

Dumani Mail

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Over 67,000 LPG cylinders seized amid West Asia crisis; govt assures fuel supply, boosts support for key sectors

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday said more than 67,000 LPG cylinders have been seized, over 1,160 FIRs registered, and 271 people arrested since March 2026 as part of a nationwide crackdown on hoarding and black marketing amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

At an inter-ministerial briefing held at the National Media Centre, officials from key ministries assured that adequate supplies of petrol, diesel, LPG, and natural gas are being maintained despite global disruptions. The government urged citizens to avoid panic buying and rely only on official information, emphasizing that no shortages have been reported at fuel outlets.

The Centre highlighted that 100% supply is being ensured for domestic LPG, piped natural gas (PNG), and CNG for transport, while commercial LPG supply has been increased to about 70%

of pre-crisis levels, with priority given to essential sectors such as healthcare, education, and pharmaceuticals.

In a significant shift towards cleaner fuels, more than 42,800 PNG consumers have voluntarily surrendered their LPG connections via the MYPNGD portal. Since March, over 5.6 lakh new PNG connections have been activated, with infrastructure created for an additional 2.64 lakh households.

The government also announced measures to support industries affected by supply chain disruptions. The textiles and handicrafts sector has been placed under priority categories for natural gas supply, with allocations maintained at 80% of the past six months' average consumption. Customs duty has been deferred on 29 key textile inputs, while proposals for further duty



relief and anti-dumping duty deferment on select yarns are under consideration.

To support critical industries, more than 8,300 metric tonnes of propylene and 870 metric tonnes of butyl acrylate have been supplied by major refineries since April 9 to the chemical,

pharmaceutical, and paint sectors.

On the energy front, refineries are operating at high capacity with sufficient crude stocks, and domestic LPG production has been ramped up. The government has also reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by ?10

per litre to shield consumers from rising global crude prices, while increasing export levies to ensure domestic availability.

Maritime and aviation sectors are also being closely monitored. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has facilitated

the safe return of more than 2,800 Indian seafarers from the Gulf region, including 24 in the last 24 hours. Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Indian missions in the region are operating round-the-clock helplines and assisting citizens amid evolving conditions. Flight operations are gradually stabilising, with increased services from countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar. Over 100 flights are expected to operate between the UAE and India alone on Tuesday.

Officials reiterated that India is closely monitoring the situation in West Asia and is taking coordinated steps across sectors to ensure energy security, supply chain stability, and the safety of Indian nationals abroad.

Ghaziabad fire: No casualties, residents safely evacuated

Ghaziabad : Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Rahul Kumar said no casualties were reported as trapped occupants were safely evacuated, adding that over 17 fire tenders brought the blaze under control.

A massive fire broke out at Gaur Green Avenue in the Abhay Khand area of Indrapuram in Ghaziabad.

Speaking to ANI, the CFO said, "There are no casualties. Some people were trapped. The fire service has safely evacuated them.

There were five to six flats, from the ninth to the eleventh floor; some were closed, some were open. The fire is being extinguished. By now, we have completely contained the fire."



He added, "More than seventeen of our vehicles are present at the scene. Hydraulics are also present. We have completely controlled the fire. Some flats were empty, and some were partially damaged."

A resident of the society, Ajay Sharma, said the installed firefighting system helped prevent a major tragedy.

"There was a fire on the upper floor. We had a firefighting system installed. The RWA had just installed a new firefighting system. It is working very well. The pipe is inside a box, so people were not able to understand how to open it or what to do. I said, there is no time to think so much. I quickly broke the glass and took out the pipe. No one was injured," Sharma told reporters.

Meanwhile, the fire tenders were rushed to the spot soon after the incident was reported, and efforts are underway to bring the fire under control.

Delhi Gets Rain Relief After Week-Long Heatwave, Temperatures Dip



New Delhi: After nearly a week of intense heat, with temperatures hovering close to 44°C, residents of the national capital finally got some relief on Wednesday morning as rain lashed several parts of the city.

Showers began early in the day, with low-hanging clouds blanketing the skies across Delhi. The rainfall brought down temperatures and eased the persistent humidity.

A sudden shift in weather patterns led to dark clouds, strong winds, and refreshing showers across various parts of the city, including Kushak Road and the Lutyens' Delhi area.

The capital had been under a "yellow alert" for heatwave conditions, with temperatures ranging between 42°C and 45°C over the past few days. However, as predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a western disturbance triggered atmospheric activity, causing a sharp drop in temperature within a short span.

The maximum temperature, earlier expected to touch 41°C, is now likely to settle around 38°C following the rain.

According to the Regional Weather Forecast Centre (RWFC) in New Delhi, light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning,

and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph was very likely across Delhi and adjoining areas during the morning hours.

"Light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) is very likely over Delhi and NCR, as well as in parts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan," RWFC said in a statement.

Further, RWFC indicated that light rainfall is also likely in several areas of Haryana, including Panipat, Hisar, Jind, Bhiwani, and nearby regions, as well as in parts of western Uttar Pradesh. Strong winds and intermittent showers brought a noticeable change in Delhi's weather, with several areas reporting cloudy skies and wet roads following the rainfall.

Meanwhile, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed that Delhi's air quality stood at an AQI of 260, placing it in the "poor" category.

On Tuesday, IMD scientist Akhil Srivastava spoke about weather alerts issued for northern, eastern, and western regions of the country.

He said thunderstorm activity is expected in Punjab and Haryana over the coming days, which may bring down temperatures by 2-4°C.

Srivastava added that an orange alert has been issued for thunderstorms in Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand, while northeastern states are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next week.

"In the northern region, heatwave conditions have persisted for the past 15 days. However, due to a western disturbance centred around 66°E longitude, thunderstorm activity is expected over the Western Himalayas and adjoining plains. Alerts have been issued for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand for thunderstorms and hailstorms. Punjab and Haryana may witness thunderstorms with wind speeds of up to 60 kmph, leading to a drop in maximum temperatures by 2-4°C over the next three days," he said.

On the outlook ahead, he noted that heatwave conditions are likely to continue in parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, and Marathwada for now, but are expected to ease gradually. Eastern India remains under an orange alert for severe thunderstorms, while northeastern states are forecast to receive heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, with red alerts issued in several areas.



ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତ ସତର୍କତା

ଲକ୍ଷଣ

- ପ୍ରବଳ ଝାଳ ବୋହିବା
- ମୁଣ୍ଡ ବୁଲାଇ ଅନ୍ଧାର ଦିଶିବା ଓ ବାନ୍ତି ଲାଗିବା
- ପ୍ରବଳ ଶୋଷ ଲାଗିବା
- ମାଂସପେଶୀ ଟାଣି ହେବା
- ଚର୍ମ ଶୁଷ୍କ, ଲାଲ ଓ ଉତ୍ତପ୍ତ ହେବା
- ଅଚେତ ହେବା କିମ୍ବା ବାତ ମାରିବା

ସତର୍କତା

- ଦିନ ୧୧ଟା ରୁ ୩ଟା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଖରା ତାତି ଅଧିକ ଥାଏ। ଏହି ସମୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ। ଜରୁରୀ କାମ ଥିଲେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ଓ ସାଥରେ ଛତା, ଚପଲ ଓ ପିଇବା ପାଣି ନିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଧଳା ରଙ୍ଗର ଢିଲା ପୋଷାକ, ଛତା ଓ ଜୋତା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ମଝିରେ ମଝିରେ ଛାଇରେ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଖରାରେ କଠିନ ପରିଶ୍ରମ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ/ ଅଧିକ ଦୂର ଚାଲନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- କୌଣସି ପ୍ରକାର ମାଦକ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ସେବନ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ

ପ୍ରତିକାର

- ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଖୋଲା ଓ ଥଣ୍ଡା ଯାଗାକୁ ନେଇଯାଆନ୍ତୁ, ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍./ ଚିନି ଲୁଣ ସର୍ବତ୍ର ସାବାପାଣି ପିଆନ୍ତୁ
- ପୋଷାକ ଯଥାସମ୍ଭବ ଖୋଲି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଧୋଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ, ଓଦା କପଡ଼ାରେ ପୋଛନ୍ତୁ
- ରୋଗୀକୁ ପଞ୍ଜା/ କୁଲର/ ଏସି ପବନରେ ଶୁଆଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଓ ପାଣି ସିଞ୍ଚନ କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ନହେଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା ନେଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରନ୍ତୁ

ବୟସ୍କ ତଥା ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



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Forest dept demolishes ex-minister Damodar Rout's statue : Leaders demand action

Paradip/Jagatsinghpur - The forest department late on Friday night demolished a statue of former minister Damodar Rout near before it was unveiled near Siali beach in Jagatsinghpur district, citing violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms and forest laws, triggering sharp political reactions on Saturday. The vandalism of the statue of former Odisha minister late Damodar Rout in Paradip sparked intense outrage on Sunday, with ex BJD MLA Sambit Rout, Paradip Municipality Chairman Basanta Biswal and Paradip BJD President Kumarabar Nayak voicing their strong condemnation, calling the act a grave insult to the memory of a beloved leader. According to them, the disrespect shown towards Damodar Rout, a leader who

contributed immensely to the development of Paradip and Kujang, is completely unacceptable. The way his statue was smashed and defaced with a hammer after his death is a grave insult to his memory, they said.

The leaders demanded that the government take immediate and firm action against those responsible for the act.

Reacting to this, former MLA Sambit Raoutraya called the incident extremely unfortunate and drew the attention of the Chief Minister to take strict action against those involved in the statue demolition. Similarly, Jagatsinghpur BJP MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai condemned the incident, while Paradip Municipal Chairperson Basant Biswal called the incident a case of dirty politics and demanded that the government look into it.

Opposition to Proposed Airport in Sipasarubali Strong resentment expressed in village meeting

Puri: There is growing opposition among local residents regarding the proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in the Sipasarubali area. At a village meeting held at the Gorual Cyclone Shelter Center in Brahmagiri block, villagers voiced strong dissatisfaction and decided to submit a memorandum to the District Collector on the 30th. The meeting, chaired by Gorual Sarpanch Niranjan Mishra, was attended by intellectuals, social workers, farmer leaders, and a large number of locals. Speakers stated that the proposed international airport in Sipasarubali is misleading and accused the government of making false promises to the people. They pointed out that during earlier public hearings held under Section



16 in Sipasarubali and Sandhapur, local residents had already opposed the project. At that time, villagers had placed several demands before the government, including: Compensation of Rs.10 lakh per family : 30% employment for local youth in the airport based on qualifications

A multi-facility hospital in the Brahmagiri area. Allocation of

2 acres of land in the name of the (village council) for development. However, none of these demands were included under Section 20. Villagers also said that people from Gorual and Ambapada panchayats depend on collecting cashew, mangoes, and firewood for their livelihood. They allege that the government has failed to fulfill its promises regarding their livelihoods. There are also

BJD demanded a judicial inquiry into the Jitu Munda incident.

Keonjhar: A fact-finding team from the BJD, led by Ghasipura MLA Badinarayan Patra, visited Dianali village on Wednesday and met Jitu Munda to ascertain the real facts of the incident. This followed an incident on Monday where a tribal man carried his sister's skeletal remains to a bank to prove her death and claim the money she left in her account. After the incident the bank authority handed over Rs. 19,402 on Tuesday in the presence of administration officials after completing all paperwork within a day. The district administration also paid Rs 30,000 aid from the Red Cross.

This incident broke when a video showing Jitu Munda, 50, carrying his sister's skeletal remains on his back while walking barefoot on the road went viral Monday afternoon. The villagers complained about the rude behaviour of the bank officials as well as the police and local administration, following the incident.

Compensation of Rs.10 lakh per family : 30% employment for local youth in the airport based on qualifications

accusations that certain land mafias and industrialists are conspiring to take control of this land. Farmer leader Bhimsen Swain, advocate Sukanta Pradhan, Panchayat Samiti member Jitendra Behera, Deputy Sarpanch Kalyani Bhoi, and other representatives clearly stated that strong opposition to the proposal will continue.

