



### Nora's revelation

Actor-dancer Nora Fatehi shares her major obsession to make her bank balance fall to zero

LEISURE | P2



### Space mission postponed

High winds in ascent corridor forces postponement of Axiom-4 space mission to Wednesday

NATIONAL | P8



### Thunberg detained

Israeli naval forces board and seize a charity vessel carrying Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, Monday

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### Top honour for Dhoni

MS Dhoni inducted into ICC's Hall of Fame for the year 2025 along with seven cricketers, including two female players

SPORTS | P12

## PM: Rapid transformation across sectors in 11 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday asserted that under the 11 years of his government, India has not just become the 'fastest-growing major economy' but is also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.

A clear focus on good governance and transformation, Modi said of the last 11 years as his government finished the first year of its third term Monday.



A link shared by him noted that 60 per cent of the current Union ministers are from the SC, ST and OBC categories, a message aimed at burnishing social justice credentials of his government amid attempts by Opposition parties like the Congress to paint it as working against their interests.

This is the highest ever representation of these marginalised groups in the Union Council of Ministers, it added.

In his post on X, Modi said powered by the blessings and collective participation of 140 crore Indians, India has witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors.

Guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the NDA government has delivered path-breaking changes with speed, scale and sensitivity, he said. From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been on people-centric, inclusive and all round progress, he added. Modi said, "We are proud of our collective success but at the same time, we look ahead with hope, confidence and a renewed resolve to build a Viksit Bharat."

He used the hashtag of "11 year of seva" (11 years of service) with the post, while sharing links to the details of changes effected in different sectors.

It noted that over 81 crore people are getting free food grains, over 15 crore households have got tap water connections, over four crore houses built for the poor, 12 crore toilets were built, 68 lakh street vendors got loans, 52.5 crores loans given to small entrepreneurs, and 20 crores women were given cash assistance during Covid under different schemes.



UP IN FLAMES: Containers of Singapore-flagged ship 'MV Wan Hai 503', carrying dangerous cargo, including flammable solids, liquids and toxic substances, caught fire off Kerala coast Monday. The 270-metre-long vessel was en route to Mumbai (Report P9)

## Wildlife attack death aid hiked to ₹10 lakh

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The state government Monday announced the enhancement of compensation for loss of life in an attack by a wild animal to ₹10 lakh from the existing ₹6 lakh, an official statement said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved a proposal in this regard taking into account the loss of life and property caused due to attacks by wild animals, mainly in areas close to forests.

The government also made a provision of assistance for damage caused to houses by wild animals.

"If a house is damaged, the affected person will be given a dwelling unit under Antyodaya Gruha Yojana or a financial assistance equivalent to the house will be provided," the statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

If the kitchen, grain storage house or goat shed is damaged, a compassionate assistance amount of ₹3,000 will be provided, it said.

Similarly, if a concrete wall or compound wall is damaged, a compassionate assistance of ₹5,000 per metre, up to a maximum of ₹25,000, will be provided, it added.

## LA protest intensifies

Los Angeles: Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard over immigration crackdown in the region, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd. Many protesters dispersed as evening fell and police declared an unlawful assembly, a precursor to officers moving in and making arrests of people who don't leave.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Hon'ble minister sir has claimed he'll win the upcoming state elections. Shall we start preparations, sir

## Mumbai's killer locals

### Four die after falling off trains near Thane; nine battle for life

The death of four commuters after falling off two overcrowded local trains near Thane has once again raised serious concerns over passenger safety on Mumbai's suburban railway, considered lifeline for over 7.5 million daily passengers. Local trains continue to remain notoriously overcrowded, especially during peak hours, forcing passengers to hang off footboards. In the process, they lose balance - or their backpacks brush against passengers hanging from passing trains at narrow track distance - and fall off. Data shows that at least seven persons die every day while travelling on Mumbai local trains. According to the GRP statistics, 2,590 persons had died on Mumbai suburban railway in 2023. Of them, 1,895 had died of accidents, with 114 attributed to hanging out of coaches. The casualty figures in 2024 stood at 2,468, including 1,744 accidental, out of which 116 were caused by footboard travelling



opposite directions after some of those standing on the footboards collided with each other.

Following the incident, the Railway Ministry has decided to have automatic door closing facilities in coaches of all existing and new local trains for Mumbai Suburban, a senior official said.

Dilip Kumar, executive director of I&PR, Railway Board, said that after the tragedy in Maharashtra, the ministry has decided to have automatic door closure facilities in all local trains under manufacturing for Mumbai Suburban.

All rakes in service will also be redesigned and the door closure facility will be provided in these rakes of Mumbai Suburban, Kumar added.

## CM: Infiltrators will be dealt with sternly

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, June 9: Asserting that the state government is committed to deporting Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday asked the police and the district administration of Kendrapara to take strict action against such persons as they may pose a threat to national security.

He said deportations would be made as per the law of the land. "The local police need to work in coordination with central agencies to tackle the tricky issue of illegal immigration," Majhi said.

While reviewing the implementation of government programmes in the district, he directed the police to identify the unlawful settlers with the help of the administration and initiate steps for their deportation.

"All the infiltrators - whether from Bangladesh or any other country - will be dealt with sternly," he said, adding that the state government is following a zero-tolerance policy towards foreigners settling down without



valid documents as they are always a threat to India's security. Majhi, who also holds the Home portfolio, had informed the Assembly in March that 3,738 Bangladeshi infiltrators have been identified in the state.

Kendrapara tops the list with 1,649 people, followed by 1,112 in Jagatsinghpur, 655 in Malkangiri, 199 in Bhadrak, 106 in Nabarangpur and 17 in Bhubaneswar.

## ASP killed, 9 injured in IED blast by Naxals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sukma, June 9: An Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) was killed and two officers injured in a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) blast while patrolling in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Monday, marking the first fatality of a high-ranking police officer in the state after 14 years amid intensified anti-Naxalite operations.

In May 2011, an ASP and eight other policemen were killed when Maoists blew up a tractor they were travelling in, in Gariaband district.

The latest incident indicates that the police officers walked into the trap set by Naxalites who had planted the pres-

## Newlywed Indore woman turns honeymoon assassin

AGENCIES

Shillong/Ghazipur /Indore, June 9: Sonam Raghuvanshi, a 24-year-old woman from Indore, allegedly orchestrated the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi during their honeymoon in the scenic town of Sohra in Meghalaya, DGP I Nongrang said Monday, while revealing the shocking details of the chilling murder that triggered manhunt in three states.

Raja was killed by men, allegedly hired by Sonam, who surrendered before Nandganj Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, after the arrest of three assailants - Akash Rajput, 19, Vishal Singh Chauhan, 22, and Raj Singh Kushwaha, 21, in overnight raids.

"The first person arrested was Rajput from Lalitpur in UP.

The second was Chauhan from Indore. The third was Kushwaha, also from Indore," East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said at a presser in Shillong. He also said that another accused Anand Kurmi, 23, from MP's Sagar district was also arrested.

Sonam was currently in police custody, the DGP confirmed. Raja was found dead in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls in East Khasi Hills district June 2, 10 days after the couple went missing.

Raja and Sonam, who got married May 11 in Indore, went to Meghalaya on their honeymoon. The couple, however, disappeared May 23, hours after they checked out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where his body was found.

Raja's relatives identified



the body through a distinctive tattoo on his right hand. A woman's white shirt, a strip of medicine, a part of the LCD screen of a mobile phone, and a smartwatch were also seized at the spot, police said. Police also recovered a bloodstained machete, which they believe was used in Raja's murder.

While Meghalaya Police

maintains that Sonam plotted the murder, her father, Devi Singh Raghuvanshi, insisted she was abducted and falsely implicated.

"My daughter is 100 per cent innocent. Meghalaya Police is misleading the media and not investigating the matter properly. The family has demanded a CBI probe, with MP CM Mo-

han Yadav also writing to Union Home Minister Amit Shah requesting a central investigation," he said, adding, "Kushwaha's name is being wrongly linked with my daughter."

Meanwhile, Raja's mother, Uma Raghuvanshi, expressed heartbreak and disbelief. She claimed that the couple planned the trip to the northeastern state for their honeymoon but did not book the return tickets.

"My son went to Meghalaya with Sonam on her insistence. He did not want to go on honeymoon so soon. My son had told me that Sonam had booked tickets for the trip to Meghalaya. I told him that if the ticket has been booked, then he should go to Meghalaya with his wife," she said.

Meanwhile, the autopsy report indicated that he was hit twice on his head with a sharp object.

# leisure



**BILLIE ELISH, NAT WOLFF SPARK DATING RUMOURS**  
Singer-songwriter Billie Eilish and actor Nat Wolff were seen packing PDA in Italy as they fanned the sparks of romance rumours. The couple was recently spotted sharing an intimate moment in Italy, reports People magazine.

**OLIVIA DOESN'T WANT HER KIDS WATCHING CARTOONS**  
The *Your Friends and Neighbors* actress Olivia Munn doesn't find animated shows interesting. She told People magazine: "I know kids love cartoons, but the thing is, if I can't watch it, I'm not going to spend the rest of my life going crazy. These kid shows drive me crazy."



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

**TAURUS**  
All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesh. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant. You could be getting into a serious argument with them and thereby displease and disappoint them.

**GEMINI**  
You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others, and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front. You need to listen to your head over your heart when it comes to professional matters, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well. It may have a strong bearing on your health.

**LEO**  
You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfactory progress on work related issues.

**VIRGO**  
You are renowned for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesh says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesh warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

**SCORPIO**  
Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Scorpios beware. Tough time today is on the cards, and you may perhaps find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters. But put in your best to overcome this situation and strive to be independent economically.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are an excellent team player and your performance reaches a new high when you are a part of a group. Be an active member of your group, express your opinions, share your knowledge and see how your team becomes the winning team, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Today you will feel like sharing you innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you. You will get an opportunity to work with very educated and well established people. This will result in personal progress at work, says Ganesh.



**Pooja's introspective post**

**MUMBAI:** Actress and wellness advocate Pooja Bedi has shared a deeply introspective post that challenges society's obsession with perfection. Reflecting on the relentless demands of looking flawless, the *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar* actress took to Instagram and wrote, "Perfection tells us to be everything, everywhere, all at once—with flawless skin, a precise and impressively executed reality, and with unwavering grace and calm breaths. But I'm learning to choose what's essential, not just what looks impressive." She continued: "It is about giving your 100% to whatever u set your heart out do, but I don't need to journal in gold ink, green-juice my soul, or look air-brushed by sunrise to be doing life right. If it must be a choice,

I'd choose to honour energy over aesthetics, purpose over performance. It's not about chaos vs. control—it's about conscious choice. Perfection is a moving target. Priorities are a compass. What nourishes me matters more than what impresses them. So, I chase what's meaningful—not flawless." Pooja, daughter of actors Kabir Bedi and Protima Bedi, began her film career with Jag Mundhra's *Vishkanya* and later appeared in films like *Lootere* and *Aatank Hi Aatank*. IANS

## NORA'S EARLY OBSESSION

**MUMBAI:** Nora Fatehi who is wooing everyone lately for her acting skills and roles in projects like *Be Happy* and *The Royals* apart from her dancing skills has opened up on a major obsession of hers. So much so, that this obsession was about to make her bank balance fall to zero, if her manager didn't stop her. She opened up on the kind of money she was spending on luxury hand bags and designer pieces and it wouldn't have stopped if her manager didn't intervene. In a recent chat with Instant Bollywood, the actress—who recently appeared in the romantic comedy *The Royals*—opened up about her early indulgences and the financial wake-up call that followed. She recalled that her first major luxury purchase was a handbag, a moment that marked the beginning of her love affair with high-end fashion. However, what started as an innocent passion slowly turned into an expensive habit. Over time, her shopping sprees began to noticeably impact her savings. It eventually reached a point where her Moroccan manager had to intervene, urging her to reconsider her spending patterns and think more seriously about long-term financial planning. That intervention became a turning point for Nora, prompting her to shift focus from short-term gratification to making smarter, future-oriented choices. AGENCIES

## VIDYA'S 'DREAM COME TRUE' MOMENT

**MUMBAI:** Veteran actor Dharmendra will next be a part of the upcoming drama, *Maine Pyaar Kiya Phir Se*. The mahurat ceremony of the film took place in Mumbai Sunday. Actress Vidya Malvade, who is a part of the film's cast also shared her excitement regarding the project with the following words, "I am extremely happy to be a part of this film. It is a social drama, something we have not seen for a long time. It's a very simple and sweet film about a couple and their two kids. There is a lot of drama, there is a lot of fun, there is a lot of comedy in the movie." She further called working with a veteran like Dharmendra 'a dream come true.' Udit Narayan who has crooned one of the tracks from the movie added, "I would like to extend my wishes to Ronnie sir and the entire team. The film has music composed by Dilip and Sameer Sen and the songs have been penned by Ronnie ji himself. The songs with good music, singing and thought behind them tend to become evergreen." *Maine Pyaar Kiya Phir Se* is likely to be released in the theatres by November this year. IANS

## BFF concludes with Odia, Kannada classics



**BHUBANESWAR:** The four-day second edition of the Bhubaneswar Film Festival (BFF), organised by Bhubaneswar Film Circle, concluded Monday at Sanchana Bhawan with a rich retrospective of classic Odia and Kannada cinema. The festival paid tribute to cinematic legends, drawing the presence of renowned personalities including the family of producer Jitendra Patnaik of *Jajabara*, family members of writer-director Bijay Mishra, former IPS officer Batakrushna Tripathy, and filmmaker Babu Lenka. The festival opened with *Jajabara* (1975), Odia cinema's first digitally colored classic. Directed by the trio—Akshaya Mohanty, Hemanta Das, and Bijay Mishra—the film follows the transformative journey of a nomad turned lover. Other Odia gems included *Kanakalata* (1974), directed by Ghanashyam Mahapatra and based on Nanda Kishore Bal's novel, celebrated for its literary-rich music and authentic outdoor shooting. *Nirbachana* (1994) by Biplab Ray Chaudhuri explored election-time ethics and rural struggle, while *Adina Megha* (Untimely Showers), directed by Amit Mitra, presented a powerful tale of love, sacrifice, and social dilemmas featuring Prashanta Nanda. From Kannada cinema, *Ghatashradha* (1977), directed by Girish Kasaravalli and based on U.R. Ananthamurthy's novella, offered a poignant commentary on orthodox traditions through the story of a pregnant widow cast out by her own father. The festival stood as a celebration of India's cinematic legacy, stirring nostalgia while inspiring dialogue on the socio-cultural relevance of timeless classics. PNN

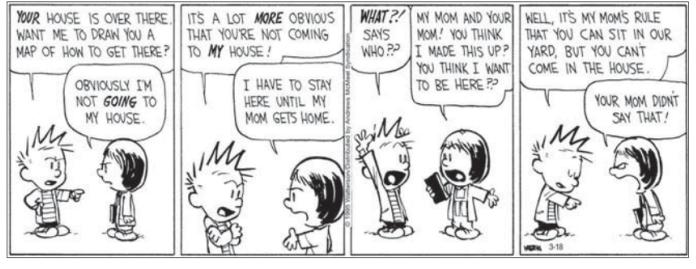
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**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

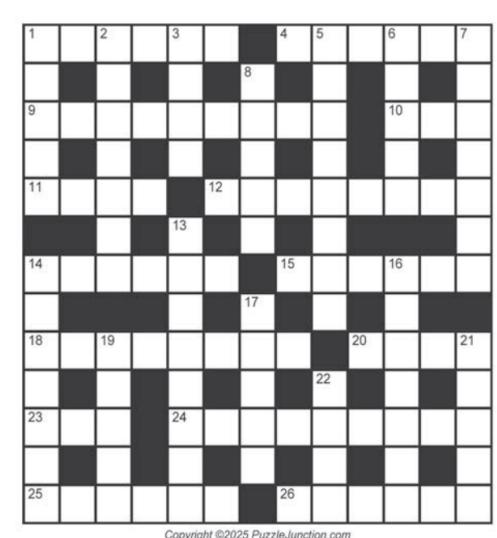


**BREVITY**



**FUN POST**

**CROSSWORD**



- Across**  
1 biloba  
4 Look up to  
9 Sailors' totes (5,4)  
10 Knight's title  
11 Himalayan legend  
12 Orchestra member  
14 Heavy overcoat  
15 Picturesque  
18 Lift  
20 Ripens  
23 Shipwreck signal  
24 Urge to hit the road (5,4)  
25 Hang around  
26 Ambrosia  
**Down**  
1 Lightheaded  
2 Jots down  
3 Send to the canvas  
5 Territory  
6 "Peer Gynt" dramatist  
7 Unpredictable  
8 Premature  
13 Decriminalise  
14 Spoon, for one  
16 Fail to take care of  
17 Sponge  
19 Krupp works city  
21 Nymph chaser  
22 Combustible heap

**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.

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

**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# State remembers its only woman CM



Dignitaries including Bhubaneswar-North MLA Susant Kumar Rout, Bhubaneswar-Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, Korei MLA Akash Dasnayak, Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das, senior BJP leader Golak Mohapatra, former MLAs Sanjay Kumar Das Burma and Ashok Panda, **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy and the newspapers' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy pay floral tributes to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 94th birth anniversary, at her statue in Bhubaneswar, Monday



Bhubaneswar-Ekamra MLA Babu Singh and members of 'We for Bhubaneswar' pay tributes at the statue of the only woman CM of Odisha, Nandini Satpathy, in the City, Monday



Members of Utkal Sammilani remember the former CM in the Capital City, Monday



OPCC chief Bhakta Charan Das, party leaders and **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy pay tributes to the former CM in Bhubaneswar, Monday



A guest speaks at a function to mark the 94th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy at Balichandrapur of Jajpur district Monday. The event was jointly organised by Nandini Devi Smruti Sansad and Balichandrapur Press Club



Members of District Congress Committee pay tribute to the former Chief Minister on her 94th birth anniversary in Dhenkanal, Monday



Students pose with books distributed to them at a function organised by Lokanath Library at Basudevpur in Bhadrak district to mark the 94th birth anniversary of the only woman CM of Odisha, Monday



Guests at a programme to mark the 94th birth anniversary of former CM Nandini Satpathy in Bhanjanagar of Ganjam district. The event was organised by Nandini Devi Smruti Sansad at Sri Aurobindo Shaktipitha, Monday



Guests pay tribute to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 94th birth anniversary at Dharitri's district office in Bhadrak, Monday

**Humble tributes to former Chief Minister of Odisha late Nandini Satpathy on her birth anniversary. As the first woman Chief Minister of the state, her contribution to the fields of art, literature and journalism, along with politics, is unforgettable**

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER  
PRAVATI PARIDA | DEPUTY CM  
NAVEEN PATNAIK | LEADER OF OPPOSITION



Guests unveil the trilingual Braille Barnabodh at a programme organised on the 94th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy, held at the Nandini Devi School for Deaf, Dumb and Blind at Katanalli by-pass in Dhenkanal, Monday

# 80% Rath Yatra work completed

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** About 80 per cent work for smooth organisation of annual Rath Yatra in Puri is complete, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Monday.

