

# Dumani Mail

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## JSW & JFE Unveil "JSW JFE Steel Ltd": A New

### Chapter in India's Steel Story.

- 50:50 joint venture between JSW Steel and Japan's JFE Steel Corporation formally
- announced at ceremony in Sambalpur attended by Odisha Chief Minister, Union Minister,
- Japanese Ambassador and senior leadership of both companies.

SAMBALPUR-24/04(DMS)

In a landmark ceremony marking a new era of Indo-Japanese industrial collaboration, JSW Steel and Japan's JFE Steel Corporation today officially unveiled the new corporate identity for

their 50:50 Joint Venture (JV): JSW JFE Steel Limited. The entity encompasses the integrated steel operations at Sambalpur, Odisha. The ceremony was attended by Odisha Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, JSW Group Chairman Mr. Sajjan Jindal, JSW Group's Mr. Parth Jindal, JFE Holdings President & CEO Mr. Yoshihisa Kitano, and Japanese Ambassador Keiichi ONO.

The ceremony unveiling the JSW JFE Steel Limited name, (formerly JSW Sambalpur Steel Ltd), also celebrated the completion of 15 years of the JSW-JFE strategic alliance. The new corporate identity symbolizes the fusion of JSW's "operational excellence and project execution" with JFE's "world-class technological expertise" tracing the partnership's journey since 2009. Mr. Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group said, "JSW JFE Steel is more than a joint venture — it is the coming together of two great industrial traditions and about



a shared vision for the future of Indian steel. Our partnership with JFE, which began in 2009, has evolved into a deep strategic bond. By combining JSW's speed and agility with JFE's technological prowess, we are creating a powerhouse that will define the next decade of sustainable steelmaking in

India." Mr. Yoshihisa Kitano, Representative Director, President and CEO of JFE Holdings, Inc. said, "Today, with the establishment of JSW JFE Steel, we are proud to enter the next phase of our journey as partners in an integrated steelworks in India. We are confident that by combining JFE's advanced steelmaking

technologies with JSW's operational scale, JSW JFE Steel will not only deliver value to our shareholders but make a lasting contribution to India's industrial development."

The plant is strategically located and benefits from well-developed rail and road infrastructure, which is

supported by proximity to iron ore mines in India's largest iron ore-producing region, ensuring strong raw material security and cost competitiveness. The facility manufactures a wide range of flat and long steel products including hot-rolled coils, cold-rolled coils, and value-added downstream products, catering to automotive, infrastructure, construction, and capital goods sectors.

About JSW Steel JSW Steel is the flagship business of the diversified, US\$ 23 billion JSW Group. As one of India's leading business houses, JSW Group also has interests in energy, infrastructure, cement, paints, realty, e-platforms, mobility, defence, sports, and venture capital. Over the last three decades, JSW

Steel has grown from a single manufacturing unit to become India's leading integrated steel company with consolidated crude steel capacity of 35.9 MTPA including 1.5 MTPA in US. Domestic crude steel capacity stands at 34.4

MTPA. Its next phase of growth will take consolidated capacity to 43.9 MTPA over next three years. The Company's plant in Vijayanagar, Karnataka is the largest single-location steel-producing facility in India with current capacity of 17.5 MTPA. About JFE Steel Corporation:

JFE Steel Corporation, one of the world's leading integrated steel producers, was established through the consolidation of NKK Corporation and Kawasaki Steel Corporation in 2003. The company operates several steelworks in Japan and numerous branch offices and affiliates throughout the world. Under the corporate vision of "contributing to society with the world's most innovative technology," JFE Steel leverages world-class technologies and know-how to produce a wide range of products. The company reported consolidated sales of 3,365 billion yen and consolidated crude steel output of 23.20 million tons in the fiscal year ended March 2025.

### Haryana Assembly to hold special session on Apr 27, bill on promotion of Group D staff likely

New Delhi: The Haryana Assembly will sit for a special one-day session on April 27, in which the government is likely to introduce a bill on the promotion of Group D employees, along with a censure motion against the opposition parties for the defeat of a bill to amend the women's quota law in the Lok Sabha recently.

Addressing the media here, Chief Minister Nayab Saini accused the opposition parties, including the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, of stalling the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on April 17.

Under the bill, Lok Sabha seats were to be increased to up to 816 from the current 543 to operationalise the women's reservation law mandating 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies before the 2029 parliamentary polls, following a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census.

### Rape-murder accused killed in Ghaziabad encounter; family refuses to claim body

New Delhi: The family of a 55-year-old man accused of raping and killing his four-year-old niece has refused to claim his body after he was killed in a police encounter in Ghaziabad, with locals also expressing support for the police action.

The accused, Jasim, was wanted for the rape and murder of the girl, whose body was found concealed in a car in the Shalimar Garden area. Jasim was killed late Sunday night during an encounter in the Teela Mod police station area when he allegedly opened fire while trying to evade arrest.

### NCB issued advisory for Indian travellers on new anti-narcotics laws in Maldives

New Delhi: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has issued an advisory to all Indian citizens travelling to or visiting the Maldives following the recent strengthening of anti-narcotics laws in the country.

The agency noted that recent legislative amendments to the Maldives' Drugs Act, which came into effect in March this year, prescribe significantly enhanced penalties for drug-related offences, including life imprisonment.

The NCB said the amended law provides stricter punishment even for possession of small quantities of prohibited substances. Recent instances have been reported involving foreign nationals, including Indian citizens, being arrested in the Maldives for drug-related offences.

In this regard, the High Commission of India in Malé has also issued advisories urging Indian nationals to strictly comply with local laws and regulations.

All Indian citizens have been strongly advised not to carry any package, baggage, or item on behalf of others under any circumstances without being absolutely sure of the contents. It has been asked to maintain full control and supervision of personal baggage at all times. NCB has urged citizens to report any suspicious approach or incident at the MANAS National Narcotics Helpline (1933).

Reaffirming its zero-tolerance approach towards drug trafficking, the NCB has called on all citizens to remain vigilant, responsible, and law-abiding while travelling abroad.

### Delhi HC refuses to entertain PIL over LPG shortage

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL raising concerns over an "acute shortage" of domestic LPG cylinders, observing that everyone is aware of the circumstances affecting the supply of resources and the issue falls within the government's domain.

Termining it a "fallout of the war" in West Asia, a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said it will not pass "futile" directions when the Centre has already issued various orders on the supply of LPG, including an order under the Essential Commodities Act.

"Are we running a government? We do not interfere in such matters," the bench told the petitioner.

### IMD forecasts heatwave conditions over Delhi

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heatwave conditions over Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Vidarbha over the next two days. The Met Department also predicted hot and humid weather over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, Mahe, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Meanwhile, heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall is likely to prevail over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Heavy rainfall is also predicted over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim.

## Another 800 youth of Odisha benefited from digital skilling initiative of AM/NS India



Bhubaneswar/Paradip - ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) marked an important milestone in digital livelihood empowerment with certification ceremonies for 800 trainees under its flagship CSR initiative, Project 'Daksh', across locations in Paradeep, Keonjhar, Kendrapara, and Barbil. Implemented in partnership with Nasscom, the program culminated in the successful completion of intensive digital skill training in IT/ITES trades. The trainees received technical and soft skills training, industry

mentorship, and workplace exposure during 225 hours of training. The participants earned certifications in specialized job roles such as Domestic Data Entry Operator and IT Helpdesk Attendant. Till date in Odisha, a total of 1,895 students have been trained across the four locations as part of the initiative. Of these, 1153 students have already secured placements in reputed organisations including Tatwa, Nija Manpower Services, Techbridge, VGM, Amazon and Randstad, demonstrating the program's strong impact on

livelihoods.

Through Project Daksh, AM/NS India is shaping a generation of future-ready youth, equipping them with digital skills that drive inclusive growth and unlock sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In Paradeep, the event was graced by Ajit Kumar Uttaray, District Skill Development & Employment Officer, Jagatsinghpur as Chief Guest along with Devendra Rout, Sarpanch, Nuagarh while in Barbil, Fasihul Hasan, Labour Enforcement Officer, Barbil graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The

dignitaries addressed the trainees and applauded their efforts and dedication in achieving this certification. They also commended AM/NS India for providing a need based platform and upskilling the youth, thereby improving their employability.

In Paradeep, the event was graced by officials from AM/NS India including C.H.Hari Prasad, Plant Head, Paradeep Pellet Plant, SPL, Paradeep Port, Debashish Swain, Lead-CSR along with Seshdatta Sutar, State Head, Nasscom.

In the Barbil event, officials from AM/NS India

including Indrakant Saha, Mines Manager, Sagasahi, Uday Verma, Head-Security, Pramod Acharya, Welfare Officer, Thakurani Mines, Arun Agrawal, Lead-CSR had joined the ceremony.

In Keonjhar, the event witnessed presence of officials from AM/NS India including Jai Kisan Sharma, Head-Logistics, Ajit Singh, Head - Tailoring Storage Facility and Pipeline, Banaj Khatua, Lead-HR and Lalit Biswal, Lead-CSR, along with trainees and community members. Similar program was also organised in Kendrapara in the presence of AM/NS India officials and the trainees.

## Delhi Police to conduct psychological analysis of accused in murder of IRS officer's daughter

New Delhi : In a shocking case that has sent shockwaves across the national capital, Delhi Police are likely to conduct a psychological analysis of the accused, Rahul Meena, in the brutal rape and murder of a 22-year-old daughter of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer in South Delhi's Kailash Hills.

The victim was a young IIT Delhi graduate and civil services aspirant preparing for her first UPSC attempt. According to police, the young woman had been living a disciplined and focused life, with her daily routine centred entirely around her ambition to join

the civil services and serve the nation.

According to the sources, Delhi Police is likely to conduct a psychological analysis of the accused as part of the ongoing investigation. The proposed assessment will aim to evaluate the mental state, behavioural patterns, and possible motives behind the crime.

The move comes after the accused reportedly displayed unusual calmness and a lack of remorse during interrogation.

Sources added that the analysis may include clinical evaluation by experts to assess aggression levels,

emotional response, and traits linked to conditions such as Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Investigators are also examining whether the crime was premeditated or impulsive, with psycho profiling expected to play a key role in establishing the sequence of events.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Delhi Police got four days of custodial interrogation of accused Rahul Meena after he was produced before the Saket Court in connection with the case. He was arrested from a hotel in Dwarka

shortly after the incident and is currently in custody.

Police sources said the request for custody was crucial to reconstruct the sequence of events, verify digital and forensic evidence, and establish the full motive behind the crime. Meena was arrested from a hotel in Dwarka shortly after the incident and has since been in police custody.

Delhi Police arrested the accused in Amar Colony, with investigators using a digital trail involving a stolen mobile phone, hotel Wi-Fi usage, and Instagram chats to trace and apprehend him from a hotel in Dwarka.

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# World Water Day celebrated : JSW committed to addressing drinking water issues in rural areas

Paradip - On the occasion of World Water Day, awareness programs were organized in villages surrounding the JSW Utkal Steel Project area near Paradip. It serves as an important platform to raise awareness about the importance of water in everyone's life.

