



Rakul's thoughts

Actor Rakul Preet Singh believes in giving back to the planet as it gives her everything to lead a great life

LEISURE | P2



Harvard ban

Donald Trump suspends the entry into US of foreign nationals seeking to study or participate in exchange programmes at Harvard University

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Lifetime high

Silver prices hit a lifetime high of ₹1,04,100/kg in Delhi Thursday, and gold prices up ₹430 amid global cues

BUSINESS | P11



New Test era begins

Shubman Gill and Gautam Gambhir embark on their first tour of England Thursday night -- Gill on his maiden tour as Test captain

SPORTS | P12

FIRST TIME OUTSIDE FRANCE

Rafale fuselage to be made in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will jointly manufacture fuselage for Rafale combat jets in India from 2028, marking production of the critical component for the first time outside France.

Under the partnership, TASL will set up a cutting-edge facility in Hyderabad to produce key fuselage sections for Rafale aircraft – a venture that is being seen as a significant forward movement for India's aerospace sector.

The joining of hands by TASL and Dassault Aviation came as the French company has emerged as a key contender for India's mega fighter programme under which it is acquiring 114 new jets for the Indian Air Force.

India and France have signed an intergovernmental agreement sealing a mega deal to procure 26 Rafale marine jets at a cost of ₹64,000 crore.

"Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems Limited have signed four production transfer agreements to manufacture Rafale fighter aircraft fuselage in India, marking a significant step forward in strengthening the country's aerospace manufacturing capabilities and supporting global supply chains," TASL said.

The first fuselage sections are expected to roll off the assembly line in financial year 2028, with the facility expected to deliver up to two complete fuselages per month, according to TASL. "For the first time, Rafale fuselages will be produced outside France. This is a decisive step in strengthening our supply chain in India," said Eric Trappier, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation.

Sukaran Singh, CEO and MD of TASL, said the partnership 'marks a significant step' in India's aerospace journey.



RAIN PAIN: Schoolchildren wade through floodwater on a submerged road in Morigaon district of Assam, Thursday. Flood situation in the northeastern state improves even though two more people lose their lives and over 5.5 lakh people across 12 districts reel under the deluge (Report: P9)

US bars citizens of 12 countries

Washington: US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation banning the citizens of 12 countries from entering the US, saying the move was needed to protect against 'foreign terrorists' and other security threats.

The directive is part of an immigration crackdown Trump launched this year at the start of his second term, which has included the deportation to El Salvador of hundreds of Venezuelans suspected of being gang members, as well as efforts to deny enrollments of some foreign students and deport others.

The countries affected by the latest travel ban are Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

CM: ₹1.5L-crore projects implemented since Jan

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 5: Projects worth ₹1.5 lakh crore have been implemented since January this year when the state government organised 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave', Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while performing the groundbreaking ceremony for 12 industrial projects worth ₹28,084 crore in Ganjam district, Thursday.

The Ganjam projects have the potential to create 15,455 jobs, according to the CMO.

These projects are located across Tata Steel SEZ at Gopalpur, and Chhatrapur, Buguda and Barapalli areas, reinforcing the state's target of building a diversified and sustainable industrial ecosystem in Ganjam region.

On the occasion, Majhi said these projects will provide jobs and uplift local communities through infrastructure, innovation, and opportunities.

"On World Environment Day, we reaffirm our commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly development. Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's Viksit Bharat vision, Odisha's double-engine government is focused on inclusive growth – through industry,

healthcare, and skill development," he said.

Majhi said, "Since the conduct of 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave' in January this year, ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of projects have been implemented in the state, creating 90,000 jobs." Gopalpur Port is emerging as a key gateway, the Chief Minister said.

Tata Steel SEZ Limited's

Majhi lays stones for 12 industrial projects worth ₹28,084cr in Ganjam

Managing Director Manikanta Naik said, "Groundbreaking of these projects marks a critical phase in the development of Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP). It highlights the conducive industrial environment fostered at GIP, aimed at encouraging innovation and long-term investment. The concerted efforts of our team, strong industry partnerships, and continued support from the government have been instrumental in reaching this milestone."

In the green hydrogen and ammonia sector, Oci Energy Private Limited has launched

a ₹7,200-crore project at Tata Steel SEZ, creating 2,300 jobs, while HHP Five Private Limited brings an additional ₹4,000 crore investment with 1,595 employment opportunities.

Petronet LNG Limited made groundbreaking for its proposed ₹6,500 crore LNG terminal in Gopalpur, which will enhance regional energy infrastructure and generate 1,000 jobs, it said.

In specialty chemicals, UPL Limited is grounding a ₹4,000 crore facility at Tata Steel SEZ, projected to employ 4,100 people. The green energy equipment segment is boosted by Saatvik Solar Industries Private Limited (with an investment of ₹3,500 crore and capacity to create 3,225 jobs) and World Green Energy Private Limited (Rs 2,500 crore investment and 2,500 job capacity).

In the logistics sector, Geo Impex and Logistics Private Limited is setting up a multi-modal logistics park in Chhatrapur with a ₹207-crore investment. The facility would create 350 jobs.

Among others, Tarangini Distilleries Private Limited will be setting up a bio-ethanol project at Buguda with a ₹149 crore investment, offering 205 employment opportunities.

BJP leader lets boyfriend, his aide rape her daughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Haridwar, June 5: A local BJP leader allegedly let her boyfriend and his aide rape her 13-year-old daughter, police said Thursday, adding that all three have been arrested.

Anamika Sharma and her boyfriend Sumit Patwal were arrested from a hotel here Wednesday after a medical examination of the girl confirmed that she was sexually assaulted, Haridwar SSP Pramendra Dobhal said.

Patwal's accomplice Shubham was also arrested late

Wednesday night from Shahpur, Meerut, he added.

The matter came to light Tuesday when the minor told her father about her ordeal, following which he lodged a police complaint.

A case was registered against the trio under Sections 70(2), 351(3) and 3(5) of BNS and relevant Sections of the POCSO Act.

Anamika headed the BJP Mahila Morcha's Haridwar district unit. However, once her name cropped up in the case, she was stripped of the party's primary membership.

BJP sources here claim that she has not held any party post since August 2024. According to the police, the minor was gang-raped several times by her mother's boyfriend and his aide, both of whom are in their 30s, in Haridwar, Agra and Vrindavan between January and March this year.

The men perpetrated the crime with her mother's consent and in her presence, the police said. Anamika had separated from her husband and was living with her boyfriend in his hotel, while her daughter lived with her father.

3 ARRESTED

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



At this rate of governance, we won't even need a census

Pinaki, Mahua tie knot



New Delhi, June 5: Senior advocate and former BJD MP Pinaki Misra has married TMC

MP Mahua Misra in Germany, reports said. A section of media said they got married in Germany May 30. People congratulated the two on social media.

Misra, 50, is an MP from Krishnanagar in West Bengal for the second term. She was earlier married to Danish financier Lars Brorson. BJD leader Misra, 65, is a senior Supreme Court advocate and has served as Puri MP for multiple terms. He was previously married to Sangeeta Misra.

Later in the evening, Mahua took to X to say, "Thank you everyone for the love and good wishes!! So grateful."

Stampede: B'luru CP suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bengaluru, June 5: In a major development, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Thursday suspended Bengaluru commissioner of police (CP) B Dayananda and several other senior police officials in connection with the stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium that killed 11 people.

He also ordered the arrest of representatives of the RCB team, the event management firm DNA Entertainment Private Limited, and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), hours after an FIR was registered against them under various charges, including culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The state government's action came amidst an all-out attack by the BJP, which has demanded the resignations of Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivkumar, who accused it of playing 'dirty politics'.

The CM also announced a one-man judicial probe, headed by Justice Michael D'Cunha, into the tragic incident. "We have told the commission to give the report in 30 days," the CM said.

"The Cabinet has also decided to immediately suspend the Circle Police Inspector of the Cubbon Park PS and ACP, DCP of central division, ACP, who is in charge of the stadium, and Commissioner of Police Bengaluru city," he added.

Cosmic mismatch: Giant planet discovered orbiting tiny star

REUTERS

Washington, June 5: Astronomers have spotted a cosmic mismatch that has left them perplexed - a really big planet orbiting a really small star. The discovery defies current understanding of how planets form.

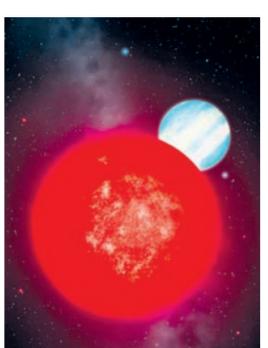
The star is only about a fifth the mass of the Sun. Stars this size should host small planets akin to Earth and Mars under the leading theories on planetary formation. But the one detected in orbit around this star is much larger - in fact, as big as Saturn, the second-largest planet in our solar system.

The star, named TOI-6894, is located roughly 240 light-years

from Earth in the constellation Leo. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km). It is the smallest-known star to host a large planet, about 40 per cent smaller than the two previous record holders.

"The question of how such a small star can host such a large planet is one that this discovery raises - and we are yet to answer," said astronomer Edward Bryant of the University of Warwick in England, lead author of the study published Wednesday in the journal Nature Astronomy.

Planets beyond our solar system are called exoplanets. The one orbiting TOI-6894 is a gas



giant, like Saturn and Jupiter in our solar system, rather than a rocky planet like Earth. The birth of a planetary

system begins with a large cloud of gas and dust - called a molecular cloud - that collapses under its own gravity to form a central star. Leftover material spinning around the star in what is called a protoplanetary disk forms planets. Smaller clouds yield smaller stars, and smaller disks contain less material to form planets.

"In small clouds of dust and gas, it's hard to build a giant planet," said exoplanet scientist and study co-author Vincent Van Eylen of University College London's Mullard Space Science Laboratory.

"This is because to build a giant planet, you need to quickly

build a large planet core and then quickly accrete (accumulate) a lot of gas on top of that core. But there's only so much time to do it before the star starts shining and the disk rapidly disappears. In small stars, we think there's simply not enough mass available to build a giant planet quickly enough before the disk disappears," Van Eylen added.

No known planet is larger than its host star, and that is the case here as well, though the two are much closer in size than usual. While the Sun's diameter is 10 times larger than our solar system's largest planet Jupiter, TOI-6894's diameter is just 2.5 times greater than its

only known planet.

The star is a red dwarf, the smallest type of regular star and the most common kind found in the Milky Way galaxy.

"Given these stars are very common, there may be many more giant planets in the galaxy than we thought," Bryant said.

The star is about 21 per cent the mass of the Sun and much dimmer. In fact, the Sun is about 250 times more luminous than TOI-6894.

"These findings suggest that even the smallest stars in the universe can in some cases form very large planets. That forces us to rethink some of our planet formation models," Van Eylen said.

leisure



NICOLE KIDMAN TO STAR IN GIRLS AND THEIR HORSES

Hollywood star Nicole Kidman is set to headline *Girls and Their Horses*, a new murder mystery series for streaming service Prime Video. The show, which will be co-produced by Amazon MGM Studios, is based on author Eliza Jane Brazier's 2023 novel of the same title.

CHRISTIAN BALE SHOCKS FANS WITH NEW LOOK

Hollywood star Christian Bale has done it again! The actor marked another chapter in the long list of his crazy body transformations. He looks unrecognizable on the Atlanta set of *Madden*. The actor, 51, was seen in a receding hairline wig with bleached eyebrows.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesha. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

TAURUS
It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesha. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesha. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business. Keep working hard to achieve success.

CANCER
Today, there is a strong possibility that you may face unexpected job changes. You are likely to spend lavishly to please family and friends. You may feel we make money to spend on loved ones. Still it would probably be a good idea to count every penny before using it, says Ganesha.

LEO
Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesha, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesha observes the possibility of your meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

VIRGO
A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house today. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

SCORPIO
Add a pinch of innovation and inventiveness to your daily working style. There shall be order in the chaotic way you perform your tasks - though not apparent to others. Revitalise yourself and plunge into work with new-found zest and vigour, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Today shall be a rather decisive day, speculates Ganesha. Situations that have pushed you into a corner will force you to make rash decisions. But take stock of the situation and assess the long-term consequences of your actions beforehand, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesha. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either. A visit to holy places for some peace of mind is also likely.

AQUARIUS
You may rave and rant, but all you'll get from colleagues or juniors are wishy-washy excuses for a job not done. Ganesha advises that you take care to finish your own work before you help others. The stars say that your beloved will smoothen your creased brow.

PISCES
You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather. Those who work will find a measure of success in their office.



Rakul roots for change

Mumbai: On the occasion of World Environment Day Thursday, actress Rakul Preet Singh shared that she believes in giving back to the planet as it gives everything to lead a "great life."

Rakul took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video of

herself along with her husband planting trees.

She is also heard saying: "I have always believed that you have to give it back to society when the planet gives us everything that we need to lead a great life... This is the minimum that you can do."

The video also features the actress talking about the soil and it ends with posters reading the caption: "The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest. Don't just celebrate - Act. Plant. Recycle. Protect."

In other news, the actress will next be seen in the romantic comedy drama film *De De Pyaar De 2*, a sequel to the 2019 hit *De De Pyaar De*. She will reprise her role as Ayesha Khurana in the upcoming movie, which also stars Ajay Devgn.

The project will also see Ajay reprising his role of Ashish Mehra. In addition to this, R. Madhavan has also been roped in for the role of Dev Khurana, Ayesha's father.

'The future is female action'

Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi shared that she hosted a special screening of the action thriller *Ballerina* ring Ana de Armas and friends watching the film, which is directed by Len Wiseman.

Huma went on to thank everyone who came for the special screening.

"Thank you to everyone who came, laughed, gasped, and cheered with me. Let's keep raising hell, breaking rules & rewriting what a heroine looks like. Who's your favourite female action star of all time? Drop in comments," she wrote.

Ballerina is the fifth film in the *John Wick* franchise, serving as a spin-off set between the events of *John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum* and *John Wick: Chapter 4*.

star-said that she believes the future is female action, which she wants to help build "one frame at a time."

Huma took to Instagram, where she shared a video featuring all her family and friends watching the film, which is directed by Len Wiseman.

For the caption, she wrote: "Last night I hosted a special screening of #Ballerina for my friends & fam - all action movie junkies like me... There's something so powerful about watching a woman own the frame - fists, flaws and all. I truly believe the #FutureIsFemaleAction - and I want to help build that future, one frame at a time."

RED EYES, BLACK EYE AND THE THIRD EYE

Errol Musk, father of Tesla CEO and ex-special *govt. employee* Elon Musk, recently mused "If the entire world followed Shiva, it would be just fine." I am curious to know, "Which part Sir?" One part that his heir followed, did not quite make things fine! Elonlately performed nothing short of a fierce 'tandav' at DOGE; axing jobs, shutting down offices and cutting off funding towards humanitarian aid.

As lore goes, the third eye of 'Shiva-The Destroyer' opened in rage to cause annihilation. No *third eye* and yet, Musk



managed to destroy thousands of jobs and cause heavy disruption in 4 months straight as the DOGE chief. *Karma* too played its part and Musk was soon bidding farewell to his powerful post, sporting a black eye. Had a *third eye* opened in time to glance inwards, it would have bestowed true enlightenment, that laying waste to people's jobs won't curb 'wasteful federal spending'.

And then there is the case of the erstwhile 'blue-eyed boy' of a political party that is currently seeing red in everything the suave boy's effectual verbosity is accomplishing. Also,

the *floccinaucinihilipilification* of his global outreach efforts, by any party/individual will find no takers. The *gentleman* is presumably sporting *red eyes*, from all the 'waxing eloquent' and tirelessly holding forth India's stance, on zero-tolerance to any act of cross-border terrorism. Few 'naaPak' neighbourhood elements are in *tohu bohu* and few are going 'thar-thar' to their elements when verbal missiles launched by the articulate Tharoorji is hitting precise targets in 'Phekistaan.' He has done it sans a *third eye*; armed with stark facts and a *gift of the gab*.

This *gift* persuaded Columbia to withdraw its condolence statement to Pakistan.

I have meanwhile gone from being red-eyed to teary-eyed. Red-eyed from a lack of sleep due to incessant power-cuts and the unrelenting HEAT...or is it RAGE...Have the deadly human acts infuriated Lord Shiva well-enough for him to open his third eye? *Shiver me timbers!*

I found great joy being teary-eyed, along with Virat and half of the nation, as RCB lifted the IPL trophy after 18 years. May glorious human acts keep our hopes alive. Amen!

