

Israel strikes Iran's nuclear sites

8 test positive for cholera in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Israel's massive airstrikes on Iranian nuclear and missile sites that followed decades of mutual animosity had its ripple effects across the world as global crude oil prices soared while stocks tumbled. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has consistently viewed Iran as the primary threat to Israel's existence, pointing to the neighbour's nuclear programme, aggressive rhetoric, and support for anti-Israel militant groups throughout the region. Iran, on the other hand, has positioned itself as a champion of the Palestinian cause, depicting Israel as a harmful Western presence in the Middle East. Nevertheless, the recent escalation was triggered by Hamas' attack on Israel October 7, 2023, which provoked a strong Israeli retaliation on Iran's allies - Hezbollah and Houthis. The latest Israeli strikes and counter-strikes by Iran could potentially lead to a broader regional conflagration and roil the global economy with high oil prices



RAGING CONFLICT: Firefighters work at the scene of a damaged building in the aftermath of Israeli strikes in Tehran, Friday (MORE P10) REUTERS

three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's ballistic missile programme, Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh. Khamenei said other top military officials and scientists were also killed. The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed Iran's uranium enrichment facility at Natanz was hit, and said it was closely monitoring radiation levels. In the evening, Israel launched renewed attacks on Iran. Iranian media reported explosions on the northern and southern outskirts of Tehran and at Fordow, near the holy city of Qom, a second major nuclear site which had been spared in the first wave of attacks. Israel's military said it was striking Iranian missile and drone launching sites. Air defences were activated across Tehran and explosions could be heard in Isfahan. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli campaign was aimed at defeating an existential threat from Iran, invoking the failure to halt the Holocaust in World War Two. Israel's operation "will continue for as many days as it takes to remove this threat," he said in a TV address. "Generations from now, history will record our generation stood its ground, acted in time and secured our common future."

Dubai, June 13: Israel launched blistering attacks on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure Friday, deploying warplanes and drones previously smuggled into the country to attack key facilities and kill top generals and scientists - a barrage it said was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon. The ongoing military and intelligence operation raised the potential for all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval. Iran quickly retaliated by sending a swarm of drones at Israel, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of "severe punishment."

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Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used

them to target Iranian air defences and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nu-

clear enrichment facility in Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. It also appeared to strike a second, smaller nuclear enrichment facility in Fordo, about 100 km southeast of Tehran, according to an Ira-

nian news outlet close to the government that reported hearing explosions nearby. Israel said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran. Among those killed were

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The ticket cost is only ₹50k, sir. ₹1.5 lakh is for the seat you asked for - 11A

Committed to making women state's strongest asset: Majhi

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said his government is committed to empowering women and making them the strongest pillar of the state's development. Addressing the state-level Nari Shakti Samabesh at the historic Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack, held to mark the completion of one year of his government, Majhi said the sole objective of the gathering was to recognise and enhance the power of women as the driving force behind Odisha's progress. "This Nari Shakti Samabesh is the first programme of our second year in office. We firmly believe that unless half of the population—our women—are empowered, the state can never truly develop," he remarked. The Chief Minister expressed hope that launching this initiative from the historic city of Cuttack would



usher in a golden era for the mothers and sisters of Odisha. Highlighting the government's flagship scheme for women empowerment, he described the Subhadra Yojana as the most transformative programme in the state's history. "Not just for women, such a massive social welfare scheme has not been implemented before," Majhi asserted. He added that the scheme has reached every village and family, especially in remote tribal-dominated areas, where many women were previously unaware of government welfare programmes. "Today, many women across Odisha are generating income for their families by using the Subhadra support, engaging in economic activities, and joint farming initiatives. This scheme is a significant step toward making our mothers financially independent," Majhi said. The Chief Minister also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for conceptualising the Lakhpati Didi scheme to make women financially self-reliant.