Briefing media in Puri after chairing the second coordination meeting to discuss the preparations for the upcoming chariot festival, Harichandan said, "About 80 per cent of the work for the festival has been completed. The remaining work will come to an end before the Rath Yatra."

With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, this year's Rath Yatra will be held smoothly with the cooperation of all, the Law Minister asserted.

Health Minister Mukesh

Mahaling, who also attended the meeting, said over 300 doctors will be deployed at various hospitals to provide healthcare services during the fest.

A temporary burn unit and ICU have been set up in the Pilgrim City, he said, adding that 15 permanent ICU beds will also be opened in Puri before the Rath Yatra.

"Devotees need not worry about Covid-19 as the current variant is mild and there are only 49 reported cases (34 active) in the state," Mahaling said and advised individuals with Covid-19 symptoms to refrain from attending the Rath Yatra.

Meanwhile, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) announced that devotees attending the car festival will be insured

for a sum of ₹5 lakh against any mishap within the municipal area between June 26 and July 9.

SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Kumar Padhee informed the meeting that the construction of the three chariots at the Rath Yard is progressing steadily and as per schedule.

More than 20 lakh drinking water bottles will be provided to devotees during the festival. The meeting directed the authorities to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity and potable water through pipelines.

According to railway officials, 365 special trains will operate to Puri from various places and states during the festival. To facilitate this, 35 additional ticket booking counters and 10 ATMs will be

installed.

Additionally, 250 extra passenger buses will be arranged to cater to the needs of devotees.

AI-enabled 250 CCTV cameras will be installed at strategic locations in the Holy City, while interceptor vehicles and 11 cranes will be deployed along various routes to Puri to help prevent road accidents.

An integrated master control room at Talabania will coordinate efforts among departments involved in the Rath Yatra.

To combat the heat, a large number of cool water sprinklers will be used during the 'Pahandi' (procession of the deities) and the pulling of the chariots. Air-conditioned rooms at PHCs and other hospitals will be available to

treat sunstroke victims.

Scores of lifeguards will be deployed along Puri beach to prevent drowning incidents.

A sufficient number of police officers will be deployed to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the mega festival.

Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain informed the meeting that arrangements have been made for an estimated 15 lakh devotees expected during the Rath Yatra.

The Law Minister directed officials to complete their assigned tasks before the third and final preparatory meeting.

Among others, Commerce and Transport Minister, Culture Minister, Puri Superintendent of Police, MLAs, various department officers and senior temple servitors attended the meeting.

**Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar... Lijjat Papad Ho Harbar...**

Karram Kurram... Kurram Karram... Lijjat PAPAD

Website : [www.lijjat.com](http://www.lijjat.com) Email : [enquiry@lijjat.com](mailto:enquiry@lijjat.com)

## 4 NEW COVID-19 CASES IN STATE

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Four more Covid-19 cases have been reported in the state, a Health department official said Monday.

So far, 15 patients have recovered from the infection and the total active cases stand at 34, he said.

The Health department has also advised people with Covid-like symptoms to not visit Puri during the Rath Yatra scheduled for June 27.

Earlier, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond had informed that schools will function adhering to Covid-19 preventive measures, when classes resume June 20 after the summer vacation.

GOVT INKS PACT WITH IGNOU

# Higher edu courses in Odia



**T**HE MOVE AIMS TO IMPROVE INCLUSIVITY, REDUCE DROPOUTS, AND RAISE ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**T**HE INITIATIVE ALIGNS WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020, PROMOTING EDUCATION IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

“The initiative will ensure ‘Education for All’ and ‘Higher Education for All’. In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, priority is being given to offering education and academic content in the mother tongue,” the minister added. Students from various colleges and universities across the state—from Balasore to Malkangiri—participated in the event virtually. They welcomed the initiative and expressed that many students will benefit from this step toward making higher education more accessible. The event was attended by Higher Education Commissioner and Principal Secretary Arvind Agrawal, Independent Secretary Ramakant Nayak, IGNOU VC Uma Kanjilal, and registrar Alok Chaubey, among others.

**IGNOU to offer undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate, and vocational courses—including BBA, MBA, and tourism management—in Odia**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** In a step toward making higher education more inclusive and accessible, the Higher Education department Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indra Gandhi National Open University (IG-  
Under the agreement, various academic programmes offered by IGNOU—including undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate, and vocational courses such as BBA, MBA, and travel and tourism management—will now be available in the Odia language. According to an official press release, the MoU was formally signed at a ceremony here, attended by Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, who hailed the initiative as a historic milestone in Odisha’s education landscape. “With this MoU, language will no longer remain a barrier to education. Students can now pursue undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate, and professional courses like BBA and MBA in their mother



# OSA observes International Archives Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** To mark International Archives Day, the Odisha State Archives (OSA), with support from the Odia Language, Literature & Culture department, organised a seminar and awareness activities at the OSA office Monday, stressing the importance of preserving archival records for future generations. The event was attended by former chief archivist and general manager of the Reserve Bank of India Archives in Pune, Rajib Lochan Sahoo as the chief guest. On the occasion, deputy di-

**OSA superintendent Sheikh Soleman Ali urged every citizen to embrace the role of an archivist and extended his greetings to archivists around the world on the occasion**

rector of the Odia Language department Suchismita Mantry, OSA superintendent Sheikh Soleman Ali, and other dignitaries attended the event.

The dignitaries and participants delved on the topic ‘Archives are accessible, archives for everyone.’ Sahu delivered the keynote address on the topic ‘#ArchivesAreAccessible - Archives for Everyone’ and emphasised the significance of the global observance in promoting awareness about systematic record preservation. He highlighted the urgent need for Odisha to adopt a comprehensive archival policy and modern public record legislation to support maintenance of vital public documents at the state archives. Mantry, in her speech, un-

derlined the importance of integrating digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and public participation to ensure valuable records are preserved for future generations. Similarly, Sheikh Soleman Ali urged every citizen to embrace the role of an archivist and extended his greetings to archivists around the world on the occasion. The Odisha State Archives also urged citizens and researchers to explore archival resources on its official website, highlighting the vital role these records play in preserving the state’s cultural and administrative heritage.

# ‘Steering Drop’ stir from July 8



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The Odisha Driver Mahasangh (ODM) and Drivers Ekta Mahamanch (DEM) have jointly announced a statewide indefinite ‘Steering Drop’ protest starting July 8, demanding the fulfillment of a long-pending charter of demands addressing the safety, dignity, and welfare of drivers across the state. At a presser here Monday, leaders of the federations, including ODM president Prashant Manduli, All Odisha Transport Drivers’ Association president Deepak Nayak, secretary Chaitanya Pradhan, treasurer Aditya Prasad Behera, joint secretary Manas Debata, and advisor Abakash Khatua, declared that the protest would continue indefinitely unless the state government offers a concrete response before the deadline. “This is a peaceful protest for our survival. The safety, dignity, and rights of drivers across the state are non-nego-

table,” said a spokesperson at the press meet. The demands include the inclusion of auto-rickshaw drivers in the Odisha Motor Transport Driver and Worker Welfare Board, enactment of a special law to protect drivers from mob violence and public hostility, introduction of a post-retirement allowance for registered drivers aged 60 and above, construction of restrooms and toilets every 100 km along highways for resting and vehicle parking, priority employment of at least 70 per cent of state-based drivers in all mines and factories within Odisha, and the declaration of September 1 as National Driver’s Day to honour the profession. The protest has received strong backing from All Odisha Mini Truck Owners’ Association, Odisha Truck Owners’ Association, and Bus Owners’ Association. These groups have pledged full support, citing the broader interests of the transport and driving community.

# Guv, CM & Patnaik hail IMD DG for UN award

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naveen Patnaik Monday congratulated IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra for receiving the prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Award 2025 for Disaster Risk Reduction. Congratulating Mohapatra on being conferred the prestigious award, Kambhampati in post on X said, “Dr Mohapatra’s pioneering work in cyclone forecasting and early warning systems has significantly enhanced disaster preparedness, safeguarded vulnerable communities, and saved countless lives.” “Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Director General of the India Meteorological Department, Shri Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, on being awarded the prestigious UN Sasakawa Prize - 2025. Your accurate assessments



during natural disasters have helped save countless precious lives. As an Odia, your achievement is a matter of pride and honour for both the state and the country. I wish you continued success,” Chief Minister Majhi said in a social media post. Taking to X, BJD chief Naveen Patnaik said, “Congratulate #Odisha’s Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology of @Indiametdept on being conferred with United Nations Sasakawa Award 2025 for Disaster Risk Reduction. He has been awarded for his pioneering work in reducing cyclone-related fatalities across the Indian Ocean region. #Odisha is

proud of your achievement.” Mohapatra, who hails from Bhadrak district and is popularly known as the ‘Cyclone Man of India’, was recognised for his outstanding contributions to tropical cyclone forecasting and early warning systems. He has been serving as the IMD Director General since 2019. He is also one of the three vice-presidents of the World Meteorological Organisation, the UN agency for climate change, weather and water. The award was presented during the eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva recently. In a message, Mohapatra said, “Received United Nations Sasakawa Award, 2025 for disaster risk reduction. I am really grateful.” Earlier this year, Mohapatra received the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission Outstanding Service Award 2025 from the American Meteorological Society in recognition of his transformative work in enhancing tropical cyclone prediction and warning systems.

# CM: Birsa Munda a symbol of courage

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Revolutionary leader Birsa Munda is considered an icon and a symbol of indomitable courage and admirable zeal in fighting against caste and slavery, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Monday. “Birsa Munda was also the main force behind the movement against the establishment of British rule,” Majhi said while paying floral tribute to the great martyr on his 125th death anniversary. Born November 15, 1875, Birsa Munda began working to organise the Mundas to free them from the slavery of British rule. At that time, the Jagirdars and Zamindars were oppressing

the Mundas and other tribes, exploiting and intimidating them in various ways. At such a critical juncture, the great revolutionary and freedom fighter, Birsa Munda, emerged and led the community, inspiring them to fight against the injustice and oppression of British rule. Birsa Munda was martyred at a very young age along with thousands of fighters. Majhi said, “We Indians are proud that such a brilliant and brave son was born in our motherland.” Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, Deputy Speaker Bhabani Shankar Bhoi and several party MLAs also paid their respects at the statue of the martyrs in front of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Nisith Agarwal, S/o Nandkishore Agarwal, Plot No.-70/1345, Sector-9, CDA, P.O.- Avinab Bidanasi, P.S.- Markatnagar, Cuttack-753014, Odisha declare by affidavit before Notary, Cuttack, dt. 04.06.2025 that I have changed my name Nishith Agarwal to Nisith Agarwal. Henceforth, I shall be known as Nisith Agarwal for all purposes.

# Heritage walk highlights Rath Yatra craft

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 9:** The 11th edition of the Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) was successfully held Sunday, attracting twenty heritage researchers and culture enthusiasts from across Odisha. Led by Debi Prasanna Nanda, the walk started at the revered Marichi Thakurani shrine near the Marichikota temple and concluded at Ramji Matha, covering several key heritage sites along the route. One of the highlights was a detailed exploration of Rathakhala—the ground where the iconic chariots for Lord Jagannath’s annual Rath Yatra are built. Veteran craftsmen,



including Rajendra Kumar Mahapatra, a Rupakara Sevaka for Lord Jagannath’s chariot, and Balakrushna Mahapatra, chief carpenter of Lord Balabhadra’s chariot, shared their expertise. Participants learned about various structural components of the chariots such as Konagujha, Patagujha, Natagoda, and Prabhapatra. They also observed the ongoing construction process, where

key elements like the axle (danda), garagara, and chaudanahaka (14 vertical beams) had already been installed. The next step, they were informed, would be the creation of the tiniparastapotala (three-tiered canopy). The group visited the temple of Goddess Charchika, presiding deity of the Rathakhala area, and carried out an architectural analysis of intricate carvings at the Hanuman Temple inside Bada Akheda Matha. They examined sculptures on the boundary walls of the Dolavedi shrine and attempted to decipher an inscription on a war-elephant sculpture near the Pabachhasreni. The walk also included a

visit to the temporary workshop of the Lauhakara (blacksmiths) within the Dolavedi premises. Under the guidance of Ojha Maharanas, the team observed the forging of iron nails and bolts—some up to 4.5 feet long—used in chariot construction. Dasarathi Maharana expressed concern that blacksmiths’ essential work often goes unrecognised. The event concluded with darshan of Lord Hanuman at Satyanarayan Temple and Ramji Matha. Convener Sanjay Baral emphasised engaging the younger generation in heritage awareness, and Dr Kumar Aurojyoti delivered the vote of thanks.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.62 ↓ 0.01	SENSEX	82445.21 ↑ 256.22	GOLD	₹97,064 ↑ ₹28
EURO	97.80 ↑ 0.09	NIFTY	25103.20 ↑ 100.20	SILVER	₹106,880 ↓ ₹1421

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	37.8°	37.4°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	28.5°	27.4°	
Humidity	82%	84%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-909090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# Odisha's Energy Revolution: One Year of Transformative Progress under our Government



to clean energy. Today, 43% of our total capacity comes from renewable sources, and we have set an ambitious target to add another 15,000 MW by 2036. This isn't just about meeting energy needs—it's about building a sustainable future for our children.

## Public Sector Leadership in Infrastructure Development

Our public sector undertakings have been the backbone of this transformation:

The Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) currently operates 1,740 MW of thermal capacity and is actively expanding with 1,320 MW of coal-based capacity and 50 MW of solar power in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) manages 2,100 MW of hydroelectric capacity and is pioneering 1,700 MW of pumped storage projects. We have identified nine additional sites with a combined potential of 11,380 MW, demonstrating our foresight in balancing renewable energy with essential storage capabilities.

## Green Ambitions with Global Impact

Our clean energy roadmap is nothing short of ambitious. By 2030, we aim to establish 10.96 GW of renewable capacity and produce 6.3 million metric tons per annum of green ammonia—a crucial step toward reducing carbon emissions in industrial and transportation sectors.

The results speak for themselves: since June 2024, our Single Window Committee has approved 1,160 MW of

renewable projects, attracting over ₹95,000 crore in investments. This influx of capital not only strengthens our energy infrastructure but creates thousands of jobs across the state.

## Building a Resilient Grid Network

Reliable power delivery remains fundamental to our development strategy. The Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) maintains an exemplary network with 99.9% availability across 16,512 Circuit Kilometres of transmission lines. Strategic upgrades like the 220kV Ring System in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have significantly enhanced our grid resilience.

Looking toward 2035, OPTCL plans to expand its network to 50,169 MVA and 21,824 CKM, with game-changing projects like the Green Energy Evacuation Corridor and a 765kV high-voltage line already in development.

## Distribution Excellence and Rural Empowerment

Our achievements in power distribution have been equally impressive. We have achieved 99% household electrification, serving over 97 lakh consumers across the state. Our Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses have dropped to 17.71%, reflecting significant operational improvements.

The recognition has been overwhelming: three of our DISCOMs earned A+ ratings from the Power Finance Corporation, while NITI Aayog ranked Odisha third nationally for access, affordability, and

reliability of power services.