In 2026, the theme "Water and Gender" highlighted the connection between water accessibility, women's empowerment, and gender equality. In alignment with this global initiative, JSW Utkal Steel Limited, Paradip organized awareness programs in four schools, Primary School, Dhinkia, UP School, Govindpur, Mathasahi UP School at Nuagaon and Upgraded High School in Gadakujang, covering three gram panchayats—Dhinkia, Gadakujang, and Nuagaon.

The objective of these programs was to educate the younger generation about the importance of water

conservation, equitable access to water, and the role of gender inclusion in water management. The campaign focused on spreading awareness about water conservation, sustainable usage, and the global relevance of this year's theme "Water and Gender."

Interactive sessions were conducted to emphasize the role of equal water access in promoting gender equality and community welfare. Students actively participated in discussions and awareness activities, showing keen interest in water-related challenges and solutions. To encourage participation, prizes were distributed to students during these sessions in the presence of teachers and school staff.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community welfare and access to safe drinking water, JSW Utkal Steel Limited has already



installed more than 30 water purification units in various government schools and public institutions in the region. This initiative reflects the company's continued efforts toward environmental sustainability and social responsibility, especially in improving access to clean and safe drinking water in rural communities.

Under its water-focused CSR initiatives, JSW Utkal Steel has undertaken several activities, including, Restoration of a 6.06-acre Chandan pond in Gadakujang village to support sustainable water resource management.

Installation of 81 water purification units (80-liter capacity with cooling facilities) in schools, government institutions, and other strategic locations in the Paradip steel plant area, Drilling of a 400-meter borewell in Mahal village to improve

water availability, Installation of 11 borewells in Anganwadi centers to strengthen essential services for children and workers, Installation of 4 borewells in community and meeting halls located in Nuagaon, Gadakujang, Dhinkia, and Mahal, Installation of 4 borewells in self-help group-built community halls (2 in Nuagaon, 1 in Govindpur, and 1 in Patana), Development of 4 borewells along with small ponds in cremation grounds across Govindpur, Nuagaon, Dhinkia, and Mahal to support community infrastructure.

Restoration of Thakur Gadia pond in Mahal village to enhance local water conservation and ecosystem sustainability.

These initiatives demonstrate JSW's strong commitment to addressing rural drinking water challenges and promoting sustainable water management.

## Parents Allege Exploitation by Private Schools in Nuapada

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, April 24 : The beginning of the new academic session has brought fresh concerns for parents in Nuapada, as rising school fees, expensive textbooks and annual re-admission charges are putting significant financial pressure on families.

Many parents, especially from middle income groups claim that the increasing cost of education is becoming unaffordable. Parents in Khariar Road have alleged that several Private Schools are prescribing textbooks at prices far higher than standard editions.

While NCERT books are considered quality learning resources that support students cognitive development. Schools reportedly avoid them due to

lower commission margins. Instead, they promote books from private publishers, often through informal arrangements with suppliers, leading to inflated prices. As a result, parents claim that even 50 pages book sometimes cost over 500 rupees. In some cases, the total cost of books ranges between 3000 and 7000 per year. A parent of a class 1 student said, their child was given 14 books costing around 4500 rupees including subjects like computer studies, reasoning and AI/ML, many of which are rarely used during the academic year.

The issue also raises concerns about the burden on young students. Despite objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to reduce School bag weight. Parents say, children are being

made to carry excessive books, sometimes weighing nearly half of the child's body weight. Beyond textbooks, parents have also criticized the collection of annual re-admission fees even when students are promoted within the same school.

Parents and civil society members have expressed frustration over the lack of effective government regulations. There is no control from the authorities. Schools are free to fix fees as they wish and parents have no option but to pay, said a concerned parent. There is a growing demand for the education department to intervene, establish regulatory mechanisms and ensure fair practices in private schools to protect parents from financial exploitation.

## Dissatisfaction Starts @ Bathing Ghat Project

Jajpur :-Under Bari Irrigation division, Bathing Step cum Ghat Project cost around of 10lakh started at Jununga village's Brahmani embkament in Kalakhanda

Panchayat reports as sub standard and due to monopoly activities of Contractor with anti nexus of concerning JEE, this project runs with low grade cement,

sand. Local demands for a high level strong action otherwise the contractor and concerning authority will loot the public fund in the day time too.

## Excise official's seized 80 kg ganja, four arrested



Khordha-24/4-Excise official's seized more than 80 kg ganja and arrested four persons in this connection from two different places in Gangapada, NH-16 and near Badatota, Belpada high school, Jatni, Khordha district, in a press meet at District Excise Office, Khordha, Excise Superintendent, Ms. Sumati Tripathy said today. The value of the seized contraband is ₹8 lakhs. Four accused were arrested today while they were transporting the contraband from Kandhamal to Bhubaneswar, she said. In the first incident, two persons were arrested from Gangapada, NH-16 and 36kg of

ganja was seized from their possession and the car in which they were travelling was also seized. In another incident the excise official's arrested two persons from in front of Badatota Belpada high school, Jatni, arrested two persons and 44 kg ganja from them. The accused identified as Pratik Kumar Jani (20) Barun Bagarti (20) Babun Kumar Bagarti (27) and Ashok Kumar Bagarti all are from the resident of Kandhamal district. Official's said strict monitoring will continue to curb illegal transport of contraband.

Further investigation investigations into both the cases are underway.

## Odisha Reconstitutes Transgender Welfare Board; SSEPD Minister Named Chairperson

Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): The Odisha Government has reconstituted the State Transgender Welfare Board, issuing a revised notification within two days of withdrawing its earlier order, officials said.

According to the fresh notification, the Board has been restructured as part of an administrative overhaul aimed at enhancing its effectiveness and coordination. A key change in the new composition is the appointment of the SSEPD (Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) Minister as the Chairperson, replacing the earlier provision under which the Chief Secretary held the post.

Under the revised structure, the Principal Secretary of the SSEPD Department will function as the Vice-Chairperson,

while the Department's Director has been designated as the Member Secretary.

The Board comprises senior officials including the Director General of Police, representatives from multiple government departments, and district Collectors of Bolangir, Angul, and Khordha as members.

In a significant step towards inclusive representation, members of the transgender community—Dipti Ranjan Mohapatra and Soumya Das—have also been included in the Board.

Officials stated that the reconstitution is intended to strengthen institutional mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of transgender persons and promoting their welfare. The revamped structure is expected to improve inter-departmental coordination and ensure more effective implementation of policies and programs aimed at the transgender community.

# Development Deficit in Rengali Block: Bridge Left Incomplete Even After 15 Years.

Sambalpur-24/04 (DMS) : Every year during Panchayati Raj Day celebrations, ministers and leaders deliver big speeches claiming rapid development under the Panchayati Raj system. Attractive advertisements are also published highlighting rural progress. However, the ground reality remains far from these claims.

A glaring example can be seen in Sahasiamal village, a tribal-dominated area under Jhankarpali Panchayat of Rengali Block, where a small bridge project has remained incomplete for the last 15 years.

The bridge construction over a stream near Sahasiamal village had started during the 2011-12 financial year. Even after one and a half decades, the project is yet to be completed. Local residents have repeatedly demanded completion of the bridge, but

no positive action has been taken so far.

As a result, villagers are facing severe transportation difficulties. In case of any medical emergency, ambulances cannot enter the village due to the unfinished bridge. Ambulances have to stop at Pattamal village, nearly two kilometers away, and patients are carried on cots to reach them.

During the rainy season, the situation becomes even worse. Students are often unable to attend school. Villagers face major hardships while traveling to the block office, tehsil, police station, hospital, and district headquarters.

Although the government strongly promotes special schemes and funds for tribal area development, even basic infrastructure like a bridge over the stream in Sahasiamal remains incomplete. This



reflects the gap between official claims and reality.

Residents allege that negligence and an indifferent attitude of grassroots-level administrative officers are responsible for many such incomplete development

works. They have demanded immediate intervention from higher authorities to ensure early completion of the bridge.

When contacted, BDO Pritam Kumar Tanti stated that he would personally visit

Sahasiamal village for a field inspection and take necessary steps for the completion of the bridge.

\*Resolutions Passed in Committee Meetings Not Being Implemented.\*

The belief that village

development leads to national development forms the foundation of the Panchayati Raj system. To strengthen grassroots governance, the three-tier Panchayati Raj system was introduced.

However, in Rengali Block, many development and welfare project proposals unanimously passed in Gram Sabha, Palli Sabha, and Panchayat Samiti meetings reportedly get rejected at higher administrative levels.

This allegation was made by Block Chairman Satyanarayan Agrawal, who expressed concern that such practices are reducing the importance of local governance institutions.

Funds worth crores of rupees are allocated under various schemes such as BGVB, CMSA, Grant-in-Aid, Critical Gap Fund, MLA and MP LAD funds, DSF funds, and Road and Bridge

projects. These funds are meant for development works proposed at the village level through Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha discussions, which are then approved in Panchayat Samiti meetings and forwarded to the government through the District Collector.

However, Mr. Agrawal alleged that most of these proposals are being dropped during the government approval process.

He questioned why unanimously approved development proposals from Panchayat Samiti meetings are being rejected despite the government claiming to have empowered elected representatives under the Panchayati Raj system.

According to him, such an approach weakens the very spirit and significance of Panchayati Raj governance and undermines public trust in grassroots democracy.

## Odisha Announces Early Summer Vacation Amid Heatwave; Schools to Close from April 27

Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): Amid intensifying heatwave conditions across the state, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced early summer vacation for schools, prioritizing the safety and well-being of students.



Approving a proposal from the School and Mass Education Department, the Chief Minister directed that all government, government-aided, and private schools across the state will remain closed from April 27. The decision comes in response to rising temperatures and the adverse impact of extreme heat on students' health.

However, the government clarified that previously scheduled examinations, census-related

duties, and other administrative work will continue as planned without disruption.

The move has been widely welcomed by parents and members of the education community, who view it as a timely relief measure amid the ongoing heatwave. Over the past several days, temperatures across Odisha have surged significantly, with many regions experiencing severe heatwave conditions.

## SJTA Suspends Jagannath Temple Servitor Over Alleged Misconduct



Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has suspended a servitor of the Shree Jagannath Temple following allegations of involvement in immoral activities. The servitor, Shradhdhananda Das Mahapatra, who serves as a Suddha Suara and Daitapati, has been placed under suspension by the Chief Administrator after the administration was informed of a police case registered against him.

As per an official order, he has been barred from performing any temple duties and is prohibited from entering the temple premises until further notice. The administration stated that the action was taken as the alleged conduct has adversely affected the dignity and reputation of both the servitor community and the temple.

Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee said that while the majority of servitors maintain discipline and uphold long-standing traditions, any instance of indiscipline or misconduct will not be tolerated. Officials further clarified that the suspension will remain in effect pending further developments in the case.