Plane crash: Black box recovered from rooftop

Ahmedabad, June 13: Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) Friday said the black box of Air India's crashed Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft has been recovered from the rooftop of the residential quarters of BJ Medical College here. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed soon after taking off into

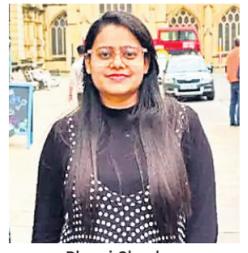
Enhance inspection of AI's Boeing 787 fleet: DGCA
New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA Friday ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GE engines, a day after 241 people onboard died in the plane crash in Ahmedabad. The enhanced DGCA inspection will include checks of various systems and a review of take-off parameters of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft of Air India, owned by Tata Group. Air India's fleet includes 26 Boeing 787-8 aircraft and seven Boeing 787-9 planes. Meanwhile, US aircraft engine maker GE Aerospace, in a statement, said it continues to work closely with the appropriate regulatory and investigative agencies. The DGCA has directed Air India to carry out additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 planes equipped with GE engines with immediate effect. P9

"AAIB began work with full force immediately. Over 40 staff from the state government joined efforts to augment the MoCA (Ministry of Civil Aviation) teams on site. The DFDR (black box) has been recovered from the rooftop," the statement said. A black box is a small device that records information about an aircraft during its flight. It helps in the investigation of aviation accidents.

When 10 mins separated life & death

Ahmedabad, June 13: Bhumi Chauhan, who moved to London two years ago on a study visa and is currently in India, is thanking God and her stars for missing the ill-fated Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad as she got stuck in traffic and reached the airport late. Chauhan said she missed boarding the AI 171 flight to London, which crashed soon after taking-off Thursday afternoon from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, by just 10 minutes. She is visiting her hometown Ahmedabad for the first time after moving to

the UK two years ago. "I am shivering after I learnt about the crash. I left the airport at 1.30pm as I missed the flight due to traffic. I thank God," Chauhan told PTI Videos. She said she was in India for vacation after moving to the UK on a study visa and scheduled to go back to London on the flight. The AI 171 flight took off at 1.39 pm and crashed into a medical college complex near the Ahmedabad airport and burst into a ball of fire less than a minute after take-off, leaving just one survivor. "The flight was on time and I missed it by 10 minutes and I thank God. My prayers for all those who



Bhumi Chauhan

authorities) that I be let in. I was the last passenger. But my request was not accepted. This is a miracle. Mataji and Ganpati bappa protected me. I am terrified at the loss of lives. I am totally numb," she said. Chauhan said she learnt about the tragedy, which claimed 265 lives (including passengers and on ground deaths), when she was going back home from the airport. According to Air India, of the 230 passengers on the flight, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 people on board were two pilots and 10 crew members. "I requested (to airport

DADLS-31

ରଜ ପର୍ବ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ରଜ ପର୍ବ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଥିବା କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଶେଷ ପର୍ବ । ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଏକ ନିଜ୍ଜଳ ମହାନ ପର୍ବ । ଧରିତ୍ରୀ ମାତାର ଉପାସନା ସହିତ ଘରେ ଘରେ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଉଲ୍ଲାସରେ ଏହି ପର୍ବ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଚାଷୀକୁଳଙ୍କ ପୁଞ୍ଜ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହିତ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆତ୍ମିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

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(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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leisure



BRAD PITT OPENS UP ABOUT LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

Hollywood star Brad Pitt, in an apparent reference to his divorce from Angelina Jolie, has talked about learning from his mistakes and said to "move on" from it. Pitt said: "No matter the mistake, you know, you just learn from (it) and move on."

DUA LIPA, CALLUM TURNER CONFIRM ENGAGEMENT

Popular pop singer Dua Lipa got engaged to her boyfriend and British actor Callum Turner. The Grammy winner, known for songs such as *Levitating*, *Houdini*, and *Dance The Night*, confirmed the news to fashion and lifestyle magazine *Vogue*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Of late you have been very preoccupied with work and social life. It is about time you gave yourself a break to indulge in something for your own benefit. Your health could be a cause of concern. Ganeshha advises you to put everything else on the back-burner if you are feeling stressed out.

TAURUS
This day you are likely to make wasteful expenditure. You will be more reckless, extravagant than you can afford to be. Your expenses are sure to outweigh your income. Be as tightfisted as you can. Not buying anything unnecessary or too costly can help control losses, points out Ganeshha. Think twice before you decide before purchasing anything.

