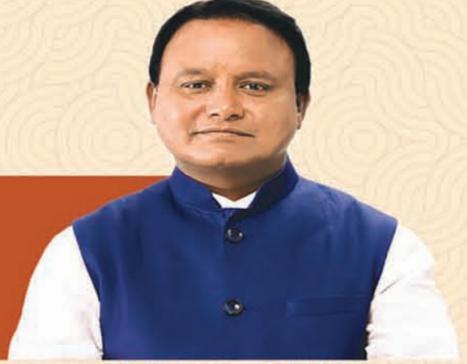




ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

କଥାଦେଇ କଥା ରଖିଲେ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସରକାର

DADLS-29

ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ, ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସରକାର
କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ ହେଲା ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ପ୍ରକୋଷ
ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ସରକାର, ସମ୍ବଲପୁରରେ ହେଲା ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଶୁଣାଣି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ପ୍ରକୋଷରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୮୫% ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସମାଧାନ ଜନଶୁଣାଣି ପୋର୍ଟାଲ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ୫ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସମାଧାନ

ମହିଳା ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ
ସୁଭଦ୍ରାରେ ୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଅଧିକ ମହିଳା ଉପକୃତ
୧୬ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲକ୍ଷପତି ଦିବି ସୃଷ୍ଟି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କନ୍ୟା ବିବାହ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଆର୍ଥିକ ଅନୁସୂଚୀ ପରିବାରର ଝିଅମାନଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ପରମ୍ପରା ଅନୁସାରେ ଗଣ ବିବାହ

କୃଷି ଓ କୃଷକ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ
ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କୃଷକ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଧାନର ଭିଣ୍ଡାଇ ପିଛା MSP ଉପରେ ୮୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାର ଉନ୍ନତ ସହାୟତା
ପ୍ରତି ଉପଖଣ୍ଡରେ ଶୀତଳ ଭଣ୍ଡାର ପାଇଁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କାମଧେନୁ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧୫ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଚାଷୀ ଉପକୃତ

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
AB-PMJAY ଏବଂ ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଦେଶର ୨୯ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟରେ ନଗଦବିହୀନ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା
ପ୍ରତି ପରିବାର ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଉନ୍ନତ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା
ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଧନା ଯୋଜନାରେ ୭୦ ବର୍ଷ ଓ ତତ୍ପୂର୍ବ ବୟସର ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ଶିକ୍ଷା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର ରୂପାନ୍ତରଣ
ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନୀତି - ୨୦୨୦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
ଗୋଦାବରୀଶ ମିଶ୍ର ଆଦର୍ଶ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଲେଖାଏଁ ଆଦର୍ଶ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଶତାଧିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକର ନବୀକରଣ ପାଇଁ ଐତିହ୍ୟ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନାର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ

ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ବିକାଶ
ଗ୍ରାମ ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବିକଶିତ ଗାଁ, ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
୩ ଲକ୍ଷ ୬୫୮ ଘରୋଇ ଟ୍ୟାପ ସଂଯୋଗୀକୃତ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆବାସ ଯୋଜନା (ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ) ଅଧୀନରେ ୨.୬୬ ଲକ୍ଷ ଘର ନିର୍ମିତ ଓ ୩୬ ଲକ୍ଷ ନୂତନ ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ଚିହ୍ନିତ
ଅଭ୍ୟୋଦୟ ଗୃହ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୬୦ ହଜାର ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଘର ମଞ୍ଜୁର

ଜନଜାତି ବିକାଶ
ସହିଦ ମାଧ୍ୟା ସିଂ ହାତ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧,୭୨,୩୫୬ ଜଣ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉପକୃତ
ଆବାସିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପାଇଁ ସହିଦ ଲକ୍ଷଣ ନାୟକ ଆଦର୍ଶ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନା
ଜନଜାତି ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ଜ୍ଞାନାତ୍ମକ ବିକାଶ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ "ଆମେ ପଢ଼ିବା ଆମ ଭାଷାରେ" ଅଭିଯାନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ

ଯୁବବର୍ଗଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅପାର ସୁଯୋଗ
ଅଦ୍ୟାବଧି ୨୭,୩୮୨ ମୂଳ ସରକାରୀ ପଦବୀ ପୂରଣ
ସରକାରୀ ଚାକିରୀ ବୟସ ସୀମା ୪୨ କୁ ବୃଦ୍ଧି
ସାମାଜିକ ଓ ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ପଛୁଆ ବର୍ଗ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ୧୧.୨୫% ସ୍ଥାନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ

ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷାୟନ
ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଓଡ଼ିଶା-୨୦୨୫ କନଭେନ୍ସନରେ ୫୯୩ଟି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଗ୍ରହଣ, ୧୬.୭୩ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ନିବେଶ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ, ୧୨.୮୮ ଲକ୍ଷ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି
କଳିଙ୍ଗନଗରରେ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ୧୫ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସମୁଦାୟ ୨୦ଟି ଶିଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ; ଶୁଭ ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ; ୩୬ ହଜାର ନୂଆ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି
ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧାରେ ୫.୭୨୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ୧୪ଟି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନକାରୀ ଶିଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ; ଭିତ୍ତି ପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ; ୩୬ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୁଯୋଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି



ବର୍ଷ ଏକ
ଉପଲବ୍ଧି
ଅନେକ

OIPR-150011/3/0692/2526



SCARLETT ON DATING MEN OUTSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson is opening up on relationship strains that were caused by dating someone outside the entertainment industry. She noted that romantic relationships between actors and those who do not work in entertainment sometimes see tensions rise due to the nature of actors' jobs.

SARAH PARKER REFUSES TO TAKE SELFIES WITH FANS

Actress Sarah Jessica Parker has a wholesome reason for not wanting to take photos with fans. The 60-year-old actress suggested a conversation might be better than a quick selfie. "I guarantee you it's gonna be so much more meaningful," she said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS
You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
A day of conflicting emotions awaits you. Your personal and professional life will both be important. Hence you will experience anxious moments as you try to balance the demands made by both. However, the good news is you will succeed in your attempts and will do justice to all your duties, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will love to stroll in a world of fantasy. Religious impact will prevail over you. You will charter your fantasy to a mysterious level. You will have communion with God at a temple, mosque or church. You will try to draw lessons from your experience.

LEO
You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesha says your amiable nature will help you in getting along easily with people.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength. You will have to be careful about your health today and will need to watch your diet.

SCORPIO
Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

SAGITTARIUS
Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break, says Ganesha. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

CAPRICORN
Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesha. Family life will be smooth and it will enable you to fully concentrate on your career and increasing your efficiency level.

AQUARIUS
With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesha gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES
Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your will-power strong to remain positive. Increasing your awareness will help you see things with more truth and clarity, says Ganesha.



Avika gets 'rokafied'

Mumbai: Actress Avika Gor has been 'rokafied'. The actress has embarked on the next chapter of her life. On Wednesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared two pictures from her roka ceremony.

After dating for 5 years, the *Balika Vadhu* actor got engaged to Milind Chandwani.

She also penned a note in the caption, as she detail how it all happened. She wrote, "He asked, I smiled, I cried (in that order), and screamed the easiest YES of my life! I'm full filmy, background score, slow-mo dreams, mascara running and all. He's logic, calm, and "let's carry a first-aid kit just in case (sic)".

She further mentioned, "I manifest drama. He manages it. And somehow, we just... Fit. So when he asked, the heroine in me took over — arms in the air, tears in my eyes, and zero network in my brain. Because real love? It may not always be perfect. But, It. Is. Magical #Engaged #Rokafied".

Earlier, the actress had voiced her support for the Indian Armed Forces emphasising the need for unity and strength in the face of terrorism while lauding Operation Sindoor as a powerful and necessary response. IANS

RAKUL'S SERENE MOMENT



MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh took to social media to share a serene moment from her wellness routine.

She posted a video of herself walking barefoot in a garden. Promoting the practice of grounding, she encouraged everyone to reconnect with nature and experience its healing benefits at least once a week.

Taking to Instagram Stories, the "Thank God" actress dropped a calming video of herself walking barefoot on a lush green garden, urging her followers to do the same. In the caption, Singh also highlighted the benefits of the practice.

She wrote, "Grounding or walking bare feet has many many benefits..try and find yourself a garden to do so atleast once a week #connect with nature."

"The actress' latest post about promoting the practice of grounding aligns with the eco-conscious message she shared earlier on World Environment Day. In the post, she had expressed her belief in giving back to the planet, acknowledging that nature provides everything one needs to live a great life.

"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest. Don't just celebrate - Act. Plant. Recycle. Protect," Rakul wrote as the caption. IANS

Paparazzi culture disturbing: Kajol

Mumbai: Several Bollywood actors like Alia Bhatt and Jaya Bachchan have openly criticised the paparazzi culture, especially when it crosses boundaries and invades their personal lives. In a recent interview with Bollywood Hungama, Kajol also opened up about how the paparazzi culture feels disturbing to her.

When asked if there's anything she would like to change about it, Kajol said, "I am a little conscious with paps. I think there are certain places where they shouldn't be. Like I find it very strange when they run after actors at someone's funeral and ask for photos. I find that odd and a little disrespectful. I find it strange that you cannot even go for lunch."

She further slammed the paparazzi for following her and said, "They follow you for kilometres from Juhu to Bandra to look where I am going and which building I am going to. I find that disturbing. If I were a normal person, would you do that? Wouldn't I have taken you to the cops and said this person is following me? What should I tell the cops now?"

Earlier, Alia Bhatt had also slammed the paparazzi for clicking her pictures while she was enjoying personal time at her home. AGENCIES



RAJA BOX OFFICE CLASH

Ananta takes on Bou Buttou Bhuta

BHUBANESWAR: It's going to be a Raja release face-off like no other! Two big-ticket movies—each packed with drama, emotion, and star power—are set to clash at the box office this week, just in time for Raja celebrations.

On one side is Sabyasachi Mishra's *Ananta*, a soul-stirring drama inspired by the timeless short story *Randipua Ananta* by legendary Odia writer Fakir Mohan Senapati. On the other, Babushaan Mohanty dives into the world of horror-comedy with *Bou Buttou Bhuta*, a spooky village mystery that promises jump scares and laughs in equal measure.

Produced by Naveen Bhandari, Suraj Mohanty, and Archita Sahu, *Ananta* is a sweeping literary adaptation that follows a mischievous young man who transforms into a local hero after a devastating flood. Directed by Kumar C. Dev and veteran filmmaker Sabyasachi Mohapatra, the film blends emotional storytelling with rich cultural roots.

Sabyasachi leads the cast in what's being described as one of his most powerful performances yet. The film hits theaters across Odisha Friday, with a pan-India release set for June 13. If drama isn't your thing, horror fans are in for a treat! *Bou Buttou Bhuta*, produced by Trupti Shatpathy and presented by Babushaan Films, stars Babushaan, Archita, and veteran actress Aparajita Mohanty.

Set in a sleepy village haunted by eerie happenings, the story follows a mother-son duo—Aparajita as a ghost catcher and Babushaan as her brave son—as they try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious force terrorizing their community. Directed by Jagadish Mishra, with story and screenplay

by M. Imran, the film also features Jayaprakash Das, KK, Rabi Mishra, Anugulia Banti, and Udit Guha.

Archita is the surprising common link between both films. She's the co-producer of *Ananta*, starring her husband Sabyasachi, while she's also playing the lead opposite Babushaan in the horror-comedy *Bou Buttou Bhuta*. PNM



PEANUTS



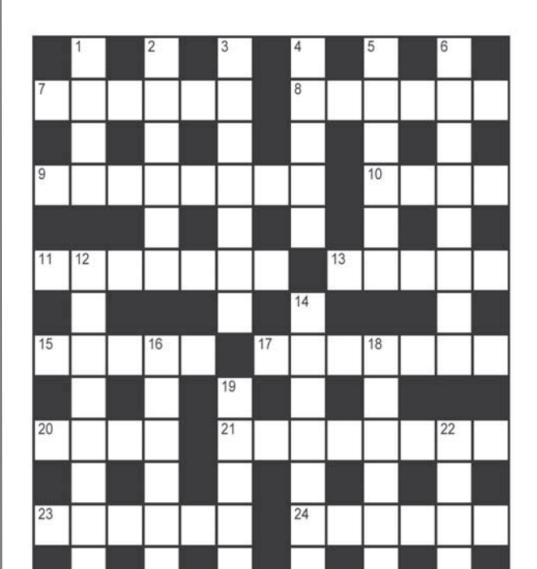
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Wife, for one
 - 8 Bird of prey
 - 9 Gasify
 - 10 Neat
 - 11 Diary
 - 13 Greek monster with nine heads
 - 15 On the up and up
 - 17 Come before
 - 20 Air force heroes
 - 21 Funnyman
 - 23 Ego
 - 24 Cuba, e.g.
 - Down**
 - 1 Samoan capital
 - 2 Hearsay
 - 3 Large seabird
 - 4 Let go
 - 5 Indifference
 - 6 Abutted
 - 12 Cloudy
 - 14 Sprite
 - 16 Bug
 - 18 Pamper
 - 19 Flu symptoms
 - 22 Family member

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Honeymoon horror
Sonam Raghuvanshi and four others including Raj have been remanded in police custody for 8 days
NATIONAL | P7



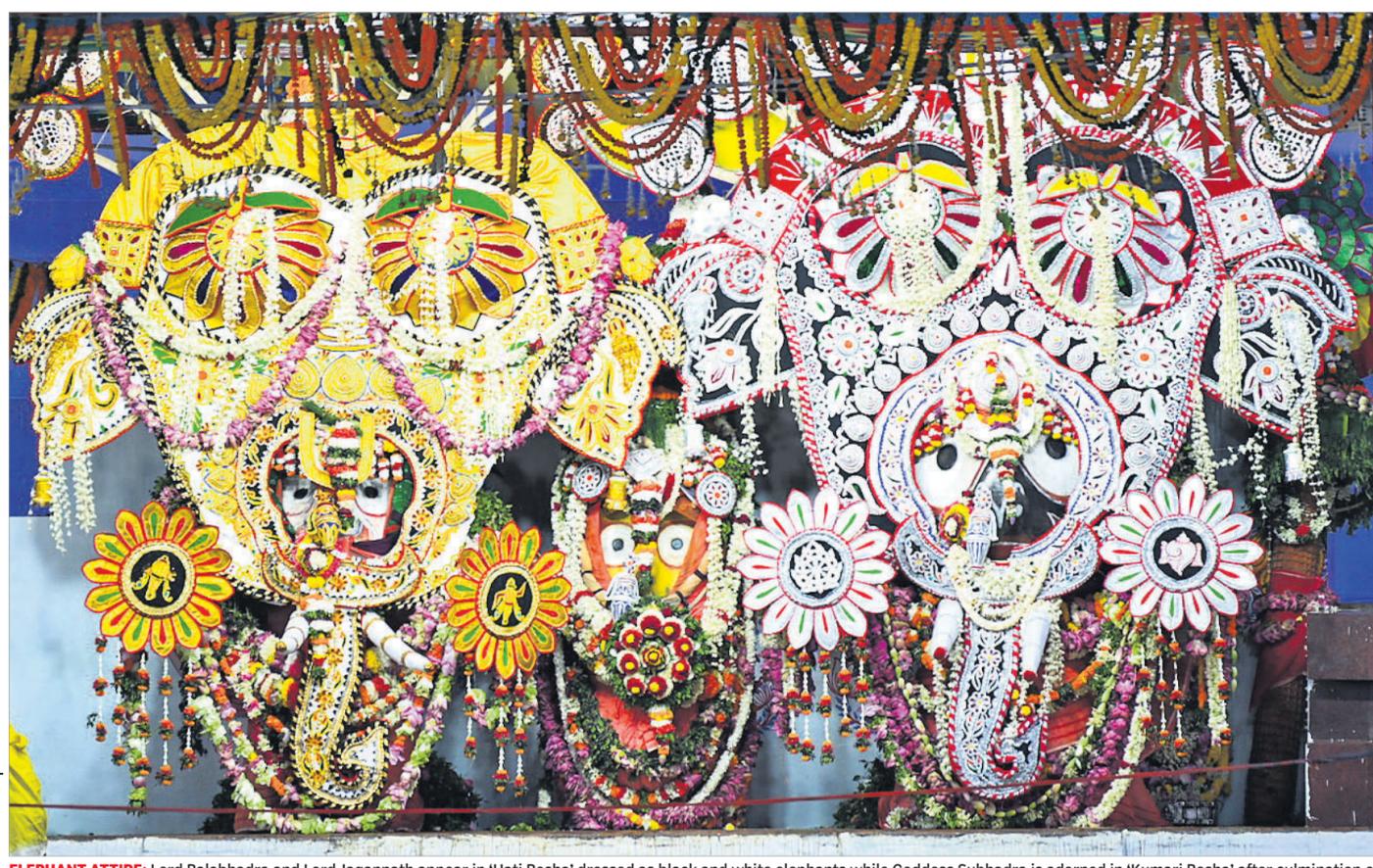
Protests spread
Several US cities brace for a new round of protests over Trump's immigration raids, as parts of LA spend the night under curfew
INTERNATIONAL | P8



Rare earth crisis
China's curbs on rare earth magnets send ripples across global automotive, defence and consumer electronics supply chains
BUSINESS | P9



Disappointing show
Indian men's hockey team goes down 3-4 to Argentina, its third consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League
SPORTS | BACK PAGE



ELEPHANT ATTIRE: Lord Balabhadra and Lord Jagannath appear in 'Hati Beshha' dressed as black and white elephants while Goddess Subhadra is adorned in 'Kumari Beshha' after culmination of bathing rituals at a pandal in Srimandir on Snana Purnima, Wednesday
PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Lakhs witness Snana Yatra rituals in Puri

Puri, June 11: Braving hot and humid weather, lakhs of devotees, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, gathered here Wednesday to witness Lord Jagannath's ceremonial bathing rituals, held in an open pandal on the premises of the 12th-century temple.

