



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଜାତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୫

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ

ସଦୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତିରେ

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସମାବେଶ

୨୪ ଏପ୍ରିଲ ୨୦୨୫ | ତାଳବଣିଆ, ପୁରୀ

ଜାତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତିର ସାଧାରଣ ବୈଠକକୁ
ଅନଲାଇନ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପରିଚାଳନା
କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ

**ଲ-ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସଭା
(ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି)
ପୋର୍ଟାଲର ଉନ୍ନୋତନ**

ରାଜ୍ୟର ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପାଇଁ
ରେକର୍ଡ୍ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି, ବୈଷୟିକ ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ, ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ
ଅନୁମୋଦନ ଭଳି ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସୁଗମ
ରୂପେ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ

ପି.ପି.ଏମ୍.ଏସ୍
ପୋର୍ଟାଲର ଉନ୍ନୋତନ

ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମିର ଦୃଶ୍ୟକରଣ
ଏବଂ ନିର୍ବାଚିତ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କ ତଥ୍ୟକୁ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ
କରିବା ପାଇଁ

**ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ମନିଚରିଂ ସିଷ୍ଟମର
ଗୁଭାରମ୍ବ**
(ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ଓ ମୋବାଇଲ ଆପ)

ପଞ୍ଚମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଅର୍ଥ ଆୟୋଗ ଅନୁଦାନରେ
୬୧୩ ଗୋଟି ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟଦକ୍ଷତାରେ
ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠତା ପ୍ରତିପାଦନ, ନିଜସ୍ବ ଆୟ ବୃଦ୍ଧି
ତଥା ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶରେ
ନିରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରୟସ ନିମନ୍ତେ

୩୨ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର
ପୋସ୍ତାହନ ରାଶି ବଣ୍ଟନ

୨ ଲକ୍ଷ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ
ନୂତନ ରାସନ କାର୍ଡ ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଣ ଓ
ଖାଉଟି କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ,
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟଘର ଯୋଜନାରେ
୩ କିଲୋୱାଟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସୋଲାର
ପ୍ୟାନେଲ ପାଇଁ ୧,୩୮,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସବସିଡି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଶକ୍ତି ବିଭାଗ,
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

୪,୧୨୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ମୂଲ୍ୟର
୩୧୪ ଟି ଲୁଚସ୍ତରୀୟ ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ
ଭିତ୍ତିପଥର ସ୍ଥାପନ

କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା ଓ ଯୁବ ସେବା
ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

୨ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ନୂତନ ସୁଭଦ୍ରା
ହିଡାପିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ୨୦୦ କୋଟି
ଟଙ୍କାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସହାୟତା ରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ


ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ
ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର


ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର


leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

GEMINI

You will ponder over religious and social issues and discuss and debate the issue with your family members and make your opinions known to them. This apart, you will probably discuss on issues like law, education, social obligations, and culture with those close to you, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You may have to give more priority to your job. You will swiftly finish the task entrusted to you with concentration. Your zeal for work will be high. You will give so much importance to friends that you will go out of way to meet them.

LEO

Be it a job or business, you will face severe competition today. You will need to be extra cautious today. You will need to be more serious about whatever it is that you are doing. You will become more influential in your social circle or amongst your colleagues as a results, says Ganesha.

VIRGO


Today may prove to be a turning point for you. You will explore the opportunities to secure the money needed to make your future bright. Matters regarding relationships will be on the top of your priority list today. You may feel inclined towards spirituality, and Ganesha says as such you may try doing meditation or yoga.


LIBRA


Ganesha says your friend who is very influential will be lucky for you. You will be able to start a new joint venture business with out any obstacles. Your efficiency and hard work will be appreciated.


SCORPIO

You reveal your true avatar of being adventurous today, feels Ganesha. It's a favourable day for businessmen as they would make plans that would yield them huge profits. With your great communication and convincing power, you are going to impress your superiors today.

SAGITTARIUS

According to Ganesha, money is likely to slip-off your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.

CAPRICORN

You may feel utterly disappointed as all of your hard-work and planning will go in vain. You will have difference of opinion with others and at times these differences may turn into heated arguments, predicts Ganesha. Such disharmonious environment will add to your anxiety, but don't lose hope. There is light at the end of the tunnel and you'll surely get through these turbulent times.

AQUARIUS

You have been turning a blind eye towards the pending work you are loaded with. But, today you will take up the challenge of getting done with the pile of work. You may clean your desk at work or room, make payments and purchases, and clear the mess. It will bring clarity to your life.

PISCES

It is important to plan your finances in life, and you will devote your energies towards the same today. You might turn stingy with your money all of a sudden. An unexpected illness in the family will leave you worried. But it is likely to be a crisis which will blow over soon. Do not let it stress you out, says Ganesha.



ANISTON USING HYPNOSIS TO CURE EXTREME FEAR OF FLYING

Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston has been undergoing hypnosis in a bid to cure her extreme fear of flying. The *Friends* star, 55, has been battling the phobia for years and developed a superstition which involved tapping the outside of the plane with her right hand and stepping onboard with her right foot.

KHLOE ANNOUNCES NEW REALITY SHOW

Reality TV personality Khloe Kardashian revealed that she is working on a brand new reality show that will act as a spin-off to *The Kardashians*. The 40-year-old star featured alongside her Kardashi-an-Jenner family with the E! series *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* in 2007, and they now all appear on *The Kardashians*.



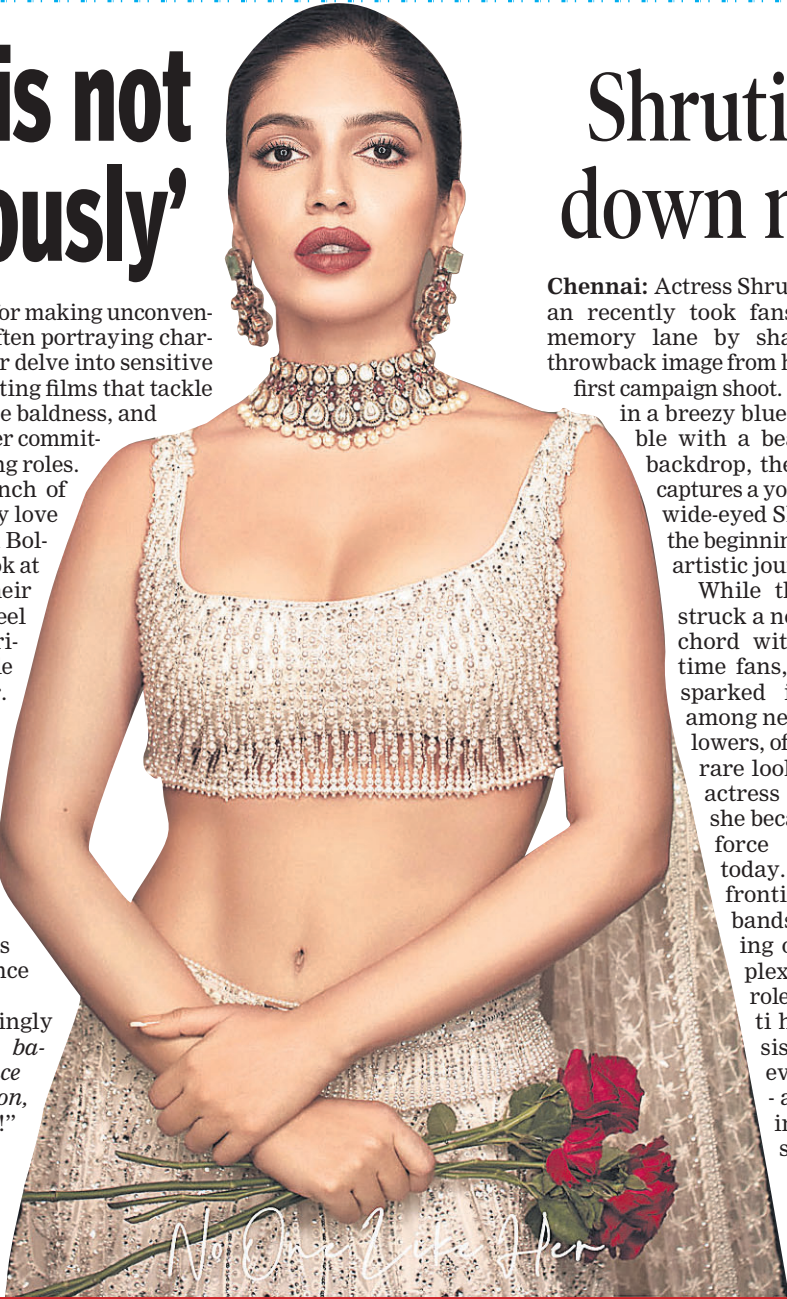
‘Romance is not taken seriously’

Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar is known for making unconventional movie choices in Bollywood, often portraying characters that challenge societal norms or delve into sensitive topics. She has a track record of selecting films that tackle issues like LGBTQ+ rights, premature baldness, and erectile dysfunction, demonstrating her commitment to diverse and thought-provoking roles. Bhumi Pednekar, during the launch of her movie *The Royals*, was asked why love stories are not made as frequently in Bollywood nowadays. She said, “If you look at the superstars of the 90s, they made their career with the help of romance. I feel that today, that genre is not taken seriously. It’s truly tough convincing people that you are in love with a stranger. And it’s a tough business.”

She continued, “I don’t know why people don’t write (romance) enough but there are always seasons. *Ek season chal raha tha aur mujhe lagta hai ki ab pyaar ka season wapas aa gaya hai*. I feel that in the midst of all the testosterone cinema, it’ll be a breath of fresh air for *The Royals* to be here. I really hope that the air changes thanks to *The Royals* and more romance is written.”

She also clarified, *hut saara kar ra-picturon* so jokingly “*Main ba-romance hi hoon, mein!*”

AGENCIES



Shruti takes a trip down memory lane

Chennai: Actress Shruti Haasan recently took fans down memory lane by sharing a throwback image from her very first campaign shoot. Dressed in a breezy blue ensemble with a beachside backdrop, the image captures a young and wide-eyed Shruti at the beginning of her artistic journey. While the post struck a nostalgic chord with long-time fans, it also sparked interest among newer followers, offering a rare look at the actress before she became the force she is today. From fronting rock bands to taking on complex film roles, Shruti has consistently evolved - and this image stands

as a quiet reminder of where it all began.

On the work front, Shruti Haasan has commenced dubbing for *Coolie*, her upcoming Tamil film with superstar Rajinikanth. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the film recently wrapped its shoot and is now in post-production. The team has officially confirmed that *Coolie* will hit theatres August 14, timed perfectly ahead of the Independence Day weekend.

On the personal front, Shruti on Instagram wrote, “Always my source of light and strength and constant source of laughter; love you the most appa @ ikamalhaasan.”

She also shared a couple of pictures with her appa. In the images, the father-daughter duo can be seen sharing smiles.

AGENCIES



Nimrat joins menstrual hygiene initiative

Mumbai: As a part of a menstrual hygiene initiative, actress Nimrat Kaur distributed menstrual hygiene kits in the slum communities.

Each menstrual care kit distributed contains supplies that last an entire month — including sanitary napkins, disposal pouches, and hygiene essentials — along with educational materials promoting safe menstrual practices.

Speaking about her involvement, Nimrat shared, “Menstruation is a necessary, natural, and crucial part of any woman’s health. Yet it continues to be shrouded in silence and stigma, especially in the underprivileged areas. When Hemkunt Foundation approached me with their “Dhabba Nahi” campaign, I felt an urgent and deep sense of responsibility to be a part of it. Affordability and access to menstrual products should not be a luxury - it’s a fundamental right. I hope this effort not only helps dispel this ridiculous taboo around something so basic to life but also ensures normalising conversations around periods, so no girl ever has to feel shame or miss school because of her period and no adult woman should ever feel awkward about anything related to periods.”

Meanwhile, on the occasion of World Earth Day on Tuesday, Nimrat witnessed the vibrant Buransh flower blossom in the scenic Kumaon region for the very first time.

Reflecting on her deep connection with the wild, Nimrat revealed that she celebrated her birthday amidst nature in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary.

IAN S

Mouni’s glow-up secrets

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy recently walked the ramp at a fashion event, turning heads with her striking look and a large maang teeka that covered her forehead. This subtle fashion choice sparked renewed speculation about alleged cosmetic procedures, a topic she has frequently been associated with. When asked about it during a quick interaction as reported by a news channel, Mouni gracefully steered away from the discussion, stating that it was a conversation for a future interview and assuring that she would eventually speak on the matter.

