VOLUME 15, ISSUE 73 I www. orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | JUNE 13, 2025

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

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 is heartbreaking beyond

words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and to assist those affected

NARENDRA MODI I 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.

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, feted 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 towards 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

- 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
- AY 2010: An Air India Boeing 737 flight from Dubai overshot the runway at the airport in the southern city of Mangaluru and 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

APRIL 1993: An Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed during

takeoff in the western city of

Aurangabad and killed 55 people on board. Boeing 737 flight from Kolkata crashed during descent near

Imphal, killing all 69 occupants

OCTOBER 1988: More than 130 passengers died when an Indian Airlines Boeing 737, flying from

as it was coming in to land.

sengers 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.

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 Kundar. While Sabhar wal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kundar 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

Elsewhere too, there were

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



eration 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

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 vear 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 repre sentation 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.

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

eisure



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.



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 You ability to read the human mind and understand human nature better than anyone else will help you take charge when needed.

It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesha foresees you taking time out for some eisure 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

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 nast. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

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 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 say 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.



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

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 moting Rana Naidu Season 2, acdown anytime tress Kriti Kharbanda addressed the recent

matographer 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

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 indus-

tries—only good and bad people. And that's determined by one's values

Mumbai: While pro-

workplace misconduct allegations involving cine-

come across similar behavior in corporate offices, media houses, or any other

Kriti opens up

on workplace misconduct

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.

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.



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

PicassoYours Truly, said he aims to take Odia cinema all over 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 ban-

SUDOKU

9

8

ner Platoon One Films along with Vinay Reddy, Shubho Shekhar Bhattacharjee (Boundless Blackbuck Films) in association with Nikhil Chaudhry MDC Filmworks.

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

1 3

8

3

1

SOLUTIONS

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

2

4

5

6

9

2

4

8

1

6

2

6

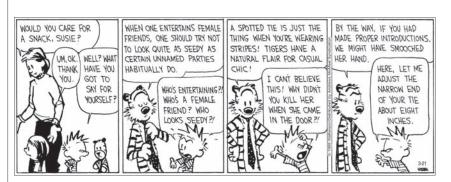
4

5

PEANUTS



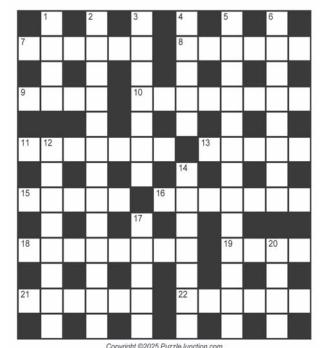
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Narrow street

21 Twitches

22 Dismiss

Down

Across				
7	Energy			
8	Ottoman			

- 9 Dyke
- 10 Reprimand 11 Abbreviate
- 13 Stiff-upper-lip
- type
- 15 Ensigns
- 18 Train, to a child
- 16 Wander aimlessly
- (4-4)

- used for roofing
- 2 Bed and

1 Fired clay

- breakfast (8,5)

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 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

JOURNALHYDRA

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

SUDOKU

owntown

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE: CM FLAGS OFF 'VIKAS VAHAN'

Bhubaneswar: As part of the celebration of his government's completion of one year in office, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday flagged off the 'Vikas Vahan', vehicles to make people across Odisha aware of the welfare schemes launched by the BJP regime at the Centre and in the state. Addressing a gathering held on the occasion at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said that the Vikas Vahan campaign is a 10-day programme that will be held from June 12 to June 21 and cover all 6,794 Gram Panchayat headquarters, five municipal corporation areas and 115 urban local bodies across 314 blocks in Odisha. The campaign launched by the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department will convey the success stories of the development schemes of the government. The CM highlighted some of the major schemes like Vikshit Gaon, Vikshit Odisha, Subhadra Yojana, Antyodaya Gruha Yojana, tribal and SC welfare, skill development for youth and promotion of various sports, subsidies for agriculture, National Health Programme NITI-2020, Godabarisha Mishra Adarsh Vidyalaya Yojana and Sishu Vatika programme



Biometric attendance in all depts

Bhubaneswar, June 12: In a significant move towards countability at government offices, the state government has directed all the departments to install biometric attendance systems where they are yet to

According to sources, the departments with existing systems were asked to ensure their devices are fully functional and linked to Biometric Attendance System Portal developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). The biometric data will be monitored and analysed fortnightly by designated officers to curb late arrivals and absenteeism.

This directive comes as part of the government's strong emphasis on punctuality, which it considers a vital component of good governance. The Generd Administration and Public Grievances (GA&PG) department has issued instructions for all state government employees, from the junior-most staff to the highest officials, to

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi

Thursday flagged off direct flight

services to Abu Dhabi from Bi-

ju Patnaik International Airport

An IndiGo flight with 180 pas-

sengers on board started its jour-

ney to the capital of the United

Arab Emirates (UAE) from Bhu-

Besides, 50 tonnes of mangoes

The inauguration took place

on a day when the BJP govern-

ment in the state was celebrating

The flight services were

launched under Odisha's Build-

ing Management of Aviation

Assets and Network (B-MAAN)

The airline will operate flights

on the Abu Dhabi-Bhubaneswar

route on Tuesday, Thursday and

Saturday every week, an official

produced in Odisha have been

sent to Abu Dhabi, he said.

baneswar, Majhi said.

its first anniversary.

initiative.

PNN & AGENCIES

(BPIA) here.



adhere strictly to prescribed office timings.

Employees are required to record both their 'Office In' and 'Office Out' times daily using the biometric devices. Failure to record 'Office Out' may be treated as absence for that day. In offices where attendance is maintained on a roster basis. the reporting times mentioned in official orders shall be treated as the prescribed time.

The government has allowed a grace period of up to 30 minutes of delay for a maximum of three days in a calendar month, condonable by the Head of Of-

CM launches direct flight to Abu Dhabi

IndiGo will operate flights on

Abu Dhabi-Bhubaneswar route Tuesday,

Thursday and Saturday every week

Failure to record 'Office Out' may be treated as

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Every employee is expected to attend office for at

Secretariat, and offices of the CM and ministers

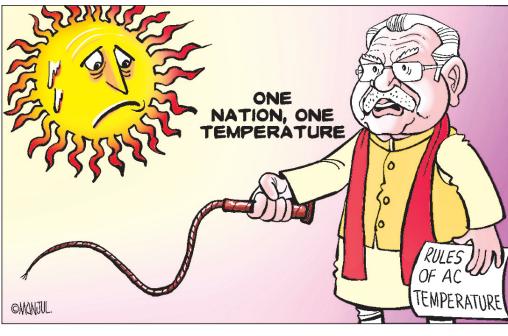
fice. However, beyond this, for every subsequent three days of late attendance, an employee will face deduction of one day's Casual Leave (CL). Employees who work extended hours or during public holidays will be exempted from penalties upon proper approval.

To ensure a minimum standard of work hours, every employee is expected to attend office for at least 7 and halfan-hours a day, except on days designated for morning-only business.

Employees engaged in official tours or work outside office premises, with due authorisation, will not be penalised for non-recording of attendance. However, staffers serving at Secretariat of the Governor, and offices of the Chief Minister and ministers, are exempted from these rules. Looking ahead, the govern-

ment plans to pilot the use of AI-based cameras and RFID identity cards to capture attendance data. This new system will be launched initially at Lok Seva Bhavan and Kharavel Bhavan, with plans for expansion across all government offices in the state.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Over 1.75 lakh find place in Phase-I Plus III merit list

Ravenshaw University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: State Higher Education department has released the Phase-I merit list for admissions to Undergraduate (UG) (Plus III) courses for the academic session 2025–26. The list was officially published at 11am Thursday.

Altogether 1,75,722 students have been selected out of the total 2,65,590 students who had applied for admissions in the first round, vying for 2,74,509 sanctioned seats in colleges

Transgender students. While 1,07,069

choice of students, students were eading across the selected in Arts stream, 45,855 three streams were chosen in Science, 16,205 in Commerce, 3,371 in Shastri and 3,051 in Self-Financing and 171 in Law courses.

