

# Dumani Mail

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## Domestic LPG cylinder deliveries remain normal, over 52 lakh domestic cylinders delivered: Govt

**New Delhi:** The Government has said domestic LPG cylinder deliveries remain normal, and more than 52 Lakh domestic LPG cylinders were delivered yesterday. In a statement, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry informed that enforcement actions continue across the country to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG. It said that more than two thousand 700 raids were conducted across the country.



The Ministry said that PSU Oil Marketing Companies have strengthened and continued surprise inspections and imposed penalties on 219 LPG distributorships and suspended 56 distributorships till now. It stated that total commercial LPG allocation has been increased to about 70 percent of pre-crisis levels, including 10 percent reform-linked allocation. According to the Ministry, since 23rd March, more than 13 lakh 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinders have been sold to students and vulnerable communities, including migrant labourers. Over 4 lakh 24 thousand PNG connections have been gasified since last month, and over 4 lakh 66 thousand customers have registered

for new connections. Till date, more than 30 thousand PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections via MYPNGD.in website. Meanwhile, necessary measures have been put in place by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to safeguard Indian vessels and seafarers operating in the West Asia region. All Indian seafarers in the region are safe, and

no incident involving Indian-flagged vessels has been reported in the past 24 hours. The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping), has facilitated the safe repatriation of more than two thousand Indian seafarers so far, including 75 in the last 24 hours from various locations across the Gulf region.

Across the region, Indian Missions and Posts remain in close contact with the Indian community while continuing to provide assistance and issue necessary advisories for their safety and well-being. Flights continue to operate from countries where airspace remains open. Since 28th February, around 8 lakh 97 thousand passengers have travelled from the region to India.

## UP govt announces revised rental values for Ghaziabad

**Ghaziabad:** In a communication to the Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam on Friday, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a slight reduction in rental values, aiming to lower the overall property-tax on properties, officials said. They added that the new rates will be incorporated in the next few days.



hiked tax amount during the past two years, their amount will be adjusted in the future. The revision in tax has been done in such a manner that it is 10-12% on average (along with different rebates provided by the corporation), and for anyone who is not availing rebates, the increase is a maximum of about 20%," municipal commissioner Vikramaditya Malik said during the press briefing.

Explaining the order at a press conference on Saturday, city mayor Sunita Dayal and civic officials claimed that the revised rates will effect an increase of about 10-12% in property tax levied on properties.

The corporation also faced protests from its councillors at the headquarters in July 2025, while three former councillors moved the Allahabad High Court last year, contending that the tax had been significantly hiked.

However, in its order on February 25, 2026, the court dismissed the petition, stating that the exercise taken up by the respondents was "found to be fully in consonance with the statutory provisions requiring no interference by this court."

Rental values are the amount a property can generate in rent over a specific period, and form the basis for the calculation of property tax. The corporation last increased these values in 2024, effective April 1, 2024.

According to officials, there are about 772,000 taxable properties under the Ghaziabad municipal corporation, and about 2 lakh did not pay up the hiked tax in 2025. "Therefore, the government took cognisance and provided relief to residents. After the latest revision, the effective property tax increase is hardly about 10%. We will ensure the correct calculation of tax, and we will hire people for that role. The new system incorporating the revised rental values will become effective in the next couple of days," Dayal said.

Those who have not deposited their tax for the last year are given three months to deposit the tax within three months from April 15 to July 15. This will be without penalty or interest and will be with rebates. The government has taken a decision so that revenue increases for development without burdening the residents," Malik added.

However, the increased property tax led to protests from residents, traders, RWAs, and other associations, who claimed

## PM Modi to address Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan in New Delhi tomorrow

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan in New Delhi tomorrow. The national-level conference is being organised to reinforce the commitment towards greater participation of women in shaping India's development trajectory. It will highlight the increasing role of women in governance and leadership across all levels, from Panchayats to Parliament. The programme will also underscore the importance



of enhanced representation of women in decision-making processes. Women achievers from diverse fields will attend the event, along with representatives from

different sectors such as government, academia, science, sports, entrepreneurship, media, social work and culture. The Sammelan will highlight the role of women

in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

In September 2023, Parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' to enhance women's representation in legislative bodies. The Act provided for the reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. With a focus on the implementation of women's reservation across the country, a Parliament session will be convened from the 16th of this month.

## President Murmu, VP Radhakrishnan, PM Modi express condolences on demise of Asha Bhosle

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah expressed condolences on the passing of legendary singer Asha Bhosle.



have listened to and hummed her songs. The Defence Minister said that the echo of her sweet melodies will forever remain. He expressed condolences to her family and fans in this hour of grief.

In a social media post, President Droupadi Murmu said that her demise has created a huge void in the world of music. President Murmu said that Asha Bhosle's legendary career as an iconic singer has defined an era of music in India. The President said that the late singer led her life on her own terms as an artist and as an individual. She added that Asha Bhosle enriched Indian music for decades with her melodious and timeless voice. President Murmu said that her demise is an irreparable loss to music lovers and asserted that her music will live forever.

In a social media post, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan said that Asha Bhosle's versatile voice allowed her to effortlessly transition across genres, mastering soulful ghazals and traditional bhajans, leaving an indelible mark on Indian music. He added that Asha Bhosle's timeless voice and musical legacy will continue to resonate in the hearts of millions and inspire generations to come.

Home Minister Amit Shah said that Asha Tai not only carved out a unique identity with her sweet voice and unparalleled talent but also enriched Indian music further through her melodies. The Home Minister said that her extraordinary ability to adapt to every genre of music won over every heart and touched millions of hearts. Mr Shah said Asha Bhosle left an indelible mark not just in Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, and many other languages but also in folk songs. He added, Asha Tai's voice held as much tenderness as her demeanour did simplicity and warmth.

In a social media post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Asha Bhosle was one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known. He said that her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched the country's cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world. The Prime Minister said that, be it her soulful melodies or vibrant compositions, her voice carried timeless brilliance. Mr Modi said that he

## Annual Amarnath Yatra to commence from 3rd July; Registration to begin from April 15



**New Delhi:** The annual Amarnath Yatra will commence on 3rd of July this year and conclude on Raksha Bandhan on 28th of August, spanning 57 days. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that the Pratham Puja to invoke the blessings of Lord Shiva will be performed on 29th of June, coinciding with Jyeshtha Purnima.

Frequency Identification Devices will be issued to all registered pilgrims and service providers. Pilgrims will also be covered under group accident insurance of up to 10 lakh rupees per person. Insurance coverage of 50 thousand rupees per animal will be provided for ponies under the National Livestock Mission.

Addressing a press conference at Lok Bhavan in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor announced that advance registration for the Yatra will begin on 15th of April through both online and offline modes. Registration facilities will be available at 554 branches of major banks, including Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, and Yes Bank across the country. He said Radio

The Lieutenant Governor added that grid power supply and adequate lighting will be ensured along the Yatra routes, including the Baltal axis up to the Holy Cave and further to Panjtarni. Facilities such as e-services and a prepaid system for hiring ponies, pithoos, and palkis will also be available.

Yatri Niwas accommodation will be provided at Baltal, Pantha Chowk in Srinagar, Nunwan, and Chanderkote to facilitate pilgrims.

## Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passes away in Mumbai

**Mumbai:** Legendary singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai today. Maharashtra Cultural Minister Ashish Shelar confirmed the news while speaking to the media outside the hospital. Her



last rites will be held tomorrow at 4 PM at Shivaji Park. She was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai yesterday evening due to a chest infection and exhaustion, as informed by her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle on social media. Asha Bhosle was widely regarded as one of the greatest vocalists in modern Indian music, with a career spanning several decades. Born in 1933 into the renowned Mangeshkar family, she began her singing career at the age of nine. She recorded her first film song in 1943, and by the 1950s, she had established a distinct identity for herself in Hindi cinema. Over the decades, she remained one of the most sought-after playback singers, working with leading music composers across the industry. Among her most popular songs are 'Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar', 'In Ankhon Ki Masti', 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai', 'Piya Tu Ab to Aaja', 'Duniya Mein Logon Ko', and 'Zaara Se Jhoom Loon Main', among others. Bhosle recorded over 12,000 songs in different Indian languages and has been the voice for many leading ladies, from Meena Kumari, Madhubala, and Zeenat Aman, to Kajol, Urmila Matondkar and also South actors like Padmini and Vyjayanthimala.

## Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visits Paris and Berlin from 12th April

**New Delhi:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be on an official visit to Paris and Berlin from 12th April to 14th April. In Paris, the Foreign Secretary will co-chair the India-France Foreign Office Consultations along with the Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Martin Briens. The discussions will be held on a wide range of issues, including defence, civil nuclear energy, space, cyber and digital, AI, innovation, and initiatives fostering people-to-people exchanges and cultural ties. The External Affairs Ministry said that the latest global and regional developments will also be discussed. In Berlin, the Foreign Secretary will co-chair the

India-Germany Foreign Office Consultations with State Secretary of the German Foreign Office, Dr Géza Andreas von Geyr. The discussions would cover diverse domains of bilateral co-operation, including trade and investments, defence and security, technology, green energy, and education, as well as global and regional matters of mutual interest. The Foreign Secretary is also expected to meet other dignitaries and senior government officials in both places. The visit will provide an opportunity to review the full spectrum of the country's bilateral relations with France and Germany and advance ongoing cooperation across key priority areas.

## India rejects China's attempt to rename places

**New Delhi:** India on Sunday rejected China's "mischievous attempts" to assign "fictitious names" to places that are part of the country, reiterating that territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, remain an "integral and inalienable part" of India. Responding to media queries, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal urged China to refrain from actions that create negativity in bilateral ties and undermine efforts to foster better understanding between New Delhi and Beijing. "India categorically rejects any mischievous attempts by the Chinese side to assign fictitious names to places that form part of the territory of India. Such attempts by China to introduce false claims and manufacture baseless narratives cannot alter the undeniable reality that these places and territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, were, are, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," he said. "These actions by the Chinese side detract from ongoing efforts to stabilise and normalise India-China bilateral ties. China should refrain from actions that inject negativity into relations and undermine efforts to build better understanding," he added.

# Illegal mining in Koira Mining Sector

Keonjhar : Despite several outcries, illegal mining continues in Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts, causing huge losses to the government exchequer as well as to the environment.

After a long gap, the Sundergarh district administration caught an illegal mining operation in the Sanindpur Iron and Manganese Mines owned by M/S Grewal Minerals and Metals under Koira tehsil of Sundergarh district in Koira mining sector. The Tahsildar, Koira, sent a joint report pertaining to the illegal activities to the Additional District Magistrate, Sundergarh, in April 9, 2026 and sent copies to the Divisional Forest Officer, Banei, and the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira, for necessary action. Though the Mining Department stopped mining activities and mineral transportation a few months ago after receiving allegations of illegal mining from the Forest Department.

Sources said that this came to notice when the Forest Department during inspection had

found illegal mining activities outside the permitted area and informed the Mining Department a few months ago.

After the joint inspection, Tahsildar Koira submitted a detailed report on April 9, 2026 on illegal mining and violation of the Forest Conservation Act to the Additional District Magistrate, Sundergarh, sending copies to the Divisional Forest Officer, Banei and Deputy Director of Mines, Koira, for necessary action.

In this regard, Tehsildar Koira Nirmal Biswal said that "the joint investigation report has been submitted to the Additional District Magistrate, Sundergarh and a copy was given to the Deputy Director of Mines, Koida. The Deputy Director of Mines will take action regarding the illegal work done in the mine".

Similarly, the Additional District Magistrate, Revenue, Abhimanyu Majhi, said that I received the report. Illegal work has been found in the mines. Action will be taken under the Forest Conservation Act and fines

After the joint inspection, Tahsildar Koira submitted a detailed report on April 9, 2026 on illegal mining and violation of the Forest Conservation Act to the Additional District Magistrate, Sundergarh, sending copies to the Divisional Forest Officer, Banei and Deputy Director of Mines, Koira, for necessary action.

will be levied from the lessee".

On the other hand Nimananda Pradhan, a senior officer of the mining company, denied that any illegal work was being undertaken. "The mining activities have been undertaken within the lease area as per the ORSAC/DGPS map. No boundary pillar has been shifted and mining work has not been undertaken outside the boundary line. They are intentionally harassing. We have not yet received the joint inquiry report. After receiving the copy, further steps will be taken from

our side.