GEMINI
You will meet all kinds of people in matters related to work. You will need to understand their demands and needs and will have to strive to fulfill them. Your courteous nature will endear you to people. You will receive praise for your intelligence as well, says Ganeshha.

CANCER
You may have a way with words, but women somehow always have their way with you. Your problem is that while you may use your words to pull some strings, the master puppeteer, in most cases, will be a woman. So, to keep yourself happy, you may have to make the concerned woman happy.

LEO
You will accomplish all your tasks with courage today. As a result of which, the efforts you have made in the last few months will now bear fruit. You need to make a schedule of the tasks you need to tackle today. You need to guard against over-stressing yourself, otherwise your health could suffer, says Ganeshha.

VIRGO
Today, you will be aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the facade that people put up to shield their true self. You will choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra bit to get your ideas approved, says Ganeshha.

LIBRA
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket.

SCORPIO
It's business time and shock your competitors with the launch of the new product. However, stars are not aligned in a favourable way, which indicates that you may come across some hurdles. Take your time, sort out the troubles and go ahead with your launch with much fanfare and celebrations

SAGITTARIUS
The sage within you will take the lead today. You are likely to prescribe yourself to your own medication for peace of mind. Wise and content that you are today, you will spread the message of love around you. All in all, a peaceful day is in store for you today.

CAPRICORN
For you everything is fair in love and war, and you utilise every possible means to achieve your targets. You have a strong sixth sense and it will direct you while making the right decisions, feels Ganeshha. You are a soft hearted person and it makes you sad to see others in sadness and trouble. Instinctively, you will help those in need.

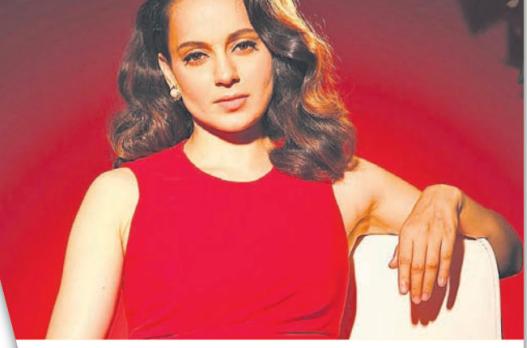
AQUARIUS
Expect the unexpected today! Success, money, love, whatever it is that you'd lost hope of will suddenly come your way! In the evening, you may catch up with reading, research, discussion or other such activity, says Ganeshha.

PISCES
You will delay taking important decisions in the office or regarding business. You will take your time to come to a conclusion and put in all the required thought and this will grant you clarity on all the issues at hand. While this will be great for you, Ganeshha advises you not to make hasty decisions regarding your personal life.

CASTING COUCH REMARK

Fatima clears the air

MUMBAI: Earlier this year, Fatima Sana Shaikh shared a troubling incident about facing the casting couch in the South film industry. She recalled how a casting agent once implied she needed to "do everything" for a role. "I told him I'd work hard, but he kept pushing. I played dumb just to see how far he'd go," she had said. However, in a recent interview, Fatima clarified that her remarks were taken out of context, which wrongly led to the assumption that she was generalising the entire South industry. She emphasised that the incident was isolated and not reflective of the broader industry. "It was just one person. I was casually talking about that moment, and it was blown out of proportion. That wasn't neces-



Kangana reconnects with herself

MUMBAI: Actress-politician Kangana Ranaut recently took a spiritual pause from her busy schedule as she visited the ancient Shivoham Shiva Temple in Bengaluru. Immersed in the serene atmosphere, the actress used the moment to reconnect with herself and seek inner peace. The *Queen* actress visited the iconic Shivoham Shiva temple, which is known for its towering 65-foot Shiva statue and peaceful meditation spaces. The temple has been a center of faith for over 30 years. Kangana's visit was marked by moments of quiet reflection and a deep sense of devotion as she sought blessings in the sacred space. Her spiritual path continued with a visit to the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple, also nestled within the temple complex. During her visit, Ranaut reflected on the deeper meaning of life as she engaged in a heartfelt dialogue with AïR-Atman in Ravi, the founder of the Shivoham Shiva Temple and a well-known spiritual guide and Happiness Ambassador. On the professional front, Kangana's most recent appearance was in *Emergency*, a film she also directed. In the biopic, she played the role of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The movie also starred Anupam Kher, Satish Kaushik, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhry, and others in pivotal roles.

