



Sam's latest post

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu's latest vacation photos from Abu Dhabi have stirred unexpected buzz online

LEISURE | P2



Gaza-bound Greta

Israel government vows to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching Gaza

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Banks follow RBI

Several major banks have slashed their lending rates following the Reserve Bank of India's recent decision of rate cut

BUSINESS | P11



Athletes shine

The Indian contingent wins as many as five gold medals on the final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship

SPORTS | P12

CM eyes major industrial push

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar June 8: The government will undertake a major modernisation of its Single Window System to boost industrial growth in the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Sunday.

The Chief Minister said this during an interaction with top industry leaders, MSME entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and start-up sector leaders at Lok Seva Bhavan, ahead of the first anniversary of the government, where he outlined key priorities for the upcoming year.

The upgraded system - as part of the renewed push to streamline industrial development - will feature a dig-

ital-first, integrated project tracking platform designed to ensure faster clearances, real-time monitoring, and seamless coordination across departments, he said.

"This move aims to eliminate bureaucratic delays, improve investor experience, and make Odisha one of the most business-friendly destinations in India," he said.

The CM emphasised that this step is central to enabling entrepreneurship, attracting mega investments, and building a future-ready industrial ecosystem.

This apart, simplification of regulatory compliances to accelerate entrepreneurship, launch of new policies targeting emerging and



sunrise sectors and expansion of land banks, logistics corridors, and critical infrastructure will also be the priorities, CM said.

During the interaction, the CM thanked the entrepreneurs and industry leaders to become partners in Odisha's growth story.

Saying that the government is focusing more on job creation and more employment, he urged the industry captains and entrepreneurs to help make Odisha an industrial power house.

"One year ago, the people of Odisha placed their faith in us to build a future that

is inclusive, aspirational, and transformative. Today, as we reflect on this first year, we do so with pride in our progress and renewed commitment to the journey ahead," he said.

Majhi said the presence of PM Modi at the Utkarsh Odisha event made all the difference. "His call to investors to put their money in Odisha was highly rewarding for us," the CM said, adding that over 150 MoUs were signed, generating ₹16.7 lakh crore of investment intent, and an employment potential for more than 12.9 lakh.

Over the last year alone, 206 large projects were approved, nearly double the average of the previous

five years. These represent a total investment value of over ₹4.5 lakh crore, and an employment potential of nearly 2.9 lakh.

He further said, "Since Utkarsh Odisha, 56 projects have already been taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration, with a combined investment of over ₹1.78 lakh crore, and employment potential for 1.1 lakh people."

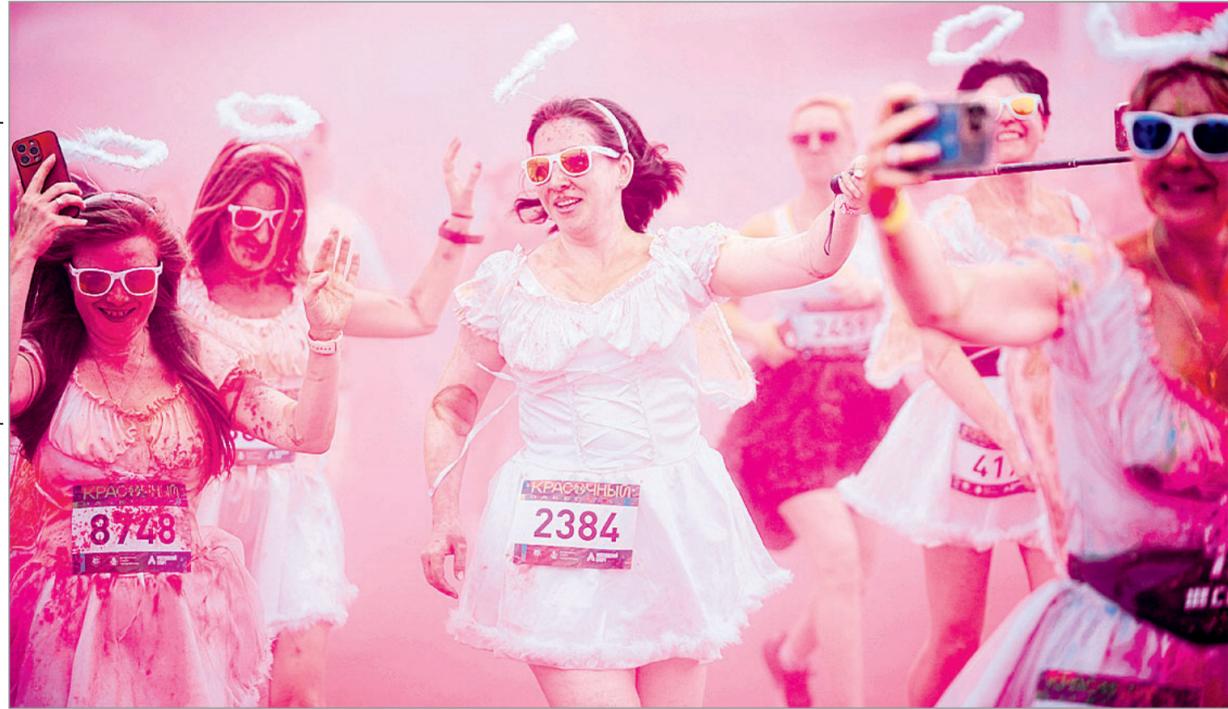
Adding that the state is growing across 20 sectors - from mining, metallurgy and metal downstream to emerging opportunities in chemicals, food processing, apparel and textiles, Majhi said Odisha is no longer the minerals hub of India, it is becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse.

Team OrissaPOST Remembers Smt. Nandini Satpathy on her 94th Birth Anniversary

Garlanding of her statue

Date : 09.06.2025 Time : 8 AM

Venue : LIC Office Square, Near Raj Bhawan



COLOURS OF JOY: Participants get covered with coloured powder during The Color Run in Moscow, Russia, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Modi government turns 11 today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: When Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath for a third term June 9, 2024, it was Rahul Gandhi who sounded rather upbeat on the back of the BJP's unexpected loss of majority in the Lok Sabha polls amid its campaign claim of crossing 400 in the 543-member House.

"We have finished Modi psychologically. His government will be removed soon," the Congress leader was to assert as critics cited the BJP's crucial dependence on TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, both with a history of switching alliances, and its weak show in big states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to forecast political turbulence ahead. P9

Elderly man killed, burnt over 'witchcraft'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mohana/Paralakhemundi, June 8: A 60-year-old man was allegedly murdered and his body set ablaze by miscreants in Kuiru village under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district, police said Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Kambi Mallick, a traditional healer in the village. Mohana IIC Basant Sethy said six women and two men have been detained in connection with the incident which reportedly occurred last Tuesday. Police also collected the remains

from the spot Sunday.

Reports said that Mallick was alone at home when the attack occurred. His children, who were away at the time, grew suspicious after returning home Wednesday morning. They found their father missing, and bloodstains near the entrance of the house. Later, the family discovered that Mallick was killed in front of the house and his body was taken a short distance away and set ablaze. Acting on a tip-off Sunday, police reached the site and recovered the charred remains from the location where the body was

allegedly set on fire.

Family members alleged that Mallick, who was known for providing herbal remedies and conducting traditional healing rituals, may have been targeted due to suspicions of practicing witchcraft and sorcery.

On the other hand, it is alleged that Mallick was in illicit relationship with some women in the village. Later, these women had a fight with him over some issue. Incensed, these women and two men killed him in the absence of family members, before setting his body on fire.

IAS officer Dhiman Chakma in Vig net

Dharamgarh (Kalahandi): The Odisha Vigilance Sunday caught the Sub-Collector of Dharamgarh, in Kalahandi district, Dhiman Chakma red handed while accepting a bribe of ₹10 lakh from



a local businessman, an official said. Chakma is a 2021-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer. Vigilance sources said the arrest of the top government official was part of an ongoing anti-corruption drive launched by the department. Subsequent searches at the Sub-Collector's residence led to the recovery of an additional ₹47 lakh cash, raising further suspicion of broader financial misconduct. Vigilance sources say that more searches are underway. P3

Non-veg, liquor to be banned near Srimandir

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: In a move aimed at preserving the sanctity of the Srikshetra Puri, the state government has decided to impose a ban on sale of non-vegetarian food and liquor within 2-km radius of Srimandir.

This was stated by Law and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Sunday. "The state government will ban the sale of non-vegetarian food and liquor within a 2-km radius of the Jagannath temple in Puri," the minister told the mediapersons.

Harichandan said the decision is part of the state government's broader initiative to preserve the sanctity of the holy town.

"A complete ban on the sale of meat and liquor, including in bars, within a 2-km radius of the Jagannath temple will be enforced," said Harichandan.

"There will be no liquor shop or bar on the Grand Road. Besides, sale of meat and non-vegetarian items will also be banned on the Grand Road, which connects the Srimandir to Gundicha temple," he said. However, the minister did not state when the ban would come into force. He said the government is also planning to bring uniformity in the



Hot dal spills on 7 devotees

Bhubaneswar: Seven devotees sustained minor burn injuries after hot dal (lentil soup) accidentally spilled on them inside Srimandir Sunday, officials said. The incident took place in the afternoon when the man engaged to transfer the hot dal immediately after offering it to the deities in the temple accidentally spilled the dal and it fell on the devotees, they said. All the injured are residents of Nayagarh district. They were immediately rushed to the emergency health centre near the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) office in Puri for treatment. No one was seriously injured in the mishap. The injured devotees were discharged after primary treatment, the officials said.

height and facade of all buildings along the Grand Road.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had earlier urged the Housing and Urban Development department to frame norms for uniform architectural designs for buildings around the temple.

3 electrocuted while working in septic tank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, June 8: A mason and two labourers died of electrocution while working inside a toilet septic tank at Gagandhuli village under Jhinkiria panchayat of Khaira police limits in Balasore district Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Narahari Behera, 62, a mason from Tentulia village in Badajapur panchayat under Khaira block, Babaji Majhi, 43, and Harekrushna Das, 32 - both residents of Gagandhuli village.

According to reports, the mishap occurred while the three men were working inside a newly built toilet tank at the residence of Harekrushna Das. They had entered the tank to remove the centring from the concrete ceiling. While they were at work, an electric wire connected to a cutter machine accidentally snapped and fell into the tank, which reportedly had about three feet of water inside.

As soon as the wire came in contact with the water, all three workers were electrocuted and collapsed.

Villagers immediately disconnected the power supply and rescued the victims. They were first rushed to a private clinic in Barapur and later shifted to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Former MLA Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi has demanded government compensation and assistance for the bereaved families. P8

Internet suspended in 5 Manipur dists

Imphal: A day after violent protests erupted in Manipur over the arrest of a leader of Meitei outfit Arambal Tengol, the situation remained tense Sunday with the administration imposing prohibitory orders and suspending internet services in five Imphal valley districts, police said. As a preventive measure, prohibitory orders have been clamped in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts, while internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities, have been suspended in these valley areas. Protesters torched tyres and old furniture on roads in Kwakeithel and Uripok, demanding the release of the Meitei leader. They clashed with security forces at different places in the state capital Saturday night. P8

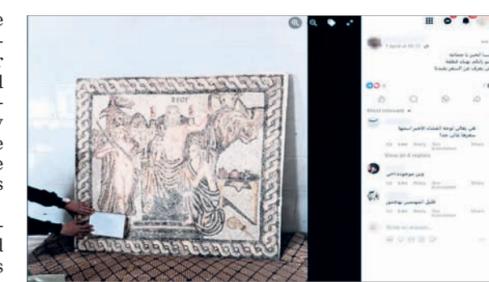
Assad's fall: Syria's stolen antiquities flood Facebook

They come by night. Armed with pickaxes, shovels, and jackhammers, looters descend on Syria's ancient city of Palmyra, disturbing graves buried for over 2,000 years in a desperate search for treasure. By day, the aftermath is visible: deep holes scar the landscape, tombs lie shattered, and remnants of funerary gold and ancient artefacts are nowhere to be found, according to a report in The Guardian.

"This destruction makes it impossible for archaeologists to interpret what they're seeing," said Mohammed al-Fares, a Palmyra resident and activist with Heritage for Peace. Standing near the

remnants of a looted crypt, he placed a broken shard of pottery beside a rusted mortar tailfin—symbols of war and greed. Palmyra, a third-century BC city, has already suffered significant damage at the hands of Islamic State militants, who blew up its iconic ruins in 2015.

Since rebels overthrew Syrian president Bashar al-Assad in December, looting across the country has exploded. According to the Antiquities Trafficking and Heritage Anthropology Research Project (ATHAR), nearly a third of the 1,500 looting cases they've tracked since 2012 occurred in the last six months alone. The collapse of state control



and widespread poverty has created fertile ground for cultural theft.

"This was a complete breakdown of constraints," said Amr al-Azm, Middle East history professor and ATHAR co-director. Syria, located in

the cradle of civilization, is rich in artefacts that sell for high prices among Western collectors.

Facebook has become a critical hub in the black market. Despite a 2020 ban on the sale of historical ar-

tefacts, public and private Facebook groups are still trading ancient coins, mosaics, and busts. Some groups boast hundreds of thousands of members. Katie Paul, also co-director of ATHAR, said: "This is the biggest flood of antiquities trafficking I've ever seen, from any country." She and Azm maintain a database of over 26,000 items documented since 2012.

In one Facebook video, a Syrian man displays a mosaic of Zeus still embedded in the ground, using his phone for scale. In later photos, the same mosaic appears fully excavated. Some looters even livestream digs, asking viewers where to dig next

and attracting interest from potential buyers.

The Syrian government has responded by offering finder's fees for returned artefacts and threatening up to 15 years in prison for looters. But with the nation in ruins and 90% of the population living in poverty, enforcement is weak. Metal detectors sell openly in Damascus, and social media is filled with treasure-hunting ads.

Some looters are amateurs seeking fast cash, while others are part of professional smuggling networks. Entire sites like Tall Shaykh Ali have been systematically excavated with heavy machinery. Once out of Syria,

artefacts are smuggled into Jordan and Turkey, where they are given fake paperwork and sold internationally—often entering legitimate auction houses years later.

Experts argue that stopping looting at the source is unrealistic. "You want to stop this? Stop the demand in the West," Azm said. Until security improves, and global buyers are held accountable, Syria's cultural heritage will remain under siege.

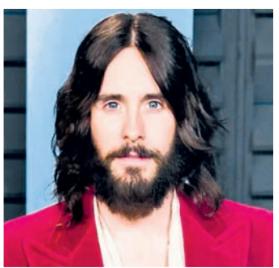
In Palmyra, residents like al-Fares now act as volunteer guardians, standing watch over what little remains of their past, refusing to let history be stolen under cover of night.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



World Bank data is out, we're out of extreme poverty. Now, we're just poor

leisure



NINE WOMEN ACCUSE JARED LETO OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Hollywood actor Jared Leto is facing allegations of sexual misconduct by multiple women. Nine women have claimed that the 53-year-old actor behaved inappropriately toward them. Some women have claimed that they were underage at the time of the alleged assaults.

MICHELLE RANDOLPH IN TALKS FOR MALIBU

Actor Michelle Randolph is in talks to star in horror film *Malibu* from Tod Williams. The project is described as a thriller skulking around in the subterranean horror subgenre. It is produced by Roy Lee and Steven Schneider under the banner Spooky Pictures.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
 You will put your eloquence to excellent use today, and it will be praised by one and all, particularly by members of the opposite sex, and you will bask in all the glory. However, Ganesha suggests that you spare some time for meditation to balance your internal and external worlds.

TAURUS
 You may, this day, get your moods ruffled, your emotions hurt. Emotionally you are likely to be too touchy and, therefore, vulnerable. Ganesha sees you being grouchy and upset throughout the morning. Later, however, the clouds of gloom will disperse and you will gradually regain your exuberance. The sympathy and understanding of elders and seniors will play a large part in restoring your good humour and seeing you smile once again.

GEMINI
 You will make diligent efforts to keep your loved ones happy and content and will expect the same from them today. However the more expectations you fulfill, the more they will rise. You need to give some time to yourself as well, says Ganesha.

CANCER
 You will work with concentration in office. So tasks will be finished fast. Your life is turning a new turn, whereby you feel it is full of thrill and affection. You will achieve perfection, says Ganesha.

LEO
 An auspicious and favourable day awaits you, says Ganesha. You will be able to complete all tasks at work. You will be able to make beneficial changes at home. You will be able to buy new things for home. Financial gains are possible. Youngsters may find love.

VIRGO
 Your mission of finding an engrossing relationship has been fulfilled. At work, you may try to outdo other people with both your actions and words. Ganesha suggests you may go ahead and charm people with your repository of enchanting anecdotes and win their goodwill.

LIBRA
 Ganesha says that those of you who are working independently or have their own business may have a good day in financial matters today. Those of you who are working professionals will find that your higher officials will be very happy with you and your abilities will be praised. Whether you are independently working or working under someone today is your day.

SCORPIO
 You have all the qualities of becoming a team leader. And today, you have the opportunity to showcase your skills and abilities for the same. A dynamic personality yourself, you are likely to prove that you are the sailor of stormy seas.

SAGITTARIUS
 Today, your actions are definitely going to be louder than your words, predicts Ganesha. Your focus today would be on personality development and self-improvement, and you succeed to achieve what you want, to some extent. Good luck!

CAPRICORN
 God helps those who help themselves. So, work hard, take care of your health, and keep believing in your dreams, says Ganesha. There are fair chances of you striking an important deal on the behalf of your company, and it will certainly boost the image of your bosses and you both. If you have a hobby or an interest for something, take some time out from your busy schedule for that, too.