Like every year, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack has emerged as the top choice this year too, leading across Science, Commerce and Arts.

In Arts stream, it recorded the highest 93.80 per cent cut-off in Political Science. In cut-off while in Biological Sci ence it fixed 94 per cent cut-off for Phase-I. In Commerce too Ravenshaw dominated with In Self-Financing courses,

Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar (Computer Science) recorded the cut-off with 88.83 per cent for Computer Science In Law, University Law

College, Utkal University recorded 87.80 per cent for five

has once again

emerged as the top

Year Integrated BA LLB.

Students who opt for the 'Freeze' option are required to

report at their

selected Higher Education Institu tions June 13, 16, and 17 2025, between 10am and 5pm to complete the admission for

malities. The admission process will continue with subsequent phases for remaining seats. Authorities have urged all

selected candidates to follow official instructions carefully and complete their reporting on time to secure admission

18football.com scam: EOW CM, Guv, Naveen grieve Ahmedabad plane crash accepting bribe nabs fraudster from B'lore

Mallick was

responsible for

promoting and

publicising 18football.

com in Ganjam and

across Odisha

He enrolled many

new investors and

organised meetings

at various hotels

in Berhampur and

Bhubaneswar

Mallick was also

reportedly linked to

a foreign national,

George Enzo, who

18football.com group

on WhatsApp and

Bhubaneswar, June 12: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested a fraudster, Jitendra Mallick, from Bangalore for allegedly collecting crores of rupees from lakhs of investors across the country. EOW sources said Thursday

that Mallick was produced before the Designated Court under the OPID Act in Berhampur June 9 and was taken on police

remand.

He was arrested based on an FIR registered following a complaint from over 800 duped investors from the Ganjam district.

Allegedly, the com-

plainants, along with lakhs of others across various states, were induced to invest in 18football.com with promises of high returns.

The investors were lured with promises of attractive benefits such as 3 per cent daily com-

pound returns on investment, recharge bonuses, referral bonuses, extra bonuses from the earnings of downline members, salary bonuses, and daily withdrawal options.

The fraudsters reportedly collected crores of rupees nationwide. While the promised returns were paid for the initial few days, the payouts eventually stopped as the number of members grew, and the app 18football.com was subsequent-

ly shut down. According to the EOW, Mallick was responsible for promoting and publicising 18football.com in Ganjam and across

Speaking to mediapersons at

the airport, Majhi said, "Today

is a proud day for the state as the

aspiration of the people of Odis-

ha to have direct flight services

to Abu Dhabi has been fulfilled.'

Minister Narendra Modi and

Under the guidance of Prime

He enrolled many new investors and organised meetings at various hotels in Berhampur and Bhubaneswar.

Mallick was also reportedly linked to a foreign national, George Enzo, who managed

18football. com group on and WhatsApp Telegram.

Investigations revealed an amount of ₹21,05,836 was credited to Mallick's HDFC Bank account by his downline members. Other bank accounts linked to the accused are

under scrutiny. The scammers allegedly used multiple shell companies and fake firms, along with their directors, to launder the money. They also op-

erated mule accounts to create complex layers of transactions to evade law enforcement de-

During the investigation, a total of ₹1.25 crore lying in suspicious accounts has been

Earlier, four individuals were arrested in connection with the case from West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Kerala. They remain in judicial custody.

A lookout circular has also been issued against Md Saif, a Dubai-based operator and promoter of this scam.

ment, the flight services to the capital of the UAE have been launched as part of the state's new destination policy, he said.

support from the Union govern-

The CM said the flight services will create an opportunity for the state to directly connect with West Asian countries

trade, investment and cultural exchange, he said. The flight services to Vi-

It will help boost tourism,

sakhapatnam were also restarted from Bhubaneswar Thurs-"Apart from infrastructure development, our government

is taking steps for industrialisation and strengthening road, air and rail connectivity to enhance the state's GDP," the Chief Minister said. To strengthen air connective ity, the BJP government has

launched flight services to Dehradun, Ghaziabad, Goa, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, and Port Blair from Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai and Raipur from Jharsuguda, he pointed out.

With the launch of flight services to major domestic and international destinations, Bhubaneswar is going to be a hub for the aviation sector in the coming days, Majhi added.

across the state. Of these selected applicants, 70,745 are male, 1,04,967 female, and 10 Physical Science the univer-

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said he was saddened by a plane crash near Ahmedabad airport and prayed for the families affected in the tragedy.

The London-bound Air India plane with 242 passengers and crew on board crashed moments after taking off from Ahmedabad airport Thursday afternoon. All the passengers, except one, died in the horrific crash, according to reports.

"I am deeply saddened by the tragic incident involving the Air India Ahmedabad-London flight. My thoughts and prayers are with all the passengers, crew members, and their families during this difficult time. I earnestly pray to Lord Shri Ja-



gannath for the safety and swift recovery of everyone affected," Maihi said.

Similarly, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati said, "Deeply pained by the tragic Air India flight crash in Ahmedabad. Heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Praying for the injured and for strength to those awaiting updates as rescue efforts continue."

Deputy CM Pravati Parida said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the Air India flight crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the deceased during this hour of

Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo said, "Profoundly saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad's Meghani Nagar. The loss of precious lives in such a devastating manner is truly heartbreaking. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. May they find strength

in these difficult times. Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy said, "It's very much painful and shocking for me after knowing about the Air India flight crash incident in Ahmedabad. Praying to Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath for everyone's safety and quick recovery."

Leader of the Opposition in Assembly and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik also expressed grief over the plane crash.

Taking to X, Patnaik said, "Deeply anguished to learn about the disastrous crash of #Ahmedabad- London Air India flight with hundreds of people onboard. My thoughts and prayers are with the families deeply affected in the tragic #planecrash.'

accepting bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

ma Pradhan, revenue inspector (RI) of Goudpalli Revenue Circle under Jamankira tehsil in Sambalpur district, was apprehended by the Vigilance officials Thursday while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹40,000. The bribe was solicited from a land less complainant in exchange for furnishing a favourable report in a lease case.

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Bhis-

Since November 2024, the complainant had been repeatedly re questing Pradhan for assistance in the matter. However, Pradhan demanded a bribe of ₹40,000 to process and furnish the favourable report. Left with no options. the complainant approached the Vigilance authorities, who laid a trap and nabbed him.

moves forward. Therefore, the

role of railway employees in the

smooth running of the chariots

becomes even more important

the damage caused to the char-

iots, the example of making special iron clamps from the fac-

tory located at Mancheswar in

Bhubaneswar is also recorded

Indian Railways performs its

services in the form of trans-

In some incidents, to repair

Rath Yatra & Railway jacks: A divine connection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Rath Yatra or the Car Festival of the Trinity is one of the grandest and most spiritually significant festivals in India. Dedicated to Lord Jagannath, His elder brother Balabhadra, and sister Subhadra, the festival marks their annual journey from the Srimandir to the Gundicha Temple, symbolising a divine visit to their maternal home. Massive wooden chariots are built anew each year for this sacred procession, drawing millions of devotees from across the world. The chariots are built at a place about 200 metres away from the 12th century shrine. However, it is a Herculean task



to place all the three chariots in During the annual Car Festhe right places in front of the main temple, and for this, big railway jacks are used.

tival of the deities, a team of 40 employees of the Railway department follows the chariots

IN A NUTSHELL

Ateam of 40 railway staffers work behind the scenes, ensuring smooth movement and repairs of the massive

■ eavy-duty railway jacks and custom-made iron clamps play a key role in chariot positioning and repairs

Once the chariots move, they cannot reverse — making precision and technical support

in two trucks with all repair equipment. According to the prevailing tradition, the char-

iot does not move back once it

porting the huge chariots from

in history.

their construction site to the main temple gate, repairing the damage caused to the chariots during construction or traveling, providing direction to the chariots, changing the direction of the chariots, and shifting them.

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 Indramani 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-

The campaign, coordinated by the Labour and State Insurance department, features rallies, meetings, signature drives, and rescue operations across all districts to combat child labour.