DAV Public School, Kalinga Area Celebrates Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Jayanti

Talcher, dated 28/04/2026: Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das's 178th birth anniversary was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at DAV Public School, MCL, Kalinga Area. The school's Chairman and Assistant Regional Officer, Shri Prashant Kumar Panda, lit the ceremonial lamp and offered floral tributes to the portrait of the ??? personality, Madhusudan Das. He expressed that such programs inspire patriotism and instill pride in culture among all. The day was also observed as "Lawyers' Day" and "Self-Respect Day."



when the Odia community was facing severe oppression, the emergence of Madhusudan Das brought hope and strength to the nation. He dedicated his entire life to safeguarding Odia culture and establishing Odisha's distinct

identity at the national level in political, economic, and social spheres. His contribution towards the unification of fragmented regions of Utkal and the formation of the Utkal Sammilani in 1903 remains

one of his greatest achievements.

On this occasion, the teachers of the Odia Department highlighted the life and remarkable contributions of Madhusudan Das towards the development of Odisha. They encouraged everyone to follow his ideals of sacrifice, service, and nationalism. Various programs such as speeches and poetry recitations were organized to promote Odia culture, language, and traditions. Finally, all participants collectively took a pledge to preserve and promote the Odia language and heritage.

BJP holds Jan Akrosh Mahila Samabesh in Paradip

Paradip - The BJP organized a massive Jan Akrosh Mahila Samabesh and protest meeting on Tuesday. On this occasion, a protest rally was held from Model Police Station square to the meeting place. Later, a public meeting was held in front of Kamala Cinema Hall. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the role of opposition parties concerning the proposed Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, and criticism was expressed against them. Prominent leaders



present at the meeting included BJP Paradip unit president Subrat Pradhan, Industry Minister representative Sarbeswar Baliarsingh, BJP leader Tapan Tripathy alongwith

many women leaders. Hundreds of women activists and public present in the programme, raising various slogans and making the event a significant public mobilisation.

CM laid the foundation stone for a 400/220 KV grid substation in the mining area

Keonjhar : On the occasion of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das's birth anniversary, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi laid the foundation stone for a 420/220 KV grid substation to be built at a cost of Rs 1647 crore in Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das's Joda Block. The Chief Minister inaugurated five new transmission lines including a sub station for Unchabali and Keonjhar in today's program.



help maintain a balance between industrial and domestic demand. To prevent power disruption, priority will be given to improving the Barbil and Palashpanga grids. We are going to implement the Hotline Maintenance system, so that repairs can be done even when power flows through the wires.

The new State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) built in Mancheswar will act as a 'heart' for the state's power management. In addition, 70 grids will be managed remotely through the STAMS project and faults will be resolved immediately. The Chief

Minister expressed hope that this will make Odisha's future power transmission system world-class, supporting industrial growth. The Chief Minister said that the electricity consumers numbers have been reached 1 crore. To sustain this growth, 34 more new grid substations will be built in the state by 2036. In particular, plans have been made to build 765 KV grids for the first time in Bhubaneswar, Jajpur, Jharsuguda and Gajapati. Similarly, the new State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) in Mancheswar will make power management even smarter.

In his speech, the Chief Minister reiterated his commitment to Keonjhar and said, "I have repeatedly said that Keonjhar will be turned into a golden Kendujhar filled with mines. Keonjhar has been giving prosperity to the state for so long, now it is time to give back its rights to Keonjhar." On this occasion, he informed about the work of the mega ring-road and the upcoming mega steel plant and said that Japan's famous JFE Steel has been proposed to set up a factory in Keonjhar, which will produce future 'electrical steel'. Considering the district's growing industrial

demand, infrastructure is being prepared to meet the needs of the next 20 years.

The responsibility of developing Keonjhar is mine," he said, making a strong statement to ensure Odisha becomes a prosperous state in the next 10 years. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said during the program that our government is working hard to ensure the expansion of the state's entire power system. Today's grid sub-station will not only be in Keonjhar, but will also extend its power supply to Sundargarh, Angul, and Baidia areas. In the coming days, we aim to provide electricity to all the remote areas in Keonjhar area where there is no electricity connection. On the instructions of the Prime Minister, the entire Odisha will come out of the power crisis by 2028.

Keonjhar MP Anant Nayak, Telkoi MLADr. Fakir Mohan Naik, Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud, OPTCL CMD, Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, District Collector Vishal Singh were prominently present in this program. (EOM)

scooters burnt to fire in Keonjhar town



Keonjhar : While the temperature touching to 40 degree centigrade in Keonjhar, two battery scooters burnt to ashes in Baladevjee Colony of Keonjhar town today spread panic among the EV scooter users. Though the exact cause yet not confirm, but due to short circuit the incident happen, the fire department officials suspected.

According to the house owner Akshay Pattanayak, a scooty parked in the premises of his house suddenly caught fire at around 2 pm. Another scooty parked near was also burnt in the fire. The intensity of the fire was so intense that it turned into smoke in that area. His family

members living in the house in the upstairs were suffocating in the smoke.

The fire also burnt the electric wires and ceiling outside the house. Local people unitedly pour water to douse the fire, as fire brigade arrived late. The electricity department staffs came and cut off the electricity connection to that house to avoid accident and informed the fire department. Later, the fire department came and extinguished the fire, said Akshay Patnayak. However, a major accident has been averted. Otherwise, it is believed that the entire house would have been engulfed and the adjoining houses would have been engulfed.

178th Birth Anniversary of Madhu Babu observed in Nuapada

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, April 28 : The 178th birth anniversary of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das (Madhu Babu), the state's first Odia advocate, was celebrated with immense pride by the District Bar Association at the conference hall of Bar Association Nuapada on April 28, 2026 (Tuesday). His birth anniversary is officially observed as Lawyers' Day and Swabhiman Divas in the state.

On this occasion Senior member of Padampur Bar Association Gauntia Kumar Sahu was the Chief Guest while Padmashree Dr.Mahendra Mishra was the Chief speaker.

Lawyers of Bar Association

across the Nuapada gathered to pay tribute to the "Pride of Odisha" and was honor for his immense contributions to the legal profession and his role in the creation of the Odisha province.

President Bar Association Kshitish Bodhankar, Vice President Prakash Chandra Swain, Secretary Pyari Lal Dewangan, former

President Prashanna Kumar Padhi,

Senior advocate Setram Dewangan, Murlidhar Panda, Prakash Senapati, Rajnandini Agrawal alongwith hundreds of advocates and other social workers were present in this programme.

Curtain comes down at Canfest-2026 with staging of Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!

Paradeep (DMS) : The eight day long 23rd National Theatre Festival Canfest-2026 organised by Canmass here at Jayadev Sadan of Paradeep Port Township ended with presentation of Hindi play Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!" written by Vijay Tendulkar by Delhi based troupe Sri Ram Centre of Performing Arts under the direction of renowned director Shri Avtar Sahni. Attending the closing ceremony PPA Dy. Chairman T. Venugopal, Himanshu Khatua, Chairman, Biju Pattnaik Film & Television Institute, Cuttack, Shri

Prabodh Rath, eminent playwright praised Canmass for their endeavour to keep the Theatre alive and giving opportunity to the inhabitants of Paradeep township to witness plays of different taste and culture.

"Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!" is a groundbreaking play by Vijay Tendulkar that provided a bold new voice for Indian theatre. The narrative begins with an amateur theatre troupe that visits a village to perform a play. To entertain themselves, the troupe decides to stage a mock court trial as a form of

amusement. However, what starts as a lighthearted activity quickly escalates into a serious trial filled with genuine accusations and harsh realities. Leela Benare, a schoolteacher, becomes the defendant, facing charges of immorality and extramarital affairs. What initially seems like a fictional trial increasingly lays bare the painful truths of her personal life. Her aspirations, her love, and her yearning for motherhood are condemned as offenses in the eyes of society.

This play sharply critiques the

hypocrisy of patriarchy and the double standards at play, where the freedom of men is celebrated, while women's independence is harshly judged. Leela Benare represents the voice of every woman who seeks to live on her own terms, yet faces condemnation from the very society she belongs to. Through incisive satire, powerful dialogues, and intense emotions, Vijay Tendulkar exposes how society's "court" is in a constant state of session, with women perpetually put on trial.

Beyond the individual tragedy of one woman, the play reflects our

shared social psyche. Audiences react with laughter, shock, and, most importantly, are pushed to contemplate deeply. This is why "Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!" continues to remain impactful, relevant, and thought-provoking, just as it was when it was originally penned. In the end Canmass Secretary Sriman Narayan Misra thanked all the audience, members of Canmass, press media and sponsors for their unstinted support for organising the festival smoothly and assured for staging of more new plays next year.

Model police seized 40 grams brown sugar, One held.

Khordha/29/4: Based on reliable information as per the direction of Superintendent of Police Khordha Vivekanand Sharma under the supervision of SDPO Khordha Nihar Ranjan Pradhan and IIC Model PS Sanjaya Nayak formed team headed by SI, Sasmitha Behera and model police staffs conduct a raid at Panabaraj cricket ground and apprehended the accused person and seized 40 grams of brown sugar and one TVS NTORQ scooter from the possession of the accused. The accused was identified as Siba Prasad Rath(23) vill -Panabaraj, Khordha.

The approximate market value of the seized brown sugar is estimated to be Rs. 4 lakhs. While addressing a press meet at Model PS Khordha, SDPO Nihar Ranjan Pradhan said that the smuggling of brown sugar is a lucrative trade which despite frequent crackdown continues unabated in the district.

Man sentenced to 10 years in prison for rape

Keonjhar : Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra has sentenced Sushil Hembram (24) to 10 years in prison and a fine of Rs 15,000 in a case of rape of a minor girl. The court ordered to one and a half years in prison for failing to pay the fine. On the other hand, the court has also ordered the District Legal Services Authority to provide Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the victim. According to Special Public Prosecutor Patitapaban Natha, the victim had been living in a house in Amrit Bihar, Keonjhar Town for the past 8 years in the house of Pramila Parida, a cousin aunt. On 7 June, 2024, Kalia Mukhi, a cousin of Pramila Parida, along with Sushil Hembram of Nahabeda village in Mayurbhanj district arrived. That day they kidnapped the victim and took her elsewhere. When the victim was not found, Pramila Parida informed the town police station. After receiving the police complaint, the town police station registered a case and arrested Sushil and rescued the girl a few days later. Today, based on the statements of 14 witnesses and the police investigation report, the Fast Track Court Judge pronounced this verdict.

Villagers complain to Collector forcibly drained pond water in summer season.

Khordha -27/4- There is a 'Yogi Bandh' pond in Saltara village in Gediapalli Gram Panchayat, under Bolgarh block, Khordha. The water of that pond is used by villagers and animals of the village. While the government is making arrangements for water supply in various places in view of the intense heat wave, in Saltara village, the husband of Gediapalli GP, Prafulla Tripathy his sons Alok Tripathy and Ashok Tripathy forcibly drained the pond water without any reason. As a result, all the water in the pond has been drained elsewhere and the pond has become dry and empty, resulting in severe dissatisfaction among the villagers. The villagers have filed a written complaint before the Collector, Khordha, alleging that the husband and sons of Gediapalli Sarpancha are employing some miscreants and are threatening the villagers in various ways. They have demanded an investigation into the incident and strict action taken against the guilty.



EPIC group inaugurates trimetro manufacturing campus in ODISHA.