AQUARIUS
 Mark this date on the calendar, as it may turn out to be the most important day in your life. A windfall is expected make your day brighter, says Ganesha. Good luck will follow you through out the day, as your hard work will be paid off with rewards and awards at work. Enjoy the good times, as every day is not the same day.

PISCES
 You will contemplate adopting a new strategy today. It is an auspicious day for making a new beginning and undertaking new ventures. A promotion may be on the cards at the work front and you will find success knocking at your front door today. Your self confidence will find a new lease and you will emerge much more certain of your capabilities and goals.

Shilpa reflects on her journey

Mumbai: On her milestone 50th birthday, Shilpa Shetty took a heartfelt moment to reflect on her incredible journey and the defining stories that have shaped her both personally and professionally. Celebrating decades of success and growth, she shared insights into the experiences that made her the strong and inspiring woman she is today. Taking to Instagram, she posted a video of her transformation over the years and wrote, "Grateful for my journey and the stories that made me and the ones still on my way. Thank

you for all your love and wishes Instafam. #Gratitude #love #blessed #Birthdaylove." The heartwarming video begins with a picture of Shilpa as a toddler and beautifully traces her transformation over the years, capturing the journey of her growth and evolution. On her special day, the *Hungama 2* actress was showered with warm wishes from family members and close friends. Among the heartfelt messages, her sister Shamita stood out by lovingly referring to Shilpa as her second mother, highlighting

the deep bond they share. In a touching post, the Mohabbatein actress expressed deep admiration for her sister Shilpa, describing it as truly wonderful to see her grow into a confident, strong, and inspiring woman.



Buzz around Sam's latest post

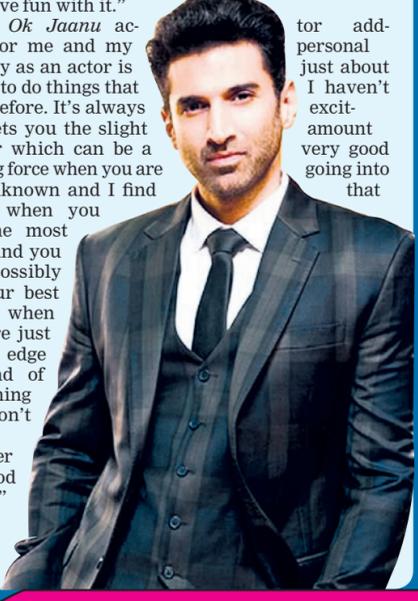
Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu's serene getaway to Abu Dhabi has stirred unexpected buzz online, all thanks to one viral photo. The actress recently posted snapshots from her stay at the opulent Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort, where she was seen enjoying the desert sun in a black swimsuit, reading peacefully, and stargazing through a telescope. However, it wasn't just the stunning setting that caught fans' attention — a particular picture sparked major speculation. In one image, Samantha is seen wearing reflective sunglasses, and eagle-eyed Reddit users claim filmmaker Raj Nidimoru's reflection can be spotted in the lenses. This led many to wonder if he was the one behind the camera. While there's no official confirmation, the rumour mill has been buzzing, especially among fans who've been tracking whispers of a possible relationship between Samantha and Raj — one-half of the acclaimed director duo Raj & DK, who worked with Samantha on *The Family Man 2*.

While some netizens were convinced, others dismissed the claims. Adding fuel to the fire, Raj's ex-wife, Shyamali De, recently shared cryptic quotes on Instagram hinting at karma and the universe exposing truths, which many believe were timed too closely to be coincidence. Neither Samantha nor Raj has commented yet.

ADITYA ON TAKING RISK

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur opened up about stepping out of his comfort zone and taking a bold risk with his role in the upcoming film *Metro In Dino*. The actor shared how this project challenged him to explore uncharted territory as an actor, marking a fresh chapter in his career. Speaking about where this film fits in his personal journey, Aditya shared, "This seems like something I haven't done before as an actor. It's a very interesting, idiosyncratic character that seems to dance to the beat of his own drum and gave me the opportunity to really take chances and have fun with it."

The *Ok Jaanu* actor added, "For me and my journey as an actor is trying to do things that done before. It's always ing, gets you the slight of fear which can be a driving force when you are the unknown and I find that's when you are the most alive and you can possibly do your best work when you are just at the edge of kind of something you don't know whether it's good or not."



Pooja's homesick remedy

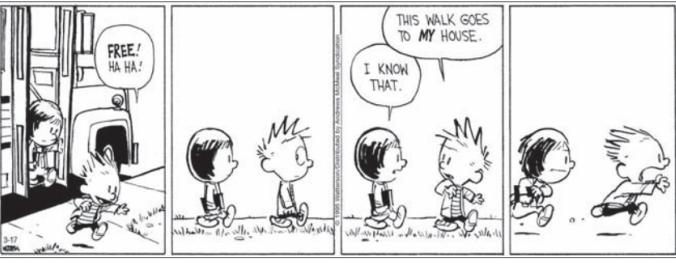
Mumbai: Being an actor means staying away from home for long periods of time, and everyone ends up inventing their own way of overcoming their feeling of being homesick. Through her latest Instagram post, actress Pooja Hegde shared that one of her favorite homesick remedies is to enjoy a hot cup of tea with some yummy Parle-G biscuits. The Retro actress dropped a clip on her Instagram handle, where she was seen enjoying this beloved combo. She was heard saying in the background, "Simple joys to make me feel like I am at home". Taking out one of the biscuits from the pack, she said, "Dubao-ing (dipping) this in my chai". After treating herself to this soul food, Pooja proclaimed at last, "Oh my God! This is some dangerous stuff." Her post further included the caption, "Nothing screams home like parle g in my chai...Homesick remedies."

On the work front, Pooja is busy with her next *Hain Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hain*, which is being made under the direction of David Dhawan. With Varun Dhawan as the protagonist, the highly-anticipated drama enjoys a stellar cast including Mrunal Thakur, Mouni Roy, Chunkey Panday, Manish Paul, Jimmy Shergill, Rakesh Bedi, Ali Asgar, Kubbra Sait, Rohit Saraf, Rajeev Khandelwal, Nitish Nirmal, and Sreeleela, along with others.

PEANUTS



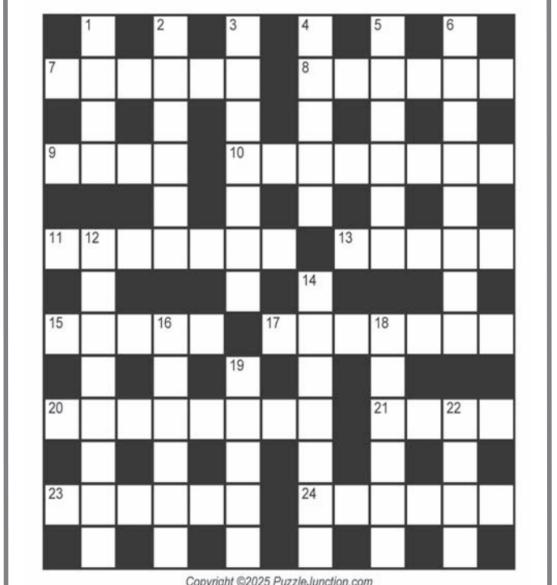
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



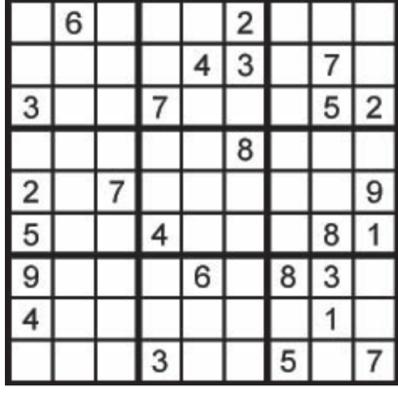
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Detective's clue
 - 8 Anglers' baskets
 - 9 Wine holder
 - 10 Bear in mind
 - 11 Walks softly
 - 13 Back street
 - 15 Highly skilled
 - 17 Direction finder
 - 20 Obscurity
 - 21 Fire
 - 23 Oceanic bird
 - 24 Goofs
 - 4 Bloodhound's trail
 - 5 Abnegation
 - 6 Embedded spies
 - 12 Obligated
 - 14 Sporting dog
 - 16 Hand tool
 - 18 Bakery buy
 - 19 Pasture
 - 22 Brusque
- Down**
- 1 Roman wrap
 - 2 Boarding pass
 - 3 Holiday spots

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

downtown

DISTRICT-WISE GUEST HOUSES IN CAPITAL CITY SOON

BHUBANESWAR: In a landmark move to address accommodation challenges faced by visitors travelling to Capital city, the state government has announced plans to construct 30 district-specific guest houses in Bhubaneswar. At a presser, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the initiative aims to provide affordable and accessible lodging for people visiting the City for healthcare and other urgent needs. "Each guest house will serve exclusively to people from one of 30 districts," said Pujari. "Each guest house will have 100 rooms and will be equipped to fulfil the need of those who often struggle to find affordable accommodation during the short visits," he added. Pujari highlighted the financial strain experienced by many visitors, particularly those from rural and economically weaker sections, who are often forced to spend significant amounts on hotels and private lodgings during their visit to the Capital city.

94TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

NANDINI: AN EPITOME OF SELF-SACRIFICE



The only woman chief minister of Odisha, Nandini Satpathy, was a unique personality with few contemporaries. Revered for her unshakable determination and unmatched self-sacrifice, she continues to inspire millions even till today. A fiery leader with a profound connection to the masses, Satpathy carved a niche for herself in a predominantly male political arena. Beyond politics, she was also a literary luminary. Her remarkable contributions to literature earned her the prestigious 'Sahitya Bharati Samman', solidifying her status as a cultural icon. On the occasion of her 94th birth anniversary, **Orissa POST** reflects on the extraordinary life and legacy of a woman who embodied strength, intellect, and compassion



Vigilance nets Dharamgarh Sub-Collector



Dharamgarh, June 8: Sub-Collector of Dharamgarh in Kalahandi district, Dhiman Chakma, was caught red-handed Sunday by Vigilance officials for accepting ₹10 lakh as bribe from a local businessman, officials said.

The Vigilance sleuths made the arrest as part of an ongoing anti-corruption drive.

According to official sources, Chakma had allegedly demanded ₹20 lakh from the businessman, threatening retaliatory action against his business if the bribe was not paid.

The complainant delivered ₹10 lakh in cash — 26 bundles of ₹100 notes — which Chakma reportedly verified and placed in a drawer in his office inside the residence.

Subsequent raids at the Sub-Collector's residence led to the recovery of an additional ₹47 lakh in cash, raising further suspicion of broader financial misconduct.

Sub-Collector's residence led to the recovery of an additional ₹47 lakh in cash, raising further suspicion of broader financial misconduct. Sources at the anti-corruption wing said additional searches are underway.

A case has been registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. The investigation is ongoing, said the officials. This is the latest in a series of high-profile Vigilance operations targeting public officials in the state.

White tigress gives birth to 2 cubs

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: A white tigress at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here gave birth to two cubs including a white one, the zoo authorities said Sunday.

The two cubs were born inside the enclosure of the tigress named 'Mousumi' at 9:15pm and 11:03pm Saturday. A zoo official said the sex of the cubs could not be determined immediately since they are with their mother.

With the arrival of the new cubs, Nandankanan's tiger population has increased to 29 — 17 males, 10 females and



2 cubs. Of them, 19 are normal coloured tigers, six are white and four are melanistic (commonly known as black tiger). The tigress and newborns are being closely monitored to ensure their well-being, he said. Normal-coloured tiger Rajesh is the father of the cubs, Mousumi's second litter.

Both parents were born at NZP—Mousumi August 5, 2016 to Manish and Sneha, and Rajesh September 22, 2018 to Roshan and Bijaya, the official added.

Covid tally rises to 45 in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose to 45 in the current wave after seven more people were found to be infected with the virus, a health official said Sunday.

The number of active cases is 33 now, after 12 patients have recovered till Saturday.

The state has taken steps to contain the spread of infection following instructions from the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, the official said.

The state and district surveillance units are closely

monitoring cases of influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI).

Officials were directed to ensure Covid testing of all SARI cases coming to hospitals.

All positive SARI samples will be sent for whole genome sequencing through the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) virus research and diagnostic laboratory network. Individuals with acute respiratory illness should self-monitor and seek medical care if symptoms worsen, according to the guidelines issued by the ministry.

India's 2nd longest rly viaduct in the making

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 8: A 4.77-km long viaduct being constructed under Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line is set to become the second-longest railway bridge in the country, following the iconic Bogibeel Bridge in Assam.

According to Railway sources, the viaduct is being built to avoid interference with the upcoming Brutang irrigation reservoir after a realignment of the railway route was finalised in consultation with the Water Resources (WR) department.

Deputy chief engineer Rajesh Kumar Das, working on the Viaduct project, stated that the construction began in January 2024 following a joint meeting between the Railway department, the state government, and the WR department.

Das emphasised that elevated viaducts are essential for navigating Odisha's diverse landscape, which includes dense forests and river valleys. This particular viaduct is be-

ing constructed between Buguda and Banigoccha stations, traversing scenic mountains, rural areas, and villages. The project, which involves 180 pillars, is scheduled for completion by August 2026.

The project aims to minimise deforestation and ensure the uninterrupted movement of wildlife, including elephants.

The Khurda Road-Bolangir railway line spans a total of 301km, linking the eastern region near the state capital to the western district of Bolangir. The project passes through several underdeveloped and previously unconnected areas in Nayagarh, Boudh, and Subarnapur districts. For many communities along this route, this will be the first-ever railway connection, opening new avenues for mobility, commerce, and access to essential services.

As of mid-2025, 226 km of the total line have been completed and commissioned. The remaining stretch is in progress following key clearances and engineering breakthroughs.



A total of 21 new railway stations are being constructed along the route, each designed to enhance accessibility to remote towns and villages.

The project also features extensive civil works, including seven tunnels spanning 12.7 km—with the longest tunnel extending 4.18 km—as well as elevated viaducts and wildlife crossings. These infrastructure elements are essential for navigating Odisha's varied landscape, which includes dense forests and river valleys, the sources said.

One of the most challenging segments of the project, from Daspalla to Purunakatak, passes through ecologically sensitive reserve forest areas, which led to significant delays due to the need for environmental clearance. However, after persistent coordination between the state government, the Ministry of Railways, and forest authorities, Stage-I forest clearance was secured in February 2023.

To overcome financial and administrative challenges, an MoU was signed in July 2015

between the state government and the Ministry of Railways. Under this agreement, the state has committed to providing land free of cost and bearing 50% of the construction cost for the stretch between Daspalla and Bolangir.

Environmental concerns have also been addressed with a series of eco-friendly engineering measures, including elevated structures to minimize deforestation, protect nearly two lakh trees, and ensure safe wildlife crossings—particularly for elephants and other native species, said the railway authorities.

Meanwhile, excavation for Tunnel T1 through T4 has been completed, with lining work currently underway, while Tunnels T5, T6, and T7 have completed both excavation and lining phases. The remaining works, including the critical viaduct and forest section, are expected to be completed by April 2026, aligning with the project's final timeline, the authorities added.

Veteran soldiers denied land rights, claims AOVSA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The All Odisha Veteran Soldiers Association (AOVSA), during a press meet at Utkal Sambadik Bhawan here Sunday, alleged that veteran soldiers are being denied their rightful land entitlements, while illegal foreign nationals are reportedly receiving government land and benefits.

AOVSA president Parmeshwar Swain, vice presidents Madhusudan Das and Patitapaban Senapati, secretary Umesh Kumar Chaimi and others attended the event.

Citing several resolutions issued by the Central government, including those from 1963, 1986, and 1998, the association stated that the ex-servicemen, deployed in war zones and forward areas were entitled to five acres of land. "However, the 2014 resolution cancelled the earlier directives, citing land unavailability. According to RTI data accessed by the association, over 3 lakh acres of land were still recorded as reserved for ex-servicemen in 2012," the outfit alleged.



Swain expressed concern over the allocation of these lands to politically influential individuals and mining mafias in parts of Ranpur, Nayagarh. "Around 74,113 Bangladeshi and 56 Tamil refugees have been settled in districts like Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, and Gajapati, with access to land and welfare schemes," claimed Swain.

The association also raised concerns about the lack of employment and protection for army veterans, highlighting incidents where former soldiers working in private agencies faced attacks and lacked basic facilities.

AOVSA has urged the state government to establish an Ex-Servicemen Corporation and construct a war memorial at Kalinga Nagar in Bhubaneswar to honour the martyrs.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Saroj Kumar Pattanaik, S/o-Niranjan Pattanaik of Vill- Udayapur, P.O.- Udayapur, P.S.- Nuagaon, Dist.- Nayagarh, PIN-752083, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 175/2025, dtd. 29.5.2025, that now onwards I shall be known as Saroj Kumar Patnaik for all future purposes.

I, Najima Bibi, age- 30 years, W/o- Munaf Khan, At- Panisanda, P.O.- Sukhsanda Patna, Bhograi, Balasore. That before my marriage name is Najima Khatun, D/o- Mohammad Ayub Ali Khan, that I as Najima Bibi, W/o- Munaf Khan, At- Panisanda, P.O.- S.S. Patna, Bhograi, Balasore, PIN- 756036, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 2018, dtd. 06.06.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Najima Bibi for all future purposes.

Min Harichandan stresses tech-driven, resilient infra

Minister Prithviraj Harichandan calls on engineers to embrace advanced technologies to ensure that upcoming projects are both environmentally friendly and resilient to natural disasters



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Odisha aims to harness modern technology and artificial intelligence to build strong, disaster-resilient infrastructure—an essential move for the geographically vulnerable state, said Works, Law and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan at the executive committee meeting and technical seminar on 'Recent Advances in Iconic Building Projects' held here Sunday.

