crore, with an additional ₹16.33 crore allocated for operation and maintenance over 15 years. The project is expected to be completed within 36 months and will benefit 54 villages.

In Sonapur, four schemes under Cluster 30 will irrigate around 6,025 hectares by lifting water from the Tel River and its confluence points. The project, estimated at about ₹170 crore, includes ₹13.61 crore for long-term maintenance and is expected to benefit 47 villages within a 36-

month timeline.

Similarly, in Jajpur district, four schemes under Cluster 37 were approved to cover nearly 5,950 hectares. Water will be sourced from the Kharasua River and the Brahmani River. The project is estimated to cost ₹158.86 crore, with ₹12.70 crore earmarked for maintenance over 15 years, benefiting around 73 villages.

For the Keonjhar-Mayurbhanj cluster, three schemes under Cluster 38 will irrigate approximately 4,280 hectares. Water sources include the Kanpur Main Canal, Ardei

Nadi, and Balisudra River. The total project cost is estimated at ₹92.98 crore, with ₹7.48 crore set aside for maintenance. These projects are scheduled for completion within 24 months and will benefit 33 villages.

The initiative is expected to encourage farmers to diversify from water-intensive paddy cultivation to more remunerative cash crops, supported by micro-irrigation systems. Overall, the projects aim to enhance agricultural productivity, increase farm incomes, and strengthen rural livelihoods across the targeted regions.

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In its recent decisions, the Cabinet approved projects in the districts of Sambalpur, Sonapur, Jajpur, and the Keonjhar-Mayurbhanj cluster.

In Sambalpur, four lift irrigation schemes under Cluster-27 were approved to create an additional irrigation potential of about 6,210 hectares. Water will be drawn from the Hirakud Dam and distributed through a pressurised system. The project

has been awarded to Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd at a cost exceeding ₹204 crore, with an additional ₹16.33 crore allocated for operation and maintenance over 15 years. The project is expected to be completed within 36 months and will benefit 54 villages.

In Sonapur, four schemes under Cluster 30 will irrigate around 6,025 hectares by lifting water from the Tel River and its confluence points. The project, estimated at about ₹170 crore, includes ₹13.61 crore for long-term maintenance and is expected to benefit 47 villages within a 36-

month timeline.

Similarly, in Jajpur district, four schemes under Cluster 37 were approved to cover nearly 5,950 hectares. Water will be sourced from the Kharasua River and the Brahmani River. The project is estimated to cost ₹158.86 crore, with ₹12.70 crore earmarked for maintenance over 15 years, benefiting around 73 villages.

For the Keonjhar-Mayurbhanj cluster, three schemes under Cluster 38 will irrigate approximately 4,280 hectares. Water sources include the Kanpur Main Canal, Ardei

Nadi, and Balisudra River. The total project cost is estimated at ₹92.98 crore, with ₹7.48 crore set aside for maintenance. These projects are scheduled for completion within 24 months and will benefit 33 villages.

The initiative is expected to encourage farmers to diversify from water-intensive paddy cultivation to more remunerative cash crops, supported by micro-irrigation systems. Overall, the projects aim to enhance agricultural productivity, increase farm incomes, and strengthen rural livelihoods across the targeted regions.

## Bharatiya Janata Party Odisha Announces 72-Member State Executive Committee



Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): Odisha unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday announced its new State Executive Committee, with State President Manmohan Samal releasing the list of members, special invitees, and permanent invitees.

As per the announcement, 72 leaders have been appointed as members of the State Executive Committee, while 38 leaders have been named as Special Invitees and 23 as Permanent Invitees.

The committee includes Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, three Union Ministers, several State Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and former ministers,

reflecting a broad representation of the party's leadership.

Notably, several leaders who recently joined the BJP after leaving the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have been accommodated as Special Invitees. In addition, all BJP MPs, MLAs, district in-charges, district presidents, state spokespersons, and coordinators of various party cells have been designated as Permanent Invitees to the State Executive.

The expanded executive body is expected to further strengthen the party's organisational structure in Odisha, particularly in view of upcoming political challenges and electoral engagements.

## Naveen Patnaik Leaves for Delhi to Visit Ailing Brother After Heart Surgery

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): Former Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Friday departed for New Delhi to meet his ailing elder brother, Prem Patnaik, who recently underwent major heart surgery.

According to sources, Prem Patnaik was admitted to a hospital in the national capital and

underwent cardiac surgery earlier this week. Naveen Patnaik's visit is primarily aimed at inquiring about his brother's health and being with him during the recovery period.

Senior BJD leader Debi Mishra described the trip as a personal visit, stating that the former Chief Minister has travelled to Delhi to spend time with his elder brother following his illness.

Several senior party leaders, including Pranab Prakash Das, Ashok Panda, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Sushant Rout, Sanjay Das Burma, Saluga Pradhan, and Tukuni Sahu, were present at the airport to see him off.

Naveen Patnaik is expected to remain in New Delhi for a few days to be with his family as his brother recuperates.

## Board of Secondary Education, Odisha Extends OTET 2026 Application Deadline to May 9

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha (BSE) has extended the last date for submission of online applications for the Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET) 2026 to May 9, 2026.

The earlier deadline, which was set for April 9, has been revised after several candidates were unable to complete their applications within the stipulated time. The extension aims to provide aspirants with the additional time to complete the process without facing last-minute technical difficulties.

Sources indicate that over

**The OTET is a mandatory eligibility examination for candidates aspiring to teach Classes I to VIII in government and private schools across Odisha. The examination is tentatively scheduled to be held on May 29, 2026.**

70,000 candidates have already applied for the examination, including a significant number of in-service teachers. With the extended deadline, the total number of applications is expected to exceed one lakh.

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eligibility examination for candidates aspiring to teach Classes I to VIII in government and private schools across Odisha. The examination is tentatively scheduled to be held on May 29, 2026. Candidates are advised to complete their application and fee payment through the official websites within the revised deadline. In an official notification, the Board stated that the last date for submission of online applications for OTET-2026 (in-service and fresh candidates), earlier scheduled for April 9, has been extended to May 9, 2026.

## Odisha Cabinet Approves Labour Service Rule Changes, Introduces New ESI Cadre Norms

Bhubaneswar, (H.S.): The Odisha Cabinet on Friday approved key amendments to the Odisha Labour Service Rules 2019, offering significant relief to Assistant Labour Officers (ALOs) and Rural Labour Inspectors (RLIs) appointed before the rules came into force.

Under the revised provisions, these officers will be exempted from the requirement of clearing departmental examinations. The decision is expected to facilitate the regularisation of their services within the Odisha Labour Service and make them eligible for promotions to higher posts.

As part of the amendment, the state government has also updated references to central

criminal laws in the departmental examination syllabus, aligning it with current legal frameworks.

In a separate decision, the Cabinet approved the framing of the Odisha Employees' State Insurance Scheme Ministerial Service Rules 2026. The new rules will govern recruitment, promotion and service conditions of ministerial staff working in ESI hospitals and dispensaries across the state.

Officials stated that the introduction of these cadre norms is aimed at strengthening administrative efficiency and improving service delivery under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, thereby enhancing the overall functioning of the state's health insurance system.

## Odisha Cabinet Approves Rs. 3,400 Crore 'Atal Bus Stand' Scheme to Modernise Transport Hubs

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): The Odisha Cabinet on Friday approved the 'Atal Bus Stand (ABS)' scheme, a major initiative aimed at transforming public transport infrastructure across the state. The scheme has a total outlay of ₹3,400 crore and will be implemented through the 2031-32 financial year.

The programme seeks to modernise, renovate, operate and manage bus stands at district headquarters, sub-divisional headquarters, block headquarters, urban local bodies, as well as key tourist and strategic locations.

A key feature of the scheme is the introduction of a unified management framework for all public bus stands in Odisha. This will bring existing facilities developed under earlier schemes, along with those managed by urban local bodies, under a single umbrella to ensure standardised infrastructure, maintenance, operations and passenger services across the state.

Under the scheme, bus stands will be categorised into "A", "B" and "C" segments based on passenger demand, transport requirements and regional significance. This classification is intended to enable better planning, efficient resource allocation and improved service delivery.

The initiative also aims to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen financial planning and boost revenue generation from transport hubs. In addition, it focuses on improving passenger convenience, reducing operational liabilities and promoting environmentally sustainable infrastructure. Officials stated that the scheme is expected to support inclusive growth, strengthen connectivity and contribute to the state's broader economic development goals. The 'Atal Bus Stand' scheme will be implemented by the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation under the Commerce and Transport Department.

## Odisha Revises Transfer Norms, Seeks Data on Long-Serving Police Officers

Bhubaneswar, 10 April (H.S.): The Odisha government has reiterated its transfer policy for police personnel, emphasizing limits on tenure and seeking details of officers serving for prolonged periods in the same postings.