Khordha-29/4--Epic Group, vertically, integrated apparel manufacturers, today inaugurated its state-of-the-art Trimetro Manufacturing Campus in Khordha, Odisha - a landmark US\$100 million investment that sets a new benchmark for sustainable industrial development in India. The Trimetro Manufacturing, Campus was formally inaugurated by Industries Minister, Sampad Swain along with MLA, Khordha Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, and other key dignitaries from the ministry, as well as Mr. Ranjan Mahtani, Founder & Chairman Epic Group, in the presence of senior leadership from Epic Group, key industry stakeholders, and government officials. Backed by a US\$100 million investment, the Trimetro Campus is India's first fully net-zero carbon and net-zero water garment manufacturing facility. Spread across 40 acres, the Trimetro campus represents a powerful convergence of advanced manufacturing, environmental responsibility, and inclusive economic growth. Designed as one of India's most future-ready garment manufacturing facilities, the campus will produce 20 million garments annually for global markets. The project was supported in part by International Finance Corporation (IFC) through a \$100 million debt financing package provided in 2024, which included a sustainability-linked loan and a green loan with sustainability-linked features. The IFC financing supported this facility as well as Epic Group's broader expansion initiatives across the region including operations in Bangladesh. At we believe that industria progress and environmental responsibility go hand in hand. The Trimetro manufacturing campus is the embodiment to this belief - a model for how manufacturing can grow sustainably while contributing to the well-being of people and the plant. This is more than a factory is a blueprint for the future of global manufacturing, said Mr. Ranjan Mahtani, founder & chairman, EPIC group.

The use of Odia language in administration can provide better services to all - ADM, Mr. Beura

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Khordha : A two-day training camp on the use of Odia language in government work was inaugurated at the conference hall of collectorate Khordha with the joint support of the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan "Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department and the District Administration. The program was held under the chairmanship of ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura and Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu, was the chief guest and formally inaugurated the training camp. ADM, Mr. Beura said in his presidential address that "the use of Odia language in administration can provide better services to all." The chief guest Jyoti Shankar Sahu said that by using Odia language, we can provide services at the grassroots level and build a developed village, developed panchayat, developed society, developed Odisha and a developed nation by making all the documents of the district offices 100 percent in Odia language. The master trainers from the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan, Dr. Santosh Kumar Rath, Surendra Mohan Das, Baishab Charan Mohanty, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Mallick, Manoranjan Panigrahi and Special Program Officer, Odia Bhasa Pratisthan Dr. Siddhartha Shankar Padhi who provided detailed training on the use of Odia language in the execution of official documents, letters etc. This two-day training camp will end tomorrow. All officers and employees of the collectorate, all officers and employees of the Zilla Parishad and officers and employees of all the district offices have received training in the camp and training will be provided to them tomorrow as well. This training camp was held under the direct supervision of District Cultural Officer Chaudhuri Aurobindo Das. The staffs of the Odia Bhasa Pratisthan and the District Cultural Office fully cooperated the program.

Collector Inspects Chariot Construction Work



Puri : For the world-famous Rath Yatra, the selection and preparation of chariot wood began on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, and the construction work has been continuing steadily. In this process, the Vishwakarma artisans and Bhoi servitors of the three chariots are actively involved. They are carrying out the construction work

with dedication and commitment. Today, the chariot construction work was inspected by Puri District Collector Divyajyoti Parida along with the Puri Municipal Commissioner. Arugula Sneha They held discussions with the Vishwakarma servitors and spoke about their facilities and requirements.

MLA Om Prakash Mishra Assumes Charge as Chairman of District Planning Committee, Puri

Puri: At the District Collector's office, District Collector Divyajyoti Parida assigned the responsibility of Chairman of the District Planning Committee to Satyabadi MLA Om Prakash Mishra.

With this new responsibility, he stated that he will remain committed to the overall development of the district, proper implementation of public welfare programs, and fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.



Curtain comes down at Canfest-2026 with staging of Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!

Paradip - The eight day long 23rd National Theatre Festival Canfest-2026 organised by Canmass here at Jayadev Sadan of Paradip Port Township ended with presentation of Hindi play Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai! written by Vijay Tendulkar by Delhi based troupe Sri Ram Centre of Performing Arts under the direction of renowned director Shri Avtar Sahni. Attending the closing ceremony PPA CME Sushil Nahak, Sr. DTM Akshay Sahu, PPL unit head Panisamy Velusamy, Himanshu Khatua, Chairman, Biju Pattnaik Film & Television Institute,

Cuttack, Prabodh Rath, eminent playwright praised Canmass for their endeavour to keep the Theatre alive and giving opportunity to the inhabitants of Paradip township to witness plays of different taste and culture.

"Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!" is a groundbreaking play by Vijay Tendulkar that provided a bold new voice for Indian theatre. The narrative begins with an amateur theater troupe that visits a village to perform a play. To entertain themselves, the troupe decides to stage a mock court trial as a form of amusement. However, what



starts as a lighthearted activity quickly escalates into a serious trial filled with genuine accusations and harsh realities. Leela Benare, a schoolteacher, becomes the defendant, facing charges of immorality and extramarital affairs. What initially seems

like a fictional trial increasingly lays bare the painful truths of her personal life. Her aspirations, her love, and her yearning for motherhood are condemned as offenses in the eyes of society. This play sharply

critiques the hypocrisy of patriarchy and the double standards at play, where the freedom of men is celebrated, while women's independence is harshly judged. Leela Benare represents the voice of every woman who seeks to live on her own terms, yet faces condemnation from the very society she belongs to. Through incisive satire, powerful dialogues, and intense emotions, Vijay Tendulkar exposes how society's "Court" is in a constant state of session, with women perpetually put on trial. Beyond the individual tragedy of one woman, the

play reflects our shared social psyche. Audiences react with laughter, shock, and, most importantly, are pushed to contemplate deeply. This is why "Khamosh! Adalat Jaari Hai!" continues to remain impactful, relevant, and thought-provoking, just as it was when it was originally penned. In the end Canmass Secretary Sriman Narayan Misra thanked all the audience, members of Canmass, press media and sponsors for their uninstinct support for organising the festival smoothly and assured for staging of more new plays next year.

Demand for revenue village status to Daitari intensified, locals submitted memorandum to the District Collector

Keonjhar : Daitari Gram Panchayat of Harichandanpur Block, Keonjhar District has thirteen wards but has not a single revenue village. Since the formation of Daitari Panchayat, eight Sarpanchs have represented this Panchayat till now.

The Panchayat office also does not have its own land. More than ten thousand people live in this Panchayat. Seventy percent of the Panchayat is tribal community. There is not a single revenue village in Daitari Panchayat, local says.

As a result, the residents of this place cannot get land lease. Due to the lack of land lease, various schemes of the government cannot reach this Panchayat. Some social workers had been demanding



to declare Daitari as a revenue village.

Under the Forest Rights Act 2006, under the leadership of the Sarpanch of Daitari Panchayat, the residents of three forest villages of Mareda, Perespiting, Nuasahi of Daitari Panchayat have submitted written letters to the District Collector,

Tehsildar, BDO, Forest Department, and Chief Minister of Odisha. Due to the delay in the implementation of the previous letter, a fresh letter was submitted in the presence of the District Collector of Keonjhar at the Harichandanpur Community Development Office on Monday under the

leadership of the Sarpanch of Daitari Panchayat. In this regard, residents of Simal Baghe, Renj Naik, Sinrai Soren, Dadhia Baghe, Vijay Tudu, Ganeshwar Bahadur, Balabhadra Patra, Biswanath Soren, Pith Soren and other villages from Daitari Panchayat have submitted a written letter to the District Collector.

First National Pickleball Tournament in Sambalpur's History

Sambalpur, 28/04 (DMS) :

Pickleball has now found its place in Sambalpur's sporting history. For the first time, a national-level Pickleball tournament was organized in the city on April 25 and 26. Despite limited publicity, the two-day tournament held at The Deuce Racket Club, located near City Station in Sambalpur, successfully marked the city's presence in this fast-growing sport at the national level. The event was conducted under the leadership of club head Swikruti Dash and with the support of PPR-certified Pickleball coach Sumit Panda. Their efforts ensured the smooth and successful completion of the

tournament.

Around 60 players from across the country participated in various categories of the competition.

The winners of different categories were:

Under-12 Singles: Ritik MeherMen's Open Singles: Aditya SatpathyMen's Doubles: Sumit Panda and Yashraj NayakWomen's Singles: Ayushi RoyVeteran Singles: Santosh JenaVeteran Doubles: Udeep Das and Santosh JenaOpen Mixed Doubles: Anshuman Babu and Vedika Dash. During the prize distribution ceremony, Dilip Mohanty from Delhi attended as the chief guest. He spoke about the past, present, and future of Pickleball and encouraged the athletes.

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India & New Zealand

MERCHANDISE trade between India and New Zealand stood at a modest \$1.3 billion in 2024-25. India's share in the island country's total import market of \$47.5 billion last year was just 2 per cent. Billed as historic, the free trade agreement (FTA) aims for a dramatic, long-term shift. The push to diversify exports to a high-income market also opens doors for a larger Indian footprint in the Asia-Pacific region. The positives are many. There are concerns too. The deal, once ratified, will cut or remove tariffs on 95 per cent of exports to India. Conversely, since 58 per cent of New Zealand's tariff lines are already duty-free, its offer to fully open up the field for Indian exporters provides an opportunity, but the gains could be limited in a competitive environment. The risks of a trade deficit in the face of rising imports call for domestic reforms that incentivise innovation and good practices.

Forestry and horticulture exporters from New Zealand could gain a foothold in a market that values scale and reliability. Among fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh as well as Jammu and Kashmir, already reeling under extreme weather patterns, the prospect of cheaper apples or kiwi fruit on sale poses another challenge. New Delhi's quota and time limits may not be enough to assuage apprehensions. A focus on improved crop produce, storage and supply chain strategies is essential.

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Access across 118 services sectors in New Zealand is an encouraging sign. For Indian students and professionals, more visa pathways and post-study work rights are a huge plus. Even as the possibility of uneven benefits looms, doubling trade by 2031 could just be the momentum the partnership needs.

Ladakh Issue

LADAKH has got five new districts ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the Union Territory. The expansion from two districts — Leh and Kargil — to seven is a significant step that was overdue in the vast but sparsely populated region. Remote areas like Nubra, Zaskar and Changthang have been facing problems in accessing basic public services. Smaller administrative units can bring the authorities closer to the people and facilitate quicker delivery of welfare schemes. The prompt appointment of deputy commissioners and police chiefs signals an encouraging intent to ensure governance without delay.

However, this restructuring alone will not satisfy local residents. Ladakh's challenges are not merely bureaucratic; they are deeply political,

However, this restructuring alone will not satisfy local residents. Ladakh's challenges are not merely bureaucratic; they are deeply political, economic and environmental. Local groups, including the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, continue to demand statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

economic and environmental. Local groups, including the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, continue to demand statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. They have sought direct, "decision-level" talks with Shah later this week, describing the scheduled May 22 sub-committee meeting as "inadequate" for resolving the region's long-pending issues. Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was released last month by the Union government after a nearly six-month-long detention, is also keen that a constructive dialogue should be held during Shah's visit.

The Centre has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to Ladakh's development, even though it has remained non-committal on the key demands of statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule. Reforms such as easing regulations in the tourism sector and boosting employment opportunities are part of a vigorous economic push. The optimism surrounding the latest administrative exercise will be justified if it leads to inclusive growth, better governance and meaningful political engagement. However, the government cannot afford to miss the big picture — the strategic importance of Ladakh makes it critical to maintain peace and strengthen law and order. The violent protests in September 2025 were an eye-opener. The aspirations of the Ladakhi people must be fulfilled in a time-bound manner.

Managing Headwinds, Failures, and Success

PRASANNA MISHRA

Life does not confront us in one predictable form. It comes unevenly—sometimes as failure, sometimes as loss, sometimes as a quiet but persistent limitation, and sometimes even as success that unsettles more than it satisfies. Each of these demands management. The real question is not whether challenges will come—they will—but how one stands through them without losing balance.