## Grassroots Green Initiatives

Our commitment to sustainability extends to every corner of Odisha:

We have installed over 4.5 lakh solar irrigation pumps, directly benefiting our farming community. Additionally, 485 government buildings have been solarized, along with 561 solar streetlights and 50 solar water kiosks across rural areas.

The PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has been a particular success, with over 5 lakh rooftop solar systems already benefiting 2.4 lakh homes. Our target is to solarize 3 lakh households by 2026-27.

In our commitment to sustainable transportation, we have inducted 112 electric vehicles into our DISCOM fleet and are replacing 1.1 lakh conventional fans and 2,800 air conditioners in government offices with energy-efficient models.

## Investment Attraction and Industry Partnerships

At the Utkarsh Odisha Conclave 2025, we demonstrated our appeal to major investors by signing nine MoUs with central PSUs, securing commitments worth ₹1.24 lakh crore for projects totaling 18,316 MW.

Our co-hosting of the 'Chintan Shivir' by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Solar Investor Conclave in late 2024 drew over 100 solar developers and 150 commercial players, cementing Odisha's reputation as a preferred destination for clean energy investments.

## The Path Forward: Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat

As we look ahead, our energy sector achievements represent more than statistics—they embody our vision of a Viksit Odisha contributing to a Viksit Bharat. Every megawatt of clean energy we generate, every household we electrify, and every green job we create brings us closer to this vision.

Under Chief Minister Sri Mohan Charan Majhi's leadership, we have proven that a state can simultaneously achieve energy security, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility. Our success story is being watched and replicated across the nation.

The energy revolution we have initiated in this first year is just the beginning. With clear governance, strategic investments, and unwavering commitment to sustainability, Odisha's energy sector will continue to light up new possibilities for our state's bright future.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our founding principle: development that leaves no one behind while preserving our environment for future generations. This is not just our promise to the people of Odisha—it is our contribution to India's journey toward becoming a global leader in sustainable development.

*The author is the Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha in charge of Energy and Agriculture & FE Department.*

## Attack on revenue officer: 8 arrested, hunt on for others



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasure, June 9:** Police have arrested eight people for their alleged involvement in the attack on a Revenue department officer in Mayurbhanj district June 2, while he was on duty.

The DIG of police (eastern range) Satyajit Naik told the media that, Bhima Kanta Majhi, additional tehsildar of Kaptipada, was physically assaulted when he was going in his car to conduct a raid against the lifting and transporting of illegal minor minerals by mafias.

The miscreants have also damaged his vehicle, he said.

Based on the complaint lodged by the officer, Kaptipada police registered a case. In the FIR, 12 accused have been named and till date, eight have been arrested, said Nayak.

The police are searching for the remaining accused persons, he informed.

The additional tehsildar, who belongs to the SC community, was humiliated publicly with derogatory remarks made about his caste, the DIG said.

In this connection, a case has been registered under various sections of BNS and SC & ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Udala is leading the investigation, Naik said.

"The situation is being closely monitored and all necessary steps are being taken to ensure justice is served. We are committed to bringing all the perpetrators to justice," he said.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari told reporters that two persons have been arrested from Janshedpur and others from different locations in Mayurbhanj district Monday.

Police have sent teams to different places in Odisha and outside to arrest all remaining accused persons, he said.

"I want to warn all sand mafias that no one will be spared including those who made the conspiracy from behind the screen," he said.

**When our government** took office in June 2024, we made a solemn commitment to the people of Odisha: to place energy reform at the heart of our development agenda. Today, as we complete one year in office, I am proud to share how our Energy Department has not only fulfilled this promise but has positioned Odisha as a beacon of sustainable development in eastern India.

## From Deficit to Surplus: A Power Sector Transformation

The transformation of Odisha's power sector tells a remarkable story of progress. Where we once struggled to meet electricity demands, we now confidently manage a peak load of 6,200 MW, supported by an impressive 12,000 MW of captive generation capacity and 9,000 MW under long-term contracts.

What makes this achievement truly significant is our commitment

# BTech, MBA graduates vie for Class V-level home guard jobs

9,061 candidates apply, 7,484 appear for 107 home guard posts in Rourkela police district



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, June 9:** In a telling sign of Odisha's growing employment crisis, thousands of highly educated youth—including BTech, MBA graduates, and diploma holders—turned up for a recruitment exam Monday for just 107 Home Guard posts in Rourkela police district, a job requiring only a Class V qualification.

According to officials, 9,061 candidates applied for the posts under 22 police stations. Of them, 7,484 appeared for the exam held at Ispat Stadium in Sector-6, while 1,577 remained absent. Aspirants began arriving at the venue from as early

as 5am, carrying admit cards and documents.

The examination was held in two phases, an Odia writing test from 7am to 8am, followed by a general knowledge test from 8:30am to 9:30am. Despite the low eligibility threshold, the turnout included numerous candidates with degrees in engineering, management, and technical fields.

"I never imagined applying for a job meant for someone with just a Class V pass certificate," said Ashish Rath, a BTech graduate. "But there are barely any suitable jobs in the market. I have been jobless for two years—this is a last resort."

The recruitment drive was conducted under tight security. Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhvani personally supervised the exam site. Ten platoons of police force were deployed, along with three additional SPs, seven DSPs, 17 inspectors, four sub-inspectors, and 100 home guards.

After the exam, answer sheets were transported under high security to the police headquarters. Rourkela DSP Ramakant Sahu said the results would be declared within 10 days. Qualified candidates will receive individual intimation letters for the next phase—a medical examination.

The selected home guards will earn a daily wage of ₹612, translating to about ₹18,360 per month. Though modest, the pay has not deterred highly qualified candidates, shedding light on the alarming mismatch between education levels and job opportunities.

The overwhelming turnout has sparked debate over the state's employment scenario and raised questions about the effectiveness of existing job creation policies.

## Sisters trapped in elevator for 2 hrs, rescued by firemen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 9:** Two sisters were rescued by the Fire Services department after being trapped for nearly two hours in a lift at a four-storey commercial plaza on Giriroad under Baidyanathpur police limits Monday.

Saudamini Meher, 42, and her sister Sarita Meher, 40, residents of Third Line in Brajanagar, were using the lift between the third and fourth floors of KVR Plaza when it suddenly malfunctioned and stopped midway.

The sisters managed to call emergency services by dialing 112. A team of eight fire personnel, led by Assistant Fire Officer Pradeep Kumar Pattnayak, reached the spot. The team coordinated with the lift operator, switched the system to manual mode, and used ropes to lower the lift to the first floor.

With assistance from a lift mechanic and a master key, they safely opened the lift gate and rescued the women. Both were visibly shaken and breathless, said Fire department havildar Shatrughna Das. They were offered water and rested in an air-conditioned room before returning home. The incident occurred as the women were visiting a bank, which they later learned had relocated. A mechanical fault caused the lift failure, officials said.

# Man kills wife over suspected infidelity



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, June 9:** A man allegedly killed his wife by slitting her throat and bludgeoning her with a stone over suspicion of an extramarital affair in the early hours of Monday at Gaiba village under Seranga police limits in Gajapati district.

The deceased was identified as Monika Paika, wife of the accused Narendra Paika of Keredanga village in Nuagarh block of Gajapati. After committing the murder, Narendra fled with Monika's gold 'mangalsutra', police said.

On being informed, Seranga police, along with a scientific team, reached the spot and launched an investigation. A case was registered and the body sent for post-mortem. A manhunt is underway to apprehend the accused, Seranga IIC Pramod Khandal said.

According to reports, Narendra married Monika in a traditional ceremony in 2019.

After their wedding, the couple settled in Gaiba village where Narendra opened a grocery shop. However, two years ago, he moved to Hyderabad to work at a private firm due to financial constraints.

Recently, Narendra returned from Hyderabad and took his wife and daughter to his native village for the Thakurani Yatra festival. After the festival, the family returned to Monika's parental home.

Sources said that Narendra had grown increasingly suspicious of Monika's fidelity and urged her to return with him to their native village. The couple reportedly had frequent arguments over the issue.

However, Monika chose to stay back. The incident occurred when Monika's mother had gone out to bathe and her father had taken their daughter to another village, leaving the couple alone in the house.

Taking advantage of the situation, Narendra murdered Monika and fled the scene. As he was escaping with her 'mangalsutra', he was spotted by his mother-in-law, who had just returned. She found her daughter lying in a pool of blood and raised an alarm. Villagers searched the area but failed to locate the accused.

# 175th monumental National Flag unfurled at Kasia mines by Flag Foundation of India



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 9:** The Flag Foundation of India Monday installed its 175th monumental National Flag at the Kasia Iron and Dolomite Mines of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) in Keonjhar. The 72-foot flagpole, bearing a 16x24-foot Tricolour, was inaugurated by Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament from Kurukshetra, President of the Flag Foundation of India, and Chairman of JSP.

"The National Flag represents unity, dignity and our collective aspirations," Jindal said at the ceremony. He invoked the blessings of Maa Tarini and Mahaprabhu Shri Baladev Jew for regional prosperity and paid tribute to local freedom fighters, including Dharanidhar Bhuyan, Dharanidhar Nayak, Ratna Nayak, and Madan Patnaik. Jindal also noted with pride that Keonjhar is the birthplace of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Describing Odisha as his "karma bhoomi," Jindal reaffirmed the company's commitment to uplifting local communities through the Jindal Foundation. He urged underprivileged girls to enroll in the Foundation's Yashasvi Programme for higher education.

Prominent social worker and former sarpanch KB Palai praised JSP's efforts in health care, education, agriculture, culture and sports. Since its launch in 2009 under Jindal's leadership, the Flag Foundation has installed 175 monumental flags across India including nine in Odisha.

Prashant Hota, JSP's President and Group Head of CSR & Education, led the event, supported by the CSR and Corporate Communication teams. Unit Head Pramod Kumar Patra highlighted Kasia Mines' role in employment and regional development.

Senior company officials and community leaders also attended the ceremony.

**INDIAN METALS & FERRO ALLOYS LIMITED**  
 Regd. Office: IMFA Building, Bomikhal, P.O. Rasulgarh Bhubaneswar - 751 010, Odisha. Tel: +91 674 2613000  
 Email: investor-relation@imfa.in, Web: www.imfa.in  
 CIN: L27101OR1961PLC000428.

**NOTICE**

**Notice to Equity Shareholders of the Company for transfer of shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of IEPF Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Amendment Rules, 2017 shares in respect of which dividend entitlements have remained unclaimed or unpaid for seven consecutive years or more are required to be transferred by the Company to the Demat account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPF).

The Company had sent individual notices by registered post to all the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to the IEPF Authority. The relevant details of such shareholders are also available on the Company's website [www.imfa.in](http://www.imfa.in) under the section 'Investor Services'.

The concerned shareholders are hereby given an opportunity to claim dividend by sending a letter along with their bank account details, so as to reach the Investor Relation Department, IMFA Building, Bomikhal, Po: Rasulgarh Bhubaneswar – 751010 by 15th September, 2025. If no reply is received by the Company within the stipulated time, the Company shall transfer the shares to the Demat Account of the IEPF Authority.

For Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd  
 Sd/-  
 (Smruti Ranjan Ray)  
 Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILET**  
 Station & Locations: Cuttack (On Platform No. 1, Bhadrak end).  
 Auction Start Date & Time: 20.06.2025 at 1500 hrs.  
 Auction End Date & Time: 20.06.2025 at 1530 hrs.  
 Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.  
 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road  
 PR-21/Q/25-26

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
 File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/  
 E-Tender/24 Dt.: 04.06.2025  
 (1) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-79-25, Dt.: 30.05.2025  
 Description: VARIOUS WORKS SUCH AS RENOVATION OF HOSPITAL BUILDING & MD'S CHAMBER & PROVISION OF LIFT FOR CASUALTY BLOCK AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, EAST COAST RAILWAY, MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR.  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹ 193.33 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,46,700/-  
 (2) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-88-25, Dt.: 30.05.2025  
 Description: CONSTRUCTION OF RCC OVER HEAD TANK OF 225000 LITRE CAPACITY AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, EAST COAST RAILWAY, MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR.  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹ 96.08 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,92,200/-  
 (3) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-80-25, Dt.: 30.05.2025  
 Description: VARIOUS WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH IMPROVEMENT OF CENTRAL HOSPITAL SUCH AS PROVISION OF STORE, COVERED PARKING SHED, FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM IN EXTENDED PATIENT BLOCK, ATTENDANT ROOM AND OFFICE ON THE 1ST FLOOR AT MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR.  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹ 161.91 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,31,000/-  
 (4) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-Qtr-TLHR, Dt.: 28.05.2025  
 Description: PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS OF STAFF QUARTERS BETWEEN HINDOL ROAD-TALCHER STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS)/TALCHER OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹ 270.14 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,85,100/-  
 Completion period: 12 months (for all tenders).  
 Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 20.06.2025 (for all tenders).  
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.  
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road  
 PR-21/Q/25-26

FOCUS POVERTY ALLEVIATION

# LONG ROAD AHEAD



The free food grain given to 810 million people for the past five years, and extended by another five, is surely a big factor in poverty alleviation

nitpicking. It is clear that high economic growth is leading to the betterment of lives for all people. The World Bank notes that two thirds of all the people counted living in extreme poverty came from five states - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. So clearly, the vast improvement over the next 12 years was due to intensive and successful efforts in these states. The free food grain given to 810 million people for the past five years, and extended by another five, is surely a big factor in poverty alleviation. So is the effect of universal schemes like health insurance, the drinking water mission and so on.

Going ahead it must be noted that crossing over to above the poverty line does not mean you cannot fall back. If livelihoods are precarious, then one adverse shock like an illness or death in the family, or a job loss, can push it back into poverty. Hence, we need to simultaneously build meaningful and universal social security. Fiscal resources are limited, the government's debt cannot balloon, hence some re-orientation of expenditure is necessary to expand social security. Social security is not the same as populism. However, the only long-term way is to enable large-scale job creation which can improve livelihoods in a sustained fashion. Job creation implies continuous creation of thousands of small enterprises, and also large-scale skilling and training.

All these have to be achieved with new challenges from artificial intelligence, robotics and automation, which are now threatening jobs. From absolute, we will soon need to focus on reducing relative poverty and inequality too, since the spoils of high economic growth cannot be cornered by a small few at the top. The elimination of extreme poverty in the next five years is a good shot in the arm, but in the journey toward a developed nation, we have much work to do.

The writer is a noted economist. @THE BILLION PRESS

The recent estimate by the World Bank says that the number of people in India living in extreme poverty declined from 344 million in 2011-12 to 75 million in 2022-23. That is 269 million people crossing the threshold of extreme poverty over 11 years. That is quite impressive and laudable. Extreme poverty has a technical definition in terms of the purchasing power adjusted poverty line updated to 2021. It is now at \$3 per day. This update was necessitated for mythological consistency, a closer connection with another related concept of poverty called the multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) and also to take cognisance of India's own improvement in the accuracy of collecting consumption data through an upgraded survey. (More about MPI as calculated by Niti Aayog later). In non-technical terms, World Bank's extreme poverty means individuals having such a low income that it cannot even meet their basic needs of food, clean water, shelter and healthcare.

The manifestation of such a low income is chronic hunger or undernourishment, lack of access to sanitation and no access to basic primary education or primary healthcare. In an extreme form it also means the prevalence of starvation deaths. By these rather grim benchmarks, India's extreme poverty rate now stands at 5.3% of population. As an aside, one should note that since India has not had a population census since 2011, the exact number on population or the denominator of the poverty ratio is unavailable. But one can make reasonable estimates. The world has around 838 million living in extreme poverty of which India's 75 million make up 9%. Given that India's share of the global population is twice that number, it is comforting to know that on tackling extreme poverty, India is ahead of global averages. But in absolute numbers, India is only second to Nigeria in the number of people living in extreme poverty. That is unsurprising

given India's population. But remember that China's ratio is close to 0%, and the Chinese declared that extreme poverty was eliminated in 2020 itself.

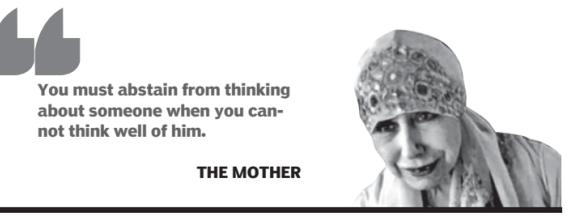
The United Nations announced Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, of which the very first goal was the elimination of extreme poverty by 2030. We thus have five years left to ensure we reach close to 0% of people below extreme poverty as per the SDG. Note that the poverty line used to measure extreme poverty has shifted to \$3 from the earlier \$2.15 used in 2017-18. As per that lower threshold India has only 33.7 million people living under extreme poverty as of 2023. But the higher line of 3 dollars is more appropriate as it is derived from median poverty lines of all low income countries, making international comparison more valid. It also takes into account national survey data and methodology.