The event was organised by the state government's Works department in collaboration with Indian Building Congress (IBC) Odisha Chapter.

Minister Harichandan, the

chief guest at the event, emphasised that Odisha's susceptibility to natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, and earthquakes necessitates that all future infrastructure projects be built with disaster resistance and equipped with advanced systems.

He urged engineers present at the meeting to prioritise environmentally sustainable construction methods, integrating cutting-edge technology into their designs and execution.

Addressing the participating engineers, the minister emphasised the importance of environmentally sustainable construction using modern knowledge and skills.

He said that from under-

ground metro projects to several major upcoming initiatives, many large-scale projects are being implemented in Odisha, and therefore, there is a need to use the latest technologies and recycled materials in these projects during their construction phase.

He also advocated for regular training programmes to enhance the efficiency and competency of engineers.

At the event, IBC Odisha Chapter president Bijay Chandra Tripathy delivered the welcome address, while IBC, New Delhi chairman C Debnath and founding chairman OP Goel shared his views on IBC's initiatives, the regular organisation of workshops to enhance engineers' skills, mutual sharing of experiences, and the use of new technologies.

A significant highlight of the workshop was a presentation by M Murugesan, who addressed the challenges inherent in underground metro projects and explored the application of alternative designs.

The event concluded with the release of a souvenir by Minister Harichandan, who also felicitated eminent personalities. IBC secretary VR Bansal proposed the vote of thanks.

Ocean cleanup saves 160 Horseshoe Crabs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: On the occasion of World Ocean Day, Sunday, Bikash Saathi, with the support of Wildlife Trust of India and Fondation Segré, led an impactful marine conservation drive at Gudapahi Beach in Balasore.

Led by Biswajeet Panda, the initiative saw participation from passionate conservationists, including Malaya Mohapatra, Tushar Behera, Anurag Behera, Sambit Patra, Dibyadiganta Choudhary, Amarendra Khapalia, Sagadip Dalai, Amlan Anurag Behera and Adarsh Jena. Approximately 300kg of ghost fishing nets, a major threat to marine life, particularly along India's eastern coastline was successfully removed.

The team also rescued over 160 Horseshoe Crabs which were trapped in the debris, releasing them safely back into

their natural coastal habitat. These ancient marine arthropods, often called 'living fossils' are crucial to coastal biodiversity but are increasingly at risk due to marine pollution and habitat loss.

Additionally, local fisherfolk and community members took part in a sensitisation session, where they were told about the importance of marine ecosystems and the dangers posed by abandoned fishing gear.

As marine debris continues to rise globally, localised and collaborative actions offer hope and direction for preserving ocean health for future generations. Expressing his views on the importance of the day, noted environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal said, "She is life, Our future, Our responsibility. She is the ocean. And though she faces growing threats, we still have the power to protect her. But we must act now. Our voices and choices matter. Let's work together for a better tomorrow."

Trans community seeks action on welfare issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The All Odisha Transgender Community Forum (AOTCF) has formally urged the state government to take immediate action to resolve the persistent challenges faced by transgender individuals in the state. Despite various initiatives, the community still grapples with widespread discrimination, social stigma, and limited access to essential resources.

In a letter, submitted to state authorities, the forum outlined five key demands aimed at improving the socio-economic status and well-being of transgender persons. The charter of demands include the allocation of homestead land and housing, implementation of skill development and entrepreneurship schemes, awareness programmes to combat



Youth Cong protests outside BJP MP's home over Rahul remarks

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Members of the Youth Congress Sunday staged a protest outside the residence of BJP MP and its national spokesperson Sambit Patra in Puri over his recent remarks against Rahul Gandhi.

Holding posters and banners, several youth Congress activists marched to Patra's residence in Kalinga Vihar here, and were engaged in a scuffle with police personnel who prevented them from entering his house, officials said.

Patra, during a recent pub-

lic meeting in Pipili area of Puri, had alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a "paid agent of China or Pakistan".

The BJP MP had made similar comments about Gandhi in New Delhi June 3.

Patra's remarks came after Gandhi, while addressing a party convention in Madhya Pradesh, had alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "surrendered" after a call from US President Donald Trump during the India-Pakistan military conflict.

The Youth Congress activists also brought an am-

balance to the protest site, claiming that Patra's mental condition was not stable.

"Patra has lost his mental balance. Earlier, he had claimed that PM Modi is bigger than Lord Jagannath. Now, he has made derogatory remarks against Rahul Gandhi. We have come here to take him to a mental hospital in the ambulance," said Youth Congress state president Ranjit Patra.

The BJP leader has tried to create disturbance and divide the country by making such a remark against Gandhi, alleged Yashir Nawaz, another Youth Congress leader.

Gadakana unrest over dumping yard removal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Local residents, including senior citizens and women, held a large protest Sunday near the Gadakana Dumping Yard entrance, demanding the immediate removal of waste around Sainik School.

Under the banner 'Alia Gada Hatao, Sainik School Banchoao,' protesters blocked the main entrance of the dumping yard, preventing garbage trucks from entering.

'Odisha Abhivhabak Mahasangha' president Basudev Bhatt, 'VSS Nagar Unnayan Parishad' general secretary Dillip Dashsharma and others participated in the protest.

Despite earlier assurances by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), nearly 350 metric tonne of dry waste continues to be dumped daily at the yard. Protesters claimed that the dry waste processing plant at Palasuni, which was inaugurated May 15, is yet to become functional.

New gene mutation linked to iron deficiency, IBD

Biomedical scientists have discovered that a genetic mutation associated with Crohn's disease can worsen iron deficiency and anemia — one of the most common complications experienced by patients with inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD.

The study led by scientists at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine in the US — performed on serum samples from IBD patients — reported that patients carrying a loss-of-function mutation in the gene PTPN2 (protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor type 2) exhibit significant disruption in blood proteins that regulate iron levels.

This mutation is found in 14-16 per cent of the general population and 19-20 per cent of the IBD population. A loss-of-function mutation is a genetic change that reduces or eliminates the normal function of a gene or its product, a protein.

While IBD primarily affects the intestines, it can have



The mutation is found in 14-16 per cent of the general population and 19-20 per cent of the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) population

A loss-of-function mutation is a genetic change that reduces or eliminates the normal function of a gene or its product, a protein

effects beyond the gut. Iron deficient anemia is the most prevalent of these effects, contributing to chronic fatigue and reduced quality of life, particularly during disease flare-ups, said the study published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

"This discovery sheds light on a critical mechanism that

links a patient's genetics to their ability to absorb and regulate iron, which is essential for maintaining healthy blood and energy levels," said Declan McCole, a professor of biomedical sciences at UCR who led the study. "Our findings offer an explanation for why some IBD patients remain iron-deficient despite oral supplementation."

When the researchers deleted the PTPN2 gene in mice, the animals developed anemia and were unable to absorb iron effectively.

The team found this was due to reduced levels of a key iron-absorbing protein located in the intestinal epithelial cells — the cells responsible for taking up dietary nutrients.

"The only way the body can obtain iron is through intestinal absorption from food, making this discovery particularly significant," said first author Hillmin Lei, a doctoral student in McCole's lab.

Disruption of this pathway by genetic variants like those in PTPN2 could help explain why some IBD patients fail to respond to oral iron therapy, a commonly prescribed treatment for anemia, Lei added.

The study is a vital step toward understanding how genetic risk factors for IBD can compound patient symptoms by interfering with nutrient absorption.

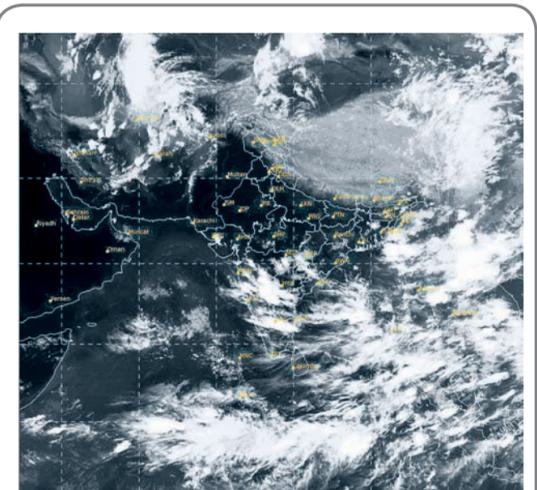


Table with weather forecast data for BBSR, CTC, and FORECAST, including Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, and Rainfall.

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Girl commits suicide over parents' fight

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharakote, June 8: A 19-year-old girl took her life by hanging after being frustrated over a heated argument between her parents at Majhi Sahi under Dharakote police limits in Ganjam district, police said Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Shweta Swain alias Lija, daughter of Bulu Swain and a student of Plus III (Arts stream) at Niranjana Women's College in Aska. The incident occurred when her parents had a heated altercation over some issue Saturday night. She urged her parents not to fight in loud voice.

However, the couple went on arguing with each other instead of listening to their daughter. Irked and depressed, she went inside a room and hanged herself with her scarf from the ceiling fan.

Family members rushed her to the Aska hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. Dharakote police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

8 kg ganja seized from passenger bus; 2 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Harabhanga, June 8: Excise officials in Boudh district seized 8 kg of ganja (cannabis) from a passenger bus and arrested its conductor and helper Sunday.

According to sources, a passenger bus belonging to the NBL fleet was en route from Kumari in Harabhanga block to Bhubaneswar when the Excise department received a tip-off about illegal transportation of cannabis. Acting swiftly, a team of Excise personnel intercepted the vehicle near Badala on the Khurda-Bolangir National Highway.

Upon conducting a thorough inspection, officials discovered a hidden chamber within the bus containing 8 kg of ganja.

The Excise team immediately seized the contraband and arrested the conductor Lakshmidhar Jagasethi of Bijipur village under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh district, and the helper Babuli Mandoi of Fategarh in the same district.

A case has been registered against the duo under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, and they have been produced in court.

The raid was led by Excise Inspector Rabindranath Pradhan, with assistance from other department personnel.

Subarnapur's fisheries college a non-starter



Project in limbo despite DPR and land availability

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, June 8: After the formation of the new BJP government in Odisha, residents of Subarnapur had high hopes for the establishment of a fisheries college in the district. With no major state-level or Central institution in the area, the public expected the Mohan Majhi-led government — which has emphasised balanced regional development — to address the long-standing demand. But with just one week left before the government marks its first anniversary, there has been no tangible progress on the matter.

Efforts to establish the college began two years ago. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared and submitted to the state Fisheries and Animal

Resources Development department. In November 2023, then District Collector Bimalendu Ray had written to the department's principal secretary, urging him to send a high-level team to assess the proposed site and take necessary action. However, no team has been dispatched in the 18 months thereafter.

Later, in July 2024, District Collector Anya Das sent a reminder letter to the department. Bolangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo also raised the issue in the Lok Sabha. In April, Biharajpur MLA Raghunath Jagadala demanded the same in the state Assembly. However, the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development minister, Gokulananda Mallik, responded that no formal proposal had yet been received regarding a fisheries college in Subarnapur; much to the disappointment of the local population.

Subarnapur district, with its numerous rivers and streams,

including the Mahanadi, Tel, Ang and Suktel, along with several dams, creeks, and ponds, offers favourable conditions for fish farming and research. Given the absence of a fisheries college in western Odisha, the demand for one in Subarnapur had strong backing. Letters have been sent from the district administration and Planning and Statistics department to the Fisheries department, proposing the idea.

The department's principal secretary had previously instructed the district administration to review the site conditions, estimate associated costs, and form a committee to facilitate the proposal. Accordingly, a main committee and subcommittees were constituted.

The Dean of the College of Agriculture, Chiplima, under the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), had prepared the DPR. The college would require around 50-60 acres of land, which would include large and small ponds, a playground, an administrative block, and hostels.

A 55-acre campus of the Odisha Pisciculture Development Corporation (OPDC) exists near Binika, and the state-run fisheries farm in Subarnapur spans about 75 acres with multiple ponds. Officials suggested the college could begin operations on a temporary basis without logistical issues.

Despite available infrastructure and administrative readiness, the project remains stalled due to a lack of formal approval and ministerial will.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



2 arrested for abducting man



POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, June 8: Two persons involved in illegal coal trade were arrested Sunday by Sabarang police for the alleged abduction of a man who they suspected to be a police informant.

According to reports, Pratap Kumar Behera of Marapur village under Sabarang police limits in Bhadrak district was abducted June 5 by a group of individuals allegedly linked to the coal mafia. Acting on a complaint filed by Pratap's wife, Kanakalata, a case (125/25) was registered at Sabarang police station.

Police launched raids at various locations Sunday and arrested two suspects— Bijay Barik from Toranpada village under Goramati panchayat and Sanjeeb Das from Mallapada area under Bhadrak Rural police limits. Both have been forwarded to court.

Speaking on the case, Sabarang IIC Umashankar Nayak said that Pratap Behera has a history of criminal activities. He is named in eight criminal cases at Bhadrak Rural police station and six at Sabarang police station. Several cases involving him are also under trial in the SDJM Court, Bhadrak. Nayak clarified that Pratap is not a police informant, but rather a habitual offender. His alleged involvement in illegal coal transportation may have led to his abduction by a rival group.

Tribal family ostracised for not serving liquor at post-death rituals of kin



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Udala, June 8: A tribal man and his family members in Mayurbhanj district have faced an inhumane social ostracisation by the villagers reportedly for not serving 'handia' (a traditional rice beer) during the post-death rituals of his late father.

Sangram Soren from Keshal village under Sarat police station limits in Mayurbhanj district had earlier lodged a written complaint over the social boycott he and his family face. However, no action has been taken so far against the perpetrators despite passage of several days.

The family is now effectively isolated in their own village, and Sangram has alleged that they were even threatened with death if they defy the restrictions imposed upon them.

The matter came to the light after Sangram and his family members met the SP and lodged a complaint against inaction by the Sarat police in this matter despite filing of an FIR. Subsequently, the SP has ordered an investigation into the matter.

Reports said Sangram and four of his family members

have been ostracised by their community members after the former did not serve 'handia' or any other liquor during the post-death rituals of his late father, Ram Soren, who passed away March 17. This practice, though rooted in tribal custom, is not legally enforceable.

Activists from the Bharat Jakat Majhi Pargana Mahal, an outfit of the community, decided to socially boycott the family.

For over a month, the boycott has left the family in dire straits. They have been prohibited from drawing water from the village well and tubewell, accessing the community pond, shopping at local stores, or even interacting with fellow villagers.

"I was even stopped from collecting mud to plaster the house," Sangram's wife, Lachha Soren alleged.

Things have come to such a pass that even people from outside the village cannot visit their house. Sangram and his family members have also been prevented from visiting anyone's house. If anyone is found speaking with any member of his family, they are reportedly fined ₹200.

Bhadrak earns top honour for revenue administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Bhubaneswar, June 8: Bhadrak district has been ranked first among all 30 districts in Odisha for its overall performance in revenue administration.

The district received the Certificate of Excellence at the Revenue Officers' Conference-cum-Workshop, held June 4 and 5 at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar. The two-day event was organised for the first time by the Revenue and Disaster Management department.

Participants included key field-level officials such as

tehsildars, sub-collectors, and additional district magistrates (revenue) from across the state.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the event, joined by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari and Additional Chief Secretary Deorajan Kumar Singh.

In his address, Majhi emphasised the critical role of revenue officers in delivering public services and implementing the Odisha Right to Public Services Act. He commended their commitment to strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring timely service delivery.

Tusker tramples woman to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, June 8: A woman was trampled to death by a tusker at Aunli village under Riamal forest range in this district, Sunday.

The incident occurred when the deceased, identified as Kalabati Pradhan, 50, visited a cashew orchard to collect the fruits. She was unaware of the presence of an elephant herd in the village.

She came face to face with a tusker which picked her on its tusk, hurled her on the ground and trampled her to death. Her son grew apprehensive and searched for her after she failed to return home for long.

While searching, he spotted his mother lying dead from a



distance but failed to go near the body due to presence of the herd. Later, the villagers recovered the body after driving away the elephant herd in the afternoon.

The incident sparked tension in the area as locals blamed the

negligence of forest personnel for the woman's death. They relented after forest officials rushed to the spot and assured a job in the forest department to the next of the kin of the deceased, ex-gratia, and financial assistance for post-death rituals.

Marigold farming blooms as path to self-reliance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, June 8: A farmer in Kalahandi district has become an example for others to emulate after his successful journey to self-reliance through cultivation of marigold flowers, leaving aside traditional crops.

With government support and personal initiative, farmers in Kalahandi district are embracing diverse agricultural ventures beyond traditional crops.

Muniram Patel, a progressive farmer from Mukundpur village under Dhamanpur panchayat in Golamunda block, has carved out a unique identity through marigold farming.



Once a vegetable grower, Muniram switched to floriculture in 2018 with assistance from the Horticulture department.

Along with his wife Gitanjali, he began cultivating marigold on a 50-decimal patch of land on their backyard. What started as

an experiment has now turned into a profitable and year-round occupation.

Marigold farming has brought Muniram both recognition and income. According to him, the flower crop yields substantial returns with relatively low investment. "I earn around ₹1 lakh annually just from marigolds," he said. Besides being a source of livelihood, the bright orange blooms have turned his garden into a scenic spot, resembling a public park, especially during monsoon when the flowers are in full bloom.

Unlike most home gardens that lose their blossoms after the rains, Muniram's marigold

field flourishes throughout the year. Florists from Bhawanipatna, Junagarh, and Dharmagarh regularly purchase flowers from him. His wife, Gitanjali, noted that marigolds now fetch a better price than vegetables — selling at ₹60 per kg.