There are moments in life when the weight feels disproportionate. A student fails to secure admission in a medical college after years of effort. A professional loses a well-paying job overnight. Someone faces a sudden physical constraint that alters the rhythm of daily living. In such moments, it is not merely the event that hurts—it is what the mind begins to say about it: "Everything is over."

That conclusion, though deeply felt, is not true.

Pain is real. Disappointment is real. But the idea that a single event can define the worth of a life is a distortion created in moments of distress. To recognise this distinction is the first step towards resilience.

It is important to say this clearly, yet without harshness: ending one's life is not a solution to failure or loss. It does not resolve the problem; it only prevents the possibility of resolution. Life, by its very nature, is unfinished. Its meaning unfolds over time, often in

The second discipline is to prepare the mind before adversity arrives. Resilience is not improvised in crisis; it is cultivated in ordinary days. Simple, consistent habits matter: maintaining physical activity, engaging in reflective practices—reading, writing, or quiet thinking, sustaining a few honest human relationships

ways that cannot be seen at the moment of crisis.

The first discipline, therefore, is to separate identity from outcome. One may fail at an examination, but one is not a failure. One may lose employment, but one's capacity to work, to learn, and to rebuild remains intact. When identity collapses into a single result, despair becomes overwhelming. When identity stands apart, recovery becomes possible.

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These are not ornamental. They are reserves that sustain us when circumstances turn adverse.

The third discipline is to reduce the scale of the crisis. The distressed mind tends to enlarge the problem until it appears insurmountable. It helps to ask, calmly: What exactly has been lost? What remains? What is the next immediate step?

A missed admission is not the end

of learning. A lost job is not the end of one's usefulness. There are alternative paths, though they may not be visible at once. Clarity emerges through engagement, not withdrawal.

The fourth discipline is to act, even without motivation. Waiting to feel ready can deepen inertia. Small actions—updating a résumé, speaking to someone, beginning a new line of study—restore a sense of agency. And it is this "sense of agency" that slowly counters helplessness.

Success, too, requires management. It can create an illusion of permanence, of invulnerability. A person accustomed only to success often finds failure harder to bear. Therefore, success must be held lightly— as a phase, not a possession; as encouragement, not identity

Similarly, physical challenges demand a reorientation. When the body imposes limits, one is invited—not without difficulty—to discover new forms of strength. Acceptance here is not defeat; it is the beginning of intelligent adaptation.

Underlying all this is a quiet but profound shift: to redefine what it means to live well.

If life is measured only by

achievement, then every failure feels like a collapse. But if life is understood as sustained engagement—with effort, with relationships, with growth—then even setbacks find a place. They become part of the journey, not its end.

There is also a responsibility that extends beyond the self. Every life is connected—to family, to friends, to others who may draw strength simply from knowing that someone endured. To continue living, especially through difficulty, is not merely personal courage; it is also a form of contribution.

What equips a person, then, to face life?

Not brilliance alone, nor favourable circumstance. But something steadier—clarity of thought, disciplined habits, willingness to act, humility in success and courage in failure, and the presence of meaningful human connection. These are not abstract ideals. They can be built—gradually, and deliberately.

In the end, life does not demand that we avoid falling. It asks that we rise, repeatedly, without surrendering the will to continue.

Moments will come when the mind feels clouded, when the future appears closed. In those moments, one need not solve everything. One only needs to hold on to take the next step, however small.

Because this piece of wisdom remains true, even when it is hardest to believe—as long as one is alive, nothing is finally concluded.

Madhu Babu: Architect of Modern Odisha

Tejeswar Patnaik

Utkala Gouraba Madhusudan Das was not merely a leader but the living embodiment of Odia pride, self-respect, and modern Odisha's foundation. At a time when Odia identity faced utter neglect under British rule, he emerged as the fearless voice of linguistic justice, social reform, and political unification. His life remains a timeless inspiration for every Odia committed to the dignity, culture, and progress of Odisha.

Born on April 28, 1848, at Satyabhamapur near Cuttack, Madhusudan Das—reverentially remembered as Madhu Babu—remains the chief architect of modern Odisha and one of the greatest champions of Odia identity. As Odisha celebrates the 178th birth anniversary of Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Das, the occasion calls for reflection on his priceless and selfless sacrifices in safeguarding the Odia language, protecting Odia interests, and shaping the political destiny of the state.

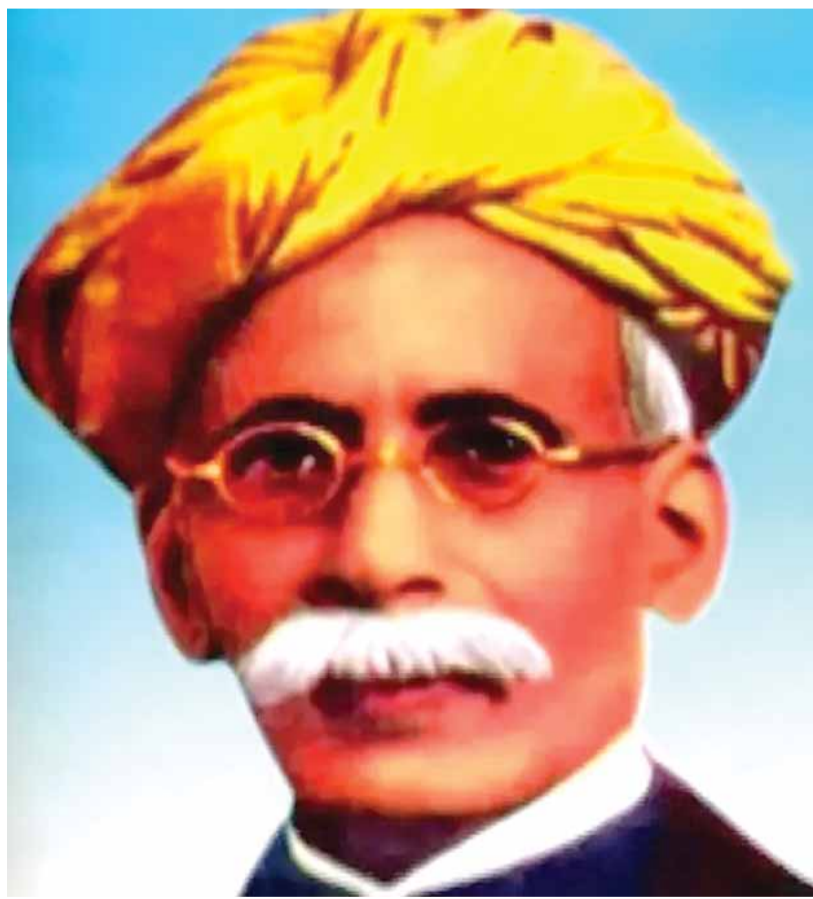
His birth anniversary is also observed as Lawyers' Day in Odisha in recognition of his historic distinction as the first Odia graduate, the first Odia to become a postgraduate, and the first Odia lawyer who brought immense prestige to the state.

Madhu Babu was not merely a political leader; he was a visionary statesman, nation-builder, social reformer, freedom fighter, poet, journalist, industrialist, and an accomplished lawyer. Above all, he was the tallest leader of Odia nationalism who spearheaded the movement for the creation of a separate Odisha province by uniting all Odia-speaking regions during British rule.

At a time when the British administration was neglecting Odisha and her people and when our linguistic identity was in crisis, Madhu Babu emerged as a strong votary of the Odia language. Following the abolition of Odia as the court language in 1895, people protested against the decision. Madhu Babu submitted a memorandum to the Viceroy of India protesting against the abolition of Odia as the court language in Sambalpur, demanding its restoration. His relentless campaign protected the language from administrative neglect. As a result, Odia was restored for use in the court by the British administration.

Much before Mahatma Gandhi launched his salt satyagraha movement, Madhu Babu had raised his voice against injustice by British

Much before Mahatma Gandhi launched his salt satyagraha movement, Madhu Babu had raised his voice against injustice by British Government. In 1888, he strongly protested against the imperial Government's imposition of the Salt Tax in Cuttack and demanded a reduction in the tax burden on the people.



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Madhu Babu took the leading role in the formation of Utkal Sabha in 1881, a socio-cultural platform created for the cultural and economic resurgence of Odias and for the unification of Odia-speaking areas. Through this platform, he promoted Odia literature, culture, and language and organised Odissi and classical musical events to create awareness among the people.

Subsequently, his historic contribution culminated in the formation of Utkal Sammilani on

December 30, 1903, presided over by Sri Ramachandra Bhanjdeo, the King of Mayurbhanj. This became the most powerful platform for the movement for a separate Odisha province. He also encouraged the formation of Utkal Sahitya Samaj and Utkal Chatra Sammilani in the year 1903 to awaken literary and political consciousness among the people of Odisha and mobilise youth for linguistic and cultural assertion.

He also promoted education by arranging scholarships for Odia students studying in Calcutta, believing that education was the strongest instrument for social advancement. Long before the discourse on women's empowerment became mainstream,

Madhu Babu advocated for women's rights and gender justice. His efforts contributed to the establishment of Odisha's first girls' high school and library in Cuttack. His continuous effort paved the way for women to pursue the legal profession.

It is worthwhile to mention that our great leaders like Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Gandhiji admired Madhu Babu for his philanthropy, intellect, and social commitment. Gandhiji described him as a great philanthropist and even visited his native village to acknowledge his immense contribution to Odisha.

His efforts also yielded success. Because of his sustained pursuit, Lord Curzon agreed in 1905 to merge Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Sonepur, and Bamanda areas with the Odisha Division by separating them from the Central Provinces. This was a major milestone in the eventual formation of a separate Odisha province in 1936.

Between 1886 and 1898, he represented Odisha in the annual sessions of the Indian National Congress and repeatedly requested the top leaders of Congress in every session to pressurize British authorities for the creation of a separate Odisha province on linguistic basis. However, as the Congress leaders at national level did not consider his proposal, he gradually distanced himself from the Congress organisation, placing Odisha's interests above party loyalty.

Madhu Babu's legal career was equally distinguished. After studying at the London Missionary Society College and practising law at Alipore Court in Calcutta, he returned to Cuttack in 1881 to serve his people. His legal brilliance was matched by his deep commitment to justice for the downtrodden and marginalised.

One of his greatest legal victories came in defending the sanctity of the Jagannath Temple. In 1886, when the British Government sought to take over the administration of the temple, he strongly objected. He filed a case in the Calcutta High Court demanding that the management be restored to Puri's Gajapati Maharaja. He won the case, thereby protecting one of Odisha's greatest spiritual and cultural institutions.

Madhu Babu never craved personal glory and fame. He always believed in the philosophy that sacrifice for "Utkala Janani"—Mother Odisha—was the duty of everybody. He abhorred personal praise and glorification, and instead continued a life of relentless service for the cause of the people.