As part of a complementary effort, ActionAid Association, in collaboration with the Centre for Child and Women Development (CCWD), organised a human chain and oath-taking ceremony at Nilachakra Nagar in Ward No. 26 under BMC. The event aimed to raise awareness among slum residents and stakeholders about child rights and protection, with a focus on children from marginalised communities.

CCWD Secretary Sadasiv Swain spoke on the occasion, stressing a holistic approach to child welfare. "Awareness and enforcement of child rights laws are critical. Every parent must understand the importance of education and say no to child labour-yes to school. Only then can we build a child labour-free society," he said.

Speakers including Snigdha Dash, Saraswati Parida, Shiba Sahoo, and Kalyani Rout highlighted ongoing challenges in the fight against child exploita-

Coordinators Smrutirekha Das, Bishnupriya Samal, and Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan ensured smooth execution of the event, which saw participation from over 100 people including SHG members, community leaders, human rights defenders, members of the Bhubaneswar Young Urban Women Forum, and local child clubs



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

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

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-

ment has taken no action so far.

state government's promise to

return money to chit-fund scam

victims within 18 months, say-

ing the government has failed

to identify depositors or track

The OPCC further alleged

that while the previous govern-

ment's Biju Swasthya Kalyan

Card benefited many, private

hospitals are exploiting Ayush-

man beneficiaries, inadvertent-

ly rewarding the past adminis-

tration. They added that the

BJP's Ayushman scheme is so

Alleging that the BJD and

remain untreated.

OPCC also questioned the

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 es sential 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

Singareni, CSIR-IMMT ink pact for critical minerals

Bhubaneswar, June 12: In a significant move towards business diversification, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SC-CL) Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IM-MT), 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

He noted the presence of RE-Es in SCCL's open-cast mines and fly ash from the Singareni Thermal Power Plant, citing a Geological Survey of India (GSI) report that confirmed 266.21 ppm of REEs in the Durgam Gutta Block near Manuguru.

Balram added, "With India prioritising domestic production of critical minerals, SCCL is fully geared to develop several potential blocks. We are also exploring international collaborations, including with Australia

CSIR-IMMT director Ramanuj Narayan remarked, "This MoU is a strategic step toward meeting national goals in critical mineral development."

The MoU was formally signed by Kali Sanjay, chief scientist and head, Hydro & Electrometallurgy Division, CSIR-IMMT, S B Srinivas, general manager (Exploration), SCCL, V Ramdas, general manager (BD & SP), SCCL.



OPCC targets govt, alleges corruption on anniversary



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-

tangled that many poor patients

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 'Oneration 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.

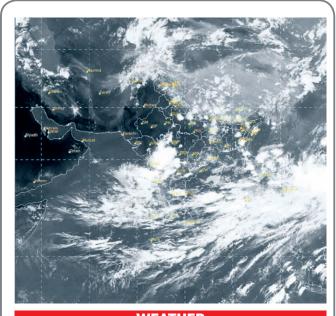
Digvijaya Singh lauds WSC

Bhubaneswar: Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singl 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 		
EURO	99.27 1 .38	NIFTY	24688.20 † 253.10	SILVE	R ₹106,031 ♦ ₹639		



	100 100 100 100	2.30	P E
	WEATH	ER	
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.8°	31.6°	Partly
Min Temp	25.5°	24.8°	cloudy sky
Humidity	84%	87%	•
Rainfall	27.7mm	11.2mm	
			8

OUR BOOKING STAT

Managing anxiety in a fast-changing tech age

nxiety 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

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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. Parasym stimulates the vagus nerve using gentle electrical impulses to reduce stress. Neurovalens and Flow Neuroscience use transcrani-

(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.

al direct current stimulation (THE CONVERSATION)

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

CONTACT

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

3 more die of diarrhoea in Jajpur, toll reaches 11

Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

S visited the Dharamsala CHC

and Jajpur DHH Thursday af-

ternoon to speak to the patients

and take stock of their condi-

tion. Later, she conducted a

review meeting with Jajpur

Collector P Anvesha Reddy and

the spread of the infection is

yet to be ascertained, officials

noted a decline in cases from

Rasulpur, Barchana, Korei,

and Danagadi blocks. How-

ever, the disease has now be-

gun spreading to Jajpur and

Dasarathpur blocks in the

Meanwhile, 50 new patients

had been admitted to the Jajpur

Road CHC, with 40 currently

under treatment. Nearly 100

patients are undergoing treat-

In response to the outbreak,

the state Health and Family

Welfare Department Thurs-

day set up a mobile rural

testing laboratory. Two tech-

nicians have been deployed

ment at the Jajpur DHH.

district, reports said.

While the reason behind

other senior health officials.

Health Secretary Aswathy



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 Sebati 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 Sebati died during treatment at the Jajpur District

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 Biroli 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 Tikhulia 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

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 & cooperation 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 iden-

tified as Santosh Parida,45, of Kasati village. He died Wednesday night while undergoing treatment

at a private hospital in Bhu-

baneswar, the SP said. Parida was allegedly at tacked 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 quest, 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, Shraddha 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

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 (SMI), 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-ofthe-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 centralised 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 prices - anything between Rs 7



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 trib al-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 un changed, 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 frequntly making rounds of even remote villages to purchase these items at throwaway

abhadra Sai, a 2,443-foot-long

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 gov-

ernment 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

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 vellow 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

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.

underway

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 fire wood 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 intention al. A forensic team along with Zone-1 DSP Yogesh Panda and IIC Pratibha Manjari Sahu visited the scene and conduct ed 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 Keonihar 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

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.

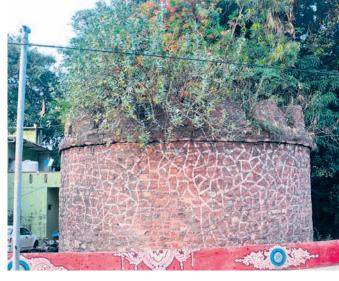
Restoring these towers would not only enrich the aesthetic appeal of the historically significant town but also enhance its tourism potential. Visitors could enjoy panoramic views of the Mahanadi River from the towers, while younger generations would gain valuable insights into Sambalpur's cultural heritage.

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

Noted historian Deepak Kumar Panda stated that Sambalpur's identity is deeply rooted suggestions of then Revenue

structures, historians observed.

in its historical structures, cultural legacy and long-standing traditions. In 1998, based on the 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, Balstone fortification wall was built along the riverbankfrom Balibandha to Manda lia—to defend the kingdom from enemy invasions. Six watchtowers, each 17 feet high and 72 feet in circumference, were constructed along this

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.



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



Timothy Snyder

Now that

Trump has

to destroy

America's

China can

simply take

what it once

would have

to gain

had to struggle

state capacity,

set a course

SRI AUROBINDO

Weak Strongman

ver 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.

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

Our virtues and our failings are inseparable, like force and

matter. When they separate, man is no more 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

FOCUS ECONOMY

GROWTH SANS SOCIAL JUSTICE

dia's nominal GDP for 2025-26 of \$4,187.017 billion, against Japan's \$4,186.431 billion, \$586 million (Rs.5,011 crore) more, is going to make India the fourth largest economy in the world, pushing Japan to fifth position. The three countries ahead of India are the US (\$30.5 trillion), China (\$19.2 trillion), and Germany (\$4.74 trillion). Despite the nuanced objections, such as 'the figures are only projections and subject to revisions, it made Indians feel proud to hear BVR Subrahmanyam, the CEO of NITI Aayog, when he talked of this achievement. He was right prima facie since the projections were those of an important international agency; there was every reason for jubilation all around.

Further expectations are that India will ascend to third place with a \$5.5 trillion economy in 2028, overtaking Germany. Unfortunately, we are happy with these projected places while the right place of India should be number one, not third or fourth, simply because it has the largest population in the world; our share in wealth and income should be about 18% of the world, commensurate with our population share.

PSM Rao

OF THIS

BENEFICIARIES

GROWTH ARE

MOSTLY THE

SUPER-RICH.