As per existing guidelines, police officers will not be allowed to remain posted at one place for more than three years, while their total tenure in a single district has been capped at six years.

In a notification, the General Administration Department directed authorities to submit a list of such officers. The details have been sought from all Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) under the Commissionerate Police, with the deadline set for the end of April.

The transfer policy of government employees in Odisha is governed by the provisions of Book Circular-42, along with instructions issued by the General Administration Department from time to time.

According to the guidelines, transfers are normally to be carried out between April 15 and June 15 each year. The policy also stipulates that no government servant should serve in one district for more than six years and may be transferred after completing three years at a single posting.

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Tenders are invited in sealed envelopes under Single part from the registered Travel agencies / Vehicle owners for "Engagement of Two (02) Nos. of light vehicles for RHEP, Rengali on hire basis for a period of Three (03) years" as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Description of the Tender	Cost of Tender paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD (Refundable) in Rs.
1.	Engagement of Two (02) Nos. of light vehicles for RHEP, Rengali on hire basis for a period of Three(03) years.	Rs.7,080.00 (Rs.6,000.00 + 18 % GST)	Rs.26,800/-

Important Dates: -  
(a) Period of sale/download of Tender Document: From dt.13.04.2026 at 10:00 AM to dt.24.04.2026 (up to 11:30 AM)  
(b) Last Date and time for submission of Tender Document: dt.24.04.2026 (up to 12:00 Noon)  
(c) Date and time for opening of Techno commercial Bid & Price Bid: dt.24.04.2026 at 12:30 P.M.

N.B:-For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions, please visit our website [www.ohpnltd.com](http://www.ohpnltd.com)

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## NCERT Fiasco

THE National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has reconstituted its curriculum committee in the wake of the Supreme Court's strong objections to a sub-chapter on the judiciary in a Class-8 textbook. The panel's revamp seems to be a damage-control exercise by the council, whose credibility has taken a hit. There is no doubt that school textbooks shape young minds, and any mention of constitutional institutions demands careful scrutiny. It's apparent that the NCERT will now be wary of exposing students to sensitive or controversial content. However, the unsavoury episode has raised questions about the balance between judicial oversight and academic autonomy.

Education, especially under frameworks like the National Education Policy 2020, aims to foster critical thinking, inquiry and informed engagement. Shielding students from debates on institutional accountability risks promoting a sanitised understanding of the pillars of democracy.

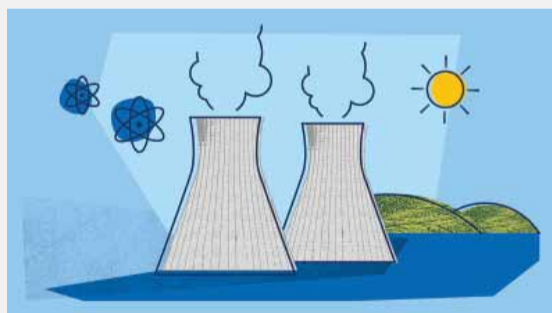
The Court's intervention, including a blanket ban on the textbook and directions affecting some academicians, has drawn criticism from a section of the academic community. In a letter to the President, over 50 scholars have described the move as "judicial overreach," arguing that it stifles debate and undermines pedagogical independence. Their concern is not trivial: if educators fear punitive consequences, curriculum development may become overly cautious, depriving students of nuanced perspectives.

Equally troubling is the precedent of penalising individuals for what is inherently a collaborative academic process. What is needed now is a calibrated approach, not a confrontation between judges and educators. Mechanisms for transparent review, peer evaluation and public consultation could help resolve disputes without resorting to sweeping bans. Ultimately, the goal of education is not to avoid difficult conversations, but to equip students to engage with them responsibly.

## Nuclear Power

IN a big boost to India's nuclear ambitions, the indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu has attained criticality, marking the start of a controlled, self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction. The reactor has thus crossed the most crucial threshold before power generation. It's a strategic milestone in the country's long-envisioned three-stage nuclear programme. Fast breeder reactors (FBRs) have a key role to play in meeting India's energy needs. The nation's nuclear roadmap conceptualised under pioneers like Homi J Bhabha - rests on a sequential strategy: pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs), followed by FBRs and ultimately thorium-

**This makes the second stage indispensable. Without FBRs, the transition to the third stage - full utilisation of India's vast thorium reserves - would remain aspirational. The Kalpakkam reactor promises a tangible pathway towards energy self-reliance. So far, only Russia has operationalised commercial FBRs at scale; the technology is complex, capital-intensive and fraught with safety and economic concerns in countries like France and the US.**



based systems. While PHWRs form the backbone of the current capacity, they rely on limited uranium resources. FBRs, by contrast, are designed to "breed" more fuel than they consume, converting uranium-238 into plutonium-239 and, eventually, enabling the production of uranium-233 from thorium.

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However, the celebrations must be tempered with realism. The PFBR project has faced significant delays, underlining the engineering and regulatory challenges inherent in such advanced systems. Moreover, public apprehension about nuclear safety - heightened globally after incidents like the 2011 Fukushima disaster - continues to slow down project execution in India. Addressing these concerns through transparency and robust safety frameworks will be as critical as technological success. Ultimately, the PFBR's criticality is a defining step because it reaffirms India's long-term energy vision: leveraging its unique thorium advantage to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. The task ahead is clear - scale up, build public trust and ensure sustainable energy security.

## Odisha: The Low Hanging Fruit Syndrome

The establishment of NitiAayog in 2015 marked a paradigm shift from Nehru-Mahalanobis model of centralised planning to a model of networked, evidence based governance, where it seeks to influence policy through coordinated monitoring and innovation. Its flagship program -The Aspirational District Program, provides a useful lens to evaluate this transformation. The introduction of 49 Key Result Areas (KRAS) across five sectors, viz Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development & Basic Infrastructure enables granular monitoring of incremental change. Out of 112 districts chosen, Odisha account for 10, which largely belong to the beleaguered K-B\_K region of Odisha. The reports highlight that the gains are often concentrated in low hanging fruit indicators, while structural challenges like income generation and employment remain less addressed.

Odisha has been able to scale down its Multi-dimensional poverty % from 29.3% in 2015 to 15.68% by 2023. However serious interdistrict imbalances persist, with Puri achieving 3.3%, while districts like Malkangiri (45%), Koraput (33.4%) and Rayagada (34%) seethe with very high numbers. Stunting among children, which is a marker of long term nutrition, & poor sanitation making children prone to frequent infection, is 15% higher in these aspirational districts than average score of all districts, apart from anaemia among adolescent girls which is similarly alarmingly high. The following table, based on NFHS V Survey, will bring out the contrast between these ADs and the average score in terms of stunting & anaemia.

To be fair to the Aspirational District Program, some of the districts have achieved progress in certain area. For instance, in Rayagada & Kandhamal institutional delivery improved by 20% by converting Sub centres in to AyushmanArogyaMandir. Basic infrastructure also shows improvement in terms of rural electricity, individual latrines and drinking water under the



Professor Satya Narayan Misra

HarGharJal mission. Road connectivity under the PM GSY has improved access for ambulances in these hilly areas. In the area of educational outcomes, Nuapada district shows improvement, particularly in terms of girl friendly toilet. However slow or no progress is witnessed in respect of anaemia among women even though IFA

(Iron & Folic Acid) distribution has reached 90% saturation level, the actual haemoglobin levels have not risen proportionally. Wasting, a phenomenon where low weight for age is seen shows an uptick in the Malkangiri district.

Besides, in the area of Skill development & financial inclusion, all the ten districts score low delta scores. While the Jan Dhan account exist, meaningful usage & insurance penetration is low because of lack of banking correspondents in remote areas. Creating local jobs for tribal youth remains most difficult; most skilled youth still migrate to AP/Telangana for work. For Skill development, the



focus must be on local livelihood. Training on processing forest produce, inculcating modern agri skills like solar pump maintenance, use of drone for pesticide spraying must be given priority. Use of World Skill Centre as a hub to train master trainer who then run sub centres is critical. The Handloom & Handicraft Cluster should facilitate high end designers to in turn train local weavers. By converging Mission Shakti to NUA Odisha skilling, these districts can move from, 'aspirational' to 'inspirational'.