## NCM Organizes National Seminar on the Contribution of Jain Community to the Indian Economy, Education and Philanthropy

**Bhubaneswar: April 24, 2026 :** National Commission for Minorities (NCM) with Knowledge Partner Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, today organized a National Seminar on "The Contribution of the Jain Community to the Indian Economy, Education, and Philanthropy" at The Marriott, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Attended by leading subject specialists, scholars, academicians, industrialists, Vice President JITO, philanthropists Shantilal Mutha, Girish B. Shah, students and Jain community members also attended

the seminar. Addressing the gathering through a video message, Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, said that philanthropy defines Jain society. "Hospitals, dharamshalas, gaushalas, and community kitchens serve all with dignity. Jain entrepreneurs also power India's economy, creating jobs and driving innovation while supporting education, healthcare, and rural growth," he stated. The Union Minister added that the community is contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 of Hon'ble

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Government recognises these contributions. Through PM VIKAS and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, we are empowering Jain youth and institutions. Jain principles of Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekantavada teach harmony, sustainability and respect for diverse views—values our nation needs today," he said. George Kurian, Hon'ble Minister of State for Minority Affairs, graced the seminar as Chief Guest. He elaborated on various government initiatives aimed at empowering minority

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Member Secretary.

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included in the Board.

Officials stated that the reconstitution is intended to strengthen institutional mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of transgender persons and promoting their welfare. The revamped structure is expected to improve inter-departmental coordination and ensure more effective implementation of policies and programs aimed at the transgender community.



## 'Second Kulagaurav Samman 2026' to Be Held in Bhubaneswar on April 28

Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): The Vishwa Odia Parivar will organise the 'Second Kulagaurav Samman 2026' on April 28 at the Kalinga Stadium Tennis Centre, its president Sajjan Sharma announced.

The awards aim to recognise distinguished entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions to the development of modern Odisha. The honour is inspired by the ideals of



Madhusudan Das, a pioneering figure in the state's socio-economic transformation.

Entrepreneurs from different parts of Odisha will be felicitated for their role in advancing industrial growth and overall progress in the state.

Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Pady will attend the programme as the chief guest. Other dignitaries expected to be present include Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, retired

Odisha High Court judge Bimal Prasad Das, Kendrapara MP Baijayant Panda, former Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik, noted industrialist Ajay Agrawal, and social worker Jagannath Pradhan.

According to the organisers, the event seeks to encourage entrepreneurship in Odisha and honour those contributing to the state's economic and social development.

## Petrol and diesel supplies remain adequate across India, no dry-out reported: Govt

Bhubaneswar, April 24, 2026 The government has said domestic LPG supply across the country is smooth and no dry out has been reported at any distributor. Addressing an inter-ministerial briefing in New Delhi, Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Sujata Sharma, said that the Government is ensuring that supplies of domestic LPG continue without any disruption amid the evolving situation in West Asia.

She said that home delivery of LPG cylinders is being facilitated and advised consumers to opt online booking and avoid rushing to distributor showrooms

directly. Ms Sharma added that commercial LPG supply has been restored up to 70 per cent, and in April so far, over 1.47 lakh LPG cylinders have been sold. She noted that as of yesterday, more than 81 thousand 5 kg cylinders were sold, and over 1.33 lakh 5 kg cylinders have been sold so far through awareness camps.

The Secretary further added that in terms of natural gas, around 5.27 lakh PNG connections have been gasified. She ensured that additional infrastructure has been developed for over 2.6 lakh more connections, with around 5.97 lakh new consumers' registrations.

## Odisha Crime Branch Busts ₹2.06 Crore Online Trading Scam, Accused Arrested in Delhi

Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): The Cyber Crime unit of the Odisha Crime Branch has cracked a major online investment fraud case involving ₹2.06 crore, arresting one accused from Delhi, officials said on Friday.

The arrested person has been identified as Vinay Kumar Sharma (56), a resident of West Delhi. He was apprehended from Dwarka following a detailed investigation into the scam.

According to officials, the fraud began on December 23, 2024, when the complainant was contacted by cyber criminals via WhatsApp and added to a group promoting stock market investments. The accused and his associates allegedly posed as financial experts and projected one individual as a fund manager



of a reputed firm, luring the victim with promises of high returns.

To build credibility, the fraudsters regularly shared stock tips and technical analysis related to NIFTY. Acting on their instructions, the victim transferred ₹2,06,07,500 from three bank accounts to five beneficiary

accounts through 54 transactions between December 23, 2024, and March 24, 2025.

When the complainant later attempted to withdraw the returns, the accused, posing as a "risk control team," denied the request on various pretexts. This led the victim to lodge an FIR at the

Cyber Crime Police Station.

During the investigation, a team led by Inspector Tapan Kumar Pradhan conducted extensive financial and digital analysis, which helped identify the accused. Acting on specific leads, police conducted a raid in Dwarka and arrested Sharma.

Authorities seized mobile phones, SIM cards, Aadhaar and PAN cards, along with other incriminating materials from his possession.

The accused was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class-II, Dwarka, under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act, 2000. He has been brought on transit remand and will be produced before the SDJM court in Bhubaneswar for further legal proceedings.

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DRAINAGE DIVISION, JAGATSIINGHPUR-754103 e-procurement Notice No. SEDD-JSPUR-01/2026-27 email id: ceddjispur@gmail.com	
1. Name of Work	Improvement to Singarpur Harappa DC including construction of inlets.
2. Total number of works	01 (One) no. of Package
3. Bid Identification No.	SEDD-JSPUR/BK-01/2026-27
4. Estimated Cost	Rs. 66.28 Lakhs
5. Period of completion	10 (Ten) Calendar months
6. Availability of Tender On-Line	From 28.04.2026 at 16.30 Hours to 12.05.2026 upto 17.30 Hours.
7. Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	13.05.2026 at 11.30 Hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Drainage Division, Jagatsiinghpur.
8. Class of Contractor	'B' Class
9. EMD required	As per DTCN.
10. Cost of Tender paper	Rs. 10,000/-
11. Procurement Officer	Superintending Engineer, Drainage Division, Jagatsiinghpur-754103

\*Tender will be accepted if registered in the CMIS Portal.  
Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Addendum / Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

32001/118/2627

Superintending Engineer  
Drainage Division,  
Jagatsiinghpur

# Sand Removal Work Begins at Konark Sun Temple; Safety Measures Intensified

Bhubaneswar, 24 April (H.S.): The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated the process of removing sand from the sanctum sanctorum of the Konark Sun Temple, with a strong emphasis on structural safety and precision.

Officials said the excavation for a tunnel began on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. In the initial phase, four skilled workers are carrying out the work manually without the use of machinery to avoid any potential

damage to the heritage structure. By the end of the fourth day, a section measuring approximately 2 feet in width and 4 feet in length had been excavated.

A specialised monitoring team has been deployed to oversee the, ensuring that every stage of the operation adheres to strict safety and conservation standards.

Historical records suggest that during the British era, sand was

filled into the temple's sanctum sanctorum through a tunnel created from the western side, at a height of nearly 80 feet from the lower level of the first tier. This passage was later sealed with a stone wall after the filling was completed.

Authorities are currently conducting a detailed assessment of the temple's stone structure, with plans to undertake two additional core drillings to better



understand internal conditions. An earlier study by Indian Institute of Technology Madras indicated that the removal of sand would not pose any threat to the structural stability of the temple.

Based on these findings, the excavation and tunnel construction work has been taken up in a carefully monitored manner, marking a significant step in the conservation efforts of the iconic UNESCO World Heritage site.

*Historical records suggest that during the British era, sand was filled into the temple's sanctum sanctorum through a tunnel created from the western side, at a height of nearly 80 feet from the lower level of the first tier. This passage was later sealed with a stone wall after the filling was completed.*

## IMF Ranking

INDIA's slide from the fourth spot to the sixth one in the latest IMF ranking of the world's largest economies has triggered predictable alarm and partisan point-scoring. But this needs perspective. It is less a story of economic decline than of currency exchange rates, statistical revisions and the limitations of rankings. When the rupee weakens, India's economy appears smaller in dollar terms even if domestic production remains strong. A country can therefore post robust real growth and still lose rank. That is precisely why India, despite remaining among the fastest-growing major economies, has slipped behind the UK and Japan.

This should caution against treating rankings as badges of success or failure. Governments often celebrate a rise in position as proof of policy triumph, while critics weaponise a fall as evidence of mismanagement. Neither reaction captures economic reality. A nation's true progress is measured by the quality and distribution of growth. India's strengths remain substantial. The domestic demand remains resilient. The demographic potential is strong, infrastructure is expanding and digital economy growing. But these advantages will matter only if they translate into productive jobs, stronger manufacturing capacity, higher private investment and rising household incomes. A large economy with weak employment generation or stagnant wages cannot draw comfort from rankings alone.

Policymakers must recognise that currency stability and macroeconomic credibility influence global perceptions. Persistent rupee weakness raises import costs and erodes GDP standing. Sound fiscal management, export competitiveness and productivity gains are therefore essential. If incomes rise, opportunities expand and inequality narrows, rankings will eventually take care of themselves. If not, even a higher place on the global table will ring hollow. India must ensure that it does not lose sight of what truly matters.

## Doping Proposal

THE push to criminalise trafficking and use of banned performance-enhancing substances marks an overdue shift in India's battle against doping. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has highlighted a harsh truth: doping is no longer an individual lapse but an organised enterprise that exploits ambition, ignorance and weak enforcement. India's anti-doping framework has leaned heavily on testing and imposition of bans on athletes. While these measures have led to a decline in adverse findings, the country continues to top the global dope offenders' list of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). This dubious distinction has exposed the limitations of the current strategy. It's apparent that punishing athletes alone is of little help.

The proposal to penalise suppliers, facilitators and complicit support staff aligns with the global perception that the real culprits are often coaches, trainers and shadowy networks that profit from doping. Targeting these wrongdoers could disrupt supply chains and raise the risks associated with the use of unfair means. Yet, criminalisation is not a silver bullet. Similar provisions in the 2018 draft anti-doping Bill were ultimately dropped amid concerns about overreach and enforceability. There are legal grey areas as not all substances banned in sports are illegal for general use. Careless drafting of provisions could lead to harassment or other unintended consequences, particularly for lower-level support staff.

The need to protect athletes, many of whom are victims rather than perpetrators, cannot be overemphasised. Coercion and misinformation often push them toward doping. Any legal framework must clearly distinguish between the exploiter and the exploited. The government's broader strategy—combining legislation with education, intelligence-gathering and international cooperation—is promising. India, which will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and has set its sights on the 2036 Olympics, must go all out to improve its image on the dope front. A crackdown on doping networks can act as a strong deterrent, but much will depend on making the proposed legislation robust and loophole-free.

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# Women Reimagining the Future of STEM.

**Madhusudan Mishra,  
IAS (Retd.)**

For decades, the global discourse on women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) has centered on inclusion—how to bring more women into classrooms, laboratories and boardrooms. While these efforts have produced measurable progress, a deeper and more consequential question now emerges: are women merely participating in STEM, or are they shaping its future? The shift from presence to power—from inclusion to influence—defines the next phase of this journey. The future of STEM will not be determined by numbers alone, but by who sets priorities, leads innovation and directs the course of transformation. Women today stand at the threshold of this critical transition.

Across the world, women are steadily moving beyond the margins of scientific and technological spaces. They are emerging as innovators, institution builders, entrepreneurs and policymakers. Their contributions are not only expanding the boundaries of knowledge but also redefining the purpose and direction of science itself. Once perceived as rigid and exclusionary, STEM fields are gradually becoming more inclusive, interdisciplinary and socially responsive. This transformation is, in large measure, driven by the diversity of perspectives women bring into the ecosystem. The narrative is evolving—from access to impact, from participation to leadership.