Beyond acting, Mouni’s beauty secrets are admired by fans and media alike. In an interaction with an en-

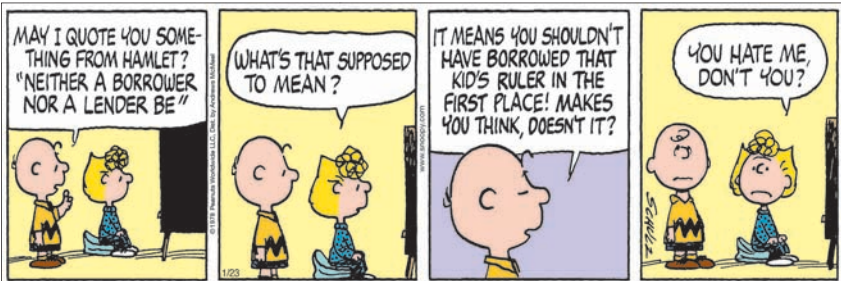
tertainment portal, she shared that she swears by drinking 8–10 glasses of water daily, using sunscreen religiously, and moisturizing without fail. She’s an advocate for homemade skincare, favoring aloe vera and turmeric face packs—and always removes makeup thoroughly after shoots.

Known for her roles in *Naagin* and *Brahmastra* Mouni also believes in weekly facial massages to improve circulation and maintain a healthy glow. When it comes to makeup, she picks foundations that match her skin tone and highlights her eyes with mascara and liner. Known for her chic style and natural charm, Mouni Roy balances glamour with grounded self-care on and off screen.

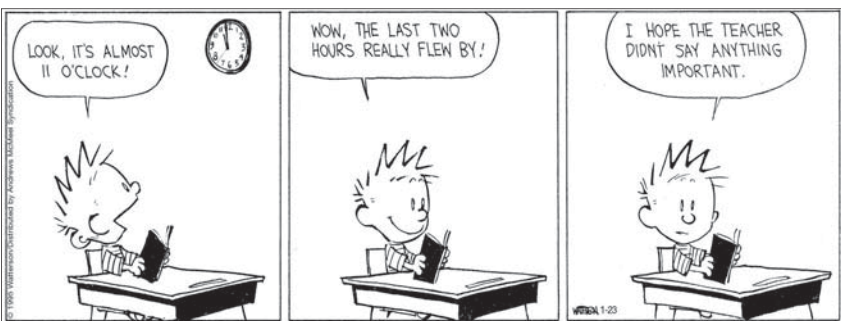
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

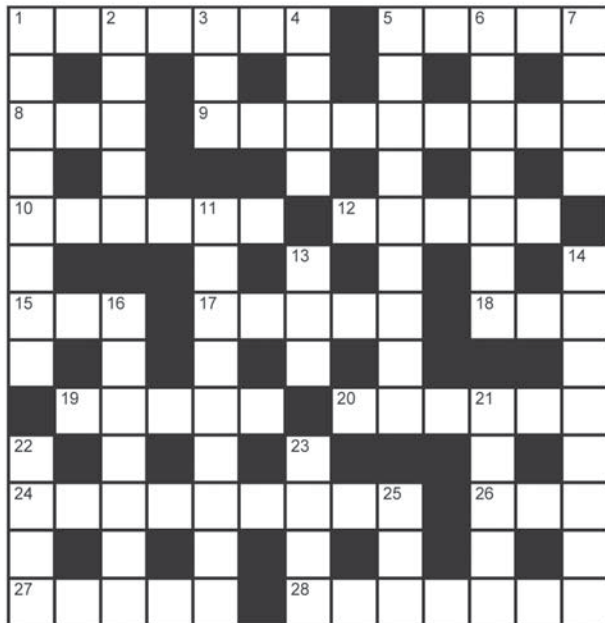


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Rabbit homes
- 5 Avarice
- 8 Meadow
- 9 Pantry
- 10 Reversible pattern fabric
- 12 Like helium
- 15 Prefix with natal
- 17 Preface
- 18 ___ mater (brain cover)
- 19 Pancake topper
- 20 Fisherman

Down

- 24 Accentuate
- 26 Vardalos of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”
- 27 Informed
- 28 Boxing official
- 1 “Bravo!” (4,4)
- 2 Bailiwick
- 3 Canon camera model
- 4 Plumlike fruit
- 5 Tyro

- 6 Act of self-aggrandisement (3,4)
- 7 Volcano feature
- 11 Energise
- 13 Hot time in Haiti
- 14 Horse-drawn vehicle
- 16 Chief sanctuary of Zeus
- 21 Cruise ship
- 22 Greek cheese
- 23 Jetty
- 25 Grimm character

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

		2		4				
			3		7			
					2	7	6	
				2				1
		9		3			7	
1					9	8	2	
3			8	5		4		
	7						8	
	8	7				1	3	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	T	O	L	L	S		G	L	O	B	E	S
R	G	E	A				E	A		H		
E	R	R	A	T	I	C		M	E	L	E	E
N	E	T		U						L	A	
A	I	S	L	E			P	A	R	L	O	U
S			R	U						O	S	
	P	R	O	S	A	N	D	C	O	N	S	
G	E			C	U					A		
A	S	P	H	A	L	T				R	E	C
R	E	A	N	U	T		H			G		
L	E	A	R	N			R	E	A	L	I	T
I	T	U	E				I	M		L		
C	A	S	T	L	E		S	L	E	E	V	E

SUDOKU

4	6	3	8	9	1	5	2	7
9	1	2	6	5	7	8	4	3
7	5	8	2	4	3	9	1	6
2	7	5	3	6	4	1	8	9
8	3	9	1	2	5	6	7	4
6	4	1	9	7	8	3	5	2
1	8	4	7	3	9	2	6	5
3	2	7	5	8	6	4	9	1
5	9	6	4	1	2	7	3	8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Honour for Odisha

Odisha to receive two awards on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day in Bihar, Thursday

DOWNTOWN | **P2**



China tariffs down

Trump announces a substantial lowering of tariffs on China, easing global market fears triggered by his earlier aggressive trade policies

INTERNATIONAL | **P8**



Investors richer

Investors adds ₹36.65 lakh crore to their wealth in seven days of a steep rally in the equity market, where Sensex jumped over 8%

BUSINESS | **P9**



Stunning win

Inter Kashi pull off a stunning result as they defeat Indian Super League runner-ups Bengaluru FC, 3-5 on penalties

SPORTS | **BACK PAGE**



IN SOLIDARITY: Union Home Minister Amit Shah meets family members of 26 people killed in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam and survivors of the attack, in Srinagar, Wednesday

Pak ties severed

■ **Indus Water Treaty of 1960 held in abeyance** ■ **Wagah-Attari border closed, all visas revoked** ■ **All-party meeting today**

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 23: India Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the over six-decade-old Indus Water Treaty and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam terror attack.

A day after the brazen attack that killed 26 civilians, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met Wednesday evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and firmed up New Delhi's retaliatory measures to the dastardly strike and directed the security forces to maintain high vigil.

At a late evening media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announcing the decisions said the overall strength of the Pakistani and Indian high commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by May 1. The new retaliatory measures shut down the few existing diplomatic mechanisms between the two sides taking bilateral relations to yet another new low.

The foreign secretary said the CCS resolved that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors held to account. Misri said the CCS was given a briefing on the incident in-



cluding the "cross-border linkages" of the terrorist attack.

Misri said "the defence, military, naval and air advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi are declared Persona Non Grata" and they have a week to leave India. India will be withdrawing its own defence, navy and air advisors from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, he said.

"These posts in the respective High Commissions are deemed annulled. Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions," he said.

The CCS meeting that lasted for two-and-a-half hours decided to close the Integrated Check Post at Attari with immediate effect. It is the only operational land border crossing between the two countries.

Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and any such visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are deemed cancelled, Misri said.

The CCS decided that the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures

Security forces to fill vacuum, realign forces

Press Trust of India

Srinagar, April 23: In the aftermath of the terror strike at Pahalgam that left 26 tourists dead, authorities are working on a plan to fill the security vacuum with a permanent deployment of army and paramilitary forces in the mountains overlooking the tourist destination in the Kashmir valley.

Officials in the security establishment told PTI that a realignment of the security forces was also required ahead of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which begins July 3.

There are no security forces in the immediate vicinity of the meadows of the Baisaran Valley which is ringed by dense forests. The nearest is a unit of the 3rd battalion of the Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of the Army and a company of the 116th battalion of the CRPF, the sources said.

It takes time for the troops to reach this place from their locations, which are as far as 10-11 km, to the Baisaran area that is only approachable on foot or on horseback, they said.

The security forces usually patrol the peaks and control access to them and the meadows from the ground by deploying check posts in the Kashmir valley.

The security agencies are now planning to readjust the deployment of troops so that they can be based closer to the Baisaran Valley area and also secure the rear of the forests so that any terrorist movement is kept under check.

₹20 LAKH BOUNTY FOR INFO ON TERRORISTS: J&K POLICE

Srinagar: Police Wednesday announced a bounty of ₹20 lakh for information leading to the neutralisation of terrorists involved in the gruesome killing of tourists in a Pahalgam resort of Jammu and Kashmir. Twenty-six people, including 24 tourists, were killed when terrorists opened fire in Pahalgam Tuesday afternoon. Any information leading to the neutralisation of terrorists involved in this cowardly act shall be rewarded ₹20 lakh, Anantnag police said in a post on its official X handle. The identity of the informer shall be kept a secret, the police added. Earlier in the day, security agencies released the sketches of three men suspected to be involved in the terror attack. The men, all Pakistanis, are Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha, officials said. They had code names Moosa, Yunus and Asif and were involved in terror-related incidents in Poonch. The sketches were prepared with the help of survivors, they said. From the pencil sketches, in black and white, they appear to be young and have beards.



Cabinet nod to 6 major proposals

Press Trust of India

Bhubaneswar, April 23: The state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi Wednesday approved ₹108 crore for the construction of the integrated Anandapur Barrage Project in Keonjhar district. The decision was among six major proposals cleared across five departments.

Briefing the media, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said the project, under the Water Resources department, aims to provide irrigation to 60,000 hectares in Keonjhar and Balasore districts.

The current proposal covers a segment of the larger project, focused on creating irrigation potential for 2,221 hectares under the Baitarani Left Bank Canal (BLBC) and Baitarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) systems.

The project will use an underground pipeline network to serve a total of 3,450 hectares of culturable command area in Keonjhar, Ahuja said. The project's deadline is 18 months.

In another major decision,

KEY APPROVALS

- ₹108 crore for Anandapur barrage project
- Minimum qualification for fresh Anganwadi worker appointments raised to graduation
- Restructuring of the OSWS and OWS cadres; creation of 24 new posts
- ₹2,398.45 crore for 108 EMAS for a period of 5 years
- Nod to proposal on recruitment of Excise constables
- Exemption of extra hour operation fees for distilleries

the Cabinet approved an amendment to the Odisha Children's and Women's Welfare Service Rules, 1989, raising the minimum educational qualification for appointment as an ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) supervisor.

Under the revised rules, an anganwadi worker must now hold a graduate degree or its equivalent from a recognised university, up from the previous Class X qualification. The change will apply only to fresh appointments.

The state government also announced a restructuring of the Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service and Odisha Welfare Service cadres. This includes the creation of 24 new posts across various ranks to improve administrative efficiency.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department to allocate ₹2,398.45 crore for 108 Emergency Medical Ambulance Service (EMAS) for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, he added.

Besides, two proposals of the Excise department on recruitment of constables and exemption of extra hour operation fees for distilleries, bottling units and brewery units were approved by the Cabinet.

Lakhs of Olive Ridley hatchlings head to sea

Press Trust of India

Kendrapara, April 23: In a grand culmination of the annual mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley turtles, lakhs of hatchlings broke out of eggshells to emerge from sandy pits and crawl towards the sea at the idyllic Gahirmatha beach off Bay of Bengal coast in Kendrapara district.

The natural phenomenon of the birth of the hatchlings sans their mothers left wildlife enthusiasts elated, officials said.

Lakhs of hatchlings have broken out of their eggshells in the past 48 hours and crawled towards the sea, an official said.

The emergence of the hatchlings marks the grand culmination of the annual sojourn of the Olive Ridley turtles along the Gahirmatha beach, regarded as the world's largest nesting ground for these aquatic animals.

The annual sojourn of the Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting, also called 'arribada'

had come to an end at Nasi-1, Nasi-2 and Eakakulanasi islands in Kendrapara district between March 5 and March 10 with over six lakh female turtles turning up at the beach to lay eggs, the Assistant Conservator of Forest, Manas Das, said. The emergence of hatchlings would last for at least seven to 10 days.

The number of babies would swell considerably in the coming days, the forest official said.

The nesting sites were packed with the Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings and the wildlife officials of Bhitarkanika National Park stationed at these nesting grounds were sole witnesses to the unique natural event, involving the birth of the babies sans their mothers, the official said.

In an attempt to curb the light-induced distraction, the DRDO has masked the high-power light from its Wheelers' Island missile test range centre, which is located close to the nesting ground.

Vadra's remarks on Pahalgam attack spark controversy



Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 23: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law and businessman Robert Vadra Wednesday triggered a row by suggesting that non-Muslims were attacked in Pahalgam as terrorists feel Muslims are being "mistreated" in the country, with the BJP accusing him of using the language of terrorists and demanding his apologies.

Vadra condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack and said that whenever there are communal issues and people feel vulnerable, there is division in the country and neighbouring countries benefit from it. He said it is time to separate politics and religion, and political parties should introspect.