Sources said that Sanindpur Iron and Manganese Mines under Koida tehsil in Sundergarh district has a mining lease of 70.917 hectares in the name of M/s Grewal Minerals and Metals. On 11 August 2025 the Divisional Forest Officer of Bonei discovered the illegal mining and informed the mining department. In response to the letter from Bonei DFO, the DDM Koira ordered a DGPS survey regarding the said mines.

Further the DDM, Koira on dated 12 September has requested the DFO Bonei and Tahasildar Koira to depute their officials to attende the said DGPS survey, accordingly fresh survey was conducted on 19 September 2025. The DFO Bonei objects to the survey report approved by ORSAC because the map submitted in 2025 mismatches the previously approved DRP map. The DDM again formed a separate committee, and on 31 December, 2025 the committee inspected the boundary line. During the verification of the lease

boundary, it was found that a stretch of 1.756 hectares of mine working extended outside the lease boundary. Subsequently, verification on 8 January 2026, revealed that the original boundary pillars had been disturbed, and the mineral was dumped outside the lease area in the DLC forest. After finding illegal activity, the mining department stopped mining activities and transportation of minerals. However, locals alleged that despite illegal mining caught, the mining department could not file any case against the leaseholder under Section 21(5) of the MMDA Act, 1957, and no fine was collected. (EOM)

Based on the Joint Investigation Committee report, the Koida Tehsildar informed the Sundergarh Additional District Magistrate on April 9, 2026, enclosing the report regarding the violation of the Forest Conservation Act of 1980.. Sources alleged that illegal mining has caused not only crores of rupees of revenue loss to the government but also has damaged the environment.

## The second phase (Day 4) of the inventory process of the outer Ratna Bhandar has been completed under tight security

Puri: As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by the state government, today, Saturday (11.04.2026), the work of counting the remaining ornaments and valuable items stored in the outer Ratna Bhandar of the Shree Mandir was successfully completed, maintaining temple traditions under strict security. For today's counting process, the authorized members assembled at the temple's main office meeting hall at the scheduled time, as on previous days. Under the leadership of the Chief Administrator of Shree Mandir, Dr. Arabinda Padhee, and the Chairman of the high-level committee for Ratna Bhandar,

Justice Rath, along with the Deputy Chief Administrator-cum-District Collector, Superintendent of Police, senior officials, representatives of Chhatisa Nijog, sub-committee members, and other supporting staff, they departed from the office at 10:35 AM and entered the temple at 10:41 AM.

Before entering the Ratna Bhandar, all authorized members wore traditional attire. The Chief Administrator addressed the members and instructed them to carry out the counting of the remaining ornaments in the outer Ratna Bhandar as per the approved guidelines. He also directed that, as requested by the store officials, cloth materials

After taking blessings at the temple of the associated deities, members underwent security checks through metal detectors at the Beheran Gate, signed attendance, and began the process. In the presence of a magistrate, the Ratna Bhandar was opened at 11:30 AM.

lying outside the outer Ratna Bhandar be shifted into new almira's to clear the pathway before proceeding to the inner Ratna Bhandar in future.

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the Beheran Gate, signed attendance, and began the process. In the presence of a magistrate, the Ratna Bhandar was opened at 11:30 AM.

The ornaments were produced by the store officials, and the counting process was conducted by authorized members, including goldsmiths, gemologists, and measurement officers. As on previous days, the process included verification, proper documentation, photography, videography, 3D scanning, and creation of an e-catalogue.

Although the inventory process is time-consuming, the remaining ornaments were examined meticulously and counted accurately following all

procedures and guidelines. With this, the counting of all remaining items in the outer Ratna Bhandar was completed today.

After completion, the Ratna Bhandar was closed and sealed at 6:35 PM in the presence of the magistrate. All recorded data and digital storage chips were securely placed in the strong room of the temple office. Following all government guidelines, temple rituals and darshan arrangements for devotees continued smoothly. The Day 4 activities of the second phase concluded without any disruption. Chief Administrator Dr. Arabinda Padhee expressed gratitude and thanks to all servitors, officials, and devotees for their cooperation.

## Illegal transportation of morum guise of govt.schemes.

Khordha -12/4- Recently, the state government laid the foundation stone of 36 industrial institutions at a cost of about 40,800 crores at Bhuinpur under Begunia in Khordha district, while some influential politicians, dishonest government officials and employees are active. For the renovation of 'Gudia Pond' in Kushpalla village under Begunia tehsil, a grant of ? 5 lakh was provided from the Begunia MLA,LAD. While the work of digging the pond is going on. Under the direct supervision of some influential political leader of the locality hundreds trip of morum and soil extracted from the pond were illegally transported at the midnight in Hyva Truck trucks and sold exorbitant price to the Industrial establishments.

After receiving the news some youth of the local area strongly opposed it and dumped the Hyva loaded morum and soil near the Mangala temple of Kushpalla village. Seeing the opportunity, the morum and soil were transported elsewhere. The state government has been trying to solve the unemployment problem and the economic growth of the country and the state by establishing industrial

establishments in the local area, but due to some corrupt politicians, dishonest administrative officers and employees, the local area is turning into a desert today. If the local residents oppose it the miscreants threat them to killed him.The incident is brought to the notice of Begunia Tehsildar, but he explained that the morum and soil were being used in government schemes in his usual way. Due to the excessive digging of ponds and government lands, huge holes are being created, which are being filled with water even with a little rain. There are also instances of local residents drowning in the pond for defecation without knowing the depth of the pond. Recently, Pratap Kumar Sahu(45) youth of Begunia village drowned in the water while going to defecate in the pond. There is no doubt that if the mining of mineral resources in the Begunia area is not stopped due to the implementation of government schemes, a terrible situation will arise. People of the local area demanded that khordha district administration and the revenue department take the matter seriously.



## Dr. Jitesh Sharma Participates as Panelist at World Homoeopathy Day 2026

JHARSUGUDA : Dr. Jitesh Sharma, a renowned homoeopathic physician from Jharsuguda Odisha, Director JDS Homoeopathic Hospital was invited as a panelist at the prestigious World Homoeopathy Day 2026 held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The session titled "Harmonizing Healthcare: Bridging Research and Practice" brought together leading experts and academicians to deliberate on strengthening the integration between clinical practice and research in homoeopathy.

The panel featured eminent dignitaries including Dr. Vajjayanti Nagarkar, Dr. Dhananjay Shukla, and Dr. B.S. Johri, with the session being convened by

Dr. Manas Sarangi and co-convened by Dr. Neha Kalra.

During the discussion, Dr. Jitesh Sharma emphasized the critical need for transforming everyday clinical data into structured and research-oriented evidence. He highlighted that India possesses a vast pool of clinical experience in homoeopathy, but the challenge lies in standardizing and validating this data.

He further stressed the importance of digital platforms like the Homoeopathic Clinical Case Repository (HCCR) to enable clinicians to contribute effectively to research.

## Paradip Sahitya Sansad Celebrates 17th Annual Festival "Shabda Samudra-2026"



Paradip - The 17th annual festival of Paradip Sahitya Sansad, titled "Shabda Samudra-2026," was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Sunday, April 12, at the local Shishu Vidya Mandir auditorium during the forenoon session.

The event was presided over by the President of the Sahitya Sansad, Mr. Tulasi Baral. Eminent personalities graced the occasion, including poet Shailaja Ravi as the Chief Guest, Dr. Bhagabat Shukla as the Chief Speaker, and Ms. Bandita Shubhadarshini Pattanaik, Chairperson of Adidev Entertainment, as the Guest Speaker. Among the distinguished guests were Paradip Municipality Chairman Mr. Basant Kumar Biswal, Councillor Mr. Subrata Kumar Pradhan, Head of the

Commerce Department of Narayan Birabar Samanta College, Jhimani, Dr. Kishore Kumar Jena, and columnist Mr. Akshaya Kumar Rout.

The welcome address, introduction of guests, and presentation of the annual report were delivered by Mr. Prasanta Kumar Rout, while the program was skillfully anchored by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra. During the programme several distinguished individuals were honored for their contributions in various fields. Poet Prahlad Satapathy was conferred the Paradip Port Poetry Award, Dr. Abhilash Jena received the Essay Award, Dr. Sameer Ranjan was awarded for Short Story Writing, and artist Khirod Rout was honored

with the Fine Arts Award. Similarly, young poet Preeti Pragya Jena received the Nityananda Baral Memorial Award.

In addition, Dr. Shubhashree Baral, Dr. Rabindra Kumar Swain, and Jayadev Samantaray were felicitated for their contributions to healthcare. Poets Brundaban Das, Prabhat Das, Gopabandhu Nayak, Khageswar Mahanti, Mrs. Haramani Mohapatra, and Sanghamitra Swain were also honored for their literary contributions. Vikram Parida was recognized for his work in theatre direction. Furthermore, around 30 invited poets from different parts of the state recited their original compositions. All participating poets were felicitated with shawls, certificates, and bouquets.

## The contribution of eminent sons to Odia language and literature is unforgettable



Puri: On the occasion of the twelfth day of the observance of "Odia Paksha," a discussion session titled "Vandaniya Baraputra" was organized at the Youth Hostel premises. The event was jointly conducted by the District Administration (District Culture Council), Puri, and Shree Gundicha Spiritual Trust, Odisha, Puri.

The program was chaired by District Culture Officer Hemanta Behera. The chief guest was Dr. Kailash Chandra Tikayat Ray, the first Director of the Odia Language Institution. He stated that the greatness and richness of our language, literature, and culture are a matter of pride, and the contributions of our great sons in shaping them are unforgettable.

He further mentioned that the contributions of the Panchasakha of the medieval period and the Satyabadi Panchasakha in enriching the Odia language will always be remembered. We continue to benefit from their deep patriotism and love for the language. He emphasized that the present time is a crucial phase, and efforts should be made to educate the younger generation about our heritage, culture, and traditions, and to carry forward our language and literature through them.

As the Chief speaker, Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer Birendra Mohanty addressed the

gathering. Among the distinguished guests were advocate Binaya Nrusingha Mohapatra, advocate Rachita Rautaray, former Supply Officer Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Deputy Director of District Information and Public Relations Department Santosh Kumar Sethi, and Trust Secretary Laxmi Narayan Pattnaik, among others.

All speakers emphasized that the Odia language is a wonderful language, and its protection, promotion, and widespread use should be the collective goal of everyone.

The program began with a welcome address by Bipin Bihari Dalai. Participants in the discussion included Dr. Hemanta Chhotray, educationist Bijaya Laxmi Dash, Professor Kartik Kumar Das, Sadashiva Mishra, Deben Das, Bijaya Kumar Panda, Bishwabandhu Das, Subrata Jena, Aishwarya Das, Yogeshwar Praharaj, Shubhashree Mohapatra, Damodar Mohanty, Suresh Pattnaik, Ananta Pradhan, Minati Mishra, Prabhasini Mishra, Minati Pattnaik, Rashmita Das Mohapatra, Manaswini Behera, Santoshini Behera, and others. A poetry recitation session was also organized on this occasion. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Sandeep Karmakar.

## Two-Day National Convention of All India Theatre Council Begins: Mohammed Nizam Elected National President, Satish Kundan Elected National General Secretary



Puri : The National Convention of the All India Theatre Council (AITC) commenced on April 11-12 at Hotel Surya Beach Inn in Puri, Odisha, with artists from 19 states participating. Rajgopal Padhi, the National Vice President of AITC, welcomed all visiting artists with flower bouquets.

"The convention was inaugurated yesterday with the lighting of the lamp by all office bearers of the council. Addressing the inaugural session, Rajgopal Padhi stated, "Artists are facing an employment crisis, yet we are all working to keep the theatre alive." He assured efforts to restart the railway concessions for artists that were previously discontinued and advocated for pensions for artists. He also mentioned that the process of bringing all artist-related welfare schemes to every individual is ongoing and promised to revive the 'Repertory' system which has been shut down.

"Following the address, the souvenir titled 'Darpan' was released. National General Secretary Satish Kundan presented the three-year report, detailing the challenges faced in building the organization and the work accomplished over the last three years. Proposing the roadmap, he said AITC is working on plans for the prosperity of theatre and supporting artists during times of distress.

"National Vice President Mohammed Nizam remarked that this is the first artists' organization in the country where elections are held democratically. "Through

plays and workshops, we talk about social change. Drama and dance are our cultural identity, and we are struggling to preserve them," he said. Outgoing National President Ashok Mehra noted that the organization started with only five states and has now expanded to 19.