Article 47 of our Constitution enjoins

*Article 47 of our Constitution enjoins upon states to 'raise the level of nutrition'. Anaemia among women is showing an increasing trend in every state except Kerala as per successive NFHS surveys. In case of Odisha it has climbed up from 51.8% in 1989-99 to 57% in 2019-21. Mrs Gandhi launched the mega ICDS program in 1975 as a comprehensive program to contain the high levels of undernutrition and anaemia among children and expecting and nursing mothers through a slew of Anganwadi centres by providing supplementary nutrition and iron folic acid supplementation. The NIP (2013) targeted reduction of anaemia by 18% by 2020. It ironically witnessed an increase in anaemia by 3% in 2021. Modi launched the Poshan program in 2018 with an avowed objective of reducing anaemia by 3% per year. Mr Naveen Patnaik, launched the AMLAN program in Odisha in 2022. However, as already brought out, the trend has neither been reversed nor contained in most states, including Odisha.*

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Adolescence is a period of rapid physical growth and sexual maturation. The onset of monsoon signal increases the daily requirement of iron to replace blood loss. In case of tribals, their diets lack diversity as they rely on monotonous cereal based diet that is low in iron & Vitamin C, which is essential for iron absorption. To complicate matters, they are afflicted by genetic factors like high presence of Sickle Cell disease. In case of Bolangir & Kalahandi, many carry sickle cell traits, where standard iron tablets do not cure these type of anaemia. Districts like Koraput & Malkangiri suffer from 70% anaemia due to high malarial endemicity.

It is easy to build a school toilet or provide electricity to a village than to change the eating habits. There is also an accountability gap as they are transferred every 12-18 months. They are incentivised to focus on visible projects rather than invisible nutritional improvements. There is also a disconnect in the convergence strategy of health department with education and WCD departments. There is a gap between IFA tablet distribution and anaemia reduction. Districts like Malkangiri often have 30-40% vacancy in respect of Auxillary Nurse midwives & ICDS supervisors. One of the suggestions offered is to financially incentivise Asha workers. But they are a partial bridge rather than a complete solution. While the Asha worker get paid for distribution of IFA tablets but are not accountable for ensuring their consumption. Financial incentives are the fuel but government accountability is the steering wheel. We cannot reach the destination of anaemia free districts without a steering wheel, proper monitoring & departmental convergence. Skill development & financial inclusion must be given highest priority as all the aspirational districts of Odisha are showing persistent deficits.

## Mahatma Phule, the founder of the Dalit and feminist movement!

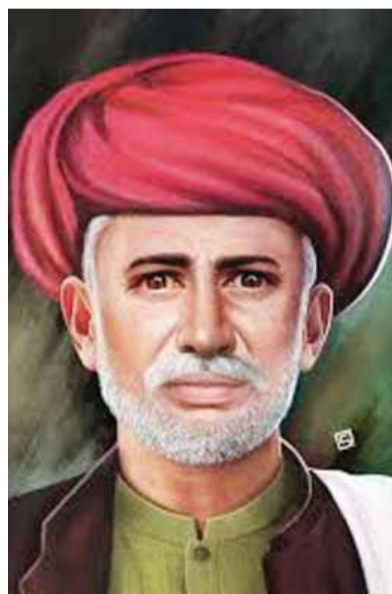
(On his birth anniversary)

Jyotiba Phule (11 April 1827 - 28 November 1890), also known as Mahatma Phule, was a leading Indian social reformer from Satara, who was born into a Mali (Mali) family. He supported education for women and lower castes, establishing one of India's first girls' schools in 1848. Inspired by Thomas Paine's 'The Rights of Man', he fought against caste oppression and gender inequality. His efforts laid the foundation for the Dalit and feminist movements in India. He co-founded the Satya Shodhak Samaj to challenge Brahminical dominance and promote rationalism and social justice.

The social fabric of India has been entangled in casteism for centuries. This system of dividing human dignity and opportunities on the basis of birth has created deep inequalities in society. Jyotirao Phule was a great social reformer who challenged this unjust tradition. He used education as a weapon to awaken the Dalits, women and the marginalized. Phule believed that the roots of casteism would remain intact until everyone in society got the right to education and respect. He opened the first school for women in 1848 and started a movement against caste inequality by founding the Satsodhak Society. When Jyotirao Phule stood against conservative ideas and casteism in society, he had to face intense opposition, social ostracism and personal insults. His reformist efforts were challenged by the Brahmin society, but he continued his struggle through education and organization. He was a victim of casteism since childhood. When he attended a friend's wedding and his caste was revealed, he was insulted and thrown out. This incident changed the course of his life, and he resolved to challenge this unjust system.

Social opposition and hardships - Opposition to education: When Phule opened a school for women and Dalits, it was strongly opposed by the

He opened the first school for women in 1848 and started a movement against caste inequality by founding the Satsodhak Society. When Jyotirao Phule stood against conservative ideas and casteism in society, he had to face intense opposition, social ostracism and personal insults. His reformist efforts were challenged by the Brahmin society, but he continued his struggle through education and organization. He was a victim of casteism since childhood. When he attended a friend's wedding and his caste was revealed, he was insulted and thrown out. This incident changed the course of his life, and he resolved to challenge this unjust system.



conservative section of society. He was abused and his school was also attacked. Social ostracism: Phule and his wife Savitribai were ostracized from society. Their relatives also shunned them. Religious criticism: The Brahminical priests declared him a heretic. His writings like "Gulamgiri" and "Brahmananche Kasab" directly challenged the priestly class, which labeled him an atheist and heretic. Financial hardships: Due to social ostracism, he faced financial hardships. However, he continued his reform work by earning income from his business and farming. Courage during struggle: Phule did not give up despite the hardships. He founded the Satyasodhak Samaj, which became the centre of the movement against casteism and superstition. He wrote

"Shetak-yacha Asuda" ("The Whip of the Peasant") on the problems of farmers and organised Dalits. His wife Savitribai Phule also endured harassment and stone pelting to educate her daughters. Importance in the present context: Casteism has not completely disappeared in India. Caste discrimination continues in education, politics and social life. Phule's struggle teaches us that courage, organisation and education are essential for equality and justice. He demonstrated that change is possible, even if it requires social opposition and humiliation. Jyotirao Phule's life proves that the path of social reform is not easy. He faced humiliation, ostracism and financial hardship, but he never gave up. Today, when casteism persists, Phule's struggle inspires us to challenge this unjust system through education and awareness and build an egalitarian society. Today, India supports equality at the constitutional and legal levels, but casteism persists in practical life. Caste-based political equation has become a part of electoral strategy. Social inequality and a hierarchical mentality persist in rural areas. Inequality of opportunity in education and employment is evident. In urban life too, caste-based bias is often reflected in relationships, marriages and social behaviour. This is why Phule's relevance is even greater today. He demonstrated that education is the most powerful tool to overcome casteism. Today, when access to knowledge is easy in the digital age, Phule's vision inspires us that it is essential to provide education to every section of society. In the fight for social

justice and equality, Phule's ideals teach us that not just laws, but a change in mindset is essential. Phule's life also teaches us that reform comes not just from ideas, but from concrete actions. He opened schools, organized communities and dedicated his life to serving the marginalized. In today's times, when casteism leads to violence, discrimination and inequality, Phule's example gives us courage and direction. Casteism is deeply rooted in India, but the life and thoughts of Jyotirao Phule give us confidence that change is possible. As long as everyone in society does not have equal opportunities and respect, the shadow of racism will remain. Phule's relevance lies in his guidance to challenge this unjust system through education, awareness and courage. Thus, in today's India, where racism persists, Jyotirao Phule's message reminds us that the path to equality and justice can only be paved with education, awareness and courage. His life is like a lamp that illuminates the dark social fabric and gives us the confidence that if we adopt and implement his ideas in society, the walls of racism can be broken.

From Jyotirao Phule, today's youth should learn that courage and education are the foundations of social change. Despite insults and opposition, Phule did not give up and opened schools for the underprivileged. The youth should learn from him that no matter how conservative the society, it is important to speak out against injustice. Today, when racism and inequality still exist, the youth should take up the challenge of spreading awareness, fighting for equality, and making education accessible to all, like Phule. This is his most relevant inspiration.

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Sujanpur, Jajpur  
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## Vice President Radhakrishnan Unveils Latest Constitution Edition in Sindhi on Language Day

New Delhi, 10 /4(H.S.):Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the updated version of India's Constitution in Sindhi today, coinciding with Sindhi Bhasha Diwas, rendering it accessible in both Devanagari and Persian scripts for the first time since Independence. At a ceremony in the Vice President's residence, Radhakrishnan emphasized the language's pivotal role as a beacon of resilience and unity post-Partition. He described the publication as a cornerstone for linguistic inclusivity, empowering citizens to engage with constitutional tenets in their



mother tongue, thereby fortifying democratic participation and

institutional trust. Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal echoed this, terming the initiative a milestone that amplifies India's linguistic tapestry, constitutional literacy, and vision for an inclusive republic, bridging foundational values to every citizen. Among attendees were Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani, underscoring the event's cultural and legislative resonance on this observance of Sindhi heritage.

