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President and Vice President extend greetings on multiple harvest festivals across India



New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President C P Radhakrishnan extended their best wishes to all citizens living in India and abroad on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, Vishu, Vishuv, Bohag Bihu, Poila Boishakh, Meshadi, Vaishakhadi and Puthandu. In a social media post, the President noted that these festivals are celebrated in various forms across the country to mark the harvest season. President Murmu added that through these festivals, citizens express their gratitude towards Mother Earth and Annadata farmers.

Further, the President underlined that the rich cultural heritage, agricultural traditions and unity of the nation find expression

through the celebration of these festivals. President Murmu wished that these festivals bring happiness and prosperity in the lives of all and inspire countrymen to make notable contributions towards the development of the nation and society.

The Vice President said that these vibrant festivals reflect the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the country. Mr Radhakrishnan added that these occasions mark beginnings, the joy of harvest, and the enduring bond between people, nature, and tradition. Further, the Vice President wished that these festivals inspire harmony, prosperity and renewed hope in the lives of every citizen.

'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' historic step towards women's participation: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Tuesday termed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' a historic step towards ensuring greater participation of women in legislative bodies and strengthening India's democratic framework.

Addressing a press conference, Union Minister Raksha Khadse said the legislation, which provides

for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, is not merely about increasing representation but also about enhancing women's role in decision-making.

She said the government is moving towards early implementation of the Act, for which a special session of Parliament will be convened from April 16 to 18.

Delhi govt mulls deposit return scheme to incentivise plastic waste disposal

New Delhi: The Delhi government is exploring the deposit return scheme to tackle non-biodegradable waste, with Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa directing officials to prepare a detailed proposal within a month.

The move is aimed at plugging the leakage of recyclable plastic waste into the environment and

strengthening the city's waste management system, officials said.

The deposit return scheme (DRS) is an incentive-based system under which consumers pay a small refundable deposit on non-biodegradable items such as plastic bottles at the time of purchase, which is returned when the item is brought back to designated collection points.

PM Modi holds roadshow in Dehradun ahead of Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor inauguration

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a roadshow in Dehradun ahead of inaugurating the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway Corridor today.

The roadshow witnessed a huge crowd with people welcoming the Prime Minister by waving the flags of the Bhartiya Janata Party.

Earlier today, he also held a roadshow in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur.

The 213 km long six-lane access-controlled Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor has been developed at a cost of over Rs 12,000 crore. The corridor traverses through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It has been designed with several features aimed at significantly reducing man-animal conflict.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the Prime Minister will review the 12-km-long Wildlife Corridor, one of the longest in Asia, constructed by Uttarakhand on the elevated section of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway.

He will perform Darshan and Pooja at Jai Maa Daat Kali Temple near Dehradun. Thereafter, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor at a public function in Dehradun and will also address the gathering on the occasion.

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.

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.

Delhi: 2-year-old killed, 2 injured as speeding SUV hits car in Alipur

New Delhi: A tragic road accident in Delhi's Alipur area resulted in the death of a two-year-old girl, while two other individuals sustained injuries.

The police have registered an FIR in connection with the incident and have initiated an investigation.

The horrific road accident occurred on Sunday at around 2 pm on GTK Road near the Khampur traffic signal, within the jurisdiction of the Alipur Police Station in the Outer North District. According to

the police, an SUV, being driven at high speed and in a negligent manner, violently rear-ended a car. The impact was so severe that the car spun around, went out of control, and crashed into the road divider.

As the aftermath of the accident, a two-year-old girl traveling in the car was thrown out through the window and sustained severe head injuries. She was immediately rushed to SRHC Hospital in Narela, where doctors pronounced her dead.

Two other individuals

present in the car, Ravinder and Aarti also sustained injuries in the accident and are currently undergoing treatment.

Following the crash, the driver of the SUV abandoned the vehicle at the scene and fled.

Upon reaching the site, the police took custody of both damaged vehicles and registered an FIR. An investigation into the matter is currently underway.

An investigation is underway: Earlier on April 5, a 19-year-old youth died in a road accident in the

Adarsh Nagar area of Delhi, police said.

As per the Delhi Police officials, "A PCR call was received at around 5:30 PM in the Azadpur area, after which a team from Adarsh Nagar Police Station reached the spot. Upon reaching the scene, it was found that the youth, identified as Akash, was hit by a DTC bus, resulting in his death on the spot."

Police stated that the bus driver fled from the scene after the accident. The offending vehicle is being identified with the help of CCTV footage.

Noida Sector 80, 70, 121 See Fresh Violence; Stones Pelted At Police, Domestic Helps Join Protest



Noida: On Tuesday, fresh violence broke out once again in Noida. Stone pelting was reported in Sector 80, even as police said they managed to calm the workers there. At the same time, tension continued in Sector 70, where stones were repeatedly thrown at police personnel. Authorities said efforts were ongoing to bring the crowd under control.

In Sector 121's Cleo County, police vehicles were also targeted with stones as the unrest spread to residential areas. As the chaos unravelled, school children took shelter in nearby hotels.

Meanwhile, police teams have been deployed across multiple sectors in Noida.

Sub Inspector Mata Prasad Gupta said, "Some miscreants threw stones. People who do house cleaning work were staging a sit-in protest over their demands. We spoke to them. Some miscreants started throwing stones at the police. Due to which I also got these injuries. Some have been caught and will be

questioned further." Violence after Monday's protest

The fresh incidents come a day after widespread violence in the city. What began as a protest over wages on Monday quickly turned into large-scale unrest. More than 40,000 factory workers clashed with security forces across over 80 locations.

Major roads were blocked, traffic was heavily affected, and security was tightened across Noida. The situation became more serious in Phase-2 and Sector 63, where vehicles were set on fire and stone pelting was reported. Public and private property suffered damage, and several vehicles were torched.

Police used tear gas and deployed heavy forces to control the situation.

Around 300 people have been arrested for arson and vandalism, while over 100 others have been detained for questioning. Officials said CCTV footage is being examined to identify more individuals involved.

Delhi CM pays tribute to BR Ambedkar, inaugurates water ATMs in Shalimar Bagh

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday paid floral tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary and inaugurated Water ATMs in Shalimar Bagh, emphasising the government's

commitment to ensuring basic amenities and dignity for all citizens.

Speaking to the media, Gupta said, "Baba Saheb is the strong pillar of India, on which this strong edifice of Indian democracy stands today. If our country, with a population of 140 crore, is able to function today, it is because of the strong foundation of democracy... We too are continuously working for the last person on the bottom line of this

society in Delhi, the most backward, who lack access to facilities. Every day, we formulate policies that enable every person in the entire city to live a life of dignity."

The Chief Minister further welcomed the inauguration of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "On Baba Saheb's birth anniversary, the Prime Minister has gifted this state-of-the-art expressway to Delhi. Through this, a journey of 6.5 hours has been reduced to just 2.5 hours. This truly strengthens our transport system and our roadways, and Delhi will always be very grateful to the Prime Minister," Gupta said.

Marking the occasion, Gupta also inaugurated Water ATMs in GP Block and Beriwalla Bagh Block of Shalimar Bagh Assembly constituency. According to the Chief Minister's Office, the Chief Minister said that the initiative aims to provide clean drinking water to residents in line with Ambedkar's vision of ensuring basic amenities as a right for every citizen.

The Chief Minister informed that seven Water ATMs have been installed across wards 55, 56, and 57. Each unit is capable of supplying 2,000 litres of purified water per hour and uses a five-stage RO purification system effective up to 3000 TDS, said the CMO. The system

includes 24x7 monitoring and will provide up to 20 litres of drinking water per person per day through Water ATM cards.

Dr BR Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb, was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a key figure in India's social reform movement. Born into a Dalit Mahar family, he dedicated his life to securing equal rights for marginalised communities and promoting social justice.

Ambedkar served as independent India's first Law and Justice Minister and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 for his contributions to the nation.

Rahul Gandhi alleges attack on Constitution on Ambedkar Jayanti, says "Will fight to protect Babasaheb's ideal"

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Constitution and ideals of BR Ambedkar are under attack, asserting that he would "fight with all his strength" to protect them. In a post on X on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, Gandhi said, "Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar did not just give us the Constitution; he gave us the dream of a strong India

founded on justice, equality, and dignity. But today, certain forces are systematically working to weaken Babasaheb's legacy and our Constitution--democratic institutions are being hollowed out, rights are being trampled, and the idea of equality is under attack." Gandhi further added, "This country is built on Babasaheb's ideals--I will fight with all my strength, until my last breath, to

protect them. Together, we will bring back to life the India of Baba Saheb's dreams. Heartfelt wishes to all on Ambedkar Jayanti." Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin also paid tribute, urging people to defend the Constitution and uphold social justice. Quoting Ambedkar, Stalin said, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved," and emphasised

that India's strength lies in pluralism, not imposed uniformity.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore also invoked Ambedkar's warning, alleging that a special Parliament session scheduled for April 16 was being rushed. "This is not democracy. This is bulldozer governance," he said, adding that Parliament "is not a rubber stamp" but the foundation of people's voice. Tagore further raised

concerns over delimitation, calling for wider consultation, consensus and transparency, particularly regarding representation for backward class women.

Senior Congress MP P Chidambaram also paid tribute, stating, "We remember Babasaheb Ambedkar today on his birthday! We also remember his precious gift to the people of India -- the secular democratic Constitution of India!" Dr BR Ambedkar, popularly known

as Babasaheb, was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a key figure in India's social reform movement. Born into a Dalit Mahar family, he dedicated his life to securing equal rights for marginalised communities and promoting social justice. Ambedkar served as independent India's first Law and Justice Minister and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 for his contributions to the nation.



District-level Odia New Year and Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated.

Khordha-14/4- District-level Odia New Year and District Ambedkar Jayanti were celebrated at the conference hall of collectorate khordha. ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura, formally inaugurated the program as the chief guest. In his speech, he described the Odia New Year celebration as a major program of the state government and expressed that the Odia New Year celebration is a great program to promote the values of Odia identity, keep Odia heritage, tradition and culture alive. He said that Ambedkar will be remembered forever for having

implemented a constitutional system in the largest democratic country in world like India. Ambedkar's thoughts were to create opportunities for others to live, to make education universal, and his contribution at the international level in Columbia and London. As the guest of honor, Zilla Parishad chief Development and Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu said in his speech that the Odia New Year celebration is a great reflection of Odia culture which makes Odias proud. Similarly, the founder of the constitution,

Ambedkar, not only fought for the Dalits but also worked towards the improvement of agriculture and economic development which has strengthened the democratic system today. Sub-Collector, Sankalp Swastik Sahu, CDM & PHO, Dr. Sanjay Chandra Ray were present as the guests of honor. District Welfare Officer, Dr. Gitanshu Mohan Dash was the keynote speaker and gave a speech on the celebration of Odia New Year and the philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar and called upon everyone to observe on the model

of Ambedkar's sacrifice. Senior columnist Umashankar Prasad, journalist Prabhat delivered their speech on the life history of Ambedkar. On the occasion of Odia New Year various competitions were organized in all the blocks of khordha district. The chief guest, ADM, Mr. Beura, felicitated the successful contestants with certificates and uttaria. District Culture Officer Chaudhury Arbinda Das coordinated the function while DI & PRO Laxman Kumar Behera delivered the welcome speech and vote of thanks.