A more comprehensive measure is the MPI developed jointly by UNDP and Oxford University's Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI). It uses 10 metrics covering health, education and living standards. They include specific indicators such as child mortality, cooking fuel used, access to sanitation and drinking water etc. Niti Aayog uses 12 indicators instead of 10 to measure MPI, adding maternal health and access to a bank



Ajit Ranade

THE WORLD HAS AROUND 838 MILLION LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY OF WHICH INDIA'S 75 MILLION MAKE UP 9%



You must abstain from thinking about someone when you cannot think well of him.

## Basics of Diplomacy

It is unfortunate that India has finally got an invitation to attend the G7 summit in Alberta, Canada, to be held from 15 June to 17 June only out of geopolitical-economic compulsions rather than as a gesture of honour. There was suspense and uncertainty that Canada, being the host, might not invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi at all due to the bitterness created between the two countries in recent times following former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that India had orchestrated the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. The new PM of Canada, Mark Carney, phoned Modi when time was running out and extended him the late invitation. For this Carney faced fierce criticism in his own country and what he said in defence of his decision does not do much honour to India. Responding to reporters' questions, he said because India is the fifth largest economy in the world, the most populous country in the world and central to supply chains, it was important to invite the country's leader to discuss energy, artificial intelligence and critical minerals despite the continuing investigation into Nijjar's murder. "I extended the invitation to Prime Minister Modi in that context," he said condescendingly. Carney declined to answer reporters' questions on whether he believed Modi had a role in the assassination of Nijjar that shattered relations between the two countries.

His answer to the straight forward question was the height of diplomacy, but it could not hide the unpalatable truth that Canada is in no mood to treat the ugly chapter of tit-for-tat diplomatic exchanges, that the whole episode triggered, as closed even though India, on its side, hoped a new chapter would open with a new Prime Minister installed in Canada. On the contrary, he insisted "there is a legal process that is literally under way and quite advanced in Canada." That he was not prepared to make any comment on it at this stage is another matter.

Modi was too glad to receive Carney's call and used the opportunity to congratulate the Liberal leader on his recent electoral victory. In fact, he made a conciliatory gesture and underscored the need for the two countries working together "with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests."

Predictably, Carney's decision to invite Modi prompted an outraged response from the World Sikh Organization. Its president Danish Singh used the harshest words to slam his Prime Minister terming his act as "a betrayal, not just of our community, but of core Canadian values." He went even further to compare India with Russia, China and Iran and said while leaders from the three latter countries are never welcome to Canada, "India has done far more on Canadian soil in terms of foreign interference and transnational repression, including orchestrating murders." As such, in his opinion, India does not deserve to be "rewarded with a red carpet welcome."

However, Carney's decision comes as his new government looks to ease tensions with other countries feuding with Canada. Late last week he posted a readout of a call with the Chinese premier Li Qiang and said there was interest on both sides to "regularise channels of communication" amid a trade spat that has cost both sides billions of dollars through tariffs on seafood, electric vehicles, canola, pork and peas. Carney is also in direct talks with US President Donald Trump to end a trade war between the two allies following economically damaging tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum. He also unveiled Canada's priorities for the summit which include securing partnerships of the future, building energy security, accelerating the digital transition and protecting Canada's communities and the world.

That Canada is not going to withdraw its charges against India any time soon is clear from the remarks of its Foreign Minister Anita Anand. She said the fact that leaders from a number of countries have been invited to the G7 summit does not and should not detract from the importance of the independent investigation that is ongoing.

If Canada does not climb down from its position that India has committed wrongs on its soil, many feel India should have taken a more nuanced stand on the invitation instead of lapping it up. Mending relations with a country is one thing and preserving the country's honour is another. The Indian Foreign Service establishment seems to be forgetting the basics of diplomacy. As the Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said, speaking to an international audience recently, "Diplomacy is not just protocol but should focus on compassion."

### WISDOM CORNER

Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold. - LEO TOLSTOY

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free. - ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. - THICH NHAT HANH

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1692: First "witch" hanged in Salem Village. Being found guilty of "certain Detestable Arts called Witchcraft and Sorceries," Bridget Bishop on this day in 1692 became the first person to be hanged during the Salem witch trials in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1868: Serbian Prince Michael III was assassinated, derailing the Balkan League's plans for a coordinated rebellion against the Ottomans and destroying the league.

1907: Autochrome Lumière color photography is introduced. The process was invented by the legendary Lumière brothers in 1903. It was the first practical and commercially successful technology for the production of color photos.

1936: The Russian animation studio Soyuzmultfilm is established. The film studio produced a total of 1530 movies, among them some of the best-known films of the Soviet era, such as Hedgehog in the Fog and The Bremen Town Musicians.

1940: Italy, under the rule of Benito Mussolini, declared war against France and Great Britain, entering World War II.

1967: The Six-Day War ends. Israel and Syria agreed to observe a ceasefire mediated by the United Nations, ending six days of armed conflict. On the previous day, Israel had occupied the Golan Heights.

### SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

## Fintech must power the green transition

India's pledge to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 is not just an environmental commitment—it is a multi-trillion-dollar economic transformation challenge. As the country transitions to a low-carbon economy, financial technology (fintech) must be recognised as a crucial enabler of this journey, especially in democratising climate finance and bridging last-mile gaps. India is already a global leader in digital finance, with 11.3 billion UPI transactions recorded in April 2025 alone and fintech adoption standing at 87 per cent. This deep digital infrastructure offers an unprecedented opportunity to align technology and finance with climate action.

#### GREEN FINTECH

Fintech can help India meet its climate goals by enhancing access to green finance, streamlining ESG (Environmental, Social, and Govern-

nance) data, and enabling platforms that support carbon credit trading, peer-to-peer green lending, and micro-investments in solar, EVs, and clean tech.

Unlike traditional green bonds that largely cater to corporates, fintech-driven platforms can reach India's 63 million Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), farmers, and low-income households—segments essential to India's green transition but often overlooked by mainstream finance. This is particularly important for Odisha, where renewable energy uptake and climate resilience require inclusive financial solutions.

Green Credit Programme, offering tradable incentives for verified environmental actions. Yet, there is no structured policy to harness fintech's full potential in this ecosystem.

A dedicated National Green Fintech Mission, under NITI Aayog or the Ministry of Finance, is urgently needed. This mission could provide sandboxes, grants, and digital infrastructure to scale climate-focused fintech innovation. Second, regulators must facilitate integration of fintech platforms with India's Carbon Market Development Framework, enabling real-time environmental impact tracking, especially for small players and individuals.

#### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT NEEDED

In 2024, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated ESG disclosures for India's top 1,000 listed companies, and in 2025, the government launched its

ability in carbon-intensive sectors like power, mining, and transport.

#### THE ROAD TO 2070

India requires \$160-\$170 billion annually in climate finance to stay on course for net-zero, but is currently mobilising less than a third of that. Fintech can fill this gap—not as a replacement for traditional finance but as a powerful complement, especially for high-impact, decentralised climate action.

With over 900 million internet users and 600 million smartphones, India already has the digital reach. The next step is policy clarity and institutional commitment to make green fintech a pillar of climate strategy.

The writer is a Postdoctoral Fellow at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia.

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

New tennis era  
Sir, The French Open men's final defied logic, physics, and every ounce of expectation. In a battle that will live forever in the folklore of Roland-Garros, Carlos Alcaraz produced an incredible comeback from two sets down to defeat world No.1 Jannik Sinner in five marathon sets, which lasted 5 hours and 29 minutes - the longest men's singles final in French Open history. In the battle of nerves, the deeper the trouble Alcaraz faced, the higher the level he produced and the further he soared. It was amazing to watch the two of the game's brightest talents in world tennis today, pushing each other to the brink and beyond. The finals had everything - swing in momentum, set-point drama and championship point saves. And not to forget the excellent camaraderie that both men showed between each other. It is the sixth Grand Slam in succession that Alcaraz or Sinner has won, and the seismic nature of their encounters confirms the rising presence of a captivating new era in men's tennis.

Systemic lapse  
Sir, The case of Newton Das—a participant in Bangladesh's 2024 protests and reportedly a registered voter in West Bengal's Kakkdwip—raises serious legal and constitutional questions. If he indeed holds voting rights in both countries, it violates the Citizenship Act, 1955, and the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This is not a stray error but a breach of India's electoral integrity. Political blame games distract from the systemic lapse in verifying voter eligibility, especially in border constituencies. If voter registration was aided by political functionaries, it may amount to abetment of electoral fraud—a prosecutable offence. While the State cites border policing as a Union subject, voter enrolment is a State responsibility. The Election Commission of India must initiate a time-bound, transparent inquiry, and fix accountability at all levels. The sanctity of Indian democracy rests on the principle of one citizen, one vote, one nation. Anything less endangers our constitutional ethos.

The writer is a Postdoctoral Fellow at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI  
Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

## WORLD'S LARGEST CONTAINER SHIP

## MSC IRINA docks at Vizhinjam port

The arrival of the MSC IRINA marks a major step forward for the new deepwater port, which was formally inaugurated by PM May 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 9: The MSC IRINA, currently the world's largest container ship by capacity, arrived at the Vizhinjam International Seaport here Monday morning, port officials said.

The vessel, with a length of 399.9 metres and a width of 61.3 metres—approximately four times longer than a standard FIFA-designated football pitch—is expected to remain berthed until Tuesday.

The vessel arrived at Vizhinjam at 8 am Monday, receiving a traditional water salute on arrival. The arrival of the MSC IRINA marks a major step forward for the new deepwater port, which was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi May 2.

With a carrying capacity of 24,346 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), the massive ship is a striking symbol of the growing scale of global trade and India's rising role in it.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hailed the arrival of MSC IRINA at Vizhinjam International Seaport as a proud and historic moment for the state. "Kerala welcomes MSC IRINA, the largest container



This marks the vessel's maiden visit to the South Asian shores, making it a milestone not just for Vizhinjam but for India's emergence as a key player in global transshipment. A bold vision now in motion

KARAN ADANI | MD, ADANI PORTS AND SEZ LTD

ship to call at any South Asian port, with immense pride," he said in a post on X.

"Measuring 399.9m in length and 61.3m in width, with a capacity of 24,346 TEUs, her arrival at @PortOfVizhinjam marks a historic moment. A proud milestone that underscores our port's strategic global role and galvanises our collective dream of growth," Vijayan said.

Designed specifically to facilitate the transportation of large volumes of containers between Asia and Europe, the MSC IRINA is pivotal in enhancing

trade routes and logistics efficiency, according to a port release. This vessel makes its maiden visit to a South Asian port, highlighting Vizhinjam's capabilities in handling Ultra-Large Container Vessels (ULCVs), it said.

In a post on X, Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani ports and SEZ Ltd, said, "Proud to welcome MSC Irina, the world's largest container ship with a capacity of 24,346 TEUs, to our Vizhinjam port. This marks the vessel's maiden visit to the South Asian shores, making it a milestone not just for Vizhinjam but for India's emergence as a key player in global transshipment. A bold vision now in motion."

The port has recently welcomed other Icon-class vessels, including MSC Türkiye and MSC Michel Cappellini, further establishing its reputation as a key hub in maritime trade.

The MSC IRINA was

launched in March 2023 and embarked on its maiden voyage in April of the same year.

It is engineered to stack containers up to 26 tiers high, offering unparalleled capacity in container stacking.

Notably, the MSC IRINA surpasses its predecessor, OOCL Spain, by a margin of 150 TEUs.

In alignment with contemporary environmental standards, the vessel is equipped with energy-saving features that contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions by up to 4 per cent, significantly lowering its carbon footprint while maintaining operational efficiency.

The docking of the MSC IRINA at Vizhinjam International Seaport not only underscores the port's strategic importance in global shipping but also represents a leap forward in sustainable maritime practices, setting a benchmark for future developments in the industry, the release added.

## 2024 B'desh uprising protester found in Bengal's voter list

Several images of the person, identified as Niutan Das, participating in the 2024 quota reform protests in Bangladesh have surfaced online

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 9: A fresh political row has erupted in West Bengal after a person allegedly involved in Bangladesh's August 2024 student protests was found listed as a voter in Kakkdip, triggering sharp BJP-TMC exchanges over alleged illegal infiltration and manipulation of the voter list in the state.

Several images of the person, identified as Niutan Das, participating in the 2024 quota reform protests in Bangladesh have surfaced online.

The protests played a significant role in regime change and the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the neighbouring country.

Despite the controversy, Das has claimed Indian citizenship and presented documents, including a PAN card and Aadhaar card, to support his claim. PTI, however, couldn't independently verify the authenticity of the photos and videos.

"I had travelled to Bangladesh in 2024 for some issues related to our ancestral property, but I unexpectedly got caught up in the revolution there. I have been a voter in Kakkdip since 2014. Although I lost my voter card in 2017, I managed to get a new one the following year with help from the local MLA, Manturam Pakhira. I also cast



As political parties continue to trade charges, calls for a thorough investigation into voter list integrity and illegal infiltration have intensified ahead of next year's assembly elections

my vote during the 2016 West Bengal Assembly elections," he said in a video message.

However, he did not clarify whether he resides in India or Bangladesh.

In a conflicting account, Das's cousin Tapan told reporters in Kakkdip that Niutan was "born in Bangladesh and exercises voting rights in both countries."

"Niutan was born in Bangladesh and holds voting rights in both countries. He came to India after the pandemic to sell some ancestral land and has stayed here since. He should be held responsible for registering as a voter in both places, that's

clearly not right," Tapan Das said.

The BJP has seized on the controversy, accusing the TMC of encouraging illegal immigration to manipulate electoral outcomes.

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, in a social media post, described the latest incident as another shining example of the "so-called Egiye Bangla Model".

"This is another glaring example of the so-called 'Egiye Bangla Model.' The same person spotted wielding a stick during the student protests in Bangladesh is now a listed voter in Kakkdip. The TMC and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are fuelling this illegal infiltration network," he said.

Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari alleged that "lakhs of Bangladeshi nationals are registered as voters in West Bengal."

"There are lakhs of Bangladeshi nationals who have made it to the voter rolls in West Bengal. Take the case of Saad Sheikh, a suspected member of the Ansarulhaq Bangla Team, whose name was in the Murchidabad voter list," he said.

BJP Mathurapur organisational district secretary Sanjay Das alleged that "the Trinamool Congress is actively helping Bangladeshi infiltrators, many of them jihadis, enter India. They're being handed voter cards and even citizenship just so the ruling party can stay in power."

The TMC, in response, rejected the allegations, shifting the blame to the Centre and the Border Security Force (BSF), which guards the Indo-Bangladesh border.

## Controversy over 'river of blood' videos in Kolkata

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 9: A controversy erupted in West Bengal on Sunday over three videos released by the state unit of BJP with visuals of the "river of blood" on the streets of Kolkata in the aftermath of Eid-al-Adha festival.

The police, however, refuted the claim, describing the videos as 'fake' while asserting that the clips are related to Bangladesh, and not India.

Releasing the videos on the wall of his official X handle, West Bengal unit BJP chief and Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar claimed that when the Chief Minister herself becomes desperate to turn West Bengal into a 'Greater Bangladesh' in order to cling to power through appeasement, the consequences are deeply alarming.

"The images emerging from Kolkata after a particular religious festival was celebrated yesterday bear no difference from what one might see in Bangladesh! The streets are red, and even the water flowing from municipal taps is reportedly mixed with blood!" Majumdar claimed.

Reposting that video, BJP information Technology Cell Chief and the party central observer for West Bengal Amit Malviya said that if that was the condition of Kolkata, the

capital city, under the full glare of the media and administration, one could only imagine what must be happening in the rest of West Bengal.

"Lawlessness, political violence, open appeasement, corruption, and complete administrative failure—this is what Mamata Banerjee's rule has reduced the state to," Malviya said.

However, the Fact Check The Truth, an initiative by West Bengal-Cyber Crime Wing, has claimed the videos shared by the state BJP were fake and also said that those videos were related to an actual incident that took place long ago in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September 2016, where the streets bore a grotesque appearance due to rain following Eid-al-Adha celebrations.

"This incident has no connection whatsoever with West Bengal or the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Such horrific images are being spread on social media solely with the intent to malign the image of West Bengal and to incite communal unrest," claimed Fact Check The Truth.

Trinamool Congress leaders said that they would not make any comment on this issue since from the circulation of the videos it was clear that BJP was trying to provoke religious tension by spreading questionable content on social media.

## Trawling ban comes into effect across Kerala coast

The seasonal ban, which will last until midnight July 31, is aimed at giving fish stocks time to regenerate during the monsoon



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 9: A 52-day trawling ban will come into effect from midnight June 9 along Kerala's coast, as part of efforts to protect marine life and promote sustainable fishing practices.

The seasonal ban, which will last until midnight July 31, is aimed at giving fish stocks time to regenerate during the monsoon. Traditional fishermen using small boats will still be allowed to operate, but large mechanised trawlers must stay ashore.

To support those affected, the state government will provide

free rations to workers employed on trawling boats, and round-the-clock control rooms have been set up in all coastal districts since May 15, state Fisheries Minister Saji Cheriyan has said.

For sea rescue and patrol operations during the ban, 19 private boats have been hired across nine coastal districts. Three marine ambulances are also on standby at Vizhinjam, Vypin and Beypore fisheries stations, he said in a recent Facebook post.