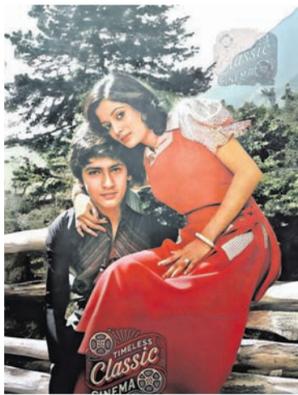
DEEPIKA'S early crush

MUMBAI: Deepika Padukone, who made a dream debut in Bollywood with *Om Shanti Om*, has always captivated audiences with her beauty, talent, and charm. As she prepares for her upcoming film with director Atlee, an old video of the actress confessing her early crush has gone viral, delighting fans across the internet. In the throwback clip from a 2007 promotional interview for *Om Shanti Om*, Deepika sweetly admits to having a major crush on her co-star Arjun Rampal. She candidly shares, "I couldn't quite digest the fact that Arjun was doing this to me because he is one of the most good-looking men I have ever seen. And I have had this huge crush on him, so more



A love story that never got its happy ending

MUMBAI: When *Love Story* hit theatres in 1981, it wasn't just the film's music or fresh romance that enchanted audiences—it was also the sizzling chemistry between debutants Kumar Gaurav and Vijayata Pandit. Their on-screen love sparked real-life dating rumours, and soon after the film's massive success, talk of their impending marriage was widespread. But behind the scenes, their fairytale romance was crumbling under the weight of legacy, family pressure, and ambition. In a past interview, Vijayata revealed that Kumar Gaurav, her then-boyfriend, discouraged her from pursuing an acting career despite her growing popularity. "He

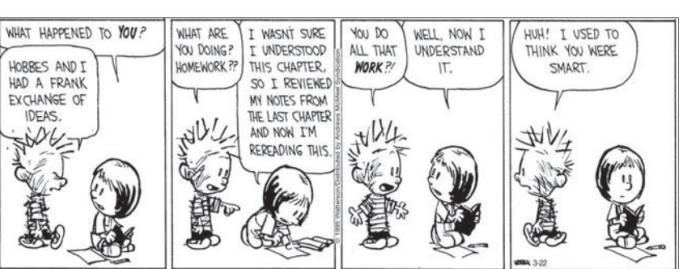


said I would be his heroine and homemaker," she recalled. Gaurav promised marriage and financial security, but it turned out there was more brewing behind closed doors. Vijayata later learned that Kumar's father, veteran actor Rajendra Kumar, had been actively working to sideline her from film projects. He disapproved of their relationship and reportedly wanted his son to marry Namrata Dutt, daughter of actor-politician Sunil Dutt. According to Vijayata, Gaurav's sister also played a role, frequently inviting Namrata home in hopes of sparking a new bond. The reason? Social status and wealth. Vijayata claimed Rajendra Kumar viewed her as not "rich enough," despite her well-off background. She even called him "money-minded," suggesting that family ambition outweighed her love with Kumar Gaurav. Eventually, the family's influence prevailed. The once-promising romance dissolved quietly, leaving Vijayata heartbroken and distanced from the film world she had just begun to explore. What began as a love story adored by millions turned into a poignant reminder that in the glitzy world of cinema, love sometimes takes a backseat to legacy.