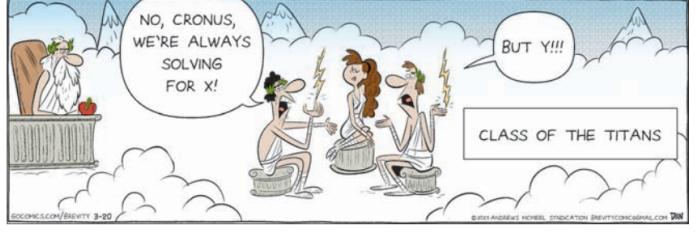
PEANUTS



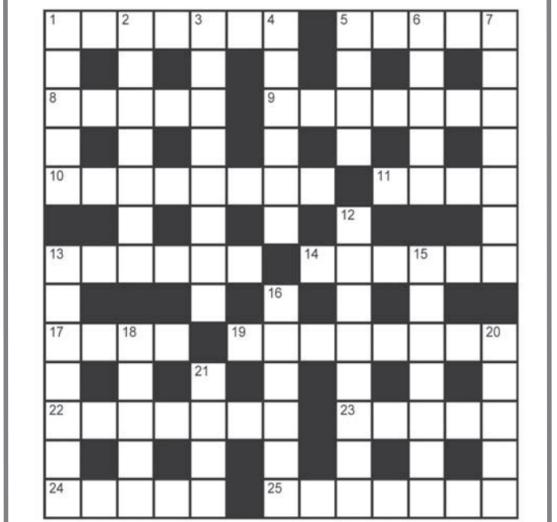
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Takes a hike?
 - 5 Train stop
 - 8 Map collection
 - 9 Set apart
 - 10 Suspenseful movie
 - 11 Hearty party
 - 13 Aid
 - 14 Absence of enthusiasm
 - 17 Inactive
 - 19 Jubilee starter?
 - 22 Drinking glass
 - 23 Seventh sign of the zodiac
 - 24 Synthetic fabric
 - 25 Horse-drawn carriages
 - 5 Plummet
 - 6 Public square
 - 7 Doctor's order
 - 12 Diamond
 - 13 High flier
 - 15 Sewing item
 - 16 Rose bush stickers
 - 18 Like some old pillows
 - 20 Blind parts
 - 21 Secluded valley
- Down**
- 1 Passed out, as cards
 - 2 North Star
 - 3 Fidgety
 - 4 Hotel offerings

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

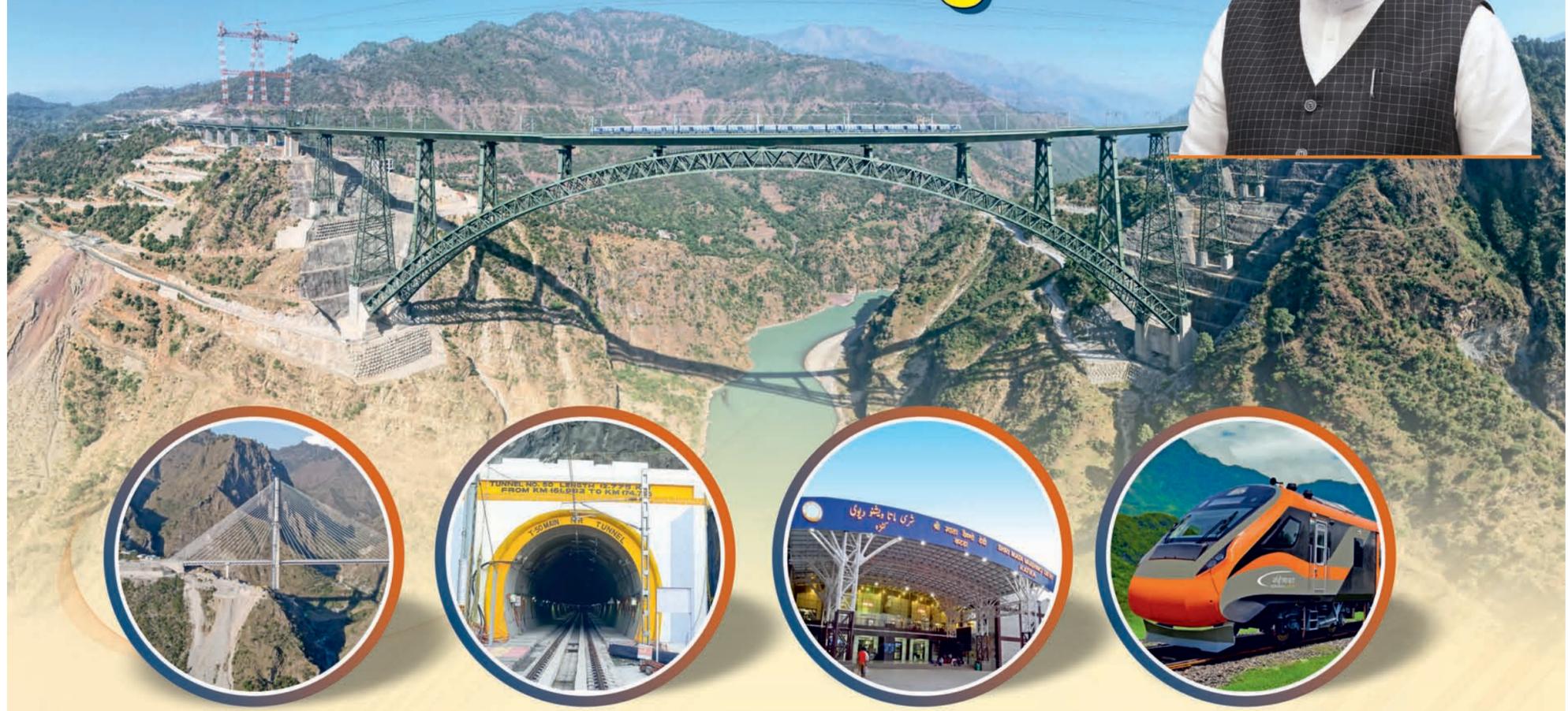
R	E	D	W	I	N	E	M	A	G	I	C
A	R	N	S	U	N	A					
D	Y	E	F	O	C	U	S	A	I	R	
O	A	E	O	T	R	R					
N	A	D	I	R	R	O	A	L	T		
S	C	H	O	O	L	W	O	O	D	E	N
U	O	P	S	T	M						
C	A	L	Y	P	S	O	I	C	I	N	G
C	Y	E	R	R	N	N	R				
O	R	C	T	O	R	S	O	L	E	A	
U	O	T	I	U	E	S					
R	O	W	D	Y	D	E	S	K	T	O	P

CROSSWORD
SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Jammu and Kashmir's New Era of Progress



**Gifts of Railway Projects worth about
₹ 44,000 Crore**

INAUGURATION OF

<h3>Chenab Bridge (World's Highest Rail Arch Bridge)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 359 meter height, 1,315 meter length and 467 meter arch span • Bridge connecting Kauri and Bakkal areas of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir 	<h3>Anji Bridge (India's First Cable Stayed Rail Bridge)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 725 meter length, 290 meter main span • Bridge connecting Katra and Reasi districts of Jammu and Kashmir • 96 cables attached to a single giant pylon, 193 meter high
---	---

DEDICATION TO THE NATION OF Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL)

- Advanced all-weather rail connectivity linking Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India
- Total length 272 km with 36 tunnels including T-50 (Longest operational tunnel in India) and 943 bridges

FLAGGING OFF OF 2 Vande Bharat Trains Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Srinagar & Srinagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra

- First semi-high-speed train to Srinagar
- Boost to tourism and regional connectivity
- The journey from Katra to Srinagar is possible in about 3 hours

by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Nitin Jairam Gadkari
Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways | Ashwini Vaishnav
Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology | Dr. Jitendra Singh
Union Minister of State (IC) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Minister of State for Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Deptt. of Atomic Energy & Deptt. of Space | V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways & Jal Shakti | Ravneet Singh
Union Minister of State for Railways & Food Processing Industries | Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Jammu & Kashmir | Omar Abdullah
Chief Minister, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir |
| Surinder Kumar Choudhary
Dy. Chief Minister, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir | Jugal Kishore
M.P., (Lok Sabha), Jammu | Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi
M.P., (Lok Sabha), Srinagar | Gulam Ali
M.P., Rajya Sabha | | | |

Friday, 06th June, 2025
 11:00 A.M.
 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex Katra (Stadium)



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

CM flags growing plastic pollution menace in state



INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, June 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday raised alarm over the escalating menace of plastic pollution in the state.

HIGHLIGHTS
RVMS TO BE SET UP FOR PLASTIC WASTE COLLECTION IN MAJOR URBAN CENTRES
CLEAN CITY PILOT PROGRAMME TO BE LAUNCHED IN 7 CITIES TO INTENSIFY URBAN SANITATION AND WASTE SEGREGATION
ENFORCEMENT AGAINST SINGLE-USE PLASTIC TO BE MADE STRICTER THIS YEAR

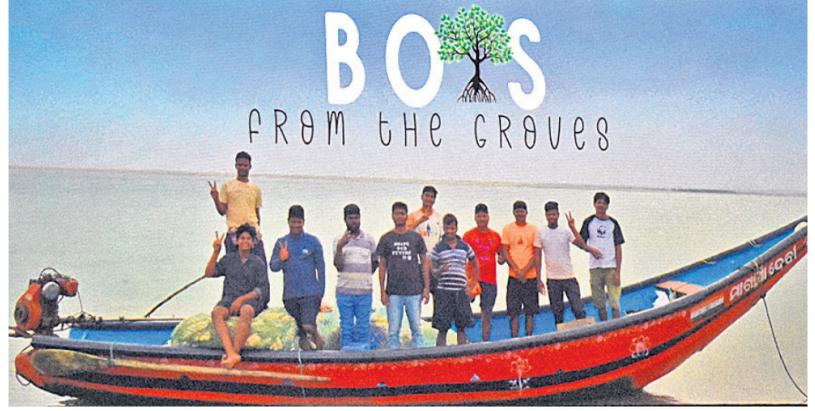
to ensure a cleaner and greener future," CM Majhi added. He also highlighted that the state government has launched the Clean Air Programme to reduce air pollution in densely populated urban areas and improve overall air quality.

initiative. He noted that Odisha has seen a net increase of 560 square kilometres in forest cover, ranking fourth among all Indian states. "This achievement is a testament to our collective effort. Through the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, we've already planted over 6 crore saplings," he said.

An individual can create an impact: Satpathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 5: "It is not an easy task to dedicate oneself to nature. However, an individual, be a man or a woman, can definitely achieve a lot and create an impact," said Dharitri & Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy.



documentary will definitely inspire others and we are always with OPSPA, and will do everything to conserve environment," Satpathy added. The event was also attended by Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Soumya, maker of the documentary Snehasis Das, noted athlete Anuradha Biswal and other dignitaries.

Groves' is one such effort to create awareness among people." She also highlighted the committed efforts put in by Soumya, through OPSPA, towards the cause and said recently she and the Editor had the privilege to contribute to their endeavour through 'A Million Mangroves Initiative'.

The documentary also showcases how Odisha Parvavaran Sanrakshan Aiviyan (OPSA) founded by Soumya is playing a huge role to revive the mangroves to tackle the lethal effect of climate change. Speaking on the occasion, Soumya said Odisha is often referred to as the country's 'Disaster Capital' as people in the state face constant cyclones, which are increasing with every passing year.

"We laud the effort of Soumya as he inspired a lot of women and others to work with him. He has not only highlighted a pertinent issue but has also earned accolades for his efforts. The



CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.-116/2009 sworn before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, dated- 04.04.2025, I, Gagan Behari Pal, S/o- Gopabandhu Pal, resident at Flat No.-B/204, 2nd Floor, Supratic Exatica, Gothapatna, P.S.- Chandaka, Bhubaneswar, PIN- 751003, Odisha declare that my actual and correct name is Gagan Behari Pal which is reflected in my Passport No.- N2952316 but my name is wrongly mentioned as Gagan Bihary Pal in my Wife's Passport No.- M8529753. So, both Gagan Behari Pal and Gagan Bihary Pal is one and same person.

By virtue of an affidavit vide No.- 131 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Nirupama Nanda, W/o- Tanmaya Nanda, At- Khoradanga, P.O.- Patharadi (Charampa), P.S./Dist.- Bhadrak, Odisha declare that I have changed my name from Nirupama Padhi to Nirupama Nanda. Henceforth, I shall be known as Nirupama Nanda for all purposes.

Guv calls for sustainable living



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 5: Odisha marked the World Environment Day Thursday by organising events across the state including in the Capital city focusing on the theme 'Ending Plastic Pollution' and promoting sustainable practices. Governor Hari Babu Kamboh emphasised the importance of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy and urged citizens to take advantage of subsidies and incentives to adopt sustainable living practices.

held a formal celebration at the university conference hall. The chief guest, OUTR vice chancellor Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal stressed the necessity of reducing plastic usage to protect the environment and public health. Chief speaker and principal director of Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) Pradiip Kumar Sahoo highlighted the harms of single-use plastics and the need for biodegradable alternatives.

akrushna Panigrahi called for collective global action, while former CET principal B. Seetarama Patro underlined the role of education in shifting public behaviour toward eco-consciousness. Several awards were presented on the occasion. Hrudananda Mishra, a cardiologist was honoured with Health Services Award for lifetime contribution, Dillip Srichandan of Prerana Green Army was conferred Environmentalist of the Year award, Sudarsan Das of Mahanadi Bachao Andolan was conferred Waterman of Odisha Award and Bijaya Kumar Kabi of Action for Protec-

BMC spreads awareness to end plastic pollution. Bhubaneswar: On World Environment Day Thursday, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) launched a mass movement to sensitise public against plastic pollution. Around 250 participants joined a rally from Indira Gandhi Park to Market Building, led by BMC deputy mayor Manju Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, and corporator Asia Begum. At old bus stand area, the participants divided into four groups cleaning the surrounding places and spraying Larvicide to minimise mosquito breeding.

tion of Wild Animals (APOWA) was bestowed with Green Crusader Award. Meanwhile, Utkal University also observed the day in its PG Council Hall, jointly hosted by its PG Council and R&D Cell. VC Jagneshwar Dandapat urged for a plastic-free campus and emphasised actions to curb microplastics and ecosystem threats.

Cop's heroic rescue act at railway station



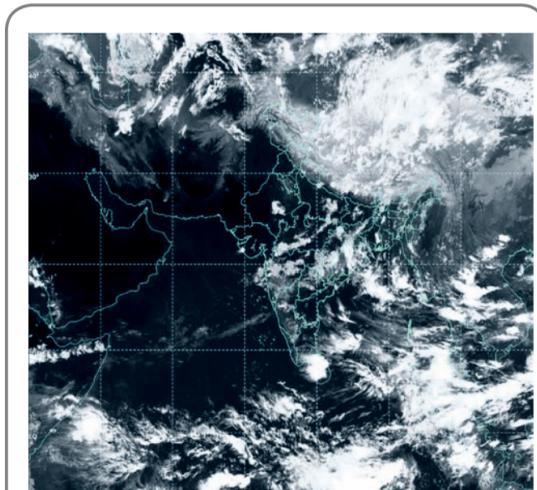
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, June 5: A police constable Thursday saved the life of a 44-year-old man who slipped into the gap between a train and the platform of the railway station here, in a heroic rescue. Constable Tulu Behera, hailed as a hero on social media after a video of the incident went viral, was patrolling the platform when he spotted a man slipping into the gap while trying to board the Kanyakumari-Dibrugarh Express, which was departing. Acting swiftly, he grabbed the man's hands and pulled him out of the deadly gap, rescuing him from near-certain death. The incident happened around 8am. The passenger, identified as Md Mujahir of West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur, slipped from the train's steps and came perilously close to being crushed between the platform edge and the train's wheels, a statement said. Constable Behera demonstrated extraordinary bravery by saving his life, it said. Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania announced a reward of ₹2,500 for the constable. ADG (Railways) Arun Bothra also spoke to Behera and complimented him on his courage and presence of mind.

Masks to be back in schools

Bhubaneswar: The state government has decided to make mask rule mandatory for students showing cold symptoms, while those with serious health issues will be advised to stay home and isolate once the schools reopen after the summer holidays. School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond Thursday said all the teachers and the students will be asked to follow precautionary measures about Covid-19 when the schools across the state reopen. He assured that strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Health department will be maintained in schools. DEOs will be issued fresh directives shortly to coordinate these efforts. "It is most important for the students to be careful. We will take the matter seriously. Teachers and students will be ordered to be alert," the minister said.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for CURRENCY, BOURSES, and COMMODITIES.



WEATHER table with columns for BBSR, CTC, and FORECAST.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Mahaling visits SLNMCH, seeks report on deaths

Congress leaders express deep dissatisfaction over what they termed a "symbolic visit" by the Health Minister



PNN & AGENCIES

Koraput/Bhubaneswar, June 5: Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling has called for a report on the death of six patients in quick succession at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH) in Koraput.