Seventy-six young fishermen who have completed training at the National Institute of Water

Sports in Goa will be deployed as marine safety personnel across nine coastal (marine) districts, Cheriyan said.

Authorities have directed all out-of-state boats to leave Kerala waters ahead of the ban. Fuel bunkers at harbours will remain closed, except for selected stations supplying inboard boats under state-run Matsyafed.

The government has directed the fishermen heading out to sea to carry ID cards and wear life jackets.

Boats without approved colour codes must update them without delay. Strict action will be taken against any trawlers found violating the ban, authorities said. Officials have urged all fishing communities to cooperate fully, especially if additional bans are issued due to bad weather. Harmful fishing methods that damage young fish stocks will not be tolerated, they said.

"The cooperation of everyone is expected to help protect marine resources and ensure the safety of fishermen," the minister said.



A porter carries earthen pots on a street during a hot summer day in Kolkata, West Bengal, Monday

PTI PHOTO

## Committee to improve lawyer-police relations

Kerala HC passed the order on a suo motu case it had initiated last year to address instances of police violence against lawyers in the state after an advocate was allegedly attacked by police officials while in the premises of a court in Alappuzha

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, June 9: In the wake of reports of the growing rift between the lawyers and the police, the Kerala High Court Monday constituted a committee to suggest comprehensive guidelines to improve the relationship between the two sections.

The committee set up by a bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and PM Manoj will comprise state Advocate General K Gopalakrishna Kurup, Director General of Prosecution TA Shaji, senior advocates Santhosh Mathew and S Sreekumar, and Kerala High Court Advocates' Association Pres-



ident Yeshwanth Shenoy. The court asked the newly-formed committee to re-

view a report submitted by the state police chief, Shaik Darvesh Saheb, regarding

the policy for interactions between themselves within court premises, as well as suggest measures for overall improvement of the relationship between lawyers and police.

It passed the order on a suo motu case it had initiated last year to address instances of police violence against lawyers in the state after an advocate was allegedly attacked by police officials while in the premises of a court in Alappuzha.

The incident had led to court boycotts and protests by no less than 15 bar associations across the state, and when the cases increased, the court had decided that it would issue guidelines that police authorities would have

to adhere to while interacting with lawyers, judges and staff members of courts across the state.

Incidentally, in an earlier hearing, the court made its position clear that they are keen to come to put in place a policy to deal with interactions on court premises and had directed the state police chief to invite suggestions from various stakeholders and submit a report.

On Monday, the court, after going through the report of the state police, decided to form a committee to review it thoroughly and make additional suggestions if needed and posted the matter after two weeks.

**“If I see from the agriculture perspective, it is the impact of PM Modi's vision, policies and programmes that agriculture growth rate was 5.4 per cent in the fourth quarter”**  
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

**DGCA ORDERS AUDIT OF HELICOPTER SERVICES IN UTTARAKHAND**

Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered special audits/enhanced surveillance into helicopter operations involved in shuttle services in Uttarakhand following a spate of "occurrences" involving choppers during the Char Dham Yatra, according to an official statement Monday



**of the day note**

Earlier revenue officers used to think that they have the right to loot people through corruption, and they even threatened to disrupt the work if any action was taken against them



BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

The present era is the golden era of India. The work done by Prime Minister Modi is 'na bhooto na bhavishyati' (what has never happened before and cannot be replicated in the future)



MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

The Modi government should give an account as per parameters referred by international organisations such as UNICEF, World Bank and WHO



HARSHWARDHAN SAPKAL | MAHARASHTRA CONG CHIEF

**SHORT TAKES**

**22 held over cattle transport clashes**

**Hyderabad:** Twenty-two people were Monday arrested in connection with two incidents of clashes over transportation of cattle and animal carcasses here, police said. The situation was immediately brought under control after the incidents were reported late Sunday night, they said. Two groups belonging to different communities allegedly clashed over transportation of cattle at Attapur here resulting in minor injuries to two policemen who tried to disperse them, police said.

**Sisodia skips ACB summons**

**New Delhi:** Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia Monday skipped a summons issued by Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) for questioning in a case of alleged corruption in the construction of classrooms in government schools, official sources said. The ACB had summoned AAP leaders Sisodia and former PWD minister Satyendar Jain for questioning.

**GMCH docs seek Rane's apology**

**Panaji:** Doctors from the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Monday halted their protest for a day against state Health Minister Vishwajit Rane and set a 24-hour deadline for him to personally apologise to the senior doctor whose suspension he ordered in public view Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said he would be visiting the facility Tuesday to meet the striking doctors.

**Boy killed as house collapses**

**New Delhi:** An eight-year-old boy was killed while a 45-year-old man sustained injuries after a portion of a house collapsed in outer Delhi's Nangloi Monday morning, police said. The incident occurred when a toilet constructed on the terrace of the one-storeyed house collapsed onto the verandah below, causing the ceiling to cave in, they said.

**Woman ends life**

**Pune:** A 20-year-old woman ended her life by jumping off the second floor of her house in Wagholi area of Pune, after which her husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law and other relatives were booked for abetment of suicide, a police official said Monday. The case hit national headlines due to the accused's strong political connections.

**Transparency not a favour: Cong to EC**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Firing yet another salvo at the Election Commission, the Congress Monday said the credibility of the poll panel is at stake and it must answer all questions posed by the opposition party as transparency is not a favour but a constitutional obligation. The Congress has been demanding that the EC make public the voter rolls for Maharashtra and Haryana to restore the trust and credibility of our election process. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged rigging in Maharashtra assembly elections, a charge outrightly rejected by the Election Commission. The Chief Electoral Office in Maharashtra Monday said that annually revised electoral rolls were provided to Congress and other parties at the draft and final stages in 2024. "A similar exercise was done in 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024 and copies of such electoral rolls were then shared with INC, as well as with other political

The Congress has been demanding that the EC make public the voter rolls for Maharashtra and Haryana to restore the trust and credibility of our election process

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged rigging in Maharashtra assembly elections, a charge outrightly rejected by the Election Commission

parties." "A complete copy of electoral roll used in general elections to Legislative Assembly, Maharashtra-2024 is also available on the website for the public to freely download," it said on X. The chief electoral officer of Maharashtra had reiterated this statutory position May 22 to a Member of Parliament of the Congress, who had sought a copy of the electoral rolls that were already provided to the INC at the time of the revision in 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024, the post said. After reports that the EC is ready to share the electoral-roll data for Haryana and Maharashtra, Gandhi lauded the decision as "a good first step" and urged the poll body to announce the exact date by which the data will be handed over in a digital, machine-readable format. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a statement, said the article authored by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, published in multiple national and regional newspa-

pers, raises grave and legitimate questions about the transparency and integrity of the electoral process, particularly in the context of the recently concluded 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections. "In response to this article, a letter surfaced purportedly from the Election Commission of India. However, we categorically state that the authenticity of this letter remains questionable. As Gandhi rightly pointed out addressing the EC: 'You are a Constitutional body. Releasing unsigned, evasive notes to intermediaries is not the way to respond to serious questions'." "This lack of transparency from a constitutional body mandated to ensure free and fair elections is deeply concerning. The Congress Party, committed to upholding democratic values and electoral integrity, supports the critical questions raised by Rahul Gandhi and reiterates them publicly," Kharge said in his statement. "Transparency is not a favour, it is a constitutional obligation. "Democracy cannot survive on the basis of opaque processes and unverifiable data. The Congress Party stands firm with Rahul Gandhi's call for full transparency and institutional accountability. The credibility of the Election Commission is at stake, and we urge it to uphold the standards expected of a neutral and constitutional authority," the Congress chief also said.



Boys cool off in a tubewell on a hot summer day in New Delhi

**SNIPPETS**

**PM to meet multi-party delegations today**

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet members of multi-party delegations, who had travelled to world capitals to convey India's stand following Operation Sindoor, Tuesday evening, sources said. Official sources said the members will be sharing their feedback with the Prime Minister, whose government has praised the work of the seven delegations comprising over 50 persons, mostly current MPs. Former parliamentarians and ex-diplomats were also part of these delegations that visited 33 foreign capitals and the European Union.

**Assam flood situation improves**

**Guwahati:** The flood situation in Assam improved Monday with the number of affected people dipping to 1.63 lakh in nine districts, even as the death toll in this year's deluge and landslides increased by one to reach 27, an official bulletin said. No major river was flowing above the danger level, with an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin stating that floodwaters will recede if there is no further rainfall. An ASDMA bulletin said 25 revenue circles and 389 villages in nine districts continued to reel under floodwaters, affecting 1,63,083 people.

**WB Assembly convenes for monsoon session**

**Kolkata:** The West Bengal Assembly convened for the monsoon session Monday, and was adjourned for the day after offering condolences to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. When the House assembled, Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay condoled the deaths of 26 people, mostly tourists, who were killed by terrorists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir April 22. Obituary references were also made over the deaths of renowned Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar, and TMC's Tehatta MLA Tapas Saha and Kaliganj MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed.

**B'lore: Techie kills married woman for ending illicit affair**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 9:** A 33-year-old married woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her male friend for ending their illicit relationship, police said here Monday. The deceased, Harini R, a resident of Banashankari, was married and had two daughters aged 13 and 10, they said. The accused, Yashas (25), a techie, met the woman at a village fair and had been in a relationship with her for the past one year, police said, adding that the murder happened on the intervening night of June 6 and 7 at a hotel room here. According to the police, the woman was stabbed to death multiple times by the accused, who had allegedly pre-planned the murder and bought a knife with him. After the offence, he left her body inside the hotel room where they had checked in June 6. He later went to his home in the city and allegedly inflicted a stab wound on himself and confessed his crime to a constable posted at Kengeri police station. Citing a preliminary investigation, a senior police officer said that after the woman's family discovered her affair with Yashas a few months ago, she was reportedly counselled by her family members to end her affair. Following this, she stopped meeting Yashas and avoided taking his calls. Her family also believed that she ended the affair. However, when he kept persuading her to meet her, she agreed to meet him for one last time. As per their plan, he picked up her in his car around 5 pm June 6 and together they went to a hotel in the city, the officer said.

**SC protects MP scribes against coercive action**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Supreme Court Monday protected in the interim two Madhya Pradesh-based journalists who were allegedly assaulted by the state police for reporting on illegal sand mining activities. A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan, however, refused to examine their plea and asked them to move the Madhya Pradesh High Court instead. A separate top court bench June 4 sought the responses of Madhya Pradesh and Delhi governments on the plea of Shashikant Jatav and Amarkant Singh Chouhan. The apex court while granting the interim relief posted the hearing June 9. "We are not entertaining the plea. However, looking at the allegations, we permit the petitioners to move the concerned high court within two weeks from today. Till the time the petitioners move high court... the petitioners shall not be arrested," Justice Mishra said.



The journalists alleged that they were kidnapped, assaulted in custody and subjected to casteist slurs by a senior police officer and his subordinates. The top court had previously asked why the petitioners did not make the superintendent of police of Bhind a party to the petition. "It is very easy to say all kinds of things against an IPS officer without making him a party. Whatever comes to your mind, just put it in black and white against the IPS officer," it added. The bench also asked why the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the NCT of Delhi were made parties.

**AXIOM-4 launch postponed to June 11**

"Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganyatri to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2025 to 11th June 2025," ISRO chairman V Narayanan said in a post on X

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Axiom Space's mission to the International Space Station, carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, has been postponed for lift-off to Wednesday evening due to inclement weather conditions at the spaceport in Florida, ISRO chairman V Narayanan said Monday. The Axiom-4 mission, which marks the return to spaceflight for India, Poland and Hungary, was earlier scheduled to lift off from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida Tuesday at 5:52 PM IST. "Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganyatri to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2025 to 11th June 2025. The targeted time of launch is 5:30 PM IST 11th June 2025," the ISRO chairman said in a post on X. The launch of SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket had to be postponed due to "high winds in the ascent corridor", Elon Musk-led SpaceX said in a post on X. "Launch is targeted for 8:00 a.m. ET (5:30 p.m. IST), with a backup opportunity available Thursday, June 12 at 7:37 a.m. ET (5:07 p.m. IST)," SpaceX said in an update to the mission. Shukla's travel to space marks India's return to human spaceflight 41 years after Rakesh Sharma scripted history by undertaking a journey to space onboard Soviet Russia's Soyuz spacecraft in 1984. The Lucknow-born Shukla, who goes by the call sign Shuks', is part of an ISRO-NASA supported commercial spaceflight by Axiom Space



where all the customers are national governments. The Axiom-4 (AX-4) mission, set for lift-off from Launch Complex 39A of the KSC in Florida, comprises Commander Peggy Whitson, pilot Shukla and specialists Tigor Kapu of Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland. The 14-day mission will "realise the return" to human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary. The AX-4 crew and SpaceX teams completed a full rehearsal of launch day activities Sunday ahead of liftoff. "A proud global acknowledgement of India's Space capabilities" a befitting tribute to the founding fathers Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan," Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said. In Lucknow, Shukla's City Montessori School (CMS) has planned a "public watch party" to celebrate his spaceflight. Several hoardings have come up across the city congratulating Shuks' for his spaceflight.

**Passengers on footboard brushed against each other: RPF**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai/Thane, June 9:** The mishap at Mumbra railway station Monday morning that killed four and injured nine occurred as the passengers standing on the footboard of two suburban trains brushed against each other, causing thirteen to fall, a Thane railway police station official said. The incident took place at kilometre marker 40/304 to 306 (signifying distance of 40 kilometres from Central Railway headquarters Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) at 9:01am between platforms number three and four of Mumbra station, a release from Thane railway police station said. "The trains involved were the CSMT-Karjat Down Fast local

and the Kasara-CSMT Up Fast local. As the two trains passed each other at high speed, passengers hanging out of the coaches on footboards collided, causing thirteen of them to fall onto the tracks and nearby areas," the release said. Emergency teams from Thane Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) as well as passengers in the vicinity responded to provide relief and rushed the victims to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa, it said. Two severely injured passengers were shifted to Jupiter Hospital for brain surgery and other advanced medical treatment, while the bodies of the four deceased were sent for post mortem, the



police official said. Seven injured passengers continue to be treated at CSM Hospital in Kalwa, the government railway police release added. "The Thane Railway Police is investigating the incident and taking appropriate legal

**The Railway Ministry has decided to have automatic door closing systems in coaches of existing and new local trains for Mumbai Suburban, a senior official said**

This eyewitness, a Bhiwandi resident, had boarded the Kasara-CSMT train at Kalyan station. "The incident happened when the train reached Mumbra station. Someone from the coach ahead of ours fell off after hitting a wall or something hit

our coach. At that time, three-four people from our coach fell down and some from other coaches also fell. I think 7-8 persons lost balance and fell onto the tracks," he said. He said his friend Rehan Shaikh (26), who was coming from Kalyan to Thane, was injured in the accident. In the morning, the passenger flow in Mumbai's suburban network is towards the majority of the metropolis where a majority of the offices are located. The flow reverses in the evening as people start leaving for home towards Thane and beyond on the Central Railway network and Andheri and beyond on Western Railway. The morning and evening rush hours in the network are among the densest in the world.

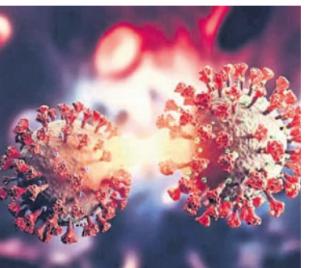
# national



Who benefited from demonetisation? He (Modi) said 'Aache Din ayega' (Good Days will come), what happened? He promised to provide two crore jobs every year? What happened to that? He also assured to resolve farmers' issues, what happened to that? Why did farmers protest for a year if their issues were being addressed?

## 163 CASES OF NEW COVID VARIANT XFG FOUND INDIA

About 163 cases of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant XFG have been detected in India so far, according to INSACOG data. The recombinant XFG variant harbours four key spike mutations and has achieved rapid global spread following its initial detection in Canada, according to an article in The Lancet journal



### of the day quote

I do not know what the governor of Kerala understands about Bharat Mata, about the tricolour.... I have raised this issue in Parliament as well.... Who is your Bharat Mata? Please tell us

It is a good thing that Amarnath pilgrims will come. The maximum number should come so that a message goes out that there is peace here (in Kashmir)

People with comorbidities like infection in the lungs and chest or some other issues have to be more alert. Sometimes, age is also a factor. These days, even in cases of cough and cold, we start treating them as COVID

## Ministers hail 11 yrs of Modi govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: Home Minister Amit Shah Monday lauded the 11 years of Modi government as a "golden period" in public service while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted that India stands well-equipped and unwavering in its resolve to safeguard its territorial integrity, as Union ministers praised the prime minister's leadership.

The Cabinet colleagues of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders of the ruling National Democratic Alliance listed a number of measures of the government, with Singh also stating that India is moving forward stronger, prouder, and united.

Lok Janshakti Party leader and Union minister Chirag Paswan said on X that the country has seen a new era of economic rejuvenation, social justice, cultural pride and national security.

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Nitin Gadkari said under Modi's "visionary leadership", India has undergone a historic transformation grounded in seva (service), good governance, and inclusive development.

