

Dumani Mail

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Supreme Court Seeks Response on Plea for Biometric Verification in Elections

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Election Commission of India, the Centre, and various state governments on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking the implementation of biometric identification systems at polling stations.



indicating the significance of the issue in ensuring free and fair elections.

The petition calls for the use of fingerprint and iris-based verification to curb electoral malpractices such as duplicate voting, impersonation, and ghost voting. The plea argues that integrating biometric authentication could enhance transparency and strengthen the integrity of the electoral process.

Taking cognizance of the matter, the apex court has asked the concerned authorities to respond,

Legal experts note that while biometric systems could improve voter verification, the proposal may also raise important considerations around data privacy, infrastructure readiness, and implementation feasibility across diverse regions of the country.

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, 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.

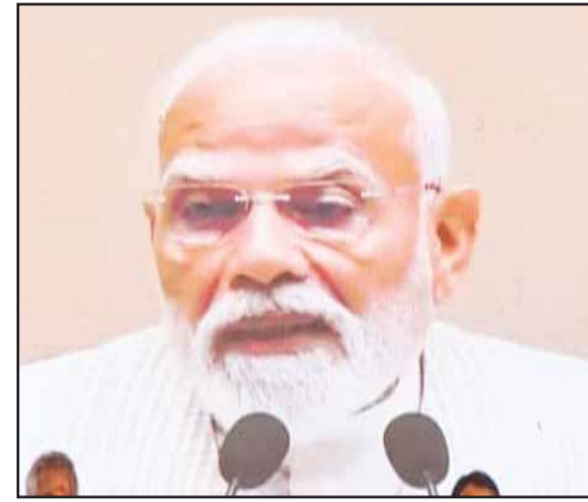
PM to visit Uttarakhand and UP on 14 April

New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will visit Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on 14 April 2026. At around 11:15 AM, the Prime Minister will visit Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh to undertake a review of the Wildlife Corridor on the elevated section of the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor. At around 11:40 AM, the Prime Minister will perform Darshan and Pooja at Jai Maa Daat Kali Temple near Dehradun. Thereafter, at around 12:30 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor at a public function in Dehradun and will also address the gathering on the occasion. The 213 km long six-lane access-controlled Delhi-Dehradun Economic

Corridor has been developed at a cost of over ₹12,000 crore. The corridor traverses through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and will reduce travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from over six hours at present to around two and a half hours.

Implementation of the project also includes the construction of 10 interchanges, three Railway Over Bridges (ROBs), four major bridges and 12 wayside amenities to enable seamless high-speed connectivity. The corridor is equipped with an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) to provide a safer and more efficient travel experience for commuters.

Keeping in view the



ecological sensitivity, rich biodiversity and wildlife in the region, the corridor has been designed with several features aimed at significantly reducing man-animal conflict. To ensure the free movement

of wild animals, the project incorporates several dedicated wildlife protection features. These include a 12 km long wildlife elevated corridor, which is one of the longest in Asia. The corridor

also includes eight animal passes, two elephant underpasses of 200 metres each, and a 370 metre long tunnel near the Daat Kali temple.

The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor will play a pivotal role in strengthening regional economic growth by enhancing connectivity between major tourism and economic centres as well as opening new avenues for trade and development across the region. The project reflects the vision of the Prime Minister to develop next-generation infrastructure that combines high-speed connectivity with environmental sustainability and improved quality of life for citizens.

National Cadet Corps Launches Nationwide Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme for Cadets

New Delhi: In a major step towards empowering cadets with structured training in cyber awareness, digital hygiene and practical cyber defence skills, National Cadet Corps (NCC), in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) has launched a comprehensive Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between NCC and NIELIT in the presence of DG NCC, Lt Gen Virendra Vats and DG NIELIT, Dr Madan Mohan Tripathi.

The programme will be implemented in two stages. The first stage, Cyber Security Awareness Programme, is a 15-hour online training module designed to provide foundational knowledge of digital literacy, safe internet practices, cyber hygiene, and awareness of cyber threats. This stage will be open to all

enrolled NCC cadets across the country and will be delivered through the NIELIT Digital University platform.

The second stage, Cyber Defender Programme, is an intensive 60-hour offline training designed for selected cadets who qualify through a merit-based screening process. This stage will focus on hands-on training, real-life simulations, and practical exposure to cyber security tools and techniques, enabling cadets to identify and respond to cyber threats effectively.

The initiative aims to create a pool of trained NCC Cyber Cadets who can contribute to spreading cyber awareness, promoting safe digital practices, and supporting cyber security initiatives at the grassroots level. The programme also seeks to align with national priorities under Digital India and the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

9th India Pharma Highlights Policy Push and Innovation Driving Sectoral Growth

The 9th edition of India Pharma 2026, the flagship event of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, commenced today in New Delhi. Organized in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), the two-day conference (April 13-14) brings together key stakeholders from across the global pharmaceutical and healthcare ecosystem, with a strong focus on innovation, self-reliance, and global leadership.

Addressing the inaugural session virtually Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, J.P. Nadda, emphasized that the platform reflects both the strength and growing global relevance of India's pharmaceutical sector. He noted that while India has long been recognized as the "pharmacy of the world" due to its leadership in affordable generic medicines, the global landscape is now rapidly shifting towards biologics, biosimilars, and specialty medicines. "In this evolving environment, India is well positioned not only to adapt but to emerge as a global leader," he stated. Reaffirming the Government's

commitment to fostering innovation and strengthening research capabilities, he highlighted the recently launched Biopharma Shakti Initiative with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore, aimed at advancing capabilities in biopharmaceutical innovation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He further underscored complementary initiatives such as the PRIP scheme for promoting research in pharmaceuticals and medical technology, which seek to deepen industry-academia collaboration and accelerate the development of innovative therapies. Strengthening domestic manufacturing remains a key priority, supported by schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and the development of bulk drug parks to enhance self-reliance and resilient supply chains. He also reiterated the Government's commitment to affordable healthcare through initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, which continues to expand access to quality medicines at affordable prices across the country.

He added that India Pharma 2026 provides a vital platform to foster dialogue, partnerships, and a

forward-looking roadmap for the sector.

Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Smt. Anupriya Patel, highlighted that India is undergoing a significant transition from being a global generics leader to an emerging biopharma innovation hub. She noted that India currently contributes nearly 20% of global generic medicines and meets around 70% of global vaccine demand, underscoring the country's robust manufacturing capabilities.

Emphasizing future opportunities, she stated that the global demand for biologics and biosimilars is expanding rapidly, with the biosimilars market projected to reach \$75 billion by 2030. She further pointed out that innovative drugs account for nearly 87% of the global pharmaceutical market value, underlining the need for India to intensify its focus on innovation-driven segments.

Smt. Patel also outlined the integration of artificial intelligence in drug discovery and development. She emphasized the importance of strengthening human capital through premier institutions such as NIPERs and IITs to support advanced research and innovation.

High Courts in South India Lead Digital Transformation with 81.95 Lakh Online Hearings

New Delhi: The Ministry of Law and Justice has highlighted a significant milestone in the digital transformation of India's judicial system, noting that High Courts across South India have processed over 81.95 lakh cases through online hearings.

The emphasized that courts such as the Madras High Court and the Karnataka High Court have demonstrated high adoption rates of virtual proceedings, reflecting a strong shift towards technology-enabled litigation.

According to officials, the growing reliance on virtual hearings has streamlined judicial processes, enabling faster case management while maintaining procedural efficiency. The integration of digital tools has also significantly reduced the need for physical travel by litigants and legal professionals, making access to justice more convenient and cost-effective.

The ministry noted that such advancements are a key step toward modernizing the judiciary, ensuring that the adjudication process remains resilient, accessible, and aligned with evolving technological standards.

Vice President inaugurates conference on transformation of tribal lives through science and technology in New Delhi

New Delhi: The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated a conference titled "Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions - Preserving Language, Faith and Culture" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The conference was organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) and ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Dehradun.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President highlighted that the conference has beautifully demonstrated the power of scientific temper and technological advancement when combined with traditional knowledge. He noted that when modern science works in harmony with language, faith and culture, it becomes a powerful force for protection and empowerment.

Emphasising the importance of tribal communities, the Vice

President said that India has around 1.4 lakh tribal villages, comprising nearly 9 per cent of the country's population. He underlined that tribal communities possess invaluable traditional knowledge that supports biodiversity and sustainable use of forest resources. He added that for centuries, these communities have preserved India's ancient culture, faith and civilisational heritage.

The Vice President observed that tribal areas offer immense potential for green economic development. He also remarked on the exceptional skills of tribal communities in design, textiles and colour combinations, which have been preserved over generations.

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, he stated that the guiding principle is "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi", emphasising that modern development and preservation of traditions are not contradictory but complementary.

Recalling his tenure as a Member of the 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, the Vice President noted that he had

supported the creation of the states of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, which contributed to the tribal upliftment. He also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for establishing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, describing it as a moral commitment to justice, dignity and opportunity for tribal communities.

The Vice President also spoke about his visits to Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birthplace at Ulihatu in Jharkhand and appreciated the efforts of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in bringing the contributions of tribal freedom fighters to the forefront of national consciousness.

Highlighting key government initiatives, he referred to the PM-JANMAN programme under which over 2,400 roads spanning nearly 7,300 km and more than 160 bridges have been sanctioned. He also mentioned the Dharti Abha - Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which covers over 63,000 tribal villages with a focus on clean water, housing, education,

healthcare and sustainable livelihoods.

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan noted the significant development in infrastructure and connectivity in the North Eastern region and reiterated the Government's commitment to inclusive development.

Congratulating ITITI Doon Sanskriti School on its Silver Jubilee year, he recalled that the institution was inaugurated 25 years ago by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He lauded the school for emerging as a beacon of hope for tribal children across Uttarakhand, the North-East and Ladakh, and noted that more than 2,000 tribal students have benefited from free quality education at the institution.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu; Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Chowna Mein; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Abhay Karandikar; and former MP and Founder Trustee of ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Shri Tarun Vijay, were also present.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA FROM APRIL 13 TO 16

The President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Gujarat and Maharashtra from April 13 to 16, 2026.

On April 13, the President will grace the first convocation ceremony of AIIMS Rajkot.

On April 14, the President will grace the 'Samajik Samrasta Mahotsava' at Lok Bhavan, Gandhinagar, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar. On the same day, the President will also grace the fifth convocation ceremony of Rashtriya Raksha University at Gandhinagar.

On April 15, the President will grace the second convocation ceremony of AIIMS Nagpur. On the same day, she will grace the valediction ceremony of the 78th batch of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) Officer Trainees at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur.

On April 16, the President will grace the sixth convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya at Wardha.

Department of Higher Education organises interactive session on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) under Mission Sadhana Saptah 2026

The Department of Higher Education successfully organized an interactive session on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) as part of Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement (Sadhana) Saptah 2026, observed from April 2nd to 8th, 2026.

