



Sharvari's fascination

Munhya actor Sharvari Wag says she has always been spellbound by mythology and folklore

LEISURE | P2



Kharkiv under attack

A large Russian drone-and-missile attack targets Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv Saturday, killing at least three people

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Tweaks in GST payment

GST Network says the monthly GST payment form GSTR-3B will become non-editable from the July 2025 tax period

BUSINESS | P11



Gukesh loses

World champion D Gukesh commits a costly blunder against American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana in the final round to finish third

SPORTS | P12

Eliminate 'dark patterns'

In a big relief for consumers suffering loss due to deceptive product and service advertisements on various e-commerce platforms, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued an advisory, urging these platforms to conduct self-audits within three months to identify and eliminate these manipulative practices, or 'dark patterns'. The guidelines outline 13 specific dark patterns, including false urgency, basket sneaking, and subscription traps, which mislead consumers and cause financial loss. The apex consumer protection watchdog has warned that non-compliance with these guidelines can result in penalties under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, including potential fines and imprisonment. The move is likely to help build consumer trust and create a fairer digital marketplace.



WHAT ARE DARK PATTERNS

Dark or deceptive patterns are techniques used by online platforms to manipulate users into making purchases or decisions not best in their interest. These might include telling a user that a single piece of an item is left, thereby creating urgency, or adding an additional item in purchase without explicitly taking consent.

practices. The CCPA said these declarations would help build consumer trust and create a fairer digital marketplace. The authority has already issued notices to some e-commerce platforms found violating guidelines for preventing dark patterns, though, it did not name specific companies. Dark patterns include practices like false urgency alerts, hidden costs added at checkout, subscription traps, and disguised advertisements that manipulate consumer decision-making. The government established a Joint Working Group, comprising representatives from ministries, regulators, consumer organisations and national law universities (NLUs), to monitor violations and suggest awareness programmes. The government notified guidelines for preventing dark patterns in 2023, identifying 13 specific practices, including basket sneaking, confirm shaming, forced actions, interface interference, bait and switch tactics, drip pricing, and subscription billing traps. The directive is part of the government's broader strategy to strengthen consumer protection in the digital economy as online commerce continues to expand rapidly across the country.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 7: Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed e-commerce platforms to conduct self-audits within three months to identify and

eliminate 'dark patterns', deceptive design practices that mislead consumers into unintended actions. The Consumer Affairs Ministry Saturday said all e-commerce platforms must examine their interfaces for

practices that undermine consumer choice or constitute unfair trade practices. "All e-commerce platforms have been advised to conduct self-audits to identify dark patterns, within 3 months of the issue of the advisory, and take neces-

sary steps to ensure that their platforms are free from such dark patterns," the ministry said in a statement. Based on their audit findings, platforms are encouraged to provide self-declarations confirming their sites are free from deceptive

Extreme poverty down to 5.3% in '22-23: World Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 7: India's extreme poverty rate declined sharply to 5.3 per cent over a decade from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to USD 3 per day. Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of USD 3 would constitute a 15 per cent higher threshold than USD 2.15 expressed in 2021 prices and result in a 5.3 per cent poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said in a report. As against 34 crore people below poverty line (USD 3/per day) in 2011-12, the numbers have come down to 7.5 crore in 2022-23 in absolute numbers.



DEVOTION: Women offer prayers at Aali Masjid on the occasion of 'Eid-ul-Azha' in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Top UN honour for IMD DG Mohapatra

AGENCIES
New Delhi, June 7: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has conferred the prestigious Sasakawa Award on Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the Director General (DG) of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Mohapatra was



honoured with the award at the eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva. Mohapatra received the award for his exceptional contributions to tropical cyclone forecasting and warning systems. He has been instrumental in improving India's disaster preparedness and significantly reducing casualties from tropical cyclones through advanced forecasting and early warning systems, a UNDRR statement said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



67 was useless till yesterday. Today, it's the most powerful forum in the world. You see, PM has just got an invite

PM to attend BJP govt's 1st anniv function June 20

AGENCIES
Bhubaneswar, June 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha June 20 and attend a mega celebration for the first anniversary of the BJP's maiden government in the state, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said Saturday. The first anniversary of the BJP dispensation in the state falls June 12, but the main function will be held June 20 as the PM will visit the state on that day, the senior minister said. "There have been several changes in the programmes for the completion of the first year of the Mohan Charan Majhi government in Odisha. The government was formed June 12, 2024, and the anniversary falls June 12 this year. However, the main function will be held June 20, keeping in view the PM's schedule," Pujari said. He said that the state government had earlier urged the PM and other dignitaries to attend the function June 12.



Survivors of Franco-era 'fallen women' centres seek apology

Consuelo Garcia del Cid was 16 when the family doctor came into her bedroom in Barcelona, Spain with her mother in 1974, grabbed her left arm and pushed a needle into a vein. She blacked out then woke up in a strange room a day's drive away in Madrid - one of thousands of girls and young women who were accused of a range of perceived moral failings and taken to state-run Catholic rehabilitation institutions during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. On Monday, a Catholic body that includes most of the communities of nuns that helped operate some of the centres, will hold a ceremony to formally ask the women for forgiveness, the first event of its kind in Spain, announced in April but delayed by the death of Pope Francis. A start, but not enough, say campaigners who want a national apology for what they went through in the network



of Patronato de Proteccion a la Mujer (Board for the Protection of Women) institutes - along the lines of Ireland's 2013 apology for the abuses in its Magdalene Laundries. "It's just the tip of the iceberg," said Pilar Dasi, 73, who spent several months at a centre in Valencia in 1971. "The event is good for the Church as it cleans its own image, but the government must also act." She said she was held after her cousin, a police officer, reported her for keeping 'bad company', a reference to left-wing boyfriends. The operation was set up

in 1941 by Franco's Justice Ministry, overseen by the board chaired by his wife Carmen Polo. It was active until 1985, 10 years after Franco's death. Spain's Democratic Memory Ministry - a body set up to tackle the legacy of Spain's civil war and Franco's regime - told Reuters it applauded the decision by the Spanish Confederation of Religious Entities (CONFER) to ask for forgiveness. The ministry said in a statement it hoped to hold its own ceremony later this year that would recognise the women as victims of the Franco regime. "They will be considered victims and will be given a declaration of recognition and reparation," it said, without going into further detail on the timing or substance of any event. Garcia del Cid said her family had called in the doctor in 1974 because they were worried about what they saw as her rebelliousness after she attended a number of demonstrations against the dictatorship. The centre where she went was "a sinister place, with extreme religious indoctrination, and life was reduced to working, scrubbing and praying," said the now 66-year-old who has written five books on the subject. "If you are told all day long that you are crazy, a slut, a lost cause, on the wrong path, there comes a point when you might start to believe it if you don't have a strong inner core." She said she was held until 1976. REUTERS

CM inaugurates medical college, 650-bed hospital in Kandhamal

AGENCIES
Bhubaneswar, June 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday inaugurated a 100-seat government medical college and a 650-bed hospital at Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal. Speaking on the occasion, Majhi said the inauguration of the medical college in Kandhamal district has fulfilled a long-awaited demand of the local people. "This medical college in Kandhamal will also provide quality health service to the people of nearby districts like Nayagarh, Boudh and Kalahandi. This 100-seat medical college will help meet the doctor shortage in the state. This will also act as a powerful engine for local employment, research and economic development," the CM said. He said that the people of this region had to travel to Berhampur or Cuttack to avail better health care. Now, they will get a similar healthcare facility at their place. After graduating from this 100-seat college, the doctors are expected to work in this tribal-dom-



inated district. "Service to humanity is service to God," the CM said and advised the medical students to make this college a leading institution in the field of healthcare. The Chief Minister also said his government has introduced the 'Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' in Odisha, an opportunity denied to the people during the previous government. Over 3.5 crore people of the state will be able to get free healthcare in 29,000 private medical facilities in the country. This apart, the state government's 'Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana' is being implemented as a single health service scheme. More than 80 per cent of people of the state will get benefits from these health

service schemes, Majhi said adding that the state has made a budgetary provision of Rs 23,635 crore for healthcare alone, which is 8.2 per cent of the total budget. This is the highest in the history of the state, he said. The Chief Minister, during his one-day visit to Kandhamal, also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 10 development projects worth about Rs 750 crore. This included the inauguration of five projects worth Rs 655 crore and the foundation stone laying of five other projects worth over Rs 94 crore. Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Kandhamal MP Sukant Kumar Panigrahi and Phulbani MLA Umcharan Mallick accompanied the Chief Minister. MORE P3

Five Balasore cops suspended on disciplinary grounds

AGENCIES
Balasore, June 7: Five police personnel working in Balasore district were placed under suspension on the charge of dereliction of duty and for violation of the service code, officials said. The suspended police personnel include one Havildar and four constables. They were posted at the residential office of the District Collector of Balasore. The action was taken by the Superintendent of Police of Balasore, Raj Prasad, based on an internal inquiry. A senior police officer confirmed the action taken by the authority against the five police personnel. Sources said that the suspended police personnel attended a birthday celebration of their colleague for three days. It is alleged that they also indulged in some illegal activities, the sources said. A DSP-ranked police officer has been entrusted with conducting an inquiry.

leisure



PAMELA: I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FEARLESS

Actress Pamela Anderson says she has never been so at peace and is feeling more fearless than ever at the age of 57. The *Baywatch* icon told *people.com*: "I love being in the fight. I have never been so at peace and is feeling more fearless than ever."

MILEY CYRUS GETS CANDID ABOUT HER PAST DRUG USE

Pop icon Miley Cyrus is getting candid about her past drug use. She shared how she escaped the radar of her accountant when it came to narcotics money. During discussion of her 2015 album, *Miley Cyrus: Her Dead Petz*, she revealed where some of her money went without her accountant's knowledge.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her all over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives, but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day. Try until you taste the sweet fruit of success, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesh. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner. You will be appreciated and may even be seen as a future leader by some of your colleagues.

LEO
Easy come, easy go – that is the best way to sum up money. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesh, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money.

VIRGO
Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
The theatrical you comes to the fore. Ganesh expects you to put up a show in all that you do today, be it a display of devotion to your work, or dedication to your family. You may give the best in the business a run for their money as you prove to be the perfect choice for all tasks assigned to you.

SCORPIO
Signs indicate you may face unexpected expenses today. But this spending is likely to be on family and friends – especially in entertaining them. But keep track of every penny. To be on the safer side, Ganesh advises you not to have any pockets at all today.

SAGITTARIUS
Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesh predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

CAPRICORN
It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You may be sorely disappointed today. With no support from family, and the kids driving you up the wall, you need to keep your cool. Family feuds are highly likely, and neighbours may attempt to interfere. For now, all you need is to remain unruffled, says Ganesh.

PISCES
While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesh.

'Wanted to be my own boss'

Mumbai: Before Ridhi Dogra became one of the most compelling actors in Indian entertainment, she lived a life familiar to many—one of deadlines, timecards, early morning trains, and Monday meetings. But behind the spreadsheets and structured schedules was a woman yearning for creative freedom. Today, Dogra stands as a powerful presence on screen, known for her emotionally grounded performances and unmistakable authenticity, especially in the world of OTT content.

With standout roles in *The Married Woman*, *Asur*, *Badtameez Dil*, *Lakadbagha*, *Kull: The Legacy of the Raisings*, and the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Jawan*, Ridhi has built a career that reflects her evolution not only as an artist but as a woman with a strong sense of self.

In a recent interview, Dogra offered a rare and honest glimpse into her pre-acting life. She recalled her time in the corporate world—what many might call the 'struggle years'—though she herself disagrees with that label. Her transition into acting was not born of dissatisfaction alone but from a deeper desire to break free from conformity—particularly the gendered expectations of the corporate world.

"To be honest, I left the corporate life because I wanted to be my own boss. For me, the real challenge wasn't entering the industry but choosing roles that, if I were still that office-going girl, I would want to watch," Dogra's journey, from corporate cubicles to commanding screen space, is not just about career evolution. It is about reclaiming voice, agency, and the right to be seen on her own terms. AGENCIES



Rubina's fashion mantra

Mumbai: Popular television actress Rubina Dilaik has shared her fashion mantra and said that life is too short to wear boring clothes.

The actress took to Instagram, where she posted a string of images from the sets of *Battleground*. Rubina, who is seen as a mentor for Mumbai Strikers in the show, is seen in a dramatic floor-sweeping black gown with a voluminous cape. The bodice featured a big detailed embellishment bow with shimmering se-

quins and had off-shoulder puffed-up sleeves.

To complete her look, the actress chose to keep her hair open and went for a subtle nude look with pink lips.

For the caption, she wrote "Life is too short to wear boring clothes! So wake up, Dress up and Show up."

Talking about *Battleground*, the show had 16 contestants compete for India's fitness superstar title in a 28-day challenge. Teams face physical trials and get mentorship from fitness icons. One male and female winner emerge through tests of strength and endurance.

Rubina made her acting debut *Chotti Bahu*. She gained recognition by playing Radhika Shastri in the show opposite Avinash Sachdev and reprising the role in the show's sequel. In 2012, she played Simran 'Smiley' Gill in *Saas Bina Sasural*. She was then seen in *Punar Vivah - Ek Nayi Umeed* in 2013.



Esha, Usain team up for collaboration in Greece

Mumbai: Bollywood diva Esha Gupta has joined forces with the fastest man on the planet, Usain Bolt for an exciting collaboration.

hublot Loves Summer launch in Mykonos. Usain gives a shout out to our future sprint star @gout.goutt. Esha reacted to the post with three red heart emojis.

These two coming from completely opposite worlds will be setting Greece ablaze with their unexpected association.

Usain dropped a couple of sneak peeks from his time in Greece, where he was seen vibing on what seemed to be a yacht.

On the other hand, Esha looked as stunning as ever in a white backless dress while posing with the team.

Esha and Usain were seen twinning in white, making for a dynamic duo.

Dropping the photos and videos on IG, the retired Jamaican sprinter wrote, "THE SYMMETRY IS UNDENIABLE - Bolt vibes only in this week, sweet lord I love the place: Bringing you the aura, the plate smashing chaos and the Jamaican coolness from the @



Always fascinated by folklore: Sharvari

Mumbai: As *Munjya* completed a year since its release in Hindi cinema, actress Sharvari celebrated the moment and said that being a Maharashtrian, she has always been fascinated by mythology and folklore.

She said: "Being a Maharashtrian, I've always been fascinated by mythology and folklore. I had heard of *Munjya* growing up, but when this script came to me, the level of detail and imagination just blew my mind."

The actress said that she thoroughly enjoyed shooting for the film.

Sharvari added: "We all had a great rapport on set which made things easy. *Munjya* was India's first CGI actor... There was no

character reference that we could see so we all had an imagination and we were acting/reacting on our own."

Talking about the film, Sharvari said, "I still can't believe it's already been a year since *Munjya* released. Playing Bela was such a creatively fulfilling experience, but what truly took me by surprise was the overwhelming love audiences showed for our dance track 'Taras.'"

Munjya, a horror comedy also stars Abhay Verma, Sathyaraj and Mona Singh. The titular character was entirely created using CGI. It is the third installment in the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe and focuses on the legend of *Munjya*, inspired by Indian folklore and mythology.