Earlier in the morning, the three deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra were brought to the 'Snana Mandap' (bathing altar) with a ceremonial 'pahandi' (procession).

Shree Sudarshan, considered the "wheel weapon" of Lord Bishnu, also accompanied the trinity, officials of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said, adding that the 'Pahandi' ritual was completed by 9am.

Amid chanting of 'slokas', 108 pitchers of sacred and scented water fetched from 'Suna Kua' (golden well) inside the temple premises were poured on the deities.

While 35 pitchers of water were poured on Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra were bathed in 33 and 22 pitchers of water, respectively. A total of 18 pitchers of water

were poured on Shree Sudarshan. The ritual was held at the 'Snana Mandap' (bathing altar), the elevated pedestal facing the Grand Road where devotees get the opportunity to witness the bathing rituals, an official at the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said.

Accompanied by some local MLAs, the Chief Minister entered the temple through the temple's northern gate and witnessed the morning prayers and the ceremonial procession of the deities.

"For the first time, I got the opportunity to witness the Lord's Pahandi and Mangala Aarti on the Snana Mandap. I prayed for the wellbeing of all," Majhi said, adding that he also inspected chariot-making on the grand road. The deities were dressed up in 'Sada Beshha' (plain dress) and later 'Hati Beshha' (elephant attire).

SHORT TAKES

Diarrhoea deaths rise to 8 in Jajpur

Jajpur: The diarrhoea outbreak in Jajpur district has claimed eight lives so far, with the infection spreading rapidly across Korei, Dharmasala, Rasulpur, Danagadi blocks, and Vyasaganar Municipality. Six deaths were reported Wednesday, including two each from Korei, Barchana, and Danagadi blocks. Two others had died Tuesday night in Danagadi and Vyasaganar. Despite government efforts, hospitals remained overwhelmed. Health teams are conducting door-to-door visits and sanitation drives, but concerns grow over the worsening situation.

Went too far: Musk backs off from feud

Washington: Billionaire Elon Musk Wednesday backed off from feud with US President Donald Trump, saying he regrets social media posts that "went too far." Early Wednesday morning, Musk posted, "I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far." Musk's break with a president on whom he spent hundreds of millions of dollars to elect appeared to put an end to his influence in the White House and prompted concerns about effects on his companies. As a major government contractor, Musk's businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution, and Trump has already threatened to cut Musk's contracts. Musk earlier deleted a post in which he claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about the president's association with infamous pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Senior servitor's murder rocks Puri

Puri, June 11: Despite Puri being under a tight security blanket for Snana Yatra celebrations in Srimandir, the gruesome murder of an elderly servitor in broad daylight shocked residents and pilgrims alike Wednesday, raising serious questions about the effectiveness of security arrangements made in the temple town.

The victim, identified as 80-year-old Jagannath Dikshit, a senior servitor from Mahasuar Sahi, was allegedly attacked and killed at Rabeni Choura in Gudia Sahi under Town Police Station limits.

Preliminary investigations suggested that past enmity and financial dispute could be the motive behind the attack. A man identified as Narayan Pat-tajoshi from the same locality has been identified as the prime suspect in the murder case. He is currently absconding.

According to sources, CCTV footage has captured the sus-



pect near the victim's body in front of his residence, strengthening police suspicion. The footage is being examined as part of the ongoing investigation. Initial findings also indicate that the accused and the deceased might have known each other.

Jagannath Dikshit's body, which bore visible injuries and bloodstains, was seized by police and sent to the District Headquarters Hospital here for post-mortem. A case has been registered, and a detailed investigation is underway.

The victim's nephew, Bhimasen Dikshit, told reporters, "My un-

cle had gone to the Srimandir to perform his duties during Snana Purnima. He was killed after returning home. We still don't know who did it and why."

Senior officials, including Town Police Station IIC Gokul Ranjan Das and DSP Prashant Kumar Sahu visited the spot and launched a thorough inquiry.

Puri Superintendent of Police Vinit Agrawal confirmed that preliminary investigation points to a personal rivalry as the motive. "The accused is on the run, and efforts are on to apprehend him. More details will emerge as the probe progresses," he said.

The murder took place despite the deployment of 70 platoons of police force and the presence of senior officers across Puri for the annual bathing ritual of the sibling deities which drew large crowds to the Srimandir and surrounding areas. Shocked locals expressed concern over how such a violent act could occur during a high-alert period meant to ensure public safety.

CM inaugurates Bikash Mela 2025

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The state-level Bikash Mela 2025 began Wednesday at the IDCO Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, marking the first anniversary of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's government.

Inaugurating the weeklong event, Chief Minister Majhi highlighted the administration's achievements over the past year, emphasising a shift from promises to tangible outcomes. "In just one year, we have delivered on

most of the 21 promises made to the people," Majhi said. "These are not empty words — they are etched in stone. What others couldn't achieve in 24 years, we have done in 24 minutes."

The Chief Minister outlined key accomplishments, including anti-corruption crackdown, direct public engagement, support for farmers, and youth empowerment with age limit for government job applicants raised to 42 years. Majhi also emphasised inclusive development, with special focus on women,

youth, farmers, and tribal communities, along with a push for massive investment under the Utkarsh Odisha 2025 initiative.

The Mela will run through June 18, featuring more than 75 departmental stalls to raise awareness about various government schemes. A food festival, organised by Subhadra Shakti women's groups, includes over 40 stalls showcasing traditional Odia cuisine. Exhibits also highlight welfare initiatives, handloom and handicraft products, and local entrepreneurship.

Axiom-4 mission put off again

New Delhi, June 11: The Axiom-4 mission, which was scheduled to carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station Tuesday, was put off again to fix a leak in the SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket.

SpaceX announced that it was standing down from the Falcon-9 launch to allow time for repairs after a post-static inspection of the rocket's boosters identified a liquid oxygen leak.

"Once complete and pending Range availability, we

will share a new launch date," SpaceX said in an X post.

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said the liquid oxygen leak was detected in the propulsion bay during a seven-second hot test on the launch pad. The hot test was to validate the performance of the booster stage of Falcon-9 launch vehicle.

"The ISRO team discussed with experts at Axiom and SpaceX and it was decided that the leak would be fixed and necessary validation tests conducted before clearing for the launch," Narayanan said.

Only Aadhaar verified users can book Tatkal tickets starting July 1

New Delhi, June 11: Only Aadhaar authenticated users will be able to book tickets under the Tatkal scheme from July 1, 2025, onwards, the Railway Ministry said in an announcement.

In a circular dated June 10, 2025, the ministry informed all zones that this decision was made to ensure that the benefits of the Tatkal scheme are received by the common end users.

"With effect from 01-07-2025, tickets under Tatkal scheme can be booked through the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and its app only by Aadhaar authenticated users," the ministry said.

Subsequently, Aadhaar-based OTP authentication shall also be made compulsory for Tatkal bookings from July 15, 2025, onwards.

Tatkal tickets shall be available for booking through computerised PRS (Passenger Reservation System) counters of Indian Railways/authorised agents only after authentication of a system-generated OTP, which shall be sent through the system on the mobile number furnished by the users at the time of booking. This shall also be implemented by 15-07-2025," the circular further stated.

The circular also specified that authorised ticketing agents of the Indian Railways will not be permitted to book opening day Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the Tatkal booking window.

BROOMS, NOT BARS

Manipur Police's unique approach for protest mgmt

Instead of facing formal charges that could mar their futures, over 3 dozen young people found themselves on the streets, not as rioters, but as cleaners

Imphal, June 11: In a novel twist to conventional policing, Manipur Police has traded handcuffs for brooms and shovels, initiating a community service programme for dozens of youths detained in various districts of the valley during violent protests since June 7.

This unique approach follows the unrest which was witnessed on the streets after the arrest of prominent Arambai Tenggol leader Asem Kanan

Singh and four associates during a joint operation of Manipur Police and the CBI as he was wanted in several cases.

During the protests, people demanded unconditional release of Singh and others, leading to a 10-day bandh called by Arambai Tenggol, which was eventually called off Tuesday.

Instead of facing formal charges that could mar their futures, over three dozen young people found themselves on the streets, not as rioters, but as cleaners.

Leveraging the innovative



provisions of the recently introduced Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Manipur Police handed them the tools of civic duty — brooms and shovels — to clear the very roadblocks, burnt tyres, and concrete debris they or others had created during the protests.

This unconventional move, police officials said, was a deliberate choice to safeguard the careers of these misguided youths.

By invoking Section 4(f) of the BNSS, which advises community service for first-time

offenders involved in minor misconduct, authorities are offering a path to rehabilitation rather than punitive measures.

Widely shared photos and videos show these young people in custody sweeping the roads and cleaning up the mess left over from the three-day protest, creating a powerful picture of justice balanced with a touch of civic duty.

The unrest that preceded this unusual policing method was significant.

On June 7, widespread agitation erupted across various valley districts following the arrest of Singh, a dismissed head constable of Manipur Police.

War-footing efforts to combat diarrhoea outbreak in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Following the death of six more people, the state health machinery Wednesday launched a war-footing operation to tackle the diarrhoea outbreak in Jajpur district, the officials said Wednesday.

District Collector P Anvesha Reddy said that over 500 people have been admitted to various hospitals from Tuesday night to Wednesday evening.

Sources confirmed the deaths of Sanatan Patra of Danagadi block and Tolaram Sharma of Marwadipada in Vysanagar Municipality Tuesday night. Wednesday, Anjan Jena and Janaki Mallick of Korei block; Madanmohan Mallick and Dilip Mallick of Barchana block; and Sudarshan Patra and Basant Patra of Danagadi block also succumbed to the disease.

According to official sources, multiple teams have been deployed to affected areas and nearby locations including Dharamshala, Vysanagar Municipality, Danagadi, Rasulpur, and Korei block in Jajpur district.

Reports indicate the outbreak began in the Dharmasala area Tuesday, with several patients admitted to hospitals across the district. Residents of Dharamshala, Jajpur Road, Danagadi, and surrounding areas have also reported diarrhoea symptoms.

TOLL RISES TO EIGHT



Out of the affected persons, 40-50 have recovered and returned home after treatment, the Public Health director Nilakantha Mishra, said.

He said around 20 critical cases are being treated at SCB Medical College and Maharaja Jagati Keshari Medical College, while others are admitted to CHCs in Dharmashala, Jajpur Road, Danagadi, and the DHH. Additional medicine specialists have been deployed, and hospitals are stocked with essential supplies including medicines, IV fluids, and injections.

When asked about deaths, he said, "Two people have allegedly died due to diarrhoea. However, the exact cause of their deaths is being investigated."

It is suspected that the outbreak occurred due to food poisoning as people fell ill after having food during a feast, Mishra said.

The director also said two

state-level health teams have been sent to the district.

"The Jajpur Medical College staff and doctors have been deployed to treat patients, and adequate medicines are ready," he said.

He added that arrangements will be made if more doctors or nursing staff are needed. Mishra also said he will visit the district with another health team to monitor the situation.

Meanwhile, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) teams are disinfecting drinking water sources, and food inspectors and disease surveillance teams are active on the ground.

ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and multipurpose health workers are distributing halogen tablets, ORS packets, and medicines. Public awareness campaigns are underway to promote hygienic practices and safe food and water consumption.

GDS jobs: Five held for using fake certificates

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Five people were arrested Wednesday for allegedly submitting fake documents to secure Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) jobs in Bolangir district, an official said.

The accused have been identified as Kulamani Rana (24) of Muribahal, Ajauddin Kumbhar (28) of Kutumdola, Rajat Kumar Nayak (32) of Jagannath Pada, Sudhir Bhue (27) of Bolangir, and Tofan Bag (45) from Subarnapur.

The arrest was made by the Crime Branch after a complaint

was lodged by Rajendra Kumar Pattanaik, the superintendent of post offices of Bolangir division, alleging that 38 candidates had submitted fake educational certificates for their recruitment as GDS, he said. The Crime Branch took up the investigation into the case as it was found that a racket was supplying fake certificates to the job aspirants.

Earlier, 18 people, including main accused Abhijeet Kumar Bhakat, were arrested in the case. With the fresh arrests, the number rose to 23, the official said.

The five arrested belong to Bolangir and Subarnapur districts, he said.

Sibling deities fall ill after ritual bath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, June 11: After the 'Sahan Mela' or public darshan, the sibling deities were taken back to the sanctum sanctorum of the 12th-century shrine and placed in the 'Anasara Ghar' (isolation room), where they will remain for 14 days due to illness following the ceremonial bath.

During this period, the temple 'Baidya' (physician) will treat the deities with herbal medicines. Public darshan will remain suspended until June 26, a day before the annual Rath Yatra June 27.

The festival, 'Deva Snana Purnima' held Wednesday, is observed on the full moon day of the month of 'Jyestha'. It marks the first occasion in the year when the wooden idols are taken out of the sanctum sanctorum in a grand procession and placed on the 'Snana Mandap' for the ceremonial bath. The day is also celebrated as the birthday of Lord Jagannath.

As per the Skanda Purana, the ritual was introduced by King Indradyumna, who installed the wooden deities in the 12th-century shrine. Following the bathing ceremony, Puri's titular king, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, performed the traditional 'Chhera Panhara' (sweeping) ritual at the Snana Mandap.

Soon after the bathing ceremony, Gajapati Maharaja,



Puri's titular king Dibyasingha Deb performed the 'Chhera Panhara' (sweeping) ritual at 'Snana Mandap'.

The deities were dressed up in 'Sada Beshha' (plain dress) and later 'Hati Beshha' (elephant attire, a form of Lord Ganeshha).

While Lord Jagannath is dressed as a black elephant, Lord Balabhadra takes the form of a white elephant, and Goddess Subhadra is dressed in Kumari Beshha.

Raghav Das Mutt and Gopal-tirtha Mutt supplied the materials as per a prolonged tradition, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in the Jagannath culture.

On the occasion, security was tightened in Puri with the deployment of 70 platoons (1 platoon comprising 30 personnel) of force and 450 officers, said SP Vinay Agarwal.

"Some lakh devotees witnessed the bathing ritual of

the deities for which elaborate arrangements have been made for crowd management, traffic regulation and ground control. The forces are deployed inside and outside the temple and at the seaside," the SP said.

The SP said that barricades were erected to manage the smooth movement of devotees during the ceremonial bathing of the deities.

"For the first time, the police are using AI-based surveillance cameras, linked to a new integrated control room, for real-time monitoring," he added.

Puri district collector Sid-dharth Swain said, "The administration made all arrangements like shade, and medical help for devotees. The fire department also made arrangements."

All the departments made adequate arrangements to ensure minimum discomfort for devotees who came here for darshan of Lord Jagannath, Swain said.

BJD's 12-hour bandh today in Raigarh over paddy dues



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday announced a 12-hour bandh and 'Black Day' protest in Raigarh block of Nabarangpur district June 12, over the non-payment of dues to 344 farmers.

At a press conference at Sankha Bhawan here, BJD leaders Uday Narayan Nanda, senior general secretary Ramesh Majhi, and former MP Pradeep Kumar Majhi made the announcement.

Reports say that even after more than four months since selling their produce, tribal farmers have yet to receive over ₹4.5 crore owed to them. The farmers sold 14,252 quintals of paddy through local pro-

urement centres. According to procurement norms, payments should be credited to farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours, but despite multiple appeals and complaints, the amount remains unpaid.

"Most of these farmers are poor tribal families who rely entirely on farming. The state government directed procurement agencies to ensure timely payments, but this has clearly been ignored," said Nanda.

Pradeep Majhi added, "This is not just a local issue; it's a matter of justice for 344 tribal farmers whose livelihoods are being crushed by administrative apathy. If the government cannot guarantee timely payment for paddy procurement, how can trust be sustained?"

In protest, farmer groups and local organizations have called for a 12-hour bandh, accompanied by a symbolic Black Day observance. Emergency services will remain unaffected during the protest. BJD leaders, farmers, local residents, social organizations, and political workers are expected to participate.

CB seizes brown sugar worth ₹31L; one held



Bhubaneswar: The state crime branch has seized 319 gram of brown sugar worth ₹31 lakh and arrested a person involved in peddling drugs, police said Wednesday. Based on a tip-off, a team of the special task force (STF) of the crime branch conducted a raid on the bank of river Kuakhai on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Tuesday and seized the drug from his possession, a police officer said. The arrested drug peddler is a resident of Bhubaneswar. The police have also seized a motorcycle used by the accused person, he said, adding that the accused has been forwarded to the court of district judge of Khurda in Bhubaneswar. Earlier, he was involved in two other cases in Badagada and Baliana police stations here.

Two minor girls drown

Morada: Two minor girls drowned in a pond at Purnachandrapur village under Amarda panchayat and Rasgovindpur police limits in Mayurbhanj district Wednesday. The victims were granddaughters of local resident Naba Kumar Jena. The incident took place while a religious programme was being held at Jena's house. The girls reportedly wandered out unnoticed and accidentally slipped into the pond. Locals rushed them to Jaleswar hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. Police have launched an investigation after being informed of the tragedy.

Truck owner ends life over loan burden in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 11: Unable to repay his installments on his vehicle loan due to dwindling business, a 31-year-old truck owner allegedly committed suicide by jumping on a railway track near Kadagada village in Keonjhar district Wednesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Lokanath Deo at Gobardhan village under Sadar block in Keonjhar district. The incident has spread shockwaves and widespread concerns among the locals and truck owners. Police reached the spot and launched an investigation.