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UAIL's Utkal Hospital reaches 57,000 people across 470 villages in Odisha



Rayagada, April 11: Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, is strengthening rural healthcare in southern Odisha through the successful operation of Utkal Hospital at Tikiri (Osapada) in Rayagada district. The hospital has become a reliable healthcare hub for remote communities with limited access to quality medical services.

Under its flagship initiative Project Aarogya 01, the hospital provides essential healthcare support across Tikiri, Kashipur, Rayagada, and parts of Koraput district. It treats around 7,500 patients every month, while another 2,500 patients receive care through company-run First Aid Centres.

The 22-bedded hospital offers 24x7 specialist services in departments such as Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics, and General Medicine. Visiting specialists in ENT, Dental, and Dermatology further enhance multi-disciplinary care.

UAIL Unit Head Rabi Mishra said that healthcare remains a key pillar of sustainable community development. He emphasized that the initiative focuses on ensuring last-mile healthcare delivery through modern diagnostics, specialist care, and

emergency services so that no one is deprived of timely treatment.

The hospital is equipped with advanced facilities including CT scan, X-ray, endoscopy, and laparoscopic surgery, along with a well-equipped laboratory for accurate diagnosis. A physiotherapy unit also supports rehabilitation for patients recovering from surgeries, injuries, and chronic conditions.

During critical situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2023 diarrhoea outbreak in Kashipur, the hospital played a vital role in providing timely treatment and reducing dependence on distant urban healthcare centres. To expand outreach, UAIL operates Mobile Health Units and ambulance services, covering more than 470 villages. These services currently benefit around 57,000 people across Rayagada, Koraput, and Kalahandi districts through regular health check-ups, vaccinations, and awareness programmes.

Local residents have appreciated the hospital's impact, stating that access to nearby healthcare has reduced both travel time and treatment costs. By providing affordable and accessible healthcare.

Binaya Nrusingha Mohapatra Elected as National Vice President of Cycle Polo



Puri: Renowned lawyer and social organizer Binaya Nrusingha Mohapatra has been elected as the National Vice President of the Cycle Polo Federation at a national election event held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. He is also serving as the State President and has been actively involved as a social worker and as the President of the Atal Bichar Manch, continuously working on various issues related to the state and district.

On this occasion, State Secretary Rajkishore Mohanty, along with sports enthusiasts from across the state and district, extended their congratulations and best wishes to him.

Paradip Port Authority Pays Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



Paradip - Paradip Port Authority (PPA) observed Ambedkar Jayanti by offering floral tributes at the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar located at Ambedkar Park, Paradip.

The occasion was held to honour Dr. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a prominent leader of social justice and equality. His invaluable contributions to nation-building and empowerment of all sections of society were remembered with deep respect.

The programme was attended by P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, Deputy Chairman T. Venu Gopal, Padma Charan Haibur,

MLA Karanjia, along with Heads of Departments, senior officers, and employees of Paradip Port Authority. They remembered Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and his vision of an equitable and inclusive society.

The programme was also attended by Dhuna Chandra Tarai, General Secretary, PPT SC/ST Welfare Association, and Gangadhar Sethi, along with other members of the association, Heads of Departments, senior officers, and employees of Paradip Port Authority.

The event concluded with floral tributes at the statue and a collective remembrance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Blue Wave in Bismillah – A Celebration of Unity on Ambedkar Jayanti

Rayagada/Bismakattak, 14/04: On Tuesday, a huge gathering of about five thousand people was held at the Bismillah bus stand to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti. The relevance of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's ideals was revived through tributes, speeches and rallies at this zonal level event. The event, organized in partnership with the Statue Committee, Bismakattak, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders and workers, was attended by Ambedkarites, local citizens, and various supporters of the region. BSP Central Coordinator Manyabar Dauram Ratnakar was the chief guest. Along with this, Saroj Nayak (State President, BSP), Jitendra Jakaka (State Coordinator, Odisha), Gangadhar Puala (State Secretary) along with

district level leaders were present. The event began with floral tributes to the statue of Dr. Ambedkar near the bus stand. Speakers recalled his contribution to the framing of the Indian Constitution and his lifelong struggle for social justice, equality and the upliftment of the backward classes. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ratnakar highlighted the importance of Ambedkar's vision in contemporary India and called for the pursuit of constitutional values. Shri Nayak described Ambedkar as a pioneer of social justice and said that his ideas are the core of democratic progress. Shri Jakaka especially called upon the youth to follow Ambedkar's ideals in thought and action. The event also included a

huge rally, attended by thousands of people. The rally, carrying blue flags and slogans, toured major areas of the troubled city. BSP leaders thanked Bismakattak vice-president Devi Patnaik for her cooperation in constructing a protective shed over the statue of Dr. Ambedkar, calling it a step towards protecting the importance of the place. At the end of the program, everyone was urged to follow the values of justice, freedom, equality and fraternity preached by Dr. Ambedkar. Ramdas Takri (District In-charge and Statue Committee Chairman), Sunita Vidika (State Secretary), Purna Chandra Takri (District Chairman) and other senior leaders were present on the occasion.

Workshop Held on Women's Reservation Bill

Sambalpur-14/04 (DMS) : A workshop on the Women's Reservation Bill was organized by the District Social Welfare Department at Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambalpur.

Prior to the workshop, a rally was conducted from Laxmi area of the city to the venue, with participation from women belonging to various sections of society.

Sunita Tripathy, District Coordinator of AT Action, delivered the welcome address and introduced the guests. Saroj Behera, District Social Welfare Officer, explained the objectives of the program.

Mukta Sahu, Member of the Women's Commission, attended as the chief guest and highlighted the importance of the Prime Minister's Nari Vandan initiative. Sabita Tripathy, Professor at Jyoti Vihar University, spoke about

Sabita Nanda, BJP National Executive Member, raised awareness about supporting the bill. Other participants including journalist Archana Meher, Sushama Sahu (Sarpanch of Kalamati), and social worker Annapurna Barik also expressed their views on the role of women in societal development.

various government schemes for women.

Senior advocate Pushpa Mahapatra discussed legal provisions related to women's rights. IPS officer Komal Garg emphasized the role of women in decision-making processes. Sikta Panda, Principal of NCB

College, shared her views on the significance of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Sabita Nanda, BJP National Executive Member, raised awareness about supporting the bill. Other participants including journalist Archana Meher, Sushama Sahu (Sarpanch of Kalamati), and social worker Annapurna Barik also expressed their views on the role of women in societal development.

Former Rengali MLA Nauri Nayak and Additional District Magistrate Sudhanshu Bhoi were also present at the event.

More than 500 women from different backgrounds participated in the program. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Saroj Behera, District Social Welfare Officer.

Rotary Felicitation Ceremony Successfully Held in Sambalpur.

Sambalpur-(DMS) : A grand felicitation ceremony organized by Rotary International District 3261 was successfully held on Hotel Harjit Residency in Sambalpur.

The Director of Rotary International and Past District Governor, Basudev Golyan, attended the event as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted Rotary's service-oriented initiatives and its significant contributions to society. He emphasized that strengthening humanity through service is the core objective of Rotary.

The current District Governor, Amit Yashwal, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and spoke about the remarkable leadership and humanitarian work of Basudev Golyan.

Other prominent members present included former Governor Harjeet Singh Hura,

Assistant Governor Ranjit Singh Hura, Siba Prasad Padhi, Arun Kumar Tibrewal, and Pramod Kumar Agrawal, who played key roles in organizing the event.

On this occasion, several members were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in various fields. The ceremony was attended by presidents, secretaries, and members of different Rotary Clubs of Sambalpur, along with social workers and intellectuals, making the event dignified and impactful.

The program was smoothly conducted by Seemantika Das, a member of the Rotary Club of Sambalpur. Overall, the event reflected Rotary's commitment to service and inspired attendees with renewed enthusiasm and motivation.

Paradip - Paradip Port Authority (PPA) inaugurated National Fire Service Week 2026

Paradeep : 14th April at the CISF Fire Wing unit, Paradip, reaffirming its strong commitment to fire safety awareness, prevention, and emergency preparedness across all operational areas of the Port.

The observance is held every year to honour the brave fire service personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and also strengthening awareness on fire prevention among employees, stakeholders, and the surrounding community. The theme for this year's observance is: "Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society - Together for Fire Prevention."

The week-long program began with a solemn ceremony at the Port Fire Station, where senior officials and staff paid homage to

the 66 brave firefighters who lost their lives during the catastrophic Bombay Dock explosion in 1944. Tributes were paid to fire service martyrs, followed by the administration of the Fire Safety Pledge to port employees and stakeholders. The event served as a reminder of the risks undertaken by fire personnel and the critical importance of proactive fire prevention.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chairman, PPA, Shri P.L. Haranadh as the Chief Guest, while Deputy Chairman, T. Venu Gopal attended as the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by Sanat Kumar Patel, Commandant, CISF Unit, Paradip Port, along with Heads of Departments, senior officers, employees, and CISF



personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the critical importance of fire safety awareness, timely response systems, and

collective responsibility in preventing fire-related incidents across workplaces, institutions, and residential areas.

The Chairman, Paradip

Port Authority, Shri Haranadh, emphasized that fire safety remains a top operational priority for the Port. He stated that sustained awareness, strict adherence to safety protocols, and continuous capacity building of personnel are essential to achieving the goal of a "Zero Incident" environment. He also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the CISF Fire Wing and all stakeholders in strengthening the Port's emergency preparedness and overall safety culture.

At the outset, CISF Commandant Sanat Kumar Patel welcomed the invitees and presented the annual report, highlighting the achievements and preparedness initiatives of

the CISF Fire Wing at Paradip Port.

PPA is prioritizing outreach to educational and healthcare facilities within the township. By integrating fire safety education into these high-occupancy environments, the Port aims to foster a "Safety First" culture that extends beyond the industrial workplace. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman, PPA stated that fire safety awareness in schools, hospitals, and public spaces is a key priority for the Port. He emphasized that building a strong culture of preparedness from an early stage is essential to ensuring community-wide resilience against fire hazards.

As part of the week-long observance, a series of

awareness programmes, demonstrations, competitions, and outreach activities will be conducted to educate employees, contract workers, students, homemakers, and the general public on fire safety measures and emergency response practices.

The formal vote of thanks for the occasion was delivered by Asst. Commandant Akash Jaiswal, expressing gratitude to the leadership of Paradip Port Authority and CISF for their continued cooperation in strengthening fire safety initiatives.

PPA remains committed to modernizing its fire-fighting infrastructure and enhancing the skills of its emergency response teams to safeguard lives and national assets.

Opposition Unity Essential for Strong Democracy: Manmohan Samal



Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): Amid ongoing political discussions surrounding a possible BJD-Congress alliance, BJP state president Manmohan Samal has called for unity among opposition parties, emphasizing its importance for a healthy democratic system.

Speaking on the issue, Samal stated that the coming together of all opposition parties to form a strong collective force would be a positive sign for democracy. However, he refrained from

commenting directly on the potential alliance between the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress, describing it as their internal matter and not appropriate for the BJP to comment on.

He further underlined that a strong and effective opposition is crucial for the smooth functioning of democracy. The opposition, he said, should not engage in criticism for its own sake but instead offer constructive suggestions and contribute positively to governance.