The ministers used the hashtag "11 years of seva" in social media posts to mark the 11 years of the Modi-led government in power.

Shah said when PM Modi took over the reins of the country in 2014, there was policy paralysis in the country.

Shah said this new India under Modi is rapidly progressing towards development and self-reliance with the power of reform, perform and transform. He said this journey of making India "number 1" in ev-



ery field by bringing positive changes in the lives of the countrymen will continue.

"The historic 11 years of the Modi Government have been a golden period of resolve, endeavour and dedication towards public service," he said.

Singh said the defence sector under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative has moved firmly towards self-reliance, and India now stands proudly among the top five economies of the world.

India today stands well-equipped, confident, and unwavering in its resolve to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs, the defence minister added.

The ministers highlighted the reach and impact of welfare schemes like 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' for sanitation, 'Ayushman Bharat' for health insurance, and 'Ujjwala Yojana' for cooking gas, besides measures for housing for the poor, cash assistance to farmers and subsidised loan schemes without collateral for entrepreneurs.

Singh said these programmes have truly empowered the poorest of the poor. "Alongside, the massive expansion in physi-

### Govt selling 2047 dreams, says Rahul

New Delhi: The 11 years of the Narendra Modi government have witnessed no accountability but only propaganda, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged Monday and said the BJP-led Centre has stopped talking about the present and is selling dreams of 2047 now. Gandhi's attack on the Centre came after at least four passengers were killed and six injured as they fell off an overcrowded local train in Maharashtra's Thane district. In a post in Hindi on X, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "While the Modi government is celebrating 11 years of 'service', the reality of the country is reflected in the tragic news coming from Mumbai -- several people died after falling from a train."

cal infrastructure — from highways to railways, from smart cities to digital connectivity — and the strengthening of human resources in health-care and education have laid the foundation for a new India," he added.

### Cal HC defers decision on non-teaching staff pay plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 9: The Calcutta High Court Monday reserved judgment on a petition challenging the West Bengal government's introduction of a scheme for providing monetary support to non-teaching staff, who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court order.

Justice Amrita Sinha reserved judgment on the petition, which opposed the payment of Rs 25,000 to Group C and Rs 20,000 to Group D employees by the state. The West Bengal government had recently introduced a scheme to provide "limited livelihood, support and social security on humanitarian ground" on temporary basis, subject to orders of any competent court, to distressed families of non-teaching staff in Group C and Group D categories, who were recruited through the 2016 selection process conducted by the WBSSC.

Nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff of West Bengal government-sponsored and -aided schools lost their jobs following a Supreme Court judgment, which found the 2016 selection process tainted. Moving the petition by some waitlisted candidates for the 2016 hiring process, senior advocate Bikash Bhattacharya asked from where does the state derive powers to make laws to unsettle a Supreme Court judgment or that of a high court.

Claiming that the scheme is violative of the top court order annulling the appointments, Bhattacharya said that Article 162 of the Constitution, which categorises the extent of executive powers of the state, is subject to the provisions of the Constitution, by which the legislature has the power to make laws.

## B'LORE STAMPEDE

# Arrested on CM's order: RCB official tells HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 9: The Karnataka High Court Monday did not grant interim relief to Nikhil Sosale, head of marketing, RCB, who was arrested June 6 in connection with the fatal stampede near M Chinnaswamy Stadium, and adjourned the matter for hearing Tuesday.

The HC restrained police from taking any coercive action against officials of RCB and event partner DNA Entertainment Pvt Ltd till June 12 and posted the matter for further hearing that day. In his petition, Sosale submitted he was arrested on the directions of the Chief Minister.

RCB and DNA had moved the court challenging the FIR registered against them in connection with the June 4 stampede that occurred during a celebratory event to mark RCB's maiden IPL triumph a day earlier.

Justice S R Krishna Kumar posted the matter for hearing June 12. "There is a gentleman's understanding -- don't do anything till we take up the matter," the judge told the state government, warning against unnecessary arrests. The court also noted that the petition involving Sosale, already under arrest, would be taken up separately at 10.30 am June 10. On Monday, Sosale's lawyer submitted before the court that the Central Crime Branch sleuths arrested the RCB official because CM Siddaramaiah ordered his arrest.

The RCB official was arrested at Bengaluru Airport, as he



was heading to Dubai, on an FIR filed in the aftermath of the stampede. Sosale's petition questioned the legality of his June 6 early morning arrest and alleged police action was influenced by political directives. Justice Krishna Kumar, hearing the case, focused on key questions around jurisdiction, procedure, and political influence behind the arrest. Sosale's counsel, senior advocate Sandesh Chouta argued that the arrest at 4.30 am June 6 was not backed by any legal basis.

"The first question is, did the chief minister issue a direction to arrest? The second is whether the police officers had the power to arrest Sosale," Chouta submitted.

He insisted the arrest was made by the Central Crime Branch (CCB), and not the police unit investigating the case. "At the time of arrest, the person being arrested must be informed of the reason and the identity of the arresting officer. None of this was followed," he contended. "This arrest has not happened in view of any investigation, but merely because some directions were issued by the chief minister," Chouta alleged, adding that there was no criminal intent (mens rea) in the incident, which was a celebratory event gone wrong.

## POST OF THE DAY

Today marks 11 years of Shri @narendramodi led NDA govt. A lot has been achieved till now, & its vision into India's future remains fearless, bold and constructive. My best wishes to this govt to do more good, make more history and work for the larger common good always. @PMIndia @H\_D\_Devegowda

## Fire on S'pore-flagged ship off Kerala coast; 18 rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 9: A major fire broke out on board a Singapore-flagged ship after a container explosion off the Kerala coast Monday, defence sources said. Eighteen crew members were rescued, while four remain missing.

The incident occurred at approximately 9.20 am IST, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in Kannur district of Kerala and 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi. Defence sources said that of the 22 crew members on board the Singapore-flagged container ship, MV Wan Hai 503, 18 who had abandoned the vessel were rescued by Indian Navy and Coast Guard assets.

They are being brought to Mangaluru Port on the Navy ship INS Surat for disembarkation and further necessary procedures. The vessel was enroute from Colombo, Sri Lanka to Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, with an expected time of arrival (ETA)

June 10, 2025. "The fire rapidly engulfed the mid-section of the vessel, which is currently adrift. Preliminary reports suggest that 10-15 containers have fallen overboard," a Coast Guard release said. The crew members include eight Chinese, six Taiwanese, five Myanmar, and three Indonesian nationals.

"Following the explosion and escalation of the fire, the crew abandoned the ship. 18 crew members have been rescued, while four remain missing. A search and rescue operation is currently underway," the release said. Visuals provided by the maritime security agencies showed the fire engulfing the mid section of the Singapore-flagged container vessel measuring 270 metres in length with a draught of 12.5 metres.

The Coast Guard said it initiated an immediate response, deploying two Dornier aircraft equipped with life rafts for aerial surveillance and situational assessment.



Border Security Force (BSF) personnel train Village Defence Guards to bolster security along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), in Sunderbani sector, Jammu and Kashmir

### SHORT TAKES

#### Temple caretaker killed in tiger attack

Jaipur: A 60-year-old man was killed in a tiger attack in Rajasthan's Ranthambore tiger reserve Monday, the third such death in less than two months. The victim, Radheshyam, was a caretaker at a Jain temple in Ranthambore Fort. He went to relieve himself early this morning when the tiger attacked him, according to police. A tiger reserve official said that the incident occurred at around 4.30 am. Two guards sleeping nearby heard his screams but were unable to do anything.

#### E-rickshaw charging station catches fire

New Delhi: Two people died after a fire broke out at an e-rickshaw charging station at a house in northeast Delhi's Dilshad Garden area, an official said Monday. Police said the fire occurred on the ground floor of a house in Gali Shamshan Wali, where e-rickshaws were being charged. The blaze is suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit. "Two persons were found dead at the scene. They have been identified as Shashi (25), who lived in the house, and Ballu (55), a vagabond who was present at the time of the incident," a senior police officer said.

#### Sikkim landslide: Body of army man recovered

Gangtok: The body of an army man, one of the six people who went missing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chaten in north Sikkim earlier this month, was recovered Monday in Mangan district, police said. The deceased was identified as Sainuddhin PK, a senior officer said. The search operation is underway to trace other missing persons, Mangan Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia said.

## India's heatwaves worsen, death toll unknown

### Accurate data on heat-related deaths helps identify who is most at risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: On a scorching May afternoon last year, a ragpicker in Delhi's Ghazipur area collapsed from heat exhaustion. "The family rushed him to the hospital," says Majida Begum, a sanitation worker who witnessed it. "But he was declared dead on arrival. They had no proof that he died due to heat, so they were not given any compensation."

Currently, at least three separate datasets attempt to monitor heatstroke or heat-related deaths. The two most commonly cited in the media are maintained by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the health ministry and the National Crime Records Bu-

reau (NCRB) under the home ministry.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also reports figures on deaths caused by "heatwaves" in its annual reports, drawing data primarily from media coverage. However, these three sources report widely-varying numbers.

For instance, data obtained through an RTI query from the health ministry shows 3,812 heat-related deaths were recorded between 2015 and 2022 under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (ID-SP), managed by the NCDC. In contrast, NCRB figures, cited multiple times in Parliament by Union Earth Sci-

ences Minister Jitendra Singh, put the number of deaths due to "heat/sunstroke" during the same period at 8,171.

Meanwhile, the IMD's annual reports record 3,436 deaths due to "heat-wave" between 2015 and 2022.



While the NCDC and the IMD have already released the figures for 2023 and 2024, the NCRB is yet to publish the data for these years.

Since 2015, the health ministry has been collecting data on heat illness and deaths from April to July. In 2019, this was extended to March through July, covering 23 states. The NCRB has recorded heatstroke deaths since 1995, listing them as "accidental deaths from forces of nature" since around 2010.

A senior Delhi Police official explained that the NCRB data largely reflects the number of unattended individuals found dead by police at

public spaces, homes and elsewhere. Such bodies are taken to hospitals where doctors conduct autopsies to determine the cause of death.

According to the NCRB, 730 people died from "heat/sunstroke" in 2022, 374 in 2021 and 530 in 2020. By contrast, the NCDC data shows just 33 heat-related deaths in 2022, none in 2021 and four in 2020, as many states failed to report their figures.

These states included Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

A health ministry official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the data from the NCRB and the NCDC are "not directly comparable" because they originate from different sources. At the India Heat Summit 2025 in May, health ministry Advisor Soumya Swaminathan highlighted

### SPY CASE

## Jasbir Singh sent to judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 9: A Mohali court Monday sent Punjab-based YouTuber Jasbir Singh arrested on espionage charges to judicial custody.

Singh was produced before the court after the completion of this two-day police remand. Post his arrest June 4, he was sent to three days of police remand following which it was extended for two days. Singh's counsel Mohit Dhupar said he will be produced in court again June 23.

Jasbir Singh alias Jaan Mahal (41), who hails from Mahlan Village in Rupnagar District, was running a YouTube channel "JaanMahal Video" with over 11 lakh subscribers, ostensibly posting travel and cooking vlogs. He was alleged to be in close touch with Haryana-based influencer Jyoti Malhotra, who is in judicial custody on charges of spying for Pakistan. Singh's family, however, maintained he was innocent and claimed he was arrested despite cooperating with the police for over 10 days.

On June 7, the YouTuber's counsel said Punjab Police summoned his client between May 17 and May 30. After Singh's arrest, Punjab Police claimed that it unearthed a "terror-backed espionage network" linking him to Pakistani intelligence and army officials. Police said that the YouTuber was allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence.

Singh was found to be associated with a Pakistani Intelligence Operative (PIO), was in contact with a Pakistan High Commission official who was last month expelled from New Delhi on charges of spying and had met Pakistan Army officials during one of his three visits to the neighbouring country, police said previously.

The accused travelled to Pakistan on three occasions including in 2020, 2021 and 2024, and came into direct contact with ISI officers, who subsequently cultivated and recruited him to carry out espionage activities within India, police added.



This year, we announced a 2.7pc growth for 2025. This is a gradual recovery and the right way to go about it is to focus on sustainable growth

MARCH TO GAZA

Hundreds of people, mainly Tunisians, launched Monday a land convoy bound for Gaza, seeking to "break the siege" on the Palestinian territory, activists said.



of the day quote

I really hope that we will be able to restore the work of the Russia-India-China trio. We have not met at the level of foreign ministers for the last couple of years, but we are discussing this issue with my Chinese colleague and with the Indian head of the External Affairs department



SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

We have seen and heard a hundred different excuses, justifications and so on, but it is difficult to view them as credible



DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

It was right to continue excluding wealthier pensioners from the payment, and that last year's "difficult decisions" had been justified



RACHEL REEVES | FINANCE MINISTER, UK

Israel seizes Greta's Gaza aid ship

REUTERS

Jerusalem/Ashdod, June 9: Israeli naval forces boarded and seized a charity vessel carrying Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, which had tried to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip Monday.

The British-flagged yacht, Madleen, which is operated by the pro-Palestinian Freedom Flotilla Coalition, had aimed to deliver a symbolic amount of aid to Gaza later Monday and raise international awareness of the humanitarian crisis there.

"If you see this video, we have been intercepted and kidnapped in international waters by Israeli occupational forces or forces that support Israel," Thunberg, 22, said in a video released by the FCC, filmed before the vessel was captured.

"I urge all my friends, family and comrades to put pressure on the Swedish government to release me and the others as soon as possible."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry confirmed that the vessel was under Israeli control. Israel has called Thunberg an "anti-Semitic" and dismissed the aid ship as a stunt.



I urge all my friends, family and comrades to put pressure on the Swedish government to release me and the others as soon as possible

GRETA THUNBERG | SWEDISH ACTIVIST

"The 'selfie yacht' of the 'celebrities' is safely making its way to the shores of Israel. The passengers are expected to return to their home countries," the ministry wrote on X. All passengers were safe and unharmed, it later added, "They were provided with sandwiches and water. The show is over."

- Vessel aimed to deliver aid, raise awareness of Gaza crisis
Crew includes climate activist Greta Thunberg
If you see this video, we have been intercepted and kidnapped
Israel says all aboard are safe, heading to an Israeli port
UN rapporteur urges more boats to challenge Gaza blockade

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European parliament who was also on board, posted on X that the crew had been "arrested by the Israeli army in international waters around 2 am."

A photograph showed the crew seated on the boat, all wearing life jackets, with their hands in the air.

Israel's foreign ministry later distributed a photo showing Thunberg in a green hat and orange life vest, smiling while a soldier held out a sandwich. CREW ARRESTED

Los Angeles police order immigration protesters downtown to go home



Police said they had arrested 10 people Sunday and 29 the previous night, adding arrests were continuing

REUTERS

Los Angeles, June 9: Police declared all of downtown Los Angeles to be an unlawful assembly area and ordered protesters to go home Sunday night after a third day of demonstrations against President Donald Trump's immigration policy that sometimes included burning cars and hurling bottles at officers.

National Guard troops - deployed by Trump over the weekend to help quell the protests in a move that California Governor Gavin Newsom called unlawful - guarded federal government buildings Sunday.

The unrest in Los Angeles has become a flashpoint in Trump's signature effort to clamp down on illegal immigration.

The Republican president has pledged to deport record numbers of people who are in the country illegally and to lock down the US-Mexico border, setting the ICE border enforcement agency a daily goal of arresting at least 3,000 migrants.

California state and local officials, mainly Democrats, accuse Trump of inflaming initially small-scale protests by mounting a federal response. He calls the protesters insurrectionists.

Several self-driving cars from Alphabet's Waymo were set ablaze on a downtown street Sunday evening.

Los Angeles police said some protesters had thrown concrete projectiles, bottles and other

items at police. Police declared several rallies to be unlawful assemblies and later extended that to include the whole downtown area.

Police on horseback tried to control the crowds. Some officers used flash-bang grenades and tear gas, CNN reported.

Demonstrators shouted "Shame on you!" at police and some appeared to throw objects, video images showed. One group blocked the 101 Freeway, a downtown thoroughfare.

City Police Chief Jim McDonnell told a media briefing Sunday evening that people had a right to protest peacefully but the violence he had seen by some was "disgusting" and the protests were getting out of control.

Police said they had arrested 10 people Sunday and 29 the previous night, adding arrests were continuing.

NEWSOM BLAMES TRUMP California Governor Newsom, a Democrat, said he requested the Trump administration withdraw its order to deploy 2,000 National Guard troops in Los Angeles County, calling it unlawful.

Newsom said in a post on X Monday he planned to sue the administration over the deployment.

"This is exactly what Donald Trump wanted. He flamed the fires and illegally acted to federalize the National Guard. The order he signed doesn't just apply to CA. It will allow him to go into ANY STATE and do the same thing," Newsom said, using California's abbreviation. "We're suing him."

In response, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt posted on X that "Newsom did nothing as violent riots erupted in Los Angeles for days."

Asked if the National Guard was needed, the police chief, McDonnell, said police would not "go to that right away," but added, "Looking at the violence tonight, I think we've got to make a reassessment."