From Maa Ganga's Blessings To Modern Highways: PM Modi's Development Revolution In UP

New Delhi, 29/4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again demonstrated his visionary leadership with the inauguration of the 'transformative' Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh. Spanning nearly 600 kilometres, this access-controlled greenfield corridor is not merely a road — it is a symbol of India's accelerating march towards progress under his stewardship. Addressing the gathering in Hardoi on Wednesday, PM Modi invoked the sacred presence of 'Maa Ganga', blending spirituality with modern development. Expressway is both a physical and symbolic blessing, he asserted. In fact, it, according to him, links ancient heritage with cutting-edge infrastructure. Observers say that PM Modi in fact reflected a deep understanding of India's cultural ethos while highlighting, at the same time, the necessity of modernisation. It goes without saying that under PM Modi's leadership, infrastructure development has reached unprecedented speed and scale. What is remarkable is that such a massive project has been completed in under five years. This is something that stands as a testament to his government's



efficiency and commitment, say analysts. This pace defines the "new India"—decisive, ambitious, and future-ready. There is no doubt that the Ganga Expressway is poised to revolutionise connectivity across Uttar Pradesh, linking the commercial hubs of western regions with the agricultural heartlands of central areas and the culturally rich eastern districts. This seamless connectivity is in fact aimed to unlock immense economic potential. The benefit will also be for farmers who have long struggled with access to

markets. According to experts, improved logistics and reduced travel time will directly contribute to increasing agricultural income. Everybody knows that increasing agricultural income is a key priority of PM Modi. The expressway will also be of great use for other areas beyond agriculture. It is set to catalyse industrial growth. With planned industrial corridors along its route, sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather, and handicrafts are expected to flourish. Undoubtedly, Mudra Yojana and One District One Product

(ODOP) are empowering the entrepreneurs. This fact was stressed by the PM. Enhanced connectivity will allow these businesses to grow and reach global markets, he stressed. Uttar Pradesh's remarkable transformation from a state once labelled backward into a rising economic powerhouse was also underlined by the PM in his speech. With ambitions of becoming a trillion-dollar economy, UP is now attracting major investments. The state is also emerging as a manufacturing hub. India's status as the world's

second-largest mobile manufacturer—significantly driven by UP—illustrates this shift, say analysts. In what is being viewed as another significant point is that PM Modi linked economic progress with national security. In this context, he spotlighted the state's role in Defence manufacturing, including the production of advanced systems like BrahMos missiles. He asserted that industrial growth in UP is strengthening India strategically on the global stage. Equally significant is the expansion of connectivity infrastructure beyond roads. From just a handful of airports to over 20 operational ones, including international hubs, Uttar Pradesh is now better connected than ever. The proximity of the Noida International Airport to the expressway further enhances its strategic importance. Significantly, PM Modi placed the Ganga Expressway within the broader vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.' According to political observers, PM Modi's confidence in the people of Uttar Pradesh reflects his governance philosophy—empowering citizens to transform opportunities into prosperity.

Delhi Police Bust Interstate Fake Visa And Job Racket; 3 Arrested

New Delhi, 29/4: The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Wednesday busted an interstate fake visa and overseas job racket that allegedly duped hundreds of job seekers with promises of lucrative employment in countries such as Russia and Turkey, officials said. Three accused persons have been arrested, and several incriminating items, including victims' passports, have been recovered. The arrested individuals have been identified as Salauddin Mansuri alias Haider Khan (38), a resident of Bihar's Siwan; Mohd. Shahzad (34), a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad (Ghaziabad); and Kaushar (32), a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar. According to officials, the operation was carried out by a Crime Branch team led by Inspector Sanjay Kaushik of Prashant Vihar's Northern Range-I. The team had been working on specific intelligence inputs regarding a fake visa racket involved in cheating job seekers under the pretext of overseas placements, officials added. Through sustained fieldwork, technical surveillance, and ground verification, the movements and activities of the accused were closely tracked. Further inputs were developed by Sub-Inspector Narender Singh, including crucial details about one of the victims. Acting on credible information, a raiding team comprising Sub-Inspector Narender Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Virender Singh, ASI Hukam Chand, Head Constable Sanjeev Jakhar, Constable Vivek Rana, and Constable Annu was constituted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Ashok Sharma. The team conducted a coordinated raid near Netaji Subhash Place in Delhi's Pitampura, and successfully apprehended the accused. Police investigations revealed detailed profiles of the accused and their roles within the syndicate, officials said. Salauddin Mansuri alias Haider Khan, is a Class 12 dropout who previously worked in export and insurance companies in Noida but turned to crime after failing to earn sufficiently through legitimate means. Lured by the promise of quick money by the alleged mastermind Md. Munna, Salauddin Mansuri became a key operative working on a 40 per cent commission. Salauddin Mansuri posed as an HR Manager of a fictitious Kolkata-based firm named "Saba Enterprises" and acted as the primary point of contact for victims. The police recovered two Indian passports, two mobile phones, and an Aadhaar card bearing his alias from his possession. Kaushar, also a dropout, earlier worked as a mechanic but suffered a severe accident in 2014 that limited his ability to continue heavy work. After returning from Saudi Arabia, where he worked between 2022 and 2024, he reconnected with co-accused Shahzad and joined the syndicate.

Bengal Poll Violence Shows Trinamool's 'Goonism'; BJP Will Come To Power: Swati Maliwal

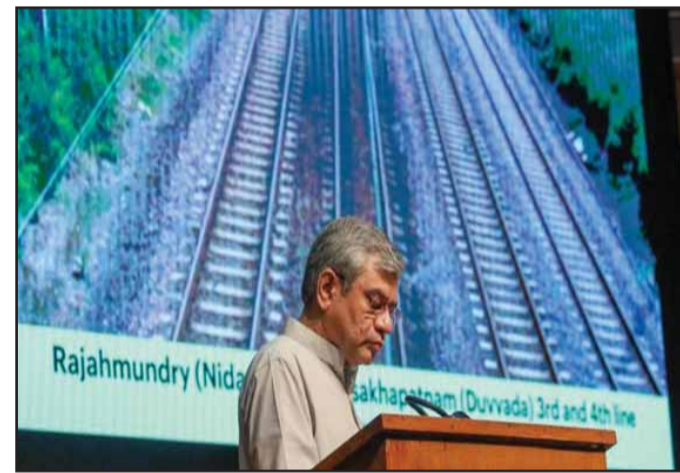
New Delhi, 29/7: BJP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC) over alleged violence during the West Bengal elections, while also targeting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leadership over their political conduct and recent statements. Speaking to IANS, Maliwal alleged that disturbing visuals frequently emerge from West Bengal during elections, claiming that such incidents are not isolated to the current phase but have become a recurring pattern. "Very frightening pictures come out of Bengal. And this is not just about these elections; such pictures come out every time during elections," she said. Accusing the ruling TMC of fostering a culture of intimidation, she added, "Because of this TMC's goonism that is seen on the ground, the BJP is coming to power in Bengal." The BJP MP also criticised the Aam Aadmi

Party for boycotting the election process, questioning its political approach. Taking a swipe at AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Maliwal remarked, "You can see the kind of politics they are trying to do. The Aam Aadmi Party has completely boycotted the entire election. Arvind Kejriwal sometimes behaves like a child. When he knows he is going to be out on zero, he takes the bat and ball and walks away." Reacting to Kejriwal's recent letter to Delhi High Court judge Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma and his invocation of 'Satyagraha', Maliwal questioned the intent behind the move. "What kind of Satyagraha is this? where he says, 'I am not a thief, and I do not want this judge? The cause for which Satyagraha is done must be very pure,' she said, adding that such actions amount to "anarchy" and should not be part of political discourse. She further defended Justice Sharma, emphasising the challenges faced

by women in the judiciary. "Justice Swarana Kanta is a woman judge. In our country, there are few women who are judges. She would have reached that position through her own struggle. And they are defaming her," Maliwal said. On remarks made by AAP Delhi President Saurabh Bhardwaj regarding Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha and his marriage to actor Parineeti Chopra, Maliwal termed such comments as inappropriate and shameful. "No one should make such comments about anyone's personal life. Parineeti is a woman, and making such remarks about her is truly shameful," she said. Maliwal also accused AAP leaders of indulging in personal attacks and abusive behaviour. Recalling her own experience, she alleged, "When I was beaten up, and I tried to fight against it and file an FIR, they said extremely abusive and filthy things about my mother and my entire family."

Ashwini Vaishnaw To Flag Off Extended Srinagar-Jammu Vande Bharat On Thursday

New Delhi, 29/7: Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is set to flag off the extended Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express service from Jammu Tawi Railway Station on Thursday. The train, which previously operated from Srinagar up to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, will now run all the way to Jammu Tawi, bringing the country's most modern train directly to J&K's largest city and railway hub, according to a Railways Ministry statement. While flag-off marks the inaugural run, the extended Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express will enter regular service from May 2, 2026. Two pairs of services will operate across the corridor, covering a distance of around 266 km. The first service (Train No. 26401) departs Jammu Tawi at 6:20 AM, halts at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Reasi, and Banihal, arriving at Srinagar at 11:10 AM, a journey of four hours and fifty minutes.



Its return (Train No. 26402) leaves Srinagar at 2:00 PM and reaches Jammu Tawi by 6:50 PM. This pair runs six days a week, except Tuesday. The second service (Train No. 26404) departs Srinagar at 8:00 AM, halts at Banihal and Katra, and arrives at Jammu Tawi by 12:40 PM. Its return (Train No. 26403) departs at Jammu Tawi at 1:20 PM and reaches Srinagar by 6:00 PM. This

pair runs six days a week, except Wednesday, informed the ministry. "Together, the two pairs ensure that passengers have a morning and an afternoon Vande Bharat option from both ends of the corridor on most days of the week, giving travellers meaningful flexibility in planning their journeys," it added. Following the flag-off, the Union Minister will subsequently inspect two of the

most remarkable engineering structures on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), the Anji Bridge and the Chenab Bridge. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express on June 6, 2025, the train ran with 8 coaches. Since then, the train has consistently been running at full capacity, with an overwhelming response from passengers. The decision to augment the rake to 20 coaches is a direct response to that demand, more than doubling the train's seating capacity at a stroke, and significantly easing the pressure on reservations and waitlists, particularly during peak pilgrimage and tourist seasons. With the extension to Jammu Tawi happening simultaneously, the 20-coach Vande Bharat arrives at its largest catchment city with the capacity to match it, a train finally built to the scale of the demand it has always inspired.

Delhi Police Zero Tolerance Crackdown In Burari: 8 Held, Pistol, Knives Recovered

New Delhi, 29/7: In a major crackdown under its zero-tolerance policy against crime, Delhi Police conducted a five-hour-long combing and search operation in the Burari area of North Delhi, leading to multiple arrests, seizure of illegal arms, illicit liquor, and vehicles, officials said on Wednesday. The operation was carried out on April 28 between 7:30 P.M. and midnight under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Police (North), Raja Banthia, and under the supervision of Additional DCP-I Ravinandan B.M. It was aimed at enhancing police visibility, intensifying patrolling, and carrying out surprise checks in vulnerable pockets to deter criminal activities. Led by ACP Shashikant Gaur and SHO Burari Inspector Girish Chandra Raturi, the operation involved around 150 police personnel, including 20 women staff, drawn from various police stations and units of North District. A total of 26 teams were constituted for the exercise, including 10 search teams, eight



patrolling units, six picket teams, and two dedicated arrest teams. The area was strategically cordoned off with pickets deployed at key locations to prevent escape routes for suspects, while simultaneous patrolling and search operations were carried out to monitor movement across the locality. During the drive, five individuals were arrested under the Arms Act. Police recovered one country-made pistol and four knives from their possession. The

accused were reportedly roaming in the area with intent to commit crimes, and five separate cases have been registered at Burari Police Station. In a parallel action, three persons were apprehended for their involvement in the supply and sale of illicit liquor. A total of 650 quarters of illegal liquor were seized, and three cases under the Excise Act have been registered. The operation also resulted in the seizure of 19 two-wheelers under relevant

provisions of the Delhi Police Act due to lack of number plates or ownership documents. Additionally, 118 suspected individuals were detained for verification, while one person was apprehended for consuming alcohol in a public place. Preventive action was also taken against four individuals under relevant Sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). According to police officials, the operation had a significant impact in the area by strengthening the presence of uniformed personnel and sending a strong message to habitual offenders and organised crime networks. "This kind of sustained enforcement creates a deterrent effect and reassures citizens about safety and law enforcement preparedness," a senior police officer said. Delhi Police reiterated its commitment to continue such targeted operations to curb crime and maintain law and order across the national Capital.