PEANUTS



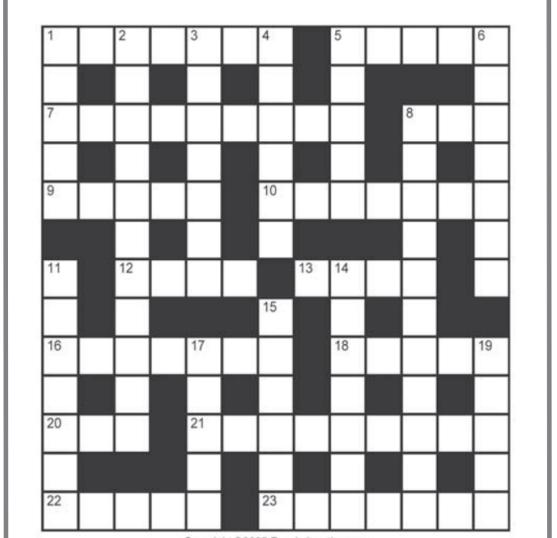
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Celebrations
 - 5 Picture puzzle
 - 7 Tangled
 - 8 Beachgoer's goal
 - 9 Cover story?
 - 10 Photos pasted together
 - 12 Requisite
 - 13 Conclusion starter
 - 16 Hug
 - 18 Writer Asimov
 - 20 King Kong, e.g.
 - 21 Authentically
 - 22 Kind of alcohol
 - 23 Circular dome opening
 - 3 Create mentally
 - 4 Sandwich filler
 - 5 Inert gas
 - 6 Earnest
 - 8 Free of deceit
 - 11 Garden-variety
 - 14 Port-au-Prince native
 - 15 Aromatic herb
 - 17 Heavenly worker
 - 19 Glasgow's river
- Down**
- 1 Boxing venue
 - 2 Stylish

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

BJP, BJD spar over women's causes

AGENCIES

Cuttack/Jajpur, June 13: Both the ruling BJP and Opposition BJD Friday held separate public meetings and claimed credit for championing women's causes in the state.

The BJD accused the saffron party of "betraying" women by making false promises before the elections in 2024. However, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi countered the Opposition party allegation by saying that "respecting women is a fundamental principle of our (BJP) political training".

The BJD held its public meeting 'Mahila Jana Jagaran' at Jajpur under the leadership of party's senior leader Pramila Mallik. She and party vice president Debi Prasad Mishra accused the BJP government of "betraying" women.

"The BJP had promised to give ₹50,000 to each woman in two years. However, now they are giving ₹10,000 in two instalments in a year. What business a woman will do with capital of ₹5,000," asked Mishra.

Majhi along with his two deputy CMs - KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida - attended the 'Nari Shakti Samabesh' in Cuttack and came down heavily on the previous BJD government.

Claiming that respecting women was the fundamental training of the saffron outfit, Majhi said his government immediately after taking the oath of office on June 12 last year took four major decisions including launching of Subhadra Yojana for women's empowerment.

"The primary goal of the Nari Shakti Samabesh is to strengthen and elevate Odisha's women as the state's greatest asset," Majhi said. He claimed that the Subhadra Yojana is Odisha's largest-ever women's welfare programme and a social welfare scheme that aims to empower women financially by connecting with every village and family, even in remote tribal areas.

The CM also claimed that his government was working to boost the economic condition of women through self help groups (SHGs). Mallik alleged that the BJP has betrayed women because a beneficiary of Subhadra Yojana gets ₹27 per day. "How can ₹27 a day help the women," she asked and called it a "complete betrayal" of women by the BJP after getting their votes.

BJD leaders alleged that women and girls are not safe in Odisha as there have been reports of sexual assaults on them. "We demand re-introduction of Mahila and Sishu Desk in all police stations which helped the victims of sexual abuse in the state," Mallik said.

17 investment proposals worth ₹3,878cr okayed

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 13: The state government Friday approved 17 investment proposals worth ₹3,878.86 crore which have the potential to generate 10,584 employment opportunities in 11 districts of the state, an official said.

The proposals were approved at the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLS-WCA) meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Six proposals were from the plastics sector. Greenwave Circularity Private Limited will set up a recycled flakes, pellets, and resin manufacturing facility with a capacity of 4,04,150 MT in Khurda at an investment of ₹650.23 crore. The facility is expected to generate 600 jobs.

Gurumaharaj Mining & Industries Private Limited's plan to invest ₹239.07 crore for manufacturing underground pipelines (UGPL) in Khurda also got approval. With an annual production capacity of 2,50,000 metres, the facility is expected to generate 860 jobs.

Supreme Industries Limited will establish a facility for plastic products in Cuttack with an investment of ₹175 crore, generating 165 jobs, while Lucro Plastecycle Private Limited will set up a post-consumer plastic recycled (PCR) granules and products unit in Jagatsinghpur district with an investment of ₹100 crore, generating 1,615 jobs, the official said.