AIICC to Take Final Call on Congress-BJD Alliance: PCC Chief

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, political discussions in Odisha have intensified over a possible alliance between the Congress and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). Leaders from both parties have responded to the ongoing speculation.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Bhakta Charan Das stated that any decision regarding an alliance would be taken by the party's central leadership. He clarified that the state unit is

not empowered to decide on such matters, and the final call will rest with the All India Congress Committee (AIICC). Meanwhile, BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra said that such political discussions are not unusual and tend to arise from time to time. He added that no formal decision has been taken so far regarding any alliance. Emphasizing caution, he noted that political speculation should not be treated as fact without official confirmation.

One Student Dead, Over 120 Hospitalised After Suspected Food Poisoning in Odisha's Mayurbhanj School

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): A student died and more than 120 others were hospitalised following a suspected food poisoning incident at a residential school in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Kakabandh Ashram School under Rasgovindpur block. According to initial reports, students had consumed pakhal and potato chutney in the morning. Shortly after the meal, several children began experiencing symptoms including vomiting, diarrhoea, and fever.

As the condition of the students worsened, they were rushed to Rasgovindpur Hospital. Officials said that over 120

students have been admitted for treatment so far.

The school accommodates more than 220 students from Classes I to VIII. A large number of students reportedly fell ill within a short period after consuming the mid-day meal, raising serious concerns about food safety and hygiene standards at the institution.

Medical teams are currently monitoring the condition of the affected children, while treatment is underway at the hospital. The exact cause of the illness has not yet been officially confirmed, though preliminary findings suggest the possibility of contaminated food.

New 'Ratna Palankas' Introduced for Deities at Puri Srimandir on Odia New Year

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): Shree Jagannath Temple — In a significant development in temple rituals, the deities of Lord Jagannath and His siblings will now repose on newly crafted 'Ratna Palankas' (bejewelled beds), beginning from the Odia New Year on April 14. According to temple authorities, three new Ratna Palankas have been meticulously constructed and adorned with silver plating. Prior to their ceremonial use, the palankas will undergo traditional purification and consecration rituals in accordance with established temple customs. From Tuesday onwards, the deities will be placed on these newly sanctified palankas as part of the daily sayana (resting) ritual. The introduction of the new palankas reflects a thoughtful blend of age-old traditions with renewed craftsmanship, enhancing the spiritual and cultural heritage of the temple. Meanwhile, the existing Ratna Palankas will be preserved and relocated to the

From Tuesday onwards, the deities will be placed on these newly sanctified palankas as part of the daily sayana (resting) ritual. The introduction of the new palankas reflects a thoughtful blend of age-old traditions with renewed craftsmanship, enhancing the spiritual and cultural heritage of the temple.

Niladri Museum within the temple premises. A final decision regarding their exact placement will be taken following a meeting of the temple management committee.

Arabinda Padhee, Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), confirmed the development and stated that all necessary ritual procedures would be completed before the transition. The move has drawn considerable attention from devotees, as it coincides with the Odia New Year, further elevating the religious significance of the occasion.

'Aarohan' Programme Launched to Strengthen Early Childhood Education and Child Development in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): On the occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti and the Odia New Year, the Government of Odisha formally launched the 'Aarohan' programme today at the ICWS campus in Bhubaneswar. The initiative was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida.

The programme, launched by the Department of Women and Child Development, aims to strengthen early childhood education across the state and ensure a structured transition of children from Anganwadi centres to Bal Vatika-3 after completing pre-primary education.

As part of the inauguration ceremony, the Deputy Chief

Minister interacted with children and applied tikka as a symbolic gesture marking a new beginning. She also distributed Aarohan kits, extending blessings and encouragement to the children.

The initiative carries the tagline "Ujwala Bhabisyat Pain Pade Agaku," reflecting its focus on building a brighter future for children through foundational learning and care.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that the first six years of a child's life are critical for brain development. She noted that early childhood development has been given special priority, particularly in view of Poshan Pakhya-2026. She also



emphasized that the success of the initiative depends on active participation from parents and the community, in addition to government efforts.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Women and Child Development Department, Dr. Mrunalini Darswal, stressed the importance of coordinated

efforts by Anganwadi workers and officials to further strengthen Anganwadi centres and promote holistic child development.

The event was attended by senior officials including Smt. Swyam Prabha Mohanty, Additional Secretary and Director-in-Charge (ICDS & SW), Smt. Itishree Das, Additional Secretary, and Shri N. C. Jyoti Ranjan, Additional Secretary of the department, along with representatives from partner organisations.

Anganwadi workers and parents also participated in the programme, contributing to its successful implementation and outreach at the grassroots level.

Odisha CM and Deputy CMs Extend Greetings on Odia New Year and Pana Sankranti

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): On the auspicious occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti and the Odia New Year (Nababarsha), Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Pravati Parida and Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, extended warm greetings to the people of the state, wishing them happiness, peace, and prosperity.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the people, stating that the sacred occasion of Odia New Year and Maha Bishuba Sankranti is a time to

celebrate the state's rich cultural heritage. He expressed hope that the new year would bring joy, harmony, and renewed energy to uphold and promote Odia identity on the global stage.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida also greeted citizens on the occasion, emphasizing that the festival symbolizes new beginnings and opportunities. She wished that the day would usher in success, prosperity, and positive growth for all.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo called

upon the people of Odisha to move forward with renewed determination in the new year. In a message shared on social media, he highlighted the significance of the festival in showcasing Odisha's culture, heritage, and pride. He urged citizens to work collectively towards the state's progress and development, while taking fresh resolutions for the year ahead.

Invoking the blessings of Lord Jagannath, Singh Deo prayed for happiness, good health, and peace for all, and encouraged people to remain committed to the service of the nation and the state.



Odisha Celebrates Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti and Odia New Year with Grandeur

Bhubaneswar, 14 April (H.S.): Odisha is witnessing vibrant celebrations today as people across the state mark the auspicious occasion of Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti along with the Odia New Year, one of the most significant cultural festivals in the region.

Households are immersed in festive preparations, with the traditional drink pana being prepared and shared among family members and communities. A key ritual of the day includes offering pana at the base of the sacred Tulsi plant, symbolizing the deep spiritual essence associated with the festival.

From rural villages to urban centers, the festival is being celebrated with great enthusiasm, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Odisha. The Odia New Year signifies not only a cultural observance but also embodies themes of renewal, peace, and harmony. Marking the beginning of the new Odia Panchang (almanac), several cultural programmes and special events have been organized across the state.

Adding to the festive spirit, Hanuman Jayanti is also being observed today. Major cities such as Cuttack and Sambalpur are set to witness grand processions, drawing

participation from devotees and visitors across Odisha.

To ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the celebrations, the state administration has put in place comprehensive security arrangements. Law enforcement personnel have been deployed at key locations, with coordinated measures to effectively manage large crowds during processions. The confluence of religious devotion and cultural celebration highlights the spirit of unity and togetherness among the people of Odisha. The atmosphere remains lively and joyous as citizens celebrate their traditions with deep reverence and enthusiasm.



NIT Rourkela Recognised at Annual Quantum Conclave 2026 for Advancing Quantum Education

Rourkela: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela has earned national recognition at the Annual Quantum Conclave 2026 for its growing initiatives in quantum education.

The honour was conferred by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, following the recommendation of a technical committee of DST that reviewed

the proposal and curriculum of the Minor Degree in Quantum Technology offered by NIT Rourkela and extended its support for establishing an undergraduate quantum technology laboratory under the National Quantum Mission (NQM). In recognition of this, NIT Rourkela was honoured at the conclave held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay on April 10-11. Prof. J. P.

Kar, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, received the recognition on behalf of the institute.

The Minor Degree programme in Quantum Technology at NIT Rourkela is offered jointly by the Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Computer Science & Engineering, reflecting a strong interdisciplinary approach to next-generation education.

Notably, NIT Rourkela is among 23 institutions across the country selected under the National Quantum Mission for the establishment of quantum teaching laboratories. The initiative aims to equip students with advanced knowledge and hands-on experience in quantum science and technology, aligned with emerging technological demands. The conclave brought

together leading scientists, policymakers, startups, and academic institutions working in the quantum domain. Through technical sessions, exhibitions, and demonstrations, the event highlighted India's growing focus on quantum technologies.

With this achievement, NIT Rourkela continues to contribute to India's quantum mission and future-ready education.

PM Modi inaugurates Delhi-Dehradun economic corridor; stresses year-round tourism in Uttarakhand to boost economy

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed the importance of promoting year-round tourism in Uttarakhand. He highlighted the state's growing popularity as a destination for winter tourism, winter sports, and destination weddings, and also urged people to maintain cleanliness in Devbhoomi. Addressing the inauguration event of the Delhi-Dehradun economic corridor in Dehradun, Mr. Modi said that 12-month tourism is crucial for the state's economy. Referring to his 2023 visit to Kailash and Om Parvat, he said that the number of devotees has risen significantly since then. He added that while only a few hundred people visited earlier during winters, more than 40 thousand pilgrims undertook the

journey in 2025, creating livelihood opportunities for local residents.

Highlighting the benefit of Delhi-Dehradun economic corridor, the Prime Minister said that increased tourist footfall will increase income for people associated with hospitality, transport, and other local services. He also referred to the upcoming Kumbh Mela and said that a large number of devotees are expected to visit Uttarakhand for religious occasions. The Prime Minister emphasised that preserving the natural beauty and sanctity of Uttarakhand is essential for sustaining tourism and ensuring long-term economic benefits for the state.

On the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi paid tribute to Baba Saheb on behalf of the nation and highlighted his commitment to justice for the poor and marginalised. The Prime Minister said, government policies over the past decade have aimed to uphold constitutional values. PM Modi affirmed that Uttarakhand has shown the way to the entire country by advancing the constitutional aspiration of a Uniform Civil Code UCC. Reflecting on Uttarakhand's development, Mr. Modi said that the state, now in its twenty-sixth year, continues to achieve new milestones through policy support and public participation. He added that the new expressway will further boost the state's growth and development.

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, NAYAGARH E-mail: nayagarhrc2@yahoo.in				
e-Procurement Notice				
1. Name of the work	Building works.			
2. Total No. of Projects	3 (Three) Nos of projects			
3. Class of contractor	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.			
	C Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.			
	D Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.			
4. Estimated cost above Rs. 20.00 Lakhs & up to Rs.3.00 Crore	Rs.69.47 Lakhs & Rs.70.73 lakhs			
i) Estimated cost up to Rs. 40.00 Lakhs				
o) Estimated cost up to Rs. 20.00 Lakhs				
5. Estimated cost put to tender:				
6. Time for completion	06(5) calendar month.			
7. Other details				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh	No-Tender-Online-Div-II NAYAGARH-01/2026-27	18.04.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	02.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	02.05.2026 at 5.30 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in				
25001/16/2627				
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh				

Women Reservation

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam as a historic step that fulfils BR Ambedkar's vision and ends "decades of waiting" for women's political representation. The law, passed in 2023, provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, with implementation expected around 2029 after delimitation. A special parliamentary



session is planned from April 16 to 18 to pass the enabling amendments, including changes to the delimitation Act. It links women's reservation to a delimitation exercise that would redraw constituencies and expand the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 seats, with 273 seats reserved for women. However, the proposal has triggered a sharp political divide over its design. Opposition parties support reservation but argue the government is using it as a pretext to push a broader delimitation agenda that could alter the country's political map based on the 2011 Census.