## Allahabad High Court Judge Yashwant Varma Resigns Amid Impeachment Probe Over Cash Scandal



New Delhi, 10 /4(H.S.):Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad

High Court has tendered his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, abruptly stepping down from the bench as impeachment proceedings loomed over allegations of unaccounted cash discovered at his official residence. The move follows a cascade of scrutiny initiated after a fire on March 14, 2025, at his Delhi High Court quarters—where Varma then served—unearthed charred wads of ₹500 notes in a storeroom, sparking

misconduct charges. Transferred to Allahabad amid the fallout, Varma faced a Lok Sabha Speaker-constituted inquiry committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. Varma had challenged the panel's legitimacy in the Supreme Court, which on March 22, 2025, dismissed his plea and mandated a three-member probe comprising Punjab & Haryana Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia, and Karnataka High Court Justice

Anu Shivaraman. The apex court upheld the Speaker's authority, paving the way for parliamentary removal motion backed by 146 MPs. In his missive, Varma expressed profound anguish without detailing motives, rendering the inquiry infructuous as statutory mechanisms cease upon a judge's exit. The episode underscores escalating demands for judicial probity amid parallel in-house and impeachment protocols.

## President Murmu Nominates Harivansh Narayan Singh to Rajya Sabha Vacancy

New Delhi, 10/4 (HS): President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Harivansh Narayan Singh, the erstwhile Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, as a nominated member to the Upper House, filling a seat vacated by the retirement of former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, as per a Home Ministry gazette notification issued Friday.

The constitutional provision under Article 80 empowers the President to nominate up to 12 such members for distinguished contributions to fields like journalism, where Singh excelled as editor-in-chief of Hindi daily Prabhat Khabar, transforming it into a circulation powerhouse through investigative prowess on scandals like the Fodder scam. Aligning with Janata Dal (United), Singh entered Parliament from Bihar in 2014, ascending to Deputy Chairman on August 9, 2018, and securing re-election on September 14, 2020. Renowned for presiding with equanimity and procedural finesse, his re-nomination—immediately post his prior term's expiry—affirms his pivotal role in fostering deliberative equilibrium.

## Supreme Court Directs PIL-Happy Lawyer to Engage Authorities Before Seeking Judicial Relief

New Delhi, 10 /4 (H.S.):The Supreme Court rebuked advocate Sachin Gupta on Friday for inundating the court with 25 public interest litigations spanning diverse issues, advising him to prioritize his legal practice and first approach administrative bodies rather than reflexively invoking judicial intervention. As the matters came up before a bench presided over by Chief Justice Surya Kant, Gupta sought permission to withdraw the petitions. The court permitted this but firmly cautioned: "Focus on your profession. Instead of rushing to court, sensitize government and authorities on key concerns through analytical advocacy." CJI Kant emphasized that as a bar member, Gupta must

## Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Harivansh Narayan Singh Take Oath as Rajya Sabha Members

New Delhi, 10 /4 (H.S.):Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and outgoing Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh were sworn in as members of the Upper House on Friday, administered by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan in Parliament House. The ceremony drew a constellation of dignitaries, including Leader of the House and Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, and Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary. At 69, Harivansh's prior term concluded on April 9, prompting President Droupadi Murmu to nominate



him Friday to one of Rajya Sabha's 12 presidential slots—reserved for luminaries in art, literature, science, and social

service. The vacancy stemmed from former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's retirement. This dual induction reinforces

Bihar's parliamentary heft, blending executive stewardship with seasoned legislative acumen.

## Supreme Court Summons Ghaziabad Police Officials Over Botched Probe in Minor's Rape-Murder

New Delhi, 10/4(H.S.):The Supreme Court has summoned Ghaziabad's Police Commissioner and the Investigating Officer for a shocking lapse in probing the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl, with a bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant scheduling their appearance on April 13. During hearings, senior advocate N. Hariharan, representing the victim's daily-wage-earning father, highlighted egregious investigative shortcomings. CJI Kant castigated two private hospitals for callously denying treatment, amplifying the family's ordeal after the child was lured away by a neighbor under the pretext of buying chocolate on March 16, only to be discovered bloodied and unconscious before succumbing to her injuries. The court decried the authorities' insensitivity and procedural failures, vowing stringent accountability in this heartrending case that has ignited public outrage over child safety and justice delivery.



discern substantive issues and enlighten officials accordingly, assuring that meritorious pleas would receive due consideration if administrative recourse proved

futile. The bench underscored PILs' sanctity for genuine public interest, not as a shortcut bypassing executive responsibility.

## Delhi Police Dismantles ISI-BKI Espionage and Terror Network in Coordinated Raids

New Delhi, 10 /4(H.S.):In a decisive operation, Delhi Police Special Cell has dismantled an interstate syndicate implicated in terrorism, arms smuggling, and espionage, with direct linkages to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), averting a major terror conspiracy. Eleven suspects were apprehended across two synchronized raids in Delhi and Punjab, comprising six from the initial sweep—three each from Punjab's Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Delhi's Rohini-Tatesar—and five more from Punjab districts including Kapurthala, Fazeeka, and Moga. Key figures include Manpreet Singh (Tarn Taran), Anmol and Sahil (Ferozepur), Atul Rathi and Rohit (Delhi), Ajay (Delhi), Gurjeet Singh (Kapurthala), Rimpaldeep Singh, Salwinder Singh alias Kalu, Boota Singh (Fazeeka), and Harpreet Singh alias Happy (Moga). Additional DCP Pramod Singh Kushwaha detailed at a press briefing how technical surveillance and intelligence inputs precipitated the busts. Seizures encompassed three foreign-made pistols, a country-made pistol, 24 live rounds, nine solar-powered CCTV cameras,



nine SIM cards, 24 mobile phones, two cars, and two motorcycles—vehicles exploited for reconnaissance and arms transport. Investigations unveiled a sophisticated surveillance apparatus: the nine cameras, covertly positioned near strategic military and security installations in Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Pathankot, Patiala, Moga, Ambala, Kathua, Bikaner, and Alwar, relayed live feeds via SIM-enabled apps to Pakistani handlers, compromising defense movements. The network unraveled from Manpreet Singh's March 29 arrest in Tarn Taran, who confessed to ISI directives facilitating seven foreign pistols and 56 cartridges into India, alongside procuring fake IDs for

SIMs feeding Pakistan intelligence. Encrypted apps facilitated communications, with recruits—lured by cash and incentives—tasked with spying, smuggling, and data exfiltration on army cantonments and BSF camps. Funding stemmed from arms and narcotics trafficking, routed via UPI and proxies, with plots for grenade assaults on installations thwarted by timely intervention. Gurjeet Singh leveraged familial ties to handlers, Rimpaldeep bridged local operatives, and Happy orchestrated drugs, funds, and CCTV setups. Police affirmed ongoing probes, anticipating further arrests as the syndicate's tendrils extend wider.

## Vice President Radhakrishnan Pays Homage to Morarji Desai on Death Anniversary

New Delhi, 10 /4(H.S.): Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, and several other leaders paid solemn tributes to former Prime Minister Morarji Desai on his death anniversary, commemorating his legacy of probity, discipline, and selfless public service. Radhakrishnan laid floral wreaths at the Vice President's residence, honoring Desai's enduring contributions to the nation. Gadkari offered humble obeisance to the independence stalwart and fourth prime minister, while Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami invoked Desai as an exemplar of simplicity and service, whose dedication inspires national stewardship. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta extolled Desai's life of austerity, rigor, and patriotism, affirming that his ideals and developmental imprint will perpetually guide posterity. The sole recipient of both India's Bharat Ratna (1991) and Pakistan's Nishan-e-Pakistan (1990), Desai—India's first non-Congress premier (1977-79)—is revered for pioneering peace overtures post-1974 nuclear tests and upholding Gandhian ethos amid Emergency's tumult.



## PM Modi Extends Congratulations to Nitish Kumar and Harivansh on Rajya Sabha Oath-Taking

New Delhi, 10 /4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday commended Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and outgoing Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh upon their swearing-in as members of the Upper House, lauding their exemplary contributions to governance and public discourse.

In separate messages on X, PM Modi hailed Kumar as one of India's most seasoned leaders, whose unwavering dedication to exemplary administration has garnered widespread acclaim. He credited Kumar with indelible strides in Bihar's advancement, expressing delight at his



parliamentary return after pro stints as MP and Union Minister. "His extensive political acumen will further elevate the House's prestige," Modi affirmed, wishing him success in the tenure ahead. Turning to Harivansh, a distinguished journalist and intellectual, PM Modi praised

his profound insights that have enriched Rajya Sabha proceedings. Nominated by President Droupadi Murmu to fill a vacancy created by former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's retirement—whose term ended April 9—Harivansh's reappointment to one of the 12 presidential slots recognizes eminence in fields like journalism and public service. The duo took oaths Friday in Parliament House, administered by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar (noted as CP Radhakrishnan in some contexts), marking pivotal moments amid Bihar's political transitions.