Royal Touch Fablon Private Limited will manufacture PP woven sacks, bags, and yarn liners with a capacity of 9,600 TPA in Balasore district. With an investment of ₹60.78 crore, the unit can generate over 600 jobs.

In the textiles and apparel



sector, MAS India Clothing Private Limited will set up a textile processing mill (Fabric Mill-1) in Khurda with an investment of ₹885 crore, generating 1,700 employment opportunities. Additionally, Isolloyd Engineering Technologies Limited will establish a manufacturing unit for ceramic fibre and related products in Jajpur with an investment of ₹51 crore, creating 175 jobs in the technical textile segment.

Heraeus Technologies India Private Limited will set up an advanced manufacturing unit for metallurgical sensors, instruments, and allied accessories at EMC Park, Info Valley, Khurda with an investment of ₹188.46 crore, generating 400 jobs. Similarly, Addsoft Technologies Private Limited will establish a facility for LED TVs, IoT devices, interactive panels, self-service kiosks, and video wall systems in Cuttack with an investment of ₹112 crore, creating 330 employment opportunities.

In food processing and allied sectors, Ganesh Consumer Products Limited got the approval to establish a 48,000 TPA roller flour mill in Khurda with an investment of ₹52.38 crore, creating 110 jobs. Similarly, Ranisati Green Biofuels Private Limited will set up a 100 KLPD

grain-based ethanol plant in Harbhanga, Boudh with an investment of ₹110 crore. The facility is expected to provide jobs to 260 individuals.

In power and renewable energy sector, Iron Triangle Limited got the go-ahead to invest ₹310.75 crore for a 200 MWh Battery Energy Storage System in Bolangir district, generating 128 jobs. This will strengthen Odisha's commitment to a cleaner and energy-efficient industrial future, the official said.

In the steel sector, Samalshwari Ferrometals Private Limited will expand its sponge iron plant into a 0.5 MTPA integrated steel plant in Sambalpur. The ₹400-crore project is expected to create 350 employment opportunities.

In the tourism sector, Raysons Enterprises Private Limited will set up an eco-resort, 'Mayfair Hideout', at Balukhand, Gop block in Puri district with an investment of ₹53 crore, creating 116 jobs.

The logistics and infrastructure sector saw two major investments. In chemicals and allied products sector, Special Blasts Limited will invest ₹54.99 crore to set up an explosives and accessories manufacturing unit in Talcher, Angul, generating 75 jobs.

CM, Naveen condole Rupani's death in Gujarat plane crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition in state Assembly Naveen Patnaik condole the death of former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani in Thursday's Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Air India has confirmed that 241 people on board its London-bound flight were killed when the aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from the Ahmedabad airport Thursday.

"Deeply pained by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad that claimed the life of former Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani ji," Majhi said on X Thursday.

The Boeing 787-8 aircraft was carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members.

"Our party has lost a senior leader, and the nation mourns for a statesman whose gentle nature and contributions to public life will always be remembered," he said.

Rupani, who died in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad, was known for his composed demeanour and firm administrative style. "May Mahaprabhu Jagannath give strength to his family and loved ones in this moment of grief. Om Shanti," Majhi said.

Patnaik in a post on X said, "Deeply saddened to learn about the tragic demise of former Gujarat Chief Minister #VijayRupani ji in the tragic #PlaneCrash in #Ahmedabad that took away so many precious lives. My condolences to the bereaved family and followers. Om Shanti."

Rupani, 68, who was the Gujarat CM from August 2016 to September 2021, steered Gujarat through a critical post-Covid recovery phase.

Inscriptions reveal Utkala's victory over Delhi's Tughlaqs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: A rare 14th-century inscription found at the Dharmalingeswar Temple at Panchadharla in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh has brought to light the hitherto unknown military victory of the combined forces of the Eastern Ganga rulers of Utkala and Haihaya dynasties over the imperial armies of Delhi's Tughlaq rulers.

The discovery is featured in a recently released book titled 'Relics of Kalinga in South India, Part-I', published by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Odisha State Chapter.