At the core of the reservation policy is the poor record on women's representation. Women currently make up only about 13-14% of Lok Sabha members, rising from nearly 5% in the early decades after Independence. In state Assemblies, the average is around 9%, with very few states crossing the 15-20% mark. This persistent gap highlights the distance between constitutional equality and political reality. In this view, the law is undeniably a long-overdue correction. Greater participation of women will reshape policymaking and deepen democracy.

However, concerns remain over delay and design. Linking its implementation to delimitation could postpone meaningful change and dilute its impact. There is also the concern that constitutional ideals are being used for political messaging rather than urgent reform. Ultimately, the measure will be judged by whether it delivers timely and genuine representation to women in our legislatures.

Labour Unrest

VIOLENT protests by factory workers in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) on Monday, coming on the heels of clashes between the police and workers in Manesar (Haryana), are a troubling reminder that India's industrial ecosystem is far from picture-perfect. The unruly scenes have exposed not only a breakdown of law and order but also a deeper failure of dialogue between the labour force, the industry and the state government. What began as a march in support of a legitimate demand for wage revision quickly escalated into arson, vandalism and traffic disruptions in Noida, paralysing key routes and stranding thousands of commuters.

The unrest stems from a widening gap between rising living costs and stagnant wages. Workers across industrial hubs are struggling to make ends meet amid inflationary pressures worsened by the war in West Asia. Haryana's decision to raise minimum wages reflects an acknowledgment of this grim reality. However, reactive measures alone cannot substitute for negotiations and grievance redressal.

While the authorities are probing the role of vested interests in fomenting trouble, the recurrence



of such incidents indicates systemic mistrust. Workers often feel ignored, while employers fear disruptions and losses. This mutual suspicion creates a volatile environment where even minor triggers can spark chaos. India's manufacturing ambitions - central to its vision of long-term economic transformation - cannot be realised without a stable and motivated workforce. Industrial performance cannot be confined to output and investments. If labour unrest continues to simmer, it risks undermining investor confidence and disrupting supply chains. The lessons are clear: economic progress must be inclusive and governance should be worker-friendly. Only through continuous dialogue, fair policies and trust-building can India ensure that its factories remain engines of growth rather than flashpoints of conflict.

India's Balance of Payment

Whenever any discussion on our Balance of Payment is made, the 1991 crisis is invariably referred. At that point of time our forex reserves dwindled to 2-3 weeks of import and we had to pledge gold abroad to raise a loan to avoid default in our payment obligations. While the reasons for the 1991 crisis were ascribed to rising fiscal and trade deficits since the mid-1980s, collapse of the Soviet Union which disrupted rupee-based trade, the 1990-91 Gulf war which spiked oil prices and inflated our import bills and finally political instability and lack of investor confidence in the economy, the roots of the crisis started much earlier. Though India was having a thriving textile and silk manufacturing industry and India was earning sizeable billions from export of garments, the British rulerscrippled the Indian industry to ensure import of machine made cheap British textiles. This resulted in reverse flow of bullion from India to UK. During WW 2, there was mandatory supply of goods from India to UK the payment for which was deferred and after India got independence the value of such payment was written down and a much lower discounted amount was paid to India. Also the debt incurred by the British rulers during the war was passed

on to India as payable. At the end of June 1947, RBI had Rs. 430.82 crore of balances held abroad which dwindled to Rs.178.35 crore by June 1951 due to the above factors in addition to payment to Pakistan and food imports. The forex reserves further came down sharply between 1950 and 1956. The trend of trade deficit continued mainly due to low export competitiveness, dominance of inefficient public sector in the economy, high fiscal deficit and license raj regime. But when the crisis came in 1991 it rang the alarm bell.

The economic reforms in 1991 with liberalization, globalization and privatization made our economy more competitive and improved the BOP situation. The current account deficit which crossed 2% of GDP in 1987 and remained above 2% thereafter started improving after 1991. India Development Bonds issued to mobilize funds from NRIs and some World Bank loans helped the BOP situation. Industrial policy reforms which included deregulation and delicensing of industries paved way for foreign investment which together with disinvestment of PSU entities brought inflow of foreign exchange. Between 1996-2000,



Subash Chandra Misra

the CAD remained between 1-2% mostly due to modest FDI flows turned to current account surplus up to 1% between 2001-05 mainly due to IT export boom, lower oil prices and higher inward remittances. However, the current account went in to deficit zone again after 2006 and reached a peak of 4-5% following the global financial crisis due to higher oil prices and gold imports. During Covid pandemic our current account went in to surplus zone briefly due to lower imports following shutdown of industries, transport and air travel but went in to the deficit again after the pandemic and during 24-25 the current account deficit at \$23.3 bn was 0.6% of the GDP.

Though we had intermittent short periods of surplus despite

good inward remittance by our workers and NRIs abroad, our current account has been by and large in deficit due to high import dependence on oil and gold. Capital Inflows in the form of FDI, portfolio flows, external borrowings have so far financed the deficits and added to our forex reserves. We have a strong IT sector which adds to our service exports keeps the BOP to remain in manageable zone. 2025-26 has been a difficult year for the entire world including India. The Russia Ukraine war, the higher tariff regime implemented by USA and the penalty tariff imposed on India came as dampeners on the sentiments of the exporters. The West Asian war also dampened the market sentiments and finally as the oil prices skyrocketed and settled above \$100 level the outlook of growth and BOP looks less encouraging. The entire world is undergoing shortage of gas and oil which indicate an uncertain economic outlook and certain hardships for people in their day to day life. While Indian economy has done well so far and the BOP position has remained comfortable till now, if the war lingers on, it will surely hurt. As per RBI data, the CAD moderated to 1.1% of GDP during the first three quarters of 2025-26 from 1.3% in the same period of 2024-

25. Net invisibles receipts at US\$ 221.5 billion in April-December 2025 primarily on account of higher net services receipts and personal transfers, net FDI inflows at US\$ 3.0 billion in April-December 2025 and Foreign Portfolio Inflow of US\$ 4.3 billion in April-December 2025 reduced the overall BOP deficit and consequently the foreign exchange reserves got depleted by US\$ 30.8 billion as compared to a depletion of US\$ 13.8 billion a year ago. Petroleum and gold have been two major items of import for India. During 2024-25 India imported gold valued at about \$ 58 bn. The BOP can be much healthier if this value is reduced.

The second Iran-Israel war which started on 28 February 2026 and closure of Strait of Hormuz by Iran has also resulted in destruction of oil and gas wells in the gulf region. This may lead to a long term energy crisis all over the world in the form of shortage and reduction of overall resources of oil and gas. If the war continues for long period, this will result in likely loss of industrial output, transport disruption, inflation, fall in the value of the currency and increase in current account deficit.

The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.

“Beyond Food: Rice Emerges as a Blueprint for Smart Technology”

Dr Vijay Garg

In a surprising breakthrough, scientists have uncovered an unusual mechanical property of ordinary rice grains—one that is now inspiring the creation of advanced “smart materials.” This discovery shows how even the most common natural substances can unlock futuristic technologies when studied closely.

A Strange Behavior Under Pressure

Researchers found that rice behaves differently depending on how quickly force is applied. When rice grains are compressed slowly, they remain strong and stable. But when the same grains are compressed quickly, they suddenly become weaker and more flexible.

This unusual “speed-

sensitive” response is rare in natural materials. Most substances either remain consistently strong or consistently weak, regardless of how fast pressure is applied. Rice, however, adapts its strength dynamically—almost like it is “deciding” how to react.

From Kitchen Staple to Smart Material

Scientists used this unique property to design a new type of metamaterial—an engineered structure that behaves in ways natural materials cannot.

By arranging rice grains (or structures inspired by them) in specific patterns, researchers created materials that can:

Automatically change stiffness

Respond differently to slow

pressure vs sudden impact

Work without sensors, electricity, or software

This makes the material “smart” because it adapts on its own, without needing external control.

Real-World Applications

The implications of this discovery are wide-ranging:

1. Soft Robotics

Robots made from such materials could become flexible when needed and stiff when required, allowing safer interaction with humans.

2. Protective Gear

Helmets, body armor, or sports equipment could stay comfortable during normal use but instantly harden during sudden impacts, improving safety.

3. Engineering and

Construction

Structures could adapt to stress conditions, becoming stronger under slow loads but absorbing shocks during earthquakes or collisions.

4. Extreme Environments

Since the material works without electronics, it could be useful in space, deep-sea, or high-radiation environments.

A New Direction in Materials Science

This discovery highlights a growing trend in science: learning from simple natural systems to design advanced technologies. Instead of relying only on complex electronics, researchers are now exploring passive intelligence—materials that respond intelligently by their very structure.

Rice, a staple food for billions, has now become a model for next-generation innovation. What once sat quietly in kitchens may soon play a role in robotics, safety equipment, and smart engineering systems.

Conclusion

The transformation of rice from a basic grain into a blueprint for smart materials shows the power of observation and creativity in science. It reminds us that groundbreaking ideas can come from the simplest sources—sometimes, all it takes is looking at the ordinary in an extraordinary way.

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

New-Age Careers After XIIth: Top 10 Alternatives to MBBS & Engineering

Dr Vijay Garg

In India, students often feel limited to traditional career paths like MBBS or B.Tech after completing their 12th grade. While these are prestigious options, they are not the only routes to success. With changing times, a wide range of dynamic, rewarding, and future-oriented careers have emerged. Choosing the right path depends on your interests, skills, and long-term goals.

Here are the top 5 career options after 12th (other than MBBS and B.Tech) that offer promising opportunities:

1. Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

BBA is one of the most popular courses for students interested in business and management. It provides a strong foundation in areas like marketing, finance, human resources, and entrepreneurship.

Career Opportunities:

Business Manager
Marketing Executive
Entrepreneur

MBA (for higher studies)

Why choose BBA?

It opens doors to corporate careers and leadership roles at an early stage.

2. Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA)

If you are interested in computers but don't want to pursue engineering,

BCA is a great alternative. It focuses on software development, programming languages, and IT skills.

Career Opportunities:

Software Developer
Web Designer
Data Analyst
IT Specialist

Why choose BCA?

With the rapid growth of the IT sector, skilled professionals are always in demand.

3. Bachelor of Design (B.Des)

For creative minds, B.Des offers specializations in fashion design, graphic design, interior design, and product design.

Career Opportunities:

Fashion Designer
Graphic Designer
UI/UX Designer
Creative Director

Why choose B.Des?

It allows you to turn creativity into a profession with high growth potential.

4. Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication (BJMC)

This course is ideal for students interested in media, writing, and communication. It covers journalism, advertising, public relations, and digital media.

Career Opportunities:

Journalist

News Anchor
Content Creator
Public Relations Officer

Why choose BJMC?

The digital media boom has created endless opportunities in this field.

5. Bachelor of Hotel Management (BHM)

If you enjoy hospitality, travel, and customer service, hotel management is a rewarding career.

Career Opportunities:

Hotel Manager
Event Manager
Chef

Tourism Officer

Why choose BHM?

It offers global career opportunities and exposure to diverse cultures.

After passing the 12th board exams in 2026, students have many options apart from the usual paths of MBBS and JEE. These courses can provide both strong financial returns and high social status.

6. Data Science & AI

In the modern world, data is the main engine of growth. Big companies are investing crores of rupees to hire professionals who can analyse and use data effectively. If students enjoy mathematics and are comfortable with technology, a degree in data science can earn them a starting salary of Rs 10-15 lakh per year.