The week marks the Foundation Day of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the completion of five years of Mission Karmayogi, India's landmark initiative for citizen-centric governance. The welcome address was delivered by Joint Secretary (Administration), Department of Higher Education, Syed Ekram Rizvi, who highlighted the role of the Capacity Building Commission under Mission Karmayogi in offering a range of online courses aimed at enhancing knowledge, skills, and capacity for citizen-centric governance.

The session was designed to foster structured peer learning and meaningful deliberations on the relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems in contemporary education, research, and governance. It highlighted how India's rich intellectual traditions can inform modern approaches to problem-solving, innovation, and policymaking.

The key highlight of the event was the address by Dr. Mohan Raghavan, Associate Professor at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. He was the founding Head of the Department of Heritage Science & Technology and is also associated with Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Raghavan shared insights from his interdisciplinary work that bridges technology, science, and India's knowledge traditions.

The professor highlighted that while the market potential of Indian Knowledge Systems

(IKS) is significant, its true strength lies in its transformative role in higher education. He emphasized that IKS should not be viewed as a separate discipline but as a multidisciplinary framework that can enrich existing academic fields such as science, engineering, humanities, and management. By integrating IKS into higher education, universities can move beyond rote learning to a more holistic model that combines knowledge, application, and values (dharma). The professor also noted that this approach aligns with contemporary educational reforms, encouraging research, innovation, and critical thinking rooted in India's cultural and intellectual heritage. Institutions adopting IKS can offer interdisciplinary programs, foster original research, and create graduates who are not only skilled professionals but also culturally aware and socially responsible individuals. This integration, he stressed, is essential for building a future-ready education system that is both globally competitive and deeply connected to its roots.

Interaction with the participants followed in the form of an engaging Q&A session. The session emphasized the continuing relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems in shaping holistic education and the importance of embedding traditional wisdom into governance practices for sustainable national advancement.

The session was attended by the senior officials of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. By bringing together thought leaders and practitioners, the Department of Higher Education reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing a knowledge-driven, adaptive, and humane governance ecosystem under Mission Karmayogi.

AM/NS India conducts Silent Hour Drill to strengthen onsite safety preparedness



Paradip - ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) successfully conducted a full-scale Silent Hour Mock Drill within the Paradeep Pellet Plant complex, demonstrating its onsite emergency preparedness capabilities. Organised in the evening as per the schedule of the District Crisis Group (DCG), Jagatsinghpur, the exercise was conducted in the presence of government authorities, delegates from neighbouring industries, and emergency services.

The drill simulated a fire incident involving hot work at the Natural Gas Safety Skid area of Pellet Plant-2 within the Paradeep Pellet Plant complex. The exercise saw active participation from multiple departments of AM/NS India, including Operations, Mechanical, Electrical, Health & Safety, Administration, Human Resources, Fire Safety, and

Medical. A key highlight of the drill was the successful deployment of a joint firefighting contingent, comprising the Fire Safety team of AM/NS India, the IFFCO Fire Safety team, and the Odisha Fire Department, Kujang, demonstrating seamless inter-agency coordination.

Distinguished attendees including Kartik Biswal, Fire Officer, Kujang, Debendra Rout, Sarpanch, Nuagarh Gram Panchayat along with AM/NS India leadership including C.H.Hariprasad, Plant Head, Paradeep Pellet Plant, SPL, AM/NS Ports, Rajarshi Sinha, Head-Power Plant and Sanjeev Kumar Muduli, Head-Health & Safety. Representatives from the Indian Coast Guard, CISF-Paradip, members of DCG, IOCL-LPG Terminal, GAIL, Paradip Port Authority, IFFCO, Goa Carbon, Adani

Wilmar, Paradeep Phosphates Limited were also present.

The health and safety department of AM/NS India seamlessly coordinated the drill, and a command structure was established as per the onsite emergency preparedness plan, demonstrating expertise in mitigating potential hazards.

U.S.R. Raju, Head-Odisha Operations, AM/NS India, said, "At AM/NS India, safety is our top priority. We regularly conduct drills and activities to strengthen our safety performance and ensure that we are ready to respond effectively to any emergency. This mock drill, along with the valuable feedback from expert observers will further strengthen our systems, ensuring continuous improvement in emergency preparedness and response."

"Our Taste, Our Food" Competition Held

Puri: On the thirteenth day of the Odia Paksha celebration, a competition on "Our Taste, Our Food" was held this afternoon at the District Council Office. This district-level Traditional Food Day was organized with the support of the District Council and ORMAS, Puri.

Additional Development Officer Rajeev Kumar Behera and Sub-Collector Raj Kishore Jena attended the event and visited the traditional food fair.

Various traditional Odia dishes were displayed at the food stalls, including Chandrakanti Pitha, Malpua, Chuda Kadamba, Dalma, Kakeria Pitha, Arisa Pitha, Kheer Poda Pitha, Sijha Manda Pitha, Dalia Pitha, Mandia Sharbat, Suaa Kheer, Black Rice



Kheer, Mint Sharbat, Mandia Kanji, Rice Bara, Lau Chitrou Pitha, Aparajita Flower Manda Pitha, Mandia and Jaggery Pitha, and many more.

Later, among the women Self-

Help Groups who prepared the food:

Maa Santoshi Self-Help Group secured first place
Srikhetra Multi-Activity Producers Group, Satyabadi

secured second place

Bhubaneswari Producers Group (Puri Sadar) and Kunjeswari Self-Help Group (Puri Sadar) jointly secured third place

The winners were felicitated by the guests.

Among others present at the event were Deputy Director of Information & Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi, Assistant Director of Tourism Saroj Kanta Pradhan, District Social Welfare Officer Tanuprabha Beura, District Culture Officer Hemanta Behera, APD Bani Bhushan Dash, Trupti Barajena, ORMAS Deputy CEO Nigam Charan Dash, Program Officers Suhagi Hembram, Chandraprabha Dei, and Balyabati Mohanty.

Twelfth Day of Awareness Padayatra for Restoration of Shri Mandir Entry and Darshan Rights for Puri Residents

Puri (DMS) : Jai Shri Jagannath! On the twelfth day of the ongoing awareness padayatra demanding the restoration of entry and darshan rights at the Shri Mandir for the residents of Puri town and Sadar areas, a deeply emotional and united scene was witnessed today. This padayatra, which represents the voice of faith and rights of the people of Puri, began on the eleventh day from the Bhakta Salabega Peetha at



Balgandi and concluded near the Shri Mandir premises. Throughout the journey, the air resonated with chants of "Jai Jagannath," and the demand for the restoration of the earlier darshan (system) was

strongly raised. The padayatra has become a symbol of the unwavering devotion and rightful claim of the residents towards Lord Jagannath. Participants in today's padayatra included Harishankar Mishra, Sumitra Barik, Prantseni Jena, Radheshyam Rath, Prasanna Das, Saraswati Patra, Dasharathi Prasad Das, Bidulata Acharya, Niharika Tripathi, Jagannath Mohanty, Banita D Bishwanath Mishra, Lala Ananta Kumar Singh,

Suresh Chandra Mishra, Bapina Samantary, Rashmi Ranjan Patra, and Satya Narayan Sahu, among others. Their collective participation further strengthened the movement. The padayatra was coordinated by Swadhin Kumar Panda, who stated that this awareness campaign will continue until the traditional darshan rights for the residents of Puri town and Sadar areas are fully restored.

Seminar on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam '-2023.



Khordha-12/4-A seminar on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam-2023 was held at Prannath Autonomous College, Khordha. In September -2023 parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' marking a significant step towards enhancing women's representation in legislative bodies. The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act was passed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023. The Act provided for reservation of one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Every woman will be able to bring about change in various aspects of herself and society. After a long

period of 27 years, it was placed in the new Parliament House on 19 September 2023 and passed, providing a unique opportunity for women to establish themselves in the field of politics, said Prof. Subodh Kumar Jagdev, HOD, Odia Department Manini Jena, HOD, History Department Dr. Asima Shatapathy, Dr. Trupti Rekha Panda, Susandhya Priyadarshini Nayak, Kalpana Mallik, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mahapatra, Bhagban Khilar, Columnist, Uma Shankar Prasad, Journalist Pradeep Kumar Behera and girls students of the college participated in this seminar.

IFFCO Launches Nationwide Nano Awareness Mega Campaign

New Delhi/Paradip - A Nationwide Nano Fertilizer Mega Awareness Campaign was launched by Mr. Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO at New Delhi on Saturday. Mr. Sanghani flagged off five Nano promotion vans from Delhi, marking the historic beginning of the campaign.

The campaign will be conducted extensively across 560 districts and 3,477 tehsils in 19 states and union territories, said Mr. Dileep Sanghani. The campaign will adopt a multi-media approach, including print, television, radio, outdoor, and digital platforms.

IFFCO, India's largest fertilizer cooperative, officially launched the Nano Fertilizer

Awareness Mega Campaign. Addressing a press conference, Chairman Mr. Dileep Sanghani said that this is a comprehensive national campaign aimed at promoting the use of Nano fertilizers among Indian farmers.

The campaign has been initiated with the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, in alignment with national missions such as "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Sahkar Se Samridhhi."

IFFCO's innovation hub at IFFCO-Nanoventions in Coimbatore and the upcoming nano fertilizer plant in Brazil, expected to be operational by June 2026, highlight India's

growing global strength in nano technology in agriculture.

Mr. Sanghani stated that India is at a historic point where tradition and technology are coming together to reshape agriculture. The campaign reflects the vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi" and supports the goal of self-reliant agriculture.

He described the nano fertilizer revolution as a transformative moment for Indian agriculture.

The campaign has four key objectives like Promotion of Nano Urea Plus, Nano DAP, Nano NPK, Nano Zinc, and Nano Copper. Training farmers in proper usage through foliar spray, Reducing dependence on conventional fertilizers, Ensuring last-mile reach through

cooperative networks.

He emphasized that awareness must be driven at the grassroots level through PACS and field demonstrations so that farmers can see results and build trust.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Sanghani called for making the campaign a mass movement. He said nano fertilizers are not just products but tools to protect soil, improve the environment, and increase farmers' income.

He urged everyone to adopt the vision of lower cost, higher productivity, and a healthier environment, stating that nano fertilizers in every field represent the future of a self-reliant India.

IFFCO's nano product range includes Nano Urea Plus, Nano

DAP, Nano NPK (Liquid and Granular), Nano Zinc, Nano Copper, and the bio-stimulant "Dhara Amrut," which is enriched with amino acids, alginic acid, humic acid, essential minerals, and banana extract, and is gaining popularity among farmers.

For FY 2025-26, IFFCO's profit before tax is expected to exceed ₹4,200 crore. Through continued innovation in nano technology, drone technology, AI, and data analytics, IFFCO is playing a key role in transforming India's agriculture sector. The event was held at IFFCO Sadan, New Delhi, in the presence of Managing Director Mr. K. J. Patel, board members, officials, and employees of IFFCO.