Sources said that Deo had taken a loan from a private finance firm to purchase two Hyva heavy commercial trucks and supported his family as well as repaid his loan installments with the income generated from the business.

However, due to a prolonged slump in the local transport sector and lack of freight opportunities, he was unable to pay the equated monthly installments (EMIs) of loan. As a result, one of his trucks was reportedly seized by the financing company.

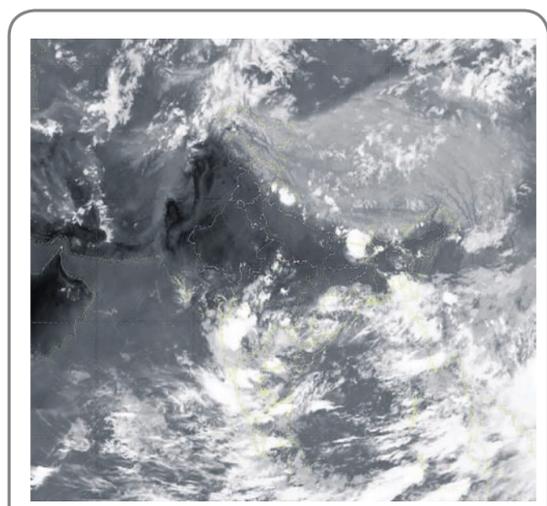
This pushed him into depression. The mental and financial stress is believed to have led him to take the extreme step.

His mutilated body was found on the railway tracks near Kadarada village. It is being suspected that he might jumped on the railway track and run over by a train. Local residents spotted the mutilated body lying on the railway track and informed the police.

Railway and local police reached the spot, recovered the body, and sent it for post-mortem. Investigators are probing the incident, with preliminary inquiries pointing toward suicide, though accidental death has not been ruled out. A government railway police (GRP) officer Aslam Khan said that the actual reason behind Deo's death could be ascertained after the investigation gets completed.

Reacting to the incident, Dilip Kumar Sahu of Keonjhar Nagarika Manch blamed the worsening truck-loading crisis in the district. He urged the Chief Minister to take immediate note of the plight of truck owners. "Youth are taking private loans to buy vehicles and ending their lives. The state government should create a dedicated fund like corpus fund for truck owners and constitute a task force to investigate such cases and ensure justice," he said.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.57 ↓ 0.08	SENSEX	82515.14 ↑ 123.42	GOLD	₹96,953 ↑ ₹51
EURO	97.90 ↓ 0.01	NIFTY	25141.40 ↑ 37.15	SILVER	₹105,705 ↓ ₹1044



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.4°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	26.9°	25.4°	
Humidity	68%	77%	
Rainfall	TRACE	Nil	

DA-JGUA: A Game Changer for Tribal Development



BY AB OTA

In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the lives of India's tribal communities, the Government of India launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) October 2, 2024. Approved by the Union Cabinet September 18, 2024, this programme signifies a paradigm shift from the fragmented and often limited

tribal development strategies pursued over the past seven and half decades. DA-JGUA introduces a mission-mode, saturation-based, and convergence-driven model for inclusive growth and dignity in tribal regions.

With a substantial financial commitment of ₹79,156 crore—Rs 56,333 crore from the Centre and ₹22,823 crore from the states—DA-JGUA targets holistic development across 63,843 tribal-majority villages in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks spanning 26 states and four Union Territories. This national-level intervention is expected to benefit over five crore tribal citizens by 2028-29 through 25 defined interventions implemented in coordination with 17 Central Ministries and various state

departments.

In contrast to earlier efforts that operated in isolation and often lacked adequate resources, DA-JGUA integrates services within a single, cohesive framework. It emphasizes six core areas: household and community infrastructure, health and nutrition, education and training, electrification, economic empowerment, and connectivity. This whole-of-government approach ensures that tribal families receive comprehensive support, including quality housing, clean water, healthcare, education, livelihoods, digital access, and road connectivity.

Among its most impactful aspects is the need-based deployment of schemes. Infrastructure support includes pucca housing under PMAY-G,

piped water through the Jal Jeevan Mission, all-weather roads via PMGSY, and clean cooking fuel under Ujjwala Yojana. Health services are strengthened through mobile medical units, Ayushman Bharat cards, Poshan Vitak, Anganwadi Centres, and a targeted response to diseases like sickle cell anaemia. Education and skill development are advanced through Ashram schools, hostels, Skill India programmes, and Jan Shikshan Sansthan. Household electrification is delivered via RDSS, with renewable energy through solar rooftop schemes by MNRE. Economic empowerment is promoted through forest rights implementation, agricultural and livestock schemes, marketing support via Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Cen-

tres, and tribal home-stays under Swadesh Darshan. Digital and mobile connectivity are expanded through 4G mobile towers and BharatNet.

Odisha has emerged as a leading state in implementing DA-JGUA. With the third-largest tribal population in the country, Odisha has extended the programme to 27 districts, excluding only Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, and Puri, covering 234 blocks and 7,667 tribal villages. The initiative is poised to benefit over 10.8 lakh tribal households, representing nearly 48.15 lakh people.

The state's success rests on coordinated action across 13 departments, including ST & SC Development, Health, Education, Panchayati Raj, Agriculture, Tourism, and Rural Development. Odisha's

execution includes innovative models such as tribal home-stay tourism for cultural and economic revitalization. Centres of Excellence for sickle cell disease, livelihood promotion through pisciculture and livestock rearing, and emphasis on digital connectivity to close the rural-urban divide. These efforts showcase Odisha's leadership and offer a blueprint for other states aiming to achieve similar outcomes.

DA-JGUA stands out for its mission-driven approach and comprehensive scope. By merging various schemes and ensuring coordination across departments, the programme avoids duplication and accelerates development. It moves beyond infrastructure provision to promote self-reliance,

empowering tribal communities to take ownership of their development journey.

As India pursues its vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 and Odisha aspires for Viksit Odisha 2036, DA-JGUA is more than a scheme—it is a pledge for equitable and inclusive progress. It marks a new dawn for tribal India, built on principles of equity, dignity, and opportunity.

It is expected that DA-JGUA will bring transformative changes in the lives of the tribal people of Odisha and set an example for other states.

The author, a former RDC (Central Division) and Director, Tribal Research Institute, is currently a Senior Advisor, UNICEF.

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downtown

BJD chief waves at people, doesn't speak: CM

Bhubaneswar, June 11: A day after Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik's 'long speeches do not make development' jibe, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday claimed that the BJD head read write-ups instead of speaking to the people directly when he was the CM.

Majhi made the comment while addressing the 'State Level Vikash Mela' here being held to mark the completion of his government's one year in office June 12.

"Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition has ridiculed the BJP government over my long speeches and alleged non-performance. What (Patnaik) were you doing all along? You used to read out written speeches. You had no link with the people. Just waiving at people for two minutes and never attending the CM's Grievance Cell for 16 years," Majhi said.

He also attacked Patnaik

over his style of governance and alleged that a handful of officers from the CMO used to attend CM's Grievance Cell and collect petitions from people.

"Those petitions were thrown into the dustbins. What prevented you from meeting people and to listen to their grievances? Finally, people rejected your government," Majhi said.

After ruling the state for 24 years, the BJD was defeated by the BJP in the assembly elections last year.

At a party programme Tuesday, Patnaik accused the Mohan Charan Majhi dispensation of focusing only on long speeches and publicity, instead of real development.

Noting that he became chief minister of Odisha starting his political career as a 'Sarpanch', Majhi claimed he understands the plights of people at the grass root level.

He said the CM's grievance hearing sessions are also now being held outside Bhubaneswar and attended by people in large numbers.

"Of the 10,894 grievances heard in grievance sessions, 9,388 of 86 per cent of cases were resolved. More than 5 lakh grievances resolved through Jana Sunani portal," an official note said.

Referring to Patnaik's allegations that women's empowerment has been grossly affected as Mission Shakti initiative is being weakened in the BJP government, Majhi alleged that the former CM



has insulted women.

He said, "Making provision of some funds does not make women empowered. During our small tenure, the BJP government has created over 16 lakh Lakhpati Didis. Women get financial assistance through Subhadra Yojana and utilise them in small businesses. What prevented you from giving financial assistance to the women for doing business?"

Majhi also came down heavily on the former chief minister and BJD president on the farmer's issue.

"You (BJD govt) had promised to give Rs 100 per quintal of paddy as subsidy, but failed. We in the BJP government are giving Rs 800 per quintal of paddy as input subsidy. The farmers in Odisha now sell their paddy at the rate of Rs 3,100 per quintal," the chief minister said.

Around 17 lakh farmers' families have added Rs 30,000 per annum to their income after the BJP formed the government in the state, he said.

'My Dream Odisha-2036' art camp kicks off in City



Bhubaneswar, June 11: A youth artiste camp, titled 'My Dream Odisha-2036' was inaugurated at Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi (OLKA) here Wednesday. Organised in collaboration with the department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLLC), the camp features participation of 40 emerging artistes from 12 art colleges across the state.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Culture department director and OLKA president Vijay Ketan Upadhyay, and OLC deputy director and OLKA secretary Devjani Bhuyan. Addressing the gathering, Upadhyay lauded the initiative as a significant step by the state government and the akademi to nurture young talent and foster appreciation for visual arts among the public. He noted the importance of such camps in promoting artistic dialogue and expression centered on the vision for Odisha's future.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhuyan outlined the akademi's plans to introduce several new programmes aimed at supporting and promoting local artistes. The art camp will conclude June 13 and the exhibition of the artworks will remain open for public till June 19.

Plastic-free initiative during Rath Yatra 2025

Puri, June 11: As the preparations for the sacred Rath Yatra continues in full swing, the holy city has embarked on the second consecutive year of comprehensive environmental management initiative, aimed at making the spiritual celebration clean and plastic-free.

Spearheaded by Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) and Anandana Coca-Cola India Foundation (ACCIF), in coordination with Puri Municipality, district administration, and Odisha Development Management Programme (ODMP), the campaign reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global call on World Environment Day 2025 to combat plastic pollution.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has reiterated strong commitment to the PM's vision by advocating for eco-friendly alternatives and robust waste management. State government is engaging the local populace through awareness campaigns and community-driven actions to ensure a cleaner and greener Odisha. In a recent meeting with Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra and Forest, Environment, and Climate Change additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu and representatives from ACCIF discussed ongoing efforts to reduce plastic usage

during the festival.

Sahu praised the continued dedication of HCCB and its partners, particularly their volunteer-driven efforts in collecting used PET bottles and promoting responsible environmental practices.

The initiative builds on the success of Rath Yatra 2024, during which over 850,000 PET bottles—more than 17,000 kg—were collected with the help of trained 'Safai Sathis'. This year's objective remain focused on increasing environmental awareness, encouraging responsible PET waste collection, and fostering civic responsibility, especially among the youth, in alignment with the national 'Jan Andolan' for environmental protection.

Key components of the 2025 campaign includes a 10-day volunteer training programme from June 26 to July 5, setup of PET collection points at major locations, preliminary beach-cleaning drive, and installation of 200 dustbins across the City. Additional efforts include help desks, street plays, and a ceremonial pledge event to deepen community engagement.

With strong cooperation between local authorities, temple administration, and civil society, Rath Yatra 2025 aims not only to be a spiritually significant event but also a model for sustainable and plastic-free mass gatherings.

The initiative builds on the success of Rath Yatra 2024, during which over 850,000 PET bottles—more than 17,000 kg—were collected with the help of trained 'Safai Sathis'

Constitution is quiet revolution empowering marginalised: CJI

New Delhi, June 11: Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai has described the Constitution as a "quiet revolution etched in ink" and a transformative force that not only guarantees rights but actively uplifts the historically oppressed.

Speaking at the Oxford Union in London on the theme 'From Representation to Realisation: Embodying the Constitution's Promise' Tuesday, the CJI, the second Dalit and the first Buddhist to hold India's highest judicial office, highlighted the positive impact of the Constitution on marginalised communities and gave his example to drive home the point.

"Many decades ago, millions of citizens of India were called 'untouchables'. They were told they were impure. They were told that they did not belong. They were told that they could not speak for themselves. But here we are today, where a person belonging to those very people is speaking openly, as the holder of the highest office in the judiciary of the country," the CJI said.

He said the Constitution told the citizens that "they belong, that they can speak for themselves, and that they have an equal place in every sphere of society and power."

"At the Oxford Union today, I stand before you to say (that) for India's most vulnerable citizens, the Constitution is not merely a legal charter or a political framework, it is a feeling, a lifeline, a quiet revolution etched in ink. In my own journey, from a municipal school to the office of the Chief Justice of India, it has been a guiding force," he said.

He said India's Constitution was not merely a legal framework but a social and moral document crafted amidst deep inequality. Its drafters, he noted, included represen-

tatives from some of the most marginalised communities in India - Dalits, Adivasis, women, religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and even those formerly labelled "criminal tribes".

"The Constitution is a social document, one that does not avert its gaze from the brutal truths of caste, poverty, exclusion, and injustice. It does not pretend that all are equal in a land scarred by deep inequality. Instead, it dares to intervene, to rewrite the script, to recalibrate power, and to restore dignity," he said.

The CJI said the Constitution carries within it the "heartbeat of those who were never meant to be heard, and the vision of a country where equality is not just promised, but pursued".

"It compels the State not only to protect rights but to actively uplift, to affirm, to repair," he added. Referring to BR Ambedkar's legacy, the CJI said he was a visionary who transformed his lived experience of caste discrimination into a global understanding of justice.

"He believed that democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy," CJI Gavai said, quoting Ambedkar's historic 1949 Constituent Assembly speech. The CJI said that Ambedkar saw political representation as a necessary check against entrenched caste hierarchies and arbitrary power, a mechanism to redistribute not just institutional power, but social dignity.

"In an unequal society, he believed, democracy cannot survive unless power is also divided among communities, not just among institutions. Representation, therefore, was a mechanism of redistributing power, not only between the legislature, executive, and judiciary, but among social groups that had been denied a share for centuries," he said.

MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

Artistes perform Hindustani Classical Music during the concluding day of silver jubilee celebrations of Indian Music Circle Charitable Trust, at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



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FOCUS ECONOMY

BANKING BOOM



It goes without saying that a vibrant economy needs a strong banking system. Thus, for the sector to thrive, there should be no interference with its operations and loans should be sanctioned by professionals only on merit and not on political pressure

The banking sector has been in good health. Most banks are earning high profits and attracting investors in the capital sector. This is reinforced by the fact that the Reserve Bank of India's board approved a record surplus transfer to the central government of Rs 2.68 lakh crore for the accounting year 2024-25. This is higher than Rs 2.1 lakh crore that the central bank paid as dividend to the Centre in 2023-24 and marginally higher than Rs 2.56 lakh crore dividend receipt that the government has been expecting from the RBI and public sector banks.

The higher-than-expected pay-out will bring down rates with analysts expecting the yield on government bonds to come down further. According to Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, the RBI's dividend exceeds Budget assumptions by around Rs 40,000-50,000 crore or 11-14 basis points of GDP. The government will obviously feel financially benefited and would be in a position to manage additional spending.

The banking sector's Q4 consolidated net profit crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time. Public and private sector banks together posted a net profit of Rs 100,178 crore in Q4 of financial year F25, up 9 percent from Rs 91,829 crore in the year-ago quarter. This growth came despite a squeeze in net interest margins as lending rates fell, following RBI's February rate cut while deposit costs stayed high.

Another recent development has been an aggressive cut in repo rate by 0.5 percentage points, double than what was expected, and reduction in cash reserve ratio by one percentage point, a move that would go down well for the sector as also for borrowers. Coming on the heels of a slight dip in sales during Q1 2025, the timing of this rate

cut could help revive momentum in the real estate sector.

Apart from loans becoming cheaper, statistics reveal that the share of bank deposits in major cities has risen to 53.2 percent in March 2025 from 50.9 percent in 2020 even as their share in bank credit declined to 58 percent from 63 percent during the same period last year. The move is seen as a progress towards a policy goal of equitable distribution of bank funds across regions. This is due to the movement of people and capital from metros to semi-urban areas. These regions have seen a rise in their share of deposits.

However, while all this augurs well for the sector, the amount of fraud in scheduled commercial banks has seen a sharp increase in 2024-25 to Rs 36,014 crore from Rs 12,230 crore in the previous fiscal, even as the number of frauds has seen a decline of 33.5 percent from a little over 36,000 in FY24 to 23,953 in FY25. Private sector banks lead in terms of the number of frauds, constituting 67.2 percent of frauds during the year. According to RBI, the increase has mainly

been attributed to "the removal of fraud classification in 122 cases amounting to Rs 18,674 crore reported during previous financial years and reporting afresh during the current fiscal after re-examination and ensuring compliance with the judgment of the apex court of March 27, 2023".

The Supreme Court had directed the banks to give time and offer a detailed explanation to the account holders and also asked the RBI to issue new directives towards the same. It is understood that the RBI's department of supervision plans to enhance liquidity stress tests for scheduled commercial banks through advanced cash flow analysis. This aims to assess banks' ability to withstand extreme but plausible stress scenarios, ensuring they can meet obligations during crisis. As per banking industry officials, the threat landscape is rapidly evolving with fraud detection, particularly in the form of mule accounts, money laundering, QR-based frauds and digital lending becoming a priority.

The health of the banking sector has been reflected in the recent RBI report. In fact, with higher profits and lower NPAs, banks would be in a better situation to lend, thereby helping entrepreneurs with financial resources. However, it needs to be stated here that while top and middle-level industrialists are getting adequate loans from banks and financial institutions, small and micro level entrepreneurs have great problems in arranging their financial needs. This aspect needs to be looked into.