MASSES OF

PEOPLE, AS

THE GROUND

GLARINGLY

INDICATE

FACTS ON

RICH AND

NOT THE

Now it is time to come out of the euphoria the projections generated and to look at the facts dispassionately; after all, the honest admission of truth is an essential prerequisite for designing a path to achieve our rightful place. What we need to gauge is threefold: i) Whether the growth numbers were correct, ii) If correct, was there sufficient growth to gloat over so intensely? iii) If sufficient, was the growth alone sufficient to achieve social justice? Also, 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.

First, let us size up how big the achievement was in comparison to Japan. Japan's



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 trillion. 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 highnet-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.

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Let education be a means to end exploitation



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

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

espite 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 nul-6,000 acres of land. The judg ment 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 extended undue benefits to the ing 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.

Connectivity boost

Sir, After the current NDA government assumed office in 2014, there has been a sea-change in the overall attitude of the authorities towards the hopes and aspirations the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the latter via infrastructure. The latest is the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway Link in general and the commencement of the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat train in particular. Among all modes of transport, trains are the ones that connect people of different hues. Commuting between Jammu and Srinagar is a pain in the neck considering the weather vagaries and the mind boggling cost. The new train will substantially reduce the travel time and thereby augment efficiency and comfort at all levels. Establishment of the railway link will immensely benefit the tourism sector and the economy of the region. At the same time, the government should leave no stone unturned in ensuring safety and security of trains and passengers.

Mindless act

Sir, The top brass of the Karnataka government must be made responsible for its overenthusiastic behaviour in organizing a private entity's (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) victory in a hasty and thoughtless manner just to reap political advantage. The families of many prominent politicians attended the function by misusing the official machinery. The Deputy Chief Minister even went to receive the RCB team at the airport which does not represent our national team or even the Karnataka state. The felicitation ceremony for the RCB cricketers was held the very next day without heeding to security concerns of the police department. While the precious lives of 11 people were lost during a stampede near the premises of the stadium, a few police personnel were suspended, making them scapegoats. Why are the politicians spared even though their involvement is quite clear? The inquiry ordered in to the incident should give an unbiased report and punish all the culprits involved in the entire episode.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Nagendra Kumar Vempalli, BANGALORE



TWO STATES





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 constit-

uency 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

The Asha Workers are miffed vith 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

"People know everything and what their agenda is," said Ja-

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

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

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

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 severelv 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, Sujanpur, 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, Sujanpur, and the Salooni area of Barsar, are said to be functionDRINKING WATER SUPPLY CHEMES HAVE REPORTED A 509

ing normally

Officials said that regular Beas water supply and a recent resolution of voltage issues at Sujanpur'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,

alert means heavy rainfall be

fishing activities along the Ker-

ala-Karnataka-Lakshadweep

coast from June 12 to 16 in view

of very strong winds and bad

The monsoons had arrived

The IMD also warned against

tween 6 cm and 11 cm.

weather conditions

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

Pazhassiraia College, Pulpal-

install an X-band radar at the

AFTERMATH ly, Wayanad, in the presence of '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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

EAST COAST RAILWAY

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

Approx cost: ₹ 47,86,344.12, EMD:

Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in 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 an

documents of the above e-tender is available i website **www.ireps.gov.in**The tenderers/bidders must have Class-

digital signature certificate and must be

tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering

All relevant paper must have to be uploaded

the time of participating on e-tendering as pe

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to

date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
Sambalpur

registered on IREPS portal. Only register

tion period: 09 months

SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

in the state early May 24 and caused widespread damage to public and private property.

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

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 254.27

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-91-2025, Dtd.: 30.05.2025

DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. CP-8 AT KM 18/5-7 IN BETWEEN MATTAGAJPUR 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 DESCRIPTION : PROPUSE CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY AT KM. 427/17-19 TO AVOID TRESPASSING BETWEEN KANDARPUR-RAGHUNATHPUR STATIONS ON CUTTACK-PARADEEF

LINE OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION (AIR PUSHING METHOD) pprox. Cost of the Work: ₹ 179.48

.akh, <u>EMD :</u> ₹ 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 RESPASSING BETWEEN KANDARPUR-RAGHUNATHPUR STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION (BY AIR PUSHING TECHNIQUE)

pprox. Cost of the Work : ₹ 378.0 Lakh, EMD : ₹3,39,000/-

Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months for SI. No. 1) and 08 (Eight) Months (fo

ender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 25.06.2025 (for all the Tenders). No manual offers sent by Post / Courier ax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitte

on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considere vithout any consideration. Complete information including e-tende

ocuments of the above e-Tender is vailable in website: www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for his tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/ bidder car

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) PR-228/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

articipate on e-tendering

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 esion, which would have a special quota for the local people. "The matter of setting up an

tablish Himachal Scout Battal-

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, paying 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.

> बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India **REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES ON RENT / LEASE**

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

PR-225/Q/25-26

Bank of India requires well-constructed commercial premises on lease pasis 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 Zona

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 eject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever

Zonal Manager, Keonjhar Zone

national



Stunned and profoundly shocked to know of the most tragic Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad

MAMATA BANERJEE

NO NEW LAUNCH DATE FOR AXIOM-4 MISSION YET

NASA and Axiom Space were yet to announce a new date for the launch of the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), involving India's astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, after the lift-off was delayed due to a leak detected in SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket



ment to provide 33 per cent reservation to women and we have also taken a decision to that effect

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

According to NCRB reports, Tripura stands third from the bottom chart among the

28 states of the country. The overall crime rate has been reduced by 19.40 per cent in 2024 compared to 2023 MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

used to rake up the issue of Article 370 and Article 35-A it was a miscarriage of history, a

Those who

miscarriage of the Constitution, and a miscarriage of justice JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Body found hanging from tree

Jaisalmer: The body of a 16-year-old boy, missing for nearly 24 hours, was found hanging from a tree in a secluded area here Thursday morning, police said. The deceased, identified as Dhanaram, a native of Boi village in Rajasthan's Barmer district, had been living with his uncle in Jaisalmer for the past five months. He was assisting at a vehicle repair shop in the Transport Nagar area, police said.

Six killed in lightning strikes in Telangana

Hyderabad: Six people, including five women, died and two others were injured when lightning struck them in separate incidents in Adilabad district of Telangana Thursday, police said. Lightning struck agricultural labourers in Gadiguda mandal, leading to the death of four persons, including three women and a man, on the spot and injuring two others.

Four criminals held for firing in Jammu

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police Wednesday claimed to have solved the recent firing incident here with the arrest of four alleged criminals. Three of the arrested accused were beaten up in full public view while being taken to the police station, according to a video that went viral on social media. The video, purported to have been shot in the Gangyal area of the city, sparked a debate over the beating by canes and belts, with some on social media terming it as police excess.

Chaos in WB Assembly

Kolkata: BJP MLAs staged a walk-out from the West Bengal Assembly Thursday after the Speaker refused to admit adjournment motions moved by them over violence in Murshidabad and Maheshtala, Speaker Biman Banerjee charged the saffron party legislators with not following the decorum of the House, while the BJP accused him of functioning like a TMC worker.

HC denies bail to Shabir Shah

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday refused to grant bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah in a terror funding case, observing the possibility of him carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses couldn't be ruled out.

TAGORE'S HOUSE ATTACKED IN B'DESH

Strongly condemn the despicable act: India

despicable act, attack and

vandalisation of the ancestral

home of Gurudev Rabindranath

Tagore by a mob," the MEA

'The violent attack is a dis-

grace to the memory and the

inclusive philosophy, teach-

ings that the Nobel Laureate

He said the attack falls in

the "broad pattern of system-

atic attempts by extremists to

erase the symbols of tolerance

and eviscerate the syncretic

cultural legacy of Bangladesh".

ther said, India urges the inter-

im government to "take strict

action against the perpetrators

to prevent reoccurrence of such

incidents that sadly have be-

After the vandalisation,

authorities had constitute a

three-member committee to

investigate the incident, ac-

cording to media reports in

The BJP on Thursday con-

Bangladesh Wednesday.

come a repetitive feature".