"When this terrorist act took place, they (terrorists) were looking at IDs, people who were non-Muslims were attacked and messages were given to the prime minister. Why is this happening? Because, they are feeling that Muslims are being mistreated in our country," Vadra said.

He, however, clarified that it was his personal view and he was not speaking on behalf of the Congress party or his family.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

ARRIVAL



BOOKING
FARE ↑

The terrorists spared me. The airline had other plans

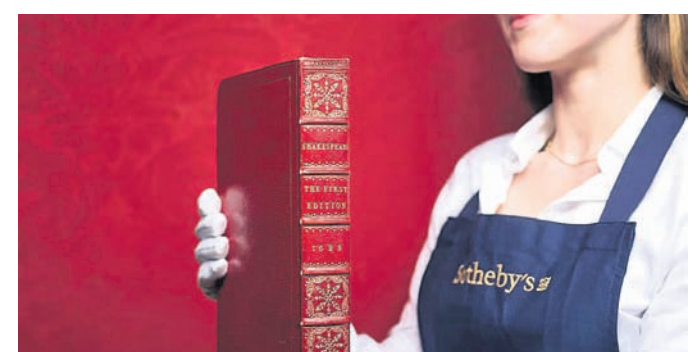
Old folios of Shakespearean plays up for auction

Associated Press

London, April 23: A set of the first four editions of William Shakespeare's collected works is expected to sell for up to 4.5 million pounds at auction next month.

Sotheby's auction house announced the sale Wednesday, Shakespeare's 461st birthday. It said the May 23 sale will be the first time since 1989 that a set of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Folios has been offered at auction as a single lot.

The auction house estimated the sale price at between 3.5 million and 4.5 million pounds.



After Shakespeare's death in 1616, his plays were collected into a single volume by his friends John Heminges and Henry Condell, actors and shareholders in the playwright's troupe, the King's Men.

The First Folio — fully titled

"Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies" — contained 36 plays, of which half were published there for the first time. Without the book, scholars say, plays including "Macbeth," "The Tempest" and "Twelfth Night" might have been lost. Sotheby's called the volume "without question the most significant publication in the history of English literature."

About 750 copies were printed in 1623, of which about 230 are known to survive. All but a few are in museums, universities or libraries. One of the few First Folios in private hands sold for \$9.9

million at an auction in 2020.

The First Folio proved successful enough that an updated edition, the Second Folio, was published in 1632, a third in 1663 and a fourth in 1685.

Although the First Folio is regarded as the most valuable, the third is the rarest, with 182 copies known to survive. It is believed the third book's rarity is because some of the stock was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. The Third Folio included seven additional plays, but only one — "Pericles, Prince of Tyre" — is believed to be by Shakespeare.

Candlelight marches held to condemn Pahalgam attack



FOR A CAUSE: Odisha Youth Congress members hold a candlelight procession in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, condemning the terrorist attack in J&K and mourning the loss of lives

Across the state, political parties and organisations called for justice and a thorough investigation into the massacre

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Many political parties, including BJP and Congress, and a number of organisations Wednesday evening took out candlelight marches across Odisha, condemning the Pahalgam terror attack and demanding stringent action against those responsible for the ghastly act.

Congress members, led by OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das, took out a candlelight march from Congress Bhawan here, while the ruling BJP members held a similar procession near Ram Mandir to pay tribute to those killed in Tuesday's terrorist attack.

Speaking on the occasion,

Das alleged that the Pahalgam incident exposed 'intelligence failure' and 'failure of both the Prime Minister and Home Minister'. He demanded a high-level probe into the incident.

"The BJP-led government is strong at the Centre, but it could not take measures to prevent a repeat of terrorist activities and eliminate terrorism from the valley," he said.

Twenty six tourists, including one from Odisha, were killed in the terror attack in Pahalgam. Prashant Satpathy, a resident of Balasore district and an employee of Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), was among them.

BJD president and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naveen Patnaik Wednesday spoke to Prashant's elder brother Sushant. "Patnaik conveyed his deep sympathies to the bereaved family and assured all support," a statement issued by the regional party said.

CPI(M) and other Left parties also took out separate rallies protesting the terror attack.

An organisation of the Muslim community took out a rally in Balasore town condemning the attack and demanding safety for the common citizens. "We want justice," said a banner displayed during the rally.

The Hindu Jagaran Manch and other right-wing organisations also hit the streets condemning the terror strike in the valley and urged the Central government to take action against those responsible for the terror activities.

Jai Hind, an organisation following the ideology of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, also took out a silent rally protesting the ghastly act and expressed their solidarity with the Indian Army to root out terrorism from the country.

Reports of candlelight rallies were also received from different districts across Odisha.

Emergency ambulance service till 2027-28

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 23: The state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Wednesday approved continuation of the Emergency Medical Ambulance Service (EMAS) from 2023-24 to 2027-28, official sources said.

The EMAS, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the state government under the banner of the 'National Ambulance Service', has been operational in Odisha since March 5, 2013.

The 108 Emergency Medical Ambulance Service has served as a lifeline for the people of Odisha.

Under this initiative, provision has been made for the delivery of comprehensive pre-hospital emergency medical services through a fleet of ambulances free of cost for the residents of Odisha.



CABINET DECISION

The EMAS-108 service is managed and monitored through a centralised and 24x7 integrated call centre with 150 seats.

Phase-II of the scheme will be implemented over five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28, with an estimated 11-12 lakh

emergency cases (including pregnant women and children) to be transported annually by EMAS-108 ambulances to designated public health facilities within a targeted response time of 20 minutes.

The current EMAS-108 fleet in the state comprises 866 ambulances, including 411 Advanced Life Support (ALS), 449 Basic Life Support (BLS), and

six boat ambulances.

The EMAS-108 ambulance service is managed by a private partner agency.

A total of ₹2398.45 crore has been provisioned for the scheme for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, according to Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who briefed the media following the Cabinet meeting.

Vision document for 2036, 2047 to be finalised in 15 days: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 23: The state government has decided to finalise its vision document for 2036 and 2047 in the next 15 days after consulting with public representatives, common citizens, members of civil society and intellectuals at various levels, an official statement said Wednesday.

The decision was taken at the 7th meeting of the state council of ministers held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Odisha will complete 100 years of formation in 2036, while India will complete 100 years of independence in 2047. So, with the support of NITI Aayog, the government has started preparing for 'Odisha Vision 2036 and 2047' from August 2024, said the statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

In his address, Majhi said that on the occasion of centenary celebrations of the formation of the state, the government has taken an ambitious resolve to make Odisha a prosperous and developed state by 2036. This will also help in achieving the goal of making our country a



developed nation by 2047, he said.

Inclusion, prosperity and wellness are the three pillars which form the basis of this vision document. To achieve the GSDP target of USD 1.5 trillion by 2047 and to contribute 5 per cent to India's GDP, Odisha needs to exceed and accelerate the rate of economic growth it has achieved so far, he said.

"This is both a challenge as well as an opportunity. This goal can be achieved through a collaborative environment, public-private investment, implementation and coordination through technology," the CM said.

In this regard, the state's growth transformation journey

will be accelerated by launching a strategic initiative '36 for 36', identifying 36 flagship initiatives aimed at making a significant impact in key sectors by 2036, he added.

Majhi stressed on the need for prioritising infrastructural growth and suggested special plans for expansion of roads and railways networks, ports and air connectivity.

It was decided in the meeting that the 'Odisha Vision 2036 and 2047' document will be finalised in consultation with public representatives, common citizens, members of civil society and intellectuals at various levels in the next 15 days by organising regional workshops at four different locations in the state.

WEATHER

BBSR

CTC

Max Temp

37.6°

37.6°

Min Temp

27.8°

26.0°

Humidity

78%

82%

Rainfall

Nil

Nil

FORECAST

Partly Cloudy Sky

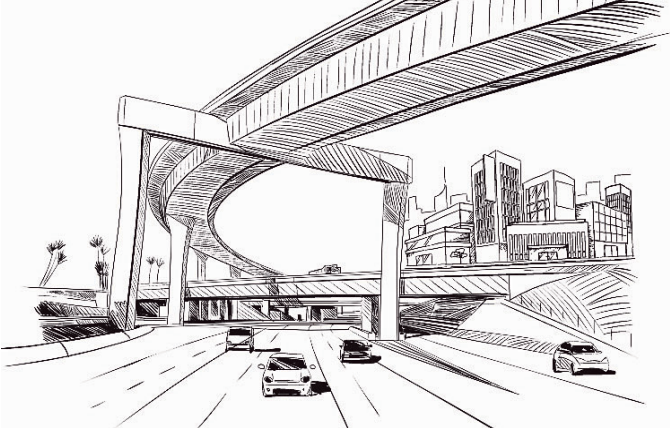
MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VARIATION	
SENSEX	80,116.49	▲ 520.90
NIFTY	24,328.95	▲ 161.70
DOLLAR	85.42	▲ 0.25
EURO	96.92	▼ 0.35
GOLD	₹94,350	▼ ₹2707
SILVER	₹97,229	▲ ₹1,512

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, dated 22.04.2025, I, JAGADISH KUMAR JENA, S/o- Gayadhar Jena, Aadhaar No.- xxxx xxxx 5248 residing at Flat No.- B-401, Snehalata Apartment, Vivekanandamarg, Bhubaneswar declare that my name is wrongly recorded as JAGDISH KUMAR JENA in my son JIBITESH JENA's Birth Certificate and Educational Certificates. That JAGDISH KUMAR JENA and JAGADISH KUMAR JENA is one and same person.

Majhi launches Works dept's project monitoring dashboard



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched Works department's project monitoring dashboard – to monitor various infrastructure projects across the state in real time and with greater accuracy – at Lok Seva Bhawan here Wednesday.

According to official sources, the advanced GIS-based dashboard allows users to view up-to-date visuals of public assets and ongoing projects, including all major initiatives. Detailed information about projects at both the district and block levels is also available.

The chief minister stated that the dashboard includes road and satellite maps, enabling precise location tracking of each project. He added that the system will enhance financial transparency.

An 'issue tracker' feature within the dashboard will fa-

cilitate effective monitoring of key challenges such as land acquisition, forest land clearance, and encroachments affecting projects. Live project tracking, financial oversight, proactive risk alerts, and performance monitoring tools will make project-related decision-making more efficient.

The chief minister also mentioned that the dashboard will be further expanded and adopted by other departments.

This initiative is expected to strengthen Odisha's infrastructure development framework and accelerate the vision of building a more prosperous state.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and other senior officials were present at the event.

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

Odisha to receive two Nat'l Panchayat Awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Odisha has earned recognition at the National Panchayat Awards 2025, winning two prestigious honours in newly-introduced special categories. The awards will be presented on Thursday during the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) celebrations at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat in Madhubani district, Bihar.

The Hatbadra Gram Panchayat from Mayurbhanj district has been awarded the Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA) at second rank, while the State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Odisha, has won the Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP), also at second rank.

Both recognitions come with a cash prize of ₹75 lakh each, along with a specially designed trophy and certificate of honour.

The ANPSA recognises Gram Panchayats that have excelled in promoting self-reliance through the augmentation of



Own Source Revenue (OSR). Hatbadra GP's efforts toward Atmanirbharta have placed it among the top three Gram Panchayats in the country in this category.

The PKNSSP, on the other hand, acknowledges excellence in capacity building and training of Panchayati Raj representatives. Odisha's SIRD&PR earned the second spot for its outstanding contribution toward strengthening local governance, particularly in line with the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

This year's NPRD event is historic as it marks the

first-ever presentation of Special Category National Panchayat Awards, instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to spotlight national priorities like climate action and self-reliant local governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Gram Sabhas across India and confer the awards at the national event.

In a notable development, three of the six award-winning Gram Panchayats, including Hatbadra from Odisha, are headed by women Sarpanches, highlighting the growing

role of women in grassroots leadership.

The newly-introduced award categories include: Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASP) – for environmentally proactive Panchayats, Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA) – for Panchayats enhancing financial self-sufficiency and Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP) – for excellence in training and capacity building of Panchayat institutions.

These awards aim to motivate Panchayats and related institutions to align more closely with national development goals and deliver measurable outcomes at the grassroots level.