FUNDATION STONE LAID FOR THE BARBIL BYPASS RING ROAD PROJECT

CM Inaugurates 24 projects worth Rs. 29.41 crore and laid the foundation for 51 projects worth Rs. 326.43 crore

Keonjhar: On the third day of his visit to Keonjhar, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi laid the foundation stone for the long-awaited 18 km 326 meters long Barbil Bypass Ring Road project in Barbil with an investment of Rs. 1581.21 crore to complete this project. Besides that he inaugurated 24 projects worth Rs. 29.41 crore and laid foundation stones for 51 projects worth Rs. 326.43 crore for Keonjhar district. On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced that a power substation will soon be built for the Joda, Basudevpur, and Barbil areas at a cost of Rs. 298 crore, and he instructed the district administration to expedite the construction of the 8-lane Barbil-Paradip road. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that this government stands by the people in their joys and sorrows and fulfills its promises. Out of many promises made to the people, today one more has been fulfilled. He said that he is fully aware of the traffic and heavy vehicle movement problems in cities like Keonjhar and Barbil, which he has personally experienced. Therefore, the government had decided from the

beginning to address these issues. Today, that decision has been implemented with the laying of the foundation stone for an over 18 km-long bypass and ring road for Barbil.

The stretch includes 3.7 km from Bhadra Sahi to Serenda, 6.3 km from Serenda to Balani, and 8.3 km from Serenda to Nalda. This bypass will solve long-standing problems. It will have a high-quality modern design capable of handling heavy traffic. According to modern standards, roads should handle up to 40,000 passenger cars per day, and this ring road will have that capacity. Currently, about 15,375 passenger cars pass daily. After completion, it will accommodate up to 40,000 cars. This will expand Barbil city, lead to more housing colonies along the road, and boost economic activity. It will also reduce operating costs for vehicles and contribute to the economy. Overall, the project will bring prosperity to the region. Additionally, several important infrastructure projects were launched. A 10 km road from Bamwari-Palasa-Guruda-Koida will be constructed with an investment of ₹95 crore. A 7.5 km road from Suakati-Dubuna-



Kalimati will be built at a cost of ₹30 crore. The KIDCO road from Palaspanga to Bamwari will also be upgraded, costing ₹30 crore for its 5.5 km length. Development of sports infrastructure at Barbil Utsav Ground and upgrading of the bus stand were also inaugurated at a cost of ₹9.27 crore. Projects like ITI staff quarters, a new sub-registrar office, improvement of playgrounds near the town hall, and park development were also undertaken. These projects will accelerate development in Barbil and the entire Keonjhar district and improve the quality of life of

the people. He stated that infrastructure is the basic requirement for building a prosperous Odisha—good roads, bridges, electricity, and drinking water. From day one, the government has prioritized infrastructure. He has personally ensured focus on Keonjhar's development in every meeting. Prosperity of districts, cities, and villages is essential for overall state prosperity. Economic growth at the individual level leads to family prosperity, and collectively leads to state prosperity. Projects such as a data center in Keonjhar, a regional plant resource center in

Sana Ghagara, apparel units, Keonjhar bypass, and development of tourist spots have begun.

Infrastructure development in the Joda-Barbil region has also started, and roads to mining areas will be upgraded to 8 lanes. Recently, the cabinet approved a grid substation for Keonjhar costing ₹1647 crore, to be completed within three years. This will ensure quality and uninterrupted electricity supply for residential and industrial areas, boosting economic activity in Joda, Barbil, and Keonjhar. The region will become prosperous. The government is committed to

building a prosperous Keonjhar and Odisha under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with renewed hope and enthusiasm. The process for a mega steel plant in Keonjhar is underway and progressing rapidly. The foundation stone will be laid soon. It was also announced that any industry investing over ₹10,000 crore and providing employment to more than 10,000 youths will receive full administrative support. Barbil ITI is set to become a Centre of Excellence, reflecting the skills of the youth. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to building a prosperous Odisha by 2036. The current Union Budget includes several schemes beneficial for Odisha, including rare earth and east-west corridors, industrial connectivity via National Waterway-5, and economic regions like Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip with a budget allocation of ₹5000 crore. Railway budget allocation for Odisha has increased 12-13 times, and projects worth ₹70,000-80,000 crore are ongoing on national highways. This is a golden time for Odisha under the double-engine government. The government has also decided on three

major roads: a 287 km expressway connecting Berhampur to Jeypore costing ₹9000 crore; a Nano Expressway linking Paralakhemundi to Ambabhona in Bargarh as part of the east-west corridor; and the Atal Expressway connecting Motu in Malkangiri to Tiring in Mayurbhanj over 969 km, passing through Keonjhar and directly linking North and South Odisha. These projects will transform the economy. During the event, the Chief Minister also listened to the Prime Minister's address on the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and said that a bill for 33% reservation for women will be introduced in Parliament, enhancing women's economic and social empowerment. The number of seats in the state assembly will also increase to 196, raising women's representation and strengthening their voice. Among others present at the event were Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud, Patna MLA Akhil Chandra Naik, Planning Board Chairman Dr. Fakir Mohan Naik, Special Development Council Chairperson Mamita Naik, and District Collector Vishal Singh.

NALCO-Hosted All India PSU Badminton Tournament Concludes in Bhubaneswar

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 Aarogya 01, Utkal Hospital, provides critical medical support across Osapada, Tikiri, Kshipur, 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.

Congress Fact-Finding Team Highlights Serious Irregularities in Gram Sabha Process and Violations of Tribal Rights in Sijimali Area

Rayagada : A fact-finding team constituted by the Odisha PCC President, Bhakta Charan Das, under the leadership of Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, visited Kantamal, Sagabari and other affected areas in the Sijimali region. The team also met the District Collector to present its findings and concerns.

Based on extensive interactions with residents, the team has found serious irregularities and violations of due process. There are strong allegations that the eight Gram Sabhas held in December 2023 were false and fabricated, with the Sarpanch allegedly signing resolutions for all 8 gram sabhas on the same day, raising serious questions about the credibility of the consent process.

Community Forest Rights (CFR) and Individual Forest Rights (IFR) claims have reportedly been pending for the last three years and have not been resolved prior to project-related actions. There are multiple allegations of arbitrary arrests, including the detention of individuals not involved in any violence. "While we unequivocally condemn any form of violence and believe that those

The District Magistrate, as the custodian of law and constitutional safeguards, must act in the interest of the people, not as a facilitator of mining, said the press release.

responsible must face the law, innocent villagers must not be harassed. We vehemently condemn the events of 6 April 2026 night, when police entered the village around 3 AM, cut the electricity, broke open doors, and detained residents opposing the project. Such actions constitute a grave misuse of state machinery and have escalated tensions, leading to avoidable violence", mentioned a press statement released by Ulaka.

The District Magistrate, as the custodian of law and constitutional safeguards, must act in the interest of the people, not as a facilitator of mining, said the press release.

Key demands included a fair and transparent Gram Sabha process,

monitored under judicial supervision on the lines of the Niyamgiri Gram Sabha process, must be conducted in Sijimali, recognition of all pending Community and Individual Forest Rights and settlement before any further project activity, withdrawal of all false police cases against innocent villagers, action against those involved in violence,

constitution of a joint committee of local representatives, MP, MLAs, etc., to initiate dialogue with stakeholders and determine the future course of action, ensuring that all decisions are fully compliant with constitutional provisions.

District Administration examining immediately and independently these allegations, including concerns regarding fabricated Gram Sabhas, pending forest rights, and excessive use of force, and ensuring that all actions are strictly in compliance with legal and constitutional provisions.

"The Congress Party, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, stands firmly with our tribal brothers and sisters. We will not allow any project to proceed without free, prior, and informed consent, as guaranteed under the Constitution and relevant laws" mentioned the press statement.

Naveen Greets Citizens on Bhubaneswar Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day of Bhubaneswar, highlighting the city's rich heritage and growing modern identity.

In a social media post, Patnaik described Bhubaneswar as a "green and beautiful capital," known for its ancient legacy, vibrant culture, and modern architecture. He noted that the city, often referred to as the "Temple City," continues to strengthen Odisha's identity through its unique blend of tradition and development.

Emphasizing inclusive growth, the former Chief Minister said Bhubaneswar has added a new chapter in its development journey by progressing with the support of all sections of society.

On the occasion, Patnaik called upon citizens to take a collective pledge to transform Bhubaneswar into one of the finest capital cities in the country.

MP, Mayor Spar Over Invitation Row at Bhubaneswar Foundation Day Event



Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): A political controversy surfaced during the Rajdhani Foundation Day celebrations on Monday following a public exchange between BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi and Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das over invitations to the event.

Addressing the gathering, Sarangi alleged that she had not been invited to the celebrations during the previous government's tenure. She, however, thanked the current administration for extending an invitation this year and expressed her emotional connection with the city, stating she would continue to participate in the annual event. Her remarks drew attention to claims of past exclusion while reaffirming her association with Bhubaneswar.

Responding to the allegations, Mayor Das termed the statement "unfortunate" and refuted the claims. She asserted that invitations had been sent to the MP every year since she assumed office and that Sarangi was also personally informed, including through a phone call last year. The Mayor added that the MP's absence in previous years was due to her engagements outside the city and not due to any lapse on the part of the civic body.

Dr. D. Sudhakara Rao Assumes Charge as Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax for Odisha Region

Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): Dr. D. Sudhakara Rao has assumed charge as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax for the Odisha Region.

An Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1990 batch, Dr. Rao brings with him vast administrative and leadership experience across several states and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, Puducherry, Kerala, and Maharashtra. He is currently also holding the additional charge



of Principal Chief Commissioner for the Bihar and Jharkhand regions.

Hailing from Telangana, Dr. Rao has a strong academic background, having earned an M.Phil. in Environmental Sciences from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

His appointment is expected to further strengthen the functioning and administrative efficiency of the Income Tax Department in the Odisha Region.

Bhubaneswar Celebrates 78th Capital Foundation Day with Grandeur

Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): The 78th Capital Foundation Day of Bhubaneswar was celebrated with great enthusiasm and dignity on Monday. Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy attended the programme as the chief guest.

Several dignitaries, including MP Aparajita Sarangi, MLAs Ananta Narayan Jena and Sushant Kumar Rout, Mayor Sulochana Das, and former minister Suresh Kumar Routray were present.

A grand torch procession was taken out from Lingaraj Temple to PMG Square, led by Olympian Dutee Chand and other sportspersons.

The chief guest unfurled the national flag and took the salute at a combined civic parade, in which 51 contingents participated. In the parade



competitions, BJB Autonomous College secured first place, followed by Sainik School and Rajdhani College.

Addressing the gathering, Surama Padhy called for accelerating the city's development, emphasizing that

maintaining the dignity of the state capital is a shared responsibility. Mayor Sulochana Das urged citizens to contribute towards making the city clean, green, and sustainable.

Earlier, dignitaries paid floral tributes at the foundation plaque near the Assembly. Notably, Bhubaneswar was established as the capital on April 13, 1948, by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Initially planned for around 40,000 residents, the city has now grown into a modern urban centre with a population exceeding 1.5 million.

A special photo exhibition showcasing Bhubaneswar's heritage and its evolution into a Smart City was also inaugurated at Jayadev Bhawan, and will remain open to the public till Tuesday.

