

Plane crashes in Guj, kills at least 265

FORMER CM VIJAY RUPANI AMONG THOSE DEAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 12: A London-bound Air India (AI) plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed into a medical college complex here and burst into a ball of fire Thursday moments after takeoff, possibly killing almost everyone on board in one of the country's worst air disasters.

Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani was among the dead, according to BJP leader CR Patil. There were also reports of one passenger identified as Vishwaskumar Ramesh and seated on 11A of the ill-fated Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI171) having survived miraculously.

There was no official count of those killed even hours after the twin-engine wide bodied aircraft crashed in the city civil hospital and BJ Medical College outside the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport perimeter. However, a police official said as many as 265 bodies have been brought to the city civil hospital following the horrific crash.

"265 bodies have reached the hospital as per the message we received," Deputy Commissioner of Police Kanan Desai told reporters. As rescuers struggled to find survivors in the charred wreckage and pull out the injured, many of them with grievous burns, officials tried to assess the human magnitude of the disaster. Unofficial reports said up to 25 people in the medical complex could also have died.

According to AI, of the 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 people on board were two pilots and 10 crew members.

The pilot issued a 'Mayday' distress call, denoting a full emergency, soon after takeoff at 1.39pm, the Air Traffic Control at Ahmedabad said.

The search was also on for the aircraft's black box -- the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder -- for clues to understand what happened in the last crucial moments of the doomed flight to London's Gatwick airport.

The 11-year-old aircraft could be seen from miles away, losing altitude rapidly and combusting in a fiery blaze that sent



plumes of thick black smoke spiralling up in the air.

Noting that the aircraft with a full fuel load for a long trip climbed just about 600-800 feet before plummeting to the ground almost immediately, Aviation experts said going by the available visuals lack of thrust in both engines and a bird hit could be among the probable causes. TV footage showed the aircraft making a slow descent shortly after taking off, with its landing gear still extended. "The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST (0809 UTC) from Runway 23.

The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

It gave a MAYDAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," according to a

statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DG-CA). Visuals from the wreckage area showed bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city civil hospital close by.

Eyewitnesses in Ahmedabad said the blaze was so intense that it led to several multi-storey buildings being burnt, trees singed and cars damaged. One image showed the snout of the plane crashing through the top floor of a building that appeared to be a dining area of the hostel of nurses and doctors.

Elsewhere too, there were

scenes of complete devastation with mangled metal of the wreckage, snarls of tangled wire and smoke rising from burning embers.

This is the first crash involving the Boeing Dreamliner, fated for its advanced features. It is also India's second biggest air disaster since 2020 when an Air India Express flight skidded off a wet runway while landing at Kozhikode in Kerala and split into two. Of the 190 people on board, 21, including two pilots, lost their lives.

Airport operations in Ahmedabad were temporarily suspended and resumed to-

wards the evening.

The shock of the disaster echoed through political corridors in India and abroad with heads of states and others offering their condolences.

"The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

"In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he added.

Britain's King Charles III said

DEADLY PAST

- AUGUST 2020:** Twenty-one people died when an Air India Express Boeing 737 plane skidded off the runway in the southern city of Kozhikode during heavy rain, plunged into a valley and crashed nose-first into the ground.
- MAY 2010:** An Air India Boeing 737 flight from Dubai overshot the runway at the airport in the southern city of Mangaluru and crashed into a gorge, killing 158 people on board.
- JULY 2000:** More than 50 people were killed when a state-owned Alliance Air flight between Kolkata and New Delhi crashed in a residential area of the eastern city of Patna.
- APRIL 1993:** An Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed during takeoff in the western city of Aurangabad and killed 55 people on board.
- AUGUST 1991:** An Indian Airlines Boeing 737 flight from Kolkata crashed during descent near Imphal, killing all 69 occupants onboard.
- OCTOBER 1988:** More than 130 passengers died when an Indian Airlines Boeing 737, flying from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, crashed as it was coming in to land.
- JANUARY 1978:** All 213 passengers of an Air India flight were killed when the captain lost control of the plane after take-off and plunged it into the Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai.

REUTERS

he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "desperately shocked by the terrible events in Ahmedabad this morning". "Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations, as they await news of their loved ones," read his statement issued from Buckingham Palace.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the scenes emerging of a London-bound plane carrying many British nationals crashing in the Indian city of Ahmedabad are devastating.

The ill-fated flight was under the command of Capt Sumeet Sabharwal along with First Officer Clive Kunder. While Sabharwal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kunder 1,100 hours, the DGCA said in a statement.

Immediately after departure from Runway 23, the aircraft fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter, it said.

DNA tests will be carried out to ascertain the identities of those in the crash, a senior Gujarat health department official said even as he refused to give the death toll. **MORE INSIDE**

Miraculous escape

AHMEDABAD: A passenger on board the London-bound Air India flight that crashed near the Ahmedabad airport Thursday afternoon survived the horrific incident in a miraculously way, a doctor at the city civil hospital said. Vishwaskumar Ramesh was



in '11A' seat of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner which was carrying 242 passengers and crew. He was travelling to London with his brother. Dr Shriq M who works in the trauma ward of the Ahmedabad civil hospital told PTI that Ramesh has been admitted to the hospital. Speaking to local media from his hospital bed, Ramesh said that his brother had been sitting on another row adding, "I can't find him anymore." "Thirty seconds after take-off, there was a loud noise and then the plane crashed. It all happened so quickly," he added. "When I got up, there were bodies all around me. I was scared. I stood up and ran. There were pieces of the plane all around me. Someone grabbed hold of me and put me in an ambulance and brought me to the hospital," he said.

BOEING 787'S TROUBLED PAST

NEW DELHI: The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, known for its advanced technology and fuel efficiency, has reportedly faced several technical and safety issues worldwide over the years. On Thursday, one of these aircraft, operated by Air India as flight AI171, crashed shortly after takeoff. The plane, headed to London's Gatwick Airport, was carrying 242 people on board. While the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner is widely used for long-haul international flights and is considered a modern and efficient aircraft, it has had a history of safety concerns. In 2013, the entire global fleet of Dreamliners was grounded after incidents of lithium-ion battery fires, including one on a parked Japan Airlines jet in Boston and another mid-air emergency in Japan. These incidents led the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to suspend Dreamliner operations until Boeing redesigned the battery system.

In 2024, Boeing again came under scrutiny af-



ter whistleblower Sam Salehpour, an engineer at the company, reportedly told the US Senate about structural problems in the Dreamliner's fuselage. He claimed that small gaps and improper assembly could cause early wear and possible structural failure. The FAA launched an investigation, which is still ongoing. Despite being marketed as one of the safest and most advanced aircraft in the skies, the Dreamliner has been linked to technical faults. In March this year, a Boeing 787-9, operated by LATAM Airlines, experienced a sudden altitude drop mid-flight, injuring 50 people.

Bolt from the blue

New Delhi: At least five MBBS students, one PG resident doctor and the wife of a superspecialist doctor of the BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad were killed and over 60 medical students injured when an Air India plane crashed into the college complex, the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) claimed. The search operation at the crash site is still going on and many are feared buried in the debris, FAIMA national vice president Dr Divyansh Singh said. "Bodies that have been found were totally charred," he added. The London-bound Boeing 787-8 aircraft crashed into the medical college complex and burst into a ball of fire moments after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, possibly killing almost everyone on board. "As of now, at least five MBBS students, a PG resident doctor and the wife of a superspecialist doctor from the BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad have been killed and over 60 medical students have been injured," Singh said.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He still gets excited when he sees a plane... then immediately prays for its safety

India slips to 131st spot in Global Gender Gap Index 2025

ICELAND LEADS THE RANKINGS FOR THE 16TH YEAR RUNNING, FOLLOWED BY FINLAND, NORWAY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: India has ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, slipping two places from its position last year.

With a parity score of just 64.4 per cent, India is among the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia, according to the report released Thursday.

India ranked 129 last year out of 146 countries. "India ranks 131st in the Global Gender Gap

Index 2025 rankings, with an overall gender parity score of 64.4 per cent. Compared to the 2024 edition, India sees a relative drop in rank due to the performance of other economies," it said.

The Global Gender Gap Index measures gender parity across four key dimensions -- Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

The Indian economy's overall performance improved in absolute terms by +0.3 points.



"One of the dimensions where India increases parity is in Economic Participation and

Opportunity, where its score improves by +.9 percentage points to 40.7 per cent. While most indicator values remain the same, parity in estimated earned income rises from 28.6 per cent to 29.9 per cent, positively impacting the subindex score," the report said.

Scores in labour force participation rate remained the same (45.9 per cent) as last year -- India's highest achieved to date.

In Educational Attainment, the report said, India scored 97.1 per cent, reflecting posi-

tive shifts in female shares for literacy and tertiary education enrolment, which resulted in positive score improvements for the subindex as a whole.

"India also records higher parity in Health and Survival, driven by improved scores in sex ratio at birth and in healthy life expectancy," it said.

However, similar to other countries, parity in healthy life expectancy is obtained despite an overall reduction in the life expectancy of men and women, the report said.

"Where India records a slight drop in parity (-0.6 points) since the last edition is in Political Empowerment. Female representation in Parliament falls from 14.7 per cent to 13.8 per cent in 2025, lowering the indicator score for the second year in a row below 2023 levels," it said.

Similarly, the share of women in ministerial roles falls from 6.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent, moving the indicator score (5.9 per cent) further away this year from its highest level (30 per cent in 2019), it said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be impulsive today, and this may throw up unexpected results. In a rush of enthusiasm, you may finish pending work and even be left with enough time to plan long-term goals. You may also realise and make amends for your past mistakes, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You are likely to stick to basics instead of letting your imagination run wild today, says Ganesha. At work, you may feel some pressure from your peers to do things differently. Think things out and be certain before you take any decision, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesha advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today. So let him/her know how you feel.

CANCER
Ganesha believes that you are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills. Your ability to read the human mind and understand human nature better than anyone else will help you take charge when needed.

LEO
It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesha foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries. When it comes to work – which you seem to have put on hold – it is a matter of pride for you to play the role that you essay within your company.

VIRGO
Today you need to carry on with your success without resting on your past laurels. You will also need to stay focused and organised to continue with the same success level that you enjoyed in the past. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

LIBRA
It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other. You may prefer to deal with them subtly rather than confront them openly, feels Ganesha.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself at crossroads, wondering which path to take. Crucial decisions regarding your personal life may numb your thoughts. Let this not interfere with your routine or it may lead to complications at work and with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
You seem to be on a self-appreciation mode today. Grooming, makeover and attracting attention in on your cards today, you make extra efforts to get that glamorous look for your self. And as Ganesha says, it will surely not go unnoticed as you bag a lot of compliments for it.

CAPRICORN
You regret spending hefty amount of money on branded items and luxuries, but you'll see a ray of hope today, feels Ganesha. Your bank account is strengthened by some heavy cash flow, and needless to say, it will give you a great relief. Now, you'll understand the value of money and curb on your urge to spend lavishly. Your work place will make you feel more comfortable.

AQUARIUS
Today is your day! Your performance will speak for itself and everyone at work, including bosses, will appreciate your efforts, says Ganesha. Work will not seem burdensome any more, in fact you will enjoy your job like never before. You may wish to contact some old friends and be in touch with them once again.

PISCES
You are likely to feel a lot of tension and stress today. You will feel down owing to some disagreement with someone or due to some unfathomable reason. Even that special someone will be unable to chase away your blues. A little meditation will help you to bounce back and get into your daily routine, says Ganesha.



PAYNE TO BE HONOURED AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

Acclaimed filmmaker Alexander Payne will be honoured with the Honorary Leopard Award at the 78th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, the organisers have announced. Payne will receive the award, officially called Pardo d'Onore, August 15 at the film gala, held annually in Locarno, Switzerland.

JUSTIN BIEBER SHARES 'THE SECRET' IN LIFE

Singer-songwriter Justin Bieber has been keeping his fans on the edge with his social media post. The actor recently reflected on life's "secrets" in his most recent social media posts. The 31-year-old singer posted a smiling black-and-white selfie and discussed the "secret" to life in the snap's caption.