India presents a particularly compelling story of promise intertwined with persistent challenges. With women accounting for nearly 43 percent of STEM graduates, the country stands among global leaders in educational participation. This reflects a strong foundation of talent, ambition and intellectual capability. Yet, this encouraging statistic conceals a

deeper structural gap. The transition from education to leadership remains uneven, as many women either exit STEM careers midstream or find themselves underrepresented in senior roles, research leadership, deep-tech entrepreneurship and policy-making domains.

This disparity highlights that the issue extends beyond the oft-cited "pipeline problem." The challenge lies not just in bringing women into STEM, but in ensuring that they remain, grow and lead. Attrition at higher levels is often the result of systemic barriers—subtle yet deeply entrenched. These include unconscious bias, lack of mentorship, limited access to funding and networks, and rigid workplace structures that fail to accommodate diverse life circumstances. The result is an imbalance where capability exists, but authority does not proportionately follow.

Encouragingly, this landscape is beginning to shift. Women are increasingly at the helm of startups, leading pioneering research and influencing policy in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, renewable energy and space technology. Women-led enterprises are not only breaking traditional barriers but are also redefining models of leadership. Their approaches often emphasize collaboration, ethical responsibility and long-term societal impact—qualities that are becoming indispensable in an era of rapid technological disruption and global uncertainty.

Education remains central to this transformation, but its role must evolve. Beyond enrolment figures, there is a need to nurture confidence, critical thinking and leadership among young women. This involves creating strong mentorship networks, expanding research opportunities, encouraging interdisciplinary learning and providing safe spaces for intellectual exploration. When young women see role models who have

successfully navigated STEM careers, their aspirations gain clarity and resilience.

Policy frameworks, too, play a vital role in shaping outcomes. Governments must move beyond facilitating entry into STEM and focus equally on retention and advancement. Measures such as flexible work arrangements, childcare support, targeted funding initiatives and leadership development programs can significantly improve women's representation at senior levels. Public and private sectors must collaborate to build environments where merit is recognized and nurtured without prejudice.

At the same time, cultural factors continue to exert a powerful influence. Societal expectations around gender roles often compel women to balance professional ambitions with disproportionate domestic responsibilities. These expectations can lead to difficult choices, limiting career progression. Addressing this requires a broader societal shift—one that involves families, communities and institutions collectively supporting women's aspirations. Empowering women in STEM must be seen not only as an issue of equity but as a driver of national progress and global innovation.

Looking ahead, the importance of diversity in STEM cannot be overstated. The world faces increasingly complex challenges—climate change, healthcare innovation, digital transformation and sustainable development—that demand multifaceted solutions. Women, with their diverse experiences and perspectives, are essential to this problem-solving process. Their participation enhances creativity, strengthens decision-making and ensures that technological advancements remain aligned with human values.

Moreover, the boundaries between STEM and other disciplines are rapidly dissolving. As

technology intersects with social sciences, ethics and the humanities, the need for holistic thinking becomes paramount. Women are uniquely positioned to bridge these domains, integrating empathy and ethical considerations into innovation. This convergence is critical for building systems that are not only efficient but also equitable and humane.

The digital revolution has further accelerated opportunities for women in STEM. Online education platforms, remote work models and global collaboration networks are breaking down traditional barriers of geography and access. Women from diverse backgrounds can now engage with knowledge, mentorship and professional opportunities that were once beyond reach. Harnessing these tools effectively can create a more inclusive and dynamic ecosystem.

However, progress must be evaluated not merely in terms of participation, but in terms of influence and authority. True empowerment will be realized when women are equally represented in decision-making bodies, when their voices shape policies and when their innovations drive industries. This calls for a deliberate effort to dismantle entrenched hierarchies and create pathways for leadership.

The journey from inclusion to leadership is complex and gradual, but it is both necessary and inevitable. Women in STEM are no longer passive participants; they are active architects of the future. Their growing influence reflects resilience, capability and vision. As societies strive for progress, it becomes increasingly clear that empowering women in STEM is not just a moral imperative—it is a strategic necessity.

In redefining the contours of science and technology, women are also redefining the possibilities of human advancement. The future of STEM will be more inclusive, more innovative and more impactful because women are not merely part of the narrative—they are leading it.

## YOGA, PATH OF HARMONY

Nibedita Priyadarshini Sukla  
Yoga means "Union" (coming together). In India, where Yoga has been flowing in the veins of everyone for ages, it is possible to have the harmonious coexistence of many faiths and beliefs, which is the ideal type of universal religion. Those who can heroically put their faith into daily living can accomplish this togetherness in the human community. Togetherness or union can be established between one's outer behaviour and inner nature. The spiritual aspirant intent on the path of love can strive for union between themselves and the embodiment of love, namely God.

Karma Yoga : First, the Yogi of action Karma Yogi. The Yogi adopts the path of establishing union Godhead by elevating and sublimating acts. We meet in the world many who seem to have been born just to accomplish one particular mission or project.

Bhakti Yoga : The second path is the Yoga of love or devotion (Bhakti Yoga). This is

congenial for those who are emotionally oriented. It is the path for those capable of filling their hearts with love. The urge is to have God as the Beloved.

Raja Yoga : Now about the royal Yoga (Raja Yoga). Royal Yoga means the process of establishing mastery over the mind. One need not surrender one's intellect or follow the guidelines of religious leaders. There is no chance of being misled or mistaken. At every step, one has to rely on one's own intellect and experience, as tested by oneself.

Gnyana Yoga : The Yoga of wisdom (gnyana - Yoga) is devoted mostly to the study of basic principles. This universe or cosmos, which we cognize as outside ourselves, can be explained by means of various theories of knowledge, but none of them can be convincing to the uninitiated.

Wisdom Yogis are vigilant against the temptations held before them by the senses; turning them aside, they approach the Divine and seek strength and solace there. They realise that the power and energy that vitalise the tiniest of the tiny and the vastest of the vast is the same divine Principle. Their actions, thoughts, and words reveal the vision that they have experienced : the Supra-vision (Paramartha - Dristi). They see all elements earth, fire, water, wind, and sky - as the divine itself and all beings humanity, beast, bird, and worm as emanations from God and therefore fully divine.

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## hotter weather & Dehydration

**Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra**

Dehydration occurs when more water and fluids leave the body than enter it. Even low levels of dehydration can cause headaches, lethargy, and constipation. The human body is roughly 75 percent water. Without this water, it cannot survive. Water is found inside cells, within blood vessels, and between cells. Although water is constantly lost throughout the day as we breathe, sweat, urinate, and defecate, we can replenish the water in our body by drinking fluids. The body can also move water around to areas where it is needed most if dehydration begins to occur. Most occurrences of dehydration can be easily reversed by increasing fluid intake, but severe cases of dehydration require immediate medical attention.

The first symptoms of dehydration include thirst, darker urine, and decreased urine production. In fact, urine color is one of the best indicators of a person's hydration level—clear urine means you are well hydrated and darker urine means you are dehydrated. However, it is important to note that, particularly in older adults, dehydration can occur without thirst. This is why it is important to drink more water when ill, or during hotter weather. As the condition progresses to moderate dehydration, symptoms include: dry mouth, lethargy, weakness in muscles, headache, dizziness. The basic causes of dehydration are not taking in enough water, losing too much water, or a combination of both.

Dehydration must be treated by replenishing the fluid level in the body. This can be done by consuming clear fluids such as water, clear broths, frozen water or ice pops, or sports drinks. Some dehydration patients, however, will require intravenous fluids in order to rehydrate. People who are dehydrated should avoid drinks containing caffeine such as coffee, tea, and sodas. Underlying conditions that are causing dehydration should also be treated with the appropriate medication. This may include medication available to purchase over-the-counter or online, such as anti-diarrhea medicines, anti-emetics and anti-fever medicines.

Prevention is really the most important treatment for dehydration. Consuming plenty of fluids and foods that have high water content (such as fruits and vegetables) should be enough for most people to prevent dehydration. People should be cautious about doing activities during extreme heat or the hottest part of the day, and anyone who is exercising should make replenishing fluids a priority.

Retd. Prof. Hepatology Deptt. S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack, Ph : 9437051957, E-mail : drumeshchandra123patra@gmail.com

## HRC Issues Notice in Chhattisgarh Thermal Power Plant Explosion Case

New Delhi, 24 /4 (H.S.): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of the boiler tube explosion at a thermal power plant in Chhattisgarh's Sakti district. The Commission issued notices on Friday to the state's Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP), directing them to submit a detailed report within two weeks. It may be recalled that on April 14, the boiler tube explosion resulted in the deaths of about 13 workers, with 20 others sustaining injuries. Earlier, extremely hot steam released from the explosion had engulfed the



workers. Subsequently, after shutting down and cooling the boiler, the police initiated rescue operations. The injured workers were admitted to various

hospitals. The Commission has directed that the report include the status of compensation disbursement to the workers and the health condition of the injured.

## Chief Justice Suryakant Expresses Satisfaction Over High Voter Turnout in West Bengal

New Delhi, 24 /4(H.S.): Chief Justice Suryakant has expressed delight over the more than 92 percent voter turnout in the first phase of elections in West Bengal. He stated, "As a citizen of India, I am very happy to see the voting percentage. When people cast their votes, democracy strengthens. When people understand the importance of their vote, they do not engage in violence." Justice Bagchi also noted that no major incidents of violence occurred. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta described



the 92 percent turnout as historic, adding that barring a few isolated incidents, the elections remained peaceful overall. He praised the exemplary performance of central

forces. Justice Bagchi further observed that wars are fought between kings, but it is the common people who lose their lives.

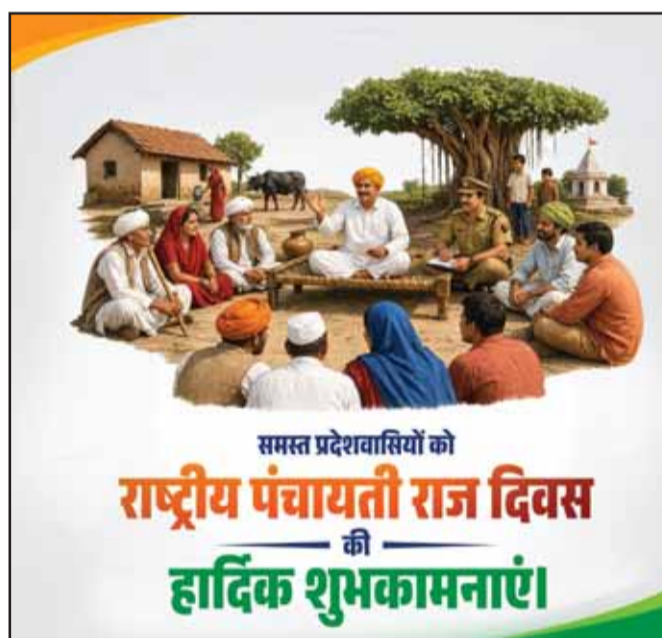
## Somnath Bharti, 16 Others Acquitted in 2014 Case of Alleged Misconduct Against African Women

New Delhi, 24 /4(H.S.): Rouse Avenue Court has acquitted Aam Aadmi Party MLA and former Delhi Law Minister Somnath Bharti, along with 16 other accused, in the 2014 case involving alleged misconduct against African women. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Mittal passed the order discharging the accused. Besides Somnath Bharti, those acquitted include Aditya, Badlu Khan, Badal Khan, Deepak Chauhan, Anil Kumar, Pawan Saini, Naresh Saini, Dharam Chand Rana, Ved Saini, Rajesh Saini, Hemant Saini, Sanjeev Saini, Vijay Saini, Devender Chauhan, Indra Saini and Shyamala Saini. Earlier, the case was being heard at Patiala House Court. On June 30, 2018, that court had framed charges against 16 of the 17 accused, while declaring one accused, Anil Saini, a proclaimed offender. The charges were framed under Sections 323, 147 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code. Later, cases against Members of Parliament and MLAs were transferred to Rouse Avenue Court for trial, and the trial in this matter proceeded there. During the intervening night of January 15 and 16, 2014, Delhi Police registered a case against Somnath Bharti and several others based on a complaint lodged by some foreign women. According to the Delhi Police charge sheet, on the intervening night of January 15 and 16, 2014, Somnath Bharti allegedly entered the houses of some women in Malviya Nagar under the pretext of a raid and committed acts of misconduct against them.



