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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ବର୍ଷ ଉପଲବ୍ଧି ଅନେକ

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ
ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏ ବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅବସରରେ

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ବିକାଶ ମେଳା ୨୦୨୫

୧୧ - ୧୮ ଜୁନ୍, ୨୦୨୫
ଇଡକୋ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନୀ ପଡ଼ିଆ, ୟୁନିଟ୍-୩, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ବିଶେଷ ଆକର୍ଷଣ



ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଭାଗର ସଫଳତା ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ



ପ୍ରତି ସଂଘାରେ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ
ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ



ନିଆରା ଉତ୍ପାଦର କିଣାବିକା



ସୁଆଦିଆ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟର ପସରା

ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ

୧୧ ଜୁନ୍, ଅପରାହ୍ଣ ୪ଟା

ସେବା, ସୁଶାସନ ଓ ସଫଳତାର ଏକତ୍ର



ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତୁ, ବୟନଶିଳ୍ପ ଓ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



JONATHAN DAVISS TO LEAD BIOPIC ON SNOOP DOGG

Jonathan Daviss, best known for his role in Netflix series *Outer Banks*, is set to headline the upcoming biopic on popular rapper *Snoop Dogg*. The rap legend rose to fame in the 1990's and is known for tracks such as *Sweat*, *Let It Roll* and *Beautiful*.

KATY PERRY AMBUSHED BY FAN DURING CONCERT

Katy Perry had a shocking moment while performing on stage during her concert tour stop in Sydney. The singer had an unpleasant fan encounter during her performance. In a video, Perry is seen singing *Hot N Cold* when she's shocked by a fan who jumps on stage and puts his arm around her.



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesh. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

TAURUS
This day, you will be able to express and communicate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesh. All those to who come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them. At work your superiors are likely to be responsive and helpful.

GEMINI
Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesh. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

CANCER
Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesh, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

LEO
You will be busy on the work front today. It is a good day for those who are self-employed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Close members of your family and friends will take up most of your time today. Students will have to pay more attention to studies as exams are upcoming, and they will have to learn to balance study and free time. Ganesh says today is a good time to buy property.

LIBRA
You may not have been crowned 'Employee Of The Month', but do not let that distract you from the fact that today, you are the brightest star in office. Be prepared to get some special treatment at work, as your bosses shower praise on you. Apart from that, a lot of tangible and intangible benefits await you.

SCORPIO
"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesh. Your palatial home is ready or you may just get the keys of your much desired vehicle. You may have an extended celebration by receiving or giving gifts to your closed ones.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly. Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relationships, says Ganesh. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be. Stay away from those neighbours who just want to add fuel to the fire in your family conflicts, advises Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
The cupid may strike you today! The singles may feel the energy and excitement of budding romance. Equally blissful day for the married couples, too, as they will spend quality time with each other. Go down the memory lane, go through some photo albums and cherish those long lost moments, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Unexpected expenses are likely to crop up today. There are strong indications that you will set out upon a journey or a picnic to some nearby place, without too much prior planning. However, the journey will be comfortable and your travel plans will go off without a hitch.

'I am a beautiful misfit in the industry'

Mumbai: Vishal Jethwa, whose film *Homebound* received a standing ovation at its Cannes premiere, is gaining praise for his performance, yet he admits to feeling like a misfit in the industry. Known for TV roles in *Sankatmochan Mahabali Hanuman*, *Peshwa Bajirao*, and *Ek Duje Ke Vaaste*, Vishal says transitioning from television to film has been challenging.

"Doing historical and mythological shows like *Maharana Pratap* and *Chakradhari Ajay Krishna* felt repetitive after a point. I didn't know what more I could offer as an actor," he shares. He also believes TV actors often face typecasting. "Many filmmakers still see me as a TV actor. Every actor, regardless of medium, should be seen equally. But we also need to evolve and adapt to different platforms," he says.

Mardaani 2 was a turning point. "It changed how I saw my abilities. I began working on myself to be ready for cinema," he adds.

Despite professional growth, Vishal feels socially out of place. "I come from a lower middle-class background. I still feel awkward at parties—I didn't even know

what event-appropriate clothes meant," he says. Still, "I the he smiles and concludes, am a beautiful misfit in industry."



SHRUTI ON WOMEN INDEPENDENCY

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan, actress-turned-singer, has often spoke candidly about the personal lessons she's drawn from her upbringing, particularly her parents Kamal Haasan and Sarika's separation. Born into a home rich in artistry and intellect, Shruti described her childhood as a comfort zone that dramatically shifted after their 2004 divorce. It was during this emotional transition that she grasped the deeper value of independence—especially for women.

always stand on her own two feet."

Though she and her sister Akshara grew up in a privileged environment, the emotional fallout of the divorce was significant. Shruti also highlighted how societal pressure can force couples to remain in unhappy relationships, which in turn harms children even more. "Some homes look perfect on the outside but hide more pain than a separation ever could," she said.

Shruti's words reflect the strength and resilience needed to challenge traditional expectations, making a strong case for women prioritising their individuality and independence—both in relationships and in life.

AGENCIES

"When my parents split up, everything changed," Shruti once shared. "That's when I realised the importance of both financial and emotional independence. Watching my mother walk away from a marriage taught me that a woman must



How sports shaped Deepika's life

Mumbai: As her Padukone School of Badminton aims to 75 Centres in a year, actress Deepika Padukone talked about how the sport has shaped her life as she grew up playing the sport.

Deepika took to Instagram, where she shared a picture posing with her father Prakash Padukone, a former star badminton player.

She wrote: "As someone who grew up playing badminton, I've experienced firsthand how much this sport can shape one's life—physically, mentally, and emotionally."

The star also shared a note about how the Padukone School of Badminton expands to 75 centres in a year.

She added: "Through Padukone School of Badminton (PSB), we hope to bring the joy and discipline of Badminton to people from all walks of life, and build a generation that is healthier, more focused, and inspired by sport."

The press note read: "The Padukone School of Badminton (PSB), founded and funded by Deepika Padukone and mentored by former World No. 1 and All England Champion Prakash Padukone, has achieved a significant

milestone by establishing over 75 grass-roots coaching centres across 18 Indian cities-including

Bengaluru, NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Pune, Nashik, Mysuru, Panipat, Dehradun, Udaipur, Coimbatore, Sangli, and Surat-within its first year of operations."

IAN5



Pratibha's stress buster

Mumbai: Actress Pratibha Ranta, who is known for her work in *Laapataa Ladies*, is a nature-lover, and turns to nature to shed off the anxiety or stress.

The actress has found some time off from her busy schedule to spend some peaceful moments with nature. Being a Pahadi since birth, the actress indulged in serene moments at the farm, and was seen watering the plants at a lush greenery.

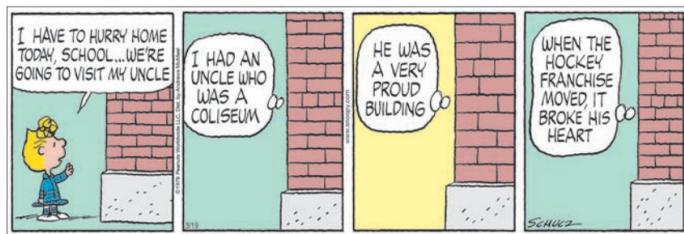
She took to her social media handle to share a video of the same, and she couldn't help but reflect back to the nature of her grounded character, Jaya, from *Laapataa Ladies*.

Speaking about finding her way back to her roots, Pratibha said, "There are times when busy schedules get to me, and I believe that the best way to calm myself from life's stresses is to be one with nature. It's like food for my soul!"

She further mentioned, "It has helped me rejuvenate myself for quite some time, and I do find solace amid the greenery, simply by watering plants, or looking after the flowers, farming - just being at the greenland. And very frequently do I look forward to take some time off to spend it here. It's absolutely beautiful."

IAN5

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

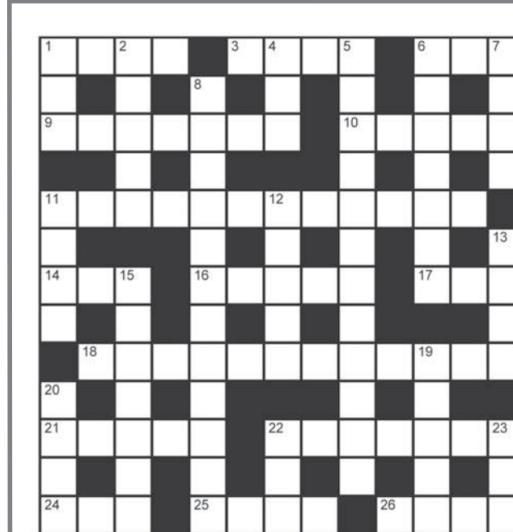


BREVITY



FUN POST

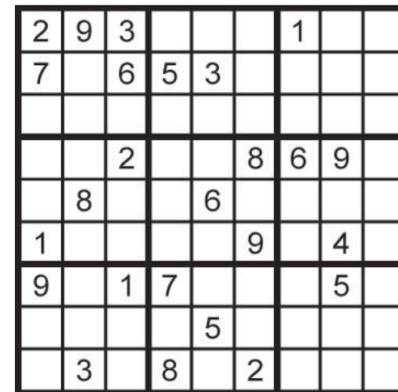
CROSSWORD



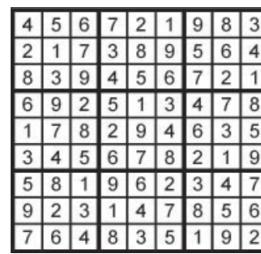
- Across**
- 1 Tender
 - 3 Oodles
 - 6 Prohibit
 - 9 Jungle clearing tool
 - 10 Solemn promises
 - 11 Defect
 - 14 Wool weight
 - 16 Libreville's land
 - 17 Easy mark
 - 18 Salon workers
 - 21 Parting word
 - 22 Wander aimlessly
 - 24 Game piece
 - 25 Hornswoggle
 - 26 Noisy blackbird
 - 6 Shirt features
 - 7 Egg container
 - 8 Carousel (5-2-5)
 - 11 Whit
 - 12 Hot coal
 - 13 Relaxing spots
 - 15 Cartoon
 - 19 Pillow stuffing
 - 20 Zither's cousin
 - 22 Tourist's aid
 - 23 Green
- Down**
- 1 Total
 - 2 Summary
 - 4 Be in arrears
 - 5 Meteor, maybe (8,4)

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Cong's appeal

The PM should talk to US Prez to appeal for intervention on the 'mistreatment and atrocities' against Indians, the Cong said

NATIONAL | P6

Marines in LA

Another 2K National Guard troops along with 700 Marines are headed to Los Angeles on orders from President Donald Trump

INTERNATIONAL | P8

Gloomy picture

President Trump's trade wars are expected to hit economic growth this year in US and other nations, predicts World Bank

BUSINESS | P9

Title clash

Australia and South Africa will collide in the 2023-25 ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's, starting today

SPORTS | BACK PAGE



BATHING RITUAL TODAY: Devotees throng Srimandir Tuesday evening ahead of the Snana Yatra, a key event in the run-up to Rath Yatra, of Lord Jagannath and His siblings Wednesday. As per the rituals, the deities will be taken on 'Pahandi' procession from the sanctum sanctorum of the 12th century shrine to the Snana Mandap, where they will be given a ceremonial bath with 108 pitchers of aromatic water drawn from 'Sunaku'

Top IIT, IIM students as interns during Rath Yatra

NEW DELHI, June 10: Top students from India's premier institutions, including the IITs, IIMs and leading policy and management schools, will converge in Puri to join hands with the district administration for this Rath Yatra, officials said Tuesday.

Under a Public Systems and Infrastructure internship initiated by the Puri District administration, these students will work at ground zero to study critical aspects of the Yatra, including crowd behaviour, public infrastructure, event planning, and inter-agency coordination.

"Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra is an exercise in scale, devotion, and coordination. It is time India's brightest minds saw what nation-building looks like in the field. Over a 10-15 day period, selected interns will be assigned live projects around sanitation infrastruc-

ture, emergency response systems, seva stall operations, and digital citizen engagement," Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said.

He further noted that their work will culminate in real-time reports and recommendations for future event efficiency, contributing directly to the planning of large-scale public systems.

The internship will be facilitated by Chaaipani, an agency appointed to manage brand activations and brand integration to enhance public facilities at this year's Jagannath Rath Yatra.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young minds to witness how India runs at its most complex and spiritual intersection. This is a rare opportunity for students to learn how logistics, culture, systems and human behaviour in India operate at an unprecedented scale," Shruati Chaturvedi, founder of Chaaipani, said.

Jajpur: 1 dead, 300 ill in diarrhoea outbreak

Jajpur: One person died and 300 others fell ill in an outbreak of diarrhoea in Odisha's Jajpur district, officials said on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Sanat Patra, 34, a resident of Mayurbhanj. Patra was engaged as a contract worker at a plant in Kalinga Nagar, and was admitted to Danagadi Community Health Centre (CHC) Tuesday, said Jajpur CDMO Prakash Chandra Bal.

The other patients were being treated at various hospitals in the district. Official reports said the disease was first reported from Dharmasala area Tuesday. "Out of the 300 affected people, around 200 have been discharged after treatment. The remaining patients are recovering well," Bal said.

Businessman, 2 kids killed in Delhi fire

NEW DELHI, June 10: Three members of a family, including two children, were killed when they jumped out of a balcony to escape a massive fire that broke out in their eighth and ninth-floor duplex flat in Delhi's Dwarka area Tuesday morning, police said.

The fire started from a temple located on the eighth floor of the building and quickly spread through PVC panels, a senior police official said.

The deceased were identified as Yash Yadav (41), his daughter Ashima (12) and his nephew Shivam Yadav (11).

The family lives in a duplex on the top two floors of the building. Yadav, who along with his family shifted to Delhi 10 years ago, is a native of Uttar Pradesh's Etah.

The official said that Yadav's sister, her children and sister-in-law gathered at his flat in Dwarka's Shabad Apartment in Sector 13 after attending a religious event (Bhagwat Katha). There were 12 people in the house at the time of the incident.

When the fire broke out around 9.30 am, all members of the family tried to escape by going to the ninth floor through the stairs. However, Ashima and Shivam got trapped, and Yash returned to save them, police said.

My simplicity shouldn't be construed as weakness: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Claiming that Odisha's maiden BJP government has already fulfilled 11 of the 21 promises made to the people by the party before the 2024 elections, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday asserted that his simplicity should not be considered as a 'weakness at all.'

Addressing a press conference on the occasion of his government's first year in office on June 12, Majhi said, "I hail from a tribal family and there is simplicity in me. However, nobody should construe it (simplicity) as my weakness."

The CM made the remark while replying to a question on his government's alleged silence on major corruption cases during the previous BJD government. These cases were mostly related to chit fund and mining scams.

"We have taken strong action against corruption. The arrest of an IAS officer on Monday proves our point. A chief engineer was also arrested on his retirement day on graft charges and sent to jail," Majhi said, adding that some persons in-



volved big-time scams are also languishing in jails. He asserted that his government will always act on corruption.

"My government will complete a year in two days. We are elected for five years. Appropriate action will be taken against corrupt elements in due course of time," Majhi said.

Replying to another question, Majhi said the government will implement 11.25 per cent reservation in technical education for Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) students from this year.

The CM said his government's major achievement lies in breaking the artificial wall between the government and common people.

"Today, anyone can meet their CM and ministers without any hindrance. In the last one year, I have visited every district and met lakhs of people directly, listened to their problems, shared their joys and sorrows," he said.

The CM also claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the lives of millions, with over 27 crore Indians lifted out of extreme poverty in the last 11 years. P2

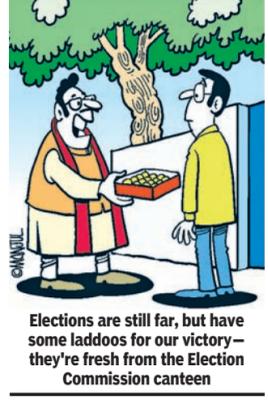
1cr jobs by 2047: Majhi

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said his government has set an ambitious target of creating 1.1 crore jobs by 2047, when the country will complete 100 years of Independence. Addressing a national seminar on 'Good Governance and Developed Odisha -- 2036 & 2047' here, Majhi said his government has taken an ambitious resolution to make Odisha a prosperous and developed state by 2036, when the state will celebrate the centenary of its formation. This will help achieve the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047, he said. "We have targeted to create 1.1 crore additional jobs in the state by 2047 at a rate of 5 lakh jobs per annum for building a 'Viksit Odisha'," Majhi said.

CHAKMA PLACED UNDER SUSPENSION

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi suspended Dharamgarh sub-collector Dhiman Chakma Tuesday with immediate effect. The action came after the IAS officer was caught by the Vigilance officials while accepting ₹10 lakh bribe from a businessman in Kalahandi. The sleuths also recovered an additional ₹47 lakh unaccounted cash from his official residence, Sunday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Austria school shooting leaves 10 dead; three-day mourning

GRAZ (Austria), June 10: A former student opened fire at a school in Austria's second-biggest city Tuesday, killing nine people and wounding at least 12 others before taking his own life, authorities said.