The only point of concern has been the increase in frauds which needs to be detected. Both the individual banks and the RBI must join hands to ensure that these numbers are brought down, and the common man does not suffer due to siphoning off their hard-earned money. Apart from this, the banking personnel should extend a helping hand to those not quite educated and unaware of banking rules and regulations, some of which are quite complicated.

It goes without saying that a vibrant economy needs a strong banking system. Thus, for the sector to thrive, there should be no interference with its operations and loans should be sanctioned by professionals only on merit and not on political pressure. Already Mudra loans are reaching small traders and entrepreneurs, and this should be encouraged by public sector banks with the help and support from the government.

Though the banking network has spread across the country, there should be special endeavour to bring people from the economically weaker sections to open accounts, especially in PSBs. As the economy emerges strong, a lot depends on the work of banks to help provide financial assistance to professionals and entrepreneurs.

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A day passed without accomplishing a good action is a day without soul.



THE MOTHER

Climate Finance Challenges

As the multilateral order comes under growing strain, several trends are becoming increasingly clear. International development assistance and climate finance appear to have peaked, even as global needs continue to evolve. At the same time, international institutions, faced with mounting pressure to prove their efficiency and cost-effectiveness, are reassessing their operations. But today's climate-finance challenges demand more than introspection; they call for structural change, decisive action, and – above all – coordinated leadership.

Climate finance is currently delivered through a broad array of institutions: multilateral bodies like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the newly established Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD); multilateral development banks (MDBs); and an ever-expanding network of philanthropic, national, and regional initiatives. Each was created to fill a perceived functional or political gap. Collectively, however, they form a sprawling and often unwieldy arrangement.

Institutional sprawl creates two major challenges. First, it fosters unhealthy competition. Many of these institutions draw on the same pool of donors, serve similar recipient countries, and have overlapping mandates. The result is a bureaucratic maze and high transaction costs, with recipient countries often spending more time navigating the system than accessing its benefits. As a 2024 report by the G20's climate-finance working group warned, fragmented and inefficient access mechanisms are among the most significant obstacles to effective climate action.

Second, and paradoxically, this competition also leads to inertia, because institutions, protective of their respective niches, become increasingly reluctant to depart from established practices. While differences in size and financial terms should enable climate funds and MDBs to serve distinct, complementary roles, in practice their policies and portfolios often converge. The FRLD is a striking example. When the need for a dedicated mechanism to address loss and damage became urgent, no existing institution was equipped – or willing – to take the lead, so a new entity had to be established.

But competition for resources and inertia regarding evolving challenges are only part of the issue. The deeper challenge lies in fragmented governance. Despite repeated calls to improve coordination, meaningful alignment remains elusive, largely because climate-finance institutions operate under fundamentally different governance structures.

The GCF, GEF, FRLD, Adaptation Fund, and Climate Investment Funds all report to separate governing bodies, each with its own mandate and varying degrees of alignment with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). MDBs answer to their shareholders, while bilateral and philanthropic organizations are driven by domestic or private agendas. As a result, no single body is capable of overseeing or steering the entire system.

Fragmentation doesn't just hinder strategic planning; it also distorts access. Each institution has its own rules, timelines, and application requirements, creating a patchwork of uncoordinated and inconsistent processes. Recipient countries must navigate multiple systems, often with limited institutional capacity, making access to climate finance burdensome and uneven.

A recent synthesis report by the GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit underscores the need for structural reform, finding that climate finance tends to flow to countries that already have access to traditional development financing. While this may seem intuitive, it is also deeply troubling. The implication is that countries with greater institutional capacity and experience with complex funding mechanisms are better positioned to secure climate finance, leaving the world's most vulnerable regions systematically underserved.

If there is a broad consensus that access should be faster and simpler, why does it remain so difficult to achieve? The answer is that facilitating climate finance is not just a technical challenge. As the GCF synthesis report notes, real progress requires more than procedural tweaks. It calls for governance structures tailored to the specific needs of fragile and capacity-constrained countries, sustained investment in institutional capacity, and an equitable distribution model.

In addition to creating inefficiencies, fragmented governance deepens inequality. Without sufficient specialization, a willingness to break with the status quo, and a dose of institutional innovation, climate finance will continue to flow to countries with stronger institutions and fuller project pipelines.

What climate finance urgently needs is a coordinating mechanism, coalition, or platform with the authority to review the current architecture and guide institutions toward more specialized, complementary roles – much like a conductor bringing harmony to an otherwise disorganized orchestra. And this is the fundamental challenge: the absence of a decision-making platform tasked with steering the evolution of climate finance architecture. While the G20 has made climate finance a top priority and addressed several issues related to the broader financial architecture, its limited membership means it lacks universal representation. The UNFCCC can direct funds within its own financing mechanism, but it is slow-moving and lacks the mandate to regulate MDBs and other actors. Similarly, the UN Environment Assembly may not have the necessary speed, scope, or reach to lead this effort effectively.

The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FD4) is a rare opportunity to address the institutional sprawl that impedes effective climate action. As a UN initiative, it offers both legitimacy and universal participation. While not a climate summit, it is one of the few platforms where climate finance intersects with broader questions of development, debt, and institutional reform.

The FD4 draft outcome document rightly urges international policymakers to prevent the further proliferation of climate funds, calling for greater integration among existing mechanisms. But it may need to go further by offering clear guidance on how the various components of climate finance can work together more effectively. Even if FD4 does not resolve these questions, it could still play a pivotal role in identifying the coordinating force needed to ensure the coherence of climate finance.

The writer is Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Dhurjati Mukherjee

BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL BANKS AND THE RBI MUST JOIN HANDS TO BRING DOWN CASES OF FRAUD



Archi Rastogi

What climate finance urgently needs is a coordinating mechanism, coalition, or platform with the authority to review the current architecture and guide institutions toward more specialized, complementary roles – much like a conductor bringing harmony to an otherwise disorganized orchestra

SPECTRUM WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Stolen childhoods - A clarion call

As we approach the midpoint of 2025, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in 2015 are drawing closer to their deadline. Among these goals, Target 8.7 to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025 seems both urgent and crucial. However, the reality remains far from ideal. The true picture of child labour is far more disturbing than statistics and promises suggest.

Consider, for instance, what we witness at Rourkela railway station. There, children with messy hair and tattered clothes roam the platform, far from the classrooms they should be in. Instead of carrying school bags or toys, these children clutch bags of discarded water bottles in one hand and a tube of cheap dandruff solution in the other. The money they earn from collecting garbage and empty bottles is not even enough to cover their basic food needs. So, to cope with hunger, thirst, and cold, they turn to the harmful substance—an easy but deadly escape.

There are four key elements required to combat the child labour system effectively: Survey of Child Labourers, Rescue

and Rehabilitation, Effective Enforcement of Laws and Mainstreaming into Education. But how well are these elements implemented in reality? A crucial first step is understanding the scale of the issue. Unfortunately, there is no clear data on how many child labourers there are. Since 1990, the state government has conducted child labour surveys only twice—both of them years apart. The National Child Labour Project, established in 1994 to assist these children, conducted regular surveys until 2021. These surveys helped identify child labourers, rescue them, and integrate them into the educational system through Special Training Centers. However, since the closure of NCLP in 2021, there have been no new surveys, and no follow-up strategies have been implemented. We are left without any meaningful data on child labourers or a clear plan for addressing the issue.

By law, each district is supposed to form a District Level Child Labour Task Force, chaired by the District Collector, to ensure the rescue and rehabilitation of child labourers, as well as the suc-

cessful enforcement of child protection laws. In practice, however, this system is rarely in place. Despite an increase in the number of Labour Department officers and an improvement in their salaries and powers, the implementation of the Child Labour Act has yielded little to no results. What was once an effective initiative is now just empty rhetoric, with little actual progress being made.

At one time, the National Child Labour Project was a beacon of hope, running campaigns to rescue child labourers and provide them with special education through dedicated training centres. This program successfully brought many children into the education system. However, after the closure of NCLP, such specialized educational facilities disappeared. In our state, 9% of students drop out at the secondary level, and more than 8 lakh students lack Aadhaar identity cards, excluding them from official educational schemes. Despite the government's attempts to reform schools, the number of children dropping out is steadily increasing. Where do these children go? What are

they doing? These questions remain largely unanswered, and their fate is often ignored.

To truly address the issue, a shift in our mindset is required. The eradication of child labour is not just the responsibility of governments and NGOs—it's something we all need to actively participate in. How many of us think twice before patronizing businesses like shops, hotels, or dhabas that employ child labour? If we choose not to buy from such places, or stop visiting establishments that exploit children, employers will have no choice but to change their practices. In addition to this, we all have the power to act by reporting cases of child labour. Today, it's easier than ever to make a difference. You can file complaints online through the platform www.pencil.gov.in, and your identity will remain confidential. Every citizen has the ability to contribute to this cause, and if we all stand together, the day will come when child labour will be nothing more than a dark chapter in history.

The writer is Programme Manager, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India

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



BrahMos diplomacy

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to make a brief stop in Cyprus en route to Canada for the upcoming G7 summit. Cyprus, a long-time supporter of India on the Kashmir issue and its bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, is expected to further strengthen ties during the visit. Strategically divided, the island nation's southern part remains aligned with the EU, while the northern region is under Turkish control. President Erdogan of Turkey continues to pursue a proxy campaign against India, avoiding direct confrontation. India is reportedly in advanced talks to supply BrahMos missiles to the southern part of Cyprus and possibly Greece—nations with rising interest in India's defence capabilities. The move signals New Delhi's growing assertiveness in the global arms market. If finalised, this deal will not only bolster India's strategic outreach but also enhance its economic and diplomatic footprint across new regions.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Fit or fat

Sir, This refers to the write-up 'Restricting calories may restrict happiness' published on June 11 in the Orissa POST. It must be someone with a vested interest who has propagated the idea that slim is beautiful. As if it was not bad enough that females got paranoid about their increasing hip size, the virus has now infected the males of the species too. It may be a fact that being overweight causes health issues, but one has to balance it with the happiness quotient of polishing off dishes that would have a nutritionist or dietician raising his or her eyebrows. Whether one is fat or not largely depends on the genes, because there are individuals who wolf down everything in sight without adding a single inch to their waist, while others will gain weight by consuming just a spoonful of the sinful dishes waiting to be consumed. Every individual has to decide whether to be slim and lean or whether to be happy. Also, in the end, everybody dies, however much one takes care of their health.

Anthony Henriques, MUMBAI



'Thumbs up to achievements, but issues persist'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar: A year after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept to power in Odisha, ending the decades-long rule of Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Mohan Charan Majhi-led government marks its first anniversary amid a mixed public response. While many citizens commend the government's ambitious welfare schemes and efforts to preserve the state's cultural heritage, others remain skeptical, pointing to persistent grassroots challenges that continue to hamper progress.

Upon assuming office June 12, 2024, the new government announced a ₹500-crore corpus fund for conservation of Puri Srimandir and state's broader cultural heritage, signaling a strong commitment to cultural identity. In a push for transparency and accountability, the long-defunct Chief Minister's Grievance Cell was revived, resolving nearly 86 per cent of complaints filed by citizens.

On welfare front, the government implemented Subhadra Yojana, a flagship financial empow-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after the swearing-in ceremony in Odisha



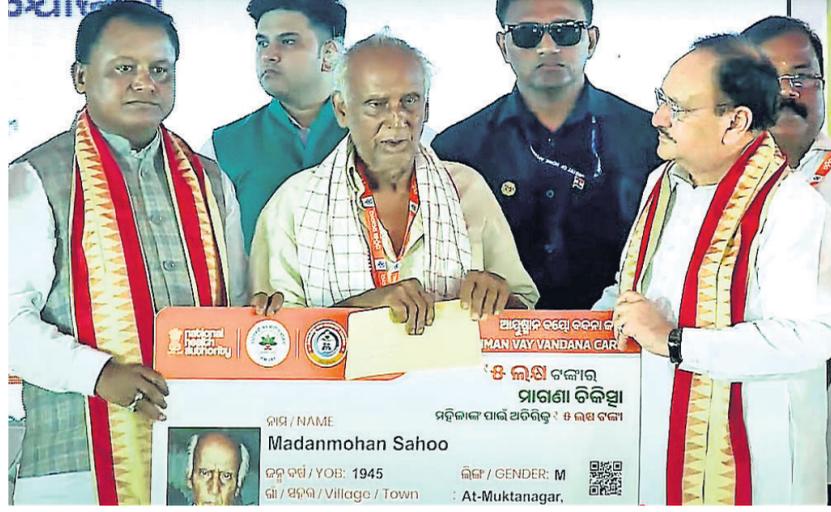
CM hears public grievances

Upon assuming office June 12, 2024, the new government announced a ₹500-crore corpus fund for conservation of Puri Srimandir and state's broader cultural heritage, signaling a strong commitment to cultural identity. In a push for transparency and accountability, the long-defunct Chief Minister's Grievance Cell was revived, resolving nearly 86 per cent of complaints filed by citizens

erment programme benefiting 1 crore women across the state. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs) saw a hike in their pensions to ₹3,500 per month. The government also raised the upper age limit for government jobs to 42 years.

Healthcare received a boost through the rollout of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, complementing the existing Gop-

blems like drug abuse, crimes against women and illicit alcohol-related deaths show no sign of declining. We can only hope that the government will take concrete steps to tackle critical issues concerning education, healthcare, drug abuse, unemployment, transportation, and animal welfare in the next four years. The '36 for 36' mission must go beyond just being



Union Health Minister JP Nadda and the CM during the launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana



The CM hands over a memento to the PM during the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025

urement and climate resilience. "MSME credit flow remains low while real estate needs regulatory reforms. With mining revenue continues to fall. The need of the hour is to diversify and pursue bold, outcome-driven growth," said Dwivedy.

Sudarshan Chhotoray of Focus Odisha Foundation said, "Some of the new government's initiatives like Subhadra Yojana and increase in paddy MSP, are steps forward but are still insufficient." He urged stronger interventions like creating employment opportunities, controlling migration, protecting environment, undertaking bureaucratic reforms, and tackling corruption.



Dignitaries including the PM, CM, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Jai Oram during the launch of Subhadra Yojana

abandhu Jan Aarogya Yojana, to extend health coverage to more citizens, though technical glitches cropped up initially during registration and processing of claims.

In education sector, the state launched National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and initiatives like Sishu Vatika, aimed at strengthening early childhood education, but it is argued that much more needs to be done.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Manoranjan Panda, a research scholar, said, "The state witnessed a change in leadership, but not in the system. It appears that the new government is struggling to deal with the bureaucracy. There is no visible improvement in governance or public service delivery. Corruption in public offices continues to persist, while is-

a catchy slogan." Educationist Basudev Bhatt said, "When it comes to education, there has been little progress, particularly in the development of government schools. Issues like teacher recruitment, infrastructure woes, and quality education remain largely unaddressed. Higher education, technical education, and education for SC/ST communities have not seen any substantial improvement. The government has failed to safeguard the rights of parents in private schools as effective regulation or enforcement of the Right to Education Act remains a far cry in the state."

"One year is enough to create a constructive roadmap for the next 10 years," he added. Stating that frustrations continue on civic infrastructure front, Narayan Prusty, a social

activist, cited the lack of basic amenities in the state capital. "Even after repeated appeals, toilets have not been constructed at several places in City including Palasuni Square. This highlights a glaring gap in urban planning and execution. Similarly, waterlogging during monsoon has remained a critical issue for Bhubaneswar." Pradipta Nayak, state secretary of CI-TU and rights

activist, said, "The new government has largely been ineffective as it's focusing only on superficial changes like changing colours of buses and school uniforms. Corruption and huge duplication in contract works have increased significantly, especially in public offices and mining operations. Unemployment continues to rise, schools are being shut down under the guise of rationalisation, and workers in public institutions are not receiving minimum wages or regularisation despite legal provisions."

Abhishek Dwivedy, seafood exporter, opined that though the state government improved decentralisation and grievance redressal system, agriculture faces challenges concerning pro-

KEY REALISATIONS

BOOST TO AGRI, FARMERS
Input assistance: Under the ambitious Samruddha Krushak Yojana, the state government has been procuring paddy from farmers by providing ₹800 per quintal above the minimum support price.
Livestock insurance: At least 15 lakh dairy farmers have so far received 85 per cent subsidy on livestock insurance under the Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana.
Crop loan assistance: Over 36 lakh farmers have received a total of ₹19,000 crore as loan under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for Kharif and Rabi seasons.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
Investment boost: ₹16.73 lakh crore investment intents through Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025. The projects have the potential to provide jobs to 12.88 lakh individuals across 20 sectors.
Projects cleared: 207 industrial projects worth ₹4.5 lakh crore with job potential for 2.9 lakh people have so far received the government nod.
Skilled workforce: 72,288 artisans trained under PM Vishwakarma Yojana in 18 traditional crafts.
Worker welfare: 13 24,672-bed worker hostels under construction in major industrial zones under the Deendayal Karmachari Gruha Yojana.

CULTURAL IDENTITY, HERITAGE
Jagannath culture: ₹500 crore corpus fund for preservation and promotion of Jagannath culture.
Odia heritage: ₹200 crore corpus fund for architecture, literature and culture.

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT
Infra boost: 11,462 houses built and 28,661 under construction across 15 districts under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.
Students' welfare: 1.72 lakh ST students aided through Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharicha Yojana.
Residence: Domicile rights granted to nine PVTG communities.