The inscription, carved on a three-faced black stone pillar at the eastern entrance of the temple was documented in November 2024 by a three-member INTACH team comprising project coordinator and author Deepak Kumar Nayak, epigraphist Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, and surveyor Suman Prakash Swain.

The inscription - written in Sanskrit language, using Telugu script - dates to Saka Samvat 1325 (1403 CE), during the reign

of King Choda III of the Haihaya dynasty. Verse 16 of the 93-line inscription mentions that Choda III constructed a gopura (gateway) and a grove at the temple's entrance, commemorating the defeat of Firuz Shah Tughlaq of Delhi by Choda II, an earlier Haihaya ruler and subordinate of Eastern Ganga king Bhanudeva III - King of Utkala (modern-day Odisha).

As per epigraphist Adhikari, following the victory, Choda II gifted 22 elephants to Bhanudeva III and presented dancing girls to the Sultan of Pandua as 'Bijayashri'—tokens of triumph. The inscription further suggests that the Sultan of Pandua may have been a vassal or allied commander under the Eastern Ganga ruler.

The Haihayas of Panchadharla ruled the southern Kalinga region, including Simhachalam and Panchadharla, from the 12th to 14th centuries CE.

The revelation reaffirms the Eastern Ganga dynasty's extensive influence and the crucial role played by regional powers like the Haihayas in resisting northern invasions during medieval India.

Interstate arms racket busted in City; 5 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Five people were arrested here as an interstate arms racket was busted Friday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the Airport police station conducted a raid in Pokhariput area of the City and made the arrests, Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said. Six illegal firearms were seized from them, he said.

Those arrested were identified as Prabin Kumar Singh, 40, Raghvendra Singh, 28, Abhishek Rajput, 31, Indrajit Singh, 38, and Sk Sakil, 28, he added.

Three of them are from Balia district in UP, one from Bhind district of MP, and another from Cuttack's Salipur area, Singh said.

"We have seized four 7.65-mm semi-automatic pistols, one six-round revolver, a single-shot weapon, 18 rounds of live ammunition, a car and five mobile phones," he said. Prabin had been staying on rent in Jatni Gate area of the Capital city for the last two months. He is an arms smuggler, sourcing illegal firearms from other states, the commissioner said. He said Sakil was present at the spot to procure a firearm from the gang when the police caught them.

Raja: Social silence on menstruation persists

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 13: With the arrival of 'Raja' — a three-day-long unique festival that celebrates menstruation, fertility, and womanhood, Odisha decks up in vibrant colours, swings, alata-adorned feet, and the sweet aroma of poda pitha, symbolic and distinct to the celebration of the festival.

Yet, despite the profound message, the irony persists. Menstruation still remains a taboo subject in much of society, even in the state which celebrates it.

With its origins from the Sanskrit word 'Rajaswala' which refers to a menstruating woman — the festival is dedicated to 'Bhumi' (Earth goddess), who experiences menstruation during three days of the festival. Agricultural activities come to rest, women refrain from work, and joy takes center stage.

"Raja is not just a festival, it's a celebration of womanhood. While the rest of the world hides menstruation in whispers, we celebrate it with pitha, pana and raja doli," said Akankhya Rout, a journalist from the state working in Lucknow. "For families which have migrated outside Odisha, Raja becomes a time to reconnect with roots," she adds.

Odia film actress Jyoti Mohanty shared her nostalgia, "Earlier, Raja used to be much more than just Doli (swing) and Poda Pitha. The three main days — Pahlil Raja, Mithuna Sankranti, and Basi Raja — are marked by traditions like playing



folk games such as puchi, cards and kabaddi, and enjoying special dishes and Raja pana."

She added, "Women adorned in new clothes, decorate their hands with mehendi and feet with alata, and spend time with family & friends. Though things have changed, the essence is still alive in villages compared to cities," Mohanty added.

Raja is more than a cultural event, said Madhusmita Padhihary, a UG student at Rama Devi Women's University. "It's a vibrant reflection of feminine power and rural life. During the festival, the mother Earth is believed to rest and so do women. Girls dress in colourful attire, apply mehendi, sing folk songs, and swing joyfully," she added.

Ironically, despite the public celebration, menstrual health and hygiene remain taboo in many homes.