There was no immediate information on the motive of the 21-year-old man, who wasn't previously known to police. He had two weapons, which he appeared to have owned legally, police said. Special forces were among those sent to the BORG Dreierschutzzengasse high school, about a kilometre from Graz's historic centre, after a call at 10 a.m.

At 11.30 a.m., police wrote on social network X that the school had been evacuated and everyone had been taken to a safe meeting point. Police said they didn't immediately have information on the man's motive, but said that he killed himself in a toilet after fatally shooting nine people.

The shooter was a former student at the school who didn't finish his studies, Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said at a press conference in Graz.

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker said there would be three days of national mourning, with the Austrian flag lowered to half-staff and a national minute of mourning at 10 am. Wednesday. He said that it was "a dark day in the history of our country".

Photos from the scene showed a large police deployment, including at least one helicopter and emergency vehicles around the school. President Alexander Van der Bellen said that "this horror cannot be captured in words". "These were young people who had their whole lives ahead of them. A teacher who accompanied them on their way," he said.

India's fertility rate falls below replacement rate

According to a United Nations study, India's population at present stands at 1.46 billion

Though India is now the world's most populous nation, a fertility crisis is on the cards, if the recent UN estimates are any indication. Women in India are now having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration which is alarming. The fertility rate has declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1. In 1970, the rate was nearly five children per woman. There is an urgent need to address unmet reproductive goals and to achieve this, people need to make free and informed choices about sex, contraception, and starting a family, the report suggests

NEW DELHI, June 10: According to a new UN demographic report, India's total fertility rate has fallen below the re-

placement rate. UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) Report, The Real Fertility Crisis, calls for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals.

Millions of people are not able to realise their real fertility goals, it asserts. The report also reveals key shifts in population composition, fertility, and life expectancy, signalling a major demographic transition.

The report found that India's total fertility rate has declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.

This means that, on average, Indian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration.

Despite the slowing birth rate, India's youth population remains significant, with 24 per-



cent in the age bracket of 0-14, 17 per cent in 10-19, and 26 per cent in 10-24.

The country's 68 per cent of the population is of working age (15-64), providing a potential demographic dividend, if matched by adequate employment and policy support.

As of 2025, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 71

years for men and 74 years for women. India is now the world's most populous nation, with nearly 1.5 billion people — a number expected to grow to about 1.7 billion before it begins to fall, around 40 years from now, the report said.

Behind these numbers are the stories of millions of couples who decided to start or expand their families, as well as the stories of women who had few choices about whether, when or how often they became pregnant, the report said. In 1960, when India's population was about 436 million, the average woman had nearly six children.

Back then, women had less control over their bodies and lives than they do today. But in the coming decades, educational attainment increased, access to reproductive healthcare improved, and more women gained a voice in the decisions that affected their lives. The average woman in India now has about two children.

While women in India, and every other country, have more rights and choices today than their mothers or grandmothers did, they still have a long way to go before they are empowered to have the number of children they want, if any, when they want them.

Majhi: Not 24 yrs, a lot can be done in 24 mins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Taking a dig at the previous BJD government, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said 24 years of governance is not needed to better lives of people as a lot can be done in 24 minutes, referring to the four major decisions taken by the BJD government minutes after the swearing-in ceremony.

Addressing the media here ahead of completing one year in governance in the state, Majhi said just minutes after the oath-taking ceremony June 12 last year, the first Cabinet meeting approved four major public welfare decisions— launch of Subhadra Yojana, an additional ₹800 for the purchase of paddy per quintal besides the MSP, opening all four gates of the Srimandir and the creation of a corpus fund of ₹500 crore for the temple's development.

"One does not need 24 years to better lives of people. A lot can be done within 24 minutes. There should be will-power to do public service," Majhi said, adding that his government strongly believes in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas and Sabka Prayas'.

Majhi said his government has achieved many successes in one year. "In this short period, we have been able to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the 4.5 crore people of the state," he said. "The biggest proof of this is that in just a few days, the general public has called the new government a people's govern-



ment and the Chief Minister a people's Chief Minister," Majhi added.

He claimed that in the last 12 months, they have fulfilled almost all major commitments and made Odisha the top state in the country in creating 17 lakh 'Lakshpati Didis'.

The CM pointed out that a record allocation of ₹37,838 crore has been made in the agriculture sector.

Targeting the previous BJD government for failing to provide safe drinking water to people during its 24 years of rule, Majhi said the BJD government has already started taking steps to give piped water to 90 per cent of the state's population by 2026.

Majhi added that the state government also plans to provide 'Antyodaya Ghura' to five lakh people, who did not feature under different surveys.

"In one year, we have given about 28,000 state government jobs at various levels. This

year, we will give another 40,000 jobs. There have been major improvements in the infrastructure of railways, national highways and air services," he said.

"By 2036, Odisha will definitely be among the top five states in the country with a USD 500 billion economy. By 2047, it will play a significant role in building a developed India as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Majhi added.

The CM claimed that his government has demolished the artificial barrier between the common man and the government, stating that today anyone can meet their Chief Minister and Ministers without any hindrance.

The Chief Minister said he had visited every district of Odisha. "Today, the 'third floor' (power corridor) is coming to the doorsteps of the people—this is a new aspect of our good governance," he stated.

1 YEAR OF BJP GOVT

No devpt, only rhetoric: Naveen

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik Tuesday slammed the BJD government in the state, accusing it of focusing only on long speeches and advertisements instead of genuine development.

Addressing party workers at BJD office here, Patnaik pointed out that it has already been a year since the BJD took charge in Odisha, yet there is no sign of development.

"They call it a people's government. But where are the people? Long speeches and big advertisements alone cannot bring development," the BJD supremo remarked.

Patnaik said that during the BJD government's tenure, 90 per cent of the people in the state benefitted from Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

"Today, Ayushman Bharat has been launched, but people



The BJD supremo alleged that thousands of people are being harassed and that the health system has completely collapsed

are not getting medicines, and they cannot receive treatment in hospitals without paying money," he added.

The BJD supremo alleged that thousands of people are being harassed and that the health system has completely collapsed.

"Out of 30 districts, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) post is vacant in 19 districts. This is the so-called success of the current government," he stated.

The former CM further claimed that under the BJD government, 70 lakh women were empowered through Mission Shakti. However, the present government has weakened this movement within just one year.

"During our government, Mission Shakti brought glory to the state across India. But now, Mission Shakti mothers are being harassed in banks, and they are not getting work in government offices," he said.

CM offers puja at Maa Kichakeswari temple



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi visited Mayurbhanj district Tuesday morning and offered prayers at the revered Maa Kichakeswari temple in Khiching.

Travelling by road from Keonjhar, Majhi reached the temple around 6:30am under tight security. Accompanied by his wife, he performed rituals and offered puja at the shrine for over an hour. A large crowd gathered outside the temple to catch a glimpse of the CM.

Following the visit, Majhi returned to Keonjhar by road and later flew back to Bhubaneswar in a special aircraft from the Raisuan airstrip.

During his two-day tour of Keonjhar, the Chief Minister had arrived late Monday night from Kendrapada, where he had attended a meeting. After reaching Keonjhar, he held discussions with party workers at the CM's grievance office and spent the night at the Circuit House.

River protection conclave June 13

BHUBANESWAR: At a time when rivers in the state are facing threats from pollution, illegal sand mining, and industrial exploitation, Mahanadi Banchao Andolan (MBA) has planned to organise a river protection conclave at Red Cross Bhawan here June 13. The event, under the leadership of MBA convener Sudarshan Das, aims to bring together stakeholders from across the state to deliberate on actionable steps for restoring and safeguarding rivers. The organisers have also announced plans to meet Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to submit proposals and seek the government's intervention in the issue. 'Waterman of India' Rajendra Singh is scheduled to attend the conclave and deliver the keynote address. The discussions will focus on the growing challenges to Odisha's rivers, including rampant pollution, encroachment on riverbeds, unregulated sand mining, and unchecked exploitation by industries. In the run-up to the conclave, Singh will visit several affected river zones. On June 11, he will interact with local residents along the Daya River in Kanasa, which has witnessed deaths due to waterborne diseases like cholera, a consequence of severe river pollution.

POST NEWS NETWORK



ties, and awareness of various state and central government schemes. He also asked them about their access to these schemes.

He also suggested preparing a booklet listing all pro-people schemes of both the state and central governments, which could be distributed among trainees at the institute. "These frontline workers can help raise awareness at the grassroots level so that more people benefit from the schemes," he said.

Officials made a detailed presentation on the institute's functioning. Women and Child Development department principal secretary Shubha Sarma and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Patnaik accused the BJD government of obstructing the empowerment of mothers, calling it the biggest mistake of the current administration.

"The mothers will never forgive this," he asserted.

Patnaik also said that in 2000, when the BJD took charge, Odisha had a loan burden of ₹18,000 crore, and the government was running on overdrafts. "When we left office in 2024, the government treasury had a surplus of ₹45,000 crore. But now, the government is again running on record amounts of loans," he alleged.

Patnaik claimed that there was visible improvement in all development indicators, including Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), during the BJD tenure.

He concluded by saying that BJD will stand with the people as an opposition party and will always work for the welfare of the people and the progress of Odisha.

ECOR GM inspects railway project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 10: General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR) Parmeshwar Funkwal Tuesday conducted a detailed inspection of the Sonapur-Purunakatak railway section that has been completed as part of the Khurda Road-Balangir new project.

Senior officers from ECoR headquarters, construction officials and those from Sambalpur Railway Division accompanied the GM during the inspection. The visit focused on reviewing the progress of the project and ensuring adherence to the targeted timelines.

Funkwal emphasised timely execution of the project and urged officials to expedite the pending works, maintaining quality and safety standards. He also reviewed critical infrastructure components and advised necessary steps for on-time completion.

This flagship project, closely monitored by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, is the lifeline for interior regions of the state. Out of the total 301 km planned length, 226 km has already been commissioned. That includes Khurda Road to Daspalla – 106 km and Balangir to Purunakatak – 120 km.

Cong seeks paddy dues for Nabarangpur ryots

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 10: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Tuesday demanded immediate release of dues worth around ₹4.41 crore of farmers in Raigarh block of Nabarangpur district.

Holding a press conference here, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das claimed that 344 farmers of Raigarh block sold over 14,000 quintals of paddy to the government about four months back, "but their payment is pending".

"Tomorrow, the BJD government is going to complete one year in office in Odisha. Before holding celebrations, it should release the dues of farmers," he told reporters here.

Similarly, the farmers of Ganjam who suffered crop loss, are "waiting to get their insurance money", Das said.

The Congress leader said more than 1.45 lakh farmers of Ganjam district have paid crop insurance premium of ₹84 crore to a private company engaged by the government. "However, after the farmers faced crop loss, the insurance company has not paid their dues," he alleged.

The state government should intervene in the matter and direct the concerned insurance firm to make the payment, Das said. He also claimed that several farmers in Angul district, who suffered crop damage due to elephant activities, are awaiting compensation.

OPCC spokesperson Rajani Kumar Mohanty slammed the Centre, accusing it of failing to curb fuel prices despite promises. "In 11 years, the BJD government has only increased petrol, diesel, and LPG prices instead of reducing them," he said.

Manisha Das Patnaik, state Congress spokesperson, condemned the rise in crimes against women, alleging state apathy.

55,362 get OJEE ranks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Altogether 55,362 out of 80,324 candidates, who had appeared for the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), 2025, have secured ranks in all the disciplines, except Nursing. This was revealed from the OJEE results declared by Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE) Minister Sampad Chandra Swain Tuesday.

According to details, Jatni Meher has topped the B Pharm while Anurag Mishra is the topper in MBA and S Siseendri in MCA/MSc (Computer Science). Likewise, Manmatha Behera has stood first in MTEch.

The course-wise toppers' list is available in the official website - www.ojee.nic.in.

This year, a total of 92,488 candidates have registered for the exam, while 80,324 candidates (86.84 per cent) appeared

for the examination.

The minister congratulated the students and advised them to continue the hard work and dedication to enhance the reputation of the state.

OJEE was held for 17 technical and vocational courses offered in various government and private universities, and educational institutions in the state for the academic year 2025-26. The exam was held for admissions to courses like B CAT, LE-B Tech (for Diploma students), LE-B Tech (for BSc students), B Pharm, MBA, MCA, Integrated MBA, LE-Pharm, M Pharm, M Arch, M Plan, M Tech, Basic BSc Nursing, Post Basic BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing, and PG Diploma in Nursing.

The Nursing results will be declared by Directorate of Medical Education And Training (DMET) later this year.

'Dhams' built on faith, not arrogance: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said 'dhams' are set up on the basis of the religious faith of people and not on the arrogance or ego of any person or government.

Majhi was replying to a question here on the fate of his letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the row over naming a temple at Digha as 'Jagannath Dham'.

Without taking Banerjee's name, Majhi said, "As dhams were established hundreds of years ago based on the faith of people, it cannot be changed by

any person or a government. Adi Shankaracharya had set up four 'dhams' for Hindus and Puri's Jagannath Dham is one of them." "Yes, I had written a letter (requesting Banerjee to refrain from referring to the Jagannath temple in Digha as 'dham') to the West Bengal chief minister. But she has not given a reply though a letter, but issued a statement which is not acceptable. The matter, which is based on the faith of millions of people, should be respected," Majhi said.

He said Adi Shankaracharya had established four 'dhams' in different regions of India on the religious point of view for the

protection of the Hindu religion. "Her (Banerjee) statement reflects arrogance and ego. People will give a befitting reply to the person," Majhi said.

Majhi, however, did not give any indication of the Odisha government taking legal recourse over the 'Jagannath Dham' row.

Earlier, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan had said that the Odisha government may be forced to take the matter to court if Banerjee did not withdraw the 'dham' word from the Digha Jagannath Temple.

Majhi had May 6 written a letter to Banerjee stating, "I request the Government of West

Bengal to reconsider the usage of the name 'Jagannath Dham' in relation to the Jagannath temple recently established at Digha and refrain from using the term 'Jagannath Dham' in its official naming, communication and promotional materials."

Majhi also mentioned in the letter that he sincerely hopes that the West Bengal government would uphold the spirit of inter-state respect and cultural sensitivity in this matter and take necessary steps to address Odisha's concerns.

Banerjee had inaugurated the temple at Digha, a sea resort town in Purba Medinipur district, April 30.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.63 ↓ 0.08	SENSEX	82391.72 ↓ 53.49	GOLD	₹96,911 ↓ ₹262
EURO	97.91 ↓ 0.09	NIFTY	25104.25 ↑ 1.05	SILVER	₹106,260 ↓ ₹827

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.0°	34.8°	Thunderstorm with rain
Min Temp	25.2°	23.8°	
Humidity	72%	83%	
Rainfall	0.1mm	3.2	

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Jr Mining Officer critical in attack by sand mafia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore/Remuna, June 10: A Junior Mining Officer was critically injured after he was brutally assaulted by a local sand mafia head and his henchmen while inspecting a sand mining site on Budhabalanga riverbed near Kathasangada under Remuna tehsil in Balasore district Tuesday, police said.

The victim officer, identified as Tapas Kumar Behera, sustained critical injuries on his heads and hand in the attack. Police reached the spot and took him to Balasore district headquarters hospital where he is currently undergoing treatment.

An officer from Remuna police station said the incident occurred at Kathasangada when Behera, along with an official and the driver of his vehicle, went to inspect the sand mining site on Budhabalanga riverbed.

When Behera began taking photographs of the area and vehicles transporting sand, a local sand mafia head and his henchmen launched an attack on him, the officer said. Behera ran for cover. However, the



miscreants chased him down and beat him up brutally, and hit a bottle on his head after pulling him out of his official vehicle, the officer added.

The Remuna police registered a case and launched an investigation after an official of the Mining department lodged a complaint in this regard. The officer said they are examining CCTV footage to identify all those involved in the attack.

Meanwhile, district Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas, deputy Collector Prathamesh Arabind Raje Shirke, Mining Officer Santoshi Prava Sathy rushed to the hospital after receiving the information. Balas-

ore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi also visited the hospital and inquired about Behera's health with doctors. He said strict action will be initiated against the perpetrators.

When contacted, Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas said that attack on a government officer on duty will not be tolerated. He said he has spoken to police officials in this regard. He assured that action against the culprits will follow soon.

Nevertheless, the incident has sent shockwaves across the state with back to back assault of two government officials by mafia carrying out loot of minor minerals in a little over a week's time.

Earlier June 2, a Revenue department officer was allegedly assaulted by some miscreants in Mayurbhanj district when he was on his way to conduct a raid against illegal transportation of minerals.

Bhima Kanta Majhi, the Additional Tehsildar of Kaptipada, was injured and his vehicle damaged in the incident.