Odisha Public Universities Teachers' Reservation Act Comes into Force After Governor's Assent



Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): The Odisha State Public Universities (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2026 has come into force across the state following the assent of Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati.

The legislation was enacted after the Bill was passed in the Odisha Assembly on March 31 following extensive deliberations. With the Governor's approval, the Act has now been implemented statewide, marking a key reform in Odisha's higher education framework.

Welcoming the development, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj described the Act as a landmark step aimed at ensuring adequate representation of Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) in faculty positions across public universities.

The Minister said the Act introduces a significant shift by treating each university as a single unit for implementing reservation in teaching posts, replacing the earlier department-wise system. Under the new provisions,

reservation will apply to direct recruitment for positions such as Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors, ensuring more balanced representation across institutions.

He further informed that several long-pending vacancies in Vice-Chancellor positions have also been addressed, with appointments made in 14 state public universities. According to him, the appointment of academicians from Odisha to these leadership roles is expected to strengthen the academic environment and governance of universities.

Expressing confidence in the new leadership, the Minister said universities are now better positioned to focus on quality education and research-driven growth.

He added that with the implementation of both the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2024 and the Odisha State Public Universities (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2026, the process of filling vacant teaching positions in state public universities is expected to gain momentum in the coming months.

One Killed, 15 Injured in Truck-College Bus Collision in Jajpur

Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): At least one person was killed and 15 others injured after a Hyva truck collided with a private college bus near Oupada Chhak under Korei police limits in Jajpur district on Sunday night. The driver of the Hyva truck succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The accident occurred when the college bus, carrying students, was en route to Jajpur Road. Near Oupada Chhak, the Hyva truck allegedly approached from the wrong direction and rammed into the bus, triggering the collision.

Local residents immediately rushed to the spot and began rescue



operations while informing the police. Personnel from Korei and Panikoi police stations arrived shortly and shifted the injured to Jajpur Road Medical using ambulances.

Several critically injured persons were later referred to hospitals in

Cuttack and the District Headquarters Hospital in Jajpur for advanced treatment.

Officials said 11 injured students were shifted to Tata Hospital for further care, while one student recovered and was discharged.

Manas Mangaraj Appointed BJD Leader in Rajya Sabha; Sulata Deo Named Deputy Leader and Chief Whip

Bhubaneswar, 13 April (H.S.): Naveen Patnaik, president of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), has appointed senior leader Manas Ranjan Mangaraj as the Leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha.

In addition, Sulata Deo has been designated as the Deputy Leader and Chief Whip of the BJD Parliamentary Party in the Upper House. Both appointments have come into effect immediately.

Patnaik has formally communicated the changes to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, seeking official recognition of the newly appointed leaders.

The leadership reshuffle follows the recently concluded biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha and the retirement of several senior BJD members. The move is seen as part of the party's efforts to reorganize and strengthen its parliamentary leadership in line with recent political developments.

PM to visit Uttarakhand and UP on 14 April

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will visit Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on 14 April 2026. At around 11:15 AM, the Prime Minister will visit Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh to undertake a review of the Wildlife Corridor on the elevated section of the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor. At around 11:40 AM, the Prime Minister will perform Darshan and Pooja at Jai Maa Daat Kali Temple near Dehradun. Thereafter, at around 12:30 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor at a public function in Dehradun and will also address the gathering on the occasion.

The 213 km long six-lane access-controlled Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor has been developed at a cost of over ₹12,000 crore. The corridor traverses through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and will reduce travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from over six hours at present to around two and a half hours.

Implementation of the project also includes the construction of 10 interchanges, three Railway Over Bridges (ROBs), four major bridges and 12 wayside amenities to enable seamless high-speed connectivity. The corridor is equipped with an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) to provide a safer and more efficient travel experience for commuters.

US-Iran Impasse

THE collapse of the US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad had an air of inevitability about it. After 21 hours of marathon negotiations, delegations led by US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf left Islamabad without an agreement, casting a long shadow over an already



fragile ceasefire. Iran has rightly observed that a deal should not have been expected after just one round of talks. This indicates that the window for further deliberations remains open. However, mutual mistrust continues to outweigh the urgency of ending the war which has destabilised global energy markets and aggravated regional tensions.

The impasse is rooted in a deeply entrenched divide. The US, under President Donald Trump, wants Iran to abandon its

The impasse is rooted in a deeply entrenched divide. The US, under President Donald Trump, wants Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions. For Washington, any deal must include verifiable guarantees that Tehran will not develop nuclear weapons. Iran, however, views such demands as excessive and politically coercive, especially amid a devastating conflict and crippling sanctions. The Iranian leadership's insistence on sovereignty, waiver of curbs and control over strategic assets like the Strait of Hormuz reflects geopolitical assertiveness. And then there is an intransigent Israel, which continues to bombard Lebanon and ride roughshod over the truce.

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Despite the Islamabad fiasco, Pakistan's role as a mediator has highlighted the growing importance of regional powers in bringing warring sides to the negotiating table. Countries like India need to take a cue from these developments. It's apparent that alternative diplomatic channels remain viable — if not yet effective. The path forward demands not just new proposals but also a recalibration of expectations, prioritising gradual rebuilding of trust over maximalist positions. With thousands of lives lost and the global economy at stake, the US, Israel and Iran must give diplomacy a chance in order to find middle ground.

Talent Flight

A study by a digital education portal on JEE toppers from 1990 to 2020, cited recently, is a telling lens on what happens to India's brightest minds. It shows that 23 out of 31 toppers are settled abroad. And strikingly, none of them pursued a master's degree in India. This is a quiet verdict on the credibility of India's research ecosystem.

These are not average students. JEE toppers represent the highest-performing slice of the country's engineering talent pipeline. They had access to premier institutions. Their decision to move abroad for higher studies and careers signals a deeper concern: India may be producing talent efficiently, but it is failing to retain and nurture it.

The implications are serious. A country that consistently loses its academic young elite is losing its potential future professors, researchers, innovators and institution-builders. The absence of toppers in Indian master's programmes, as highlighted in the study, becomes an indictment of domestic research infrastructure, where funding constraints, limited global collaboration and weaker lab ecosystems deter advanced study. This trend also reflects global asymmetry. Universities in the US, Europe and increasingly East Asia offer structured research pathways, mentorship, interdisciplinary freedom and clearer links between education and industry. Indian institutions, despite pockets of excellence, struggle to match this consistency at scale. When the best-trained minds leave, innovation ecosystems thin out, academic leadership weakens and the cycle of institutional improvement slows further.

India's demographic dividend will only translate into real knowledge capital if its top talent sees credible futures at home. Otherwise, the message from its brightest young brains points to the fact that while excellence begins in India, too often, it is completed elsewhere.

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Raghunath Mahapatra

On March 31, 2026, employees across regions received a uniform communication without any prior discussion or transition. The message stated that their roles had been eliminated with immediate effect. The decision formed part of a restructuring by Oracle Corporation affecting approximately 30,000 employees globally, including nearly 12,000 in India. The logic was more instructive. The layoffs were not driven by revenue stress, but by a reallocation of capital towards artificial intelligence infrastructure (an estimated shift of \$8–10 billion). Work was not withdrawn under constraint; it was displaced by priority. Employment is no longer concluded through negotiation but executed as a system decision: simultaneous and final. The phrase "your job is eliminated" is no longer delivered; it is processed.

For over two decades, India's global role rested on labour arbitrage: large-scale, cost-efficient human execution sustained by entry-level absorption. That foundation is now being restructured. Estimates suggest that 60–65% of tasks in traditional IT services are automatable, even as demand rises for advanced digital capabilities. Entry-level hiring across major firms has declined by 15–20%, though roles in AI, cloud, and data expand. Employment, in aggregate, is not collapsing; the structure of participation is changing, more rapidly than in earlier transitions where technology displaced labour but created new entry. The current shift compresses entry itself: fewer initiate work while systems scale it. The result is not a visible job loss, but a thinning at the base: delayed absorption and narrower

Yet the cost is not only economic. Entry-level work also initiates skill formation, identity, and mobility. Its compression does not produce immediate unemployment, but stalled progression and underemployment that remain statistically invisible. Evidence from the World Health Organization shows that unemployment is associated with nearly twice the risk of anxiety and depression, with younger populations who are vulnerable during labour market disruptions. Each foregone job withdraws not just income but future participation in the economy. The deeper loss is not employment: it is the loss of beginnings.



beginnings. The system is not eliminating work: it is reducing the need to begin with it.

In *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells described not a jobless future, but one where economic organisation produces separation in participation. That distinction sharpens in the present. The transition is not uniform displacement, but divergence: one segment designs and augments intelligent systems, while another sees routine execution steadily lose relevance. This shift is gradual but structurally decisive. Earlier transitions redistributed labour across sectors; this one reorganises access within sectors. Employment persists, but participation becomes uneven, being defined less by work availability than by the kind accessible. The system continues to generate value while narrowing entry into it. The future Wells anticipated was not jobless; it was divided by the nature of work

itself.

Aggregate indicators continue to suggest stability. India's unemployment rate remains between 3–5% per the Periodic Labour Force Survey. Yet beneath this, divergence is visible. Graduate unemployment is higher, at 13–15%, indicating stress at entry. Hiring adjustments occur through slowdown rather than separation. Entry-level recruitment moderates while informal and contractual engagements expand, diluting employment quality without altering headline numbers. The shift is statistical as much as structural: fewer visible exits, but increasing difficulty in entering and stabilising within the workforce. The labour market is not weakening; it is tightening at the point where careers begin.

The compression of entry-level employment directly into demand formation. Early-stage

income initiates consumption, enables first-time credit, and anchors savings; when this layer thins, demand weakens at its source. Survey evidence from the Reserve Bank of India shows that households facing employment-related stress report weaker spending sentiment and lower discretionary consumption. When repeated across households, this restraint aggregates into a structural imbalance: output can expand, but without proportional growth in first-time earners, demand formation lags.

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Labour metrics continue to measure employment status rather than the nature of work, limiting visibility into task transformation, skill shifts, and compressed entry pathways. Assessments by NITI Aayog acknowledge the need for reskilling, yet frameworks remain aligned to execution-driven roles. Programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana have expanded access, but have yet to adapt meaningfully to AI-exposed transitions. The challenge is not the absence of policy, but the absence of a quicker adaptation. Policy continues to measure how many work, not what work is becoming.

"Your job is eliminated" is no longer just a firm-level decision; it signals a system-level transition. The task ahead is to restore entry, not merely expand employment. As *The Time Machine* suggests, such shifts do not arrive as rupture, but as gradual separation in participation. The costs are dual: economically, the compression of entry weakens demand and participation; structurally, it narrows pathways through which work begins and sustains, weakening the expectation of mobility. A nation may continue to grow within this structure. But if entry continues to contract, growth will rest on a progressively thinner base, where work endures, but the path to it quietly disappears.