Mahaling, accompanied by senior health officials, visited the hospital Thursday to assess the situation in light of the public outrage following the deaths of six patients Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning.

The Health Minister sought a report from the hospital authorities and said that stringent action would be taken against those found responsible for the tragic deaths. Mahaling also inspected the surgery ward and held discussions with hospital authorities.

"I sought a clear explanation from the medical college hospital authorities on what happened for which the patients died. Patient safety is the top priority, and any negligence will result in strict action," Mahaling told reporters after the visit.

In an X post, the minister said that during the visit to the hospital, he inquired about the health condition of the patients. During his visit, Mahaling

faceted protests from local residents and Congress activists who blamed medical negligence for the deaths. There was a scuffle between Congress workers and the police when the minister reached the SLNMCH.

The SLNMCH authorities have, however, rejected the allegations of negligence and wrong injection as the cause of the death.

An internal inquiry at SLNMCH found no lapses in medical or nursing care, according to the hospital's Dean-cum-Superintendent Dr Sushant Kumar Sahu. Dr Sahu further clarified that the injection under suspicion was a life-saving drug commonly used to stabilise patients by preventing a sudden drop in blood pressure.

Official sources said a three-member team from MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and a two-member team from SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack have been sent to SLNMCH by the Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) to investigate the cause of the deaths and submit a report.

The minister said the high-level expert committee will submit its reports within the stipulated time.

Meanwhile, addressing the media Thursday, Congress Leg-

islative Party Leader and Pottangi MLA Ram Chandra Kadam, former MLA Nimai Sarkar, and senior leader Meenakshi Bahinipati strongly criticised Mahaling's brief visit to SLNMCH in the wake of the deaths.

"The government is responsible for the death of the six patients at the hospital. It is not a natural or accidental death, but murder. This should not be repeated," Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam, who hails from Koraput district, said.

Reiterating Congress' demand of ₹25 lakh compensation each to the bereaved families, Bahinipati warned that the party would intensify its agitation and block the highway if the government did not promptly announce compensation. Sarkar alleged that the minister did not meet the patients in ICU where four patients died.

The Congress leaders expressed deep dissatisfaction over what they termed a "symbolic visit" by the minister, questioning the intent and outcome of his brief inspection and review meeting Thursday. They also alleged that their delegation was denied permission to meet the minister during his visit.

Apart from the minister, Koraput MLA Raghuram Macha and Kotpad MLA Rupu Bhatra also visited the hospital.

According to reports, the tragedy began around 10pm Tuesday when three critically ill patients in the ICU and two others in the surgical ward suddenly died in rapid succession within 90 minutes.

Another patient died early Wednesday in the facility. Panic spread among attendants, and tensions rose as family members alleged that an injection administered to the patients might have caused the deaths.



RALLY FOR A CAUSE: District Collector Bijay Kumar Dash and officials flagging off a rally on plastic pollution organised by the district administration at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati, Thursday

Electrician electrocuted during tent installation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, June 5: A labourer was electrocuted while working on a tent setup Wednesday night at Kundabai Rangamatia village under Udala police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The deceased was identified as Manoj Biswal of Dangadahi village. Sources said that a tent was being erected for a marriage reception feast at Rangamatia village when Manoj, an electrician, came in contact with a live wire around 9 pm. He sustained critical injuries and was rushed to the Udala hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.



On being informed, police reached the hospital and sent the body for post-mortem. An investigation has been launched into the death. Preliminary findings suggested that the tent contractor allegedly allowed electrical work to proceed without adhering to proper safety measures, leading to the fatal incident.

ASHA, octogenarian woman murdered by relatives in Ganjam



PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, June 5: Two women, including an octogenarian, were killed allegedly by their relatives in two separate incidents in Ganjam district, police said.

Both the incidents took place Wednesday night as fallout of family disputes, they said after preliminary inquiries.

Bijayalaxmi Tripathy (50), an ASHA, was hacked to death by her brother-in-law at Chadheyapalli in Jagannath Prasad police station area, a police officer said.

Bhanjanagar Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Sujit Kumar Nayak said Tripathy was having a dispute with her three other married sisters over sharing their pater-

nal properties.

One of her brothers-in-law (husband of elder sister) hacked her with a sharp object during a heated argument, Nayak said.

She died on the spot and her body was sent to the Bhanjanagar Sub-Divisional Hospital for autopsy, he said, adding, "Though we have identified the accused, he was yet to be arrested."

In another case, Ani Swain, an 85-year-old woman, was allegedly beaten to death by her grandson at Naikanipalli under the jurisdiction of Kodala police station, its Inspector in-Charge Subash Behera said.

He said a murder case has been registered and an investigation started. The suspected accused was detained for interrogation, he added.

1 killed, 5 injured as bus hits truck

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, June 5: One person was killed and five others were injured after a bus hit a truck parked on the roadside in Kalahandi district in the early hours of Thursday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Binod Kumar Behera, 48, a junior engineer by profession and a native of Tiribida village under Kaniha block in Angul district. He was posted in Jhariaigaon block of Nabarangpur district. The accident happened around 3.30am near Charbahal in Koksara police station area, they said.

The private passenger bus was heading to Umerkote in Nabarangpur from Bhubaneswar when the accident happened, they added. The bus hit the truck parked on the roadside from behind, a police officer said.

Fire services personnel rescued the passengers stuck inside the bus. The injured passengers were admitted to the Junagarh hospital.



PROTEST OVER BAUXITE MINING

Medha Patkar denied entry to Rayagada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rayagada/Bhubaneswar, June 5: Social activist Medha Patkar was Thursday morning not allowed to enter Rayagada district, which has been witnessing protests over bauxite mining.

As soon as Patkar arrived at the Rayagada railway station early in the morning, she was served an order, prohibiting her entry to the district for a period of two months from June 4.

The restriction is imposed on about two dozen activists, including the 'Narmada Bachao' leader.

"There is a reasonable apprehension that their movement and presence in Rayagada district may lead to deterioration of law and order, disturb public peace and hinder the smooth conduct of administration affairs and development process in the district," said the order, signed by District



Collector Parul Patawari.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Patkar and some other activists were scheduled to attend a function organised by 'Maa Mati Mali Surakshya Manch', which has

been leading the protest against bauxite mining in Rayagada and Koraput districts.

Speaking to reporters while being escorted to a waiting vehicle, which took her to the border of the district, Patkar said, "I am

not a terrorist whose presence will create a problem for the people. I am a citizen of the country. We are not against development, but demand the progress of the nation in a sustainable manner."

Narendra Mohanty, an associate of the activist, said she is on a three-day visit to the state. After being denied entry to Rayagada, she will go to Berhampur in Ganjam district. She is also scheduled to attend a programme in Bhubaneswar Saturday, he said.

Around 240 police personnel have been deployed in Kashi-pur, the epicentre of the agitation in Rayagada, officials said. The district administration also clamped Section 163(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that replaced Section 144 of CrPc in the Dharna area at Sunger Haat in Kashi-pur block of Rayagada.

Police seize 6.5 quintal explosives in Kalahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, June 5: Police Thursday seized around 6.5 quintals of explosives and 115 detonators in Kalahandi district and arrested four people.

A statement issued by the Kalahandi Police said that based on an FIR lodged by a mining officer, a joint raid by the Mining department and police was conducted on a stone quarry and crusher at Lakshbahali under Jaypattan police station.

Two explosive-laden vehicles were seized and four people including two drivers were arrested. Kalahandi SP Nagaraj Devarakonda said that it was discovered that the vehicles were carrying 6.5 quintals of explosives in violation of norms.

The police were investigating the matter further, the SP said. Meanwhile, a report from Rourkela said that the police took businessman Shrawan Agarwal on remand for two days. He was earlier arrested and sent to jail in an explosive heist case.

World Environment Day observed at FMU



POST NEWS NETWORK

only within the university premises but also near the blue lake area in Mitrapur and on the outskirts of Machhua village. The drive was organised by the Department of Environmental Science.

Native species such as neem, bael, banyan, peepal, jamun and baula were planted. Seed beds enriched with compost and soils were strategically laid out in barren foothill areas, with hopes of natural germination during the upcoming monsoon.

Prof Prakash Chandra Mishra and Prof Surjendu Kumar Dey from the Department of Environmental Science coordinated the event. World Environment Day is observed by the United Nations every June 5 since 1972 to raise awareness about global environmental challenges. This year's global focus was on ending plastic pollution. Faculty members, non-teaching staff, and particularly students participated in the programme with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to sustainability.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Change of address of the branch office - Behrampur
General Public and Policy holder of Reliance General Insurance company limited (RGICL) are informed that our branch office located at Padma Plaza, Convent School Road, Near Khallilote College, Berhampur - 760001 will be shifting at new location at Subham Sai Archade, 3rd Floor, 301, Trekker Stand, Near Old Bus Stand, Berhampur - 760001 w.e.f. 05.08.2025

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No.: 15-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26
Name of the Work: REPLACEMENT OF 05 NOS. POWER TRANSFORMERS IN DIFFERENT TRACTION SUB-STATIONS (TSSs) FOR RATIONALIZATION OF POWER TRANSFORMERS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 60,27,116.67, EMD: ₹ 1,20,600/-, Period of Completion: 180 days.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/
E-Tender/22 Dt: 02.06.2025
(1) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-BKUR-77-2025, Dt: 23.05.2025
Description: PROPOSED PAINTING OF GIRDER BRIDGES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/BRIDGE/KENDUJHARGARH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 2025-26.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
The following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No. Sr.DMM/KUR/EP/2025-26/02 Dtd.: 04.06.2025
SL. NO. 01 : TENDER NO. 812556/11, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF JOGGLED FISH PLATES FOR 60KG RAILS ETC., QUANTITY: 1781 SETS.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 19/ET/STP/ENGG/2025-26, Date: 30.05.2025
(1) e-Tender No. 14-eT-DENS-SBP-25
Name of the Work: EXECUTION OF TSR (P) - 108.489 TKM USING PQRS MACHINE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/SOUTH OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 31,74,97,540.85, Bid Security: ₹ 17,37,500/-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NAYAGARH
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. - SEMIDN - 2/2025-26
Letter No. - 1378 Dated - 31.05.2025
Name of work : Repair of MIPs under Critical MIPs grant, Improvement of MIPs under ERM & Imp. to Tanks & MIPs grant and Improvement to Canal Service Road of project under CAPEX Road grand during the year 2025-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. e-Tender-BRIDGEKUR-71-25, Dt: 21.05.2025
Description: PROPOSED PAINTING OF GIRDER BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/BRIDGE/CUTTACK-I, CUTTACK-II, NORTH AND SOUTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 2025-26.
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 164.06 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,32,000/-

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 03-eT-BRIDGE-SBP-25
Name of the Work: EXECUTION OF ZONAL WORKS FOR SUPERSTRUCTURE OF BRIDGES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2026 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE)/SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the Work: ₹ 2,43,37,791.05, Bid Security: ₹ 2,71,700/-



We are always surrounded by the things of which we think.

THE MOTHER

Catastrophe in Tibet

The Tibetan Plateau is home to vast glacial reserves, which amount to the largest store of fresh water outside the Arctic and the Antarctic. It is also the source of ten major Asian river systems – including the Yellow and Yangtze rivers of mainland China, the Mekong, Salween, and Irrawaddy rivers of Southeast Asia, and the Indus and Brahmaputra of South Asia – which supply water to nearly 20 per cent of the global population. And, now, it is the site of a slow-burning environmental calamity that is threatening the water security, ecological balance, and geopolitical stability of the entire Asian continent.

For over two decades, China has been engaged in an aggressive and opaque dam-building spree, centered on – though not limited to – the Tibetan Plateau. Yet China’s government has refused to negotiate a water-sharing treaty with any of the downriver countries, which must suffer the consequences of their upstream neighbour’s whims.

Already, Chinese-built mega-dams near the Plateau’s border have brought water levels in the Mekong River to unprecedentedly low levels, with devastating effects on fisheries and livelihoods across Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. As the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam retreats – driven partly by Chinese dams – rice farmers are being forced to abandon their traditional livelihoods, instead farming shrimp or growing reeds.

Yet China’s dam ambitions continue to grow. The Three Gorges Dam, which runs along the Yangtze River, is the largest in the world. But it will be dwarfed by the dam China is now building on the Yarlung Zangbo river, also known as the Brahmaputra, in a seismically active region of the Tibetan Plateau. If completed, this project would drastically alter water flows into India and Bangladesh, threaten the region’s food security and ecological balance, and increase China’s geopolitical leverage over downstream countries.

The spectre of water weaponisation looms large. In fact, water is fast becoming the new oil – a strategic resource with the potential to trigger conflicts. Already, water disputes within and between countries are intensifying.

But China’s assault on the Tibetan Plateau extends beyond water. Its avaricious mining of Tibet’s mineral-rich lands – which boast critical resources like lithium, gold, and copper – is contributing to deforestation and producing toxic-waste discharge, while providing cover for China’s militarisation of the Plateau.

It is impossible to know the full extent of China’s destruction. The area is off limits to international observers, and efforts by members of indigenous Tibetan communities – whose cultural reverence for nature has underpinned a long history of sound environmental stewardship – to sound the alarm are quickly quelled, often through imprisonment or exile.

But there is no doubt that the Tibetan Plateau’s ecosystem is becoming increasingly fragile, especially given its heightened vulnerability to climate change. The Plateau is warming at twice the global average rate, and its ice is melting faster than at the poles – trends that are reducing its water-storage capacity and reshaping river flows.

The implications are far-reaching. The Tibetan Plateau, which towers over the rest of Asia (rising into the troposphere), profoundly influences Asian climatic, weather, and monsoonal patterns, and even affects atmospheric general circulation – the system of winds that transports warm air from the equator toward higher latitudes – in the Northern Hemisphere. Its degradation will exacerbate droughts and floods, accelerate biodiversity loss, contribute to agricultural collapse, and fuel mass migration across Asia and beyond.

Despite these risks, the international community, from global climate forums to multilateral institutions like the United Nations and World Bank, has been deafeningly silent about Tibet. The reason is not ignorance, but fear: China has used its clout to suppress meaningful criticism of its actions on the “roof of the world.”

Given the stakes, the international community cannot afford to let itself be cowed by China. Countries must relentlessly press for transparency about China’s activities on the Tibetan Plateau. Specifically, China must share real-time hydrological data and submit its projects for international environmental assessment. Independent environmental researchers and monitors must be granted unfettered access to the Plateau to gather vital data and conduct unbiased analyses.

China must also be held accountable for its violations of the rights of indigenous communities – including the nearly one million Tibetans who have been forcibly relocated from their ancestral lands since 2000. Western governments and multilateral institutions have leverage here. By tying environmental transparency, respect for indigenous rights, and equitable management of shared river systems to trade agreements and climate cooperation, they can compel China to change its behaviour. Direct support for indigenous Tibetan voices and civil-society networks would also help boost transparency.

Ignoring the unfolding crisis on the Tibetan Plateau might seem expedient; after all, China has plenty of economic and geopolitical clout – and it is not afraid to use it. But the costs of inaction would be staggering. Tibet is Asia’s ecological lifeline. China must not be allowed to use it in ways that threaten to upend the lives of people throughout the continent and beyond.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

MARK TWAIN

If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of.

BRUCE LEE

Build your own dreams, or someone else will hire you to build theirs.

FARRAH GRAY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1883: The first Orient Express leaves Paris. The legendary train journey from Paris to Istanbul featured in many works of popular culture, including Bram Stoker’s “Dracula” and Agatha Christie’s “Murder on the Orient Express.”

1956: Elvis Presley first performs “Hound Dog” live on TV. Presley’s suggestive hip movements during this performance earned him his nickname, “Elvis the Pelvis.” “Hound Dog” became his best-selling song with about 10 million sold copies.

UNITED ABROAD, DIVIDED AT HOME

FOCUS POLITICS



How does one then make sense of a political milieu which is stoutly batting for India on foreign soil but throws bouncers at each other at home with no cohesion or decorum?



Rajdeep Sardesai

DOMESTIC POLITICS HAS BECOME ALMOST PERFORMATIVE, PLAYING TO THIS MEDIA GALLERY WHERE NOISE MATTERS MORE THAN NEWS IN A POST-TRUTH SOCIETY



Brahma Chellaney

TIBET IS ASIA'S ECOLOGICAL LIFELINE. CHINA MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE IT IN WAYS THAT THREATEN TO UPEND THE LIVES OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT AND BEYOND

It has taken a horrific terror attack and an 87-hour military operation against Pakistan for India’s right wing army to confer a certificate of ‘nationalism’ to AIM-IM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. For years, Owaisi’s strident politics was demoralised by the BJP as representing ‘anti-national’ sentiment. Wearing his distinct religious identity on his shawl made him an ‘enemy’ figure for those whose politics revolves around ‘othering’ the Indian Muslim. Today, the same Owaisi is being feted as a ‘patriot’ for aggressively espousing India’s case on Pak-based terrorism in global fora. The articulate Hyderabad MP’s politics haven’t changed: he has on several previous occasions also taken on Pakistan and the ‘two nation’ theory, only his over-sized image as a staunch Indian Muslim opponent of the BJP meant that he is easily typecast as an advocate of narrow Muslim interests and little else. This is no image makeover, only a reflection of a post-Pahalgam political environment which remains divisive and hyper-partisan at home but united and consensual abroad.