The MEA spokesperson fur-

spokesperson said.

espoused," he said.



New Delhi, June 12: India Thursday strongly condemned the vandalisation of the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh by a mob and termed the violent attack a "disgrace' to the memory and inclusive philosophy espoused by the

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this in response to a query on the reports on the vandalisation that took place earlier this month.

He also urged the interim government in Bangladesh to rein in these elements and take "strict action" against the perpetrators to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents.

Kachharibari is the ancestral home and revenue office of the Tagore family located in Sirajganj district. Tagore created many of his literary works while living in this mansion.

"We strongly condemn the

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention into the alleged vandalisation of Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral mansion in Banglaesh's Sirajganj district by a mob June 11. What was damaged is not just a house but a "towering fountain of creativity" in the subcontinent, she said in the letter. Expressing her anguish over the incident, Banerjee urged Modi to "take up the matter very strongly with the neighbouring country's government, so that no stone is left unturned to swiftly bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous and

Mamata writes to Modi

demned the interim government in Bangladesh for the vandalism at Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral home in that country, slamming it as an assault on the very soul of India's rich cultural and

civilizational heritage.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra called for global denunciation of the incident targeting the legacy of the iconic Indian personality as he described it as a "preplanned" attack orchestrated by Islamic groups.

A mob attacked and vandalised the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Tagore in Bangladesh's Sirajganj district

Patra cited media reports to say that Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefazat-e-Islam were behind the attack, noting that Tagore is an iconic symbol of Bengal, and Indian culture and civilisation.

Punjab: Influencer found dead in car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 12: Punjab-based social media influencer Kanchan Kumari was found dead in an abandoned car in the parking lot of Adesh University in Bathinda district, police said Thursday.

The car belonged to Kanchan, who had been missing since June 9. The 30-year-old operated an Instagram account under the name 'Kamal Kaur Bhabhi' and had 3.84 lakh followers. She also ran a YouTube channel 'Funny Bhabhi TV with 2.36 lakh subscribers.

On June 9, she left her home in Ludhiana's Lachman colony. telling her mother that she was going for a promotional event. She could not be reached afterwards, police said.

Locals in Bhucho suburb informed police about a stench emanating from a car in the parking lot of Adesh University. Police rushed to the spot and found a woman dead on the rear seat of a car.

Bathinda Superintendent of Police (City) Narinder Singh said police were scanning footage from CCTVs mounted in the vicinity.

Her sister said her mother called Kanchan up June 10, but found her mobile switched off.

A few months ago, Kanchan was allegedly warned against posting videos by a foreign-based gangster, who disapproved of the kind of content she made. According to police, a turbaned man was caught entering the parking lot in a car at 5.33 am on June 10. He parked the car, and a few moments later left the lot on foot. A post-mortem of the body will throw light on the cause and time of the death

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

We are exploring path to reset ties, says MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: Describing Indian and Canada as "vibrant democracies", the external affairs ministry Thursday said New Delhi believes the forthcoming meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the G7 Summit will offer an important opportunity to exchange views and explore pathways to reset bilateral ties.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this in response to a query during his weekly media briefing.

"Our Prime Minister had received a call from the Canadian Prime Minister last week. During the call, Prime Minister Mark Carnev invited Prime Minister (Modi) to attend G7 (meeting), and as you are aware the invitation has been accepted," he said.

The call was also an occasion for the two prime ministers to reflect or talk about India-Canada relations, and how it can be taken forward, the MEA spokesperson said. Canada will be hosting the crucial G7 meeting later this month.

"India and Canada are vibrant democracies, which are bound by shared democratic values and steadfast commitment to the rule of law. And, of course, very vibrant people to people ties," Jaiswal said.

"We believe that the forthcoming meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Canada will offer an important opportunity for them to exchange views on bilateral and global issues, and



The upcoming meeting on sidelines of G7 Summit will offer India, Canada an important opportunity to exchange views on bilateral, global issues, the foreign ministry said

explore pathways to set or reset the relationship, based on mutual respect, shared interests and sensitivity to each other's concerns," he said.

Later in response to another query on the future trajectory of India-Canada ties, Jaiswal said, "We are exploring path to reset ties."

Strained relations with India India-Canada relations have been strained since 2023 over allegations by then Trudeau government implicating 'Indian agents' in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and a Khalistani terrorist, outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia,

SNIPPETS

Delhi hospitals see spike in cases of heat-related illnesses

New Delhi: Hospitals across the national capital have been seeing a surge in natients due to the intense heatwave of the last few days, doctors said Thursday. People who work directly under the sun are more affected by the heatwave, for which a red alert has been issued in Delhi. At the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, seven to 10 per cent of the total outpatient department (OPD) patients have conditions linked to the heatwave, while five to eight per cent have sought consultations for related symptoms, said Dr Avi Kumar, senior consultant of pulmonology at the hospital. "The cases that are coming are largely mild and not serious enough to require admission." the doctor said.

Train derails near Shivaji Bridge; no casualties

New Delhi: A coach of an Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train was derailed near the Shivaii bridge in New Delhi Thursday afternoon, an official said, adding that no casualties have been reported. The train was traveling from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh to Nizamuddin Railway Station when the incident occurred around 4.10 pm on the down main line. "One coach of the train derailed, however, no injury to any person or damage to property has been reported. Police personnel, RPF staff, and railway authorities are present at the site," a senior police officer said. He added that the railway authorities are actively working to restore the derailed coach onto the track. The movement of other trains remains unaffected.

Stampede: HC directs release of marketing head of RCB, others

Bangalore: Karnataka High Court Thursday ordered release of RCB Marketing head Nikhil Sosale and there others arrested in connection with the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people. Others who got relief from the High Court are Sunil Mathew, Kiran Kumar S and Shamant N P Mavinakere of the event organising company DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt Ltd, who were also arrested June 6. The Court asked the arrested persons to surrender their passport. The stampede that occurred outside the Chinnaswamy stadium claimed the lives of 11 people during an event organised to celebrate the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden IPL title win. The case came up for hearing before Justice S R Krishna Kumar, who had reserved the verdict on interim plea by Sosale after hearing arguments June 11.



Boys cool off in a water canal on a hot summer day, in Jalandhar, Punjab

40 held over clash in South 24 Parganas

Kolkata, June 12: Forty people have been arrested in connection with a violent clash between two groups in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, which left several police personnel injured and prompted the administration to impose prohibitory orders, an officer said Thursday.

The incident, which occurred in Maheshtala under the Rabindranagar Police Station area Wednesday, stemmed from a dispute over the construction of a shop and alleged encroach ment on government land.

The unrest quickly spiralled, resulting in vandalism, and additional forces were deployed to bring the situation under

"A clash between two groups occurred yesterday afternoon in Rabindra Nagar PS area and adjacent areas of Nadjal PS over an illegal construction and consequent plantation on govt land without any permission whatsoever and replacement of an existing shop in the process, resulting in brick batting at police and isolated vandalism in the vicinity," the police said.

The police resorted to "neces sary use of force and dispersed the crowd", they said.

"A total of 40 people have been arrested so far in 7 cases registered over the incident. None of those who have indulged in violence will be

spared," the police said. The situation is "now peaceful and under control", a senior officer said.

SC to decide on consecutive life terms for double murder

New Delhi, June 12: The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to examine whether consecutive life sentences can be handed out to a person convicted twice for the offence of murder.

The issue cropped up when the bench was hearing a plea arising out of a 2015 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in a 2010 double murder

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan learnt that a five-judge Constitution bench of the apex court in July 2016 held that while

multiple sentences for imprisonment for life can be awarded for multiple murders or other offences punishable with life term, they cannot be directed to run consecutively.

"Issue notice limited to the question of ascertaining as to whether the imposition of consecutive life sentence for being convicted for the offence punishable under section 302 (twice) is lawful in view of the observations made in ... (constitution bench verdict), returnable in eight weeks," the bench said.