## Leaders Extend Greetings on National Panchayati Raj Day

New Delhi, 24 /4(H.S.): On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and several other senior leaders extended heartfelt wishes to the nation, describing Panchayati Raj Institutions as the strong foundation of democracy. Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan posted on X that he extends greetings to all citizens, especially the elected representatives and office-bearers of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country. He stated that Panchayati Raj symbolizes grassroots-level democracy and participatory governance, empowering local communities, strengthening inclusive development, and ensuring that people's voices are heard in village-level decision-making. He emphasized that Panchayats play a crucial role in advancing rural transformation and their contribution to building a self-reliant and strong 'Developed India' is immensely significant. He expressed hope that the day would inspire efforts to further strengthen democratic



institutions and pursue sustainable development. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh affirmed the government's commitment to making Panchayati Raj Institutions more empowered and effective, thereby realizing the resolve of 'Gram Uday se Bharat Uday'. Home Minister Amit Shah noted that the Panchayat system, one of India's oldest democratic traditions, forms a robust unit of

the government, and the RSS. He stated that since the BJP's founding in 1980, its leaders and organisers have been connected to the RSS. Today, more than 40 organisations inspired by RSS ideology form a nationwide network. Responding to questions from members of the American diaspora, he said it is the responsibility of Indian-origin U.S. citizens to fulfil their civic duties towards their country while also engaging in activities that honour the cultural identity of their ancestral homeland. In response to another question, he acknowledged that misconceptions about the RSS exist not only among Americans but also in India. "In this centenary year, we are

reaching out to the masses through Panch Parivartan programmes. This is not just for India or Indians, but an idea acceptable to the entire world." He emphasised that India's philosophy views the whole world as one family. This spiritual ideology, rooted in cultural values, forms the basis of the RSS's efforts in public awakening for the welfare of the nation, society, and humanity—a mission it will continue. On his U.S. visit, Hosabale said at the Hudson Institute discussion that reflecting on the past 100 years, as the organisation's strength has grown steadily, it has fostered not arrogance but humility. "This reinforces our conviction to ceaselessly serve humanity." He

noted that the RSS, which began 100 years ago with a few children, has grown into one of the world's largest organisations through its unique daily shakha system. Clarifying the difference between volunteers and swayamsevak, he said volunteers may work for limited hours for payment, honour, or recognition, whereas RSS shakhas instil values from the outset that inspire selfless service to society and the nation. "In truth, being a swayamsevak is a way of life." Responding to Mead, Hosabale said Americans harbour misconceptions not only about the RSS but also about India, often still viewing it through outdated stereotypes.

## NHRC Takes Suo Motu Cognizance of School Gate Collapse Killing Two Girls in Odisha's Gajapati

New Delhi, 24/4 (H.S.): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of the alleged deaths of two schoolgirls due to the collapse of an iron gate at a government primary school in Odisha's Gajapati district. Deeming the incident grave, the Commission has sought a detailed report from the state administration. On Friday, the NHRC issued notices to the Chief Secretary of the Odisha government and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Gajapati district, directing them to submit a comprehensive report

within two weeks. The Commission observed that the episode raises serious questions about child safety measures, necessitating a thorough investigation. The cognizance was based on media reports published on April 16, 2026. According to these accounts, on April 15, the main iron gate of a government primary school in Gajapati district suddenly collapsed, critically injuring two girl students caught in its path. The girls were rushed to a nearby hospital immediately after the mishap, where doctors declared them dead. The tragic accident has sparked mourning

and outrage in the area, with locals questioning the school's safety protocols and demanding action against responsible officials. The NHRC clarified in its notice that if the media reports prove accurate, the matter constitutes a serious violation of human rights, particularly highlighting potential administrative negligence in ensuring child safety. The Commission seeks to ascertain why safety standards were not upheld in the school premises and what measures have been taken against those accountable. Further action will be determined upon receipt of the state's report.

## NHRC Issues Notice to Chief Secretary, SP in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar Explosion Case

New Delhi, 24 /4(H.S.): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of the explosion at a private firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district and issued notices to the state's Chief Secretary and the district's Superintendent of Police, seeking a detailed report within two weeks. The Commission announced on Friday that according to media reports published on April 20, the blast occurred on April 19 due to friction during chemical mixing and the manufacturing process at the factory. Over 100 workers, including women, were present in the facility at the time of the incident. The injured workers were transferred to Virudhunagar Government Medical College and Hospital. The NHRC has directed that the report include the health status of the injured individuals, details of the investigation, and information on compensation provided to the families of the deceased and injured. Notably, 23 workers lost their lives in the Virudhunagar explosion. The district had witnessed a similar recent incident that claimed four lives.

## PM Modi Hails Dum Dum's "Exceptional Welcome" as BJP Courts Urban Bengal

Dum Dum/Delhi, 24/4 (H.S.): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the massive public response to his roadshow in Dum Dum as an "exceptional welcome," using the occasion to accuse the Trinamool Congress of "neglecting the urban areas of West Bengal because of their culture of loot and misgovernance." In a post on X on Friday, he added that the BJP would "focus on urban development and ensure people's dreams are fulfilled."

## Delhi High Court Refuses to Cancel Bail of Ishrat Jahan in 2020 Delhi Riots Case

New Delhi, 24 /4 (H.S.): A bench of the Delhi High Court headed by Justice Navin Chawla has dismissed Delhi Police's plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to accused Ishrat Jahan in the case relating to the alleged conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots. The bench observed that Ishrat Jahan had been granted bail by the trial court four years ago and that a substantial period had elapsed without any allegation of her violating the conditions of bail. In these circumstances, the court held that there was no ground to set aside the earlier bail order and accordingly rejected the police's application. Ishrat Jahan was originally granted bail on March 14, 2022, by the Karkardooma Sessions Court. She had been arrested on February 26, 2020, in connection with the violence that



erupted in northeast Delhi. A First Information Report against her was registered under Sections 109, 147, 148, 149, 186, 307, 332, 353 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code, as well as relevant provisions of the Arms Act. Police allege that she made provocative speeches, telling the crowd: "We may die, but we will

not move from here; even if the police does anything, we will take our freedom," and that on February 26, 2020, police personnel were pelted with stones and shots were fired at Jaffrabad in the Jagatpuri area. In the broader conspiracy case registered under the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act, charge sheets have been filed against 18 accused, including Safoora Zargar, Tahir Hussain, Umar Khalid, Khalid Saifi, Ishrat Jahan, Miran Haider, Gulphishan, Shifa Ur Rahman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Shadab Ahmad, Tasleem Ahmad, Salim Malik, Mohammad Salim Khan, Athar Khan, Sharjeel Imam, Faizan Khan, Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita. Among these, Ishrat Jahan, Safoora Zargar, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal, Gulphishan Fatima, Miran Haider, Shadab Ahmad and Mohammad Salim Khan have already been granted bail. The High Court made clear that its order rejecting the cancellation plea does not amount to any opinion on the merits of the larger case, which remains pending trial.

## Centre Signs MoUs with Delhi University, DSE for Maritime Sector Development and Skill Building

New Delhi, 24 April (H.S.): To promote the development of the maritime sector in the country, capacity building, and skill-based education, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has signed significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Delhi University and the Delhi School of Economics. Under these agreements, maritime education, training, skill development, research, curriculum development, and employment-oriented programmes will be advanced to prepare skilled human resources for this sector. The event, held at the Swami Vivekananda Auditorium of the Delhi School of Economics, was graced by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal as the chief guest. Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General of Research and Information System

for Developing Countries (RIS), Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh, Delhi School of Economics Director, along with several academicians, policy experts, and students, were present on the occasion. The programme featured the exchange of MoUs, technical sessions, student interactions, and a panel discussion on the 'Blue Economy'. The agreements will boost maritime capacity building and skill development initiatives. Core and elective courses related to maritime subjects will be developed at the university level, training materials will be prepared and shared with various institutions, joint research projects, seminars, and conferences will be organised, and knowledge dissemination will occur through publications and reports. Students will receive professional guidance for

employment in this sector, with special training focused on priority areas under the Maritime Amritkaal Vision 2047. Sonowal stated that the maritime sector will play a transformative role in accelerating India's economy and contribute significantly to achieving the goal of a developed India. Over 95 percent of the country's total trade occurs via sea routes, making comprehensive development of this sector essential. He highlighted that the government is continuously working to strengthen the network of over 11,000 kilometres of coastline, 12 major and more than 200 non-major ports, and 111 national waterways. In 2025-26, major ports handled over 915 million tonnes of cargo, while national waterways capacity has reached 145 million tonnes, with a target of 200 million tonnes by 2030.

## US Moves to Encircle Iran in Hormuz Amid Deal Push; Tehran Says 'We'll See'

Washington/Tehran, 24 /4(H.S.): The US military is currently planning to target Iran's existing defense positions in the Strait of Hormuz. Should the ceasefire fail, US forces could launch coordinated strikes on Iranian military bases at the signal. Multiple sources familiar with the developments have confirmed this. Iran appears unperturbed by such preparations. The Supreme Leader stated that decisions will be taken according to circumstances. "We will not back down from war," he affirmed. According to reports from CNN, The Times of Israel, and Fox News, US military officials are preparing to dismantle Iran's strategic capabilities in the Strait of Hormuz if the current ceasefire collapses. These strikes could focus on the Hormuz Strait, the southern Arabian Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump stated that Iran must halt funding to Hezbollah to secure a permanent ceasefire agreement with America. He made these remarks



to journalists in the Oval Office after chairing the second round of ambassador-level talks between Israel and Lebanon. Notably, recent negotiations with Iran have primarily centered on the nuclear issue. The ongoing blockade in Hormuz is causing massive disruption to the global economy. On Thursday, Trump posted on Truth Social that a rift exists between Iran's Islamic

Revolutionary Guard Corps and the government. He described this divide as a major obstacle to a diplomatic deal. "Iran is having a very hard time figuring out who their real leader is," Trump wrote. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei immediately responded. He said Trump is under a misconception. "In truth, an extraordinary sense of unity has permeated among the

citizens," he noted. Khamenei emphasized that the people's solidarity has grown even stronger and more resolute. "The enemy must fully understand this. Iran will not allow the enemy's intentions to succeed. We will confront every situation." He added that Trump, as a leader defeated in war, is now spreading new rumors of discord.