Take also Home Minister Amit Shah’s recent remarks in Bengal where he accused the Mamata Banerjee government of ‘vote bank politics’ over Operation Sindoor. The TMC, like most Opposition parties, has been mostly supportive of the Modi government on the ‘war’ with Pakistan. While Shah was addressing BJP workers in Kolkata, TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee was spewing fire against Pakistan’s army state as part of an all-party delegation in East Asia. And yet, with elections in Bengal less than a year away, Shah’s rabble rousing speech was designed to sound the election bugle.

Look also at the chaotic state of the Congress. Soon after Pahalgam, the party announced that it would ‘fully support’ any action taken by the government

to protect the country’s ‘national interest’. And yet, when the party’s four-time Thiruvananthapuram MP, Shashi Tharoor endorses Operation Sindoor, he is instantly branded by local Congress leaders as having become the ‘super-spokesperson’ of BJP. While an eloquent Tharoor in Washington DC, leading another all-party delegation, refutes the charge that US president Donald Trump pushed India to agree to a ceasefire, Rahul Gandhi at a party rally in Bhopal accuses the PM of having ‘surrendered’ to the White House occupant. The confusion within its ranks is only glaringly apparent in the conflicting voices.

Switch now to BJP. When Operation Sindoor was launched, the party’s official social media handle released a video lampooning the Congress while accusing Dr Manmohan Singh of being a ‘weak’ prime minister who they claimed failed the country after 26/11. Strangely, its voluble MP Nishikant Dubey is part of an all-party team abroad but that hasn’t stopped him from putting out a series of acerbic tweets accusing Congress PMs dating back to Jawaharlal Nehru of ‘selling’ India’s interests.

How does one then make sense of a political milieu which is stoutly batting for India on foreign soil but throws bouncers at each other at home with no co-

hesion or decorum? Firstly, the blame must lie with the principal stakeholders, in this instance, the prime minister and the leader of opposition. Forget about mutual respect, PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi seem to have utter contempt for each other. The PM has spared no opportunity in denigrating the Gandhi family, often in the most coarse language. The Congress leader in turn has been equally scornful of Modi, almost as if the latter has no right to occupy the prime ministerial chair. When leaders respond to each other in such crude terms, how does one expect followers to be any different?

Secondly, there is an institutional atrophy that makes it increasingly difficult to ensure a measure of democratic accountability. Take for example the institution of parliament which in the past decade has been reduced to a notice-board by the ruling party. There has been little or no attempt made by government lawmakers to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the opposition on key issues. Bills are rammed through, discussions are cut short, contentious issues are disallowed. When debate is strangled, democracy is weakened.

Thirdly, there is the partisan role being played by a large section of media which must be placed under the scanner.

When the media becomes a loudspeaker of the government and shuts out or relentlessly interrogates the opposition, then there is scarcely a level playing field in the national conversation. On Op Sindoor too, there has been little or no attempt by the media to raise inconvenient questions at the government even while routinely amplifying state propaganda. Is it any surprise then that the Chief of Defence Staff ended up admitting to Indian jet losses to a foreign media network in Singapore and not to a home audience? When domestic media credibility is strained, it creates an information vacuum that works against public interest.

Finally, one key reason for the divisive nature of domestic politics is the pernicious influence of social media. This is the first Indo-Pak conflict in the age of social media, a noxious chamber of lies and abuse with no rules or filters to ensure even a semblance of due diligence or decency in public discourse. In this free-for-all whirl, there is ample space for extreme voices to get traction while expressions of moderation and nuance are increasingly marginalised. Soundbites are craftily edited, reels go viral, twitter wars and loud name-calling debates are par for the course: who wants sense when sensation takes over? Domestic politics has become almost performative, playing to this media gallery where noise matters more than news in a post-truth society.

Post-script: One opposition MP who was part of the all-party delegation confided that he found his fellow BJP MP ‘a rather nice person’. “She looks at me with hostility in parliament but on the flight she was rather pleasant to talk to!” Maybe a few more all party visits might help break the ice further!

The writer is senior journalist and author. His latest best-selling book is 2024: The Election That Surprised India.

SPECTRUM GOVERNANCE

Decentralisation: Promise & delivery



Arijit Dash & Avinash Kumar

INDIA MUST GO BEYOND FORMAL MANDATES. IT NEEDS TO EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH REAL AUTHORITY, SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Since the 1970s, there has been an increasing devolutionary tendency that has swept across nations with differing degrees of transformation. This global trend towards decentralisation, the characteristic of which is increasingly differential and uneven across nations, has accompanied with itself the importance of local and regional governments in shaping economic development. As nations went about adopting varying forms and levels of decentralisation, the rationale behind advocating decentralisation also shifted from solely relying on an identity discourse (i.e. cultural, and linguistic factors) towards an economic discourse of ‘achieving greater economic and social change.’

The theoretical case for decentralisation is robust. Scholars like Tiebout, Oates, and Musgrave argue that local governments are better placed to understand the needs of their communities. By aligning services with local preferences, governance becomes not just more participatory but also more efficient. For instance, the UK’s example of personal care provision illustrates how devo-

lution can respond to regional preferences. While the elderly in Scotland benefit from the provisioning of free personal care, the cost of providing for the same in England is considered ‘prohibitively expensive’. This non-uniform provisioning reflects how decentralisation can align policies with local needs. However, devolution initiatives come about with enormous complexities in terms of the many shapes and levels it manifests, therefore producing outcomes that are contingent on varied factors. Proponents argue that decentralisation brings governance closer to the people, enhances accountability, and improves outcomes. But the picture is more complex. Centralised systems often benefit from economies of scale, delivering services more cost-effectively while also providing clearer lines of responsibility. By contrast, decentralised systems may suffer from overlapping jurisdictions, weak institutions, and blurred accountability.

Literature on fiscal decentralisation points to several conditions under which centralised systems may outperform local ones. Firstly, national govern-

ments can leverage economies of scale and scope in service delivery. Secondly, devolved systems often suffer from unclear division of responsibilities, making it hard for citizens to hold specific tiers accountable. Thirdly, when sub-national governments operate under “soft budget constraints” and expect bailouts from the centre, inefficiencies and fiscal deficits can arise.

India formally adopted decentralisation with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992, which sought to empower rural and urban local bodies. These reforms institutionalised representation for marginalised groups, including women and SC/STs. Yet, more than three decades later, the promise remains largely unfulfilled. India continues to grapple with what experts call the “4F problem”: Funds, Functions, Functionaries, and Facilitation. Local governments often lack financial autonomy, adequate staff, and the authority to make meaningful decisions. Even when funds are available, poor planning, weak transparency, and low community participation hinder effective use. Women’s participation, despite

legal mandates, remains symbolic in many areas. Elected representatives often lack training and support. Institutions like the State Institutes of Panchayat and Rural Development could help build capacity but remain under-resourced and underutilised.

India is not alone in facing these challenges. In countries such as the Philippines and Uganda, similar patterns emerge. Kahkonen and Lanyi’s (2001) study found that limited devolution of authority, dependence on conditional central grants, and weak local accountability have curtailed the potential of decentralised governance.

Decentralisation holds promise—but only if implemented meaningfully. India must go beyond formal mandates. It needs to empower local governments with real authority, sufficient resources, and institutional support. Capacity-building, transparent planning and genuine community oversight are crucial. Only then can decentralisation fulfil its core promise of delivering governance that is truly responsive, accountable, and effective at the grassroots level.

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Nation comes first

Sir, After their successful mission carrying the nation’s principled and resolute stand against terrorism and spreading the message of peace and the Indian philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” around the globe, the seven multi-party delegations are back home. The delegations consisting of lawmakers from the ruling and the opposition parties covered 33 countries of Asia, Africa, the European Union and America. The delegations led by senior leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Sanjay Jha, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Supriya Sule, and Shrikant Shinde showed India’s united and democratic approach. Despite the fact that the members come from different parties, different regions and religions and following different ideologies they have shown us that nation comes first and rest of the things only next. During the visit they met leaders, ministers, influential think tanks, media, government officials and policymakers of various nations to exchange views on furthering cooperation on counterterrorism and combating radicalism. **M Pradyu, KANNUR**

Milestone moment

Sir, India’s literacy rate of approximately 81 per cent is a significant accomplishment. These numbers indicate that our society’s access to education is continuous. However, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data for 2023-24 also shows that persistent disparities are preventing the country from achieving universal literacy. Because of differences between gender and location, this disparity is particularly apparent. The main cause of this phenomenon is the tendency for development to prioritise urban areas and increase opportunities for education. Data indicates that the literacy rate in urban regions of India stands at 88.9 per cent, in contrast to only 77.5 per cent in rural regions. Undoubtedly, the disparity in literacy between urban and rural areas across various states highlights the imbalances in educational infrastructure, the presence of trained educators, and accessible learning options. Gender disparities show a similar pattern across different states. This issue fundamentally stems from societal stereotypes, insufficient public awareness, and variations in economic advancement.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

MONSOON TOURISM

Waterfalls exempted from 'visit ban' in Goa

GOA WATERFALLS UNDER FOREST DEPT OPEN FOR MONSOON TOURISM ACTIVITIES, CONGRESS CALLS MOVE 'DEATH TRAP'



sites. "Entry to the waterfalls and trekking activities will be through identified check gates, where all basic amenities will be provided," Rane said.

"Therefore general public is requested to not get confused with the orders issued by DMs, as guided monsoon tourism activities/trekking in forest area/water falls are not restricted in any manner," she added.

Goa Congress chief Amit Patkar, however, criticised the move, claiming this is not tourism, but a "death trap wrapped in PR."

In a media statement issued Tuesday evening, Patkar asked, "How many Goan lives must be lost before BJP stops playing politics with public safety?"

Despite clear orders by the district magistrates, restricting access to high-risk waterfalls during monsoons, BJP MLA and GFDC chief Rane was openly defying the ban to promote monsoon tourism, he charged.

of monsoon tourism activities being promoted by the forest department and GFDC".

"All tourism activities will be strictly under the supervision of the forest staff and lifeguards deployed for the purpose to safeguard the tourists," the notice said.

Life jackets and other safety measures for tourists are ensured in these ecotourism

Citing monsoon delay, pleasant weather Goa shack owners seek operation period extension

The Shack Owners Welfare Society in Goa has asked the state government to allow them to operate shacks till June 8 as clear skies ahead of the monsoon had created pleasant weather and attracted tourists. As per the Goa Shack Policy, beach shacks are supposed to shut operations by May 31 in anticipation of the southwest monsoon. "In a memorandum to the state tourism department, we have cited a combination of exceptional weather conditions and increased tourist arrivals as key justifications for this appeal to allow us to operate till June 8. The absence of early showers has created an extended window of stable, pleasant beach weather ideal for tourism activities," a functionary of the Shack Owners Welfare Society told PTI. There is also a notable surge in domestic tourist arrivals during the initial days of June, which signals a strong demand for continued beachside services and amenities, he said. As per the memorandum, an extension will not only benefit shack owners who have made significant investments in their setups but also for the wider tourism economy. When contacted, state tourism director Kedar Naik, "We acknowledge proactive efforts of Shack Owners Welfare Society in highlighting ground realities. The department is reviewing the request giving due consideration to the favourable weather, uptick in tourist arrivals, and economic impact on shack operators." Any decision that will be taken will balance stakeholder interests with safety regulations and environmental responsibility, Naik asserted.



Showering flower petals, teachers welcome students at Sangameshwar Public School on the first day of the new academic year, in Solapur, Maharashtra, Thursday

Final stretch of Samruddhi Expressway opened

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 5: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Thursday inaugurated the final 76-km-long stretch of the Samruddhi Mahamarg, making the entire 701-km Mumbai-Nagpur corridor fully functional and bringing down the travel time between the two cities to eight hours from around 18 hours.

With the inauguration of the final stretch between Igatpuri in Nashik district to Amane in Bhiwandi taluka of Thane district, this six-lane expressway, officially called 'Hindu Hridayasamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg', is likely to be open for traffic soon, the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRDC) said.

Besides Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra ministers Dada Bhuse, Shivendra Rajee Bhosale and Narhari Zirwal attended the inauguration ceremony at Igatpuri, about 140 km from Mumbai, that was held around 1.45 pm.

After the inauguration, the chief minister also inspected the longest Igatpuri tunnel of the expressway and viaduct in the stretch.



To conduct an inspection of the expressway, Deputy CM Shinde drove a high-end car with CM Fadnavis sitting beside him on the front seat and Pawar occupying the back seat. The inspection lasted around 45 minutes, including the time taken for the journey between Igatpuri and Amane.

On the way back, Fadnavis and Shinde swapped the seats with the CM getting behind the wheel, while Pawar remained in the same seat.

The newly-constructed third creek bridge near Vashi Sion-Panvel Highway was also inaugurated via video confer-

encing on the occasion. The MSRDC said once the final 76-km stretch of Samruddhi Mahamarg between Igatpuri in Nashik district and Amane in Thane district (part of Mumbai metropolitan region) opens for traffic, the journey between the two cities can be completed in just eight hours.

So far, 625 km of the expressway has been operational, and nearly two crore vehicles have utilised it. The maximum speed limit on the expressway is 100 km/h in ghat sections and 120 km/h on flat terrain, it said.

The expressway traverses through 392 villages in 26 talu-

kas across 10 districts in five revenue divisions.

After the opening of the final phase for traffic, pilgrims travelling from the Thane-Mumbai region to the temple town of Shirdi in Ahilyanagar district, will benefit from a faster and more convenient route, MSRDC said.

Samruddhi Mahamarg links the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (Navi Mumbai) and major tourist destinations such as Shirdi, Ajanta-Ellora Caves (Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district) and Lonar lake (Buldhana district).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the first phase covering 520 km between Nagpur and Shirdi December 11, 2022. The second 80-km phase from Shirdi (Kokamthan) to Bharvir Interchange (Nashik district) was inaugurated May 26, 2023, while the third 25km corridor between Bharvir Interchange to Igatpuri was thrown open for traffic March 4, 2024.

The expressway, built at a cost of about Rs 55,000 crore, is one of India's longest and passes through 10 districts - Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Washim, Buldhana, Jalna, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Ahilyanagar, Nashik and Thane.

GCCI appoints first-ever lady prez in 117 years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, June 5: Businesswoman Pratima Dhond is all set to become the first-ever woman president of the 117-year Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

GCCI, in a media statement

released here, has announced the appointment of Dhond as the next head of this prestigious chamber of commerce. She will replace Srinivas Dempo from Dempo Group of companies.

"We are happy to announce that Pratima Dhond has been elected as the next President of the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI)," the chamber said.

The media statement reads that a distinguished banker and businesswoman, Dhond will make history as the first lady to hold this esteemed position in the chamber's 117-year legacy.

GCCI said that she will take over from the current president Dempo July 1, 2025.

527 buildings in Navi Mumbai identified as 'dangerous'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, June 5: As many as 527 buildings in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) limits have been identified as "dangerous" during a survey for 2024-25, the civic body has said.

It is mandatory for buildings in use for more than 30 years to undergo a structural audit by a civil or structural engineer registered with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, the NMMC said in a release issued Wednesday.

"A survey of dangerous buildings under the municipal limits for the year 2024-25 has identified 527 buildings as dangerous" under provisions of the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act, it said.

The occupants have been advised to vacate such premises



immediately, the release said.

The civic body has appealed to the residents, owners and institutions to get the structural audits of such buildings conducted and submit the report to the respective assistant civic commissioner or the assistant director of urban planning by September 30.

The age of the building is to

be determined from the date of initial occupancy, either full or partial.

Following the structural audit, a certificate confirming that all necessary repairs recommended by the engineer have been completed and that the structure is safe must be submitted to the corporation, the release said.

LATUR COLLEGE SETS GREEN EXAMPLE

Earning the nickname of "Mini Konkan" from nature lovers and morning walkers, the serene eco-haven exudes a rich biodiversity that mirrors the Konkan region's natural charm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latur, June 5: A lush green paradise, boasting of more than 700 trees, has taken root at a sprawling seven-acre college in Maharashtra's Latur city, attracting hundreds of people on its walking track every day.