SHORT TAKES

3 died in light aircraft crash in South Africa

Johannesburg: Three people on board a light aircraft died when it crashed in South Africa, authorities said Monday. The Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre said it had located the wreckage of the aircraft near the town of Greytown in the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal after it went missing Sunday. There were no survivors, the rescue service said. A female student pilot was among the fatalities, according to the KwaZulu-Natal provincial department for transport and human settlements.

Explosion at US air base hurts 4 in Japan

Tokyo: An explosion at a storage site for unexploded ordnance at a US military base on Okinawa injured four Japanese soldiers, though the injuries are not life threatening, officials said Monday. The four soldiers sustained finger injuries while working at a facility that belongs to Okinawa prefecture and temporarily stores unexploded ordnance, mostly from wartime and found on the island, local officials said.

6 injured, 3 factories damaged in Pak fire

Karachi: At least six people have been injured and three factories damaged in a fire that broke out here Sunday and has not been put out completely, even after 30 hours. Hassan Haseeb, a spokesperson for the Rescue 1122 department, said that the fire, which broke out in the Landhi export processing zone, had still not been fully controlled Monday. "The fire, which erupted in a garment factory, caused part of the building to collapse, leaving six people injured. It spread rapidly, engulfing the factory due to the presence of combustible material. It also spread to other factories close to the affected area," he said.

US deports 37 illegal Nepalis

Kathmandu: The US government has deported 37 Nepali nationals who were illegally staying in America, an official said Monday. A chartered flight carrying the illegal Nepali nationals arrived from the US here Sunday evening, an Immigration Department official said. This is the largest number of Nepalis deported by the US in a single day, the official said. They were found to have violated the US immigration laws, the official said.

SNIPPETS

Ex-prez Hamid returns to Bangladesh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's former president Abdul Hamid, who served two terms during deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's regime, returned to the country Monday after receiving medical treatment abroad. The 81-year-old ex-president returned from Thailand a month after his "secret departure" sparked protests in Bangladesh for being allowed to leave despite being accused in a murder case. "He landed here in predawn hours on a Thai Airways flight. He left the airport on completion of required immigration formalities that took nearly an hour and a half," an official of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) told reporters. Hamid returned like other ordinary passengers, said HSA Executive Director Group Captain SM Ragib Samad. Private TV channels also shared footage of his car leaving the airport. He left Dhaka May 8 through the same airport after completing the required formalities but his quiet departure sparked loud protests.

Pak delegation in UK for diplomatic outreach

Islamabad: Pakistan's high-level delegation led by former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has arrived in the UK following diplomatic engagements in New York over the recent military conflict with India, a media report said. The nine-member group Sunday held talks with United Nations representatives, diplomats from member states, and senior US officials to present Pakistan's narrative on the conflict following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives. The Express Tribune reported. In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, following which Islamabad resorted to military action, leading to clashes between the two countries' military. "Our message was clear - Pakistan seeks peace," former foreign secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, a member of the delegation, said here.

Over 50 people killed in separate incidents during Eid holidays

Peshawar: At least 53 people were killed and 50 injured in various incidents across Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during the three-day Eid ul-Adha holidays, authorities said Monday. Rescue 1122 responded to 1,999 emergencies and provided medical aid to 1,897 people during the holidays, according to the provincial emergency service's Director General Shah Fahad. Giving a breakdown of the fatalities, Fahad said that 13 people were killed in the provincial capital Peshawar. He added that 14 people were killed in Mardan districts, two each in Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad, Bannu, Buner, and Battagram districts, three each in Nowshera, Bajaur, and Kurram districts, four in Haripur district, and one each in North Waziristan, Kohat, and Khyber district. Fahad said that Rescue 1122 responded to 418 emergencies in Peshawar alone, including 43 road accidents, 338 medical emergencies, 20 fire incidents, eight shooting incidents, and 11 other recovery cases.



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) are seen after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an unknown location in Ukraine, in this handout picture released June 9

Contractor in Syria uncovers surprise beneath rubble

The discovery emerged last month in the town of Maarat al-Numan in Idlib province, which is strategically located on the route between the cities of Aleppo and Damascus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maarat al-Numan (Syria), June 9: A contractor digging into the earth where the rubble of a destroyed house had been cleared away in northern Syria stumbled across a surprise: the remains of an underground Byzantine tomb complex believed to be more than 1,500 years old.

The discovery emerged last month in the town of Maarat al-Numan in Idlib province, which is strategically located on the route between the cities of Aleppo and Damascus.

The community became a touchpoint in the nearly 14-year Syrian civil war that ended with the fall of former President Bashar Assad in a lightning rebel offensive in December.

Assad's forces seized the area back from opposition control in 2020. Houses were looted and de-

molished. Aerial images of the area show many houses still standing but without roofs.

Now residents are beginning to return and rebuild. In the course of a reconstruction project, stone openings were uncovered indicating the presence of ancient graves.

Residents notified the directorate of antiquities, which dispatched a specialised team to inspect and secure the site.

Aboveground, it's a residential neighbourhood with rows of cinder-block buildings, many of them damaged in the war. Next to one of those buildings, a pit leads down to the openings of two burial chambers, each containing six stone tombs. The sign of the cross is etched into the top of one stone column.

"Based on the presence of the cross and the pottery and glass

ANCIENT TOMB COMPLEX



pieces that were found, this tomb dates back to the Byzantine era," said Hassan al-Ismail, director of antiquities in Idlib. He noted that the discovery adds to an already rich collec-

tion of archaeological sites in the area. Idlib "has a third of the monuments of Syria, containing 800 archaeological sites in addition to an ancient city," al-Ismail

Based on the presence of the cross and the pottery and glass pieces that were found, the tomb dates back to the Byzantine era

said. The Byzantine Empire, which began in the 4th century AD, was a continuation of the Roman empire with its capital in Constantinople — today's Istanbul — and Christianity as its official religion.

Abandoned Byzantine-era settlements called Dead Cities stretch across rocky hills and plains in northwest Syria, their weathered limestone ruins featuring remnants of stone hous-

es, basilicas, tombs and colonnaded streets.

In the past, the owners of sites where archeological ruins were found sometimes covered them up, fearful that their property would be seized to preserve the ruins, said Ghiath Sheikh Diab, a resident of Maarat al-Numan who witnessed the moment when the tomb complex was uncovered.

He said he hoped the new government will fairly compensate property owners in such cases and provide assistance to the displaced people who have returned to the area to find their homes destroyed.

The years of war led to significant damage to Syria's archeological sites, not only from bombing but from looting and unauthorized digging.

Some see in the ruins a sign of hope for economic renewal.



After three years of strong demand, driven by favourable domestic leisure travel, demand from meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), including weddings, and business travel, the growth in the Indian hospitality sector is forecast to normalise at 6-8 per cent YoY in FY2026

**JITIN MAKKAR** | GROUP HEAD CORPORATE RATINGS, ICRA

## GLENMARK PHARMACEUTICALS TO LAUNCH CANCER DRUG IN INDIA

Glennmark Pharmaceuticals Monday said it will launch cancer treatment drug zanubrutinib in India following approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). Zanubrutinib will be marketed in India under the brand name Brukinsa. It is the first and only Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor approved in India for the treatment of five distinct B-cell malignancies



## of the day quote

There is no impact on the company's production due to the shortage of rare earth magnets as of now

**R C BHARGAVA** | CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA



This infusion of capital will supercharge our efforts to engineer the next generation of the most robust, high-performance, software-defined, and safety-critical systems uniquely tailored for Indian conditions and global deployment in electric vehicles and clean energy systems. We're not just building for India - we're building in India, by Indian engineers, for the world

**PEEVUSH ASATI** | CEO, VECMOCON



By leveraging In-ent-Based NOC Operations, we will enable Airtel to unlock wider service diversification to meet customer needs, thereby enabling new revenue opportunities for Airtel

**ANDRES VICENTE** | MARKET HEAD, ERICSSON



# \$80bn coal projects running short of water

The world's most populous country plans to spend nearly \$80 billion on water-hungry coal plants by 2031 to power growing industries like data center operations

REUTERS



**INDIA** plans roughly \$80 bln in new coal-power projects by 2031

MANY SHOR LISTED PROJECTS LOCATED IN WATER-STRESSED AREAS

PLANT OPERATORS LIKE AREAS WITH EASY LAND AVAILABILITY, WITH WATER ACCESS AN AFTERTHOUGHT

EXPANSION LIKELY TO FUEL FURTHER CONFLICT BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND INDUSTRY

**India, June 9:** April marks the start of the cruelest months for India. As temperatures soar, water availability dwindles in multiple places across nation. In peak summer, the wait for taps to flow can stretch to a week or more.

India has 17% of the planet's population, but access to only 4% of its water resources. The world's most populous country plans to spend nearly \$80 billion on water-hungry coal plants by 2031 to power growing industries like data center operations.

The vast majority of these new projects are planned for India's driest areas, according to a power ministry document, which is not public and was created for officials to track progress.

As per reports, several analysts, corporates and layman have said the thermal expansion likely portended future conflict between industry and residents over limited water

resources.

Thirty-seven of the 44 new projects named in the undated power ministry shortlist of future operations are located in areas that the government classifies as either suffering from water scarcity or stress. NTPC, which says it draws 98.5% of its water from water-stressed areas, is involved in nine of them.

India's power ministry has told lawmakers in parliament, most recently in 2017 that the locations of coal-fired power plants are determined by factors including access to land and water and that state governments are responsible for allocating water to them.

Access to land is the dominant consideration, two federal groundwater board officials and two water researchers told Reuters.

India's complex and arcane land laws have delayed many commercial and infrastructure projects for years, so power operators under pressure to meet burgeoning demand pick areas where they are likely to face little resistance, said Rudrodip Majumdar, an energy and environment professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bengaluru.

"They look for areas with easy land availability - minimum resistance for maximum land - even if water is available

The only energy resource we have in the country is coal. Between water and coal, preference is given to former

**RAM VINAY SHAHI** | EX- ENERGY BUREAUCRAT

only far away," he said.

The federal power ministry, as well as energy and water authorities in Maharashtra state, where Solapur is located, did not respond to queries.

Delhi attempted to reduce its reliance on coal before reversing track after the COVID pandemic. It has invested heavily in renewable energy sources like solar and hydro, but thirsty thermal power will still be dominant for the coming decades.

India's former top energy bureaucrat Ram Vinay Shahi said ready access to power was strategically important for the country, whose per-capita power consumption is far lower than its regional rival China.

"The only energy resource we have in the country is coal," he said. "Between water and coal, preference is given to coal."

## THIRST FOR WATER

Since 2014, India has lost 60.33 billion units of coal-power generation across the country - equivalent to 19 days of coal-power supply at June 2025 levels - because water shortages force plants to suspend generation, according to federal data.

Among the facilities that

have struggled with shortages is the 2,920 MW Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station, one of India's largest.

Located about 500 km north-east of Solapur (city in Maharashtra), the plant shuts several of its units for months at a time when the monsoon delivers less rain than usual, according to NITI Aayog data. Despite the challenges, the plant is considering adding 800 MW of new capacity, according to the power ministry list. The document indicates the plant hasn't identified a water source for the expansion, though it has already sourced its coal.

Similarly, plant's thirst for water has previously led to tensions with residents of nearby Chandrapur city. Locals protested the station during a 2017 drought, prompting officials such as local lawmaker Sudhir Mungantiwar to order it to divert water to homes.

Mungantiwar, however, says he supports the expansion of the plant, which he hopes will lead to it retiring water-inefficient older units.

But the station has already delayed a plan to decommission two polluting and water-guzzling power units with a capacity of 420 MW by about seven years, citing instructions from the federal government, the company sources said. The Indian government asked power companies not to retire old thermal plants until the end of the decade due to a surge in demand following the pandemic.

## Sensex, Nifty rise for fourth consecutive day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 9:** Stock markets closed higher for a fourth consecutive day Monday driven by gains in banking and financial shares and a rally in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 256.22 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 82,445.21 as 21 of its constituents closed higher and nine declined. During the day, it jumped 480.01 points or 0.58 per cent to 82,669.

The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 100.15 points or 0.40 per cent to 25,103.20.

In four-day rally, Nifty has gained over 560 points or 2.27 per cent while Sensex has jumped 1,707 points or 2.1 per cent.

Among Sensex stocks, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv and NTPC were the biggest gainers.

However, Eternal, ICICI Bank, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tata Steel and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.19 per cent and mid-cap climbed 1.03 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities rallied 1.65 per cent, power (1.43 per cent), services (1.35 per cent), oil & gas (1.12 per cent), IT (1.02 per cent) and energy (0.93 per cent).

Realty emerged as the only laggard. As many as 2,798 stocks advanced while 1,409 declined and 128 remained unchanged on the BSE.

## SHORT TAKES

### SBI pays dividend

**New Delhi:** The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Monday paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore to the government for the financial year 2024-25. The dividend cheque was presented to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman CS Setty in the presence of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju and Finance Secretary Ajay Seth. The bank has declared a dividend of ₹15.90 per share for the financial year 2024-25, higher than ₹13.70 per equity share distributed for the previous year. SBI had paid a dividend of ₹6,959.29 crore to the government last year. During 2024-25, the bank earned a record net profit of ₹70,901 crore, as against ₹61,077 crore in the preceding year, registering a 16 per cent increase.

### Birla Estates raises ₹420 cr

**Mumbai:** Real Estate Company Birla Estates has raised ₹420 crore from International Finance Corporation (IFC) to finance its two projects in Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune. In a regulatory filing Monday, the company announced signing of agreements for an investment from IFC, a member of the World Bank Group. The investment, approximately \$50 million (Rs 420 crore), will be directed towards two of Birla Estates' key developments: with around ₹148 crore in Birla Estates' Manjri project (Pune) having around 3.13 million sq ft saleable area and about ₹272 crore in Birla Estates' Thane project with 6.43 million sq ft saleable area.

### Vertex Group aims profit

**New Delhi:** New York-headquartered Vertex Group Monday said it aims to achieve ₹1,000 crore in revenue over the next three years, up from its current revenue of ₹250 crore, backed by AI, acquisitions and market expansion. The company's revenue target will be powered by a dynamic combination of organic and inorganic growth, international market forays, vertical expansion, and technology-driven disruption within the outsourcing industry, a company statement said.

## AM/NS India observes sustainability week



**Bhubaneswar:** ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) marked sustainability week from May 29 to June 7 across Odisha with a series of activities themed "Ending Plastic Pollution." In Paradeep, the week featured housekeeping audits, plastic waste drives, and creative competitions. Large-scale beach cleanup was conducted on June 4 in collaboration with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Paradeep Municipality, engaging employees and local vendors. On World Environment Day, a mass awareness rally was held along Taladanda Canal, followed by a stakeholder meet near AM/NS India's plant gate. Dignitaries including Paradeep Municipality Chairman Basant Biswal, Executive Officer Abhishek Panda, SPCB RO Puskar Chandra Behera, AM/NS India Executive Director (Odisha Asset) Suresha G, and Paradeep Plant Head USR Raju attended the event. Saplings were distributed to the community, and a plantation drive was held within the premises. At AM/NS Bhubaneswar office, employees created recycled notebooks for underserved children under CSR. In Dabuna, saplings were planted and awareness sessions were held in Katupali village and at the local tailoring centre. At Sagasahi and Thakurani mines, fruit-bearing trees were planted, and awareness drives were conducted. AM/NS India mining heads Sharanappa Kambali and Indrakant Saha led the respective site celebrations.

## NSEFI seeks extension of ISTS charges waiver

**New Delhi:** The National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) has urged the government to protect the viability of numerous renewable energy projects facing risks from delays beyond the control of developers, according to a person familiar with the matter. In the letter to the advisor to the Prime Minister's Office, the federation urged that the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges waiver be extended to projects getting commissioned by June 2026, and meeting a specific criterion relating to connectivity application status, financial closure, land acquisition beyond 50 per cent threshold, and if orders for equipment have been made. The federation, representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders across the solar value chain, stated that while the ISTS waiver, originally announced by the Ministry of Power (MoP), has played a "pivotal role in making renewable power more competitive", its delayed implementation by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) in February 2023 left many developers in a limbo. ISTS charges are the fees levied for using the transmission infrastructure to move electricity between states.

# How Trump's trade war is supercharging fast fashion industry

Tariffs did not halt ultra-fast fashion. They just rerouted production to countries with lower tariffs and even lower labour costs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, June 9:** When US President Donald Trump introduced sweeping new tariffs on Chinese imports the goal was to bring manufacturing back to American soil and protect local jobs.

However, this process of re-shoring is complex and requires years of investment and planning, far too slow for the world of ultra-fast fashion, where brands are used to reacting in

weeks, not years. Many clothing companies started to move production out of China during Trump's first term. They relocated to countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia when the initial China-specific tariffs hit.

This trend accelerated with the newer "reciprocal" tariffs. Instead of re-shoring production, many fashion brands are simply sourcing from whichever country offers the lowest total cost after tariffs. As a result, ultra-fast fashion machine adapted quickly and became even more exploitative.