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FOCUS

INDO-RUSSIAN TIES

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE



India has never voted against Russia in the UN on the Ukraine issue which has been highly appreciated by Moscow

sidelines of multilateral events, the annual strategic partnership meet format has been more productive. India-Russia relations have grown from strength to strength on this basis. Since 2000, the highest leadership of both countries have been meeting until the start of the Ukraine war. After a gap of two years Modi visited Russia in 2024 and this year the visit from Putin is due. In 2021, when Putin visited India last, there was a focus on transportation corridors like the International North-South Corridor or INSTC and Vladivostok-Chennai corridor. The meeting, the next year in Samarkand (SCO), took place against the background of the Ukraine war. Russia's interests were mainly focused on how to make friendly countries understand its position on Ukraine. Modi in Samarkand made the famous statement that "now is not an age of wars." Modi's meeting with Putin took place during the BRICS Summit in Kazan in 2024, which followed the 22nd Annual Strategic Partnership Summit in July 2024. These meetings help keep trade and economic relations going regardless of sanctions against Russia. India kept up its Russian oil purchases despite calls from the West to stop the imports. India has never voted against Russia in the UN on the Ukraine issue which has been highly appreci-

ated by Moscow. The next meeting of the two leaders will be held in India this year in the backdrop of some major shifts in the global economic and political environment. In political terms, Russia is being pressed by the US to reach a ceasefire agreement with Ukraine. While Russia has shown a desire to end the war, it is not willing to do so at the cost of the gains it has made in three years nor at the cost of its other core security interests like opposition to NATO membership for Ukraine. Notwithstanding the Easter Ceasefire declared by Russia, a real ceasefire seems to be still eluding the two countries. Today the US tariff threat hangs over all the trading partners of America. This includes India as well, which despite being willing and working to negotiate a trade deal with the Trump administration, is not sure what the future will hold given the unpredictable nature of Trump. Countries are aware that making concessions would lead to demands for further concessions, which may be detrimental to their economies. To cushion themselves from more shocks, India and Russia need to further expand trade and economic relations among themselves as well as with other countries. For example, China has recently been negotiating

with Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia to expand bilateral trade. India and Russia have to strengthen their trade and investment ties, with Indian companies investing in Russia's oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, and IT sectors, and Russian companies investing in India's energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing sectors. All these have to be done without antagonising the US. And that requires deft negotiations and strategies. The global geopolitical, geo-economic and strategic contexts have changed since Trump became President. Russia is no longer an outcaste, which the US is engaging to get a deal on Ukraine. Moscow can be helpful in talks for a US-Iran nuclear deal. The US also wants energy deals with Russia. In this background, Putin's visit to New Delhi would receive much global attention. Since India is also close to the US, the Americans may indicate to New Delhi what they wish from the talks with Russia. Modi may or may not visit Moscow for the May Day Parade, due to other engagements on 9 May. But what is more important is the visit of Putin this year in the Strategic Partnership format. Putin's visit to India is now confirmed, only dates are to be announced. On 28 March, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that Putin has accepted the invitation from the Indian side and would be visiting India. Preparations for the visit are underway. The trade and tariff issues and post-war peace efforts would require Moscow and New Delhi to be strategically engaged, which is best served by the meeting of leaders at the highest level. This makes the forthcoming visit of Putin significant.

The writer is a retired Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies at JNU.

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SPECTRUM

HEALTH

A game-changer for obesity in India



Dr Sunil Kumar Kota

WHILE THE LONG-TERM USE OF TIRZEPATIDE IS STILL BEING STUDIED, CURRENT EVIDENCE SUPPORTS IT AS AN EFFECTIVE OPTION FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED WITH LIFESTYLE CHANGES ALONE

According to the National Family Health Survey 5 (2022), 23% of Indian women and 22.1% of men are overweight based on Body Mass Index (BMI). Abdominal obesity affects upto 40% women and 12% of men, significantly increasing the risk of diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular issues, sleep apnea, and joint problems. Historically, treatment options in India have been limited to lifestyle changes and older medications like Orlistat, which have shown only modest results. That landscape is changing with the launch of Mounjaro (Tirzepatide) in India in March 2025 as a once-a-week subcutaneous injection. Known for aiding weight loss of up to 22%, Mounjaro is considered one of the most significant medical developments since the COVID-19 vaccine. First approved by the USFDA in May 2022 for type 2 diabetes and in November 2023 for weight management, it now enters the Indian market with nearly 18 months of global usage data. Why the delay in India? India's delayed rollout was mainly due to global supply shortages, with manufacturers prioritizing established markets. Additionally, efforts

were made to price it affordably and make it easily available for Indian consumers. What makes Tirzepatide unique? Tirzepatide's edge lies in its dual-action mechanism, targeting both GLP-1 and GIP receptors, unlike other medications such as liraglutide (marketed as Saxenda) and semaglutide (marketed as Ozempic/Wegovy), which act only on GLP-1 receptors. Tirzepatide promotes weight loss by suppressing appetite and promoting satiety by means of its effect on hypothalamus in brain; slowing the emptying of food from stomach thereby increasing the sense of fullness; improving insulin action and metabolism by reduction off at storage, stimulation of fat breakdown and by reducing cravings for high calorie and high fat foods. Older weight-loss drugs typically yield a 5-8% weight reduction, and injectable semaglutide (Ozempic/Wegovy) averages about 15%. Tirzepatide, on the otherhand, can help users lose up to 22%—comparable to the 25-30% loss seen with bariatric surgery. This makes it a vital option for people struggling with weight despite consistent diet and exercise. The SURMOUNT trials re-

vealed that after 72 weeks, once-a-week 5mg users lost 15% of bodyweight; once-a-week 10mg users lost 19.5%; once-a-week 15mg users lost 20.9%; and placebo group (just adhering to diet & Lifestyle modification) lost just 3.1% of bodyweight. Beyond weight loss, these new-generation drugs also support diabetes management—lowering HbA1C by 1.5-2.4% over 40-52 weeks, according to SURPASS trials. They additionally offer benefits for heart and liver health protection. Tirzepatide also showed efficacy in treating obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)—a condition linked to snoring, daytime fatigue, and lethargy. In December 2024, it became the first drug till date approved by the USFDA specifically for OSA. In India, the drug is sold in vial form, making it roughly 80% cheaper than the pen form available in the US. Gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, diarrhoea, and constipation are relatively common, found in 31%, 23% and 17% of the participants in the clinical trials respectively; but are usually mild and temporary. Only 4-7% of participants stopped treatment due to side effects. To reduce discomfort, the drug is typically initiated at a low dose

followed by gradual increment. However, Tirzepatide is not recommended for individuals with a history of medullary thyroid cancer or pancreatitis. Rapid weight loss may also increase the risk of gallbladder complications, such as gallstones & Cholecystitis, reported in about 0.6% of participants. A 2024 study found that participants who stopped taking Tirzepatide regained about 14% of lost weight within a year. In contrast, those who continued using it lost an additional 5.5% over the same period. This raises an ongoing question: How long should treatment continue? While the long-term use of Tirzepatide is still being studied, current evidence supports it as an effective option for people who haven't succeeded with lifestyle changes alone. It represents a major advancement in the fight against obesity and related health issues, with benefits far outweighing the risks. As with all new treatments, ongoing monitoring and research will be essential to maximise benefits and ensure safety. The writer is Consultant Endocrinologist & Diabetes, Thyroid, Obesity Superspecialist, Suasthya Sadan, Berhampur.



Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another

THE MOTHER

Writing On The Wall

In mid-March, Lee Zeldin, President Donald Trump's newly confirmed administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, announced that the EPA was undertaking a formal reconsideration of its "endangerment finding." The Trump administration has made no secret of its desire to rescind the 2009 declaration that greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions endanger "both the public health and the public welfare of current and future generations." In other words, Trump wants to walk back the US government's assertion that climate change is real and caused by humans. This scientific finding stemmed from a 2007 US Supreme Court ruling that various GHGs are pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act. The Court held that the EPA must determine whether GHG emissions from new motor vehicles "cause[s], or contribute[s] to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare" (emphasis added). To be clear, the ruling did not command the EPA to regulate GHG emissions. But if the agency found that emissions caused or contributed to air pollution, the Clean Air Act would require it to establish air-quality standards that accurately reflect "the latest scientific knowledge." To make this determination, the EPA had to survey the scientific literature, assess existing and emerging risks based on that science, and evaluate the costs and benefits associated with alternative options for prospective regulation. The agency then posted a preliminary draft of its findings and policy options for a 60-day public-comment period, and was required to respond publicly to each comment while revising the document. After publishing a final version of its endangerment and "cause or contribute" findings – the latter recognises that GHG emissions from new motor vehicles contribute to harmful air pollution – in December 2009, the EPA began to design its response and implement appropriate measures. But the pushback was almost immediate. By July 2010, the agency had received and denied ten petitions for reconsidering both findings. In June 2012, after a group of lawsuits, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the endangerment finding. Later, in April 2022, the EPA denied another four petitions for reconsideration. But now, with a US president who calls climate change a "hoax" and is following a governing blueprint that seeks to roll back US environmental and climate policy in the name of fossil-fuel extraction and deregulation, the EPA has abruptly changed course. The stated rationale for reconsidering the endangerment finding is tenuous, based in part on false claims about the climate agenda – most notably that it has imposed trillions of dollars in costs on Americans. Still, the EPA faces a difficult road ahead. Before the agency can reach the opposite conclusion – that GHG emissions do not endanger public health and welfare – it must undertake the same rigorous, multi-step process that produced the 2009 finding. And now it must contend with a much larger body of scientific evidence for the observed and projected damages from these emissions: the past 16 years have produced reams of research pointing to GHG emissions' harmful effects. The severity of the climate crisis became clearer in 2019, when 15 scientists published a review of the then-current literature in Science. They concluded that, since 2009, "the amount, diversity, and sophistication of the evidence" had "increased markedly, clearly strengthening the case for endangerment." In 2023, the sixth assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change brought home the message, finding that "adverse impacts from human-caused climate change will continue to intensify." The report emphasized that the effects were worsening at a faster pace than ever before. Simply embarking on an official reassessment of the endangerment finding may produce the Trump administration's desired effect: a massive retreat from climate action at the federal level. That is already happening to a certain degree. The EPA has announced plans to eliminate its scientific-research arm, even though almost every US agency depends on the climate science that it produces. Moreover, the new leaders of the many government departments that support research on global warming – from Health and Human Services (which houses the National Institutes of Health) to Commerce (which houses the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) – largely share Trump's climate skepticism. The EPA's reconsideration of the endangerment finding will give them cover to defund existing scientific programs, discontinue the collection of valuable data series, reject creative research proposals, freeze government hiring, and undertake large-scale personnel reductions. The Trump administration's disdain for established science, coupled with dramatic cuts to research funding for universities, NGOs, and the private sector, may end up discouraging an entire generation of young people from studying climate change. Whatever the EPA decides about the endangerment finding, the process is almost certain to drag on, involve multiple court cases, and make its way to the Supreme Court – by which point, the damage may already be done. Dismantling the world's most prodigious climate-research programme threatens to harm Americans – and everyone else.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Wesleyan University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float

We should consider every day lost on which we have not danced at least once. And we should call every truth false which was not accompanied by at least one laugh

Be grateful for what you have and stop complaining - it bores everybody else, does you no good, and doesn't solve any problems

ALAN WATTS

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

ZIG ZIGLAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgargh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010





Vance visits Taj with family

Following the visit, Vance returned to Jaipur and headed to the Rambagh Palace hotel after cancelling his proposed visit to the City Palace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra/Jaipur, April 23: US Vice-President JD Vance Wednesday visited the Taj Mahal along his wife Usha Vance wife and their three children, officials said.

“The Taj Mahal is amazing. A testament to true love, human ingenuity and a tribute to the great country of India,” Vance wrote in the visitor’s diary after his visit.

The Vance family landed at the Agra airport from Jaipur Wednesday, where he was welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officials said.

“A warm welcome to hon’ble US Vice President Mr JD Vance



and his family to Uttar Pradesh, the sacred heartland of India, renowned for its timeless devotion, vibrant culture and spiritual legacy,” Adityanath posted on X.

Vance was accompanied by his wife Usha, and their three children -- sons Ewan and Vivek, and daughter Mirabel. The family is on a four-day visit to India.

Following the visit, Vance returned to Jaipur and headed to

the Rambagh Palace hotel after cancelling his proposed visit to the City Palace.

The Vance family was scheduled to visit the City Palace for two hours on their return from Agra. They are scheduled to return to the US Thursday morning.

In Agra, the Vance family travelled by car from the airport to the Taj Mahal. The routes along their convoy’s path were specially decorated,

with hundreds of schoolchildren lining the streets, waving both the US flag and the Tricolour.

According to an official statement, colourful ‘rangolis’, sand art and decorations graced the key roundabouts en route the Taj Mahal, creating a festive atmosphere. Large hoardings welcoming the Vance family were also put up at many places along the way.

Elaborate security arrange-

In Agra, the Vance family travelled by car from the airport to the Taj Mahal

The routes along their convoy’s path were specially decorated, with hundreds of schoolchildren lining the streets, waving both the US flag and the Tricolour

According to an official statement, colourful ‘rangolis’, sand art and decorations graced the key roundabouts en route the Taj Mahal, creating a festive atmosphere

ments were put in place for the high-profile visit. The 12-km stretch from the airport to the Taj Mahal via Shilpgram was under a blanket security cover, including US security personnel who have been camping here for the past three days, the statement said.

The entire stretch was declared a zero-traffic zone for the movement of Vance’s convoy, it added. According to officials, the Vance family returned to the airport after visiting the Taj Mahal where they spent around an hour.

The Vances began their India trip Monday with a visit to the Akshardham Temple in Delhi before meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the latter’s residence in the capital.

Karnataka urges NMC to hike medical seats amid growing NEET aspirants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, April 23: Expressing concern over the widening gap between the number of NEET aspirants and available medical seats, the Karnataka government Wednesday urged the National Medical Commission (NMC) to significantly increase undergraduate medical seats across the country.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 2019 batch of Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (SABVMO), minister for medical education and skill development Sharan Prakash Patil, said over five lakh students appear for the NEET examination every year, but only around one lakh medical seats are available.