PEANUTS



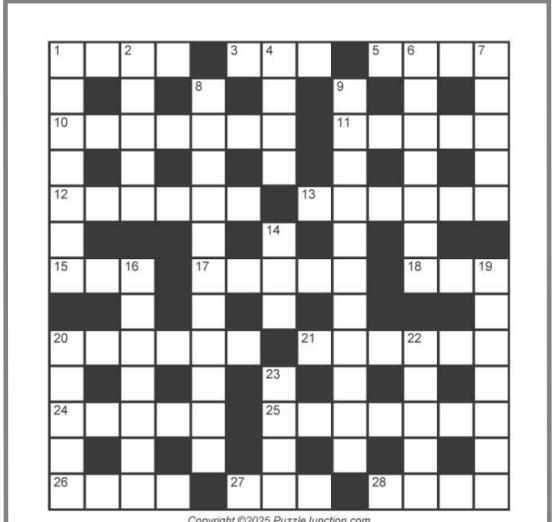
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



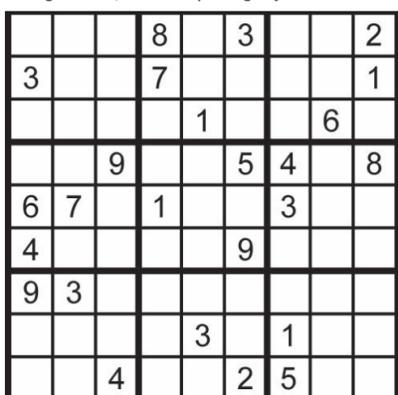
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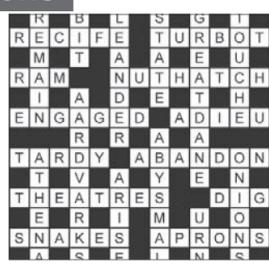
- Across**
- 1 Stephen King's canine horror story
 - 3 Cause of wrinkles
 - 5 Cookbook direction
 - 10 "Arabian Nights" hero (3,4)
 - 11 Bay window
 - 12 Acquire
 - 13 Passion
 - 15 Game official, briefly
 - 17 Big name on the 'net'
 - 18 Room offerer
 - 20 Skimpy
 - 21 Monsoons
 - 24 British biscuit
 - 25 Yegg
 - 26 Hibernia
 - 27 Moray, e.g.
 - 28 Figure skating jump
 - 6 Capital of Libya
 - 7 Sovereign
 - 8 Genealogies (6,5)
 - 9 Some beds (4-7)
 - 14 Chinese brew
 - 16 Taste sensation
 - 19 Breathing apparatus
 - 20 Billiards shot
 - 22 Chill, so to speak
 - 23 Bassoon kin
- Down**
- 1 Hue and cry
 - 2 Roof support
 - 4 Bearded animal

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.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artistes perform during the annual day celebration of Biswanath Sangeetalaya at Kala Vikas Kendra in Cuttack, Saturday



downtown

4 in-stream storage structures on Mahanadi in Subarnapur on cards



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: The state government will construct four in-stream storage structures (ISSs) on Mahanadi river in Subarnapur district, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Saturday.

ment, these structures will help in drinking water supply, fish farming, animal husbandry, increase the groundwater level and balance the environment, he said. Majhi also called for collective efforts to transform Subarnapur into Odisha's number one district.

golden region in the coming days. "You give proposals, and I will extend all support. There will be no obstacles to the district's development. The rivers flowing through the district will be utilised for your benefit," Majhi said.

Labourer falls off building, dies

AGENCIES

Cuttack, June 7: In a tragic incident, a labourer died after falling from the sixth floor of an under-construction building at Sailabala Women's College in the Millennium City here.

Advertisement for 'The Haat' Fashion & Lifestyle Exhibition, 8th Sunday, June 2025, at Hotel Pal Heights, Bhubaneswar.

Govt's ₹750 crore boost for Kandhamal

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 10 development projects worth ₹750 crore in Kandhamal, Saturday.

Graphic announcing a project worth ₹18 crore has been approved and tenders have been invited for the development of tourism in Daringbadi and ₹4.5 crore has been approved for the development of Putudi waterfall.

government medical college and a 650-bed hospital at Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal. "The long-cherished hopes of the people of Kandhamal have been fulfilled, and their dream of accessing better health services has come true," the Chief Minister said while addressing the gathering on the occasion.

Guv for making Odisha self-sufficient in agri



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Saturday called upon policymakers, scientists, and researchers to identify deficit areas in agriculture and work towards making Odisha self-sufficient.

employment generation." He outlined significant opportunities for Odisha in agro-processing, value addition, cold chains, warehousing, and export-driven farming especially in high-potential crops and commodities like turmeric, millets, mangoes, marine fish, and vegetables.

GOLANTHARA SHAME BJD for stringent action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has demanded stringent action in the heinous abduction and gangrape of two minor girls under Golanthara police limits in Ganjam district, official sources said Saturday.



the Golanthara police station," the memorandum said and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits. According to reports, the two victims, aged between 11 and 15, were abducted June 3. The perpetrators, at least one of whom was known to a victim, deceitfully lured the girls away from their families.

BJD slams govt for failing to resolve border dispute with AP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has criticised the state government for failing to resolve the core border dispute with Andhra Pradesh. BJD general secretary and spokesperson Pradeep Majhi launched a scathing attack on the BJP government in Odisha for merely holding a high-level meeting on the Kotia gram panchayat issue, rather than taking concrete action.



past year indulging in ceremonial showmanship. He stated, "Crucial issues like Kotia and Polavaram have seen no official response from the BJP in the past year." When the BJP plans state-wide celebrations to mark its one year in power, the sudden and superficial high-level meeting on Kotia appears to be merely symbolic, Mohanty said.



RATH YATRA AHEAD: Chariot construction in progress at Rath Yard, while NDRF personnel conduct a mock drill ahead of the Snana Yatra in Puri, Saturday



PHOTOS: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Govt's free sand scheme for PMAY beneficiaries



Govt to introduce a new standard operating procedure (SOP) to prevent illegal mining and transportation of sand

sand mining which is affecting the river-beds.

Citing a recent incident in Kaptipada, where an additional tehsildar was attacked while trying to intervene in smuggling activities, Pujari issued a stern warning to the illegal sand traders and expressed serious concern over the rising activity of sand mafias in the state.

He also said that the attacks on the government officials would not be tolerated and stringent action will be taken against the mafias involved.

On the other hand, highlighting the severity of systematic looting of minor minerals across the state, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty pointed to the dramatic decline in revenue from minor minerals from ₹1,485 crore in 2023-24 to just ₹600 crore in 2024-25.

"This sharp 60 per cent drop in revenue clearly indicates the extent of unchecked illegal mining activities, and the obvious patronage."

Mohanty further said, "The deteriorating situation under the state government within just one year raises serious concerns about Odisha's future. This administration's effort to control illegal mining activities and protect revenue officials is concerning."

Prakruti Mitra Award ceremony at OUAT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recently inaugurated the state-level World Environment Day and Prakruti Mitra Award ceremony at Krushi Shiksha Sadan, OUAT.

On the occasion, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia, along with Chief Secretary, additional chief secretary and other senior government officials were also present.

CM Majhi, in his speech, reflected the state's vision of a greener climate and sought the active participation of youth, volunteers and NGOs to build a sustainable ecosystem.

He also flagged off the State Clean Air Programme(SCAP), first-of-its-kind in the country, for regular analysis and availability of pure air in different areas of the state.

Different agencies were honoured with the Prakruti Mitra Award for their commendable efforts and dedication towards building an eco-friendly environment.

On behalf of MAHAN knowledge and Charitable Foundation, Puspallata Kar, managing trustee received the Prakruti Mitra Award 2025 for their initiative in plantation and awareness campaign for protection of Environment.

Samanta gets 68th honorary doctorate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: In yet another global recognition of his tireless work in the fields of education, social transformation, and humanitarian service, KIIT, KISS and KIMS founder Achyuta Samanta was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Chaoyang University of Technology (CYUT), Taiwan during its graduation ceremony Saturday.

This prestigious honour marks the 68th honorary doctorate awarded to Samanta by a university from across the globe, reaffirming his unparalleled contribution to empowering the underprivileged through education.

CYUT, in its citation, lauded Samanta for his extraordinary commitment to uplifting marginalised communities and for creating institutions that have become global benchmarks in inclusive education. His life's work, the university noted, has left an



Chaoyang University of Technology (CYUT), Taiwan bestows the honour on Achyuta Samanta for his contribution to empowering the underprivileged

In its citation, CYUT lauded Samanta's commitment for creating institutions that have become global benchmarks in inclusive education

indelible impact on millions of lives worldwide.

As part of the ceremony, Samanta also delivered a heartfelt congratulatory address to the graduating students, urging them to use their knowledge for the betterment of society. His words resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring both faculty and students alike.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: The Odisha government Saturday announced that the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) would be provided up to two tractor-loads of sand for free of cost for construction of house under the scheme.

"The state government would provide up to two tractor-loads of sand without any charges to the beneficiaries of PMAY," Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said.

Pujari also said that the beneficiaries would be issued permits to avail sand at an

affordable rate across the state, adding that the move aims at reducing the construction cost on financially weak beneficiaries.

State government's move aims to ease construction costs for financially weak beneficiaries. Beneficiaries would also be issued permits to avail sand at an affordable rate across the state

According to reports, the government will introduce a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), to prevent illegal mining and transportation of sand. Besides, the SOP will also feature regulation of vehicle weight, focusing on to protect the public infrastructures at rural areas where roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are getting damaged due to the movement of heavy vehicles involved in illegal sand smuggling.

The minister also stressed on taking measures to reduce the illegal methods and vehicles involved in the illegal

H&UD Min Mahapatra aids in accident rescue



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 7: In a commendable display of compassion, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krishna Chandra Mahapatra Saturday came to the aid of accident victims near Telengapentha, rescuing them personally.

According to reports, a family of four, Ananta Kumar Sahu, his wife, and their two children met with a tragic accident at the roadside. Coincidentally passing through the area, Minister Mahapatra promptly halted his convoy and personally took charge of the rescue efforts.

Mahapatra arranged swift transportation of the family to the nearest hospital using one of his escort vehicles. He also instructed the attending officials and hospital authorities to ensure the injured received immediate and proper medical attention.

The Minister's timely intervention drew praise from on-lookers and the public alike.

2-day fashion exhibition 'The Haat' opens in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: "The Haat - Premium Heritage Fashion & Lifestyle Exhibition", which opened in the City Saturday, will conclude June 8. Recognised as one of India's premier fashion and lifestyle events, it features a curated showcase of both renowned and emerging brands from across the country. The exhibition will remain open from 10am to 8pm.

"The Haat - Premium Heritage Fashion & Lifestyle Exhibition" which was opened in the City Saturday will conclude June 8. It is one of India's premier fashion and lifestyle events, showcasing both renowned and emerging brands from the industry. The event will be open from 10am to 8pm.

The exhibition will feature a wide range of fashion and lifestyle products, including dresses, couture, khadi, handloom, Kantha, Tussar, muslin, Banarasi sarees, traditional and designer sarees, Ajrak prints, western wear, ethnic and casual wear, kurtis, Chikankari kurtis, and more.

It will also showcase an exquisite collection of traditional Indian jewellery—precious, semi-precious, costume, silver, and junk—along with designer neckpieces, scarves, bags, rakhis, home décor, decorative items, skincare products, and gifting options.



Participating labels include Label Kavita, Devikriti, Gal's Gallery, Bhubondanga Boutique, Poterbibi, Saajo, Akkshay Mita Jewellery, Vusan, Violet by Rupali, Ingrid Fusion by Zinnia, Meraki Boutique, Zatika, Kochuripana, Payel's Saree House, Jaipur World, Madhuballari Boutique, Harshita Creates, Craftnama, Sraboni Creation, Utsav Haat, Twinkle's Boutique, Shi Jewellery, Rooi Kriti, and many more.

"We have introduced several new exhibitors this time, keeping the upcoming festive season in mind. Every year, we receive a great response in Bhubaneswar, thanks to the wide variety of unique products that are not easily found in regular markets," said director of Faircare Exhibitions Anupam Mukherjee.

"We have participants from cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and many others. We're expecting a very positive response from Bhubaneswar shoppers," he added.

Nat'l seminar on iconic building projects June 8

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: The Works Department, in collaboration with the Indian Building Congress (IBC), will host a national seminar in the City June 8, focusing on "Recent Advances in Iconic Building Projects."

The seminar is expected to attract over 200 participants, including leading engineers, architects, urban planners, government officials, and academicians from across the country. The Minister of Works will attend as chief guest, while Sanjay Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Works department, will grace the occasion as guest of honour.

The event will feature three technical sessions on smart infrastructure, sustainable



construction, and innovative design in iconic buildings.

"Many national experts will attend the seminar to deliberate on the latest advancements in the construction and infrastructure sector," said, IBC Odisha Chapter chairman Bijay Chandra Tripathy. "Authors will also present research papers on cutting-edge innovations," he said.

IBC president Chinmay Deb Nath said, "We are also holding the 196th executive council meeting of IBC here. The outcome of the sessions will be submitted to the government

for possible policy-level implementation."

"This is the first time such a seminar is being organised by the Odisha Chapter in Bhubaneswar, and we are receiving an overwhelming response," said IBC Odisha Chapter vice chairman PK Parhi.

Highlighting the importance of the event, IBC Council Member Manoranjan Mishra said, "After two decades, a national-level IBC seminar is returning to Bhubaneswar, offering a platform for sustainable infrastructure solutions."

Meet on protection of natural resources

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: A state-level convention focusing on the protection of natural resources and conservation of rivers was held Saturday at Lohia Academy here. The event was jointly organised by the Centre for Climate Justice Studies, Lok Shakti Abhiyan and Daya Suraka Abhiyan.

Renowned environmentalist Medha Patkar inaugurated the convention, slamming the government for centralising land, water, and forests and handing them over to corporates. Among the key speakers were Samadruستي Editor Sudhir Patnaik, former Odisha Chief Secretary Aurobindo Behera, activists Laxmi Sisa and Lingaraj Azad, and Lok Shakti Abhiyan chairman Prafulla Samantara, who delivered a keynote address. In the second session, Daya Suraka Abhiyan's Sachikanta Pradhan and Baitarani Suraksha Movement's Ashok Thakre also spoke.



NO PROCESSING FEE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR: TPCODL



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha, has stepped up its campaign to accelerate solar rooftop installations across Central Odisha under the PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY).

For the benefit of its consumers, TPCODL has waived the

net metering processing fee of ₹500 for rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana. This eliminates the process of online demand note generation and payment through the payment gateway.

Earlier, TPCODL had eliminated the requirement of technical feasibility study for systems up to 10 kw and had also minimised the time taken for site inspection, net metering agreement signing and net meter in-

stallation by making the section manager the single point contact for all such activities.

In order to make the scheme more and more consumer friendly, TPCODL continuously endeavours to simplify processes within the regulatory framework.

TPCODL encourages all its residential customers to set up rooftop solar power system, generate own green power and save on electricity bills. Attractive central and state financial assistance is available to all residential consumers that ensures return of investment within three years.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "Our commitment to promoting renewable energy solutions is unwavering. This campaign is not just about installing solar rooftops; it's about creating a lasting change to provide a sustainable future for our communities. We aim to empower residents and businesses to embrace solar energy and contribute to a greener Odisha."

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	37.2°	37.8°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	24.4°	23.6°	
Humidity	68%	71%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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

Concerns rise in Kendrapara as Mahanadi dispute lingers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 7: Residents of Kendrapara district have expressed growing concern over the unresolved Mahanadi river water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, fearing its adverse impact on agriculture and drinking water supply in the region.

The long-pending issue, currently before a tribunal, remains unresolved despite years of deliberations. Recently, activists from organisations such as the Mahanadi Banchoo Andolan, Daya Suraksha Abhiyan, Chilika Banchoo Andolan, and Nadi Suraksha Samiti submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, urging for immediate intervention in February. They also sought the Prime Minister's involvement in the interstate dispute.

Locals allege that dam construction in Chhattisgarh has already affected water flow downstream. Local intelligentsia Ganesh Chandra Samal

and power generation. Panda warned that the construction of multiple barrages in Chhattisgarh will directly impact various developmental projects, including the proposed Akhadashali port. "In a federal structure, interstate disputes are undesirable. All political parties must unite to safeguard the state's interests," he urged.

