

Over 27K got govt jobs in first year of BJP rule: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Asserting that his government is committed to providing government jobs to 1.5 lakh people in five years, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said that so far, 27,428 youths were given appointments in a span of 12 months.

Majhi, the first BJP Chief Minister of Odisha, will complete one year in office June 12. "Before elections, we had committed to provide government jobs to 1.5 lakh people from 2024 to 2029. In one year, 27,428 people have been appointed and the target is to provide jobs to 65,000 persons by end of the second year of the government," Majhi said.

He was addressing a programme here in which appointment letters were given to 1,294 persons in seven departments.

"So far, the state has made provisions to provide jobs to 90,000 people in private sector through industrialisation. More people will get jobs in the private sector in the coming days," the CM said. **MORE P3**

3 OF FAMILY KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

Berhampur: Three members of a family, including a six-year-old girl, were killed when an oil tanker collided with their motorcycle in Ganjam district Friday, police said. The accident took place near Digapahandi when G Trinath Reddy, 39, was going on a motorcycle with his two nieces - Barsha Reddy, 18, and Rudrika Reddy, 6, - to purchase dresses for them. After the collision, the victims were taken to the Digapahandi hospital, where doctors declared them dead. **P5**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Brilliant job exposing Pakistan! UN was so impressed, they put them in charge of counter-terrorism!

PM inaugurates world's highest rail bridge in J&K



CONNECTIVITY BOOST: PM Narendra Modi flags off a Vande Bharat train on the newly-inaugurated Chenab bridge



A Vande Bharat train, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crosses the Chenab rail bridge, in Reasi district of J&K, Friday **PTI PHOTOS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Katra, June 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab river, which was completed at a cost of ₹1,486 crore in more than eight years.

The PM then walked on the bridge holding the tricolour.

After the Chenab bridge, Modi inaugurated India's first cable-stayed rail bridge over the river Anji.

Before the inauguration, Modi travelled in a rail engine coach to reach the spot.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were present on the occasion.

The architectural marvel Chenab rail bridge, situated at a height of 359 metres above the river and 35 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions.

The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, and its construction was approved in 2002, but the work started only in 2017. Before the construction, 26 km of approach roads and a 400-metre-long tunnel were built to reach the site, railway officials said. **MORE P9**

Cabinet nod for 50K urban infra projects

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Friday approved four proposals including the launch of two new schemes - Mukhyamantri Sahari Bikash Yojana (MSBY) and 'Development of Biotechnology'.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said that the government has approved MSBY, which aims to enhance urban infrastructure and improve the revenue model with an integrated approach to urban infrastructure in line with Viksit Odisha @2036 vision.

A sum of ₹6,000 crore is proposed to be spent under MSBY in five years from 2025-26. For

the current financial year, ₹1,100 crore has been allocated. During the five year period, 50,000 infra projects will be created which will provide five lakh skilled and unskilled jobs. The scheme includes development of general and revenue generating infrastructure like kalyan mandaps, town halls, community centres, vending zones, weekly markets, mini cold storage, EV charging stations, micro-tourism facilities, mini-parks, open air gyms, children's play stations, walking tracks, and rainwater harvesting structures.

Ahuja said that Odisha is gifted with the most diverse ecosystem in the country. It has all the ingredients of sustaining and promoting biotechnology for welfare of society.

The scheme, 'Development of Biotechnology,' will foster collaboration between industry, academia, and research to benefit society and open vast opportunities for biotechnology applications across various sectors. The scheme will be implemented for five years, starting from 2025-26 with an estimated cost of ₹1113.50 crore.

The Cabinet also approved tender for the construction of a storage reservoir across river Badajore under Chheligada multipurpose medium irrigation project in R Udaygiri block of Gajapati district for an amount of ₹151.78 crore.

Moreover, the Cabinet has waived land premium of ₹2.60 crore to support the construction of a new building for the Narcotics Control Bureau in the City.

RBI cuts repo rate by 50 bps

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly reduced its key repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) and lowered the reserve ratio for banks by 100 bps in a move to boost liquidity. This decision comes as the Indian economy has slowed to a four-year low of 6.5 per cent for the fiscal year 2024-25, amid persistent global economic uncertainties. With this significant cut in policy rates and increased liquidity, the RBI is encouraging banks to lend more and at lower interest rates. However, the RBI has shifted its monetary policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral,' indicating that it may have limited capacity for further easing. A cut in the repo rate also means that depositors will earn less interest on their bank fixed deposits.

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 6: Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points Friday, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee, headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra and consisting of three external members, voted five to one

to lower the benchmark repurchase or repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent. It also cut the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent, adding ₹2.5 lakh crore to already surplus liquidity in the banking system. With the latest reduction, the RBI has now cut interest rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with a quarter-point reduction in February - the first cut since May 2020 - and another similar-sized cut in April.

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term

funding needs. With the latest cut in the repo rate, all External Benchmark Lending Rates (EBLR) linked to it will come down. And if the banks fully pass on this to the borrowers, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, auto and personal loans will decline by 50 bps. RBI, Malhotra said, expects lenders to pass on lower borrowing costs to consumers and boost credit growth with the additional cash they would have following the cut in cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent.

"Today's monetary policy actions should be seen as a step towards propelling growth to a higher aspirational trajectory," he said, adding the aspiration is for growth of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent. Giving rationale for the decision, the RBI Governor said inflation has softened over the last six months from above the tolerance band in October 2024 to well below the target, with signs of a broad-based moderation.

DADLS-25



सत्यमेव जयते

Message of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on the auspicious occasion of ID-UZ-ZUHA-2025



On the auspicious occasion of Id-Uz-Zuha 2025, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to all the Muslim sisters and brothers of our State. I call upon all to celebrate this festival of service, surrender, sacrifice and tolerance and work dedicatedly for the all-round development of Muslim sisters and brothers.

(Signature)
(Hari Babu Kambhampati)



ଇଦ୍-ଉଜ୍-ଜୁହା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ପବିତ୍ର ଇଦ୍-ଉଜ୍-ଜୁହା ପର୍ବ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆତ୍ମିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(Signature)
(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

leisure



DAVIS TO STAR IN ALLY CLARK

Oscar-winning actor Viola Davis is set to star in an upcoming thriller film, titled *Ally Clark*. Davis, known for projects such as *Fences* and *How to Get Away with Murder*, will also produce the film alongside Irwin Winkler, according to the entertainment news outlet *Deadline*.

TOM CRUISE SET GUINNESS RECORD FOR M/SERIES

Hollywood star and four times Oscar nominee Tom Cruise's performance in his latest film *Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning* has earned him a Guinness World Record. The actor has set the record for most burning parachute jumps by an individual.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

All eyes may be on you today – for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

You may have a tendency to feel frustrated when the results are not the way you expected, feels Ganesha. You must still work hard and finish whatever you undertake today. You will discuss some vital issues with a close friend and relive cherished secrets with your life partner.

GEMINI

You will lend your innovative and imaginative spark to your initiatives, which will be quite a few, says Ganesha. Love will bring you immense satisfaction. And you will develop a special bond with your spouse or beloved. You, however, are likely to be dragged into a conflict and will be forced to pick a side.

CANCER

Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain. The best way to deal with criticism is to take them constructively.

LEO

The oath of friendship that you once took as a bunch of raggedy misfits still holds true, and your best buddies are the ones who will stand by your side through hell and high water. Ganesha sees in you the desire to cherish such friends and prove your appreciation by treating them with graceful munificence.

VIRGO

The Scales will balance business and entertainment equally well. The day will be like an endless party, says Ganesha. The emptying of pockets will be proportional to the amount of time you spend doing nothing. But spend prudently, advises Ganesha, and let it not worry you.

LIBRA

Connect and Express – these are the two things you must aim for at work today. You tend to do both things supremely well, be it in a business dialogue on phone, in writing, or in meetings. Getting across to people is not an issue today. But all this work aside, the lingering feeling of wanting to chill out with your sweetheart may become more substantial towards the evening.

SCORPIO

Try adding an entirely new dimension to the way you approach relationships today, advises Ganesha. Being tractable will help iron out the creases in relationships with closed ones. But be wary of complete subjugation, warns Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Confidence-building measures will need to be taken up. Be the herald, and usher in new vigour and confidence in people around you. Your business is set to sky-rocket and a fair share of profits are in the offing, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Memories of the bygone days will flash through your mind, creating a wave of nostalgia and compelling you to get in touch with old pals. On the other hand, there may be a feeling that your loved ones are demanding more than you can give, says Ganesha. But enjoying some light moments with your beloved in the evening will unburden you and charge you up for the next day.

AQUARIUS

Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak by candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage. Ganesha says you'll be grateful for the pleasures only after the pain.

PISCES

A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesha. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.

Vidya on changing landscape of cinema

Mumbai: At a recent award function, Vidya Balan delivered a stirring and insightful masterclass where she passionately reflected on the changing landscape of Hindi cinema. Addressing the dilution of Bollywood's identity, Vidya voiced concern over the industry's growing obsession

with uni-appeal. "We've lost the what makes a Hindi film truly ours," she said. "In trying to cater to a global audience, we're forgetting our unique cinematic flavour."

Quoting veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar, Vidya pointed out how the increasing cost of cinema experiences is shaping the kind of films being made. "When tickets are unaffordable to the masses, films are tailored for a niche audience. Then we wonder why mass entertainers are disappearing—how will the masses even watch them?"

Her most passionate defence was reserved for Bollywood's traditional elements—lip-sync songs, elaborate dance numbers, and dramatic storytelling. "What's wrong with 100 dancers doing the same step? That's the language of Hindi cinema, and I love it," she declared, earning loud applause.

Drawing comparisons with South Indian films, she praised their rooted storytelling and refusal to compromise authenticity for international recognition. "They stay true to their con-

text. Why can't we?" she concluded.

stay true to their con-



Wamiqa questions pay disparity

Mumbai: Actor Wamiqa Gabbi has spoken out strongly against the persistent pay disparity in the film industry. In a recent interview, she questioned why male actors continue to command high fees even when their films flop, while female actors often face pay cuts and criticism. "The fact that pay disparity exists doesn't consume me, but there's always this feeling that you're a woman and will be paid less — and that's just accepted," she said. Highlighting the double standards, Wamiqa pointed out how producers often justify male actors' pay by claiming they draw larger audiences, while ignoring the fact that no film is truly complete without its female lead.

Frustrated by this inequality, Wamiqa is choosing to take matters into her own hands. "I want to find different ways to earn, in a creative way that makes me happy and helps close the gap for myself," she added. Refusing to accept the status quo, she emphasised that not all male-centric films can succeed without a strong female presence.

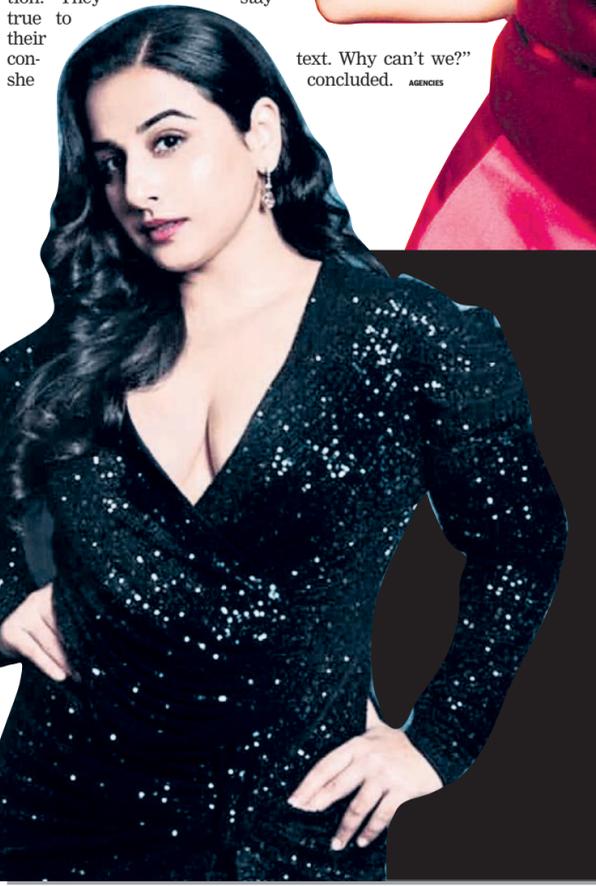
Recently, she starred in *Bhool Chuk Maaf* alongside Rajkumar Rao, Seema Pahwa, and Sanjay Mishra. The romantic comedy was released May 23. She will next appear in *Dil Ka Darwaza Khol Na Darling*, *Bhooth Bangla*, and *Goodachari 2*.

Shraddha's thoughtful approach

Mumbai: Veteran actress Padmini Kolhapure recently opened up about the thoughtful approach her niece, Shraddha Kapoor, takes when selecting film roles.

According to Padmini, the *Street* actress doesn't make decisions in isolation; instead, she carefully considers advice from her close family members before finalising her choices. Speaking to this news agency, Padmini shared that Shraddha often discusses potential projects with her mother, Shivangi Kolhapure; sister, Tejaswini, father Shakti Kapoor, and even Padmini herself. The senior actress mentioned that this collective support system helps the young actress weigh the pros and cons of each opportunity, ensuring that she makes well-informed decisions that align with her career goals and personal values.

Padmini revealed that despite taking input from her family, Shraddha ultimately trusts her own instincts. The *Vidhaata* actress shared, "Advice, in the sense Shraddha discusses like with my sister Tejaswini, her mom Shivangi, her father, and, of course, also my husband. So, because she hears everybody, she kind of weighs the pros and cons, and then she goes ahead with her decisions in picking the films."



BFF-2025 begins with celebrated classics

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The second edition of the Bhubaneswar Film Festival (BFF) 2025, organised by the Bhubaneswar Film Circle, commenced Friday here at Soochana Bhawan with an impressive line-up of classic films and the presence of renowned film personalities.

The four-day event kicked off with the screening of *Matira Manisha* (1966), a landmark Odia film directed by Mrinal Sen, which explores the erosion of familial bonds over property disputes. Also showcased was *Ankur* (1974), Shyam Benegal's debut Hindi feature, portraying the complex social dynamics through the story of a Dalit couple and a landlord's son.

The festival further featured the Odia classic *Kaa*



Guests unveil 'Moods & Madness'

(1965), directed by the trio Gour Prasad Ghose, Parbati Ghose, and Ram Chandra Thakur under the pseudonym Siddhartha. Based on Kanhu Charan Mohanty's acclaimed novel, the film is regarded as a literary and cinematic milestone. Another highlight was *Bhakta Salabega* (1983), directed by Radha Panda, a much-loved Odia film based

on the life of a Muslim poet and his deep devotion to Lord Jagannath, starring Uttam Mohanty and Aparajita Mohanty.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by acclaimed film critic and writer Satya Saran, *OMG 2* director Amit Rai, legendary theatre artist Anant Mahapatra and noted actor and television

personality Sukant Rath, among others from the film fraternity.

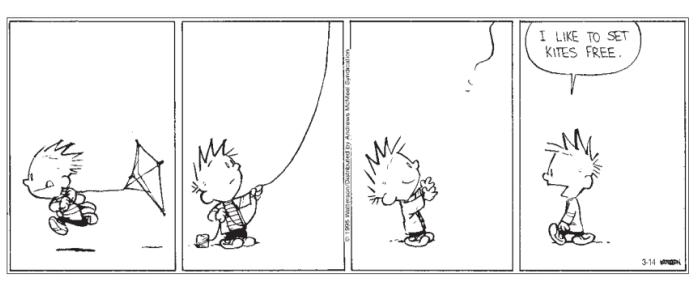
Adding a literary touch to the occasion, a book titled *Moods and Madness* was released. This book pays tribute to iconic figures in Indian cinema such as Guru Dutt, Uttam Mohanty, Raj Kapoor, Shyam Benegal, and others known for their extraordinary contributions to the craft.

The event also witnessed the felicitation of several stalwarts from the Odia film industry - music director Tansen Singh, veteran actors Shyamalendu Bhattacharya and Jaya Swami, costume designer Nirmal Dash, and art director Banchhanidhi Pattnaik - for their outstanding contributions.