“This disparity needs immediate attention. The doctors we train in India are not just for our country, but for the world,” he said, pointing to the rigorous training and high demand for Indian medical professionals globally.

“There is a stark mismatch between demand and availability. The NMC must intervene,” he said, addressing NMC chair-

person Dr BN Gangadhara, who was present at the event.

According to Patil, a formal proposal has already been sent to the NMC seeking approval for an additional 800 undergraduate and 600 postgraduate medical seats in Karnataka starting this academic year. Reiterating the state’s commitment to expanding healthcare infrastructure, the minister emphasised the government’s plan to establish a medical college in every district.

“Each of these colleges will be equipped with a hospital and we aim to set up cancer care units, trauma centres and super-specialty hospitals in every district,” he said.

“The chief minister has approved this initiative. Soon, districts without medical colleges will have fully equipped institutions, allowing deserving students from economically weaker sections to pursue medicine at government expense,” he added.

NMC chairperson Dr Gangadhara, in his address highlighted the global shortage of nearly three crore doctors and encouraged the younger generation to take up medical careers.

PAHALGAM ATTACK

Security beefed up at India-Nepal border in UP’s Maharajganj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Maharajganj, April 23: Security has been heightened along the India-Nepal border in Sonauli here in the wake of the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam, officials said Wednesday.

The Uttar Pradesh Police, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and intelligence agencies are working in tandem to prevent the possible movement of terrorists, and strict identity checks are now mandatory at all border crossings, Superintendent of Police (SP) Somen-dra Meena said.

“We are on high alert and conducting thorough checks of suspicious individuals and vehicles with the aid of dog squads in congested areas and along the border,” Meena said.

He added that the security agencies are maintaining round-the-clock vigilance along the 84-km stretch of the India-Nepal border in Maharajganj.

Saplings planted on 310 acres of land using Miyawaki method

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Mathura (UP), April 23: On the occasion of Earth Day Tuesday, the Uttar Pradesh government said that saplings have been planted on 310 acres of land using the Miyawaki method, known for creating dense, fast-growing forests.

The Miyawaki technique, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s, is a revolutionary method for creating dense forests in limited spaces. Often referred to as the “pot plantation” method, it involves planting saplings and shrubs close to one another to accelerate their growth, an official statement said.

In addition, afforestation is being undertaken on 32 acres of land under the ‘Upvan’ policy, which is expected to increase carbon dioxide absorption by nearly 30 times, it added.

To tackle plastic pollution, one of the most hazardous components of urban waste, the state government has launched a campaign to construct roads



using plastic waste.

A target has been set to build approximately 1,500 km of roads by incorporating single-use plastic, which is expected to re-purpose around 2,000 tonnes of waste, the statement said.

Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of an Earth Day event in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh minister of state in charge of forest and environment, Arun Kumar Saxena, said, “People should install rooftop solar panels in their homes, and make an effort to save electricity. Also, they should

use air-conditioners only when required.”

Emphasising the importance of proper garbage disposal, he said, “Garbage should not be set afire. Rather, it should be segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and then disposed of.”

The minister informed reporters that the state government will launch a campaign in July to plant saplings for which preparations are on.

UP govt to link 7,500 rural groups to silk production

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 23: The Uttar Pradesh government has set an ambitious target to boost silk production by connecting 7,500 rural groups to the State Rural Livelihood Mission in the 2025-26 action plan, an official statement said Wednesday.

To boost silk production, the state government has devised a focused strategy for intensive implementation across 15 districts during this financial year, it said.

These districts will get support for training, adopting modern technology, and financial assistance to help silk producers compete globally. This initiative aims to blend traditional industries with innovation, strengthening the rural economy and promoting sustainable livelihoods.



An agreement has already been signed between the State Rural Livelihood Mission and the Silk Department to increase women’s participation in silk production. Under this agreement, a target has been set to connect 50,000 members of 5,000 women’s groups with silk production in the next five years, the statement said.

Seeds, equipment, and marketing support will be provided to the groups associated with silk production, which

will help increase their income. The step will also help promote silk production under the ODOP (One District, One Product) scheme, giving a new identity to the state’s traditional artisans.

The state’s annual silk production is 400 metric tonnes, while its consumption has reached 3,500 metric tonnes. Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s parliamentary constituency and a key centre under the ODOP scheme, has the highest demand for silk.

For making the state self-reliant in silk production, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the Mukhyamantri Resham Vikas Yojana this year.

Silk exports from the state have grown 28-fold over the past eight years, and this scheme aims to further elevate silk production to new heights.

K'TAKA ROAD RAGE CASE

DK Shivakumar assures justice to bike rider

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, April 23: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar spoke to Vikas Kumar, the local bike rider, in connection with the road rage case involving the Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and assured him of justice.

Taking to the social media platform X, Shivakumar stated, “I called and consoled Vikas Kumar, the Kannadiga who was assaulted in connection with the Nagavarpalya incident. If Kannadigas are in trouble, the Karnataka government will stand by them; we are committed to ensuring that the culprits are brought to justice.”

A statement from the office of the Dy CM said, “Shivakumar offered Kumar words of encouragement. He assured justice would be ensured in this case and told him there is no need to fear anything.”

The road rage incident involved IAF Wing Commander Shiladitya Bose and Vikas Kumar, a biker who is a call centre employee. Kumar was arrested after Bose posted a video on social media claiming that he was attacked for not speaking Kannada.

However, later the CCTV footage revealed Bose overpowering Kumar, banging, kicking, and punching him. Following the surfacing of the video, Kumar was released on bail. The FIR has been filed against the Wing Commander under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 109 (attempt to murder), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 304 (snatching forcefully), 324 (mischievous), and 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace).

The Indian Air Force (IAF), responding to the incident involving the brutal assault of a bike rider by a Wing Commander, described the incident as “unfortunate” and assured full cooperation with local authorities in the investigation.

In its official statement, the IAF said, “An unfortunate incident, involving an IAF officer, took place in Bangalore (April 21). The IAF is assisting the local authorities in investigating and following up the case to its lawful resolution.”

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-REPAIRING-CARDS-466, Dt.16.04.2025

NAME OF WORK : TELECOM REPAIRING WORKS OF VARIOUS CARDS AND EQUIPMENTS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value : ₹ 61,02,136.95, EMD : ₹ 1,22,100/-

Bidding Start Date : 24.04.2025.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 08.05.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm’s letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-62/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-10, Dtd.: 15.04.2025

Name of Work: S & T PORTION OF THE WORK - (1) CONSTRUCTION OF PQRS DEPOT AT SIKIR YARD IN CONNECTION WITH JHARSUGUDA J.N. - TITLAGARH (UP, DN & SL). -TSR(P)- 33.546 TKM IN SBP DIVISION. (2) CONSTRUCTION OF PQRS DEPOT AT BAMPUR YARD IN CONNECTION WITH JHARSUGUDA-SARLA-KEREJANG (UP, DN & SL). -TSR(P)- 33.419 TKM IN SBP DIVISION.

Tender Value : Rs.1,08,06,500.78

Bid Security: ₹ 2.04,000/-

Tender closing Date & Time : At 1100 hrs. on 08.05.2025

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm’s letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(Signal), PR-61/Q/25-26 Sambalpur

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
CENTRAL TO YOU SINCE 1911

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII,
Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square,
Bhubaneswar-751003,
Ph.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Date: 22.04.2025

Ms. Asi Laxmi, D/o.: Asi Narayan Rao, CSA (Emp No.: 136485), CSA, Nayagarh Branch, Qrs. No.: G-37, Mali Colony, Near Homeopathic College, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar.

It is observed that you have been absent unauthorisedly from duty without any information, not submitting any application for leave since 29.08.2020 nor obtained prior sanction from competent authority. In this matter you had been advised to report vide letter dated 04.09.2020 and 28.09.2020 by Branch Manager, Nayagarh Branch and vide letter dated 05.10.2023 by Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Regional Office, Central Bank of India but you did not resume the duty. Therefore, this notice is being given through newspaper publication as a last chance to resume duty from your unauthorised absence. In terms of Rule/Clause 33 of 8th Bipartite Settlement dated 02.06.2005 of Central Bank of India, service Rules, you are advised to report for duty and submit satisfactory explanation for your absence within 30 days from date of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that you have voluntarily vacated your services amounting to voluntary resignation from service without giving requisite notice and you shall be liable for payments in term of Clause 33 of 8th Bipartite settlement dated 02.06.2005 of Central Bank of India, service Rules.

Sd/- Chief Manager

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
CENTRAL TO YOU SINCE 1911

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII,
Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square,
Bhubaneswar-751003,
Ph.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Date: 22.04.2025

Mr. Hemanta Kumar Nayak, C/o.: Abhimanyu Naik, A/PO.: Asanpat, Via: Ukhunda, Dist.: Keonjhar-758032, Odisha, Substaff (Emp No.: 123894).

It is observed that you have been absent unauthorisedly from duty without any information, not submitting any application for leave since 07.05.2019 nor obtained prior sanction from competent authority. In this matter you had been advised to report vide letter dated 10.09.2019 by Branch Manager, Purunabaulamala Branch and vide letter dated 05.10.2023 by Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Regional Office, Central Bank of India but you did not resume the duty. Therefore, this notice is being given through newspaper publication as a last chance to resume duty from your unauthorised absence. In terms of Rule/Clause 33 of 8th Bipartite Settlement dated 02.06.2005 of Central Bank of India, service Rules, you are advised to report for duty and submit satisfactory explanation for your absence within 30 days from date of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that you have voluntarily vacated your services amounting to voluntary resignation from service without giving requisite notice and you shall be liable for payments in term of Clause 33 of 8th Bipartite settlement dated 02.06.2005 of Central Bank of India, service Rules.

Sd/- Chief Manager

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK

No.O-78
ee_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in

“e” Procurement Notice for Building Works

Identification Online Tender 1/RWDBDK-II/2025-26, Dtd.22.04.2025

1. Name of the Work:- Building Works as per Annexure. 2. Total Number of Works:- 5 Nos. 3. Approximate Estimated Cost - Rs.12.53 Lakhs - Rs.24.41 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor:- As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion:- As per Annexure. 6. Other details:- The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	1	06.05.2025 At 11.30 A.M. upto 5.00 PM	16.05.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.	17.05.2025 at 11.30 AM

7. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal “<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>”

8. Any other changes/ Corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. 9. Date of transparent lottery to be conducted on dt.29.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Bhadrak.

OIPR-250901/00118/2526 **Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Bhadrak**

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसूचक केन्द्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल,
प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से.-5,
आई.एम.टी. मनेसर,
गुडगाँव, हरियाणा - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE),
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5,
IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/71 **Date: 07/04/2025**

Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (4) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB2905691	U80900OR2018PTC028776	WHITE INK EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB2968350	U74999OR2020OPC032753	VINDHYAVASHINI CATERING AND EVENT MANAGEMENT (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB2980360	U15142OR2004PTC007522	ARIHANT EDIBLE OILS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB3089227	U85200OR2017PTC027340	UDRA UBUNTU HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irfan Kirkey
Assistant Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0074/2526



This is a cowardly act of Pakistan... The whole country is united to respond to this cowardly act of Pakistan and its picchlaggu (hangers-on). Our government is moving ahead with a very good plan. We all will pray to Baba Mahakal (Lord Mahakaleshwar) that no such cowardly act happens again in the future

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

SC JUDGES, LAWYERS PAY TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS

The Supreme Court Wednesday observed a moment of silence for the lives snuffed out in a terror attack in Pahalgam in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The moment of silence was observed by all courts at around 2 pm, when the court assembled in the post-lunch session



What is TRF, the group that said it attacked tourists?



Kashmir Resistance, also known as The Resistance Front (TRF), has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack on tourists in Indian-administered Kashmir, the deadliest incident of its kind in India since the 2008 shootings in Mumbai. Here are some facts about the group.

WHAT IS TRF? TRF emerged in 2019 and is considered an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, a Delhi-based think tank. Indian security officials said TRF uses the name Kashmir Resistance on social media and online forums, where it claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack in Indian Kashmir's Pahalgam area. Lashkar-e-Taiba, listed as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States, is the Islamist group accused of plotting attacks in India and in the West, including the three-day assault on Mumbai in November 2008. "This is basically a front of the LeT. These are groups which have been created over the last years, particularly when Pakistan was under pressure from the Financial Action Task Force and they were trying to create a pattern of denial that they were involved in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir," said Ajai Sahni, head of the South Asia Terrorism Portal.

WHAT HAS THE GROUP DONE? The group has not previously had any large incidents attributed to it, according to Sahni. "All TRF operations are essentially LeT operations. There will be some measure of operational freedom as to where they hit on the ground, but the sanction would have come from the LeT," Sahni said.