## Prime Minister Modi Advocates Steadfast Resolve and Prudent Discernment Amid Adversity

New Delhi, 10 /4 (H.S.):Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday invoked an ancient Sanskrit aphorism to underscore the paramount virtue of composure and judicious reasoning in navigating life's gravest trials, urging the nation's youth to harness such fortitude for collective advancement. In a poignant post on the social media platform X, PM Modi extolled the indomitable spirit of India's younger generation, affirming that their resolute ambitions propel the country toward accelerated progress. He shared the subhashita:

## Government Warns of Stripping X's Safe Harbour Protections Over Unaddressed Inflammatory Posts

New Delhi, 10 /4 (H.S.):The Central government and Delhi Police informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that social media platform X risks forfeiting its legal immunity in India should it persist in ignoring takedown requests for posts by journalist Rana Ayyub deemed offensive to Hindu deities and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Justice Prabh Deep Kaurav

scheduled the next hearing for May 19. Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma argued that despite Delhi Police notices in September and December 2025, and a Saket Court directive in January 2025 mandating an FIR against Ayyub, X failed to remove the content. "How can safe harbour shield non-compliance with court orders and police

summons?" Sharma queried. X's counsel countered that writ petitions target governmental entities, not private platforms, urging action against Ayyub directly under IT Act Section 69A. Ayyub's advocate Vrinda Grover deemed the petition non-maintainable, prompting the court to mandate her response. This follows the High Court's April 8

rebuke of Ayyub's 2013-2017 tweets as "derogatory, incendiary, and communal," directing coordinated remediation by X, police, and authorities. Petitioner Amita Sachdeva, a Sanatan Dharma adherent, cited seven tweets insulting Ram, Sita, Savarkar, and Hindu nationalism as profoundly wounding, after Saket Court's FIR order—despite X claiming the posts' removal.

# Nepal President Set to Address Joint Parliamentary Session

Kathmandu, 10 /4 (H.S.): President Ram Chandra Paudel will deliver a formal address to a joint sitting of Nepal's federal parliament on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., marking a pivotal constitutional moment as the nation transitions toward its forthcoming budget session. The President's Office has formally notified the Parliament Secretariat via an official letter, signed by Secretary Mahadev Panth, requesting all requisite logistical preparations for the event. This address, undertaken at the explicit recommendation of the Council of Ministers, will convene lawmakers from both the House of Representatives and the National Assembly, underscoring its significance in Nepal's parliamentary calendar. Under Article 95 of the Nepalese Constitution, the president holds the authority to address either a single chamber or a unified assembly of both houses, with



the prerogative to summon members' attendance as needed. This provision formalizes the head of state's role in outlining key governmental priorities and policy directions, often setting the tone for legislative agendas ahead. The announcement coincides with procedural

housekeeping in parliament: the current sessions of both houses are slated for prorogation later tonight, contingent upon the selection of a new Deputy Speaker. With the winter session drawing to a close, the government has already pivoted toward orchestrating the

upcoming budget deliberations, signaling a renewed focus on fiscal and developmental imperatives. This address assumes added resonance following recent general elections, positioning President Paudel to articulate a vision for national progress amid evolving political dynamics.

# Netanyahu Slams Pakistan Minister's 'Cancerous State' Remark as Call for Israel's Annihilation

Jerusalem, 10/4(H.S.):Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a scathing rebuke against Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, branding his inflammatory social media post as an "outrageous" incitement to destroy Israel, amid escalating tensions over Israel's military strikes in Lebanon. In a post on X dated Thursday, Asif lambasted Israel as an "evil" entity and a "curse for humanity," accusing it of perpetrating genocide in Lebanon while peace talks unfolded in Islamabad. He escalated his rhetoric by declaring, "I hope and pray that the people who created this cancerous state on Palestinian land... burn in hell." The remarks came against the backdrop of Israel's heaviest bombardment of Lebanon since Iran-backed Hezbollah entered the fray, which has killed hundreds and strained a fragile US-Iran ceasefire less than 48 hours old. Netanyahu's office swiftly countered on X, stating that such a "call for Israel's annihilation" from any government—let alone one positioning itself as a neutral mediator—is intolerable. "This is not a statement that can be tolerated from any government, especially not from one that claims to be a neutral arbiter for peace," the statement read. Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar amplified the response, denouncing Asif's words as "blatant antisemitic blood libels" that implicitly demand Israel's eradication. Sa'ar affirmed that Israel would robustly defend itself against any threats vowing its destruction. This rare public diplomatic clash underscores Israel's deepening skepticism toward Pakistan's mediating role in Middle East peace efforts. Israel's envoy to India, Reuven Azar, explicitly voiced distrust in Pakistan during an interview Thursday, asserting that both Jerusalem and Washington view Islamabad solely as a logistical conduit, not a trustworthy broker. The exchange unfolds amid a volatile regional landscape. Lebanon was drawn into the conflict on March 2, when Hezbollah launched rockets at Israeli cities in retaliation for the assassination of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the war's outset. Israel's Wednesday strikes shattered an uneasy calm, prompting Netanyahu to clarify that the US-Iran truce—brokered by President Donald Trump—excludes Lebanon. Trump had suspended attacks on Iran for two weeks following urgent appeals from Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir, paving the way for talks originally slated for Islamabad.

# "No Ceasefire in Lebanon": Netanyahu Doubles Down on Strikes While Ordering Direct Peace Talks

BEIRUT/Tel Aviv, 10 /4 (H.S.):Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that there is "no ceasefire" in Lebanon, hours after authorising direct negotiations with the Lebanese government to disarm Hezbollah and pursue a formal peace pact. In a televised address, Netanyahu vowed that Israel would continue attacking Hezbollah with "full force" until Israeli border communities could be declared secure. Netanyahu told the nation that, despite opening a diplomatic channel, Israel would not halt its military campaign. "There is no ceasefire in Lebanon. We are continuing to strike Hezbollah with full force, and we will not stop until we restore your security," he said. The Prime Minister's Office later clarified that he had instructed the cabinet to begin direct talks with Lebanon as soon as possible, following what it described as repeated overtures from Beirut. The stated objectives of the nascent negotiations are twofold: the full disarmament of Iran-backed Hezbollah and the establishment of what Israeli officials have called a "historic peace agreement" between Israel and Lebanon. Netanyahu's office also noted that Israel "appreciates the call" from Lebanon's Prime Minister earlier Thursday to



demilitarise Beirut's downtown area—a move seen in diplomatic circles as a tentative step toward de-escalating the capital's exposure to cross-border attacks. Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun, speaking in a separate statement, reiterated that a comprehensive ceasefire remains the only viable path out of the current crisis. "The only solution to the current situation in Lebanon is to achieve a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon," he told reporters, as relayed by regional outlets such as Al Jazeera. Aoun added that the ceasefire proposal and the launch of direct talks with

# Putin Declares Easter Ceasefire in Ukraine Conflict Amid Global Tensions

Moscow, 10/4 (H.S.):Russian President Vladimir Putin has unilaterally announced a temporary ceasefire with Ukraine spanning the Orthodox Easter holidays, a gesture framed as a humanitarian pause in the protracted four-year war that has ravaged Europe. The Kremlin statement, issued Thursday, specifies that hostilities will halt from 4:00 p.m. Moscow time (1:00 p.m. GMT) on April 11 until the close of April 12, 2026, explicitly tied to the "approaching Orthodox feast of Easter." Putin directed the Russian General Staff to suspend combat operations across all fronts during this window, while underscoring readiness to repel "any possible provocations by the enemy." The declaration anticipates reciprocal adherence from Kyiv, positioning Moscow's initiative as a model of restraint. This development follows Ukrainian



President Volodymyr Zelensky's earlier proposal for a holiday truce, conveyed through U.S. channels earlier in the week. Zelensky's outreach came as stalled negotiations hampered by irreconcilable demands over territory and sovereignty were further eclipsed by escalating crises in the Middle East, including U.S.-

Iran frictions over the Strait of Hormuz. Putin's move arrives against a backdrop of intensified Russian diplomatic maneuvering. Recent rhetoric from the Kremlin has lambasted Western interventions, with Putin issuing stark warnings on Middle East volatility, condemning escalatory actions as threats to global stability.