Manushi's post sparks buzz

Mumbai: As Manushi Chhillar readies for the release of her gritty gangster drama *Maalik* opposite Rajkummar Rao, she has sparked fresh curiosity among fans with a cryptic social media post. Sharing a mirror selfie from a professional dance studio in Mumbai, Manushi, dressed in an all-black ensemble of a crop top, cargo pants, and white sneakers, simply captioned it "Sneak Peek." The image has fueled speculation that she may be prepping for a music video, a film dance sequence, or even gearing up for her next acting role.

While there's no official word yet, the post hints at something new brewing. Known for her commitment and evolving choices, Manushi is currently awaiting the July 11 release of *Maalik*, where she takes on a de-glam role in a story deeply rooted in crime and power struggles. Dressed in traditional attire and paired with Rao, the film marks a stark departure from her earlier screen appearances.

Adding to her dynamic slate is the action-thriller *Tehran* alongside John Abraham, where she plays a bold, high-octane character. Whether her dance rehearsal is part of a new venture or regular training, one thing's clear—Manushi is charting a path of bold, genre-defying roles and isn't slowing down anytime soon.

AGENCIES



Mumbai: While promoting *Rana Naidu Season 2*, actress Kriti Kharbanda addressed the recent workplace misconduct allegations involving cinematographer Pratik Shah—without naming him directly. Instead, she used the moment to highlight a broader concern: the tendency to blame entire professions for the actions of individuals. Speaking candidly, Kriti said, "He happens to be a cinematographer—that's just a profession. The issue lies in the individual's character. You could come across similar behavior in corporate offices, media houses, or any other field. We're in the public eye, so these incidents draw more attention, but both men and women face such issues across professions."

She also noted the double standards in how misconduct is reported. "When someone outside the film industry commits a crime, they're identified by name or age—not by profession. But when it's someone from cinema, the entire industry gets labeled. That's simply unfair."

Kriti ended with a powerful remark: "There are no good or bad industries—only good and bad people. And that's determined by one's values and choices."

Her statement has resonated with many, offering a balanced take on accountability while challenging the stereotypes that often shadow the entertainment world. It's a timely reminder of the need for personal responsibility over professional generalisations.

AGENCIES

SAIYAMI PUSHES LIMITS

Mumbai: Actress and athlete Saiyami Kher is pushing her physical and mental limits as she prepares for the grueling Ironman 70.3 triathlon. A known sports enthusiast, Saiyami has long balanced her love for performance and endurance, but her current training reflects a whole new level of dedication. Sharing glimpses of her intense routine, she recently completed a 10.03 km treadmill run in 1:10:10, cycled 40.43 km around Mumbai in 1:34:52, and swam 1,500 meters in 37:50 — a powerful tri-discipline effort.

Despite these achievements, Saiyami remains grounded. "Olympic size distance felt great, but feeling far from ready for the 70.3,"

she admitted. Yet, her hunger to improve only grows. With a race route now featuring tougher climbs, she's determined to increase her pace, strength, and endurance, even while juggling demanding acting schedules.

"Being an actor is already physically and emotionally intense," she says. "But I never liked doing things halfway. This race tests both the body and the mind." Her passion and perseverance are redefining celebrity fitness standards.

As the Ironman 70.3 nears, Saiyami's journey inspires countless fitness lovers, proving that with grit and determination, no goal is too far.

AGENCIES



Shiladitya forays into Odia cinema

Mumbai: Indian film producer, director, marketer and distributor Shiladitya Bora Thursday announced his foray into Odia cinema with an upcoming film, titled *Bindusagar*.

Featuring popular Odia actors Prakruti Mishra and Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, the family drama is directed by Abhishek Swain, best known for his acclaimed 2024 movie *Jajabara 2.0*.

Assam-born Bora, known for films like *Picasso* and *Yours Truly*, said he aims to take Odia cinema all over the world and hopes the film will resonate with people everywhere.

"Odisha is producing some fantastic content in recent times; however, it's still underexposed to the audiences across the world. The Odia film industry is on the verge of breaking out, and we want to be one of the early movers when that happens. We want to make a film that will appeal equally to the youth, the working class, as well as to the Odia diaspora living overseas."

Bindusagar is our vision of 'Made in Odisha, for the world,' Bora said in a statement. *Bindusagar* is produced by Bora's banner Platoon One Films along with Vinay Reddy, Shubho Shekhar Bhattacharjee (Boundless Blackbuck Films) in association with Nikhil Chaudhry MDC Filmworks.

Shot in Odisha and London, *Bindusagar* is billed as a story of love and tradition.

PTI

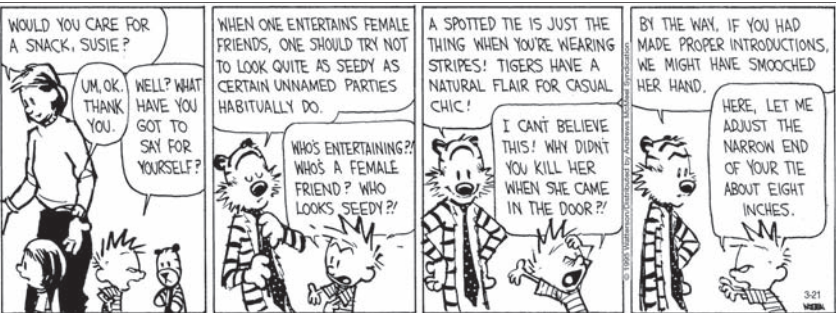


Kriti opens up on workplace misconduct

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

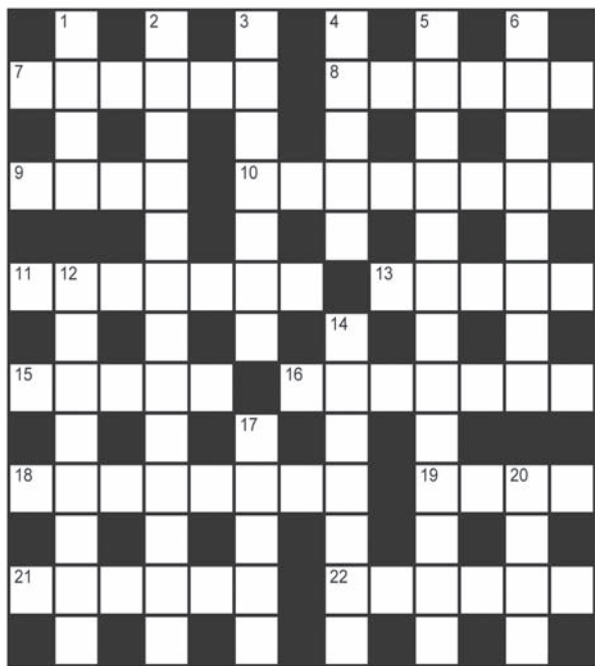


BREVITY



FUN post

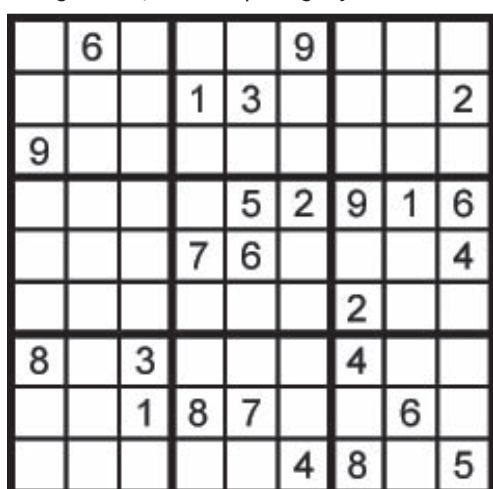
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Energy
 - 8 Ottoman
 - 9 Dyke
 - 10 Reprimand
 - 11 Abbreviate
 - 13 Stiff-upper-lip type
 - 15 Ensigns
 - 16 Wander aimlessly
 - 18 Train, to a child (4-4)
- Down**
- 19 Narrow street
 - 21 Twitches
 - 22 Dismiss
 - 1 Fired clay used for roofing
 - 2 Bed and breakfast (8,5)
 - 3 Alphabetise
 - 4 Conditions
 - 5 Electrifying (5-8)
 - 6 Free from contamination
 - 12 Hotel employees
 - 14 Colourful flower with glossy leaves
 - 17 Trick-taking game
 - 20 Handel opera

SUDOKU

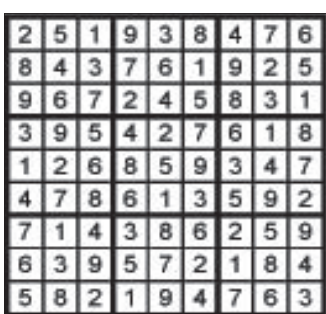
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

‘Radio on Wheels’ rolls out for awareness drive



CM Majhi reaffirms state government’s commitment to ending child labour, highlighting key welfare schemes and urging collective action for children’s education and well-being

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: To mark the World Day Against Child Labour, the state government Thursday launched the innovative ‘Radio on Wheels’ initiative, along with a 15-day state-wide awareness campaign to raise public awareness and encourage collective action against child labour.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, on his official X account, said, “Children are our future and the foundation of a developed nation. In Odisha, our government is taking various steps to eliminate harmful practices like child labour and provide all children with appropriate education and resources. Pro-

grammes such as the Madho Singh Haath Kharch Yojana to reduce school dropout rates and the Chief Minister’s Nutrition Scheme to ensure better nutrition for students have been initiated.”

“On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour today, let us all pledge to end the practice of child labour and create a conducive environment for their development and bright future,” he added.

The ‘Radio on Wheels’ programme was officially inaugurated by Labour and Employee’s State Insurance department Principal Secretary Chitra Arumugam in the presence of Labour Commissioner Indra mani Tripathi, officials from the Directorate of Labour, and representatives of the Odisha Community Radio Association.

The mobile awareness unit will cover Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), and Khurda Municipality, broadcasting information on the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, its legal provisions, and associated penalties to edu-



STRIKING POSE: Artistes perform during Annual Function and Raja Prativa Utsav by Nrutya Prativa at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PIC-BIKASH NAYAK

NSUI protests for free student transport

NSUI warns of intensified protests if student transport demands are not met by the government

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: The activists of the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) protested outside the Regional Transport Office (RTO) here Thursday demanding free travel on government buses and a 50 per cent concession on private transport for all students across Odisha.

The demonstration was led



by NSUI state president Udit Pradhan and several other activists and party leaders including state Youth Congress president Ranjit Patra, Manoj Biswal and others.

The activists carried placards and banners, raising slo-

gans to support their demands. They later submitted a memorandum to the RTO official urging prompt action.

Pradhan stated, “In many areas where government transport is limited or absent, students depend on private

buses that often charge high fares. Offering subsidised or free transport would improve access to education and help reduce student dropout rates significantly.”

Pradhan added, “Affordable transportation is not merely a matter of convenience—it is essential to ensuring equal access to education. The state must act promptly to implement these measures in support of student welfare.”

NSUI has urged the Transport department to address their demands promptly and warned that the protest will intensify if the issues are not resolved.

Singareni, CSIR-IMMT ink pact for critical minerals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: In a significant move towards business diversification, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar, to collaborate on the exploration and production of critical minerals.

Signed in the presence of Padma Bhushan VK Saraswat, member of NITI Aayog, the agreement focuses on joint research, advanced technology application, and eco-friendly mining techniques for extracting Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

“Singareni is ready to enter the field of critical mineral production. This MoU is a significant milestone in our diversification journey,” said SCCL chairman and managing director N Balram.



OPCC targets govt, alleges corruption on anniversary



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Thursday took a jibe at the state government during a press meet themed ‘Barsa Ek, Pratarana Anek’ at Congress Bhawan, accusing the administration of being mired in corruption on its anniversary.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das, Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, former state Congress chief Prasad Kumar Harichandan, Congress leader Anant Prasad Sethi, and others attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, Das said, “Despite completing one year in office, no tangible change in governance has been felt. What was promised

as progress has turned out to be deception. Discord and arrogance have crippled the administrative machinery.”

Das further stated, “Atrocities against women continue unabated, with rampant cases of gang rapes and schoolgirls becoming pregnant. Farmers are also struggling due to the government’s negligence.”

Prasad Harichandan said the scale of corruption, particularly in rural development, is staggering, with crores seized from chief engineers alone. He highlighted the recent arrest of an IAS officer by vigilance for accepting a ₹10 lakh bribe. Contracts worth thousands of crores have been awarded to South Indian firms over local contractors, yet the govern-

ment has taken no action so far.