The high court, while up-



holding the conviction of a man in the case, had turned down the reference for confirmation of death sentence awarded to him by a trial court. The high

court awarded life imprisonment to the convict twice for the offence of murder under Section 302 of the erstwhile IPC. Life term, it said, was a sentence for imprisonment till the last breath of a person's natural life and as such, imposition of 'two life sentences is otherwise superfluous"

...however, since by executive action, in the form of remissions and pardons, such life imprisonment is often reduced to imprisonment for a lessor period, therefore, in such a situation, sentence of a second life imprisonment can be directed to run from the date when a person completes one sentence of such imprisonment, if remissions are granted to him," the high court added.

It directed that if any remis sion was granted to the convict in any one of his life sentences, the life term imposed upon him for the other offence of murder would start running from the date the first period of imprisonment was completed.

During the hearing in the apex court on Thursday, the counsel for the petitioner referred to the July 2016 verdict of the Constitution bench.

The lawyer referred to the apex court holding that when it comes to life imprisonment, it couldn't be imposed consecutively.

o special





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

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.

Jeiu Air international flight 7C2216

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.

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.

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.

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.

A Boeing 737-MAX 8 Ethiopian Airlines

2019

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.

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

239 people have not been found.

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

Disaster Stuns world

ailure 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

Vijay Rupani was known for composed demeanour, firm administrative style

offered condolences to the people of India in wake of the plane crash. President

Putin offered condolences to Indian President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister

to the families and loved ones of all those affected. Nepal's Prachanda too said, he is

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 vears, he worked as an activist of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. In 1975, Rupani faced imprisonment for one year in Bhavnagar jail while protesting 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 Raiva 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

LEADERS EXPRESS CONDOLENCES UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney were among scores of world leaders who



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

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 -- oper-

ating 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

Narendra Modi and expressed "deepest condolences," over the plane crash, the Kremlin said. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said he is "devastated" to learn about the crash that had one Canadian national among those on board. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy described it as "horrible news" and offered deepest condolences to Modi and the entire people of India. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Andrii Sybiha too offered condolences to "friendly India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar," and said in a post on X, "With great sadness, we in Ukraine learned of the tragic crash of an Air India passenger plane in Ahmedabad. ... Our hearts go out to all victims' families in India, the UK, Portugal, and Canada. We wish the injured a speedy recovery." German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said he is following the "shocking images" of the Air India flight crashing in Ahmedabad and said in a post on X: "As we are only learning the details, my thoughts and heartfelt prayers are with our friends in #India and everyone currently hoping for their loved ones." Expressing his "profound sadness" at the tragic crash, Muizzu said in a post on X, "At this difficult time, the government and people of #Maldives stand in solidarity with the people and the Government of India." Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said he is "deeply saddened" by the tragic crash and offered 'heartfelt condolences to the families of all those affected onboard." Malaysian PM Ibrahim said he is "deeply distressed" to learn about the tragic crash and said, "On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, I extend our heartfelt condolences

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

do now we are doing". The tragedy has

"deeply saddened" by the tragic plane crash.

regulator DGCA said. In a video message, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said, "Investigations will take time but anything we can 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

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 viAs 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

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 elec-

tricity tower close to Chiloda Kotarpur Village. The plane crashed near Noble Nagar Housing Society, about 2.5 km from the approach

end of

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 anyone." The reads 12.5 and fine of the histoche he 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 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 Al-171 has taker 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," Fata Group and Air India Chairman N Chan

international



no reason that would justify a change in our dip**lomatic personnel** at the moment, but we are following the situation closely

SOPHIE PRIMAS I FOREIGN MINISTRY

UKRAINE, RUSSIA EXCHANGE WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR

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





having a look at perfect right to do



RICHARD MARLES |

DEFENCE MINISTER, AUSTRALIA





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, UKRAINI

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 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.

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 forcible displaced by violence and persecution around the world has risen to more than 122 million, up by about 2 million from last year

Los Angeles, June 12: Cali-

fornia will face off with Wash-

ington in court Thursday over

President Donald Trump's de-

ployment of US troops in Los

Angeles after demonstrators

again took to the streets in ma-

jor cities to protest Trump's

be on the streets of Los Ange-

les 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 im-

troops to Los Angeles over the

objections of California Gover-

nor Gavin Newsom has sparked

a national debate about the use

of the military on U.S. soil and

further polarized the country.

out in multiple cities besides

Los Angeles including New

York, Chicago, Washington and

A federal judge in San Fran-

cisco will hear arguments

Thursday as part of Califor-

nia's lawsuit against Trump.

The state is requesting a tempo-

rary restraining order to block

the troops' participation in law

court ruling that returns its Na-

tional Guard to the state's con-

California ultimately wants a

enforcement activities.

San Antonio, Texas.

Street protests have broken

Trump's decision to dispatch

migration raids.

Some 700 US Marines will

immigration crackdown.

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.

Protests spread across US

trol and declares that Trump's

action was illegal. The LA pro-

tests broke out last Friday in

response to a series of immi-

gration raids. Trump in turn

called in the National Guard

Saturday, then summoned the

"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 posi-

tion 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

Marines Monday.

to 73.5 million at the end of last year. The numbers represent cumulative figures from years Among those, the numbers of conflict, violence and perof internally displaced people secution, and some displaced

iumped by more than 9 per cent

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 fed-

eral troops, while Democrats

nationally have condemned his

Trump is carrying out a

campaign promise to deport

immigrants, employing force-

ful 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 occa-

sionally punctuated by violence.

mostly contained to a few blocks.

before the second night of a

curfew over a one square mile

(2.5 square km) area Wednes-

day night, police said demon-

strators at one location threw

commercial-grade fireworks

and rocks at officers

In downtown LA, shortly

action as authoritarian.

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 traditional Western donors.

UNHCR said nearly twothirds of people who crossed national borders to flee remained in neighbouring countries, countering the "widespread perception in wealthier regions" that a majority of people were fleeing in a bid to reach places like Europe or the United States.

The agency said Sudan, which has been riven by civil war, has become home to the world's largest displacement crisis, with more than 14 million people displaced by the conflict — surpassing Syria, at 13.5 million. More than 10 million in Afghanistan have been forcibly displaced, and some 8.

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-mea sures, as an Iranian official said a "friendly country" had warned it of a potential Israel: 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 con dition 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 Is

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

Iranian President Masoud

China open to talks on lifting rare earth export curbs to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 12: China Thursday hinted at holding talks with India over its restrictions on export of rare earth materials, saying it is willing to enhance dialogue and cooperation with relevant countries to keep industrial supply chains stable.

China's recent restrictions on the exports of key metals caused widespread disruption in the manufacturing of automobiles and semiconductor chips in a host of countries, including India.

'We are willing to enhance dialogue and cooperation with relevant countries and regions to jointly keep the stability of global industrial and supply chains." Chinese Foreign Minis try spokesperson Lin Jian said.

Lin was responding to a question from PTI whether China is willing to lift restrictions on exports of rare earth metals to India as it began clearing export licences to the US and the EU. Lin, however, reiterated that

for specifics, the relevant authorities should be approached. Indian Ambassador Pradeep Kumar Rawat met Chinese Vice Minister Sun Weidong June 16 and held talks on bilateral



mon concerns" among others. a foreign ministry statement here said. Reports from India spoke of

growing concerns about shortages of the rare metals in automobiles and other industries. After several months of a

over which China holds a monopoly, Beijing began clearing selective export licenses reportedly for the US as both countries held talks in London over the issues Rare earths are a group of

metals consisting of 17 elements. Though present in several counties, their extraction is costly and messy, causing massive amounts of pollution. According to the Interna-

tional Energy Agency, China accounts for 61 per cent of global mined rare earth production but controls 92 per cent of the global output.

rael had made a final decision squeeze on rare earth metals Security in the Middle East has already been destabilised by spillover effects of the Gaza war between Israel and Pales tinian militant group Hamas. Trump has threatened to

imposed on it since 2018.

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

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

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

Bangladesh verv jitterv, verv. very angry. We try to get over this anger but a whole barrage of things keeps happening in cyberspace. We can't just get away from that suddenly they say something, do something,

anger comes back," he said. "This is our big task, to make sure we can have at least a peaceful life to go on with our life. To create the life we are

dreaming of," he added. On an audience question

about the "unclear role of India" about Hasina, Yunus re sponded: "All the anger (against Hasina) has now transferred to India because she went there.