The couple dedicates three hours each in the morning and evening to their flower field. A single marigold plant, with a lifespan of about six months, yields around 5-6 kg of flowers. "In today's time, no matter what you grow, if you invest your effort, time, and money with dedication, success is possible," said Muniram — a belief he has proven through his blooming venture.

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Bid Identification No.CEM/MDB-01/2025-26**

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM/MDB-01/2025-26
- Estimated Cost : Rs.23,52,942.00
- Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Month
- Date & Time of availability of : From dt.11.06.2025 (10.00 AM) to bid documents in the portal dt.23.06.2025 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/time for receipt of : dt.23.06.2025 (upto 5.30 PM) bid in the portal
- Date and Place of Opening : dt.24.06.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards of Bid in the O/o the undersigned)
- Name of the Officer Inviting : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the Bid E.I.C., Water Resources, Odisha Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any Further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

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FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION POLLUTION



To be sure, rhetoric opposing climate action comes mostly from a loud minority. But it is being amplified by a media environment that thrives on outrage

legislation on digital services, competition, data protection, and AI, as well as the recent proposal of a "European Democracy Shield" to counter foreign information interference, are vital first steps toward addressing the systemic effects of misinformation and the impact of Big Tech's business models on public debate.

Still, the effectiveness of these regulations remains to be seen, and since enforcement currently stops at Europe's borders, further action is needed. Demonetizing climate disinformation and applying the "polluter pays" principle to the digital realm could help hold tech companies and advertisers accountable for the harm they inflict on the climate information ecosystem.

Protecting freedom of expression means defending both the right to speak freely and the right to receive accurate, undistorted information. If we fail to confront information pollution head-on, we risk not just stalling climate progress but reversing it altogether.

That said, good information doesn't rise to the top on its own. Those working to combat climate change and resist speculative technofixes like geoeengineering can no longer rely solely on reaching wider audiences or refining their message.

Instead, climate activists must join forces with digital democracy advocates to challenge the algorithm-driven business models fueling the twin crises of climate breakdown and information pollution. The full consequences of these converging crises are only beginning to emerge, but in the absence of concerted action, the writing is on the wall.

Lili Fuhr is Director of the Fossil Economy Program at the Center for International Environmental Law. Stephanie Hankey is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Tactical Tech.

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The devastation caused by the 2024 flash floods in Valencia, Spain, was so surreal that some images sparked a global debate over their authenticity. In an era when AI technology can produce hyper-realistic fakes, photos showing cars piled haphazardly atop one another in narrow, mud-filled streets seemed almost too shocking to be true. Tragically, these images were all too real.

For years, climate activists believed that once the direct impact of climate change became undeniable – not just in the Global South, but everywhere – popular pressure for political and corporate action would surge. And indeed, polls show overwhelming public support for bold climate measures. But now that this long-anticipated moment has arrived, an equally urgent challenge has emerged: the information ecosystem we rely on to understand the world has become dangerously polluted.

The pollution metaphor is apt because it captures the chaotic and toxic nature of today's information landscape, which is controlled by a handful of powerful companies that commodify attention and inundate our feeds with "AI slop" – low-quality, machine-generated content designed to mislead, distract, and distort.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the climate change debate. While climate misinformation has long been a concern, often mutating into full-blown conspiracy theories, the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the term "misinformation" no longer reflects the scale, complexity, or urgency of the threat, much less points to potential solutions.

It is often said that the technologies needed to combat climate change already exist, and that what's missing is the political will to deploy them. But while technology may be sold as the key to solving the

crisis, it is also being used to slow the momentum needed to address it. Tech oligarchs with deep government ties and vested financial interests control the platforms that shape public opinion – from Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) to Jeff Bezos's Washington Post – enabling them to influence not just environmental policy, but the conversation about it.

As AI accelerates the global information crisis, climate issues are increasingly swept up in culture wars. This is further fueled by data brokers that treat users' views about climate change as proxies for political identity, thereby reinforcing echo chambers and deepening polarization in the service of selling targeted ads.

During the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, user-generated content on Instagram and TikTok shifted from documenting the destruction to amplifying conspiracy theories about weather manipulation and secret geoeengineering projects, stoking fear and destabilizing an already fragile information environment. A similar dynamic played out during the recent power outages in Spain and Portugal, where misleading narratives blaming renewable-energy sources spread rapidly before any official investigation could determine the cause. Such rumors often lead to threats and harassment of scientists and activists, creating a chilling

effect on research and advocacy, even as public support for climate action remains strong. To be sure, rhetoric opposing climate action comes mostly from a loud minority. But it is being amplified by a media environment that thrives on outrage. Worse, the convergence of interests among far-right ideologues, Big Tech, and Big Oil – all of which profit from climate chaos, information pollution, and political instability – is contributing to the rise of "dirty tech" and accelerating the erosion of democracy and the rule of law.

In the US, the tech sector's growing proximity to far-right politics has highlighted the role of platforms that shape public discourse and, by extension, the future of climate action. Civil-society groups that focus on digital rights and democratic advocacy have been grappling with these issues for years. Yet, much like microplastics, the problem has fragmented into countless smaller pieces, making it far more difficult to contain.

With power concentrated in the hands of those profiting from information pollution, it can feel as though we are at a dead end. But as disorienting as today's social-media ecosystem may be, the sources – much like those of environmental pollution – can be identified, enabling accountability. Europe's new digital rule book, which includes recent



Lili Fuhr & Stephanie Hankey

WITH POWER CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF THOSE PROFITING FROM INFORMATION POLLUTION, IT CAN FEEL AS THOUGH WE ARE AT A DEAD END

Manipur Again

The principle of Yoga is the turning of one or of all powers of our human existence into a means of reaching divine Being



SRI AUROBINDO

More than two years after violent ethnic strife erupted in Manipur that claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians and split the state between two warring communities, peace and normalcy still remain elusive with sporadic incidents of violence being reported every now and then. In the latest such incident, violent protests erupted over reports of the arrest of a leader of the Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol on 7 June. Protesters set fire to tyres and furniture on the streets of Kwaikethel and Uripok, calling for the release of the Meitei leader. At Kwaikethel, several gunshots were heard, though it remains unclear who fired them or if anyone was injured. Clashes erupted between protesters and security forces at various locations in Imphal, the state capital, while a mob set a bus ablaze in Khurai Lamlong, located in the Imphal East district. Security forces fired multiple rounds of tear gas to disperse the crowd near Kangla Gate, about 200 metres from the Raj Bhavan in Imphal. The administration has clamped prohibitory orders in five districts -- Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching. Additionally, internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN access, have been suspended in these valley regions.

On 8 June, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confirmed the arrest of Meitei leader Kanan Singh for his alleged involvement in several criminal activities linked to the 2023 violence. Singh was arrested at Imphal airport and was immediately transported to Guwahati, where he is set to appear in court for a police remand. The federal agency is probing cases related to the Manipur ethnic violence in accordance with a direction of the Supreme Court. In response to Kanan Singh's arrest, Arambai Tenggol has declared a ten-day complete shutdown in the valley districts, effective immediately, as it gears up to escalate protests. Originally founded as a cultural revivalist group, the Meitei organisation has transformed into a contentious militia-like entity engaged in the ongoing ethnic violence.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May, 2023. The conflict has led to a troubling segregation between the majority Meiteis and the minority Kukis, the former inhabiting the valley regions and the latter residing in the hills. This division has become so pronounced that members of either community are unable to venture beyond their respective territories. Over the past two years, numerous violent incidents have erupted whenever individuals from one group inadvertently entered the other's area.

Opposition Congress has been targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "insensitivity" to the suffering of people in Manipur as the PM is yet to visit the restive state since 3 May, 2023 when ethnic violence first broke out. Although the belated resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who stubbornly refused to step down and oversaw the violence and destruction for nearly two years, and the subsequent imposition of President's Rule were necessary steps, the absence of extensive outreach and confidence-building initiatives have made normalcy a distant dream. At the same time, continued violence even after the imposition of President's Rule is a matter of concern.

Bringing normalcy back to Manipur has become all important now in the context of the ongoing civil war in neighbouring Myanmar where India is seen as being close to the ruling military junta, much to the chagrin of the people of that country. Added to this, deteriorating ties between India and Bangladesh have made the case for a safe and secure northeast a strategic imperative for New Delhi.

WISDOM CORNER

Things are as they are. Looking out into it the universe at night, we make no comparisons between right and wrong stars, nor between well and badly arranged constellations
ALAN WATTS

The more a man can forget, the greater the number of metamorphoses which his life can undergo; the more he can remember, the more divine his life becomes
SOREN KIERKEGAARD

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1815: The Final Act of the Congress of Vienna, comprising several agreements separately negotiated among various participants for the reorganization of Europe in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, was signed by representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden.

1870: English writer Charles Dickens, generally considered the greatest Victorian novelist, died at Gad's Hill near Chatham, Kent.

1928: Charles Kingsford Smith completes the world's first trans-Pacific flight. The Australian aviator and his 4-man crew had departed Oakland, California on the morning on May 31. Nine days later, after several stops, they landed safely in Brisbane.

1934: Donald Duck makes his film debut in The Wise Little Hen. The short-tempered duck typically wearing a sailor suit is one of Walt Disney's most famous cartoon characters. Donald's first book appearance was in The Adventures of Mickey Mouse, which was published in 1931.

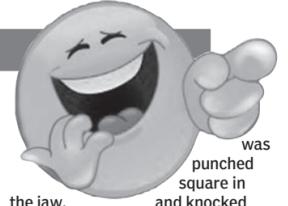
1946: Bhumibol Adulyadej is crowned King of Thailand. At the time of his death on October 13, 2016, he was the world's longest reigning head of state, with 70 years on the throne.

1967: Israel captures the Golan Heights from Syria. Israel's occupation of the territory and the establishment of Israeli settlements in the area continue to hamper negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the ongoing Middle East conflict.

LOL

THE STORE OWNER

It was the day of the big sale. Rumors of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30, the store's opening time, in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colorful curses. On the man's second attempt, he



was punched square in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line... "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"

SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES DAY

Designing the archives in 21st century



Satya Narayan Mishra

FOR ARCHIVES TO BE OF VALUE TO SOCIETY THEY MUST BE A TRUSTED RESOURCE

Archives are the witnesses to the past. They provide evidence, explanation and justification both for past actions and current decisions. Archives enable society to undertake a wide range of roles that enable civilized communities to take root and flourish from enabling education and research, providing entertainment and leisure to protecting human rights and confirming identity. Archives are unique, contemporaneous records and so once lost cannot be replaced. It is only through proper identification, care and wide access that the vital role that archives play can be fully realized to the benefit of humanity. Professional archivists and historians generally understand archives to be records that have been naturally and necessarily generated as a product of regular legal, commercial, administrative or social activities. They have been metaphorically defined

as "the secretions of an organism" and are distinguished from documents that have been consciously written or created to communicate a particular message to posterity. In general, archives consist of records that have been selected for permanent or long-term preservation on grounds of their enduring cultural, historical or evidentiary value. Archival records are normally unpublished and almost always unique. This means that archives are quite distinct from libraries with regard to their functions and organization, although archival collections can often be found within library buildings. The study and practice of organizing, preserving and providing access to information and materials in archives is called archival science. When referring to historical records or the places they are kept, the plural form archives is chiefly used.

If an archive is going to be

authentic and reliable then we need to preserve its context to understand how, why and who created it, its content and its format. What we should remember is that at no point can we regard an archive as "the truth" (whatever we mean by "truth"), only as a contemporaneous record from an individual or organization with a particular level of involvement and point of view. For archives to be of value to society they must be a trusted resource. To achieve this they must have absolute qualities of (i) Authenticity - the record is what it claims to be, created at the time documented and by the person that the document claims to be created by; (ii) Reliability - they are accurately representing the event; (iii) Integrity - the content is sufficient to give a coherent picture and; lastly (iv) Usability - the archive must be in an accessible location and usable condition. Archives are

the documentary by-product of human activity retained for their long-term value. They can come in a wide range of formats including written, photographic, moving image, sound, digital and analogue. Archives are held by public and private institutions and individuals around the world.

Designing the archive is about putting people at the centre of what we do. In the 21st century our profession data and information managers, records managers and archivists - can provide opportunities for human-centric design approaches to ensure we deliver benefits to citizens, customers, stakeholders and communities for authentic records. From paper to digital, this is how we should design our archives for the 21st century.

The writer is Assistant Director, National Archives of India, Bhubaneswar.

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



Commendable steps

Sir, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's attempts to enhance the image of the judiciary are commendable. He has taken steps to reform the judiciary since he assumed office. His attempts to bring transparency, commitment and accountability to the judiciary are certainly appreciable. The most praiseworthy step taken by the CJI is the public declaration of assets and properties by the judges of the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice himself. Such declarations help restore the trust of people in the judiciary. Another declaration is that the CJI and some of his colleagues won't accept post retirement positions from the Central government. This is significant in the context where many former Chief Justices and judges have accepted positions from the government, raising questions about the ethical rightness of the judiciary. Live streaming of all Constitution bench cases is another significant move. It will help the public understand judicial processes and dispel suspicion about the judgement of cases. Despite all these measures, corruption still lingers in the judiciary. The case of justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court serves as a reminder. That a judge can be removed only through impeachment shows the deficiency of the judicial system. A motion will be tabled in the next session of Parliament to impeach justice Yashwant Varma.
Venu GS, KOLLAM

Prudent move

Sir, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prudently reduced the policy rate by 50 basis points, a timely and strategic move in the backdrop of encouraging macroeconomic indicators. With inflation consistently below 4 per cent, well within the RBI's tolerance band, the need for a restrictive monetary stance has eased. This drop in inflation reflects both stable commodity prices and effective supply-side management. Additionally, forecasts of a good monsoon signal a robust agricultural output, which can further lower food inflation and boost rural demand. Against this favorable backdrop, the RBI's rate cut aims to stimulate economic activity, especially in interest-sensitive sectors such as housing, automobiles, and MSMEs. Lower borrowing costs are expected to enhance consumer spending and incentivize private investments, both essential for reviving growth momentum.
N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

WORLD'S HIGHEST RAILWAY BRIDGE

Engineer who braved mountains

Dr G Madhavi Latha, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, has spent the past 17 years working as a geotechnical consultant on the Chenab Bridge project — which is part of the ambitious 272 km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 8: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir Friday, the spotlight was on the engineering feat.

Behind the scenes, a Bangalore-based academic played a quiet yet critical role in shaping this marvel.

Dr G Madhavi Latha, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has spent the past 17 years working as a geotechnical consultant on the Chenab Bridge project — which is part of the ambitious 272 km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL).

The bridge, taller than the Eiffel Tower by 35 metres and costing Rs 1,486 crore, was described by the government as the "biggest civil-engineering challenge faced by any railway project in India in recent history".

Who is Madhavi Latha?

Latha worked closely with Afcons, the project's main contractor, to help tackle the region's complex geological and topographical conditions.

Her role included advising on the placement of rock anchors to stabilise slopes and ensuring structural safety throughout construction.

The methods and challenges encountered were later chronicled in a paper she authored for the Indian Geotechnical Journal.



Air travellers vying to click Chenab bridge pic

The world's highest rail bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi June 6, has become a craze among air travellers flying to Srinagar. According to a press statement issued by the railway ministry, flight pilots are making special announcements and passengers are showing eagerness to capture photographs of the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway-arch bridge. "The Chenab Bridge draws admiration from every altitude, where pride rises from the earth and echoes through the clouds," Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and Publicity, Railway Board, said Sunday. "These days, every flight that passes over the majestic valleys of Jammu and Kashmir witnesses a truly special moment. As the aircraft approaches the Chenab valley, the pilot's voice echoes through the cabin: 'Below you is the world's tallest railway-arch bridge, the Chenab Bridge,'" he added. The moment the announcement is made, passengers rush to the windows and start recording videos and clicking pictures of this historic marvel on their mobile phones. "A wave of pride sweeps through the cabin -- passengers clap, smile and share words of admiration for the brilliance of Indian engineering," the press note said.

Currently a HAG professor at IISc, Latha began her academic journey with a BTech in Civil Engineering from JNTU

in 1992, followed by an MTech in Geotechnical Engineering from NIT Warangal, where she earned a gold medal.

She completed her PhD at IIT Madras in 2000. She was named Best Woman Geotechnical Researcher by

the Indian Geotechnical Society in 2021 and featured in the "Top 75 Women in STEAM" in India in 2022.

Her work on the Chenab Bridge, a project first approved in 2003, stands as one of her most enduring and high-impact contributions.

The epic journey

Long before construction cranes dotted the skyline or steel arches began spanning the Chenab River, the path to building the world's highest railway bridge began with something far more modest—mules and horses.

In the early stages of the project, before any access roads existed, engineers and workers relied on animals to traverse the rugged Himalayan terrain.

"Initially, mules and horses were used by the project team to reach the location," a spokesperson from Afcons Infrastructure, the firm behind the engineering feat, told PTI.

Over time, temporary tracks were laid and gradually replaced by permanent access roads—11km on the north bank and 12km on the south—to pave the way for machinery and material.

On Friday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked across the newly completed Chenab Bridge waving the national flag, it was more than just a ceremonial inauguration.

It marked the realisation of a decades-long engineering ambition to link Kashmir with the rest of the country by rail.

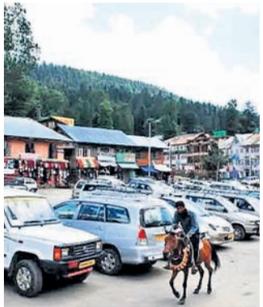


A 92-foot tall Murugan statue being consecrated as part of the Maha Kumbabhishegam ceremony at the Theerthagiri temple, near Vellore, Tamil Nadu, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

PAHALGAM AFTERMATH

Tourist revenue drying up, operators ready to sell cabs



AGENCIES

Pahalgam, June 8: Pahalgam's taxi stand, where there is usually no space to stand in the months of June and July due to tourist crowd - now stands empty.