OPCC also questioned the state government’s promise to return money to chit-fund scam victims within 18 months, saying the government has failed to identify depositors or track accounts.

The OPCC further alleged that while the previous government’s Biju Swasthya Kalyan Card benefited many, private hospitals are exploiting Ayushman beneficiaries, inadvertently rewarding the past administration. They added that the BJP’s Ayushman scheme is so tangled that many poor patients remain untreated.

Alleging that the BJD and BJP are two sides of the same coin, Das claimed the parties are “hand in glove,” citing the Waqf Bill passed in Parliament as an example. Regarding ‘Operation Sindoor,’ he noted that while all parties demanded a special parliamentary session, the BJD distanced itself from the call.

Niranjan Patnaik accused the state government of failing to uphold its promise to protect Odia Asmita, which had been a key election plank for the BJP. He added that all sections of society are disappointed with the current BJP administration.

Digvijaya Singh lauds WSC

Bhubaneswar: Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh visited the World Skill Center (WSC) Thursday as part of his Odisha tour. He praised the state-of-the-art infrastructure and the Odisha government’s efforts in promoting skill-based education for youth empowerment. Singh toured key training facilities at WSC, including labs for Vertical Transportation, Mechatronics, Advanced Welding, and Mechanical & Electrical Services. He also visited the Learning Resource Centre and interacted with students undergoing industry-focused training. Impressed by the Center’s performance, Singh said, “WSC is a model for the future of vocational training in India. While many states have skill centers, completing six successful batches with a 99 per cent placement rate is remarkable. The Center is not just skilling youth but also upskilling trainers, setting new standards in quality.” He further noted the WSC’s importance in preparing a job-ready workforce aligned with evolving industry needs.



MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.58 ▲ 0.01	SENSEX	81691.98 ▼ 823.10	GOLD	₹98,496 ▲ ₹1,792
EURO	99.27 ▲ 1.38	NIFTY	24688.20 ▼ 253.10	SILVER	₹106,031 ▲ ₹639

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.8°	31.6°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.5°	24.8°	
Humidity	84%	87%	
Rainfall	27.7mm	11.2mm	

Managing anxiety in a fast-changing tech age

Anxiety disorders are the most widespread mental health condition globally, yet many people struggle to access professional help. Only around 28 per cent of individuals with anxiety receive treatment worldwide. In the UK, the number is similar, and in the US, it’s slightly higher at 37 per cent. Barriers include long waiting lists, limited mental health

resources, and the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Anxiety presents a wide range of symptoms—cognitive, emotional, and physical. These include trouble concentrating, irritability, tension, heart palpitations, shaking, sleep disturbances, and feelings of panic or doom. These symptoms often begin in childhood or adolescence and may persist into adulthood if

not addressed. Several startups are exploring tech-based interventions. Moonbird offers a handheld device that guides users through calming breathing exercises using subtle physical movements. Parasyms stimulates the vagus nerve using gentle electrical impulses to reduce stress. Neurovalens and Flow Neuroscience use transcranial direct current stimulation

(tDCS) to target brain areas involved in emotion regulation. Though promising, more research is needed to confirm the long-term benefits of such technologies.

Devices aimed at improving physiological synchrony—such as heart rate variability, often disrupted in anxiety—are also in development. LYEONS Neurotech, for instance, is creating

tools for people with anxiety, PTSD, and ADHD.

On the digital side, apps like Headspace offer structured meditation and CBT-based tools. Ieso provides text-based CBT therapy for mild to moderate anxiety. Virtual reality is another emerging area being tested for exposure therapy and immersive relaxation.

(THE CONVERSATION)

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3 more die of diarrhoea in Jajpur, toll reaches 11



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 12: Diarrhoea outbreak in Jajpur district continued unabated for the fourth consecutive day, with three more deaths reported Thursday.

With this, the total fatalities from the outbreak have increased to 11 in the district.

Thursday's deceased included one man and two women. They were identified as Sanatan Paikaray, 47, of Chandama area under Ward No.11 in Vyasanagar Municipality; Pabitra Das, 45, of Jhadanga village in Chitalo panchayat under Dasarathpur block and Sehati Ghadei, 75, of Mituani village under Bhuinpur panchayat in Jajpur block.

Sanatan was initially treated at the Danagadi community health center (CHC), and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where he succumbed during treatment Thursday morning. Pabitra and Sehati died during treatment at the Jajpur District

Headquarters Hospital (DHH). Health Secretary Aswathy S visited the Dharamsala CHC and Jajpur DHH Thursday afternoon to speak to the patients and take stock of their condition. Later, she conducted a review meeting with Jajpur Collector P Anvesha Reddy and other senior health officials.

While the reason behind the spread of the infection is yet to be ascertained, officials noted a decline in cases from Rasulpur, Barchana, Korei, and Danagadi blocks. However, the disease has now begun spreading to Jajpur and Dasarathpur blocks in the district, reports said.

Meanwhile, 50 new patients had been admitted to the Jajpur Road CHC, with 40 currently under treatment. Nearly 100 patients are undergoing treatment at the Jajpur DHH.

In response to the outbreak, the state Health and Family Welfare Department Thursday set up a mobile rural testing laboratory. Two technicians have been deployed

to collect and test samples. Health teams have collected 20 water and 25 food samples from the affected areas.

So far, inspections have led to fines totaling Rs 6,500 from 31 restaurants, dhabas, hotels, and food carts in the affected areas. Nearly 37 kg of stale food was destroyed. Food Safety Officer Rakesh Kumar Sahu, laboratory chemist P Subuddhi, and field worker Amar Kumar Das are leading the operations.

Bhadrak village reports 13 diarrhoea cases

Bhandaripokhari: As many as 13 persons were taken ill following the outbreak of diarrhoea at Birol village - under Solampur panchayats- and Bhadaripokhari block in Bhadrak district, health officials said Thursday. The infection has spread mostly in Dandakula and Tikhili Sahi in the village. It began spreading Monday night, prompting health authorities to take swift action while there were no reports of any new patients Thursday. According to reports, people from Dandakula and Tikhilia Sahi started experiencing symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea. Eleven of the affected individuals were admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur district, while two others were referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. All patients are reported to be stable. A district-level medical team visited the affected areas Thursday to investigate the cause and provide treatment. The team also implemented preventive measures such as water purification, distribution of halogen tablets and disinfection of tube wells and village streets.

Armed robbers loot cash, gold from bank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, June 12: In a daring daylight robbery, armed miscreants decamped with Rs 10 lakh cash and gold packets from the Odisha Gramya Bank (OGB) branch on the main road of Joda town in Keonjhar district Thursday morning.

According to reports, five gun-toting robbers stormed into the bank just as it was opening. Once inside, they threatened the bank personnel and security guard, and forced everyone into silence. Later, they made off with a substantial amount of cash and several gold packets, reports added.

Manager of the bank, Rajesh Lenka has filed a complaint with local police, who have launched an investigation.

"We have registered a case and launched an investigation. Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the culprits," Joda police station IIC Susant Pradhan said. Satyabrata Nanda, Regional Manager of OGB who reached the spot from Keonjhar, said the employees could not raise an alarm because the robbers pointed gun at their head during the heist. He also said they were conversing in Hindi and fled with the booty.

Senior police officers from Keonjhar and Rourkela later joined the investigation.

On Wednesday night, four armed miscreants with faces covered looted over Rs 7 lakh from the AU Small Finance Bank located in Tihidi Bazaar area of Bhadrak district. The robbers entered the bank wearing masks and held the bank manager at gunpoint while demanding cash, a police officer said. The robbers looted cash and fled the scene, he said, adding that an investigation has started to nab the robbers.

Bhadrak tense after man dies in clash over cattle smuggling



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bhadrak, June 12: Internet services have been suspended in parts of Bhadrak district in the wake of tension following the death of a man during a clash over cattle smuggling, police said Thursday.

Bhadrak SP Manoj Rout said the decision to suspend internet services for 24 hours from 6am of Thursday was taken in order to maintain the law and order situation.

The district administration has also deployed more than 700 security personnel in sensitive areas of Bhadrak, he said.

Taking to X, DIG, Eastern Range (Balasore), said: "In Tihidi incident, 12 accused persons arrested from various locations. 27 platoons de-

● **Internet services suspended from Thursday morning**
● **CM declares ₹10 lakh compensation, job for a family member of victim**

ployed, engaged in community dialogue to maintain peace & order. Situation under close watch. Appeal for calm & co-operation from public."

The internet services have been suspended in five areas - Bhadrak Municipality, Bhadrak Block, Dhamnagar NAC, Dhamnagar Block and

Tihidi Block, the SP said. The deceased has been identified as Santosh Parida, 45, of Kasati village.

He died Wednesday night while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, the SP said.

Parida was allegedly attacked by members of a rival group for opposing cattle smuggling May 30, he said, quoting the FIR lodged by the family members.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh and job for one of the family members of the deceased, and ordered strict action against the culprits. "We stand with the bereaved family, and are taking all necessary steps to ensure peace prevails," he said in a statement.

Workshop on women empowerment held

LOISINGHA: A district-level workshop held at Nagaon under Agalpur block in Bolangir district Thursday focused on the empowerment of women and girls with an aim to raise awareness and promote welfare initiatives among them. The workshop was organised by voluntary outfit 'Child Rights and You' in collaboration with Palli Alok Pathagar. Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Sujata Dora highlighted the significance of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in fostering child and maternal health. Shivani Thakur, coordinator of the Mamata Yojana, delivered an insightful presentation on key issues including child marriage, nutrition, and women's health. She also emphasized the importance of helpline services such as 181 (women's helpline), 1098 (childline), and 112 (emergency services), and provided information on the One Stop Center and Swadhar Griha initiatives. Sudhir Kumar Panda, RBSK Manager at the district headquarters hospital, spoke about various health programs including Amlan, Khushi, Shradha Clinic, and distribution of iron tablets for adolescent girls. Hemant Nag, Health Services Manager, informed attendees about the availability of 12 essential health services at the village level and advocated for strengthening Rural Welfare Committees to promote healthier communities.

RSP commissions advanced ladle furnace to boost output

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 12: A cutting-edge Ladle Furnace 2D (LF 2D) - part of the Caster-IV project - has been successfully commissioned in the Steel Melting Shop-II (SMS-II) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP).

A ladle furnace is the second unit used to refine molten steel after it is produced in a primary furnace. The addition will significantly boost the productivity of SMS-II by ensuring the timely and efficient supply of liquid steel to the new slab caster, alongside the existing Casters 1, 2, and 3, RSP sources said Thursday.

The feat underscores the plant's commitment to technological modernisation, enhanced productivity, and a strong culture of safety, sources added. The project was executed by SMS India Private Limited, New Delhi (SMD), as the consortium leader, in collaboration with SMS group GmbH, Germany (SDE).

The successful commissioning of the new ladle furnace was made possible through seamless coordination between RSP's internal departments—

including the Project Department, SMS-II, Power Distribution, Safety Engineering, and other associated teams—and the consortium partners.

RSP Director In-Charge, Alok Verma, congratulated the Project Team Leader, all associated departments, the SMS-II team, and consortium leader SMS group, along with all partner agencies, for the successful commissioning of LF 2D under Caster-IV.

He said LF 2D is a state-of-the-art facility, equipped with a 30 MVA furnace transformer, a water-cooled ladle roof, a hydraulic roof-lifting system, advanced electrode handling assemblies, and a mechanized ferro-alloy feeding system.

It also features centralized lubrication, inert gas stirring for bath homogenization, and provisions for emergency top lancing. Systems for precise temperature measurement, CELOX-based oxygen level analysis, and automated sampling enhance metallurgical control. Additionally, a highly efficient fume exhaust system and an Al/CaSi wire feeding unit contribute to safe and environmentally responsible operations, sources added.

Tribals resort to distress sale of MFP as admin sits pretty



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopabandhu Nagar, June 12: Absence of adequate government-supported infrastructure and pricing mechanisms is forcing tribals of Gopabandhu Nagar block in Mayurbhanj district to sell valuable forest products - such as mahua flowers and sal seeds - at throwaway prices.

The local tribal population here primarily sustains itself through farming and the collection and sale of minor forest produce (MFP).

Residents in several tribal-dominated villages said that after the culmination of the farming season, they spend around six months col-

lecting minor forest produce like broom grass, honey, lac, berries like charkoli, mahua, and sal seeds which are important sources of income for them. But the lack of fair market mechanism has kept their economic condition unchanged, they rued.