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Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” Philatelic Exhibition at PMML on 4th Foundation Day

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): The Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, inaugurated the philatelic exhibition titled “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” at the Prime Minister’s Museum and Library (PMML) on the occasion of its fourth foundation day on Tuesday. The exhibition, which ran from April 14 to April 17, 2026, showcased the unity and democratic journey of India through postage stamps, highlighting key milestones in the nation’s political and cultural evolution. During the event, Scindia also released special commemorative postcards linked to the Constitution, Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, and the foundation day of the Prime Minister’s Office, underscoring the deep connection between constitutional values, national leadership and public memory. The programme was attended by Narinder Singh, Chairman of the Executive Council of the PMML, Jitendra Gupta, Director General (Posts), along with senior officials from the Department of Posts and the Prime Minister’s Museum, reinforcing the institutional partnership between the two bodies. At the venue, Scindia viewed a documentary on the



Prime Ministers of India and the Constitution-maker Babasaheb Ambedkar, focusing on their contributions to the republic. He also inspected the entire series of postage stamps issued so far in the country, each commemorating the Yogyana (term in office) of every Prime Minister and displayed within the PMML campus, thereby tracing the visual history of India’s leadership through philately. Scindia remarked that the day served as a tribute to the Constitution and Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose role in shaping India’s foundational document remains central to the

national identity. He added that the Department of Posts and the Prime Minister’s Museum would collaborate across the country, using exhibitions and public outreach facilities to deepen this partnership. Under this framework, a dedicated postal outlet of the Department of Posts will be set up inside the premises of the Prime Minister’s Museum. The Minister said that just as the Department of Posts has contributed to India’s independence and democratic system over the past 75 years, it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities in the next 22–30

years as well. He described this not merely as a homage but as a firm resolve, that all citizens would jointly move forward to build a self-reliant, empowered and developed India in the years ahead. The programme, which lasted about 45 minutes, included the inauguration of the exhibition, viewing of the philatelic display, release of the commemorative postcards and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Posts and the Prime Minister’s Museum, solidifying their joint effort to preserve and present India’s national and democratic narrative to the public.

Babasaheb's Vision Fuels Viksit Bharat as Youth Embrace Nation-First Zeal: Om Birla

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): Birla Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stated on Tuesday that the talent, skills, innovation, and dedication of the youth will render the nation even more powerful and developed. Om Birla expressed this during the ‘Know Your Leader’ programme organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in the Central Hall of Constitution House on the occasion of Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti. Birla described India’s youth as the true torchbearers of Babasaheb’s ideals and exhorted them: “The youth must perpetually labour with the spirit of ‘Nation First’”. Dr. Ambedkar’s life teaches us that positive societal transformation is attainable through education, awareness, and organised endeavours. Today, as we advance towards constructing a developed and inclusive India, Babasaheb’s thoughts acquire even greater relevance. His struggle and philosophy inspire us to stand resolutely against injustice, inequality, and discrimination.” He remarked that despite adverse circumstances, Babasaheb scaled myriad summits and, through his indomitable courage, rigorous diligence, and the potency of education, not only established himself but also emerged as a radiant beacon of hope for millions of the deprived and oppressed.



With his prodigious talent, unwavering commitment, and steadfast loyalty, he transmuted every challenge in his life into an opportunity. His life, ideals, thoughts, and invaluable contribution to nation-building remain an eternal inspiration for us all. Babasaheb enshrined progressive provisions in the Constitution, such as the right to equality and the right to vote without discrimination, thereby laying the bedrock of a robust India—a foundation that continues to invigorate not only India’s democracy but also democracies across the globe. The Speaker affirmed that Dr.

Ambedkar adopted the values of equality, liberty, justice, and fraternity as the very tenets of his existence and infused these ideals into India’s Constitution, thereby bestowing upon the nation a potent trajectory. Babasaheb stands as that unparalleled jewel of our republic whose life and deeds have profoundly influenced generations before and after Independence, evolving into an inexhaustible reservoir of inspiration. He concluded that Dr. Ambedkar’s inspirational life and ideals will perpetually guide us towards forging a just, harmonious, and empowered India.

Rahul Gandhi Echoes Noida Workers' Agony: Government's Deaf Ears Silence Labour's Final Cry

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has extended support to the agitating workers in Noida over their demands. He asserted that workers form the backbone of the nation, yet the government perceives them as a burden. The Congress party stands firmly with the workers. Rahul Gandhi wrote on ‘X’ that what transpired on Noida’s streets on Monday constituted the final desperate cry of this country’s workers—every utterance ignored, every plea exhausted through ceaseless supplication. Of the ₹12,000 monthly wage earned by a Noida worker, ₹4,000–7,000 dissipates in rent. An annual salary increment of ₹300 proves futile against the landlord’s ₹500 rent hike. Inflation is throttling the workers’ lives and plunging them into debt. He remarked that gas prices escalate relentlessly, while wages stagnate. Workers are



compelled to purchase cylinders costing up to ₹5,000 at times. This transcends Noida alone; fuel prices surge worldwide, supply chains fracture, yet the burden evades industrialists and lands squarely upon daily-wage laborers. Rahul Gandhi accused the government of unilaterally implementing four Labour Codes since November 2025 without consultation, extending work hours to 12. The plea of a worker who toils standing 12 hours daily,

incurring debt for children’s school fees, is hardly unjust. The Noida worker demands ₹20,000 salary—a rightful entitlement. Workers from several Noida factories descended onto the streets on Monday and Tuesday to press their demands. The initially peaceful protests escalated into violence, with demonstrators setting multiple vehicles ablaze and vandalizing factories. Police detained several protesters.

CM Gupta Greenlights Impenetrable Yamuna Flood Wall: Shielding Delhi from Monsoon Mayhem

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the government has approved the construction of a protective wall to safeguard against Yamuna floods. Under this project, a robust security wall, approximately 4.72 kilometers long, will be constructed along the Ring Road from Majnu ka Tila to the Old Railway Bridge (ORB). The Chief Minister stated on Tuesday that her government had passed a proposal for this wall’s construction in the immediate budget. This wall will not only prevent Yamuna waters from infiltrating residential areas but will also serve as an impenetrable protective shield for sensitive regions such as Civil Lines, Kashmiri Gate, Yamuna Bazaar, and Majnu ka Tila. For decades, whenever the Yamuna’s water level rises, water first enters the capital from Majnu ka Tila and its surrounding low-lying areas. From the devastating 1978 flood to those in 2023 and 2025, this stretch of the Ring Road becomes inundated, thereby paralyzing the entire rhythm of Delhi. The Chief Minister clarified that the existing



embankments are insufficient for future challenges, which is why the government is now advancing towards a permanent solution. According to government data, in 2023, the Yamuna reached its all-time record level of 208.66 meters, shattering the 1978 record. Meanwhile, in 2025, it surpassed the danger mark of 205.33 meters, climbing to 207.48 meters. The Chief Minister emphasized that the threat of such floods will persist in the future, and the proposed wall represents a robust and enduring alternative for a permanent resolution. The technical foundation of this

project is the report of the Joint Flood Committee prepared in August 2024, which incorporated hydraulic model studies and detailed data analysis by experts and members from the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWP-RS) in Pune. This study explicitly recommended that constructing a sturdy flood protection wall along this section of the Ring Road is the only long-term solution; however, the previous government took no decision to protect Delhi from floods, resulting in flood-like conditions arising in these areas whenever inundation occurs. The

Chief Minister informed that this wall, to be built along the Yamuna’s banks, will form a formidable bulwark between the river and the city, ensuring that overflowing river water does not spill onto roads. It will protect riverbanks from erosion, thereby safeguarding the foundations of roads and surrounding buildings. Additionally, the wall will help curb illegal waste dumping and municipal solid waste along the riverbanks, preserving the Yamuna’s flood plain and conserving its ecological system. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the Delhi government is advancing this project with war footing resolve to complete it. The target is to finish the entire wall before the next monsoon season of 2027. This initiative extends beyond mere flood protection; it constitutes an efficacious endeavor to fortify urban infrastructure, protect the environment, and secure the quality of life for citizens. She assured that upon completion of this wall, Delhi will attain permanent relief from its annual flood woes.

Centre Notifies Key Amendments to Mineral Concession Rules, Introducing a New Pricing Framework for Low-Grade Iron Ore

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): The Central Government has notified important amendments to the Mineral Concession Rules, revising the pricing norms for low-grade iron ore and providing a structured framework for the assessment of average selling price (ASP) for such ores, including Banded Haematite Quartzite (BHQ) and Banded Haematite Jasper (BHJ). The changes are part of the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified by the Ministry of Mines on April 10, 2026. Under the amended rules, the Ministry of Mines has introduced a dedicated methodology for publishing the average selling price (ASP) of haematite iron ore with iron (Fe) content below the threshold of 45 per cent, which also covers BHQ and BHJ. The objective of this reform is to curb wastage, encourage the use of such low-grade reserves, and ensure a stable supply of raw material to the steel industry, thereby enhancing mineral conservation and industrial efficiency. The Ministry explained



that the amendments provide a pricing framework for iron ore with less than 45 per cent Fe content, where BHQ and BHJ fall under “low-grade” pre-Cambrian iron-bearing rocks often classified as lower-grade ore. ASP for iron ore with 35–45 per cent Fe content will be fixed at 75 per cent of the ASP of higher-grade ore (45–51 per cent Fe), while ore with less than 35 per cent Fe content will be priced at 50 per cent of that same benchmark standard. The Ministry noted that, prior to this amendment, there was no separate pricing mechanism for low-grade ores, and the ASP of higher-grade ore (45–51 per cent Fe) was

being used to determine royalty and other levies, which made the beneficiation of low-grade ore economically unviable. The new rules, the Ministry said, are necessary to establish a dedicated policy framework for the beneficiation of low-grade ore, opening the door to its wider utilisation. By bringing low-grade iron-ore resources into the usable category, the Government expects to reduce the depletion pressure on higher-grade iron-ore reserves, ensure a steady mineral supply for the steel industry, and promote scientific and optimal mining of iron-ore resources.

Roads, railways and other infrastructure are the “fate lines” of the nation: PM Modi

Dehradun, 14/4 (HS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the long-awaited Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor on Tuesday, declaring that roads, railways and other infrastructure are the “fate lines” of the nation and that India had been extensively building these over the past decade. He said the project would not only accelerate Uttarakhand’s development but also benefit several cities in Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the inauguration ceremony in Dehradun, the Prime Minister remarked that Uttarakhand, having completed 25 years of its formation, has now entered its 26th year, and the inauguration of the Delhi–Dehradun Expressway on this occasion marks a significant achievement in the state’s progress. Reiterating an earlier statement, he said the present decade must be Uttarakhand’s decade, and that this is becoming visible through the “double-engine” government’s policies and the state’s people’s hard work. The Prime Minister noted that the economic corridor passes through cities such as Ghaziabad, Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli and

Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, thereby extending wide benefits to these regions as well. Emphasising the importance from a tourism perspective, he said the corridor would give new momentum to Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mussoorie and the Char Dham pilgrimage, making these routes faster and more accessible. Drawing an analogy with palm-reading, the Prime Minister said that just as people read the lines of the hand to foresee the future, a nation’s fate is etched in its roads, highways, railways, airways and waterways. He added that these infrastructures are not merely present-day conveniences but a guarantee of prosperity for future generations, which he also described as his own guarantee. He explained that until 2014, annual infrastructure expenditure in the country was less than ₹2 lakh crore, which has now risen to over ₹12 lakh crore. In Uttarakhand alone, projects worth more than ₹2.25 lakh crore are under implementation. The Prime Minister said that where villages once waited generations for

roads, today road connectivity is reaching village after village, reviving depopulated hamlets and bringing them back to life. Recalling the benefits of the Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor, he stated that travel time would drop from about six hours to roughly two and a half hours, resulting not only in time savings but also reduced fuel consumption and lower transport costs. The project worth around ₹12,000 crore has also provided employment for thousands of people, and would allow farmers’ produce to reach markets more swiftly. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of environmental conservation, saying that preserving the sanctity of Devbhoomi (Uttarakhand) is everyone’s responsibility. He appealed to tourists and pilgrims to keep natural sites clean and refrain from polluting them with plastic and waste. He also highlighted the coming Kumbh at Haridwar next year, asking all to jointly work to make it divine, grand and clean.