Police have arrested eight persons and a hunt is underway for the remaining miscreants involved in the attack.

2 engineers held by Vig over graft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Odisha Vigilance Tuesday arrested two engineers for accepting bribes from complainants in two separate cases, an official said.

They are Suchismita Parija, Assistant Engineer, Lamtaput block in Koraput district, and Susmita Oram, Junior Engineer, Gaisilet block in Bargarh district, the Vigilance said in a press statement.

Parija was arrested while taking a bribe of ₹8,000 from a complainant in her residential government quarters at Lamtaput, it said.

She had demanded ₹15,000 from the complainant for facilitating the release of bills for payment of labourers engaged under MGNREGA.

She was caught while accepting the final installment of the bribe amount, the Vigilance department said.

Later, the Vigilance launched raids on the residential government quarters of Parija, and her rented house at Semiliguda in the district.

Oram was arrested by Vigilance officials while taking a bribe of ₹8,000 from the contractor (complainant) as the last instalment of her overall demand of ₹32,000 for measurement and clearing pending bills in connection with the road improvement work under MGNREGA, the release said.

Oram had joined government service under the district rural development agency (DRDA), Bargarh, in January 2024. This was her first posting, a Vigilance officer said.

The estimated cost of the work is ₹9.50 lakh, out of which, bills worth ₹3.15 lakh had been paid earlier, he added.

The official said the JE was demanding a bribe of 10 per cent of the bill amount to clear pending bills. Out of the total demanded amount ₹32,000, she had earlier taken ₹24,000 a few days ago and was demanding the remaining amount of ₹8,000.

The entire bribe money has been recovered from the possession of the JE and seized, it said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Decomposed hanging body of missing Bolangir man found in Nuapada forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, June 10: Three months after a 38-year-old man from Bolangir reportedly went missing during a trip with an acquaintance in February this year, the police Tuesday recovered his decomposed body hanging from a tree deep inside a jungle near Pati Dangar - close to Kerameli village, within Nuapada Sadar police limits - under mysterious circumstances.

The deceased has been identified as Balaram Hati, a resident of Kumhari village under Muribahal police station in Bolangir district.

Balaram's wife, Binodini Hati, 30, said he had left home February 12 morning for Nuapada with one Pradeep Parabhu, and went uncommunicated thereafter.

When Binodini contacted Pradeep, he allegedly claimed that Balaram had returned home by train. When the family failed to trace Balaram's whereabouts after an extensive search, they lodged a missing report at Muribahal police station February 19, prompting an investigation.

Meanwhile, Monday, some villagers from Kerameli who went to collect firewood in the forest near Pati Dangar discovered a rotting corpse hanging approximately 50 feet above ground from a giant Bijaa tree. The frightened locals first informed fellow villagers who latter approached police Tuesday morning.

Upon receiving the infor-



mation, a police team, led by Nuapada Sadar IIC Gangadhar Meher, along with Fire Services personnel and Deputy Collector Hemant Puta arrived at the spot. The body was brought down in the presence of a magistrate, and then sent to the district headquarters hospital for autopsy.

In order to establish the identity of the body, the Nuapada Sadar police sent an

alert to the control room. After receiving the information, Muribahal police contacted the missing man's family and took them to Nuapada. Binodini identified the body as that of her husband, after which police formally handed it over to the family.

The Nuapada Sadar police has registered an unnatural death case and launched an investigation.

Man arrested for killing wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, June 10: A man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly killing his wife in a fit of rage at their home in Gadahating, under Barbil police limits in Keonjhar district.

According to police sources, the accused, identified as Takulu Munda, and his wife Janaki lived with their five daughters and two sons in Ward No. 10 of Barbil Municipality. Both worked as daily wagers and often quarrelled, neighbours said.

Following another round of altercation Sunday night, Takulu—allegedly intoxicated—assaulted Janaki with a wooden plank, inflicting critical injuries. Despite her worsening condition,

he did not take her to a hospital. Janaki succumbed to her injuries Monday night, police said.

Upon being alerted by neighbours, Barbil police, led by Inspector Ashok Nayak, arrived at their home, recovered the body, and arrested Takulu.

A forensic team from Keonjhar district headquarters visited the site Tuesday, and collected samples for examination. At a press briefing Tuesday, Barbil Sub-Divisional Police Officer Debendra Kumar Pingua claimed that the accused confessed to the crime during interrogation. The murder weapon—a wooden plank—was seized from the house.

A case (173/2025) has been registered in this regard at Barbil police station. The body was sent for post-mortem Tuesday morning, and the accused was produced in court later in the day for remand.

FMU team in ZSI Hackathon finals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, June 10: A team of students from Fakir Mohan University (FMU) in Balasore have been selected for the final round at the 110-Hour national-level Hackathon on biodiversity conservation at Pune, organized by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) to celebrate its 110 years of scientific legacy.

Held across multiple ZSI regional centers, the hackathon brings together bright minds from across the country to address pressing issues in wildlife and ecosystem conservation. The FMU team showcased exceptional innovation and scientific rigor, securing first prize in the regional round conducted at

the Marine Aquarium and Regional Center (MARC) in Digha.

The winning team included Soumyaranjan Dash (team leader and research fellow, CRCI-HSC), Ananya Devasmita Patra, and Bhaskar Beja (master's students, PG department of Zoology). Their project focused on population recovery of Indian horseshoe crabs through a captive breeding model, a pioneering approach to conserve the ancient and ecologically vital species from rapid decline.

At the national-level round held at the Western Regional Center, ZSI Pune, Soumyaranjan Dash represented the university solo, competing against top researchers from across India.

RARE SURGICAL FEAT

Arrow stuck deep in man's lungs taken out at MKCG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 10: A team of doctors at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur pulled off a miracle of sorts when they successfully removed an arrow which had pierced deep inside a patient's lungs, Tuesday.

The rare surgical procedure took over three hours for the team of eight doctors, led by Dr Sarada Prasanna Sahu, head of the department of Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery in the hospital, to perform. The patient is completely out of danger and recovering from the injury fast.

"The tip of the arrow was only 2 centimeters away from the heart. The situation could have been complicated if the surgery was delayed," said a beaming



Sahu, adding that 15 cm, out of the total 25 cm-long, arrow was embedded in the patient's chest, missing the heart by a whisker.

Sahu said the patient, Tripathi Muduli, from Falkaguda village under Khairiput block in Malkangiri district had been shot with an arrow by his cousin Hadi Muduli over a land dispute June 8. The arrow got lodged in his chest.

Tripathi's family rushed him to the Khairiput Community Health Center (CHC) from

where he was later shifted to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital in Koraput. However, as his condition deteriorated, he was taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

After conducting the necessary tests, a team of doctors at MKCG recommended immediate surgery Monday as almost 9 cm of the arrow had penetrated into the lungs.

The doctors found clotting in the lungs of the patient, and had to drain out 1.5 litre of blood during the surgery. Dr Shiv Prasad Das, Dr Jagadeep Nayak, and other doctors, apart from the nursing officers assisted in the surgery. Tripathi has been moved out of the intensive care unit (ICU) and is recovering. He is out of danger, said Sahu.

Silent walls, regal past: Enduring legacy of Motimahal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, June 10: Motimahal, nestled within the royal palace of Bhawanipatna—the former capital of the Kalahandi princely state—continues to evoke awe with its historic charm. Once the grand Durbar Hall, it now stands as a silent witness to many untold stories of the region's regal past.

Constructed between 1930 and 1935, Motimahal served as the ceremonial court where the Maharaja of Kalahandi presided from a jewelled throne. Adorned with diamonds, pearls, gold and other precious stones, the throne bore the Maharaja's name intricately engraved upon it. Two golden lion statues flanked the throne, which stood between two ivory columns, framing a grand mirror. The



palace walls were embellished with a majestic sculpture of a tiger, among other decorative elements.

The double-storey structure was meticulously designed, housing royal bedrooms, rest chambers, and meeting rooms across both floors. A variety of taxidermed wild animals such as tigers, cheetahs, deer, and wild buffaloes—preserved in

concrete with animal hides—gave the illusion of life, showcasing the royal family's affinity with nature and hunting.

A water fountain graced the palace's front yard. Facing it, stood the Sabha Mandap, a royal assembly hall built in 1929. This Durbar Hall was also used for legislative assemblies of the princely state, which included 26 elected legislators. Later, a

billiards hall was added on the upper floor of the Motimahal.

Accommodation was arranged for visiting dignitaries within the Durbar Hall complex. Facing the royal throne were exquisitely crafted wooden chairs reserved for courtiers. The guest quarters were elegantly furnished with artistic chairs, benches, and tables made of gold, silver, and precious stones, reflecting exceptional craftsmanship.

Although currently closed to the public, the hall is opened during Dussehra for cleaning and viewing, allowing rare glimpses for visitors. Despite the doors now being locked, the Motimahal—a symbol of Kalahandi's legacy—remains a remarkable example of unique architectural finesse, preserving the royal aura and forgotten chapters of Odisha's princely past.

Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR, 1st floor, Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur-768003, E-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in

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Date: 10.06.2025 Zonal Manager

UCO Bank Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009 **GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

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Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / A/c. No.	Balance Outstanding	Weight in (Grams)
DALAISAHU BRANCH, Dalaisahi, PO: Manika Goda, Via: Bolagarh, Khurda-752066, Name of the Manager: Biswajit Sahani, Mob.: 9040701177			
1.	Dipak Kumar Moharana, At: Hata Sahi, P.O: Manika Goda, Khurda / 32760610019238	₹ 2,03,000/- + Interest and Charges	70.4
2.	Ananta Kumar Pradhan, At: Kumuti Sahi, P.O: Manika Goda, Khurda / 32760610022023	₹ 63,000/- + Interest and Charges	22.2
3.	Ashok Kumar Behera, At: Kumuti Sahi, P.O: Manika Goda, Khurda / 32760610017272	₹ 1,73,000/- + Interest and Charges	64.3
KUMARBASTA BRANCH, At/PO: Kumbabasta, Via/Dist.: Khurda, PIN - 752055, Name of the Manager: Keerti Pattanaik, Mob.: 9776303277			
1.	Prabhat Rana, At/P.O: Kumbabasta, Dist.: Khurda / 25120610020524	₹ 1,98,276/- + Interest and Charges	71.9
MARKAT NAGAR BRANCH, Plot No.: 5CM-839/2, Sector-9, CDA, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 753014, Name of the Manager: Sukanta Chhatoi, Mob.: 8249260621			
1.	Chandra Narayan Nanda, At/P.O: Hajipur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur / 23680610020197	₹ 2,59,762/- + Interest and Charges	72.1
2.	Priyanka Satpathy, At: Plot No.: 161, Sector-6, CDA, Cuttack / 23680610021330	₹ 50,215/- + Interest and Charges	14.3
3.	Susanti Sahoo, At: Subhadra Nagar, Bidanasi, Cuttack / 23680610022283	₹ 1,90,249/- + Interest and Charges	71.2
4.	Susanti Sahoo, At: Subhadra Nagar, Bidanasi, Cuttack / 23680610022344	₹ 2,68,495/- + Interest and Charges	86.1
5.	Chandra Narayan Nanda, At/P.O: Hajipur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur / 23680610021576	₹ 82,497/- + Interest and Charges	39.3
6.	Dusmanta Kumar Kar, At: Jayguru Colony, Lane-2, P.O: Bidanasi, Cuttack / 23680610024478	₹ 2,77,068/- + Interest and Charges	66.6
7.	Kishan Kumar Jena, At: Deriki, Naugaon, Jagatsinghpur / 23680610021743	₹ 1,02,097/- + Interest and Charges	29.05
8.	Manasi Sahoo, Sector-10, CDA, Cuttack / 23680610021460	₹ 25,718/- + Interest and Charges	6.35

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- The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.
- The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).
- The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.
- If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.
- The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.
- It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.

N.B.: For further details please contact Zonal Office Co-ordinator, Mob: 7873016821
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.06.2025 **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO



Clash of Titans

The world is watching with bated breath the fierce showdown between the richest man on earth Elon Musk and the most powerful politician in the globe US President Donald Trump. The fallout could be cataclysmic for the global political-economic system as also for industrial-business productions and space explorations. The vicious feud also underlines the fact that letting excessive political and economic powers be concentrated in the hands of one or two individuals may prove an unmitigated disaster for the entire world. If the individuals are erratic, egoistic, narcissistic and power-loving, the consequences could be bad. After a year of patting each other on the backs and effusive praise & expressions of love for each other, Musk and Trump broke away in an explosive and dramatic fashion. The public split has degenerated to such a level that Musk has started talking about Trump's association with notorious sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and indicating offense by association. Trump responded to the jab by saying Musk had "lost his mind." The bitter exchanges during the past few days escalated, leading to Musk's announcement after a virtual opinion poll on his X handle followed by about 220 million people that he proposes to launch a new party. This creates the impression that once Musk has tasted political power in an attempt to expand his business empire more effectively, he is tempted to wield the power himself. This could spell potential danger of unimaginable consequences since historically the world has so far seen business tycoons influencing economic policies of a country by using politicians from behind, hidden from the public eye. But since the advent of Trump and Musk, the lines of control for political and economic powers have gotten blurred and merged. The devastating effects are already being felt.

As Musk and Trump heaped insults on each other on their respective social networking platforms, they also issued threats fraught with dangerous consequences. Trump suggested that he could cancel all of Musk's government contracts and subsidies - "the best way to save money," as he posted. Such a move would have devastating consequences not only on the tech billionaire's companies but also on the federal agencies that have come to depend on them. Musk immediately responded by announcing that he would start decommissioning the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on which NASA relies for transport missions. The scientific community heaved a sigh of relief when he later reversed the decision.

The collaboration between Musk and Trump has also triggered concerns about corruption and calls for investigations into the Tesla CEO's use of his position in government to benefit his companies. The breakup has highlighted another risk of Musk's close ties with the government, where the services that he provides can now be a casualty in interpersonal disputes. The fate of tens of billions of dollars hangs in balance due to this fight.

"In light of the President's statement about cancellation of my government contracts, @SpaceX will begin decommissioning its Dragon spacecraft immediately," Musk posted without any warning. However, when an anonymous user of his social media network suggested to him to "cool off and take a step back for a couple of days", he responded in less than 24 hours with the words: "Good advice. Ok, we won't decommission Dragon."

It all looks like a soap opera with too many dramatic elements, but sadly what has happened is real - a stark reality of two super-bloated egos clashing with each other leaving the world economy, politics and technology in grave danger.

The present situation was foreshadowed by a development in 2023 when Musk refused to let Ukraine use Starlink in Crimea to launch a surprise attack against Russian forces. It demonstrated for the first time Musk's control over global infrastructure. A fallout of this episode is that European governments recently rushed to find alternatives to Starlink amid fears over Musk's unpredictability.

The irony of the Trump-Musk partnership is that while Musk kept provoking foreign governments and acting as an unaccountable global power broker, the US continued to hand him contracts and increase its dependence on his companies. Space operations in particular have become practically synonymous with Musk.

There are also talks that Trump and Musk may patch up sooner than later. An ardent believer of such an eventuality is Musk's father Errol Musk who has said people were sometimes unable to think as clearly as they should in the heat of the moment. He even referred to the "five months of intense stress" Musk and Trump had been under. He predicted the bitterness between the two "will end on a good note - very soon."

Whatever happens, the world has already seen enough of the incalculable harm that the overlapping of economic might and political power wielded by a few individuals can wreak.

WISDOM CORNER

Wisdom ceases to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to weep, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.

CONFUCIUS

The power for creating a better future is contained in the present moment: You create a good future by creating a good present.

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1742: The empress Maria Theresa of Austria decided to make peace with Prussian King Frederick II, ceding almost all of Silesia to him in the Treaty of Breslau, which marked the end of the First Silesian War.

1817: The first predecessor of the bicycle is demonstrated Using his revolutionary Laufmaschine, also known as Draisine, a two-wheeler without pedals, German inventor Karl Drais completed a 14 km test run in less than an hour, presenting a viable alternative to transportation by horse.

1938: China launches the 1938 Yellow River flood In what Steven Dutch, a Professor at the University of Wisconsin, called "the world's largest act of environmental warfare in history", the Chinese government created the flood to halt invading Japanese forces.

1955: More than 80 people die in the Le Mans car race disaster In one of history's worst car racing accidents, Pierre Levegh's Mercedes crashed into a crowd of spectators and burst into flames.

1959: Christopher Cockerell first presents the hovercraft The amphibious air-cushion vehicle first crossed the English Channel just weeks after Cockerell first demonstrated his prototype, the SR.N1. The scheduled "flights" between Dover (U.K.) and Calais (France) were discontinued in 2000.

1982: Steven Spielberg's blockbuster E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial was released in theatres, and it is widely seen as a classic of American cinema.