"Treasurer Sunil Dutt Vishwakarma presented the budget for 2025-26, noting that besides member resources, a total of 2.46 lakh rupees was collected, out of which 1.46 lakh was spent on artists and theatrical programs, leaving a balance of 1.20 lakh in the bank. National Coordinator Ashok Manav urged everyone to support active officials to ensure AITC feels like a family.

"The welcome speech was delivered by Odisha State President Ramachandra Sasmal, and the vote of thanks was given by Odisha General Secretary Bishwambhar Sahoo (Bapi). Around 120 delegates from states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Odisha attended the event.

In the final session, artists from across the country unanimously elected Mr. Mohammed Nizam (from Jamshepur) as the new National President of the All India Theatre Council and Satish Kundan as the General Secretary. Other office bearers were also selected for various positions.

## Odisha CM Mohan Majhi Extends Greetings on the Occasion of 'Ramabhishek Niti' at Shrimandir

Bhubaneswar, 12 April (H.S.): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the sacred occasion of 'Ramabhishek Niti' observed at the Shrimandir. In his message, the Chief Minister highlighted that the culture of Lord Jagannath symbolizes harmony and unity. He noted that this beautiful ritual, which begins on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, along with associated folk traditions, has further enriched the state's vibrant cultural heritage. Majhi also prayed that the divine blessings



of Mahaprabhu bring happiness, prosperity, and well-being to the lives of all.

## Naveen Patnaik Congratulates Sprinter Animesh Kujur on Double Gold at Indian Open Athletics Series

Bhubaneswar, 12 April (H.S.): Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik has congratulated ace sprinter Animesh Kujur for his remarkable achievement at the Indian Open Athletics Series 3 held in New Delhi.



Kujur delivered an outstanding performance by securing gold medals in both the 100m and 200m sprint events, underlining his growing stature in Indian athletics. Commending his success, Patnaik praised the young athlete's dedication and hard work.

He expressed hope that Kujur will continue to excel in his sporting career and bring further laurels to the nation. Patnaik also extended his best wishes for the athlete's future endeavors.

## Ratha Khala to Be Brought Under CCTV Surveillance Ahead of Rath Yatra



Bhubaneswar, 12 April (H.S.): In a major move to strengthen security arrangements ahead of the annual Rath Yatra, authorities have decided to bring the Ratha Khala (Place where Rathas are made) under continuous CCTV surveillance. The Ratha Khala is the sacred site where the grand chariots of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra are constructed.

Officials informed that a total of 12 CCTV cameras, including two advanced PTZ (Pan, Tilt, Zoom) cameras, will be installed across the construction site. These high-tech cameras can rotate, tilt, and zoom to monitor activities from multiple angles, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the sprawling area.

The surveillance arrangement will be in place from April 20 to July 15, starting with the commencement of chariot

construction on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and continuing until the completion of the work.

In addition, similar security measures will be implemented for the upcoming Chandan Yatra. As part of this, 14 CCTV cameras, including two PTZ units, will be installed at Chandan Chakada. These will remain operational from April 20 to May 10, covering the entire 21-day festival period, during which thousands of devotees participate in the sacred boat procession of the deities.

All cameras will be directly linked to the police control room for round-the-clock monitoring. Senior police and temple administration officials stated that the initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance security, ensure smooth conduct of rituals, and manage large crowds during the key pre-Rath Yatra events.

## Odisha Receives 17 CIDC Vishwakarma Awards, CM Mohan Majhi Highlights Engineering Excellence

Bhubaneswar, 12 April (H.S.): Odisha has earned national recognition by securing 17 awards at the prestigious CIDC Vishwakarma Awards, reflecting the state's strong commitment to engineering excellence and good governance. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi expressed pride over the achievement, noting that various State Government departments have won 10 of these awards. He highlighted that the Department of Water Resources alone received five awards for its outstanding work in irrigation and water management projects, which have significantly contributed to strengthening rural livelihoods and empowering farmers.

The Chief Minister also lauded the Works and Sports Departments for their notable contributions to developing modern healthcare infrastructure and world-class sports facilities in the state. Congratulating all the awardees, Majhi said their dedication and hard work are driving Odisha's growth and transformation. He described engineers, architects, and workers as the "modern-day Vishwakarmas" who are playing a key role in building a prosperous Odisha. Reaffirming the government's vision, he stated that under the guidance of Narendra Modi and the Double Engine government, Odisha remains committed to achieving the goals of a "Samruddha Odisha" and contributing to a "Viksit Bharat."

## Odisha Governor Pays Tribute to Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle

Bhubaneswar, 12 April (H.S.): Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati paid heartfelt tributes to legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, describing her as an invaluable treasure of Indian music. In his message, the Governor said that Asha Bhosle enriched the world of music with her melodious voice and left an indelible mark on millions of hearts. He noted that her remarkable contribution to the music industry will always be remembered. Emphasizing the timeless appeal of her voice, he stated that her songs will continue to resonate among people for generations to come, keeping her legacy alive forever.



## Dr. Niranjana Mohanty Addresses Gathering on Psoriasis

New Delhi/Paradip - Renowned homoeopathic physician and researcher, Dr. Niranjana Mohanty, delivered an insightful address on the management of psoriasis during the celebration of World Homoeopathy Day at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Speaking before an august gathering of dignitaries, medical professionals, and scholars, Dr. Mohanty highlighted the growing global burden of psoriasis and emphasized the role of homoeopathy as a safe, holistic, and effective approach in its management. He elaborated on innovative treatment protocols and shared his extensive clinical experience in handling chronic and intractable cases. Dr. Mohanty also stressed the importance of individualized treatment and scientific



validation in homoeopathy, aligning traditional principles with modern research advancements. His address was well received and appreciated by the audience for its depth, clarity, and practical

relevance. The event marked a significant occasion in promoting homoeopathy at the national level, with Dr. Mohanty's contribution adding substantial value to the scientific deliberations.

## Experts Call for Aluminium-Led Strategy to Unlock Odisha's Next Phase of Growth at Think Change Forum-BCKIC Seminar

Bhubaneswar : Think Change Forum (TCF), in partnership with Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation (BCKIC), Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India convened a policy seminar titled "Odisha's Strategic Opportunity to Lead Globally in the Industries of the Future", bringing together experts from policy, industry, science, mining and environmental governance to discuss how Odisha can build its next phase of industrial growth through aluminium, bauxite and stronger downstream value chains.

The seminar examined how Odisha can translate Vision 2036 into real economic outcomes by strengthening the aluminium ecosystem as a driver of industrial depth, manufacturing competitiveness, jobs, sustainability and balanced regional growth.

Discussions at the seminar highlighted a clear imbalance in Odisha's industrial growth. While the state has moved ahead in steel through large project approvals and iron ore mine operationalisation, aluminium remains underdeveloped despite Odisha holding the world's fifth-largest bauxite deposits and 51% of India's total bauxite reserves. Participants noted that India imported about 3.6 million tonnes of bauxite in FY2023 and an estimated 4.5 million tonnes in FY2024-25, with a foreign exchange burden of around ₹4,000-5,000 crore, while finished aluminium imports crossed ₹70,000 crore in FY2025-26. Speakers said this reflects a wider economic cost of underutilising available mineral strength and a missed opportunity for jobs, industrial growth and regional development in districts such as Kalahandi and Rayagada.

Speaking at the opening of the event, Prof. Mrutyunjay Suar, Chairman, BCKIC, said, "We are pleased to partner with Think Change Forum as a knowledge partner in this important

discussion on how Odisha can build stronger MSME and downstream depth through an Aluminium Corridor. For Odisha's industrial transformation to be future-ready, it is essential to connect mineral strength with value-added manufacturing, local enterprise development and innovation-led growth. At BCKIC, we remain committed to working with experts and institutions to help translate Odisha's Purba Vision into action."

Participants noted that aluminium is becoming increasingly important for sectors such as electric mobility, renewable energy systems, transmission infrastructure, aerospace and defence, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing. In that context, the seminar underlined that Odisha is uniquely positioned to build leadership in future industries if it moves decisively to strengthen aluminium-led manufacturing and value-added industrial capacity.

On the strategic importance of converting resource strength into industrial competitiveness, Mr. R K Sinha, Former Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines, said: Aluminium is increasingly becoming a strategic material for next-generation manufacturing, and for Odisha, this creates a clear urgency to operationalise bauxite resources and link them to downstream value chains. Odisha has the resource base to become a far stronger industrial and alumina hub, but this opportunity now calls for deliberate and timely action. The need of the hour is to responsibly unlock available bauxite reserves, resources to reduce import dependence, and create a more enabling pathway for downstream industrial growth. Equally important is the need to build trust at the community level by ensuring that local people are active participants in this development journey and can clearly see its economic and social benefits. With the right alignment between

government, industry and communities, Odisha can convert its mineral wealth into a long-term leading industrial player and significantly contribute to the growth of the region. This progress must also be anchored in meaningful Gram Sabha and community participation."

The seminar also brought focus to the urgency of faster operationalisation, stronger policy execution and tighter value chain integration across the aluminium sector. Participants observed that upstream movement is critical not only for industrial output, but also for enabling MSME participation, downstream manufacturing, local enterprise development and employment generation at scale. In this context, experts also discussed the importance of projects such as the Lanjigarh refinery in creating downstream value and livelihoods.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Kalyan Charan Mohanty, Executive Director, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL), said, "Corporates are already making significant investments in Odisha and contributing to value addition in the aluminium sector. The Government of Odisha remains committed to attracting further investment, deepening value addition around the prime metal, and ensuring stronger grounding of projects through active facilitation and time-bound support. With this approach, the state has a clear vision to make aluminium a more integral part of Odisha's industrial development over the next five to six years."

Adding an economic perspective, Prof. Nilanjana Banik, Economist and Program Director, Mahindra University, remarked: "The policy architecture is directionally sound, but industrial outcomes depend on execution discipline. The gap between approvals and operationalisation continues to dilute the full developmental impact of industrial growth. Lanjigarh refinery amongst other several projects are

## NALCO-Hosted All India PSU Badminton Tournament Concludes in

Bhubaneswar : The All India Public Sector Badminton Tournament successfully concluded yesterday on a high note at the Biju Patnaik Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Organized by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, the prestigious event witnessed enthusiastic participation from about 200 players representing 14 public sector organizations across the country, highlighting both competitive excellence and sportsmanship.

Teams representing the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) won the titles in both the men's and women's team events. CAG team also secured first place in the men's singles and mixed doubles categories. Similarly, teams from the Airports

Authority of India (AAI) won the women's singles, men's doubles, and women's doubles events.

Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, CMD, NALCO, handed over the prizes across various categories at the valedictory ceremony in the presence of Dr. Tapas Kumar Pattanayak, Director (HR), and Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Director (Commercial), NALCO. CMD, NALCO expressed his satisfaction over the success of the tournament and congratulated all participants for their exemplary sporting spirit. Senior officials of NALCO, match officials, and participating teams were also present on the occasion. The tournament, which commenced on April 7 and featured four days of exhilarating matches, reaffirmed NALCO's commitment to promoting sports and nurturing talent across the country.

## UAIL's Utkal Hospital provides rural medical access in southern Odisha

Bhubaneswar : Reinforcing its commitment to community welfare, Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, continues to strengthen healthcare accessibility in southern Odisha through the successful operation of Utkal Hospital at Tikiri (Osapada) in Rayagada district. The hospital has evolved into a dependable healthcare hub for rural and remote communities who face challenges in accessing timely and quality medical services. Serving as a cornerstone of UAIL's flagship healthcare initiative, Project Aarogyam 01, Utkal Hospital, provides critical medical support across Osapada, Tikiri, Kashipur, Rayagada, and parts of Koraput district. In coordination with Nuapada Health Centres, the hospital treats nearly 7,500 patients every month. Another 2,500 patients receive care at the company operated First Aid Centre.

The 22-bedded Utkal hospital offers round-the-clock specialist care, supported by experienced doctors across Obstetrics & Gynaecology (O&G), Medicine, Surgery, Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics, and General Physician services. Visiting specialists in ENT, Dental, Dermatology, and Orthopaedics enable access to multi-disciplinary medical expertise.

scale, the state needs predictability, infrastructure and stronger downstream linkages. Operational momentum in the value chain is essential if Odisha wants to move beyond being a supplier of raw materials and become a hub of value-added manufacturing. A strong MSME backbone will help generate meaningful employment in a significant way."

Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, Deputy Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India, said:

"Industrial depth is a function of value chain integration. Without downstream expansion, upstream capacity alone cannot deliver sustained economic multipliers. Competitiveness in future industries will be defined by how efficiently different stages of the value chain are aligned within a single geography."