Forty-five days after the terror attack at Baisaran Valley in which 26 people were killed, footfall has dwindled to almost nothing. The fallout is that income has dried up for the hundreds of locals - cab operators, drivers guides and ponywallahs. Many cab operators are now getting ready to sell their cabs because they cannot pay the monthly installments.

Since April 22, very few people have come to Pahalgam.

Nazir Ahmed, who has been driving cabs for the last four decades, said: "The taxi stand where around 500 vehicles used

to be -- and more than 1,200 people - is completely deserted. Now we are waiting for the Amarnath Yatra."

"We are losing lakhs of rupees every day," he added, alleging that they had received no support from the government. "It is difficult for us to pay for our children's education and even to buy food," he said.

At a recent cabinet meeting, it was decided that open areas and parks will be opened in Chandanwadi and surrounding areas, which would draw in tourists, but nothing has happened so far.

"For now, we are facing a lot of problems and are not even able to cover the expenses of the vehicles," he added.

The locals are aghast that Pahalgam, which was peaceful even when the whole of Kashmir was under the shadow of terror, is now suffering because of terrorism.

Registration for Amarnath Yatra will start, this time it is possible that lakhs of people will come but if they come then at least our livelihood will be a little better.

"We used to earn Rs 3000 a day but now imagine the situation that we are not able to pay EMI (for the cabs they purchased). We are saying that the government should take away the vehicles. We have nothing left," he said.

Tamil Nadu to roll out multi-lingual guides at 22 key tourist sites

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 8: In a move to modernise tourism and improve visitor engagement, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) is set to introduce immersive, self-guided audio tours at 22 prominent heritage and cultural sites across the state, including three landmark locations in Chennai.

The initiative will feature curated audio content in multiple languages, allowing tourists to explore sites at their own pace while gaining historical, cultural, and local insights.

Designed to be user-friendly and accessible via smartphones or handheld devices, the tours aim to make travel more enriching and inclusive.

In Chennai, audio tours will be launched at the Ekambareswarar Temple, Kapaleswarar Temple, and the historic monuments along Marina Beach.

A senior TTDC official said, "The project is aimed at enhancing visitor experience by offering self-paced, site-specific storytelling. These audio guides will include historical facts, folklore, and ambient sounds to deepen tourists' appreciation of Tamil Nadu's rich cultural legacy."

To ensure authenticity and depth, content will be developed in collaboration with historians, subject matter experts, and local communities.

After protests, Chennai corporation goes slow on waste-to-energy project



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 8: Amid growing opposition from residents, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has clarified that the proposed Waste-to-Energy (WtE) project at Kodungaiyur will be implemented only after obtaining public consent and securing mandatory environmental clearances.

The assurance follows stiff resistance from the Federation of North Chennai Welfare Residents Association, which raised concerns about potential health hazards and environmental damage.

In a letter issued by the Solid Waste Management (SWM) wing of the Chennai Corporation, officials stated that the

emissions from the incinerator will be continuously monitored by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and the Corporation itself.

Notably, the civic body said that over 40 per cent of the project's financial allocation will be dedicated to advanced monitoring systems and operational safeguards to ensure environmental safety.

The Corporation further explained that the residual ash from the incinerator will be scientifically handled and disposed of in a sanitary landfill. "The residents of Kodungaiyur need not be concerned about health or hygiene risks," the letter emphasised.

Chennai Mayor R Priya reinforced this assurance by

citing global examples. "A Waste-to-Energy plant operates right in the heart of Paris, close to the Eiffel Tower, without causing any health or environmental issues. The same technology and safety protocols will be adopted here," she said.

The civic body also pointed out that ten similar WtE plants are already operational in various parts of India and have been functioning without adverse effects on public health or the environment.

"Only after securing community consent and necessary environmental approvals will we proceed with the Kodungaiyur project," the GCC reiterated.

Despite these assurances, residents and members of the Federation remained unconvinced. Dismissing the Mayor's claims, they demanded that the project be scrapped entirely.

In a show of protest, hundreds of residents formed a human chain, voicing their opposition to the plant and warning of potential long-term consequences.

The WtE facility is being planned to manage Chennai's growing solid waste crisis, as the existing dump yard in Kodungaiyur has become a source of pollution and ecological concern. However, unless the concerns of the local population are addressed adequately, the project faces an uphill battle for public acceptance.

TN declares Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 8: In a major step towards protecting migratory bird habitats and promoting biodiversity, the Tamil Nadu government has officially notified a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district.

Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated the sanctuary via video conferencing Thursday, coinciding with World Environment Day celebrations organised by the Departments of Environment, Climate Change and Forests in Chennai.

The newly designated sanctuary spans 524.7 hectares, covering both revenue and forest lands within Rameswaram taluka. It forms a part of the ecologically significant Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, which supports diverse ecosystems including mangroves, mudflats, marshes, and sand dunes. These habitats are crucial for marine life, nesting sea turtles, and, notably, thousands of migratory wetland birds.

The sanctuary lies along the Central Asian Flyway, a major migratory route used by birds travelling between Eurasia and the Indian subcontinent.

According to a 2023-2024 wetland bird survey, the Dhanushkodi region recorded over 10,700 wetland birds representing 128 species, including herons, egrets, sandpipers, and both Greater and Lesser Flamingos. A Government Order (GO), issued on Wednesday by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, Supriya Sahu, emphasised the area's ecological value.

Mangrove species Avicennia and Rhizophora dominate the Dhanushkodi lagoon, acting as natural buffers against coastal erosion and serving as vital breeding grounds for wildlife. The sanctuary is expected to promote responsible ecotourism, generate local employment, and increase public awareness about wetland conservation, according to the GO.



Lavender culture: Purple revolution brewing in J&K town

From using lavender in traditional Dogri embroidery to making essential oils, beauty products and food syrups infused with this flowering plant, Baderwah, once known for its maize fields, is embracing lavender to bring about an economic transformation to their small town



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baderwah, June 8: A six-hour drive from Jammu leads to the quiet hilly town of Baderwah, which is blanketed in purple this time of year, thanks to the sea of lavender spread across the town, giving a new identity to the place.

From using lavender in traditional Dogri embroidery to making essential oils, beauty

products and food syrups infused with this flowering plant, Baderwah, once known for its maize fields, is embracing lavender to bring about an economic transformation to their small town.

Jammu's Baderwah is called the birthplace of the country's 'Purple Revolution'.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who inaugurated the Lavender Festival 2025 in Bha-

derwah, called the town the Lavender Capital of India and the birthplace of the country's 'Purple Revolution'.

The Indian Institute of Inte-

grative Medicine (IIIM), under CSIR, introduced the aromatic flower to the temperate areas of Jammu through the Aroma Mission, following earlier

trials in Kashmir in the 1980s and 1990s.

The seeds were first planted in 2017 when farmers in Baderwah, the small town in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, decided to experiment with lavender, a crop previously unheard of in the region, CSIR-IIIM Director Zabeer Ahmad told PTI.

Many farmers gave up traditional crops like paddy and maize, which were being increasingly destroyed by monkeys and other animals.

"Back then, monkeys used to destroy our maize crops. The lavender's strong scent keeps them away," Ahmad said, adding that this crop has

given them peace, income, and purpose.

Arjun Raina, founder of Ridayu Botanicals and CEO of Girdharilal Holistics (Kisan Udyami), told PTI that he started lavender farming with his grandfather Girdharilal in 2017 when he was just in Class 10.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when demand for natural and medicinal products surged, the idea took shape.

"Last year, I began focusing on value addition and started making more from this flower rather than just growing it. We developed products like soaps, bath salts, shampoos, and food syrups for coffee lattes, mocktails, and cocktails," he said.

of the day **QUOTE**

Tax evasion is a national crime that negatively impacts development plans and welfare schemes

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Still, in every district, we have conducted at least one eviction drive and our biggest achievement is that now people are afraid to encroach any land like earlier. If the people live in their own areas, there will be no confrontation. I have been trying to make the minority leaders understand this. If we understand this, there will be no problem

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Between 2014 and 2019, 63 lakh new voters were added; from 2009 to 2014, 75 lakh new voters were added; and from 2004 to 2009, 1 crore new voters were added

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Teen's electrocution sparks political row

Malappuram (Kerala): With just days to go for the crucial Nilambur Assembly bypoll, the tragic electrocution of a teenager from an illegal wild boar trap in this district has triggered a political storm in Kerala Sunday. Ananthu alias Jithu, a Class X student, died after coming into contact with a live wire from an electric fence set up illegally on a private land to trap wild boars at Vazhikadavu here Saturday. Though locals rushed them to hospital, Jithu was declared brought dead. Two others were critically injured, authorities said. Police Sunday confirmed that a resident, Vineesh, laid the trap to catch wild boars and he was arrested under charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Tiger, dog trapped in pit

Idukki (Kerala): A tiger fell into a deep pit near Maildumpara close to the Tamil Nadu border Sunday morning while chasing a dog with both the canine and the feline trapped together inside it, the forest department said. Both the dog and the tiger currently appear to be unharmed and steps were being taken to tranquilise the feline prior to taking it out of the pit, a senior forest official said.

UP: Boy dies after falling into borewell

Mainpuri: A five-year-old boy died after falling into a 10-feet-deep borewell in a village here, police said Sunday. The incident occurred Friday night in Akbarpur Jhala village when the child, identified as Ansh, slipped into the borewell while trying to get a closer look at a wedding procession passing through the area, Inspector Vinod Kumar of Kuraoli police station said.

Cattle slaughtered illegally during Eid

Guwahati/Nagaon: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Sunday said 16 people were arrested for "illegally" slaughtering cattle during Eid a day ago. He said recovery of cattle parts was reported from multiple locations across Assam, and five illegal slaughter sites were found in two districts of Barak Valley-Gumrah, Silchar and Lakhimpur in Cachar, and Badarpur and Banga in Karimganj. People from the Hindu community blocked roads in Hojai during the day, alleging that some pieces of meat were thrown by miscreants Saturday night, a senior officer said.



Neither the government nor the administration can do anything if the court has ordered something for the slums. The Madras High Court was set up on the banks of the Barapullah drain

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

28 STRANDED PEOPLE RESCUED FROM CHATEN

The Sikkim government Sunday evacuated 28 people, including three minors, stranded in Chaten in the northern part of the Himalayan state, where road connectivity has been snapped due to multiple landslides triggered by heavy rain, officials said



Meitei leader's arrest sparks unrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 8: Protests over the arrests of Meitei outfit leaders continued in Manipur Sunday even as the administration imposed prohibitory orders and suspended internet services in five Imphal valley districts, officials said.

Protesters burnt tyres on roads at Uripok and Koirengai in Imphal West district and Khurai in Imphal East, defying the prohibitory orders, they said. At Koirengai, demonstrators dug up the road and made heaps of soil on the thoroughfares to prevent the movement of security forces.

Similar agitations were also staged in Jiribam district, neighbouring Assam. Prohibitory orders have been clamped in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts, while internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities, have been suspended in these valley areas since Saturday night after violent protests erupted over the arrests of leaders of the Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol. Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Sunday held a security review meeting with senior offi-



cialists in the wake of the demonstrations across the state.

A Raj Bhavan statement said the governor also met a delegation of MLAs who apprised Bhalla of the current law and order situation in the north-eastern state.

The governor told the delegation that all "necessary steps are being taken to address the concerns and to restore normalcy", it said. The delegation of at least 20 legislators comprised those of the BJP and the Congress. After the meeting with the governor, one of the MLAs said that altogether five people were arrested in connection with earlier incidents of violence, which triggered widespread protests in the northeastern state since Saturday. Among the five arrested people, one was

apprehended by the CBI, said BJP legislator K Ibomcha, who was part of the delegation. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it has arrested a member of Arambai Tenggol at Imphal Airport Sunday for his alleged involvement in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023, while the police did not disclose details of the four others. He has been brought from Imphal to Guwahati and would be produced before the competent court for police remand, a CBI statement said. Ibomcha, the Lamlai constituency legislator, said, "During the meeting, we were informed that five people were arrested, and of them, one Kanan Singh, was arrested by the CBI in connection with a

'Insensitivity' of PM: Congress

New Delhi: With fresh violence rocking parts of Manipur, the Congress Sunday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "insensitivity" to the suffering of people in the state. In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the pain, distress, and agony of the people of Manipur continues unabated as five districts of Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Katching, and Bishnupur in Manipur have been rocked by violence in the last 24 hours. A day after violent protests erupted in Manipur over the arrest of a leader of Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol, the situation remained tense Sunday with the administration imposing prohibitory orders and suspending internet services in five Imphal valley districts, police said.

case. We appreciate the roles the Arambai Tenggol have taken during the recent flood." Protesters Saturday torched tyres and old furniture on roads in Kwakeithel and Uripok, demanding the release of the Meitei leaders.

EC insiders slam Rahul, Congress for ignoring invite for formal talks

The election body insiders also slammed Rahul indulging in sensationalism through misinformation, while "developing cold feet" when invited by the EC to share their concerns over alleged poll rigging



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 8: Countering misinformation over Maharashtra elections, Election Commission insiders Sunday shared a nine-point rebuttal to allegations by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, adding that his concerns can be formally replied to only once he writes to the poll panel.

The election body insiders also slammed Gandhi and his Congress for indulging in sensationalism through misinformation, while "developing cold feet" when invited by the EC to share their concerns over alleged poll rigging.

Countering Gandhi's allegations of "match-fixing" in the November 2024 Maharashtra elections, made in a newspaper article Saturday, the EC sources said the matter could have easily been raised before officials of the poll panel when it invited the party.

"Like all other national parties, when INC was invited to meet the Commission on May 15, 2025, it developed cold feet and requested some time," said an EC insider.

Hinting that the newspaper article, as such, could not be treated as a formal complaint by Gandhi, an EC insider said: "It is very intriguing that Rahul Gandhi on one side says that the issues being raised by him are very serious but when it comes to pen them down in

black and white to the Election Commission, he shies away."

"As per the procedure, it is public knowledge and everyone knows that any Constitutional body, including the ECI, will formally respond only when Rahul Gandhi writes to them," he added.

"It is very strange that even after 24 hours have passed, Rahul Gandhi has neither written any letter to the ECI nor sought any time for a meeting," he said.

Gandhi stirred up a political storm by alleging discrepancies in electoral rolls, inflated voter turnout and targeted bogus voting, which resulted in the Congress and its allies managing to win only 46 seats out of 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra.

He went on to accuse the EC of being evasive and demanded publication of digital voter rolls for recent elections, including for the Lok Sabha and the Maharashtra Assembly, and release of CCTV footage from the polling booths in Maharashtra after 5 p.m. on the day of voting.

Dismissing the demand for sharing CCTV footage, the EC panel said: "As per instructions of ECI, the CCTV footage of polling stations can always be scrutinised by the competent High Court in any Election Petition."

The curbs on sharing the footage are imposed by ECI to protect the integrity of elections as well as protect the privacy of voters.

Jaishankar embarks on week-long trip to Europe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Sunday embarked on a week-long visit to Europe to hold talks with leaders of France, the European Union and Belgium to boost bilateral ties and reaffirm India's policy of zero-tolerance against terrorism.

Jaishankar's visit to Europe comes a month after India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack and it is expected that he will apprise the European leaders about New Delhi's firm approach in dealing with cross-border terrorism.



In the first leg of his tour, Jaishankar will visit France, a country that has emerged as an all-weather friend of New Delhi. "The external affairs minister would travel to Paris and Marseille where he would be holding bilateral discussions with his counterpart minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean Noel Barrot," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Jaishankar would also participate in the inaugural edition of the Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue to be held in the city of Marseille. In Brussels, Jaishankar will hold a strategic dialogue with the EU High Representative and Vice President Kaja Kallas.

"India-European Union strategic partnership has strengthened over the years across diverse sectors and got a big boost with the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India in February this year," the MEA said.

Flood situation improves marginally; toll rises to 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Rangia, June 8: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve Sunday as the number of affected people reduced to 2.59 lakh, even as the toll in this year's deluge and landslides rose to 26 with three more fatalities, officials said.

No major river was flowing above the danger level in the state, with ferry services over the Brahmaputra resuming partially during the day, they said. An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said 32 revenue circles and 741 villages in 11 districts continued to reel under flood waters.

The affected population stands at 2,59,093, with the three Barak valley districts remaining the worst-hit - Sribhumi (1,62,108), Hailakandi (51,663) and Cachar (36,271), it said.

Around 3.37 lakh people in 12 districts were affected till Saturday. The three deaths Sunday were reported from Nagerbera revenue circle of Kamrup district, pushing the toll to 26, including six in mudslides, the bulletin said.

More than 24,000 displaced people were taking shelter in 100 relief camps, while another 30 relief distribution centres were also functional. Crop land of over 6,311 hectares remain inundated, ASDMA said.

Meanwhile, ferry services over the Brahmaputra in Guwahati resumed partially Sunday, an Inland Water Transport (IWT) Department release said.

The Guwahati Madhyam Khanda Ferry Service will temporarily operate from the Guwahati Rajaduar Ferry Ghat, until the approach road on the north bank side is restored and deemed safe for ferry commuters, it said.

Nine-year-old girl's body found in suitcase in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: A nine-year-old girl was allegedly raped, killed and her body stuffed in a suitcase at a neighbour's house in northeast Delhi's Doyalpur area, triggering protests by her family members and locals.

The girl's body was found Saturday evening. Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in the area Sunday to maintain law and order.

Police said the perpetrator of the heinous crime seems to have fled after stuffing the body in the suitcase. Senior police officers said all angles are being probed, including sexual assault.