Dhaka Marks Pohela Baishakh Peacefully as BGB Deploys 20 Platoons

Dhaka, 14/4 (H.S.): Bangladesh's capital witnessed a peaceful celebration of the Bengali New Year on Tuesday as 20 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed across Dhaka to ensure security during the Pohela Baishakh festivities. The large-scale deployment was aimed at maintaining order and allowing the traditional celebrations to proceed smoothly. This year's Baishakhi Shobhajatra 1433, organised by the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University, drew participants from all sections of society and concluded peacefully after beginning in the morning and returning to the faculty premises around 10 a.m. The procession featured scroll paintings and decorative figures, and the event remained calm throughout. According to reports cited by local media and the official news agency, BGB personnel were stationed around key locations including Ramna Batamul, InterContinental Dhaka, Kakrail, Moghbazar,



Shahbagh, the Bangladesh National Museum, and other major gathering points to ensure public safety and smooth participation. Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, in his Pahela Baishakh message, described the first day of the Bangla calendar as a symbol of

the nation's history, culture and identity. He said the occasion carries a message of renewal, urging people to rise above narrow interests and dedicate themselves to human welfare. He also highlighted the cultural richness of Baishakhi fairs, processions and Haatkhatra

celebrations, saying they strengthen social unity and reflect the diversity of Bangladeshi culture. The annual procession, which UNESCO recognised in 2016 as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, once again passed off without incident.

U.S.-China Brinkmanship Over Hormuz: Trump Signals Tough Iran Push While Courting Xi

Washington, 14/4 (H.S.): As the U.S. tightens its grip on the Strait of Hormuz with a large-scale naval and air deployment, President Donald Trump has publicly reaffirmed that he has not yet spoken directly with Chinese leader Xi Jinping about the Iran war, even as Washington and Beijing prepare for a rescheduled summit in Beijing this May. The posture underscores a delicate balancing act: Trump is using the threat of further escalation against Iran while simultaneously trying to keep Beijing on the sidelines—and, crucially, out of any military support role for Tehran. In remarks at the White House late Monday, Trump reiterated that the United States maintains a "very good relationship" with China, but he made clear that Beijing would "have big problems" if it extended military help to Iran. His language reflected a blend of public diplomacy and calibrated pressure, aimed both at deterring Chinese solidarity with Tehran and reassuring domestic audiences that Washington

remains firmly in control of the Middle East posture. Trump linked the prior delay of his China visit explicitly to the U.S. military operation in Iran, telling reporters that operational demands in the Middle East required him to remain in Washington during the initial phase of the conflict. The pause, he suggested, was not a sign of estrangement but a reflection of what his administration portrays as a high-stakes, time-sensitive campaign to secure the Strait of Hormuz and force Iran back to the negotiating table. The Beijing Summit Re-Scheduled. Announcing the new dates on his social-media platform, Trump wrote that his meeting with Xi has been rescheduled for May 14-15 in Beijing, with a reciprocal visit by the Chinese leadership to Washington to follow later in the year. He described the exchanges as "Historic Visits" and a "Monumental Event," casting them as moments that could either stabilize or, if

mismanaged, deepen the global fault lines emerging from the Iran crisis. White House officials confirmed that the original postponement was framed around "operational priorities" in the Middle East rather than political disagreement. A senior administration figure noted that Xi had accepted the necessity of Trump's presence in Washington during the military campaign, signaling that both leaders are treating the Hormuz standoff as a short-term, high-risk episode rather than a permanent rupture in their broader relationship. Throughout the Iran war, Beijing has consistently urged de-escalation, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and warning that sustained strikes could plunge the region into a "vicious circle" of instability. Chinese statements have emphasized that unilateral force jeopardizes global energy security and trade, implicitly targeting the U.S. naval blockade and expanded military presence near the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan to Launch First Hajj Flight from Lahore on April 18



Islamabad, 14/3 (H.S.): Pakistan's first Hajj flight of the year will depart for Saudi Arabia on April 18 from Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore, according to a spokesperson for the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA). The pre-Hajj flight schedule for Lahore has already been finalised and will include 101 flights operated by four airlines. Under the schedule, Pakistan International Airlines

will operate 33 flights, Saudi Airlines 29, Air Blue 24 and Air Sial 15. The first flight, Saudi Airlines SV-5735, will depart from Lahore to Medina on April 18. Officials said the final pre-Hajj flight from Lahore Airport is scheduled for May 21, 2026. The arrangements, they added, have been completed to provide the best possible facilities to Hajj pilgrims during the operation.

"Enough of War": Pope Leo Stands Firm as Trump Escalates Feud in Middle East Power Play

The Vatican/Washington, 14/4 (H.S.): On Saturday (April 11, 2026), Pope Leo XIV delivered a pointed reflection at a prayer vigil in Rome, condemning what he described as the "delusion of omnipotence" behind the United States' military posture toward Iran. The pontiff, America's first native-born pope and one of the world's most prominent voices for peace, called for an end to "the display of power" and urged political leaders to choose dialogue over force. Donald Trump, in Washington, responded on Sunday night, April 12, with a lengthy post on Truth Social lashing out at the Vatican. He branded Pope Leo "WEAK on Crime" and "terrible for Foreign Policy," and insisted the pope should "focus on being a great Pope, not a politician." The attack marked an unusually personal and public rupture between a sitting U.S. president and the head of the Catholic Church. On Monday, April 13, as Pope Leo boarded the papal plane for an 11-day tour of

Africa, he addressed Trump's remarks directly. Speaking to journalists on the tarmac before takeoff, Leo said he had "no fear of the Trump administration" and reaffirmed that his message was rooted in the Gospel, not partisan politics. "I am sharing a Gospel message and not directly attacking Trump or anyone else with my appeals for peace," he told Reuters, invoking the biblical beatitude "Blessed are the peacemakers." He added that he would continue to speak out against war and "the absurd and inhumane violence" that has deepened suffering in the Middle East, regardless of criticism from powerful leaders. Trump's "I'm right, he's wrong" stance

When asked by CBS News on Monday, whether he would call the pope, Trump replied with a firm "no," repeating that Pope Leo was "wrong on the issues." He reiterated his earlier Truth Social language, insisting he "doesn't want a Pope who thinks it's OK for Iran to have a nuclear

weapon" and arguing that Leo's criticism undermined U.S. security and deterrence. The same day, Trump doubled down in remarks at the White House, dismissing calls for an apology. "There's nothing to apologize for. He's wrong," he said, framing the conflict as a moral showdown between papal pacifism and presidential "strength." He also suggested that the pontiff should confine himself to "matters of morality" and the internal life of the Church, while Washington handles foreign policy. A clash that rattles American Catholics. The open feud has unsettled Catholic communities across the United States, where a majority of Catholic voters backed Trump in 2024 even as the Church's leadership has grown increasingly critical of his Iran strategy and immigration policies. On April 13, Archbishop Paul Coakley, head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and conservative-leaning Bishop Robert Barron both denounced Trump's tone

as "entirely inappropriate and disrespectful" and urged him to offer a public apology. Barron, who had recently praised Trump at a White House Easter event, warned that attacking the pope undermines the Church's moral authority. Other Catholic leaders across the political spectrum echoed that concern, stressing that the pope's calls for peace and dialogue are consistent with the Church's long-standing teaching on war and human dignity. The deeper rift: war, faith, and national identity. Analysts say the Trump-Leo clash is more than a spat between two institutions; it reflects a deeper tension over the role of religion in a militarized global order. Kathleen Sprows Cummings, a historian of American Catholicism at Notre Dame, noted that for much of U.S. history, many Americans distrusted the pope, seeing him as a foreign, anti-democratic threat.

Eric Swalwell to Quit Congress Amid Sexual Misconduct Allegations

Washington, 14/4 (H.S.): Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell of California has said he will resign from Congress after facing serious sexual misconduct allegations that have drawn bipartisan pressure for him to step aside. In a statement, Swalwell said it would be wrong to expel any member of Congress without due process just days after allegations emerge, but added that it was also unfair for his constituents to have him distracted from his duties. He said he would resign his House seat, though he did not specify a departure date. The controversy intensified after multiple women accused him of misconduct ranging from sexual

harassment to rape, while the House Ethics Committee



opened an investigation into the claims. The Manhattan district attorney's office also said it had begun examining one of the allegations. Swalwell, who has served in Congress since 2013 and previously ran for president in 2020, was also a prominent figure in Donald Trump's impeachment investigations.

Trump Deletes Christ-Like Image as Religious Backlash Exposes Deeper Political Divid

New Delhi, 14/4 (H.S.): US President Donald Trump has ignited a transatlantic firestorm after deleting an AI-generated social-media image that recast him as a Christ-like healer, deepening a growing rift between his political persona and the religious communities that once formed the backbone of his support. The episode, which unfolded over less than 24 hours, crystallizes how Trump's self-mythologizing—framed in religious imagery—no longer merely shocks onlookers but now challenges the very theological sensibilities of millions of believers. The controversial picture, shared on Trump's Truth Social platform late on Sunday, depicted the president in flowing red and white robes reminiscent of traditional Christ iconography, with his hand resting on a man who appeared to be in distress and light radiating from his palm and head. An American flag fluttered in the background while a crowd gazed up at him in reverence, lending the scene a distinctly hagiographic quality. Within hours, conservative-Christian commentators and Catholic organizations condemned the image as "gross blasphemy," urging Trump to remove it and seek forgiveness from both the public and God. Facing mounting pressure, Trump deleted the post on Monday and insisted the depiction was not meant to evoke Jesus but to show him as a



"doctor" working in a humanitarian rather than a sacred role. He told reporters that the image was supposed to represent him "making people better," echoing his habit of describing himself as a restorative force in both health-care policy and national politics. For many critics, however, this explanation felt less like clarification and more like a deflection, as the composition—light-filled hands, bowed onlookers, and draped robes—remained unmistakably Christ-like. Religious Allies Turn Critical. What made the backlash particularly significant was its source: some of Trump's most loyal religious allies. Conservative Christians and Catholic groups who have long backed his

presidency expressed dismay, with organizations such as CatholicVote.org labeling the image "blasphemous" and underscoring how the symbolism could offend millions of believers. Senior clergy and lay commentators questioned whether the president had lost a sense of theological humility, arguing that presenting a mortal leader as a divine healer subtly erodes the distinction between temporal authority and sacred office. Yet not all supporters followed the same line. While some urged Trump to apologize and reframe his messaging, others downplayed the episode as a miscommunication or symbolic gesture rather than a theological claim. This schism underscores the

tension within his base: many conservative Christians want to combine cultural influence with religious propriety, yet find themselves defending a leader whose imagery increasingly strains both. The Rise of a Messianic Narrative. The Jesus-like image is not an isolated incident, but the latest turn in a broader narrative Trump and his inner circle have cultivated over several years. During his 2023 bank-fraud trial, he shared a sketch from a supporter that showed him seated beside Jesus in a courtroom, implicitly framing his legal troubles as a persecution akin to biblical injustice. At this year's Easter-themed event at the White House, spiritual advisor Paula White-

Cain publicly compared Trump's tribulations to those of Christ, noting that he had been "betrayed and arrested and falsely accused." After surviving the July 2024 assassination attempt, Trump's rhetoric hardened further, with him repeatedly telling audiences that "God spared my life for a reason" and that his purpose is to rescue the United States from decline. Analysts of Christian nationalism argue that such language borrows the tropes of divine election, turning the presidency into a quasi-apocalyptic mission. Within this framework, the Jesus image becomes less a one-off post and more a visual manifestation of a worldview in which Trump's political survival is cast as a sacred covenant. Political and Electoral Consequences. The episode arrives at a delicate juncture for Trump's coalition, especially among Catholic voters and traditional Evangelicals who watch the Middle East war with unease. Many Catholics have already been unsettled by his public clashes with Pope Leo, who has criticized American-led military actions in Iran as "brutal" and inconsistent with Christian ethics. The Jesus image, posted just after Trump's latest tirade against the pontiff, compounds the sense among some believers that the president is not only warring abroad but also rewriting the symbols of faith at home.