"Last month, we collected mahua flowers; now we're gathering traditional charkoli and sal seeds," said local residents Purnachandra Singh, Adikanda Singh, Lachhman Singh, Dibakar Singh, Sagarika Hembram, and Deepa Singh.

They alleged that traders were frequently making rounds of even remote villages to purchase these items at throwaway

prices - anything between Rs 7 to Rs 10 per kilogram - and later reselling them at much higher prices elsewhere. Since there is no officially fixed price or formal market mechanism, middlemen and agents are exploiting the situation, they added.

Back in 2008, the state government had instructed gram panchayats to facilitate the purchase of minor forest produce, but villagers said there has been no implementation at the block or panchayat levels since then. As a result, tribal collectors are often compelled to sell at throwaway prices rather than let the produce spoil and get damaged at home.

The issue has triggered discontentment among tribal communities. Intellectuals in the region argue that opening regulated markets (mandis) for forest products could offer tribals a fair chance at income and economic security.

When contacted, forester KL Saren admitted that at present there are no active government measures in place to address the pricing or procurement of these goods.

Charred body found, murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 12: Police recovered a half-burnt body from a forested area near Sector-7/17 square under Sector-15 police limits here Thursday morning. The identity of the deceased remains unknown.

Police found a burnt mobile phone and a yellow slipper lying close to the body. Given the condition of the body and the surrounding evidence, police suspect it to be a case of murder. However, the exact cause of death has not yet been determined, and an investigation is underway.

The body was sent to the government mortuary in Rourkela for post-mortem. A case-16/25 has been registered at Sector-15 police station.

Sources said the body was discovered in the forested area behind a statue of BR Ambedkar in Sector-7/17 Square at around 10 am by a group of firewood collectors while gathering firewood. They immediately alerted the police.

Nearby, police officials also found remnants of burnt items, and some trees showed signs of fire damage, suggesting the blaze may have been intentional. A forensic team along with Zone-1 DSP Yogesh Panda and IIC Pratibha Manjari Sahu visited the scene and conducted preliminary investigation with assistance from a sniffer dog squad. Panda said the body is likely three days old. No visible injury marks were found on the body. He added that only the post-mortem report will reveal the cause of death.

Couple dies of snakebite

KEONJHAR: A couple died after being bitten by a venomous snake during sleep at Jarpai village, on the fringes of Champua block and Jagannathpur police limits, in neighbouring Jharkhand Thursday. The deceased were identified as Nandi Jarei, 35, and his wife Babita Jarei, 30, in the village. They lost consciousness after being bitten by the reptile. Family members rushed them to Champua Sub Divisional Hospital in Keonjhar where doctors pronounced Nandi brought dead while his wife Babita succumbed during treatment. The couple is survived by three sons and a daughter, which include a 3-year-old son. The incident occurred when the couple was asleep at home after dinner. Champua police handed over the bodies to their family members after conducting a post-mortem.

Sambalpur's vanished watchtowers: A call for restoration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 12: Historically known as the land of power and valour, Sambalpur holds a unique cultural and spiritual identity. With the blessings of Goddess Samaleswari, the region has witnessed the birth of many heroes and saints whose perseverance, sacrifice, intellect and spirituality have enriched this sacred soil.

The town's historical legacy continues to attract scholars and tourists alike, with its most notable features being the watchtowers or buruj, once erected on the banks of the Mahanadi River. These towers served as strategic lookouts against enemy advances. Of the original seven, only three—at Balibandha, Machine Ghat and the one near the Samaleswari Temple Project—remain preserved. The remaining four have been lost to time and soil erosion, with only recorded

measurements and descriptions surviving in historical archives.

Restoring these towers would not only enrich the aesthetic appeal of the historically significant town but also enhance its tourism potential. Visitors could enjoy panoramic views of the Mahanadi River from the towers, while younger generations would gain valuable insights into Sambalpur's cultural heritage.

It is the moral responsibility of the district administration, the state and Central governments, and above all, the local residents to ensure the restoration of these lost heritage structures, historians observed.

Noted historian Deepak Kumar Panda stated that Sambalpur's identity is deeply rooted in its historical structures, cultural legacy and long-standing traditions. In 1998, based on the suggestions of then Revenue Commissioner Dr Hrushikesh



Panda, the Sambalpur Municipality, under Chairman Anand Jena, undertook the renovation of some towers. "However, the remaining four towers are yet

to be reconstructed," Panda said.

Historical records suggest that during the reign of the third Chauhan king, Bal-

abhadra Sai, a 2,443-foot-long stone fortification wall was built along the riverbank—from Balibandha to Mandalia—to defend the kingdom from enemy invasions. Six watchtowers, each 17 feet high and 72 feet in circumference, were constructed along this wall.

The fort had six gates—Muhana Darwaza, Sonepur Darwaza, Jatia Pipal Darwaza, Rajghat Darwaza, Jaleshwar Darwaza and Samaleswari Darwaza—as well as a moat, or gadhakhai, running parallel to the wall. The moat eventually merged with the river at both Balibandha and Mandalia. A bamboo fence once added an extra layer of defence, and a wooden bridge was built at Samian Gudi, near the river confluence.

Later, during the British Raj, the mouth of the gadhakhai near Samian Gudi was filled in with sand, and the area was

renamed Balibandha. In 1905, the Chitnavis and Balibandha ghats were constructed under Deputy Commissioner SM Chitnavis. Jogendra Nath Sen chaired the municipality, Mian Bhai served as secretary, and Babu Brajamohan Pattnaik was vice-chair.

Earlier, in 1887, the Victoria Ghat was constructed to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The nearby watchtower was restored and renamed Victoria Tower in 1888. Inscriptions at the fort's entrance commemorate key British officials, including Central Provinces Commissioner MacKinlay, Chhattisgarh Commissioner JH Solem and Deputy Commissioner JP Goodrick.

Meanwhile, Panda said as Sambalpur develops rapidly, especially with beautification projects along the Mahanadi underway, restoring these towers would significantly boost heritage tourism in the region.

FOCUS **ECONOMY**

GROWTH SANS SOCIAL JUSTICE



We need to ask ourselves how well the lives of the masses were improving while the economy was scaling from height to height, as claimed

population is about 12 crore against India's 146 crore, both countries have about GDP volumes - \$ 4.1 trillion each. Imagine the respective GDPs are equally distributed among all the people of these countries. What they get per capita is: \$2,878 equivalent in India and 11.79 times that sum, \$33,955, in Japan. At this rate, Japan's GDP would be around \$50 trillion if it had India's equivalent population. So, India's GDP is too small compared in per capita terms with Japan.

India's economy when viewed in proportion to the number of persons living in the country is nowhere near any of the countries ranking above it. But natural justice warrants that it should be above every other country on earth. It can't be said that it is normal or natural not to be ambitious because its place has been very low for decades. China which has now achieved a GDP level close to the high-income group was just equal to India in terms of GDP and per capita GDPs during the 1990s as some economists concerned with poor growth point out. Now India's rank in per capita is 141 out of 195 countries, against China's 70th rank.

Yet, India's growth has increased remarkably when compared to its own position in the 1990s. The country's GDP has doubled in ten years from \$2.1 trillion to \$4.1 tril-

lion. But the beneficiaries of this growth are mostly the rich and super-rich, not the masses of people, as facts on the ground glaringly indicate.

At one level, the billionaire and millionaire population has been on the rise. In 2023 alone, 94 new billionaires were added, the highest number only after the US, as per Hurun Research Institute's 2024 global rich list. Their collective wealth was \$1 trillion, equal to 7% of the world's total wealth. Similarly, the number of high-net-worth individuals, those having assets of more than \$10 million, in India rose by 6% last year to 85,698, as per Knight Frank's wealth report 2025. The number is expected to rise to 93,753 by 2028. Are we eventually heading to a plutocracy as some economists fear?

At another level, unemployment has been increasing, while quality of employment has been decreasing over the years. The rich-poor divide is deeper than it was during the British time. According to the World Inequality Report 2022, the top 1% of India's population holds more than 40% of the nation's wealth, while the bottom 50% own just 3%. While corporate profits increased by 22.3% - a 15-year high, real wages declined between 2017-18 and 2023-24, as per the 2024 Economic Survey.

While employment grew by 1.6% between 2000 and 2012

against the increase in GVA of 6.2% it increased only by 0.01% when GVA increased by 6.7% during 2012-19 as per ILO-IHD's India Employment Report 2024. Another worrisome fact is that the employment growth was of poor quality; more than 90% of the workforce is informally employed.

Needless to add our healthcare and education sectors are moving from bad to worse situation. Ordinary Indians are not able to access the healthcare they need; 63 million of them are pushed into poverty because of healthcare costs every year - almost two people every second, according to an OXFAM report.

Those who demand economic development (of all, not just the growth (of a few) question why there was a need to supply free food grains to 81.35 crore poor under the Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, if poverty has drastically come down in tandem with growth in India? Why did 25.68 rural people register (in 2023-24) themselves for a minimum wage job under MGNREGA if poverty is not widespread?

All this suggests that the growth hasn't been enough compared to India's size and growth itself, to whatever extent achieved, was not enough to ensure the welfare of the people. What we need is growth with social justice, growth entailing mass production, growth for the masses, and growth involving the masses, providing quality employment to them. This needs a commitment. This needs an appropriate strategy. This needs appropriate planning - short-term, medium-term, and long-term planning with well-defined goals and means, which means a government that accepts these responsibilities, not one that delegates powers to the market forces.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.



PSM Rao

THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS GROWTH ARE MOSTLY THE RICH AND SUPER-RICH, NOT THE MASSES OF PEOPLE, AS FACTS ON THE GROUND GLARINGLY INDICATE



Timothy Snyder

Now that Trump has set a course to destroy America's state capacity, China can simply take what it once would have had to struggle to gain

Over the past two months, financial investors have hit upon a new trading strategy, based on a simple rule: TACO - Trump Always Chickens Out. America's president threatens to slap massive import tariffs on friends and foes alike, or to remove the Federal Reserve chair, only to back down when the whip of the market imposes its uncompromising discipline. Then he switches back to tariffs, only to back down yet again.

It's a pattern that extends beyond the economy. In fact, it's the defining feature of Donald Trump's presidency. But Trump is not just "chicken." He is a weak strongman, and America's adversaries may understand that better than most Americans.

Many Americans fear Trump, so they imagine that others must, too. But no one outside America fears Trump as such. America's friends fear an arsonist - someone who destroys what others have created. And America's enemies welcome the destruction wrought by Trump and by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency. When Musk recently stepped down, the leading Kremlin ideologue Alexander Dugin lamented his departure: "DOGE made a great favor to the entire world liquidating USAID, Health department and Department of education."

Trump is strong in a relative sense; after he destroys institutions, what remains is his presence. But he is weak because, having destroyed the government departments overseeing money, weapons, and intelligence, the United States has no actual tools to deal with the rest of the world. He plays a strongman on television, and he is a talented performer. But his strength consists solely in his audience's submissiveness. His performance arouses a dream of passivity: Trump will fix it.

To be sure, Trump's charisma is a kind of strength. But it cannot be brought to bear on any problem, and it is irrelevant outside the US. Trump's supporters might think that America needs no friends because it can intimidate its enemies without help. But we already know that Trump cannot make Canada or Mexico - much less China, Iran, or Russia - do his bidding.

That only works at home. For years, Trump has used rallies and social media to inspire random violence against his domestic opponents. This has led to a self-purge of the Republican Party and forged a docile cohort of congressional cadres. The people who submit to Trump perceive him as a strongman, but what they are experiencing is their own weakness. And their weakness cannot magically become strength in the wider world.

The capital letters and exclamation points in social-media posts that Trump has directed at Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent months, demanding that he stop the war in Ukraine, have had no effect on Putin's emotional state, let alone on Russian policy. And inciting stochastic violence won't work on foreign leaders. No one in Irkutsk is going to threaten or harm Putin because Trump posted something on the internet.

One could be generous and interpret a Trump post threatening sanctions as an act of policy. But words matter only when there is actually a policy, or at least the possibility that one might be formulated. But for there to be a policy, there must be institutions staffed with competent people. And Trump's first policy was to fire those who would be competent to design and implement a policy. Many of the people who knew anything about Ukraine and Russia, for example, are simply gone from the ranks of his administration.