## Japan To Release Additional 20 Days' Of Oil Reserves From May 1

Tokyo, 24/4 (H.S.): Amid growing uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the Japanese government has announced that it will begin releasing additional oil reserves worth around 20 days from May 1, local media reported on Friday. Tensions continue in and around Strait of Hormuz, the narrow maritime corridor linking the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea, through which about one-fifth of global oil trade passes, ever since the conflict erupted in West Asia. The Japanese government's decision comes after the initial release of some 50 days' worth of oil from reserves held by the state and others to stabilise the energy supply in Japan after the conflict erupted in West Asia, Japan's Kyodo News agency reported. According to Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the second release will free up 5.8 million kilolitres worth 540 billion yen (USD 3.4 billion). Japan relies on West Asia for over 90 per cent of its crude oil imports, majority of which passes through the Strait of Hormuz. On April 23, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi held a telephonic conversation with



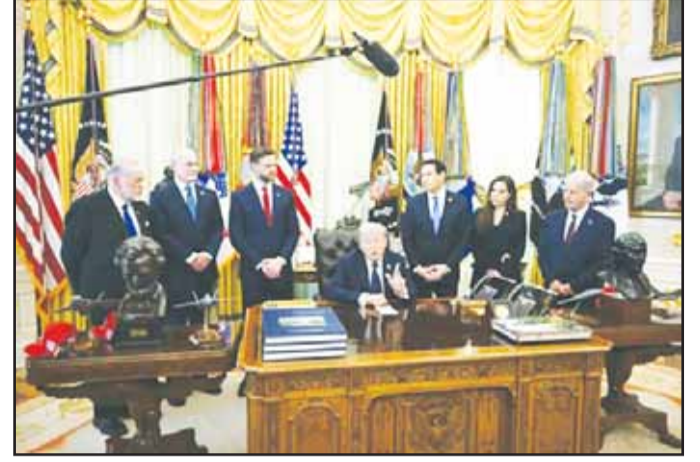
Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and expressed sympathy with Saudi Arabia over human and material damage caused by attacks from Iran. She conveyed Japan's stance that ceasefire should be maintained and called for de-escalation of the situation, ensuring the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, is steadily achieved as soon as possible. Takaichi called it important that the US and Iran

reach a final agreement through talks, according to the statement released by Japanese Prime Minister's Office. Takaichi stated that Japan has supported the talks between the United States and Iran as well as the diplomatic efforts of the mediating countries. Takaichi expressed her appreciation for Saudi Arabia's continued supply of crude oil to Japan via Yanbu Port even after the outbreak of the situation and requested cooperation toward the

expansion of energy supply to Japan. "In response, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed expressed Saudi Arabia's intention to respond positively in order to ensure energy supply to markets including Japan. He also stated that Saudi Arabia would continue to cooperate with Japan to stabilize the situation, including ensuring safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz," Japan Prime Minister's Office stated in a release.

## Trump Announces Three-Week Ceasefire Extension Between Israel and Lebanon

Washington, 24 /4 (H.S.): In a breakthrough hosted by the United States, Israel and Lebanon reached an agreement on a three-week military ceasefire during ambassador-level talks in Washington on Thursday. President Donald Trump made the announcement following discussions with both sides at the conclusion of the meeting. Trump expressed delight over the success of the peace talks, which were mediated by the U.S. State Department. According to reports from CBS News and Al Jazeera, Trump declared after the second round of peace talks at the White House on Thursday that the ceasefire between the two nations has been extended for three weeks. He posted on Truth Social: "The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended for three weeks." The initial 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon had taken effect on April 16. The president stated that the agreement came after a meeting in the Oval Office, attended by Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michelle Issa, and high-level representatives from Israel and Lebanon. Trump wrote: "The meeting went very well. I look forward to hosting Israeli Prime



Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in the near future." Speaking to reporters, Trump said Iran must stop funding the Lebanon-based terrorist group Hezbollah, calling it essential for peace. Meanwhile, the Iran-backed Hezbollah issued a statement saying: "In response to defending Lebanon and its people against the Israeli enemy's ceasefire violations and targeting the Yater town in southern Lebanon, we have targeted the Shlomi settlement with a barrage of rockets." The Israeli military posted on social media that it had intercepted several rockets entering Israeli territory from Lebanon. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that this rocket attack followed an earlier Israeli

strike on southern Lebanon on Thursday, which killed three people. Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz stated that his country is prepared to resume war against Iran and is awaiting a green light from the United States. In response, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is ready to confront any scenario. Protests continue internationally over the killing of Lebanese journalist Amal Khalil. Lebanon's ambassador to the United States, Nada Hamadeh Moawad, briefly addressed reporters at the White House. Speaking to Lebanon's LBCI broadcaster, Moawad said: "We presented Lebanon's position regarding stopping Israeli violations and the destruction in the south. We promised President Trump that we will make Lebanon great again."

## Trump Signals Possible Military Action Against Iran, Says No Rush For Deal

Washington, 24 /4 (H.S.): US President Donald Trump signalled that the United States could resume military action against Iran if negotiations fail, while insisting he is in "no rush" to conclude a deal after weeks of conflict. "I could make a deal right now... but I want to have an everlasting," Trump said, adding that he would "finish it up militarily with the other 25 per cent of the targets" if Tehran refuses to agree. The remarks come amid a fragile pause in hostilities following a US-led military campaign that Trump said had already "totally defeated their military" within weeks. "We've hit about 75 per cent of our targets," he said, describing damage to Iran's naval, air and missile capabilities. Trump said Washington retains "total control" over the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and has kept it effectively closed to pressure Iran economically. "If we open the strait, that means they're going

to make \$500 million a day. I don't want them to make \$500 million a day until they settle this thing," he said. The President indicated that Tehran's leadership remains unstable following sustained strikes. "They don't even know who is leading the country... they're fighting like cats and dogs for who's going to control," he said. Despite earlier suggesting the conflict could end within four to six weeks, Trump declined to set a timeline for a resolution. "I don't want to rush it... we have plenty of time," he said, arguing that Iran is under greater pressure due to economic strain and disrupted oil flows. He acknowledged short-term economic impact on Americans, including fuel prices. "For a little while," he said when asked if costs would rise, but framed it as necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. "This is all about a nuclear weapon. They cannot



have the nuclear bomb, and they're not going to have the nuclear bomb," Trump said. At the same time, Trump ruled out the use of nuclear weapons by the United States. "No, I wouldn't use it. A nuclear weapon should never be allowed to be used by anybody," he said. He also highlighted a humanitarian intervention, saying eight women facing execution in Iran would instead be released following a US appeal. The remarks reflect a dual-track approach combining military pressure with conditional diplomacy, with Trump emphasising that any agreement must permanently block Iran's nuclear ambitions.

## Trump Faces Backlash From Indian American Leaders Over Remarks On India

Washington: Indian American lawmakers and community leaders have strongly condemned remarks by Donald Trump targeting Indian immigrants and India, calling them offensive, divisive and harmful to bilateral ties. Ami Bera, the longest-serving Indian American Member of Congress, said he was proud of his heritage and of the United States. "As the son of immigrants from India, I take great pride in both my heritage and in the country that gave my family the opportunity to build a better life," he said. "My parents came to the United States legally in search of that opportunity. My mother spent 35 years working as a public school teacher. My father worked as an engineer. They raised my brothers and me with a deep belief in hard work, public service, and giving back to the country that welcomed them," Bera said. Calling himself "a product of that American story," he added: "I attended California's public schools from kindergarten through medical school, became a doctor, and now have the privilege of serving our nation in Congress. That is what the American Dream looks like." Bera described Trump's comments as "offensive, ignorant, and beneath the dignity of the office he holds". He said they reflect "a fundamental misunderstanding of who we are as a nation": "America has always been strengthened by generations of immigrants who come here, work hard, and contribute to our country. They do not weaken America — they strengthen it," he said. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi also criticised Trump for amplifying what he called a "racist rant". "Donald Trump's decision to amplify a racist rant attacking India and immigrants is disgraceful and beneath the office he holds," he said. "His rhetoric doesn't just insult millions of Indian Americans and one of our most important global partners—it undermines the values that have made America a nation of opportunity and innovation," Krishnamoorthi added.

## India's Vision Can Guide Global Unity: RSS

Washington, 24 /4 (H.S.): RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale outlined a civilisational vision of India rooted in unity, diversity and sustainability, arguing that the country is positioned to play a decisive role in shaping a more harmonious global order. Addressing an exclusive dinner reception on "India's Global Vision and Role in the Emerging World" in the Washington area, Hosabale said India's philosophical traditions offer a framework to address modern global challenges, from social fragmentation to environmental stress. "The vision of India... is that there is a oneness of unity and the oneness is present in all being, living and non-living," he said, stressing that this idea forms the basis of India's worldview. He argued that while humanity has made material progress, it faces deep contradictions. "We have multiplied our possessions, but our values... we have not," he said, describing a world with "more knowledge, but less judgment... more experts, but more problems." Hosabale said



India's approach differs in its attempt to balance material advancement with spiritual understanding. "India philosophy being that recognises nature as mother... enough for our need... but not to fulfil our greed," he said, linking traditional thought to contemporary debates on sustainability. He emphasised that diversity should be a strength, not a source of conflict. "Diversity

should be celebrating... the beauty of human society," he said, adding that cultural uniqueness must coexist with a broader sense of unity. Expanding on the idea of global harmony, Hosabale said human society has long experimented with faith and relationships at multiple levels — "human to human... human being and nature... and the human being and the creator" — but stressed

that these paths ultimately lead to a common truth. "The truth is one, and there will be many ways to approach," he said. Framing India's global role, Hosabale said the country's civilisational experience supports the idea of a shared human future. "When India say the world is one family, it says it from some experience of practice," he said, pointing to historical examples of religious communities living peacefully in India. He added that India's rise must be anchored in internal strength. "If India has to play that role, India has to be a self-confident, prosperous society," he said, underlining the need to combine "modernity" with "cultural ethos and civilisation values." Hosabale also said India's global engagement has historically been non-expansionist. "India has never invaded anything. India has not enslaved anybody," he said, adding that Indians abroad have "contributed in nation building" while maintaining harmony in their host societies. Foreign policy scholar Walter Russell Mead reinforced the argument, saying a "strong, fully developed self-

confident, outward looking India" could reshape global geopolitics and reduce the risk of conflict, particularly in Asia. "The world needs a vibrant, developed, harmonious, strong India," Mead said, adding that India's growth is "critically important for all of humanity." Academic Walter Andersen, who has studied the RSS for decades, described the organisation as a "stabilising influence" in India, citing its emphasis on "patriotism" and its ability to adapt to changing social needs. Hosabale also highlighted India's potential to offer solutions beyond geopolitics, including in health and lifestyle. He said the world is increasingly looking to India "on the ways of yoga" and other traditions that promote balance and wellbeing. The event brought together community leaders, scholars and policymakers for a discussion on India's expanding global footprint and its philosophical contributions to international discourse. India's growing global role has been shaped by its economic rise, demographic strength and increasing diplomatic engagement across regions.