DK Giri

INDIA HAS HAD A REACTIVE CHINA POLICY. IT IS TIME TO REVISE THIS AND HAVE A PRO-ACTIVE CHINA POLICY WHICH PUTS BEIJING ON THE DEFENSIVE

China has apparently threatened to curtail the flow of Brahmaputra water to India. This is in retaliation to New Delhi suspending the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. It may be Islamabad's bluff to garner international support against India's recent military action. Whatever may be the provocation for Beijing to take this drastic action, New Delhi must give a strong reaction. In fact, China needs no excuse to work against the interest of India.

Beijing's belligerence against New Delhi is no secret. It has been doing so ever since it acquired Tibet by hoodwinking Jawaharlal Nehru. Giving away Tibet conceded the advantage to China in geopolitical and security terms. Tibet was created by the British Colonial administration as a buffer state between India and China. Nehru did not secure any reciprocal obligations for letting Tibet go to China. The river Brahmaputra originates from Tibet. However, Chinese threat on Brahmaputra may not inflict a fatal blow to India.

River water experts suggest that China controls at the most 30 per cent of Brahmaputra water and the rest 70 per cent or more is generated in India. The river flows after entering the Indian soil. The river is enriched by several tributaries and the water flowing down from Khasi, Garo and Jaintia Hills. However, building dam on Brahmaputra, storing the water and diverting it are a cause of concern. Dams are built on the upper side of the river. So if the dam bursts accidentally or is done deliberately, India as a riparian country will suffer, the North Eastern states will be submerged with heavy toll on life and property. The second probability is remote as China will not try to damage parts of India by flooding them unless



The larger point is how India got into this situation where it is being targeted by Pakistan and China, and is kept afar by other countries

both countries are at war. That should demystify the so-called Damocles' sword hanging over India regarding the Brahmaputra.

The larger point is how India got into this situation where it is being targeted by Pakistan and China and is kept afar by other countries. Even the United States which is perceived to be engaging India as a counterweight to China seems to have "unfriended" it. Only a few days before, the American Secretary of Trade, openly and rather undiplomatically told off India for being part of BRICS, i.e. at the behest of Beijing, is seeking to de-dollarise the world economy; and doing brisk business in the face of sanctions with Russia.

At the same time, it is worrying to realise that in the recent war with Pakistan, not a single country came out openly supporting India. Various arguments could be made about the India's foreign policy strategy. A good many observers thought that the recent war with Pakistan sounded a

wake-up call to India. Again there were several interpretations of that call.

India is left alone in the international community for its faulty conception of world politics and thus the consequent struggle to find friends in need. This needs to be told time and again until the leadership heeds it in the interest of India. Thankfully, Prime Minister Modi has taken a correct position against Pakistan. He could do the same on China. But he seems to be bedevilled by the lack of committed international support against Beijing, also in the absence of correct inputs on China. It should have come from the Foreign Minister Jaishankar who served in China as India's ambassador. Alas, Jaishankar has failed to click on China.

The present foreign policy strategy that is unworkable could be attributed to the External Affairs Minister. His combative, seminarian, self-righteous style, almost narcissist style has failed to befriend countries. The Prime

Minister with his personal warmth and charisma could get many a world leader to openly stand by India if he had a foreign minister who understood India's critical security needs. In that case, Modi would not have sent delegations of MPs to explain Indian positions.

Modi made a profound statement on how to navigate international politics. He said, "The road to peace is paved by power." This was in the context of Pakistan. But that could apply to all countries. Now here is where Modi is let down by his foreign minister. How does India deal with Pakistan and its friend China? When China-Pakistan alliance is established which mobilises support from other countries, who does India stand with? Or is it the case that India does not have allies and it plans to take on China and its friends or Pakistan with its friends

Remember that someone who is everybody's friend is nobody's friend. Even in the Mahabharata, both Kauravas and Pandavas went around making allies. Both armies were invincible, yet they both actively sought partners. Even Lord Krishna offered Himself and His army to either party. Jaishankar has succeeded in making India friendless. Even the United States is perhaps reviving its patronage to Pakistan.

Last word in this piece is if New Delhi focussed its foreign policy on countering China, things would have fallen in place. India has had a reactive China policy. It is time to revise this and have a pro-active China policy which puts Beijing on the defensive. It is not too late to make that dramatic and drastic shift in India's China strategy.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions.

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IN JEST THIS

Restricting calories may restrict happiness

There are many different strategies for losing weight, but almost all of them, unfortunately, involve backing away from the buffet. You can't eat as many calories as you want and still lose weight, unless you are a world-class athlete or spend so much time at the gym that FedEx delivers your packages there.

Legendary swimmer Michael Phelps, while training for the Olympics, woke up each day and consumed three fried egg sandwiches and three chocolate-chip pancakes. And that was just his breakfast appetizer!

After that, he wolfed down a five-egg omelette, three sugar-coated slices of French toast and a bowl of grits. Then he drank two cups of coffee, looked at his watch and said, "It's almost time for lunch."

His lunch and dinner included massive amounts of pasta and pizza, pushing his daily consumption above 10,000 calories. Phelps' diet gave him lots of energy, helping him win 28 Olympic medals, but it also

resulted in severe food shortages around the world.

Well, Phelps alone wasn't responsible for those food shortages. It was all those aspiring Olympians trying to emulate him, consuming 10,000 calories, jumping into a pool and struggling to stay afloat. At least the life guards got lots of practice.

Unlike elite athletes like Phelps, the average man should consume between 2,000 and 2,800 calories per day, while the average woman should consume 1,600 to 2,400 per day. The lower end of that range is for sedentary people; the higher end is for people who deliver food to sedentary people. (Delivering food usually involves taking lots of steps, unless you are dropping off three large pizzas at the drive-up window of the Phelps home.)

If you're trying to lose weight, you should consume fewer calories than your body needs — and much fewer than your body wants. But be careful not to cut your calories too drastically. That could result

in sadness — and not just for the workers at your favorite restaurant.

A new study has found that people on a CRD (calorie-restrictive diet), especially men and those who are overweight, are more likely to experience worsening symptoms of depression than those on an MPD (Michael Phelps diet).

The study, conducted by Dr. Venkat Bhat and other Canadian researchers, was published last week in the journal BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health.

"The findings suggest caution with overly restrictive or unbalanced diets, particularly for people already experiencing weight-related stress or challenges," Bhat told CNN.

Bhat, a psychiatrist and clinician-researcher who heads the Interventional Psychiatry Program at St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto, says that "opting for balanced, sustainable dietary changes that meet nutritional needs and consider individual psychological impacts may help minimize potential negative effects on mood."

In other words, don't go overboard with your diet. This is especially true if you're already experiencing depression. Don't cut so many calories that you feel utterly deprived. If you're currently consuming a Phelps-like breakfast, just transition from a five-egg omelette to a four-egg omelette.

It isn't easy to cut calories, especially since food is everywhere — not just in the grocery stores and restaurants, but also in the videos we watch. Just the other day, I watched a YouTube channel called "Delhi Food Walks," as it walked all the way to Madurai. I was soon drooling over the parottas and other food, wishing I could jump through my screen onto the streets of Madurai.

My wife loves watching the Village Cooking Channel on YouTube. It features a group of Tamil men cooking a variety of delectable dishes outdoors in large pots. They sometimes cook in such huge quantities that it's enough to feed a village or provide a calorie-restrictive meal for Michael Phelps.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Bhubaneswar-751010

Pause in hostilities

Sir, This refers to "Basics of diplomacy," **Orissa POST**, June 10. PM Modi's invitation to the G7 summit, extended by Canadian PM Mark Carney, comes despite a serious rupture in bilateral relations during the tenure of former Canadian PM Justin Trudeau. It is an acknowledgement that, for all the ideological friction and constituency pressures, global strategy cannot afford prolonged estrangement with India. India is no longer just a populous democracy or a potential market. It is the world's fourth-largest economy, a key player in semiconductor supply chains, and a strategic counterbalance to an increasingly assertive China. Inviting India to the summit is both strategic and symbolic, sending out a message that the West values engagement with large democracies of the Global South, especially at a time when Russian aggression and Chinese expansionism continue to destabilise global norms. PM Modi's presence underscores the recognition that India's voice carries weight in shaping the global agenda on climate change, digital governance, energy security, and reformed multilateralism. Whether this visit initiates a thaw in India-Canada ties or simply reflects a tactical pause in hostilities remains to be seen.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

De-dollarization trend

Sir, Brazil is recalibrating its economic strategy through a bold shift marked by currency diversification, structural reforms, and strategic geopolitical alignment. Central to this transformation is the issuance of Panda Bonds—yuan-denominated instruments that allow Brazil to access Chinese capital markets, reduce dependence on US dollar debt, and contribute to the broader de-dollarization trend among emerging economies. Domestically, Brazil is pushing forward with a suite of fiscal and tax reforms designed to boost efficiency, productivity, and investor confidence. A newly introduced fiscal framework aims to improve public spending discipline, while overhauls to indirect taxation simplify compliance and support growth. Combined with a strong labour market and resilient consumer demand, these changes are reshaping Brazil into a more competitive and investment-ready economy.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Eyes filled with tears: Farooq Abdullah

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he hopes the intended Amarnath pilgrims will use the train and come in large numbers to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Srinagar, June 10: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Tuesday took his maiden ride in the recently inaugurated Vande Bharat train from Srinagar to Katra township and said he was overwhelmed to see Kashmir finally getting connected to the country's rail network.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he hopes the intended Amarnath pilgrims will use the train and come in large numbers to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine.

The annual yatra is scheduled to commence in the Kashmir Himalayas July 3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two Vande Bharat trains from Katra to Srinagar and Srinagar to Katra June 6, marking the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Abdullah, wearing a round sun-visor hat, boarded the train at Nowgam Railway Station in Srinagar this morning and was received by Deputy Chief Min-

FIRST TRAIN JOURNEY FROM KASHMIR TO KATRA



ister Surinder Choudhary and Jammu NC president, Rattan Lal Gupta, in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

"My heart is overwhelmed and my eyes filled with tears on seeing Kashmir finally getting connected with the country's rail network. I congratulate the engineers and the workers for making it happen," Abdullah told reporters after deboarding.

He called the train the biggest victory for the people as it will ease travel, boost trade and tourism, and also strengthen "love and friendship" between the two regions.

"We hope that the yatis from across the country will use the facility to turn up in large numbers for darshan at Amarnath

cave shrine during the upcoming pilgrimage," Abdullah said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's sons, Zamir and Zahir, J&K minister Satish Sharma, chief minister's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, and National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq also accompanied Abdullah on his train ride.

"Took our first train ride from Srinagar to Katra truly impressed! The journey crosses the iconic Anji bridge and weaves through stunning tunnels. A remarkable experience," Sadiq wrote on X, also sharing some pictures of the trip.

Abdullah said the train will help transport horticulture produce from Kashmir to different markets in the country, including the far-off Kanyakumari,

Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bihar.

Earlier, in Srinagar, the NC chief said, "I am very happy that I am travelling by this train to Katra today. It has been the biggest benefit for us."

He said the train would be a reliable transport link for the people of the valley.

"The road (between Srinagar and Jammu) gets closed sometimes and the airlines start fleeing the people by jacking up the prices. With this train, people will be saved from that," he said.

Abdullah said the railway link will also prove to be beneficial to the horticulture sector in Kashmir as the produce will reach the markets faster.

"It will also benefit tourists visiting Kashmir," he added.

4 mazars demolished in UP's Katarniaghat forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), June 10: Four "illegal" mazars, including the prominent Lakkar Shah Baba mazar, located in the core area of the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Bahraich district, were demolished, an official said Monday.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) B Shivshanker told reporters that the action was taken Sunday under provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

"The shrines of Lakkar Shah, Bhawar Shah, Chaman Shah, and Shahn Shah were situated in beat number 20 of the Murtiha Range. These mazars lie within forest land. Though the mazar committee submitted a copy of a 1986 Waqf Board registration, they failed to provide any legal evidence of ownership or land rights," he said.

The press briefing was held at the Collectorate auditorium, with District Magistrate Monika Rani and the Superintendent of Police in attendance.

Shivshanker said that under the Forest Conservation Act, an approval from the Centre is mandatory for non-forestry use of forest land, which was not obtained in this case.

"Hence, the structures were declared encroachments and demolished accordingly," he said.

The DFO said that the mazar committee had earlier moved the high court against the department's actions, but could secure no relief.



Forest staff, Special Tiger Protection Force, local police, and Provincial Armed Constabulary have been deployed at the site to prevent any confrontation leading to law and order breakdown

Forest staff, Special Tiger Protection Force, local police, and Provincial Armed Constabulary have been deployed at the site to prevent any confrontation leading to law and order breakdown, he said.

Asked why the media was kept off the demolished site, Shivshanker said, "The area falls in a jungle zone where the presence of wild animals could lead to human-wildlife conflict, hence access was restricted."

District Magistrate Monika Rani, however, directed that mediapersons may be allowed limited access to the site under the forest officials' supervision.

Israr, secretary of the Mazar committee, told reporters that the Lakkar Shah Baba shrine had been hosting the annual urs since the 16th century, which the forest department recently banned. "We are considering approaching the high court against this act by the forest department," he said.

Last month, the district administration also imposed restrictions, citing security reasons, on the annual fair held at the famous Sayyad Salar Masud Ghazi dargah in Bahraich.

Earlier, when the department stopped the annual fair at the mazar, shrine management committee president Rais Ahmad had said the dargah symbolised Hindu-Muslim unity, with almost 60 per cent of the visitors being Hindu.

J&K transfers 134 officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 10: Several mid-level bureaucrats were reshuffled by the Jammu and Kashmir government as it ordered the transfer and posting of 134 officials with immediate effect Tuesday.

Among those who were transferred were special secretary, secretary, the commissioner, director general, managing director, and director-rank officers.

The transfers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) officers were issued by the commissioner secretary general administration department on the order of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of five Tourism Development Authorities were among those transferred.

While Virender Kumar Manyal was posted as CEO of Tourism Development Authority in Patnitop, Kulbushan Khajuria was posted as CEO of Tourism Development Authority in Rajouri.

Mohammad Rouf Rehman was posted as CEO of Tourism Development Authority in Kokernag, Joginder Singh Jasrotia was transferred and posted as CEO of Bhaderwah's Tourism Development Authority, and Babu Ram Tandon, was posted as CEO Tourism Development Authority, Bani-Basholi.

Apart from that, notable among the transferred officers were Bashir Ahmad Dar, Managing Director of JKPC, who

was transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission.

Rajinder Singh Tara, the Director General of Youth Services and Sports in J&K, was transferred and posted as Controller in Legal Metrology, while Anuradha Gupta, Controller, Legal Metrology, was posted as Director general, Youth Services and Sports, J&K.

Smita Sethi, Secretary in the Industries and Commerce Department, was posted as Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, J&K, while Mathora Masoom, Special Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, was posted as Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation.

Musheer Ahmed, Special Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, was transferred and posted as Mission Director, ICDS, J&K, while Nawab Din, Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Udhampur, was posted as Custodian General, J&K.

Similarly, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director, Rural Development, Jammu, was transferred and posted as Director, Tribal Affairs, J&K, and Rimpay Ohri, Special Secretary in the office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K was transferred and posted as Director, Public Relations, New Delhi.

The order stated that the transfers and postings were made in the interest of the administration.



Maharaja Suheldev's statue unveiled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), June 10: A 40-foot-high bronze statue of Maharaja Suheldev was unveiled by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday in Bahraich.

According to officials, the grand statue on the banks of the Chittora Lake weighs 17 tonnes and is 40 feet long and 17 feet wide. It shows the 11th century warrior king who ruled Shrivasthi in Bahraich riding a horse with a spear in his hand and a bow on his shoulder. Maharaja Suheldev, an icon of the Rajbhar community, had defeated and killed Ghaznavid

general Ghazi Syed Salar Masud in a battle on the banks of the Chittora Lake in Bahraich in 1033 AD.

"In the war fought on the banks of this Chittora Lake, the valiant Maharaja Suheldev defeated and killed Salar Masud. A grand statue and memorial of Maharaja Suheldev showing his bravery has been built on the banks of this lake," BJP MLA Subhash Tripathi told PTI.

"This memorial is a great example of the tradition of honouring our ancestors started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," he said.

Bahraich District Magistrate Monica Rani said the Chittora Lake area has been developed as a cultural tourist centre and as a memorial. "It will be operated on a PPP mode. The memorial has been constructed at a cost of approximately Rs 40 crore," the DM told PTI. There are adequate arrangements for tourists to stay and sightseeing in the beautiful picturesque natural environment.

Four VVIP suite rooms, a dormitory for tourists, a huge auditorium, a cafeteria, beautiful pathways, an open-air stage, a herbal garden, a children's area, etc. have been built here.

50 delegates from 5 ASEAN countries participated in 'Bodhi yatra'

The yatra, held from June 2 to June 7, aimed to showcase key destinations within the state's Buddhist circuit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 10: In a bid to place Uttar Pradesh's Buddhist heritage on the world map, the Yogi Adityanath-led government organised a special six-day "Bodhi Yatra", which saw the participation of 50 delegates from five ASEAN countries.