ECI Announces Seven Essential Principles for Free & Fair Elections in West Bengal 2026

New Delhi, 29/4: In a decisive move to protect the integrity of the democratic process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has outlined seven cardinal principles for the upcoming West Bengal Legislative Assembly elections (WBLA-2026). These principles are non-negotiable and must be rigorously enforced by all election-related agencies in West Bengal. Here are the key directives: 1. Fearless Voting: Every citizen must be able to vote without fear or intimidation. To foster public trust, area domination, route marches, and Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are actively being carried out, particularly in vulnerable areas. 2. No Intimidation: Any form of threat, coercion, or voter pressure is deemed a criminal offense. The police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) are proactively identifying potential intimidators and known offenders for preemptive action. 3. Zero Tolerance for Violence: There will be an absolute zero-tolerance policy for any form of election-related violence. The

authorities are prepared with swift FIR registration protocols, quick-response teams, and 24/7 surveillance to prevent any disruptions before, during, or after the voting process. 4. No Inducements: Offering cash, alcohol, gifts, or any other incentives to influence voters is strictly prohibited under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Flying Squad Teams (FSTs), Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs), and police personnel are conducting thorough checks to curb such malpractices. 5. No Booth Jamming: Any attempt to disrupt or obstruct genuine voters, through overcrowding, unlawful gatherings, or deliberate queuing, will result in immediate legal action. The forces will be responsible for maintaining orderly queues at polling stations. 6. No Source Jamming: Any efforts to sabotage the election process will be met with swift and decisive action, ensuring the smooth flow of the electoral system. 7. No 'Chhapa' Voting: Acts such as proxy voting, impersonation, or

organized bogus voting are considered severe electoral offenses. Stringent verification measures and the deployment of micro-observers will ensure that the principle of one person, one vote is upheld. Directive to Authorities: All District Election Machinery, Police, and CAPF personnel are instructed to adhere to these principles strictly. Any violations will be dealt with harshly under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) 1951, and the Election Commission's guidelines.



Defence Collaboration, Industrial Partnership In Focus During Crosetto's Delhi Visit

Rome, 29/4: Defence Minister Guido Crosetto's visit to India this week underscores the willingness of both countries to expand existing cooperation and explore new areas of collaboration, particularly within the framework of industrial partnership, Italy's Ministry of Defence stated on Wednesday. "Defence Minister Guido Crosetto has traveled to India, where tomorrow he will meet his counterpart Shri Rajnath Singh. The Ministers will discuss a series of topics related to cooperation in the defence sector between our countries. An exchange of views is also planned on the main regional and global issues, in light of the evolving security landscape," read a statement issued by Italy's Ministry of Defence.

It mentioned that cooperation in the defence sector between Italy and India gained further momentum following Rajnath Singh's visit to Rome in October 2023. "Minister Crosetto's visit to India underscores the willingness of both countries to expand existing cooperation and



explore new areas of collaboration, particularly within the framework of industrial partnership," the statement added. According to the Indian Defence Ministry, the two ministers, during their meeting on Thursday are also expected to share their views on regional and global issues in view of the evolving security landscape

besides a range of topics covering defence cooperation between the two countries. "Defence cooperation between India and Italy gained further momentum after Raksha Mantri visited Rome in October 2023. Defence Minister Crosetto's maiden visit to India underlines the desire of both nations to further expand existing cooperation and explore new areas

of collaboration particularly under the industrial partnership domain," New Delhi stated on Wednesday. It highlighted that the signing of India-EU Defence and Strategic Partnership in January 2026 signals increasing strategic convergence and has provided further impetus to defence industrial cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Patience And Restraint Should Not Be Taken As Weakness Or Retreat: Afghan Minister Warns Pakistan

Kabul, 29/4: Taliban's Minister of Higher Education, Nida Mohammad Nadeem, has said that Afghanistan's patience and restraint against repeated Pakistani attacks does not showcase weakness or retreat. He emphasised that Kabul will respond to Islamabad at an "appropriate time" and under "appropriate circumstances", local media reported on Wednesday. Nadeem stated that Afghanistan's resolve and courage will not be shaken after Pakistani attacks. He specifically mentioned the recent attack at Sayed Jamaluddin University in Kunar which he said will not stop scientific progress in the country, Afghanistan International reported. Stressing that Taliban were raised in suffering and are no strangers to martyrdom, the minister asserted that the Afghans will defend their system with all their might. "Patience should not be interpreted as weakness and the movement is capable of responding forcefully when necessary," Afghanistan International reported.

At least seven people were killed and 75 others injured after



Pakistani strikes hit parts of Afghanistan's Kunar province, including the provincial capital, Asadabad and Sarkano district, on Monday. Local sources said that the latest strikes hit several places, including residential areas and Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan University, where mortar rounds targeted the campus, causing damage and panic among students and employees. On Tuesday, Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul over the recent attacks carried out by the Pakistani forces on civilian targets in various Afghan provinces. Kabul also handed a protest letter to the Pakistani

diplomat over Islamabad targeting public facilities along the Durand Line, even the university in the centre of Kunar province.

The Ministry strongly condemned the violation of Afghanistan's airspace and the attacks against civilians. It stated that the actions of Pakistani forces are a clear violation of Afghanistan's territorial integrity, contrary to international principles, and a provocative act. "The Islamic Emirate categorically rejects allegations that the recent escalation started by the Afghan side, and underscores the imperative that the root causes of the situation must be investigated with due diligence," the Afghan ministry said.

S. Korea, Qatar To Push For Deeper Cooperation In Manufacturing Ai, Semiconductor

Seoul, 29/4: Trade ministers of South Korea and Qatar agreed on Wednesday to expand the two countries' cooperation in advanced industries, including artificial intelligence (AI) transformation of the manufacturing sector, semiconductor and biohealth, a Seoul ministry said. Trade Minister Yeo Han-woo met with his Qatar counterpart, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed, in Seoul to discuss ways to expand economic and investment cooperation between the two nations, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources, reports Yonhap News Agency. The ministers concurred to bolster bilateral cooperation in advanced industries by integrating Seoul's manufacturing capabilities and Qatar's capital and strong commitment to industrial diversification, the ministry said. In particular, they discussed possible cooperation in the manufacturing AI and robotics sectors with Korea's push for the manufacturing AI transformation

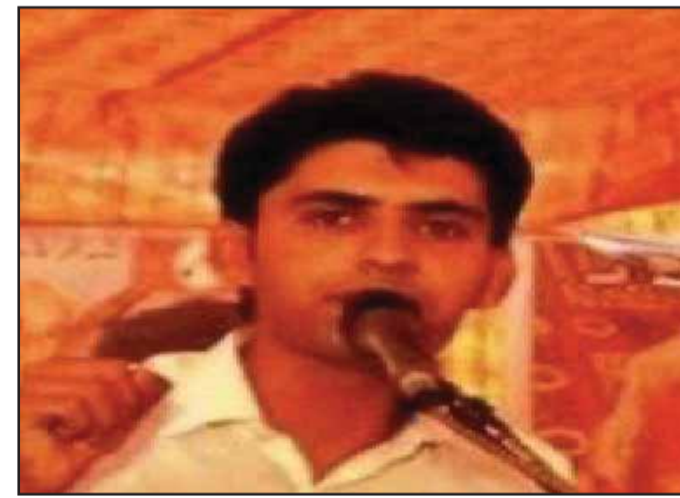


(M.AX) initiative. Yeo also highlighted Korean biopharmaceutical firms' ongoing expansion into Qatar and the potential of local AI chip fabless companies, calling for investment collaboration in such areas. He also commended the resilience of Qatar amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, reaffirming Seoul's commitment to energy cooperation with the country, according to the ministry. "Going forward, we will continue to strengthen energy security based on our strategic partnership with Qatar

while steadily expanding the scope of bilateral economic cooperation into future industries, such as manufacturing AI and biotechnology," Yeo was quoted as saying. Meanwhile, South Korea has secured 273 million barrels of crude oil by the end of this year from four nations in the Middle East, presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said this month. Kang, who returned home from his eight-day trip to Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kazakhstan, said the nation also secured 2.1 million tons of naphtha by the end of this year.

Sindhi Leader Calls For Global Intervention Over Human Rights Abuses In Pakistan

Berlin, 29/4: Shafi Burfat, Chairman of the Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMM), on Wednesday drew the attention of the global community to the alarming situation in Pakistan, citing enforced disappearances, political repression, illegal arrests, torture, and the dumping of mutilated bodies of Sindhi political activists and leaders. Burfat stressed that these actions by the Pakistani authorities "constitute serious violations of internationally recognised human rights principles." "Recently, JSMM central body leader Roheel Laghari was arrested by state agencies during his political and organisational activities and has since been forcibly disappeared. Earlier, JSMM Central Committee member Saddam Shar was also similarly abducted and disappeared," the Sindhi leader posted on X. "In addition, senior JSMM leaders Ejaz Gaho, Sohail Bhatti, Pathan Khan Zehrani, Survech Sargani, and



Survech Nohani, along with many other Sindhi nationalist political workers, have been arrested at different times and transferred to undisclosed locations. There are serious concerns regarding their safety and well-being," he added. Burfat highlighted that restrictions have been imposed at the state level on the political activities of the Sindhi nationalist movement, freedom of expression, and the democratic

rights of secular nationalist organisations struggling for "national freedom and historical rights." "The arrest of political activists during peaceful political activities, their detention in secret torture cells, the use of inhuman and degrading treatment against them, and, in several cases, the dumping of mutilated dead bodies on roads constitute grave violations of international human rights standards, the

Charter of the United Nations, and international law," the Sindhi leader stated. Burfat urged the United Nations, international human rights bodies and the international community to take immediate notice of the enforced disappearances of the Sindhi political activists. He called for urgent steps to ensure the safety and protection of these activists, including Roheel Laghari, Saddam Shar, Ejaz Gaho, Sohail Bhatti, Pathan Khan Zehrani, Survech Sargani, Survech Nohani, and others, who were allegedly forcibly disappeared by Pakistan's military intelligence agency (ISI) following their arrests. The Sindhi leader further appealed to the international community to urgently take note of state-imposed restrictions on the political existence, human rights, and democratic freedoms of what he described as "historical nations" within Pakistan, including Sindh.

GCC Leaders Reject Iran's Measures To Close Strait Of Hormuz

Riyadh, 29/4: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Tuesday that GCC states have rejected Iran's illegal measures to close the Strait of Hormuz and obstruct navigation through the waterway. The statement was made at the 19th Consultative Meeting of GCC leaders held in Saudi Arabia's port city of Jeddah on Tuesday. Al-Budaiwi said the leaders also rejected any measures that would negatively affect navigation through the strait, including the imposition of fees on ships passing through it, reports Xinhua news agency. The leaders stressed the need to restore security and freedom of navigation in the strait and return conditions there to what they were before February 28, he added. He said the meeting discussed the current regional situation, particularly the regional escalation and Iranian attacks against GCC countries and Jordan. The leaders stressed the need to establish a diplomatic path to end the crisis and pave the way for agreements and understandings that address GCC states' concerns and enhance long-term security and stability.

Trump Administration Challenges ABC Station Licenses After Jimmy Kimmel's Remarks On Melania Trump

Washington, 29/4: The Trump administration is moving to challenge ABC's station licenses, according to an order published by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), signalling an escalation in tensions following late-night host Jimmy Kimmel's recent controversial remarks about First Lady Melania Trump. "Disney's ABC is hereby directed to file license renewals for all of their licensed TV stations within 30 days — in other words, by May 28, 2026," the order said on Tuesday (local time). Calling the FCC order the start of "a protracted legal process," a CNN report said that it is "an extraordinary escalation" by the Trump administration. The report noted that while the FCC asserts that the license review is related to an ongoing probe into Disney's diversity initiatives, "it is being widely viewed as a form of government retaliation for airing Kimmel's show and resisting Trump's pressure." On Monday, Melania Trump lashed out at Kimmel on X, saying that "his monologue about my family isn't comedy — his words are corrosive and deepen the political sickness



within America." "Enough is enough. It is time for ABC to take a stand. How many times will ABC's leadership enable Kimmel's atrocious behaviour at the expense of our community," she wrote. The remarks were in response to Kimmel's comment last week about Melania Trump looking like an "expectant widow." US President Donald

Trump weighed in on Truth Social on Monday, blaming Kimmel's "call to violence" for Saturday's shooting incident outside the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner and saying he "should be immediately fired." Disney, meanwhile, appeared to show support for Kimmel by continuing to air the show on Monday night, reports

Xinhua news agency. In his Monday night monologue, Kimmel said that his comment last week was a "light roast" about the age difference between the president and the first lady, "about the fact that he is almost 80 and she's younger than I am." "Jimmy Kimmel Live" is one of the several nationally recognised late-night talk shows in the country.