Echoing similar concerns, Sheikh Fazrul Haque, chairman of the Patkura Anchalik Vikash Committee said that Chitrotpala river has originated from Mahanadi at Gualnasi in Cuttack district and flows about 36 km from Mohammedpur to Kuanrpur in Kendrapara district, sustains farming activities and the daily needs of local residents.

highlighted that the Mahanadi's flow through Kendrapara, from Mahanangala under Mahakalapara block to Gadaramita, spans just 10 km. Tributaries like the Chitrotpala, Luna, Paika, and Birupa rivers rely heavily on Mahanadi's flow.

The Chitrotpala canal system, including the Gobari, Patamundai, and Jobra extension canals, irrigates over 41,681 hectares. Moreover, the people of Rajnagar, Mahakalapara, and Kendrapara town depend on the river for potable water.

Two mega drinking water projects and the proposed national riverine port near Akhadashali further underscore the district's reliance on the river. Any upstream reduction in flow, residents warn, would significantly affect the region's ecological and economic stability.

Former councillor Hiranya Kumar Panda has alleged that the Chhattisgarh government is unilaterally exploiting the Mahanadi river's water, posing a serious threat to Odisha's agriculture, drinking water supply



PLEDGE TO PROTECT: Women holding seed balls take a pledge to protect the environment as part of a programme for World Environment Day jointly organised by Ujjwalpur forest division and voluntary outfit 'Sewak' at Gambharidih Badabahalpada village under Tangarpali block in Sundargarh district

Man dies in train-hit while on video call

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, June 7: A 31-year-old man died after being struck by a train near Balasure railway station Saturday afternoon. The deceased was reportedly on a video call using his headphones while crossing the tracks.

Deepak Panigrahi of Haripur Begunia under Sahadevkhunta police limits was crossing the railway tracks near the overbridge close to the station when the incident occurred.

According to police sources, Panigrahi was walking along the Malgodown road and attempting to cross the tracks towards the Pandi Square side while on a video call. At that time, the Hyderabad-bound East Coast Express had just departed from the station. Due to the headphones, Panigrahi likely did not hear the train's horn and was struck fatally.

Personnel from the Government Railway Police (GRP) rushed to the scene upon being alerted, recovered the body, and sent it for post-mortem examination. An unnatural death case (48/25) has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

4 youths arrested from Andhra for gangrape of minor cousins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 7: Police Saturday arrested four youths from Andhra Pradesh on charge of abduction and gangrape of two minor cousins under Golanthara police limits in Berhampur police district.

The accused, identified as K Shiva, 21, K Sai, 21, G Gareya, 21, and N Srinu, 22, were arrested from undisclosed locations in Andhra Pradesh during multiple raids at various places.

Accused K Sai is the mastermind behind the crime and is the son of the village head. This was stated here by Berhampur SP Sarvana Vivek M at a presser held at the police headquarters Saturday.

All the four accused were produced in the court after a medical examination was conducted on them and the two survivors. A case (240/25) was previously registered in this connection. The mobile phones and bikes of the accused have been seized.

The court remanded them to judicial custody after rejecting their bail pleas. Police produced the survivors before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and later, in the court where they recorded their statements.

The clothes worn by the



accused youths and the survivors will be seized and sent for chemical examination.

According to the case diary, two minor cousins were allegedly gangraped after being abducted by four miscreants in Ganjam district, police said.

A woman, resident of Ganjam police limits, had come to her parent's house under Golanthara police limits to attend a function few days back. Her daughter and niece aged 14 and 11, respectively, accompanied her during the visit.

During their stay, the village head's son K Sai managed to collect the phone number of the 14-year-old and talked to her frequently. She called the girl to an isolated place June 3 and raped her despite her resistance. Later, he called three of his friends and they took turns to rape the girl. Her 11-year-old cousin grew apprehensive and

searched for her after she failed to return home. The accused youths did not spare her also.

As evening descended, the two girls took shelter on the terrace of a house while the accused fled. However, they again reached the place June 4 morning and lured the girls promising to drop them in their village.

However, they took turns to rape the two girls near Chhatrapur and dropped them near Ganjam before absconding. Family members, who were searching for them, rescued and brought them back home.

The girls narrated their ordeal after reaching home. The mother of one of the girls confronted the village head over the issue but the latter took the issue lightly. Left with no option, she lodged a complaint at Golanthara police station leading to the arrests.

Student goes missing in sea

Paradip: A college student went missing while bathing in the sea in Paradip town Saturday, police said. Sk Aman Ullah (19) was enjoying himself with his friends at the beach near the Light House when the incident happened, they said. A group of seven students of Kendrapara Autonomous College were holidaying in Paradip, and he was part of the group, they added. The CISF and Fire Services personnel launched a search operation in the Bay of Bengal, but he could not be found, said Fire and Emergency Services officer Kartik Kumar Biswal.

Tusker critical in attack by suspected poachers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 7: A critically injured tusker was found wandering in Atei reserve forest near Dhokotha under Ghatagaon forest range in Keonjhar district, after an alleged attack by poachers.

Forest department sources said that the elephant is estimated to be over 25 years old and appears to have sustained an injury on its front left leg possibly from a sharp weapon or arrow by suspected poachers.

On being informed by locals who spotted the distressed animal Friday morning around 10:10am, a team of forest officials and a veterinary unit rushed to the spot and started its initial treatment.

A specialised elephant rescue

team tranquilised the animal to administer further medical care Saturday. Preliminary findings suggest that the tusker might have strayed from the Satkosia forest range. It was last seen resting near Mushala riverbank inside Dhokotha forest area and appeared to be in pain.

Keonjhar DFO HD Dhanraj, Anandpur DFO Abhaya Kumar Dalai, and veterinary staff, are closely monitoring the situation. Forest guard Ashok Das stated that the elephant is currently unable to eat and vomiting shortly after attempting to consume food, raising concerns about possible complications in its throat or digestive system.

Treatment with antibiotics is already underway as the team works round the clock to ensure the animal's recovery.

Woman seeks help to bring husband's body from Oman

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasure, June 7: A woman from Barunsing GP under Khantapara police station limits in Balasure district made a desperate plea Saturday to the Balasure district administration to help bring back her husband's body for the last rites.

Anupama Mahalik said her husband died Friday in Oman following a cardiac arrest.

Balasure District Collector SM Vikash assured her that the administration would take all necessary steps to help.

Vikash said he had spoken to the Labour department, which is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs. Efforts



are underway to bring the body back to India after completing the necessary procedures.

"Since it is a foreign country, clearance from several agencies is required," the District Collec-

Balasure District Collector SM Vikash assured her that the administration would take all necessary steps to help

tor explained.

According to reports, 47-year-old Nityananda Mahalik, a resident of Anantapani village, was working as a cook in a hotel in Oman.

On Friday afternoon, he spoke to his wife, Anupama Mahalik, via video call, telling her that he was not feeling well. However, around 9pm, An-

upama was informed by the hotel manager that her husband had suffered a heart attack. Though he was taken to the hospital, he could not be saved.

"I suspect something fishy. I feel his death might have occurred earlier, but they informed me late," Anupama said. She tried to persuade them to send the body to India, but did not get any response.

Anupama said her husband had been working in the Gulf countries for about 15 years as a cook. For the last six years, he had been employed in a private hotel in Oman.

Nityananda had last visited Balasure last year and returned to Oman December 13.



ARMS TRAINING: Women forest guards undergoing training in firearms at Saradhapur firing centre in Angul Saturday

RSP sees excellence in major production areas in April-May

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, June 7: The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has registered excellent performance across major production units during the first two months of the current financial year, 2025-26.

A release from RSP said that Blast Furnace-5 'Durga' produced 552,027 tonnes of hot metal in the first two months, achieving its best-ever April-May performance. This marks an impressive 23.8 per cent growth over the corresponding period last year (CPLY).

Similarly, with a production of 292,371 tonnes of slabs, CCM-3 recorded its best-ever April-May performance, reflecting a

24.5 per cent increase over the CPLY.

The sinter plants collectively produced 1,198,655 tonnes of sinter, registering a growth of 11.1 per cent over the CPLY. Sinter Plant-III recorded its best-ever April-May performance with a production of 629,110 tonnes of sinter.

In the downstream segment, Hot Strip Mill-2 (HSM-2) rolled a total of 435,234 tonnes of HR coils to achieve its best-ever April-May performance, registering a growth of 16.8 per cent over the CPLY.

The Sheet Shearing Line of HSM-2 rolled 45,316 tonnes of HR sheets, also achieving its best-ever April-May performance.

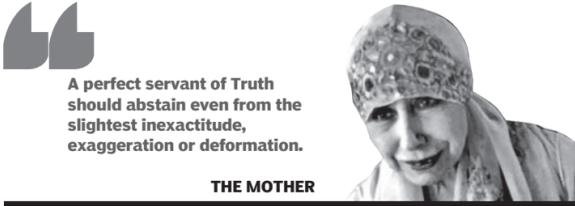
PUBLIC NOTICE DOCUMENT MISSING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Public that original Payment Receipt/Slip of Refundable Security Deposit paid to Jharsuguda Electrical Division, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) vide Demand Draft No.07399 dated 17.08.2019 for the service connection vide consumer Id. 34130015756 belonging to M/s. Bazaar Retail Private Limited [CIN:U74110WB2018PTC228448 & PAN:AAICB0626Q], a Company incorporated under the Companies Act' 2013, having its Registered Office at P5 Srijan Corporate Park Office No.1103 Tower:1, Block: EP& GP, Sector: V, Salt Lake, Kolkata: 700091 West Bengal is misplaced. A General Diary No:09 has been filed with the Jharsuguda Police Station. If anybody is in possession of the original aforesaid document or the said document is found by any person, please note that it should be considered invalid and of no legal cause and effect.

Varun Kohli
Bazaar Retail Private Limited
HOD: Legal and Company Secretary
E:varun.kohli@bazaarretail.com
M:+ 91 8334864864

FOCUS EDUCATION

VARSIITIES AT CROSSROADS



A perfect servant of Truth should abstain even from the slightest inexactitude, exaggeration or deformation.

THE MOTHER

Doomsday Clock

The Doomsday Clock is a visual tool designed to warn the public about how close humans are to destroying our world with dangerous technologies. The time on the clock is set by experts to reflect how far away from annihilation (midnight) we are, and if it is accurate we are currently the closest we have ever been to the end.

The clock was created in 1947, the year of India's independence, when the great global threat was of course that of nuclear weapons. The bombs had gone off over Nagasaki and Hiroshima only two years before that, and the Soviets were developing their own nuclear weapons. They achieved this capability in 1949, then the United Kingdom went nuclear in 1952, France in 1960 and China in 1964.

India weaponised its programme in 1974, and then in the 1990s Pakistan also demonstrated its capability. Israel and North Korea are understood to have the weapons and it is likely only a matter of time before Iran acquires them.

In the 1980s, when I was a student in the United States, the most important related element was something called the Strategic Defence Initiative, nicknamed Star Wars. Under it the Ronald Reagan administration was developing a system that would allow the US to shoot down incoming missiles while retaining its own offensive capability. This likely sent the Doomsday Clock forward.

After the Soviet Union perished, the Doomsday Clock was moved back to 17 minutes to midnight in 1991, the farthest it has ever been. The threat of nuclear weapons appeared to have abated to a large extent. At least this was how the news reported it. There were many more reports, analysis, civil society groups (like Pugwash) then and more activism on nuclear weapons before 1991 than is visible today.

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At the beginning of this year, on 28 January, they posted the following justification for concluding that in 2025 we were closer to annihilation than in 1947. "Closer than ever: It is now 89 seconds to midnight. In 2024, humanity edged ever closer to catastrophe. Trends that have deeply concerned the Science and Security Board continued, and despite unmistakable signs of danger, national leaders and their societies have failed to do what is needed to change course. Consequently, we now move the Doomsday Clock from 90 seconds to 89 seconds to midnight — the closest it has ever been to catastrophe. Our fervent hope is that leaders will recognize the world's existential predicament and take bold action to reduce the threats posed by nuclear weapons, climate change, and the potential misuse of biological science and a variety of emerging technologies."

Since that day in January, much has happened. A drone attack on Russian air bases, taking out a chunk of its most valuable air assets, escalated the Ukraine war. The Israeli genocide in Gaza has continued and now its government is starving the Palestinians, with open conflicts against nations as close as Lebanon and as far away as Yemen. The United States has come under the guardianship of a particularly unpredictable leader. The tension the US has built up against China on matters ranging from trade to Taiwan have escalated. And of course only a few weeks ago India fought in a conflict that the US president repeatedly claims was in danger of going nuclear.

And to all of the above we must add the threats from the impact of climate change and artificial intelligence. In the second of these areas, things are proceeding at such a rapid pace that there is no real understanding of how near the threat is, or even of how what the nature of the danger will be. Those closest to the technology are both the most fearful (in this case the academics) and the most dismissive (if they happen to be corporations profiting from the development of AI) and so it is not easy for us on the outside to judge. In any case, given that this is now a race in the corporate sectors of the US and China as opposed to the state-managed nuclear arms race, it is likely impossible to control. We will know whether the end result is disaster or windfall if and when it arrives. The role of AI in disinformation on social media and in military applications such as drones already gives us hints that the bad is likely to outweigh the good. Notice that we have not even discussed the possibility of another pandemic. Or the chaos and turbulence that will come soon in a world containing a handful of trillionaires and billions of those who are poor. The Doomsday Clock seeks to raise awareness and encourage action to reduce existential risks. But in my opinion it largely fails in this task. If we consider what sort of news is consumed nightly around the world, including in India, we can conclude that mankind is more troubled by other events. To some these events might be trivial in comparison with the far graver things that we are sliding the planet into. However we must concede that they are important enough for most of mankind to be kept entertained while the clock is ticking.



Jagdish Rattanani

WHILE THERE ARE SOME STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM ACROSS UNIVERSITIES, THE INSTITUTES HAVE NOT PUT UP A ROBUST JOINT FRONT AGAINST TRUMP

The Ivy League Universities in the United States are among the richest institutions in the world. The daughter of Chinese President Xi Jinping studied at Harvard. The largest international donation (some INR 400 crore) to the Harvard Business School came from the Tata group. Along with other select US universities, these institutions stand as icons of stature and achievement. Sometimes decried as islands of privilege, the Universities are nevertheless central to the story of America and its global leadership. All US universities together attract more Indian students than any other non-US nationality to their hallowed portals.

The standing and money power should, in normal circumstances, work as a shield that protects these institutions from rough weather. But in the complex turn that America has taken today, it is the very standing and money power that have contributed to putting the universities in the centre of a firestorm unleashed by the Trump administration. Protecting and growing the endowments, which the US institutions do rather well, has brought with it charges (whether fair or unfair) that the universities spend more on investment managers to grow their kitty rather than on growing a mission to deliver education for all. Have the US universities become prisoners of their endowments, making them more vulnerable than they should be to the turn of events? Prof. Rashid Khalidi, a renowned Palestinian-American historian at Columbia, put it in these words several months before the current crisis erupted: "For some time now, I have been both disgusted and horrified by the way higher education has developed into a cash register — essentially



The bold protest at MIT speaks of the merits of a US campus, where students find ways to be engaged in events beyond the textbooks and learn to take a stand

a money-making, MBA, lawyer-run, hedge fund-cum-real estate operation, with a minor sideline in education, where money has determined everything, where respect for pedagogy is at a minimum."

Trump and his friends might agree as they gather under the label of Trumpism to declare what in effect is a war on the education system in America. The overall picture today is of universities with their back to the wall, straining to defend their freedoms without going for an all-out fight and holding on only where the administration's demands are so egregious that they are almost impossible to meet.