As part of this mission, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, in association with the Union Ministry of External Affairs, organised the "Bodhi Yatra" under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework, an official statement said Sunday.

The yatra, held from June 2 to June 7, aimed to showcase key destinations within the state's Buddhist circuit.

A 50-member delegation from five ASEAN nations - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam - participated in the tour. The group included Buddhist monks, travel agents, and social media influencers.

UP's Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said that under CM Yogi Adityanath's leadership, Uttar Pradesh is committed to promote its rich Buddhist heritage on a global platform.

The recently held 'Bodhi Yatra' aimed to showcase major Buddhist sites like Shrivasthi, Kapilvastu, Kushinagar and Sarnath, as well as Varanasi, Lucknow, and Agra to the world tourism map, he said.

He informed that during the



trip, the visiting delegation explored important sites such as the Ananda Bodhi Tree, Jetavana Monastery, Piprahwa Stupa, Mahaparinirvana Stupa, Dhamek Stupa, Ashokan Pillar, and several Buddhist museums.

Jaiveer Singh added that the

state government has focused on improving infrastructure, enhancing tourist facilities, and preserving the cultural significance of these sacred places.

Earlier in Lucknow, the international delegation met CM Adityanath and learned about

Uttar Pradesh's rich and deeply rooted Buddhist heritage.

The Tourism Department extended a warm welcome with traditional hospitality and special presentations, showcasing the spiritual and cultural significance of each site on the 'Bodhi Yatra' itinerary.

Business-to-business (B2B) meetings were also held during the 'Bodhi Yatra', helping strengthen tourism and cultural ties between India and Southeast Asian countries.

The Tourism Minister said that this effort will not only bring global recognition to UP's Buddhist legacy, but also boost tourism and contribute to the state's economic growth.

HISTORIC SPACE MISSION

Prayers offered for success of Shubhanshu

Lucknow-born Shukla's much-awaited Axiom-4 space mission was originally scheduled May 29 but deferred to June 8 and then for June 10 before being rescheduled for June 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 10: Special prayers were offered in Lucknow Tuesday for the success of the thrice-postponed lift-off of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, on board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket, that would propel him into history as the first Indian to step onto the International Space Station.

Lucknow-born Shukla's much-awaited Axiom-4 space mission was originally scheduled May 29 but deferred to June 8 and then for June 10 before being rescheduled for June 11.

The space voyage of the 39-year-old IAF officer, from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, will also mark India's return to human spaceflight after Rakesh Sharma's 1994 odyssey. While the IAF officer's family offered special prayers Tuesday, a day that coincided with the fifth and last 'Bada Mangal' celebrations, unique to state capital, the City Montessori School's (CMS) Aliganj branch, where the Lucknow boy studied, organised a 'yagna' to pray for the success of the space mission.

The yagna was attended by CMS manager Dr Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, school president Dr Roger Kingdon, Shukla's

parents Asha and Shambhu Shukla, his elder sisters Shuchi and Nishi Mishra, along with teachers.

Several students many of whom appeared "inspired enough to dream of becoming an astronaut" were also present.

"We teach science but we also concede that there is some invisible power which guides us towards bigger goals. The space odyssey of one of our brightest alumnus is surely one such moment of great significance, not only for us but for the country and that is why we held special prayers and performed a yagna to ensure that the blessings of the universe are with him (Shukla)," Dr Kingdon told PTI.

Cutouts of Shukla in his astronaut suit has dominated his Lucknow home, like at many other places in the city. About 15 large hoardings have been erected in several parts of the state capital to congratulate the astronaut ahead of his historic mission. "We are frequently getting visitors or calls, the main attraction of all being the space voyage of our son," the astronaut's father Shambhu Shukla told PTI.

IAF officer's mother Asha said that her son, who has been training in Houston over the last several months and is now in quarantine ahead of his mission, regularly calls them up.

"There is one thing about my son...he has accomplished everything he has set his mind to and that is why I am relaxed ahead of his space flight," she said.

Shukla is also part of India's Gaganyaan, country's first manned mission scheduled for 2027.





Public have a chance in the Ludhiana West bypoll to give a reply to the AAP government for having failed to honour its promises

ANURAG THAKUR | BJP MP AND FORMER UNION MINISTER

PROHIBITORY ORDERS LIFTED FROM DHUBRI

With no new untoward incident reported following communal tension, the Dhubri district administration Tuesday withdrew the prohibitory orders from the headquarters town and allowed all shops to open, officials said



of the day note

During these 11 years, we have seen the rise of an India which takes pride in its heritage, faces challenges strongly and weaves ambitious dreams for the future

The NCP was founded on the ideologies of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj. Some people question our decision to join hands with the BJP and the Mahayuti coalition

In 2013, the BJP gave the slogan 'acche din aane waale hai' (good days will come), and now, after 11 years, we can say that 'acche din aye hai' (good days have arrived). Now we are looking at Viksit Bharat 2047

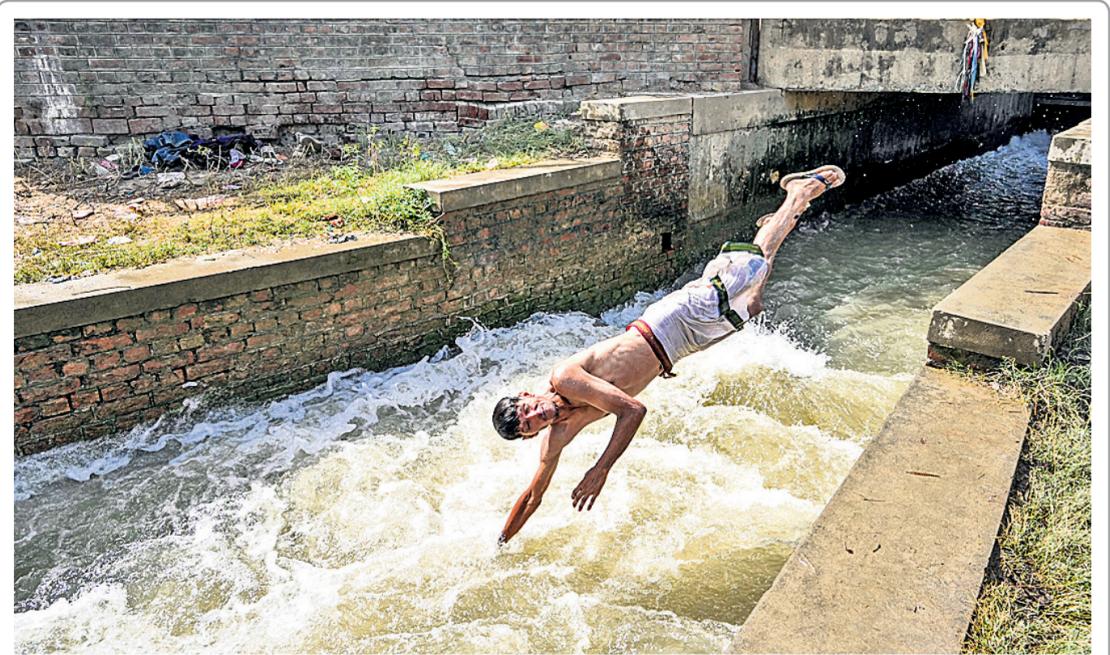
SNIPPETS

Cong to undertake caste re-enumeration in K'taka

New Delhi: The Congress Tuesday said it has decided to hold caste re-enumeration in Karnataka to address concerns of some communities who complained of being left out of the survey that was conducted 10 years ago. The party's top brass met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy and Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar at the Congress' new headquarters and discussed various issues, including the June 4 stampede in Bengaluru. Sources said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi expressed their displeasure over the involvement of the state government in the IPL victory celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) during which 11 people lost their lives in the stampede.

Adityanath slams 'glorification' of Salar Masud

Bahraich (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday opposed the glorification of Syed Salar Masud Ghazi, revered as a warrior-saint from the 11th century, saying the punishment given to the "foreign invader" after being captured "guaranteed him a place in hell according to Islam". "Freedom from the slave mentality means a complete ban on events held in the name of Salar Masud," the Chief Minister said while addressing a gathering at the inauguration of a statue of Maharaja Suheldev and the launch of 384 development projects worth Rs 1,243 crore in Bahraich. The Chief Minister participated in the 'Vijayotsav' programme marking the victory of Maharaja Suheldev, an icon of the Rajbhar community who killed Ghaznavid general Syed Salar Masud in a battle on the banks of the Chittora Lake in Bahraich in 1033 AD. "I had said on the soil of Bahraich that glorification of foreign invaders should be stopped and that the national heroes must be honoured. And 1,000 years ago, such a tale of courage and bravery was written by Maharaja Suheldev on this very soil of Bahraich," he said.



A youth jumps into a canal for respite from the scorching heat, on the outskirts of Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

MAN, 2 KIDS JUMP OFF BUILDING TO ESCAPE FIRE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 10: Three members of a family, including two children, were killed when they jumped out of a balcony to escape a massive fire that broke out in their eighth and ninth-floor flat in Delhi's Dwarka area Tuesday morning, police said.

The fire started from a temple located on the eighth floor of the building and quickly spread through PVC panels, a senior police official said.

The deceased were identified as Yash Yadav (41), his daughter Ashima (12) and his nephew Shivam Yadav (11). The family lives in the top two floors of the building. Yadav, who along with his family shifted to Delhi 10 years ago, is a native of Uttar Pradesh's Etah.

The official said that Yadav's sister, her children and sister-in-law gathered at his flat in Dwarka's Shabad Apartment in Sector 13 after attending a religious event (Bhagwat Katha). There were 12 people in the

house at the time of the incident. When the fire broke out around 9.30 am, all members of the family tried to escape by going to the ninth floor through the stairs. However, Ashima and Shivam got trapped, and Yash returned to save them, police said.

They took shelter on the eighth-floor balcony, believing it would be safer than staying inside as the stairs were also engulfed in flames. "When the fire spread, balcony window panes shattered and intense flames burnt Yadav's face and arms," his relative Yogesh Yadav said. According to Yogesh, Yadav jumped first and moments later, both Ashima and Shivam also jumped off the balcony. Several purported videos of the incident that surfaced online showed them jumping off the building.

The children were rushed to Akash Hospital where they were declared dead. Yash was rushed to IGI Hospital and was declared dead. Two other people in the family, Yash's wife

and his elder son (18) have also suffered injuries. Yadav's sister and nephew along with a few other relatives had come to stay at his residence for a religious event that was being held in Mohan Gardens nearby for two to three days. "Bhagwat Katha was being held at his sister's house about 3 kilometres away, and the family had returned late Sunday night to rest. No one could imagine this would happen," said Yadav's friend Amit Bhandari, who could barely hold back tears.

Visuals from the site show the building engulfed in flames with people standing in their balconies and crying for help.

According to the Delhi Fire Service, the department received a call about the blaze at 10.01 am. Initially, eight fire tenders were rushed to the spot, but as the magnitude of the fire became evident, more engines were deployed.

Black smoke was billowing out of the upper floors, and flames were leaping out of the flat, a fire officer present at the spot said. Several videos of the incident surfaced on social media and showed passers-by filming the fire on their mobile phones.

"God help them!" a video recorded by a woman from an adjacent building had a voice say. Family members alleged the fire brigade reached the spot late. A police officer said that when the incident took place, all essential services such as electricity and PNG connections were shut down. He said that DDA and MCD have been informed to assess the structural stability of the building.

ATROCITIES AGAINST INDIANS

PM must talk to Trump: Congress



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi should immediately talk to US President Donald Trump to appeal for intervention on the "mistreatment and atrocities" against Indians, the Congress said Tuesday after a video emerged showing an Indian student being handcuffed and pinned to the floor at a US airport.

Congress leaders shared the video and pictures of the Indian student handcuffed and pinned to the floor at the Newark Airport before he was allegedly deported. The Consulate General of India in New York has said it is in touch with local authorities.

"We have come across social media posts claiming that an Indian national is facing difficulties at Newark Liberty International Airport. We are in touch with local authorities in this regard," the Indian Consulate said in a post on X. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Modi government is continuously

failing to protect the honour of India and Indians.

"For the first time in history, a US head of state has announced a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Washington DC. The US President is continuously claiming credit for maintaining pressure on India. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi has not been able to summon the courage to speak - either on the ceasefire or on the atrocities being perpetrated against Indians in the US," Ramesh said in a post on X. Protecting the honour of India and Indians is one of the most important responsibilities of the Prime Minister of India, he asserted.

"We demand that Prime Minister Modi should talk to President Trump and appeal for intervention in the atrocities happening against Indians and the fear that has gripped lakhs of Indian students in America," Ramesh said.

He called on Modi to appeal to Trump for intervention on the "mistreatment and atrocities" being committed against Indians in America.

Modi meets members of all-party delegations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday evening met members of multi-party delegations who had travelled to world capitals to convey India's strong stand against Pakistan-linked terrorism following Operation Sindoor.

Members shared their experience with the Prime Minister, with the central government having already 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.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already met the delegations and lauded their efforts in conveying India's strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Four delegations were led by MPs of the ruling alliance, including two from the BJP, one from JD(U) and one from Shiv Sena, while three were led by opposition MPs, one each of the Congress, DMK and NCP(SP).

BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad and Baijyant Panda, Congress' Shashi Tharoor, JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, DMK's Kanimozhi, and NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule led their delegations to different parts of the world.

Ajit Pawar's NCP rules out reunion with Sharad's faction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 10: Celebrating the 26th foundation day of the party, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP Tuesday said there was no proposal of reunion with the rival faction, while NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule too avoided making any statement despite the recent buzz over the issue.

The Nationalist Congress Party co-founded by Sharad Pawar 26 years ago split in 2023 when his nephew Ajit Pawar walked away to join the BJP-Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra.

Both the factions marked the foundation day in Pune by holding separate events.

Sunil Tatkare, state NCP chief, said to join the NDA was a collective decision for the "welfare of the people", and not a decision of Ajit Pawar -- currently Maharashtra deputy chief minister -- alone. "...It was not a personal decision. It was a collective decision to join the NDA under Ajit Pawar's leadership. I have clarified often that from 2014 onwards, there were several occasions when the decision to join the (BJP-led) alliance was taken by the (then undivided) party. We were almost on the verge of joining the NDA, but at the last moment, the decision was changed," he said.

41 years on, an Indian astronaut set to script history

Lucknow-born Shukla, who goes by the call sign 'Shuks', is part of an ISRO-NASA supported commercial spaceflight by Axiom Space which is expected to lift off for a 14-day sojourn to the International Space Station from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida Wednesday evening

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla stands on the cusp of history as he prepares to set off on a space odyssey, marking India's return to space flight 41 years after his idol Rakesh Sharma orbited the earth for eight days as part of Soviet Union's Interkosmos programme.

Lucknow-born Shukla, who goes by the call sign 'Shuks', is part of an ISRO-NASA supported commercial spaceflight by Axiom Space which is expected to lift off for a 14-day sojourn to the International Space Station from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida Wednesday evening. A Group Captain in the In-

dian Air Force, Shukla was selected to be part of India's astronaut corps in 2019 along with fellow officers Prasanth Balkrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap and Ajit Krishnan for the Gaganyaan mission which is likely to be launched in 2027.

Born October 10, 1985, in Lucknow, Shukla did his schooling from City Montessori School before joining the National Defence Academy.

He was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in 2006, and has over 2,000 hours of flying time on a wide range of aircraft including the Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, and Dornier-228.

He holds an MTech in Aerospace Engineering from the



Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

Shukla and the three other Gaganyaan astronaut designates underwent extensive training at Russia's Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre and ISRO's Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru.

Shukla's crewmates on the Axiom-4 mission, commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Tibor Kapu from Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, de-

scribe him as "operational-savvy", "focussed" and "wicked smart" when it comes to space technologies.

"This is not just my journey; this is the journey of 1.4 billion Indians. Even if this story can change one life or inspire one young person, it will be a success," Shukla said in a press interaction ahead of the launch.

Shukla's travel to space marks India's return to human spaceflight 41 years after Rakesh Sharma scripted histo-



Today, there is a stable government, able leadership and because of that there is a growth and because of that growth there is development and because of that development prosperity is very well seen with bare eyes in the country

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

YOUTUBER JYOTI MALHOTRA MOVES COURT, SEEKS BAIL

Social media influencer Jyoti Malhotra, arrested on suspicion of espionage last month, Tuesday sought regular bail from a local court, her lawyer said. Malhotra moved a regular bail plea before Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Sunil Kumar through her lawyer Kumar Mukesh



of the day quote

We believe science must be shared and that partnerships, not patents, must shape the future

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION MINISTER

On every matter related to national security, we have changed both attitude and way of action of the government. The world saw this change during the recent Operation Sindoor

RAINATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

It shows that Rahul Gandhi is more concerned about Pakistan...so that if India says our one jet was destroyed, it can be flashed on Pakistani television

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

POST OF THE DAY

The biggest change that people should notice as we shift the recommendation algorithm to use more of @Grok AI is that banger posts from small accounts should start showing up in your feed

@elonmusk

SHORT TAKES

2 bullet-riddled bodies found

Patna: A day after a double murder rocked the state capital, two bullet-riddled bodies were found in Patna's Bikram locality Tuesday morning, police said. The identities of the deceased have not yet been disclosed. Speaking to reporters, Paliganj Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Umeshwar Choudhary said, "Police received a call around 6 am that two bodies were lying near Majhauri rural road, under the jurisdiction of Bikram police station. A team reached the spot and found that both had bullet injuries. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination."