Earning the nickname of "Mini Konkan" from nature

lovers and morning walkers, the serene eco-haven exudes a rich biodiversity that mirrors the Konkan region's natural charm.

Notably, 712 trees were planted over 20 years ago, forming the green spine of the Smt Sushiladevi Deshmukh Senior College campus.

The college generates approximately 2,852 kg of oxygen every day, its principal Dr Ajay Patil claimed while talking PTI on the eve of the World Environment Day Wednesday.

The trees, seasonal blooms, along with the lush green canopy of other native species, not only enhance the scenic beauty but also create a soothing, natural environment that attracts visitors, students and nature enthusiasts alike.



The presence of such flowering trees adds a picturesque appeal, making the college campus feel like a living, breathing botanical garden, said Dr Pandurang Shitole, head of the college's English department.

The leaf litter and organic waste on the campus are converted into compost manure, nurturing the very trees that give shade to students and visitors, Dr Patil said.

A sewage treatment plant

(STP) installed in a nearby drain filters up to 60,000 litres of wastewater every day, which is then reused for irrigating the greenery, making the campus nearly self-reliant in its water needs, he said.

A dedicated walking track attracts hundreds of residents each morning and evening.

"We come here every day for a walk, and it truly feels like we're strolling through the greenery of Konkan," said Latur-based retired headmaster Balasaheb Yadav, one of the regular walkers at the facility.

"This transformation is the result of a clear vision and sustained efforts under the guidance of former minister Diliprao Deshmukh, president of Manjara Charitable Trust," Dr Patil said.

Goa govt vows to resolve cases under Forest Rights Act by 'Liberation Day'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, June 5: The Goa government Wednesday promised to resolve all pending cases under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), mostly concerning land ownership of tribals, by December 19, which is celebrated as the state's 'Liberation Day'.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant made the announcement after chairing a meeting with senior officials, including the state-level nodal officer for FRA, Ajay Gaude.

Talking to reporters at Manturalaya, Porvorim, Sawant said his government has resolved to clear all pending cases under the FRA by December 19, 2025.

FRA, officially known as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, recognises the rights of

forest-dwelling communities over the land and resources they have traditionally used.

Sawant said the government has received 10,500 applications under the FRA till date, of which 871 have been disposed of, while 949 stand rejected.

He said some applications were turned down since the claimed pieces of land were located on revenue areas and not within forest boundaries as required under the Act.

The CM said district authorities will hold "special camps" June 14 in all six talukas - Quepem, Sanguem, Dharbandora, Canacona, Ponda and Sattari - from where the claims have been received under the Act.

He said 3,970 cases are pending with different deputy collectors and they would be resolved during these special camps in the six talukas.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DHARMAGARH

Email : rv_dharmagarh@yahoo.com
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. DMGH/Online-01 of 2025-26 Dates : 30.05.2025
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No. O-233 : Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimate Cost, Cost of tender Paper, Bid Security, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

1. Name of the Work	: Road works in the District of Kalahandi as mentioned in DTCN
2. Total No. of Works	: 01 No.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 33.57 lakhs
4. Period of Completion	: 02 Calendar Months
5. Other Details	:

Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & time seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
From	To		
05.06.2025 At 10.00 A.M.	16.06.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	13.06.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	17.06.2025 At 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division
Dharmagarh

OIPR-25100/11/0024/2526



Small actions today can lead to a brighter tomorrow. Together, let's create a better world for future generations
A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

KATRA-SRINAGAR VANDE BHARAT TRAIN TO START FROM TOMORROW

The Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Srinagar to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday will start its commercial operations for public from June 7, the Northern Railway said. The IRCTC has opened advance booking from Thursday afternoon



of the day quote

Parties with casteist ideologies, both in power and in opposition, have been managing certain opportunistic and self-serving individuals from Dalit and other marginalised communities behind the scenes
MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

We've set a target of planting 10 crore trees this year, and will aim for the same next year too, because this is not just about numbers, it's about creating a greener, sustainable future for our state
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

Sikkim is more than just a state, it is a living laboratory of environmental stewardship and sustainable development. Sikkim's journey is one of setting a national benchmark in green governance
PREM SINGH TAMANG | SIKKIM CM

SHORT TAKES

Weapon smuggling racket busted; 2 held

Chandigarh: Punjab Police Thursday unearthed a cross-border weapon smuggling module with the arrest of two persons in Tarn Taran district, a top police officer said. Six sophisticated weapons, including Glock pistols, have been recovered from them. The accused have been identified as Surajpal Singh and Arshdeep Singh, residents of Tarn Taran, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said.

Kharge, Rahul discuss Manipur situation

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Thursday met party leaders from Manipur and discussed the situation in the state. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal was also present at the meeting which was held at the new AICC headquarters at Indira Bhavan. He said Manipur requires a political solution soon to bring back normalcy at the earliest.

Fire breaks out at Churchgate station

Mumbai: A fire broke out at a shop inside the busy Churchgate railway station in south Mumbai Thursday evening, triggering concerns among commuters during the peak hours. No one was injured in the incident that was reported around 5.25 pm by the Western Railway, an official said. The Mumbai fire brigade rushed its teams and firefighting equipment to the spot. Police and local civic staff were also mobilised to facilitate the firefighting operation, the civic official said.

AP launches massive plantation drive

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh government Thursday launched a massive greening campaign to mark World Environment Day (today), aiming to increase the state's green cover from 29 to 50 per cent. As part of the initiative, the government rolled out "Vana Mahotsav (forest festival)" and "End Plastic Pollution" drive, with plans to plant one crore saplings statewide today. "Currently, Andhra Pradesh's green cover is over 30.05 per cent, combining 22.96 per cent recorded forest area and 7.09 per cent trees outside forests. Officials aim to reach over 32,000 sq.km to add 50 per cent cover," said a press release.

BANGALORE STAMPEDE

K'taka HC directs state govt to file status report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 5: Karnataka High Court Thursday directed the state government to file a status report on the stampede outside the cricket stadium here that led to 11 deaths and injuries to over 50 people.

The court, after taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, issued notice to the state, and tasked it to file a detailed status report by June 10.

A division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice V Kameshwar Rao and Justice CM Joshi directed the court registry to treat the matter as a suo motu public interest litigation petition. In the stampede during the IPL victory celebration of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) June 4, 11 people died and 56 others were injured.

When the matter came up before the division bench, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty said the announcement of free entry into the stadium led to a massive rush at the gates, triggering stampede. He made it clear that the gov-

ernment does not intend approaching the matter in an adversarial way. "This is not about blame games. The aim is to understand what went wrong and ensure such tragedies don't recur," he said.

Referring to the deployment of police and security personnel during the city-wide celebrations following RCB's IPL title win, the AG said that the situation, however, turned chaotic outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium, where more than 2.5 lakh people had gathered, far exceeding the venue's capacity of 30,000. "Each person thought just one more was entering the stadium, without realising the overwhelming size of the crowd," he explained.

The bench observed that large public events must be guided by clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). "Am-

New guidelines for mega events soon

Karnataka government will formulate a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for mega events, meetings and celebrations aimed at preventing any untoward incidents, state Home Minister G Parameshwara said Thursday. Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said that the government will take strict measures to identify the lapses that led to the stampede near the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations.

balances must be available at the venue, and there should be clarity about the nearest hospitals," the Acting Chief Justice noted. Responding to this, the AG said that ambulances were indeed present, but admitted they were not adequate for an emergency of this scale.

The AG informed the court that a magisterial inquiry had already commenced and it would be completed within 15 days. All the 11 deaths and the injuries to 56 people occurred at three specific gates out of a total of 21.

The state is treating the matter with utmost seriousness and notices have been served to all relevant parties, including the event management agency. A public notice has been issued by the inquiry officer, inviting anyone with relevant information or evidence.

An FIR was registered against RCB, State Cricket Association, and others under various charges including culpable homicide not amounting to murder in connection with the stampede that killed 11 people June 4

specific gates out of a total of 21.

The state is treating the matter with utmost seriousness and notices have been served to all relevant parties, including the event management agency.

A public notice has been issued by the inquiry officer, inviting anyone with relevant information or evidence.

Undertrial killed inside Delhi court lock-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: In a major security lapse, an undertrial prisoner who was brought to Saket Court for a hearing Thursday was killed inside the court's lock-up after two men allegedly kicked him repeatedly and smashed his head against the wall in the presence of several prisoners.

Aman (24), who was facing trial in an attempt to murder case, was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead by doctors. Police sources said they have formed a team to investigate the matter, including why security personnel present outside the lock-up were slow in responding. Multiple undertrial prisoners were in the lock-up when Aman was allegedly attacked by Jitender alias Jitte and Jaidev alias Baccha, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan in a statement said. All three knew each other. Preliminary inquiry indicates that the attack stemmed from a previous dispute between Aman and Jitender.

In 2024, Aman allegedly attacked Jitender and his brother with a knife and an FIR of attempt to murder was registered against him.

NIA raids 32 places in J&K to probe Pak terror outfits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out searches at 32 locations across Jammu and Kashmir Thursday to probe a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-based terror outfits, officials said.

The locations were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and underground workers associated with these Pakistan-based outfits, such as The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu and Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) and others, they said.

All of these outfits are affiliated to proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Al-Badr etc., the officials said. The raids were carried out in Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Baramulla and Kupwara districts, they added. The searches were part of continuing investigations against a terror conspiracy hatched by



Pakistan-backed proscribed terrorist organisations and their offshoots to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir, according to a statement issued by the NIA.

The cadres and workers whose premises were searched are under the NIA's scanner for their involvement in supporting terror activities, such as facilitating terrorists, collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), funds, narcotic substances and arms and ammunition, the statement said. According to the NIA investigations, these offshoots, supported by their leaders in Pakistan, have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence by radicalising local youngsters and mobilising underground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.



Citizens and members of an NGO stage a protest at Kawesar Lake on Ghodbunder Road, opposing proposed construction that could harm the lake's natural ecosystem, on the occasion of World Environment Day, in Thane, Mumbai

Primacy for humanity, not AI, in justice delivery: CJI

On June 4, the CJI was delivering a keynote address on the theme "Courts, Commerce & the Rule of Law" at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London

In his address, the CJI outlined the role of the judiciary in balancing commerce and the concept of the "rule of law" in the digital age and said courts required to actively engage in the process with commercial pragmatism.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: Chief Justice of India Justice BR Gavai has warned against giving primacy to technology in the justice delivery system, saying it would erode public faith in judiciary and beseeched courts not to lose sight of humanity.

The CJI June 4 was delivering a keynote address on the theme "Courts, Commerce & the Rule of Law" at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. In his address, the CJI outlined the role of the judiciary in balancing commerce and the concept of the "rule of law" in the digital age and said courts required to actively engage in the process with commercial pragmatism.

"The moment we let technology take the driver's seat in the legal system, we begin to erode the public's faith in us and with it, the foundations of the rule of law," CJI Gavai added.

CJI Gavai continued, "Yet in this rush toward technological integration, we must not lose sight of our humanity. The rule of law exists not as an abstract concept but as a living promise to real people facing real problems. Each case that comes before our courts represents someone's hope for justice, and someone's faith that the system will work fairly and equitably." He said when people stand at the crossroads between tradition and innovation, the courts as sentinels of the rule of law are both guardians of ancient wisdom and architects of future

justice. He urged courts worldwide to uphold the rule of law amidst evolving commercial and technological landscapes.

"In the realm of global commerce, we have the power to ensure that freedom, guided by justice, sustains the integrity of efficient and dependable commercial dispute resolution systems for generations to come. The rule of law in the digital age requires not just our attention but our active and thoughtful engagement guided by commercial pragmatism," the CJI said.

Referring to the role of judiciary, Justice Gavai said courts play a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law. "Efficient resolution in a commercially sound timeframe becomes the primary objective, not necessarily 'justice' in the abstract or normative sense," he said, adding the interpretations of statutory provisions by the courts must be "pragmatic and not hamper commerce". He also referred to a recent apex court judgement on courts power to modify arbitral awards and said, "The court was careful to underline that while limited modifications may be permitted, they must not cross the line into a de novo merits review, lest the fundamental commercial purposes of arbitration be compromised."

He dealt with the issue of emerging technologies and future of justice delivery and said from that mechanical marvel, the people have seen the march to today's smart phones, smarter computers and perhaps smartest humans in history.

TN: Kamal Haasan's 'Thug Life' release sparks celebrations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 5: "Thug Life", superstar Kamal Haasan's 234th movie, released in cinema halls across the country Thursday and with much fanfare in his home state Tamil Nadu where fans queued up outside several theatres to catch the first show.

The Tamil movie, which reunites the 70-year-old actor with filmmaker Mani Ratnam after 1987's "Nayakan", could not be released in Karnataka after Haasan's comments about Kannada language sparked a major controversy. It was also released in Telugu, Hindi and Malayalam.

In Tamil Nadu, the film's shows started at 9 am. Outside Chennai's Rohini Theatre, the excitement was visible as crowds gathered for the first day, first show of the film.

The venue was adorned with



posters and cutouts of the movie and its stars, including Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan TR, and Trisha. Many fans burst firecrackers, cut cakes and danced in the theatre premises. Some hysterical fans popped open beer bottles and poured the beverage on giant cutouts of their beloved stars.

The movie was also set to premiere in Karnataka but its release in the state was cancelled after Haasan's controversial "Kannada was born out of Tamil" remark.

Several fans from Bengaluru city and suburbs went to Hosur, a distance of about 42 km, to watch the movie, according to many social media posts.

Industry tracker Sacnilk said the movie has earned ₹6.16 crore in advance bookings on Wednesday. Over 3.5 lakh tickets were sold across 11,357 shows. Gautam Dutta, CEO- Revenue & Operations, PVR INOX Ltd, said the film has been received well by the audiences, especially in Tamil Nadu.

SC bats for expeditious disposal of landlord-tenant disputes

The apex court was hearing appeals over a High Court order on the "per square foot rate" for calculating mesne profits from Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd's tenancy at Harchandrai House, Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the delay in deciding property owners-tenants disputes while hearing a case stemming from the Bombay High Court.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Manoj Misra, therefore, "requested" the Bombay High Court chief justice to ex-

amine the pendency of such cases there.

The apex court was hearing appeals against an order of the high court relating to a dispute on "per square foot rate" at which the mesne profit was to be calculated in relation to Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd's occupation as tenant of "Harchandrai House" in Mumbai.

Mesne profit is money owed to a rightful owner of property



by someone who wrongfully possessed it.

The bench said litigants in

some cases had to wait for years for their disputes to be resolved by judicial fora.

"When it comes to landlord-tenant disputes, there is an angle of being deprived of the enjoyment of the property and also the monetary benefits that accrue from owning such property. The courts, being the courts of law and justice, are duty-bound to ensure that on their account, no party is made to suffer," the bench said.

In such disputes, the top court underlined, a delayed adjudication meant both parties bearing the brunt. "The landlord suffers on account of not receiving, in some cases, the property itself, and in other cases, the monetary dues therefrom. And the tenant suffers on account of being directed to pay large sums of

money within a short period of time when the matter is finally decreed," it added.

The top court said making requisite arrangements to pay such hefty amounts by the tenants was an arduous task.

"We request the Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature at Bombay, to take up this issue and call for a report from the concerned courts regarding the period of pendency in landlord-tenant disputes," the bench said May 6.

If it was found there were several such cases akin to the one at hand, the high court should take "appropriate steps" for their expeditious disposal, it added.

national



Crime, unemployment and migration -- this has become the real identity of the Nitish-BJP government. Their agenda is to cling to power by making the public helpless

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETS TURKMENISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday met his counterpart from Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, in Delhi and said they had a warm exchange on deepening bilateral cooperation. Jaishankar said he welcomed the visiting leader's "strong condemnation" of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations



Senior Maoist leader Sudhakar gunned down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bijapur, June 5: Senior Maoist leader Narasimha Chalam alias Sudhakar, who had a bounty of ₹40 lakh on his head was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Thursday, police said, days after the elusive chief of CPI (Maoist) Basavaraju was gunned down.

The killing of Sudhakar, a member of the Maoists' Central Committee, comes a fortnight after CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju (70) was neutralised by security forces in the Bastar region, dealing a severe blow to the banned outfit. Originally hailing from Andhra Pradesh, the 67-year-old Sudhakar was involved in indoctrination and radicalization of youth and also responsible for numerous Naxal attacks in Chhattisgarh, resulting in the death of civilians and security personnel, police said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo said Sudhakar and several others Naxalites were neutralised in the operation, though he did not give numbers.

Braving difficult terrain and inhospitable conditions, security personnel have been taking forward the campaign to eliminate Naxalism towards a historic success, Sai added. The latest exchange of fire broke out in the forest of Indravati national park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior cadres, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

The Special Task Force, District Reserve Guard, both units of the Chhattisgarh police, and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation that was launched on Wednesday, he said.