In their place came Trump's flailing efforts to make concessions to Russia regarding Ukrainian sovereignty on his own - without Ukraine and without any allies. It didn't work. His position was so weak that Putin naturally assumed he could get more and duly escalated Russian aggression in Ukraine. Trump is a sheep in wolf's clothing, and the wolves can tell the difference.

It's an obvious point, but it must be made clearly: no one in Moscow thinks that Trump is strong. Even if he wanted to, Trump cannot credibly threaten Russia without functioning institutions and competent civil servants. To make sanctions work, for example, he would need more people on the job, not fewer. Moreover, foreign powers would need to believe that the Department of the Treasury is more than an American billionaire's plaything. Unfortunately, their intelligence agencies read the newspapers.

Americans can choose to ignore that the state capacity needed to deal with adversaries has been gutted and/or entrusted to people whose only qualification is absolute fealty to Trump. But the destruction of the institutions of US power creates a very simple incentive structure for America's enemies. The Russians hoped that Trump would return to the White House precisely because they believe he weakens the US. Now, as they watch him dismantle the CIA and FBI, putting the likes of Tulsi Gabbard, Kash Patel, and Pam Bondi in charge of intelligence and federal law enforcement, they can only think that time is on their side.

That is why Putin has ignored Trump's demand for a ceasefire in Ukraine, and why Russia will use any ceasefire that may occur to prepare for the next invasion. Putin is justifiably confident that a US neutered by Trump will be unable to respond, that the Europeans will be distracted, and that the Ukrainians, after years of war, will find it harder to mobilize again.

What is true for Russia also holds for China. The weak strongman helps the People's Republic. Time was not really on China's side before Trump. While a generation of Americans had feared that China would surpass the US economically and militarily, the trend lines in recent years were no longer so clear, or indeed had reversed. But now that Trump has set a course to destroy America's state capacity, China can simply take what it once would have had to struggle to gain.

Wall Street might profit from the TACO trade in the short term, but a weak strongman brings only losses. While Trump's supporters might be tempted to believe that he has made America a titan among nations, the opposite is true. As a strongman, Trump destroys the norms, laws, and alliances that held back war. As a weakling, he invites it.

The writer is a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna.

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WISDOM CORNER

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore

VINCENT VAN GOGH

Our virtues and our failings are inseparable, like force and matter. When they separate, man is no more

NIKOLA TESLA

One of my favorite philosophical tenets is that people will agree with you only if they already agree with you. You do not change people's minds

FRANK ZAPPA



DV Ramana

IN THE PURSUIT OF WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF EQUITY, INTEGRITY, AND PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

Despite multiple legal setbacks and intense public scrutiny, the Vedanta Group seems determined to revive its dream of building a world-class university in Odisha. The revival of the Vedanta University project comes in the backdrop of global uncertainty, particularly in higher education in the United States. It is worth remembering that Vedanta's initial attempt to set up a university in Puri was struck down by both the Orissa High Court and the Supreme Court due to serious violations in land acquisition.

Vedanta Foundation initiated the process of land acquisition for the university in 2006. Originally a private company, the Foundation was converted into a public company within eight months to circumvent the Land Acquisition Act of 1894, which explicitly prohibits land acquisition by private companies. Therefore, the Court termed the aforesaid effort as a mala fide exercise by the Foundation. The Court noticed that the proposal for 15000 acres of land was an exaggerated demand.

In 2023, the High Court nullified the acquisition of nearly 6,000 acres of land. The judgment emphasized that public interest was not served and that the process violated multiple provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Later, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's decision highlighting extensive legal and ethical lapses. It ruled that the Foundation had been given preferential treatment, and that such large-scale land transfers to a private entity could not be justified as serving a "public purpose."

The judgment invoked the Doctrine of Public Trust, criticizing the acquisition of land around ecologically sensitive zones and water bodies. These concerns were never adequately addressed by the state, which also failed to consider the environmental and social implications of granting such vast control to a private corporation.

The courts criticized the state government for allowing the initiative to be driven by the Foundation instead of the state. The government was also found to have ex-

tended undue benefits to the Foundation. It is disheartening to learn that, till date, the land has not been restored to the farmers even after the Supreme Court's decision. The people of Odisha hope that the new government will take corrective action and not repeat the mistakes of the previous government.

Now, with his recent public statement, Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal has revived the university proposal. He emphasized inclusivity, stating that students from less privileged backgrounds would receive full financial support. He also hinted at the need for administrative and political cooperation by saying "Land should not become a constraint for building large universities." Agarwal's renewed push highlights a broader debate about the role of government in higher education. Over the last three decades, the public universities in Odisha have suffered from chronic underfunding, freeze on the faculty recruitment, and abysmally low support for research.

I strongly urge the state government to address the shortage of teaching staff in existing colleges and universities. It is time to initiate transparent and merit-based process for appointing high-calibre academicians as vice-chancellors and to ensure they have the autonomy needed to lead without excessive government interference. Given that the Union Minister for Higher Education hails from Odisha, this is an opportune moment to consider upgrading Utkal University to Central University status. This would ensure it receives the resources and autonomy required to become a true centre of excellence.

In the pursuit of world-class education, we must not lose sight of equity, integrity, and public responsibility. We cannot create a transformative education system by outsourcing it to private parties with questionable motives. As a parting note, I would like to say: "Let education be a means to end exploitation, not a product of it."

The writer is a professor at XIMB.

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

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Nagendra Kumar Vempalli, BANGALORE

NILAMBUR BYPOLLS

Beleaguered Asha Workers' campaign against CPI-M

The Asha Workers are miffed with CM Vijayan over the way they have been humiliated ever since their indefinite protest began Feb

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nilambur, June 12: The beleaguered Asha Workers who have been on an indefinite protest before the State Secretariat from February 10 demanding fair wages, Thursday began a campaign urging people not to vote for the CPI-M candidate in the forthcoming Nilambur Assembly bypolls in Kerala.

Nilambur Assembly constituency goes to elect a new legislator June 19, after two-time sitting Left Independent legislator quit his seat in January, following difference of opinion with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The Asha Workers are miffed with CM Vijayan over the way they have been humiliated ever since their indefinite protest began, and Thursday, their group began their campaign against CPI-M candidate M Swaraj.

"We have come here to campaign against the CPI-M led Left government which has broken the promise given in its 2021 poll manifesto regarding Asha Workers. The CPI-M led Left leaders are often seen voicing deep concern for women in general, but everyone knows how they treated us when we came forward with genuine demands for fair wages. Our issues have not been addressed and we have also been humiliated. Hence we decided to come here and do our bit," said S Mini who has



been spearheading the protest.

"For this election it's not just these workers who are campaigning, but so many disgruntled sections of society," said Congress candidate Aryadan Shoukath.

Quick to attack the arrival of the Asha Workers on the campaign trail, top CPI-M leader MV Jayarajan said everyone knows that their protest is led by the Socialist Unity Centre of India.

"People know everything and what their agenda is," said Jayarajan.

Apart from Shoukath and Swaraj, also in the fray is Anvar seeking votes as an Independent, besides the BJP's candidate Mohan George.

The principal fight is between Shoukath and Swaraj and the outcome of this poll is crucial more for CM Vijayan than for the Congress, as the narrative has already started that a third Vijayan government is on its way, with the Assembly elections slated to be held in about 10 months from now.

With just five more days left for the public campaign for the bye-elections to end, big political guns like CM Vijayan and Wayanad Lok Sabha MP Priyanka Gandhi are arriving to wind up the campaign.

Intense heat triggers water crisis in Hamirpur

ONE OF THE WORST-HIT AREAS IS RANGAS IN THE NADAUN SUBDIVISION, WHERE NEARLY 100 MIGRANT FAMILIES HAVE BEEN LEFT WITHOUT ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER DUE TO THE BREAKDOWN OF A HAND PUMP THAT HAS BEEN OUT OF ORDER FOR THE PAST FOUR DAYS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur (HP), June 12: People are facing an acute water shortage in several parts of Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district as intense summer heat continues to deplete water sources, forcing residents to rely on costly private water suppliers.

According to officials, 22 of the district's 184 drinking water supply schemes have reported a 50 per cent drop in water levels.

"If there is no rainfall in the coming week, several drinking water schemes could be severely affected," a spokesperson of the Jal Shakti department warned Thursday.

One of the worst-hit areas is Rangas in the Nadaun subdivision, where nearly 100 migrant families have been left without access to drinking water due to the breakdown of a hand pump that has been out of order for the past four days.

These families, who were dependent solely on the pump, are now sourcing water either from private borewells or even ravines, officials said.

Neeraj Bhogal, Superintending Engineer of the Jal Shakti Vibhag, said that the department is actively working to address the crisis. "We are trying our best to provide assistance to the affected families," he assured.

The Jal Shakti Department manages drinking water schemes across Hamirpur's five main divisions — Barsar, Bhoranj, Nadaun, Sujampur, and Hamirpur town. Of these,



Barsar and Bhoranj have reported the most significant impact, while parts of Nadaun are also facing supply challenges due to reduced water levels and rising demand.

However, not all areas are equally affected. Water schemes drawing from the Beas River, such as Bamsan Lagwalti Yojana in Bhoranj, and the main supply lines to Hamirpur Town, Sujampur, and the Salooni area of Barsar, are said to be functioning normally.

22 OF THE DISTRICT'S 184 DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES HAVE REPORTED A 50% DROP IN WATER LEVELS
RESIDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY TURNING TO PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIERS DUE TO THE SHORTAGE

Officials said that regular Beas water supply and a recent resolution of voltage issues at Sujampur's Plahi site have ensured uninterrupted

distribution in Hamirpur Town, where daily water lifting has increased from 74 to 84 lakh litres.

Meanwhile, the situation remains grim in Dhatwal, Barsar, where about a dozen schemes drinking water schemes are nearing a complete dry-out due to declining ravine water levels.

"Some relief is being provided by channelling water from alternative sources," officials added.

IMD to install weather radar in Wayanad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday said an X-band radar will be installed in Kerala's Wayanad district, where over 400 people were killed in a devastating landslide in July of last year.

The IMD signed an MoU to install an X-band radar at the Pazhassiraja College, Pulpally, Wayanad, in the presence of Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan.

"The X-band radar, with a range of 100 km, is a critical addition to the weather observation infrastructure in the disaster-prone Western Ghats region," the IMD said in a post on X.

"This state-of-the-art system will greatly enhance weather forecasting accuracy, enabling more timely and precise alerts for severe weather events. It is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening disaster preparedness and response efforts in the region," the post further said.

The Kerala government had earlier claimed that the IMD failed to predict the extreme rainfall that triggered the landslides in Wayanad July 30 last year.

SHIP MISHAPS OFF KERALA COAST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 12: The High Court here Thursday questioned why the state and central governments should spend public money on the salvage and cleaning up operations in connection with the two recent ship mishaps off the Kerala coast.

The query by a bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basant Balaji came during the hearing of a PIL by Congress leader TN Prathapan with regard to the sinking of the Liberian flagged ship MSC Elsa 3 off the Kerala coast last month.

The court included the recent incident of a fire aboard the Singapore-flagged cargo vessel MV Wan Hai 503, with the blaze yet to be completely contained, also as part of the proceedings.

The bench asked the two governments to take the requisite action in both incidents promptly. It further said that the amount spent on salvage, clean up and fire-fighting operations as well as economic loss



caused due to fishing activities being affected, should be recovered from the shipping companies.

The bench also said that civil and criminal action can be taken against the shipping companies.

When the Advocate General appearing for the state government said that a complaint has to be received for lodging a case, the court said that action

can be taken under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita.

It said that it can appoint an amicus curiae in the matter and asserted that there should be no delay in the steps proposed to be taken by both governments.

The court also asked the governments to ensure that ships in the area are safe.

With directions to the two governments to take all necessary steps, the court said it will

Why spend public money on salvage, clean up, asks HC

take up the matter next June 19.

BACK-TO-BACK INCIDENTS
A major fire broke out 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. Round the clock efforts are on to extinguish the fire onboard the ship.

Prior to that, the Liberian flagged ship sank May 24-25 about 14.6 nautical miles from Thottappally in Alappuzha district. The vessel had gone down with 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 containing calcium carbide. It was also loaded with 84.44 MT of diesel and 367.1 MT of furnace oil, according to the Ministry of Defence. Diving operations are still underway to stop oil leakage from the vessel.