On sustainability and governance, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Sahu, Former Chief Environmental Engineer, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, said: "Any expansion of bauxite- and aluminium-linked industries must be anchored in credible environmental governance and responsible mining practices. Bauxite is clearly a strategic opportunity for Odisha, but its long-term value can only be realised through frameworks that align ecological safeguards, scientific mining and industrial planning in a balanced and credible manner. This will be possible only when government, industry and local communities work in alignment, so that environmental governance becomes an integral part of responsible industrial development rather than a parallel consideration."

The seminar concluded that Odisha stands at a critical strategic inflection point. Participants agreed that the state's next phase of growth will depend on how urgently it strengthens the aluminium value chain, better utilises its bauxite resources, advances projects such as Lanjigarh, and builds the ecosystem depth needed to compete in the industries of the future.

Dr. Chinmay Sarangi, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-IITM, said: "India's transition into advanced manufacturing will be critically dependent on advanced technology for materials innovation, particularly in aluminium and allied sectors. Odisha is uniquely positioned, but the real opportunity lies in moving beyond extraction to building research-led, technology-driven industrial capabilities that support high-value applications and critical metal value recovery with waste valorisation, and industry has an important role to participate."

Speaking from an industry perspective, Mr. Ravikant Muddu, COO, Innocule, said: "From an industry standpoint, the challenge is not demand, but ecosystem readiness. For aluminium-led sectors to

## Weak Ceasefire

THE declaration of a two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran offers a welcome pause in a war that has already reshaped West Asia's strategic landscape. After weeks of devastating air strikes, the effective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and threats of civilisational destruction, even a temporary halt brings relief — to civilians, global markets and energy-dependent economies. However, beneath this fragile calm lies a troubling reality: none of the core disputes that triggered the hostilities have been



resolved.

Both Washington and Tehran have claimed success. President Donald Trump is portraying the ceasefire as evidence of American military dominance and a pathway to demolishing Iran's nuclear ambitions. Iran has framed the outcome as a strategic victory, having resisted the onslaught of US-Israeli forces and demonstrated its leverage over global oil flows. These competing narratives indicate recalibration, not a step towards achieving durable peace.

The widening of the conflict beyond Iran's borders is alarming. Israel has intensified its campaign in Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah and inflicting heavy civilian casualties in Beirut. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that this front remains active, exposing the ceasefire's limited scope. A truce that excludes parallel theatres of war seems unsustainable.

Even as Pakistan has come to the fore as a key mediator, conflicting interpretations of the ceasefire terms — particularly regarding uranium enrichment and control of the Strait of Hormuz — highlight the absence of a shared framework. Without clarity, even minor violations could ruin the agreement. Ultimately, this ceasefire is primarily a test of intent rather than a diplomatic breakthrough. It offers a narrow window for negotiations and is also a stark reminder of how quickly gains can be squandered. If the proposed talks in Islamabad fail to bridge the gulf, the region may soon find itself sucked back into the whirlpool of war.

## WB Situation

THE prolonged gherao of judicial officers in Malda district during the revision of electoral rolls is a new low for West Bengal in the run-up to the Assembly elections. The Supreme Court's sharp rebuke of the state authorities over their "inaction" sends a clear warning: law and order must be maintained at any cost. Terming the state "the most polarised" and ordering a probe by a Central agency, the Court has flagged a disturbing situation in which those entrusted with following due process face intimidation.

Political confrontation is apparently leading to administrative paralysis. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, a constitutionally mandated exercise, has become a flashpoint for competing narratives. Allegations of large-scale voter deletions are fuelling public anger, even as there are claims that the unrest has been orchestrated to undermine the electoral process. Yet, regardless of the political rivalry, the confinement of judicial officers for hours is indefensible. It represents a breakdown not only of public order but of respect for institutional authority.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has condemned the incident, but she has shifted the blame towards the Election Commission and political opponents. The BJP, which is going all out to upstage the ruling Trinamool Congress in the elections, has described the free-for-all as irrefutable proof of systemic collapse. This blame game, while predictable, detracts from the urgent need for accountability and corrective action. The directive to deploy Central forces and initiate an independent probe is a necessary immediate response. There is a dire need to depoliticise the administrative machinery, ensure transparency in the electoral exercise and rebuild public trust. Democratic resilience depends on institutions' ability to function without fear or favour. The Malda incident should serve as a wake-up call. When polarisation reaches a point where officers are openly confronted, the consequences extend far beyond a single state — they strike at the core of India's democratic framework.



# Performance of the Indian Stock Market

**Suresh Chandra Sarangi**

The stock market generally acts like a regulated, supply-driven marketplace, allowing companies to raise money via IPOs (primary market) and the investors are to trade shares amongst themselves, in the (secondary market), on an organised platform. The Indian stock market is a regulated, digital system with two primary exchanges: the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), both controlled by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Until writing this article in the morning, it was volatile and uncertain, and the Sensex and Nifty were jumping like anything. The news of holding back the gulf war for two weeks, on the condition that the opening of the Strait of Hormuz, with consequent reduction in the price of oil by oil marketing companies like Brent Crude, has already boosted the sentiment amongst the investors, and both Sensex and Nifty have shown remarkable resilience, for the time being, with a free ride upward.

Sensex and Nifty had best exhibited renewed volatility in FY 26. The volatility in the market was because of the global headwinds. There was already concern regarding the stretched volatility, on account of Trump's tariff, and it continued thereafter, due to the Iran-Israel and America war, a blatant blow to both regional peace in West Asia and World peace. Actually, before November 2025, there were some concerns regarding the overvaluation of scrips. The combined effect of

Trump's tariffs was a serious issue that marred Indian exports, and the result was consequential. Trade-related disruption was total with a 50 percent Trump tariff.

Apart from that, there was a muted political tension arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war. This continued after the Gulf War and Iran stopped oil flow, 20 percent of the world's daily requirement, to a standstill, and crude prices surged past 100. This also led to flight of capital from the Indian market, and the FIIs withdrew as the Rupee was crashing, and the market's lacklustre performance. Equity outflows amounting to US\$20 billion in 2026 are the highest ever recorded, but still counting. This resulted in a decline of 7.1 percent in the domestic equity indexes. Losses were concentrated in sectors like FMCG, IT, and real estate sectors, though the auto and metal sectors were at their peak. The yellow metal-driven stocks in the equity market, the gold and silver ETF funds, fared well, as did silver, zinc, aluminium, and copper.

The journey of the Indian equity market has been quite topsy-turvy, because of certain factors and its effect has affected the market to for which the market remained volatile. In such a situation, the investors are at their wits' end. It appears that the bull run had ended, and the market was under a tight bear grip. During quarter 1 of 26, the performance of the market was better. Equity market saw a steady inflow of US\$7.8 billion and buoyed by that, the Sensex rose by approximately 4.5%. But all

good things come to an end, and the Trump Tariff effect pulled the market down, with the bears dancing and having a hearty laugh. Outflow of around 9 billion US dollars made the investors panic-stricken, as they were afraid of the Indian domestic economy reeling under the external shock. Sensex had declined by -4% point. There was a monthly decline of around



12%. The market never looked up thereafter, with the bearish hangover having the last laugh. The zigzag graph continued, sales volume increased despite 8.2% GDP growth. Investors' aversion towards risk became threatening, and the market was losing, with both benchmark indices having a freefall.

Though a few IPOs in the primary market registered well with astronomical numbers and more participation, the turnover was decreasing. Sector-wise performances were also getting affected. There were varied performances, without any pattern. The four sectors, like IT, Real estate, tech, and FMCG, were going down the hill. The IT sector suffered because of huge layoffs

abroad as well as in India, with the arrival of AI. The job market declined, there was less hope for housing, and the real estate stock nosedived. There was less demand in the market. The increased cost of cement and other construction materials added fire to the fuel. The job losses had an impact on the FMCG sector. Banking stock also failed due to a failure to increase in

technology, etc., for which the stock market exhibited a fall. Apart from significant growth in gold and silver stocks, the general sentiment in the equity market remained muted and subdued. The war in the Gulf was a blatant blow. Oil prices surged, and aviation fuel was costlier. There was an air traffic restriction, which caused stocks of indigo to suffer. Projects of Larsen and Toubro failed like 9 pins as its project halted in West Asia, and future payments were in question and uncertain, with so much destruction. The biggest blow was the petrodollar economy, availability of LNG and pipeline gas, and thus the stock market was receding, and the investor's losing streak remained phenomenal.

The world was experiencing the greatest uncertainty, and the volatility in the stock market was incredible. World growth seemed to be muted, with an estimated reduction of .30 basis points. The Indian Rupee went against the dollar up to 95, the fiscal deficit was mounting, and the current account balances were diminishing, all on account of the West Asia war. It was a tumultuous year for the stock market. Now that Trump has agreed to hold back the strikes for 2 weeks, the euphoria in the stock market is palpable, and breeding hopes like a germinating seed. Let us hope for a good time for the Indian Stock market and the Middle East, and overall global peace, stability, and progress.

deposit mobilisation, and consequently, it adversely affected funds deployment. However, Auto, Capital goods, oil and gas, power, healthcare, and consumer durables were showing some upbeat momentum. No doubt, the reform in the Goods and Services Act has brought in good news. Diwali brought the cheers, and this saw a northbound direction in sales, along with good results for the economy. Global metal prices had surged, and that boosted the metal stocks beyond a point. Gold prices had rallied around 50%, so also, as well as silver and copper. There have been sectoral imbalances in aviation as oil prices skyrocketed, a fall in semiconductor stock, Keynes

## Alternative Pathways Beyond NEET UG: Rethinking Medical Careers in India

**Dr Vijay Garg**

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) has become the primary gateway for students aspiring to pursue undergraduate medical education in India. While it ensures a standardized selection process, the intense competition, limited seats, and high pressure often leave many capable students searching for alternatives. Fortunately, a wide range of pathways exist for those who wish to build meaningful careers in healthcare and life sciences without clearing NEET.

1. Allied Health Sciences: Expanding Healthcare Horizons

Allied health sciences offer numerous career options that play a crucial role in patient care and medical support. Courses such as Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT), Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT), Medical Laboratory Technology (BMLT), and Radiology and Imaging Technology are excellent alternatives. These professionals work closely with doctors and are essential for diagnosis, rehabilitation, and treatment.

2. Nursing: A Noble and Rewarding Profession

Nursing remains one of the most respected professions in healthcare. Students can pursue B.Sc. Nursing or General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) programs without NEET in many institutions. With increasing global demand, nursing offers stable career opportunities both in India and abroad.

3. Pharmacy: Bridging Medicine and Research

Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) is another promising option. Pharmacists are experts in drug formulation, development, and dispensing. With the rise of the pharmaceutical industry, this field provides opportunities in research, quality control, and healthcare services.

4. Biotechnology and Life Sciences

For students inclined toward research and innovation, biotechnology, microbiology, and biochemistry are excellent fields. These disciplines contribute significantly to medical advancements, vaccine development, and disease research. Graduates can work in laboratories, research institutions, and biotech companies.

5. AYUSH Courses: Traditional Systems of Medicine

India offers various undergraduate courses under AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy). Programs like BAMS (Ayurveda), BHMS (Homeopathy), and BUMS (Unani) provide alternative medical education. Some of these may require NEET, but admission policies can vary, making them worth exploring.

6. Paramedical Courses: Quick Entry into Healthcare

Diploma and degree courses in paramedical sciences allow students to enter the healthcare sector quickly. Fields such as emergency medical services, dialysis technology, and operation theatre technology are in high demand.

7. Psychology and Mental Health Careers

With growing awareness about mental health, psychology has emerged as a significant field. Students can pursue a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and later specialize in clinical or counseling psychology, contributing to mental well-being.

8. Studying Medicine Abroad

Some students consider pursuing MBBS abroad in countries like Russia, Ukraine, or the Philippines, where admission processes may differ. However, they must still qualify screening tests to practice in India, making it important to carefully evaluate this option.

## When Silicon Meets the Soul: Reimagining the Dialogue Between Artificial Intelligence and Spiritualism

**Madhusudan Mishra, IAS, Retd.**

In an era of relentless technological acceleration, artificial intelligence has forced humanity to revisit enduring questions about consciousness, identity, and meaning. Machines now write, compose, diagnose, predict, and converse, challenging assumptions about what intelligence truly entails. Yet even as algorithms grow more sophisticated, they remain devoid of lived experience, self-awareness, and inner presence.