Late by 6 minutes for test, student's plea fails to convince Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: The Delhi High Court has refused relief to a student who missed the Common University Entrance Test by six minutes outlining the "sanctity and discipline" of examinations.

The 18-year-old candidate claimed May 13 she reached the exam center at around 8.36 am -- six minutes beyond the scheduled time of the test -- but was denied entry.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta was hearing her plea against a single judge's order declining to intervene in the matter. The bench observed that the information bulletin of the National Testing Authority and the admit card gave very specific instructions on reaching the centre at around 7 am, two hours prior to the commencement of the examination, as gates would shut at around 8.30 am.

The bench said leniency in the conduct of such a large-scale examination would lead to chaos and "discipline of the examination ought to be maintained".

"The CUET is an important entrance examination and the discipline in arriving at the examination hall in time, taking the seat in time and being at the center before the gate closing time, are all part of the discipline and ethos of the examination ecosystem which ought not to be relaxed, inasmuch as, the same may lead to huge inequities between similarly placed students," the court held May 31.

The bench dismissed her appeal and said, "One might feel that it was only a matter of six minutes, but the authorities could not be blamed for enforcing the rule of gate closing timings strictly and discrimination was not a valid ground to interfere."

Being "extremely conscious" of the negative impact on the student's career, the court said it could not lose sight of the discipline required to be maintained in such examinations.

Ram Temple nears completion; 'Raja Ram' idol consecrated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, June 5: The idol of Raja Ram was consecrated and the Ram Darbar inaugurated at the Ram Jannabhoomi complex Thursday, a major step towards completion of a grand temple that has been at the intersection of political and religious discourse for three decades.

The city was festooned and lit up as priests gathered at the first floor of the Ram temple to install the almost five-feet white marbled statue of Raja Ram, the god in his royal form, amid the chanting of hymns and elaborate rituals.

The Ram Darbar also features the idols of Sita, Lakshman, Bharat, Shatrughn and Hanuman. The day, chosen to coincide with the occasion of Ganga Dussehra, comes 16 months after the consecration of Ram Lalla, the child god, January 22, 2024.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the top government brass and a host of celebrities were present at the high octane

occasion then, the event this time was quieter.

Among those conducting the ceremony today were Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, also the head priest of the Gorakhnath Mutt in Gorakhpur, along with other priests. Devotees, unmindful of curbs, stood outside the temple complex, singing, dancing and chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' all the while. Restrictions on vehicular movement during the inauguration ceremony by the administration and the temple trust's decision to not issue temple entry passes to visitors between 9 am to 3 pm Thursday failed to deter the devotees, some who had come from as far as Nepal. Gogan Prasad, from Nepal's capital Kathmandu, was one such devotee.

The BJP, which is in power at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh, said in a post on X, "The second festival of Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha concluded today in Ayodhya. A step towards Ram Rajya." The ceremony took place during the Abhijit Muhurat,



considered one of the most auspicious moments in the Hindu calendar.

The consecration of the deities began with prayers at the 'yajna mandap' at 6.30 am, followed by a 'havan' at 9 am, which lasted an hour. Thereafter, centralised rituals began simultaneously across all temple shrines, aided by visual technology like cameras and large

screens, ensuring synchronicity of the ceremonies.

According to the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, among the deities consecrated were Shri Ram Darbar (central installation), Sheshavatar, Lord Shiva in the northeast (Ishan) corner, Lord Ganesha in the southeast (Agni) corner, Lord Hanuman at the southern wing, Surya (Sun

of the day quote

The Congress gave me the first opportunity to become a legislator. Later in 1999, I became an MLA of the (undivided) NCP. Ours is a secular ideology and we are committed to it

Modi demonstrated the political will, guidance and support to the technical teams and that is the reason, this long-standing dream is fulfilled today

When Narendra Modi became the prime minister in 2014, this work had almost come to a halt. The world's tallest railway bridge, which the prime minister is now going to inaugurate, was surrounded by many controversies. There were doubts -- would building it be feasible? would it be safe?

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY

Delhi station stampede. Kumbh stampede. Bangalore IPL stampede. Dozens die. No resignations. No accountability. No lessons. In India, the life of a common man isn't priceless- it's worthless. Cheaper than a cup of chai! Business will go on as usual. Nothing will change.

SHORT TAKES

Vietnam: Indian student dies in road accident

Hyderabad: A 21-year-old student from Telangana, who was pursuing MBBS in Vietnam, died in a road accident in Can Tho City, his father said Thursday. Arshid Ashrit, who was riding a bike, was killed in the accident on Wednesday morning, his father Arjun said, citing information received by him. A pillion rider reportedly escaped with minor injuries. Ashrit joined the course two years ago. The family belongs to Kagaznagar town in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district. A purported video of the accident has gone viral.

Anubrata Mondal appears before police

Bolpur (WB): After evading summons for a week citing health issues, senior TMC leader Anubrata Mondal Thursday appeared before the police in connection with a case related to the alleged use of derogatory and abusive language during a telephonic conversation with a police officer. The opposition BJP described his appearance before the police as a "scripted drama" and alleged that the administration was treating him leniently.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan lauds Punjab farmers

Chandigarh: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday drove a tractor in a Patiala field during his day-long visit to Punjab and said if a minister cannot operate a farming vehicle, then he cannot truly understand the struggles faced by farmers. Chouhan also recalled the contribution of Punjab farmers in foodgrain production, referring to the green revolution and said he bows to the fertile land, state growers and their zeal and passion.

Cal HC grants interim bail to Sharmistha Panoli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 5: The Calcutta High Court on Thursday granted interim bail to social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli, who was arrested by Kolkata Police for allegedly uploading a video with communal comments.

The court held that the complaint against her does not disclose any cognisable offence. Panoli, a 22-year-old law student, was arrested from Gurugram in Haryana last week, after an FIR was filed against her at the Garden Reach Police Station in Kolkata. The bench of Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury ordered that she be enlarged on bail bond and security of ₹10,000, and directed her to cooperate with the investigation into the case.

The court also directed her not to leave the country without its permission, while holding that the trial court will consider if she applies for its consent to go abroad for educational purposes. It further directed the police to provide protection to Panoli, as she complained of having received threats following her social media post. Pointing to the fact that Panoli is a law student studying in an institute at Pune, the court noted that she is not a history-sheeter.

The police had maintained that the complainant stated Panoli's now-deleted video "was insulting to the religious belief



of a class of citizen of India, and amounted to promoting disharmony and hatred between different communities". Panoli, who has been in judicial custody since she was brought to Kolkata on transit remand following her arrest from a hotel in Gurugram on May 30, prayed for interim bail and quashing of the FIR lodged against her.

During the course of the hearing, the judge observed that since Panoli was arrested for her alleged controversial remarks, those reportedly making threats to her should also have been apprehended. Her counsel, D P Singh, told the court that she had gone to a police station in Kolkata

between May 15 and May 19 to lodge a complaint over threats made to her and crowds agitating in front of her residence.

She had also visited the cyber crime section of Kolkata Police to register her complaint against the online threats, Singh stated. Singh claimed that there was a war of words on social media among people across India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

The prosecution produced the case diary of the investigation into the matter before the court as per its June 3 direction. A warrant of arrest was issued by a magistrate court May 22 on the basis of the FIR dated May 15.

Panoli, a 22-year-old law student, was arrested from Gurugram in Haryana last week, after an FIR was filed against her at the Garden Reach Police Station in Kolkata

PM launches Aravalli green wall project

According to the Centre, the Aravalli Green Wall Project will play a key role in helping India create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday led the World Environment Day celebrations by launching a major reforestation effort to revive the 700-km-long Aravalli mountain range, aimed at strengthening the region's ability to combat climate change, tackle air pollution and improve groundwater levels.

The Prime Minister also announced the expansion of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, which encourages people to plant saplings in honour of their mothers.

According to the Centre, the Aravalli Green Wall Project will play a key role in helping India create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

The project aims to create a five-km-wide green belt across 29 districts, covering 6.45 million hectares in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. Around 42 per cent (2.7 million hectares) of this land is currently degraded.

The Aravallis, the oldest mountain range in India, act as a natural barrier against desertification and protect cities like Delhi, Jaipur and Gurugram from the spread of the Thar desert.

The mountain range is the source of rivers like the Chambal, Sabarmati and Luni, and is home to forests, grasslands and wetlands that support several endangered species.

However, the mountain range is under severe stress due to deforestation, mining, grazing and encroachment, which have worsened desertification, damaged water sources and harmed its biodiversity.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



Of the total degraded land, 81 per cent lies in Rajasthan, 15.8 per cent in Gujarat, 1.7 per cent in Haryana and 1.6 per cent in Delhi, according to the action plan.

The prime minister also planted a sindoor sapling at his residence, which was gifted to him by a group of women who

showed courage during the 1971 war against Pakistan.

"This plant will remain a strong symbol of the valour and inspiration of women of the country," Modi said in a post on X.

The sapling holds symbolic value, as India named its military response to the April 22

Pahalgam terror attack Operation Sindoor to signal its resolve against targeted killings. "Sindoor" (vermillion) is traditionally applied by married Hindu women and represents the cultural and religious value attached to marriage in Indian society.

Modi also flagged off 200 electric buses under a Delhi government initiative aimed at promoting clean urban transport.

In a video message, he said countries must rise above self-interest to protect the global climate. The prime minister said India has been actively working to reduce plastic pollution for the last four to five years.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution". Countries are expected to meet again in two months to continue negotiations for a global treaty to end plastic pollution.

international



I will not leave the Mercosur presidency without having concluded the trade deal
LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

3 WORLD WAR II BOMBS DEFUSED IN GERMAN

Three unexploded US bombs from World War II were defused Wednesday in Cologne after the German city's biggest evacuation since the end of the war. More than 20,000 residents were evacuated from the city centre earlier Wednesday after the bombs were unearthed Monday during preparatory work for road construction



of the day quote

Denmark will not yield to unacceptable pressure from the United States for control of semi-autonomous Greenland
METTE FREDERIKSEN | PRIME MINISTER, DENMARK

In the future, we shall continue to strengthen bilateral relations based on the solid foundations built in the past
LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

We think that this 2% is enough to meet the responsibilities we have committed to. What is important is that each country is able to meet the objectives it has set itself
MARGARITA ROBLES | DEFENCE MINISTER, SPAIN

Pak praises Trump, want him to facilitate dialogue with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 5: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari have both praised US President Donald Trump for his role in what they described as "de-escalating the tension" during the recent military confrontation with India.

The leaders also talked about renewed bilateral ties with the US and urged Washington to facilitate a comprehensive dialogue between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, India and Pakistan.

India has denied that President Trump played any role in the agreement to stop on-ground hostilities after the military conflict with Pakistan in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that saw 26 people dead and consistently rejects third-party mediation on bilateral issues.

Prime Minister Sharif was speaking at an event at the US Embassy in Islamabad while Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was speaking with US-based Pakistani journalists in Washington Wednesday.

Dawn reported that PM Shehbaz claimed that the recent four-day conflict had revealed the "Pahalgam incident was a false-flag operation", and credited President Trump for playing a decisive role in ensuring a ceasefire.

Sharif said that the US president had shown beyond any doubt that "he is a man for peace... and beneficial business deals".

"President Trump is a man against escalation and a man against cold and hot war," he added.

Trump suspends entry of int'l students at Harvard

REUTERS

Boston, June 5: US President Donald Trump Wednesday suspended for an initial six months the entry into the United States of foreign nationals seeking to study or participate in exchange programs at Harvard University, amid an escalating dispute with the Ivy League school.

Trump's proclamation cited national security concerns as a justification for barring international students from entering the United States to pursue studies at the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based university.

Harvard in a statement called Trump's proclamation "yet another illegal retaliatory step taken by the Administration in violation of Harvard's First Amendment rights."

"Harvard will continue to protect its international students," it added.

The suspension can be extended beyond six months. Trump's proclamation also directs the US State Department to consider revoking academic or exchange visas of any current Harvard students who meet his proclamation's criteria.

The directive Wednesday came a week after a federal judge in Boston announced she would issue a broad injunction blocking the administration from revoking Harvard's ability to enroll international students, who make up about a quarter of its student body.

The administration has launched a multifront attack on the nation's oldest and wealthiest



Trump targets Harvard's foreign student visas amid dispute
Harvard claims retaliation for resisting governance control
Proclamation cites foreign ties, crime, and antisemitic incidents

est university, freezing billions of dollars in grants and other funding and proposing to end its tax-exempt status, prompting a series of legal challenges.

Harvard argues the administration is retaliating against it for refusing to accede to its demands to control the school's governance, curriculum and the ideology of its faculty and students.

Harvard sued after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem May 22 announced her department was immediately revoking Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification, which allows it to enroll foreign students.

Her action was almost immediately temporarily blocked by US District Judge Allison Burroughs. On the eve of a hearing before her last week, the department changed course and said it would instead challenge Harvard's certification through a lengthier administrative process. Nonetheless, Burroughs said she planned to issue a longer-term preliminary injunction at Harvard's urging, saying one was necessary to give some protection to Harvard's international students.

In an internal cable seen by Reuters that was issued a day after that court hearing, the State Department ordered all its consular missions overseas to begin additional vetting of visa applicants looking to travel to Harvard for any purpose.

Wednesday's two-page directive said Harvard had "demonstrated a history of concerning foreign ties and radicalism," and had "extensive entanglements with foreign adversaries," including China.

Israel recovers bodies of 2 Israeli-American hostages from Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, June 5: Israel has recovered the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages taken in Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes overnight and into Thursday meanwhile killed at least 13 people, including three local journalists, according to health officials in the territory.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remains of Judith Weinstein and Gad Haggai were recovered and returned to Israel in a special operation by the army and the Shin Bet internal security agency.

"Together with all the citizens of Israel, my wife and I extend our heartfelt condolences to the dear families. Our hearts ache for the most terrible loss. May their memory be blessed," he said in a statement.

Kibbutz Nir Oz announced the deaths of Weinstein, 70, and Haggai, 72, both of whom had Israeli and US citizenship, in December 2023. Weinstein was also a Canadian citizen.

The military said they were killed in the October 7 attack and taken into Gaza by the Mujahideen Brigades, the small armed group that it said had also abducted and killed Shiri Bibas and her two small children. The army said it recovered the remains of Weinstein and Haggai overnight into Thursday from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

A teacher who helped children and a chef who played jazz



The couple were taking an early morning walk near their home in Kibbutz Nir Oz on the morning of October 7 when Hamas militants stormed across the border and rampaged through several army bases and farming communities.

In the early hours of the morning, Weinstein was able to call emergency services and let them know that both she and her husband had been shot, and send a message to her family.

Weinstein was born in New York and taught English to children with special needs at Kibbutz Nir Oz, a small community near the Gaza border. The kibbutz said she also taught meditation techniques to children and teenagers who suffered from anxiety as a result of rocket fire from Gaza. Haggai was a retired chef and jazz musician.

Reporters among 13 killed in Israeli strikes
At least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes in Khan Younis overnight, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. It was not immediately clear if the strikes were related to the recovery mission

SHORT TAKES

Russian strike kills 5 in Ukraine

Pryluky (Ukraine): At least five people, including a 1-year-old child, his mother and grandmother, were killed Thursday in a nighttime Russian drone attack on the northern Ukrainian city of Pryluky, officials said. Six drones hit a residential area in the city shortly before dawn, injuring nine others, according to authorities. The child killed was the grandson of the local fire chief, Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. The attack came just hours after US President Donald Trump spoke by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ship carrying 3,000 cars catches fire

Anchorage: The crew of a cargo ship carrying 3,000 vehicles to Mexico, including 800 electric vehicles, abandoned ship after they could not control a fire aboard the vessel in waters off Alaska's Aleutian island chain. A large plume of smoke was initially seen at the ship's stern coming from the deck loaded with electric vehicles Tuesday, according to US Coast Guard photos and a Wednesday statement from the ship's management company, London-based Zodiac Maritime. There were no reported injuries among the 22 crew members of the Morning Midas.

Probe bills into Yoon, wife pass Assembly

Seoul: South Korea's liberal-led legislature Thursday passed bills to launch special investigations into former President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived imposition of martial law in December and criminal allegations against his wife, targeting the ousted conservative a day after his liberal successor took office. The bills previously were vetoed by Yoon and South Korea's caretaker government after his December 14 impeachment over the martial law debacle.