# Misri-Rubio White House Summit Advances India-US Trade, Quad, and Defence Agenda

Washington, 10 /4(H.S.): India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri engaged in a highly productive dialogue with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the White House on Thursday, underscoring a renewed commitment to fortifying bilateral relations amid evolving global challenges. The comprehensive discussions spanned critical domains including trade expansion, strategic cooperation on critical minerals, defence partnerships, and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), reflecting both nations' intent to navigate supply chain vulnerabilities and geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, who attended the meeting, highlighted its significance on social media, noting Rubio's anticipation for an official visit to India next month—a development poised to accelerate momentum in these areas. This engagement builds on prior high-level interactions, such as Misri's recent consultations with US



Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker, where the duo assessed progress since December's Foreign Office talks and exchanged perspectives on West Asian developments alongside shared regional

priorities. The agenda's emphasis on critical minerals aligns with ongoing efforts to diversify supply chains for exploration, mining, processing, and recycling, leveraging India's manufacturing ambitions and US technological

prowess to mitigate dependencies on non-market actors. Defence collaboration emerged as another pillar, advancing frameworks like the US-India Major Defence Partnership signed in late 2025, which promotes

operational coordination, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises such as Tiger Triumph to counter Indo-Pacific threats. Meanwhile, Quad deliberations signal heightened multilateral synergy with Japan and Australia, focusing on regional security, technology transfers, and economic resilience—imperatives amplified by recent joint statements pledging \$500 billion in US energy and tech exports to India over five years. Trade dynamics also featured prominently, with both sides addressing non-tariff barriers and investment reviews to enhance two-way commerce, including semiconductors, GPUs, and clean energy products essential for data centers and renewables. As Rubio's impending trip approaches, analysts anticipate it will yield concrete mechanisms to operationalize these commitments, potentially culminating in expanded Quad summits and defence-industrial ventures.

# Nifty, Sensex end higher taking strong cues from Asian peers despite oil prices remain volatile

NEWDELHI, 10/4: Sensex, Nifty Surge Over 1% Amid Global Market Rally; Bank, Financial Stocks Lead Gains Despite Volatile Oil Prices New Delhi, April 10: Benchmark Indices on Friday ended higher taking positive cues from its Asian peers which rose despite caution in the market due to a fragile ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran and volatile oil prices. Domestic stock markets were also pushed by gains in the financial services and bank stocks which were partially offset by some Information Technology Stocks. The benchmark Nifty 50 index settled at 24,050.60 point, up 1.2 per cent on Friday and the BSE Sensex index closed 1.2 per cent higher at 77,551.48 points. On the sectoral front, most indices ended in green except Nifty IT index that ended nearly 2per cent lower at 31,030.60 points. Nifty Auto emerged as the top gainer, rising 2.9 per cent during Friday's session and closed at 26,640.90 points. The Nifty Financial Services closed over 2 per cent higher at 28,584.35 points. "Markets appear cautiously optimistic ahead of the U.S.-Iran talks, as reflected in broad-based gains globally and a meaningful reduction in volatility, with India's VIX falling over 6.5 per cent. The ceasefire, however, remains under pressure, with conflicting peace frameworks, Washington accusing Tehran of breaching commitments on the Strait of Hormuz, and Israel's strikes on Lebanon adding a further layer of complexity to an already delicate situation. With formal talks yet to begin on Saturday, next week's market direction will remain firmly dependent on how negotiations unfold between the U.S., Israel, and Iran in the near term," said Ponmudi R, Chief Executive Officer of Enrich Money, a SEBI-registered online trading and wealth tech firm.

# Qatar Reaffirms Reliable Energy Supply to India Amid West Asia Turmoil

New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, Qatar has reiterated its steadfast commitment to remain a dependable energy supplier to India. Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, extended this assurance during talks in Doha with Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri. The ministers urged sustained stability in global markets despite the prevailing unrest. Puri was on a two-day visit to Qatar from April 9-10. During the trip, he conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of solidarity to Qatari leadership in the wake of the regional conflict's outbreak. He personally delivered PM Modi's greetings and support to Qatar's Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the Prime Minister. The discussions spanned all facets of the strategic ties between the two nations, including high-level engagements, trade, investment, energy, culture,



and people-to-people connections. Both leaders expressed optimism for a swift return to peace and stability in the region, alongside further strengthening of bilateral relations. They welcomed the

two-week ceasefire announced on April 8 and emphasized the urgent need to eliminate disruptions in global energy supply chains. The duo also underscored the critical importance of uninterrupted navigation to preserve supply

lines. Puri's visit comes at a pivotal moment as India seeks to safeguard its energy security amid global volatilities. Qatar remains India's largest source of LNG and LPG, accounting for 45% and 20% of supplies, respectively.

## India's Forex Reserves Jump \$9.06 Billion To \$697.12 Billion

Mumbai, 10/4 (H.S.): India's foreign exchange reserves rebounded sharply in the first week of April, reversing the previous week's decline, as the country's forex reserves rose by \$9.063 billion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. The country's forex jumped to \$697.121 billion for the week ended April 3. This comes after a significant drop of \$10.288 billion in the preceding week ended March 27, when reserves had slipped to \$688.058 billion. The latest increase was driven by gains across key components of the reserve basket. Gold reserves recorded a sharp rise of \$7.221 billion, taking their total value to \$120.742 billion. Foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of the reserves, also increased by \$1.784 billion to \$552.856 billion, according to the central bank's data. FCA includes assets denominated in major global currencies such as the US dollar, euro, yen and pound, with values expressed in dollar terms. Additionally, special drawing rights (SDRs) saw a marginal increase of \$58 million to \$18.707 billion during the week.

India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund remained unchanged at \$4.816 billion. Despite the recent volatility, India's forex reserves remain below their all-time high of \$728.494 billion, which was recorded in the week ended February 27, before the onset of the West Asia crisis that triggered a phase of depletion. Foreign exchange reserves play a crucial role in maintaining economic stability, helping the central bank manage currency fluctuations and ensuring smooth external trade. A robust reserve position allows the RBI to intervene in the currency market to support the rupee during periods of volatility, while also reflecting sustained inflows of foreign currency into the economy. Meanwhile, in the week ended February 27, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$4.885 billion to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion, according to RBI earlier data.

## CAIT Partners with Shriram Finance to Unveil Fintech Portal Streamlining Credit for Traders



New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) launched a cutting-edge fintech portal Friday in collaboration with Shriram Finance Limited, aimed at democratizing credit access for merchants, MSMEs, startups, and women entrepreneurs nationwide through seamless digital integration. MP and CAIT National General Secretary Praveen Khandelwal, alongside Shriram Finance's Joint Managing Director and COO GM Jilani,

inaugurated the platform at the Constitution Club of India. Khandelwal highlighted its tailored design for CAIT affiliates, leveraging Shriram Finance's robust disbursement infrastructure to offer diverse products including secured/unsecured MSME loans, personal loans, gold loans, two-wheeler financing, and commercial vehicle funding. The hybrid model facilitates digital applications while finalizing disbursements via Shriram Finance's extensive branch

network on a pincode basis, marrying online efficiency with personalized support to bridge accessibility gaps. Khandelwal emphasized the synergy of CAIT's vast trader base and Shriram Finance's lending prowess to deliver transparent, effective formal finance. Jilani underscored the partnership's role in extending credit through trusted channels to small businesses at the heart of India's growth story, addressing persistent formal lending hurdles amid evolving economic demands.

## Global Markets Signal Optimism, Asian Equities Rally on West Asia De-escalation Hopes



New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): Investor confidence surged across international bourses Friday, propelled by renewed momentum in West Asia peace negotiations between the United States, Israel, and Iran, fostering a risk-on environment that lifted U.S. indices in the prior session and ignited broad-based gains in Asia. Wall Street concluded Thursday buoyed by the prospective truce, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average ascending

275.88 points or 0.58% to 48,185.80. The S&P 500 advanced 0.62% to 6,824.66, while the Nasdaq Composite climbed 186.66 points or 0.82% to 22,821.66. Dow futures extended this positivity, trading marginally higher by 0.03% at 48,200.25. European markets, however, faced headwinds, as the FTSE index dipped 0.05% to 10,603.48, the CAC 40 declined 0.22% to 8,245.80, and the DAX tumbled 273.64 points or 1.15% to 23,806.99,

reflecting lingering caution amid mixed geopolitical cues. Asia's response was unequivocally bullish, with all nine major indices in positive territory. Gift Nifty rose 105.50 points or 0.44% to 23,989.50, signaling strength ahead for Indian markets. Singapore's Straits Times gained 0.12% to 4,982.82, while Jakarta Composite surged 148.42 points or 2.03% to 7,456.01 and Kospi leaped 101.40 points or 1.75% to 5,879.41. Japan's Nikkei vaulted 936.68 points or 1.68% to 56,832. Taiwan Weighted Index advanced 418.06 points or 1.20% to 35,279.22. SET Composite jumped 0.83% to 1,502.08, Hang Seng rose 211.60 points or 0.82% to 25,964, and Shanghai Composite firmed 0.63% to 3,991.14, underscoring regional enthusiasm for stabilizing energy supplies and reduced volatility.