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 civilians, 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 in-

largewith aligned accessible to local medics. The those figure did not include Wednesday's deaths. The Health Ministry is part of

conflicts

Gaza's Hamas-run government, perts, though Israel has quesbut staffed by medical profestioned the ministry's figures. sionals who maintain and publish detailed records. Its tolls from

have

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 imme diate 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 bro-

ken and our thoughts and prayers are with every vic tim, every family, and every person still unaccounted for," the statement said.

business



It is not surprising then that the beer industry has remained flat in the state over the last decade, whereas sectors like IMFL have galloped at an average compounded growth rate of 7 per cent year after year for 10 years VINOD GIRI | DIRECTOR GENERAL, BAI

GOODS, SERVICES EXPORTS MAY CROSS \$900bn: GOYAL

India's goods and services exports during 2025-26 are expected to cross \$900 billion despite the global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. Despite uncertainties due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-Hamas war and the Red Sea crisis, the country's overall exports touched an all-time high of \$825 billion in 2024-25 against \$778 billion in 2023-24



stantially in next-gen automo tive engineering. This strategic en our commitment to delivering high performance, future-ready engineering solutions that help shape the mobility of tomorrow

PANKAJ TAGRA | VICE PRESIDENT, HCLTECH

SPMEPCI strikes a strategic balance between custom duty concessions linked to Investment. defined Domestic Value addition



Viksit Bharat,





GIRISH TANTI VICE CHAIRMAN, SUZLON

Zara India profit up

New Delhi: Global fashion

brand Zara has flat growth in

its India sales as its revenue

while its profit was up nearly

according to the latest annual

Trent Retail India Private Ltd

(ITRIPL), a JV which is engaged

in the operation of Zara stores

in India, in FY'24 had reported

a revenue from operations at

₹2,768.90 crore and a profit of

₹243.84 crore.

BOM slashes

New Delhi: Bank of

retail loan rate

Maharashtra Thursday said it

has reduced its interest rate

by up to 50 basis points on

retail loans, including home,

car, education and other loans linked with Repo Linked

Lending Rate.The interest

rate reduction by Pune-based

lender is in line with the rate

moderation done by RBI last

week and the new rates are

effective from June 10. With

the rate cut, its home loan

now starts from 7.35 per

cent and car loan from 7.7

per cent, which is among the

banking industry, BoM said in a

lowest interest rates in the

One97 Communications

New Delhi: Shares of One97

Communications, the owner

of Paytm brand, Thursday

tumbled 10 per cent, amid

Discount Rate (MDR) on

reports that the government is

planning to impose Merchant

large-ticket UPI transactions. However, the finance ministry has termed these claims as

false, baseless, and misleading. The stock tanked 9.99 per cent to ₹864.20 on the BSE. At the NSE, it dropped 10 per cent to

₹864.40. The finance ministry

on transactions through

Unified Payments Interface

has said no MDR will be levied

statement.

shares tank

23 per cent to ₹299.47 crore,

report of Trent Ltd. Inditex

from operations was at

₹2,782.06 crore for FY'25,

No MDR on UPI SHORT **TAKES** transactions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: The finance ministry has said no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on transactions through Unified Payments Interface platforms.

"Speculation and claims that the MDR will be charged on UPI transactions are completely false, baseless, and misleading. Such baseless and sensation-creating speculations cause needless uncertainty, fear and suspicion among citizens. The Government remains fully committed to promoting digital payments via UPI," the ministry posts on X (social media platform) Wednesday.

MDR is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via digital means. The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount. The ministry's clarification came following some reports that the government is planning to impose MDR on large-ticket UPI transactions.

transactions Meanwhile. through UPI touched a record high of ₹25.14 lakh crore in May, recording a growth of 5 per cent over the preceding month, according to data released by the National Pavments Corporation of India (NPCI).

The UPI transactions value was ₹23.94 lakh crore in April. In terms of volume, 1,867.7 crore transactions were done in May against 1,789.3 crore in the previous month.

NPCI said the value of the transactions last month was 23 per cent higher as compared to ₹20.44 lakh crore year-ago.

Retail inflation falls to 6-year low The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of

May 2025 is mainly attributed to a decline in inflation of pulses & household products

New Delhi, June 12: Retail inflation dipped to an over six-year low of 2.82 per cent in May due to subdued food prices, remaining below the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) median target of 4 per cent for the fourth consecutive month, according to government data released Thursday.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)based retail inflation was 3.16 per cent in April and 4.8 per cent in May 2024. The previous low was in February 2019 at 2.57 On easing inflation, the Apex

bank effected a jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points last week, taking the total to 100 bps since February. Food inflation was 0.99 per cent in May, significantly lower from 8.69 per cent in the year-ago month, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO) data. "The significant decline in

headline inflation and food inflation during the month of May 2025 is mainly attributed to a

decline in inflation of pulses & products, vegetables, fruits, cereals & products, households goods & services, sugar & confectionary and egg and the favourable base effect," NSO said in a statement.

The food inflation in May 2025 is the lowest since October 2021. NSO collects price data from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states/UTs. According to data, inflation in rural areas was 2.59 per cent in May, while it was 3.07 per cent in ur-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: Investors

wealth eroded by ₹5.98 lakh

crore Thursday, tracking weak

trends in equities where the

BSE Sensex tumbled 1 per cent.

and Nifty declined 1 per cent

in tandem with weak global

market trends amid growing

tensions in the Middle East.

30-share BSE Sensex dropped

823.16 points or 1 per cent to

settle at 81,691.98. During the

day, it plunged 991.98 points or

of BSE-listed firms dropped

The market capitalisation

₹5,98,759.27 crore to

"The weekly expiry of deriv-

atives contracts added to intr-

aday volatility and profit-book-

1.20 per cent to 81,523.16.

₹4.49.58.383.92 crore.

Benchmark indices Sensex

ban India.

Among states and UTs, the highest inflation was recorded in Kerala at 6.46 per cent, followed by Punjab (5.21 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (4.55 per cent), Haryana (3.67 per cent) and Uttarakhand (3.47 per cent).

The lowest inflation was in Telangana at 0.55 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, has projected CPI

Investors' wealth erodes by ₹5.98 lakh cr

ing, amplifying the downward

move," Satish Chandra Aluri,

Analyst at Lemonn Markets

From the Sensex firms, Tata

Motors, Titan, Eternal, Power

Grid, Tata Steel, Larsen & Tou-

bro, Mahindra & Mahindra and

Hindustan Unilever were among

the biggest laggards. Bajaj Fin-

serv, Asian Paints and Tech Ma

Among sectoral indices, pow-

er tumbled 2.19 per cent, util-

hindra were the gainers.

inflation for 2025-26 at 3.7 per cent, with Q1 at 2.9 per cent, Q2 at 3.4 per cent, Q3 at 3.9 per cent, and Q4 at 4.4 per cent.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icra, said CPI inflation cooled further in May 2025 to a 75-month low of 2.8 per cent, led by the food and beverages segment, validating the decision of the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee to frontload rate cuts.

Overall, the change in the monetary policy stance appears to be a fairly strong signal of a pause, especially when combined with the unexpected CRR cut, she said.

"As of now, we expect rates to be unchanged in the August 2025 policy review. Neverthe less, given our lower inflation and growth forecasts vis-a-vis the projections of the MPC, we are not ruling out the possibility of a final 25 bps rate cut in October 2025, by when the mon soon outturn and its impact on food inflation would be clearer.'

ities (2.18 per cent), oil & gas

(2.10 per cent), realty (2.07 per

cent), consumer durables (2.02

per cent), industrials (1.98 per

cent), auto (1.71 per cent), con-

sumer discretionary (1.67 per

cent) and metal (1.63 per cent).

clined while 1,282 advanced

and 140 remained unchanged

on the BSE. The BSE midcan

gauge tanked 1.52 per cent

and smallcap index dropped

1.38 per cent.