WHAT DOES INDIA SAY ABOUT TRF? India's interior ministry told parliament in 2023 that the group had been involved in the planning of killings of security force personnel and civilians in Jammu and Kashmir. The group also co-ordinated the recruitment of militants and the smuggling of weapons and narcotics across the border, the ministry said. As per the Intelligence officials TRF had also been issuing online threats against pro-India groups for the past two years.

WHAT DOES PAKISTAN SAY? Pakistan has denied that it supports and funds militants in Kashmir, saying it offers only moral and diplomatic support. REUTERS

'Terrorism contradicts Islam's policy of peace'

Prominent Muslim organisations Wednesday strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, with the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind asserting that it is wrong to give a religious colour to the incident as terrorism is a "cancer" that contradicts Islam's policy of promoting peace. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) condemned the terror attack and decided to pause its ongoing protest programmes against the new Waqf law for three days, starting Wednesday, in solidarity with the victims' families. As a mark of solidarity with the bereaved families, the board has suspended its campaign against the "controversial amendments" to the Waqf Act for three days, it said. S Q R Ilyas, national convener of the Majlis-e-Amal for the protection of Waqf under the AIM-PLB, said in a statement. Therefore, the board has decided to suspend its protest programmes under the Waqf Protection Campaign for three days as an expression of mourning and sympathy for the victims' families. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, the head of the All India Imam Organisation, said the imams of more than 5.5 lakh mosques in the country will give a strong message against terrorism, along with praying for the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, during the Friday prayers this week.

Valley sees 1st shutdown in 35 years

A wave of protests swept J&K and other states Wednesday against the Pahalgam massacre, with political parties as well as religious and social organisations asserting that such acts were against Islamic teachings and calling for unity in the face of the challenge posed by terrorists and their backers

AGENCIES

Srinagar, April 23: Kashmir valley observed a shutdown against a terror attack for the first time in 35 years Wednesday as organisations from all walks of life supported the bandh call to protest the killings in Pahalgam tourist resort, officials said.

Terrorists struck at a prime tourist location in Pahalgam in south Kashmir Tuesday, killing at least 26 people, mostly tourists, and injuring several others.

Security has been beefed up across the valley, especially at vital tourist spots.

Most of the shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut in Srinagar, the officials said. They said only shops dealing in essential commodities were



open across the city. Public transport was also sparse, but private vehicles were plying normally, they added. Private schools were also shut across the valley, but government schools were open, the officials said.

The effect of the shutdown was also witnessed in the other district headquarters of the valley, they said.

Peaceful protests were also held at several places in the valley, with the protesters denouncing the attack. They called for stopping the

Who is Saifullah Khalid?

A major revelation has emerged in connection with the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. According to Army sources, Lashkar-e-Taiba's top commander, Saifullah Khalid, has been identified as the mastermind behind the heinous assault. Saifullah, who is also known by the alias Saifullah Kasuri, is said to have been plotting the attack for the past two months. During this time, he reportedly made two visits to Pakistani Army camps as part of the planning process.



killing of innocent people. Several political parties, socio-religious organisation, trade bodies, and civil society groups called for a shutdown in Kashmir to protest against the attack in Baisaran meadows of the Pahalgam resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The ruling National Confer-

ence (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples' Conference, and Apni Party were among the political outfits that supported the shutdown to protest the attack. Mutahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) -- an amalgam of several religious bodies -- which is headed by Hurriyat Conference chair-

Terror attack derails tourism



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, April 23: The Pahalgam terror attack is set to deal a blow to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir with travel agencies in several parts of the country reporting widespread cancellations of scheduled trips to the Union Territory even as the Centre said it will do the best to "minimise" the impact on hospital-ity sector in J&K.

Travel agents in J&K said most of the tourists were leaving the valley due to fear. "We know tourists have by and large been safe in Kashmir but with such an incident happening here, one cannot expect them to stay back. The cancellations are massive, close to 80 per cent," Aijaz Ali, a travel operator from Srinagar, said. He said there were cancellations of packages even for next one month.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said it was "heartbreaking" to see the exodus of tourists. He has called for a special cabinet meeting Wednesday evening to discuss the impact of the dev-

astating strike on tourism, the main stay of the economy in Kashmir. In the national capital, travel agencies reported that nearly 90 per cent bookings for Kashmir have been cancelled, while some tourists are negotiating to shift their plans to alternative destinations.

Tourism industry leaders in Kolkata, a key hub in eastern India for travel to J&K, claimed that the incident could undo years of recovery and growth in the Kashmir valley.

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that his ministry will do the best to "minimise" the dent on tourism in J&K in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

Interacting with reporters in Delhi, Shekhawat said he and his office are in "continuous touch" with the chief secretary and the tourism secretary of the Union Territory and keeping an eye on the situation.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry has asked airlines to ensure there is no surge in airfares on the Srinagar route, and airlines will be operating additional flights to the city.

Air India and IndiGo will operate a total of four additional flights from Srinagar to the national capital and Mumbai Wednesday. Airlines have also waived ticket rescheduling and cancellation charges.



Indian Navy Lt. Vinay Narwal's wife breaks down while paying tribute to her husband after his mortal remains were brought at the cargo terminal of IGI Airport in New Delhi



Bereaved family members of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a pony ride operator who was killed in the terror attack at Pahalgam, and others mourn during his funeral



People hold black balloons and posters in tribute to the terror attack victims in Kolkata, West Bengal



Members of the Pahalgam Taxi Owners Association protest against the Pahalgam terror attack, amid 'bandh' in Anantnag district

Newspapers turn front pages black

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, April 23: Several prominent newspapers in Kashmir Wednesday printed their front pages black to protest the brutal terrorist attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead in the Pahalgam hill resort the previous day.

The striking act of protest by the newspapers, each bearing powerful headlines in white or red, was a powerful public display of solidarity and grief, symbolising the collective sorrow felt by the residents and the media over the inhuman act. The change in format by leading English and Urdu dailies, including Greater Kashmir, Rising Kashmir, Kashmir Uzma, Aftab and Taameel Irshad, serves as a stark reminder of



the violence that has plagued the region for decades.

"Gruesome: Kashmir Gutted,



Kashmiris Grieving", screamed the headline of leading English daily Greater Kashmir in white

on a black layout, followed by the subhead "26 killed in deadly terror attack in Pahalgam" in red. The paper's front-page editorial with the headline "The massacre in the meadow - Protect Kashmir's soul" said the attack has cast a dark shadow over J&K, a region striving to reclaim its legacy as a "Paradise on Earth".

"This heinous act is not merely an assault on innocent lives but a deliberate blow to Kashmir's identity and values -- its hospitality, its economy, and its fragile peace. Kashmir's soul stands in unequivocal condemnation of this brutality and offers heartfelt condolences to the victims' families, who sought beauty but found tragedy," the editorial said.

TERROR TRAGEDY SHAKES NATION

Terrorists targeted male tourists after asking their religion

The daughter of a businessman from Pune killed in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam has claimed that terrorists specifically targeted male tourists after asking them to identify their religion. Two businessmen from Maharashtra's Pune, Santosh Jagdale and Kaustubh Ganbote, sustained gunshot wounds in the dastardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam Tuesday and later succumbed, officials said. Terrorists asked an LIC manager from Indore, who belonged to the Christian community, to recite the 'Kalma' before shooting him dead, his relatives claimed Wednesday and demanded harshest punishment for the assailants.

Par panel on Home calls off tour of J&K

A key parliamentary panel has called off its scheduled tour of Jammu and Kashmir from April 25 following the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam in order to avoid diverting the focus of the security agencies, which are currently fully engaged in handling the situation. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal was to go on a study tour of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, both Union territories, from April 25 to May 1, official sources said. However, Agrawal conveyed to the members of the panel the decision to defer the tour after the terror attack in which at least 26 persons were shot dead by terrorists.

J&K govt announces ₹10 lakh ex-gratia

The Jammu and Kashmir government Wednesday announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh for the families of each of those killed in the Pahalgam terror attack Tuesday. Making the announcement, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X, "Deeply shocked and anguished by the despicable terrorist attack in Pahalgam yesterday. This barbaric and senseless act of brutality against innocent civilians has no place in our society. We condemn it in the strongest possible terms. We mourn the precious lives lost." The chief minister said no amount of money can ever compensate for the loss of loved ones, but as a mark of support and solidarity, the J&K government announces an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh each for the families of the deceased. The chief minister also announced ₹2 lakh for those seriously injured, and ₹1 lakh for those with minor injuries.

of the day

quote

We're trying to see how, in this very complex environment, UNRWA can best deliver for the Palestine refugees it serves, for the communities it serves

STEPHANE DUJARRIC | UN SPOKESMAN

I'll dedicate more time to Tesla starting in May after the company reported a big drop in first-quarter profit. The company has faced angry protests over Musk's leadership of a federal government jobs-cutting group that has divided the country

ELON MUSK | SENIOR ADVISOR, US

Your vote will determine your future and your children's future. We are in a changed world with turbulence all around. So, there is much at stake in this election

LAWRENCE WONG | PRIME MINISTER, SINGAPORE

SHORT TAKES

China backs Iran's nuclear talks with US

Beijing: China supports Iran holding talks on its nuclear program with the United States and opposes the use of force and “illegal” unilateral sanctions to try to resolve the issue, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Iran's foreign minister Wednesday. Beijing is willing to deepen coordination and cooperation with Tehran on international and regional affairs, Wang told Iran's Abbas Araqchi during talks in the Chinese capital, according to a ministry statement. “The Chinese side commends Iran's promise not to develop nuclear weapons and respects Iran's right to utilise nuclear energy peacefully,” Wang said.

Bridge collapses after fire breaks out

Beijing: A bridge in Beijing's northeastern Shunyi district collapsed Wednesday morning after a fire broke out in its structure, according to authorities and images circulating on social media. No casualties were reported on the bridge, which was already closed to traffic, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport wrote on the social media platform Weibo. The Chaobai river bridge was damaged after the fire broke out in the morning, the commission said. The fire was later put out.

211 candidates in fray for Singapore election

Singapore: A total of 211 candidates will contest 92 out of 97 parliamentary seats in Singapore's upcoming General Election, scheduled for May 3. One Group Representation Constituency was returned uncontested following the close of nominations Wednesday. The ruling People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled the city-state since it gained independence in 1965, was the only party to field candidates for all 97 seats in 33 constituencies. Its largest opponent, the Workers' Party, is fighting for 26 seats across eight constituencies.

Gunmen kill 2 policemen guarding polio team

Karachi: Two security personnel guarding a polio vaccination team were shot dead by unidentified gunmen Wednesday in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, police said. The incident took place in the Teeri area of Mastung district, where Levies personnel protecting the polio vaccination team were attacked by masked gunmen, Assistant Commissioner Akram Harifal told the media.



The government's reforms do not recognize the reality of 16 million informal laborers and unemployed people in Colombia

JAIME ALBERTO CABAL | PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MERCHANTS

CHINA REVEALS NEW TEAM OF ASTRONAUTS

China will launch three astronauts aboard the Shenzhou-20 spacecraft Thursday at 5:17 p.m. Beijing time from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre. The mission, marking China's 10th Space Day, will rotate the current crew aboard the space station after six months of continuous manned operations



DOZENS HURT JUMPING FROM BUILDINGS

POWERFUL QUAKE SHAKES ISTANBUL



REUTERS

Istanbul, April 23: More than 150 people were injured when they jumped from buildings in Istanbul Wednesday as one of the strongest quakes in years hit the city.

Many people gathered in parks and others sat on doorsteps, or stood outside their homes in the centre of Istanbul as aftershocks from the magnitude 6.2 quake on the European side of the city continued to be felt.

“It started with a big tremor all of a sudden and we felt it very strongly,” said Istanbul resident Neslisah Aygoren, sitting in a park.

“I ran straight to my dog in fear, hugged it and we waited for it to end, lying on the ground. After that, we took our belongings and went straight to the street.”

A total of 151 people were hurt and received hospital treatment after leaping from buildings in panic during the tremor but none were in a critical condition, the Istanbul governor's office said.

It said one abandoned building collapsed in central Istanbul, but nobody was hurt there, while there was no damage to energy or water infrastructure in the city of 16 million on the European and Asian shores of the Bosphorus Strait. Some shops closed.

Two years ago Turkey suffered the deadliest and most destructive earthquake in its

- 151 PEOPLE INJURED AFTER JUMPING IN PANIC, NONE CRITICAL
- ONE ABANDONED BUILDING COLLAPSED, NOBODY HURT THERE
- EPICENTRE NEAR SILIVRI, 80 KM WEST OF ISTANBUL
- PRESIDENT ERDOGAN MONITORING SITUATION

modern history. That 7.8-magnitude quake in February 2023 killed more than 55,000 people and injured more than 107,000 in southern Turkey and northern Syria.

Hundreds of thousands of people remain displaced, with many still living in temporary housing as a result of that quake.

The latest tremor also revived memories of a 1999 earthquake near Istanbul that killed 17,000.

The epicentre of Wednesday's quake, which hit at 12:49 pm, was in the area of Silivri, some 80 km (50 miles) to the west of Istanbul. It was at a depth of 6.92 km (4.3 miles), Turkey's AFAD disaster agency said.