EDUCATION, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Inclusive education: 11.25 per cent reservation for SEBCs in higher education.
Boon: Age limit for government jobs raised to 42 years.
Jobs: 27,382 posts filled in the first year.
Food: Mid-day meal extended to students in Classes IX and X.
Sports promotion: 314 block-level stadiums under construction.

HEALTHCARE
Cashless treatment: Over 29,000 hospitals offer cashless treatment under Ayushman Bharat and Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana.
Extended coverage: ₹5 lakh/family + ₹5 lakh/woman additional coverage; senior citizens (70+) get ₹5 lakh/year under Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana.
Medical infrastructure: ₹200 crore corpus for medical colleges and hospitals.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL
Cell: CM's Grievance Cell operational with outreach to districts like Sambalpur.
Complaint resolution: 9,388 out of 10,894 (86 per cent) complaints resolved via direct CM hearing. And more than five lakh grievances resolved via portal.

SOCIAL SECURITY
Pension: ₹3,500 monthly for senior citizens (80+) and persons with 80 per cent+ disability.
Foodgrain: 6 lakh new ration cards issued.
Welfare: ₹436 crore aid under Construction Workers' Welfare Scheme.
Regional development: Formation underway for South and North Odisha Development Councils.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
Subhadra Yojana: Over 1 crore women benefited; over 16 lakh women became Lakhpati Didis.
Kanya Vivah Yojana: Public marriage support for daughters from underprivileged families in accordance with local customs.

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations/1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations/2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Assets under "Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-XIII" in the Eastern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned Transmission system in Eastern Region are: i) BIHAR STATE POWER (HOLDING) COMPANY LIMITED, ii) WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED, iii) GRID CORPORATION OF ORISSA LTD, iv) DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION, v) POWER DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF SIKKIM, vi) JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LTD. vii) NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (NTPC).

3. Tariff details:
a) 2019-24 Block Rs. In lakhs

Asset detail	DOCO /ECOD	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Asset-1	02.01.2022	1825.32	Revised AFC based on truing up	63.31	284.00	295.62
Asset-2	08.04.2022	3993.87	Revised AFC based on truing up	0.0	829.62	913.51
Asset-3	28.04.2022	14339.5	Revised AFC based on truing up	0.0	2,155.63	2,382.78

b) 2024-29 Block Rs. In lakhs

Asset detail	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
Combined Asset	21794.75	AFC	3541.18	3613.63	3592.23	3624.45	3549.05

4. A copy of this notice and of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Naoroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergrid.in, CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121
A Maharatna PSU

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST/OT/POINT/MACHINE/KUR/471, Dt. 04.06.2025

Name of the Work: REPLACEMENT OF OVER AGED POINT MACHINES AT BALANCE STATIONS AND REPLACEMENT OF GROUND CONNECTIONS (OLD TYPE TO D-BRACKET) AND LOCK SLIDES OF TWS POINT MACHINES IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹ 6,54,77,342.19, EMD: ₹ 4,77,400/-

Bidding Start Date: 12.06.2025, Date & Time of Closing of Tender: at 11:00 hrs of 26.06.2025.

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

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

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

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T),
Khurda Road

PR-222/Q/25-26

Bank of India

Bank of India

Bank of India

Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Gopalpur Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Gopalpur Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

GOPALPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: Mrs. Basanti Muduli, W/o.: Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Khandual, At: Dulladei Road, Andarpur, Kalyani Nagar, Cuttack, Odisha-753013	₹ 39,54,885.69 + interest & expenses thereon	04.04.2025 / 06.06.2025	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 299/837, Plot No.: 13/2711, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec, Kissam: Homestead at Mouza: Cuttack Town Unit No.: 30 Andarpur, Thana No.:

09, Madhupatna, Tahasil: Cuttack No.: 233, Dist.: Cuttack, Standing in the name of **Mrs. Basanti Muduli, W/o.: Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Khandual, Bounded by North: Rest part of the Plot, South: Plot No.: 939(Sunil Mohanty), East: Road, West: Dhobi Behera.**

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 12.06.2025

Authorised Officer
Bank of India



Farmers know well that weeds grow amongst crops and the previous AIADMK regime was similar to the weeds

M K STALIN | TN CM

PRESENT GENERATION DOES NOT WANT TO LEARN COURT CRAFT: SC

The present generation does not want to learn "court craft", the Supreme Court said Wednesday. A bench of Justices S V N Bhatti and P B Varale made the observation after a young lawyer was casually walking away while an order was being dictated



of the day note

My government twice enhanced the MSP on procurement of maize, firstly to ₹30 and thereafter to ₹40 per kg and that of wheat from ₹40 to ₹60 per kg. Besides, to increase the production of raw turmeric, my government is providing an MSP of ₹90 per kg



SUKHVINDER SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

Law and order has collapsed. Daylight murders and loot are rampant. Incidents of rape and violence against women and girls are rising. The BJP has turned into a land mafia, seizing land from the poor with impunity



AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Ever since the BJP formed a government in Delhi, the first session of private schools began with a wave of fee hikes. Parents were left with no choice; they were forced to pay the increased amount



SAURABH BHARADWAJ | AAP DELHI STATE PRESIDENT

TOP US GENERAL HAILS TIES WITH PAK

Is this not a diplomatic setback, asks Congress

The Opposition party cited a media report which claimed that Pakistan's chief of army staff General Syed Asim Munir is scheduled to visit Washington DC, for the US Army Day celebrations, and said this is "another huge diplomatic setback for India"



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: With a top US general calling Pakistan a "phenomenal partner" in the counterterrorism world, the Congress Wednesday asked what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to say about this and whether it is not a "diplomatic setback".

The Opposition party also cited a media report which claimed that Pakistan's chief of army staff General Syed Asim Munir is scheduled to visit Washington DC, for the US Army Day celebrations, and said this is "another huge diplomatic setback for India".

US Army General Michael Kurilla, Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM), has said the United States has to have a relationship with Pakistan and with India, and noted that it cannot be a "binary switch" where Washington cannot have ties with Islamabad if it has relations with New Delhi.

Kurilla made the comments during a testimony before the US House Armed Services Committee Tuesday.

Pakistan is "in an active coun-

terterrorism fight right now and they have been a phenomenal partner in the counterterrorism world", the general said.

Sharing a media report on Kurilla's remarks, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The US Central Command Chief has just described Pakistan as a 'phenomenal partner in counter-terrorism'."

"What do our PM and his cheerleaders have to say about this? Is this not a diplomatic setback?" Ramesh said on X.

In another post, Ramesh shared a media report which claimed that Pakistan's chief of army staff General Syed Asim Munir is scheduled to visit Washington DC, for the US Army Day celebrations June 14.

"This is the man who spoke in such incendiary and provocative language just before the Pahalgam terror attacks. What is the US really up to? This is another huge diplomatic setback for India," Ramesh said.

In his remarks, Kurilla said, "We have to have a relationship with Pakistan and with India. I do not believe it is a binary switch that we can't have one with Pakistan if we have a re-

lationship with India."

"We should look at the merits of the relationship for the positives that it has," he said.

"ISIS Khorasan (ISIS K) is perhaps one of the most active in trying to do external plots globally to include against the homeland. The Taliban is going after ISIS K - they hate each other, and have pushed a lot of them into the tribal areas on the Afghan-Pakistan border," he said at the full Committee Hearing on 'US Military Posture and National Security Challenges AFRICOM + CENTCOM.'

"Through a phenomenal partnership with Pakistan, they have gone after ISIS Khorasan, killing dozens of them. Through a relationship we have with them providing intelligence, they have captured at least five ISIS Khorasan high value individuals," the top US general said.

Kurilla's comments came days after an all-party Indian parliamentary delegation visited the US to convey India's strong resolve to combat terrorism emanating from Pakistan in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

CISC flags China's expanding military space programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit said Wednesday that as India contemplates its own surveillance capabilities, the rapidly evolving threat landscape, particularly the remarkable advances made by "our neighbours to the north", must be understood.

In his address at a seminar here, Air Marshal Dixit also cited expansion in China's military space programme and said its satellites have recently demonstrated "sophisticated 'dog-fighting' manoeuvres" in low earth orbits.

He was speaking on 'Surveillance and Electro-optics' at the event hosted by think-tank CAPS (Centre for Air Power Studies) and Indian Military Reviews (IMR) at Subroto Park.

China's military space programme has expanded from "operating just 36 satellites in 2010 to over a thousand by 2024, with more than 360 dedicated to ISR missions".

ISR refers to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. "As we contemplate our own surveillance capabilities, we must understand the rapidly evolving threat landscape, particularly the remarkable advances made by our neighbours to the north," Air Marshal Dixit said.

"They have evolved from a kill chain to a kill mesh, an integrated network that seamlessly interweaves ISR satellites with weapon systems," he added.

However, he laid emphasis on the success of Operation Sindoor and said while these challenges be acknowledged, "we must also celebrate our remarkable achievements."

At the "heart of our suc-



cess" was the integrated air command and control system (IACCS), a testament to Indian engineering's excellent and strategic vision," the officer said.

It was also synchronised and integrated with the Indian Army's Akasheteer system, providing a joint and integrated approach to the air defence of the nation.

What made IACCS particularly effective was its impact on decision-making and speed, he said, adding in modern warfare, information without the ability to act upon it rapidly, is of limited value.

"IACCS compressed our sensor-to-shooter timelines dramatically, enabling responses that outpaced adversary's decision cycles," Air Marshal Dixit said.

As we look to the future, we must recognise that tomorrow's battlefields will demand sensors in all domains. Surveillance and electro-optics will be one of the foundational layers of military operations, enabling dominance through foresight and planning, rather than firepower alone, the officer added.

India's MALE (medium altitude long endurance) and HALE (high altitude long endurance) platforms, including the MQ9, must therefore evolve with modular payloads, advanced system, AI-assisted analysis to provide commanders with unprecedented situational awareness, he said.

WB Speaker accepts privilege motion against Adhikari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 11: West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee Wednesday accepted a privilege motion moved by a few Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLAs against Leader of Opposition (LoP) Suwendu Adhikari for allegedly making "defamatory and untrue" remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee outside the Assembly premises.

Banerjee said the motion had been forwarded to the Privilege Committee, which will submit its report by the next session. Assembly sources said the next session is likely to be held in September.

The motion, submitted to the Speaker, was in response to Adhikari's alleged statements to the media claiming that the CM, during her speech on the floor of the House, had praised Pakistan. Stating that Adhikari made these comments outside the House, BJP MLAs argued that the matter could not be brought under the breach of privilege motion.

The motion was signed by senior TMC ministers and legislators, including Chandrima Bhattacharya, Shovande Chatteropadhyay, Arup Biswas, Indranil Sen and Nirmal Ghosh.

Following the Speaker's decision to refer the matter to the committee, Opposition members staged a walkout.

The Speaker also turned down the BJP legislators' demand to hold a discussion on the issue of Trinamool Congress heavyweight leader from Birbhum district allegedly abusing a police officer over the phone. Banerjee said a matter under police investigation could not be discussed in the Assembly.

Court denies bail to Jyoti Malhotra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hisar, June 11: A local court Wednesday rejected the bail plea of social media influencer Jyoti Malhotra, arrested on suspicion of espionage last month, her lawyer said.

Her bail plea was heard by Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Sunil Kumar through her lawyer Kumar Mukesh. The police opposed the bail plea and argued the case's investigation was underway.

Mukesh said the court after hearing the arguments of both the parties rejected her bail plea. On June 9, the court extended Malhotra's judicial custody and fixed her case's hearing June 23.

The 33-year-old YouTuber appeared before the court through video-conferencing. Hisar Police arrested Malhotra on suspicion of espionage May 16 and she was subsequently remanded to five days of police custody by the court.

Following the completion of the remand, the court extended the custody by four more days after the police sought to question her further. On May 26, the court remanded her to judicial custody for 14 days. Malhotra, who hails from the city, ran a YouTube channel "Travel with JO".

She was arrested at the New Aggarsain Extension and booked under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Hisar Police previously said no evidence had emerged to indicate Malhotra had access to any military- or defence-related information but claimed she was in contact with some people, aware that they were Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIO).

Police sources had previously said she was in touch with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish, a staffer at the Pakistani High Commission, since November 2023. India expelled Danish May 13 for allegedly indulging in espionage.

The police have claimed Pakistani intelligence operatives were developing Malhotra as an asset.

SHORT TAKES

KCR deposes before judicial panel

Hyderabad: BRS president K Chandrababhan Rao on Wednesday deposed before the judicial commission probing the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, which was built during the previous BRS regime. Rao arrived at the commission's office at about 11 AM and left by 1 pm after his deposition. Rao, also known as KCR, explained, among others, the rationale behind taking up the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project to ensure availability of water for drinking and irrigation, BRS sources said.

Two Naxalites killed in encounter

Sukma: Two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Wednesday, police said. The gunfight took place in the forest of Pusguna village under Kukanar police station limits, district Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said. The operation, involving personnel of the police's District Reserve Guard and Kukanar Police team was launched in the morning based on intelligence inputs.

SL Army commander meets IAF, Navy chiefs

New Delhi: Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Lt Gen BKG M Lasantha Rodrigo, Wednesday interacted with Indian Navy Chief Adm Dinesh K Tripathi and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, with avenues of enhancing bilateral defence ties and boosting cooperation between the two armed forces, figuring in the discussions.

Delhi under 'red alert'

New Delhi: A red alert was issued for Delhi Wednesday as the national capital sweltered under an intense heatwave, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reporting maximum temperatures between 40.9 degrees Celsius and 45.0 degrees Celsius across various stations. At 5:30 pm, Anagar was the hottest at 45.0 degrees Celsius, followed by Palam at 44.5 degrees Celsius, Ridge at 43.6 degrees Celsius, Pitampura at 43.5 degrees Celsius, Lodi Road at 43.4 degrees Celsius, Mayapuri Vihar at 40.9 degrees Celsius and Safdarjung - the city's base station - reported 43.3 degrees Celsius.

UPSC releases CSE prelims 2025 results

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Wednesday declared the results of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2025.

The preliminary exam was held May 25. The UPSC has announced the results and shared a list of roll numbers of successful candidates who have qualified for the Civil Services (Main) Examination on its website, according to an official statement.

The Commission conducts the civil services examination annually in three stages - preliminary, main and interview - to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS),

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Candidates are also informed that marks, cut-off marks and answer keys of the preliminary exam will be uploaded on the Commission's website i.e. https://upsc.gov.in only after the entire process of the civil services examination, 2025 and Indian Forest Service Examination, 2025 is over i.e. after the declaration of final result, the statement said.

The UPSC has also declared a list of candidates who have qualified for the Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2025, on the basis of screening test held through the civil services preliminary examination.



Rabha tribal women wearing traditional attire take part in a tug of war competition against a men's team from the same tribe during the Baikho festival, in Kamrup district of Assam. The Baikho festival is celebrated annually to bring in an auspicious harvest season filled with abundant crops and good health

Gehlot softens tone on Pilot after years of rift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 11: "When were we ever far apart?" former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot asked Wednesday, signalling a possible end to the political tensions with his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

He also said the love and affection will continue to remain between them. Gehlot's remark hinted at a possible thaw between the two senior Congress leaders after years of political tussle.

Gehlot made the comments while attending a memorial event in Dausa marking the death anniversary of former Union minister and Sachin Pilot's father Rajesh Pilot.

The ceremony, which included a tribute and an exhibition on Rajesh Pilot's life and legacy, was attended by several Congress leaders including AICC Rajasthan in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, PCC chief Govind Singh Dotsara, leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly, many of the party MPs and MLAs, former ministers, former MLAs and party office bearers.



At the crowded venue, reporters asked Gehlot what was the message behind the two leaders coming close. Responding with a smile,

death anniversary of Rajesh Pilot.

At the crowded venue, reporters asked Gehlot what was the message behind the two leaders coming close. Responding with a smile,

Gehlot said, "Ham dur kab the? Ham dur the hi nahi. Prem-habbat bani rahti hai aur bani rahegi. (When were we ever far apart? We were never distant. Love and affection remain and will continue to remain)."

Pilot as well as other leaders were also near him when the senior Congress leader made the remarks.

Remembering Rajesh Pilot, Gehlot said that he and Pilot were together in Parliament and his commitment towards the farmers and the poor is still remembered.

"Today we are paying tribute to him. Look at the enthusiasm of the people. Young as well as elderly people have come. Those who have worked with him have also come. People who

have heard about him have also come. This gathering in itself is a message about the kind of personality he was. I have worked with him and memories of that time have also been refreshed today," Gehlot said.

Sachin Pilot said his father served the nation while being in the Indian Air Force and later in politics.

"I am proud of him that while being in the army and later in politics, he established new dimensions that even after sitting on high posts, a person can keep his hands clean and can reach heights even after being born in a poor family," he said.

Sachin Pilot accompanied Gehlot during the exhibition and briefed him about it.

Rajesh Pilot died in a road accident in Dausa June 11, 2000. He was Dausa MP at that time. The death anniversary programme is held every year by Sachin Pilot in Dausa.

Gehlot's remark hinted at a possible thaw between the two senior Congress leaders after years of political tussle



The high command said that some complaints have come because the survey had happened in 2015-16, it has almost been nine-ten years old. So in a short period, in about 60-70 days a re-enumeration will be done. We are not rejecting the entire report (given by the Backward Classes Commission). Principally the report is accepted, only re-enumeration will be done

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

HC ISSUES SUMMONS TO PRIYANKA GANDHI

The Kerala High Court has issued summons to AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on a plea challenging her election from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in the bypoll held there last year



of the day quote

The Pratham Puja was concluded. I request the devotees to come in large numbers for the yatra which will start July 3 and conclude on Raksha Bandhan August 9

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

I came here by train and this service is a new beginning for us. This will not only benefit the pilgrims coming to visit Mata but also prove beneficial for the pilgrims intending to visit the Amarnath cave shrine and they will also come in large numbers. This will benefit tourism in J&K

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

Under the successful leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the unprecedented development of India's infrastructure over the last 11 years fills us with pride and confidence

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

POST OF THE DAY

India will mandate setting AC temperatures as low as 20°C and as high as 28°C amid rising temperatures due to climate change. You will be paying 28% GST on ACs and government will control the temperature of your room. This is India's bedroom story.