The writer is: Former Senior Project Associate, HSS Department, IIT Kanpur

Ambedkar:- The father of Constitution and soul of the Wounded Society

After getting this message Gandhiji wrote to him from Poona jail; " DearDr.Ambedkar, don't divided the country. Save Hindus. I have full sympathies for your cause. My life is in your hands. Do as you deem fit".National leaders trooped to Dr.Ambedkar had to bow to their wishes though it appeared a blatant blackmail. He met Gandhiji and agreed to a 10 point formula on 24th September, 1932. It was evident that the promise of Poona Pact would prove a mirage. Though it saved the precious life of Gandhiji yet it is only a matter of guess as to what and how much Harijans lost.



redemption of the country lay only through the upliftment and welfare of the long suffering dalit classes. By fighting for dalit and down trodden rights Dr.Ambedkar was serving the larger interests of the Hindu Society. It is said that the 'Charity begins at home'. Many people deliberately belittle the achievements of Dr.Ambedkar and keep referring to him as dalit leader to deny him his rightful place in the history as a great national leader. Such people betray their own small mindedness and myopic outlook. They simply can't digest the fact of a Dalit leader coming glory and

achieving great heights. But the 'The truth prevails'. His life shows the sadism and depravity the rules our society. What he suffered due to his birth in an Untouchable family makes every sane head hang in shame for being part of same society.

It is my humble request to Every Young reader must read the life story of Dr Ambedkar to understand the weaknesses of our society, the very reasons of our downfall and failures. Sometimes the incidents of his life read like horror stories. It is very inspiring and profitable to learn how he

fought against heavy odds, braved all hardships, endured all humiliations and survived all the mental tortures to become a great learned man respected the world over.He wrote thesis after thesis on hungry stomach to gain Doctorate. Without money in his pocket he wrote theories on Economics. By jealous people he was called as a traitor, enemy agent, anti-national and the destroyer of the country. But he showed a heart large enough to forget and forgive those unkind words when he was asked to prepare the 'Constitution' of India. It was a impressive story When The

British Government accepted the demands of Dr.Ambedkar. It created a storm in India. Gandhiji had been put in jail on his return, he wrote to the Viceroy ; " The separate constituency and reservation to backward castes will be injustice to the country. It will lead to disintegration of my country. To save it, I am going on ' fast unto death'. The untouchables, whom I call Harijans can not be taken away from the Hindu Society." National leaders appealed to Dr Ambedkar to withdraw his 'Memorandum of demands' in the interest of the Country and to save the life of Mahatma Gandhi. But Ambedkar did not agree. He remarked, ' All kinds of demands by upper caste Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians don't worry him. He only gets worried to death when we, untouchable ask for our just rights'.

After getting this message Gandhiji wrote to him from Poona jail; " DearDr.Ambedkar, don't divided the country. Save Hindus. I have full sympathies for your cause. My life is in your hands. Do as you deem fit".National leaders trooped to Dr.Ambedkar had to bow to their wishes though it appeared a blatant blackmail. He met Gandhiji and agreed to a 10 point formula on 24th September, 1932. It was evident that the promise of Poona Pact would prove a mirage. Though it saved the precious life of Gandhiji yet it is only a matter of guess as to what and how much Harijans lost.

I salute to this great Godly embodiment soul in his 132 birth day, the story of this untouchable great son of India touches every Indian heart that has conscience.

Uma Shankar Prasad, Columnist, Khurda, (63706 75562)

Double-Engine Momentum: PM Modi Envisions Accelerated Tamil Nadu Development

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday, that Tamil Nadu views the BJP-led NDA as a harbinger of change, with grassroots efforts fostering optimism, and a "double-engine government" would turbocharge development. Booth-Level Connect and Youth Outreach Addressing Tamil Nadu BJP booth workers virtually via 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot Samvad - Tamil Nadu,' PM Modi urged small-group meetings to share experiences, emphasizing outreach to young voters on NDA's developmental strides despite opposition rule. Prioritizing farmers, PM Modi highlighted direct benefit transfers under PM-KISAN (thousands of crores to Tamil Nadu accounts) and massive crop insurance payouts, eliminating intermediaries for unhindered scheme reach. Tamil Nadu gained 11 new medical colleges and doubled seats in the past decade—fulfilling middle-class aspirations—alongside accelerated rail, highway, and



airport projects. Mudra Yojana empowered millions of youth, traders, and women with collateral-free loans, spurring self-employment. Critique of DMK: Housing Lapses, Lawlessness, Graft. Modi faulted DMK for denying PMAY homes to deserving poor via

flawed surveys, raised women's safety concerns amid rising drugs and illicit liquor networks—allegedly state-patronized—threatening youth futures, and decried institutionalized corruption defining ministers and departments. Guarantee of

Inclusive Progress Urging workers to identify scheme-deprived citizens, PM Modi pledged "Modi ki Guarantee": future NDA rule ensures concrete homes for all eligible families and development dividends to every individual.

Nari Shakti Vandan Act: Annapurna Devi Envisions Empowered Nation-Building

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi asserted on Monday, that the Women's Reservation Act will infuse nation-building with renewed momentum, amplifying women's empowerment and delivering a resounding message on national progress. Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Nari Shakti Vandan Conclave in Vigyan Bhawan, Devi hailed the Act as epochal and transformative—fruit of maternal struggles, securing women robust footholds in democratic participation and decision-making. India transcends mere women's development, advancing toward development orchestrated by women. Over the past 11 years, initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Mudra Yojana have rendered



women self-reliant, propelling them into leadership vanguard. Surging Horizons in STEM, Aviation, and Governance. Women's escalating forays into science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), burgeoning female pilots, startup trailblazers, and millions of panchayat representatives delineate a resurgent India. Women now steer not just families but national trajectories; the Act

will elevate them to Parliament and assemblies, fortifying democracy. Devi deemed Nari Shakti pivotal to realizing Developed India 2047, urging women to propel this metamorphosis. Attendees included Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Minister of State Savitri Thakur, and National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, alongside luminaries from diverse domains.

Scindia to Unveil Unity Through Stamps Exhibition at PM Sangrahalaya

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia will inaugurate a four-day special postage stamp exhibition, "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: Celebrating India's Unity and Democracy Through Postage Stamps," at the Prime Ministers' Museum on April 14, 2026. Organized by the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) with the Department of Posts, the event commences at noon in Block-I's 'Introduction Gallery,' running until April 17. Special picture postcards on India's Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and "People of India" will be released. Private collectors nationwide



contribute rare stamps, chronicling post-Independence unity, democracy, and cultural tapestry—featuring PMs/ Presidents, democratic institutions, freedom fighters, and diversity. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Posts and

PMML will be signed. Culminating April 17 on former PM Chandrashekhar's 99th birth anniversary, a dedicated "special cover" launches. Visitors, philatelists, students, and public will immerse in history, heritage, and democracy via philately's lens.

Delhi-Dehradun Corridor Launch: PM Modi Slashes Travel to 2.5 Hours

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the eagerly awaited Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor on April 14, 2026—a 213-km six-lane access-controlled marvel built at over ₹12,000 crore, revolutionizing connectivity across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Per the Prime Minister's Office, PM Modi visits Uttarakhand and UP: at ~11:15 AM, he reviews the elevated wildlife corridor section in Saharanpur; ~11:40 AM, prayers at 'Jai Maa Daat Kali Temple' near Dehradun; ~12:30 PM, public function inaugurating the corridor followed by address. Shrinking Delhi-Dehradun travel from over six hours to ~2.5 hours, it promises rapid, secure passage. Features 10 interchanges, 3 ROBS, 4 major bridges, 12



wayside amenities, and ATMS for traffic safety. Environmentally attuned: Asia's longest 12-km wildlife elevated corridor, 8 animal

underpasses, dual 200-m elephant near Daat Kali Temple mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. This

lifeline spurs regional growth, tourism, and trade—exemplifying modern infrastructure harmonized with ecological stewardship.

Supreme Court Directs Notices on Biometric Voter Verification Plea

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): The Supreme Court of India, presided over by Chief Justice Surya Kant, has issued notices to the Central Government and the Election Commission on a petition seeking mandatory facial and biometric identification for voters prior to casting ballots. Filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay, the petition initially faced court hesitation. The bench noted that acceding to such demands would necessitate sweeping regulatory amendments alongside substantial financial burdens. Upadhyay countered that implementation was feasible through state government collaboration. The court responded that state non-cooperation or Finance Ministry budgetary reticence might compel future litigation, deeming immediate notices unnecessary. Upon Upadhyay's clarification that the plea transcended mere five-state confines, embracing national scope, the bench mandated issuance of notices forthwith.

100% Domestic LPG Supply Secured Amid West Asia Turmoil

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): The government affirmed on Monday, that 100% LPG supply for household consumers stands fully assured nationwide, with no distributor stockouts reported and ample fuel reserves at petrol pumps. Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma (Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry) highlighted normalized domestic LPG distribution during an inter-ministerial briefing. No domestic dry-outs occurred; online bookings neared 99% fulfillment. OTP-authenticated deliveries—sent solely to registered mobiles—curb misuse, ensuring secure access. Oil marketing companies mandated 85-90% minimum stocks, streamlining approvals via state/regional heads for Distribution Approval Clearance bypasses. Ports, Shipping & Waterways



Additional Secretary Mukesh Mangal confirmed all Indian sailors in the Persian Gulf unharmed; no incidents in 24 hours. LPG carrier Jag Vikram (20,400 MT, 24 crew) transited Hormuz April 11, expected at Kandla April 14. Heavy Industries Additional Secretary Dr. Hanif Kuraishi accelerated

EV adoption under Atmanirbhar Bharat: PM E-Drive subsidies for tri-wheelers extended to March 2028 (from 2026); electric two-wheelers to July 31, 2026. Phased Manufacturing Programme incentives boost local production; trucks/buses granted six-month relaxations amid supply strains.

Sitharaman Fires Back at Stalin: Labels Paddy Bonus Claims a Fabricated Narrative

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a sharp rebuttal on April 13, 2026, against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's accusations over the Centre's advisory on wheat and paddy farmer bonuses, accusing him of engineering a "false narrative." Advisory, Not Directive: Promoting Crop Diversification. Posting the relevant letter on X, Sitharaman clarified no directive halted bonuses; rather, an advisory to all states' chief secretaries urged alignment with national priorities—fostering pulses, oilseeds, and millets for nutritional security and self-reliance, not curbing incentives. She lambasted DMK's ploy to masquerade as farmers'



guardians, emphasizing India's unsustainable rice/wheat monoculture amid soaring palm oil and pulse imports. "Farmers gain superior prices from demand-supply gaps in pulses/oilseeds," she posited, questioning Stalin's disregard for Aatmanirbhar

Bharat. Crop diversification advances protein-rich access ("nutrition security") and slashes edible oil import bills ("economic stability"). Most states embraced cooperative federalism; only Stalin sensationalized a constructive invitation.