Mostly, the picture is of looking for a way out. For example, while there are some statements of support from across universities, the institutes have not put up a robust joint front against Trump, or are unwilling and/or unable to take the issue aggressively straight to the public or are willing to set up regulations that meet some demands and in the process showing up the once-powerful bodies as weak, easily

trampled upon and with little fire in the belly to stand up.

Consider the imposing Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT. The 164-year-old institution runs a rather popular and fun game (they call it a "serious game") called The Moral Machine to understand how humans might want autonomous vehicles to respond to unavoidable accident scenarios in the real world. The Moral Machine has collected 39.61 million decisions in 233 countries, dependencies or territories, according to one paper. For all its efforts to understand the moral dilemmas brought up by use of modern systems, it took one student and one small speech of less than four minutes to hold a moral mirror to MIT and shame the university worldwide. MIT is among the universities in America to have research ties, funding or contracts with the Israeli military that runs what today is beyond any shadow of doubt a genocidal operation in Palestinian territories. MIT has received over US \$11 million in research funding from the Israeli Ministry of Defence,

according to May/June 2024 "The MIT Faculty Newsletter", an independent forum for the expression of faculty views and concerns.

Taking the stage at the pre-convocation festivities, the elected Indian American President of MIT's Class of 2025 Megha Vemuri torched the institute she is graduating from: "The Israeli occupation forces are the only foreign military that MIT has research ties with; this means that Israel's assault on the Palestinian people is not only aided and abetted by our country, but our school. We are watching Israel try to wipe Palestine off the face of the earth, and it is a shame that MIT is a part of it."

The bold protest speaks of the merits of a US campus, where students find ways to be engaged in events beyond the textbooks and learn to take a stand, add to it the passion, energy and care-a-damn attitude of their youth to turn it into a potent protest for the world to see. This is unlike India, where voices don't emerge and are put down when raised, as seen in cases like a teacher who was dismissed in one Mumbai school just because she liked a post that spoke of Israel's genocide.

On the other hand, MIT's statement in favour of free speech that followed Vemuri's speech rang hollow because the President of the Class was barred from attending her own graduation. While MIT runs the moral machine and does some exemplary research, Vemuri and her classmates showed that they are moral humans pointing to holes in the imposing edifice of MIT and indeed the entire lot of US schools.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SP-JIMR. Views are personal.

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SPECTRUM WORLD OCEAN DAY

The ocean is not just a carbon sink

Next week, governments and civil-society organizations from around the world will gather in Nice, France, for the United Nations Ocean Conference.

The timing is fitting, because changes in our oceans have become a familiar barometer for the severity of the climate crisis. Island populations, such as the inhabitants of the largest of Panama's Carti Islands, are being forced to abandon their homes in the face of rising sea levels. And many coastal communities, often some of the poorest in the world, are being ravaged by increasingly severe cyclones.

As the ones on the front line, small island developing states are also leading sources of climate innovation. We have become test beds for solutions that can guide action globally. From our perspective, the ocean is not just a symptom of a changing climate, but also a major part of the solution.

The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (of which the Seychelles is a member) estimates that some 35% of the emissions reductions needed by 2050 could come from the ocean. Most of this potential lies in industri-

al sectors — from decarbonized shipping to marine-based renewable energy. But the protection and restoration of certain "blue carbon ecosystems" — mangroves, seagrasses, salt-marshes — can also measurably contribute to climate-change mitigation efforts.

In our own 2021 NDC, the Seychelles committed to mapping and subsequently protecting all seagrasses across our exclusive economic zone — an area totaling 1.3 million square kilometers (503,000 square miles) — by 2030. Now, I am proud to say that we have already met that goal, protecting over 99% of our seagrass meadows five years ahead of schedule. In doing so, we have set a benchmark for ocean-climate leadership.

In addition to serving as a measurable source of carbon storage, these ecosystems are some of the most effective and cost-efficient forms of natural infrastructure available for stabilizing shorelines and buffering storms. They provide a vital first line of defense for islanders and coastal dwellers, absorbing wave energy, filtering water, and preventing erosion. And they also underpin the blue economy on which

billions of livelihoods depend.

In fact, seagrasses alone "provide valuable habitat to over one-fifth of the world's 25 largest fisheries," including many species that are key to local food security and incomes. Healthy coastal ecosystems mean healthier economies, more resilient communities, and greater long-term stability.

Our experience offers important lessons. While the ocean has long been described as the planet's greatest "carbon sink," that is an outdated construct. The ocean has indeed absorbed most anthropogenic heat and carbon dioxide emissions since the start of industrialization. But its capacity to do so is not unlimited. There is no magic "plug hole" where heat and carbon simply disappear. Depicting the ocean this way risks obscuring the tangible, place-based role of marine ecosystems in supporting many communities' cultures, diets, identities, and survival. For Seychellois, seagrass meadows are far more important as a habitat for the rabbitfish that sustain artisanal fishers, or as a source of food and shelter for the turtles that attract so many tourists, than they are as carbon sinks.

Reducing the value of three-quarters of our planet to the singular role of carbon sink overlooks the ocean's vast contributions to food security, cultural identity, and economic resilience. This narrow framing reinforces the inequities baked into how we assess, govern, and invest in planetary systems.

Ultimately, industrial marine sectors and natural ecosystems are underused tools in addressing climate change and other development needs. As world leaders gather in Nice and prepare for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belém (COP30), they can take inspiration from the Seychelles in championing ocean-based climate action.

We must not treat the ocean as an afterthought or a technical fix, but rather as a central pillar of the climate agenda. The ocean's role as a "carbon sink" has bought us precious time, but at a huge cost in terms of its vibrancy and abundance. For the long-term health of people and the planet, preserving ocean health is essential.

The writer is President of the Republic of Seychelles.

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Wavel Ramkalawan

FOR THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND THE PLANET, PRESERVING OCEAN HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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One man show

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image, walking alone with India's national flag at the inauguration ceremony of the world's highest railway bridge — the Chenab Rail Bridge — was not quite a democratic photo-op. He ought to have been flanked by ministers, railway engineers, and others who had a key role to play in the construction of the bridge. A railway bridge that is a good 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower is a matter of pride for all Indians, and no single individual can claim bragging rights, least of all the PM of a nation that is 'the mother of democracy' (the PM's own words). I must hasten to add that such "singular" photos have defined the PM on previous occasions too — the inauguration of the new parliament, where Modi, along with a few Hindu priests, was the master of ceremonies, the inauguration of the spanking new Ram Mandir at Ayodhya where the cameras were focused almost entirely on Modi, not to mention the umpteenth flagging off of Vande Bharat trains and the inauguration runs of other government infrastructure. By all accounts, the BJP rule seems to be a one man show, where the PM is omnipresent and omnipotent.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MP)

'Rajnath Aam' is here

Sir, It is really delightful to know that renowned horticulturist and Padma Shri awardee Kalimullah Khan, famously known as India's 'Mango Man', has named a new mango variety, he created with his signature grafting technique, after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Khan says that he was inspired by the confidence, courageous and composed nature of the defence minister during the recent Operation Sindoor that led him to give Rajnath's name to his new variety of mango. Khan, who is globally known for his mango grafting technique has developed over 300 varieties of mangoes in his orchard in Malihabad (UP). He is popularly known worldwide for naming his mango varieties after notable Indian personalities viz., Sachin Tendulkar, Aishwarya Rai, Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and so on. The horticulturist proudly states that it is a pleasure to name his mangoes after famous people who have served the country meaningfully and he wants these names to live on for generations through his mangoes.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

WISDOM CORNER

"We always question the bonafides of the man who tells us unpleasant facts."

RK NARAYANAN

"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

"There is a condition worse than blindness, and that is, seeing something that isn't there."

THOMAS HARDY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1949: British author George Orwell published his dystopian classic *Nineteen Eighty-four*, a warning against totalitarianism that introduced such concepts as Big Brother and the Thought Police.

1955: British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee, who was generally credited as the inventor of the World Wide Web, was born.

1966: The National Football League and the American Football League announced a merger, which became effective in 1970.

CCB: Beware of fake PM-Kisan apps, links



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 7: Rajasthan Police's cyber crime branch (CCB) has cautioned people against registering for the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme through fake mobile app links and issued an advisory in this regard.

The police said that cyber-criminals are trapping people by sharing a fake link or APK file on social media, claiming it to be the mobile app of the scheme.

Under this scheme, eligible farmers get financial assistance of Rs 6,000 in three instalments every year.

According to this, fake APK files of PM Kisan Registration and PM-Kisan scheme are being shared on WhatsApp groups and other means. It is being claimed that through this app, farmers can register for the scheme from the comfort of their homes and get benefits immediately.

Superintendent of Police (Cyber Crime) Shantanu Kumar said that the investigation has

revealed that through the fake APK file, backdoor malware gets installed in the mobile. This gives control of the mobile to cybercriminals.

Criminals are then able to illegally withdraw money from bank accounts by obtaining mobile screen recordings, OTP, banking apps and other sensitive information.

The Branch has clarified that registration in PM-Kisan can only be done through the tehsil-level agriculture office, central government portal, pm-kisan.gov.in, or CSC (Common Service Centre).

According to the police, people should only download the official app from Google Play Store.

It has appealed to the general public, especially farmers and e-mitra operators, to be cautious of any fake link or app. If any such activity is reported, immediately inform the cyber helpline number 1930 or the nearest police/cyber police station, the advisory stated.

Messi will surely visit Kerala: Abdurahiman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 7: Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman Saturday asserted that Argentina national football team, led by legendary player Lionel Messi, would surely visit the state as announced by the government earlier and the sponsor has paid the match fee for the event.

He said the foreign team is more likely to come in October-November months this year and they would be treated as the state guests and their security, accommodation and other facilities would be met by the government.

The sports minister kept the hopes of soccer buffs in the state alive months after a section of the media reported that the Argentina team cancelled its scheduled visit to Kerala as the sponsors breached the contract norms. Both Abdurahiman and the sponsor, Reporter Broadcasting Company, had strongly rejected the reports then and reiterated that the world champions would play a friendly match in the southern state.

The Minister, who put a brief FB post Friday saying that "Messi will come", brought the issue to the limelight again.

He also thanked the sponsor, the Reporter Broadcasting Company, in the post.



While talking to the media Saturday, Abdurahiman said there was some delay in the payment of the match fee by the sponsor and it is resolved now.

"The sponsor has paid the amount now. There is no other obstacles in this regard. As per the FIFA window, October-November is the time allotted for the world teams to take part in such events. So, the same time

is likely to be allotted for us also," he said.

As per the contract between the sponsor and the Argentina Football Association (AFA), the team management would reach the state after the payment of the match fee and they would announce the date and other details through a joint statement, he said.

While replying to a question, Abdurahiman said it was the sponsor who informed the government about the payment of the match fee and they are yet to get an update from the Argentina team management in this regard.

"The sponsors said they settled the contract amount to be paid before the match. The government has no connection with any financial dealings in this regard. The contract is between the sponsor and the team management," he said. The proposed friendly match is more likely to be held at the greenfield stadium here as it meets international standards.

Bakrid celebrated with fervour in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 7: Mosques and Eidgahs in Kerala witnessed heavy rush Saturday as Muslim community celebrated Eid-ul-Adha or Bakrid with religious fervour.

Faithful including elderly and children turned out in large numbers in mosques and specially arranged Eidgahs for the morning prayers to mark the 'festival of sacrifice'. Religious leaders and scholars addressed believers in the mosques and read out Eid messages urging them to uphold Islamic values and ideals.

Imam V P Suhaib Moulavi, who led the namaz at the famed Palayam Juma Masjid here, strongly denounced terror ac-

tivities and said no religion endorses terrorism.

Unnecessary murdering of a single human being is akin to killing the entire humanity on the earth, he said during his sermon. Moulavi, however, cautioned against misusing the recent Pahalagam terrorist attack or such terror activities for political gains. "Everybody should show vigilance that such incidents are not being misused for political gains and for propagating contempt and enmity in the society," he said.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan were among those who extended greetings to the people on the occasion.

Palliative care registration begins in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 7: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that the state has created a model of palliative care under which volunteers can register to look after patients who are bedridden or suffering from terminal illnesses.

The registration process for volunteers under the Kerala Care Universal Palliative Service Scheme has started, the CM said in a Facebook post Friday.

He said that volunteers can register on the site meant for volunteers and provide their details.



"Anyone who is willing to set aside at least one hour a week for a patient in need of palliative care can register for this," he said.

Vijayan said that his government's efforts to ensure palliative care for bedridden patients have attracted world attention and the Kerala Care scheme

Govt to send 50,000 elderly on pilgrimage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 7: Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced Friday that the Rajasthan government will send 50,000 senior citizens on pilgrimage by AC trains this year.

Sharma was speaking at the launch of the 'Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme 2025-26' here. He also flagged off the first AC 'Rajasthan Vahini Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train' under the scheme from Durgapura railway station, according to an official statement.

Senior citizens will travel to the pilgrimage sites of Rameswaram and Madurai in this train.

The Rajasthan government is making continuous efforts to improve the lives of senior citizens of the state. Under the 'Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme', 50,000 senior citizens are being sent to 13 different pilgrimage sites by AC trains for the first time this year, Sharma said.



New Coast Guard jetty at Vizhinjam

Thiruvananthapuram: A new coast guard jetty, aimed at ensuring safe berthing and swift deployment of surface assets, was inaugurated at Vizhinjam here Saturday, sources said. The new jetty was inaugurated by Director General S Paramesh, AVSM, PTM, TM of Indian Coast Guard in the presence of Inspector General Bisham Sharma, PTM, TM Commander Coast Guard Region(West) in an official ceremony, a Defence release said. It said the coast guard jetty "will be a cutting edge in safe berthing and swift deployment of surface assets". The newly inaugurated berth with 76.70 meter length, 8 meter breadth and 4-6 meter depth can accommodate the present coast guard vessels held at Vizhinjam. "The construction of the jetty was executed through the Harbour Engineering Department (HED) of the Kerala State Government and constructed by RTF Infra Pvt Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram," it said. Senior officers from Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL), Government of Kerala, Kerala Maritime Board, Port authorities, officers from Army, Air Force, State Police, Adani Port Pvt Ltd, Fisheries Department, and representatives from private and public sectors were also present at the event, the release said.

Queue management system in all Rajasthan govt hosps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 7: A modern 'queue management system' is being introduced across hospitals affiliated to medical colleges in Rajasthan to ease the process of patient registration and reduce waiting times, officials said Saturday.

After successful implementation of the system on a pilot basis at Jaipuria and Kanwaria hospitals in Jaipur, the initiative will now be expanded to other hospitals across the state, an official statement said.

Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar visited both hospitals Saturday to inspect the functioning of the new system. He observed the



patient registration process at OPD counters and interacted with doctors and patients to gather feedback. Kumar said preparations are underway to implement the system at Jaipur's Sawai Mansingh (SMS) Hospital, where work is progressing at full pace.

Superintendents of other hospitals affiliated with Sawai Man Singh Medical College also visited Jaipuria Hospital to review the system, and it will be rolled out in their facilities soon, the statement added.

Op Sindoor inspires tribute from GIB conservation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaisalmer, June 7: To honour the armed forces following Operation Sindoor, a special tribute is taking shape in the border state of Rajasthan - rare Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chicks born under a conservation project in Jaisalmer have been named after key officers and significant milestones linked to the operation.

By giving these chicks patriotic names, we are connecting the story of wildlife conservation with the story of national courage

BRIJMOHAN GUPTA | DFO, DESERT NATIONAL PARK



Names like 'Sindoor', 'Atom', 'Mishri', 'Vyom', and 'Sophia' now resonate through the conservation centres at Sudasari and Sam, where science, strategy and national pride are working together to revive one of India's most endangered birds

after the military operation.