Canada's 1st astronaut Marc Garneau dies

Ottawa (Ontario): Marc Garneau, the first Canadian in space and a former foreign minister, died Wednesday after a short illness. He was 76. Members of Parliament rose for a moment of silence in the House of Commons Wednesday evening at the request of government lawmaker Mark Gerretsen. An electrical engineer and former Royal Canadian Navy officer, he became the first Canadian in space when he flew aboard the US space shuttle in 1984. Garneau made two other trips to space.

British Sikh MPs call for probe into UK role in Op Blue Star

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 5: British Sikh Members of Parliament Warinder Juss and Jas Athwal Thursday reiterated their demand in the UK Parliament for an independent investigation into the involvement of the then Margaret Thatcher-led Conservative government in India's Operation Blue Star in June 1984.

Juss, who represents the governing Labour Party in Wolverhampton West in northern England, and Athwal, who is the Labour MP for Ilford South in the east of the country, raised the matter during the "Business of the House" session with the Leader of the House of Commons, Lucy Powell.

They highlighted the 41st anniversary of the anti-militant Indian military operation at Golden Temple and pointed to Powell's assurance to their fellow Sikh Labour MP, Tan Dhesi, earlier this year of the "need to get to the bottom of what happened".



"Documents revealed in 2014 showed that the Thatcher government had helped their Indian counterpart by providing advice for Operation Blue Star," said Juss.

"Since 2014 there have been many calls to establish the extent of the British government's involvement, and many assurances have been given. Will the Leader of the House give a statement to the House announcing an independent, judge-led public inquiry to, in her own words, get to the bottom of what happened," he asked. Powell responded by acknowledging the concerns of members of the country's Sikh

community but said she did not have an update since the last time the matter was raised in Parliament in early January.

"When I was asked about this issue previously, I did follow up, and I am sorry to say that I am still waiting," she said.

Athwal intervened later during the session to highlight that this week coincides with the anniversary of Operation Blue Star. He said, "Some 41 years later, questions about British involvement in the desecration of the holiest Sikh site in Amritsar remain unanswered. Labour promised in its 2017 and 2019 manifestos to hold an inquiry, and the Prime Minister [Keir Starmer] and the Deputy Prime Minister [Angela Rayner] pledged to do so before the last election."

"Will the Leader of the House allow time for an update from the Foreign Secretary on the progress of implementing that inquiry and ensure that promises made in opposition are fulfilled in government?"

POPULATION EMERGENCY DEEPENS

Annual births fall to another record low in Japan

The Health Ministry said 686,061 babies were born in Japan in 2024, a drop of 5.7 per cent on the previous year and the first time the number of newborns fell below 700,000 since records began in 1899

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, June 5: The number of newborns in Japan is decreasing faster than projected, with the number of annual births falling to another record low last year, according to government data released Wednesday.

The Health Ministry said 686,061 babies were born in Japan in 2024, a drop of 5.7 per cent on the previous year and the first time the number of newborns fell below 700,000 since records began in 1899. It's the 16th straight year of decline.

It's about one-quarter of the

peak of 2.7 million births in 1949 during the postwar baby boom. The data in a country of rapidly aging and shrinking population adds to concern about the sustainability of the economy and national security at a time it seeks to increase defence spending.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has described the situation as "a silent emergency" and has promised to promote more flexible working environment and other measures that would help married couples to balance work and parenting, especially in rural areas where family values tend to be more conser-



vative and harder on women. Japan is one of a number of east Asian countries grappling with falling birth rates and an aging population. South Korea and China have fought for

years to encourage families to have more children. Also Wednesday, Vietnam scrapped decades-old laws limiting families to two children in an effort to stem falling birth rates.

The Health Ministry's latest data showed that Japan's fertility rate — the average number of babies a woman is expected to have in her lifetime — also fell to a new low of 1.15 in 2024, from 1.2 a year earlier. The number of marriage was slightly up, to 485,063 couples, but the downward trend since the 1970s remains unchanged.

Experts say the government's measures have not addressed a growing number of young people reluctant to mar-

ry, largely focusing on already married couples.

The younger generation are increasingly reluctant to marry or have children due to bleak job prospects, a high cost of living and a gender-biased corporate culture that adds extra burdens for women and working mothers, experts say.

A growing number of women also cite pressure to take their husband's surname as a reason for their reluctance to marry. Under Japanese law, couples must choose a single surname to marry.

SNIPPETS

US vetoes UN Security Council demand for Gaza ceasefire



United Nations/Cairo/Jerusalem: The United States Wednesday vetoed a draft UN Security Council resolution that demanded an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza and unhindered aid access across the war-torn enclave. The other 14 countries on the council voted in favor of the draft as a humanitarian crisis grips the enclave of more than 2 million people, where famine looms and aid has only trickled in since Israel lifted an 11-week blockade last month. "The United States has been clear: We would not support any measure that fails to condemn Hamas and does not call for Hamas to disarm and leave Gaza," Acting US Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea told the council before the vote, arguing that it would also undermine US-led efforts to broker a ceasefire. Washington is Israel's biggest ally and arms supplier. The Security Council vote came as Israel pushes ahead with an offensive in Gaza after ending a two-month truce in March. Gaza health authorities said Israeli strikes killed 45 people Wednesday, while Israel said a soldier died in fighting.

Trump, Xi speak as trade worries mount, China says

Beijing/Washington: US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping spoke Thursday in a phone call intended to hash out differences on tariffs that have roiled the global economy, according to China's embassy in Washington. The talks were at Trump's request, China said, without providing further details about the leaders' conversation. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The highly anticipated call comes amid accusations between Washington and Beijing in recent weeks over critical minerals in a dispute that threatens to tear up a fragile truce in the trade war between the two biggest economies. The countries struck a 90-day deal May 12 to roll back some of the triple-digit, tit-for-tat tariffs they had placed on each other since Trump's January inauguration.



The data in a country of rapidly aging and shrinking population adds to concern about the sustainability of the economy and national security at a time it seeks to increase defence spending



Going ahead, we anticipate an uptick in vegetable prices owing to seasonal variations and a slight easing in prices of wheat and pulses amid strong domestic output

PUSHAN SHARMA
INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR, CRISIL

REGENERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL TO MINIMISE WASTE

On World Environment Day, leading corporate houses announced their commitments to a greener earth and a regenerative business model to minimise waste. Thursday, many companies committed to moving towards plastic neutrality by reducing the usage in their packaging with sustainable innovations, increasing collection and scientific disposal of plastic waste and consumer engagement to increase renewable energy capacity.



of the day quote

ITC, which has achieved plastic neutrality status for 4 years in a row, aspires to make 100 per cent of its packaging recyclable, reusable, compostable, or biodegradable by 2028

S SIVAKUMAR | GROUP HEAD, ITC LTD



Maruti Suzuki has dispatched nearly 24 lakh vehicles through rail mode. By FY 2030-31, we plan to increase the share of vehicle dispatches through railways to 35 per cent

HSHASHI TAKEUCHI | CEO, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA



In the current economic environment, where inflation is largely under control and macroeconomic indicators are showing stability, a reduction in the repo rate would be a timely and positive move. It would provide much-needed relief to both homebuyers and developers by lowering borrowing costs and easing liquidity

G HARI BABU | NATIONAL PRESIDENT, NAREDCO



Silver shines at ₹1,04,100 per kg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: Silver prices hit a lifetime high of ₹1,04,100 per kilogram in the national capital Thursday, and gold prices jumped ₹430 in line with strong global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Continuing the winning run for the fourth straight session, the white metal bounced ₹2,000 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,04,100 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) in the local markets.

HDFC Securities' Senior Analyst of Commodities Saumil Gandhi said the "price of silver reached a new all-time high in the domestic market. The rally is supported by strong fundamentals, higher industrial demand, inflation hedging, and tight global supply".

Earlier, silver hit its previous all-time high of ₹1,03,500 per kg in March.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated ₹430 to ₹99,690 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity increased ₹400 to ₹99,100 per 10 grams (inclusive



The metal might reach around ₹1,14,000 to ₹1,20,000 per kg by this Diwali, but investors should brace for a bumpy ride ahead as market volatility remains high amid global uncertainties

RAHUL KALANTRI | VICE PRESIDENT, MEHTA EQUITIES' COMMODITIES

of all taxes) Thursday.

The most traded July contract for silver futures rallied by ₹3,833, or 3.78 per cent, to hit an all-time high of ₹1,05,213 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange.

On the market outlook for silver, Mehta Equities' Vice President, Commodities, Ra-

hul Kalantri, said, "The metal might reach around ₹1,14,000 to ₹1,20,000 per kg by this Diwali, but investors should brace for a bumpy ride ahead as market volatility remains high amid global uncertainties".

Additionally, gold futures for August contracts climbed ₹635 to ₹99,214 per 10 grams.

Capital Markets surge amid rate cut buzz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 5: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second day Thursday, driven by buying in blue-chip stocks ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries amid fresh foreign capital inflows.

Besides, expectations of another interest rate cut in the RBI policy Friday supported market sentiment, traders said. After gaining over 900 points in the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex succumbed to profit booking to close 443.79 points or 0.55 per cent lower at 81,442.04. During the day, it jumped 912.88 points or 1.12 per cent to 81,911.13.

As many as 2,257 stocks advanced while 1,725 declined and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The NSE Nifty rose 130.70 points or 0.53 per cent to 24,750.90.

Eternal was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 4.50 per cent, followed by Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Reliance

Industries, UltraTech Cement Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, ITC and Hindustan Unilever were also among the winners.

In contrast, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Wednesday, as they bought equities worth ₹1,076.18 crore, according to exchange data.

Nifty ended higher for the second straight session. Positive global cues and expectations of another interest rate cut in the RBI policy on Friday boosted market sentiment.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.65 per cent and the midcap index rallied 0.39 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty jumped 1.79 per cent, services (1.09 per cent), health-care (0.88 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.73 per cent), industrials (0.60 per cent), commodities (0.51 per cent) and financial services (0.43 per cent). Whereas, auto and oil & gas were the laggards.

Tata to takeover Apple's repair business

REUTERS

Bangalore, June 5: Apple has brought in Tata Group to handle repairs for iPhones and MacBook devices in its fast-growing Indian market, signalling the Indian conglomerate's deepening role in US tech giant's supply chain, two people familiar with the matter said.

As Apple looks beyond China for manufacturing, Tata has fast emerged as its key supplier and already assembles iPhones for local and foreign markets at three facilities in south India, with one of them also making some iPhone components.

In its latest partnership expansion, Tata is taking over the mandate from an Indian unit of

Taiwan's Wistron, ICT Service Management Solutions, and will carry out such after-sales repairs from its Karnataka iPhone assembly campus, both sources said.

The market for repairs is only going to boom in India, the world's second-biggest smartphone market, as iPhone sales skyrocket. Counterpoint Research estimates around 11 million iPhones were sold in India last year, giving Apple a 7 per cent market share, compared to just 1 per cent in 2020.

The latest contract award signals Apple's growing confidence on Tata as it hopes to win more business from the world's most valuable smartphone company.

India's coal output declines fastest in 5yrs

REUTERS

Singapore, June 5: India's coal-fired electricity generation witnessed a significant 9.5 per cent decline in May, the steepest in five years, and renewable energy generation rose to a record high, government data showed.

Increased generation from less polluting power sources including hydro and nuclear also led to a decline in natural gas-fired power output, which fell at the steepest rate in nearly three years, Grid India report showed.

The decline in demand for fossil fuels for electricity generation in India, the second largest importer of coal and the



fourth biggest buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) comes at a time when benchmark prices of the fuels are under pressure.

Asian spot LNG prices have declined more than 15% this year, while benchmark prices of thermal coal have plunged to more than 4-year lows due

to weak demand from China and India.

India's coal-fired power generation fell in May on an annual basis to 113.3 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh), a review of data from the federal power grid regulator Grid India showed.

Utilities in China and India have cut dependence on coal and LNG imports this year also due to record coal stocks and slower growth in power demand.

India had forced gas-based power plants to operate last year to meet high power demand as temperatures soared.

Total electricity generation in May fell 5.3% year-on-year to 160.4 billion kWh, with the highest peak demand about 8% lower on-year at 231 GW, mainly due to milder temperatures, government officials said.

Peak demand - a measure of the maximum electricity requirement over any given time reached 250 GW during a heatwave in May 2024.

SHORT TAKES

Central Bank of India acquires Future Generali

NEW DELHI: State-owned Central Bank of India Thursday said it has acquired a 25.18 per cent stake in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILICL) for a cash consideration of ₹57 crore as part of the insolvency process. With the acquisition of 65,43,80,439 shares Wednesday (June 4), the bank has ventured into the insurance sector, Central Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. Currently, Central Bank of India has 25.28 per cent stake in FGILICL, which had earned a gross written premium of ₹1,810.53 crore in FY24. The bank had said it has been declared the successful bidder by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) for the sale of Category 1 assets of Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd and Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd. Future Enterprises owned a 25 per cent stake in Future Generali India Insurance and a 33 per cent stake in Future Generali Life Insurance. Generali is the largest shareholder in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd with a stake of 73.99 per cent.

P&G Health profit jumps

NEW DELHI: Procter & Gamble Health Ltd Thursday said its net profit jumped 31 per cent to ₹61 crore in the January-March quarter. Net sales for the quarter rose 23 per cent to ₹304 crore over the same period of the last year, P&G Health said in a statement. Financial performance was boosted by superior brand-building activities and supported by strengthened supply chain and go-to-market capabilities, it said. P&G Health also announced that it has changed its financial year from July 1 June 30 to April 1 March 31. The current financial year of the company covers a period of 9 months, from July 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. For the nine-month fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the company recorded sales of ₹918 crore, up 8 per cent compared to the same nine-month period a year ago. For the period under review, the reported profit after tax stood at ₹234 crore, up 27 per cent against the comparable nine-month period a year ago.

Titan strengthens retail presence in Odisha

CUTTACK: Titan Company Ltd, one of India's leading lifestyle and watch retailers, proudly announces the launch of its exclusive fastrack store along with the unveiling of the Titan World store in a fresh new look, strategically located in Cuttack. This unique combo-format store brings together two of Titan's most iconic brands under one roof, offering an immersive and contemporary retail experience. The new Titan World store is 1500 sq ft spacious and modern. The brand's first presence in East India, established in 1989. The dual-brand store will be inaugurated by CK Venkataraman, MD, Titan Company Ltd, alongside Upal Sengupta, Regional Business Manager, East, in the presence of key dignitaries and retail partners June 4, 2025. This launch is a part of Titan's focused retail growth strategy for FY25-26, aimed at deepening its reach in emerging Tier I, II and III markets. Commenting on the occasion, CK Venkataraman, said: "We are delighted to bring the best of Titan and Fastrack to our valued customers in Cuttack. This city holds a special place in our journey and with this upgraded retail format, we aim to deliver the innovation, quality, and service our customers have come to expect from Titan. East India continues to be a critical growth region for us, and we are excited to further enhance our presence here." The Cuttack Titan World and Fastrack combo store offers an extensive collection of over 1,000 timepieces and fashion accessories. Customers can explore Titan's signature ranges including Edge Ceramic, Automatic, Raga, and Regalia, alongside Fastrack's dynamic and trendy collections. The store also features bags, sunglasses, and fragrances from brands such as Titan, sonata, and Skinn, along with an in-store authorised service center, ensuring complete after-sales support.



BoB collab with BMC for cleanliness drive

BHUBANESWAR: Bank of Baroda (BoB), Bhubaneswar zone collaborated with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for cleanliness drive on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025. The global theme for this year's event is #BeatPlasticPollution. This mega event was organised in the Unit 2 Market of Bhubaneswar. Among the dignitaries present were Manjulata Kanhar, Deputy Mayor, Bhubaneswar, Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Commissioner, BMC, Suvendur Kumar Sahu, Addl Commissioner, BMC, Ratnakar Sahoo, Addl. Commissioner BMC, Kailash Chandra Das, Addl. Commissioner BMC, Swapna Bandopadhyaya, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar zone, BoB, AP Das, Dy GM, Bhubaneswar Zone, VMNS Saibabu, Dy GM, Bhubaneswar zone, SP Nayak, Dy GM, Bhubaneswar zone, and Satya Ranjan Mahapatra, Dy GM & Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, along with other senior dignitaries from BMC, local traders, sanitation workers and employees from BMC and BoB. The event began with a Walkathon. Thereafter, all participants actively took part in a cleanliness drive, sweeping and collecting garbage in and around the Unit 2 Market area. The dignitaries conveyed a strong message of combating plastic pollution by encouraging the usage of sustainable materials in one's day-to-day life. The joint efforts of BoB and BMC paved the way for a meaningful World Environment Day.