Trump's Hormuz Blockade Raises Stakes in Gulf

Washington, 14/4 (H.S.): The United States has escalated tensions in the Gulf by deploying more than 15 warships around Iranian waters, with the USS Tripoli operating F-35B stealth fighters and MV-22 Ospreys in the Arabian Sea. The naval buildup is aimed at enforcing a blockade linked to the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping lanes. President Donald Trump has warned that any Iranian fast-attack craft approaching the blockade would be destroyed, sharply increasing the risk of a direct maritime confrontation. The move has heightened concerns that even a minor incident at sea could spiral into a broader regional crisis. The Strait of Hormuz remains strategically vital because it is a key route for global oil and commercial shipping, making any disruption a potential shock to energy markets and international trade.

Markets Holiday on Ambedkar Jayanti; Trade to Resume Wednesday as Sensex and Nifty Dip on Global Worries

New Delhi, 14 /4 H.S.):On the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Jayanti, India's key financial markets remained closed on Tuesday, April 14, with share markets, currency markets, commodity markets and the bullion (jewellery) bazaar operating on a holiday schedule. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), along with the currency and bullion markets, saw no trading activity, while the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) observed a partial holiday by shutting its morning session but remaining open for evening trading from 5:00 p.m. to 11:55 p.m., whereas the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) remained fully closed for the day. Both the equity and derivatives segments, including equity, derivatives and securities lending and borrowing (SLB), remained suspended on



April 14, with normal trading now scheduled to resume in all domestic markets on Wednesday, April 15. The next scheduled market holiday is set for May 1, in observance of Maharashtra

Day. Amid global uncertainties, markets had ended the previous session on Monday under pressure, with the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty each slipping by roughly 1 percent. The 30-share

Sensex fell 702.68 points, or 0.91 percent, to close at 76,847.57, reflecting profit-taking and risk-off sentiment following the failure of recent US-Iran talks to deliver a breakthrough.

IndiGo Launches Four-Day Summer Holiday Sale Offering Up to 10% Off on Domestic and International Fares

New Delhi, 14 /4 (H.S.):India's leading airline, IndiGo, on Tuesday announced a four-day summer holiday sale, under which passengers can avail up to 10 per cent discount on ticket bookings for both domestic and international flights. The offer is valid for travel scheduled between 1 July and 9 October 2026, making it a strategic move to attract early-bookers planning their summer and monsoon-season trips. The airline said in a statement on Tuesday that the summer holiday sale applies to domestic and international sectors, with the discount applicable on bookings made between 14 April and 17 April 2026. Travellers can avail the benefit by using the promo code SUMR10 while booking through IndiGo's website (www.goindigo.in), its mobile application, the AI-powered assistant 6E SKY, the IndiGo WhatsApp number +91 70651



45858, or select travel-partner websites and apps. In addition to the base-fare discount, IndiGo is offering attractive deals on selected 6E add-ons during the sale period. Passengers can get up to 70 per cent off on Fast Forward (priority services), up to 50 per cent off on pre-paid extra baggage, and up to 15 per cent off on standard seat selection on

select domestic and international sectors. On select domestic routes, Emergency Extra (Emergency XL) seats, which provide extra legroom, can be booked from as low as ₹500. The airline stated that the sale reinforces its commitment to low fares, greater flexibility, and enhanced convenience for customers planning their summer travel.

Iran-US Talks Keep Oil Near \$96 as Markets Remain on Edge

New Delhi, 14 /4 (H.S.):Crude oil prices eased on Tuesday and returned to around \$96 per barrel as hopes grew that talks between Iran and the United States could move forward, reducing immediate fears of a wider supply shock. In early trade, West Texas Intermediate fell by \$2.29, or 2.31 per cent, to \$96.79 per barrel, while Brent dropped \$1.47, or 1.48 per cent, to \$97.483 per barrel. The decline came a day after prices surged by more than 7 per cent on Monday, when President Donald Trump announced a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, pushing crude to around \$104 per



barrel. Analysts said the market is likely to remain volatile until tensions ease and a clearer understanding emerges between

Washington and Tehran, given the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz to global energy supplies.

Air India's First Refurbished Boeing 787-8 Lands in Delhi

New Delhi, 14 /4 (H.S.):The first refurbished wide-body Boeing 787-8 of Air India arrived at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport late Monday night, marking a significant milestone in the airline's fleet modernisation programme. The aircraft, registered as VT-ANT, completed a non-stop ferry flight from San Bernardino, United States, and touched down in Delhi at around 10 pm, according to the airline. The jet is the first of 26 Boeing 787 aircraft to undergo a comprehensive



cabin retrofit under Air India's wider refurbishment plan. The upgrade includes new seats, improved in-

flight entertainment systems and the addition of a premium economy cabin, aimed at enhancing the travel experience on long-haul routes to the UK, Europe, the United States and the Far East. Air India had announced the \$400 million programme more than three years ago, but the project was delayed by supply chain disruptions and geopolitical factors. The airline said the aircraft's arrival reflects a key step in its broader fleet transformation.

Centre notifies new pricing norms for low-grade iron ore to boost steel supply

New Delhi, 14/4(H.S.): In a move to unlock vast reserves of low-grade iron ore and ensure long-term raw material security for the steel industry, the Ministry of Mines on Tuesday notified new rules to make low-grade iron ore economically viable by introducing a revised pricing framework for royalty calculation. The new rules calculate the Average Sale Price (ASP) for Haematitic Iron Ore below the threshold value, making beneficiation economically viable. The Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on April 10, 2026, aim to bring Banded Haematite Quartzite (BHQ) and Banded Haematite Jasper (BHI) into the usable category, addressing concerns over depleting high-grade resources, the Ministry of Mines said in a press release. Previously, iron ore with less than 45% iron (Fe) content lacked a defined Average Sale Price (ASP), which led to royalties being charged based on higher-grade prices, making the beneficiation of low-grade materials such as Banded Haematite Quartzite (BHQ) and Banded Haematite Jasper (BHI) commercially unviable. The threshold value of a mineral is the limit below which the material obtained after mining can be discarded as waste. The notified threshold value for Haematitic Iron Ore is 45% Iron (Fe) (Min.). There are huge quantities of iron ore below the threshold value in the country and some of which is in the form of BHQ or BHI, which are the principal "host rocks" that contain iron ore. Iron ore below 45% Fe content was previously considered as waste because the cost of separating the iron from the silica was too high. With modern technology, these can now be "beneficiated" - cleaned and concentrated - to create high-grade iron ore and is now an economically usable category. "With the improvement in technology for processing and beneficiation, the iron ore resources of below threshold value, including the BHQ and BHI, have become amenable to beneficiation to generate high-grade iron ore which can be used as feed grade ore for steel making," the Mines Ministry said.

India auto sales surge in March 2026, two-wheelers lead growth: SIAM

New Delhi, 14/4, (H.S.): India's automobile sector closed the financial year on a strong note, with sales across key vehicle segments registering robust double-digit growth in March 2026, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on Tuesday. The growth was led by the two-wheeler segment, which recorded the highest increase, reflecting strong demand across categories and a positive momentum in the overall auto industry. Passenger vehicle sales rose 16 per cent year-on-year in March 2026, with total sales reaching 4,42,460 units compared to 3,81,358 units in the same month last year. The growth indicates sustained consumer demand and a healthy pipeline of new models across manufacturers. The two-wheeler segment emerged as the key driver of growth, with sales rising sharply to 19,76,128



units, marking a 19.3 per cent increase from 16,56,939 units sold in March 2025. Within the

two-wheeler category, scooters outpaced motorcycles in terms of growth rate. Scooter sales

surged 29.8 per cent to 7,61,422 units, up from 5,86,485 units in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, motorcycle sales grew at a comparatively moderate pace of 12.9 per cent, reaching 11,68,514 units against 10,35,273 units in March 2025. The three-wheeler segment also reported strong performance during the month. Sales in this category increased by 21.4 per cent to 76,273 units in March 2026, compared to 62,813 units in the corresponding month of the previous year. The strong performance in March has helped the automobile sector end the financial year on a positive note, with multiple segments witnessing healthy growth trends. However, the data excludes sales figures from luxury carmakers such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), and Volvo. The latest numbers indicate continued momentum in India's auto sector, driven by demand recovery and product offerings across categories.