8 drown in Banas river in Tonk

Jaipur: Eight men drowned in the Banas river in Rajasthan's Tonk district Tuesday, police said. Three others were rescued and their condition is stable, Superintendent of Police, Tonk, Vikas Sangwan, said. He said a group of 11 men aged between 25 and 30 years had entered the river for taking a bath when they slipped into deep water. "They were taken out and rushed to a hospital where doctors declared eight of them dead," he said. The SP said it was not immediately clear how they slipped into the deep water.

Jagan condemns journo's arrest

Amaravati: YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy Tuesday condemned the arrest of senior journalist Kommineni Srinivasa Rao and attacks on a vernacular news channel, calling it an "assault on democracy". The Andhra Pradesh police had Monday arrested the senior journalist in Hyderabad for allegedly hosting a programme, where disparaging remarks against greenfield capital city Amaravati were made. "Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is using fake narratives and organised violence to divert public anger and escape accountability," said Reddy in a post on X, calling the actions a "deliberate attack" on democratic institutions.

HONEYMOON MURDER

'Raj, 3 other accused knew each other well'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore/Shillong, June 10: Raj Kushwaha, who allegedly plotted the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi with the latter's wife Sonam during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, and three other men hired for executing the crime knew each other since the past, police officials said. Indore Police also claimed Kushwaha, the suspected boyfriend of Sonam, didn't travel to the northeastern state to avoid suspicion and went about his daily routine.

Despite being a Class XII pass-out, Kushwaha worked as an accountant at the furniture sheet unit owned by the family of Sonam, a resident of the Govind Nagar Kharcha area in Indore. She used to look after the family business.

After their wedding May 11 in Indore, Raja and Sonam travelled to the northeastern state for honeymoon. They disappeared May 23, hours after checking out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where Raja's body was found June 2. Raja was killed by three men allegedly hired by Sonam, who went 'missing'. She surfaced in UP's Ghazipur Sunday night where she surrendered at the Nandganj police station after Akash Rajput (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Anand Kurmi were arrested from UP and Indore and Sagar towns.



A VIRAL VIDEO SHOWED RAJ COMFORTING SONAM'S FATHER, DEVI SINGH RAGHUVANSHI, WHO REACHED THE HOUSE OF RAJA BEFORE THE FUNERAL

ON THE OTHER HAND, RAJA'S FATHER ASHOK RAGHUVANSHI DEMANDED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR ALL CULPRITS

Raj Singh Kushwaha (21), the alleged conspirator, was arrested later. Prima facie, there is no previous criminal record against all four accused, aged 20 to 25 years, in local police stations, an Indore Police official said, adding that the accused have known each other for long.

Kushwaha and three other accused are currently in the transit custody of Meghalaya Police.

According to police, Sonam Raghuvanshi allegedly orchestrated the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi during their honeymoon in the scenic

town of Sohra in Meghalaya.

A tourist guide from Sohra in Meghalaya, who alerted police about the presence of three men accompanying Raja and Sonam on the day they went missing, Tuesday claimed that he identified one of the suspects after seeing some photographs.

The autopsy report of Raja Raghuvanshi indicated that he was hit twice with a sharp object on his head, officials at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) said.

The autopsy report indicated there were two sharp cuts on the head of the deceased — one from behind and one from the front," East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said.

Meghalaya Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) has availed a transit remand for Sonam and they are bringing her to Shillong where she will be produced in court.

BANGALORE STAMPEDE

K'taka HC posts hearing to June 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 10: The Karnataka High Court Tuesday posted to June 12, further hearing on a petition initiated by it on the June 4 stampede at the Chinnaswamy stadium.

Eleven people were killed in the stampede during a celebratory event to mark Royal Challenger Bangalore's (RCB) maiden IPL triumph last week. The court Tuesday ordered Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty to file a reply in a sealed cover. During the hearing, AG Shetty submitted that he has not yet filed his reply. Shetty requested for a sealed-envelope

submission, stating that in the pending bail petitions being heard concurrently, any statements made in the case were being used by the accused. The court permitted Shetty to file the reply in a sealed cover by June 12, emphasising safe custody by the Registrar General.

The suo-motu petition was heard by a division bench of acting Chief Justice V Kameshwar Rao and Justice C M Joshi. A former member of the Legislative Council sought to be impleaded in the petition. Meanwhile, a lawyer mentioned that he is also filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) regarding the stampede.

Kerala: Oil spill feared from burning Singaporean ship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi/Mangalore, June 10: As fire continued to rage on and explosions rocked the Singapore-flagged ship off the Kerala coast Tuesday, authorities issued an oil spill advisory while a Chinese engineer rescued from the burning vessel suffered critical injuries.

While 18 crew members were recovered from MV Wan Hai 503 and brought to Mangalore late Monday, four remain unaccounted for. Port workers described emotional scenes as the injured disembarked — some helped by fellow crewmates, others in stretchers, whispering prayers of gratitude or anxiously inquiring about their



missing colleagues.

The vessel caught fire Monday, and more than 24 hours later, flames were reported from the mid-ship area and container bay just ahead of the accommodation block, Indian Coast Guard officials said. The forward bay fire has been brought under control, but thick smoke continues to rise from the vessel. The ship is

listing approximately 10 to 15 degrees to port, and more containers have reportedly fallen overboard, they said.

ICG ships Samudra Prahari and Sachet are carrying out firefighting and boundary cooling operations at sea to prevent the flames from spreading further. Meanwhile, Coast Guard vessel Samarth, carrying a team of salvors, is being deployed from Kochi to support ongoing efforts. An ICG Dornier aircraft conducted an aerial survey of the incident site. The major fire broke out on board the Singapore-flagged ship after a container explosion.

Following the incident, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

(INCOIS) issued advisories warning of drifting containers and a potential oil spill.

The ship, which was en route to Nhava Sheva, Mumbai from Colombo, experienced an explosion in one of its containers, sparking a massive onboard fire while sailing roughly 70 nautical miles off Kozhikode. The vessel is currently adrift. In response, INCOIS activated its Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT) to track possible drift patterns of containers, debris, or people who may have gone overboard. According to the latest simulations, there is a 70-80 per cent probability that drifting objects may move south-southeastward from the incident site over the next three days.

Steeling through the Mountains: Kashmir's rail revolution



JAYA VARMA SINHA

On a clear June day, draped in marigold flowers and national pride, the Vande Bharat Express began its maiden journey from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar. Flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the moment marked more than the launch of a high-speed train. It was the culmination of a century-old dream—one forged in steel, vision, and unyielding resolve. The rail unification of Kashmir with the rest of India is that resolve. It is evident on the happy faces of the people travelling on the train.

Train to Kashmir with an ultra modern travel experience runs on the solid foundation of our engineers. Cutting short the travel time, high speed Vande Bharat trains are running twice a day, six times a week from both sides. They are not only bringing much needed push for the local economic development in the valley but are also proving out to

be a boon for the tourists from across the country.

The picturesque journey with ultra modern comforts in such a short time of three hours vis a vis road journey of six to seven hours has truly unified hilly Kashmir with the rest of India in all weathers for us. For decades, Kashmir's story has been told through the lens of conflict and remoteness. It's heartening to see it being rewritten in the language of infrastructure — bridges, tunnels, and rail lines threading their way through the mountains. Coming on the eve of 11 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's governance at the centre, the special trains and the connecting link are all set to change the destiny of locals in Kashmir.

In its 172-year history of service to the nation, Indian Railways has proudly crossed many important milestones.

From isolation to integration

Historically, Kashmir's isolation was more than metaphorical—it was geographic and punishingly real. Tucked high in the Himalayas and routinely cut off by snow for days, the region remained distant not just in reach but even experience. Roads were often treacherous, air travel limited, and full rail connectivity a mirage long promised.

A British-era proposal for a Kashmir rail link remained on the drawing board for decades, hindered by complex geopolitical challenges. After countless rounds of delibera-



tions, feasibility studies, technical evaluations, and consultations with both domestic and international experts, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) was officially sanctioned in 1994. While the northern and southern sections progressed steadily and were effectively completed within a decade, the central stretch—from Katra to Banihal—posed an engineering and security challenge of Himalayan proportions. For years, the rail line lingered as two disconnected segments—like outstretched hands reaching across a chasm of mountains. But that chasm symbolised more than just physical terrain. The final push to complete the

USBRL project came when the government declared it a national priority. With firm resolve and cutting-edge technology working in tandem, the project finally saw light at the end of

the tunnel—quite literally. As Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw aptly remarked, this was far more than a transportation initiative; it was a nation-building effort.

Where steel defies the Sky

The USBRL project may well be the most ambitious rail initiative since Independence. The 272-km stretch between Udhampur and Baramulla snakes through 40 tunnels and over 900 bridges. And at the center of it all is the record-breaking Chenab Bridge — the tallest railway bridge in the world, standing 359 meters above the riverbed. This marvel of engineering is capable of withstanding wind speeds up to 260 kmph and tremors of seismic zone-V. Beside it stands the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, stretching asymmetrically across a valley, anchored by

a single pylon and supported by 96 cables. Tunnels, including the 11-kilometer-long T-80 (Banihal - Qazigund) tunnel through the Pir Panjal range, have been carved through fragile rock with a mix of dynamite and human grit.

A train called hope

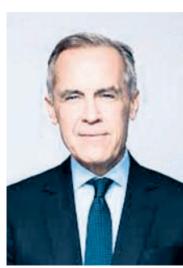
In many ways, the Vande Bharat Express is not just a train—it is a metaphor. It glides quietly through meadows and valleys, bridging distances both physical and psychological, proclaiming that Kashmir is no longer distant!

It has reduced travel time between Srinagar and Katra to just over three hours, down from nearly six.

A new journey, still unfolding

This is not to suggest that one train will solve Kashmir's complex problems. Infrastructure cannot erase history or immediately heal wounds — security concerns will need addressing yet. But it can open doors—both literal and symbolic. And it can lay the groundwork for integration that is economic, social, and, ultimately, emotional. What began as a dream on drawing boards in colonial offices has become a reality on steel rails blending with Himalayan rock. The rail line to Kashmir is the story of a country that refused to be daunted by terrain, terror, or time. From mountain shadows to sunlit stations, a new journey has begun!

The writer is the ex CEO & Chairman Railway Board



Our goal is to protect Canadians, not to satisfy NATO accountants MARK CARNEY | CANADA PRIME MINISTER

UK, OTHERS SANCTION TWO ISRAELI MINISTERS

Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway have imposed sanctions on two far-right Israeli government ministers for allegedly "inciting extremist violence" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich face asset freezes and travel bans from the five countries. The ministers are champions of expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank.



Pak ups defence budget by 20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 10: Pakistan Tuesday increased its defence budget by 20 per cent, allocating PRs. 2,550 billion (USD 9 billion) for the fiscal year 2025-26, amid tensions with India.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the PRs. (Pakistani Rupees) 17,573 billion worth federal budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 in the National Assembly. He also presented the budget document as a finance bill in the National Assembly.

In his speech, the minister said that the government has "decided to allocate PRs. 2,550 for the defence of the country".

He didn't provide any further details about the defence spending as traditionally the defence budget is not discussed by the parliament.

Last year, the government allocated PRs. 2,122 billion for defence, reflecting a 14.98 per cent increase over PRs. 1,804 billion budgeted for the fiscal year 2023-24.

"This budget is being presented at a historic time when the nation showed unity [and] determination," the minister said at the start while mentioning the recent Pak-India conflict.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, with India carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir May 7.

of the day quote

Having our own energy in this country that we control, gives us security, gives us independence, so (Russian President Vladimir) Putin can't put his boot on our throat KEIR STARMER | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

I would believe that in the case of the European Union, we are really very near. I think we are very close to finalising a very good, robust free trade agreement with the EU faster than most people would imagine PIYUSH GOYAL | INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

It's unbelievable that it took so long for Western governments to sanction Israeli politicians, and the fact that it's being done while Trump is president is quite amazing ETAY MACK | ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

LA's image scuffed with Olympics on horizon



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, June 10: This isn't the image Los Angeles wanted projected around the globe.

Clouds of tear gas wafting over a throng of protesters on a blocked freeway. Federal immigration agents in tactical garb raiding businesses in search of immigrants without legal status. A messy war of words between President Donald Trump and Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Photos captured several Waymo robotaxis set on fire and graffiti scrawled on a federal detention centre building, while videos recorded the sounds of rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades hitting crowds.

In a city still reeling from January's deadly wildfires — and with the World Cup soccer championships and the 2028 Olympics on the horizon — Mayor Karen Bass has been urging residents to come together to revitalise LA's image by sprucing up streets, planting trees and painting murals so LA shows its best face to nations near and far.

"It's about pride," she said. "This is the city of dreams."

Instead, a less flattering side of Los Angeles has been broadcast to the world in recent days. Protests have mostly taken place in a small swath of downtown in the sprawling city of 4 million people. As Trump has activated near-

ly 5,000 troops to respond in the city, Bass has staunchly pushed back against his assertions that her city is overrun and in crisis.

Bass, in response to Trump, said she was troubled by depictions that the city has been "invaded and occupied by illegal aliens and criminals, and that now violent, insurrectionist mobs are swarming our federal agents. I don't know if anybody has seen that happen, but I've not seen that happen."

The series of protests began Friday outside a federal detention centre, where demonstrators demanded the release of more than 40 people arrested by federal immigration authorities. Immigration advo-

Trump sends Marines to quell protests

Los Angeles: Another 2,000 National Guard troops along with 700 Marines are headed to Los Angeles on orders from President Donald Trump, escalating a military presence local officials and Gov. Gavin Newsom don't want and the police chief says creates logistical challenges for safely handling protests.

Trump doubled the number of Guard troops being deployed soon after the first wave of 2,000 began arriving Sunday, amid the most violent outbreaks during four days of protests driven by anger over the president's stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws that critics say are breaking apart migrant families.

Monday's demonstrations were far less raucous, with thousands peacefully attending a rally at City Hall and hundreds protesting outside a federal complex that includes a detention centre where some immigrants are being held following workplace raids across the city.

The protests in Los Angeles, a city of 4 million people,

catates say the people who were detained do not have criminal

have largely been centred in several blocks of downtown. At daybreak Tuesday, guard troops were stationed outside the detention centre but there was no sign of the Marines.

Trump has described Los Angeles in dire terms that Mayor Karen Bass and Newsom say are nowhere close to the truth. They say he is putting public safety at risk by adding military personnel even though police say they don't need the help.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said in a statement he was confident in the police department's ability to handle large-scale demonstrations and that the Marines' arrival without coordinating with the police department would present a "significant logistical and operational challenge" for them.

Newsom called the deployments reckless and "disrespectful to our troops" in a post on the social platform X.

"This isn't about public safety," Newsom said. "It's about stroking a dangerous President's ego."

histories and are being denied their due process rights.

SHORT TAKES

RFK Jr ousts vaccine advisory committee

Washington: Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr Monday removed every member of a scientific committee that advises the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines and pledged to replace them with his own picks. Major physicians groups criticised the move to oust all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practices. Kennedy, who was one of the nation's leading anti-vaccine activists before becoming the nation's top health official, has not said who he would appoint to the panel, but said it would convene in just two weeks in Atlanta. Although it's typically not viewed as a partisan board, the Biden administration had installed the entire committee. "Without removing the current members, the current Trump administration would not have been able to appoint a majority of new members until 2028," Kennedy wrote. "A clean sweep is needed to re-establish public confidence in vaccine science."

5 Indian nationals die in Kenya mishap

Doha: At least five Indian nationals, residing in Qatar, were killed after their bus met with an accident in Kenya, where they were on a holiday, the Embassy of India in Doha said Tuesday. "A group of 28 Indians from Qatar were visiting Kenya, where their bus met with an unfortunate road accident yesterday," the mission said in a post on X. As per available information, five Indian nationals have lost their lives in the accident, it said. Officials from the High Commission of India in Nairobi are on the ground and extending all help, it added. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic road accident on Ol Jororok-Nakuru Road in Nyandarua County, in which 5 Indian nationals have lost their lives," the High Commission of India in Nairobi posted on X. "Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. We pray for the swift recovery of the injured. The consular team from the High Commission is on the ground and is in close contact with the local authorities to extend all necessary support. We can be reached at +254 734916532," it added.