This distinction between computation and consciousness lies at the heart of a deeper dialogue between technology and spiritual inquiry. While artificial intelligence represents the pinnacle of human ingenuity, spiritual traditions across civilizations explore awareness as the essence of existence. From Vedantic insight to Buddhist mindfulness and Sufi reflection, the central idea persists that consciousness is not merely a byproduct of the brain, but a fundamental reality.

In this light, artificial intelligence, however advanced, remains a construct of the material domain. It processes data, identifies patterns, and generates outputs, yet it does not experience the world. This limitation does not diminish its utility, but instead sharpens the need to redefine what it means to be human. If intelligence alone no longer distinguishes humanity, then qualities such as empathy, moral judgment, and spiritual awareness assume greater significance.

The ethical implications of artificial intelligence further deepen this conversation. As autonomous systems increasingly influence decisions in healthcare, governance, finance, and warfare, questions arise about responsibility and morality. Can ethics be encoded into algorithms, or does true moral reasoning require intuition, compassion, and lived experience. Spiritual traditions emphasize inner discipline, selflessness, and interconnectedness as the foundations of ethical action, offering perspectives that extend beyond rigid rule-based systems.

At the same time, the growing presence of artificial intelligence raises concerns about human disconnection. Digital environments often mediate relationships, attention, and perception, creating distance from the inner self. Spiritual practices such as meditation, contemplation, and prayer provide a counterbalance, encouraging awareness, stillness, and presence. The challenge is not to reject technology, but to integrate it without losing depth of experience.

Interestingly, artificial intelligence is also being deployed to support spiritual engagement. Digital platforms now offer



**Madhusudan Mishra**

guided meditation, interpretive tools for sacred texts, and personalized reflective practices. Such innovations expand access to spiritual knowledge, yet they also raise questions about authenticity and depth. Can a machine guide an individual toward self-realization, or does transformation depend on human connection and lived wisdom. From an interdisciplinary perspective, the convergence of artificial intelligence and spiritual thought invites collaboration across neuroscience, philosophy, cognitive science, and theology. Insights into human perception, cognition, and awareness can inform the development of intelligent systems, while scientific methods can help articulate spiritual principles in contemporary terms. Such engagement does not weaken either domain, but enriches both, fostering a more holistic understanding of reality.

The societal implications of this evolving relationship are equally profound. As artificial intelligence reshapes economies and labour markets, ethical frameworks rooted in spiritual values can guide equitable progress. Principles such as duty, compassion, and nonviolence offer a moral compass for deploying technology in ways that prioritize collective wellbeing over narrow interests. This perspective encourages innovation aligned with sustainability, inclusion, and human dignity.

The dialogue also challenges assumptions of dominance, whether of machines over humans or humans over nature. Spiritual thought emphasizes humility and interconnectedness, recognizing that all forms of existence are interdependent. Artificial intelligence, when guided responsibly, can reflect this ethos by promoting harmony rather than control. The objective is not to surpass humanity, but to enhance human potential while respecting the broader

ecological balance.

Looking ahead, artificial intelligence presents both promise and risk. It holds the capacity to transform healthcare, education, and governance, yet also carries dangers of inequality, bias, and dehumanization. Navigating this landscape requires more than technical expertise. It demands a deeper ethical and philosophical grounding that spiritual traditions have long cultivated. Progress without purpose risks becoming hollow, while innovation guided by wisdom can elevate both individual and collective futures.

Ultimately, the relationship between artificial intelligence and spiritual inquiry need not be adversarial. Rather, it can be complementary, with each illuminating different dimensions of human existence. Technology expands external capability, while spirituality deepens internal awareness. Together, they offer the possibility of a balanced paradigm in which knowledge is tempered by wisdom and power guided by purpose.

As society stands at this critical juncture, the central challenge is not merely to build more advanced machines, but to cultivate greater human insight. The measure of progress will not rest solely on technological sophistication, but on the depth of awareness guiding its use. In harmonizing innovation with introspection, humanity may discover renewed meaning, ensuring that the evolution of intelligence is matched by the evolution of consciousness.

This editorial perspective underscores the urgency of integrating ethical reflection into technological development. Policymakers, educators, and innovators must engage in dialogue that bridges scientific progress with philosophical depth. Without such engagement, society risks advancing tools that outpace its moral capacity to manage them. Conversely, a thoughtful synthesis can ensure that artificial intelligence remains a servant of humanity, not its master. Education systems in particular have a pivotal role to play in shaping this balance. By fostering critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and self-awareness, they can prepare individuals to navigate an increasingly complex world. Integrating technological literacy with philosophical inquiry equips future generations to approach innovation with responsibility and insight. Such an approach ensures that progress remains aligned with enduring human values.

In conclusion, the convergence of artificial intelligence and spiritual thought represents not a conflict, but an opportunity. It invites humanity to reflect on its essence while embracing its creations.

## Bihar CM Succession Buzz Intensifies: BJP Taps Shivraj Singh Chouhan as Observer for Leadership Pick

New Delhi, 12/4(H.S.): Speculation over the Chief Minister's post in Bihar has gained momentum following Janata Dal United national president Nitish Kumar's transition to the Rajya Sabha. On Sunday, the Bharatiya Janata Party's parliamentary board appointed Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as observer to oversee the selection of the party's new legislative party leader. A meeting of the BJP legislature party, under his supervision, will finalize the choice. In a communiqué released Sunday, the BJP announced that its parliamentary board has designated Central Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the central observer for electing the



leader of its Bihar legislative wing. Citing his vast experience and ability to forge consensus, the party entrusted him with this pivotal responsibility. He is expected to arrive in Patna shortly to chair a crucial BJP legislature party meeting. Today, lawmakers from both BJP and

JD(U) have been convened at the Chief Minister's residence. Notably, JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar took oath as a Rajya Sabha member on April 10 and may tender his resignation from the Chief Minister's office as early as Monday.

## Top Leaders Mourn Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle: President, VP, PM Lead Emotional Tributes

New Delhi, 12/4(H.S.): President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and several other leaders expressed profound grief on Sunday over the passing of iconic playback singer Asha Bhosle. On X, the President stated, "Asha Bhosle's demise has created a profound void in the music world. Her illustrious career as an eminent singer defined an era of Indian music. I cherish fond memories of our personal interactions. With her sweet, timeless voice, she enriched Indian music for decades. Her music will endure eternally. Her loss is irreparable for music lovers." The Vice President remarked that Asha Bhosle's unparalleled voice and



musical legacy will continue to resonate in millions of hearts, inspiring generations to come. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla noted that Asha Bhosle elevated Indian songs, music, and cinema to global prominence through her singing in

Hindi, Marathi, and numerous other languages. Her departure represents a deep loss to India's art and music fraternity. Prime Minister Modi shared, "I am deeply saddened by Asha Bhosle's passing. Her extraordinary musical journey spanning decades enriched our cultural heritage and touched countless hearts worldwide. I will forever cherish the moments spent with her." Home Minister Amit Shah stated that Asha Bhosle not only carved a unique identity with her melodious voice and exceptional talent but also further enriched Indian music through her melodies. Her rare ability to adapt to every genre captivated hearts universally. With her voice, she touched crores of

souls, leaving an indelible mark in Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, and folk songs alike. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari offered, "Heartfelt tribute to the immortal voice of Indian music, Asha Bhosle ji!" Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said Asha Bhosle's demise marks the end of an era in playback singing. A symbol of versatility and dignity, her distinctive style was admired by millions worldwide. Honored with the Padma Vibhushan, she remains among the most-recorded artists even today. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi conveyed, "Asha Bhosle's artistry will live on immortally through her voice. In this hour of grief, my condolences are with her bereaved family and admirers."

## Modern Progress and Cultural Stewardship Are Inseparable Allies: VP Radhakrishnan

New Delhi, 12/4(H.S.): Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan declared on Sunday that modern development and cultural preservation are mutually reinforcing. True national advancement flourishes only when progress and heritage advance in tandem. The Vice President made these remarks while inaugurating a conference at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi titled "Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions – Preserving Language, Faith, and Culture." Organized by the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) and ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Dehradun, the event highlighted symbiotic integration. He elaborated, "Achieving a developed India by 2047 does not entail forsaking our culture. The mantra 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' (Development as well as Heritage) signifies embracing modern technology while safeguarding ancient traditions, as they complement each other profoundly." The Vice President emphasized that when contemporary science harmonizes



with language, faith, and culture, it emerges as a potent catalyst for preservation and empowerment. Tribal communities possess invaluable traditional knowledge aiding biodiversity and sustainable forest resource utilization, having safeguarded India's ancient culture, beliefs, and civilizational legacy for centuries. He spotlighted immense potential for green economic growth in tribal regions, praising their generational mastery in design, textiles, and color palettes. Paying homage to former Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for establishing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, he described it as a moral commitment to justice, dignity, and opportunities for these communities. Highlighting key government initiatives, he referenced the Pradhan Mantri Janman program, which has approved over 2,400 roads spanning 7,300 kilometers and more than 160 bridges. He also cited the Dharti Aabha Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, targeting clean water, housing, education, healthcare, and sustainable

livelihoods across 63,000 tribal villages. The Vice President underscored transformative infrastructure and connectivity gains in the North East, reaffirming the government's dedication to inclusive progress. Among attendees were Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Prof. Abhay Karandikar, and former MP and ITITI Doon Sanskriti School founder trustee Tarun Vijay.

New Delhi, 12/4(H.S.): CM Devendra Fadnis The second star in Mageshkar family has fallen with the sad demise of Asha Bhosle. Staring serving the field of music at a tender age of five, she continued contribution to the field till she breathed her last at 92. The most versatile singer shesang sons in more than 20 different languages. Braving very difficult lime in her life she was performing for three hours on the stage even at the age of 90. Maharashtra Government had planned to celebrate 100th birthday of LataMageshkar, but she passed away earlier. Now the second plan also failed to materialise, Fadnis said. He announced a funeral of Asha Bhosle will full state honour. Besides Padma Vibhushan, Maharashtra Bhushan and many award, she was also honoured by West Bengal by awarding 'Bangla Vibhushan' for her singing in

Bangla language. Ninit Gadkari Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recalled her personal association with Asha Bhosle. With her versatile singing she popularised Indian voice across the world. Asha Bhosle's death is shock to all of us. Chandrashekhar Bawankule Maharashtra's Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said he finds no words to describe about sha Bhosle and her voice. Her lively performance even at the ripe age cannot be forgotten. The era of godly voice ended with the passing away of Ashatai. Her voice will remain immortal. Padmaja Fenani Renowned singer Padmaja Fenani said despite facing very difficult times, Ashatai carved out her own place in the field of music. When the modern facilities, gadgets and studios were not available she performed on stage with aplomb. Chhagan Bhujbal Maharashtra Minister Chhagan

Bhujbal recalled her sons and range of her voice suited to devotional songs to pop songs, cabaret, which made her popular across the world. Besides other awards she was not only honoured with Maharashtra Bhushan but also with Bangla Vibhushan award. Sharad Pawar The golden era of immortal voice ended with the death of Asha Bhosle. She led the field of music in all forms for over six decades and earned a permanent place in the music lovers' hearts. Her contribution to the field of music is invaluable. Uddhav Thackeray Another pillar in India music field after Lata Mageshkar collapsed with the sad demise of Asha Bhosle. Her voice regaled generation for over six decades. Film and stage industry renowned personalities including Ashok Saraf and Mahesh Kothare also paid rich tributes to Asha Bhosle.

## Vande Bharat Sleeper Train Approved:

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has accorded approval for inaugurating a Vande Bharat Sleeper Train service between Bengaluru and Mumbai. In a letter apprising Member of Parliament PC Mohan of this sanction, the Railway Minister disclosed that the proposal to operate a Vande Bharat Sleeper Train from KSR Bengaluru station in Karnataka to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai stands duly approved. Anticipation mounts for the nascent service's commencement next month, fortifying connectivity between southern and western India whilst affording passengers the luxury of contemporary amenities within ergonomic sleeper coaches.

## PM Modi's Grief-Stricken Homage to Asha Bhosle's Timeless Brilliance

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed profound sorrow on Sunday over the demise of legendary singer Asha Bhosle, hailing her as "one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known." In a heartfelt post on X, PM Modi articulated verbatim: "Deeply saddened by the passing of Asha Bhosle Ji... Her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched our cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world.