"We are awaiting the autopsy report to confirm the cause of death. Teams have been formed to nab the absconding



accused. We are taking this matter with utmost seriousness," a police officer said.

The girl, a resident of Nehru Vihar, had gone to give ice to a relative living nearby around 7 pm Saturday, her family members said.

When she did not return home for a long time, her parents began searching for her. According to the victim's father, they approached several relatives and neighbours,

but no one had seen her after her brief visit to the relative's house.

"She had only gone to deliver ice to our relatives. They said she stayed for five minutes and left. But she never came back. We looked everywhere. Finally, someone told us that she was seen entering a house nearby. That is where we found her in a suitcase," the girl's father said.

He said when he went to the house, it was locked. He broke the lock and entered the house. Inside, he found his daughter stuffed in a bloodstained suitcase. The family members rushed the girl to a local clinic, but the doctor asked them to take her to a hospital immediately. At the Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital in Shastri Park, doctors declared her brought dead, her father said.

Alcohol, vaping quietly impact fertility in men & women: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 8: With the rising fertility problems among women, doctors say that tobacco, alcohol consumption and vaping are silently harming the reproductive health and raising chances of miscarriages.

While smoking increases the risk of a miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy, it also causes DNA damage in sperm, which can lead to miscarriage and birth defects, they say.

Fertility problems are rampant in women and also in men. They are not only affected due to age, stress or reproductive health problems, but also due to smoking, drinking and vaping,



Motherhood Hospitals, Kharghar, consultant-obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Anuja Thomas told PTI.

"These vices are often seen as personal choices, but they impact fertility as well. Many

people believe that reducing or pausing these habits only when planning a pregnancy is enough," she said.

However, it is necessary to completely avoid these vices as these substances can cause

While smoking increases the risk of a miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy, it also causes DNA damage in sperm, which can lead to miscarriage and birth defects

damage to the reproductive organs, hormones, and even the health of future offspring, Dr Thomas said.

"They can disrupt hormonal balance, affect menstrual cycles, reduce fertility and raise

the chances of miscarriages. Long-term use may also harm fetal development, causing complications during pregnancy and delivery. It is the right time to quit these vices by paying utmost attention to reproductive health," she added.

Echoing a similar view, Dr Manju Gupta, senior consultant-obstetrician and gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Noida, said smoking affects both male and female fertility.

"In women, it speeds up the loss of eggs, damages the fallopian tubes, and increases the risk of miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy. It also affects the uterus, making it harder for a fertilised egg to implant. For

men, smoking lowers sperm count, and causes DNA damage in sperm, which can lead to miscarriage and birth defects," she said.

Passive smoking is equally dangerous for reproductive health, Dr Gupta said.

"Many people believe that quitting smoking or vaping just a few months before trying to conceive is enough to undo any harm, but that's a dangerous myth. In reality, smoking and vaping can have long-term effects on fertility for both men and women, she added."

Dr Neha Tripathi, fertility specialist, Nova IVF Fertility, Indrapuram, Delhi NCR, said smoking,



Power cuts in 'surplus state' simply means mismanagement by the government. The power-distribution system in Rajasthan has collapsed due to which the common man is troubled

ASHOK GEHLOT | FORMER RAJASTHAN CM

INDIA-MONGOLIA JOINT EXERCISE

Military contingents of India and Mongolia participating in an ongoing bilateral exercise in Ulaanbaatar are actively exchanging best practices in counter-terrorism operations and precision sniping, thereby improving interoperability, officials said Sunday



of the day quote

I will contest the Assembly polls in Bihar. I will contest not just in Bihar but for Bihar and its people. I am the son of Ram Vilas Paswan. I will realise the dreams of my father and work for 'Bihar first, Bihari first' to change Bihar

CHIRAG PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

Massive infrastructure development is stimulating rapid economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir, which will soon become principal market of north, a manufacturing hub and a competitive provider of services

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Whether small or big (officer), if anyone indulges in corruption in the state, he will not be spared

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | UTTARAKHAND CM

Modi govt turns 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: When Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath for a third term June 9, 2024, it was Rahul Gandhi who sounded rather upbeat on the back of the BJP's unexpected loss of majority in the Lok Sabha polls amid its campaign claim of crossing 400 in the 543-member House.

"We have finished Modi psychologically. His government will be removed soon," the Congress leader was to assert as critics cited the BJP's crucial dependence on TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, both with a history of switching alliances, and its weak show in big states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to forecast political turbulence ahead.

While the BJP went back to the drawing board to recraft its political and governance outreach and regained momentum by notching up surprisingly big wins in a string of assembly polls, the burst of fresh optimism in the main Opposition Congress and other INDIA bloc parties fizzled out.

If the BJP turned the tide in Haryana and Maharashtra, two states where it suffered reverses in the Lok Sabha polls, on the back of its welfare measures and social engineering associated with regional leadership, it finally wrested Delhi after 26 years, eclipsing its plucky adversary Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam



Aadmi Party on his home turf.

The BJP now appears set to make a fresh political charge after recouping the ground lost in the national polls a year back while the Opposition is back to its disjointed self, with the Congress searching for an elusive and emphatic state poll win in a state.

Manoj Kumar, an associate professor in Political Science at Delhi University, stresses Modi's virtually unchallenged leadership status amid the Opposition's failure to take the battle to him.

"At any point in politics, there are always opportunities and challenges. But it seems there is no serious alternative to PM Modi as long as he is there," he says, adding that the military action under Operation Sindoor has again cemented his image as the leader acting in national interest.

ency delivered a setback to the ruling party in 2024.

Kumar then goes on to add that the government's decision to roll out caste enumeration in the census underscores the BJP's strength in coopting politically resonant issues.

It has always worked to address caste concerns while ensuring that caste-based politics is not on its agenda, he said. He says Modi's welfare model built around 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has helped the BJP and will continue to do so as the party has in Prime minister a leader with popular charisma and trust who has no rival.

The support it received from the TDP, JD(U) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP (RV) in the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, despite some voices of concern among them over its provisions, underscored the BJP's unchallenged dominance following its Assembly poll wins.

9 youngsters meet watery graves in T'gana, Andhra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad/Visakhapatnam, June 8: Nine youngsters drowned in two separate incidents in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, officials said.

Bodies of six youngsters who drowned in the Medigadda barrage across the Godavari River in Telangana's Jayashankar Bhupalapally district on Saturday were recovered Sunday.

Three students of Class 10 drowned in a lake in the Aluri Sitharamaraju district of Andhra Pradesh Sunday.

The incident occurred at the Guntaseema panchayat headquarters in Dumbriguda mandal.

The boys had gone to the lake for swimming. They were identified as K Sushant, G Bhanu Tejam and Sai Kiran. According to police, the three friends had gone to the lake for swimming during the holidays. Meanwhile, the bodies of six youths were retrieved from the Medigadda barrage in Telangana.

The bodies of Madhusudhan, 18, P. Shiva Manoj, 15, Rakshit, 13, Karnala Sagar, 16, Ram Charan, 18, and P. Rahul, 19, were pulled out by rescue workers from the barrage.

The bodies were shifted to the government hospital, Mahadevpur, for autopsy.

Eight members of an extended family from Ambatipalli and Korlakunta villages had gone to Medigadda for a bath Saturday. The boys were accompanied by a middle-aged man, Patti Venkataswami. The group had gone to the barrage after attending the wedding reception of their relative.

Venkataswami and another person managed to survive the accident. IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu had instructed district authorities to launch large-scale search and rescue operations immediately.

In 2026, NDA will form govts in TN, WB: Shah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai (Tamil Nadu), June 8: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday asserted that the NDA would form governments in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and targeted the DMK regime by firing fresh "corruption" salvos, including the Rs 4,600 crore sand mining scam.

Addressing party office bearers, he hailed Madurai as a city of 'Parivartan' and said his party's Karyakarta Sammelan (Workers conference) in the temple city would lead to change; of dislodging the DMK from power. Chief Minister M K Stalin claimed that Shah cannot defeat the DMK and he is correct in a sense, he said, adding, "It is not Shah who will defeat the DMK, it is the people of Tamil Nadu who will bring about that change."

Shah said he has participated in elections across the country and understands the pulse of the people, and he is fully confident that the people of Tamil Nadu will uproot the DMK government this time. The DMK's

corrupt rule has affected the poor, women and children in Tamil Nadu, Shah alleged, and urged his party members to resolve to dislodge the Stalin-led Dravidian party government from the seat of power.

At least two classrooms could have been built in each primary school across Tamil Nadu with Rs 39,775 crore, the size of TASMAM scam, he said.

The Enforcement Directorate had recently conducted searches in respect of the "Rs 1,000 crore TASMAM scam." Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, TASMAM, is a State-run alcoholic beverages corporation.

Shah levelled allegations of scam in respect of a Centre's Rs 450 crore nutrition kit programme and said a private firm was given contract leading to graft. Also, the Union Home Minister dared Stalin to explain if he had fulfilled all of DMK's 2021 poll assurances.

The DMK government has proven to be ineffective, failing to deliver on even 60 per cent of the promises outlined in their manifesto.

POST OF THE DAY

These clowns survive on your tweets. You rage. They trend. You reply. They earn.

You fight. They win. You really want to finish hate? BLOCK them. No replies. No RTs. No free clout. Just BLOCK — @MrSinha_ @erbmjha @randomsena @PHobiaWatch @Politicx2029

SHORT TAKES

Protest after meat found near eidgah

Mathura (UP): Pieces of meat suspected to be beef were found in an empty plot near an eidgah on Barsana Road in Mathura district, sparking protests by members of some right-wing outfits, police said Sunday. The meat pieces were found in Govardhan area Saturday night, they said, adding 11 accused have been arrested. In a separate incident in the Mant area of the district, the recovery of a burnt cow carcass on the Yamuna Expressway service road Saturday also led to protests by Hindu activists. An FIR was registered in the Barsana Road incident under various sections of the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act against 24 named individuals and 50 unidentified persons, police said.

Bizman 'fails' to give proof in 'bribery' case

New Delhi: A Kerala businessman, who recently levelled corruption charges against an ED officer posted in the state, has recorded his statement with the central agency where he is understood to have denied knowing or having any evidence against the said investigator, official sources said Sunday. The businessman, Aneesh Babu, deposed before the Enforcement Directorate in Delhi June 6 and his statement was recorded under audio-visual enabled camera by the agency as per the provisions of section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath dies at 63

Hyderabad: Opposition BRS MLA from Jubilee Hills Maganti Gopinath passed away early Sunday at a private hospital here following a heart attack. He was 63. Gopinath, who defeated Congress leader and former cricketer Mohd Azharuddin in the 2023 Telangana Assembly polls, was admitted to the AIG Hospitals June 5 after a massive heart attack.

MP shocker: Dog carries newborn's body in its jaws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mhow (MP), June 8: The probe into a stray dog carrying the partially-eaten body of a newborn in its jaws on the premises of the Mhow government hospital prima facie revealed that the baby was possibly delivered in the toilet of the facility by a 17-year-old girl, officials said.

A security guard had spotted the canine clutching the body of the newborn in its jaws Saturday. Following the disturbing incident, a five-member team of doctors headed by district chief medical and health officer (CM-HO) visited the hospital Sunday and launched investigations. The team, including CM HO Dr BS Saitya, Dr Sharad Gupta, Dr Hemant Gupta, Dr Roopali Joshi and Dr Bhupendra Shekhawat, is trying to piece together the circumstances surrounding the incident, facility in-charge Dr HR Verma told reporters on Sunday evening. The team recorded state-

ments of all paramedics and staffers, including doctors, nurses, ward boys, and security guards. The inquiry has been undertaken to gather as much information as possible to ascertain the sequence of events that culminated in the distressing episode, Dr Verma added. He said the hospital premises are equipped with 35 CCTV cameras covering various sections. The process of compiling and handing over the footage to the police is underway.

Mhow police station in-charge Rahul Sharma said the probe will gain momentum once they receive the entire footage, which will help police identify the mother of the newborn, who delivered in the hospital toilet.

A young girl was seen entering the toilet between 1.30 am and 2 am Saturday. Upon checking the records, we found that a 17-year-old girl had been admitted to the hospital at 9 PM Friday after she complained of colic.



People arrive to offer prayers at Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The 'Maha Kumbhabhishekam' ritual was held at the temple Sunday after a gap of 270 years

Encroachers can't claim rights on public land: HC

The court passed the judgment on a batch of petitions, involving around 1,200 people, seeking direction to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to suspend any further demolition activity, maintain the status quo at the site, and refrain from physically evicting the petitioners from their respective 'jhuggi jhopri' clusters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Delhi High Court has held that encroachers cannot claim a right to continue occupying public land till their rehabilitation claims are not resolved, as this would unduly impede public projects.

The high court made the observation while granting liberty to the DDA to proceed with the demolition action at Bhoomiheen Camp in South Delhi's Kalkaji in accordance with law. Justice Dharmesh

Sharma said the writ petitions were not only flawed due to the misjoinder of multiple parties with multiple causes of action, but also failed to meet the essential threshold provided by the Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy for being considered eligible for relocation and rehabilitation.

"None of the petitioners have any legal right to continue occupying the JJ cluster incessantly, to the detriment of the public at large," the court said in its order passed June 6.

The court passed the judg-



ment on a batch of petitions, involving around 1,200 people, seeking direction to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to suspend any further demolition activity, maintain the status quo at the site, and refrain from physically evicting the petitioners from their respective 'jhuggi jhopri' clusters.

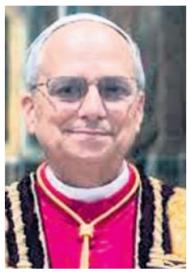
seek rehabilitation, as it is not an absolute constitutional entitlement available to encroachers such as themselves.

"The right to rehabilitation arises solely from the prevailing policy that binds them. The determination of eligibility for rehabilitation is a separate process from the removal of encroachers from public land." "Encroachers cannot claim a right to continue occupying public land pending the resolution of their rehabilitation claims under the applicable policy, as this would unduly impede public projects," it said.

The court, however, allowed rehabilitation of some of them and directed the DDA to allocate the EWS category flats. The nearly three-decades-old slum cluster at Bhoomiheen Camp was home to migrants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, among others.

Tribal girl gangraped by 10 men in J'khand

GODDA: A 17-year-old tribal girl was allegedly raped by 10 men when she went out to relieve herself in Jharkhand's Godda district, police said Sunday. Eight of the accused have been arrested so far in connection with the incident that happened in the Sundar Pahari police station area Friday, they said. The incident happened when the girl went to a relative's place to attend a wedding. She went out of the house to relieve herself when a man grabbed her, tied a cloth around her mouth and took her to a secluded place, police said, quoting her statement. She was then allegedly raped by 10 men, they said. Her family alleged that a meeting of the local panchayat was held on Saturday to hush up the matter. "The victim's family lodged an FIR against 10 people Sunday. Eight people have been arrested. Search is on for the remaining two accused," Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar said. The victim has been sent for a medical examination, he said.

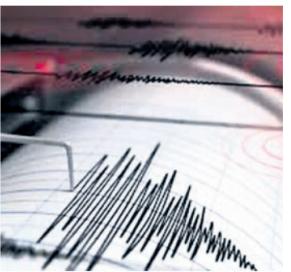


Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for security zones separating us from our neighbours, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms

POPE LEO XIV

QUAKE HITS COLOMBIA

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck central Colombia early Sunday, authorities said. No casualties were immediately reported. The quake hit 17 kilometres northeast of Paratebueno, a city about 116 miles southeast of the capital, Bogota. The US Geological Service reported the quake hit at 8:08 a.m.



of the day quote

Spain needs a revolution of decency and freedom – and we will lead that revolution from the streets and at the ballot boxes



ALBERTO NÚÑEZ FEIJÓO | MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES OF SPAIN

Canadians have seen their trust in the US undermined, just as we have in Europe, following President Trump's actions... We need to strengthen the ties that bind us to our friends.



JOACHIM STREIT | MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The High Seas Treaty is critical to ensuring we can protect biodiversity in the ocean



REBECCA HUBBARD | DIRECTOR OF HIGH SEAS ALLIANCE

National Guard deployed in LA amid protests

REUTERS

Los Angeles, June 8: California National Guard arrived in Los Angeles Sunday, deployed by President Donald Trump after two days of protests by hundreds of demonstrators against immigration raids carried out as part of Trump's hardline policy.

About a dozen National Guard members were seen in video footage Sunday lining up at a federal building in downtown Los Angeles, where detainees from immigration raids Friday were taken, sparking protests that continued Saturday. The complex is near Los Angeles City Hall, where another protest against the immigration raids is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. U.S. Northern Command confirmed National Guard troops had started deploying and that some were already on the ground.

"These Radical Left protests, by instigators and often paid troublemakers, will NOT BE TOLERATED," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform early Sunday.

California Governor Gavin Newsom has accused Trump of deploying the National Guard because he wants "a spectacle."

Footage showed at least a half dozen military-style vehicles and riot shields Sunday at the federal building where the Department of Homeland Security



said about "1,000 rioters" had protested Friday. Reuters could not verify the DHS account.

On Saturday law enforcement faced off against a few hundred protesters in Paramount in southeast Los Angeles and then later Saturday with about 100 people in downtown Los Angeles, according to Reuters witnesses. Federal law enforcement was seen firing gas canisters in Paramount and downtown Los Angeles on Saturday to try and disperse protesters.

The Los Angeles Police Department arrested 27 people Saturday for failure to disperse from the downtown protest, police spokesperson Norma Eisenman said. She said she could not comment on whether LAPD used less lethal force.

Less lethal force refers to crowd control tactics such as pepper balls. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department arrested three people on Saturday on suspicion of assaulting an officer. Sheriff's deputies did use "less lethal force" in Paramount, spokesperson Deputy Brenda Serna said, but she could not specify which exact tactics were used.