PEANUTS



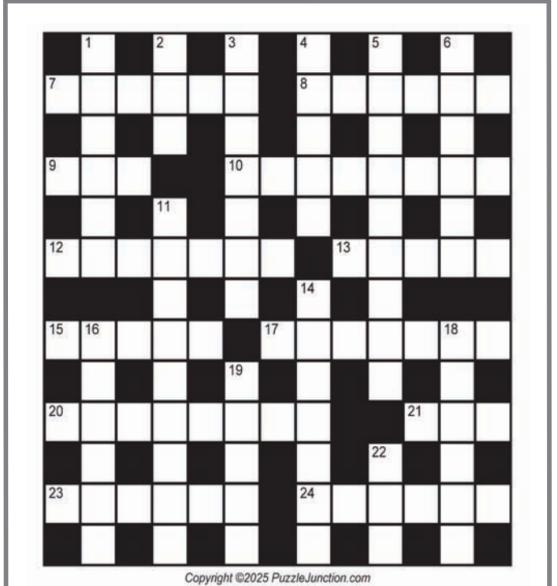
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Port city of northeastern Brazil
 - 8 European flatfish
 - 9 Ewe's mate
 - 10 Short-tailed songbird
 - 12 Hired
 - 13 Gallic goodbye
 - 15 Running behind time
 - 17 Forsake
 - 20 Opera houses
 - 21 Archaeological site
 - 23 Vipers
 - 24 They protect cooks
 - 4 Express verbally
 - 5 Very large pooch (5,4)
 - 6 Fencing word
 - 11 Anteaters
 - 14 Really bad
 - 16 Acropolis figure
 - 18 Burger toppers
 - 19 Greet the day
 - 22 Ornamental vase
- Down**
- 1 Sojourn
 - 2 Drill need
 - 3 Beloved of Hero

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

A plantation programme in progress at Central Rice Research Institute, Bidyadharpur in Cuttack, Friday



downtown

Prioritise justice for poor: CM to new recruits



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday advised 1,294 newly appointed officers, and employees from various government departments, to ensure timely justice for the poor.

"Many poor people in our society are suffering greatly, and it is your duty to ensure timely justice for them," the Chief Minister said during the Nijukti Mela ceremony held at the Bhubaneswar Railway Auditorium Friday.

He further reminded the new recruits, "By the blessings of your parents, you have received this job. Always serve with dedication and never cause pain to your family members."

The Chief Minister also emphasised the government's commitment to employment generation and good governance, urging the officials to uphold integrity and dedication in their service to the public.

Of the 1,294 recruits, 826 have been selected for graduate teacher posts in the School and Mass Education Department, and a total of 224 posts in the Health and Family Welfare Department including assistant

professors, clinical psychologists, social workers, nursing officers, and drug inspectors. In the Commerce and Transport department, 63 posts including junior motor vehicle inspectors and traffic constables were filled. The Skill Development department appointed 81 teachers, the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department appointed 49 gram panchayat development officers, the Pension department appointed 32 pension assistant inspectors, and the Labour department filled 19 posts of various designations.

Majhi said that being a person from the grass-root level, he understands the difficulties of the people and is eager to provide employment to them.

He said the state administration has raised the minimum age limit in government jobs from 32 years to 42 years after realising that many people were denied the opportunity during the 24-year rule of the BJD.

"My government has been making massive recruitment in the Health and Education sectors as these two departments are directly connected to the people," he said narrating his personal experience of four classes being held in one



room at Bansapal block in Keonjhar district during the BJD government.

"I raised the issue, but nobody listened to me as I was then in the Opposition party," the Chief Minister said.

He asked the recruits to work with dedication and serve the people in need and, at the same time, cautioned that the government would not tolerate corruption. "All good students are entering into government jobs and want to become a doctor or engineer. However, no one has the desire to become a politician. Politics also needs brilliant people. Though some of our colleagues come from research, medical and engineering backgrounds, they are

not sufficient. More number of good students should come to politics," he said.

The CM also confessed that he entered politics after failing to secure 'a good government job'. He further said that under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is conducting systematic recruitment fairs. There is a continuous campaign to provide jobs to the youth before they take responsibility, and to create job opportunities for them.

He also mentioned that only 2 per cent of jobs in the state are in the government sector; the rest are in private and industrial sectors. In the coming days, the state expects to create at least 1.3 million jobs in the industrial sector alone. For this, the youth must be ready for the industry. The Utkarsh Odisha initiative has opened the path for 90,000 jobs in the industrial sector within just four months, he said.

Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida and several other ministers also addressed the programme.

The CM handed over appointment letters to 30 officers from 30 districts in the programme.

State to prepare roadmap for devtpt of Kotia: Pujari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Senior minister Suresh Pujari Friday asked officials to prepare a roadmap for the overall development of the disputed Kotia region within one month.

Twenty-one of the 28 villages of the Kotia cluster are claimed by both Odisha and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, and a case over the dispute has been pending with the Supreme Court since 1968.

Pujari, the Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, affirmed that the Kotia cluster of villages in Koraput district is an integral part of Odisha and the state government would revive the legal fight in the apex court.

The Opposition BJD, however, attacked the BJP, claiming that the previous BJD administration invested Rs 160 crore to develop various infrastructure in Kotia, but the saffron party did nothing there despite having 'triple engine government' at the Centre and in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh where its ally TDP is in power.

During the day, the minister held the first meeting of the 16-member high-level committee, especially constituted by the state government to ensure proper development of Kotia area.

"The Kotia dispute is more than 100 years old, it has been there since British Rule. We are seriously taking up the case and ensuring development of the people and winning their confidence," he said.

"We are also in consultation with prominent lawyers to revive an old case in the Supreme



Court. We lost ground in the past due to poor representation in the courts and lack of proper documentation," Pujari said.

Due to the ongoing dispute, residents of Kotia get the best of both worlds since they have Aadhaar and ration cards issued by both states and receive the benefits of schemes announced by the two governments. They also vote in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The minister also directed departments such as Health, Education, Rural Development, Irrigation and Panchayati Raj to submit their respective action plans to prepare a roadmap within a month.

He also told the secretaries to focus on the economic, social, and cultural development of the area while making action plans.

They were also told to discuss with the Koraput district Collector and prepare comprehensive plans for infrastructure development, market access for farmers, and employment opportunities for the youth of Kotia.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had constituted a high-level committee on Kotia to ensure integrated development of the area, covering infrastructure, economic upliftment, social welfare, and cultural enrichment.

The Opposition BJD, however, attacked the state's BJP government for allegedly remaining silent on the Kotia issue even as the Mohan Charan Majhi government is to complete one year in office June 12.

"The BJP government at the high-level meeting Friday did not discuss the border issue with Andhra Pradesh which is the main issue," said BJD leader and former MP Pradeep Majhi.

Close shave for min as truck hits vehicle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Food, Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra had a narrow escape Friday after his car collided head-on with a truck at Barang in Cuttack district, police said.

The incident took place at Sandhapur Square on the Banki Main Road when Patra was on his way to Bhubaneswar, they said.

Though no one was injured in the accident, Patra's car suffered damages on the front portion, Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Barang police station, Debendra Biswal, said.

"The minister and his driver are unhurt and safe. He used another vehicle and returned to Bhubaneswar," Biswal said.

The police have impounded the truck and detained its driver, the officer added.

Youth Cong slams Sambit over remarks against Rahul Gandhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Odisha Pradesh Youth Congress (OPYC) has slammed Puri MP Sambit Patra for his controversial remarks alleging that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a 'paid agent' of Pakistan and China. Addressing a presser at Congress Bhawan Friday, OPYC president Ranjit Patra condemned Sambit's statements as 'derogatory' and 'unbecoming of a public representative'.

Ranjit accused Sambit of routinely making inflammatory remarks to attract attention. "He has crossed limits before—once even calling Lord Jagannath a devotee of Prime Minister Modi, which drew widespread outrage," said the OPYC president. "Calling Rahul Gandhi a traitor is not only baseless but outrageous. These are the ranting of a man who seeks attention at the cost of dignity."

Bhubaneswar Congress LS candidate Syed Yasir Nawaz accused the BJP of double standards. "If there is a Chinese connection, it lies with the Modi government, which has granted security clearances to numerous Chinese firms," he said, questioning how an MP could make such allegations without government sanction.

Step up efforts to make state millet hub: Padhee



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Agriculture department Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee called upon department officials to give boost to cultivation of Mandia (millet) - as a national crop - on more land in the coming days to make Odisha the hub of Shree Anna.

To achieve the objective, Padhee, at the review meeting for the annual action plan of Shree Anna Abhiyan for the Kharif crop season of the financial year 2025-26, Friday suggested them to give more importance to the production, post-harvest management, and marketing of Shree Ann crops

for the upcoming Kharif season. The meeting was held at the conference hall of Krushi Bhavan.

Shree Anna Abhiyan, a revolutionary scheme of the Agriculture department, has been especially effective in the revival of the state's traditional food crops such as Mandia (finger millet), Suan, Bajra (pearl millet) and Kangu. Owing to the success of the scheme, the food of the poor has reached five star restaurants, and become a part of the daily diet of many celebrities.

"This initiative not only provides employment to people but also economically empowers tribal and indigenous communities, integrating them into the mainstream of society. It also helps us maintain our traditional food culture," Padhee said.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Agriculture department Director Shubham Saxena, Managing Director of Odisha State Supply Corporation K Sudarshan Chakravarti and scientists from the Indian Institute of Nutrition Research.

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान राउरकेला, ओडिशा
National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Odisha
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice No.: NITR/PW/GH/2025/350 **Date:** 04/06/2025

National Institute of Technology Rourkela invites bids from the eligible bidders for Guest House Management Service (South & North Block) at NIT Rourkela.

Contact Details: Prof. Braja Gopal Mishra, PIC (Guest House)
Ph. No.: 0661-246-4040/2659
Email: managergh@nitrl.ac.in / brajam@nitrl.ac.in

Bidding through: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Last date of Bid Submission : 30th June 2025 (Monday)
Opening of Technical Bid : 1st July 2025 (Tuesday)

Sd/-
Registrar

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*Conditions apply. Offer valid till stocks last. Pack without offer also available. Images for visual depiction only. Dhara recommends moderate consumption of fats & oils along with balanced diet, physical exercise & healthy lifestyle.

Avoid visiting Puri with Covid symptoms: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: As the total Covid-19 cases in Odisha reached 38, state health services director Amarendra Nath Mohanty advised people with symptoms for the infection not to visit Puri during the upcoming Rath Yatra later this month, official sources said Friday.

“People with Covid-like symptoms should avoid visiting Puri during the Rath Yatra. They can witness the mega festival through television and other media platforms,” he said.

“At present, we are testing samples of those who have

RATH YATRA AHEAD

been hospitalised, and the test positivity rate remains at 1 or 1.5 per cent, which is low. However, we all have to remain cautious,” he added.

According to Health department sources, 38 positive cases were detected out of 755 samples tested as of June 6, 2025.

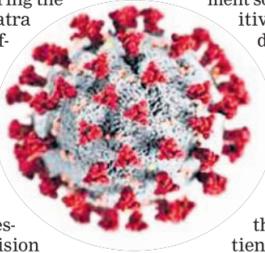
Health officials have also confirmed that nine patients have already recovered, while the remaining are in home isolation and stable condition.

In response to the rising cases, the state government has stepped up monitoring and containment efforts across the districts.

Meanwhile, the government has constituted a high-level committee to monitor and guide all official arrangements related to Rath Yatra in Puri.

The committee, which will be headed by Deputy CM Pravati Parida, includes Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra, and Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena as members.

Law department Secretary Manas Ranjan Barik has been appointed the convenor of the committee.



Jr teachers hit streets for job regularisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Hundreds of junior school teachers from across the state Friday staged a protest here demanding regularisation of their services and withdrawal of contractual appointment system.

Holding posters and banners against the contractual appointment of junior teachers in schools, the teachers,

including women, demonstrated at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here.

The teachers, representing various schools across the state, demanded immediate regularisation of their posts and scrapping of the contractual appointment system for junior teachers in schools.

“We are getting a monthly salary of Rs 16,000 each, which is insufficient to man-

age our family. However, in many other BJP-ruled states, the junior teachers are drawing a good amount of salary,” said a lady agitating teacher.

The government does not even provide any social security to the junior teachers, she said.

“We demand the government to provide ‘equal pay for equal work’ to us and regularise our jobs. The

contractual appointment of junior teachers at primary schools must be scrapped,” said another teacher at the protest site.

About 16,000 junior teachers had been serving in different government-run primary schools across the state. The agitating teachers threatened to intensify their protest if the government did not fulfil their demands.

Gun-running racket busted in Puri; 6 held

AGENCIES

Puri, June 6: In a surprise raid, Sea Beach police busted a gun smuggling syndicate in a deserted building near Urban Hat, arresting six miscreants and seizing as many guns along with 20 live cartridges.

Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinit Kumar told reporters Friday that a special team had been formed to track the gun-running racket following a rise in criminal activities in the Holy city.

He said that after months of surveillance, the police discovered the syndicate’s involvement in illegal gun smuggling and managed to arrest the culprits.

The kingpin of the racket, Denga Muna alias Ramesh Parida, 29, who has been involved in 14 criminal cases, was also arrested, the SP said.

The other accused were found to be involved in several criminal cases as well. Interrogation is underway to trace their sources and identify their customer links. All six arrested have been booked under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

OHPC, WAPCOS tie up for 600-MW power project



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: As part of the Union government’s ambitious plan to generate 500-gigawatt renewable energy by 2030, an agreement was signed between Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) Ltd and WAPCOS Ltd Friday for consultancy services for the operation of 600-MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project at Mukhiguda in Kalahandi district.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, and Energy department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev.

According to sources, the de-

tailed project report (DPR) for the Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project has been prepared by WAPCOS. This project is a large-scale energy storage system that involves pumping water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir during the periods of low electricity demand and releasing it back during peak demand to generate electricity. OHPC is developing this pumped storage project near the existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project, which has a conventional capacity of 600 MW.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that this collaboration is a significant step toward enhancing the efficiency of the state’s energy sector.

Guv hails cooperatives’ role in devpt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Cooperative societies have emerged as powerful instruments of social and economic transformation in India, offering financial inclusion, generating livelihoods, and empowering communities, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati. He said this while the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 held at New Abhisek Hall, Raj Bhavan here Friday.

The event was organised by the Cooperation department and brought together key stakeholders of the cooperative movement.

“It is indeed an honour to be part of this significant occasion. Cooperatives have shaped the economic, social, and cultural fabric of India and Odisha,” Kambhampati said. He referred to the UN’s proclamation of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives with the



theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World,” highlighting their global relevance in addressing modern challenges.

The Governor praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s initiative to establish a separate Ministry of Cooperation in 2021

and described it as a visionary step to strengthen the cooperative framework at the grassroots level.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Odisha State

Marketing Federation and three newly formed national cooperative bodies — National Cooperative Organics Limited, National Cooperative Exports Limited, and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited.

“This partnership will enable Odisha’s cooperatives to access wider markets, promote organic and sustainable products, and ensure better incomes for farmers and producers,” the Governor added.

Addressing the gathering Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta reiterated the government’s commitment to strengthening the rural economy through cooperatives. He outlined various departmental interventions and highlighted steps taken to enhance transparency and accountability in PACS and LAMPSC.

New PACS and LAMPSC submitted their applications for membership to the national cooperatives during the event.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary, Kakatpur dated 02.06.2025, I Adyasha Panda, At - Mudugal, PO : Namaro, PS : Astaranga, Dist. - Puri, PIN : 752109, declare that I have changed my name from Smile Panda to Adyasha Panda. Henceforth I shall be known as Adyasha Panda for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit No.-1513, dated 29.5.2025 sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Balangir, I, Birendra Bagartti, R/o. Village- Uparudar, P.O.-Taliudar, P.S.- Balangir Sadar, Dist.- Balangir, PIN No.- 767065, Odisha declare that I have changed the name of my daughter Sarita Bagartti to Ashrita Bagartti. Henceforth, she shall be known as Ashrita Bagartti for all purpose. Birendra Bagartti

Education failed to strengthen minds of students: NHRC chief

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Education has failed to strengthen the minds of students, said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Justice V Ramasubramanian Friday.