## Rahul Gandhi Flags Off 'Run for Ambedkar, Run for Constitution' Marathon

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday, accorded the green flag to the 'Run for Ambedkar, Run for Constitution' marathon organized in Delhi. The objective of this event is to disseminate awareness among youth regarding the Constitution and the ideals of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The Congress party shared information on social media platform X, stating that this

marathon was organized by the party's Scheduled Caste Department in collaboration with the Other Backward Classes Department. A large number of workers and youth participated in the program. Addressing the workers on this occasion, Rahul Gandhi said that the Constitution is Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's message and without the Constitution, India would not be visible in its present form today.

He accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of seeking to weaken the Constitution, while Congress's aim is to keep it strong and secure. He stated that Congress desires the Constitution's message to reach every corner of the country and every citizen to comprehend its significance. For this purpose, awareness campaigns are being continuously conducted by encouraging greater participation of youth.

## Melodic Sovereign's Parting: Amit Shah's Heartfelt Elegy to Asha Bhosle's Dulcet Mastery

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Sunday, mourned the demise of legendary singer Asha Bhosle with profound reverence, extolling her for forging an inimitable niche through her "sweet voice" and "unparalleled talent," while imbuing Indian music with enduring melodic opulence. In a poignant Hindi missive on X, Shah proclaimed verbatim: "Today is a sorrowful day for every Indian, and especially for every music lover like me, as our beloved Asha Bhosle ji is no longer among us." This heartfelt tribute arrives at a moment of profound national loss, as Asha Bhosle departed peacefully at 92 due to multi-organ failure at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital—concluding a remarkable seven-



decade legacy that graced Bollywood with everything from lively cabarets to deeply moving ghazals, ensuring her melodies endure forever in India's cultural heart.

Home Minister Amit Shah's words honor her as a true maestro whose gentle, honeyed voice spanned generations, touching countless lives with lasting grace and reverence.

## Blue Horizons Convened: Navy's Apex Parley Post-'Sindoor' Charts Maritime Might in Indo-Pacific

New Delhi, 12/4(H.S.): The inaugural segment of the Navy's biannual Commanders' Conference, convened twice yearly, will unfold from 14 to 16 April at New Delhi. This paramount conclave at Navy Bhawan will encompass a holistic appraisal of the Navy's operational stance vis-à-vis safeguarding national maritime interests, capability augmentation, and synergistic alignment with security imperatives through strategic congruence. Discourses therein aim to propel the Indian Navy as the preeminent security partner across the Indian

Ocean Region and Indo-Pacific expanse. Amid West Asia's conflagrations and multinational convergences in the Indian Ocean—juxtaposed against swift naval deployments to fortify India's energy security—this summit assumes paramountcy. Notably post-Operation 'Sindoor,' it recalibrates operational doctrines, inter-services coordination, and technology-infused response paradigms. Engagements will feature Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Home Secretary, and Navy's senior echelons, fostering interoperability, national stability



architecture, and collective countermeasures to emergent maritime perils. Serving as a conduit for intimate national leadership interface, it delineates strategic navigational vectors for naval blueprinting. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will scrutinize with operational commanders and senior brass countermeasures to prevailing geostrategic exigencies' multifaceted threats. Deliberations shall spotlight critical security facets alongside paramount operational triumphs, blue-water process amplification, training regimens, human resource stewardship, sustainable

maintenance praxis, efficacious unmanned systems deployment, operational logistics, and ancillary modalities for platform combat readiness. The agenda encompasses Navy's Artificial Intelligence roadmap execution and data-driven technologies for seamless operations. Scrutiny of preparedness adheres to the Indian Maritime Doctrine's quartet roles: persistent operations, augmented international synergy. It advances governmental vistas of reciprocal, holistic security across domains, alongside indigenization endeavors.

## Bridges of Brotherhood: Nepal's PM Balendra Shah Graciously Accepts PM Modi's Invitation for Pivotal India Visit

Kathmandu, 12/4(H.S.):Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah has received an invitation for an official visit to India. According to Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, Prime Minister Balendra Shah has accepted the invitation extended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During a sideline meeting between Nepal's Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal—currently in Mauritius to participate in the Indian Ocean Conference—and India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, discussions were held regarding Prime Minister Shah's forthcoming trip to India. From Mauritius, Foreign Minister Khanal informed via phone that in a congratulatory message sent



by Indian Prime Minister Modi to Shah, an invitation was extended for a visit to India. The Nepal government has accepted it, though the date for the visit has not yet been finalized. At present, the foreign ministries of both countries are making preparations for Balendra Shah's visit. Nepal's Foreign Secretary Amrit Rai stated that negotiations are ongoing between the governments of India and Nepal regarding the agenda for the visit. Continuous meetings are being held with officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to forge consensus on the agreements to be signed during the visit.

## Passing of Visionary Agronomist: Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque's Enduring Legacy in Bangladesh's Agricultural Renaissance

Dhaka, 12/4(H.S.):The former Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, breathed his last late Saturday night at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in Dhaka while undergoing treatment. BARC has expressed profound grief over the demise of Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque and extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved family members. According to a report in the Dhaka Tribune newspaper, the Bangladesh Agricultural

Research Council stated that the nation has lost an exceptional agricultural scientist and farsighted leader whose contributions significantly propelled the country's agricultural research sector forward. The council prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strength to the family to bear this irreplaceable loss. He was renowned in Bangladesh as a preeminent expert in farming systems research and sustainable rural agricultural development. He authored several books. In

2013, he was honored with the prestigious Agricultural Alumnus Award by Purdue University in the United States.



## Islamabad Talks Stalled Over Lebanon and the Strait of Hormuz; Negotiations to Resume

Islamabad, 12/4(H.S.):In Islamabad, the outcome of Pakistan's high-stakes bid to broker peace in the Middle East, and to end the war between Iran and the United States and Israel, may still be some time away. In the capital city, after a marathon, roughly 15-hour dialogue that began late Saturday afternoon, both sides remained stuck on the issues of Lebanon and the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranian and American delegations, meeting in Islamabad under Pakistan's mediation, have finished their first lengthy session and are scheduled to resume talks again today. During the early-morning hours, the Iranian side accused the United States of making "unreasonable demands" while insisting that it would remain firm on safeguarding its national interests. Iranian officials also confirmed that, by mutual agreement and in line with Pakistan's proposal, another round of negotiations will be held on Sunday. Reporting from Iran's Tasnim news agency, Al Jazeera, Pakistan's Dunya News, and the American CBS News, sources say the intense round of talks between Iranian and US negotiators in Islamabad lasted for about 15 hours

and concluded Sunday morning local time. Iranian officials began their consultations in Islamabad on Saturday at around 13:00 local time at the Serena Hotel. They first met with Pakistani officials and then moved on to discussions with the American delegation. The talks continued until approximately 3:40 a.m. local time on Sunday. Iran has described this round as the highest-level face-to-face dialogue between Tehran and Washington since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Prior to this, the last major encounter was between the then-foreign ministers of the two countries in 2015. In the current talks, the US delegation is led by Vice-President JD Vance, while the Iranian side is headed by Speaker of parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Washington has made it clear that no meaningful progress can be made in these negotiations unless the Strait of Hormuz is fully reopened for free navigation. Over the course of the 15-hour session, the parties reportedly exchanged several draft proposals in at least five different rounds. Both sides also held phone consultations with their senior leadership in Washington and Tehran. During the talks, additional

Iranian aircraft arrived in Islamabad, signalling the seriousness of Tehran's diplomatic push. Pakistani officials, acting as hosts and mediators, have been instructed to maintain a strict public silence; the government is avoiding any public comment on the negotiations, so as not to influence the outcome. The stated objective of this dialogue is to reach a permanent peace agreement that would end the ongoing war in West Asia and restore regional stability. The conflict has already crippled global energy supplies, with major disruptions in oil shipments through key choke-points such as the Strait of Hormuz. The talks in Islamabad began on Saturday, just four days after Iran and the United States announced a fragile two-week ceasefire in the region. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed hope that the talks will pave the way for lasting peace in West Asia. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has issued a clear warning: if a durable peace agreement fails to materialise after these talks, the United States will resume its military operations against Iran.

## Shattered Diplomacy: Islamabad Talks Collapse as Iran Rejects US Terms, Vance Departs Without Accord

Islamabad, 12/4 (H.S.):The peace negotiations between the United States and Iran in Islamabad have ended in failure. Discussions between the two countries' delegations lasted approximately 21 hours. U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, has departed Pakistan for home. It was earlier stated that talks would continue today, but Vance left for America before that, stating in a press conference that the bad news is we could not reach any agreement. In his view, this is far worse news for Iran than for America, which is why he is returning home without any deal. According to a Fox News report, Vice President JD Vance departed Pakistan for the United States on Sunday at 7:09 AM local time aboard Air Force Two, after concluding 21 hours of talks with Iranian officials. The negotiations ended without reaching any agreement. Vance announced at a Sunday morning press conference that Iran had decided not to accept the conditions. More than a month after the launch of America's Operation Epic Fury, the Vice President had arrived in Pakistan on Saturday morning to lead talks with Iran. According to the Dawn newspaper, Vance addressed a



press conference here after direct talks between the two countries. Vance said, "We have been working on this for the past 21 hours and we have had serious discussions. The bad news is that we have not been able to reach any agreement." The Vice President stated, "We have made it clear what our goals are. We have also made it clear which of Iran's demands we are willing to accept. But the Iranian delegation has refused to accept our conditions." At the start of the press conference, Vance praised

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling them excellent hosts. He also clarified that Pakistan, as a mediator, did an excellent job and truly tried to help bridge the gap between us so that an agreement could be reached. When asked what specific points Iran rejected, Vance said, "I won't go into all the details, because after 21 hours of private talks, I don't want to negotiate publicly now. But the straight talk is that we need a firm assurance that they will not try

to build nuclear weapons and nor will they try to acquire the means to rapidly obtain nuclear weapons." Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ismail Baghai wrote on X, "It has been a busy and long day for the delegation in Islamabad. During this time, many messages and documents were exchanged between both sides. The main topics of discussion were the Hormuz Strait, the nuclear issue, war reparations, lifting of sanctions, and the complete end to the war."

## Netanyahu's Defiant Address: Israel's Unyielding Campaign Against Iran's Shadow

Jerusalem/Tel Aviv, 12/4(H.S.): In a resolute video statement delivered on Saturday night local time, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu articulated the strategic imperatives and resounding successes of Israel's multifaceted military operations targeting Iran and its proxies. Speaking against a backdrop map delineating Iran alongside its regional allies such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza—Netanyahu declared with unyielding conviction: "They wanted to strangle us, and we are strangling them." This vivid metaphor encapsulated Israel's proactive posture, underscoring that while "historic achievements" had been secured, "the campaign is not over—we still have more to do." Netanyahu meticulously outlined Israel's precision strikes, which have ostensibly eroded Iran's military and economic sinews to their nadir since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He emphasized the depletion of Iran's missile stockpiles, alongside the systematic neutralization of critical infrastructure: "We had a goal to weaken the Iranian



regime to its lowest level since 1979. I am listing the many targets we eliminated—the steel industry, gas production, fuels, bridges, and railways." Netanyahu further asserted that Iran, riven by "internal conflicts among the leadership," is now "begging for a ceasefire," citing leaked Tehran dispatches indicating leadership schisms and public unrest in Isfahan following strikes. Focusing on existential imperatives, Netanyahu justified the campaign as a preemptive excision of "two existential threats": Iran's

inexorable march toward nuclear weaponry and unchecked ballistic missile proliferation. "Iran was very close to nuclear weapons," he stated, aligning with assessments from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, March 2026 quarterly report), which flagged Iran's uranium enrichment to 83.7% purity—perilously near weapons-grade levels. Israel, per Netanyahu, executed targeted eliminations: "We eliminated nuclear scientists and struck nuclear facilities," reducing Tehran's capabilities.

Netanyahu's address extended beyond Iran, signaling a broader reconfiguration of Middle Eastern fault lines. He revealed overtures from Lebanon for direct peace talks, greenlit post a pivotal call with US President Donald Trump amid fears that Hezbollah escalations could unravel the fragile Iran ceasefire. "Lebanon had reached out several times in recent weeks to begin direct peace talks," Netanyahu noted, conditioning accord on Hezbollah's disarmament and a "real peace agreement that will last for generations."