The protests pit Democratic-run Los Angeles, where census data suggests a significant part of the population is Hispanic and foreign-born, against Trump's Republican White House, which has made an immigration crackdown a hallmark of his second term.

Trump in a presidential memorandum Saturday said

he was deploying at least 2,000 National Guard personnel following what he described as "numerous incidents of violence and disorder" in response to the enforcement of federal immigration law, as well as "credible threats of continued violence."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth also warned that the Pentagon was prepared to mobilize active-duty troops "if violence continues" in Los Angeles, saying the Marines at nearby Camp Pendleton were "on high alert."

"There is plenty of room for peaceful protest, but ZERO tolerance for attacking federal agents who are doing their job. The National Guard, and Marines if need be, stand with

ICE," Hegseth said in a social media post Sunday, referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Democratic Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, whose California district includes Paramount, Sunday criticized the president's decision to deploy National Guard troops, arguing that local law enforcement has adequate resources to respond.

"We don't need the help. This is him escalating it, causing tensions to rise. It's only going to make things worse in a situation where people are already angry over immigration enforcement," Barragan told CNN's "State of the Union."

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that the National Guard would provide safety around buildings, to people engaged in peaceful protest and to law enforcement.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in Los Angeles Friday arrested at least 44 people on alleged immigration violations. Trump has pledged to deport record numbers of people in the country illegally and lock down the U.S.-Mexico border, setting a goal for ICE to arrest at least 3,000 migrants per day. But the sweeping immigration crackdown has also included people legally residing in the country, some with permanent residence, and has led to legal challenges.

Trump's travel ban on 12 countries goes into effect today



REUTERS

Washington, June 8: US President Donald Trump's order banning citizens of 12 countries from entering the United States goes into effect at 12:01 am ET (0401 GMT) Monday, a move the president promulgated to protect the country from "foreign terrorists."

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

The entry of people from seven other countries - Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela - will be partially restricted.

Trump, a Republican, said the countries subject to the most severe restrictions were determined to harbor a "large-scale presence of terrorists," fail to cooperate on visa security, have an inability to verify travelers' identities, as well as inadequate record-keeping of criminal histories and high rates of visa overstays in the United States.

Italians vote on citizenship



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, June 8: Italians vote over two days starting Sunday on referendums that would make it easier for children born in Italy to foreigners to obtain citizenship, and on providing more job protections. But apparent low public awareness risks rendering the vote invalid if turnout is not high enough.

Campaigners for the change in the citizenship law say it will help second-generation Italians born in the country to non-European Union parents better integrate into a culture they already see as theirs.

Italian singer Ghali, who was born in Milan to Tunisian parents, urged people to vote in an online post, noting that the referendum risks failure if at least 50% plus one of eligible voters don't turn out.

"I was born here, I always lived here, but I only received citizenship at the age of 18," Ghali said, urging a yes vote to reduce the residency requirement from 10 to five years. The new rules, if passed, could affect about 2.5 million foreign nationals who still struggle to be recognised as citizens.

The measures were proposed by Italy's main union and left-wing opposition parties. Premier

Giorgia Meloni has said she would show up at the polls but not cast a ballot — an action widely criticized by the left as antidemocratic, since it will not help reach the necessary threshold to make the vote valid.

"While some members of her ruling coalition have openly called for abstention, Meloni has opted for a more subtle approach," said analyst Wolfgang Piccoli of the Teneo consultancy based in London. "It's yet another example of her trademark fence-sitting."

Supporters say this reform would bring Italy's citizenship law in line with many other European countries, promoting greater social integration for long-term residents. It would also allow faster access to civil and political rights, such as the right to vote, eligibility for public employment and freedom of movement within the EU.

"The real drama is that neither people who will vote yes nor those who intend to vote no or abstain have an idea of what (an) ordeal children born from foreigners have to face in this country to obtain a residence permit," said Selam Tesfaye, an activist and campaigner with the Milan-based human rights group "Il Cantiere."

'Israeli fire kills 5 near aid sites'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah, June 8: Israeli fire killed at least five people and wounded others as they headed toward two aid distribution points in Gaza run by an Israeli and US-backed group, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said Sunday. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at people who approached its forces.

The past two weeks have seen frequent shootings near the new hubs where thousands of Palestinians — desperate after 20 months of war — are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials.

In all, at least 108 bodies were brought to hospitals in Gaza over the past 48 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said. Israel's military said it struck dozens of militant targets throughout Gaza over the past day. Four of the latest bodies were brought to Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces fired on them at a roundabout around a kilometre from a site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in nearby Rafah.

Israel's military said it fired warning shots at "suspects" who had advanced toward its forces and ignored warnings to turn away. It said the shooting occurred in an area that is considered an active combat zone at night.

Al-Awda Hospital said it re-



ceived the body of a 42-year-old man and 29 people who were wounded near another GHF aid distribution point in central Gaza. The military said it fired warning shots in the area at around 6:40 am but did not see any casualties.

A GHF official said there was no violence in or around its distribution sites, all three of which delivered aid on Sunday. The group closed them temporarily last week to discuss safety measures with Israel's military and has warned people to stay on designated access routes. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The new aid hubs are set up inside Israeli military zones where independent media have

no access.

Witnesses said the shooting in southern Gaza occurred at around 6 am, when they were told the site would open. Many headed toward it early, seeking desperately needed food before the crowds arrived. Adham Dahman, who was at Nasser Hospital with a bandage on his chin, said a tank fired toward them. "We didn't know how to escape," he said. "This is trap for us, not aid."

Zahed Ben Hassan said someone next to him was shot in the head. He said he and others pulled the body from the scene.

"They said it was a safe area from 6 am until 6 pm... So why did they start shooting at us?" he said. "There was light out, and they have their cameras and can clearly see us."

Iranian rapper faces execution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, June 8: The tattoos covering Iranian rapper Tataloo's face stand out against the gray prison uniform the 37-year-old now wears as he awaits execution, his own rise and fall tracing the chaos of the last decade of Iranian politics.

Tataloo, whose full name is Amir Hossein Maghsoudloo, faces a death sentence after being convicted on charges of "insulting Islamic sanctities." It's a far cry from when he once supported a hard-line Iranian presidential candidate.

Tataloo's music became popular among the Islamic Republic's youth, as it challenged Iran's theocracy at a time when opposition to the country's government was splintered and largely leaderless.

The rapper's lyrics became increasingly political after the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini and the subsequent wave of nationwide protests. He also appeared in music videos which criticised the authorities.

"When you show your face in a music video, you are saying, Hey, I'm here, and I don't care about your restrictions," said Ali Hamedani, a former BBC journalist who interviewed the rapper in 2005. "That was brave."

The Iranian Supreme Court last month upheld his death sentence. "This ruling has now been confirmed and is ready for execution," judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir told reporters at a press conference last month.

Israel to block Gaza-bound aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, June 8: Israel's government Sunday vowed to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching the Gaza Strip.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said that Israel wouldn't allow anyone to break its naval blockade of the Palestinian territory, which he said was aimed at preventing Hamas from importing arms.

"To the antisemitic Greta and her fellow Hamas propagandists — I will say this clearly: You should turn back, because you will not make it to Gaza," he said in a statement.

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, is among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which is operated by the Freedom Flotilla

Coalition. The vessel departed Sicily last Sunday on a mission that aims to break the sea blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid, while raising awareness over the growing humanitarian crisis 20 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

The activists had said they planned to reach Gaza's territorial waters as early as Sunday.

Thiago Ávila, a Brazilian activist on board the boat, posted a video on social media Sunday afternoon saying someone appeared to be jamming their tracking and communication devices about 160 nautical miles from Gaza.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, is among the others onboard. She has been barred from entering



Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

After a 2½-month total blockade aimed at pressuring Hamas, Israel started allowing some basic aid into Gaza last month, but humanitarian

workers have warned of famine unless the blockade is lifted and Israel ends its military offensive.

An attempt last month by Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza by sea failed after another of the group's vessels was at-

tacked by two drones while sailing in international waters off Malta. The group blamed Israel for the attack, which damaged the front section of the ship.

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Critics of the blockade say it amounts to collective punishment of Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Israel sealed Gaza off from all aid in the early days of the war ignited by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, but later relented under US pressure.

In early March, shortly before Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas, the country again blocked all imports, including food, fuel and medicine.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages, more than half of whom have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Hamas is still holding 55 hostages, more than half of them believed to be dead.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which has said women and children make up most of the dead. It doesn't say whether those killed are civilians or combatants.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90 per cent of the territory's population, leaving people there almost completely dependent on international aid.



Indian startups are being held back by a lack of adequate domestic investment due to restrictive regulations of the government
MOHANDAS PAI | CHAIRMAN, AARIN CAPITAL

NCLAT REJECTS BYJU'S PLEA OVER STATUS QUO ON AAKASH SHAREHOLDING

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed a plea filed by Resolution Professional of Think & Learn, which owns edtech brand Byju's, challenging an NCLT order directing to maintain status quo regarding the company's stake in Aakash Educational Services. A two-member NCLAT bench said that since the NCLT order is "consensual" an interlocutory order, no interference is called for by the appellate tribunal at this stage



of the day quote

The discussions are ongoing between India and the US. One thing is clear; we will protect the interest of our farmers. When we talk about two nations, we need to see the overall trade



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Ambuja Cements, now a core part of the Adani Group's cement business, contributes to nearly 30 per cent of India's homes and infrastructure. This is a story of resilience fuelled by a growth mindset -- a journey that marries legacy with innovation and is inspired by a clear and purposeful vision



VINOD BAHETY | CEO, AMBUJA CEMENTS

This powerful AI-based system has already demonstrated its ability to identify mule accounts used to route illicit funds. By analysing user behaviour and transaction patterns, banks can now flag and disable suspicious accounts more efficiently, thereby disrupting fraud at the transactional layer



SUNIL MITTAL | MD, AIRTEL

SHORT TAKES

Upcoming IPOs

New Delhi: After a sluggish start to 2025, the primary market is showing signs of revival with over a dozen companies having lined up their IPOs in the next three to six months buoyed by a stabilizing secondary market and easing geopolitical tensions, merchant bankers said. Among the companies preparing to tap the capital markets are HDB Financial Services, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), Kalpataru, Rubicon Research, All Time Plastics, Regreen-Excel EPC India, and Parames Biotech, they added. Additionally, Credila, SK Finance, Veritas Finance, Paras Healthcare, CIEL HR Services, Avanse Financial Services, Drof-Ketal Chemicals India, Brigade Hotel Ventures and Shreeji Shipping are looking to launch their IPOs. All these companies have already received clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). This renewed activity follows the launch of six IPOs last month, including Schloss Bangalore, the owner of luxury hotel chain The Leela. However, the overall IPO activity in 2025 has slowed, with only 16 firms coming out with public issues so far, compared to 29 IPOs in the same period last year.

EVs share up

New Delhi: The market share of electric passenger vehicles (EVs) in India accelerated past the 4 per cent mark in May this year, from 2.6 per cent in the same month of the previous year, reflecting the increasing popularity of electric cars among Indian buyers as the country transitions to green mobility, data compiled by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) shows. The share of electric passenger sales in May is also 0.5 percentage points higher than the 3.5 per cent share in April as part of the rising trend. The retail data shows 12,304 electric cars were sold during the month, compared to just 8,029 units in May 2024. The sales of electric cars in April this year stood at 12,233 units. Tata Motors maintained its market leadership in the electric car segment by selling 4,351 units during the month.

'No need to smug' as India's per capita GDP still lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: India is set to overtake Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, but must not become complacent, as the country remains far behind Japan in GDP per capita terms, WEF's former MD Claude Smadja said.

According to IMF data dated April 2025, India's GDP per capita of \$2,878.4 is approximately 8.5 per cent of Japan's GDP per capita of \$33,955.7, meaning Japan's per capita income is about 11.8 times higher than India's.

On the contrary, Smadja argued, India's new economic standing should serve as a catalyst for accelerating reforms and ensuring that growth translates into higher living standards for all citizens, not just a burgeoning middle class in urban and rural centres.

He further said, India stands at a pivotal crossroads in the global technology race, possessing a "unique superiority" in big data, an asset that the country must protect and strategically leverage to propel it into the top-tier of global tech and innovation. He highlighted that India, alongside China, Europe, and US, is one of the world's largest generators of data.

India's situation is distinctive, he said, thanks to widespread internet access, the proliferation of mobile phones, and the national single identity card system (Aadhaar), data is being generated at an "exponential" rate, touching every aspect of daily life.

"In India, we need to make sure that it protects this huge strategic asset because this is the basis from which it can



No, it is not a good indicator because what counts is the per capita GDP. In terms of per capita GDP, India is far below Japan. So whether India has achieved this fourth position in the global economic balance is a good indicator of progress being made, but it is not in any way any reason for complacency

CLAUDE SMADJA | EX-MD, WEF

build, to accelerate its innovation technology process, from which it can create new developments in disruptive technologies, and from which it can, in a way, build its position as being among the top two or three big data players in the world.

Apart from China, no country except India can have this kind of asset with respect to big data, Smadja said.

But with this advantage comes vulnerability. Smadja warned that US tech giants and policymakers are eager to gain access to data, and with China sealing off its data ecosystem and Europe already on its radar, India could be the next

potential target.

He believes that India's data trove is the bedrock for the next wave of technological breakthroughs, including artificial intelligence and deep tech and this resource is leveraged not just for elite innovation but to benefit the entire Indian population, including rural and remote communities.

"India has a tremendously innovative and dynamic start-up and innovation ecosystem. So, whatever can be added in terms of policies to support the development of this ecosystem will tremendously benefit India. Until now, corporate India has been more prone to buying technologies than to create them. We need to have and see a much more intensive effort from corporate India to develop R&D technologies," Smadja noted.

India's young population remains a key asset, but Smadja stressed the urgent need to accelerate skill development and re-skilling across the workforce. Looking ahead, for India to become a \$7TN economy by 2030.

FPIs withdraw ₹8,749cr from equities in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: After investing a staggering amount in May, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net sellers with a withdrawal of ₹8,749 crore from the Indian Equity markets in the first week of June, triggered by, renewed US-China trade tensions and rising US bond yields.

This momentum follows a net investment of ₹19,860 crore in May and ₹4,223 crore in April, data with the depositories showed. Prior to this, FPIs had pulled out ₹3,973 crore in March, ₹34,574 crore in February, and a substantial ₹78,027 crore in January.

With the latest withdrawal, the total outflow has reached ₹1.01 lakh crore in 2025 so far.

"This bearish sentiment was triggered by renewed US-China trade tensions and rising US bond yields, which steered investors towards safer assets," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate director, Morningstar Investment, said.

Besides, a US investigation into Adani Group's alleged

sanction violation on Iran pull down the investor's confidence plus key equity indices, he added.

However, the unexpected monetary action from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), combining a 50 basis points repo rate cut with a 100 basis points CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) reduction, boosted market sentiments significantly.

"With growth prospects in the US and China looking bleak, India stands out as a resilient economy which can deliver above 6 per cent growth in FY26. The only concern is the high valuations which leave not much room for the rally to continue," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said.

Apart from equities, FPIs pulled out ₹6,709 crore from debt general limit and ₹5,974 crore from debt voluntary retention during June 2-6.

They have been consistently selling in the debt market too due to the low differential in bond yields between US and Indian bonds, Vijayakumar added.



Major banks slash lending rates in line with RBI policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 8: Several major banks, including Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India and UCO Bank, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank have slashed their lending rates following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to cut the repo rate by 50 basis points.

The rate cut is part of the RBI's strategy to stimulate economic growth by making borrowing more affordable for both consumers and businesses. PNB was among the first to pass on the benefit, lowering its repo-linked lending rate from 8.85 per cent to 8.35 per cent.

However, the bank kept its base rate and marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) unchanged.

Bank of India followed with a similar reduction, cutting its repo-based lending rate from 8.85 per cent to 8.35 per cent, as per its stock exchange filing.

On the other side, UCO Bank took a different route, trimming its MCLR by 10 basis points across all loan tenures. The changes, effective from June 10, will make various types

of loans including home and personal loans slightly more affordable.

The bank reduced its overnight MCLR from 8.25 per cent to 8.15 per cent, the one-month MCLR from 8.45 per cent to 8.35 per cent, and the three-month MCLR from 8.6 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

The six-month and one-year MCLR were lowered to 8.8 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively.

Bank of Baroda also announced a 50 basis point reduction in its repo-linked lending rates on selected loan tenure, adding to the list of banks easing borrowing costs.

Meanwhile, private sector HDFC Bank reduced its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenure, which will benefit borrowers whose loans are linked to this benchmark. These rate cuts come in response to the RBI's move, announced by the Monetary Policy Committee led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The objective behind the rate cut is to energise the economy by encouraging spending and investment through cheaper loans.

Five apply for DCRA as TRAI readies for digital connectivity rating system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received applications from five entities expressing interest in being empanelled as digital connectivity rating agencies (DCRAs) who will evaluate properties according to the regulator's prescribed rules and norms, according to Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti.

TRAI is hoping for an early launch, with Lahoti noting that the first round of empanelment could take place as soon as this month. The proposed 'star rating' system will evaluate properties on digital connectivity, similar to green building or energy efficiency rating systems.

New as well as existing buildings can be rated under the proposed system, and TRAI hopes that framework may even nudge builders to "retrofit" existing buildings with good digital connectivity infrastructure to get a favourable rating.

To support this, TRAI is developing a digital platform and final property assessments will also be published on the regulator's website.



Over time, TRAI expects the digital connectivity rating system to become a standard and key selling point for developers, builders on the one hand and buyers or tenants on the other, given connectivity demands at workplace and homes.