Rahul Gandhi Stands Firm: Congress Backs Pawan Khera Against Assam CM's Retaliation

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.): Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has unequivocally rallied behind party media chairperson Pawan Khera amid an FIR triggered by his allegations against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Rinki Bhuiyan, vowing unyielding resolve in the face of political vendetta. In a pointed post on X on

Monday, Rahul Gandhi branded Sarma as India's most corrupt chief minister, accusing him of weaponizing official authority to harass political adversaries and critics—a blatant affront to constitutional ethos. He insisted that Khera's claims warrant impartial scrutiny, advocating transparency, governmental accountability, and rule of law as bedrock constitutional tenets. Reiterating solidarity,



Gandhi declared: "We shall not cower. Congress stands resolutely with Pawan Khera." "The imbroglio ignited on April 5, 2026, during Khera's press briefing at Congress headquarters, where he alleged Rinki Bhuiyan held active passports from the United Arab Emirates, Antigua-Bermuda, and Egypt, alongside undisclosed multimillion-rupee assets in Wyoming (USA) and UAE—

omitted from Election Commission disclosures. Sarma dismissed these as malicious fabrications, pledging legal recourse within 48 hours; consequently, an FIR ensued, prompting Assam Police's raid on Khera's Delhi residence on April 7. Absent at the time, Khera later saw police seize his mobile, iPad, laptop, and pen drives. This standoff exemplifies intensifying pre-

poll skirmishes, with Congress decriing "state machinery misuse" while BJP counters with defamation charges. Khera secured interim relief from Telangana High Court against coercive action, underscoring judicial checks on partisan overreach. Gandhi's intervention galvanizes party morale, framing the episode as a democratic litmus test amid Sarma's governance scrutiny.

Shehbaz Sharif Eyes Saudi Diplomacy Post-Islamabad Impasse

Islamabad, 13/4(H.S.):Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to visit Saudi Arabia imminently to confer with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on pressing regional and global issues, primarily devising fresh modalities for reconciliation between Iran and the United States.Sources cited by Dunya News indicate the discourse will center on West Asia's evolving dynamics—particularly the trajectory of US-Iran negotiations and broader endeavors to mitigate regional tensions. Sharif's agenda may encompass enduring ceasefires and long-term peace architectures.Talks will appraise Pakistan-Saudi bilateral ties, amplify collaboration for regional stability, and explore joint



diplomatic initiatives. Post-visit, Sharif eyes a Turkish sojourn.Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held telephonic consultations with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty, briefing them on Islamabad dialogue developments.

Trump's Personal Praise for Pakistan's PM and Army Chief Shadows US-Iran Diplomatic Failure



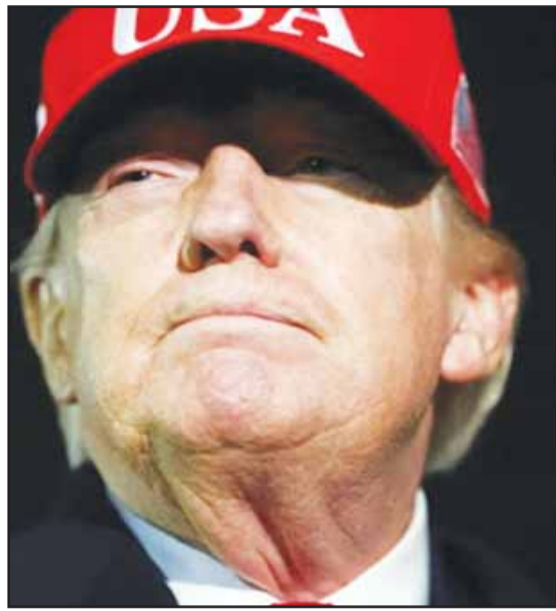
Washington, 13/4 (H.S.):US President Donald Trump has publicly praised Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir as "very extraordinary men" for their role in hosting high-level US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad aimed at ending the six-week war in the Middle East.Though the negotiations concluded without a formal agreement, Trump framed the dialogue itself as a diplomatic success brokered by Pakistan's leadership.Trump's wording and toneIn a detailed post on Truth Social, Trump said he had been "fully debriefed" by Vice President JD Vance, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and Jared Kushner on the Islamabad meeting, which he attributed to the "kind and very competent leadership" of Sharif and Munir.He described both leaders

as "very extraordinary men" and claimed they "continuously thank" him for having averted what he calls a "horrendous war with India," even though Indian officials have repeatedly denied any third-party mediation in last year's ceasefire.Trump has also repeatedly referred to Munir as his "favourite field marshal," underscoring unusually warm personal regard for Pakistan's top military commander.Pakistan's role in the US-Iran talksPakistan facilitated the first face-to-face, high-level negotiations between Washington and Tehran in decades, positioning Islamabad as a key mediator in the crisis.Prime Minister Sharif stated that Field Marshal Munir played a "key and historic" role in "extinguishing the flames of war" and in bringing both sides to the table.Munir also personally received and saw off the US and Iranian delegations at

Islamabad's airport, signalling the centrality of the military-civilian tandem in the diplomatic effort.The war erupted on February 28, 2026, when US and Israeli forces launched airstrikes that killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and several senior commanders, triggering a chain of retaliatory attacks on Israel and US bases in the Gulf.After weeks of escalating violence, President Trump announced a two-week ceasefire last week and pushed for the talks in Islamabad as a last-ditch effort to secure a broader settlement.The marathon negotiations ended with Vance stating he was leaving without a deal; Trump blamed Iran's refusal to scale back its nuclear ambitions, while Tehran denounced American demands as "unreasonable."Thousands of people have been killed across the region since the conflict began.

Trump's Papal Firestorm: Rebukes Vatican Pontiff Leo XIV Over Iran War Stance and Nuclear Peril

Washington, 13/4 (H.S.):President Donald Trump launched a scathing critique against Vatican prelate Pope Leo XIV, castigating his position on the Iran conflict. Trump decried the Pope's foreign policy as deplorable, telling journalists Sunday evening: "We don't want a Pope who says it's fine to have nuclear weapons. He doesn't think Iran would blow up the world if they get nukes."According to CNN, the first American Pope has grown vociferous against US-Israel hostilities toward Iran. Last week, Leo XIV condemned Trump's threat to Iran—"Tonight, all civilization ends"—uttered hours before a two-week ceasefire accord, deeming it utterly unacceptable.Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have invoked divinity in war rhetoric; Hegseth framed the fray as divinely sanctioned, adducing sacred texts. Pope Leo XIV repudiated this vehemently on Palm Sunday: "Jesus is the King



of Peace. He rejects war. No one may invoke Him to justify conflict."Trump riposted on Truth Social, averring: "We don't need a Pope who thinks Iran should have nukes, or America's Venezuela strike was terrible. I don't want a Pope criticizing the US President." He impugned Leo's papal

worthiness, claiming the Church enthroned him solely for American provenance.Vatican spokesman Father Antonio Spadaro retorted that Trump seeks to muzzle moral suasion: "Leo outclasses Trump in debate. The Pope's words resonate profoundly, unsettling him."Leo has long inveighed against nuclear

proliferation; last June, amid Trump's mooted strikes on Iranian sites, he urged: "Advance a nuclear-free world through mutual respect and candid dialogue, forging enduring peace rooted in justice, fraternity, and common weal." The White House demurred comment.

Netanyahu's Defiant Stand in Lebanon's Shadows: Flak Vest Proclamation Amid Ceaseless Conflict

Lebanon, 13/4 (H.S.):In a bold assertion of unyielding resolve, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ventured into southern Lebanon on Sunday, clad in a flak vest—a robust garment engineered to deflect low-velocity projectiles—and addressed troops entrenched within a newly established security zone.Accompanied by Defence Minister Israel Katz and masked soldiers, he proclaimed that Israeli forces had decisively neutralized the peril of a Hezbollah incursion, crediting ground maneuvers with curtailing rocket barrages that imperiled northern Israeli enclaves. Netanyahu underscored the persistence of hostilities,



declaring, "The war continues, including within the security zone in Lebanon," while affirming that substantial endeavors remain underway to safeguard the realm.This visit, unprecedented in its proximity to the fray, unfolded against a tapestry of intensified Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)

operations, encompassing strikes on Hezbollah launch pads and infrastructure, even as Lebanon's Health Ministry tallied over 2,000 fatalities from assaults since early March.Paradoxically, this martial posturing coincides with diplomatic overtures: mere days prior, Netanyahu greenlit direct

negotiations with Lebanon, spurred by Lebanese entreaties and U.S. facilitation, slated for Washington.These parleys prioritize Hezbollah's disarmament and the forging of an enduring peace pact, potentially spanning generations, though Netanyahu has repudiated any ceasefire, vowing unrelenting blows until northern Israeli security is irrevocably restored.As IDF incursions expand buffer territories and rocket interceptions persist—logging at least 10 such incidents that day without casualties—the specter of escalation looms, intertwining saberrattling with slender hopes for reconciliation in a region scarred by decades of enmity since Israel's 1948 inception.

U.S. Warships Set to Seal Iranian Ports at Dawn; Iran Vows Strait of Hormuz Stays Open to Civilian Shipping

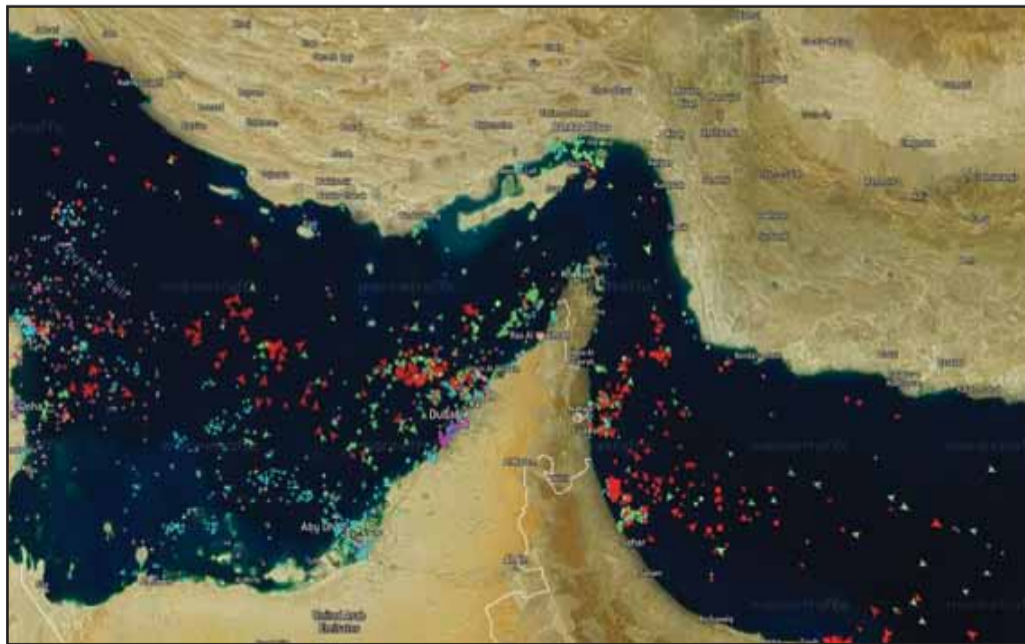
Washington/Tehran, 13/4(H.S.): The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on Sunday that it is prepared to enforce a naval blockade of Iranian ports, which will take effect on the morning of 13 April at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. In the wake of CENTCOM's announcement, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed that the Strait of Hormuz remains open for civilian vessels and warned that any foreign warship attempting to pass through the waterway will be treated as a violation of the ceasefire and met with "strict action."According to reports from Al Jazeera, CBS News and

Fox News, U.S. Central Command stated on the social-media platform X that, acting on the orders of President Donald Trump, its forces will begin implementing a blockade of all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports on 13 April at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. This blockade will apply equally to ships of all nations that attempt to enter or leave Iranian ports and coastal areas. The order covers Iranian ports along the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.CENTCOM has emphasized that it will not obstruct the free passage of vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz to and from non-Iranian ports.