## Easter Truce Shattered: Russia and Ukraine Trade Accusations Amid Prisoner Swap on Day 1,509

Kyiv, 12/4(H.S.):On Saturday, a fragile 32-hour ceasefire intended to honor Orthodox Easter in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war crumbled within hours, as both sides leveled mutual charges of violations. This marked day 1,509 of the conflict, with escalating drone strikes, shelling, and assaults underscoring the deep-seated mistrust between the warring factions. Ukraine's military general staff reported 469 breaches by Russian forces, including 22 assault actions, 153 shelling incidents, 19 attack drone strikes, and 275 FPV drone operations. Over the day, they documented 57 Russian airstrikes, 182 guided aerial bombs dropped, 3,928 drones deployed, and 2,454

shelling attacks on populated areas and Ukrainian positions. Russian regional governors in the border areas of Kursk and Belgorod countered that Ukrainian drones targeted infrastructure, injuring five people, with a specific strike on a gas station in Lgov wounding three individuals, including an infant. Despite the acrimony, a glimmer of humanity emerged through a significant prisoner exchange. Each side repatriated 175 prisoners of war and seven civilians, facilitated by mediation from the United Arab Emirates. Ukrainian officials noted that 163 of their servicemen had endured captivity since 2022, describing their return in "varying conditions"

as a profound achievement amid unimaginable hardships. Russia's defense ministry confirmed receiving 175 servicemen and Kursk-origin civilians. Leaders addressed their nations amid the turmoil. Russia's president attended midnight services at a major Moscow cathedral, framing Easter as a "triumph of love, good, and justice" while praising clerical support for troops in the "special military operation." Ukraine's president, in his evening address, reaffirmed commitment to the truce, urging its extension and warning that any Russian resumption of hostilities would expose true intentions to the world, particularly the United States.

## Vance's Verdict: Iran Rejects US Nuclear Ultimatum After 21-Hour Deadlock

Islamabad, 12/4(H.S.):Amid the shadowed corridors of Pakistani diplomacy, United States Vice President JD Vance emerged from 21 hours of unrelenting negotiation to proclaim a sobering truth: Iran has spurned America's foundational terms. In a voice laced with measured gravity, Vance declared during his briefing, "They have chosen not to accept our terms." This rebuff, he elaborated, stems from Tehran's refusal to furnish an ironclad commitment against pursuing nuclear weaponry a non-negotiable cornerstone of U.S. policy. Vance methodically delineated the impasse, noting that prior strikes had

eradicated Iran's extant nuclear infrastructure and enrichment sites. "But we do not see a commitment to not develop more nuclear weapons," he asserted, his words carving a clear delineation between tactical victories and enduring strategic imperatives. As the Middle East ceasefire teeters, Vance's disclosure not only forecloses immediate accord but also spotlights America's fortified posture. With U.S. naval assets pioneering transits through the mine-laced Strait of Hormuz, his rhetoric heralds a paradigm where military preeminence bolsters diplomatic leverage—an epochal juncture in global security dynamics.

# Foreign Investors' Sell-Off Persists into April: 48,213 Crore Exited by April 10 Amid Global Turbulence

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) continue their relentless divestment from India's domestic equity markets. After aggressive selling in March, FPIs have maintained their net seller stance into April, offloading shares worth ₹48,213 crore by April 10. In the initial two trading days of April—April 1 and 2—FPIs liquidated ₹19,837 crore worth of equities. This week, they extended the trend, withdrawing ₹28,376 crore over five days, repatriating capital from the local bourse. Data from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) reveals that March saw FPIs record a staggering ₹1.17 lakh crore outflow—the highest monthly sell-off ever, eclipsing the previous peak of ₹94,017 crore set in October 2024. In 2026 year-to-date, foreign investors have extracted over ₹1.75 lakh crore from Indian equities. Contrastingly, February



2026 marked a brief resurgence, with FPIs injecting ₹22,615 crore—the largest inflow in 17 months—following persistent selling since October 2024. Experts attribute this to a climate of global apprehension fueled by the Iran-US-Israel conflict, casting shadows over

worldwide economies. Crude oil prices hover near \$100 per barrel, exacerbating pressures, while the weakening rupee further accelerates FPI exits from equity markets. Rajiv Dutta, CEO of Capex Gold and Investments Private Limited, observes no immediate reversal in FPI

sentiment. A return to buying awaits discernible positive shifts, including de-escalation in West Asia, normalized shipping through the Hormuz Strait, rupee stabilization, and robust Q4 corporate earnings. Favorable global conditions could swiftly pivot their stance.

# Two Fresh IPOs Set to Launch Next Week, Dual SME Listings on Monday

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): The upcoming trading week, commencing Monday, April 13, will witness modest activity in the primary market. Precisely two companies are slated to unveil their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs): one in the mainboard segment and the other in the SME category. Investors can also place bids in two ongoing IPOs during this period. Regarding new listings on the stock exchanges, a pair of companies—both from the SME segment—will make their debut on the same day. On the week's final trading day, April 17, Citius Transnet Investment Trust's ₹1,340 crore IPO will open for subscription, remaining available until April 21. The price band and lot size are yet to be finalized. Post-closure, allotment is scheduled for April 22, with demat credits on April 23, and shares tentatively listing on BSE and NSE on April 24. Simultaneously, on April 17,



Mehul Telecom's SME IPO will launch, accepting bids until April 21. Details on issue size, price band, and lot size remain pending. Allotment follows on April 22, demat credits on April 23, and listing on BSE's SME platform on April 24. Beyond these, Om Power Transmission's ₹150.06 crore IPO, opened last week on April 9, will close tomorrow, Monday. It carries a price band of ₹166-175 per share with a lot size of 85 shares.

Allotment is expected in April, with listing on BSE and NSE potentially on April 17. The issue has garnered 71% subscription thus far. Likewise, Propshare Celestia's ₹244.65 crore IPO, which opened on April 10, accepts applications until April 16. The price band stands at 10 lakh to 10.50 lakh per share, issuing 2,330 fresh shares. Listing on BSE may occur on April 24, with 47% subscription achieved so far.

# Govt Raises Diesel Duties, Hikes ATF Levy With Immediate Effect

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): The Centre on Saturday increased excise duties on petroleum products, including high-speed diesel, with immediate effect, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance. The Union government has hiked the export duty or windfall tax on diesel by Rs 34 per litre to Rs 55.5 per litre from Rs 21.5 per litre, with immediate effect. As per the Gazette notification, the Special Additional Excise Duty on high-speed diesel has been raised to Rs 24 per litre. In a separate notification, the Union government also increased the Road and Infrastructure cess on diesel to Rs 36 per litre under provisions of the Finance Act, 2018. The Centre said the revisions were aimed at aligning domestic duties with rising global crude prices and preventing exporters from gaining undue advantage due to price differentials. Meanwhile, duty on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has also been raised from Rs 29.5 per litre to Rs 42 per litre, while export duty on petrol continues to remain nil. Global oil markets



have remained volatile following the escalation of conflict in West Asia. On February 28, the US and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering retaliatory actions from Tehran. Subsequently, on April 8, Iran, the US and Israel agreed to a two-week ceasefire after the conflict disrupted energy markets and trade flows across the West Asia region. The notification said the decision to revise duties was taken as circumstances warranted immediate action. Further amendments have also been made to earlier notifications issued on March 26, 2026, revising applicable duty rates on

petroleum products. All the changes have come into force with immediate effect, the notification added. Earlier, oil marketing companies hiked ATF prices. Rates for domestic carriers were increased by Rs 8,289.04 per kilolitre, or 8.56 per cent, to Rs 1,04,927.18 per kilolitre from Rs 96,638.14 per kilolitre. Meanwhile, prices for foreign carriers and non-scheduled, charter and ad-hoc operators were raised more sharply by 114.5 per cent to Rs 2,07,341.22 per kilolitre. Analysts said the increase in ATF prices may offer short-term relief to oil marketing companies.

# Top 8 Firms' Market Valuation Jump Rs 4.13 Lakh Crore Last Week

Mumbai, 12/4 (H.S.): Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp rally last week, lifting the combined market valuation of eight out of the top-10 most valued companies by a massive Rs 4,13,003.23 crore. The gain was led by strong gains in banking heavyweights HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. The upbeat sentiment in the market was reflected in benchmark indices, with the Sensex surging 4,230.7 points or 5.77 per cent, while the Nifty climbed 1,337.5 points or 5.88 per cent during the week. According to Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking Limited, market sentiment remained buoyant amid optimism over a temporary US-Iran ceasefire. However, lingering geopolitical uncertainties capped the pace of gains toward the latter part of the week. He also noted that a sharp drop in crude oil prices below the \$100 mark eased domestic concerns and supported a broad-based rebound in equities. Among the top performers, HDFC Bank emerged as the biggest gainer, adding Rs 91,282.67 crore to take its market capitalisation to Rs 12,47,478.57 crore. ICICI Bank followed



closely, with its valuation jumping Rs 76,036.36 crore to Rs 9,46,741.85 crore. Financial services major Bajaj Finance saw its market value surge by Rs 60,980.35 crore to Rs 5,75,206.47 crore, while engineering giant Larsen & Toubro added Rs 47,624.97 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 5,44,736.59 crore. Telecom major Bharti Airtel gained Rs 45,873.43 crore to reach a market capitalisation of Rs

10,66,293.69 crore. Public sector lender State Bank of India also witnessed a strong rally, with its valuation rising Rs 43,614.67 crore to Rs 9,84,629.98 crore. In the IT space, Tata Consultancy Services added Rs 26,303.49 crore to its market cap, which stood at Rs 9,13,331.92 crore. FMCG major Hindustan Unilever also posted gains, with its valuation climbing Rs 21,287.29 crore to Rs 5,06,477.89 crore. However, not all companies

shared in the rally. IT giant Infosys saw its market capitalisation decline by Rs 3,285.03 crore to Rs 5,24,124.40 crore. Similarly, Reliance Industries experienced a marginal erosion of Rs 947.28 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 18,27,086.79 crore. Despite the dip, Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most valued company, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Tata Consultancy Services.

# Over 52.3 Lakh Domestic LPG Cylinders Delivered In A Day, No Dry-Outs: Govt

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): The distribution of domestic LPG in the country remains normal with more than 52.3 lakh domestic LPG cylinders delivered on Saturday and no dry-outs reported at any distributorship, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Sunday. Online LPG bookings have increased to about 98 per cent, and deliveries based on the Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) have increased to around 93 per cent to prevent diversion at the distributor level, according to an update issued by the ministry. More than 4.24 lakh PNG connections have been gasified, and about 4.66 lakh additional customers have also registered for new connections. Consumers are encouraged to use alternative fuels such as PNG and electric cooktops. All citizens are urged to conserve energy during the current situation, it reiterated. More than 30,000 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections via MYPNGD.in website. Citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of petrol,



diesel and LPG and rely only on official sources for information. LPG consumers are requested to use digital booking platforms and avoid visiting distributors. Despite the ongoing geopolitical situation, the government has prioritised domestic LPG and PNG supply, particularly for

hospitals and educational institutions. More than 1 lakh 5 kg LPG cylinders were sold across the country against a daily average of 77,000 in the month of February, taking the total figure of these small LPG cylinders sold since March 23 to over 13 lakh. Over 7,665 MT of commercial LPG (equivalent

to more than 4 lakh-19 Kg LPG cylinders) was also sold on Saturday, taking the total number of such cylinders sold since March 14 to 63.6 lakh. A three-member committee of Executive Directors from IOCL, HPCL and BPCL is coordinating with State authorities and industry bodies

to plan commercial LPG distribution. Meanwhile, as part of the enforcement action continuing across the country to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG, public sector oil companies carried out over 2,700 raids across the country on Saturday. They are continuing with surprise inspections and have imposed penalties on 219 LPG distributorships and suspended 56 distributorships till now. All refineries are operating at high capacity, with adequate crude inventories in place. The country is also maintaining sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel. Domestic LPG production from refineries has been increased to support domestic consumption, the statement said. The government is making all efforts to ensure the availability of petrol, diesel and LPG, and citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of the fuels as well as unnecessary booking of LPG. Citizens are requested to use digital modes for booking of LPG cylinders and avoid visiting LPG distributors unless necessary, the statement added.