Delivering a talk at Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here, he observed that most students today often say they are ‘getting stressed out’, a term rarely heard 40 years ago.

This, he noted, pointed to the fact that the current generation has been so pampered that it struggles to face any problems.

Justice Ramasubramanian emphasised that education should shape a student’s character, expand their intellect, increase mental strength, and enable them to become self-reliant.

“The purpose of holistic education is to develop the character of a person while fostering their physical, mental, moral, and spiritual growth,” the NHRC Chairman stated.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he highlighted that these four parameters — physical, mental, moral, and spiritual development — should guide education so that individuals can live happy and fulfilling lives.



Today, success is all that matters. But we don't understand what true success is. Completing education or landing a big job does not mean success. Life does not view success as we do

JUSTICE V RAMASUBRAMANIAN | NHRC CHAIRMAN

“A person may complete a course, but no one can complete education — it extends from the womb to the tomb,” Justice Ramasubramanian said.

Using several examples, the NHRC Chairman said the education system must equip students with character, mental strength, intellect, and self-reliance.

The NHRC Chairman cited philosopher and historian Will Durant’s famous statement that education is ‘the progressive

discovery of one’s ignorance’, emphasising the importance of understanding this truth.

“We have many literate people, but are we truly educated?” he asked, noting that colleges and universities only introduce students to the world’s knowledge.

“Today, success is all that matters. But we don’t understand what true success is. Completing education or landing a big job does not mean success. Life does not view success as we do,” the NHRC Chairman said.

Justice Ramasubramanian narrated the story of a 45-year-old chartered accountant in the USA, who lost everything during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. Unable to cope, he killed his entire family before taking his own life.

“Despite his education and knowledge, he lacked the mental strength to face adversity,” the NHRC Chairman said, adding, “Do colleges and universities teach students how to manage crises? People have degrees, but are they truly learned?”

The real need, Justice Ramasubramanian emphasised, is to provide people with the skills to face life and to teach them the right attitude.

NIFT GRADUATION SHOW

Fashion is beyond fabric & thread: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Fashion is more than fabric and thread—it is a language of culture, identity, and progress, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati while addressing the Graduation Show 2025 of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) here Friday.

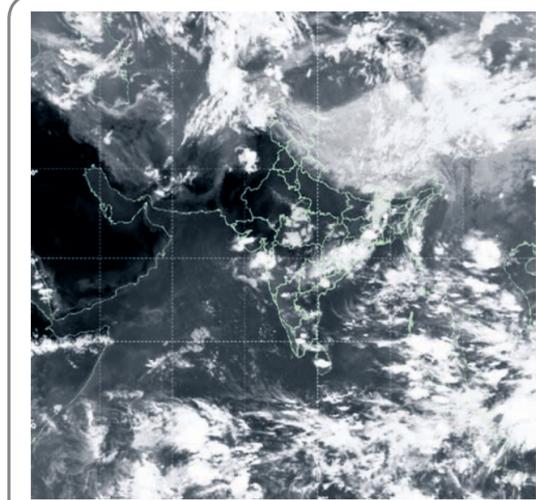
Describing fashion as a powerful form of storytelling, the Governor said, “You, as designers, are storytellers, innovators, and flag bearers of this language. I urge you to create with purpose, embrace sustainability, and honour our nation’s rich heritage while keeping a global outlook.”

He noted that while the world of design is demanding and ever-evolving, the education and experiences students have gained at NIFT Bhubaneswar have equipped them to meet future challenges with confidence and grace. “Trust in your abilities, stay true to your vision, and never stop learning,” he said.

Kambhampati said, “This event marks a milestone not only for the graduating students but also for this prestigious institution shaping India’s fashion and design landscape.”

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.63 ↓ 0.17	SENSEX	82188.99 ↑ 746.95	GOLD	₹7,240 ↑ ₹634
EURO	97.75 ↓ 0.45	NIFTY	25003.00 ↑ 252.10	SILVER	₹105,508 ↓ ₹1,065



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.7°	35.0°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.4°	25.0°	
Humidity	71%	81%	
Rainfall	Trace	Trace	

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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-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.

Historic Kupari region falls prey to minor mineral loot

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, June 6: The Kupari revenue area under Khaira police jurisdiction in Balasore district is rapidly losing its heritage and landscape due to alleged illegal quarrying of laterite and stone.

Once renowned for its fertile lands and cultural significance, massive pits, ponds and abandoned quarries lie scarred in the region these days. Along the Kupari-Bageipura road, and areas such as Barapada, Kalamchua, Haripur and Sarasbahali, fresh and deserted quarries are clearly visible, raising alarm among locals, but seemingly unnoticed by administrative authorities.

Even government-owned land and nearby farmlands have been converted into excavation zones. Activists and social organisations warn that if the state government fails to act swiftly, the illicit mining—allegedly backed by corrupt officials and criminal networks—will permanently tarnish Kupari's legacy.

Historically, Kupari is known as a convergence point of Buddhist, Jain and Shaivite traditions, with many poets and scholars having celebrated its heritage in their writings. But



today, greed-driven individuals are illegally extracting laterite, murrum and stones depleting natural resources and filling their pockets at the cost of the environment.

Locals alleged that after stripping government plots of laterite, mafias buy farmers' land at low rates, and continue illegal mining operations. Despite this, the departments responsible—Mines, Housing and Revenue—have allegedly failed to prevent the activity. While minor actions like seizing tractors or earthmovers have been reported, these measures have had little effect, they alleged.

In recent weeks, near the Kupari College area, where the IDCO has allocated land for a small-scale industrial project, mafia groups have been loot-

ing laterite almost every night. Specific plots—such as Plot No. 520 under Khata No. 796, Plot Nos. 800 and 785 under Khata No. 486, and several others in Barapada mouza—are allegedly being misused for the illegal activity.

When contacted, Assistant Mining Officer Abhisek Behera said raids are being conducted on some illegal mines. However, he admitted that the offenders often flee before officials arrive. "Vehicles caught on-site—whether power tillers or tractors—are being seized as per protocol," he said.

Meanwhile, environmentalists urged immediate and strict enforcement to save Kupari from turning into a cautionary tale of unchecked resource exploitation.

2 minor cousins gangraped in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 6: Two minor cousins were allegedly gangraped after being abducted by four miscreants in Ganjam district, police said Friday.

The incident came to light after the mother of one of the victims lodged a complaint at Golanthara police station Thursday evening. After registering a case, police launched a manhunt to arrest the accused persons, a police officer said.

The victims, aged between 11 to 15 years, along with family members had attended a marriage function Tuesday night in a village. While one of the victims belonged to the nearby village, the other one's village



was about 40 km from the incident site, he said.

At least two persons, one of them earlier known to a victim, lured them and they went missing. As they did not return till late night, worried family members searched them in the nearby areas, the police said.

The accused took them to a nearby location on their motorbikes and held them captive. The accused then allegedly sexually assaulted the girls before abandoning them.

The victims managed to return home Wednesday morning and recounted their ordeal

to their family members, who repeatedly asked about their whereabouts during the previous night.

Family members of the victims then decided to lodge a police complaint. The accused persons fled from the village after they came to know about the police case against them, the officer said. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said they have formed two police teams and launched a manhunt to nab the accused. Police have identified the accused and will arrest them soon, he said.

The police have also recorded the statements of the victims about the incident and their medical examination is being conducted, the SP said.

3 of a family killed in oil tanker-motorcycle crash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, June 6: Three members of a family, including a 5-year-old girl, were killed and another person was critically injured Friday when an oil tanker collided head-on with a motorcycle in Ganjam district, police said.

The crash occurred around 4pm on State Highway 17 near a Bajaj showroom between Digapahandi and Berhampur. The tanker (OR 05 AT 5745), traveling from Mohana to Berhampur, struck a motorcycle (OD 07 AY 5709) coming from the opposite direction, officers said.

The motorcycle was carrying G Trinath Reddy, 36, of Dakshinapur village under Digapahandi block, and his nieces — Barsha Reddy, 16, of Gautami village under Berhampur Sadar police limits, and Rudrika Reddy, 5, of Pathara village under Kabisuryanagar police station. All three died from their injuries on the spot as the impact crushed the two-wheeler.

Trinath was reportedly taking his nieces, who were visiting his residence on summer vacation, to buy new clothes ahead of a family feast.

Digapahandi police, led by IIC and DSP Prashant Kumar



Patra, reached the spot. With the help of locals, police shifted all the victims to the Digapahandi Community Health Centre, where doctors declared Trinath and his nieces dead on arrival.

In a related incident, Bhaskar Bishoyi, 52, of Dengama village was seriously injured after his motorcycle (OD 07 JZ 8156)

collided with the wreckage of the first motorcycle on the road. He was thrown off his vehicle and was taken to Digapahandi Community Health Centre. After his condition was stabilised there, he was later referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

Police seized the tanker and both motorcycles. The driver of the tanker fled the scene and remains at large. Authorities have launched an investigation.

The bodies of the deceased were sent to MKCG Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examinations.

Bison population in Debrigarh sanctuary rises to 788

The gaur population registered an increase of 129 in 6 months

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, June 6: The population of Indian bison (Gaur) in Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary has increased to 788 from 659 in six months, a forest officer said.

The authorities of Hirakud Wildlife Division conducted the census from May 11 to May 13 this year and published the report Friday.

As per the report, the total number of Indian bison in the wildlife sanctuary is 788, which includes 315 juveniles (less than 2 years old) and 128 newborns (less than 3 months old). Of the total bison population, 315 (40 per cent) are juvenile.

For the first time, the census of Indian bison was conducted at Debrigarh during winter 2024 November 12 and 13. At



that time, the total number of bison was found to be 659, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Hirakud Wildlife Division, Prayagn Das.

Within a gap of six months, the number of bison has increased by 129.

Last time 52 herds were re-

corded, this census reported 60 herds - due to increase in population, herds keep dividing with female adults leading the herd and guiding other sub-adults and juveniles, Das said.

Indian bison comes under 'vulnerable' (high risk of extinction) category. It is a Sched-

A census of Indian bison was conducted for the first time at Debrigarh during winter, November 12 and 13, 2024

ule-1 species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, she said.

The DFO said that in central Indian landscape and a few other parts of India, summer marks the breeding season for Indian bison.

To determine the peak breeding season, peak calving season and for further understanding of population dynamics of Indian bison, there will be a monthly survey count of the number of newborns in the population during monsoon and winter this year, she said.

"This will strengthen the conservation of this Sched-

ule-1 species in this landscape as Debrigarh displays a healthy density of Indian bison in comparison to other habitats in India," Das said.

She further said that Debrigarh is termed as "the land of Indian bison" due to good sighting of big herds in the tourism zone as well as in the eco-sensitive zone on the edges of Hirakud wetland.

In the safari zone, a total of 145 Indian bison are residing in six herds. Last year, 118 numbers in five herds used to move in this belt.

Bison can migrate long distances too, but in Debrigarh they are seen to display seasonal movement of 5-15 km per day keeping their territory mostly constant, the forest officer said.

Notably, Indian bison (Bos gaurus) is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and also is the largest extant bovine.

Ex-BJP MLA Md Rafiq dies

PNN & AGENCIES

Bargarh/Bhubaneswar, June 6: Senior BJP leader and former MLA Mohammad Rafiq died at a private hospital in Bargarh district Friday, party sources said. He was 71 and had been undergoing treatment in the facility for some time, they said.

Rafiq was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly from erstwhile Melchhamunda segment of Bargarh district in 2004.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal condoled the death of Rafiq and said that he had served as the state BJP Minority Front president. He was also the vice-president of Sohela Durgapuja Committee. He became the darling of the common people for his unas-

suming behaviour and simple nature, Samal said in a statement, expressing condolences to the bereaved family members.

BJP state general secretary



(Organisation) Manas Kumar Mohanty also expressed grief over the demise of Rafiq. Biju Janata Dal president and Leader of Opposition (LOP) Naveen Patnaik also condoled the demise of the former MLA. Taking to his 'X' handle, Naveen said

that he was saddened to learn about the passing away of former legislator Mohammad Rafiq.

The BJD supreme highlighted Rafiq's significant contributions to the development of the Bargarh region, describing his work as unforgettable.

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 8985368533

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrower / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Jayasen Sahu, S/o: Mr. Gopinath Sahu, 2) Mrs. Sunita Sahu, W/o: Mr. Jayasen Sahu, Both are Address: Main Road, Athagada Patna, Patharapalli, Ganjam, Odisha-761105 / Total Dues: ₹41,82,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land situated over Khata No.: 134/21, Plot No.: 205, Area: Ac. 0.160 Dec., Plot No.: 207, Area: Ac. 0.415 Dec., Total Land Area: Ac. 0.575 Dec. i.e. 25,047 sqft. having KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Patharapalli, PS: Kabisuryanagar No.: 86, Tahasil: Kabisuryanagar No.: 107, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Jayasen Sahu, S/o: Mr. Gopinath Sahu, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 208, West: Plot No.: 183, 196, 197 & 204, North: Plot No.: 212 & 211, South: Road (Plot No.: 533) & Plot No.: 206	₹18,63,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹1,86,300/- ₹ 50,000/-
2.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrower: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, S/o.: Basudev Pradhan / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Kunilata Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Both are At: Baghamara, PO.: Pahanga, Niali, Cuttack-754004 / Total Dues: ₹32,74,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G+1 Storiad RCC Residential Building situated over Khata No.: 219/53, Plot No.: 410/678, Land Area: Ac. 0.150 Dec., i.e. 6534 sqft. having KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Baghamara, PS: Gobindpur, Tahasil: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha in the name of Mrs. Kunilata Pradhan, W/o: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Bounded by East: Kunilata Pradhan, West: Sanjay Biswal, North: Accessible through Govt. Plot No.: 369 (KISSAM: Gochar) & Plot No.: 368 (KISSAM: Chakanala) to connected village Road, South: Maa Barunei Land	₹28,99,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹2,89,900/- ₹ 50,000/-
3.	PURI BRANCH, PH.: 9437199488 / Borrower: Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra, At: Mahaveer Enclave, Maruti Nagar, Siddha Mahaveer, Puri, PIN - 752002 / Total Dues: ₹38,21,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Flat No.: 108, 1st Floor, Type-1BHK, S+4 Storiad RCC Framed structure Residential Apartment Complex having SBA-545 Sqft, Carpet Area: 436 Sqft. with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac. 0.207 Dec. i.e. 9017 sqft., along with parking space in the apartment name & Style as "MAHAVEER ENCLAVE" Apartment bearing 1) Khata No.: 264/40, Plot No.: 237/831, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Madhusmita Mishra & Mr. Shreenibas Pathi), 2) Khata No.: 264/39, Plot No.: 237/830, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Debadutta Devi), 3) Khata No.: 264/38, Plot No.: 237/829, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Uttara Das), Mouza: Puri Town Unit - 33 Siddha Mahaveer, PS: Puri Town (33), Tahasil: Puri (673), Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra, S/o: Ashok Kumar Mishra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 107, North: Corridor, South: Open Space	₹29,43,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹2,94,300/- ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 10.07.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 10.07.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 09.07.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 07.06.2025

Authorised Officer
Bank of India

Medha Patkar urges people to protect river Rushikulya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 6: Environmental activist Medha Patkar Saturday appealed to the people for protection of Rushikulya river. The government planned to construct a dam in the river Pipalpanka under Sorada block in the district.

While participating in the 'Save Rushikulya River' movement in Ganjam district, she said, "Rivers may be small or big, but they are our mother. We have to protect the rivers from attacks." She attended a meeting organised by the Rushikulya Banchoa Kriyaanusthan Committee (RBKC) and the Centre for Climate Justice, spearheading the agitation against the construction of the dam.