"Deadly Vortex in the Gulf"— US-Iran Standoff Escalates as US Navy Prepares Hormuz Blockade on Monday

Washington, 13/4(H.S.):Tension has risen over the Strait of Hormuz as the United States prepares to impose a naval blockade on Iranian ports, raising fears of a wider war in the Middle East.After peace talks between the US and Iran in Pakistan ended without an agreement, US President Donald Trump ordered the US Navy to stop all ships entering or leaving Iranian-controlled waters in the strait. Washington says non-Iranian ships will still be allowed to pass through the Hormuz corridor, but the move is widely seen as a direct pressure tactic against Tehran.Iran has responded with strong warnings. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Navy says the Strait is under full Iranian control and has threatened that any enemy forces entering the area will be trapped in a "deadly vortex."Iran's navy chief, Admiral

Shahram Irani, called Trump's blockade threat "ridiculous," insisting that Iran's forces are closely watching every move by US and allied warships in the region. This language reflects Iran's determination to keep its leverage over one of the world's most important oil routes. Oil prices have already jumped in reaction to the crisis. Global crude benchmarks have climbed above 100 dollars a barrel as tanker companies change their routes to avoid the Strait of Hormuz.Analysts say a full closure of the Hormuz choke point could sharply reduce global oil supply and push inflation higher, especially in countries that depend heavily on imported energy.The current crisis grew out of long negotiations between the US and Iran in Pakistan, held amid weeks of US- and Israeli-led air strikes on Iranian sites. Reports



suggested that both sides were close to a fragile ceasefire, including a partial reopening of the Strait and a temporary halt to attacks.However, Tehran reportedly refused to accept the

final terms on its nuclear programme, and Washington changed its stance at the last minute, causing talks to collapse.Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi

has claimed that a private phone call between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Vice President JD Vance, made during the talks, shifted the focus toward Israel's

security demands and killed the deal. The US has not confirmed the call, but the allegation has added fresh tension to already strained relations between Washington, Tehran, and Jerusalem. Israeli officials argue that Iran often uses diplomacy to buy time while keeping its military options open, and they see the failed talks as a sign that tougher pressure is needed.Neighbouring countries and regional allies are increasingly worried that Trump's unilateral blockade order could push Iran into a strong military response it might otherwise have avoided.As the evening of Monday, approaches, legal and maritime experts are questioning the lawfulness of such a one-sided naval blockade in one of the world's busiest sea lanes. The Strait of Hormuz carries about one-fifth of all global oil exports, and past

disruptions there have caused recessions and serious economic shocks.Experts warn that if the US-backed blockade sparks a major Iranian retaliation, the conflict could quickly spread beyond the Gulf, pulling in other regional powers and further destabilising the international system. In response, diplomats from neutral and non-aligned states have urged emergency meetings at the United Nations and regional organisations, calling on all sides to step back from the edge. Yet with hostile rhetoric rising and warships already moving into position, Monday's blockade threat may not be a temporary pause, but the start of a new and far more dangerous phase in the US-Iran-Israel confrontation—one that will reshape energy flows and security alliances across the Middle East and the wider world.

Indian Markets Claw Back from Lows but Close Lower Amid Global Jitters

New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): Domestic equities staged a valiant recovery from intraday troughs on April 13, 2026, yet succumbed to late selling pressure, erasing gains and inflicting ₹2.10 lakh crore losses on investors. Benchmark indices opened sharply lower—Sensex down -2% at 75,937 amid -2% Nifty plunge to 23,590—before aggressive buying propelled Sensex 1,195 points higher to 77,063 and Nifty 352 points to 23,907 by 3 PM. Intra-day settlement triggered reversals, closing Sensex 702 points (0.91%) lower at 76,848 and Nifty 208 points (0.86%) down at 23,843. West Asia's ceasefire talks collapse fueled global unease, though buyers mitigated steeper declines. Sectoral Bloodbath and Selective Resilience Auto sector bled heavily (Nifty Auto -2.09%), trailed by IT, FMCG, and Oil & Gas (>1% falls); Banking, Capital Goods, Consumer Durables, Healthcare, Metal,



PSE, and Tech also closed red. Power and Telecom bucked the trend with buying support. Broader markets wavered: Nifty Midcap -0.57%, Smallcap -0.46% despite rebounds. BSE market cap shrank to ₹449.13 lakh crore from

Friday's ₹451.23 lakh crore. NSE saw 2,984 active stocks: 1,140 gainers, 1,844 decliners. Sensex: 3 up, 27 down; Nifty 50: 12 up, 38 down. Top Gainers: HDFC Life (+2.47%), ICICI Bank (+2.21%), Adani Enterprises

(+2.02%), NTPC (+1.60%), TMPV (+0.85%). Top Losers: Eicher Motors (-5.04%), Maruti Suzuki (-4.62%), InterGlobe Aviation (-2.79%), Bajaj Finance (-2.77%), Reliance Industries (-2.60%).

Emiac Technologies Ignites Bourse Debut: Stellar Premium Listing Delights IPO Aces

New Delhi, 13/3 (H.S.): Shares of Emiac Technologies Limited, a vanguard in digital market solutions, marked a triumphant premium ingress into the stock market today, gladdening its IPO subscribers with immediate gains. Issued at ₹98 per share through the IPO, the stock premiered on the BSE SME platform at a 10% premium, touching ₹107.80, and surged further to ₹109 amid robust buying momentum post-listing.

Profit-taking ensued thereafter, tempering the ascent modestly; by 10:23 AM, the scrip traded at 109, conferring an 11.22% bounty on IPO investors thus far.

The 31.75 crore IPO, unfurled for subscription from March 27 to April 8, garnered a respectable average response, achieving 3.22 times oversubscription overall. Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) portion (ex-anchors) subscribed 1.02 times; Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) at 4.96 times; and Retail Investors at 3.74 times. It comprised a fresh issue of 32.40 lakh equity shares at ₹10 face value, proceeds earmarked for procuring computers and laptops, branding and marketing, augmenting working capital, and general corporate objectives.

Emiac's financial trajectory evinces robust fortification, per its SEBI-filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Net profit escalated from ₹39 lakh in FY23 to ₹84 lakh in FY24, vaulting to ₹4.22 crore in FY25; H1 FY26 (April-September 2025) yielded ₹4.55 crore. Revenue burgeoned from ₹2.95 crore (FY23) to ₹5.38 crore (FY24), ₹20.06 crore (FY25), and ₹14.49 crore in H1 FY26. Debt, erstwhile negligible—nil in FY23-24, ₹1 lakh by FY25 end—swelled to ₹1.30 crore in H1 FY26. Net worth ascended from ₹47 lakh (FY23) to ₹1.31 crore (FY24), ₹9.03 crore (FY25), and ₹13.57 crore (H1 FY26). Reserves and surplus climbed from ₹46 lakh (FY23) to ₹1.30 crore (FY24), ₹7.32 crore (FY25), though dipped to ₹4.57 crore in H1 FY26. EBITDA soared from ₹60 lakh (FY23) to ₹1.24 crore (FY24), ₹5.92 crore (FY25), and ₹6.19 crore (H1 FY26).

Crude Returns to India After Seven-Year Hiatus Amid Port Blockade Tensions



New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): Two massive tankers laden with Iranian crude oil have docked at major Indian ports on the eastern and western coasts—the first such deliveries in nearly seven years—arriving amidst West Asian volatility and Iran's port blockade declaration, as per ship-tracking data. Monday's tracking revealed one tanker reaching Paradip port in Odisha, followed by another anchoring off Gujarat's Sikka port, carrying approximately 2

million barrels loaded mid-March from Kharg Island. Operated by National Iranian Tanker Company, the VLCC Felicity dropped anchor late Sunday near Sikka, while Jaya—also bearing ~2 million barrels from late February Kharg loading—halted off Paradip. These consignments mark the inaugural Iranian crude influx since sanctions halted imports post-2019, enabled by a U.S.-granted one-month waiver last month permitting en-route

cargoes' sale. Aimed at easing global supply snarls and stabilizing prices, the waiver preceded Washington's weekend announcement blockading Iranian ports post-failed Pakistan peace talks—to throttle Tehran's oil revenue streams. This timely replenishment underscores India's pragmatic energy diplomacy amid geopolitical flux, bolstering reserves against Hormuz disruptions.

Geopolitical Jitters Eclipse Global Bourses: Failed US-Iran Truce Ignites Sell-Off Cascade



New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): Weakness permeates global markets today, precipitated by the collapse of US-Iran peace negotiations in Pakistan, amid protracted West Asian tensions. Friday's American and European sessions concluded on a mixed note, yet the truce's unraveling has engendered pervasive pressure; Dow Jones futures plummet conspicuously, with Asian counterparts succumbing to broad-based selling. US markets navigated

Friday's trading in straitened confines amid suspense over Islamabad parleys; S&P 500 dipped 0.11% to 6,816.89, while Nasdaq ascended 0.35% to 22,902.89. Post-failure, Dow futures cascade 344.57 points (0.72%) to 47,570. European indices mirrored ambivalence Friday: FTSE shed 0.03% to 10,600.53; DAX a nominal 0.01% to 23,803.95; CAC gained 0.17% to 8,259.60. The diplomatic débâcle has afflicted Asia, where

seven of nine indices languish in red; Thailand's SET idles on holiday. Solely Taiwan Weighted edges 0.03% higher to 35,428.05. GIFT Nifty tumbles 442.50 points (1.84%) to 23,649; Kospi slumps 74.50 points (1.27%) to 5,784.37; Nikkei dives 594.11 points (1.04%) to 56,330; Hang Seng sheds 261.54 points (1.01%) to 25,632; Straits Times -0.39% to 4,969.78; Shanghai Composite -0.17% to 3,979.26; Jakarta Composite -0.07% to 7,453.13.

Citius Transtech InvIT IPO Unveiled: 1,105 Cr Road Infra Play at 99-100/Share

New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): Citius Transtech Investment Trust's Initial Public Offering (IPO) opens April 17, 2026, inviting bids until April 21 at a price band of ₹99-100 per share, with units listing on BSE and NSE on April 29. Allotment finalizes April 24; Axis Capital, Ambit, and ICICI Securities helm as lead managers. The book-built InvIT aims to raise ₹1,105 crore entirely fresh, fostering infrastructure investment in transport assets. Net proceeds—up to ₹1,000 crore—target partial/full acquisition of securities from SRPL Roads Private Limited and SPVs like Thrissur Expressway Limited, Jorabat Shillong



Expressway Limited, Dhola Infra Projects Private Limited, and Dibang Infra Projects Private Limited; balance for general corporate

purposes. This InvIT positions investors in high-growth road assets, enhancing portfolio diversification amid India's infra boom.