@sumitkbehal

SHORT TAKES

Howrah sex racket prime accused held

Kolkata: West Bengal Police Wednesday arrested Ariyan Khan, one of the prime accused in the Howrah shady film racket, from a hideout in Kolkata's Golf Green area, a senior officer said. Besides Ariyan, one of his accomplices, a minor, has also been apprehended from Narendrapur in South 24 Parganas, police said. Ariyan was produced before Howrah district court and remanded to police custody for nine days. The minor was taken to a juvenile justice home under the provisions of the state Juvenile Justice Act.

Airtel blocks 1.80L malicious links

Bangalore: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Wednesday claimed that it has blocked more than 1.80 lakh malicious links and safeguarded 3 million users within just 25 days of launching its advanced fraud-detection system, amid a surge in online frauds.

Mob clashes with police near Kolkata

Kolkata: A mob clashed with the police, ransacked vehicles and injured several personnel, turning the Rabindranagar area, a few kilometres from Kolkata, into a virtual war zone, an officer said. The police fired tear gas shells to control the situation.

Man sentenced to death for rape

Jalpaiguri (WB): A special POCSSO court here awarded death sentence to a man for the rape and murder of a minor girl in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. Noting that the victim was of the same age as the accused's daughter, the judge observed that the crime falls under the rarest of rare category. The court sentenced convict Haripada Roy to death for the rape and murder of the girl.

HONEYMOON MURDER

Police get custody of Sonam

Raja's blood-stained body was found 10 days later in a deep gorge and Sonam was presumed missing till June 9, when she was nabbed from a dhaba hundreds of miles away in Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore/Shillong, June 11: His sister had "100 per cent" killed her husband, Sonam Raghuvanshi's brother Govind said Wednesday as the young woman and four men accused in the sensational "honeymoon murder" of 29-year-old Raja Raghuvanshi were sent to eight-day police custody in Shillong.

Convinced of his sister's guilt, Govind Raghuvanshi also said his family had snapped ties with her and vowed to fight a legal battle to get justice for Raja Raghuvanshi's family.

Wednesday marks one month to the day Sonam and Raja Raghuvanshi got married. The Indore couple went to Meghalaya for their honeymoon and went missing soon after.

A court in Shillong sent Sonam and her four aides to eight-day police custody.

"Police sought a 10-day remand. The court granted 8 days of police custody," East Khasi Hills district SP Vivek Syiem told PTI.

The 24-year-old woman was arrested from Ghazipur, while her aides were apprehended from Indore for their alleged role in conspiring and killing



Govind Raghuvanshi, brother of Sonam Raghuvanshi who is among the five arrested for the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi, consoles Raja's mother Uma Raghuvanshi during a visit at the latter's residence, in Indore. Govind came out in support of the victim's family and vowed to fight a legal battle to get justice for them

Raja. The special investigation team sought police custody of the accused to reconstruct the crime scene in Sohra, the officer said.

Investigators said Sonam told Raja Raghuvanshi that she would let him consummate the marriage only after making an offering at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati.

Accordingly, Raja planned their trip to Guwahati and adjacent Meghalaya, while his wife and her boyfriend allegedly plotted to kill him in the jungles of the north-eastern state, they said.

"Sonam convinced Raja that they need to make offerings at the Kamakhya Devi Temple before consummating the marriage," a police officer who is a part of the investiga-

tion told PTI. Sonam and Raja got married in Indore May 11 and arrived in Meghalaya via Guwahati May 20. Both were missing May 23 in Sohra in East Khasi Hills district, hours after checking out of a homestay at Nongriat village.

Raja's body was found in a gorge near Weisawdong Falls June 2.

A search continued for Sonam, who emerged in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, around 1,200 km away, in the early hours of June 9 and surrendered as police arrested her boyfriend Raj Kushwaha and the three contract killers hired by them to murder Raja.

"Sonam coerced her husband to take her to the deep jungles of Nongriat with the belief that the hitmen she hired would

have a better chance of killing him somewhere on the route, considering it is secluded. But, since there were too many tourists trekking to Nongriat May 22 and May 23, they couldn't kill him there," the officer said.

"They finally killed him near Weisawdong Falls, and dumped his body into the deep gorge," he said.

Syiem, who is overseeing the investigation, told PTI that the contract killers arrived in Guwahati May 21, a day after the couple reached the north-east.

The killers procured a machete from outside their hotel in Guwahati, and then travelled by road to Shillong, he said.

"We have gathered CCTV evidence, making this investigation a very tight-knit one," he said.

Sonam was in touch with her boyfriend Raj throughout the day of the murder, while Raj coordinated with the three contract killers, he said.

"Sonam was present when Raja was killed," the officer said, adding that after the crime, she fled.

Sonam, her boyfriend Raj and the three suspected contract killers were produced before a court in Shillong Wednesday.

Sonam's brother Govind said that based on the evidence so far, he knows "100 per cent" that it was his sister who executed the crime, and she should be hanged if found guilty.

Govind also said that his family has snapped ties with her after her alleged involvement in the killing of her husband came to light.

MEA takes up ill-treatment of Indian with US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: India has raised with the US an incident of an Indian man being handcuffed and allegedly treated like a criminal at the Newark Airport, official sources said Wednesday.

The Indian Consulate in New York has ascertained that the man hailing from Haryana had entered the US illegally without a valid visa and was being deported back to India as per a court order, they said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) raised the matter with the US embassy in New Delhi, the sources said.

Videos of the Indian youth being pinned to the ground by US authorities at the Newark airport have gone viral.

The Indian embassy in Washington DC and the Indian Consulate in New York have also been in touch with the US authorities to ascertain the details in the case, the sources said.

Our Consulate in New York has ascertained that the individual who belongs to Haryana had entered the United States illegally without a valid visa and was being deported back to India as per a court order, they said.



Indian Navy's INS Tabar during the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with UK Carrier Strike Group's HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond. The naval drill featured tactical manoeuvres, unified helicopter operations, coordinated anti-submarine warfare, and professional exchanges between officers, underscoring growing maritime cooperation and a shared commitment to regional security

Congress expels Digvijaya's brother for 6 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The Congress Wednesday expelled former Madhya Pradesh MLA Laxman Singh, who is brother of ex-chief minister Digvijaya Singh, from the primary membership of the party for six years for "anti-party activities".

The action against Laxman Singh, also a five-time MP, came after he repeatedly made "derogatory" remarks against party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress had earlier issued a show cause notice against him saying why action should not be taken against him for his remarks. "Congress pres-

ident has expelled Laxman Singh, former MLA, Madhya Pradesh, from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress for a period of six years with immediate effect due to his anti-party activities," Tariq Anwar, member secretary of the Congress' Disciplinary Action Committee, said.

The MP Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) had made a recommendation to the party leadership for initiating action against him for his alleged anti-party activities and the matter was sent to the Disciplinary Action Commit-

tee of the AICC. Laxman Singh has been a five-time MP and three-time MLA from Madhya Pradesh. He was first elected to the state legislature in 1990. He became an MP for the first time in 1994 from Rajgarh.

He switched to the BJP in 2004 when he was elected to the Lok Sabha again. He returned to the Congress fold in 2013.

Last month, the Congress issued a show-cause notice to Laxman Singh, younger brother of party veteran Digvijaya Singh, saying his "derogatory" remarks targeting senior party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have "crossed all acceptable limits".

Fire still rages inside container ship off Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 11: The inner decks of the Singapore-flagged container ship, MV Wan Hai 503, remain on fire, posing a challenge to the agencies engaged in firefighting operations, three days after the blaze began on the vessel June 9 off the coast of Kerala, the Indian Coast Guard said Wednesday.

The vessel, carrying over one lakh metric tonnes of fuel and hazardous materials, is currently drifting southeast, about 42 nautical miles from Beypore, well within India's Exclusive Economic Zone, it said.

The Coast Guard is leading intense firefighting efforts, with support from the Indian Air Force and other maritime agencies. In a high-risk operation

around 3pm on Wednesday, an ICG helicopter winched five salvage team members and one aircrew diver onto the burning vessel.

Their aim is to help secure a towline to guide the ship to a safer area away from the coast.

So far, the outer fires have largely been brought under control, with only smoke now visible from the cargo holds.

However, flames still burn in the inner decks, dangerously close to the fuel tanks.

The ship is carrying over 122,000 metric tonnes of fuel and hundreds of containers, some of which contain hazardous materials.

The Coast Guard warns that the ship poses a serious risk to the marine environment and nearby shipping routes. Five



Coast Guard ships, two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter, and two support vessels from the Directorate General of Shipping are involved in the firefighting operations, it said. Salvage experts hired by the ship's owner have also joined

the operation. The sea remains rough, adding to the challenges. Officials say that both firefighting and towing are top priorities to prevent an environmental disaster.

"Containing the fire and towing the vessel to a safer location remain top priorities. The situation is being closely monitored, and further updates will be provided as developments unfold," the statement added. A major fire broke out on Monday on board the Singapore-flagged ship following a container explosion.

Eighteen crew members were rescued, while four remain missing. The incident occurred at approximately 9.20 am IST, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in Kerala's Kannur district, and about 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi.

Corruption complaints not in prescribed format will be rejected: Lokpal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Corruption complaints which are not in a prescribed format will not be entertained, anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has said.

A corruption complaint can be made in the office of the Lokpal of India in person, by hand at the reception/registry of its office, by post; or online (<https://lokpalonline.gov.in/lokpalonline>).

The complaints received in Lokpal of India, by any mode, that are not in prescribed form shall not be entertained at any level and would be filed without any action, according to a circular issued on procedure for dealing with the complaints received in the anti-corruption ombudsman.

In the circular, it said that the Lokpal did not have power to review its orders and mentioned "increasing instances of complainants desirous of a reconsideration of the verdict given by it".

"It is a settled position of law, that the power of review cannot be exercised by a statutory body unless the statute specifically confers such power. The (Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act) Act of 2013 does not confer such express power of review to the Lokpal," it said. The ombudsman also asked

the competent authority, mandated to tender comments based on material, information and documents collected during preliminary inquiry, not to prejudice the merits of allegations.

It found that the competent authority had been expressing opinion about the truthfulness of the allegations under consideration instead of comments about the existence or non-existence of the relevant facts.

"It is thus observed that they are prejudging the merits of the allegations even before the inquiry is completed," said the circular dated June 5.

The Lokpal upon receiving complaints has two options -- order a preliminary inquiry to ascertain whether there exists a prima facie case for proceeding in the matter or direct an investigation into the allegations by an agency including the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Lokpal said offering comments at the stage of "preliminary inquiry" by the competent authority wasn't about giving conclusive opinion concerning the allegation but a statement of fact based on the knowledge (either known personally or derived from official records) -- regarding the existence or non-existence of a fact alleged by the complainant.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-278
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER
MECHANICAL CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Email Address: semechircle104@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No.
ACEM/MDL-17/2025-26

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of Executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro Mechanical Gates
- Bid Identification No. : ACEM/MDL-17/2025-26
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 17,38,704/-
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar Months
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From Dt. 12.06.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to Dt. 20.06.2025 (5.30 P.M.)
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt. 20.06.2025 (upto 5.30 P.M.)
- Date and place of opening of Bid : Dt. 21.06.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards) in the O/o. the undersigned)
- Name of the Officer Inviting Bid : Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

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

Sd./ Addl. Chief Engineer
Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32405/11/0070/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-281
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER
MECHANICAL CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Email Address: semechircle104@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No.
ACEM/MDL-20/2025-26

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of Executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro Mechanical Gates
- Bid Identification No. : ACEM/MDL-20/2025-26
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 11,78,173/-
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar Months
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From Dt. 12.06.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to Dt. 20.06.2025 (5.30 P.M.)
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt. 20.06.2025 (upto 5.30 P.M.)
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Sd./ Addl. Chief Engineer
Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32405/11/0073/2526



AI can run human resource programs, for instance, or scan sensitive documents ahead of potential declassification

TULSI GABBARD | DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, US

POPE LEO XIV NAMES FIRST CHINESE BISHOP

Pope Leo XIV's appointment of Bishop Joseph Lin Yuntuan, recognized by China, marks a key step in Vatican-Beijing dialogue under the 2018 accord, continuing Pope Francis' controversial diplomatic initiative



international

of the day quote

I think we're entering another phase, especially under President Trump with his focus on the homeland, where the National Guard and Reserves become a critical component of how we secure that homeland

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

A zero-sum approach persists on all sides. Armed clashes remain a barrier to meeting humanitarian needs. The flow of weapons into the country is fuelling the expectations that a military solution is possible

JULIE BISHOP | UN ENVOY

Mexico's most powerful drug cartels are recruiting former Colombian soldiers, leading Mexico to turn away dozens of Colombians trying to enter the country in recent weeks

OMAR GARCIA HARRUCH | SECURITY SECRETARY, MEXICO

SHORT TAKES

Argentina's SC upholds sentence for ex-Prez

Buenos Aires: Argentina's Supreme Court Tuesday upheld the six-year prison sentence on corruption charges for former President Cristina Fernández, a ruling she quickly rejected.

At least 49 died in flooding in S Africa

Johannesburg: At least 49 people have died in flooding in South Africa's Eastern Cape province after an extreme cold front brought heavy rain and snow to parts of the country, officials said Wednesday.

US military bases on Danish soil approved

Copenhagen (Denmark): Denmark's Parliament Wednesday approved a bill to allow US military bases on Danish soil, a move that comes as President Donald Trump seeks to take control of the kingdom's semi-autonomous territory of Greenland.

Pak warns Afghans to leave voluntarily

Peshawar: Pakistan Wednesday warned Afghan citizens and all illegal foreigners to voluntarily leave the country and issued a stern warning against those obstructing the repatriation process.

LA TENSE

US braces for more protests

REUTERS

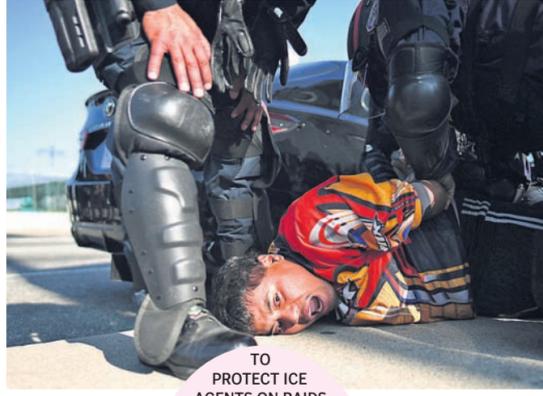
Los Angeles, June 11: US troops in Los Angeles to help manage protests are authorized to detain people until police can arrest them, a military official said Wednesday, as hundreds of Marines prepared to move into the city soon.

Protests over President Donald Trump's immigration raids have spread from California to other US cities, with hundreds of nationwide demonstrations planned for Saturday.

The 700 Marines and 4,000 National Guard troops that Trump has ordered to Los Angeles do not have arrest authority, US Army Major General Scott Sherman, who is commanding the troops, told reporters.

But Sherman said they do have the power to detain individuals temporarily until law enforcement can arrest them, if needed to fulfill their mission of protecting federal personnel or property.

The Marines, who have been training at Seal Beach just south of Los Angeles County,



TO PROTECT ICE AGENTS ON RAIDS

PROTESTS SPREAD TO NEW YORK, ATLANTA, CHICAGO

TEXAS TO DEPLOY NATIONAL GUARD AHEAD OF MORE PROTESTS

will not carry live ammunition in their rifles, Sherman added.

A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Sherman's comments reflect regular rules of engagement and did not reflect an expansion of authorities.

In addition to protecting government buildings and personnel, the Pentagon has said the troops will safeguard Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers during raids.

ICE posted photos online Tuesday of National Guard troops standing guard with

weapons in hand as ICE officers handcuffed apparent migrants against the side of a car in Los Angeles.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta told Reuters on Tuesday that allowing federal troops to protect personnel could violate an 1878 law that generally forbids the US military, including the National Guard, from taking part in civilian law enforcement.

PROTESTS SPREAD

Protesters marched in New York, Atlanta and Chicago Tuesday night, chanting anti-ICE slogans and at times clashing with law enforce-

US-China trade deal is 'done,' Trump says

REUTERS

Washington/London, June 10: A US-China trade deal is "done," US President Donald Trump said Wednesday, hours after negotiators from Washington and Beijing agreed on a framework to get a fragile trade truce back on track and remove Chinese export restrictions on rare earth minerals and other critical industrial components.

Trump took to his social media platform to offer some of the first details to emerge from two days of marathon talks held in London that had, in the words of US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, put "meat on the bones" of an agreement reached last month in Geneva to ease bilateral retaliatory tariffs that had reached crushing triple-digit levels.

"Our deal with China is done, subject to final approval with President Xi and me," Trump said on the Truth Social platform. "Full magnets, and any necessary rare earths, will be supplied, up front, by China. Likewise, we will provide to China what was agreed to, including Chinese students using our colleges and universities (which has always been good with me!). We are getting a total of 55% tariffs, China is getting 10%."

The US president later posted, "President Xi and I are going to work closely together to open up China to American Trade. This would be a great WIN for both countries!!!"