# World Bank Releases \$340 Million for Amaravati Development

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): The World Bank has released \$340 million for Amaravati Capital Phase-I development, with an additional \$150 million expected by the end of



April. Officials confirmed that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank together committed \$1.6 billion, with each contributing \$800 million. The Centre also pledged Rs 15,000 crore, of which Rs 1,400 crore has already been allocated. The Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme (AIUDP) is being implemented under the Program for Results framework, linking disbursements to milestones rather than fixed schedules. The loan carries a six-year grace period and a 29-year maturity, with repayments beginning in June 2031. During the first 14 months, the focus has been on strengthening institutions, building governance capacity, and preparing Amaravati to serve as an inclusive growth hub. Job-focused skilling programs are underway, targeting women and youth to equip them for emerging opportunities. Infrastructure development has advanced steadily. Contractors are building arterial and neighbourhood roads, housing projects, and city-wide systems for water supply, wastewater, and stormwater drainage. Flood management works have reached 35 per cent completion across six locations. World Bank officials emphasised that the project aims to make Amaravati a climate-resilient, well-managed city capable of attracting investors and creating jobs. The partnership with ADB will continue to provide technical expertise and international best practices to support Andhra Pradesh's vision for its new capital.

# The voice of a billion hearts: Remembering Asha Bhosle



New Delhi, April 12: With the passing of Asha Bhosle at the age of 92, the world of music has lost not merely a singer but an era, a soundscape, and a living archive of emotion. Her voice, at once playful and profound, sensuous and spiritual, echoed across generations, languages, and continents. She passed away on Sunday at Breach Candy Hospital due to multi-organ failure, bringing to a close a life that had, for over eight decades, defined the very soul of Indian music. To attempt to summarize Asha Bhosle's legacy is to attempt the impossible. She was not just prolific, though her over thousands of recorded songs in multiple languages earned her a Guinness World Record as the most recorded artist in history, but also transformative. She did not simply sing songs; she reshaped how songs could be sung, how emotions could be conveyed, and how a voice could transcend boundaries of genre, age, and expectation. Born Asha Mangeshkar on September 8, 1933, in Sangli, she entered a household steeped in classical music. The daughter of the revered Pt Deenanath Mangeshkar and the younger sister of Lata Mangeshkar, her destiny seemed intertwined with melody from the very beginning. Yet her journey was far from easy. The sudden death of her father when she was just nine years old made her and her sister step into the world of playback singing. Asha Bhosle's breakthrough came in 1957 with 'Naya Daur', in collaboration with composer OP Nayyar. It was a turning point that revealed her unique tonal quality which was playful, expressive, and daring. Soon, she became the unmistakable voice behind some of Hindi cinema's most vivacious characters, especially for the iconic dancer Helen. Songs like 'Piya Tu Ab To Aaja' and 'Yeh Mera Dil Yaar Ka Diwana' didn't just entertain; they redefined sensuality in Indian film music. Yet, to reduce Asha Bhosle to cabaret numbers would be to miss the essence of her genius. She was, above all, an artist of astonishing versatility. When she lent her voice to the ghazals of 'Umrao Jaan' in 1981, she showed the world her classical depth. 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai' and 'In Aankhon Ki Masti' were not just songs; they were masterclasses in restraint and nuance. For this, she earned her first National Film Award, affirming her place among the greats of Indian classical and semi-classical music. Her ability to evolve with time was perhaps her most remarkable trait. Decades into her career, she embraced change with the curiosity of a newcomer. Her collaboration with AR Rahman in 'Rangeela' (1995), particularly in songs like 'Tanha Tanha,' stunned audiences, here was a voice in its sixties sounding fresher and contemporary just like the singers half her age. She even ventured beyond Indian music, collaborating with international artists and genres, proving that her artistry knew no borders. Recognition followed her at every stage. She was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor, in 2008. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Indian cinema's most prestigious recognition, came in 2000. She won multiple Filmfare Awards and received international acclaim, including a historic Grammy nomination in 1997 for her album 'Legacy.' Beyond the recording studio, Asha Bhosle was also a passionate cook, often saying in her interviews that had she not been a singer, she would have been a chef.

This was no idle claim. She transformed her love for food into a thriving global restaurant chain, 'Asha's,' which brought her personal recipes to diners across Dubai, the UK, and the Middle East. Speaking about her personal journey, she was married first to Ganpatrao Bhosle and later to the legendary composer RD Burman. She shared with the latter a partnership that was both creatively explosive and deeply affectionate. Their collaborations produced some of the most iconic songs in Indian cinema including, 'Dum Maro Dum', 'Mera Kuchh Samaan', 'Duniya Mein Logon Ko', 'Jaane Jaan Dhoondata Phir Raha', 'O Mere Sonar Re Sonar', and 'Do Lafzon Ki Hai Dil Ki Kahani', among many others. Even after his passing in 1994, his influence remained intertwined with her music. To understand Asha Bhosle is to listen, not casually, but attentively. From the seductive allure of 'Piya Tu Ab To Aaja,' to the aching elegance of 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai,' from the breezy romance of 'Chura Liya Hai Tumne,' to the youthful exuberance of 'Tanha Tanha,' her repertoire is a map of human emotion. Each song represents not just a moment in cinema, but a moment in the listener's life. Her passing marks the end of an era, but her voice will never truly fall silent. It will live on, in vinyl records and streaming playlists, in nostalgic recollections and new discoveries, in kitchens and concert halls, in heartbreak and celebration. She is survived by her son Anand Bhosle and several grandchildren. On Sunday, Anand Bhosle confirmed the death of her mother and the details of her last rite. "People can pay their last respects to her at 11 am tomorrow at Casa Grande, Lower Parel, where she lived. Her last rites will be performed at 4 pm tomorrow at Shivaji Park," he told media. Maharashtra Minister Ashish Shelar also mourned the demise of the melody queen and announced that she will be cremated with full state honours. Speaking to the media, Shelar said the entire country and Maharashtra are mourning the end of an era, adding that Bhosle's contribution to music brought joy not only to India but also to audiences across the world. "Today, the entire country and Maharashtra are mourning the end of an era. Her work and her music were a source of joy not only for India but for the entire world," he said. In a heartfelt message on X, Prime Minister Modi expressed deep sorrow, calling Bhosle "one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known." He credited her extraordinary musical journey spanning decades for enriching India's cultural heritage and said her songs would continue to inspire generations. "Her voice carried timeless brilliance," he wrote, adding that he would always cherish his personal interactions with the singer. "Deeply saddened by the passing of Asha Bhosle Ji, one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known. Her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched our cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world. Be it her soulful melodies or vibrant compositions, her voice carried timeless brilliance."

## SPORTS

### Indian Cricket Fraternity Mourns Legendary Asha Bhosle's Eternal Departure

New Delhi, 12 /4 (H.S.): Iconic playback singer Asha Bhosle, a towering figure in the music world, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday at the age of 92. The Indian cricket community has united in profound sorrow over her demise. Senior Indian cricketer Virat Kohli paid homage via an Instagram story: "May God grant your soul eternal peace. Your voice has touched millions of hearts and will forever live in ours. Om Shanti." Legendary Sachin Tendulkar shared a heartfelt tribute on X: "Today is an incredibly sorrowful day for India and music lovers worldwide. Asha Tai was family to us. Words fall short to express the deep void we feel. One moment, the heart falls silent; the next, it drowns in the countless melodies she gifted us. Time itself seems suspended. Yet, through her immortal songs, she lives eternally. Thank you, Tai, for filling our lives with warmth, dignity, and unforgettable music. We will miss



you immensely." India men's team head coach Gautam Gambhir posted on X: "Deeply saddened by the passing of the great Asha Bhosle ji. Her grace and unparalleled talent will remain etched in our memories." Former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh reflected: "Grew up listening to

Asha ji's songs. No matter the mood, there was always one that fit perfectly. So many memories and emotions tied to that voice. Feels like a part of our growing-up years has gone quiet today. May God rest her soul in peace. My deepest condolences." Former opener

Shikhar Dhawan wrote on X: "Grew up with her voice, and it never grew old. Asha Bhosle ji will remain immortal. Om Shanti." Ex-spinner Harbhajan Singh honored her on X: "Her voice touched generations so deeply. A true legend whose music transcends time and emotions. Her legacy lives on in our hearts. Thank you for the inspiration." Born on September 8, 1933, in Sangli, Maharashtra, to a musically inclined family, Asha Bhosle debuted as a playback singer in 1943 with the Marathi film Majha Bal. Among the most influential vocalists, she recorded over 12,000 songs, delivering timeless hits like 'Piya Tu Ab To Aaja,' 'Chura Liya Hai Tumne,' 'Dum Maro Dum,' 'In Aankhon Ki Masti Ke,' and 'Do Lafzon Ki Hai Dil Ki Kahani.' In 2000, she received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award and was later conferred the Padma Vibhushan.

### Fine Imposed on DC's Nitish Rana for Tangling with Umpire Amid Tense Finish

New Delhi, 12/4 (H.S.): Delhi Capitals batsman Nitish Rana has been penalized for clashing with the umpire. He has been fined 25 percent of his match fee, and a demerit point has also been added to his record. The incident unfolded during the 19th over of the match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK), when DC player Tristan Stubbs was denied permission to change his gloves mid-over. Stubbs lost his wicket in that very over, prompting an agitated Nitish—visible arguing with the fourth umpire—from the team dugout. Rana had been sidelined from the playing XI after scoring 15, 0, and 5 runs in his prior three matches. At the start of the 19th over, DC needed 32 runs off two overs,



with Stubbs as their sole hope, unbeaten on 60 off 36 balls. His dismissal sealed a 23-run defeat for DC. Per the Indian Premier League (IPL) statement, Nitish Rana faces a 25 percent deduction from his match fee, plus a demerit

point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL Code of Conduct for players. He was found guilty under Article 2.3, pertaining to "using language that is loud and/or abusive during a match." Rana admitted his fault and accepted the sanction

from the match referee. In the match itself—the 18th fixture of IPL 2026 at MA Chidambaram Stadium—Delhi Capitals suffered a 23-run loss to Chennai. Batting first, CSK posted a formidable 212/2 in 20 overs. Sanju Samson anchored the innings with an unbeaten 115, while young gun Ayush Mhatre contributed 59, and Shivam Dube blasted a quick unbeaten 20 to fortify the total. Chasing 213, Delhi Capitals crumbled to 189 all out in 20 overs. Tristan Stubbs top-scored with 60, followed by Pathum Nissanka's 41, Ashutosh Sharma's 19, KL Rahul's 18, and David Miller's 17. No other batter mounted a substantial knock. Delhi Capitals' next clash is on April 18 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.



### Pooja Hegde Urges Fans to Shun Piracy After Jana Nayagan Leak

Pooja Hegde broke her silence on the leak of Vijay's much-delayed film Jana Nayagan, calling it disheartening and a blow to the respect owed to its cast and crew. She urged fans to wait for the theatrical release and celebrate Vijay's final film on the big screen. The actress emphasised that piracy robs artists and technicians of recognition and undermines the collective cinema experience. She described the leak as deeply upsetting, stressing that a film represents countless hours of effort, creativity, and sacrifice. Her appeal resonated across the Tamil film industry, which united in condemning piracy. Industry sources estimated losses between ₹300 crore and ₹400 crore due to the leak, affecting box office revenue and satellite/OTT rights. Amazon Prime Video reportedly withdrew from a ₹120 crore streaming deal,

citing delays and piracy concerns. Distributors highlighted that star-driven releases like Vijay's are crucial for theatres, making this leak a severe commercial setback. Top stars, including Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Suriya, Chiranjeevi, and Sivakarthikeyan, condemned the leak, describing it as unjust and damaging to creative integrity. Chiranjeevi called for a "Kill Piracy, Save Cinema" movement, while others linked the crisis to prolonged censorship delays. KVN Productions issued legal notices warning that anyone sharing leaked material faces civil and criminal penalties. The production house confirmed that proceedings have already begun against alleged offenders. The leak occurred before certification was finalised, compounding the crisis and intensifying scrutiny of censorship delays. Pooja Hegde's emotional appeal underscored the need for audiences to support cinema legally and protect the industry from piracy's damaging impact.

### Karan Johar Meets Meryl

Karan Johar recently met Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway during the international promotional tour of The Devil Wears Prada 2 in Tokyo. The interaction quickly gained attention online, combining admiration, humour, and a shared love for fashion. A Light-Hearted Fashion Exchange Goes Viral in a video shared by 20th Century Studios, the trio engaged in a candid conversation. During the interaction, Anne Hathaway asked Johar if he judges people by their footwear. He responded playfully, "All the time," drawing laughter from those present. Meryl Streep then evaluated Johar's outfit and praised his choice of footwear, calling his shoes "perfect" for the occasion. The filmmaker was seen wearing footwear from the luxury brand Prada, adding a fitting touch to the fashion-centric exchange.