## Vedanta Aluminium Recognized as TNFD Early Adopter, Puts Nature at Core of Business Strategy

Bhubaneswar, 24/4(DMS)—Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, has been recognized as an early adopter for its first Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) report, released in 2025. The company also reaffirmed its goal of No Net Loss by 2050, signalling a strategic shift towards embedding nature and biodiversity into its core business framework. The TNFD marks a significant step in strengthening Vedanta Aluminium's approach to nature-related risk management. Through the assessment, the company has mapped its dependencies, impacts and risks across operations, identifying priority ecosystems and material water, and biodiversity-related challenges across its value chain. This exercise enhances the organisation's ability to integrate nature-linked considerations into decision-making. With this step, Vedanta Aluminium joins a select group of global metals and mining companies to adopt the TNFD framework. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Being recognised as a TNFD early adopter marks a significant step in embedding nature considerations into our core business decision-making. Our focus remains on strengthening transparency, addressing nature-related risks and advancing



responsible growth through efficient resource use. Through this approach, we aim to create long-term value for all stakeholders." The company's progress is supported by measurable improvements in its environmental performance. The company has planted over 2.9 million trees as of FY25, with a target to reach 7 million trees by FY30. These initiatives support habitat restoration, carbon sequestration and soil conservation. The company has adopted nature-based solutions such as bamboo plantations to strengthen structural vegetation while delivering ecological benefits. Additional interventions include the development of fruit

orchards, medicinal plant gardens and artificial nesting habitats to enhance local biodiversity and promote thriving ecosystems around operational areas. Vedanta Aluminium continues to advance its decarbonisation roadmap alongside nature action. Since FY21, the company has reduced greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 8.96% achieving 17.01 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of aluminium, even as production scaled up. In FY25, the company consumed 1.57 billion units of renewable energy and is working towards increasing renewable mix in the operations. Further strengthening its resource efficiency approach, the company has achieved 100% utilisation of fly ash,

reinforcing its circular economy practices. Its water stewardship initiatives have resulted in more than 16 million cubic metres of water recycled annually with a 15.6% water recycling rate, and a roadmap to achieve Net Water Positivity. Vedanta Aluminium's sustainability performance continues to be benchmarked against global standards and frameworks. The company was featured in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2026, placing among the top 10% of companies globally and ranking #2 in its sector for the third consecutive year. This recognition reflects a broader commitment to transparency, responsible growth and continuous improvement.

## Third-Day Rout: Sensex and Nifty Close Sharply Lower, Wiping Out 4.9 Lakh Crore in Investor Wealth

New Delhi, 24/4(H.S.): India's domestic equity markets ended sharply weaker for the third consecutive day on Friday, shedding a massive 4.9 lakh crore in investor wealth amid broad-based selling pressure. Both the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty snapped their intra-day recoveries to close firmly in the red, extending the recent string of losses. Market trading opened on a weak note, with the Sensex starting at 77,483.80, down 180.20 points, and the Nifty at 24,100.55, down 72.50 points. Soon after the opening bell, aggressive buying briefly pushed the Sensex up by over 225 points to 77,710.82 and the Nifty by about 105 points to 24,206, both entering the green zone. However, the gains were short-lived as renewed selling pressure pulled both indices back into negative territory. By the afternoon, continuous selling had dragged the Sensex down 1,306.95 points from its intraday high to 76,403.87, before a late-session buying wave trimmed the losses. The index finally closed 999.79 points lower, or 1.29 percent, at 76,664.21. Similarly, the Nifty plunged 392.35 points from its mid-day peak to 23,813.65, but clawed back 84.30 points to shut 275.10 points lower, or 1.14 percent, at 23,897.95. All sectoral indices ended in the red as selling spread across the board. The Nifty



T index recorded the steepest fall, tumbling 5.29 percent due to heavy liquidation in software counters. Automobiles, capital goods, consumer durables, FMCG, healthcare, metals, oil & gas, public-sector enterprises, and the broader tech index also closed lower, reflecting a risk-averse mood. The broader market mirrored the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap index slipping 0.96 percent and the Nifty Smallcap index down 0.87 percent. On the NSE, 2,967 stocks traded, of which only 667 advanced while 2,300 ended lower, underscoring the lopsided selling pressure. Among Sensex components, just 5 out of 30 shares closed higher, while 25 slipped; on the Nifty 50, 12 advanced and 38 declined. The sharp correction took

a heavy toll on market capitalisation. The combined market cap of BSE-listed companies fell from 7466.40 lakh crore at Thursday's close to 7461.50 lakh crore (provisional) by Friday's end, wiping out approximately 4.9 lakh crore in investor wealth. Top Sensex gainers included Coal India (+1.19 percent), Trent Limited (+1.08 percent), Nestlé (+0.77 percent), Hindalco Industries (+0.67 percent), and State Bank of India (+0.63 percent). On the losing side, major market cap-heavyweights dragged the indices lower: Infosys slumped 6.93 percent, HCL Technologies fell 5.82 percent, Tata Consultancy Services lost 4.95 percent, Tech Mahindra declined 4.43 percent, and Sun Pharmaceutical dropped 3.55 percent, making them the top five losers on the Nifty 50.

## Gold Prices Fall in Bullion Markets, Silver Sees Sharp Decline

New Delhi, 24/4(H.S.): Gold prices continued their downward trend for the fifth consecutive day in early trading at domestic bullion markets today. Silver followed suit with a significant drop. Gold became cheaper by ₹1,100 to ₹1,200 per 10 grams, while silver declined by up to ₹5,000 per kilogram. Internationally, gold fell 0.49 percent to \$4,675.50 per ounce today. Silver traded at \$76.37 per ounce. This global weakness has led to lower spot prices for gold and silver in India as well. Across most bullion markets in the country, 24-carat gold traded between ₹1,53,540 and ₹1,54,250 per 10 grams today, 22-carat gold sold in the range of ₹1,40,740 to ₹1,41,390 per 10 grams. The sharp fall in silver prices brought it to ₹22,59,900 per kilogram in Delhi's bullion market. In Delhi, 24-carat gold traded at ₹1,53,690 per 10 grams, with 22-carat at ₹1,40,890 per 10 grams. Mumbai saw 24-carat at



₹1,53,540 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,740 per 10 grams. Ahmedabad recorded 24-carat at ₹1,53,590 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,790 per 10 grams. Chennai quoted 24-carat gold at ₹1,54,250 and 22-carat at ₹1,41,390 per 10 grams. Kolkata had 24-carat at ₹1,53,540 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,740 per 10 grams. Bhopal

listed 24-carat at ₹1,53,590 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,790 per 10 grams. Lucknow's bullion market saw 24-carat gold at ₹1,53,690 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,890 per 10 grams. Patna quoted 24-carat at ₹1,53,590 and 22-carat at ₹1,40,790 per 10 grams. Jaipur recorded both at ₹1,53,690 and ₹1,40,890 per 10 grams respectively.

## Mehul Telecom Makes Strong Stock Market Debut, IPO Investors in Profit

New Delhi, 24/4(H.S.): Shares of telecom company Mehul Telecom Limited listed with a premium on the stock market today, delighting its IPO investors. The shares, issued at ₹98 under the IPO, debuted on BSE's SME platform at ₹108—a premium exceeding 10 percent. Volatile Trading After Listing Post-listing buying support lifted the shares to ₹109.90. Profit-taking triggered selling pressure, pulling them down to ₹104. After sustained buying and selling, the shares traded at ₹107.75 by 10:45 a.m., leaving IPO investors with a 9.95 percent gain or ₹9.75 per share. The ₹88.02 crore IPO, open from April 17-21, received overwhelming response, subscribed 44.91 times overall. The QIB portion was subscribed 32.5 times, NII category 79.38 times, and retail portion 37.41 times. It issued 28,29,600 equity shares of ₹10 face value. Proceeds will fund working capital needs and



general corporate purposes. According to claims in the DRHP filed with SEBI, Mehul Telecom's financial health has strengthened steadily. The company reported a net loss of ₹1 lakh in FY 2023-24 but turned profitable in FY 2024-25 with

₹5.74 crore net profit. For April-December 2025, net profit reached ₹7.07 crore. Debt levels increased during this period. The company was debt-free at the end of FY 2023-24 but carried ₹7 lakh debt by FY 2024-25 end. By December 31, 2025, debt stood at ₹3.72

crore. Net worth grew from ₹9 lakh in FY 2023-24 to ₹17.10 crore in FY 2024-25, reaching ₹24.18 crore by December 2025. EBITDA rose from ₹3.04 crore in 2023-24 to ₹8.02 crore in 2024-25, and further to ₹9.71 crore by end-December 2025.

## Stock Markets Extend Decline for Third Straight Day, Sensex and Nifty Tumble in Early Trade

New Delhi, 24/4(H.S.): Weak global cues and surging crude oil prices have triggered a third consecutive day of declines in domestic stock markets during early trading today. Markets opened lower, briefly recovered on buying support before selling pressure resumed, pushing both Sensex and Nifty back into red territory. After the first hour of trade, Sensex was down 0.90 percent while Nifty fell 0.80 percent. After the initial hour, heavyweight stocks showed divergence. Coal India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Auto, Nestle, and Grasim Industries traded 0.75 to 1.68 percent higher. Conversely, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceutical, and TCS



shares declined between 2.46 and 4.14 percent. Of 2,762 actively traded stocks so far, 725 advanced while 2,037 declined. Among Sensex's 30 constituents, five stocks

traded green on buying support, but 25 remained under selling pressure. In the Nifty 50, 12 stocks gained while 38 fell. Sensex Trading Trajectory BSE's Sensex

opened 180.20 points lower at 77,483.80. Initial buying lifted it to 77,710.82 in green territory, but heavy selling soon reversed gains. By around 10 a.m., it slipped to 76,829.10 before trading at 76,961.70—down 702.30 points—at 10:15 a.m. After the first hour, NSE's Nifty opened 72.50 points down at 24,100.55, climbed about 105 points to 24,206 on early buying, then faced selling pressure. It breached 24,000 before hitting 23,944.10 around 10 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., Nifty traded at 23,979.90, down 193.15 points. Previous Session's Close On Thursday, Sensex had closed 852.49 points or 1.09 percent lower at 77,664. Nifty ended 205.05 points or 0.84 percent down at 24,173.05.