Israeli navy attacks Yemeni port city



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, June 10: The Israeli navy attacked docks in Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida Tuesday, likely damaging facilities that are key to aid shipments to the hungry, war-ravaged nation.

The Israeli military said navy missile ships conducted the strikes, the first time its forces have been involved in attacks against the Houthi rebels.

Tuesday's attack comes as the Houthis have repeatedly launched missiles and drones targeting Israel during its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Houthis announced the attack via their al-Masirah satellite news channel. They said the attack targeted docks there, without elaborating.

Late Monday, Israel issued online warnings to Yemenis to evacuate from Ras Isa, Hodeida and al-Salif ports over the Houthis' alleged use of seaports for attacks. "The port is used to transfer

weapons and is a further example of the Houthi terrorist regime's cynical exploitation of civilian infrastructure in order to advance terrorist activities," the Israeli military said in a statement Tuesday.

Hodeida also is the main entry point for food and other humanitarian aid for millions of Yemenis since the war began when the Houthis seized Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in 2014.

The Houthis have been launching persistent missile and drone attacks against commercial and military ships in the region in what the group's leadership has described as an effort to end Israel's offensive in Gaza.

From November 2023 until January 2025, the Houthis targeted more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two of them and killing four sailors. That has greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees \$1 trillion of goods move through it annually.

Russia ramps up its military footprint in Africa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakar (Senegal), June 10: Even as it pounds Ukraine, Russia is expanding its military footprint in Africa, delivering sophisticated weaponry to sub-Saharan conflict zones where a Kremlin-controlled armed force is on the rise.

Skirting sanctions imposed by Western nations, Moscow is using cargo ships to send tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and other high-value equipment to West Africa, The Associated Press has found.

Relying on satellite imagery and radio signals, AP tracked a convoy of Russian-flagged cargo ships as they made a nearly one-month journey from the Baltic Sea. The ships carried howitzers, radio jamming equipment and other military hardware, according to military officials in Europe who closely monitored them. The deliveries could strengthen Russia's fledgling Africa Corps as Moscow competes with the United States, Europe and China for greater influence across the continent.

The two-year-old Africa Corps, which has links to a covert branch of Russia's army, is ascendant at a time when US and European troops have been withdrawing from the region, forced out by sub-Saharan nations turning to Russia for security.

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have been battling fighters linked with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group for more than a decade.



At first, mercenary groups with an arms-length relationship to the Kremlin entered the fray in Africa. But increasingly, Russia is deploying its military might, and intelligence services, more directly.

"We intend to expand our cooperation with African countries in all spheres, with an emphasis on economic cooperation and investments," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "This cooperation includes sensitive areas linked to defense and security."

Russia's 8,800-tonne Baltic Leader and 5,800-tonne Patria are among hundreds of ships that Western nations have sanctioned to choke off resources for Russia's war in Ukraine. The ships docked and unloaded in

Conakry, Guinea, in late May, AP satellite images showed.

Other ships made deliveries to the same port in January. They delivered tanks, armoured vehicles and other hardware that was then trucked overland to neighbouring Mali, according to European military officials and a Malian blogger's video of the long convoy.

The military officials spoke to AP about Russian operations on condition of anonymity. The AP verified the blogger's video, geolocating it to the RN5 highway leading into Bamako, the Malian capital.

After the latest delivery in Conakry, trucks carrying Russian-made armoured vehicles, howitzers and other equipment were again spotted on the over-

land route to Mali.

Malian broadcaster ORTM confirmed that the West African nation's army took delivery of new military equipment. AP analysis of its video and images filmed by the Malian blogger in the same spot as the January delivery identified a broad array of Russian-made hardware, including 152 mm artillery guns and other smaller canons.

AP also identified a wheeled, BTR-80 armoured troop carrier with radio-jamming equipment, as well as Spartak armoured vehicles and other armoured carriers, some mounted with guns. The shipment also included at least two semi-inflatable small boats, one with a Russian flag painted on its hull, as well as tanker trucks, some marked "inflammable" in Russian on their sides.

The military officials who spoke to AP said they believe Russia has earmarked the most potent equipment — notably the artillery and jamming equipment — for its Africa Corps, not Malian armed forces. Africa Corps appears to have been given air power, too, with satellites spotting at least one Su-24 fighter-bomber at a Bamako air base in recent months.

For years, French forces supported counterinsurgency operations in Mali and neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger. But France pulled out its troops after coups in Mali in 2020 and 2021, in Burkina Faso in 2022 and Niger in 2023. Russian mercenaries stepped into the vacuum.

Israel deports Greta after seizing Gaza-bound ship she was on

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, June 10: Israel deported activist Greta Thunberg Tuesday, the country's Foreign Ministry said, a day after the Gaza-bound ship she was on was seized by the Israeli military.

Thunberg left on a flight to France and was then headed to her home country of Sweden, the Foreign Ministry said in a post on X. It posted a photo of Thunberg, a climate activist who shuns air travel, seated on a plane.

Speaking upon arrival at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport, Thunberg called for the release of the other activists who were detained aboard the Freedom Flotilla. She described a "quite chaotic and uncertain" situation during the detention. She said the conditions they

faced "are absolutely nothing compared to what people are going through in Palestine and especially Gaza right now."

"We were well aware of the risks of this mission," Thunberg said from the Paris airport. "The aim was to get to Gaza and to be able to distribute the aid." She said the activists would continue trying to get aid to Gaza.

Thunberg said it appears she is headed back to Sweden, hasn't had access to a phone in a few days, and wants a shower. The activists were held separately and some had trouble accessing lawyers, she added. Asked why she agreed to deportation, she said, "Why would I want to stay in an Israeli prison more than necessary?"

Thunberg called on supporters to ask their governments to mobilise "to demand not only



humanitarian aid being let into Gaza but most importantly an end to the occupation and an end to the systemic oppression and violence that Palestinians are facing on an everyday basis."

She said recognising Palestine is "the very, very

minimum" that governments can do to help.

She was escorted by police out of the terminal, carrying no bags, as a few supporters applauded.

Thunberg was one of 12 passengers on the Madleen, a ship carrying aid to Gaza that was

meant to protest Israel's ongoing war there and shed light on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory, according to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the group behind the journey.

Israeli naval forces seized the boat without incident early Monday about 200 kilometres off of Gaza's coast, according to the coalition, which along with rights groups, said Israel's actions were a violation of international law. Israel rejects that charge because it says such ships intend to breach what it argues is a lawful naval blockade of Gaza.

The boat, accompanied by Israel's navy, arrived in the Israeli port of Ashdod Monday evening.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition said three activists, including Thunberg, had been de-

ported along with a journalist. It said it had encouraged some of the group to do this so they could speak freely about their experiences.

Eight other passengers refused deportation and were being held in detention before their case is to be heard by Israeli authorities. Adalah, a legal rights group in Israel representing the activists, said the eight were expected to be brought before a court later Tuesday.

"Their detention is unlawful, politically motivated and a direct violation of international law," the coalition said in a statement. It called for the remaining passengers to be released without deportation and said their lawyers would demand that they be allowed to complete their journey to Gaza.

business

of the day quote

As we enter the third quarter of 2025, India's employment Outlook remains robust, with a NEO of 42 per cent among the highest globally. Despite a slight dip from the previous quarter, the 12-point year-on-year gain highlights sustained employer confidence and growth momentum in the labour market

SANDEEP GULATI | MD, MANPOWER GROUP INDIA

With ALMM certification of our Butibori plant and the commercial launch of our 720 Wp and 630 Wp N-type TOPCon modules, we are proud to lead India's solar manufacturing revolution

VINEET MITTAL | CHAIRMAN, AVAADA GROUP

Stride Ventures' support marks a pivotal moment in our journey of re-defining Indian QSR. With their partnership, we aim to scale new heights, introduce new formats, and continue building brands that India can be proud of

SAGAR DARYANI | CEO, WOW MOMO

SHORT TAKES

TA Associates exits AU small finance bank

New Delhi: Private equity firm TA Associates Tuesday exited AU Small Finance Bank by selling its entire 1.26 per cent stake in the company for ₹714 crore through an open market transaction. According to the bulk deal data available on the BSE, US-based TA Associates through its arm TA FDI Investors sold 93.90 lakh shares, amounting to a 1.26 per cent stake in Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB). The shares were disposed of at an average price of ₹760.07 apiece, taking the deal value to ₹713.78 crore.

Reliance Infra, Diehl sign pact

New Delhi: Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence Ltd Tuesday announced a strategic cooperation agreement with German arms manufacturer Diehl Defence for production of next-generation terminal guided munitions (artillery shells). The 155mm TGMs, which are equipped with built-in ECCM capabilities that make them less susceptible to enemy electronic jamming attempts, can home in to targets within 10 seconds of reaching the anticipated impact zone. Reliance Defence said it has the market opportunity to potentially generate ₹10,000 crore in revenue through the development and supply of advanced ammunition systems.

World Bank downgrades global growth forecast amid trade war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 10: President Donald Trump's trade wars are expected to slash economic growth this year in US and around the world, World Bank forecast Tuesday.

Citing "a substantial rise in trade barriers" but without mentioning Trump by name, the 189-country lender predicted that US economy the world's largest would grow half as fast (1.4 per cent) this year as it did in 2024 (2.8 per cent).

That marked a downgrade from the 2.3 per cent US growth it had forecast back for 2025 back in January. The bank also lopped 0.4 percentage points off its forecast for global growth this year. It now expects the world economy to expand just 2.3 per cent in 2025, down from 2.8 per cent in 2024.

"The world economy today is once more running into turbulence. Without a swift course correction, the harm to living standards could be deep," World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill wrote.

America's economic prospects have been clouded by Trump's erratic and aggressive trade policies, including 10 per cent tariffs on imports from almost every country in the world. These levies drive up costs in the US and invite retaliation from other countries.

In a forward to the latest version of the twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects report, Gill wrote that the global economy has missed its chance for the



The world economy today is once more running into turbulence. Without a swift course correction, the harm to living standards could be deep

INDERMIT GILL | CHIEF ECONOMIST, WORLD BANK

"soft landing' slowing enough to tame inflation without generating serious pain, it appeared headed for just six months ago.

America's economic prospects have been clouded by Trump's erratic and aggressive trade policies, including 10 per cent tariffs on imports from almost every country in the world. These levies drive up costs in the US and invite retaliation from other countries.

The Chinese economy is forecast to see growth slow from 5 per cent in 2024 to 4.5 per cent this year and 4 per cent next. World Bank expects 20 European countries that share the eu-

SENSEX SNAPS FOUR DAY RALLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 10: Benchmark BSE Sensex closed lower by 53 points in a volatile trade Tuesday, snapping its four-day winning run due to profit-taking in banking and energy shares.

The 30-share Sensex declined by 53.49 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 82,391.72 with 14 of its constituents closing lower, 15 with gains and one remaining unchanged.

The index opened higher and climbed further 235.58 points or 0.28 per cent to 82,680.79 in morning trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out gains of 1.05 points to end at 25,104.25, marking its fifth straight day of gains on the back of gains in IT and pharma shares.

In the past four days, the Nifty has jumped over 560 points or 2.27 per cent while the Sensex rallied 1,707.7 points or 2.11 per cent.

Among Sensex firms, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Maruti, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and Mahin-

dra & Mahindra declined.

Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Infosys, HCL Tech, IndusInd Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and mid-cap index went up 0.04 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT surged the most by 1.63 per cent, followed by IT (1.58 per cent), utilities (1.11 per cent), power (0.95 per cent), teck (0.87 per cent) and commodities (0.40 per cent).

Realty dropped 1.18 per cent, telecommunication (0.55 per cent), financial services (0.46 per cent), services (0.21 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.16 per cent).

Overall market breadth was positive with 2,232 stocks advancing, 1,805 scrips declining and 135 stocks settling unchanged on BSE.

Meanwhile, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data showed that net inflows into equity mutual funds declined by 21.66 per cent to hit a 12-month low of ₹19,013.12 crore in May.

It's the Swiss business persons who will have to choose where in India they would like to set up a Swiss enclave

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK LAUNCHES "LOCATE IOB" INITIATIVE

Indian Overseas Bank Tuesday announced the launch of 'Locate IOB' facility enabling customers to easily identify the nearest branches and ATM networks. The feature allows the bank customers to access IOB's new location tool directly at <http://locate.iob.in> portal or at the bank's website www.iob.in. With more mobile phones and the internet, such tools help the bank deliver an excellent customer support experience, the release said



India, US advance interim trade deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: India and US teams discussed issues pertaining to market access, digital trade, and customs facilitation during the week-long deliberations on the proposed bilateral trade agreement, an official said.

According to the official, both sides agreed to continue negotiations to achieve an expeditious conclusion of the initial tranche of the BTA. India and US are working towards negotiating the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall (September-October) 2025.

To advance the objective of concluding a comprehensive and forward-looking BTA, a US delegation led by Additional US Trade Representative visited India from June 4-10. US has special interest in the digital trade and its digital services providers have often flagged restrictions on cross-border data flows and competition policy as a hindrance in operating in India.

The SPS deals with measures to protect human, animal and plant health from food-borne risks, animal or plant carried diseases and pests. The TBT deals with technical regulations, standards and procedures to comply with SPS.

The farm sector is the one that is covered by these regulations. Customs and trade facilitation involves streamlining of the procedures and process in trade. The negotiations held with US side were productive and helped in making progress towards crafting a mutually beneficial and balanced agreement including through achievement of early wins.

India reduces interest rates, but who will borrow?

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 10: India's central bank is rolling out aggressive monetary easing to revive consumption and investment in the world's fifth-largest economy, but the payoff hinges on whether banks ramp up credit and companies want to take on more debt in uncertain economic conditions.

The Reserve Bank of India Friday cut its key repo rate by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points and slashed banks' cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 bps, taking advantage of cooling inflation as US President Donald Trump's tariff threats add to global uncertainty.

The RBI's pivot comes at a crucial moment. A strong monsoon is expected to lift rural incomes and sentiment, but urban consumption and private investment remain tepid.

The policy shift is in line with the government's broader push to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), critical to create jobs in India.

The MSME sector contributes 29% to India's GDP, 40% of exports and employs over 60% of the country's workforce. In contrast, just 16% of overall bank credit goes towards this sector as of April, RBI data showed.

By unlocking bank funds, the central bank is betting that cheaper credit will revive urban demand, stimulate SME

investment, and complement the rural boost helping broaden economic recovery.

"Boosting consumption alone will not lead to long-term structural growth, the idea is to also boost investments by small and medium sized (SME) firms where there is a large appetite," source said. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the measures aim to push growth toward a higher 'aspirational' trajectory of seven to eight per cent. India's economy is estimated to have grown by 6.5 per cent, and is expected to maintain that pace in fiscal 2026.

All eyes on banks
The success of the RBI's pivot now rests with banks' willingness to lend and borrowers' readiness to take on leverage. In 2023, a sharp uptick in unsecured loans prompted tighter norms by RBI alongside concerns raised about elevated credit-deposit ratios at certain private banks.

This prompted banks to go slow on these segments and moderated bank credit growth. Bank credit rose 11.2 per cent in April compared with 15.3 per cent a year earlier but was sharply below high-teen levels seen in 2023.

In contrast, mid- and small-sized firms are likely to benefit from the additional liquidity created by the CRR cut and RBI has privately urged banks to focus on this segment, the source said.

Equity MFs hit low at ₹19,000cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Inflow in equity mutual funds slumped to its lowest level in 13 months to ₹19,013 crore in May, with large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap funds experiencing lowered inflows, primarily triggered by profit booking by investors.

This also marks the fifth consecutive month of decline in inflow in equity funds and nearly 22 per cent drop in net inflow on a month-on-month basis from ₹24,269 crore registered in April, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) Tuesday.

Despite the deceleration, May marked 51st consecutive month of positive flows into equity-oriented schemes, reflecting sustained investor confidence. Also, systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions remained robust, registering a record ₹26,688 crore in inflows in May, higher than ₹26,632 crore in the preceding month.

Overall, the mutual fund industry experienced an infusion of over ₹29,000 crore in May compared to ₹2.77 lakh crore in the preceding month. The inflow has lifted the industry's assets under management



to a record ₹72.2 lakh crore as of May from ₹70 lakh crore in April-end. According to the data, equity-oriented mutual funds saw an inflow of ₹19,013 crore in May, making it the lowest level since April 2024, when such funds experienced an inflow of ₹18,917 crore.

Such funds witnessed an inflow of ₹24,269 crore in April, ₹25,082 crore in March, ₹29,303 crore in February, ₹39,688 crore in January, and ₹41,156 crore in December.

"The slowdown in net equity inflows can be attributed to several factors, including a rise in equity market performance in May 2025, and a potential phase of consolidation or profit booking by investors.