Now, tourists can travel to Shipki-La sans curbs

THE CENTURIES-OLD TRADE ROUTE BETWEEN INDIA AND TIBET VIA THE PASS WAS CLOSED IN 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, June 12: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu Tuesday launched border tourism activities at Shipki-La in Kinnaur district located at an altitude of 3,930 meters bordering Tibet.

Addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister said at the border "we have eased restrictions for the tourists to enjoy the beauty of Shipki-La and tourism activities would strengthen the economy of the local people along with boosting tourism in the region".

He said the government had requested the Ministry of Defence to grant permission for starting tourism activities in the border areas of Lepcha, Shipki-La, Giu and Rani Kanda.

After getting the approval, the border tourism initiative has been launched. The Chief Minister said the government



would raise the issue of starting Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from Shipki-La with the Centre.

"I would meet the Prime Minister and present this matter before him. Shipki-La will be the easiest route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra," the Chief Minister said.

The centuries-old trade route

between India and Tibet via Shipki-La was closed in 2020.

"There are immense possibilities of trade and cultural exchange through this pass and the matter of restarting it would also be raised before the Central government."

Sukhu said the government has also urged the Centre to es-

tablish Himachal Scout Battalion, which would have a special quota for the local people.

"The matter of setting up an airport to promote tourism in the border areas would also be pursued before the Union government. The state government would urge the Centre to abolish the Inner Line Check Post of the military and paramilitary forces, which currently creates permit-related obstacles for tourists," he said.

He said the Wangtu-Atargu-Mud-Bhaba road connecting Lahaul-Spiti district with Kinnaur has been approved by the National Wildlife Board, paving the way for its construction, which would reduce the distance between Shimla and Kaza by approximately 100 km.

The Chief Minister said border roads are not only of strategic importance, but their purpose is to provide benefits to the people by increasing

connectivity in remote border regions.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, who belongs to Kinnaur, thanked the Chief Minister for inaugurating border tourism activities. He said more basic facilities would be increased at Shipki-La in the future. He also urged to start on-demand bus route in the area.

Rains to intensify in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 12: Rains in Kerala are likely to intensify over the weekend, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which Thursday issued red alerts in various districts of the state for three days from June 14.

The IMD issued red alerts in two districts -- Kannur and Kasaragod -- for June 14, five districts June 15 and three districts June 16.

Additionally, it issued orange alerts in two districts for Thursday, four districts Friday, seven Saturday, nine Sunday and eight Monday.

A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while an orange alert means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm, and a yellow

alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11 cm.

The IMD also warned against fishing activities along the Kerala-Karnataka-Lakshadweep coast from June 12 to 16 in view of very strong winds and bad weather conditions.

The monsoons had arrived in the state early May 24 and caused widespread damage to public and private property.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/30, Dt.: 10.06.2025	
(1) Tender No. e-tender-EASTKUR-91-2025, Dtd.: 03.05.2025	
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED RAISING OF PLATFORM FROM RAIL LEVEL TO HIGH LEVEL AT PLATFORM NO. 5, EXTENSION OF PLATFORM NO. 4, APPROACH ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION OF SSP ROOM IN CONNECTION OF ONE ADDITIONAL LOOP AT NEW GARHMADHUPUR (NGMP) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 254.27 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,77,100/-	
(2) Tender No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-92-2025, Dtd.: 30.05.2025	
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. CP-8 AT KM. 419.8-7 IN BETWEEN MATTA C.A.J.PUR, KANDARPUR STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (AIR PUSHING METHOD)	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 574.07 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 4,37,000/-	
(3) Tender No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-92-2025, Dtd.: 02.06.2025	
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY AT KM. 427/17-19 TO AVOID TRESPASSING BETWEEN KANDARPUR-RAGHUNATHPUR STATIONS ON CUTTACK-PARADEEP LINE OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (AIR PUSHING METHOD)	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 179.48 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,39,800/-	
(4) Tender No. e-Tender-East-KUR-07-2025, Dtd.: 02.06.2025	
DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) AT RAILWAY KM. 429/20-22 TO AVOID TRESPASSING BETWEEN KANDARPUR-RAGHUNATHPUR STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (BY AIR PUSHING TECHNIQUE)	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 378.07 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 3,39,000/-	
Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for St. No. 1) and 08 (Eight) Months (for St. No. 2, 3 & 4).	
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 25.06.2025 (for all the Tenders).	

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 14-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date: 06.06.2025

Name of the Work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF "PROVISION OF ONE CROSS-OVER BETWEEN R3 & R4 AT SAMBALPUR END AND DISMANTLING OF 02 DE AND LYING OF 10M PLAIN TRACK BY CONNECTING THEM AT LAPANGA STATION IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION."

Approx cost: ₹ 47,86,344.12, EMD: ₹ 95,700/-, Completion period: 09 months.

Tender closing date & time: At 1530 hrs. of 30.06.2025.

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.ireps.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur

PR-225/Q/25-26



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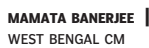
ZONAL OFFICE : KEONJHAR
Corporate Services Department
At: Kuladera, P.O.: Mandua,
Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN-758014

REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES ON RENT / LEASE

Bank of India requires well-constructed commercial premises on lease basis measuring 1000-1675 sq. ft. (approx), preferably in Ground Floor at Parjang (Dist.: Dhenkanal), Balichandrapur (Dist.: Jajpur) and Angul Town (Dist.: Angul). For further details, please visit Bank's website www.bankofindia.co.in under the tab "Tender" or at our Zonal Office at above address.

The Last Date for Submission of Application in sealed cover in two bid system is 02.07.2025 up to 04.00 P.M. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Zonal Manager, Keonjhar Zone





WORST AIR TRAGEDIES

2025 UNITED STATES More than 60 people were killed when an American Airlines opens new tab regional passenger jet collided with a US Army Black Hawk helicopter January 29 and crashed into the frigid Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

2024 SOUTH KOREA Jeju Air international flight 7C2216 crashed at Muan International Airport December 29, 2024, killing all 175 passengers and four of the six crew in the deadliest air disaster on South Korean soil.

KAZAKHSTAN Azerbaijan Airlines international flight J2-8243, an Embraer, E190, crashed December 25 after being diverted from Russia to Kazakhstan, killing 38 people. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in December the plane had been damaged by accidental shooting from the ground in Russia. Moscow has not confirmed this.

JAPAN A Japan Airlines (JAL), plane collided with a smaller Coast Guard aircraft on the runway of Tokyo's Haneda airport January 2. All 379 people aboard the JAL plane, an Airbus (AIR,PA), A350-941 flight, escaped the burning airliner. Five of six crew on the smaller aircraft were killed.

2022 CHINA A China Eastern Airlines (600115.SS), Boeing 737-800 crashed into a mountainous region in the southwestern Guangxi region March 21, 2022, killing all 132 people on board, in China's deadliest aviation disaster in 28 years.

2020 IRAN Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down a Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) Boeing 737-800 January 8, 2020 shortly after it took off from Tehran Airport, killing all 176 people on board. Iran's civil aviation body blamed a misaligned radar and an error by an air defence operator.

2019 ETHIOPIA A Boeing 737-MAX 8 Ethiopian Airlines jet crashed March 19, 2019 minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa for Nairobi, killing all 157 people on board. Soon after, the Boeing 737 MAX global fleet was grounded over safety concerns.

2018 INDONESIA A Boeing 737 MAX Lion Air plane crashed into the Java Sea soon after taking off from Jakarta October 29, 2018, killing all 189 people on board.

2014 MALAYSIA Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 departed from Amsterdam for Kuala Lumpur July 17, 2014, and was shot down over eastern Ukraine as fighting raged between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces. All 298 passengers on board were killed. Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing March 8, 2014. The remains of the Boeing 777 and the 239 people have not been found.



Disaster stuns world

Failure of both engines or a bird hit soon after take-off could be among the probable causes that led to the fatal crash of a London-bound Air India aircraft with 242 people onboard, according to experts.

Three senior wide-body pilots, who are also instructors, told PTI that looking at the videos of the crash available publicly, it seems that the engines could not gain the required thrust needed for the take-off, resulting in a fatal crash into the residential area seconds after it took off. The experts mentioned the possible causes based on the available visuals of the aircraft as it went down.

One of the commanders said it does not seem to be the case of one engine failure because in such a scenario, the aircraft would have been swinging but here, the aircraft was steady.

"So, there is the possibility of both the engines failing... there could have been a loss of thrust in both engines. But these are only possibilities," a commander said, adding that from the images, it appears that either the flaps were up or landing gear was down at the time of take off. The second commander mentioned that the way, the aircraft went down, indicated that there was a lack of thrust in both the engines.

The third commander said the aircraft's both engines might have lost power. One engine might have failed and possibly due to the landing gear being not retracted after take-off, the second engine might not have had adequate power. While there are suggestions that the aircraft's weight could have been higher than the permissible limit, the commander said if that was

the case, then the take-off itself would not have been possible. The weight of the aircraft determines the V1 speed or

LEADERS EXPRESS CONDOLENCES



A family member cries upon hearing the news of her brother who died when the plane crash

Vijay Rupani was known for composed demeanour, firm administrative style

Ahmedabad: Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, who died in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad Thursday, was known for his composed demeanour and firm administrative style. Rupani, 68, who was the chief minister from August 2016 to September 2021, steered Gujarat through a critical post-Covid recovery phase. Rupani was a student leader who led many agitations. During his college years, he worked as an activist of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. In 1975, Rupani faced imprisonment for one year in Bhavnagar jail while protest-



ing against the Emergency. Rupani entered public service in 1987 when he was elected as a corporator in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation. He later became the mayor. He was a member of Rajya Sabha between 2006 and 2012. His tenure as Gujarat CM saw the launch of the state Industrial Policy 2020 and initiatives for tribal upliftment. Rupani stepped down from the Chief Minister's post in September 2021, making way for Bhupendra Patel ahead of state elections.

AGENCIES

take-off speed. If the calculated speed is lower than required, the engines will struggle to get the plane airborne. The Boeing 787-8 aircraft -- VT-ANB -- operating flight AI 171 took off from runway 23 at the Ahmedabad airport to London Gatwick. A MAYDAY call was given to the air traffic controller soon after the

takeoff but thereafter, no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by the air traffic controller, aviation regulator DGCA said.

In a video message, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said, "Investigations will take time but anything we can do now we are doing". The tragedy has

prompted an outpouring of grief across the nation. DNA tests will be carried out to ascertain the identities of those who perished in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad city Thursday afternoon, a senior Gujarat health department official said even as he refused to cite death toll figures.

AGENCIES

FLIGHT CRASH NOT FIRST FOR ILL-FATED RUNWAY 23

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Ahmedabad, June 12: The crash of Air India plane near Ahmedabad airport Thursday was the second such major tragedy in the city since 1988, with both incidents linked to runway 23.

As many as 133 people out of 139 on board were killed October 19, 1988, when Indian Airlines Flight 113 from

Mumbai to Ahmedabad crashed while approaching the airport's runway 23. Before crashing, the flight to London Thursday had also taken off from runway 23.

Findings of a probe into the 1988 incident attributed it to pilots' error linked to descending below the minimum altitude of 500 feet or 150 metre.

There were reports that the two pilots had problems sighting the runway and lost track of their altitude in their efforts to approach the airport that lacked approach lights or visual

As many as 133 people out of 139 on board were killed October 19, 1988, when Indian Airlines Flight 113 from Mumbai to Ahmedabad crashed while approaching the airport's runway 23

approach slope indicator (VASI).

While the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials are still to arrive at a conclusion on the cause of Thursday's crash, court of inquiry into the 1988 crash had concluded that the aircraft hit trees and high-tension electricity tower close to Chiloda Kotarpur Village.

The plane crashed near Noble Nagar Housing Society, about 2.5 km from the approach end of runway

way due to the pilots attempting to land without any clearance from the Air Traffic Control, it said.

The plane crash in 1988 resulted in the death of Professor Labdhi Bhandari from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

All six crew members, including two pilots, and 129 passengers, including 5 children, perished in the Ahmedabad crash in 1988.

An inquiry panel had confirmed pilots' poor judgement due to non-adherence to laid down procedure, under poor visibility conditions.

In a suit filed by victims' kin, an Ahmedabad court had said that the degree of negligence on the part of the pilot-in-command and the co-pilot of the Indian Airlines was so high that the same amounted to "recklessness" on their part as contemplated by the Carriage by Air Act, 1972.