New Delhi, 24/4(H.S.): Ongoing tensions in West Asia have driven crude oil prices upward for the fifth consecutive day in international markets today. Brent crude surged to \$107 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude reached \$97.60 per barrel, though a slight decline followed later. Peace talks between the United States and Iran have been postponed, and confrontations over the Strait of Hormuz have nearly halted oil supplies through this critical maritime route, with no immediate resolution in sight. This disruption continues to fuel the upward trend in crude prices. Brent crude opened above \$105 at \$106.12 per barrel today and quickly climbed to \$107. By 10 a.m. Indian Standard Time, it was trading at \$105.99 per barrel, up 0.90 percent. WTI crude opened above \$96 at



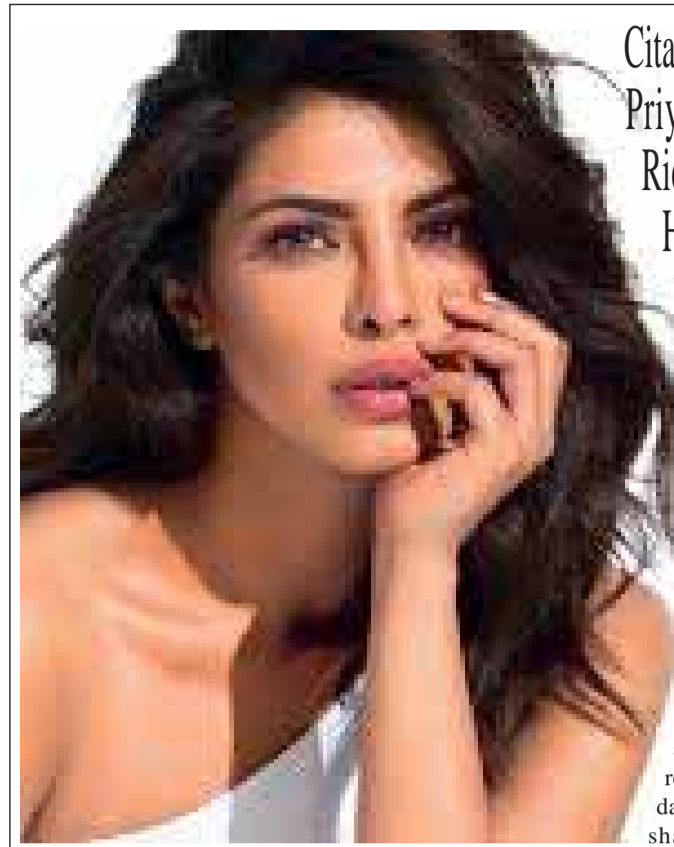
\$96.77 per barrel and peaked at \$97.60 before a minor pullback. At 10 a.m. IST, it traded at \$96.38 per barrel, reflecting a 0.55 percent gain. The conflict that erupted in late February in West Asia has rattled global petroleum markets, severely curtailing oil and gas supplies from the Persian Gulf due to the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The US has imposed a blockade on Iran to exert

pressure, while Iran seeks to keep the strait closed to international traffic. Analysts indicate no prospect for immediate peace talks between the US and Iran, given their rigid stances, making short-term resumption of shipping and oil tanker traffic through the strait unlikely. Global crude supply challenges will likely persist, sustaining price upward momentum.



## Bhooth Bangla Crosses Rs 127 Crore Worldwide in Six Days

Akshay Kumar's horror comedy *Bhooth Bangla* crossed Rs 127 crore worldwide in six days, maintaining momentum despite mixed reviews and competition from *Dhurandhar 2*. The film earned Rs 6.15 crore in India and Rs 2 crore overseas on Day 6, bringing its global gross to Rs 127.37 crore. India's net collections now stand at Rs 78.90 crore, while gross domestic earnings reached Rs 93.87 crore. Overseas collections total Rs 33.50 crore. The Priyadarshan directorial opened strongly, crossing Rs 100 crore worldwide in just four days. Paid previews on April 16 added Rs 3.75 crore before the official release on April 17. The film collected Rs 12.25 crore on Day 1, Rs 19 crore on Day 2, and Rs 23 crore on Day 3. After a dip on Day 4 with Rs 6.75 crore, the movie rebounded on Day 5 with Rs 8 crore. Industry trackers noted that *Bhooth Bangla* ran across 11,584 shows nationwide on Day 6. The film's steady performance highlights Akshay Kumar's continued box office appeal and his successful reunion with director Priyadarshan after 16 years. The ensemble cast includes Wamiqa Gabbi, Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Jisshu Sengupta, Mithila Palkar, Rajesh Sharma, and the late Asrani in his final screen appearance. With strong collections and positive audience turnout, *Bhooth Bangla* has taken the lead over *Dhurandhar 2* in its first week.



## Citadel Season 2 Trailer Out: Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden Return for High-Stakes Spy Mission

The much-awaited trailer of *Citadel* Season 2 has finally been released, bringing back Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden in an intense, globe-trotting spy adventure. The new season promises bigger action, deeper intrigue, and higher emotional stakes. Trailer Teases Darker, More Intense Storyline The trailer offers a glimpse into a high-risk mission where former elite agents reunite to combat a powerful global threat. Nadia Sinh (Priyanka Chopra Jonas), Mason Kane (Richard Madden), and Bernard Orlick (Stanley Tucci) return as the core trio navigating a dangerous world of espionage. The shadowy Manticore emerges as a central threat, pushing the agents into a mission filled with action, betrayal, and uncertainty. High-Octane Action and Twists Await The trailer highlights intense combat sequences and global locations. A complex web of alliances and betrayals expands the roster of agents and characters. Blurred lines between friend and foe with rising stakes, the narrative suggests that trust will be a major challenge for the protagonists. Fans React with Excitement The trailer has generated strong buzz on social media, with viewers praising the chemistry between Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden. Sleek visuals and cinematic action. Anticipation for a more gripping storyline. Fans have expressed excitement, calling the upcoming season "epic" and "worth the wait." Release Date and Cast Details All seven episodes of *Citadel* Season 2 will premiere on Prime Video on May 6, 2026. Returning and New Cast Members: esley Manville, Ashley Cummings, Jack Reynor, Matt Berry, Lina El Arabi. The series is backed by Amazon MGM Studios and the Russo Brothers' AGBO. *Citadel* is a global spy thriller that follows elite agents working to stop large-scale threats. Created by Josh Appelbaum, Bryan Oh, and David Weil, the show combines action, drama, and espionage in a high-stakes narrative.

## SPORTS

### India Build 3-1 Lead over Canada at Thomas Cup Despite Lakshya Sen's Defeat

New Delhi, 24/4 (H.S.): The Indian men's badminton team has made a strong start to their Thomas Cup campaign, taking a 3-1 advantage over Canada in their opening tie despite a loss by Lakshya Sen. The match is being held in Fårde, Denmark, with Kidambi Srikanth's contest still pending. Ayush Shetty, the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, and the doubles pair of Haritha Haran and M. R. Arjun all won their respective matches, putting India in a commanding position. Ayush Shetty defeated Brian Yang 21-13, 21-17 in straight games, while Satwik-Chirag overcame Jonathan Lai and Kevin Lee 21-10, 21-11, further strengthening India's lead. Haritha Haran and Arjun then blanked Tyler Alexander Lindeman and Nyl Yakura 21-



7, 21-7 to seal the tie in India's favour. India's first setback came when Lakshya Sen lost a hard-fought opening singles match to Victor Lai, 21-18, 19-21, 10-21, giving Canada an early lead. Nevertheless, India bounced back emphatically with wins across singles and doubles, moving to a 3-1 advantage and booking a firm foothold in the tie, with Srikanth's match to follow.

### Michael Review: Jaafar Jackson Shines in a Soulful Tribute to Michael Jackson

Director Antoine Fuqua delivers a compelling and emotionally resonant biopic with *Michael*, offering a nuanced portrayal of the life and legacy of global pop icon Michael Jackson. Anchored by a standout performance from Jaafar Jackson, the film balances spectacle with introspection, making it both a tribute and a character study. Plot and Narrative The film traces Jackson's journey from his early days in Gary, Indiana as part of the Jackson 5 to his meteoric rise as a solo superstar. It highlights the influence of his father, Joe Jackson, portrayed effectively by Colman Domingo, whose strict management shaped the young artist's career. The narrative explores key milestones, including: His emergence as a child prodigy. The evolution into a global sensation in the 1970s and 1980s. The impact of his groundbreaking album *Thriller*. His comeback following a life-threatening accident before the Victory Tour. Rather than glorifying or vilifying the legend, the film presents Jackson as a complex individual navigating fame, family pressures, and



industry challenges. Performance Highlights The film's biggest strength lies in its performances. Jaafar Jackson delivers a remarkable portrayal, capturing Jackson's essence without resorting to imitation. His dance sequences and vocal modulation evoke authenticity, bringing the icon to life on screen. Colman Domingo commands attention as Joe Jackson, especially in the film's early segments. Supporting performances by Miles Teller and others add depth to the narrative. Young actor Juliano Krue Valdi impresses as the young Michael, portraying vulnerability and ambition with equal finesse. Music, Cinematography, and Direction One of the film's defining features is its seamless integration of Michael Jackson's music. Iconic tracks like *Billie Jean* are used effectively, recreating historic moments such as the *Motown 25* performance, complete with the legendary moonwalk. The cinematography and production design transport viewers to the 1980s, while the background score enhances the emotional depth of the storytelling. Director Antoine Fuqua ensures the film evolves from a slightly uneven beginning into a powerful and engaging narrative.

### Delhi Pro Volleyball League Aims to Provide Players Economic Stability and Recognition: Jasoda Gulia

New Delhi, 24/4 (H.S.): The Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL), designed with players at its core, seeks to elevate volleyball athletes beyond mere passion by offering professional growth, financial stability, and long-term recognition. Announced in January this year, the league enjoys support from the Delhi Volleyball Association and Delhi Olympic Association. It emerges as a structured, professional, and sustainable platform that will create fresh opportunities for volleyball talent in the national capital. Former volleyball players Neeti Rawat and Jasoda Gulia are actively shaping the league's preparations. This will be India's first women-led



professional volleyball league, crafted by players for players. Neeti Rawat, with extensive experience in sports broadcasting and media, will play a key role in expanding the league's reach and strengthening audience engagement. Jasoda Gulia's expertise in finance and strategic planning will help build

a robust, sustainable sports business, attracting investments, sponsorships, and franchise partnerships. Neeti Rawat stated, "DPVL is a movement to change how volleyball is viewed and experienced in India. As players, we've lived this sport's journey closely and understand its immense potential. We know where it stands today and where it should be—we're committed to bridging that gap." Jasoda Gulia added, "This league builds a future where players compete not just for passion, but with professional development, economic stability, and identity. For us, it's more than a sport—it's life itself, so we deeply understand players' needs and challenges."

Mumbai, 24/4: After generating buzz among fans with the announcement of his next project with director Vamshi Paidpally, superstar Salman Khan has now revealed an update on the film's release date. Salman Khan and Nayanthara starrer *#SVC63* is set to hit theatres on Eid 2027. Taking to his Instagram handle, Salman shared a video from the film set with the caption, "Thoda durr ki sochna chahiye...". That's why announced Eid.... Don't worry iss wali ka bhi bataenge, when the time is right.....Patience, thoda sa sabar.....Mere Jitna he intezar karna padega. Baharhaal jo apka haal hai wo hi mera bhi haal hai.... haha." <https://www.instagram.com/p/DXgKJbniEx6/> On Wednesday, the makers gave fans a sneak peek into Day 1 of the shoot. [https://www.instagram.com/reel/DXb1R1He6DI/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed&ig\\_id=63ab5732b27-4685-ac10-f977b0ec4546](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DXb1R1He6DI/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_id=63ab5732b27-4685-ac10-f977b0ec4546) Recently, Salman Khan took to his Instagram handle to share a picture with director Vamshi Paidpally to announce his new project. He wrote, "Dil, Dimag, Jigar se from



this April with Director Vamshi and Dil Raju." Director Vamshi Paidpally also shared the update on his Instagram, calling it an "honour" to direct Salman Khan. "Honored to collaborate with Salman Khan Sir for my next film. This One is Powered by Heart and Driven by Conviction. April. We Begin."