Others followed: 'Atom' (May 9) signifies the mission's strategic power; 'Mishri' (May 19) honours an undercover cyber intelligence officer; 'Vyom' (May 23) is named after Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and 'Sophia' (May 24) is dedicated to Colonel Sophia Qureshi, the two officers led the official media briefing of the operation.

Operation Sindoor was launched early May 7 by Indian military to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in

retaliation to the April 22 Pahalagam terror attack. Subsequently, India responded strongly to Pakistan's attempts to target its military and civilian areas with drones, missiles and other weapons.

"It's not just about saving a bird, it's about preserving the values that define us as a nation," Gupta added.

Once found across India's grasslands, the Great Indian Bustard has been pushed to the brink of extinction due to habitat loss, poaching, and infrastructural threats like power

lines. Presently, fewer than 150 remain in the wild, most of them in Rajasthan.

To counter this crisis, Project GIB was launched in 2018 as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, the Wildlife Institute of India, and the Rajasthan Forest Department.

The breeding centres at Sudasari and Sam are equipped with AI-enabled surveillance, temperature-controlled incubators, and sensor-based monitoring systems. This advanced infrastructure ensures real-time tracking of egg conditions and chick health. Till date, the centres have successfully hatched and nurtured 65 chicks.

The newly born chicks are being gradually trained in semi-natural enclosures to help them adapt to wild conditions. The eventual goal is their re-introduction into open desert landscapes, where their survival and breeding in the wild will mark a turning point in India's conservation journey.

The team also involves local communities to foster a sense of shared responsibility for protecting this critically endangered species.

Heatwave grips Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 7: Heatwave has intensified its grip over Rajasthan as the maximum temperature in several places was recorded above the 40-degree mark Saturday, the Jaipur Meteorological Centre said.

Jaisalmer was the hottest place in the state Saturday, recording a high of 45.3 degrees Celsius.

The weather department

has predicted that the heatwave will intensify further in the state.

Bikaner recorded a high of 45.2 degrees, while it was 44.6 degrees in Barmer and Ganganagar each, 44.2 degrees in Phalodi, 44 degrees in Kota, 43.6 degrees in Churu, 43.3 degrees in Chittorgarh, 42.5 degrees in Jodhpur, 42.4 degrees in Bhilwara, 42.2 degrees Celsius in Pilani.

There is every possi-

bility of an increase of 1 to 2 degrees in maximum temperature in the next 48 hours and heatwave in western Rajasthan.

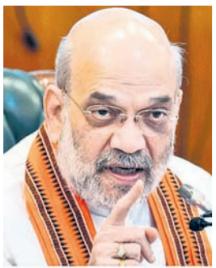
The maximum temperature in the Bikaner division and Shekhawati region of north-western Rajasthan can be 45-46 degrees on June 8 to 10. Strong winds with a speed of 30-40 km per hour will blow in these areas during this period.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF P.R & D.W INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) IDENTIFICATION No-KANKADAHAD BLOCK-01 OF 2025-26 E-mail : ori-kankadahad@nic.in									
Sl No	Name of the Work	Approximately value of Work (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Place of receipt of tender papers through Post only	Cost of documents (Non-refundable) (Rs.)	EMD 1%	Period of Completion (in Month)	No.i-148	
1	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Gadapalasanu GP	Rs.24,71,778.05	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24718	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
2	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Rabola GP	Rs.24,61,835.70	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24618	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
3	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Birsai GP	Rs.24,62,211.18	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24622	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
4	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Mahabir GP	Rs.24,72,047.34	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24720	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
5	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Bam GP	Rs.24,75,644.22	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24756	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
6	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Karagola GP	Rs.24,70,287.37	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24703	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
7	Const. of office Building with Market Complex in G.P.L.F. Pangaria GP	Rs.24,71,818.70	B & C Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.24718	8 (Eight Calendar Month)		
8	Const. of Addl. Class Room of Secondary School, Bapuji High School, Gadapalasanu.	Rs.15,10,444.25	C & D Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.15104	6 (Six Calendar Month)		
9	Const. of Addl. Class Room of Elementary School, Dangapal UP School.	Rs.15,08,821.97	C & D Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.15088	6 (Six Calendar Month)		
10	Const. of Addl. Class Room of Elementary School, Kendupada Project PS.	Rs.15,12,402.34	C & D Class	BDO, Kankadahad	Rs.6,000	Rs.15124	6 (Six Calendar Month)		

Further details can be seen from the Diksanal Portal: www.diksanal.nic.in

OIPR-19381/11/0004/2526

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kankadahad



Leaving for Tamil Nadu. Tomorrow, will chair a meeting of the state core committee of the Tamil Nadu BJP, in Madurai. In the evening, will interact with state, district, and mandal-level office bearers of the BJP in Madurai. Looking forward to attending the programs
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

ASSAM FLOODS: TOLL RISES TO 23

The overall flood situation in Assam improved marginally as the affected population decreased to 3.37 lakh in 12 districts, though the death toll in this year's deluge and landslides reached 23 with two fresh fatalities, an official bulletin said



of the day quote

We should take the clarion call given by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and see to it that at least in our own homes, we are able to reduce 10 per cent of oil consumption and salt consumption. This is the most necessary part. We also have to see to it that processed foods are reduced to the maximum
JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA | UNION MINISTER



Anyone who is willing to set aside at least one hour a week for a patient in need of palliative care can register for this
PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CHIEF MINISTER, KERALA



India is a multi-cultural, multilingual and multi-religious country. We respect diversity but do not make the mistake of considering our kindness as our weakness
ANURAG THAKUR | BJP MP



Rahul alleges Bihar polls to be 'fixed like Maha'



The Congress leader targets EC after it rejects rigging charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed Saturday that the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections were a "blueprint for rigging democracy" and alleged this "match-fixing" would next happen in Bihar, even as the Election Commission rejected the charge saying defaming the poll panel after an unfavourable verdict is absolutely absurd.

The BJP also hit out at Gandhi over the allegations with party chief JP Nadda accusing the Congress leader of cooking up "bizarre conspiracies" and "fake narratives" out of desperation after losing a series of elections.

As the two rival parties and EC sparred over the issue, Gandhi again hit out at the poll panel after sources in the Commission debunked his charges, saying evasion would not protect its credibility but

telling the truth would.

Gandhi made the allegations related to Maharashtra polls in an article published in several newspapers and later in his posts on X.

"My article shows how this (rigging) happened, step by step: Step 1: Rig the panel for appointing the Election Commission. Step 2: Add fake voters to the roll. Step 3: Inflate voter turnout. Step 4: Target the bogus voting exactly where the BJP needs to win. Step 5: Hide the evidence," Gandhi alleged in his post.

Gandhi said fixed elections are a "poison" for any democracy, and the side that cheats may win the game, but it damages institutions and destroys public faith.

Lashing out at Gandhi, Nadda said his article is a "blueprint for manufacturing the fake narratives", owing to his sadness and desperation of losing election after election.

He said, "Here's how he does it, step by step. Step 1: The Congress Party gets defeated in election after election due to its antics. Step 2: Instead of introspecting, he cooks up

bizarre conspiracies and cries rigging. Step 3: Ignores all facts and data. Step 4: Defames institutions with zero proof."

He added, "Step 5: Hopes for headlines over facts. Despite being exposed time and again, he shamelessly keeps peddling lies. And, he is doing this because a defeat in Bihar is certain."

The Election Commission sources rejected rigging claims in last year's Maharashtra Assembly polls and said the Congress has never flagged the alleged discrepancies.

Any misinformation being spread by anyone brings disrepute to the thousands of representatives appointed by political parties during polls and demotivates poll staff working tirelessly for the gigantic exercise, the EC sources said.

They said that "unsubstantiated" allegations raised against the electoral rolls of Maharashtra are an affront to the rule of law.

Rejecting the claims, the EC sources underlined that 6,40,87,588 (over 6.4 crore) voters who reached the polling stations between 7 am and 6 pm exercised their franchise in the Maharashtra polls.

"Therefore, the casting of 65 lakh votes by electors in two hours is much below the average hourly voting trend," an EC functionary pointed out.

In his rejoinder, Nadda shared an article on the portal 'OpIndia' which countered Gandhi's charges.

The BJP also accused Gandhi of attacking democratic institutions to undermine people's trust in the electoral process, claiming he was doing so to pre-empt his party's defeat in the upcoming elections.

ESPIONAGE CASE

Punjab YouTuber's police custody extended by 2 days



Lawyer says Haryana police summoned him in Jyoti Malhotra case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 7: Haryana Police had summoned Punjab-based YouTuber Jasbir Singh June 6 in the Jyoti Malhotra espionage case but before he could join the investigation, he was arrested by Punjab Police, Singh's counsel claimed Saturday.

He also denied the charge that Singh was an agent of Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

A Mohali court Saturday extended for two days the police remand of Singh, who was arrested on espionage charges June 4. Singh was produced before the court after his three-day police remand ended Saturday.

Police sought a seven-day remand of Singh but the court granted them two days, said his counsel.

Jasbir Singh alias Jaan Mahal (41), a resident of village Mahlan in Rupnagar district, was running a YouTube channel "JaanMahal Video" with

over 11 lakh subscribers, ostensibly posting travel and cooking vlogs.

Singh was allegedly in close touch with Haryana-based influencer Jyoti Malhotra, who is in custody on charges of spying for Pakistan.

After Singh's arrest, Punjab police had claimed that it unearthed a "terror-backed espionage network" linking him to Pakistani intelligence and army officials.

Police had said that the YouTuber was allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Speaking to reporters Saturday, Singh's counsel Mohit Dhupar said he met him in the court Saturday.

"We spoke to him. There is no such thing that is being said in the media that he was an ISI agent," said Dhupar, claiming he was just a vlogger.

Dhupar said Singh was summoned by Punjab Police from May 17 till May 30.

He had already given his mobile phone and laptop to the police, said the counsel.

Dhupar said June 2, Haryana police summoned Singh to join the investigation in the Jyoti Malhotra case June 6.

When Punjab Police came to know about him being summoned by the Haryana police, Singh was asked to appear June 3 and he was arrested June 4, said the counsel.

"Punjab Police might have felt that if Haryana Police arrested Singh, it would be their insult", claimed Dhupar.

The counsel said there was no mention of Singh being summoned from May 17 to May 30 in the FIR.

SHORT TAKES

Three militants held in Manipur

Imphal: Security forces have arrested three militants, belonging to two proscribed outfits in Manipur, police said Saturday. All the arrests were made Friday in Bishnupur, Kakching and Imphal West districts, a senior officer said. One active cadre of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (Peoples' War Group) was apprehended from Wangoo Samushang area in Bishnupur for allegedly being involved in extortion activities, he said.

Five Naxalites gunned down in Chhattisgarh

Bijapur: Five Naxalites were killed in two encounters with security forces in an ongoing operation in the Indravati National Park area of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said Saturday. With the latest casualties, seven Naxalites, including top leaders Sudhakar and Bhaskar, were neutralised in the operation in the last three days, they said. "Security forces have recovered the bodies of seven Maoists during the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the Indravati National Park area of the district," a senior police official said.

2 morning walkers killed by speeding car

Ghaziabad (UP): Two neighbours who were out on a morning walk were killed by a speeding car in the Rajnagar Extension area, the police said Saturday. Subhash Singh Chauhan (57) and Kamlesh Yadav (45), residents of Brij Nagri Colony, were struck from behind by a car that then fled the scene, ACP Nandgram Poonam Mishra said. CCTV footage captured the gruesome details of the accident in which Chauhan's head was crushed under the car while Yadav was thrown into a deep roadside pit.

Dog seen carrying dead newborn in its jaws

Mhow: In a disturbing incident, a stray dog was seen clutching a dead newborn in its jaws near the toilet of a government hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district Saturday before a security guard managed to retrieve the body after shooting away the animal. Authorities at the civil hospital in Mhow, some 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, and police have begun a probe into the antecedents of the newborn and the chain of events that followed.

LANGUAGE ROW

Without imposition, we will learn: Kamal Haasan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: Where does Kamal Haasan stand on the issue of imposition of Hindi in the south? "I stand with Punjab. I stand with Karnataka. I stand with Andhra," is his quick reply.

The pan-India superstar's latest film "Thug Life", the 234th in a 65-year career, released in theatres this week amid controversy over his comment that Karnataka was born out of Tamil. He refused to apologise and the film did not release in Karnataka.

"I am the actor from 'Ek Duuje Ke Liye'," Haasan told PTI during a recent visit to the news agency's headquarters, referring to his 1981 hit Hindi film about a Tamil boy and his romance with his Hindi speaking neighbour.

"Without imposition, we will learn. Don't impose, because this is ultimately education and we must take the shortest route

to education... and not put hurdles in its way" the actor said.

The ruling DMK in his home state Tamil Nadu has long opposed the three-language policy introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP). The party has repeatedly accused the BJP-led NDA government of attempting to "impose Hindi", a charge the Centre has denied.

Stressing that the imposition of a particular language only hampers the learning process, the 70-year-old said, "I stand with Punjab. I stand with Karnataka. I stand with Andhra. This is not only place which is resenting imposition."

The Indian cinema stalwart, hugely popular in the south as well as in the north with films such as "Nayakan", "Thevar Magan", "Sadma", "Saagar" and "Chachi 420" that bridged language divides, said if you are truly looking at "international breakthrough" you must learn one language.

Helicopter crashlands on highway, all safe



People gather near a Kedarnath Dham-bound helicopter after it made an emergency landing at Badasu area, in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudraprayag, June 7: Five pilgrims and a pilot onboard a helicopter had a narrow escape when the aircraft on its way to Kedarnath made an emergency landing on the highway in Rudraprayag district Saturday after developing a technical snag during take-off, officials said.

The pilot sustained minor injuries and was rushed to a hospital, they said. Videos on social media showed the Kestrel Aviation helicopter standing in the middle of the highway, dangerously close to populated buildings and with a parked car damaged by its tail rotor.

The helicopter had flown from Badasu base for Kedarnath when it made the emergency landing shortly after take-off on the main road just below the highway near Sirsi following a technical snag, the officials said.

Six people onboard the helicopter including the pilot had a close call. People on the ground

got scared as they saw the helicopter losing balance in the air and crashlanding on the road, eyewitnesses said.

Kedarnath heli service nodal officer Rahul Chaubey said the incident did not affect the heli shuttle service to the Himalayan temple.

Efforts are underway to remove the helicopter from the highway.

Police have issued an appeal to pilgrims going to Kedarnath by road to stay wherever they are as removing the helicopter from the highway and unblocking it can take some time.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Kestrel Aviation's AW119 (Reg. VT-RNK) helicopter, piloted by Capt RPS Sodhi, experienced a hard landing on the road adjacent to the Barasu helipad.

According to initial inputs, shortly after take-off from the helipad, the pilot reported a suspected issue with the collective control getting stuck. In response, he executed a controlled force landing on the road near the helipad.

AXIOM-4 MISSION

Shubhanshu Shukla to dock at ISS June 11 after 28-hr flight

The mission will mark India's return to space 41 years after Rakesh Sharma's historic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz mission in 1994

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others are set to embark on the Axiom Space's fourth human spaceflight from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida June 10 and are likely to dock at the International Space Station June 11 at about 10 PM IST, after a nearly 28-hour journey.

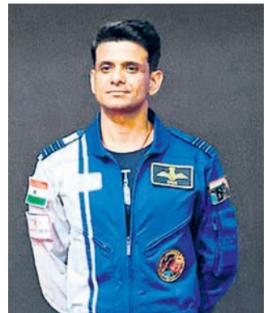
Shukla, the mission pilot of the Axiom-4 (Ax4) commercial mission to the ISS, will be accompanied by mission commander Peggy Whitson and specialists Tibor Kapu from Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland.

The Axiom-4 mission will mark India's return to space 41 years after Rakesh Sharma's historic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz mission in 1994.