Utkal Alumina observes World Environment Day

RAYAGADA: Utkal Alumina, a unit of Hindalco Industries observed World Environment Day with a series of activities and awareness programmes focused on the theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution." As a part of the weeklong celebration, the Environment Department of UAIL organized a series of awareness activities. Addressing the participants, Rabi Narayan Mishra, Unit Head, emphasized the importance of environmental protection and urged everyone to reduce plastic usage in their daily lives. He also inaugurated a specially designed awareness chariot; continue to spread eco-awareness in nearby communities. Following the rally, a mass plantation drive was conducted in identified areas within the plant premises, during which 250 saplings were planted to promote green environment. The program was successfully conducted under the supervision of Subramanyu Kund and Debi Prasad Nayak from the Environment Department. The event was witnessed the active participation of senior officials including Bijaya Kumura, FH-HR, and Girija Panda, DH-I&E, along with other department heads and team members. The environment week campaign will continue till June 10, featuring more events designed to inspire collective action for a cleaner and greener future.



Indian gas price index up 19%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: India's gas price index, Gas Index of India (GIXI), for May was ₹1,016 (\$11.9) per million British per unit, up 19 per cent YoY in line with higher European and Asian spot international gas benchmarks.

GIXI MoM was lower by 5 per cent due to lower demand and higher supplies, IGX said in a statement. "Most of the marketers had high inventories for expected demand from the power sector. Expected gas demand from the power sector didn't turn up due to early monsoon and consequent lower peak demand of 231 GW against expected 260 GW plus," Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX) showed.

IGX trade volume also dropped 5 per cent year-on-year to 4.7 million mmmBtu (118 million standard cubic metres) due to lower demand from the power sector.

Over 50% GCCs cite talent retention as top concern: Report

The report reveals that high talent mobility is driven by limited career growth, compensation gaps, and work-life balance issues. The churn is most acute in working youth seeking diverse experiences and rapid growth at once

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 5: Around 51 per cent of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India, which hosts over 1,700 GCCs, find talent retention the most significant challenge as demand for specialised talent grows, a report said Thursday.

Talent retention is the most significant challenge faced by GCCs, with 51 per cent of respondents identifying it as their top concern, end-to-end HR solutions provider CIEL

HR's 'CIEL Works: GCC - Talent Trends and Insights' report revealed.

Following talent retention, 23 per cent respondents found regulatory compliance as a challenge, while 18 per cent said it was cultural difference and 8 cited infrastructure limitation as a growing concern, the report added.

The report is based on the data and analysis of 76,000 executives working in the GCC sector in India and 5,111 job postings from job portals.



It further revealed that the GCC sector is witnessing significant talent mobility, with 52 per cent of the overall workforce open to work. According to data, the disengagement or restlessness could be due to limited career growth, compensation gaps, or work-life balance

issues.

This signals a competitive talent market, with risks of talent drain and increased recruitment costs. However, it also offers an opportunity for GCCs to attract top talent, it stated. However, the report found that this trend varies notably

across functions, with 55 per cent of product development professionals and 45 per cent of IT professionals expressing openness to new opportunities.

Additionally, 23 per cent of all executives who changed jobs in the last year belonged to the 'Product' category, underscoring the high mobility and demand for product talent, it added.

"The rising attrition and talent mobility demand a decisive shift from transactional approaches to holistic employee engagement. Today's workforce seeks more than pay, they want career progression, flexibility, inclusivity, and purpose. To stay ahead, GCCs must invest deeply in career development, strengthen employer branding,

and build workplace cultures that foster trust, growth, and belonging," CIEL HR Managing Director and CEO Aditya Narayan Mishra said.

The churn is most acute among younger professionals where, early-career professionals (0-5 years) show the highest mobility at 47.6 per cent, driven by the pursuit of diverse experiences and rapid growth, followed by mid-level professionals (6-15 years) exhibiting a 42.9 per cent turnover, motivated by aspirations for leadership and greater responsibility, said the report.

Senior executives (16+ years) demonstrate the lowest mobility at 9.4 per cent, valuing stability and long-term impact, report added.

Chinnaswamy stampede: Kohli faces online backlash

AGENCIES
Bangalore, June 5: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's celebrations of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 triumph were marred by the tragic stampede episode outside the M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, where at least 11 people lost their lives while several others were injured Wednesday. The police and authorities failed to control fans, who turned up in huge numbers just to get a glimpse of the players. However, what was shocking for many was the fact that the felicitation ceremony inside the

stadium continued despite the stampede outside. Some people even criticised the franchise RCB, and Virat Kohli for the insensitive act of continuing the felicitations despite knowing that certain fans had lost their lives in the stampede. Fans have been trending #ArrestKohli on X, holding the 36-year-old responsible for the tragedy. Though Kohli later took to social media to share his condolences, the fact that the felicitation wasn't immediately ended left many infuriated. Former India cricketer Atul Wassan, however, isn't



on board with the theory that Virat knew about the tragedy, yet decided to go ahead with the ceremony. "I cannot believe in a million years that Virat Kohli knew

that people were dying outside and the felicitation was going inside," Wassan said. The former India cricketer, however, said that the RCB management and the politicians would've known about the tragic incident, but not Kohli. "The politicians, I can believe, because they're ruthless, thick-skinned and so is the corporate, which is the RCB franchise. The franchisees don't care because they have to show the balance sheets, and they have to show revenue. They would have known maybe. It was a lack of communication. By the time Virat

and the players would have got to know, they didn't have any say in it. If Virat had known, he would have immediately walked out. I cannot believe that Virat knew and this has happened," he added. "At a loss for words. Absolutely gutted," Virat later wrote in his post on Instagram. Former South Africa captain and ex-RCB player, AB De Villiers, also reacted to the Bengaluru stampede. "My thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the tragic events at the Chinnaswamy Stadium today," AB de Villiers posted on Instagram.

ANTALYA WORLD CUP

Archers return empty-handed from team events

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Antalya (Turkey), June 5: Indian archers failed to replicate their successful run from the previous World Cup as they returned empty-handed from the team events, both in compound and recurve sections, at Stage 2 of the Archery World Cup here Thursday. The compound teams, who had won a gold (men) and a silver (women) in Stage 2 at Shanghai last month, faltered in their respective medal hunts this time. The men's compound team, comprising Rishabh Yadav, multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma, and reigning world champion Ojas Deotale, suffered a shocking first-round exit.

They went down 241-242 to lower-ranked Chinese Taipei by a solitary point in a nail-biting finish. The women's compound team of Madhura Dhamanganonkar, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, and Chikitha Tannemparthi also fell short in their bronze medal match. Having been outclassed by second-seeded South Korea 234-242 in the semifinals, the third-seeded Indians lost the bronze playoff to fourth-seeded USA by a narrow 238-239 margin. Notably, the South Korean team's performance marks a significant shift, as they have long dominated the recurve discipline but now appear to be making a strong impact in the compound category as well -- a field historically ruled by Indian and Latin American archers. Notably, the compound event will make its Olympic debut with a single mixed team event at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. In the recurve section, India's struggles continued. The fifth-seeded Indian recurve men's team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Atanu Das, and Parth Salunkhe once again fell short in the bronze medal match -- their second straight such finish -- losing 1-5 to second-seeded France. In Shanghai too, they lost out in the bronze medal playoff. The Indian trio couldn't take a single set from the French combination of Thomas Chirault, Baptiste Addis, and Jean-Charles Valladot, going down 55-55, 59-60, 57-59 in a tightly-contested encounter.

India leave for Eng tour

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, June 5: Shubman Gill and Gautam Gambhir are embarking on their first tour of England Thursday night -- Gill on his maiden tour as Test captain, while Gambhir will be going there for the first time as head coach. And to make matters worse for both of them, Team India is taking up the big challenge of a five-Test tour without players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both of whom have announced their retirement from Test cricket just before the tour. So, the first question thrown at the new India captain was whether he is facing any extra pressure because it is his first tour as captain, and that too without stalwarts like Rohit and Virat. But Gill met it with a straight bat. He said he is under any extra pressure and expressed confidence that his team will do well on the tour, which starts with the first Test at Headingley, Leeds, June 20. "I think there is pressure every time you play and match or start a tour. As such, there is pressure ahead of every series, but there would not be any extra pressure. Rohit and Virat are very experienced players, and it is very difficult to fill the space, but as a team, we have a lot of experience, and we have played a lot of matches," said Gill at the pre-departure press conference in Mumbai Thursday. "The players and the team are all used to the pressure.



Rohit and Virat are very experienced players, and it is very difficult to fill the space, but as a team, we have a lot of experience, and we have played a lot of matches
SHUBMAN GILL | INDIA TEST CAPTAIN

We are not that inexperienced players. The batting and bowling combination in our team is very good," said the India Test captain. Gambhir responded to the question on the pressure in

his typical style and said he is always under pressure, whether the team wins or loses. "First of all, I am always under pressure. I was under pressure after the Australia tour, I was under pressure after we won the Champions Trophy. Because being the coach, you want the results. It does not change with winning or losing," said the head coach. Gambhir said the players are all excited and want to do well even though they will be touring England for the first time.

FIXTURES	
1ST TEST, June 20-24	- Headingley, Leeds
2ND TEST, July 2-6	- Edgbaston, Birmingham
3RD TEST, July 10-14	- Lord's, London
4TH TEST, July 23-27	- Old Trafford, Manchester
5TH TEST, July 31 - August 4	- The Oval, London

FIGHT FOR TENDULKAR-ANDERSON TROPHY

India and England will play the upcoming five-match Test series in the UK for a new trophy named after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson. A report in the BBC said the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy will be unveiled in the run-up to the marquee series, which begins at Headingley June 20, but added that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) declined to comment. Previously, Test rubbers between England and India in the UK had been played for the Pataudi Trophy, named after Iftekhar Ali Khan Pataudi and his son, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi. In March, the ECB wrote to the Pataudi family that they wanted to retire the trophy. One of the game's all-time greats, Tendulkar remains the leading run-scorer in Test history with 15,921. The 52-year-old played 200 Tests between 1989 and 2013 and holds innumerable records across the two formats of Test and ODI. Anderson is both England's all-time leading wicket-taker and the most successful pace bowler in Test cricket with 704 wickets. England are the current and final holders of the Pataudi Trophy, having retained it with a 2-2 draw in a series held over 2021 and 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The move to rename the trophy follows a similar step taken by England and New Zealand, who last year introduced the Crowe-Thorpe Trophy, named after former players Martin Crowe and Graham Thorpe.

FRENCH OPEN

Djoko reaches 51st Grand Slam semifinal

Paris: Sixth-seeded Novak Djokovic topped No 3 seed Alexander Zverev, last year's finalist, in four sets 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to reach his record 51st career Grand Slam semifinal at the French Open. The Serb's 51 major semifinals are already a record for men and just one behind Chris Evert for the overall mark -- and his 13th at Roland-Garros. He is the second-oldest man in the Open era to reach the Roland-Garros semifinals after Pancho Gonzales in 1968. The last time Djokovic faced Zverev, he was walking off the court solemnly after injury put a premature end to their Australian Open semifinal in January. But on Wednesday night in Paris, after more than three hours of battle on court Philippe-Chatrier, the 24-time Grand Slam champion rallied from a set behind to keep his quest for a record-setting 25th Grand Slam title going into the semifinals. "Beating one of the best players in the world on the biggest stages is something that I definitely work for, and I still, you know, push myself on a daily basis at this age because of these kinds of matches and these kinds of experiences. It's a proven kind of testament to myself that I can and to others that I can still play on the highest level," Djokovic said after the win.

Ronaldo scores as Portugal sink Germany

Portugal star scores 137th international goal, breaks Germany jinx to take his team to Nations League final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Munich, June 5: Cristiano Ronaldo scored the decisive goal as Portugal came from behind to defeat Germany 2-1 in the UEFA Nations League semifinal, ending the hosts' hopes of reaching the tournament final for the first time. After a 10-minute delay caused by a hailstorm, Germany settled more quickly. Leon Goretzka tested Diogo Costa early, while debutant Nick Woltemade linked well with Aleksandar Pavlovic to create another opportunity. However, Portugal soon found its rhythm. Pedro Ne-



to's blistering pace repeatedly exposed the German defense, and Ronaldo tested goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen twice. It was Ter Stegen's first appearance since returning from a lengthy injury layoff, Xinhua reports. Florian Wirtz broke the deadlock just after the restart. The

Bayer Leverkusen playmaker timed his run perfectly to meet Joshua Kimmich's lofted pass, guiding a header into the bottom corner. But instead of calming Germany's nerves, the goal only galvanized Portugal. Francisco Conceicao, introduced just minutes earlier, turned the match

with a stunning solo strike, cutting inside and curling the ball into the far corner. Germany barely had time to regroup before falling behind. A slick one-two between Bruno Fernandes and Nuno Mendes split the German backline, and Mendes' low cross was converted by Ronaldo. At 40 years and 119 days old, he became the oldest player ever to score against Germany. Germany brought on attacking reinforcements, including Karim Adeyemi and Niclas Fullkrug, but struggled to regain momentum. Adeyemi came closest to equalizing, hitting the post in the 82nd minute. At the other end, Ter Stegen denied both Conceicao and Diogo Jota to keep the scoreline close. Germany will now play in Sunday's third-place playoff, while Portugal advances to the final.

Marquez rues missed chances after bitter loss

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pathum Thani (Thailand), June 5: The 0-2 loss against Thailand was somewhat of a bitter pill to swallow for the Blue Tigers at the Thammasat Stadium Wednesday. Regardless of the result against Thailand, the Blue Tigers now shift their focus to the task at hand in their AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Final Round Qualifier against Hong Kong June 10. The senior India men's national team, who had travelled to Thailand with a 28-member squad, will now shift base to Hong Kong five days prior to their Asian qualifier with a 25-man squad, sans goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari, centre-back Mehtab Singh, and full-back Subhasish Bose, who will travel back to India directly from Thailand. Bose was ruled out of the match against Thailand as well due to an injury. Looking back at the match against Thailand, India head coach Manolo Marquez stressed the importance of capitalising on the opportunities that the team creates. "The reality is that when you don't score, especially the clear chances that we had, usually you lose the game," said Marquez. "Thailand have very good players, and if you don't take your chances against them, it will be difficult." With five days to go for their Asian qualifier against Hong Kong, Marquez is now looking ahead to making last-minute adjustments before the Blue Tigers take the field. "It was very similar in our match against Vietnam (1-1) last year. We had equalised because we scored from the chance that we got," he said.



There is no improvement without self-criticism. I feel that we can obviously play better, but physically is one aspect that we miss out on in Indian football
MANOLO MARQUEZ | HEAD COACH, INDIA

"We had more chances against Thailand, but if you don't score, the other team generally tend to score more than you." Sandesh Jhingan, who captained the team against Thailand, echoed the coach's words and underlined the importance of introspection and analysing the areas of deficit. "There were negatives, and it's now up to us to go back to the video room, watch the clips, and try to improve from there. The main game is against Hong Kong, and I think it's good that we got to play a quality team like Thailand before that. This game was a good exercise for us," said Jhingan. The Blue Tigers will reach Hong Kong Thursday evening and begin training Friday.

Gukesh headlines 15 Indians in Grand Swiss chess tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: As many as 15 Indians, including world champion D Gukesh, R Praggnanandha, Vaishali R and Koneru Humpy, have qualified for the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss, to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from September 3-16. Besides Gukesh and Praggnanandha, the other nine Indians taking part in FIDE Grand Swiss (Open) are: Arjun Erigaisi, Chithambaram Aravindh, Vidit Gujrathi, Penala Harikrishna, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Murali Karthikeyan, Abhimanyu Puranik and Aryan Chopra. Vaishali and Humpy will be



joined by Harika Dronavalli and Divya Deshmukh in the Women's Grand Swiss. Vantika Agrawal has been named as a reserve player.

As one of the most significant events in the chess calendar, the FIDE Grand Swiss offers players a direct pathway to the Candidates Tournament,

the game's world governing body said. "The top two finishers in the Grand Swiss will secure spots in the 2026 Candidates Tournament, while the top two players in the Women's Grand Swiss will qualify for the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament," the FIDE said Thursday. The Candidates Tournament determines the challenger for the World Chess Championship. In addition to its importance as a qualifier, the event will feature an increased prize fund. "The Open prize fund has been boosted from USD 460,000 to USD 625,000—a 36% increase—while the Women's prize fund sees an even larger

jump, from USD 140,000 to USD 230,000, up 64%," the FIDE said. Both tournaments will follow an 11-round Swiss format, with 170 players participating from across the globe: 114 in the Grand Swiss and 56 in the Women's Grand Swiss. So far, 100 players have qualified for the 2025 Grand Swiss by rating, while the Women's Grand Swiss has 44 qualifiers. Only players who played at least 30 rated games are eligible. The final lists of participants will be confirmed after Continental spots, players nominated by the FIDE president and players nominated by the organiser are announced, the global body said.