NCLAT Defers Vedanta's Challenge to Adani's Jaiprakash Associates Acquisition

New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on April 13, 2026, postponed hearings on two appeals by Vedanta Group contesting the selection of Adani Enterprises' bid for debt-saddled Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL). Proceedings halted due to reconfiguration of the bench hearing Vedanta's pleas, triggered by a member's unavailability; NCLAT will soon schedule the next date.

Genesis of the Corporate Insolvency Dispute Allahabad NCLT approved Adani's ₹14,535 crore resolution plan on March 17, 2026, for JAL's cement, infrastructure, and real estate assets. Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta impugned this, alleging flawed



bidder selection despite its superior ₹17,926 crore offer. NCLAT denied interim stays earlier, with Supreme Court upholding—yet subjecting

implementation to appeal outcomes. Markets and investors await appellate verdict on this high-stakes mining sector showdown.

Gilded Lustre Fades: Marginal Dip in Domestic Bullion Bazaar Tempers Gold and Silver's Sheen

New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): The domestic bullion market witnessed a modest softening in gold and silver prices during early trading today. This decline has positioned 24-carat gold across most Indian bullion markets between ₹1,52,830 and ₹1,53,810 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold trades from ₹1,40,090 to ₹1,40,990 per 10 grams. Silver, similarly subdued, commands ₹2,59,900 per kilogram in the Delhi bullion mart. In Delhi, 24-carat gold quotes at ₹1,52,980 per 10 grams, with 22-carat at ₹1,40,240. Mumbai mirrors this at ₹1,52,830 (24-carat) and ₹1,40,090 (22-carat) per 10 grams; Ahmedabad at ₹1,52,880 and ₹1,40,140 respectively. Chennai records 24-carat at ₹1,53,810 and



22-carat at ₹1,40,990 per 10 grams; Kolkata aligns with Mumbai at ₹1,52,830 and ₹1,40,090. Bhopal stands at ₹1,52,880 (24-carat) and ₹1,40,140 (22-carat). Lucknow trades 24-carat gold at ₹1,52,980 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,240 per 10 grams; Patna and Jaipur echo

Bhopal and Delhi levels precisely. Karnataka, Telangana, and Odisha markets—encompassing Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar—uniformly peg 24-carat at ₹1,52,830 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,090 per 10 grams, underscoring the pervasive bearish tilt nationwide.

Crude Cataclysm Looms: Oil Surges Past \$104/Barrel on Imminent Hormuz Blockade Brink

New Delhi, 13/4 (H.S.): The protracted West Asian crisis and the acrimonious denouement of US-Iran peace parleys without accord have profoundly reverberated through crude oil benchmarks. On Monday, prices breached \$104 per barrel as President Donald Trump signaled naval measures to interdict access to the Strait of Hormuz. In early international trading, Brent crude catapulted nearly 8% above \$104, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark rocketed 8.61%. Currently, Brent trades at \$102.3—up \$7.07 or 7.43%—and WTI at \$104.2, ascending \$8.32 or



8.62%. Market savants posit the oil arena has reverted to pre-ceasefire volatility, albeit with escalated stakes: the US contemplates curtailing Iranian exports, compounding Gulf exporters'

paralysis from Hormuz strictures. Deemed the gravest petroleum exigency since the 1970s, Iran's erstwhile 2 million barrels daily outflow faces obliteration, portending acute global supply constriction.



Asha Bhosale Cremated With Full State Honours At Mumbai's Iconic Shivaji Park

singer. Actors Vicky Kaushal, Aamir Khan, Vivek Oberoi, Padmini Kolapuri and Jackie Shroff were among those seen at Shivaji Park.

Apart from the film industry, several senior political leaders were also present at the crematorium. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde attended the funeral and paid floral tributes to the iconic singer. NCP-SCP MP Supriya Sule, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Rashmi Thackeray, and Aaditya Thackeray also visited to offer their respects. Actors Ranveer Singh and Riteish Deshmukh also visited her residence earlier in the day to offer condolences. Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan also paid tribute to the singer whose songs defined generations of Hindi cinema. Her mortal remains were earlier kept at her residence for public homage, draped in the Tricolour. Long queues of admirers were seen outside the home, with many offering flowers, folding hands in

prayer, and remembering the singer through tears.

Among other dignitaries who paid tribute were Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and state minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha.

Music composer Uttam Singh remembered Asha Bhosle not just as a great artist but as a warm-hearted human being. Recalling an old memory, he shared how she once cooked food for his team late at night after a recording session.

"It was around 1:30 at night. As we were about to leave, she saw us and asked us to wait. Within minutes, she went inside, cooked chicken and rice herself, and insisted we eat before leaving. She was that kind of person," he said. Soon after the news of her death broke on Sunday, tributes poured in from across the country. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh

Khan, for whom she sang the much-loved song 'Zara Sa Jhoom Loon Main' from the classic Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, remembered her as a timeless voice of Indian cinema. In his message, Shah Rukh Khan wrote, "It's truly sad to learn about Asha Tai's passing. Her voice has been one of the pillars of Indian cinema and will continue to resonate across the world for centuries to come."

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was cremated with full state honours on Monday at the Shivaji Park Crematorium in Mumbai, where a large gathering of mourners came together to pay their final respects to the iconic voice that enthralled generations for more than eight decades. Wrapped in the tricolour, the mortal remains of Asha Bhosle, fondly known as "Asha Tai," were consigned to flames following a traditional gun salute by the Mumbai Police. The city witnessed an emotional day as fans,

political leaders, and members of the film and music industry came together to pay their last respects to the melody queen.

Her last rites were performed by her son Anand.

The legendary vocalist was also given a musical tribute by singers Shaan and Sudesh Bhosale.

Several well-known faces from the film world arrived to pay floral tributes to the legendary



SPORTS

RCB Clinches Thriller at Wankhede: Patidar's Fireworks Fuel 18-Run Triumph Over MI

New Delhi, 13 / 4(H.S.):Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) secured a commanding 18-run victory over Mumbai Indians at Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, etching their highest-ever score at the venue while showcasing batting firepower and clutch bowling.

Phil Salt's blistering 78 off 36 balls and skipper Rajat Patidar's ferocious 53 off 20—featuring a tournament-record fastest captain's fifty in 17 balls—propelled RCB to a daunting total. Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma's incisive spells sealed the chase's denial. Post-match, Patidar lauded the batting unit's rhythm: "We're consistently breaching 200, instilling immense captaincy confidence amid abundant talent." On his approach: "I react instinctively to the ball, targeting scoring surgically while scouting scoring windows from the dugout." Krunal Pandya praised



Salt's aggressive powerplay, Virat Kohli, and Tim David's cameos, hailing Patidar's four-innings clarity. Patidar spotlighted Rasikh's pivotal spell—slower balls and

yorkers—as the game-changer despite dew, calling Krunal "courageously versatile, perpetually unsettling batters." Head coach Malolan Rangarajan saluted Rasikh's tenacity, battling

cramps to deliver. Patidar anticipates electric "12th man" fervor at Chinnaswamy, while Krunal cherishes Wankhede-Chinnaswamy vibes but prioritizes team wins.

McIlroy's Masters Mastery: Back-to-Back Glory Echoes Woods' Legacy

New Delhi, 13 / 4 (H.S.):Rory McIlroy clinched the 2026 Masters title through gritty resilience, becoming the first since Tiger Woods to defend the Green Jacket consecutively—his sixth major triumph. World No. 2 McIlroy weathered an early stumble with a double bogey on the fourth and bogey on the sixth, then surged with four birdies over seven holes. A composed one-under 71 in the finale yielded a 12-under total of 276, edging out world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler (277) by a stroke after Scheffler's stellar 68. Unlike last year's playoff, McIlroy led wire-to-wire. Chairman Fred Ridley draped the



Green Jacket as McIlroy reflected: "Seventeen years for one, now two in a row—profoundly special." His 18th-

hole drive veered into trees, but a bunker recovery and two-putt bogey sealed victory. Tyrrell Hatton, Justin Rose, Russell

Henley, and Cameron Young tied third at 278. McIlroy's embrace with wife and daughter marked a career pinnacle.

Dacoit Box Office Collection Day 3: Adivi Sesh Scores Career-Best Opening, Film Crosses Rs 40 Crore Worldwide



The action drama Dacoit has delivered a strong start at the global box office, collecting over ₹40 crore worldwide within its first three days of release. The film marks the biggest opening weekend of Adivi Sesh's career so far. Produced by Annapurna Studios, the film was released in theatres on Friday in both Telugu and Hindi. The makers confirmed the milestone on social media, highlighting the film's impressive performance during its opening weekend. According to official figures, Dacoit earned more than ₹40 crore globally in its first weekend. The film also performed well in international markets. In the United States, it crossed \$900,000 (approximately ₹8.4 crore) within

three days, reflecting strong audience interest overseas. This performance surpasses Sesh's previous best, Major (2022), which earned ₹35.01 crore in its opening weekend. His earlier film HIT: The Second Case had collected ₹27.71 crore during the same period. Directed by Shaneil Deo in his directorial debut, Dacoit features a diverse cast led by Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, and Anurag Kashyap. The film also stars Prakash Raj, Sunil, Zayn Marie Khan, and Atul Kulkarni in supporting roles. Dacoit tells the story of a convict who escapes

custody and embarks on a path of revenge against a former partner, leading to a series of dramatic events. The film blends action, romance, and emotional conflict. While the movie has received mixed reviews from critics and audiences, it has managed to attract significant footfall in theatres during its opening weekend. The strong opening has set a positive tone for the film's box office journey. However, its performance during the weekdays will be crucial in determining its long-term success. With growing interest and word-of-mouth, Dacoit is expected to maintain steady collections in the coming days.

O'Romeo Arrives on OTT After Theatrical Run

Vishal Bhardwaj's romantic action thriller O'Romeo, starring Shahid Kapoor and Triptii Dimri, is now streaming on Prime Video starting April 10, eight weeks after its theatrical release in February. Prime Video announced the release quietly on Friday morning, surprising many as big Hindi films usually reveal OTT dates in advance. The film, inspired by S Hussain Zaidi's non-fiction book Mafia Queens of Mumbai, blends noir storytelling with action and explores themes of power, loyalty, and personal choices. The film features Shahid Kapoor and Triptii Dimri in lead roles, alongside Avinash Tiwary, Nana Patekar, Tamannaah Bhatia, Disha Patani, and



Farida Jalal, with Vikrant Massey in a special appearance. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, O'Romeo combines stylised action with

character-driven drama. Reviews were mixed. Hindustan Times rated the film 3 out of 5, praising Shahid Kapoor's energy and stylish flourishes but noting that the film "struggles to find its emotional core."