"The crew will travel to the orbiting laboratory on a new SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after launching on the company's Falcon 9 rocket. The targeted docking time is approximately 12:30 pm, Wednesday, June 11," NASA said in a statement.

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan visited Axiom Space last week to review the preparations for the spaceflight.

The astronauts have been in quarantine since May 25 to prepare for the trip and have been



The experiments aim to pioneer space nutrition and self-sustaining life support systems vital for future long-duration space travel

ISRO has lined up a set of seven experiments for Shukla, who will also participate in five joint studies planned by NASA for its human research program

It has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on the ISS, including sprouting methi (Fenugreek) and moong (green gram) in microgravity conditions

Shukla will also expose the seeds to the macrobiotic conditions and bring them back to earth where they will be cultivated into plants not just once but over generations

training ahead of the launch June 10. "The #Ax4 crew undergoes extensive emergency training, featuring a range of scenarios such as underwater escape drills," Axiom Space said in a post on X, and shared a video of the training programme.

During the 14-day stay at the ISS, the Ax-4 crew is expected to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, school students, and space industry leaders among others.

Earlier this week, the crew addressed a press conference to give an update on the training ahead of the launch.

"We are good for the launch, we have completed all the train-

ing and the team has bonded well," Whitson said Tuesday.

Shukla described the year-long training for the spaceflight as "nothing short of transformative".

"It has been an amazing journey so far, but the best is yet to come. As I go into space, I carry not just instruments and equipment. I carry hopes and dreams of a billion hearts," Shukla said.

Shukla is set to conduct exclusive food and nutrition-related experiments developed under a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), with support from NASA.



Whether or not I will contest the polls is a decision that would be taken by my party's parliamentary board. Even if I do, it will not be something extraordinary. Even the BJP has often got its leaders with a national footprint to contest state polls
CHIRAG PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

HEATWAVE GRIPS WESTERN RAJASTHAN

Parts of western and north-western Rajasthan are once again expected to experience intense heat where the maximum temperature is likely to rise in the coming days. According to the Meteorological Centre Jaipur, the weather will generally remain dry in most parts of the state for the next three to four days



Indore couple was accompanied by 3 men, claims guide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, June 7: A tour guide Saturday claimed that the honeymoon couple from Indore, Raja Raghuvanshi and his wife Sonam, was accompanied by three men on the day they went missing from Meghalaya's Sohra area.

An official confirmed that the guide had provided this information to the police.

While the couple went missing May 23, Raja's body was found in a gorge June 2 while a search for his wife was underway.

Speaking to PTI, Albert Pde, a guide at Mawlakhiat, said he had seen the couple accompanied by three male tourists as they were climbing over 3,000 steps from Nongriat to Mawlakhiat around 10 am May 23.

He said he recognised the couple as he had offered his services to them on the previous day to climb down to Nongriat but they had politely refused and hired another guide.

"The four men were walking ahead while the woman was behind. The four men were conversing in Hindi but I could not understand what they were speaking as I know only Khasi and English," Pde said.

He said that he had offered his services to take them to Nongriat May 22 but they had hired another guide, named Bha Wansai, and spent the night at Shipara homestay and returned the next day without a guide. "By the time I reached Mawlakhiat, their scooter was not there," the guide claimed.

He has also given his statement to the police.

The newlywed's rented scooter was found at Sohrarim, several kilometres from the parking lot at Mawlakhiat with the keys latched to it.

of the day uote

With irrefutable facts and unflinching clarity, Rahul Gandhi has exposed a chilling truth: the mandate of the people in Maharashtra was hijacked - not by the will of the voters, but through manipulation, deceit, and a systematic assault on democratic institutions
RAMESH CHENNITHALA | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

I have discussed the matter with the Chief Minister of Meghalaya. Senior police officials from Madhya Pradesh are in constant touch with authorities in Meghalaya. I have requested Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to order a CBI probe into the incident
MOHAN YADAV | CHIEF MINISTER, MADHYA PRADESH

There exists an immigrants expel order, which is an old law. The Supreme Court has said that this law is in force and a deputy commissioner can give permission for immediate pushback under it
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

POST OF THE DAY

ArnabGoswami, the shameless cheerleader for Yogi after the Kumbh stampede and Modi's lapdog post-New Delhi station tragedy now conveniently roars against Kohli for the Chinnaswamy stampede. This isn't journalism but it's a disgusting display of selective outrage, bending to the whims of power while peddling divisive narratives on prime time. His hypocrisy reeks, dragging India's media into a gutter of bias and sensationalism. Shame on you, Arnab for turning news into a circus
@PuneetVijh

SHORT TAKES

Sonia undergoes tests at Shimla hospital

Shimla: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was Saturday taken to Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital in Shimla after she complained of high blood pressure, a party official said. Gandhi (78), who was on a personal trip to Shimla along with her daughter Priyanka Gandhi, underwent some tests at the hospital and later left, the media advisor to Himachal Pradesh CM Naresh Chauhan told PTI.

Flood situation in Arunachal improves

Itanagar: The flood situation in Arunachal Pradesh improved Saturday with water levels of most rivers receding, even as 33,000 people in 24 districts remained affected, officials said. Twelve people lost their lives and one person went missing in rain-related incidents, including landslides, after the monsoon set in, they said.

Harsimrat writes to S Jaishankar

Chandigarh: Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal Saturday urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to initiate a dialogue with the UAE government to sensitise it about the religious significance of the five articles of faith, especially the 'kirpan', for the initiated Sikhs. In a letter to the minister, the Bathinda MP said she was making this appeal in the wake of a recent "advisory".

BANGALORE STAMPEDE

HC seeks answers from govt on 9 key questions



The bench also questioned the existence of a standard operating procedure (SOP) to manage gatherings of over 50,000 people for sporting events and public celebrations of this scale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 7: Who authorised the RCB victory celebration event? When and how the decision was made? Whether the organisers had obtained the necessary permissions? Were among the questions for which the Karnataka government will have to file its replies to the High Court by June 10, in connection with the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people.

The High Court has directed the state government to submit detailed responses to nine critical questions.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice CM Joshi raised the queries Thursday while hearing a suo motu writ petition initiated

by the court in the wake of the tragedy. The government has been asked to file its replies by June 10.

The stampede occurred June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium here, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.

The bench also questioned the existence of a standard operating procedure (SOP) to manage gatherings of over 50,000 people for sporting events and public celebrations of this scale.

The remaining questions focused on the state's preparedness and response, like: What measures were taken to control traffic around the venue? What arrangements were made to manage the crowd? What medical and emergency facilities were available on-site? Was there an estimate made of the number of attendees beforehand?

Also, were the injured given prompt medical aid at the venue? If not, why? and how much time elapsed before the injured were transported to hospitals?

No equating terrorists with victims: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: India will never countenance "perpetrators of evil" being put on par with its victims and expects partners to understand its policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Saturday during extensive talks with his British counterpart David Lammy.

Jaishankar's remarks, which we practice a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and expect our partners to understand it, and we will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with its victims

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

seemed to be an attempt to send an unambiguous message to the global community, came against the backdrop of unease in New Delhi over several countries hyphenating India and Pakistan following their four-day clashes last month.

Hours after landing in Delhi this morning, Lammy called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who appreciated the UK's support for India's fight against cross-border terrorism.

Following the meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the British foreign secretary strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack while Modi underscored the need for a decisive international action against terrorism and those who support it.

"Appreciate his substantive contribution to the remarkable progress in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, further strengthened by the recently concluded FTA. Value UK's



Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the need for decisive international action against terrorism and those supporting it in a meeting with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who expressed support for India's fight against cross-border terrorism

support for India's fight against cross-border terrorism," the prime minister said in a social media post.

Modi described the recent conclusion of the India-UK free trade pact and double contribution convention (DCC) as a "strategic milestone" that will unlock potential of the partnership in diverse sectors, according to the MEA. It said the prime minister conveyed his warm greetings to his UK counterpart Sir Keir Starmer and reiterated the invitation for his visit to India at the "earliest mutual convenience".

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting with Lammy, Jaishankar thanked the UK for its strong condemnation of the "barbaric" Pahalgam terror attack and London's solidarity and support to New Delhi's fight against terrorism.

"We practise a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism

and expect our partners to understand it, and we will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with its victims," he said. It is understood that the Indian side explained India's challenge of dealing with cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

The UK was among countries which were in touch with both India and Pakistan in an attempt to de-escalate their tensions during their military conflict from May 7-10.

Lammy paid a two-day visit to Islamabad from May 16 during which he welcomed the May 10 understanding between India and Pakistan to stop the military actions. After the meeting, the British foreign secretary said,

"We are advancing a new era in UK-India relations - boosting trade and technology, tackling the climate crisis and providing greater security for our people."

MITHI RIVER DESILTING

ED summons actor Dino Morea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 7: At least eight people, including actor Dino Morea, his brother and some BMC officials, have been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning next week in a money laundering case linked to an alleged ₹65 crore worth Mithi River desilting "scam", official sources said Saturday.

The federal agency, in a statement, said that it has frozen and seized cash and deposits worth about ₹1.25 after conducting searches at 18 locations in Mumbai in Maharashtra and Kochi and Thrissur in Kerala Friday.

The sources said around eight to nine people, including actor Dino Morea, his brother Santino Rocco Morea, some Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials and contractors, have been asked to appear before the agency in Mumbai on different dates next week.

Their statements will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) once they depose, they said.



The ED said the raids covered the office and residential premises linked to BMC engineer Prashant Ramgoudar, contractor Bhupendra Purohit, Kerala-based company Matprop Technical Service Pvt Ltd., director of Virgo Specialities Pvt. Ltd. Jay Joshi, controller of Woder India LLP Ketan Kadam, Dino Morea's house in Bandra (West) area of Mumbai and that of his brother Santino.

The agency called the Morea brothers "close associates" of Kadam, an arrested alleged middleman in the case.



Afghan children during Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, in Kolkata, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

86.5 lakh deaths in 2022, 15 pc dip over Covid-hit 2021: CRS data

According to the CRS data, 2021 registered a sharp spike with 1.02 crore deaths across the country as compared to 81.1 lakh in 2020, 76.4 lakh in 2019, and 69.5 lakh in 2018, underscoring the impact of COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: Nearly 86.5 lakh deaths were reported in the country during 2022, a significant decline of more than 15 per cent from Covid-affected 2021 which had recorded over 1.02 crore deaths, according to a new data from the Civil Registration System (CRS).

The dip of 15.74 lakh from 2021 brought mortality figures broadly back in line with pre-pandemic patterns last seen in 2020, the data for 2022 brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India through CRS report showed.

According to the CRS data, 2021 registered a sharp spike

with 1.02 crore deaths across the country as compared to 81.1 lakh in 2020, 76.4 lakh in 2019, and 69.5 lakh in 2018, underscoring the impact of COVID-19.

"In the case of registered deaths, the number has decreased from 102.2 lakh in 2021 to 86.5 lakh in 2022, i.e. a decrease of 15.4 per cent. Some of the major states namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar and Haryana have contributed significantly to the decreased number of registered deaths," the report said.

Around 5.26 lakh deaths were



reported due to COVID-19 till July 26, 2022, according to a reply given by the government in the Lok Sabha July 29, 2022.

The World Health Organisa-

tion had reported over 47 lakh COVID-19 linked deaths in India which was strongly disputed by the government. The Centre had said the WHO esti-

mates suffered from "a number of inconsistencies and erroneous assumptions".

"India had registered a strong objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this unscientific modelling approach especially when India had provided authentic data published through Civil Registration System by Registrar General of India to WHO," the government reply had said.

The CRS report also showed that over 2.54 crore births were registered in 2022.

"The number of registered births has increased from 242.0 lakh in 2021 to 254.4 lakh in 2022, an increase of about 5.1 per cent," the report said.

There has been an increase in 2022 in registered births in almost all states and UTs, except Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep as compared to 2021.

Nine major states namely, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Gujarat, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Assam have contributed significantly to the increase in registered births in 2022 over 2021, the report said.

"On the other hand, decrease in registered births in six figures has been observed in two major states namely, West Bengal and Bihar during 2021-2022," it said.



After living for nearly a hundred years on this planet, I now understand that the most important place on Earth is not on land, but at sea

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH | BRITISH NATURALIST AND BROADCASTER

13.35MN WRITE GAOKAO

China Saturday came to a standstill as millions of anxious parents crowded around exam centres all over the country as 13.35 million students wrote a highly competitive national entrance exam for admission to Chinese universities



of the day quote

President Macron's upcoming visit to Greenland is yet another concrete testament to European unity



NETTE FREDERIKSEN | PRIME MINISTER, DENMARK

Germany and India share a trusted partnership, especially on global security. We also discussed the brutal 22 April terrorist attack in Pahalgam. I'm deeply shocked. Germany stands with India in the fight against terrorism



ARMIN LASCHET | CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BUNDESTAG

Afghans who have left the country should return to their homeland. Nobody will harm them. Come back to your ancestral land and live in an atmosphere of peace



MOHAMMAD HASSAN AKHUND | TALIBAN PM, AFGHANISTAN

Kharkiv faces fiercest Russian attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 7: Russian attacks targeting the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv killed at least four people and wounded more than two dozen others Saturday, officials said, as hopes for peace dimmed further.

The first wave on Ukraine's second-largest city was a large Russian drone-and-missile attack in the early hours. It killed at least three people and wounded 21 others, according to local officials.

In the afternoon, Russia dropped aerial bombs on the city centre, killing at least one person and wounding five more, Kharkiv's mayor said.

The warring sides also accused each other of trying to sabotage a planned prisoner exchange, nearly a week after Kyiv embarrassed the Kremlin with a surprising drone attack on military airfields deep inside Russia.

Saturday's barrage — the latest in near daily widescale attacks on Ukraine — included aerial glide bombs that have become part of a fierce Russian onslaught in the all-out war,



which began February 24, 2022.

Residents describe fiery trap

As firefighters and emergency workers bustled around attack sites in Kharkiv, residents described the strikes that damaged their homes and nearly took their lives Saturday morning.

Alina Belous said that she had tried to extinguish flames with buckets of water to rescue

a young girl -- trapped inside a burning building -- who had called out for help.

"We were trying to put it out ourselves with our buckets, together with our neighbours. Then the rescuers arrived and started helping us put out the fire, but there was smoke and they worried that we couldn't stay there. When the ceiling started falling off, they took us out," she said.

Munir visits forward positions along LoC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 7: Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir Saturday visited the forward positions along the Line of Control (LoC) and interacted with the troops.

During the interaction, Gen Munir lauded troops' high morale, operational preparedness, and vigilance, the army said in a statement.

He was visiting the army's forward positions along the LoC to celebrate Eid ul-Azha with troops, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said in the statement.

Gen Munir told soldiers and officers on the frontline that celebrating the Eid away from loved ones, reflected their profound commitment to national service, the statement said.

Munir also claimed that Pakistan gave a "befitting response" to India to avenge the loss of lives in the recent flare up.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack



— that left 26 dead — with India carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir May 7.

The on-ground hostilities from Indian and Pakistan sides that lasted for four days ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides May 10.

Munir also reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stance on the Kashmir issue and vowed to continue support for the Kashmiri people.

New Delhi has maintained that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India.

China okays some rare-earth exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 7: China Saturday approved some export license applications for rare earth-related metals -- critical components used in manufacturing of automobiles, semiconductors, mobile phones and a host of other industries.

The approval was granted considering rising global demand for medium and heavy rare earth elements driven by industries such as robotics and new energy vehicles, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce here said.

Rare earth-related items have dual-use attributes for both military and civilian purposes, the spokesperson said, noting that imposing export controls on such items is in line with international practice.

The spokesperson said the controls aim to better safeguard national security and interests and fulfil international obligations of non-proliferation, which reflects China's commitment to world peace and regional stability.