Other specifics for how the deal would be implemented remained unclear.

Pak man extradited to US over plot to attack at Jewish centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 11: A Pakistani citizen living in Canada has been extradited to the US to face charges for plotting the ISIS-inspired mass shooting at a Jewish centre in New York City around the first anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attacks, US officials said.

Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, 20, also known as Shahzeb Jadoon, was extradited to the US Tuesday in connection with an indictment filed in the South-

ern District of New York, the Department of Justice said in a press release.

FBI Director Kash Patel said Khan allegedly tried to enter the US to commit the attack and planned an ISIS-inspired mass shooting October 7, 2024, around the first anniversary of the 2023 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel.

"Major news earlier this afternoon, Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, a Pakistani citizen residing in Canada, was extradited to the United States

on charges of attempting to provide material support to ISIS and attempting to commit acts of terrorism," Patel said in a post on X.

Khan is scheduled to make an initial appearance in court Wednesday.

US Attorney Jay Clayton for the Southern District of New York said Khan planned to use automatic weapons to kill as many members of the Jewish community as possible, all in support of ISIS, the press release said.

Russia hits Kharkiv with deadly nighttime barrage of drones

REUTERS



REUTERS

Kharkiv, Ukraine, June 11: A concentrated, nine-minute-long Russian drone attack on Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv in the middle of the night killed three people and injured 64, including nine children, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday.

The overnight attack followed Russia's two biggest air assaults of the war on Ukraine this week, part of intensified bombardments that Moscow says are retaliatory measures for Kyiv's recent attacks in Russia.

Elsewhere, two southern Ukrainian regions, Mykolaiv and Kherson, were left without electricity Wednesday after Russian forces attacked an energy facility, the governors said. Kharkiv, in Ukraine's northeast, withstood Russia's full-scale advance in the early days of the war but has since been a regular target of drone, missile and guided aerial bomb assaults.

The intense strikes by 17 drones on Kharkiv sparked fires in 15 units of a five-storey apartment building and caused other damage in the city close

to the Russian border, the city's mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

"There are direct hits on multi-storey buildings, private homes, playgrounds, enterprises and public transport," Terekhov said on the Telegram messaging app.

"Every new day now brings new despicable blows from Russia, and almost every blow is telling. Russia deserves increased pressure; with literally every blow it strikes against ordinary life, it proves that the pressure is not enough," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Telegram.

A Reuters witness saw emergency rescuers helping to carry people out of damaged buildings and administering care, while firefighters battled blazes in the dark.

Nine of the injured, including a 2-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, have been hospitalised. Oleh Sinehubov, the governor of the broader Kharkiv region, said on Telegram.

In total, the Ukrainian military said Russia had launched 85 drones overnight, 40 of which were shot down.

STRIKES FOLLOW TWO BIGGEST AIR ASSAULTS OF THE WAR DOZENS INJURED, INCLUDING NINE CHILDREN ZELENSKIY: ATTACK SHOWS RUSSIA IS NOT FACING ENOUGH PRESSURE TWO SOUTHERN REGIONS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY AFTER ATTACKS

SK halts loudspeaker broadcasts along border with rival NK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 11: South Korea's military has shut down loudspeakers broadcasting anti-North Korean propaganda along the inter-Korean border, marking the new liberal government's first concrete step toward easing tensions between the war-divided rivals.

The South resumed the loudspeaker broadcasts in June last year following a yearslong pause in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward the South in a psychological warfare campaign.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said Wednesday the move was part of efforts to "to restore trust in inter-Korean relations and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula". North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, did not immediately comment on the step by Seoul.

From May to November last year, North Korea flew thousands of balloons toward South Korea to drop substances such as wastepaper, cloth scraps, cigarette butts and even manure. The North said its balloon campaign came after South Korean activists sent over balloons filled with anti-North Korean leaflets, as well as USB sticks filled with popular South Korean songs and dramas. Trash carried by at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound in July, raising concerns about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. Officials said the balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt.

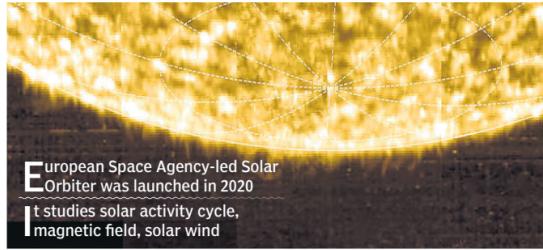
South Korea, in response to the North Korean balloons, reactivated its front-line loudspeakers to blast propaganda messages and K-pop songs toward the North.

Solar Orbiter spacecraft obtains first images of the sun's poles

The robotic Solar Orbiter spacecraft has obtained the first images ever taken of our sun's two poles as scientists seek a deeper understanding of Earth's host star, including its magnetic field, its 11-year cycle of activity and the solar wind.

The European Space Agency Wednesday released images taken in March using three of Solar Orbiter's onboard instruments. They show the sun's south pole from a distance of roughly 40 million miles (65 million km), obtained at a period of maximum solar activity. Images of the north pole are still being transmitted by the spacecraft back to Earth.

Solar Orbiter, developed by ESA in collaboration with the US space agency NASA, was



European Space Agency-led Solar Orbiter was launched in 2020. It studies solar activity cycle, magnetic field, solar wind

launched in 2020 from Florida.

Until now, all the views of the sun have come from the same vantage point - looking face-on toward its equator from the plane on which Earth and most of the solar system's other planets orbit, called the ecliptic plane.

Solar Orbiter used a slingshot flyby around Venus in February to get out of this plane

to view the sun from up to 17 degrees below the solar equator. Future slingshot flybys will provide an even better view, at beyond 30 degrees.

"The best is still to come. What we have seen is just a first quick peek," said solar physicist Sami Solanki of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Germany,

who heads the scientific team for the spacecraft's Polarimeter and Helioseismic Imager instrument.

"The spacecraft observed both poles, first the south pole, then the north pole," Solanki said. "The north pole's data will arrive in the coming weeks or months."

Solar Orbiter is gathering data on phenomena including the sun's magnetic field, its activity cycle, and the solar wind, a relentless high-speed flow of charged particles emanating from the sun's outermost atmospheric layer that fills interplanetary space.

"We are not sure what we will find, and it is likely we will see things that we didn't know about before," said solar physicist Hamish Reid of University College London's Mull-

ard Space Science Laboratory, UK co-principal investigator of Solar Orbiter's Extreme Ultraviolet Imager instrument.

The sun is a ball of hot electrically charged gas that, as it moves, generates a powerful magnetic field, which flips from south to north and back again every 11 years in what is called the solar cycle.

The magnetic field drives the formation of sunspots, cooler regions on the solar surface that appear as dark blotches. At the cycle's beginning, the sun has fewer sunspots. Their number increases as the cycle progresses, before starting all over again.

"What we have been missing to really understand this (solar cycle) is what is actually happening at the top and bottom of the sun," Reid said.

REUTERS



Congratulations to Maruti Suzuki India for achieving a 5***** (STARS) Bharat NCAP rating for the All-New Dzire — a proud milestone for Made-in-India cars

NITIN GADKARI | MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

NCLT CLEARS INOX WIND, IWEL MERGER

The Chandigarh bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of Inox Wind Energy Ltd and Inox Wind Ltd, a decision that will streamline the wind business vertical of the INOXGFL Group and improve overall operational efficiencies. Following the NCLT order Tuesday, Inox Wind Energy Ltd will amalgamating into Inox Wind Ltd (IWL), INOXGFL Group said in a statement Wednesday



of the day quote

The government is working on a framework to standardise the default temperatures of air conditioners, including those in automobiles, in the range of 20 to 28 degrees Celsius

This agreement is a strong testament to Waaree's commitment to developing a robust, US-based clean energy ecosystem. Our Brookshire facility is uniquely positioned to meet rising demand with high-quality, American-made modules, helping our partners deliver on ambitious energy targets while creating jobs and ensuring supply security

Of the total import in April, non-coking coal import stood at 15.90 MT against 17.40 MT imported in April last fiscal year. Coking coal import stood at 5.42 MT, against 4.97 MT imported in April 2024. Availability of surplus stock in the system has reduced buyers' appetite for imported materials, even as the seaborne prices have remained soft. This trend is likely to continue until such time as demand picks up before the festive season

SHORT TAKES

NTPC raises \$750mn

New Delhi: NTPC raised \$750 million through External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) to fund its business expansion. Bank of Baroda acted as the lead arranger and underwriter of the syndicated term loan facility. The proceeds of the facility will be utilised towards financing of NTPC's capital expenditure for existing or new capacity addition programmes, a joint statement said. The capex includes flue gas desulphurisation projects, and renewable energy projects (including hydro-based projects). Besides, it can be used for refinancing of existing External Commercial Borrowing for capital expenditure purposes to the extent the same is in compliance with the end-use or other requirements, as permitted under the ECB Guidelines of Reserve Bank of India. Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), NTPC Limited said, "The company is spearheading a transformative expansion of its energy portfolio, with a strategic vision to achieve 60 GW of renewable capacity by 2032 and elevate its total installed capacity from 80 GW to 130 GW+."

UBI cuts lending rate

New Delhi: State-owned Union Bank of India (UBI) slashed their lending rate by 50 basis points in line with the rate moderation done by RBI last week. These changes include downward revision of External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) and Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) by 50 basis points, the Union Bank said in a statement. With this move, the bank has completely aligned its EBLR and RLLR with the recent RBI rate cut which will be beneficial to new and existing retail (home, vehicle, personal, etc.) and MSME borrowers, it said. Following the RBI action, many banks have slashed lending rate remaining will follow suit soon. Earlier Friday, the RBI cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

Rare earth magnet crisis gripping auto industry

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: As China's curbs on rare earth magnets send ripples across global automotive, defence and consumer electronics supply chains, India's fledgling EV ecosystem must finally reckon with its overreliance on China. A delegation of auto industry representatives is gearing up for a China visit to expedite the import of rare earth magnets to Indian entities, as per the industry sources.

What are Rare earth magnets? Rare earth magnets are crucial for a variety of electronics. In the automotive scheme of things, they're needed for ICE vehicles as well, featuring in the motors found in power steering, windscreen wipers, etc. However, for EVs, they are indispensable as they're part of the Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors, which deliver high torque, are energy efficient, and are compact in size.

After China's statement on rare earth magnet, around 40-50 company executives have received visa approval but still await a go-ahead from the Chinese commerce ministry for a meeting regarding the matter. No approvals have been granted so far, another source added.

The domestic auto industry is forced to take steps as the Chinese government has put restrictions since April 4 on the export of rare earth elements and related magnets. China has mandated special export licences for seven rare earth elements and related magnets.

Impact on automakers Maruti Suzuki has cut near-term production targets for its maiden electric vehicle e-Vitara by two-thirds because of rare earths shortages, a document showed, in the latest sign of dis-



Image showing a car chassis on an assembly line.

ruption to the auto industry from China's export curbs. The auto major said Monday it had not seen any impact yet from the supply crisis, now plans to make about 8,200 e-Vitara between April and September, versus an original goal of 26,500, as per the company's document.

It cited "supply constraints" in rare earth materials that are vital in making magnets and other components across a range of hi-tech industries.

Maruti still plans to meet its output target of 67,000 EVs for the year ending March 2026 by ramping up production in subsequent months, the document said.

Domestic automobile industry has also sought government support in expediting approvals from China to import rare earth magnets. The critical materials include samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium and lutetium, which are essential in electric motors, braking systems, smartphones and missile technology.

The rare earths crisis comes as Maruti is already grappling to recover market share lost to Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra's feature-rich SUVs. These companies also lead India's EV sales. Maruti's share of India's passenger vehicle market is down to 41 per cent from a recent peak of about 51

- Maruti to cut production in first half of FY25-26 by two-thirds
Aims to make up lost ground later to meet full-year target
China's curbs on rare earth exports have hit global car industry
Indian auto companies yet to see magnet supplies resume

per cent in March 2020. Suzuki has trimmed its sales target for India to 2.5 million vehicles by March 2031 from 3 million previously, and scaled back its lineup of EV launches to just four, instead of the six planned before, as competition in the South Asian nation intensifies.

Meanwhile, Crisil Ratings has noted that rare earth magnets, which are low in cost but critical in function, could emerge as a key supply-side risk for India's automotive sector if China's export restrictions and delays in shipment clearances persist.

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, it stated.

A broader impact on two-wheelers and ICE PVs may follow if the supply bottlenecks persist for an extended period. In April this year, China, the 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.

Gold ETFs witness inflow of ₹292 crore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: After a two-month outflow, Gold Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) experienced a net inflow of ₹292 crore in May driven by resilient gold prices and sustained global uncertainties.

The inflow led to an expansion in the category's assets under management to ₹62,453 crore in May from ₹61,422 crore in April, latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

Going by the data, Gold ETFs witnessed an inflow to the tune of ₹292 crore last month, marking an improvement from outflow of ₹6 crore in April and ₹77 crore in March.

"The renewed traction in May signals a gradual return of investor interest, likely driven by resilient gold prices and sustained global uncertainties that reinforce gold's appeal as a strategic hedge," Nehal Meshram, senior analyst at Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Furthermore, the relative stability in gold prices has provided a more attractive entry point for investors looking to build or rebalance allocations toward safer assets, she added.

Also, investors are now realising the need to have gold as a part of their portfolio, and therefore, the buying has begun, Santosh Joseph, CEO of Germinate Investor Services, said. "Apart from dip and asset

allocation, there is generally a tendency to stay in dollar assets, which are different from equities, and therefore, gold is a unique asset class which is dollar-denominated but not equity-connected. It's got a negative correlation to equities, and therefore, it forms a perfect hedge to one's portfolio. So it's a combination of things that led to inflow," he added.

While inflows are yet to reach the levels seen earlier in the year, the trend suggests a gradual and measured return of interest in gold, underpinned by its long-term diversification benefits. Gold, with its superlative performance over the last few years, has garnered substantial investor interest and the consistent increase in folio numbers serves as a testament to its attractiveness.

The folio numbers in gold ETFs rose by 2.24 lakh to 73.69 lakh from 71.45 lakh in April. This indicates a growing inclination among investors towards funds related to gold.

Gold ETFs, which aim to track the domestic physical gold price, are passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in gold bullion. In short, Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold which may be in paper or dematerialised form.

One gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. They combine the flexibility of stock investments and the simplicity of gold investments.

Stock markets close higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 11: Benchmark Sensex closed higher by 123 points while Nifty rose for a sixth consecutive day on Wednesday following a rally in global markets amid optimism over US-China trade talks and foreign fund inflows.

30-share BSE Sensex rose by 123.42 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 82,515.14. During the day, it climbed 391.79 points or 0.47 per cent to 82,783.50, driven by gains in IT and energy shares.

50-share NSE Nifty ended 37.15 points or 0.15 per cent up at 25,141.40. The index moved between a low of 25,081.30 and a high of 25,222.40 during the day. In the six sessions to Wednesday, Nifty gained 598 points or 2.42 per cent.

HCL Tech, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors and Eternal were the lead gainers. Power Grid, Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, Nestle, HDFC Bank and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

BSE smallcap gauge went up by 0.06 per cent while midcap index dipped 0.12 per cent. Among sectoral indices, oil & gas surged the most by 1.83 per cent, followed by energy (1.33 per cent), BSE Focused IT (1.30 per cent), IT (1.25 per cent), teck (1.01 per cent), healthcare (0.74 per cent) and auto (0.19 per cent).

Social security coverage rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: India's social security coverage has increased to 64.3 per cent in 2025 from 19 per cent in 2015, according to International Labour Organization (ILO) data. India now ranks second in the world in terms of beneficiary count, providing social protection to around 94 crore citizens.

"The increase marks the fastest expansion in social protection coverage worldwide, reflecting the government's unwavering commitment to 'Antyodaya' i.e., empowering the last mile and fulfilling the promise of leaving no one behind," said Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya who was in Geneva to attend the 113th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the ILO.

It is an unprecedented 45 percentage point surge over the past decade, the global body has said. India is also the first country globally to update its 2025 social protection coverage data in the ILOSTAT database.

DG ILO Gilbert F Houngbo has praised India's focused welfare policies for the poor and labour class under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. ILO's criteria for scheme consideration for each country include that the scheme should be legislatively backed, in cash and are active, and verified time series data of last three years has to be provided, the ministry said.

Dion's Integrated Riverside Township gets SBI approval

Bhubaneswar: Dion Group is proud to announce that its flagship development, the Integrated Riverside Township with Hospital, Mall, Multiplex, Star Hotel, and modern amenities has officially received project approval from the State Bank of India (SBI). This milestone underscores the project's financial soundness, planning integrity, and commitment to quality development. The approval letter was formally presented to Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Founder and Director, DION Group, in the presence of Prasanta Kumar, Deputy General Manager, and Saroj Rout, Assistant General Manager, SBI, at HLST, Unit 1, Bhubaneswar, further reinforced the trust and credibility the township has garnered within the banking ecosystem. Further, Prasanta Kumar, Deputy General Manager, SBI said, "Strategically located at Trisulia, the integrated township is designed as a complete urban habitat, with residential spaces, healthcare, education, retail, leisure, and essential services all within reach. SBI's nod ensures that homebuyers can now avail of attractive and secure home loan options, making the path to ownership smoother and more accessible." Manoj Kumar Sahoo further added, "As one of Odisha's pioneering integrated riverside township projects, Dion's Codename, Newtown is set to transform the way ODISHA lives, works, and connects, all within."



Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Founder and Director, DION Group, and Prasanta Kumar, Deputy General Manager, SBI, receiving an approval letter from SBI.