Rupee to face intense pressure this week, likely to test Rs 93.50/\$ amid oil shock and dollar strength: UBI Report

New Delhi, 14/4(H.S.): The Indian Rupee is expected to face intense pressure this week, likely testing the Rs 93.50 per dollar levels, as it navigates a "triple threat" of geopolitical escalation, surging energy costs, and a resurgent US Dollar, according to a report by Union Bank of India. "The outlook for the Indian Rupee this week is decidedly bearish," the report said. The breakdown of US-Iran diplomatic efforts and the implementation of a naval blockade in the Persian Gulf

has reignited fears of a catastrophic disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, pushing Brent crude above \$102 per barrel. The report notes that the Rupee's immediate trajectory will be dictated by whether Brent crude stabilizes or continues its climb. "While the RBI's substantial forex reserves of \$697.1bn provide a defensive cushion, the immediate trajectory of the Rupee will be dictated by whether Brent crude stabilizes or continues its climb." The domestic

currency has witnessed sharp two-way volatility over the past week. It briefly recovered from record lows of Rs 95.23 per US dollar before weakening again towards the Rs 93.30 per dollar level. The movement has largely been driven by rapidly evolving developments related to the US-Iran conflict and its impact on global oil markets. A temporary ceasefire earlier in the week supported the rupee, which appreciated to around Rs 92.40 per dollar as crude oil prices slipped

below USD 100 per barrel. However, the relief was short-lived as diplomatic talks broke down, followed by an escalation that included a US naval blockade impacting oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. This led to a fresh spike in crude prices above USD 100 per barrel, exerting renewed pressure on the rupee. The report noted that crude oil has once again emerged as the key macro driver for the Indian currency. Given India's heavy dependence on energy imports, rising crude

prices are heightening concerns over a widening current account deficit and increasing imported inflation, both of which are negative for the rupee. It further highlighted that every USD 10 per barrel rise in crude oil prices could widen India's current account deficit by approximately USD 15 billion annually, indicating the currency's high sensitivity to energy price shocks. Meanwhile, the US Dollar Index has strengthened amid safe-haven demand and

elevated US bond yields, putting additional pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee. Foreign portfolio investors have also continued to pull out funds from Indian markets, with outflows exceeding USD 20 billion since February 2026, adding to downside risks. However, despite these challenges, RBI's foreign exchange reserves, at around USD 697 billion, are expected to provide a cushion to manage volatility and prevent disorderly movements in the

currency. Global sentiment remains tilted towards risk-off assets, while elevated US yields continue to support dollar strength. Going forward, trends in crude oil prices and developments in the Middle East, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, will be key factors influencing the rupee's trajectory. While RBI intervention and strong reserves may help contain sharp volatility, the broader bias for the rupee remains weak in the current macroeconomic environment

Allu Arjun's First Look Of 'Raaka' With Atlee Unveiled



On superstar Allu Arjun's 44th birthday on Wednesday, the makers of his next, which was tentatively titled as #AA22xA6, revealed that the film has been christened "Raaka" and even shared the first look of the actor from the upcoming movie. Production banner Sun Pictures, along with Arjun and director Atlee, took to Instagram in a collaborative post to unveil the first look and the title of the upcoming film, which also stars Deepika Padukone. The first look featured an intense close-up of a bald Arjun's rugged face. His face is partially hidden by a wolf-like claw. In the image, the

star's one eye is sharply in focus, staring forward with a predatory intensity. The entire picture adds a primal, warrior-like aesthetic. "#AA22xA6 is now #Raaka Prepare yourself for a vision beyond limits @alluarjunonline @atlee47 @deepikapadukone," the caption read. The film is the first collaboration between Arjun and Deepika. On Tuesday, the production house Sun Pictures announced the title poster release date and time, writing: "Brace for the BIAA's Title Poster - Tomorrow @ 11 AM @alluarjun @Atlee_dir @deepikapadukone #AA22xA6 (sic)." Arjun was last seen in the Pushpa 2: The Rule directed by Sukumar. A sequel to Pushpa: The Rise, it is the second installment in the Pushpa film series. The film stars Allu Arjun in the titular role, alongside Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Sunil and Rao Ramesh. It follows Pushpa Raj, a labourer-turned-red sandalwood smuggler, as he faces growing threats from his enemies, including SP Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat. It is among the most expensive Indian films ever produced.

Jr NTR's ripped look goes viral, fans hail his transformation



Jr NTR gave his fans a fresh glimpse of his physical transformation ahead of his upcoming film with Prashant Neel. In the picture posted on Instagram, NTR can be seen flaunting his toned back and strong biceps during a gym session. His fit look left fans excited about what's to come on the big screen. Keeping the caption short and powerful, the actor wrote, "Built. Not bought." Soon after he shared the post, fans flooded the comments section with excitement, with many praising his dedication and new look. One fan wrote, "Man of Masses #JrNTR is ready to ROAR," while another commented, "Alexa play AAYA SHERR." The latest post has also renewed excitement around Jr NTR's upcoming film with director Prashant Neel. The project is currently under production and is one of the most anticipated films in the coming months. Earlier, the production house had dismissed rumours related to the film's look and shooting schedule. In an official statement, the team said there was "absolutely no truth" in such reports and urged people not to spread unverified information. The statement read, "There is absolutely no truth to the rumours circulating about the look or any schedule cancellation. The film is progressing as planned, with only a routine preparation gap. We request everyone not to believe or spread unverified information. Official updates will always come from us." Jr NTR was last seen in Devara: Part 1, which released in theatres on September 27, 2024. The film also featured Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj, Srikanth Meka, Tom Shine Chacko, and Narain. Fans

SPORTS

Samson and Kerr Crowned ICC's March Titans: T20 Glory and All-Round Mastery

New Delhi, 14 /4 (H.S.): Indian cricket team's opening batsman Sanju Samson and New Zealand's all-rounder Amelia Kerr have been selected as the ICC Players of the Month for March. Both players received this honor for their exceptional performances. Sanju Samson clinched the ICC Men's T20I Player of the Month award through his stellar showing in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, outshining teammate Jasprit Bumrah and South Africa's batsman Connor Esterhuizen. Meanwhile, Amelia Kerr surpassed Australia's Beth Mooney and South Africa's Ayabonga Khaka to claim the women's category title. Sanju Samson was also named Player of the Tournament for his outstanding performance in the T20 World Cup. He scored an unbeaten 97 runs in the crucial match against West Indies in Kolkata. Subsequently, he played innings of 89 runs against England in the semi-final in Mumbai and another 89 against New Zealand in the final in Ahmedabad. Samson's magnificent batting not only secured the title for India but also made them the first team to defend the T20 World Cup and win it on home soil for the first time. Sanju



Samson stated, "Winning the ICC Player of the Month award feels incredibly special. It comes during the most memorable phase of my cricketing career. Contributing to India's World Cup triumph is like a dream fulfilled." Amelia Kerr's All-Round Exploits New Zealand's all-rounder Amelia Kerr delivered superb performances with both bat and ball in March. She amassed 176

runs across four ODIs while claiming 18 wickets with her leg-spin. New Zealand swept the ODI series against Zimbabwe 3-0, with Kerr named Player of the Series; her best figures were 7 wickets for 34 runs. In T20Is, Kerr scored 276 runs and took 6 wickets. Her brilliance propelled New Zealand to a 4-1 series victory over South Africa, earning her Player of the Series honors. Amelia Kerr remarked,

"This month has been exceptionally special for the White Ferns. Contributing to the country always feels rewarding, but the team's collective performance matters most to me." The selection of both players was determined by votes from global fans registered on the ICC's official website, along with a panel of former international cricketers and media representatives.

Fadnavis Announces Establishment Of Music Institute As Envisioned By Asha Bhosle

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday announced that the state government will take proactive steps to establish a music institute based on the vision of the legendary singer, the late Asha Bhosle. The decision was shared during a meeting of the State Cabinet, where members gathered to pay a solemn and heartfelt tribute to the iconic playback singer. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar and other members of the state cabinet. Fadnavis highlighted that the late Ashatai had previously submitted a proposal to establish an institution dedicated to the field of music. "The government remains committed to moving this proposal forward. We will take every necessary positive step to ensure that the institute, as envisioned by Ashatai, becomes a reality," he stated. During the proceedings, Chief Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal read out the official condolence motion, honouring the life and unparalleled contributions of Asha Bhosle to the world of art and culture. The cabinet observed a moment of silence to mark her passing, recognising her as a monumental figure in India's musical history. Earlier, CM Fadnavis, on the demise of Asha Bhosle, said that the "beautiful garden of melodies has been deserted today." Paying tribute to the veteran singer, he stated,

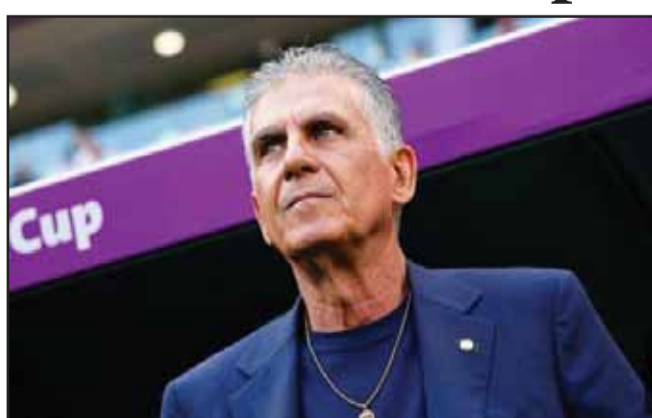


"Asha Tai's voice was the very soul of music. She represented an eternal green season in singing and was a vast ocean of musical emotions. From soulful tracks like 'Tora Man Darpan Kehlaye' to high-energy numbers like 'Khallas,' she mastered every mood with ease. Whether it was Bhakti Geeta, Bhavgeet, Natyasangeet, Ghazals, Classical, Rabindra Sangeet, Folk, or Pop, she left an indelible mark on every genre she touched." The Chief Minister further highlighted her prolific career, noting that she sang over 12,000 songs across 20 Indian languages—including Marathi, Hindi, and

Bengali—as well as foreign languages. He remarked that she was a rare, versatile artist who embraced change effortlessly, earning prestigious honours like the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' and the 'Bangla Bibhushan.' Recalling a personal moment, the Chief Minister shared, "We were together recently for a World Radio Day programme. She insistently made me sing 'Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar...' and playfully remarked, 'Look, I made the Chief Minister sing.' It is hard to imagine that we will no longer have her presence among us." "I offer my heartfelt tributes to her. We share in the grief of her family and her countless fans across the nation," the Chief Minister concluded.

Ghana Appoints Carlos Queiroz as Head Coach Ahead of World Cup 2026

Accra, 14/2 (H.S.): Ghana has made a major move ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 by appointing experienced Portuguese manager Carlos Queiroz as head coach of its national football team. The Ghana Football Association announced the decision on Monday, with the 73-year-old set to begin work immediately. Queiroz will take charge of the Black Stars as they prepare for the expanded tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The



appointment comes after Otto Addo's departure earlier this

month, leaving Ghana without a coach at a critical stage of its build-up. The veteran tactician is headed to his fifth consecutive World Cup as a coach, a remarkable milestone in itself. He previously guided Portugal to the round of 16 at the 2010 World Cup and later coached Iran across three successive editions of the competition. Born in Mozambique and formerly a goalkeeper, Queiroz has also coached Egypt, Japan, Colombia and South Africa during a long and varied career.

WWE icon John Cena pays tribute to legendary Asha Bhosle

Los Angeles, : WWE icon and actor John Cena paid tribute to legendary singer Asha Bhosle after her passing on Sunday, April 12, as he remembered a voice that touched millions across generations. Asha Bhosle, fondly known as "Asha Tai", remained one of India's most celebrated singers for more than eight decades. Her music was loved not only in India but also by listeners around the world. John Cena took to his Instagram account and shared a picture of the late singer as a mark of respect. Soon after the post went online, netizens filled the comment section with emotional messages. One user wrote, "India loves you,

John," while another said, "It feels great when a legend notices another legend." Earlier in the day, former Australian cricketer Brett Lee also remembered Asha Bhosle and looked back at the time when he worked with her on the duet "You're the One for Me." Sharing pictures with the singer on Instagram, Brett Lee spoke about their memorable collaboration and the impression she left on him. "I had the pleasure of writing and recording 'You're the One for Me' with Asha Bhosle back in

2006. It's something I'll always be incredibly grateful for. What stayed with me most wasn't just her extraordinary talent, but how kind and humble she was. For someone who had achieved so much in her life, she carried herself with such warmth and generosity," he wrote. The legendary singer was cremated with full state honours on Monday at Shivaji Park Crematorium in Mumbai. Family members, friends, film personalities and admirers gathered to pay their last respects. Asha Bhosle is widely seen as one of the most versatile voices in Indian music.