Trump says he has no plans to speak to Musk as feud persists

REUTERS

Washington, June 7: US President Donald Trump said Friday that he has no plans to speak with Elon Musk, signaling the president and his former ally might not resolve their feud over a sweeping tax-cut bill any time soon.

Addressing reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said he wasn't "thinking about" the Tesla CEO.

The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

"I hope he does well with Tesla," Trump said.

However, Trump said a review of Musk's extensive contracts with the federal government was in order. "We'll take look at everything," the president said. "It's a lot of money."

Trump may get rid of the red Tesla Model S that he bought in March after showcasing Musk's electric cars on the White House lawn, a White House official said, speaking



on condition of anonymity.

Musk, for his part, did not directly address Trump but kept up his criticism of the massive Republican tax and spending bill that contains much of Trump's domestic agenda.

On his social-media platform X, Musk amplified remarks made by others that Trump's "big beautiful bill" would hurt Republicans politically and add to the nation's \$36.2 trillion debt. He replied "exactly" to a post by another X user that said Musk had criticized Congress and Trump had responded by criticizing Musk personally.

Musk also declared it was time for a new political party in the United States "to represent the 80% in the middle!"

Israel retrieves body of Thai hostage

55 HOSTAGES REMAIN IN GAZA, AND ISRAEL SAYS MORE THAN HALF ARE DEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, June 7: Israel said Saturday it had retrieved the body of a Thai hostage abducted into Gaza during the October 7, 2023 attack that sparked the war, as it continued its military offensive, killing at least 95 people in the past 24 hours, according to Gaza's health ministry.

The prime minister's office said Nattapong Pinta's body was returned to Israel in a special military operation. Pinta was seized from Kibbutz Nir Oz and killed early in the war, the government said.

Thailand's foreign ministry in a statement confirmed that the last Thai hostage in Gaza was confirmed dead. It said the bodies of two others are yet to be retrieved.

The news came two days after the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages were retrieved. Fifty-five hostages remain in Gaza, and Israel says more than half are dead.



Israel's defence minister said Pinta's body was retrieved from the Rafah area in southern Gaza. He had come to Israel to work in agriculture.

The army said he was seized by the Mujahideen Brigades, the small armed group that it said also abducted and killed Shirri Bibas and her two small children. The same group took the two Israeli-American hostages, Judih Weinstein and Gad Haggai, whose bodies were retrieved Thursday.

This was the largest group of foreigners held captive by Hamas militants. Many of the agricultural workers lived in compounds on the outskirts of southern Israeli kibbutzim and towns, and Hamas militants overran those places first.

A total of 46 Thais have been killed during the conflict, according to Thailand's foreign ministry. Separately, Hamas issued an unusual warning about another hostage, Matan Zangauker, saying Israel's military

had surrounded the area where he is held and that any harm to him during a rescue attempt would be Israel's responsibility.

Israel continues its military offensive

Israel continued its military offensive across Gaza.

Four strikes hit the Muwasi area in southern Gaza between Rafah and Khan Younis. In northern Gaza, one strike hit an apartment, killing seven people including a mother and five children. Their bodies were taken to Shifa hospital.

"Stand up, my love," one weeping woman said, touching the shrouded bodies.

Another strike in Gaza City killed six members of a family, including two children, according to the Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals. Israel said it was responding to Hamas' "barbaric attacks" and dismantling its capabilities. It said it takes all feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm.

WEEK'S BEST PICS



Palestinians gather to collect what remains of relief supplies from the distribution centre of the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, June 5



People play with tomato pulp during the annual 'Tomatina' (tomato fight) in Sutamarshan, Colombia June 1



A woman picks up sargassum seaweed on a beach during its season, in Playa del Carmen, Mexico June 3 as record amount of seaweed piles up on Caribbean beaches



Protesters gather for a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Rome, Saturday



A Muslim pilgrim prays at Jabal al-Rahmah, also known as Mount Arafat, during the annual hajj pilgrimage, outside the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, June 5



“We successfully met a peak demand of 250 GW in May 2024 and India has transformed from power-deficit to a power-sufficient nation and as of today, peak demand shortage is zero”
MANOHAR LAL | UNION POWER MINISTER

GO FASHION GOES GLOBAL

Go Fashion (India) Ltd, which owns the popular women's wear brand 'Go Colors', under its vision to expand its footprint globally, has inaugurated its first international store in Dubai, the company said Saturday. The city-headquartered Go Fashion (India) under the 'Go Colors' brand has a presence of over 750 stores across the country



of the day **QUOTE**

India is receiving FDI inflows from 112 countries compared to 89 in 2013-14
PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

The policy is definitely positive for all sectors of the economy, particularly for banking and finance. In particular, lower cost of borrowing will act as a counterbalance to any uncertainty
CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

With India's growing focus on renewable energy and open access power markets, electricity derivatives can serve as a vital bridge between the physical and financial sectors
PRAVEENA RAI | MD & CEO, MCX

Late GST returns can't be filed after 3 years

GSTR-3B to become non-editable from July

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 7: The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) announced major changes on Saturday, stating that from the July 2025 tax period, the monthly GST payment form GSTR-3B will become non-editable.

Alongside this, taxpayers will also not be allowed to file any GST returns after three years from their original due dates.

In its advisory, GSTN explained that while GSTR-3B will still be auto-filled based on sales data from forms like GSTR-1, any changes or corrections must be made before filing, using form GSTR-1A.

This revised data will then automatically show up in GSTR-3B. Once that is done, taxpayers will no longer be able to edit the GSTR-3B manually, as is currently possible.

“For the July 2025 tax period, to be filed in August 2025, the auto-populated tax liability in GSTR-3B will be final and cannot be changed after filing,” the advisory stated.

This move is aimed at improving data accuracy between different GST forms and preventing tax leakage.

GSTR-3B is a monthly summary return used to report tax liability and is filed between the 20th and 24th of each month, depending on the type of taxpayer.

Currently, businesses receive a pre-filled version of this form, but they can still make edits before final submission.



“Taxpayers must now ensure real-time reconciliation and error correction before the return is filed. This places greater responsibility on businesses to enhance internal controls and avoid last-minute adjustments”
RAJAT MOHAN | SENIOR PARTNER, AMRG & ASSOCIATES

That flexibility will no longer be available after the new rule kicks in.

In another important update, GSTN said that starting from July 2025, taxpayers will not be able to file any GST return if it is more than three years late.

This includes monthly returns like GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B, annual returns like GSTR-9, and other returns such as GSTR-4, GSTR-5, GSTR-5A, GSTR-6, GSTR-7, and GSTR-8.

This rule was introduced through the Finance Act, 2023, and will now be implemented on the GST portal.

It means that if a return is not filed within three years of its due date, it will become permanently time-barred and cannot be submitted.

GSTN has advised all taxpayers to reconcile their accounts and file any pending returns as soon as possible to avoid being locked out by the new time limit.

Growth of Reliance Retail in Odisha higher than national average: Kamadeba Mohanty

From remote villages to bustling cities, Reliance Retail has become a household name in Odisha. In an exclusive conversation with Orissa POST, Kamadeba Mohanty, Chief Operating Officer, Grocery Retail & JioMart, Reliance Retail, opens up about the brand's rapid growth in the state, customer behaviour in smaller towns, future expansion strategies, and how Reliance is solving both retail and agricultural supply chain challenges. Having been with the group since the early days of its retail journey, Mohanty shares his experience so far and aspiration to build customer-first infrastructure across the state. Excerpts...

DEEPAK KUMAR DEHURY, OP

How do you assess Reliance Retail's current presence in Odisha?

There has been substantial growth in Reliance Retail's operations in Odisha. We have multiple stores across the state and many more in the pipeline, especially in the grocery sector. Today, our grocery operations are active in every part of India, including Jammu and the Northeast. Odisha is no exception—we're growing faster here than the national average.

Could you share the scale of your store network in Odisha and nationally?

We currently have around 3,300 stores across India, with new ones opening almost every day. In Odisha, we operate about 10 premium 'Signature' stores, like the one at Gopabandhu Square in Bhubaneswar, along with several small-format grocery outlets under the 'Smart Bazaar' brands. Out of the state's 30 districts, 25 already have Smart Bazaar outlets, and property deals have been signed in the remaining five.

What explains this growth surge in Odisha?

Odisha's consumption patterns are now comparable to metros like Mumbai or Delhi, with only about a 15% difference. Grocery is a daily need, and consumers here are loyal, aspirational, and quick to adapt to modern retail formats.



Modern retail struggles during peak hours—especially in billing. Most stores lack express lanes or proper tracking systems. For instance, customers with just four or five items still have to spend 45 minutes at checkout. There should be dedicated counters for such customers, especially senior citizens. Machines are installed but underutilised.

How is Reliance meeting local needs through formats like Smart Bazaar?

Smart Bazaar is designed to be community-focused. During local festivals like Savitri Brata, we ensure the availability of all essential items. From puja kits to women-specific materials, we cater to local sentiments—offering them at affordable prices with consistent quality.

What challenges do you see in the current retail experience across India?

How deep are Reliance's retail efforts going into rural India? We are expanding beyond cities into blocks, sub-divisions, and even police station jurisdictions. We've reached 46 such jurisdictions already. Cities with populations of 75,000 to 1 lakh also have aspirational consumers—and we are meeting their expectations.

Reliance is also working with farmers. Tell us more.

We're bridging supply chain gaps—especially for perishables like mangoes. Farmers often lose out due to middlemen. Through about 10 collection centres, farmers can now view real-time prices and get instant digital payments directly into their accounts.

How did your career evolve from banking to retail?

I started in retail banking with HDFC and ICICI, working across deposits, treasury, and foreign exchange. Around 2005, due to family needs, I returned to Kolkata. That's when Reliance approached me. It was the right time to build something from the ground up—and that's exactly what we did in Odisha.

What's your long-term vision for Odisha?

We want to build world-class retail infrastructure here and bring every service—from offline to hyperlocal—to even the most remote corners. Under Reliance Foundation and Bharat-India Jodo, we're trying to bridge the gap between rural and urban India. That's our mission.

SHORT TAKES

Milestone by SHFL

Chennai: Sundaram Home Finance which has been expanding its presence beyond Southern markets has reached a milestone of breaching ₹1,000 crore mark in its disbursements made in non-south markets in FY 2024-25, a top official said. Sundaram Home Finance is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Ltd. It provides home loans, plot loans, loans against property and business loans to traders and retailers. The city-headquartered company, a traditional player in south India, has expanded its presence in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It also entered into the Chhattisgarh market. For the financial year ending March 31, 2025, Sundaram Home Finance made disbursements of ₹6,517 crore (including south and non-south markets) which was up by 29 per cent from ₹5,039 crore disbursements made in the same period of previous financial year (FY2023-24).

PhonePe buys GSPay IP

New Delhi: PhonePe Friday said it has acquired the IP of GSPay -- a proprietary technology stack from conversational engagement platform Gupshup -- to enable UPI-based payments on new feature phones. The company in a statement said it plans to customise the stack and launch its own UPI payment app for new feature phones in India in the next few quarters. Industry research indicates that there were over 24 crore feature phone users in India in 2024, and in the next five years, another 15 crore feature phone shipments are anticipated.

GST BREATHER FOR INFOSYS

DGGI closes ₹32,400cr pre-show cause notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: In a major relief for Infosys, the Director General of GST Intelligence has closed pre-show cause notice proceedings against the company for financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22 involving a staggering ₹32,403 crore in GST dues.

The latest move effectively ends nearly a year-long GST saga for India's second-largest IT services firm.

Mid-last year, the goods and services tax (GST) authorities had slapped ₹32,403 crore notice on Infosys for services availed by the company from its overseas branches for five years starting 2017.

The GST demand, in fact, exceeds Infosys's annual profits (net profit for full FY25 stood at ₹26,713 crore), and its closure now is bound to come as a significant relief for the tech major.

The Bangalore-headquartered company, in a BSE filing, said with the receipt of the lat-



est communication from DGGI "this matter stands closed".

"In continuation to our earlier communications on July 31, 2024, August 1, 2024 and August 3, 2024 on GST, this is to inform that the company has today received a communication from the Director General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) closing the pre-show cause notice proceedings for the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22," the company said in the filing late Friday evening.

Infosys -- which competes with the likes of TCS, Wipro and others for global IT contracts -- said it had received and responded to a pre-show cause notice issued by DGGI for the period July 2017 to March 2022 on the issue of non-payment of IGST under Reverse Charge Mechanism.

Lending rates may fall by 30 bps after policy rate cut: SBI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 7: Lending rates are expected to drop by about 30 basis points (bps) after the recent cut in policy rates, according to a new SBI report.

This change will be felt most immediately in loans linked to the External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR), which account for around 60 per cent of all loans given by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), as per the data compiled by State Bank of India (SBI) Research said.

The report said that because of this high share of EBLR-linked loans, the impact of the policy rate cut will be passed on quickly, making loans cheaper for many borrowers. "This move is aimed at reducing borrowing costs and boosting demand in the economy," the report added.

However, the fall in lending rates could hurt banks' profit margins. To help ease this pressure, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also lowered the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), which will reduce the cost of funds for banks.

MUSK-TRUMP FEUD

Tesla's \$380 billion wipeout marks biggest 2025 loss among top firms

Mcap of Tesla has fallen 29.3% to \$917bn so far this year, the biggest drop among big companies globally

REUTERS



Washington, June 7: Tesla is the worst-performing large-cap stock this year, thanks to declining electric vehicle demand, Chief Executive Elon Musk's political controversies over his ties to far-right groups, and now, his public feud with President Donald Trump.

Tesla shares slumped Thursday, after Trump on social media threatened to cut off government contracts with Elon Musk's companies, following Musk's sharp criticism of the president's signature tax and spending bill on his X social media platform.

The market capitalisation of Tesla Inc has fallen 29.3% to \$917 billion so far this year, the

biggest drop among big companies in the world.

Tesla, which ranked eighth globally in market capitalization at the beginning of the year, slipped to tenth as of June 5.

The company's shares rose in early trading Friday, as investors took some comfort from White House aides scheduling a call with Musk to broker peace after a public feud with Trump.

Apple, which began the year as the world's most valuable company, has slipped to No 3 this year, dragged down by weak demand in China, Trump's tariff threats, and slower progress in AI. Its market capitalization has declined over 20% this year, falling to \$2.99 trillion as of Thursday.

AM/NS supplies critical steel for Chenab, Anji Khad railway bridges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/Bhubaneswar, June 7: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has played a key role in India's infrastructure transformation by supplying crucial steel for two iconic railway bridges — the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.

The inauguration of both bridges by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks a milestone in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the 'Viksit Bharat' vision.

AM/NS India supplied 25,000 metric tonnes of high-strength structural steel for the Chenab Bridge, covering 70% of the total steel requirement. Special-

ised steel grades were used for different components including the arch and pillars, ensuring strength and durability under extreme altitudes and seismic conditions.

For the Anji Khad Bridge, the company delivered 7,000 metric tonnes of fully customised fabricated steel structures, meeting 100% of the project's steel needs. All steel was manufactured at the Hazira facility, adhering to stringent quality controls and inspected by third-party agencies.

"With the Chenab and Anji Khad Bridges, we are not just building engineering marvels, but advancing India's industrial strength and self-reliance," said Ranjan Dhar, Director and VP, Sales & Marketing, AM/NS India.

World's third largest pizza chain to enter India

India -- one of the fastest growing quick service restaurant markets -- will be the 30th market for American pizza brand Little Caesars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 7: Little Caesars, a Detroit, Michigan-based world's third largest pizza chain, is entering the Indian market.

India -- one of the fastest growing quick service restaurant markets -- will be the 30th market for Little Caesars, which is also the world's largest family-owned pizza chain, for which it has roped in Harnessing Harvest as its franchise partner.