UK PM Starmer Not To Face Investigation Over Mandelson Issue

London, 29/4: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer will not be investigated over claims that he misled Parliament regarding Peter Mandelson, the former British ambassador to the United States, after a House of Commons vote. After more than five hours of debate on Tuesday (Local time), Members of Parliament voted 335 to 223 against a motion led by the Conservative Party that called for Starmer to be investigated by the House's Privileges

Committee. Starmer told British media on Monday that the vote was a "political stunt" by his opponents, reports Xinhua news agency. The vote centred on whether Starmer misled Parliament when he said that "full due process" had been followed in Mandelson's appointment. Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch argued that this statement amounted to misleading Parliament. Starmer said Monday the vote on the following day to decide whether he will be investigated is a "political stunt" by his "political opponents." "What's my political

opponents are doing tomorrow is a political stunt," Starmer told Sky News. "Having a political stunt adds absolutely nothing to the transparency we've got. It's not good use of parliament's time." In mid-April, it was revealed that before taking up his post, Mandelson had been denied



security clearance in January 2025. At the time, British security officials had conducted a rigorous vetting process, including a confidential background check, but the decision was overturned by the UK Foreign Office. Starmer said he became aware of the matter only on April 14, insisting that he didn't mislead Parliament when telling them "full due process" was followed. Mandelson was dismissed as Britain's chief diplomat in Washington in September 2025 following revelations about his association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Earlier this year, he was briefly arrested as part of an investigation into alleged misconduct in public office, including the possible disclosure of market-sensitive information.

Pravakar Jhapatsingh Joins Bank of Baroda Sambalpur Region as New Regional Head

Sambalpur, 29/4 (DMS): Sambalpur Region proudly welcomed its new Regional Head, Pravakar Jhapatsingh, who officially joined on 28th April 2026. He joined the Bank on 30th May 2005 and brings with him rich banking experience across different locations such as Rural, Semi Urban, Urban & Metro sector. With 21 years of banking experience, he has worked across five different states—Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana. He possesses strong expertise in branch banking, administrative operations, and the loan sector. In



Sambalpur Region, which covers 16 districts of Odisha, his main focus will be on enhancing the Bank's visibility and providing better banking facilities and

services to customers. Prior to this assignment, he was serving as Deputy Regional Head in Hyderabad. He has also worked in Odisha from 2014 to 2016 as Priority Sector Incharge, contributing significantly to business growth and operational excellence. The officials and staff of Sambalpur Region extended a warm welcome to Shri Pravakar Jhapatsingh and expressed confidence in his leadership. His joining marks a new beginning for the region with renewed energy, stronger teamwork, and a shared vision for greater achievements.

Odia Entrepreneur led Ethos Global unveils PHANTOME, an Energy Drink for Fast Moving Generation



Sambalpur, 29/4 (DMS): Ethos Global, an leading business house led by odia entrepreneur Ankit Khandelwal, has officially unveiled FANTOME, its latest energy drink crafted to match the pace, ambition, and lifestyle of today's fast-moving generation. Designed for those who thrive on hustle and creativity, FANTOME enters the market as a bold new contender in the energy beverage segment. From late-night study sessions and intense gaming marathons to rigorous workouts and ambitious career pursuits, FANTOME positions itself as a reliable source of sustained energy. Infused with a balanced blend of caffeine and essential B-vitamins, the drink promises to keep consumers energized, focused, and refreshed without the typical energy crash associated with conventional beverages. Its

distinct flavor profile further sets it apart, aiming to appeal to a generation that values both performance and taste. Speaking on the launch, Ankit Khandelwal, Group Chairman at FANTOME, emphasized the brand's vision. He stated that the company has gone beyond creating just another energy drink, instead developing a product that reflects a lifestyle and mindset. According to him, FANTOME is designed for individuals who are constantly striving, creating, and pushing boundaries, offering energy that aligns with their ambitions. The product is tailored to modern consumption patterns, offering both low sugar and zero sugar variants to cater to health-conscious consumers. With its convenient packaging and wide availability, FANTOME is set to become a staple across

college campuses, fitness centres, retail outlets, cafes, and digital marketplaces. With this launch, Ethos Global aims to tap into India's rapidly expanding energy drink market while building a brand that resonates with youth culture and evolving consumer preferences. FANTOME is now available across leading retail and online platforms, inviting consumers to experience a new standard of energy and performance. FANTOME is a next-generation energy drink brand focused on fueling ambition, creativity, and everyday achievements. With an emphasis on innovation, quality, and lifestyle relevance, the brand seeks to empower individuals to stay energized and inspired in everything they do.

World Malaria Day: Vedanta Aluminium spreads awareness among 1,000+ people in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, 29/4 (DMS): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, observed World Malaria Day through an extensive community health drive organized across Keldamal, Gudigaon and Barhamunda villages in Jharsuguda. Aligned with World Health Organization's (WHO) global campaign theme "Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.", the initiative sought to empower rural communities with the awareness and tools needed to eliminate malaria. The programme engaged more than 1,000 community members through structured awareness sessions on malaria prevention practices, early symptom recognition, and the importance of timely testing and treatment. To ensure deeper last-mile outreach, informational

leaflets were distributed across villages. In addition, over 40 free malaria tests were conducted on-the-spot with all test results returning negative, reflecting the effectiveness of sustained preventive interventions in the region. Highlighting the significance of the initiative, C Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, "Preventive healthcare has been a consistent focus area for us. World Malaria Day provides an important opportunity to reinforce awareness around early detection and prevention; while continuing the sustained health initiatives we carry out in close coordination with local authorities. Our efforts are anchored in regular engagement, trust, and practical on-ground interventions that help communities stay healthy and

resilient." Natarani Birganthia, a resident of Gudigaon, said, "The awareness sessions and free help us understand symptoms early and take timely action. Having such services close to home gives our families greater confidence and reassurance, and we appreciate Vedanta's continued efforts in this area." The malaria awareness drive forms part of Vedanta Aluminium's broader commitment to strengthening last-mile access to preventive and primary healthcare for its surrounding communities. Central to this effort are the company's Mobile Health Units (MHUs), which provide doorstep healthcare services to remote villages across the district. The MHUs offer a wide range of services, including general health check-ups, maternal and child

healthcare, screening for communicable diseases, and distribution of essential medicines, significantly reducing healthcare access barriers for community members. These mobile interventions are complemented by sustained community awareness programmes addressing malaria, dengue, filaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, deworming, hygiene, and sanitation practices. In addition, advanced diagnostic facilities in Jharsuguda and Laikera provide pathology services for early disease detection, enabling a continuum of care. Vedanta Aluminium's integrated healthcare ecosystem reflects a holistic, prevention-led approach to improving health outcomes, building long-term resilience, and empowering communities across the district.

New Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Sambalpur Region

Sambalpur, 29/4 (DMS): Jaygopal Behera, Deputy General Manager has taken charge as the new Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Sambalpur Region. He joined the Bank in 2001 and gained vast experience of more than 24 years. Earlier, he has worked in different states like: Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and



Delhi gaining wide professional exposure and expertise. Currently, Sri Behera has taken charge at his home town, Sambalpur, where he will discharge his new responsibilities. Under his guidance, customers will receive the best banking services and the region will continue to grow.

Over 50.8 Lakh LPG Cylinders Delivered In A Day As Supply Stays Normal

New Delhi, 29/4: More than 50.8 lakh domestic LPG cylinders and over 73,000 small 5 kg LPG cylinders were delivered on Tuesday as the supply of cooking gas remains normal in the country with no dry-outs reported at retail distributorships despite the supply chain disruption due to the Middle East conflict, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said. Online domestic LPG cylinder bookings have increased to 99 per cent while authentication code-based deliveries, on the registered mobile number of the consumer, have increased to around 94 per cent to prevent diversion at the distributor level, a ministry statement said. Average auto LPG sales by public sector oil companies in April so far have touched 353 metric tonnes a day against the average of around 177 metric tonnes per day during January and February, reflecting an increase of around 100 per cent, it said. Over 8,838 MT of commercial LPG (equivalent to more than 4.65 lakh 19-kg cylinders) was also sold on Tuesday. This takes the total sale of commercial LPG during April to 1,84,043 MT (equivalent to more than 96.86 lakh 19 kg LPG



cylinders). Retail prices for petrol and diesel remain unchanged, and adequate stocks of the two fuels are available at all petrol pumps in the country. Meanwhile, enforcement actions continue across the country to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG. More than 2200 raids were conducted across the country on Tuesday. The public sector oil companies have strengthened and continued surprise inspections and imposed penalties on 325 LPG distributorships, while 72 LPG distributorships have been suspended so far. Show cause notices were issued to 54 LPG distributors on Tuesday, and penalties were imposed on nine distributorships. The supply of

cooking gas continues to be normal with no dry-outs being reported at retail distributorships. Over 42,950 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections via MYPNGD.in website till Tuesday, which will help to ease some pressure on LPG demand. The ministry further stated that it is taking steps to ensure the uninterrupted availability of petroleum products and LPG across the country, in the context of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of petrol, diesel and LPG and to beware of rumours and rely on official sources for correct information.

India Emerging As Anchor Of Global Stability And Growth: Global Experts

New Delhi: India is increasingly being viewed as a key force capable of shaping global peace, economic stability and technological progress, global experts said on Wednesday. Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the Economist Enterprise 'Resilient Futures Summit 2026' here, they emphasised India's rising influence in navigating geopolitical uncertainty, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and driving innovation in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Danny Quah, Li Ka Shing professor in economics, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, noted that the evolving nature of global terrorism and shifting trade dynamics have injected significant uncertainty into the world



economy. Quah emphasised that beyond trade disruptions, a deeper concern lies in the erosion of global trust and weakening of multilateral systems that have traditionally underpinned international cooperation. "India can play a big role in it and if India

tries, there will be peace. People are looking towards India to bring a peace. I think people are looking to India to exercise appropriate leadership. It is still up to India to decide what appropriate," he told IANS. Adding to this perspective, Ian Blatchford, Director of the

Science Museum in London, highlighted India's distinctive and optimistic approach towards artificial intelligence. "If you look at public surveys in America and Europe, the majority of the population is nervous about artificial intelligence. The opposite is true in India. India is building capacity for artificial intelligence centres while also thinking deeply about what that means," Blatchford said. Blatchford also praised the broader achievements of the Global South, particularly India's developmental trajectory. "The country is striving to balance economic growth with the need to improve quality of life, even as it grapples with challenges such as rising energy demand," Blatchford told IANS. "This stands in contrast to Western economies that have already benefited from decades of prosperity," he explained.

Sensex, Nifty End Higher Amid Global Uncertainty

Mumbai, 29/4: Indian equity benchmarks ended higher on the Wednesday but surrendered a large portion of their intra-day gains as a sharp rise in global crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment. The Nifty closed at 24,177.65, up 0.76 per cent or 181.95 points, while the Sensex settled at 77,496.36, gaining 0.79 per cent or 609.45 points. From a technical standpoint, experts said that on the upside, 24,200 remains the first resistance.