At present, dense construction in urban areas also makes connectivity a challenge in many locations. According to TRAI, the rating manual will enable adoption of uniform assessment methodology by the Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies for rating of properties.

It will also provide a standard reference for the property managers for creation of digital connectivity infrastructure

(DCI) in their properties.

Buildings shall be evaluated based on defined parameters in the regulation fiber readiness, mobile network availability, in-building solutions, and Wi-Fi infrastructure, service performance among others.

The regulator had also submitted its recommendations to the government on 'Rating of Buildings or Areas for Digital Connectivity' in February 2023, with an aim to create an ecosystem for building of DCI as a part of any development activity.

TRAI has also released the regulation Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024 in October last year to bring a framework for rating of properties for digital connectivity.

Industry estimates show that more than 80 per cent of the data consumption takes place inside building premises. Digital connectivity has also become crucial, especially for 5G and, in future, the 6G networks, which use high frequency bands for delivering ultra hi-speed data, but get attenuated due to walls and building materials.

Auto sector seeks govt help for rare earth magnets import from China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The automobile industry has sought government support in expediting approvals from the Chinese government for importing rare earth magnets used in various applications, including passenger cars.

As per the industry sources, various domestic suppliers have already sought approval from the Chinese government through their local vendors in China.

However, no approvals have been granted so far, sources said. China controls over 90 per cent of global processing capacity for the magnets, used across multiple sectors including automobiles, home appliances and

clean energy.

The Chinese government has put restrictions, with effect from April 4, mandating special export licences for seven rare earth elements and related magnets.

"In Japan, Suzuki Motor has already suspended production of its Swift car because of China's curbs. Last week, Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Rahul Bharti said China has asked for an end-user certificate, endorsed by the Indian government and approved by the Chinese government. Hence industry is in discussion with the government," he stated.

Deloitte India Partner and Automotive Sector Leader Rajat Mahajan noted that the



shortage is a major supply chain disruption, especially for EVs, as rare earth metals are used extensively in the electric motor as a core component.

Rare earth magnets have high magnetic energy storage capacity with low coercivity at high operating temperatures.

"This has been an R&D topic for the automotive industry for a long time but till now other magnetic materials have not seen large scale commercial usage in applications like EV," he noted.

Also, there are not enough rare earth magnets to recycle at this point in time to satisfy

Rare earth magnets are used for multiple applications in EVs - electric motors, regenerative braking systems, power steering etc. China accounts almost 90 per cent of the overall supply for rare earth magnets; the curb on export of the same by China can have material implications on the EV industry

SRIKUMAR KRISHNAMURTHY | ICRA SENIOR VP

the EV volumes, Mahajan said. It will not be easy for OEMs to suddenly change course on powertrain as well as on alternate material.

"This situation will hopefully get resolved via diplomatic channels, but if it continues then we may see a shift towards

Global cues, inflation, & FIIs to drive market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Equity investors would track global market trends, inflation data and trading activity of foreign investors for further cues this week. Moreover, progress of monsoon and developments related to trade talks would also be monitored by investors, experts noted.

"Going forward, market participants will focus on key macroeconomic data for further cues. High-frequency indicators such as CPI inflation will be closely tracked to gauge demand trends and the central bank's next steps," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged Friday, driven by a rally in rate-sensitive sectors following the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 82,188.99. The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05.

"Meanwhile, global headwinds, including unexpected shifts in US tariffs and ongoing geopolitical tensions may induce volatility," he said.

Last week, the BSE benchmark surged 737.98 points, or 0.90 per cent, and the Nifty jumped 252.35 points, or 1 per cent. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,009.71 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

India poised to benefit from FTAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, June 8: India has emerged as a "great place" to use the advantages accruing from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), a senior retail industry official said as he highlighted the success of Make in India programme.

"We are among the most attractive markets, with a growing young population that makes us one of the world's largest consumer markets with insatiable demand for the best in the world," said Retailers Association of India (RAI) CEO Kumar Rajagopalan.

FTAs will also give Indians access to items that get manufactured abroad at a more convenient pricing. He denied the notions of dumping cheap inferior goods into the Indian market, pointing out that the country has created laws that can protect against such trade-damaging practices, and that can be challenged at the World Trade Organization.

FTAs are increasing India's bilateral trade globally, covering value-added high-end and heavy-duty industrial products to edibles such as soybeans, cheeses, vines and beverages. RAI leads about 2,500 members, mostly retailers at national level, with an annual business volume of about \$900 billion, which is set to grow at 10 per cent annually.

powertrains for large OEMs," he said.

ICRA Senior Vice President, Srikumar Krishnamurthy noted that rare earth magnets are used for multiple applications in EVs - electric motors, regenerative braking systems, power steering etc. Given that China accounts for around 90 per cent of the overall supply for rare earth magnets, the curb on export of the same by China can have material implications for the EV industry, he added.

The implications could include inflationary pressures (led by higher cost for rare earth magnets against the backdrop of shortage) or even disruption in production schedules in absence of a seamless supply of the same.

India eye comeback



Men hockey team needs to avoid conceding late goals against Netherlands in FIH Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen, June 8: The Indian men's hockey team will have to shed the habit of conceding late goals if it wishes to bounce back against The Netherlands and stay in contention for top spot in the FIH Pro League here Monday.

India have dropped to the fourth position in the Pro League standings after the 1-2 loss against Netherlands Saturday.

Netherlands are atop the leader-board with 17 points from nine games, followed by England (16 points from eight games), Belgium (16 points from eight games) and India (15 points from nine games).

The European leg of the Pro League holds greater significance for India. A top-place finish will help India directly qualify for next year's World Cup to be co-hosted by Belgium and Netherlands.

If they fail, India will have another chance through the Asia Cup to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from September 5 to 14 this year.

Against Netherlands Saturday, India squandered a one goal lead to lose to Olympic champions Netherlands.

The Indian side showed promise in the early phases of the first half, with captain Harmanpreet Singh converting a penalty corner to give his side the lead.

The Dutch, however, made a strong comeback and ultimately emerged victorious courtesy a brace from Thijs van Dam, which included the winning goal in the 58th minute.

The Indian defence was upto the task against Netherlands' fierce attacks but some lapse

India have dropped to the fourth position in the Pro League standings after the 1-2 loss against Netherlands



in concentration and man-marking cost them dearly with two minutes remaining.

Having said that, the Indian forwards will have to be assertive and create more chance from field opportunities, an area which was found wanting Saturday.

Also, what needs to be worked upon is more co-ordination between the midfield and forwardline, a vital area which creates goal scoring opportunities.

"We did well in the first half but the third quarter wasn't as good. In the fourth quarter we did well again and were winning the ball, but we weren't getting any shots on goal. It was unfortunate to lose like that because I thought we could push for a draw. We want to push ourselves as hard as we can, especially against a team like the Netherlands," India head coach Craig Fulton said after Saturday's match.

With next year's World Cup spot up for grabs, India will aim to do well in the remaining matches and gain maximum points against challenging opponents.

India played the home leg of the Pro League in Bhubaneswar earlier this year, when they amassed 15 points with five wins in eight games.

Khaleel's fiery four-for hands India A slender first-innings lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Northampton, June 8: Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed produced a penetrating spell of seam bowling, returning with figures of 4/70 as England Lions were bowled out for 327, handing India A a 21-run first-innings lead at tea on day three of the second unofficial Test, here Sunday.

Resuming at 192/3, the hosts suffered a dramatic collapse in the morning session, losing four wickets for just 10 runs.

Khaleel set the tone, removing skipper James Rew (10) and George Hill (0) off successive deliveries to trigger the slide. He followed it up with the wicket of Chris Woakes (5), caught behind, reducing the Lions to 266 for 8 by lunch.

After the interval, Nitish Kumar Reddy broke Farhan Ahmed's dogged resistance -- his 87-ball 24 frustrating the visitors -- to make it 279 for 9.

But from there India A struggled to break through with the final wicket stand between Josh Tongue and No 11 Eddie Jack, frustrating the visitors.

Tongue remained unbeaten on a resolute 36 (61 balls), while 19-year-old Jack -- playing only his second first-class game -- displayed remarkable composure under pressure.

The left-hander struck three boundaries and partnered for a gritty 48-run last-wicket stand that took England Lions past the 300-run mark, frustrating the Abhimanyu Easwaran-led side.

India A rotated their bowlers and even took the second new ball in the 81st over in pursuit of the final scalp.

Khaleel was brought back in an attempt to bag a five-for, but it was Anshul Kamboj (2/56) who eventually ended the resistance at the stroke of tea.

A full delivery angled in from around the wicket beat Jack's defence and clipped the top of off-stump. Tushar Deshpande (2/62) was also impressive, dismissing the obdurate Max Holden (7).

TAIWAN ATHLETICS OPEN Gold run continues



India win five gold on day 2 to dominate Taiwan Open athletics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taipei City, June 8: The Indian contingent won as many as five gold medals, including double podium finishes in women's 800m final and long jump competition, on the second and final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship here Sunday.

Three-time national champion Vithya Ramraj, Rohit Yadav, Pooja, Krishan Kumar and Annu Rani won the gold medal in their respective events in an impressive outing by the Indian contingent.

Yashas Palaksha rallied to win silver in the men's 400m hurdles with a personal best timing of 42.22s, the result giving a big boost to his confidence after missing out on the 2025 Asian Championships.

Vithya clocked 56.53s to strike gold in the women's 400m hurdles event, her third best time of the year helping the athlete to gain some useful ranking points for the upcoming World Championships.

The athlete from Tamil Nadu competes in 400 metres hurdles, 400 metres and 4x400 metres relay.

Before this, she had clocked 56.04s in the Federation Cup

final and 56.46s in the Asian Championship final.

Rohit could not breach the 75m mark in the men's javelin throw competition but a best throw of 74.42m was enough for him to claim gold in the event.

Taipei's Huang Shih-Feng won silver with a throw of 74.04m, while his compatriot Cheng Chao-Tsun was third with an effort of 73.95m.

Pooja won the women's 800m final with a championship record time of 2:02.79s to edge past compatriot Twinkle Chaudhary, who clocked 2:06.96s to clinch silver.

Krishan Kumar then came back from behind to win the top prize in the men's 800m final with a time of 1:48.46s, which is also a new championship record.

In the women's javelin final later in the day, Annu Rani struck gold after she threw the spear at a distance of 56.82m. The Indian could not improve on her season's best performance but the sub-57 metre throw was enough for her to finish ahead of silver winner Haritarabage Lekamalage (56.82m) of Sri Lanka and Taipei's Pin-Hsun Chu (53.03m).

In the women's long jump event, India's Shailli Singh (6.41m) and Ancy Sojan (6.39m) then won the silver and bronze medals respectively, finishing behind Australia's Delta Amidzovski (6.49m), who won the gold medal.

SHORT TAKES

India begin training

London: India hit the ground running with a high-intensity training session at Lord's, ahead of the five-match series against England beginning June 20 at Leeds. The pace quartet of Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh, alongside new captain Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja trained under head coach Gautam Gambhir. Gill was made India's 37th Test captain following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. He is leading a relatively young side eyeing their first Test series win in England since 2007. The series begins at Headingley followed by Tests at Edgbaston, Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval.

Kusale, Elavenil to lead

Munich: Paris Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale will lead the Indian squad along with comeback shooter Elavenil Valarivan at the season's third ISSF World Cup which will feature a galaxy of international stars, beginning here from Tuesday. Kusale fought his way back to the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event on the back of a good show on the domestic circuit. Two-time Olympian Elavenil will be seen in international action for the first time since Paris, although she did make the trip to Buenos Aires and Lima as an RPO (Ranking Points Only) shooter. Reigning Asian Games champion Palak in the women's air pistol also makes it back to the team.

Kane saves England

Barcelona: England needed a second-half goal from Harry Kane to secure a 1-0 win over lowly Andorra and maintain a perfect record under Thomas Tuchel after three World Cup qualifiers. England was held scoreless by a team ranked 173rd in the world until Kane redirected a pass from Noni Madueke into the top of the net in the 50th minute after the Bayern Munich striker's initial effort was saved by goalkeeper Iker Alvarez. "We need to be better for sure," Kane said. "It's not one that may well remember, and we had good spells, but we take the three points and move on." It was goal No 72 in his 106th appearance for the Three Lions.

CM Trophy U-15 Football C'ship: Bargarh FC clinch inaugural title



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: After an exhilarating final at Rourkela's Birsamunda Stadium, Bargarh FC emerged victorious over Bhubaneswar FC with a 3-2 scoreline, securing the inaugural CM Trophy Under-15 Football Championship.

The tournament, the first grassroots-level U-15 football championship in Odisha, is part of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's vision to cultivate sporting talent across the state.

The tournament started

January 16 and the matches spanned from district level to zonals (divided into four zones- Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar and Bargarh) culminating in the semis and finals.

Sports Minister Surjyabansi Suraj joined as the Chief Guest in the final match. He said, "Under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's leadership, this tournament has provided an excellent platform for showcasing grassroots talent. We will select and train the top 100 players from this championship to

further hone their skills." "The future editions of CM Trophy Championship will extend to include other sports such as athletics, badminton, kho-kho, kabaddi and hockey," Sports Minister Suraj added.

Odisha Football Association President and Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy was also present at the ceremony. Reflecting on the broader significance of the tournament, he said, "The CM Trophy nourishes grassroots talent and sows the seeds of teamwork and leadership in every young player."

Ronaldo may skip Club World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, June 8: Cristiano Ronaldo says he's almost certain he will not be playing at the Club World Cup, dealing a blow to FIFA president Gianni Infantino's hopes of having one of soccer's biggest attractions at the tournament.

The Portugal captain confirmed Saturday that he received "quite a few" offers from participating clubs to play for them at the tournament starting June 14, but had decided against accepting any of them.

"Some things make sense to talk about, other things don't, and, as a person says, you can't take part in everything," Ronaldo said.

The 40-year-old soccer great was speaking in Munich a day before Portugal's Nations League final against Spain. Infantino had suggested last

You have to think about the short, medium and long term. It's a decision practically made on my part not to go to the Club World Cup, but I've had quite a few invitations to go

CRISTIANO RONALDO



month that Ronaldo, who is still contracted to Saudi team Al-Nassr until the end of June, could switch to one of the 32 clubs taking part in the Club World Cup because of a unique transfer window created for the tournament.

Ronaldo did little to quell that speculation when he posted "this chapter is over" after Al-Nassr's last Saudi Pro League game of the season.

He was linked with several Club World Cup participants, including Brazil's Palmeiras.

FRENCH OPEN

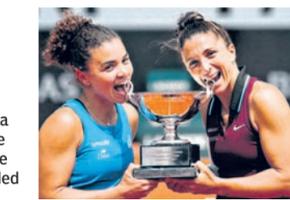
Granollers, Zeballos defy their ages

Paris: Veterans Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos won the French Open doubles final for their first major title together, and at the combined age of 79. Granollers, a 39-year-old from Spain, and his 40-year-old Argentine partner played in their fourth Grand Slam final as a pairing, but first at the clay-court major. They defeated British pair Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 6-0, 6-7 (5), 7-5. Granollers and Zeballos, who were seeded fifth in Paris, were runners-up at the US Open in 2019 and Wimbledon in 2021 and 2023. Salisbury and Skupski were the first all-British team to reach a Grand Slam men's doubles final in the Open era.



Errani, Paolini bag maiden title

Paris: Olympic gold medallists Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini won the French Open women's doubles title for the first time. The second-seeded Italian pair, runners-up at Roland-Garros last year, beat Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 Sunday. It was Errani's second French Open doubles title, and her sixth at a major tournament. The 38-year-old previously formed a highly successful partnership with Roberta Vinci, also winning trophies at the US Open, Wimbledon and Australian Open. Errani won two titles in Paris this year, also claiming the mixed doubles title with Andrea Vavassori. Paolini is also an accomplished singles player and was runner-up at the clay-court Grand Slam last year, losing to Iga Swiatek in the final.



Jr women's hockey team beat Belgium

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Antwerp, June 8: The Indian junior women's hockey team kicked off their tour of Europe with a fantastic win against Belgium Sunday. The Indian side won the game 3-2 at the Hockey Center of Excellence, Wilrijkse Plein in Antwerp, Belgium.

In what was a competitive contest, it was India who opened the scoring through Geeta Yadav (11'). However, in the second quarter, hosts Belgium equalised through Marie Goenens (25'). Soon after Belgium took the lead as Louise van Hecke (34') found the back of the net. India came back fighting and it was Sonam (40') levelled things up. India continued to attack, and the pressure paid off as they won a Penalty Corner soon after.

India will take on Belgium in the second game of their European tour June 10. After wrapping up the promising outing at the Four Nations Tournament in Rosario, Argentina, the Indian team has now reached Europe for the five-match tour.

Mbappé steers France to 2-0 win over Germany in Nations League

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, June 8: Kylian Mbappé led France to Nations League consolation before Spain and Portugal play the final Sunday.

The Real Madrid star scored one goal and set up the other as France defeated host nation Germany 2-0 in the third-place decider.

Aurélien Tchouaméni set up club teammate Mbappé to score just before the break after Germany had dominated the first half, and Mbappé set up substitute Michael Olise to seal the result in the 84th after a much-improved second-half performance from the visitors.

France coach Didier Deschamps had his lack of enthusiasm for the game clear the day before, noting his team had little to gain from playing it, and it was apparent which



side was more motivated in front of the Stuttgart fans.

Germany missed a host of chances then had Deniz Undav's equalizer ruled out for a foul by Niclas Füllkrug in the buildup. France was without injured Paris Saint-Germain star Ousmane Dembélé.

Both sides were forced to play for the consolation prize after losing their semifinals. Germany lost 2-1 to Portugal Wednesday before France lost 5-4 to European champion Spain Thursday.