Patkar, who had led the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), said if the river dies, the people would not get water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. "Everyone should come to protect the river," she said.

The social activist has also cited several examples of how people suffered in different places due to the death of rivers. At Potalamur village, she called upon the women to come forward and protect natural resources - rivers and forests. Later, Patkar also delivered a speech on "Constitution and protection of natural resources - rivers, need a strong law" here.

Dy Collector suspended

BHAWANIPATNA: The state government Friday suspended Deputy Collector Chittaranjan Pilla, who was posted in the office of the Kalandahi District Collector, following allegations of serious irregularities in land records. The action was taken based on the recommendation of the Additional Chief Secretary of the Revenue department. The allegations stem from his tenure as additional tahsilidar in Bhubaneswar between 2020 and 2022.

National Human Rights Commission, India Short Films Competition - 2025

Entries are invited from the Indian citizens for the NHRC's 'Short Films Competition - 2025' advocating promotion and protection of human rights.

For details download the application form, terms and conditions from the NHRC website www.nhrc.nic.in and send the entry only online at email address : nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com. The last date to receive entries is 31st August 2025.

For clarifications, if any, please write to the Deputy Director (Media & Communication), NHRC, India at the email address as above.
cbc 53101/11/0001/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 13-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26 Date: 30.05.2025

Name of the Work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF P.WAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOVAL OF PSR ON CURVE NO.23 UP AT KM 46/27-47/13 AND CURVE NO. 24 DN AT KM 46/28-47/24 IN JUJUMURA-KEREJANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost: ₹ 56,06,840.31, EMD: ₹ 1,12,100/-, Completion period: 12 months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 23.06.2025.

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

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

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/
E-Tender/23 Dt.: 03.06.2025

(1) Tender No. e-Tender-NorthKUR-82-2025, Dt.: 27.05.2025

Description: SUPPLY OF 50,000 CUM. OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT KENDUJHARGARH DEPOT & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 782.93 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 5.41,500/-

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-NorthKUR-31-2025, Dt.: 27.05.2025

Description: SUPPLY OF 15,000 CUM. OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT KENDUJHARGARH DEPOT & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 234.87 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2.67,400/-

(3) Tender No. e-Tender-BR-KUR-84-2025, Dt.: 28.05.2025

Description: PROPOSED STRENGTHENING AND REPLACEMENT OF CORRODED MEMBERS WITH METALIZED NEW MEMBERS AND RE-RIVETING OF BR.No.950 DN BETWEEN GANJAM-CHATRAPUR STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 274.03 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,87,000/-

(4) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-85-2025, Dt.: 28.05.2025

Description: PROVISION OF CEMENT CONCRETE (CC) ROAD (APPROACH ROAD OF 1.90 KM) FROM KM 492-22A TO TALCHER ROAD STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 633.88 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 4,67,000/-

Completion period: 15 months (for Sl. No. 1), 06 months (for Sl. No. 2), 12 months (for Sl. No. 3) & 10 months (for Sl. No. 4)

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 18.06.2025 (for all tenders).

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

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

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-205/Q/25-26 | Khurda Road

FOCUS UNITED STATES

WAR ON KNOWLEDGE



The animus against foreign students, who bring enormous economic and cultural benefits to US higher education, is not only xenophobic but hugely damaging to American soft power

US Vice President JD Vance could not have made his point more clearly when, in a 2021 speech taking aim at American universities, he quoted former President Richard Nixon's line that "professors are the enemy." Despite being a graduate of Yale Law School, Vance has been an eager foot soldier in President Donald Trump's war on the country's elite universities, which includes starving them of research funds, depriving them of foreign students, and trying to interfere in what is taught and how.

scientists in particular, has always been a feature of radical populism. In the 1930s, Adolf Hitler claimed that Germans "suffer from over-education. Only knowledge is prized. The know-it-alls are the enemies of action."

in the Western world, has become increasingly meritocratic over the past century. High social status is less dependent on family background or even financial wealth than on higher education.

tured can, in fact, recognize beauty all too well, which is why they must tune it out. As he wrote: "In every department of human endeavor, inspired talent is an intolerable insult to mediocrity."

But there is another side to this assault, which Leys, with all his refined taste and erudition, doesn't capture. Personal mediocrity is not the only reason why Trump, Vance, and some of their most ardent supporters detest the highly educated. Again, there is the question of class. Academic degrees, or even good taste in music, are not enough to achieve high social status. In recent years, a degree of conformity to certain views on race, sexuality, and gender has also been required. To be "progressive" was not just a sign of intellectual superiority, but also of moral rectitude.

As a result, even some of the best universities have become rife with intolerance, which is inimical to academic freedom. With politics framed as a form of theology, faith separates the brethren from the infidels. Conservatives and even MAGA adherents are not entirely wrong to feel offended by the moral smugness of educated urban elites who consider themselves better people than Hillary Clinton's "deplorable," the gun-loving Christians, and the boorish businessmen who have never read a good book.

In this sense, and this sense alone, US universities might benefit from Trump's war against them. If only out of self-preservation, they will have to drop some of the moralism that has come to permeate campus culture and concentrate once again on the basic task of discovering and conveying knowledge, without which we will all be much worse off.

The writer is the author, most recently, of *Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah*.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Ian Buruma

TO 'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN,' TRUMP IS NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DESTROYING SOME OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT MADE THE US GREAT IN THE FIRST PLACE

To "Make America Great Again," Trump is now actively engaged in destroying some of the institutions that made the US great in the first place. But what is motivating this frenzied attack on institutions which foster medical and technological breakthroughs, among the many other benefits they provide?

The charge that Harvard University and other top schools are hotbeds of antisemitism is rich coming from a president who professed to recognize "some very fine people" among torch-carrying neo-Nazis who screamed that "Jews will not replace us." Indeed, the MAGA definition of antisemitism seems to be limited to critics of the current government of Israel. Thus, in their view, opponents of Benjamin Netanyahu, or anti-Zionists, must be antisemites.

There are undoubtedly some actual antisemites among pro-Palestinian student protesters—and perhaps among their teachers, too—but that is hardly a reason to crush higher education. The stated aim of eradicating antisemitism on Ivy League campuses is nothing more than an excuse to attack the academy's leftists and liberals, many of whom happen to be Jews. And if America's university system breaks under the pressure, Jews are most likely to be blamed.

Hatred of intellectuals, and

The MAGA world's loathing of diversity and inclusion programs owes something to this type of thinking, as does the goal of purging universities of "anti-American" elements. The animus against foreign students, who bring enormous economic and cultural benefits to US higher education, is not only xenophobic but hugely damaging to American soft power.

But class resentment might have more to do with this push than racial prejudice, even though race and class, especially in the US, often overlap. American society, like others

SPECTRUM NATION

Make Indian goods that meet global standards

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently exhorted Indians to strike out foreign goods from their lives, seeking to keep the flame of 'Operation Sindoor' burning by dovetailing it to his government's push for self-reliance. He further stated that if we want to build a developed India by 2047 and take our economy from the 4th to the 3rd position, we will not use foreign goods. Modi wanted traders across the country to take the pledge, no matter how much profit they make by selling foreign goods.

This observation made while addressing an event at Gandhinagar during a two-day visit to Gujarat last week, by Modi is noteworthy as it may remind people of the pre-independence Gandhi-Tagore controversy regarding boycotting foreign goods. There are two things that need to be analysed in this context – one, do we produce goods that stand up to global standards and secondly, whether India can do without using foreign goods. It appears that what Modi implied is that we should give top priority to

India-made goods and, in cases where this is not possible, we should go for imported items.

Analysts believe that there was an indirect reference to China, but questions arise about what consumers would do regarding electronic items which, in some cases, have no comparable Indian substitutes. Not just electronics but there are many sophisticated equipment and appliances in various sectors that are foreign and are essential for different purposes.

Indian manufacturing needs to be given a boost, and as pointed out by the Prime Minister this would get an impetus when increasing number of Indian products are used locally. It needs to be pointed out here that the government should ensure improvement of the quality of the products and give impetus, if necessary, at their upgradation.

It cannot be denied that for a large and diverse country like India, there is a need to spread the manufacturing base throughout its length and breadth. Obviously, for this a plan is critical with year-wise

targets though various incentives have been dished out to motivate entrepreneurs. Even then, small manufacturers find it rather difficult to get loans from banks while also facing problems of fast transportation, storage etc. These need to be looked into to motivate small and medium entrepreneurs to expand their business and become profitable.

It is, however, distressing to note that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) declined by 97 percent to \$353 million during the last financial year (2024-25), reportedly due to largescale repatriation out of the country, driven to an extent by overseas investors such as Hyundai cashing out through initial public offers. The government has been trying to push FDI into the country as it seeks to tap into growing appetite among global investors to diversify beyond China. But reports indicate that companies are opting to invest in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Mexico. The challenge for India to attract foreign investments is indeed

quite tough but only time will tell whether the country would succeed.

Meanwhile, it is good to hear that the country remains the fastest growing economy at 6.5 percent GDP growth globally even as the global economic outlook for 2025 and 2026 remain clouded by multiple challenges, both political and economic, as per the recently released Reserve Bank of India report.

India has a rather strong economy supported by revival in consumption demand with the government's continued thrust on capital spending while adhering to the path of fiscal consolidation, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates. However, the thrust should now be on improving the quality of Indian goods and make them quality-centred and competitive in meeting global standards. Then the country's population would be motivated to buy them in the coming years and fulfil the Prime Minister's dream.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THERE IS A NEED TO SPREAD THE MANUFACTURING BASE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY'S LENGTH AND BREADTH

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 their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com



India among defence powers

Sir, In a landmark move, French aviation giant Dassault — the fourth global major after Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Airbus — has partnered with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. to manufacture the Rafale fighter aircraft fuselage in Hyderabad. Production will commence in 2028, initially at two fuselages per month, with full aircraft assembly by 2030. This is part of a Rs 63,000 crore deal covering both production and maintenance in India. Dassault is also collaborating with Lockheed Martin on Rafale wings and tail sections. Meanwhile, Tata is building Apache AH-64 helicopter fuselages in Hyderabad and setting up an Airbus C-295 assembly line in Vadodara. These strategic initiatives mark a giant leap toward Atmanirbhar Bharat, equipping India with cutting-edge aerospace capabilities. The government's vision, backed by private enterprise, deserves applause for elevating India among global defence powers.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Wrong priorities

Sir, The game of cricket is a religion in India and the stakes are very high. A retired bowler like Ashwin got nearly Rs9.50 crores. Fans flock to the stadium to watch their favourites in action and perform at the highest level. I am reading about the tragedy that took place in Bengaluru. Is this for winning an international event? We draw near blanks in the Olympics. Who are the beneficiaries? The cricket players, IPL and cricket boards. Was this celebration warranted? Why don't this nation rethink on cricket? There are many games that need to be promoted to make a mark in the Olympics and many international events. Unfortunately this country has taken up wrong priorities. One among them this colonial cricket. The Karnataka Cricket Association and the IPL Governing Council were at fault in arranging for the celebrations at a very short notice. The Wankhede Stadium hosted T-20 World Cup winners in an orderly manner despite having a record crowd. It appears as though the Governing council looked for a hurry to bury felicitation thereby curtailing the hotel cost of foreign players and the invites thus ending the day with disaster.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



Only the soul that is naked and unashamed can be pure and innocent.

SRI AUROBINDO

Scamming the System

Another week, another scam. This time, it's 15 civil servants now under the scanner for allegedly faking their way into coveted IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS posts using bogus reservation claims.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has finally stirred, launching an inquiry after persistent complaints, many filed by RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar, pointed to misuse of caste, EWS, and disability certificates. And these aren't minor goof-ups. Some officers are suspected of faking PwBD (disability) status, others of falsely claiming SC, ST or OBC credentials to game the UPSC.

And this isn't a one-off. Readers will not have forgotten Puja Khedkar from Maharashtra. The 'IAS officer' with the Audi and security detail who turned out to have a talent for forging not just caste and disability certificates, but entire bureaucratic narratives?

The real question isn't just how this happened, but how often it's happening undetected. If UPSC and state governments aren't cross-verifying certificates before appointments, what's the point of elaborate eligibility criteria?

Reservation is meant to level the playing field, not turn into a backdoor for the well-connected and resourceful. If civil services are being quietly infiltrated by fraud, trust in the system crumbles, for both citizens and genuinely marginalised aspirants.

Transparency, real-time verification, and serious consequences are what are needed urgently. Because if those at the top can scam the system, what hope do the rest of us have?

The never-ending auditions for UP's top cop

In Uttar Pradesh, being police chief has become less of a career pinnacle and more of a recurring guest role — glamorous, yes, but strictly "acting only." Rajiv Krishna, a respected 1991-batch IPS officer, is the latest to don the DGP badge. He replaces Prashant Kumar, who retired on May 31 after a headline-heavy tenure marked by gallantry medals and more than 300 "encounters."



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Speculation of Kumar's extension swirled for weeks. Still, the government kept mum — no official panel sent to the UPSC, no selection committee under state rules, just silence, then a quiet handover. Sound familiar? It should. Krishna is now the fifth acting DGP since 2022. At this point, the title should come with a folding chair and a one-year calendar!

Never mind that the Supreme Court laid down clear norms for DGP selection — you know, transparency, merit, due process. In UP, it seems those rules are more like guidelines. An acting DGP offers something a permanent one doesn't: flexibility. Or to put it plainly, control.

So here we are again — another senior cop in the hot seat, another procedural shrug from the corridors of power. Forget permanence. In UP, the most secure thing about the DGP post is how insecure it's meant to be.

Haryana's IAS move hits UPSC wall

Haryana's bid to fast-track 27 state civil service officers into the AS didn't go as planned. The move has just hit a serious roadblock, courtesy of the UPSC. And the timing couldn't be worse — the state's already running short on IAS officers.

At the heart of the issue are pending criminal charges against at least eight of the officers shortlisted for promotion. And we're not talking minor disciplinary notes. These are full-blown charge sheets filed in court. Yet, the state hoped to sneak past that little detail, arguing that a charge sheet doesn't count as a final report under Section 173 of the CrPC. Nice try, but the UPSC wasn't convinced.

The state tried to argue that a mere chargesheet isn't the same as a final report under Section 173 of the CrPC — and therefore, not enough to derail someone's promotion. But the UPSC wasn't buying it. It called the argument "legally not tenable" and sent the whole list back, asking Haryana to come up with a cleaner version — one without the baggage of unresolved legal trouble. Unfortunately, even the officers with no cases against them are stuck in limbo. It's all or nothing, it seems.

This adds to Haryana's IAS headache. The state needs 215 officers, but has only 171. That's a big gap, and one that can't be filled with murky selections or half-baked legal reasoning. And clearly, UPSC's not in the mood to let anyone slip through it with a cloud over their head.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.
RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm. But the harm does not interest them.
T. S. ELIOT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1494: The Treaty of Tordesillas—an agreement between Spain and Portugal aimed at settling conflicts over lands newly discovered or explored by Christopher Columbus and other late 15th-century voyagers—was signed.

1576: English navigator Martin Frobisher, seeking a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean, departed England, and weeks later he reached Labrador and Baffin Island and discovered the bay that now bears his name.

1929: Through the Lateran Treaty—signed February 11, 1929, by Benito Mussolini for Italy and by Pietro Gasparri, cardinal secretary of state, for the papacy and ratified —Vatican City became a sovereign state.

1965: In the landmark case of Griswold v. State of Connecticut, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favour of the constitutional right of married persons to use birth control.