## Markets End Firmly Higher, Investors Gain Over 6.51 Lakh Crore After Record Rebound

New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): Indian equity markets closed on a strong note on Friday, shrugging off a sharp correction seen the previous session and delivering a mid-morning to upper-day rally across indices. The Sensex surged as much as 990 points intra-day, while the Nifty added up to 298 points in the session, with bulls regaining control after a bout of profit-taking-led volatility early in the day. Market participants attributed the uptrend to expectations of peace talks in West Asia, positive global cues, and sustained buying in financial and select sectoral stocks. The Sensex concluded the day 918.60 points, or 1.20%, higher at 77,550.25, while the Nifty finished 275.50 points, or 1.16%, stronger at 24,050.60. The day opened in a robust fashion, with the Sensex opening at 77,121.01, 489.36 points above Thursday's close, but slipped temporarily by about 270 points on intraday selling pressure before recovering sharply as fresh buying emerged. Similarly, the Nifty opened at 23,880.55, about 105.45 points above the previous close, briefly dipped below 23,860 on profit-booking, and then climbed back to reach an

intraday peak near 24,074.05—up 298.95 points before settling at 24,050.60 after a mild end-session correction. Buying interest was concentrated in automobiles, capital goods, consumer durables, banking, realty, FMCG, healthcare, metals, oil & gas, and public sector enterprises, all of which ended the day in the green. Mid-cap and small-cap indices also outperformed, with the Nifty Midcap index closing 1.52% higher and the Smallcap index up 1.65%, reflecting risk-on sentiment across the breadth. However, the technology space faced selling pressure. The Nifty IT index declined 1.91%, while the BSE tech index slipped 1.10%, underscoring the contrast between defensive-growth and cyclical themes on the Street. The strong rally translated into significant wealth accumulation. The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies rose to around ₹451.23 lakh crore (provisional) from ₹444.72 lakh crore the previous day, implying an increase of roughly ₹6.51 lakh crore in investor wealth in a single session. On the BSE, 3,362 of the 4,449 actively traded stocks ended higher, 944 closed lower, and 143

saw no net change. At the NSE, 2,479 of 2,970 traded scrips advanced, while 491 declined, reinforcing the broad-based nature of the uptrend. Among benchmark constituents, 25 of the 30 Sensex stocks and 42 of the 50 Nifty stocks settled in the positive zone. Among large-caps, Asian Paints (+4.01%), Ashok Leyland (+3.87%), ICICI Bank (+3.17%), Shriram Finance (+3.14%), and Bajaj Auto (+3.12%) featured in the top-five gainers, helped by sector-specific demand and earnings-linked confidence. On the flip side, Coal India (-4.40%), Sun Pharmaceutical (-3.62%), Infosys (-2.94%), TCS (-2.50%), and Tech Mahindra (-1.46%) emerged as the major laggards, reflecting the profit-booking trend in select blue-chips and the IT-specific selloff. Market analysts said the day's action showed that domestic sentiment remained resilient despite overnight volatility, with investors gravitating toward quality names and economically sensitive sectors. The gains also underscored how quickly equity markets can repair losses when macros and global cues tilt in favour of risk-on positioning, offering a timely reminder of both the opportunities and risks in India's dynamic stock market.

## Gold Prices Tumble in Domestic Bullion Markets, Silver Follows Suit

New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): India's domestic precious metals markets opened lower on Friday, with gold registering declines of up to ₹2,360 per 10 grams compared to Thursday's early trades, while silver weakened by as much as ₹5,200 per kilogram. This downturn has pegged 24-carat gold trading between ₹1,51,470 and ₹1,52,720 per 10 grams across major centers, with 22-carat variants quoted from ₹1,38,840 to ₹1,39,990 per 10 grams. Silver, meanwhile, is changing hands at ₹2,54,900 per kilogram in the national capital's bullion hub. In Delhi, 24-carat gold stood at ₹1,51,620 per 10 grams, alongside 22-carat at ₹1,38,990. Mumbai mirrored this trend with 24-carat at ₹1,51,470 and 22-carat at



₹1,38,840 per 10 grams. Ahmedabad reported 24-carat at ₹1,51,520 and 22-carat at ₹1,38,890, while Chennai saw the upper end at ₹1,52,720 for 24-carat and ₹1,39,990 for 22-carat. Kolkata and Bengaluru aligned at ₹1,51,470 for 24-carat and ₹1,38,840 for 22-carat, with Bhopal, Patna, Lucknow, and Jaipur hovering around ₹1,51,520-₹1,51,620

for 24-carat and ₹1,38,890-₹1,38,990 for 22-carat. Southern hubs like Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar echoed Bengaluru's levels. The softening reflects broader global cues, including eased geopolitical tensions and a stronger U.S. dollar, tempering safe-haven demand amid anticipation of domestic economic indicators.

## Indian Equities Rebound Amid Volatility, Sensex and Nifty Climb Higher in Early Trade



New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): Domestic stock benchmarks surged in early trading on Friday, buoyed by diplomatic strides toward de-escalation in West Asia, injecting optimism into investor sentiment despite initial fluctuations between buyers and sellers. The BSE Sensex opened at 77,121.01, up 489.36 points, oscillating between a high of 77,360.51 and a low of 76,851.16 before stabilizing at 77,348.98—a net gain of 717.33 points or 0.94% by 10:00 a.m. Similarly, the NSE Nifty

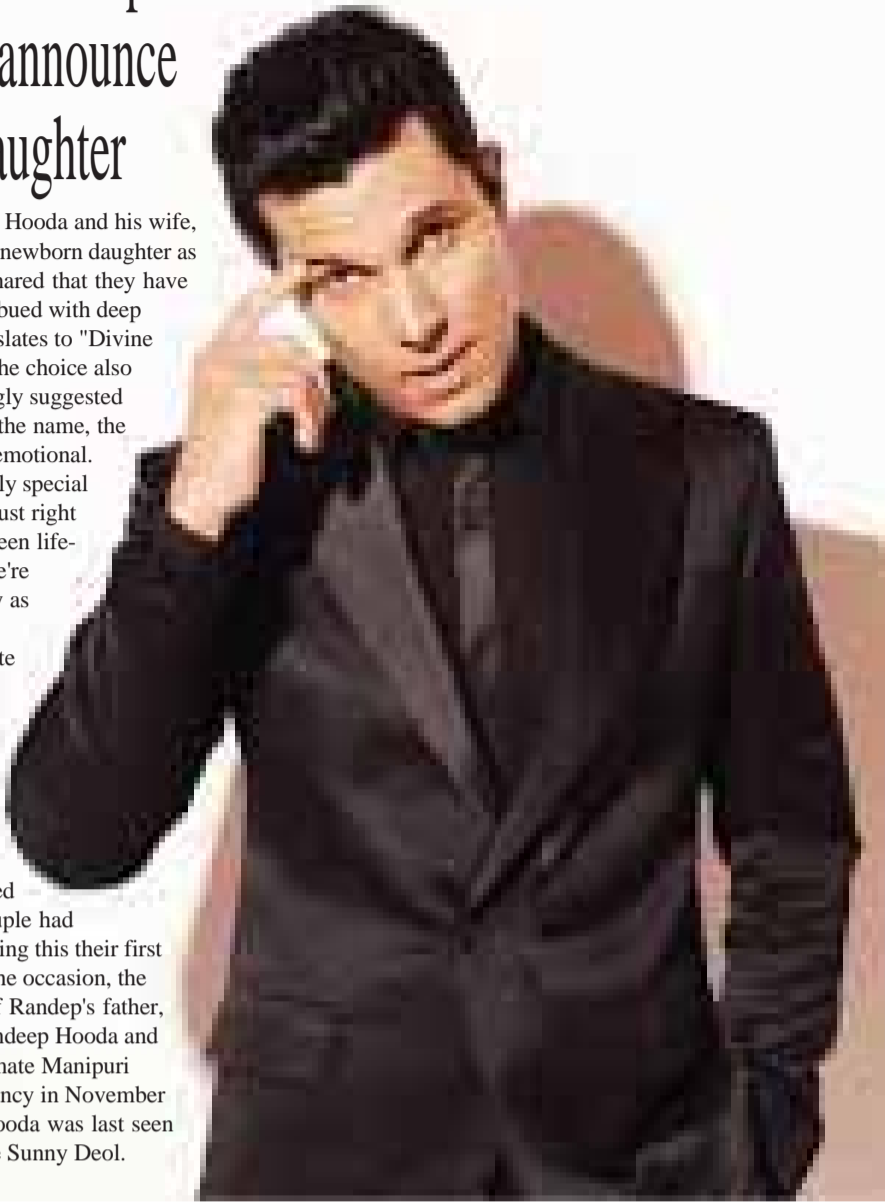
commenced at 23,880.55, advancing 105.45 points, and touched 23,998.25 amid selling pressure down to 23,856.35, closing the period at 23,994.50, up 219.40 points or 0.92%. Outperforming blue-chips included Shriram Finance, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Jio Financial, and ICICI Bank, each gaining between 1.69% and 2.78%. Conversely, Sun Pharma, Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, and HCL Tech lagged, declining 1.53% to 2.94%. Market breadth favored advances, with 2,441 of 2,693

active stocks in green territory against 252 in red. Within Sensex's 30 constituents, 24 advanced while six retreated; Nifty's 50 saw 41 gainers and nine decliners. This recovery follows Thursday's downturn, where Sensex shed 931.25 points (1.20%) to 76,631.65 and Nifty dropped 222.25 points (0.93%) to 23,775.10, as easing Middle East tensions now bolster risk appetite. The bullish tilt reflects broader relief from U.S.-Iran truce prospects, underscoring equities' sensitivity to geopolitical stability.