It has planned to open its first outlet in Delhi-NCR this month, with plans for additional locations to follow, according to a statement from the company. Its entry into India market



reflects the brand's commitment to global growth, bringing its signature menu and exceptional value to a new market, it said.

Recently, Little Caesars has launched in markets such as Cambodia and Kuwait as part of its global expansion. Little Caesars, was founded

“Launching in India marks an exciting milestone for Little Caesars as we expand into our 30th country. With our delicious pizzas and unbeatable value, we're eagerly anticipating introducing a unique menu that we believe will captivate India”
PAULA VISSING | PRESIDENT, GLOBAL RETAIL, LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA

by Mike and Marian Ilitch as a single, family-owned restaurant in 1959 and is headquartered in downtown Detroit, Michigan. The brand is known for its 'hot-n-ready' pizza, crazy puffs, and famed crazy bread

in the US market. Its franchise partner, Harnessing Harvest, has nearly nine decades of operations in the Indian food and hospitality industry.

According to a report from IMARC Group, the Indian pizza market size reached \$5.3 billion in 2024. Looking forward, it expects the market to reach \$11.8 billion by 2033, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 9.24 per cent during 2025-2033.

The Indian pizza market is led by global QSR brands as Domino's, Pizza Hut operated by their local franchise partners. Besides, several home-grown brands such as La Pino'z, Brik Oven, BOC'S Pizza, etc, are also key players in the market.

RUGBY PREMIER LEAGUE DEBUT

Kalinga Black Tigers gear up

The team unveils jersey and mascot, an ode to Odisha's majestic black tigers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: As India ushers in a new era in professional sports with the launch of the inaugural Rugby Premier League in the country, the Kalinga Black Tigers - one of the league's founding teams, marked a significant milestone with the unveiling of their official jersey and mascot at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar Saturday.

Backed by I-lunch Ventures, an investment firm deeply rooted in Odisha, the Kalinga Black Tigers represent more than just a sporting franchise; they embody a broader vision for the state's development and recognition on the national stage. Hunch Ventures has consistently supported Odisha through impactful initiatives. Earlier this year, the company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Start-up Odisha in a landmark move to strengthen the region's start-up ecosystem. With the Kalinga Black Tigers, Hunch continues its commitment to nurturing talent, celebrating regional identity, and bringing Odisha to the forefront of national conversations.

The event was graced by several key dignitaries and Rugby Premier League patrons, including Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister; Rahul Bose, President of Rug-



by India; Priyadarshi Mishra, President, Odisha Rugby Football Association (ORFA); Karanpal Singh, Founder of Hunch Ventures and Co-owner of the Kalinga Black Tigers; Head Coach Mike Friday; Assistant Coach Rajeev Nath; and the full team roster of the Kalinga Black Tigers.

The guests officially unveiled the Kalinga Black Tigers' jersey, marking a proud moment for the team and the state. The newly unveiled jersey is a striking tribute to Odisha's rich heritage and indomitable spirit. Inspired by the rare and powerful melanistic black tigers native to the region's forests, the design reflects the team's core values of strength and resilience.

Adding to the cultural symbolism, the team also introduced its official mascot, the "Paika," representing the valor of the legendary Kalinga warriors and capturing the legacy and pride that the team stands for.

This occasion also marks a historic milestone for the state of Odisha. While the state has long supported the growth of rugby at the grassroots level, fostering talent across districts through sustained efforts by coaches, institutions, and communities-this is the first time Odisha is represented at the national league level for a global sport. It signifies the realization of a long-standing aspiration and reinforces Odisha's commitment to strengthening its presence in the national sporting landscape.

Speaking at the occasion, Bose said, "It gives the RPL Governing Council great happiness that the League has a team from the state of Odisha. Odisha's contribution to Indian sport, both on and off the field is a well documented story. Its contribution to Indian Rugby was and is significant. The Kalinga Black Tigers have a formidable team with some

of the best known rugby players in the world and in India. We wish them all the best in their efforts to take Indian rugby onto the global stage."

Sharing his vision, Singh added, "Hunch has been supporting rugby over the years. Almost half of our Women's National team consisted of Odias, who went on to win the silver in the Asia sevens in 2021. KBT is named after The black tigers, indigenous to Odisha, symbolising power and agility." He further added, "Rugby, is a high-intensity full contact sport, and will resonate well with the audiences both in Odisha and nationally."

Head Coach Mike Friday expressed his excitement about the team's future. "Rugby is growing rapidly worldwide, and I'm thrilled to see it gaining attention in India with the launch of the Rugby Premier League. The Kalinga Black Tigers combine world-class

players like Rosko, Perry, Maurice Harry, and Lucas with talented Indian athletes, creating a powerful and dynamic team. Having worked with them, I'm confident their passion, resilience, and team spirit will shine through as they proudly represent Odisha. With the right mix of collective energy, determination, and skill, the Black Tigers are set to be strong contenders in the series. Get ready for the "Ambush".

The event set a confident tone for the debut season of the Rugby Premier League and underscored Odisha's growing stature as a destination for world-class sporting events. The Rugby Premier League starts June 15 and will be streamed live on Jio-Hotstar. The Kalinga Black Tigers will begin their campaign against Hyderabad on the opening day of the Rugby Premier League Season 1.

Gukesh blunders against Caruana

CARLSEN WINS NORWAY CHESS TITLE FOR SEVENTH TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger, June 7: World champion D Gukesh committed a costly blunder against American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana in the final round to finish third, as five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen clinched a record-extending seventh Norway Chess title here.

Gukesh, after being in a disadvantageous position against 2018 Norway Chess champion Fabiano Caruana, tried to stage a late comeback but ran out of time and committed a blunder, instantly realising his chances had slipped away.

Gukesh offered a handshake, grimaced, closed his eyes, and buried his face in both hands in frustration. It was a golden opportunity for the young Indian world champion to win his maiden Norway Chess title in only his second appearance, after a roller-coaster tournament that saw him start on a poor note before turning things around with impressive Classical wins over Magnus Carlsen, compatriot Arjun Erigaisi, and China's Wei Yi.

Defending champion Carlsen, who was the overnight leader with 15 points after round 9, ended the tournament with 16 points after fashioning the great escape against GM Erigaisi and steering the game to a draw in the 10th round on Friday.

Gukesh finished third - the same as in the 2023 edition - with 14.5 points, while Caruana was second with 15.5 points. Erigaisi finished fifth with 13 points.

Erigaisi won the Armageddon tie-break against Carlsen following the miraculous draw by the Norwegian, but it did not matter in the end as the five-time world champion had already secured a point with the stalemate to win the title.

While Gukesh quietly walked out of the arena after losing to Caruana, Carlsen said he had to "literally fight for his life" to stay in the match against Arjun Erigaisi.

A defeat for the Norwegian would have been catastrophic, as the Gukesh-Caruana game was still in progress, and a Classical win for either would have dashed his hopes of a seventh Norway Chess title and the accompanying prize purse of approximately \$69,500.

In fact, had Gukesh managed to draw his game against the American Grandmaster,



he would have secured the title—provided Carlsen had lost his Classical encounter against Erigaisi.

Under the Norway Chess format, a Classical win earns three points, while a draw gives each player one point. A drawn game is followed by an Armageddon tie-break to decide the winner, who is awarded an additional half point.

Carlsen said he would not be playing a lot of classical chess in times to come.

"Not a lot (of classical chess) for sure. I'm not going to say that this tournament was my last for sure but I enjoy other forms of chess a lot more."

Muzychuk wins women's title

In the women's section, overnight leader and two-time world blitz champion, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk won the title with 16.5 points despite an Armageddon tie-break loss to India's R. Vaishali in the final round.

Muzychuk's draw in the classical game against the Indian earned both players a point each, while Vaishali secured another half a point by beating the Ukrainian in the Armageddon sudden death to finish on 11 points.

Had Vaishali defeated Muzychuk - who was on 15.5 points overnight - in the Classical game, she would have deprived the Ukrainian Grandmaster of three points, which would have propelled Koneru Humpy to the title had the two-time world rapid champion too got the better of Chinese world champion Ju Wenjun in the Classical game.

Unfortunately, Humpy, who was on 13.5 points overnight after round 9, could only manage a draw with white pieces to earn one point. She got another half point by overcoming Wenjun in the Armageddon tie-break to earn 1.5 points, and finish with 15 points and a third-place finish.

SHORT TAKES

30 wrestlers suspended

New Delhi: Cracking down the whip on overage wrestlers competing at junior level, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has handed temporary suspension to 30 of them in the past month after investigating more than 400 such cases. The WFI acted on complaints, largely from coaches and wrestlers from the Delhi 'Akharas' that many wrestlers from Haryana have procured fake certificates to show they were born in the national capital and are eligible to compete at junior level. Much to the exasperation of WFI, two overage wrestlers even won medals at the recent Khelo India Games in Bihar. "We do not want to spoil careers of wrestlers, so we have just barred them from the junior level competitions, like U18 and Cadets. They should compete at the senior level, if they are over 18 they must represent their original state," a senior WFI official told PTI.

Norway decimate Italy

Oslo: Erling Haaland scored and Norway humbled Italy 3-0 for the first time in 25 years in qualifying for the 2026 World Cup. Haaland Friday collected a through ball from playmaker Martin Odegaard and rounded goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the box for the third goal three minutes before halftime. It was his 41st goal in his 42nd match for Norway to the delight of the spectators at Ullevaal Stadium in Oslo, including King Harald V of Norway. Haaland also scored when Moldova was beaten 5-0 and Israel 4-2. Norway remained perfect in qualifying after three games in Europe Group 1.

Starting on bad note

Amstelveen: The Indian men's hockey team squandered a one goal lead to lose 1-2 to Olympic champions Netherlands in the first match of the European leg of FIH Pro League here Saturday. India will face Netherlands again Monday in the second match of the European leg.

TAIWAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jyothi leads India's 6-gold show

Taipei City, June 7: Asian champion Jyothi Yarraji won the women's 100m hurdles race with yet another impressive time as India won six gold medals in the Taiwan Open international athletics competition here Saturday.

National record holder Yarraji clocked 12.99 seconds to pocket the gold at the Taipei Municipal Stadium, ahead of Japanese runners Asuka Terada (13.04 seconds) and Chisato Kiyoyama (13.10 seconds), who took the silver and bronze respectively.

The 25-year-old Yarraji had won gold in the Asian Championships in South Korea May 29 with a time of 12.96 seconds.



Her national record stands at 12.78 seconds. Another national record holder, Tejas Shirse also won gold in the men's 110m hurdles, clocking 13.52 seconds, the sec-

ond fastest time of his career. Local athletes Hsieh Yu-an-kai (13.72 seconds) and Kuei-Ru Chen (13.75 seconds) won the silver and bronze respectively.

The 23-year-old Shirse's national record stands 13.41 seconds. India's best 4x100m relay quartet of Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblihdhar and Amlan Borgohain won gold, clocking 38.75 seconds, just six-hundredth of a second outside of the national record of 38.69 seconds set by the same team at the National Relay Carnival in Chandigarh earlier this year.

But, it fell short of the timing which would have taken the team to Tokyo World Championships.

OFC extend Gama's contract until 2028

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 7: Odisha FC is delighted to announce that defender Saviour Gama has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2028.

The Goan full-back began his footballing journey with FC Bardez before joining the FC Goa developmental squad in the 2017-18 season. His tenacity and defensive discipline quickly caught the attention of the senior coaching staff, earning him a breakthrough into the



Indian Super League (ISL) and the Super Cup. He scored both of his ISL career goals while playing for FC Goa. Gama joined Odisha FC ahead of the 2024-25 season,

bringing experience and consistency to the backline. In his debut campaign with the Kalinga Warriors, he featured in 19 ISL matches, showcasing his reliability and energy on the flanks. He also contributed with one assist against Kerala Blasters FC in Kochi. Head Coach Sergio Lobera shared his thoughts on the extension, "I'm happy with Gama's continued presence at the club. He's a player I've known for years, and when I decided to sign him for OFC, I knew he could help the clubteam."

Gauff defeats Sabalenka to bag first French Open title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 7: Coco Gauff won the French Open for the first time by defeating top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 in Saturday's final.

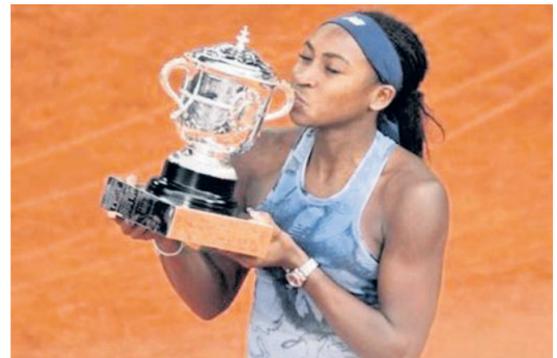
The second-ranked Gauff came out on top of a contest that was full of tension and momentum swings to claim her second major trophy after the 2023 US Open, where she also came from a set down to beat Sabalenka in the final.

Gauff raised the winners' trophy aloft, then kissed it several times. She held her hand over her heart when the U.S. national anthem played.

It was the first No 1 vs No 2 final in Paris since 2013, when Serena Williams defeated Maria Sharapova, and just the second in the last 30 years.

After Sabalenka sent a backhand wide on Gauff's second match point, the 21-year-old American fell onto her back, covering her face with both hands as she started to sob, then got up and held her hand over her mouth. She continued to sob as she patted the clay with her left hand.

After greeting Sabalenka at the net with a warm hug and thanking the umpire, Gauff screamed out with joy and re-



The crowd really helped me today, you guys were cheering for me so hard and I don't know what I did to deserve so much love from the French crowd. But I appreciate you, guys

COCO GAUFF

lief, then got to her knees and crouched forward, continuing to cry as she savored the win.

She hugged later film director Spike Lee and celebrated with her entourage in her box, three years after she lost in her first Grand Slam final at Roland-Garros.

In her on-court speech, she said that defeat in 2022 at the age of 18 put her in a "dark place"

and then thanked the fans on Court-Philippe Chatrier, who were rooting mostly for her.

Sabalenka was in tears moments earlier when she made her speech. Struggling to find her words, she praised Gauff for being a "fighter" and said she deserved the win, but added that the windy conditions made for an error-strewn contest.

"This will hurt so much. Coco, congrats, in the tough conditions you were a better player than me," she said. "Well done, great two weeks, and congrats on the second Grand Slam, it's well deserved." Gauff now owns two French Open trophies after winning last year's women's doubles title.

Archery hopes crash in Antalya debacle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya, June 7: Indian archery endured a forgettable outing at Stage 3 of the World Cup here Saturday, returning empty-handed in a performance that raised serious questions over team selection, preparation and mental fortitude, especially with the Asian Games just a year away.

The high of Shanghai last month, where India stood second on the medal tally with two gold, one silver and four bronze medals, now seems like a distant past.

The third leg in Antalya saw both recurve and compound archers flop spectacularly, with not a single podium finish, even in their traditionally strong



compound category.

A day after India's compound archers crashed out in both individual and team events, the

recurve results were equally dismal, with seasoned names like four-time Olympians Deepika Kumari and Tarundeep Rai

also failing to reach the medal rounds.

The only fight came from Simranjeet Kaur, who shocked everyone by stretching Korean Olympic gold medalist An San to a shoot-off in the quarterfinals Saturday.

An San, meanwhile, defeated Indian star Deepika three times in a row. The South Korean had earlier ousted the Indian star in the second round with a 6-0 rout (29-30, 27-28, 28-30) dashing her hope for a successive medal. Deepika had bagged a bronze in Shanghai last month. Deepika, the former world number 1, continues to falter against elite opponents and has failed to learn from repeated mistakes, particularly against the dominant Koreans.