AI key enabler for future networks: DoT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Artificial intelligence will serve as a foundational technology for future networks, with AI-native systems enabling new services like immersive experiences, autonomous operations and integrated sensing, a DoT official has said.

Sanjeev K Bidwai, Member (Technology), Department of Telecommunications, Wednesday said institutions like C-DoT, IITs and other leading R&D centres are working on indigenous AI-powered telecom technologies, actively contributing to international standards through platforms like ITU-T, ITU-R and 3GPP.

"According to ITU-R's vision document M2160, AI will be a key enabler for future networks, from intelligent ra-

dio interface management to cross-domain orchestration and personalised service delivery.

"AI native networks will not only manage complexity but will unlock new service frontiers, immersive digital experiences, autonomous systems, integrated sensing and on-demand slicing for multi-tasks. This evolution is not just technological, it is strategic," he said.

India is home to one of the world's largest and most dynamic telecom markets, offering a rich and diverse testing ground for AI native solutions, Bidwai said during the 3rd meeting of ITU-T focus group on AI native for telecommunication networks here.

India's expanding AI start-up ecosystem, backed by a supportive policy framework in AI, data governance and

digital public infrastructure, makes it ready and a true global leader in shaping the future of AI native networks.

IIT Jodhpur, in partnership with the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT), is developing AI frameworks for automated network management for detection and diagnostics.

"This includes establishing a real-time 5G and beyond testbed compliant with ORAN standards. Further, DoT has signed a letter of intent with ITU to explore AI-driven digital twin technologies for infrastructure planning," Bidwai said.

He said DoT is positioning India at the forefront of AI native networking, fostering innovation and contributing to the evaluation of intelligent autonomous telecommunication networks.

SEBI mandates UPI mechanism for registered intermediaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 11: Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Wednesday said it has mandated a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment mechanism for all registered intermediaries, who collect funds from investors, to improve the safety and accessibility of financial transactions within the securities market.

UPI payment mechanism will go live from October 1, 2025, SEBI chief, Tuhin Kanta Pandey told. In recent years, unregistered entities have increasingly misled investors by fraudulent activities. To address the issue of impersonation and enhance investor confidence, the regulator has mandated a new UPI address structure for all SEBI-registered intermediaries who collect funds from investors.

"This innovative mechanism is set to significantly improve the safety and accessibility of financial transactions within the securities market by providing a verified and secure payment channel," Pandey said.

To empower investors, the market regulator is developing a new functionality called "Sebi Check".

This upcoming tool will enable investors to verify the authenticity of UPI IDs either by scanning a QR code or entering the UPI ID manually and confirming the bank details, such as the account number and India Financial System Code (IFSC) of a registered intermediary.

In January, the authority floated a consultation paper in this regard. SEBI chief said that there is a lot of public concern and many people are becoming prey to fraud, cyber frauds in



SEBI logo on wooden blocks.

which a lot of cloning of apps happens.

People are taken to some similar-looking apps of the brokers or through WhatsApp, and the people then are investing in that money thinking that they are actually investing with the registered brokers but they are actually not. They are being just taken to this and a huge amount of money many people have lost, he said.

"We have to find out some systemic solutions to it because we have 130 million unique investors now and a lot of new

investors are coming and we needed a system where at least in the securities market the people are investing they should invest through a method where they are able to know systemically whether they are really investing in the right one," Pandey said.

According to the market regulator, the validated payment handle will be available to all investors to transfer up to ₹5 lakh per day to their respective registered intermediaries.

Also while it is mandatory for all intermediaries to secure

Over the next two years we will have coordinated investor protection campaigns on basic themes, and one of the first themes will be cyber security, prevention of cyber frauds, investing safe, and providing a safe space

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | CHIEF, SEBI

ting apps, which are already there on exchange sites, going forward it will be working with the PlayStore and iOS and Android to see that only properly validated apps are only displayed, and that work of verified status is on is on.

According to the market regulator, the intermediaries will have to stop accepting payments using the current UPI IDs post the specified deadline. While the existing mode of fund transfer for on-going Mutual Fund SIPs will continue to remain in force to avoid disruption, the new SIPs and renewal and extension of existing SIPs must be done using UPI IDs only.

It is also mandatory, as per SEBI, to generate QR codes with the "thumbs-up" logo for the convenience of investors, as scanning of QR codes is more secure and reliable.

SHORT TAKES

Bopanna lone survivor

Stuttgart: Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna teamed up with Belgium's Sander Gille to enter the quarterfinals of the ATP 250 Boss Open here Wednesday but N Sriram Balaj and Yuki Bhambri went down fighting with their respective partners. Third seeds, Bopanna and Gille quelled the challenge of local combination of Jakob Schnaitter and Mark Wallner 6-3 5-7 11-9 in one hour and 21 minutes. They are now up against American Taylor Fritz and Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka. India's number one doubles player Yuki Bhambri and his American partner Robert Galloway fought their hearts out before losing their opener. In a match where both sets were decided by tie-breakers, the Indo-American combination lost 6-7(5) 6-7(5) to Santiago Gonzalez from Mexico and Austin Krajicek from the USA in one hour and 34 minutes. Balaji and his Mexican partner Miguel Reyes-Varela fought tooth and nail before losing 7-6(5) 3-6 5-10 to the second-seeded French pair of Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul.

WTC Final: Oz fight back

London: Australia's fast bowlers were at their accurate best as they reduced South Africa to 43/4 in 22 overs at stumps on Day One of the World Test Championship final at the Lord's Wednesday. On a day when 14 wickets fell, Kagiso Rabada claimed 5-51 as Australia were bowled out for 212. But Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, and Josh Hazlewood struck in the final session to leave South Africa four down, with them trailing Australia by 169 runs. They would need big runs from skipper Temba Bavuma and David Bedingham, unbeaten on three and eight respectively, to make a fightback on the second. After being bowled out for 212, Australia needed to respond strongly, and Starc provided for it in the opening over when Aiden Markram chopped onto his stumps.

THE GREAT INDIAN FOOTBALL MESS

Veterans demand overhaul of 'rotten' system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 11: Outraged by India's plummeting fortunes on the football field, talismanic former captain Bhaichung Bhutia has accused the national federation of destroying the sport while some other stakeholders have lambasted the current system as "rotten" and riddled with "fragile egos".

Bhutia's scathing attack on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and its President Kalyan Chaubey came a day after the team collapsed to a stunning 0-1 loss to a lower-ranked Hong Kong in the third round of the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers.

"It's very painful to see... we are definitely struggling now to even qualify for the Asia Cup, which we've been qualifying for regularly," Bhutia told PTI.

"Countries like Uzbekistan, Indonesia (likely qualifiers based in current form) and Jordan have qualified for the World Cup, and we are still struggling for the Asia Cup. Very unfortunate," he lamented.

The loss Tuesday left India's hopes of qualifying for the 2027 Asian Cup hanging by a thread -- a stark contrast to their recent back-to-back appearances at the continental showpiece.

Visibly anguished, the former India captain called for Chaubey's resignation and demanded a structural overhaul of Indian football, describing the on-field disasters and off-field chaos as symptoms of a deeper rot.

Current India head coach Manolo Marquez, who is also the coach of Indian Super League side FC Goa, took over



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BHAICHUNG BHUTIA | FORMER CAPTAIN, INDIA

from Croatian legend Igor Stimac in July last year. Stimac was sacked after a string of disappointing results, including a loss to Afghanistan in a World Cup qualifier in Guwahati.

Marquez hasn't been able to arrest the slide either and the team has logged just one win in its last eight matches. It is being widely speculated that he does not wish to continue in the position.

Bhutia, who was defeated by Chaubey in the AIFF presidential election in September 2022, did not mince words while calling out the current leadership, alleging mismanagement, corruption, and bypassing of key footballing committees in

PATHETIC PERFORMANCE: India had trained for nearly three weeks in Kolkata ahead of the crucial match Tuesday, only to be outclassed by a team ranked 26 notches below them (India: 127, Hong Kong: 153). The latest defeat is expected to push the country down to 133 in the FIFA rankings

major decisions, including the appointment of Marquez.

"Kalyan Chaubey has destroyed Indian football. Chaubey has to resign and leave. He has completely destroyed it. Three General Secretaries in two-and-a-half years -- the entire structure, the system will have to be changed," he said.

"Controversy after controversy, corruption charge... even after months now we don't know who the I-League winner is," he added, referring to the ongoing legal tussle between Inter Kashi

and Churchill Brothers for the championship.

He accused Chaubey of bypassing the Technical Committee to appoint Marquez and criticised the decision to let the Spaniard simultaneously coach both FC Goa and the national team. Bhutia also criticised the decision to bring talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri out of international retirement, saying it was a poor call driven more by desperation than planning.

"It was nice of him to come out of retirement, but it was a

have been a complete failure."

Foreign coaches not the solution: Subrata

Legendary defender and coach Subrata Bhattacharya slammed the obsession with foreign coaches and called for more faith in Indian talent.

"It's no guarantee that a foreign coach will give you success. Domestic coaches like PK Banerjee and Amal Dutta brought glory."

"Foreigners in ISL won't help Indian players develop. Only Indian coaches know our boys and can develop them."

On Chhetri's return, Bhattacharya, who also happens to be his father-in-law, said, "It's his personal decision, but if it was done to serve someone's personal interest, it's wrong."

Two of Indian football's key club stakeholders -- Bengaluru FC owner Parth Jindal and FC Goa CEO Ravi Puskur -- also launched a scathing attack on the AIFF and the broader footballing ecosystem, calling for deep introspection and structural reform in the wake of the humiliating defeat.

FC Goa's Puskur called the system "rotten in ways we refuse to admit."

"Everything moves on influence, favours, and fragile egos. We don't have the maturity to manage the ecosystem we claim to be building. We turn on each other faster than we face uncomfortable truths," Puskur wrote on X.

Puskur, however, felt that blame for the national team's persistent failures cannot be placed solely on the federation, the coach, or the players.

Walsh backs Rugby Premier League to shape India's Olympic dream

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 11: Former Australian player-turned-head coach Tim Walsh, who led the Australian women's rugby sevens team to a gold medal at the Rio Olympics in 2016, expressed strong belief in the transformative power of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) and is confident that the tournament's structure, professionalism, and potential will propel Indian rugby towards greater heights.

Reflecting on his experience, Walsh, who is the head coach of Mumbai Dreamers, said, "So far it has been excellent for us. The environment is very welcoming and very professionally run. The training facilities are amazing, and we're getting some great work under our belts to go and put on a show."

The RPL is the first-of-its-kind franchise tournament for Rugby Sevens. Speaking on the league's unique format, Walsh reckoned that the environment is helping all the players evolve. "We get to share our knowledge and experience with each other and grow. Everyone here is going to grow as a player, a coach, and a person. It's a privilege to be part of it."

When asked about the Indian talent in his squad, Walsh highlighted how well they've adapted to the team environment. "The Indian boys have fitted in extraor-



The Indian boys have fitted in extraordinarily well. They've got some serious skill and talent. Now, it's our job now to unlock it

TIM WALSH | FORMER AUSTRALIAN PLAYER-TURNED-HEAD COACH

dinarily well. They've got some serious skill and talent. Now, it's our job now to unlock it."

The Australian also underlined GMR RPL's long-term value for India's Olympic ambitions, stating, "Hopefully the impact is exponential. The tournament has visionary leaders and backing from amazing sponsors. Everything takes time, but

with investment and professionalism, India has every chance to reach the Olympics."

"Shout out to Rugby India and GMR for making this happen. It's a really powerful growth moment for rugby and rugby sevens. You're merging sport and entertainment in a fantastic, colourful country", he added.

Asked what he's most looking forward to, Walsh offered a coach's perspective with a human touch. "What I love about coaching is bringing different people together and watching them have a really good time. When they enjoy themselves, they perform well. We're after a great challenge, great energy, and hopefully, a win."

Manu, Chain enter finals but miss medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, June 11: Paris Olympics medallist Manu Bhaker and senior pro Chain Singh made it to the finals of their respective events but could not nail a podium finish as India endured a medal-less day at the ISSF World Cup here Wednesday.

Double Olympic bronze-medallist shooter Bhaker finished sixth in 25m pistol after entering the eight-shooter final placed fifth with an aggregate 'precision' and 'rapid fire' score of 588.

Chain made it to final of the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event on the back of a fine qualification round score but finished seventh in the eight-shooter medal round.

On the opening day of the competition Tuesday, India won a bronze through Elavennil Valarivan in women's 10m

SHOOTING WORLD CUP



air rifle event.

Bhaker shot 290 in precision and a superb 298 in the rapid fire round to aggregate 588 going into the finals.

The medal round, didn't go as expected, as the winner of the Olympics bronze medals in women's and mixed team 10m air pistol events was out

gunned by the Chinese and Korean shooters.

China's Sun Yujie took the gold with a score of 38, while Korea's Oh Yejin and Yang Jjin bagged the silver and bronze notching up 36 and 32 points respectively. Bhaker couldn't go beyond the third elimination round to finish

with 20 points.

Multiple Asian Games medallist Esha Singh finished 11th with a combined 'precision' and 'rapid fire' score of 585 and could not make it to the eight-shooter final.

The other Indian in the fray Simranpreet Kaur Brar tallied 577 to finish 32nd.

India's Chain Singh made it to final of the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event on the back of a fine qualification round score but finished seventh in the eight-shooter medal round.

Chain, an Asian Games medallist who had recently won a bronze in the ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina, qualified for the final in sixth place with an aggregate of 592.

The other Indians in the event, Paris Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale and Ankush Jadhav shot 587 and 580 to finish 38th and 67th respectively.

Senegal become first African team to beat England with 3-1 win in friendly

Nottingham: Senegal became the first African team to beat England in 22 games Tuesday, winning 3-1 in a friendly at the City Ground thanks to goals from Ismaila Sarr, Habib Diarra and Cheikh Sabaly. Senegal stretched their unbeaten streak to 24 games, while England's loss, which included a disallowed late goal from Jude Bellingham for a handball in the build-up, was their first defeat in four games under new manager Thomas Tuchel. "Not good enough," captain Harry Kane told ITV. "We had moments, but with and without the ball things aren't clicking, we're not finding the right tempo. We've lost that aggressive nature that we had." England -- with 10 changes from Saturday's 1-0 lacklustre World Cup qualifying win over Andorra -- took the lead when Kane struck in the seventh minute after Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy saved Anthony Gordon's shot but spilled the ball into the striker's path.

Indian men's hockey team suffers 3rd consecutive loss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen (The Netherlands), June 11: Sloppy defending cost the Indian men's hockey team dearly as it went down 3-4 to Argentina, slumping to its third consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League here Wednesday.

India had earlier lost 1-2 and 2-3 against Olympic champions Netherlands here.

On Wednesday, the Indian defence were caught off guard by the Los Leones as they scored through skipper Matias Rey (3rd minute), Lucas Martinez (17th), Santiago Tarazona (34th) and Lucio Mendez (46th) to score the win.

India's goals were scored by skipper Harmanpreet Singh (12th, 33rd) and Abhishek (42nd). After back-to-back defeats against Netherlands, the Indians started positively and

had the better share of possession in the first quarter.

But it was Argentina who took the lead in the third minute through captain Matias Rey, courtesy an unforced error from Indian defender Amit Rohidas.

Trailing, India, however, pressed hard and dominated the remaining of the quarter and finally restored parity in the 12th minute when skipper Harmanpreet converted a penalty -- the team's first penalty corner -- as both the teams were locked 1-1 at the end of the first quarter.

Argentina, however, were the better side on display in the second quarter and took the lead again two minutes into the quarter when Martinez scored from top of the circle, courtesy again a defensive error from Rohidas.

While the Indians used the ariel ball to perfection, unforced errors and sloppy defending proved to be their undoing.



Anti-doping watchdog slams drug-fueled event

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lausanne (Switzerland), June 11: The global watchdog of doping in sports said Wednesday it will urge public authorities to shut down the drug-fueled Enhanced Games planned in Las Vegas next year.

"We will urge the US authorities to find legal ways to block this initiative," World Anti-Doping Agency president Witold Banka said on the sidelines of a meeting of Olympic sports bodies.

Organizers of the games scheduled next May promise \$1 million bonuses to beat world record times by athletes who will be encouraged to use performance-enhancing drugs under medical supervision.

"This initiative seeks to normalize the use of potentially dangerous drugs," Banka told



leaders of Summer Olympics sports at the annual meeting of their umbrella group, known as ASOIF. "For the sake of athlete health and the purity of sport of course it must be stopped," the WADA leader said.

Banka, a former sports minister in Poland, suggested the Enhanced Games could be legally exposed in the state of Nevada or federally.

"This is something that has to be explored from the legal

This initiative seeks to normalize the use of potentially dangerous drugs. For the sake of athlete health and the purity of sport of course it must be stopped

WITOLD BANKA | PRESIDENT, WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

perspective," he told The Associated Press. "I cannot imagine, for instance, doctors giving the drugs to the athletes. It is completely against the values of their work."

"The main thing is this event is going to be located in the US so I think there is a strong role to be played by the US Anti-Doping Agency," said Banka, whose Montreal-based organization has long had a troubled relationship with the American

agency. USADA's chief executive, Travis Tygart, has described the Enhanced Games as a "dangerous clown show that puts profit over principle."

Investors in the project -- which aims to sell personalized supplements and substances plans to subscribers -- include one group backed by Donald Trump Jr.

The doping-backed project was "very embarrassing" for the US, Banka suggested, given its proximity to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"I think the main responsibility is on USADA's shoulders, who need to take the lead because it is in their country," he said. Swimming's governing body World Aquatics said last week it will ban athletes, coaches and officials who take part in the Enhanced Games.