"Additionally, rising global volatility triggered by geopolitical tensions following India's launch of Operation Sindoor

Rare earth magnet disruption may hit vehicle output

India, which sourced over 80 per cent of its 540 tonnes magnet imports from China last fiscal, has started to feel the impact due to its export restrictions on seven rare earth elements and finished magnets



motive sector if China's export restrictions and delays in shipment clearances persist, Crisil Ratings said in a statement.

"The supply squeeze comes just as the auto sector is preparing for aggressive EV rollouts. Over a dozen new electric models are planned for launch, most built on PMSM platforms," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi said.

While most automakers currently have 4-6 weeks of inventory, prolonged delays could

start affecting vehicle production, with EV models facing deferrals or rescheduling from July 2025. A broader impact on two-wheelers and ICE PVs may follow if the supply bottlenecks persist for an extended period, Sethi said.

"The shortage of rare earth magnets is forcing automakers to reassess supply-chain strategies. Despite contributing less than 5 per cent of a vehicle's cost, these magnets are indispensable for EV motors and electric steering systems," said Crisil Ratings Director Poonam Upadhyay. Automakers are actively engaging with alternative suppliers in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Australia, and US, while also optimising existing inventories.

"With applications across EVs and ICE vehicles, a prolonged supply squeeze could disrupt production of PVs and 2Ws, making this low-cost component a potential high-impact bottleneck for the sector," she said.

The shortage of rare earth magnets is forcing automakers to reassess supply-chain strategies. Despite contributing less than 5 per cent of a vehicle's cost, these magnets are indispensable for EV motors and electric steering systems

POONAM UPADHYAY | DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

Rare earth magnets are integral to Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors (PMSMs) used in EVs for their high torque, energy efficiency and compact size. Hybrids also depend on them for efficient propulsion. In internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, the use of rare earth magnets is largely limited to electric power steering and other motorised systems.

In April this year, China, world's dominant exporter of rare earth magnets, imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements and finished magnets, mandating export licences. The revised framework demands detailed end-use disclosures and client declarations, including confirmation that the products will not be used in defence or re-exported to US. With the clearance process taking at least 45 days, this added scrutiny has significantly delayed approvals.

UCO Bank organises Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival

Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar celebrated its Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival June 9, 2025 at Hotel Pramod, Cuttack. The event was attended by MSME, Agriculture,



Resources customers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Bank Mitra. The occasion was graced by Goutam Patra, General Manager-cum-Convenor SLBC, Odisha, Ankit Rana, General Manager, Recovery & Law Department, UCO Bank, Kolkata, PK Gupta, Joint Director & HOO, MSME DFO, and Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, Deputy General Manager, Bhubaneswar. PK Gupta highlighted the schemes and benefits available for customers from MSME Department, Govt of India. During the event, unique features of bank's newly introduced products i.e. UCO Pharma Growth, Nari Samman & Yuvashakti were presented. The benefits of other flagship products like Abhinandan, Contractor and Trader Schemes were also explained to the participants. The Agriculture Department elaborated the USPs of Agri. products i.e. UCO Amrit Dhara scheme, The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme & other agriculture schemes. Bank's Resources Department highlighted the key benefits of banks newly launched products like UCO Unique, UCO Royal & UCO Privilege. Also the salient features of bank's exclusive Pink Basket designed for women customers' i.e. UCO Aparajita, UCO Jayalaxmi & UCO Sanchayika.

Proteas eye glory over Kangaroos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 10: When it comes to major cricket finals, Australia is in a league of its own. Only Australia has won all four men's global trophies. It is hard to beat in finals, having won 10 of 13 across the 50-over World Cup, 20-over World Cup, Champions Trophy, and World Test Championship. And let's not get started on the women's team, which is even more dominant.

The men go for world title No 11 from Wednesday in the WTC final against South Africa at neutral Lord's.

That ruthless focus Australia brings on the biggest stages is in marked contrast to South Africa, a perennial underachiever. The Proteas have won just one major title, the Champions Trophy in 1998, when most of the current Proteas were toddlers.

An experienced squad — average age 29 1/2 — compensates with a bond that can't be underestimated, a determination to have each other's backs.

That showed often in the 2023-25 WTC cycle as the Proteas, who used 30 players, more than any other team, found a run-scorer or wicket-taker at just the right time. They won their last seven tests and were first to qualify for the final.

"We haven't been super dominant in our performances," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said when the team qualified in December. "We definitely haven't been clinical or ruthless when the opportunity or the situation is called upon. But I think what we've done is that we've found ways to make sure that the result is on our side."

LABUSCHAGNE TO OPEN WITH KHAWAJA

Marnus Labuschagne has moved one place up the batting order to open with Usman Khawaja.

Labuschagne's place in the team was in doubt after a lean 2023-25 WTC cycle — average 28.33 runs — but he was given

WTC FINAL BATTLE AT LORD'S



another shot Tuesday by Australia's failure to find a permanent replacement at opener for David Warner, who retired from tests in January 2024. Labuschagne will open in a test for only the second time in nine years.

"It's one spot up really. It's not too different to batting three," captain Pat Cummins said. Marnus has done well here at Lord's (average 45.33) and in England in general (average 39.36).

"Opening the batting can be tough, but it can also be sometimes the best time to bat, before the Dukes ball actually

starts swinging. There's an opportunity to score there, so just keeping that ball in tow I think is going to mean something."

RABADA READY TO ROLL

The kangaroos will likely to immediately face fearsome South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada. Khawaja will have his hands full. He's fallen to Rabada five times in 10 matches.

Rabada, with 327 wickets, is three away from tying Allan Donald for fourth place on South Africa's all-time list. Rabada will have the company

of left-armer Marco Jansen, who took 29 wickets in six matches in the cycle.

The third seamer will be either Lungi Ngidi, who was one of eight South Africans at the IPL, or Dane Paterson, who has been nipping the ball around for Middlesex in county division two. South Africa has confirmed Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton as the openers and captain Bavuma at No 4. They played in the IPL, too. Middle-order batter David Bedingham, South Africa's leading scorer in the cycle, proved in a warmup

game against Zimbabwe that he's recovered from a broken toe sustained in April.

WINNING WILL BE IMPORTANT: LYON

Winning the ICC World Test Championship title for the second consecutive time here will be an important step in establishing the current side as one of the greatest Australian teams of all times, feels star off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

"It is important that we look at this week as a celebration piece. We've done incredibly well over the last couple of years, at home and away, and that is something that as a team, we should be really proud of," he was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"In my eyes, we're on a journey to becoming a great Australian team. We're not there yet, I'm well aware of that, but that's our goal too."

"This game is another step up that ladder," said the spin ace who took the match-winning wicket of Mohammed Siraj in Australia's win against India in 2023.

Lyon has taken 56 wickets against South Africa in 18 matches and expects a fierce contest with the side captained by Temba Bavuma.

LORD'S HISTORY

Lord's, the home of cricket, holds no demons for both teams. South Africa has lost only once there in seven post-apartheid tests. The last appearance resulted in an innings victory inside three days in 2022.

TEAMS:

SOUTH AFRICA: Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Wiaan Mulder, Temba Bavuma (captain), Tristan Stubbs, David Bedingham, Kyle Verryne, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi

AUSTRALIA: Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Cameron Green, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Beau Webster, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (captain), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood.

FOUR-NATION TOURNAMENT IN BERLIN

Hundal to lead junior men's hockey team



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Experienced drag-flicker Arajjeet Singh Hundal will lead a 24-member Indian junior men's hockey team in the 4-Nation Tournament in Berlin beginning June 21, which will also serve as a preparation for the Junior World Cup scheduled in Chennai and Madurai later this year.

Besides India, the 4-Nation tournament, scheduled from June 21 to 25, will feature Spain, Australia and hosts Germany.

"The tournament is a significant part of our preparation roadmap for the FIH Junior World Cup later this year (November-December). It will give us the chance to play against top-quality international opponents in a competitive setting, which is crucial for the development of these young players," said former India goalkeeper and junior men's coach PR Sreejesh.

The two-time Olympic bronze-medallist added that more than the results, the focus would be on giving the youngsters experience against top-notch sides.

"This tour is less about results and more about preparing these young athletes for the bigger picture. Competing against quality international sides like Germany, Australia, and Spain will challenge our boys in different ways — tactically, physically, and mentally. These are the kind of experiences that shape world-class

players," added the former goalkeeper stalwart.

Hundal, who was a part of the team that won the 2023 Junior Asia Cup gold and also played in the 2023-24 Pro League, will have defender Amir Ali as his deputy.

Each team will play against each other side in a single round-robin pool stage with the top two squaring off in the final. The third and fourth-placed teams will play a classification match. Sreejesh added that the tournament will give him the opportunity to try out different combinations.

"We have picked a squad that brings a healthy balance of energy and potential. This tour will allow us to sharpen our strategies, experiment with combinations, and give players the opportunity to take ownership in critical match situations. These learnings will be invaluable for players as we build towards the Junior World Cup at home," he said.

The Squad:
Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Vivek Lakra; **Defenders:** Amir Ali (vice-captain) Talem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Sunil PB, Anmol Ekka, Rohit, Ravneet Singh, Sukhvinder.

Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Rohit Kullu, Thockchom Kingson Singh, Thoumaojam Ingalemba Luwang, Adrohit Ekka, Jeetpal.

Forwards: Arajjeet Singh Hundal (captain), Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Ajeet Yadav.

Star WI batter Nicholas Pooran retires at 29



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, June 10: Star West Indies (WI) batter Nicholas Pooran Tuesday stunningly announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29 without specifying any reasons but insisted that "much thought and reflection" had gone into taking the call.

His decision came days after he opted out of selection for the T20I series against England.

The swashbuckling left-handed batter finished as West Indies' most capped T20I player with 106 matches and also its highest run-getter, with a tally of 2275 at an average of 26.14 and strike rate of 136.39. In 61 ODI appearances, he scored 1983 runs at an average of 39.66 and strike rate of 99.15.

"After much thought and reflection, I've decided to announce my retirement from international cricket," Pooran, a former West Indies white-ball captain, wrote on his social media pages.

"This game we love has given and will continue to give so much joy, purpose, unforgettable memories, and a chance to represent the people of the West Indies," said the Trinidadian who made his international debut in 2016 in a T20 International match.

"Wearing that maroon, standing for the anthem, and giving everything I had each time I stepped on the field... it's hard to put into words what that truly means to me. To have led the team as captain is a privilege I will always hold close to my heart," he said.

Pooran had recently opted out of selection for West Indies' T20I series against England after playing the full Indian Premier League (IPL) season for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

AFC ASIAN CUP 2027 QUALIFIER

Late penalty hands India defeat against Hong Kong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kowloon (Hong Kong), June 10: There was no stopping Indian football's decline as the senior men's team, lacking in spunk, finishing skill and the will to fight, suffered a calamitous 0-1 defeat to lower-ranked Hong Kong in a crucial 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifier match here Tuesday. Hosts Hong Kong emerged victorious after an injury-time goal by Stefan Pereira.

The referee awarded Hong Kong the penalty after India custodian Vishal Kaith came out of the goalline and tried to punch the ball to safety, only to end up hitting Michael Udebuluzor and injuring the player.

Pereira (90+4) stepped up to take the spot kick and shot the ball to the right of Kaith, who was also shown a yellow card for his injury-time foul.

The latest reverse jeopardised India's prospects of



reaching the next Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, and the team is also set to drop to 133 on the FIFA rankings with Hong Kong gaining points and climbing up in the pecking order.

Such has been the team's woes that head coach Manolo Marquez was forced to convince Sunil Chhetri to come out of retirement a year after he called it quits in international football.

However, even his comeback has not been able to lift the team out of the abyss it has found itself in recent times.

ISSF WORLD CUP: Elavenil bags bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, June 10: Indian shooting ace Elavenil Valarivan settled for the bronze medal after leading for a good part in the women's 10m air rifle final in the ISSF World Cup here Tuesday.

The 25-year-old shot 231.2 to finish third on the podium behind 18-year-old Chinese sensation Wang Zifei, who won gold with 252.7, and Korea's silver medallist Kwon Eunji (252.6).

Varun Tomar (160.3) finished sixth in the final of the men's 10m air pistol competition after qualifying in second place with a total of 585 across six series.

China's Kai Hu won the gold medal with 242.3, while the silver and bronze were bagged by Kazakhstan's Valeriy Rakhimzhan (241.9) and German star Christian Reitz (220.8) respectively.

Seeking ranking points only (RPO), Paris Olympic medallist Sarabjot Singh ended ninth in the qualifications, while Nishant Rawant and Arjun Singh Cheema were 12th and 20th respectively. Aditya Malra finished 30th.



Two-time Olympian Elavenil started with a high 10.7 to set the tone in the final, before coming up with a 10.8 in her next shot. She was just 0.3 points behind Korean Olympic champion Kwon Eunji after the first five shots. Elavenil shot another 10.8 to move into the top spot ahead of Zifei.

The 25-year-old was leading the pecking order after 12 shots with 127.2 with Wang in close second. A couple of 10.1s was followed by a 10.7, bringing her back into contention after she slipped out of top three.

India's national champion Ananya Naidu was placed

15th with a total of 632.4, while Ramita Jindal, shooting for ranking points only (RPO), ended 13th with 632.6.

The other Indians in the event, Meghana Sajjanar (RPO) and Arya Borse ended 25th and 60th respectively.

On day one of the women's 25m pistol qualification, Escha Singh shot 294 to be placed fourth, while Paris Olympics double bronze medallist Manu Bhaker was in 12th place with a score of 290. Simranpreet Kaur Brar shot 288 and was 19th. The rapid fire round will take place Wednesday, which will be followed by the final.

ALCARAZ VS SINNER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 10: The takeaways from Carlos Alcaraz's fifth-set tiebreaker victory over Janik Sinner in the riveting and record-breaking French Open men's final were multiple and significant.

Let's start with this: Anyone worried about how men's tennis would survive in the post-Big three era can rest easy. Alcaraz and Sinner produced 5 1/2 hours of evidence Sunday that the game is in good hands — and that their rivalry will be, and perhaps already is, a transcendent one.

Take it from no less an authority than Roger Federer. The retired owner of 20 Grand Slam titles, and rival of Rafael Nadal (22 majors) and Novak Djokovic (24), began a post on social media by declaring, "3 winners in Paris today," then listed Alcaraz, Sinner and "the

beautiful game of tennis. What a match!"

No 1 Sinner and No 2 Alcaraz could renew their rivalry at Wimbledon. This was the 12th Alcaraz-Sinner meeting, the first in a major final.

"Hopefully not the last time," Alcaraz said. "Every time that we face ... each other, we raise our level to the top."

It would be shocking if there weren't many more of these to come — perhaps as soon as at Wimbledon, where play begins June 30 and No 2-ranked Alcaraz is the two-time defending champion.

His comeback against No 1 Sinner from two sets down, then three championship points down, to win 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) was unprecedented at Roland-Garros. It was unforgettable. Alcaraz's coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, described his guy's best trait this way: "His strength is (to) keep believing



all the time, until the last ball is gone."

Carlos Alcaraz has five Grand Slam titles at age 22.

Alcaraz's five Grand Slam titles at 22 — that's the age at which Nadal, Bjorn Borg and Pete Sampras also got to five; no one's done it younger — show how special he is. So does the Spaniard's 5-0 record in major finals, a career start surpassed



among men only by Federer's 7-0. Sinner is pretty good, too.

Tuesday marks a full year that he has been ranked No 1. He has reached the finals of his last eight tournaments, a run last accomplished by Djokovic a decade ago. He has won three majors. He has won 47 of his last 50 matches.

Notably, all three of those losses came against — yes, you

guessed it — Alcaraz. That hearkens back to the days when Federer would beat everyone other than Nadal. Sinner had claimed 31 Slam sets in a row right up until the moment he was up 2-0 against Alcaraz.

What was unmistakable to anyone watching in-person at Court Philippe-Chatrier or following along from afar on TV is that Alcaraz vs. Sinner is a must-see.

"The level," Alcaraz said, "was insane."

Alcaraz and Sinner have won the last 6 Grand Slam titles.

Sinner's take?

"I'm happy to be part of this," the 23-year-old Italian said. "Would be even more happy if I would have ... the big trophy."

As with any great rivalry — think Evert vs Navratilova or Borg vs McEnroe or Federer vs Nadal, no first names needed — Alcaraz vs Sinner provides a clash of excellence and a study

in contrasts.

Alcaraz displays emotion, pumping his fists, pointing to an ear to ask for more noise, yelling "Vamos!" Sinner is rather contained. Sinner's long limbs get him to nearly every ball. Alcaraz's motor reaches speeds no one can equal. Sinner's ball-striking is pure. Alcaraz's drop shots are legendary. Both hammer groundstrokes that leave opponents exasperated and spectators gasping. Both can improve. Sinner has never won a match that lasted four hours. Alcaraz loses focus on occasion.

Both are eager to improve. When Sinner returned from a three-month doping ban last month, he introduced a new, angled return stance. Alcaraz tweaked his serve and backhand technique. Who knows what heights each can reach? They split the past six Slam trophies, and eight of the past 11.