Transport Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu said inspections did not reveal any damage to highways, airports, trains or subways.

President Tayyip Erdogan said on X he was monitoring the situation and his office issued advice on what people should do in the case of further quakes.

Trump signals China tariffs to come down



China tariffs could come down to between 50% and 65%, the paper said, citing a White House official

REUTERS

Washington, April 23: The Trump administration would look at lowering tariffs on imported Chinese goods pending talks with Beijing, a source familiar with the matter said Wednesday, adding that any action would be in conjunction with negotiations and not made unilaterally.

The source's comments followed a Wall Street Journal report, citing people familiar with the matter, that the White

House is considering cutting its tariffs on Chinese imports in a bid to de-escalate tensions with Beijing.

China tariffs could come down to between 50% and 65%, the paper said, citing a White House official. President Donald Trump since returning to the White House in January has ramped up tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%.

Trump has not made a decision, the Journal said, adding that the discussions remain fluid and several options are on the table.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

US stocks extended their early session gains after the report. The market had opened

sharply higher on a combination of relief among investors over comments from Trump late Tuesday that were seen as constructive about the tariffs on China, and on Trump backing away from threats to fire the head of the Federal Reserve. The benchmark S&P 500 index was up 3.3% at a two-week high in mid-morning trading.

Trump expressed optimism Tuesday that he would make progress with China that would substantially lower tariffs on their imports but also warned that “if they don't make a deal, we'll set the deal.”

Trump said a deal would result in “substantially” lower tariffs on Chinese goods.

“It won't be that high,” Trump said when asked about the current rates. “It won't be anywhere near that.”

The Journal said the administration is also considering a tiered approach similar to one proposed by the House of Representatives committee on China late last year: 35% levies for items the US deems not a threat to national security, and at least 100% for items deemed as strategic to America's interest, some of the people said. That bill proposed phasing in those levies over five years.



Chinese honor guards march after the arrival ceremony attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Ukraine talks falter after Rubio no-show

REUTERS

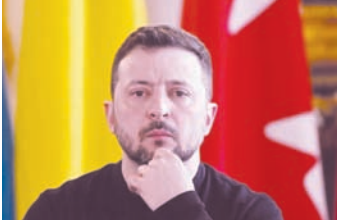
London/Paris, April 23: US, Ukrainian and European officials held “substantive” meetings Wednesday to try to get peace talks back on track after the cancellation of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's trip raised questions over how much progress was being made.

Rubio's no show to the London talks prompted a broader meeting with foreign ministers from Ukraine, Britain, France and Germany to be cancelled, underscoring the gaps in po-

sitions between Washington, and Kyiv and its European allies over how to bring an end to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The downgrading of the talks comes at a critical time, days after US President Donald Trump warned that Washington could walk away if there was no progress on a deal soon. Trump raised the pressure Sunday when he said he hoped Moscow and Kyiv would make a deal this week to end the three-year conflict.

At the heart of Wednesday's talks was an attempt to establish what Kyiv can possibly



accept after Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff presented proposals to a similar session in Paris last week. Three diplomats said those proposals appeared to demand more concessions from Ukraine than

Dialysis patients struggle to get treatment in blockaded Gaza

The situation has worsened dramatically since March, when Israel sealed off the territory, halting imports of food, medical supplies, and fuel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), April 23: Twice a week, 54-year-old Mohamed Attiya's wheelchair rattles over the battered streets of Gaza as he makes his way to Shifa Hospital in the north of Gaza City. There, he undergoes dialysis to treat the kidney failure he has lived with for nearly 15 years. But the treatment he receives now, shortened and infrequent due to war and a lack of medical supplies, is far from enough. “It just brings you back from death,” says Attiya, a father of six.

His story is one of hundreds. According to Gaza's Health

Ministry, over 400 dialysis patients—nearly 40% of all such patients in the territory—have died since the war began 18 months ago. These are not the highly visible casualties of bombings or airstrikes, but slow, preventable deaths caused by the collapse of Gaza's health care system under the weight of conflict and blockade.

The situation has worsened dramatically since March, when Israel sealed off the territory, halting imports of food, medical supplies, and fuel. Israeli officials say the blockade is meant to pressure Hamas in- to releasing hostages. However, the consequences for ordinary civilians have been devastat-



ing. Among them are kidney patients like Attiya, whose survival depends on regular, reliable treatment.

Dialysis is a life-sustaining process that removes waste and excess fluid from the blood, something damaged kidneys can no longer do. Patients typically need three sessions a

week, lasting about four hours each. But in Gaza, limited fuel, damaged infrastructure, and medical shortages have reduced sessions to just two per week, often cut short to two or three hours.

According to the World Health Organization, six of Gaza's seven dialysis centers

For these patients, survival is not only about war — it's about whether they can get to a hospital, find clean water, and stay alive between sessions

have been destroyed since the war began. The number of functioning dialysis machines has dropped from 182 to just 102, and the stockpile of kidney medications is reportedly “zero.” Access to clean water, essential for dialysis patients, is also critically low after Israel cut power to Gaza, shutting down a major desalination plant.

Attiya has been displaced six times since fleeing his home near Beit Hanoun. He

once walked to his hospital treatments, but the limited dialysis and high cost of mineral water have weakened him so much that he now depends on a wheelchair. “There is no transportation. Streets are damaged. Life is difficult and expensive,” he says.

Dr Ghazi al-Yazigi, head of nephrology at Shifa Hospital, confirmed that at least 417 patients have died from inadequate dialysis since the war began. Patients suffer complications such as high toxin levels and fluid buildup, which can be fatal without proper care.

Mohamed Kamel, another patient, began dialysis only recently after developing kidney failure during the war. “I feel no improvement after each session,” he says. With no access to filtered water and missed appointments due to bombings, his health continues to decline.

Business

Bull run makes investors richer

In the past seven trading days, the BSE benchmark zoomed 6,269.34 points or 8.48%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: Investors added Rs 36.65 lakh crore to their wealth in seven days of a steep rally in the equity market, where the benchmark Sensex jumped over 8 per cent during this period. On Wednesday, the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge jumped 520.90 points or 0.65 per cent to settle at 80,116.49, the highest closing level since December 18. During the day, it surged 658.96 points or 0.82 per cent to 80,254.55.

In the past seven trading days, the BSE benchmark zoomed 6,269.34 points or 8.48 per cent. Thanks to the rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged by Rs 36,65,542.83 crore to Rs 4,30,47,876.05 crore (\$5.04 trillion) during this time. "Benchmark indices closed higher for the 7th straight session on Wednesday, helped by positive global cues. Markets opened sharply higher in the morning,



helped by an overnight rally in the US markets after Trump ruled out firing the US Fed chair Powell. Trump also expressed optimism over the trade deal with China, further lifting the global sentiment.

"However, markets had a volatile session in the morning as banking stocks saw profit-book-ing with indices giving up opening gains, only to bounce back in a steady rebound throughout the day on sustained buying to close near day's highs," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said. Among the Sensex firms, HCL Tech surged the most by 7.72 per cent after the firm posted an 8.1 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,307 crore for the March quarter 2024-25, mainly on account of large deals with a total contract value of about Rs 25,500 crore.

Central Bank holds mega credit camp

Cuttack: Central Bank of India, Pira Bazar Branch, Cuttack organised a mega credit camp for SHG Bank linkage April 23 at Maa Bhagwati Mandap, Bhairpur in presence of Prasanta Behera, MLA Tangi-Salipur. On this occasion, Behera, underlined the significance of SHG financing in empowering women to take control of their financial decisions and livelihood, particularly in rural and semi urban areas. Further he added that the SHG-Bank Linkage programme has been instrumental in promoting financial inclusion and reducing poverty. He also appreciated the endeavour of the bank for continuously striving towards various women centric schemes for upliftment of society and as a whole improving the economy of the nation. The bank also distributed sanction letters to different SHGs aggregating to an amount of Rs 2.5 crore. The programme was held in presence of Pankaj Kumar, Regional Head, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, Santosh Ku Das, Branch Head, Pira bazar Branch, along with other senior bank officials.

WB lowers FY26 growth forecast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: The World Bank Wednesday lowered India's growth forecast for the current fiscal by 4 percentage points to 6.3 per cent amid global economic weakness and policy uncertainty. In its previous estimate, the World Bank had projected India's growth at 6.7 per cent for the fiscal year 2025-26.



In India, growth in FY24/25 disappointed because of slower growth in private investment and public capital expenditures that did not meet government targets, the World Bank said in its twice-yearly regional outlook. "In India, growth is expected to slow from 6.5 per cent in FY24/25 to 6.3 per cent as in FY25/26 as the benefits to private investment from monetary easing and regulatory streamlining are expected to be offset by global economic weakness and policy uncertainty," said its South Asia Development

Update, Taxing Times. The World Bank report said the benefits to private investment from monetary easing and regulatory streamlining are expected to be offset by global economic weakness and policy uncertainty. "Private consumption is expected to benefit from tax cuts, and the improving implementation of public investment plans should boost government investment, but export demand will be constrained by shifts in trade policy and slowing global growth," it said. It further said that amid increasing uncertainty in the global economy, South Asia's growth prospects have weakened, with projections downgraded in most countries in the region. Stepping up domestic revenue mobilisation could help the region strengthen fragile fiscal positions and increase resilience against future shocks, it said. The Washington-headquartered multilateral agency has projected regional growth to slow to 5.8 per cent in 2025, 0.4 percentage points below October projections before ticking up to 6.1 per cent in 2026.



“When consumer price inflation is decisively around its target rate of 4 per cent and growth is still moderate and recovering, monetary policy needs to nurture domestic demand impulses to further increase the growth momentum

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

LG ELECTRONICS DELAYS INDIA UNIT IPO

South Korea's LG Electronics has delayed its Indian unit's IPO plans due to market volatility and is now targeting launching the offering in the second or third quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026, instead of May, a source with direct knowledge said Wednesday



Luxury items above ₹10L to attract 1% TCS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: Handbags, wrist watches, footwear and sports-wear, priced above Rs 10 lakh will now attract 1 per cent Tax Collected at Source (TCS), as per a notification issued by the Income Tax department.

TCS at 1 per cent rate is currently being levied on motor vehicles costing above Rs 10 lakh effective January 1, 2025.

The Income Tax department April 22 notified the list of specified luxury goods and collectibles on which 1 per cent TCS will apply henceforth.

The list includes wrist watches, art objects such as paintings, sculptures, and antiques, collectible items including coins and stamps, yachts, helicopters, luxury handbags, sunglasses, footwear, high-end sportswear and equipment, home theatre systems, and horses intended for racing or polo.



TCS is collected from the buyer at the time of sale of specified goods and can be adjusted against the tax liability of the purchaser at the time of filing of I-T returns.

TCS does not garner any additional revenue, but helps the tax department to trace high value spending as PAN details have to be submitted at the time of purchase.

The TCS provision for luxury goods as well as motor vehicles

costing above Rs 10 lakh was introduced via Finance Act, 2024, as part of the Budget presented in July, 2024.

The obligation to collect TCS shall be on the seller in respect of the notified goods such as wrist watches, art objects such as paintings, sculptures, and antiques, collectible items including coins and stamps, yachts, helicopters, luxury handbags, sunglasses, footwear, high-end sportswear and equipment, home theatre systems, and horses intended for racing or polo.

Nangia Andersen LLP Tax Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, said this notification operationalises the government's intent to enhance monitoring of high-value discretionary expenditure and strengthen the audit trail in the luxury goods segment.

It reflects a broader policy objective of expanding the tax base and promoting greater financial transparency.

Surge in export orders pushes business growth

REUTERS

Bangalore, April 23: India's private sector growth rose to an eight-month high in April fueled by robust demand, particularly a surge in foreign orders for manufactured goods, according to a survey, but business confidence showed some signs of softening.

While the latest data underscores a vibrant start to the fiscal year for India's economy, the souring outlook will make it challenging to maintain momentum at a time when US President Donald Trump's tariffs have hurt business sentiment.

The HSBC flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, climbed to 60.0, up from 59.5 in March, the strongest



pace of combined manufacturing and services growth since August. The 50-mark separates growth from contraction.

Manufacturing growth underpinned the strong performance, with the index rising to 58.4 from 58.1 and reaching a level not seen in a year. The services PMI index also showed solid growth, rising to a four-month high of 59.1 from 58.5 last month.



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Speakers



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Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries
Government of India

Sh. Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce & Industry
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Sh. Devendra Fadnavis

Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan

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Government of India

Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Minister for Railways; Information &
Broadcasting; Electronics & IT
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Athletes demand end of sporting ties with Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: India's sporting fraternity oscillated between grief and rage as it joined the nation in condemning the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam with some demanding that the country should cut all sports ties with Pakistan.

On Tuesday, terrorists opened fire at a prime tourist location in south Kashmir's Pahalgam, killing at least 26 civilians and injuring several others. The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli expressed shock as they mourned the loss of lives.

"The affected families must be going through an unimaginable ordeal - India and the world stand united with them at this dark hour, as we mourn the loss of lives and pray for justice," Tendulkar wrote.

"Heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. Praying for peace and strength to families all those who lost their lives and justice to be served for their cruel act," Kohli posted on his Instagram.

Former India cricketer Shreevats Goswami wrote a strongly-worded post, demanding an end to all sporting ties with Pakistan.

"And this is exactly why I say - you don't play cricket with Pakistan. Not now. Not ever. When BCCI or the government refused to send India to the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, some had the audacity to say, 'Oh, but sport should rise above politics'," Goswami wrote.

"...murdering innocent Indians seems to be Pakistan's national sport and India should respond with zero tolerance and not with bats and balls,"

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK



he added.

While India has not played bilateral cricket with Pakistan since 2012-13, and the BCCI declined to send its team for the Champions Trophy earlier this year, other Indian teams have continued to travel to Pakistan for international events.

Goswami, who had recently visited Pahalgam, said he had sensed hope and peace returning to the valley.

"And now... this bloodshed again. It breaks something inside you. It makes you question how many more times we're expected to stay silent, stay 'sporting,' while our people die. No more. Not this time," he added.

Expressing his grief and anger over the incident, World champion powerlifter Mahant Gaurav Sharma said, "I am deeply shocked by the tragic loss of innocent lives in the gruesome terror attack at Pa-

“And this is exactly why I say - you don't play cricket with Pakistan. Not now. Not ever. When BCCI or the government refused to send India to the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, some had the audacity to say, 'Oh, but sport should rise above politics'”

SHREEVATS GOSWAMI | FORMER INDIA CRICKETER

halgam. This was a cowardly act. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and offer prayers for the departed souls. The Indian government must take decisive action against those responsible for this heinous attack."

Sharma also called for a complete halt to all cricketing ties with Pakistan, including matches in ICC tournaments.

"The BCCI should not engage in any cricket with Pakistan, not even in ICC events. A clear message must be sent: if you support terrorism, we will not

maintain any form of sporting ties. Enough is enough; strong and uncompromising action is needed," he asserted.

On Wednesday, BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla also addressed whether India and Pakistan will continue to face off in ICC events. "India and Pakistan do not play bilateral series, and we will continue to do what the Government tells us to do," Shukla said.

Indian cricket team head coach and former BJP MP Gautam Gambhir wrote: "Praying for the families of the deceased. Those responsible for this will pay. India will strike."

Olympic gold medalist duo of javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and Abhinav Bindra prayed for the victims.

"Heartbroken by the tragic attack in Jammu & Kashmir. Prayers for the victims and their families," Chopra wrote. "Heartbroken by the horrific

terrorist attack in Pahalgam. My thoughts are with the victims and their families. Terror has no place in our world, we must stand united against hatred and violence," Bindra added.

The attack is the deadliest terrorist act in the valley since the 2019 Pulwama strike.

Olympic medal-winning former hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, shuttler Saina Nehwal and two-time world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen also called for justice.

"Condemnation is not enough, justice must follow. Our hearts bleed for Pahalgam. Terror must never win. Prayers for all affected in the Pahalgam attack," Sreejesh wrote.

Political tensions between the countries have led to the Indian team avoiding travel to Pakistan since 2008, while the two have not played each other outside of men's major tournaments since 2013.

Hitman fires again

Mumbai Indians pulverise hapless Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets to record fourth win on the trot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, April 23: A rampant Mumbai Indians rode on Rohit Sharma's (70) second consecutive fifty to pulverise a hapless Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in their Indian Premier League match here Wednesday.

Mumbai Indians' fourth win on the trot, which took them to the third spot from the earlier sixth on the points table, came after SRH posted a below-par 143/8 and Rohit making the most of the perfect batting conditions to score 70 off 46 balls (8x4s, 3x6s).

MI scored 146/3 in 15.4 overs to win the match with 26 balls to spare, with Suryakumar Yadav hitting a 19-ball 40 not out (5x4s, 2x6s).

The fate of the contest was all but sealed when SRH crumbled to 35/5 following an embarrassing collapse. Despite Heinrich Klaasen's 71 and Abhinav Manohar's 43, the hosts did not have enough runs on the board to challenge MI's batting might.

The five-time winners recorded their third consecutive win while chasing, having drubbed Chennai Super Kings by nine wickets last Sunday.

It was also their second win over SRH in the season, having beaten them by four wickets last week in Mumbai.

Earlier, Klaasen's measured 71 and Manohar's 43 rescued a listless SRH from a terrible start and guided them to 143/8.

Klaasen struck nine fours and two sixes for his 44-ball 71, putting on 99 runs for the sixth wicket with impact substitute Abhinav Manohar, who played a steady second fiddle with his 37-ball 43 (2x4s, 3x6s).

But it was a harrowing start for SRH who are placed second-last on the points table and face an uphill battle to keep themselves alive.

The lack of confidence was evident when SRH's top-order crumbled without any apparent pressure from the bowlers.

Instead of putting pressure on the MI bowlers, SRH pre-



sented a meek batting show, which was compounded by a reckless decision from Ishan Kishan (1) who walked back despite not having edged one behind the stumps.

The top order implosion saw last year's finalists crawling to an embarrassing 24 for four in the powerplay.

BRIEF SCORES:
Sunrisers Hyderabad: 143 for 8 in 20 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 71, Abhinav Manohar 43; Deepak Chahar 2/12, Trent Boult 4/26) lost to **Mumbai Indians:** 146 for 3 in 15.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 70, Will Jacks 22, Suryakumar Yadav 40 not out)

IPL STANDINGS						
TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS	
GT	8	6	2	1.104	12	
DC	8	6	2	0.657	12	
MI	9	5	4	0.673	10	
RCB	8	5	3	0.472	10	
PBKS	8	5	3	0.177	10	
LSG	9	5	4	-0.054	10	
KKR	8	3	5	0.212	6	
RR	8	2	6	-0.633	4	
SRH	8	2	6	-1.361	4	
CSK	8	2	6	-1.392	4	

SHORT TAKES

PSG script history with unbeaten streak

Nantes: Paris Saint-Germain made history with their unbeaten run in Ligue 1 with a 1-1 draw against FC Nantes at Stade de la Beaujoire. PSG have not lost any of their last 39 away matches in Ligue 1 (30 wins, nine draws), marking the longest unbeaten away streak by any club in the history of the top five European leagues, surpassing AC Milan's run of 38 from 1991 to 1993. The opening goal of the contest came midway in the 33rd minute with Vitinha breaking the scoreless deadlock. Vitinha played the ball out to the right for Ousmane Dembélé, who accelerated and found Kang-in Lee in the middle.

Barcelona increase Spanish league lead

Madrid: Dani Olmo scored early in the second half as Barcelona defeated Mallorca 1-0 to increase its Spanish league lead. The home win Tuesday gave the Catalan club a seven-point lead over Real Madrid, which visits Getafe Wednesday. Barcelona, seeking its first league title since 2023, has five league games left. Olmo's winner came a minute into the second half at Montjuic stadium, with the playmaker finding the net from inside the area. It was the third consecutive victory for Barcelona in the league. The Catalan side had 40 attempts on goal, while Mallorca had only four — none on target.

Pugilists enter semis

Amman: Rudraksh Singh Khaidem (46kg) showed technical superiority on his way to a flawless 3-0 win over Kyrgyzstan's Aidar Musaev as all six Indians in action Wednesday advanced to the semifinals of the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships here. In the men's U-15 category, Harsil (37kg) and Sanchit Jayani (49kg) secured commanding 5-0 victories, while Sanskar Vinod Atram (35kg) posted a solid 4-1 win. Prikshit Balahra (40kg) eked out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mongolia's Akhmyetkhan Nursalyem. In the women's U-15 section, Milky Meinam (43kg) dominated Yeldana Abdigani of Kazakhstan with a 5-0 verdict.

Inter Kashi stun Bengaluru FC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Matija Babovic's late equaliser helped Inter Kashi pull off a stunning result as they defeated Indian Super League (ISL) runner-ups Bengaluru FC, 3-5 on penalties, after the sides played out a 1-1 draw in regulation time, in their Kalinga Super Cup Round of 16 clash at the Kalinga Stadium, here Wednesday. Ryan Williams' strike early in the second period had given the Blues the lead before Babovic's late strike forced the game into the tiebreaker.

Aleksandar Jovanovic wore the captain's armband for the Blues and replaced Rahul Bheke at the heart of the backline. Lalremthuanga Fanai came in place of Suresh Wangiam, and Vinith Venkatesh started for Gerard Zaragoza's side.

Inter Kashi got off to a good start, with Haorem Tomba Singh and skipper Nikola Stojanovic making interceptions in midfield to set the early tone. Former Bengaluru FC player Edmund Lalrindika made early inroads in the final third using his pace as Inter Kashi came closest to opening the scoring through Prasanth Karuthadathkuni, who hit the post after welcoming in Edmund's pass.

Tomba tested Gurpreet



with a shot on target from range, and at the other end, Inter Kashi threw bodies on the line as Bijoy V. and David Munoz blocked attempts from

KALINGA SUPER CUP

Williams and Noguera as the spaces began to open up. Bhutia dragged his attempt wide after Williams threaded one through to the right-back as the sides entered the lemon break goalless.

Williams forced a save from Shubham Dhas in the very first action of the second half, and moments later, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu reacted brilliantly to deny Prasanth's deflection and Stojanovic's free-kick as both teams pushed on in search of the opening goal.

Zaragoza brought on Jorge Pereyra Diaz for Fanai, and the pressure paid off in the 62nd

minute when Williams curled in a fine left-footed finish after Inter Kashi failed to clear Noguera's clipped pass into the area.

Sunil Chhetri and Suresh Wangiam entered the fray in place of Vinith and Mendez, and the fresh legs offered greater impetus in attack, allowing Namgyal Bhutia and Naorem Roshan Singh to combine well in attack and almost linking up for the Blues' second goal.

Despite more than half attempts for Zaragoza's side in the second half, they could not add to their advantage, and this proved costly as substitutes Aritra Das and Matija Babovic combined to pull Inter Kashi level in the 87th minute as the tie headed to penalties. Shubham denied Noguera's spot-kick, and Inter Kashi's players converted all five penalties to ensure passage to the quarterfinal.

Humpy wins FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, April 23: Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won the FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2024-25 (Pune leg) title on the basis of her superior tie-breaks over Zhu Jiner of China after the two players were tied for the top spot here Wednesday.

Humpy, who regained the women's World Rapid Chess Championship after a gap of five years in New York in December last, beat Bulgarian player Nurgul Salimova in the ninth and final round game to end on seven points, the same as Jiner who beat Russia's Polina Shuvalova.

"Humpy Koneru and Zhu Jin-

er both won their final round games and ended the FIDE Women's Grand Prix tied for first, but it's Humpy who takes the top spot thanks to superior tiebreaks!" wrote FIDE on 'X'.

On Tuesday, the penultimate round of the tournament, the duo were tied on six points. Humpy had survived a scare to hold Alina Kashlinskaya to a draw, while Jiner defeated India's Divya Deshmukh in a tactical battle in the sixth round.

In the other final round matches, India's R Vaishali was held to a draw by Georgia's Salome Melia, while Divya Deshmukh too shared the point with Poland's No 1 player Alina Kashlinskaya.



It is a landmark moment for Indian golf. This tournament reflects the rising stature of Indian golf on the world stage. A world-class field, a record prize fund, and a historic venue—it's a great opportunity for our players and fans alike

KAPIL DEV | PRESIDENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA AND FORMER CRICKETER

Richest-ever prize fund: Indian golf gets massive boost

New Delhi to host new \$4mn golf tournament at historic Delhi Golf Club

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 23: India's presence on the global golfing map is set for a major boost with the announcement of a new \$4 million tournament, the richest-ever prize fund for a professional golf event in the country.

Scheduled to be held from October 16-19 at the iconic Delhi Golf Club, the tournament is co-sanctioned by the international tour and the domestic

professional golf circuit, DP World Tour, and will play a key role in the final stretch of the 2025 Race to Dubai calendar.

This new championship signifies the growing importance of India not just as an emerging golfing destination but also as a serious sporting market. It follows the success of this year's Hero Indian Open and strengthens the region's momentum in hosting top-tier golf events.

The event also marks a nostalgic return to Delhi Golf Club for the global tour, with the last event held at the venue in 2016. Originally established in the 1930s, the historic Lodhi



Course, home to the first Indian Open in 1964, has undergone notable redesigns—most recently in 2019—to bring it up to modern championship standards.

Officials expressed excitement about the tournament's

potential to elevate the sport in India. The managing director for the host region highlighted the event as a testament to their long-term commitment to growing golf in the country.

"We are working to elevate

the game in every way and drive community impact. This tournament ensures that golf continues to evolve in exciting ways," he said.

The tour's chief tournament and operations officer echoed

the sentiment, noting that the addition of this event builds on a shared vision to grow the game in India. "We're thrilled to return to such an iconic venue and provide more playing opportunities for local and international professionals," he added.

The president of Delhi Golf Club, Raj Khosla, also welcomed the return of global golf to the venue. "This course offers a unique charm with ancient Lodhi-era monuments and city-centre access. It promises a great setting for international talent and local fans to come together," he remarked.