Plane had 1.25L litres of fuel, no opportunity to save anyone: Shah

Ahmedabad: Union minister Amit Shah said Thursday that the temperature in the Air India plane which crashed in Ahmedabad was so high due to burning fuel that there was no chance to save anyone. "There was 1.25 lakh litre of fuel inside the plane and it caught heat so it was impossible to save anyone," Shah told reporters. The entire nation is in deep shock following the tragedy, he said. Shah also expressed condolences to relatives of those killed in the accident. "The number of those killed will be officially released by the authorities after DNA test and identification of the victims," Shah said. "The good news is that one person survived the crash and I am coming here after meeting him," he said.

US expert: Plane parts seemed misconfigured

Washington: US experts Thursday said the plane involved in the crash at Ahmedabad did not seem "properly configured" and that the crash appeared "surprising" at first glance. This is the first crash ever of the Dreamliner since it went into service in 2009, according to the Aviation Safety Network database. Aviation safety consultant John M Cox said one of the questions investigators will be asking is whether the Air India plane that crashed Thursday was properly configured for flight.

Briton's Insta post before boarding doomed AI flight

New Delhi: While a pall of gloom pervades through the nation over devastating plane crash in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, a video of two British citizens preparing to return home via the doomed flight AI-171 has taken the social storm by storm. The video of two Britons namely Jamie Meek, a London-based Yoga enthusiast and Fiongal Greenlaw-Meek has gone viral.

Tata announces Rs 1cr aid to families of crash victims

New Delhi: Tata Group will provide Rs 1 crore to the family of each person who died in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad Thursday. The aircraft, carrying 242 people, from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed immediately after takeoff Thursday afternoon. "We are deeply anguished by the tragic event involving Air India Flight 171," Tata Group and Air India Chairman N Chandrababhan said.

AGENCIES

international

of the day quote

I think an incoming government having a look at this is something that they have a perfect right to do and we welcome it and we'll work with it

RICHARD MARLES | DEFENCE MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

India's commitment to import 10,000 MW electricity over the next decade reflects the growing momentum in Nepal-India energy cooperation

ARZOO RANA DEUBA | FOREIGN MINISTER, NEPAL

I hope that we will have a conversation (with Trump) at the G7 summit and I hope that if no decisions are made before then, I will be able to have at least an understanding of how close we are to that decision

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

'Slight reprieve' for Netanyahu

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government survived an attempt to dissolve parliament early Thursday morning, with most of his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners joining him in voting against a bill that would have forced them to register for military service while the country is at war. The vote was the most serious challenge to Netanyahu's government since Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack, the biggest security failure in Israel's history and the trigger for the ongoing war in Gaza. The bill's failure means that no other bill to dissolve Knesset can be submitted for at least six months, shoring up Netanyahu's embattled coalition.

Indian-origin physician sworn in as AMA prez

New York: Indian-origin physician Bobby Mukkamala has been sworn in as the 180th president of the American Medical Association (AMA), becoming the first physician of Indian heritage to lead the organisation. Mukkamala, an otolaryngologist -- an ear, nose, and throat specialist -- took the oath Tuesday, according to a statement by the association.

Death toll in S Africa floods rises to 57

Cape Town: The death toll in floods in one of South Africa's poorest provinces rose to 57 Thursday as a top official said rescue attempts had been "paralysed" by a lack of resources. Rescue teams are still working through debris and floodwater to find missing people after heavy rain caused a river to burst its banks in the predawn hours of Tuesday. Floods hit the nearby town of Mthatha and surrounding areas, sweeping away victims along with parts of their houses and cars.

PIO sentenced in US for fraud scheme

San Francisco: An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to over six years in prison for his involvement in a fraud scheme in which he laundered over a million dollars targeting senior citizens, according to the justice department. Pranav Patel, 33, of New Jersey, served as a "money mule" in the fraud scheme between October and December 2023 and laundered \$1.7 million as part of it. He pleaded guilty in December last year and was sentenced Wednesday by US District Judge William Jung to six years and three months in federal prison for conspiracy to commit money laundering.



There is no reason that would justify a change in our diplomatic personnel at the moment, but we are following the situation closely

SOPHIE PRIMAS | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, FRANCE

UKRAINE, RUSSIA EXCHANGE WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR

Ukraine and Russia exchanged another group of ill and severely wounded service-men Thursday, officials from both countries said. All of the Ukrainian troops need treatment, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a message on the Telegram messaging app that did not go into details on the numbers involved



Oman confirms next round of US-Iran nuclear talks



REUTERS

Vienna/Dubai, June 12: The UN nuclear watchdog's board of governors declared Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations Thursday and Tehran announced counter-measures, as an Iranian official said a "friendly country" had warned it of a potential Israeli attack.

US and Iranian officials will hold a sixth round of talks on Tehran's escalating uranium enrichment programme in Oman Sunday, according to US and Omani officials. But security fears have risen since US President Donald Trump said Wednesday American personnel were being moved out of the region because "it could be a dangerous place" and that Tehran would not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

Washington is concerned that Israel could take military action against Iran in coming days, US officials said on condition of anonymity, despite Trump's recent warning to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against such a strike while US diplomacy continues with Tehran.

US intelligence indicates that Israel has been making preparations to hit Iran's nuclear installations. But one US official said there was no sign that Israel had made a final decision. Security in the Middle East has already been destabilised by spillover effects of the Gaza war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Trump has threatened to bomb Iran if the nuclear talks do not yield a deal and said he has become less confident Tehran will agree to stop enriching uranium. The Islamic Republic wants a lifting of US sanctions imposed on it since 2018.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that even if the country's nuclear facilities were destroyed by bombs they would be rebuilt, state media reported Thursday.

Over 122mn people forcibly displaced worldwide: UN

Among those, the numbers of internally displaced people jumped by more than 9 per cent to 73.5 million at the end of last year

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, June 12: The UN refugee agency says the number of people forcibly displaced by violence and persecution around the world has risen to more than 122 million, up by about 2 million from last year

and a near-doubling over the last decade.

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi nonetheless pointed to some "rays of hope" over the last six months, including the return home of nearly 2 million Syrians as their country tries to recover from more than a decade of civil war.

The findings come as the refugee agency released its Global Trends Report Thursday, which said the number of people driven abroad or displaced in their home countries by war, violence and persecution as of April rose to 122.1 million, up from 120 million a year earlier.

Among those, the numbers of internally displaced people



jumped by more than 9 per cent to 73.5 million at the end of last year. The numbers represent cumulative figures from years of conflict, violence and persecution, and some displaced

people returned home last year even as others fled.

The report comes at a time when humanitarian groups are facing budget cuts from the United States and other tradi-

Protests spread across US

REUTERS

Los Angeles, June 12: California will face off with Washington in court Thursday over President Donald Trump's deployment of US troops in Los Angeles after demonstrators again took to the streets in major cities to protest Trump's immigration crackdown.

Some 700 US Marines will be on the streets of Los Angeles by Thursday or Friday, the military said, to support up to 4,000 National Guard troops in protecting federal property and federal agents, including on immigration raids.

Trump's decision to dispatch troops to Los Angeles over the objections of California Governor Gavin Newsom has sparked a national debate about the use of the military on U.S. soil and further polarized the country.

Street protests have broken out in multiple cities besides Los Angeles including New York, Chicago, Washington and San Antonio, Texas.

A federal judge in San Francisco will hear arguments Thursday as part of California's lawsuit against Trump. The state is requesting a temporary restraining order to block the troops' participation in law enforcement activities.

California ultimately wants a court ruling that returns its National Guard to the state's con-



- California seeks restraining order against Trump in federal court
- 700 US Marines will be on LA streets by Thursday or Friday
- Protests set to grow Saturday with 1,800 anti-Trump rallies planned

trol and declares that Trump's action was illegal. The LA protests broke out last Friday in response to a series of immigration raids. Trump in turn called in the National Guard Saturday, then summoned the Marines Monday.

"Los Angeles was safe and sound for the last two nights. Our great National Guard, with a little help from the Marines, put the L.A. Police in a position to effectively do their job," Trump posted on social media Thursday. "They all worked well together, but without the Military, Los Angeles would be a

crime scene like we haven't seen in years." State and local leaders dispute that, saying Trump has only escalated tensions with an unnecessary deployment of federal troops, while Democrats nationally have condemned his action as authoritarian.

Trump is carrying out a campaign promise to deport immigrants, employing forceful tactics consistent with the norm-breaking political style that got him elected twice. Los Angeles Wednesday endured a sixth day of protests that have been largely peaceful but occasionally punctuated by violence, mostly contained to a few blocks.

In downtown LA, shortly before the second night of a curfew over a one square mile (2.5 square km) area Wednesday night, police said demonstrators at one location threw commercial-grade fireworks and rocks at officers.



One of the two tiger cubs born April 13, undergoes a routine medical check-up in Budapest Zoo, Budapest, Hungary, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

B'desh wanted good ties with India, but 'something always went wrong': Yunus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 12: Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that his interim government wanted good relations with India, but "something always went wrong".

During an interaction with Chatham House think tank director Bronwen Maddox in London Wednesday, Yunus addressed a wide range of issues including bilateral ties with India and the democratic roadmap for the country, starting with a "July Charter" next month.

Maddox referenced an informal diplomatic note issued to

India seeking deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition and sought an update on the matter.

"This will continue... we want the whole process to be very legal, very proper... We want to build the best of relationship with India. It's our neighbour, we don't want to have any kind of basic problem with them," Yunus said.

"But somehow things go wrong every time because of all the fake news coming from the Indian press... and many people say it has connections with policymakers on the top," he said. "So, this is what makes

More than 55,000 Palestinians killed in Israel-Hamas war

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates the aid distribution sites, said at least five of its local aid workers were killed in an attack that it blamed on Hamas as they headed to one of the centres

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip), June 12: The Palestinian death toll from the 20-month Israel-Hamas war passed 55,000, the Gaza Health Ministry said Wednesday, and hospitals said at least 21 people were killed while on their way to aid distribution sites.

The circumstances of the deaths reported near the sites were not immediately clear. The Israeli army said Wednesday it fired warning shots in central Gaza toward "suspects" that posed a threat to troops.

The Gaza Humanitarian

Foundation, which operates the aid distribution sites, said at least five of its local aid workers were killed in an attack that it blamed on Hamas as they headed to one of the centres.

The Gaza Health Ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but has said that women and children make up more than half the 55,000 dead. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among ci-

vilians, because they operate in populated areas.

The ministry says 55,104 people have been killed since the start of the war and 127,394 wounded. Many more are believed to be buried under the rubble or in areas that are inaccessible to local medics. The figure did not include

Wednesday's deaths. The Health Ministry is part of

Gaza's Hamas-run government, but staffed by medical professionals who maintain and publish detailed records. Its tolls from previous conflicts have largely aligned those dependent



perts, though Israel has questioned the ministry's figures.

Also Wednesday, Israel said forces recovered the remains of two additional hostages held in Gaza. Militants still hold 53 captives, less than half of them believed to be alive.

Casualties at separate aid hubs, health officials say

Health officials in Gaza said 14 people were killed while on their way to collect aid near the southern city of Rafah. Their bodies were taken to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. In central Gaza, Al-Awda Hospital said that seven additional people were killed while on their way to an aid distribution site.

The Israeli military said troops fired warning shots before daylight toward people it identified as suspects

"who were advancing while posing a threat" in central Gaza. The military had no immediate comment on the reports of casualties in southern Gaza.

Foundation says some of its aid workers have been killed

The GHF accused Hamas of attacking a bus carrying two dozen of its Palestinian workers who helped deliver aid. It said in a statement that at least five people died, multiple others were injured and it fears some may have been taken hostage.

It said the attack happened as the team was heading to one of its aid distribution sites in the area west of Khan Younis.

"Our hearts are broken and our thoughts and prayers are with every victim, every family, and every person still unaccounted for," the statement said.

NEW TEST ERA

'Come out of comfort zone'

SHOOTING WORLD CUP

Samra bags bronze

India will search for their maiden series victory in England since 2007, when the five-match rubber starts with the first Test at Leeds June 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beckenham (England), June 12: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has called on his team to move out of its "comfort zone" and make the upcoming Test series against England a "memorable" one, especially in the absence of retired stars Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin.