"On the downside, a breach of the 24,000-24,100 support band could weaken the structure in the short term, with 23,900 acting as the next support," an analyst stated. Market momentum was tempered after Brent crude prices surged over 3 per cent to \$114.60 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange. The spike in oil prices followed stalled talks between the United States and Iran, raising concerns about supply disruptions. Adding to the uncertainty, the United Arab Emirates announced its decision to exit the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) effective May 1, further fuelling volatility in global energy markets. Despite the late-session pullback, select



heavyweights provided support to the indices. ITC, Tech Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki India emerged as the top gainers in the Nifty, helping the benchmarks maintain their positive closing. The broader markets, however, painted a mixed picture. The Nifty MidCap index ended marginally lower by 0.07 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index outperformed, rising 0.65 per cent. Sectoral performance remained uneven. The Nifty FMCG and Nifty Realty indices led the gains, reflecting buying interest in consumption and real estate stocks. On the other hand,

the Nifty Construction Durable and Nifty Media indices underperformed, dragged down by sector-specific pressures and cautious sentiment. Analysts said that while domestic equities managed to close in the green, rising crude prices and geopolitical developments continue to pose near-term risks, potentially capping further upside in the markets. "Markets will closely track cues from the US Fed policy outcome, with sentiment likely to remain volatile amid evolving global developments and sector-specific earnings trends," an analyst stated.

Gold, Silver Trade On Firm Note Ahead Of US Fed Decision

Mumbai 29/4: Gold and silver traded on a firm note on Wednesday ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, with both precious metals trading in a narrow range. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June 5 opened at Rs 1,50,720 per 10 grams, up Rs 693 or 0.46 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,50,027. However, the yellow metal pared gains and was trading marginally lower by Rs 56 or 0.04 per cent to Rs 1,49,971 at 11:30 am. So far in the session, it touched an intraday low of Rs 1,49,720 — a decrease of 0.20 per cent or Rs 307 — and a high of Rs 1,51,527 — an increase of 1 per cent or Rs 1,500. On the other

hand, silver contracts for July 3 rose Rs 826 or 0.34 per cent to begin the session at Rs 2,43,589 per kg compared to the previous close of Rs 2,42,763. At the time of writing this story, the white metal was trading at Rs 2,38,738, up Rs 1393 or 0.6 per cent. During the session, silver hit a low of Rs 2,37,607 — a jump of 0.11 per cent or Rs 262 — and a high of Rs 2,38,750 — an increase of 0.59 per cent or Rs 1,405. Moreover, in international markets, both gold and silver were trading mildly positive. COMEX gold was up 0.19 per cent at \$4,616 per ounce, while COMEX silver gained 0.81 per cent to \$73.81 per ounce.

Varun Dhawan's 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' returns to original release date, actor thanks Yash

Varun Dhawan has officially locked in the release date for his much-awaited romantic entertainer 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'. The actor confirmed that the film will now arrive in theatres on June 5, 2026, returning to its original release date after a series of changes.

The film's release had gone through multiple shifts in recent weeks. It was initially set for June 5, then moved to June 12 after Yash announced 'Toxic' for a June 4 release. Later, the makers surprised fans by preponing the film to May 22. Now, with 'Toxic' moving away from that slot, Varun's film has settled back on its first planned date. Sharing the update on Instagram, Varun posted a vibrant new poster and thanked Yash and Maddock Films for helping make the schedule reset possible. In his caption, the actor wrote, "JUNE 5TH 2026 in theatres. Thankful to @thenameisyash and @maddockfilms for helping us reset the calendar as our film Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai will now release on its original date. The first film to release post IPL. The announcement quickly sparked excitement online. Fans flooded the comments section with reactions like "Damn excited," "Good decision," and advance wishes for the film's success. The film is especially significant for Varun as it marks another collaboration with his father, veteran filmmaker David Dhawan, who returns to the big screen after six years. His last directorial outing was Coolie No. 1, which also featured Varun alongside Sara Ali Khan. There is added emotional weight to the project as David Dhawan recently hinted that this could be his final film as director. Speaking to ANI earlier, he said he may not continue working due to health reasons and joked that after this, he would simply be "Varun's father." For Varun, the film also signals a return to the romantic-comedy space that has often worked strongly in his favour with audiences. It is expected to be his second release of the year after Border 2.



Ranveer Singh-starrer 'Dhurandhar' heads to Japan after strong India run

After enthralling moviegoers and storming the box office in India, Ranveer Singh-starrer 'Dhurandhar' is now heading to Japan for its next big release. The film is set to arrive in Japanese theatres in July, following its successful run in the domestic market. The makers, on Wednesday, took to Instagram to confirm the overseas release along with a new poster. Sharing the update on social media, the makers wrote, "It's time for Japan to experience the Dhurandhar energy! Arriving in theatres across Japan on 10.7.2026." Directed by Aditya Dhar and backed by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, the film features a strong cast including Akshaye Khanna, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal and Sara Arjun. The music by Shashwat Sachdev has also received a strong response on digital platforms. Meanwhile, 'Dhurandhar 2' is continuing its successful box office journey in India. The film has remained steady in its sixth week. The sequel stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role along with Sara Arjun, Gaurav Gera, Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, Rakesh Bedi and Arjun Rampal. The franchise recently crossed the Rs 3000 crore mark worldwide, becoming the first Indian film series to achieve the feat. The films are produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar and Lokesh Dhar under the banners of Jio Studios and B62 Studios.



SPORTS

Donovan Ferreira and Yashasvi Jaiswal Record Chase As Rajasthan Royals Outshine Punjab

NEWDELHI, 29/4: Donovan Ferreira produced a calculated 26-ball 52 to steer Rajasthan Royals to a remarkable six-wicket win over Punjab Kings, successfully hunting down a daunting 223-run target. This victory at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium shattered the hosts' seven-match winning streak. While Marcus Stoinis had earlier hammered a 22-ball 62 to propel Punjab to 222, the Royals responded with clinical aggression to reclaim their spot in the top three of the standings. Fifteen-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi ignited the pursuit with a lightning 43 off just 16 deliveries. His fearless assault against Arshdeep Singh allowed him to reach 400 runs in a single IPL edition in just 167 balls, surpassing the previous record held by Andre Russell. Yashasvi Jaiswal maintained the tempo with a graceful 51, ensuring the visitors stayed ahead of the required rate during the powerplay. Punjab briefly clawed back into contention through former Royal



Yuzvendra Chahal. The veteran leg-spinner dismantled the middle order by dismissing Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, and Riyan Parag, leaving Rajasthan in a precarious position. Historically, Rajasthan has often struggled at this venue, which is known for its high-scoring nature and challenging cross-breezes that affect spin trajectory. However, the late-order pairing of Ferreira and

Shubham Dubey turned the tide. The duo stitched an unbeaten 77-run partnership in just 32 balls. Ferreira's ability to find boundaries at will against pace specialists Marco Jansen and Lockie Ferguson proved decisive. Dubey supported the cause with a brisk 31, ensuring the chase concluded with four balls to spare. Punjab Kings remain at the summit of the

points table despite this setback. Their bowling unit struggled to contain the Royals' top order, which exploited the hard new ball effectively. Sooryavanshi's milestone highlights the evolving scouting depth within the Rajasthan camp. This performance marks their third-highest successful chase in tournament history.

Chelsea Captain Millie Bright Announces Retirement From Football

London, 29/4: Premier League club Chelsea have suffered a big blow amid the ongoing season as their women's team captain, Millie Bright announced a shock retirement on Wednesday. Bright ends her career as Chelsea's longest-serving player, having been part of the club's first trophy win in 2015 and the 19 that have followed since. "Representing Chelsea over the last 12 years has been everything to me, but I'm now ready to say goodbye to playing football. I've given all I can, and I

never wanted to fight for any other badge. It is now time, and I'm ready to go into a new era. I'm always going to be Chelsea, but just in a different way," Bright said in a statement shared by Chelsea. The Premier League club said she will be staying on at the club as a "trustee of our foundation". It added that Bright will also be continuing to represent the club in a new role as club ambassador, reflecting her intrinsic link with Chelsea Football Club. Signed from Doncaster Belles, Millie began her

Chelsea career in the 2015 season and went on to play more Women's Super League matches than any other player, breaking Jordan Nobbs' record of 210 during our match against Liverpool in November 2025 and now sits in top spot with 216. She also holds our club's all-time appearance record (314) and has scored 19 total goals on the way to winning all eight of our WSL titles since our first in 2015. She has added six Women's FA Cup trophies to that list, as well as four Women's League Cups,

earning two domestic Trebles, one in 2021 and the other in 2025. On the international stage, Millie made her debut for England in September 2016, before going on to earn 88 caps and score six goals for her country. One of the key members of England's win at Euro 2022 on home soil, she went on to captain the Lionesses as they reached the World Cup final in 2023. She was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year's Honours List of 2024, acknowledging her leadership and impact on the game.

Kangana Ranaut celebrates 20 years in cinema

Two decades in cinema is no small milestone, and actor Kangana Ranaut chose to celebrate it by looking back at where it all began, a photograph that simply changed her life. The BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi has completed 20 years in the entertainment industry, and to mark the occasion, Kangana took to her Instagram to share a glimpse of her very first portfolio shoot. The throwback image, captured by photographer Jatin Kampani, holds special meaning for the actor as it was the picture that helped her land her debut role in 'Gangster'. Sharing the memory with fans, Kangana wrote that the portfolio became the stepping stone to her journey in films. Reflecting on the beginning of her career, she posted, "Today I completed 20 years in the film industry, this is my first portfolio by @jatinkampani that landed me the role of Simran in Gangster." She also posted another image from her first magazine shoot, taking followers back to the early days before she became one of the industry's most talked-about stars. Released in 2006, 'Gangster' was directed by Anurag Basu and produced by Mahesh Bhatt and Mukesh Bhatt under Vishesh Films. The romantic thriller featured Kangana alongside Emraan Hashmi and Shiney Ahuja. The film's music, composed by Pritam, remains popular even today. After a strong debut, Kangana quickly built a filmography filled with varied roles. She went on to star in several movies, including 'Fashion' and 'Once Upon a Time in Mumbai'. In 2011, she won praise for her comic timing in 'Tanu Weds Manu', where she starred opposite R. Madhavan. The success of that film was followed by one of the strongest phases of her career. Kangana won back-to-back National Film Awards for Best Actress for 'Queen' and 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns', cementing her place as one of Hindi cinema's leading performers. Most recently, she was seen in her 2025 directorial venture 'Emergency'.



'September 21' trailer unveiled ahead of Cannes 2026 premiere

Mumbai: The official trailer of 'September 21' is now out, offering a powerful and emotional glimpse into a story that highlights Alzheimer's and the often unseen struggles of caregivers. Directed by Karen Kshiti Suvarna, the Hindi-Kannada film has been officially selected for the Marche du Film at the 79th Cannes Film Festival 2026. The film will have its World Premiere on May 16, 2026, at the Palais Theatre, Cannes, marking a proud global moment for the team. Starring Priyanka Uppendra, Pravin Singh Sisodia, Zarina Wahab, Ajith Shidhaye, and Amit Behl, the film follows a father living with dementia and a son forced to choose between his ambitions and his responsibility toward family. Director Karen

Kshiti Suvarna said, "September 21 is a very personal story about emotions we often don't express, especially the silent weight carried by caregivers. With the trailer, we wanted to give audiences a real and honest glimpse into this world. Taking this film to Cannes at such an early stage in my journey feels surreal, and I truly hope the story connects with people across cultures," as per a press statement. Actor Pravin Singh Sisodia said, "This film pushed me emotionally in ways I hadn't experienced before. Every scene carries a certain truth and vulnerability, and that is something we have tried to reflect in the trailer as well. It's a story that stays with you, and I believe audiences will feel that depth

when they watch it." Actor Priyanka Uppendra added, "Being part of September 21 has been incredibly meaningful. The story speaks about love, memory, and responsibility in a very real and sensitive way. The trailer captures that emotional core, and I'm confident the film will leave a strong impact on everyone who watches it." Further in the statement, the producers continued, "From developing this story to now presenting it at Cannes, this journey has been truly special for all of us. We always believed in the strength of this narrative, and seeing it reach a global platform is a proud moment. With the trailer now out, we are excited for audiences to begin this journey with us."