Delhi contributes to 76% of Yamuna's pollution: Study

In Delhi, the Yamuna flows for 52 kilometres, of which a critical 22-kilometre segment—from Wazirabad to Okhla—has become the focal point of multiple planning and policy efforts



New Delhi, June 6: Delhi contributes a staggering 76 per cent of the Yamuna's total pollution load despite accounting for just 2 per cent of its length, a newly published study states. In Delhi, the Yamuna flows for 52 kilometres, of which a critical 22-kilometre segment—from Wazirabad to Okhla—has become the focal point of multiple planning and policy efforts. The study also states that untreated and partially treated sewage discharge remains the primary pollutant of the river. "While the city generates 792 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage, only 618 MGD is treated. Nearly 30 per cent of this treated water still fails to meet prescribed discharge standards," the study states. The study by Primus Partners, published on World Environment Day, also states that over 500 unauthorized colonies

and 160 villages still lack sewerage access. "Currently, 37 of the city's sewage treatment plants (STPs) fail to meet discharge norms and several industrial areas continue to release hazardous effluents, compounded by a lack of environmental flow during lean seasons," the study added. Highlighting the pollution generated by large drains, the study also states that the Najafgarh and Shahdara drains receive waste from Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. These together contribute an estimated 80 per cent of the river's pollution load within the city. The study also includes voices from communities living along the river, like fishermen and boatmen. "These community mem-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), June 6: A total of 45 kilograms of pure gold has been used in the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, according to Nripendra Mishra, the chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee. Mishra informed Friday, a day after the consecration of the Ram Darbar on the first floor of the temple complex. He said the estimated value of the gold, excluding taxes, is around Rs 50 crore. Gold has been used extensively in the doors on the ground floor of the temple and the throne of Lord Ram. He added that gold work is still ongoing in the Sheshavata Temple. While the main structure of the Ram Temple has been completed, other parts of the temple complex, including the museum, auditorium, and guest house, are still under construction. These are expected to be completed by December 2025. Following the consecration of the Ram Darbar, Mishra said arrangements are being made for controlled public access to the sacred space. For now, only a limited number of devotees will be allowed to visit the Ram Darbar, and entry will be regulated through passes, which will be issued free of cost. Meanwhile, the consecration ceremony has drawn large crowds to the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Champat Rai, Secretary of Ram temple trust, said that Thursday the consecration ceremony of seven idols was completed at the temple. He stated that the idols in-



While the main structure of the Ram Temple has been completed, other parts of the temple complex, including the museum, auditorium, and guest house, are still under construction which are expected to be completed by December 2025

stalled on the first floor above the sanctum sanctorum include Ram Darbar in the middle, a Shivalinga in the north eastern corner, a Ganapati idol in the southeastern corner, Hanumana idol in the middle of the southern side, Surya in the south western corner, Bhagwati in the north western corner, and Annapurna Mata in the middle of the northern side. However, many devotees are facing difficulties due to the in-

tense summer heat and limited arrangements to shield them from the sun. Ramji Mishra, a devotee who travelled from Basti district, said, "The path to the sanctum is very long, and the stones placed on the walkway become scorching hot under the sun. I used to visit Ayodhya before the grand temple was built, and back then the path to see Lord Ram was shorter and more comfortable. Now, the stones are so hot during the day they

can cause blisters." His companion, Sudhakar Tiwari, added that although the temple trust has placed red mats over parts of the path, many of them have torn and become dangerously hot. "It's best to wear thick socks while visiting the temple in this weather," he advised. A Ram Temple Trust official clarified that the newly consecrated Ram Darbar is not yet open for general public. The trust is expected to finalise a plan for public access in an upcoming meeting, Mishra added. Thursday's was the second major ceremony at the Ram Temple, the first being the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol January 22 last year in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of dignitaries from across the country.

UP cops sponsor wedding after family's breadwinner shot dead

Gonda (UP), June 6: The police in Gonda city organised the wedding of a young woman whose family was in dire straits due to the death of its breadwinner among other financial hardships, officials said Friday. The wedding took place in Dhannipurva village in the Umri Begumganj area Thursday night. Uday Kumari lost her brother in a dacoity incident in April, which forced the family to postpone her wedding, originally scheduled for May. Taking the family under their wing, the police took full responsibility for the wedding and solemnised the ceremony in a grand, traditional manner. The event was carried out with the support of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said. "The girl was to be married May 5, but on the night of April 24, her brother Shivdeen was shot dead by robbers who had broken into their home. As a result, the wedding had to be called off," he said.

DELHI GOVT PLANS TO INSTALL WATER ATMS

New Delhi, June 6: The Delhi government will launch a pilot project to install 20 water ATMs through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, providing cold drinking water to the public, officials said Friday. According to officials, observing that there is a scarcity of drinking water facilities at public places like markets, hospitals, metro stations and bus terminals, the decision has been taken to install water ATMs at such locations on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. According to the Delhi Jal Board's (DJB) plan, the water ATM shall be a standalone unit with water purification and dispensing arrangements. They will be equipped with real-time water quality monitors and a display system. "We plan to provide water ATMs in all government schools and drinking water facilities in other areas across the city," Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said during a public event Friday. The DJB has invited private



companies to set up standalone water ATMs having a minimum capacity of 500 litres, made of stainless steel and equip with a built-in RO system. "Water ATMs should be equipped with provisions for cold water during summer months from March to October. The ATM shall be equipped with a GPS system for showing the real-time location of the ATM," the tender says. To recover the operation and maintenance costs of the drinking water facility, the company would be allowed advertising rights. In April, Water Minister

Parvesh Verma announced that the Delhi government would be setting up 5,000 water ATMs across the city. This would include around 3,000 installed by the board through its own funds. DJB maintains a 14,697-kilometer piped network covering 93 per cent of Delhi's population. Water is distributed through underground reservoirs and booster pumping stations. In water-scarce areas, which are situated at the tail end of this network, like JJ clusters and unauthorised colonies, water is supplied through water tankers.

Moradabad civic body sets up Operation Sindoor selfie point

Moradabad, June 6: The Moradabad Municipal Corporation has set up a selfie point themed on Operation Sindoor at the Peelikothi Square here. The structure, it said, was aimed at fostering patriotism among the people, especially the youth. The corporation has also put up posters with a dramatic depiction of Operation Sindoor near the Circuit House on Delhi Road and along several road dividers. The selfie site features a grand cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with the caption, "India is proud of its heroes." Moradabad Municipal Commissioner Divyanshu Patel said, "It stands as a symbolic gesture to commemorate the dedication and heroism of India's defence forces."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT
e-mail: erwss_kpt@rediffmail.com, Ph. No.: 06852-250281 (Off), Ph. No.: 06852-250680 (Res.), Fax No.: 06852-251098

National Competitive Bidding Through E-Procurement
Tender Identification No. 06/SE/RWSS/KPT/2025-26/31.05.2025
No. O-240: The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Koraput on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover (P1 Contract) from the eligible class of experienced registered contractors through e-Tendering system for the Piped water supply works as detailed in DTCN. The bid should be submitted online in the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in separately for the works.

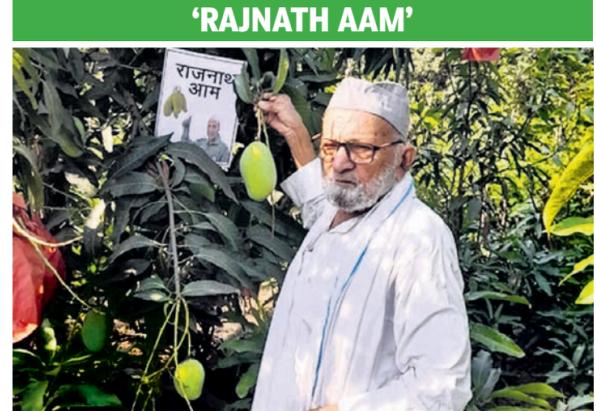
1	Nature of Work	Power supply to PWS Project
2	Estimated Cost	Varies from 6.49 Lakhs to 10.16 Lakhs
3	Total Nos. of Works	4 Nos.
4	Tender Cost	Rs 6,000.00 & Rs. 4,000.00
5	Class of Contractor	HT (Elect.)
6	Availability of Bid document in the website	Dt 13.06.2025 at 17.00 hours to 23.06.2025 upto 17.00 hours
7	Date of seeking clarification	During the office hours of 13.06.2025 to 21.06.2025
8	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.24.06.2025 at 11.00 hours

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tenderorissa.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the website. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Koraput
OIPR-25034/11/0040/2526

New mango variety named after Defence Minister

Lucknow, June 6: Kalimullah Khan, popularly known as the 'Mango Man' of India, has named a newly developed mango variety after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Grown using his signature grafting technique in his Malihabad orchard, the new variety has been named 'Rajnath Aam'. Khan, who has earlier named mango varieties after several prominent Indian personalities, including Sachin Tendulkar, Aishwarya Rai, Akhilesh Yadav, Sonia Gandhi, Narendra Modi, and Amit Shah, was awarded the Padma Shri for his unique contributions and dedication to horticulture and fruit breeding. Speaking about his latest tribute, Khan told PTI Videos, "I name my mangoes after people who have served the country meaningfully. I want these names to live on for generations. Sometimes people forget great leaders, but if a mango reminds them of Rajnath Singh's good work, then



it's worth it. He is a balanced and thoughtful individual. During a recent discussion about Pakistan, I found that he sincerely desires peace, not war." On the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir that left 26 people dead, Khan blamed Pakistan for initiating aggression. "But today, the atmosphere has

improved. Peace, not conflict, is the solution. Problems should be resolved through dialogue. War only escalates hatred and brings harm to all. We are all human, and division only causes more damage," he said. Talking about the Malihabad region in Lucknow, known world over for its mangoes, Khan re-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI RIGHT CANAL DIVN. NO. I
At/P.O.: Mukhiguda, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026
e-mail address: euircd1@gmail.com

1.	Type of Work	Canal Works
2.	Total No. of Works	14 Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 10.17 lakh to Rs. 5.03 lakh (Excluding GST)
4.	Period of Completion	05 (Five) Calendar Months
5.	Class of Contractor	'D' & 'C' Class

Procurement Officer	e-Procurement No.	Bid Amount	Availability & Submission of Bids Online
Superintending Engineer, Upper Indravati Right Canal Division No. I, At/P.O.: Mukhiguda, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026	SE, RCD-1-01 (01-14)/25-26 Dt. 04.06.2025	Rs. 10.17 lakh to Rs. 5.03 lakh (Excluding GST)	From 11.06.2025, 10 A.M. to 19.06.2025, 05.00 P.M.

Date of opening of Bid: Dt.20.06.2025 at 10.00 A.M. in the O/o, the Superintending Engineer, UI Right Canal Division No.-I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website: www.tenderorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
UI Right Canal Divn. No.I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi
OIPR-32193/11/0010/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HEAD WORKS DIVISION, SAMAL
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Email ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com

'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE-HWD-02/2025-26
No. A-255: The Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites item rate bid in Single Cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from reputed and experienced manpower service provider for providing outsourcing personnel on Department of Water Resources, O/o Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal who must possess valid labour licence for engagement of labour for different works mentioned below. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid.

1	Name of the Works	Labour supply for operation and maintenance of water supply system at Samal Barrage Township for the period May 2025 to March 2026
2	Estimated Cost	Approximately 19.84 lakhs
3	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs. 6000.00 (Non-refundable)
4	EMD/Bid Security	Rs. 19,900.00 (Refundable)
5	Class of Contractor	'Registered firm with valid labour licence', EPF and ESI registration certificate
6	Period of Completion of work	During the FY 2025-26
7	Date and time of availability of bid document in the website	From 11.00 A.M. of Dt.09.06.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.18.06.2025 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
8	Date, time and place of opening of online tender	Dt.19.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in O/o, the Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal
9	Date, time and place for finalization of tender through Transparent Lottery System (if required)	Intimate Later
10	Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III
11	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender	Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal, At/P.O.: Samal Barrage Township, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN - 759037 Email ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
OIPR-32020/11/0011/2526
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal



For us, all great men are respectable and honourable. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was secular. His commander was Noor Khan Beg, and Ibrahim Khan and Daulat Khan operated the artillery. He fought the battle of Swaraj by taking everyone along

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

ACB QUIZZES SATYENDAR JAIN

Former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain was questioned by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) for over five hours Friday in connection with a graft case related to the construction of classrooms in city government schools under the previous AAP dispensation



of the day quote

Eid Mubarak! My heartfelt greetings to everyone on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha

NAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The Centre and the state government together will make Uttarakhand a national hub of horticulture

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

There is a sinister design in how the BJP-led Union Government is implementing the national Census and the subsequent delimitation. Developed states, especially in the non-Hindi speaking South, which followed population control norms, will now be punished

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

SENA UBT-MNS TIE-UP

What Maha wishes will happen: Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Friday said whatever the people of Maharashtra wish will happen, comments coming amid intense speculation over possibility of an alliance between his party and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena led by his estranged cousin Raj.

Talking to reporters here, the former chief minister insisted there was no confusion in the minds of workers of both parties about an alliance, whose urgency has picked up pace ahead of the ensuing civic body polls and poor show by the MNS and Shiv Sena (UBT) in the 2024 assembly elections.

"Whatever people of Maharashtra wish will happen," Uddhav Thackeray asserted in response to a question about the possibility of an alliance between the two regional parties. Uddhav Thackeray, however,

parried questions on whether there were any kind of tie-up talks taking place currently between his party and the MNS, a breakaway group of the united Shiv Sena floated by Raj Thackeray in 2006.

However, Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, a close aide of the former CM, suggested there may have been phone calls between the two cousins who share a cold relationship. He, however, did not elaborate further.

MNS spokesperson and Mumbai unit president Sandeep Deshpande said the Sena (UBT) should first send a formal proposal to Raj Thackeray or at least make a phone call to break the ice and discuss the possibility of a tie-up.

He cited instances of the 2014 assembly polls and 2017 Mumbai civic body elections when the MNS had made an attempt to form an alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena.



Villagers being shifted to a safer place from a flood-affected area at Bura Mayang in Morigaon district, Assam

PTI PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Top Naxal leader killed in encounter

Bijapur: Top Naxalite leader Bhaskar, who carried a cumulative bounty of Rs 45 lakh, has been killed in an encounter with security forces in Indravati National Park area in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Friday, a senior police official said citing "preliminary identification of body". The encounter was part of the same anti-Naxal operation underway since Wednesday by personnel from the state police's Special Task Force (STF) and District Reserve Guard (DRG) as well as the CRPF's specialised unit CoBRA, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraaj said.

Delhi CM receives death threat

Ghaziabad (UP): A death threat to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was made on the emergency helpline in Ghaziabad, prompting police to launch a probe to trace the caller, officials said Friday. Police have so far not been able to identify the person who made the threat call on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. According to officials, a call was received on the Dial 112 emergency helpline. "Responding to the alarming information, we informed the Delhi Police Control Room about the call," Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Ritesh Tripathi said. "Police teams have been pressed to identify the individual through surveillance," the ACP said.

7 Naxalites surrender

Dantewada: Seven Naxalites, two of them carrying cash rewards on their heads, surrendered in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh Friday, a police official said. The cadres turned themselves in before police and CRPF officials citing disappointment at the growing differences within the outlawed CPI (Maoist), the harsh forest life and the movement's hollow ideology, he said. The surrendered cadres also said they were impressed by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' in the district and the state government's new surrender and rehabilitation policy, the official added.

Gunfight breaks out

Itanagar: A gunfight broke out between security personnel and suspected militants along the India-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district, a defence official said Friday. During patrolling in the Pongchau circle Thursday, security forces observed the movement of some armed men and challenged them, he said.

Top court allows NBE to hold NEET-PG 2025 exam Aug 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

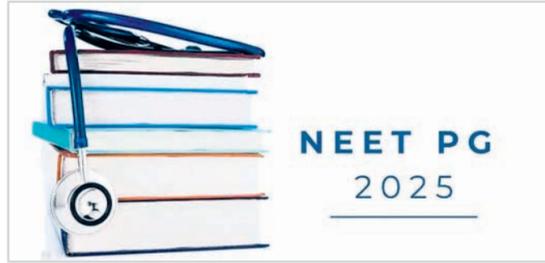
New Delhi, June 6: The Supreme Court Friday allowed the National Board of Examination (NBE) to conduct August 3, the NEET-PG 2025 exam in one shift in line with the top court's directions.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Augustine George Masih, which initially questioned the over two-month window sought by the NBE for holding the examination, said the board's plea appeared to be "bonafide". The top court, however, clarified no further time would be granted to NBE for holding NEET-PG 2025 examination.