India will search for their maiden series victory in England since 2007, when the five-match rubber starts with the first Test at Leeds June 20.

"There are two ways of looking at this tour. One is we are without our three most experienced players or we got this phenomenal opportunity to do something special for the country," Gambhir told BC-CI.tv, referring to the recent retirements of Ashwin, Rohit and Kohli.

The former India opener said he can feel the "passion and the commitment" to achieve something special flowing through the current bunch, led by Shubman Gill.

"When I look around in this group, I think I see the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something special. If we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting not every day but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have a memorable tour," he added.

Gambhir welcomed the whole squad to the tour of England, and extended a special tribute to some of the members, starting with B Sai Sudharsan.



When I look around in this group, I think I see the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something special. If we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting not every day but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have a memorable tour

GAUTAM GAMBHIR | HEAD COACH, INDIA

"First Test calls are always special, so I want to welcome Sai, who has a fabulous three months with the bat and make sure you have a very very successful red ball career."

Gambhir hoped that pacer Arshdeep Singh would remain his impactful self in red-ball cricket as well.

"I want to welcome Arshdeep Singh. You have been phenomenal with the white ball and I am sure you will make it count with the red ball in your hand."

The 43-year-old then patted Gill and his deputy Rishabh Pant.

"I want to congratulate Shubman as well, captain for the first time. There is no bigger honour than leading your country's Test team. Congratulations. Rishabh Pant as well, who is part of the leadership group now," he noted.

Gambhir was lavish in his praise for Karun Nair, who stitched a stirring comeback to Team India on the back of a wonderful run in domestic cricket.

"Comebacks are never easy, someone who has made a comeback after seven years, had a phenomenal last year.

"The amount of runs that you have got, and most importantly that never say die attitude, which is something that got you back into the team, and that is something inspiring for everyone in this group. Welcome Karun Nair," said Gambhir.

Karun said he was "grateful" to get a second chance to play for India.

"Grateful for this opportunity again. I am really looking forward to grabbing this opportunity with both hands. I am sure there will be a lot of feelings, once I go out there but right now I can't express

them," said Karun.

Put ourselves under pressure at nets: Gill

Skipper Gill urged his colleagues to put themselves under a bit of pressure so that they will not be overwhelmed by situations when the series starts.

"Let's make each and every net session meaningful. Let's put ourselves under a little pressure. When we are going out there, it's not about going out there and just surviving, let's find out our game, how we are going to play when we are put under pressure — be it bowlers or batters," he said.

SHORT TAKES

BWF officials inspect Indira Gandhi Stadium

New Delhi: Officials from the Badminton World Federation (BWF) visited the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi for a routine inspection of the Gymnastics Centre, the proposed venue for the upcoming BWF India Open 2026 and the BWF World Championships 2026. The BWF delegation included Selvaamresh Supramaniam, Koh Wa Cheng, Venugopal A. Mahalingam, Jessy Sung, and John Adamson, while the Badminton Association of India was represented by Honorary General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, Girish Natu, Gautam Mahanta, and Manoj Kumar Singh. The visit underscores India's growing role as a key destination for elite badminton events, as it is set to organise the 30th edition of the mega event, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) informed in a release on Wednesday.

Poland coach resigns after Lewandowski row

Warsaw: The coach of Poland's national soccer team announced Thursday has resigned as head coach, days after a spat with star striker Robert Lewandowski. "I have come to the conclusion that, given the current situation, the best decision for the good of the national team is my resignation from the position of head coach," Michal Probiez said in a statement published by the Polish Football Association. Probiez stripped Barcelona striker Lewandowski of his position as team captain on the eve of a World Cup qualifier against Finland earlier this week, and named Inter Milan midfielder Piotr Zielinski as the new captain. Lewandowski reacted by saying he would no longer play for the national team as long as Probiez remains head coach. Poland went on to suffer an embarrassing 2-1 defeat to Finland, to put its qualifications hopes into jeopardy.

Pakistan biggies ignored

Karachi: Pakistan selectors have ruled out any role for senior players -- Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi -- in the team's upcoming T20 series against West Indies and Bangladesh. The Pakistani selectors including Aaqib Javed, Aleem Dar, Azhar Ali and Asad Shafiq are likely to announce the T20 squad for the series in the West Indies and Bangladesh next week. The two series will be played in July-August.

Goal disallowed, India's fourth straight defeat in Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen, June 12: India's late goal from penalty was disallowed in dramatic circumstances and Jugraj Singh failed to score after it was retaken as they lost 1-2 to Argentina for their fourth successive defeat in the European leg of FIH Pro League hockey here Thursday.

Drag-flicker Jugraj struck in the fourth minute off the first penalty corner of the match to give India the lead but Tomas Domene (9th and 49th) scored a brace, both from PCs, to hand Argentina the win.

Down 1-2 in the fourth and final quarter, India earned a penalty stroke two minutes from the final hooter and Jugraj was successful in sounding the board. Argentina asked for a video referral on the ground that Jugraj's left foot was well ahead of the ball while he took the stroke.

The video umpire ruled in Argentina's favour but India captain Hardik Singh asked the referee to check whether the Argentina goalkeeper Tomas



Santiago was already ahead of the goal-line before Jugraj took the stroke.

This time, India got a favourable decision from the video umpire. Jugraj was allowed to retake the stroke but his shot was saved this time by Santiago. Hardik led India as regular captain Harmanpreet Singh is down with a finger injury. Argentina got as many as eight PCs while India earned just three.

India had lost to the same opponents 3-4 Wednesday. Before that, India had lost 1-2 and 2-3 to Olympic champions Netherlands here during this European tour of the Pro League.

This was India's fourth and last match here, and they will now travel to Antwerp in Belgium to face formidable Australia Saturday.

Rugby can be viable career option in another 3-4 years: Bose

The inaugural Rugby Premier League will be held from June 15 to 29 at the Mumbai Football Arena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: Professional rugby is yet to become a financially viable career option in India but national federation president Rahul Bose believes that the Rugby Premier League can bring about a change in the scenario in the next three to four years.

Bose, 57, a reputed actor who has featured in critically acclaimed films like 'English, August', Mr and Mrs Iyer, and Chameli, has represented the country in 17 international games and has been the face of the sport in India for more than two decades.

With the GMR-backed RPL starting June 15, Bose was chuffed about Indian players not only getting the kind of exposure that is needed to become better version of themselves,

but also earning contracts ranging between Rs 50,000 to Rs 5.5 lakh for the two-week event.

"The top player was bought for five and a half lakhs in the auction. Can this be a financially viable sport for somebody to follow or for somebody to pursue? Definitely, in another three to four years from now," Bose told PTI in an exclusive interview.

From his time when lovers of rugby and all those passionate about the game didn't earn a single penny, Rugby India is now paying its national campers anywhere between Rs 60,000 to Rs 1 lakh, which is impressive considering the current market of the sport.

"Our sport is played by the poorest of the poor. Our national campers earn between Rs 60,000 to Rs 1 lakh. So, if I am currently looking at an annual income of Rs 3 lakh, a small family can just about make a living of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 staying in a village.

"I am not at all saying this is enough. We need to put in as much money as possible in their hands," Bose explained.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 12: A low-scoring World Test Championship final was heading to a thrilling conclusion after Australia took a 74-run first-innings lead before being reduced to 144-8 by South Africa by the close of Day 2 at Lord's Thursday.

It was a landmark day for Australia captain Pat Cummins, who took 6-28 to get to 300 wickets in his test career and dismiss the Proteas for 138 following a whirlwind hour after lunch when the Baggy Greens claimed South Africa's last five batters for 12 runs in 5.5 overs.

A test dominated by pace bowling continued in that vein in Australia's second innings, with Kagiso Rabada — who took 5-51 to help restrict the Australians to 212 all out on Day 1 — again removing Usman Khawaja (6) and Cameron Green (0) in one over before Lungi Ngidi took three wickets, including dangerman Steve



Smith (13), in an inspired spell.

Tottering at 73-7, Australia managed to rebuild in the final hour through a crucial eighth-wicket partnership of 61 between wicketkeeper Alex Carey (43) and Mitchell Starc (16 not out). Rabada (3-44) trapped Carey lbw in another twist in the next-to-last over at the home of cricket as 14 wickets tumbled for the second straight day.

Australia led by 218 going into the third and potentially final day of the third edition of test cricket's big new showpiece in

its bid to retain the mace.

South Africa is seeking its first ICC trophy in any format this century. The Australians might also think they're in a good spot — and that was in large part down to their captain.

After South Africa resumed on 43-4, Cummins took five of the final six wickets — the other was a run-out — to claim the best bowling figures by a captain at Lord's. He became the eighth Aussie to get to 300 wickets.

"It's way more than I could've asked for," the understated

Samra still holds the world record in women's 50m rifle 3 positions – a stunning 469.6 – which she set during her gold-medal winning performance at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Among other Indian shooters in the event, Ashi Chouksey narrowly missed out on making the final, finishing 11th with a score of 589. Veteran Anjum Moudgil, a regular member of India's rifle squad, ended 27th with 586, while Shriyanka Sadangi and Nischal finished 53rd and 60th respectively.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Munich, June 12: Indian shooting sensation Sift Kaur Samra added yet another accolade to her growing list of international achievements, securing a bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup (rifle/pistol) here Thursday.

Competing in a strong international field, the 23-year-old from Faridkot, Punjab, scored 453.1 in the final to finish third, reaffirming her place among the elite rifle shooters in the world.

The gold went to Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who shot a sensational 466.9 in the final, while Switzerland's Emely Jaeggi won silver with 464.8.

Interestingly, Jaeggi, who initially placed ninth in the qualification round with a score of 590, only made it to the final after two shooters above her were declared ineligible for medals due to their "ranking points only" (RPO) status.

Samra, meanwhile, had a solid outing in the qualifying rounds, finishing second with an aggregate of 592 across the three positions – kneeling, prone, and standing. She was tied on the score with France's Agathe Cecile Camille Girard, who topped the chart by virtue of more inner 10s (Xs). Switzerland's Audrey Gogniat followed them in third place, heading into the final.

This bronze adds to what has been a remarkable year for Samra so far. She began the 2025 season with a gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires, a vital boost after a challenging 2024 Paris Olympics, where she had a below-par outing.

Already a history-maker,

South Africa is seeking its first ICC trophy in any format this century

skipper said. "For any fast bowler, 300 is a big number — it means you've battled a few injuries and niggles and got through it. I'm pretty happy."

Cummins' exploits meant South Africa slumped from 126-5 to 138 all out in barely 40 minutes after lunch. Only four batters got into double figures and only two above 20 — captain Temba Bavuma (36) and David Bedingham (45).

Brief scores: Australia 212 and 144/8 in 40 overs (Alex Carey 43, Marnus Labuschagne 22; Lungi Ngidi 3-35, Kagiso Rabada 3-44) lead South Africa 138 all out in 57.1 overs (David Bedingham 45, Temba Bavuma 36; Pat Cummins 6-28, Mitchell Starc 2-41) by 218 runs

Six franchises: Delhi Redz, Hyderabad Heroes, Kalinga Black Tigers, Chennai Bulls, Mumbai Dreamers and Bengaluru Bravehearts

Bose then explained why RPL is important for Indian Rugby.

"If you look at Indian cricket, for example, it started in 1932. But, our first significant series victory was in 1971, 40 years in an eight-nation sport at the time. So, in a 120-nation sport, it might take us 75 years to be in that top 25 percent.

"Now what a well-run league does is, it collapses this time and creates a pool of talent for the country, which normally you would not do so fast."

He believes that the work of a federation is 20 times more the work of any league. "The work of a federation is 20

times the work of any league and the rugby federation was awarded the 'Best sports federation for development in this country' by FICCI three months back. We are an extremely ethical, transparent, accountable, efficient process oriented organization."

Asked about the gulf in standard between Indian players and those coming from premier nations like New Zealand and South Africa, Bose felt the gap can only be bridged by playing with the best. "So there is definitely a gulf. It is not a big gulf, but there is a gulf, which is being bridged by what we call the 'Bridge players', like Canadians, the Germans, and the players from Hong Kong. We will see how this plays out.

"We'll be tracking it very carefully during this edition of the lead, and we will obviously do whatever we can to make sure that the rugby is competitive and world class in the format." The main aim for India players would be to upgrade their skill-sets and it wouldn't just depend on a tournament but also on systems put in place by Rugby India.