### Global to your wardrobe in days

Platforms such as Shein and Temu built their success by offering trend-driven clothing at shockingly low prices. A \$5 dress or \$3 top might seem like a bargain, but those prices hide a lot



Much of Shein's production takes place in the so-called "Shein village" in Guangzhou, China, where workers often sew for 12-14 hours a day under poor conditions to keep pace with the demand for new items.

When US cracked down on Chinese imports, the intention was to make American-made

goods more competitive. This included raising the tariff on Chinese goods as high as 145 per cent (since paused), and closing the "de minimis" loophole, which had allowed imports under \$800 to enter tariff-free.

But these tariffs did not halt ultra-fast fashion. They just

rerouted production to countries with lower tariffs and even lower labour costs. The Philippines, with a comparatively low tariff rate of 17 per cent, emerged as a surprising alternative.

However, the country can't provide the industrial scale as compared with China

### The hidden costs of cheap clothes

The environmental impact of fast fashion is well known. However, amid the chaos of Trump's tariff announcements, far less attention has been paid to how these policies - together with the retreat from climate commitments - worsen environmental harms, including those linked to fast fashion.

The irony is that the tariffs meant to protect American workers have, in some cases,

worsened conditions for workers elsewhere. Australian consumers send more than 200,000 tonnes of clothing to landfill each year. But the deeper problem is structural. The entire business model is built on exploitation and environmental damage.

### Ignorance is not bliss

Trump's trade rules aim to re-balance global trade in favour of US industry, yet have cost companies more than \$34 billion in lost sales and higher costs. Today, brands such as Shein and Temu are thriving in Australia. But unless we address the systemic inequalities in fashion production and rethink the incentives that drive this market, the true cost of cheap clothing will continue to be paid by those least able to afford it.

## Silver surges, gold falls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Silver prices soared ₹1,000 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,08,100 per kilogram in the national capital Monday, in line with firm global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Saturday, the metal traded flat at ₹1,07,100 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). Prior to that, the white metal on Friday had soared ₹3,000 to hit another record high of ₹1,07,100 per kilogram.

Traders said silver prices surged due to strong investor demand, a weak dollar against major currencies, heightened geopolitical tensions, and firm industrial demand from the EV and solar sectors.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity fell ₹280 to ₹97,780 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. The precious metal had declined by ₹1,630 to ₹98,060 per 10 grams Saturday.

The yellow metal of 99.5 per cent purity dipped ₹250 to ₹97,350 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had depreciated by ₹1,500 to ₹97,600 per 10 grams in the previous market close. Globally, spot gold rose marginally to \$3,312.84 per ounce.

"Gold consolidated in the lower end of its range on Monday amid mixed signals. The highly anticipated talks between the US and China have raised hopes that the two larg-



est economies can make progress on various disputes, which could reduce demand for safe havens".

"Additionally, the latest Non-farm Payrolls report in the US was strong, prompting traders to re-evaluate their expectations regarding a potential easing of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve, which also serves as a headwind for the yellow metal," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Spot silver rose 0.9 per cent

to \$36.30 per ounce in the international market.

"Silver prices stood out with strong gains hitting a 13-year high on the global stage and achieving lifetime highs in the domestic markets," Mehta Equities' Vice-President, Commodities Rahul Kalantri said.

"Improving sentiment from softer European inflation and trade optimism helped silver breach the \$36 per ounce level, breaking out of a long-standing consolidation range," Kalantri added.

# DHONI IN ICC'S HALL OF FAME

The former Indian skipper becomes the 11th Indian cricketer to be named in the elite list after Neetu David, Virender Sehwag, Daina Edulji, Vinoo Mankad, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Kapil Dev, Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 9: Former India captain MS Dhoni was inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame for the year 2025 along with seven cricketers, including two female players, here Monday. Dhoni was joined by Australian batting great Matthew Hayden, South African duo of Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla as well as former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori as five men's cricketers were added to the list.

Also inducted into the elite group were former England wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Taylor and ex-Pakistan captain Sana Mir.

The ICC hailed Dhoni as a player who excelled not just in numbers but also in "extraordinary consistency, fitness and longevity".

"Celebrated for his calm under pressure and unmatched tactical nous, but also a trail-blazer in the shorter formats, MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the game's greatest finishers, leaders and wicketkeepers has been honoured with his induction into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame," said the ICC statement.

"With 17,266 international runs, 829 dismissals and 538 matches across formats for India, Dhoni's numbers reflect not just excellence but extraordinary consistency, fitness and longevity," it said.

Dhoni, who led India to the T20 World Cup win in 2007, the ODI World Cup victory in 2011

and the Champions Trophy in 2013, said in a statement shared by the governing body that, "It is an honour to be named in the ICC Hall of Fame, which recognises the contributions of cricketers across generations and from all over the world."

"To have your name remembered alongside such all-time greats is a wonderful feeling. It is something that I will cherish forever."

## Glorious career

Dhoni played 90 Tests, 350 ODIs and 98 T20Is for India and remains one of the greatest captains to have led the country. In 60 Tests that Dhoni captained the side, India won 27 games, lost 15 and drew 18.

In 200 ODIs, a record for most number of matches as India captain, Dhoni led the country

to 110 wins while losing 74 games. Five matches ended in a tie and 11 were washed out.

"Dhoni's ODI legacy is studied with records, including the most stumpings in the format (123), the highest individual score by a wicketkeeper (183\*), and the most matches as captain for India (200), to name a few. But the crowning moment of his career came in 2011, when he led India to World Cup glory after a 28-year wait," the ICC said.

Dhoni also holds the record for leading India in most T20Is — 72 — in which the two-time World Cup winners won 41 games, lost 28 while two ended in no result and one was tied.

A legendary finisher in ODIs, Dhoni scored 10,773 runs in 350 matches at 50.57 with 10 centuries and 73 fifties. He scored 4,876 runs in 90 Tests at a little over 38 with six tons and 33 fifties, while Dhoni scored 1,617 runs in 98 T20Is at 37.60 with two fifties.

Recalling India's title win in the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup in 2007 in South Africa, ICC said it made Dhoni "one of the most influential captains the game has ever seen".

To have your name remembered alongside such all-time greats is a wonderful feeling. It is something that I will cherish forever

MS DHONI | FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN



# Portugal thrash Spain to win Nations League

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, June 9: Cristiano Ronaldo hoisted up the Nations League trophy and "We Are The Champions" rang around the stadium after Portugal defeated Spain 5-3 in a penalty shootout in Munich Sunday.

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved Alvaro Morata's fourth penalty for Spain, then Ruben Neves converted his team's fifth to seal the win after their match finished 2-2 after extra time.

Morata was the only player to miss after seeing every player score their spot kicks before him. He was inconsolable.

Ronaldo had kept Portugal in the game when he equalized in the 61st minute of regular time with his record-extending 138th international goal after Mikel Oyarzabal had given Spain a half-time lead.

Oyarzabal squeezed the ball past Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 45th after Pedri played him in.

"It's a shame and it's tough, but with time it will be more appreciated," Oyarzabal said. "We struggled more in the second half, we were tired. The substitutions helped them. But we are proud of our team and we will fight to be close to winning a title again."

Spain, still the European champion, failed to display the cohesion and fluency in attack that put five goals past France



I have many titles with my clubs, but nothing is better than winning for Portugal. These are tears. It's mission accomplished and so much joy

CRISTIANO RONALDO

in the semifinal Thursday. There was an element of fortune about the opening goal scored by Martin Zubimendi

in the 21st when Portugal's defense failed to deal with Lamine Yamal's cross.

Nuno Mendes leveled five minutes later when he drilled a low shot inside the far post. The 22-year-old left back was the player of the match — providing the cross that was deflected kindly for Ronaldo to score his equalizer, keeping Yamal in check, then confidently scoring his penalty in the shootout.

Ronaldo was already off

by then. He had gone off, exhausted, to standing ovations and a hug from coach Roberto Martinez in the 88th. In his previous game, Ronaldo led Portugal to its first win over Germany for 25 years.

For Mendes and Paris Saint-Germain teammates Goncalo Ramos, João Neves and Vitinha, it was their second trophy in a little more than a week after winning the Champions League in the same stadium.

# Wasteful India lose Dutch test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen (The Netherlands), June 9: A wasteful Indian men's hockey yet again conceded a late goal to lose 2-3 against the Olympic champions Netherlands, enduring their second consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League here Monday.

For India, Abhishek, playing his 100th match, scored in 20th minute, while Jugraj Singh converted his team's ninth penalty corner in 54th minute.

The Netherlands scored through Thijs van Dam (24th), Tjep Hoedemakers (33rd) and Jip Janssen (57th).



India had earlier lost 1-2 against the Netherlands Saturday. India started on the front foot in the first quarter with as many as nine circle penetrations, but the goals eluded the visitors.

India had the first chance of the match in the sixth min-

ute but Abhishek's shot went wide. Soon, Shilanand Lakra snatched the ball in the middle and raced his way into the Dutch circle only to shoot wide.

Tjep Hoedemakers got the first scoring opportunity for the Dutchmen but his reverse hit from a tight angle was off the target.

Minutes later, Hoedemakers got another chance but his deflection went wide.

The Indians secured the first penalty corner of the match in the 18th but the Dutch defended well to deny India skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

India will next play Argentina here Wednesday.

# India A's 2nd unofficial Test against England Lions ends in draw

Northampton: Anshul Kamboj smashed his maiden First-Class fifty and also grabbed two wickets on the last day as India A's second unofficial Test against England Lions ended in a draw here Monday. England Lions, set an improbable 439-run target in the final session in the four-day match slipped to 32 for three before both the captains decided to shake hands. India A will now move to Beckenham to join the senior players for a four-day intra-squad match to be played from June 13-16 at the Kent County Cricket Ground. India A's first unofficial Test against England Lions had also ended in a draw in Canterbury.

# Racing prodigy Atiqa creates history at Rotax Euro Trophy

First Indian to secure top-10 finish



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Trinec (Czech Republic), June 9: Ten-year-old Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir added another first to her name by securing a credible top-10 finish in the Rotax Euro Trophy, a major international karting series.

The Akcel GP-backed driver finished ninth in the Rotax Euro Trophy Round 2 staged at Steel Ring Circuit over the weekend.

Atiqa, the first Indian to get financial and technical support from Formula 1, had a strong qualifying, finishing seventh in her group.

She had the misfortune of having two bumper penalties but despite that, she finished in 10th place after three heats.

In the pre-finals Sunday, the heavens opened up and with no prior experience of driving in the wet on this track, Atiqa showed her exceptional natural talent and fought hard with the best drivers in the world.

Atiqa, who is mentored by India's first Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan, qualified for the finals and was 10th on the grid. The finals were held

in even more treacherous wet conditions and Atiqa was in top form again. After dropping four places at the start, she fought back to finish ninth.

Atiqa ended as the highest placed Indian and Asian in the highly-competitive field.

Reflecting on the weekend, Atiqa said: "That was an amazing weekend, I learnt so much driving with the best drivers in the world. I had very good pace in the dry and my progress in the wet was good."

"The team and my mechanic Adam did a really good job this week and I'm thankful to them, my parents and all the people back home."

The Rotax Euro Trophy (often called RMCE'T) is a major international karting championship for drivers who race using Rotax MAX engines, which are some of the most popular kart engines globally.

Among Formula 1 drivers who have raced in this series in their formative years include reigning world champion Max Verstappen, George Russell, Lando Norris and current championship leader Oscar Piastri.

That was an amazing weekend, I learnt so much driving with the best drivers in the world. I had very good pace in the dry and my progress in the wet was good

ATIQA MIR

# Prince of Clay Alcaraz defends crown

The champion rallies to triumph over Sinner and clinch fifth Grand Slam in longest-ever French Open final

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, June 9: Carlos Alcaraz saved three championship points as he produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to beat Jannik Sinner in a French Open final for the ages Sunday.

Reigning champion Alcaraz rallied from the brink of defeat to overcome world number one Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/2) to clinch his fifth Grand Slam title after five hours and 29 minutes.

The 22-year-old Spaniard is now unbeaten in five Grand Slam finals after snapping Sinner's 20-match winning run at the majors.

Alcaraz pulled off his first ever comeback from two sets down to stun Sinner in the longest Roland Garros final in history. It easily eclipsed the 1982 final in Paris when Mats Wilander triumphed in four sets over Guillermo Vilas in 4hr 42min.

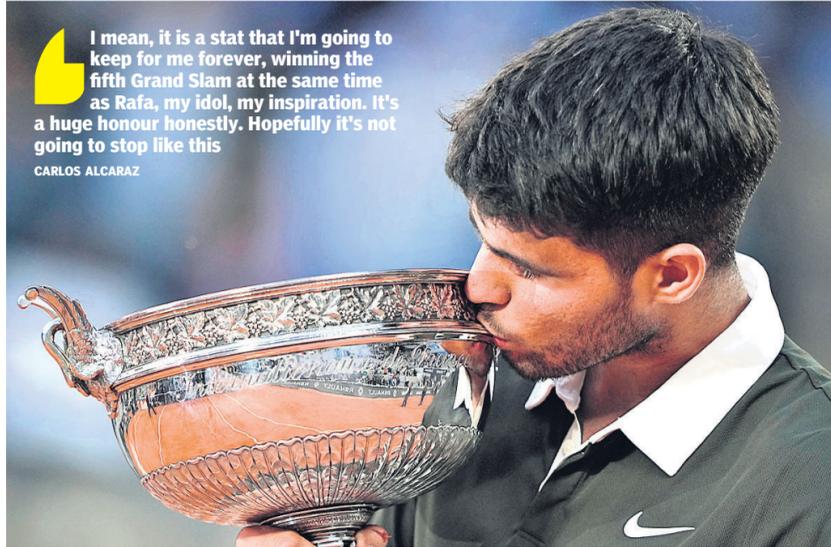
Alcaraz becomes the third youngest man to win five Grand Slams — after Bjorn Borg and compatriot Rafael Nadal — following an incredible duel between the two stars of a new generation.

Sinner fell agonisingly short of a third successive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open title and back-to-back Australian Open triumphs.

He suffered his fifth straight

I mean, it is a stat that I'm going to keep for me forever, winning the fifth Grand Slam at the same time as Rafa, my idol, my inspiration. It's a huge honour honestly. Hopefully it's not going to stop like this

CARLOS ALCAZAR



loss to Alcaraz in what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final — and the first championship match at a major between two men born in the 2000s.

Alcaraz leads 8-5 overall having also beaten Sinner to win in

Rome, where the Italian returned to competition in May after a three-month doping ban.

Alcaraz put the pressure on Sinner by carving out three break points to start Saturday's final, but the Italian resisted and soon had a chance of his own.

He couldn't take advantage and found himself hav-

ing to fend off two more break points at 1-1, producing clutch serves to grind out another tough hold.

Alcaraz's persistence paid off in the fifth game when he broke to nudge 3-2 ahead, only for the Spaniard to immediately hand the lead back.

The unshakable Sinner threatened to break again at 4-3, with a brief lapse from Alcaraz eventually enabling Sinner to snatch the first set.

Sinner hit the accelerator to



## SINNER STILL ON TOP

After retaining his title at Roland-Garros against top-ranked Jannik Sinner, Carlos Alcaraz remained in second spot in the men's ATP rankings behind his Italian rival. Despite the loss, Sinner increased his lead to 2,030 points because Alcaraz, as the defending champion, was unable to add any points. Sinner gained 500 points by reaching the final, having lost in the semifinals last year. Third-ranked Alexander Zverev dropped 900 points after his loss to Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals.

Obviously this one hurts. Yeah, there's not so much to talk about right now. It was a very, very high-level match, was long. Yeah, and it happens. You know, we saw it in the past with other players, and today it happened to me. So we try to delete it somehow and take the positive and keep going

JANNIK SINNER

## Records galore

At 22 years and 34 days old, Alcaraz became the third-youngest man to win five Grand Slam titles in history. He was only a day older than his great compatriot Nadal (22y 33d). Bjorn Borg remains the youngest, winning his fifth title at the 1978 Roland-Garros, aged 22y 5d

Entering the final with unbeaten records in Grand Slam finals, Sinner suffered his first defeat in four Major finals, while Alcaraz extended his winning run to five successive summit clashes. Alcaraz is only the second man after Roger Federer (7) to win each of their first Grand Slam final appearances

Following the Big 3 of Novak Djokovic, Federer and Nadal, Alcaraz is only the fourth man to win Grand Slam titles in four successive years

Alcaraz is only the eighth man in Open Era history to defend their Roland-Garros title, joining Nadal and Gustavo Kuerten as the only players to achieve it in the 21st century

start the second set, surging 3-0 in front. After facing seven break points in the opener, he tightened up considerably on serve. But Alcaraz brought up his first break point of the second set with Sinner serving for a two-set lead, duly pouncing on the opportunity to check his rival's momentum.

With the swagger back in his step at a crucial juncture, Alcaraz sought to bring the crowd into the contest but Sinner remained unflustered in the tie-break.

A tame return into the net presented Sinner with four set points. Alcaraz saved two before Sinner unleashed a blistering cross-court forehand to move to within a set of the trophy.