The NBE referred to the May 30 order of the top court and said for holding the simultaneous examinations all over in one shift required about 1,000 examination centres. The plea said it would hold the examination, scheduled June 15 between 9 am and 12.30 pm August 3, which was the earliest possible date given by their technology partner Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS).

It had previously referred to various communications with the TCS and cited various arrangements like identification of examination centres, their availability and security measures to plug any leaks for holding the examination August 3.

The bench questioned the long duration for holding the examination saying that students, who have prepared very hard for the examination,



A BENCH OF JUSTICES PRASHANT KUMAR MISHRA AND AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH, WHICH INITIALLY QUESTIONED THE OVER TWO-MONTH WINDOW SOUGHT BY THE NBE FOR HOLDING THE EXAMINATION, SAID THE BOARD'S PLEA APPEARED TO BE "BONAFIDE"

THE TOP COURT, HOWEVER, CLARIFIED NO FURTHER TIME WOULD BE GRANTED TO NBE FOR HOLDING NEET-PG 2025 EXAMINATION

would face the brunt and even their selection process would be further delayed.

"The order of this court was of May 30, what exercise has been done till now. The examination centres were already identified for holding the test June 15 and the only thing which needed to be done was to see their availability. Security arrangement is to be done in any case, whenever you have to hold the examination," the bench observed. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the NBE, submitted that arrangements need to be made to avoid even a minor

glitch in the all India level entrance test.

He said examination centres, which are to be identified, had to be technology compliant and safe, therefore, requiring elaborate arrangements. Justice Masih said the court very well knew how TCS works and it has had experience of various examinations and finding such centres would not be a problem.

The NBE's plea, among other things, has sought the top court's "permission to schedule the NEET PG 2025 August 3, 2025 which is the earliest possible available date given by its technology partner, i.e., M/s Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) in accordance with the directions passed by this vide order dated May 30, 2025". It has said, "Thousand plus centers shall need to be booked and engaged which will require considerable time."

For a shift of 2,42,679 candidates with buffers would require an infrastructure for 2.70 lakh to be made available across the country and it needed considerable time, the NBE has said.

Indian, local languages will be medium of instruction: Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said that in the coming years, the medium of instruction in educational institutions will primarily be Indian and local languages.

The minister made the remarks while chairing a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament on the theme of promotion of education in Indian languages, officials said.

"In the coming years, the medium of instruction will be primarily Indian and local languages. Higher education institutes such as IITs are introducing courses in local languages, including technical courses such as engineering. The priority remains to provide books in Indian languages," Pradhan said. The minister also emphasised the use of technology in translating content and leveraging artificial intelligence for language translation.

"For students coming from rural areas or economically weaker sections, technology can help in understanding the content in their preferred language," he added.

Members of Parliament, who attended the meeting, appreciated the material prepared by the Ministry of Education on Bhasha Sangam, which will help students learn 100 sentences in 22 languages.

School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar informed the panel about the details of 1,369 mother tongues identified in the country, which were classified into 121 languages.

B'LORE STAMPEDE

4 officials of RCB, event management firm held



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 6: Four officials of RCB and event management firm DNA Entertainment Private Limited were arrested Friday in connection with the stampede outside Chinnaswamy stadium that killed 11 people, police sources said. They were remanded to 14-day judicial custody.

Meanwhile, a complaint was filed by social activist H M Venkatesh against Cricketer Virat Kohli holding him responsible for the stampede during the celebrations of RCB's first ever IPL victory June 4. However, no FIR has been registered on his complaint yet, police sources said. Kohli is also in RCB squad.

The 41st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate remanded Nikhil Sosale (Head of Marketing and Revenue) of RCB and Sunil Mathew (Vice President, Business Affairs), Kiran Kumar (Senior Event Manager) and Sumanth (Ticketing Operations Lead) from DNA Entertainment Private Limited to 14-day judicial custody. Speaking to PTI Videos,

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed that few arrests have been made over the stampede case.

"Few arrests have been made. Our teams are taking the case very seriously, and ultimately the case has to go to CID. So before going to CID, whatever legal formalities have to be done by our team, they are doing it," he said. Meanwhile, another FIR was registered against RCB, DNA Entertainment Private Limited and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) based on the complaint of a victim in the stampede incident.

Earlier in the day, Sosale, who was taken into custody from the Kempegowda International Airport, had moved the High Court challenging his arrest. However, he did not get immediate relief and the case was adjourned to June 9. The stampede occurred Wednesday evening in front of the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations.

Mumbai court awards ₹1cr to domestic abuse victim

Besides the compensation, the court also increased the monthly maintenance granted to the woman and her daughter from Rs 1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh, holding that the "physical and mental torture" faced by the complainant while living with her husband can "scarcely be imagined"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 6: A sessions court here has enhanced the compensation granted to a woman from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 crore in a domestic violence case, ruling that her husband was "rolling in money".

The court observed that the woman's husband, who runs an elevator company, and his family are "crorepatis". Besides the compensation, the court also increased the monthly maintenance granted to the woman and her daughter from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh, holding that the "physical and mental torture" faced by the complainant while living with her husband can "scarcely be imagined".

In her order passed last month, Additional Sessions Judge (Dindoshi Court) S J



Ansari ruled that the initial compensation of Rs 5 lakh awarded by a magistrate was "meagre" considering that the woman endured "torture and humiliation" for 20 years. The victim, a 41-year-old housewife, had challenged a February 2020 compensation order passed by

the magistrate under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

She alleged a long history of physical, emotional, and economic abuse by her husband and in-laws since her marriage in December 1997. The sessions court noted that the woman

was forced to seek legal help for maintenance as a last resort after suffering "beatings, severe assaults, taunts and even financial deprivation" in a marriage of almost 20 years.

The "physical and mental torture" endured by the woman while living with her husband can "scarcely be imagined", the court said. The sessions judge also noted that the magistrate had granted Rs 5 lakh to the aggrieved woman. According to the order, while the woman termed the amount too little, her husband contended that she was not entitled to any money as compensation.

The man claimed that he was at the receiving end of his wife's "behaviour" and his financial situation had now become "precarious". The husband said he pays the rent for the premises occupied by him and their

twin sons, and he takes care of their educational and living expenses, which leaves him with nothing. The court, however, held that the complainant was subjected to domestic violence by her husband.

It noted that the husband and his father had the financial capacity in 2012 to purchase land as well as a flat worth more than Rs 1 crore. The man could not prove that his financial condition was not good despite trying his level best, the court said.

The court said the woman has to now also suffer being estranged from her two sons. The husband appears to have influenced the sons against their mother "is also something which cannot be After considering all aspects, the court raised the compensation as well as the maintenance granted to the woman and her daughter.

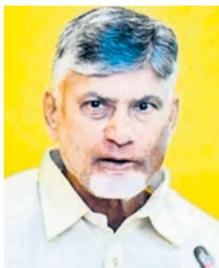
COAL SCAM

Court acquits ex-coal secy HC Gupta, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: A Delhi court Friday acquitted former coal secretary H C Gupta, ex-joint secretary (coal) K S Kropha and then director K C Samaria in a coal scam case related to irregularities in allocation of Mahugarhi Coal Block in Jharkhand.

Today marks Gupta's second acquittal in coal block related cases whereas he has been convicted in five other cases and his appeals are currently pending in Delhi High Court. The CBI has also challenged his acquittal in the first case. Special Judge Sanjay Bansal while pronouncing the verdict on Friday convicted JAS Infrastructure Capital Ltd and its then director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal for cheating and criminal conspiracy in securing coal block's allocation. The judge would hear arguments on sentencing July 8.



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and the Union Government for advancing the vision of the Visakhapatnam South Coast Railway Zone

44 STRANDED TOURISTS EVACUATED IN SIKKIM

A total of 44 stranded tourists were evacuated from Chaten in north Sikkim Friday, bringing to a close the rescue efforts of people stuck in the landslide-hit area for the day, officials said



of the day quote

We must build cities where women, traders, children, and every citizen feels safe. We need strong systems in place to ensure that those attempting to disrupt peace know the consequences

The whole country now knows that the so-called 'double engine' government is just emanating smoke, it's not moving forward

Bihar, once considered the land of peace and justice, has now turned into the crime capital of India

Pak attacked 'insaniyat, Kashmiriyat' in Pahalgam: PM



Katra, June 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday accused Pakistan of targeting "insaniyat and Kashmiriyat" through the terror attack in Pahalgam, saying the assault was "orchestrated with the sinister intent of inciting communal riots in India and robbing the impoverished, tourism-dependent Kashmiris of their livelihood"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Jitendra Singh during the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various development projects at a public rally at Katra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Chenab rail bridge, the world's highest railway bridge built over the Chenab river

After inaugurating the Chenab bridge, the Prime Minister walked on it holding the Tricolour high. He travelled in a rail engine coach to reach the spot. During the historic event in Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, the prime minister condemned Pakistan's repeated attempts to disrupt progress in the region.

This was the Prime Minister's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, and India's cross-border military action under Operation Sindoor that followed

age of young pony ride operator Adil Hussain Shah, who stood against terrorists but tragically lost his life in the Pahalgam terror attack while striving to support his family through honest labour.

kin of those who lost their lives in the cross-border firing. The government has decided to give an additional Rs 2 lakh to those whose houses were badly damaged in Pakistani shelling, and Rs 1 lakh to those whose houses were partially damaged, Modi said.

of devotees gathered, he said it reflected the new, optimistic face of Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the excitement surrounding the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and the festive spirit of Eid, demonstrating the region's resilience and progress.

POST OF THE DAY

Modi should call up Donald Trump and ask him to agree to ceasefire with Elon Musk, else no Dhokla for him at the next Namaste Trump event.

Bharat Mata portrait can't be allowed, says Kerala govt

Thiruvananthapuram, June 6: The Left government in Kerala Friday made it clear that it was not in agreement with the use of the Bharat Mata portrait at the Environment Day event at the Raj Bhavan here, as the picture was not authorised as the official version by the Constitution or the Indian government.



The government's stand came a day after Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar asserted that there would be no compromise on Bharat Mata

statement issued by CPI state secretary Binoy Viswom. Viswom, in an apparent reference to the Governor's stand, said the campaign was being launched in view of "attempts by certain centres of authority" to use the concept of Bharat Mata to "propagate anti-national ideas"

Constitution". He instructed party units to ensure all those who are committed to the constitutional values of democracy and secularism be included in the campaign.

PM Modi to attend G7 Summit in Canada

New Delhi, June 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said he will be attending the G7 Summit later this month in Canada and that he looked forward to meeting his newly elected Canadian counterpart Mark Carney.

Anticipatory bail must not be given mechanically: SC

New Delhi, June 6: The Supreme Court has said anticipatory bail in cases involving serious offences should not be given in a mechanical manner. A three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta made the observation while setting aside an order of anticipatory bail to four accused in a murder case.



stated in the FIR, indicate that they participated in the assault even after the deceased had collapsed," the top court said. The high court, it said, "clearly failed" to appreciate the gravity and nature of the allegations in the case.

SHORT TAKES

Thennala Balakrishna Pillai passes away at 95

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress veteran and former president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Thennala Balakrishna Pillai, known for his gentlemanly demeanour, simplicity and consensus-oriented leadership, died at a private hospital here Friday, following age-related ailments, party sources said.

Sharmistha Panoli released on bail

Kolkata: Social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli was released from prison Friday after the Calcutta High Court granted her interim bail in a case involving alleged communal remarks made in a video uploaded on social media.

Flood situation improves marginally in Arunachal

Itanagar: The flood situation in Arunachal Pradesh improved marginally Friday as most of the rivers were flowing below the danger level, officials said. At least 12 people have lost their lives due to landslides and floods triggered by monsoon rain this year, while search operations are underway for a missing person, a report from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said.

Covid milder now, occasional surges no cause for worry: Experts

New Delhi, June 6: Covid is growing milder with time but an occasional surge in cases is expected because the virus that causes it is now endemic and constantly evolving, say scientists while assuring that there is no cause for concern.



fections. It is (now) just another respiratory illness and less dangerous than flu. We can forget COVID-19 as a special case. It is not a cause of concern," global health expert Dr Chandrakant Lahariya told PTI.

Active cases in the country crossed 5,300 as of June 6, with nearly 500 added in the past 24 hours

The death toll is 55 in the current surge which started January this year, primarily among individuals with pre-existing illnesses

sia, Thailand and Hong Kong, which have been seeing a rise in infections over the past months. Wastewater surveillance by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) has detected presence of SARS-CoV-2 -- which causes COVID-19 -- in samples from 10 sewage treatment plants in Pune, the Times of India reported.

The World Health Organization declared an end to COVID-19 as a 'public health emergency' two years ago in May 2023

Medical Research (ICMR) Rajiv Behl said earlier this week. LF.7 and NB.1.8.1. have been classified as 'variants under monitoring' (VUM) by the WHO to alert public health authorities that a variant of SARS-CoV-2 requires prioritised attention and monitoring.

international



As ICC judges, these four individuals have actively engaged in the ICC's illegitimate and baseless actions targeting America or our close ally, Israel

GUATEMALA'S FUEGO VOLCANO ERUPTS

An ongoing eruption at central Guatemala's Fuego volcano has caused over 700 people living in nearby communities to evacuate. The volcano, located some 18 km (11 miles) from the city of Antigua Guatemala, was producing ash plumes some 4.8 km (29.8 miles) high and lava stream that was accumulating around its crater



US issues new round of Iran-related sanctions

Washington, June 6: The US has issued a new round of Iran-related sanctions targeting 10 individuals and 27 entities including at least two companies it said were linked to Iran's national tanker company, the US Treasury Department said Friday.

The sanctions, which target Iranian nationals and some entities in the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, were announced as US President Donald Trump's administration is working to get a new nuclear deal with Tehran.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control added Ace Petroleum FZE, and Moderate General Trading LLC, both registered in the UAE, to its Specially Designated Nationals List, freezing any of their US assets. OFAC said they are both linked to the state-owned National Iranian Tanker Company which is under US sanctions for exporting oil.

Talks between Iran and the US that aim to resolve a decades-long dispute over Tehran's nuclear ambitions have been stuck over disagreements about uranium enrichment.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Taiwan accuses China of carrying out 'provocative' military patrol near island



REUTERS

Taipei, June 6: Taiwan accused China Friday of raising tensions in the region with a "provocative" military patrol involving warplanes and warships near the island, an unusual public rebuke in what are typically routine accounts of Chinese military activity.

Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has complained of repeated Chinese military drills and patrols nearby. Since President Lai Ching-te took office last year China has held three major rounds of war games.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting mid-afternoon Friday, it had detected 21 Chinese military aircraft, including J-16 fighters, operating with warships to carry out "so-called joint combat readiness patrols" and "harass the airspace and seas around us".

"The Ministry of National Defence stresses that these acts are highly provocative, fail to pay proper attention to the maritime rights of other countries, bring anxiety and threat to the region, and blatantly undermine the status quo in the region," it said.

China's rare earth weapon changes contours of trade war battlefield

REUTERS

Beijing, June 6: China has signalled for more than 15 years that it was looking to weaponise areas of the global supply chain, a strategy modelled on longstanding American export controls Beijing views as aimed at stalling its rise.

The scramble in recent weeks to secure export licences for rare earths, capped by Thursday's telephone call between US and Chinese leaders Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, shows China has devised a better, more precisely targeted weapon for trade war.

Industry executives and

analysts say while China is showing signs of approving more exports of the key elements, it will not dismantle its new system.

Modelled on the United States' own, Beijing's export licence system gives it unprecedented insight into supplier chokepoints in areas ranging from motors for electric vehicles to flight-control systems for guided missiles.

"China originally took inspiration for these export control methods from the comprehensive US sanctions regime," said Zhu Junwei, a scholar at the Grandview Institution, a Beijing-based think tank focused



on international relations.

"China has been trying to build its own export control systems since then, to be used as a last resort."

After Thursday's call, Trump said both leaders had been "straightening out some of the points, having to do mostly with rare earth magnets and some other things".