As many as 2,729 stocks de-

a red flag for the RBI in a still-controlled capital regime," source said. The proposed changes reflect India's cautious stance on a rise in outward remittances and full convertibility of the rupee, as

While discussions with the government are ongoing, the RBI aims to ensure such deposits cannot be made even under alternate names, said another source. The move is part of a comprehensive review of the legal framework governing the scheme to simplify the regulations, a priority highlighted by the central bank in its annual report.

RBI to tighten remittance rules, bar offshore time deposits



Mumbai, June 12: India's central bank plans to tighten rules for overseas remittances by resident Indians, barring them from holding foreign currency deposits with lock-in periods, two government sources said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will amend regulations to prevent overseas transfers from being used to park money in time deposits or other interest-bearing accounts abroad. "This is akin to passive

wealth shifting, which is

authorities strive to safeguard foreign exchange reserves and manage currency volatility.

Overseas investments by individuals fall under the central bank's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) which allows resident Indians to remit up to \$250,000 in a single year for purposes ranging from foreign education, travel, equity and debt investments to medical treatments.

RBI data showed that depos its under outward remittances by resident individuals rose sharply to \$173.2 million in March from \$51.62 million in

Outward remittances typically spike in March as it allows residents to maximise their annual limits and optimise taxes, making it the busiest month under LRS but the RBI is concerned that a portion of this may be getting passively parked. For financial year 2024-25, to-

tal annual outward remittances under the scheme dipped but remained high at nearly \$30 billion compared with \$31 billion a year ago. The sources did not disclose

the amount currently held in foreign currency deposit accounts, but said the move is "preventative".

India's outward remittances under the scheme have steadi ly increased, particularly as fintech platforms and private banks have made global invest ing easier for retail investors.

'The move addresses a grow ing misuse of the scheme as a vehicle for passive capital export. It also aligns the scheme more closely with India's calibrated approach to capital ac count convertibility.

India has remained cau tious on allowing unrestricted outflows, partly to preserve its foreign exchange reserves and manage currency volatility.

affect permissible foreign in vestments in equities, mutual funds or property under the LRS, source said.

The revised rules will not

Desk, said.

BHUBANESWAR: Renowned footwear and accessories brand Shreeleathers is all set to inaugurate its new, fully air-conditioned showroom at Nuagaon, Lingipur, Bhubaneswar June 14, The grand opening will be graced by popular Odia film personalities Sivani Sangita and Subhasish Dey. Addressing a press conference, Dey traced the brand's legacy back to 1952, when it was founded by his grandfather, freedom fighter and visionary entrepreneur Late Suresh Chandra Dey, at Sakchi Market, Jamshedpur. The new Bhubaneswar outlet is a tribute to his memory. "We are



above ₹2,500. These offers are valid till June 30, 2025.



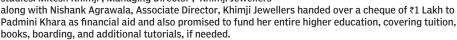
Mitsubishi Electric opens new showroom **Bhubaneswar:** Mitsubishi Electric, leading air conditioning manufacturers, has launched its exclusive showroom. Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. The showroom was jointly

inaugurated by Manish Chaudhary, East India Head of Living Environment (LE), and Naohiko Hosokawa, Business Head of LE Division, Mitsubishi Electric India, Amir Hassan, Odisha Operations Head, was also present at the launch event. Speaking



Khimji Foundation empowers dreams

Bhubaneswar: In the remote village of Marabaiguda, Harijana Sahi in Koraput, a 17-year-old Padmini Khara has emerged as a symbol of unwavering determination. With relentless focus, she excelled in her studies, secured 94 per cent in her 12th exams. Khimji Foundation, CSR wing of the renowned Khimji Jewellers, came in support of her extraordinary potential to do further studies. Mitesh Khimji , Managing Director , Khimji Jewellers



Education inflation: Growing stress on urban parenting

India is hopeful of becoming a knowledge-driven economy, but the increasing cost of education is broadening the gap between the "haves" and "have-nots"

RACHNA MAHESHWARI, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Quality education has become a privilege for most parents in urban cities. Families are under financial stress as the cost of schooling continues to climb sharply. Gone are the days when school fees were not a section in the monthly budget schedule. Now, parents are allocating a significant chunk of their household income to schooling expenses

Recently, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) highlights the surge in school fees between 2012 and 2022. In the charts, the annual cost per decade.

at 4.13 per cent (April 2025)

of Keonjhar, Odisha, said, "I have shifted to the city so that I can give better education to my son. In rural areas, there are schools, but with bad in-

than the urban schools. However, I feel the fee structure is school fee."

Delhi, highlighted the private school dominance in the education sector. She said, "There must be a way to run schools. The school authorities are charging like anything. From academic fees to extracurricular activities, there is no end

numerous posts concerning education inflation stress on parents. Salaried couples are trying their best to provide good quality education; the recent post of a LinkedIn (social media platform) user has sparked the debate once again. User has written, "I never realised the real cost of raising kids in India. Just the tuition fee at a reputed international school could set parents back by anywhere between ₹7 to ₹9 lakh a year (excluding extracurricular fees).

This post went viral in a few hours, but what needs to go viral is the reason and solution to the problem of increasing financial burden on parents.

It is evident that the competition is too high in job markets. The fear of losing opportunities encourages parents to go beyond boundaries. Despite several government initiatives like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and PM SHRI Schools, parents, from medium to low-income groups, vouch for private schools, often burning their pockets due to poor quality management at government schools. A finding revealed that more than 47 per cent of urban students attend private schools, compared to last decade. **PPP Policy implications**

and the way forward

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is one of the finest solutions to lower the financial stress. This model offers an access to higher quality education at a lesser cost via infrastruc ture development and private management of public schools Secondly, there must be a

synchronised model to regulate fee structure to manage stress and study simultaneously.

RIL sells 3.64 % stake in Asian Paints New Delhi: Billionaire

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Thursday divested a 3.64 per cent stake in Asian Paints, while SBI Mutual Fund picked up the shares for ₹7.703 crore through an open market transaction. Reliance Industries, through its affiliate Siddhant Commercials Pvt Ltd. sold 3.50 crore equity shares or 3.64 per cent stake in Asian Paints, as per the block deal data available with the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

student has surged from ₹5,856

in 2008 to ₹12,345 in 2018 in rural areas. However, in urban setups, the course fee has increased from ₹12,000 to ₹28,000. This is now almost double the amount compared to the last It would be interesting to

note that the recent inflation report has shown an increase in education inflation. The country's education inflation is in the highest category, standing Vidhyadhar Naik, a resident

frastructure and lesser quality

too high here as I am paying one third of my salary as the Riya Agarwal, a resident of

Social media is filled with

'Come out of comfort zone'

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. 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

"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 Rish-

"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

"The amount of runs that you them," said Karun. have got, and most important-

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.

to the final.

SHOOTING WORLD CUP

Samra bags bronze

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 in-

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,



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.

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 Manoi 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 Probierz said in a statement published by the Polish Football Association. Probierz 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 Probierz 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 Aagib Javed. Aleem Dar, Azhar Ali and Asad Shafig 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

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.

Oz LEAD PROTEAS BY 218 RUNS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London, June 12: A low-scor-

ing 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.

ly that never say die attitude,

which is something that got you

back into the team, and that is

something inspiring for every-

one in this group. Welcome Karun Nair," said Gambhir.

Karun said he was "grateful"

"Grateful for this opportu-

nity again. I am really look-

ing 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

to get a second chance to play

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



WICKETS TUMBLE AGAIN ON DAY 2

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 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

seeking its first ICC trophy in any format this century

South Africa is

skipper said. "For any fast bowler, 300 is a big number it means vou'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 — cap tain 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 Bayuma 36; Pat Cummins 6-28, Mitchell Starc 2-41) by 218 runs

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

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.

The Rugby India head is happy that out of 1600 plus registered players in the country, his federation is in a position to help at least a sizeable number of them financially.

"But are we in a

position where we can say that at least out of our 1600 players, who play this sport at the state level, can we at least give this kind of income to about every year to about maybe 200 players? That should be the the



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.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159