## Nyomica Hooda": Randeep Hooda, Lin Laishram announce the name of their daughter

In a heartfelt note, actor-filmmaker Randeep Hooda and his wife, Lin Laishram, have revealed the name of their newborn daughter as she completed one month today. The couple shared that they have named their daughter 'Nyomica', a name imbued with deep meaning. According to Randeep, the name translates to "Divine Grace, Freedom and limitless, like the sky." The choice also carries a special familial touch, as it was lovingly suggested by Randeep's sister, Anjali Hooda. Announcing the name, the couple described the moment as profoundly emotional.

"Naming our daughter has been an incredibly special and emotional moment for us. 'Nyomica' felt just right the moment we heard it. This past month has been life-changing in the most wonderful way, and we're soaking in every moment of this new journey as parents," they shared in a press note. The announcement was accompanied by an intimate photograph of Lin Laishram holding their daughter near a window, capturing a quiet and tender moment of early motherhood. The second picture in the post also provided a closer glimpse of their daughter. Randeep also expressed gratitude towards his wife, thanking her for bringing their daughter into the world, while reflecting on how fatherhood has deepened his appreciation for his own parents. The couple had earlier welcomed their daughter in March, making this their first child together. Adding an emotional layer to the occasion, the birth reportedly coincided with the birthday of Randeep's father, making it even more special for the family. Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram, who tied the knot in an intimate Manipuri ceremony in 2023, had announced their pregnancy in November last year. On the professional front, Randeep Hooda was last seen in the film Jaat, where he starred alongside Sunny Deol.



## Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar: The Revenge Crosses 1000 Crore at Hindi Box Office, Creates Historic Record

Ranveer Singh-led Dhurandhar: The Revenge has achieved a historic milestone at the Indian box office, surpassing the ₹1000 crore mark in its Hindi version. The film's extraordinary run has solidified its position as one of the most commercially successful Hindi releases in recent times, marking a significant achievement for the franchise. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the milestone in an Instagram post on April 10.

According to him, Dhurandhar 2 has made history by becoming the first Hindi film to cross the ₹1000 crore benchmark in its Hindi version. The analyst highlighted the film's sustained dominance across multiple weeks since its release. Its box office trajectory demonstrates consistent momentum throughout its theatrical run. In Week 3, the film earned ₹21 crore on Friday, ₹25 crore on Saturday, and ₹28 crore on Sunday, followed by ₹10 crore each on Monday and Tuesday, ₹8 crore on Wednesday, and ₹7 crore on Thursday, bringing the Week 3 total to ₹109 crore. Also Read: "There was such a positive energy on set": Shahid Kapoor recalls shooting for 'Jab Talak' song from 'Cocktail 2' Earlier, the film recorded a strong Week 1 collection of ₹649 crore (including Wednesday previews and eight days), followed by ₹251 crore in Week 2. The cumulative total now stands at ₹1009 crore for the Hindi version. With this achievement, the Dhurandhar franchise now holds both the No. 1 and No. 2 spots on the list of highest-grossing Hindi films, underlining its dominance at the box office. Released on March 19, Dhurandhar: The Revenge continues to maintain strong audience engagement in theatres.



## SPORTS

### Hockey India Appoints Tim White as Head Coach of Junior Women's Team

New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): Hockey India officially named Australian coach Tim White as head coach of the national junior women's hockey team Friday, tasking him with nurturing emerging talent following his recent stint leading Tamil Nadu Dragons in the January 2026 Hero Hockey India League. White's credentials span continents: prior to India, he guided Belgium's U-21 women to Junior World Cup bronze in December 2025, elevated their senior team's world ranking from 12th to 3rd (2021-2024), and reached Paris Olympics semifinals in 2024. Earlier, as Australia's junior national coach, he secured another Junior World Cup bronze. Expressing enthusiasm,



White cited India's hockey passion and legacy as drawing him back. Having observed local prospects closely, he aims to forge technically proficient players primed for senior integration, emphasizing simplified play, collective/individual strengths, aggressive attack with defensive discipline, fitness, and pressure performance. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey hailed White's expertise—proven in Australia and Europe—as pivotal for junior development. General Secretary Bholanath Singh termed the appointment a cornerstone for world-class training, accelerating youth pathways to elite contention.

### KKR is My Home": Andre Russell Embraces Power Coach Role with Emotional Bond

Kolkata, 10/4 (H.S.): In a candid Instagram exchange on KKR's official handle, assistant coach Shane Watson and newly minted power coach Andre Russell reminisced about their playing days while unpacking the Jamaican's transition to mentoring, with Russell declaring the franchise his enduring cricketing sanctuary. Watson lauded Russell's sustained excellence as a pace-bowling allrounder, a rare feat in T20's unforgiving arena. Russell elaborated his mandate: honing players' boundary-

hitting prowess, particularly sixes, without overhauling techniques—focusing instead on amplifying raw power. Admitting the shift's emotional toll, Russell confessed match-day urges to strap on pads, yet he's adapting to sidelines counsel. His dugout debut felt alien, he revealed, grappling initially with boundaries between player instincts and coaching imperatives.

The conversation peaked with Russell's heartfelt tribute to KKR as "home," ranking this season's honors among career's most



poignant. Watson reciprocated with respect for their past duels, welcoming the powerhouse to the staff.

### Barcelona Lodges Formal UEFA Complaint Over Officiating in Champions League Defeat to Atletico Madrid

New Delhi, 10/4 (H.S.): FC Barcelona has escalated its grievances to UEFA following a 0-2 loss to Atletico Madrid in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg, filing an official protest Thursday against perceived refereeing lapses that denied them a potential penalty. The

controversy erupted early in the second half at the 54th minute, when Atletico goalkeeper Juan Musso initiated a goal kick, only for defender Marc Pubill—already cautioned—to handle the ball inside the six-yard box, seemingly under the mistaken belief play remained paused.

### Sara Arjun to portray Madhubala in Sanjay Leela Bhansali-backed film



Young actress Sara Arjun has landed a major role in an upcoming Bollywood project, where she will essay the character of legendary actress Madhubala. The film will be directed by Jasmeet K. Reen and produced by noted filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Sara, who recently appeared in Dhurandhar 2 directed by Aditya Dhar, is set to take on one of the most challenging roles of her career. The film will explore the "Golden Era" of Hindi cinema, bringing to life the journey of Madhubala, widely regarded as one of the greatest actresses in Indian film history. The project is currently in the pre-production stage, with shooting expected to commence later this year. According to sources, Sara will undergo a significant physical

transformation to convincingly portray Madhubala. The makers are focusing extensively on costume detailing, training, and look tests to recreate the period with authenticity. The film is envisioned as a tribute to Madhubala's legacy. Director Jasmeet K. Reen, who earlier helmed the critically acclaimed Darlings starring Alia Bhatt and Vijay Varma, is expected to bring a nuanced narrative to the biographical drama. Madhubala, a leading star of the 1950s and 60s, featured in over 70 films during her career. She began as a child artist in Basant and went on to deliver iconic performances in classics such as Mughal-e-Azam, Barsaat Ki Raat, Howrah Bridge, and Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi. She passed away in 1969 due to a heart ailment.

### Sanjay Dutt's Heartfelt Birthday Wish for Anant Ambani Goes Viral | Salman Khan, Ranveer Singh & Ram Charan Join Celebrations

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt marked Reliance Industries Limited Executive Director Anant Ambani's birthday with a heartfelt message on social media. On Friday, Sanjay Dutt took to Instagram to share a candid photograph capturing a cheerful moment between the two at what appeared to be a festive gathering. The image shows the actor and Ambani holding hands and smiling, framed by traditional golden bells and soft, ambient lighting that added a celebratory tone to the post. Accompanying the photograph was an emotional caption in which Dutt described Anant Ambani as the "kindest and sweetest brother anyone can have." "Anant my brother, you are the kindest and the sweetest brother anyone can have. I pray to Mahadev that you stay in the best of



health and be successful in all your ventures. Stay happy always and be the same loving brother you are to me. Happy birthday, God bless you! Har Har Mahadev," the

'Dhurandhar' actor wrote. The post quickly gained traction online, with fans and celebrities joining in to celebrate the occasion. Actor Jackie Shroff also commented, "Happiness always.