- China's expanding sanctions regime modelled on the US
- Export licence system key for global supply chain surveillance
- Impossible to know what share of requests get approved

He did not say whether China committed to speeding up licences for exports of rare earth magnets, after Washington curbed exports of chip design software and jet engines to Beijing in response to its perceived slow-rolling on licences.

China holds a near-monopoly on rare earth magnets, a crucial component in EV motors.

FROM BROS TO FOES

Trump-Musk tie implodes

After long months when Donald Trump and Elon Musk appeared united in their chaotic mission to remake Washington, their relationship imploded this week like a star going supernova



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 6: Maybe it was always going to end this way, with two billionaires angrily posting about each other on social media, fingers flying across pocket-sized screens as their incandescent feud burned hotter by the minute.

But even if the finale was predictable, that didn't make it any less shocking. After long months when Donald Trump and Elon Musk appeared united in their chaotic mission to remake Washington, their relationship imploded this week like a star going supernova.

It began with Musk complaining about the centerpiece of Trump's legislative agenda, which the president at first took in stride. Eventually Trump let slip that he was disappointed in his former adviser, prompting

It began with Musk complaining about the centerpiece of Trump's legislative agenda, which the president at first took in stride

Eventually Trump let slip that he was disappointed in his former adviser, prompting Musk to unleash a flood of insults and taunts.

Musk to unleash a flood of insults and taunts.

He accused Trump of betraying promises to cut federal spending, shared a suggestion that the president should be impeached and claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about his association with infamous paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Perhaps most vicious-

ly, Musk insisted that Trump wouldn't have won last year's election without his help.

Trump, not one to slouch from a fight, could hold back no longer. He posted that Musk had been "wearing thin," that he had "asked him to leave" his administration, that the tech titan had "gone CRAZY."

On and on it went, as liberals savoured the spectacle of their most despised political opponents clawing at each other's digital throats and conservatives reeled at the prospect of having to pick sides. Laura Loomer, a right-wing provocateur and conspiracy theorist, saw an opportunity to position herself as the voice of reason.

"This fight should be taken offline," she said — on social media, of course.

TRUMP VS HARVARD

Court halts ban on int'l students

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 6: A federal judge late Thursday temporarily blocked a proclamation by President Donald Trump that banned foreign students from entering the US to attend Harvard University.

Trump's proclamation, issued Wednesday, was the latest attempt by his administration to prevent the nation's oldest and wealthiest college from enrolling a quarter of its students, who accounts for much of Harvard's research and scholarship.

Harvard filed a legal chal-

lenge the next day, asking for a judge to block Trump's order and calling it illegal retaliation for Harvard's rejection of White House demands. Harvard said the president was attempting an end-run around a previous court order.

A few hours later, US District Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston issued a temporary restraining order against Trump's Wednesday proclamation. Harvard, she said, had demonstrated it would sustain "immediate and irreparable injury" before she would have an opportunity to hear from the parties in the lawsuit.



Britain's King Charles III reacts after firing an artillery piece during his visit to the Royal Regiment of Artillery at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Salisbury, England, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Gaza marks start of Eid with outdoor prayers in rubble

With much of Gaza in rubble, men and children were forced to hold the traditional Eid al-Adha prayers in the open air and with food supplies dwindling, families were having to make do with what they could scrape together for the three-day feast

men and children were forced to hold the traditional Eid al-Adha prayers in the open air and with food supplies dwindling, families were having to make do with what they could scrape together for the three-day feast.

"This is the worst feast that the Palestinian people have experienced because of the unjust war against the Palestinian people," said Kamel Emran after attending prayers in the southern city of Khan Younis. "There is no food, no flour, no shelter, no mosques, no homes, no mattresses ... The conditions are very, very harsh."

The Islamic holiday begins on the 10th day of the Islamic lunar month of Dhul-Hijja, during the Hajj season in Saudi Arabia. For the second year, Muslims in Gaza were not able to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the traditional pilgrimage.



Israel issues new warning

In the southern city of Rafah, seven people were shot and killed on their way to try and collect humanitarian aid from a distribution point, according to officials at Nasser Hospital in nearby Khan Younis where the bodies were brought.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the hospital's claim but said it was looking into the report.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a newly formed group of mainly American contractors that Israel wants to use to replace humanitarian groups in Gaza that distribute aid in

coordination with the UN, told The Associated Press that reports of violence in Rafah were inaccurate and that aid distribution was completed "peacefully and without incident."

In northern Gaza on Friday, Israel issued a new warning to civilians saying the military was about to undertake intensive operations in an area after it said rockets were fired toward Israel from the sector.

UN warns of risk of famine After blocking all food and aid from entering Gaza for more than two months, Israel began allowing a trickle of supplies to enter for the UN several weeks ago.

But the UN says it has been unable to distribute much of the aid because of Israeli military restrictions on movements and because roads that the military designates for its trucks to use are unsafe and vulnerable

to looters.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome said Thursday that Gaza's people are projected to fall into acute food insecurity by September, with nearly 500,000 people experiencing extreme food deprivation, leading to malnutrition and starvation.

"This means the risk of famine is really touching the whole of the Gaza Strip," Rein Paulson, director of the FAO office of emergencies and resilience, said in an interview.

Over the past two weeks, shootings have erupted nearly daily in the Gaza Strip in the vicinity of new hubs where desperate Palestinians are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed according to Gaza hospital officials.

of the day quote

Russia's competent authorities have received information that British intelligence services use the British Council in clandestine operations aimed at eroding the sovereignty of independent countries and it engages in secret subversive activities

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, RUSSIA

Chad has no planes to offer, no billions of dollars to give but Chad has his dignity and pride

MAHAMAT IDRIS DEBY | PRESIDENT, CHAD

Grateful for today's exchange with the Indian All-Party Parliamentary Delegation. Germany and India share a trusted partnership, especially on global security. We also discussed the brutal 22 April terrorist attack in Pahalagam. I'm deeply shocked. Germany stands with India in the fight against terrorism

ARMIN LASCHET | MEMBER OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG

SHORT TAKES

Red Cross confirms office closures in Niger

Dakar (Senegal): The International Committee of the Red Cross announced the closure of its offices in Niger and the departure of its foreign staff, four months after the ruling junta ordered the organisation to leave the country. The ICRC confirmed the closure and departure in a statement Thursday. "We reiterate our willingness to maintain constructive dialogue with the authorities of Niger with a view to resuming our strictly humanitarian protection and assistance activities," Patrick Yousef, the ICRC's regional director for Africa, said.

HK activist Joshua faces 2nd charge

Hong Kong: Hong Kong authorities once again arrested prominent activist Joshua Wong Friday and charged him with conspiracy to collude with a foreign country under a Beijing-imposed national security law. Wong, 28, was originally set to be released in January 2027 from a 56-month jail sentence he is serving under the same law for conspiracy to commit subversion after he participated in an unofficial primary election.

Ivory Coast announces cholera outbreak

Abidjan (Ivory Coast): Ivory Coast announced a cholera outbreak Thursday, confirming seven deaths from the disease. Daniel Kouadio Ekra, head of the National Institute of Public Hygiene, confirmed the epidemic, saying stool sample analyses conducted by the Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire, detected "cholera vibrio." "May 25, 2025, the Port-Bouët-Vridi health district reported five deaths in the village of Vridi Akobrate," he said. So far, 45 cases have been recorded in Vridi Akobrate, in the outskirts of Abidjan, the capital, including the seven fatalities.

Russia downed three drones targeting Moscow

Moscow: Russian air defence forces shot down three drones attempting to attack Moscow, Sergei Sobyanin, the Russian capital's mayor, said Friday. He did not provide further details about the incident but said emergency services were working at the sites where debris from the downed drones had fallen.



The Union budget has allocated ₹1,500 crore for recycling of critical minerals under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)
DINESH MAHUR | JOINT SECRETARY, MINES MINISTRY

RITES, HCL TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN
 RITES Ltd Friday said it has signed an agreement with Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) to develop the supply chain for metals and minerals, including critical minerals. The partnership will focus on exploration, extraction, refining, and production activities in India and abroad including participation in mineral block auctions and the development of mining infrastructure



of the day **QUOTE**

Fraud-hit IndusInd Bank is doing well now, the resignation of MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia should be seen as a good enough step from an accountability perspective
SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

Our partnership is not just about products, it's about co-creating solutions that empower India's energy independence. Whether it is solar, storage, or hydrogen, we believe our combined strengths can build a cleaner, more sustainable tomorrow
FARUK PATEL | CMD, KP GROUP

NSE Sustainability's mission is to provide stakeholders, including investors, businesses, regulators and the public with accurate, comprehensive and unbiased evaluations of corporate sustainability practices
ASHISHKUMAR CHAUHAN | MD, NSE

RBI's rate cut boosts benchmark indices

Stock market responded optimistically to the RBI's aggressive growth push policy. The rate cut and liquidity boost is expected to facilitate swift transmission of lower rates, and reinforcing RBI's strong commitment towards economic growth

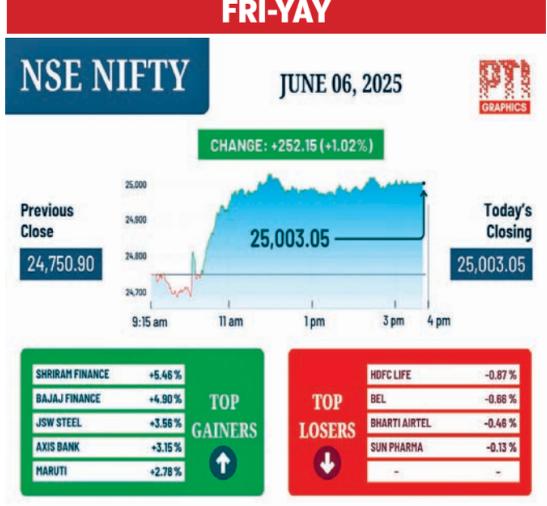
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 82,188.99.

With the repo rate announcement, Nifty Bank index hit its all-time high Friday, rising 1.47 per cent, after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to cut cash reserve ratio (CRR) by a huge 1 per cent, unlocking ₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity to the banking system for lending to productive sectors of the economy.

With the reduction in four equal tranches ending November 29, 2025, the CRR would come down to 3 per cent. This means that the commercial banks would have to maintain a lower level of 3 per cent in liquid cash form with the RBI, allowing them to have higher funds for lending.

Among bank counters, Axis Bank advanced 3.15 per cent, IndusInd Bank rose 2.50 per cent, Bank of Baroda (1.65 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.61 per cent), HDFC Bank (1.42 per cent), State Bank of India (0.84 per cent), Federal Bank (0.39 per cent) and ICICI Bank



(0.16 per cent). The stocks of IDFC First Bank jumped 7.04 per cent, AU Small Finance Bank surged 3.94 per cent, and BSE bank index jumped 1.25 per cent to 63,556.36.

Interest-rate-sensitive stocks were in huge demand Friday, with the realty index climbing nearly 5 per cent as investors cheered the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50

basis points.

Among realty stocks, Godrej Properties surged 6.75 per cent, DLF jumped 6.61 per cent, Oberoi Realty climbed 6.41 per cent, Prestige Estates Projects rallied 5.03 per cent, Sobha (4.72 per cent), Macrotech Developers (3.68 per cent), Signature Global (India) Ltd (3.02 per cent), The Phoenix Mills (2.31 per cent), Anant Raj (1.20 per

India's forex reserves fall to \$691.5 billion

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 6: India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$691.5 billion as of May 30, the governor of the country's central bank said Friday, down \$1.2 billion from the previous week and coming off near-eight month highs.

The country's FX reserves are now about \$13.4 billion below their all-time high hit in September 2024. "These (reserves) are sufficient to fund more than 11 months of goods imports and about 96% of external debt outstanding," Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in a statement while announcing the monetary policy decision.

Changes in foreign currency assets, expressed in dollar terms, include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of other currencies held in the reserves.

For the week ended May 30, the rupee notched a weekly drop amid uncertainty around U.S. tariffs. The currency had risen to a six-month high in May but shed its gains through the month.

The rupee was little changed at 85.8050 per U.S. dollar on Friday, after the RBI cut its key repo rate by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points, a third consecutive reduction, and slashed the reserve ratio for banks.

SEBI freezes Mehul Choksi's bank account to recover dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has ordered the attachment of bank accounts and shares and mutual fund holdings of Mehul Choksi to recover dues ₹2.1 crores in a case of violation of insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems.

The latest move followed a demand notice issued to Choksi May 15, warning attachment of assets as well as bank accounts if he failed to make the payment within 15 days.

The demand notice came after Choksi failed to pay the fine imposed by SEBI in January 2022 in a case of violation of insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems Ltd.

Choksi, who was the chairman, managing director and a part of promoter group of Gitanjali Gems, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi. Both are facing charges of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) of more than ₹14,000 crores. Both Choksi and Modi fled India after the PNB scam came to light in early 2018.

In April, Choksi was arrested in Belgium following an extradition request by Indian probe agencies. He was located in Belgium last year

when he went there for getting medical treatment. He had been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India.

Nirav Modi was arrested by the Scotland Yard Police in March 2019 and is currently in jail in that country. In an attachment notice dated June 4, the regulator said the pending dues of ₹2.1 crore include the initial fine of ₹1.5 crore and interest of ₹60 lakh.

To recover the dues, SEBI asked Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) and National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and mutual funds not to allow any debit from the accounts of Choksi. Further, SEBI told banks to attach all accounts, including lockers, held by the defaulter.

In its order passed in January 2022, the regulator imposed a penalty of ₹1.5 crore on Choksi and restrained him from the securities market for one year.

It was noted that fraudulent LoUs were issued on behalf of entities belonging to the Gitanjali Group, including GGL. "Noticee no. 1 (Choksi) was found to have communicated UPSI (unpublished price sensitive information) to Noticee no. 2 (Gajera) without any underlying legal obligation," SEBI had said in its final order.

Starlink gets DoT nod to start satcom service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence from the telecom department for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country.

Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications to provide satellite internet services in the country whereas Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals.

DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence, and said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it. Starlink will now have to comply with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services.

The licence came hours after a huge public spat between Musk and US President Donald Trump. The companies that have received the licence would, however, have to wait a tad longer for commercial satcom spectrum as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) just recently sent its recommenda-



tions on pricing, and terms and conditions, to the government for its consideration.

The players will be able to start their services after the allocation of radio wave frequencies. Typically, even before the commercial spectrum, the trial spectrum is required to test, and verify the systems and processes on security parameters to demonstrate that all norms and requirements, are being complied with.

However, status of the Starlink's final nod from the Indian space regulator, In-SPACE could not be immediately ascertained. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology and is aptly described

by some as broadband beamed from the skies.

Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low Earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above Earth).

This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its mesh delivers broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, and video calls. Starlink, which had been vying for an India licence for some time now, recently signed pacts with Ambani's Reliance Jio and Mittal's Bharti Airtel, which together control more than 70 per cent of the country's telecom market, to bring the US satellite internet giant's services to India.

RBI policy growth-oriented & borrower-centric: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Reserve Bank monetary policy action to cut repo rate by large 50 basis points is among the most growth-oriented and borrower-centric interventions seen in recent years, and will reduce repayment burden on individuals as well as corporate, experts said.

Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points on Friday, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

Bandhan Bank Chief Economist Siddhartha Sanyal said the monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting sprang several major surprises, including 50 bps against expectation of a 25 bps rate cut.

Bank of Baroda Chief Econo-

mist Madan Sabnavis said the RBI has surprised with a 50 bps cut in repo rate and cut in CRR. However, significantly it has been stated that the stance is changed to neutral, which also means that we may not expect rate cuts in the near future.

Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman of BLS E Services, said the reduction in repo rate will bring relief to borrowers with lower EMIs, marking a cumulative 100 bps reduction since February.

Anantharam V Varayur, Co-Founder, Manasum Homes Senior Living, said, "With lower EMIs, families can now consider senior living options that offer a community, medical access, and dignity in aging."

Varayur added that it is crucial to note that the benefits of this rate cut will vary across loan types, with borrowers linked to the External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) likely to see the most immedi-



ate impact.

Capital Small Finance Bank MD & CEO Sarvjit Singh Samra said the significant 50-bps repo rate cut to 5.50 per cent, coupled with a substantial yet staggered 100-bps CRR reduction, is a well-calibrated decision that will infuse ₹2.5 lakh crore into the system.

"With a 100-bps repo rate cut in 2025 so far, this marks the sharpest easing cycle since the

pandemic, aimed at proactively anchoring growth," Samra said.

Manappuram Finance Managing Director & CEO V P Nandakumar said the RBI's June 2025 monetary policy is among the most growth-oriented and borrower-centric interventions seen in recent years.

The 50 basis points repo rate cut, combined with a 100 bps CRR reduction, signals the central bank's clear intent to stim-

A highly encouraging development for both existing and prospective homebuyers. This rate cut is poised to create a significant improvement in affordability, especially for first-time purchase. With the MPC shifting to a neutral stance and a phased CRR cut, liquidity and credit growth may see a boost

SHIKHAR AGGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, BLS E SERVICES

ulate credit flow and catalyse economic activity.

Sachin Sachdeva, Vice President, Sector Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA, said with 100 bps cut in CRR to be implemented in phases starting September 2025, banks will see a benefit of 3-4 bps on the interest margins for FY26.

Ashok Kapur, Chairman, Krishna Group and Krisumi Corporation, said a reduced

repo rate translates to lower borrowing costs, while the CRR cut will enhance liquidity in the banking system.

"Together, these steps will encourage homebuyers to make property investment decisions. Moving forward, this move will have a ripple effect on demand in the coming months across different segments of homes, ultimately contributing to sustained growth and increased confidence in the real estate market," Kapur said.

Commenting on the monetary policy, Head of Fixed Income at Union Asset Management Company Parijat Agrawal said "The downward revision of the inflation forecast is expected to provide reassurance. We expect growth to be supported with the ongoing rate transmission. Any additional rate cuts from here on appear unlikely in the near term and would be data dependent."

FINAL GAME OF ONE-UPMANSHIP AT NORWAY CHESS

Gukesh inches closer to title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger (Norway), June 6: Reigning world champion D Gukesh crossed another hurdle, beating China's Wei Yi in the ninth and penultimate round to earn three full points and emerge as a top contender, along with Norwegian star Magnus Carlsen, for the prestigious Norway Chess title here.

With one round to go, Gukesh is placed second on 14.5 points, while five-time world champion Carlsen - who fought back from a losing position to defeat American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana and earn full points - is just half-a-point ahead in the six-player double round-robin tournament Thursday.

Gukesh will take on American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, while Carlsen will play Arjun Erigaisi in the deciding 10th round, with both hoping to prove a point in one-upmanship by claiming the title and a USD 69,000 prize purse.

If defending champion Carlsen wins, it will be his seventh Norway Chess title dating back to 2016, while Gukesh would be hoping for his maiden triumph in two outings here.

Another American GM, Hikaru Nakamura on 13 points, has an outside chance, provided the other results go in his favour.

Nakamura left Arjun Erigaisi high and dry, crushing the Indian's challenge in the Armageddon tie-break after steering the game toward a draw, though both had more than 40 minutes on the clock.

Gukesh looked more assured and refreshed after the second



Gukesh will take on American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, while Carlsen will play Arjun Erigaisi in the deciding 10th round, with both hoping to prove a point in one-upmanship by claiming the title and a USD 69,000 prize purse

rest day on Wednesday and forced his Chinese opponent to resign on the 40th move.

A missed Bishop f7 by Wei Yi saw Gukesh, who played with white, pounce on the opportunity and gain the decisive edge.

"I just thought it was quite a pleasant position to play. And then he (Wei Yi) missed this Bishop h7, which was kind of cute," said Gukesh after his

third Classical win in the tournament, with the two previous ones coming against world No 1 Carlsen and country-mate Erigaisi on successive days after the first rest day.

"Right now, I'm happy with the game that I played today. Tomorrow (Friday), hopefully, another good game I can play. And whatever the result will be, we'll see later. But yeah, just

focusing on playing the game," Gukesh told the tournament broadcaster.

The 19-year-old world champion will have a tough job on hand when he takes on Caruana in the final round, given that the American had been leading the points table before Carlsen came back from an unfavourable position to turn the tables on the 2018 Norway

Chess champion.

Carlsen beats Caruana

Carlsen, playing white, took advantage of blunder on the 48th move to defeat Caruana after the American had things going his way for a major part of the game. Carlsen was surprised how Fabiano gave away the initiative.

The five-time world champion said that the win had given him a morale-booster ahead of the last game against Erigaisi.

Humpy blows away a great opportunity

In the women's section, two-time world rapid champion Koneru Humpy, playing with black pieces, blew away a superb opportunity to virtually seal the title, losing to Lei Tingjie of China.

Humpy, the overnight leader, is now second with 13.5 points, while 35-year-old Ukrainian GM Anna Muzychuk has taken a two-point lead over the Indian after decimating Chinese world champion Ju Wenjun (12.5).

Humpy will take on Ju in the final round with an eye on three points, and will also hope for Muzychuk to lose to R Vaishali.

Thursday's Results (Round 9):

Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA - 13 points) bt Arjun Erigaisi (Ind - 11.5) in Armageddon tie-break; D Gukesh (Ind - 14.5) bt Wei Yi (Chn - 8); Magnus Carlsen (Nor - 15) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA - 12.5).

Women: R Vaishali (Ind - 9.5) lost to Sara Khadem (Esp - 9); Ju Wenjun (Chn - 12.5) lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr - 15.5); Lei Tingjie (Chn - 13) bt Koneru Humpy (Ind - 13.5).

SECOND UNOFFICIAL TEST DAY 1

India A reach 213/3 at tea



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Northampton, June 6: Opener KL Rahul lead the charge with a fluent 93 not out while Dhruv Jurel hit an unbeaten 37 not out as India A reached 213 for three at tea on the opening day of their second unofficial Tests against England Lions, here Friday.

In a prolonged second session to make up for the lost time and overs in the opening one, Indian batters made merry on a sporting track with none of the Lions bowlers barring Chris Woakes (3/30) being able to make any inroads.

India lost only one wicket in the second session in the form of Karun Nair (40), who was trapped leg-before by Woakes.

Rahul made a watchful 93 off 143 deliveries as he hit 12 fours and a six, putting on a sturdy 89-run stand for the third wicket with Nair after India were rocked early.

But after Nair's dismissal and particularly after crossing his fifty, Rahul took the aggressive route to move close to a triple-figure mark while putting on an unbeaten 87 runs for the fourth wicket.

England all-rounder Woakes,

playing in this contest to get some game-time and prove his fitness after he was named the Test side for the opening match of the five-Test series against India, seemed to be hitting his strides. Woakes continued to move the ball around dangerously and challenged the defences well to snaffle each of the three wickets fallen since the play began here at the County ground.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (17) and Abhimanyu Easwaran (11) fell in the first session.

Nair, who hit four boundaries to make 40 off 71 balls, looked set for a big total but fell during a passage of play in which Woakes and George Hill troubled the No 4 batter.

Woakes beat the bat a few times before finding an edge off Nair's bat which flew past gully for four outside off in the 34th over. On the next delivery, he angled one into the batter who failed to get his bat down on time.

Another England hopeful Josh Tongue, however, struggled for rhythm as he gave away 61 runs from 14 overs.

Brief scores: India A 213/3 in 52 overs (KL Rahul 93*, Karun Nair 40, Dhruv Jurel 37*; Chris Woakes 3/30) vs England Lions.

SHORT TAKES

French Open: Carlos Alcaraz reaches final

Paris: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz reached the French Open final Friday after Lorenzo Musetti retired from their semifinal early in the fourth set. Alcaraz was leading 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-0, 2-0 when the eighth-seeded Italian had to stop playing on Court Philippe-Chatrier. "It's not great to win a match like this. Lorenzo is a great player," Alcaraz said. "I wish him all the best, and wish him a quick recovery and hope to see him soon on the court." The 22-year-old Alcaraz, who is seeded second, goes for his second French Open title and fifth major overall against either top-ranked Jannik Sinner of Italy or 24-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final.

European T20 Premier League postponed

Dublin: The European T20 Premier League (ETPL), co-owned by Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan, has been shelved until 2026. The ICC-sanctioned new annual T20 franchise tournament was initially slated to take place from July 15 to August 3. Sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) November 27, last year, the six-team tournament represents a landmark collaboration among the cricket boards of Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands, a united effort to grow the game and elevate European cricket on the world stage.

Lovlina launches boxing academy in Guwahati

Guwahati: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has unveiled her boxing academy in Barchandra in north Guwahati and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a grant of Rs 2 crore for its development. Set up on land purchased by Borgohain in 2021, the Lovlina Borgohain Boxing Academy, inaugurated on Wednesday, aims to provide grassroots boxers with professional infrastructure, including a 26x26 boxing ring and a fully equipped gym. The centre is Guwahati's first of its kind and will cater to youth from across Assam and the northeast.

KLM Open: Ahlawat, Sharma struggle

Amsterdam: Indian golfers Veer Ahlawat and Shubhankar Sharma opened their campaign at the KLM Open with disappointing rounds of seven-over 78 each and looked in danger of missing the cut here. The Indian pair has struggled since the Hero Indian Open in March this year.

INDONESIA OPEN

Satwik-Chirag bow out at QF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 6: India's top men's doubles pair Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament after losing to Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun in the quarterfinals here Friday.

The former world No 1 Indian duo, who won the title in 2023, went down 19-21, 16-21 in a 43-minute contest against the flat-hitting Malaysian pair, who notched up their first win over the Indians in five meetings.

Satwik-Chirag's loss ended the Indian challenge in the competition.

The Indians looked rusty as they struggled with their serve and return against Man and Tee, who won the Malaysia Masters last month and Indonesia Masters in January.

The Indians also lacked the discipline in defence and anticipation and were often put in uncomfortable positions and rushed errors throughout the match by the Malaysians.

Satwik sent a couple into the net, allowing the Malaysians to edge ahead 9-7. They went into the mid-game interval leading 11-9.

Satwik-Chirag levelled at 11-all with aggressive flat exchanges, but Man and Tee



The former world No 1 Indian duo, who won the title in 2023, went down 19-21, 16-21 in a 43-min contest against the flat-hitting Malaysian pair

restored a 15-12 cushion. The Indians clawed back to 17-17 after the Malaysians hit the net twice, but couldn't capitalise.

A quick return from Tee took the score to 19-17 before Chirag pounced on a loose net shot. However, Satwik faltered at the net again to hand the Malaysians game point, which they converted.

Switching sides, the Indians looked unsettled and trailed 3-7 early in the second game. The Malaysians used the flat trajec-

tory and drift to their advantage, and a sharp smash from Tee widened the gap to 15-9.

Despite being 13-17 down, the Indians showed late resistance. A run of attacking points brought them back to 16-18, including a couple of high-quality flat smashes.

But Man's brilliance at the net and Tee's curling floater at 20-16 sealed four match points and they sealed the contest without further delay to enter the semifinals.

Khelif skips Eindhoven after mandatory sex test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eindhoven, June 6: Olympic champion Imane Khelif is skipping the Eindhoven Box Cup in the Netherlands less than a week after World Boxing announced mandatory sex testing for all athletes.

The Algerian boxer, who won gold at the Paris Games last summer amid scrutiny over her eligibility, did not register in time for the event before applications closed Thursday.

"The decision of Imane's exclusion is not ours. We regret it," tournament media director Dirk Renders told The Associated Press.

The 26-year-old Khelif had intended to return to international competition at the Eindhoven tournament this weekend before World Boxing announced its new sex testing policy last Friday. The governing body specifically mentioned Khelif, saying she'd have to be screened to be approved to fight at any upcoming events, including the Eindhoven Box Cup.

Eindhoven mayor Jeroen Dijsselbloem criticised World Boxing's decision.

"As far as we are concerned, all athletes are welcome in Eindhoven. Excluding athletes based on controversial gender tests' certainly does not fit in with that," Dijsselbloem wrote



in a letter addressed to the Dutch Boxing Federation and International Boxing Federation. "We are expressing our disapproval of this decision today and are calling on the organisation to admit Imane Khelif after all."

Khelif won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics last summer amid international scrutiny on her and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, another gold medal winner. The previous governing body for Olympic boxing, the Russian-dominated International Boxing Association, had disqualified both fighters from its 2023 world championships after claiming they failed unspecified eligibility tests.

Indian compound archers fail at World Cup Stage 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya (Turkey), June 6: Indian compound archers disappointed at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 as none of them managed to reach the medal rounds in the individual category, here Friday.

India, who finished second behind South Korea with two gold, one silver, and four bronze medals at the previous stage in Shanghai, are yet to open their medal account here.

Madhura Dhamangaonkar, the fourth seed and winner of the last World Cup, was ousted in the quarterfinals by fifth-seeded Mariana Bernal of Mexico. Madhura lost 152-159 in the women's individual section.

Mariana was consistent throughout, while Madhura struggled to find her rhythm after an opening round of 29 out of a possible 33.

World champion Aditi Swami also exited in the last-eight stage, going down 147-152 to Mexico's second-seeded Andrea Becerra.

In the men's section, 13th seed Rishabh Yadav lost to 28th seed Nicolas Girard of France 149-157 in the quarterfinals.

Yadav had earlier edged out senior teammate Abhishek Verma 157-154 in the pre-quarterfinals.

World champion Ojas Deotale exited a shock first-round exit, going down 157-161 to USA's James Lutz.

World champion Aditi Swami also exited in the last-eight stage, going down 147-152 to Mexico's second-seeded Andrea Becerra

The Indian compound archers appeared to be struggling with the new scoring rule implemented at this stage.

Starting with the Antalya leg, the 'X' ring - the innermost circle - now counts as 11 points, pushing the perfect score per round (three arrows) from 30 to 33. Earlier on Thursday, India had also crashed out from the team events in both the recurve and compound sections.

They will now look to salvage their campaign through the mixed team event, which gets underway later in the day.

Hopes will also rest on the recurve individual events.

PIYUSH CHAWLA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

'CLOSING THIS CHAPTER WITH GRATITUDE'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Veteran leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was part of India's two World Cup-winning campaigns, Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after a career spanning more than two decades to undertake a "new journey" that he did not specify.

The 36-year-old made the announcement via an Instagram post.

"After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game," Chawla wrote.

"Though I step away from the crease, cricket will always live within me. I now look forward to embarking on a new journey, carrying with me the spirit and lessons of this beautiful game," he said.

Chawla was a member of India's T20 and ODI World Cup-winning squads in 2007 and 2011 respectively. He represented India in three Tests, 25 ODIs, and seven T20Is, taking 43 wickets across the three formats of the game.

"From representing India at the highest level to being part of the victorious 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup squads, every moment in this incredible journey has been nothing short of a blessing. These memories will forever remain etched in my heart," Chawla said in the post.

He thanked his coaches, teams and IPL franchises for playing a part in shaping his career, and described his time in the popular T20 league as "a

Over 1000 wickets across formats in domestic cricket, Chawla made his debut at 15 and also represented India Under-19 and Uttar Pradesh Under-22 sides. He burst onto the scene when he bowled Sachin Tendulkar with a googly in the Chalk Series 2005-06, and made his first-class debut at 17



special chapter in my career." "A heartfelt thank you to the IPL franchises who placed their trust in me - Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, and Mumbai Indians."

"The Indian Premier League has been a truly special chap-

ter in my career, and I have cherished every moment playing in it. I owe my deepest gratitude to my coaches - Shri KK Gautam and Late Shri Pankaj Sarawat-for nurturing and shaping me into the cricketer I became," he said.

"Today is a deeply emotional day for me as I officially announce my retirement from all forms of international and domestic cricket," he added.

The leg-spinner was a part of KKR's 2014 IPL-winning team and hit the winning runs for the Gautam Gambhir-led side in the summit clash against the Punjab Kings in Bengaluru.

"A special mention to my late father, whose belief in me lit the path I walked. Without him, this journey would never have been possible," he stated.