PS Swagatika Sahoo from Jagatsinghpur, who works as a PR professional in Mumbai, said,

"Raja still holds deep cultural significance in our villages — it's a time of joy, pride, and connection to our roots. Even while working in Mumbai, I make it a point to come home and celebrate this beautiful festival. For every Odia woman, it's a cherished moment. But in urban settings, the true essence of Raja is often lost, especially when menstruation remains an uncomfortable topic of discussion."

"Raja is not just a festival — it's a cultural salute to womanhood, fertility, and the rhythms of nature. In honouring menstruation through tradition, the festival reminds us what is natural should never be hidden," said Sriyasmitha Mohanty, who works in an IT firm in Mumbai.

The fourth day of the festival, Basumati Snana is dedicated to ceremonially bathing the Earth. Clay idols of mother Earth are worshipped, and traditional rituals are performed to honour nature and femininity.

As the festival continues to evolve, its message remains timeless - to honour womanhood, embrace nature, and break the silence around menstruation.

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CB nets Bengal woman for ₹74L online fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 13: The state Crime Branch (CB) has arrested a woman from West Bengal for her alleged involvement in a ₹75.10-lakh investment fraud case, an official said Friday.

Police identified the accused as Anushka Mitra, 24, a resident of Durgapur in Bardhaman district. The accused has been brought to Odisha on a transit remand and was produced before a local court here June 7. She is currently in judicial custody, a CB officer said.

Mitra, along with her associates, posed as trade analysts and duped a resident of Balasore district of ₹74.10 lakh through an elaborate investment scam, the officer said.

The accused allegedly lured the complainant with promises of high returns through investments in international metal trading, Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), and Over-the-Counter (OTC) trading. Despite suffering losses, the victim continued investing under their influence, officials said.



Anushka Mitra, along with her associates, posed as trade analysts and duped a resident from Balasore district of ₹74.10 lakh through an investment scam

When he tried to withdraw his funds, the fraudsters demanded additional money. Realising it was a scam, the victim filed an FIR, following which she was arrested, police said.

In a separate development, five persons from Gujarat have been arrested over the past few days by the CB in connection with three separate cyber fraud cases.

According to an official statement, two persons from Gujarat were arrested for their alleged role in a ₹1.4-crore online trading scam.

In another case, two more persons from Gujarat were held for allegedly duping a Bhubaneswar resident of ₹1.06 crore by placing him under what investigators termed a 'digital arrest'.

Impersonating themselves as officials of Mumbai Crime Branch and a courier service, the cyber fraudsters threatened arrest and media exposure and forced him to transfer the money to their bank accounts, the CB said.

In the third case, a 22-year-old man from Gujarat was arrested for allegedly cheating ₹50 lakh from a man of Chhatrapur in Ganjam district, on the pretext of providing high returns from stock market investments, officials added.

Workshop on AI for water governance

SWIC and IIT Bhubaneswar collaborate to boost AI-driven water monitoring

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: A state-level workshop, focusing on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics for enhanced water resource monitoring and governance was jointly organised by the State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC), department of Water Resources (DoWR), and IIT Bhubaneswar's Research and Entrepreneurship Park here Friday.

The primary objective of the workshop was to introduce best practices in data management and digitisation to improve transparency, efficiency, and decision-making in DoWR through cutting-edge AI technologies. The workshop brought together experts, government officials, and stakeholders to explore innovative AI-driven solutions for sustainable water governance.



Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR Anu Garg emphasised the critical role of digitisation and AI in strengthening governance and operational efficiency during her inaugural address. She praised the initiative for fostering collaboration across departments and

aligning with Odisha's vision for technology-enabled public services.

Key speakers included Water Resources engineer-in-chief Chandra Sekhar Padhi, Director of GWD and SWIC and chief engineer Krushna Chandra Mohanty, IIT Bhubaneswar Computer Science Engineering department head Debi Prosad

Dogra and Indian Institute of Water Management director Arjamadutta Sarangi. Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the growing importance of AI and data analytics in addressing complex water management challenges.

Sessions throughout the day covered topics such as AI applications in rainfall prediction, deep learning models for water resource management, and the use of digital tools for water governance. Experts also focused on capacity building, policy support, data governance, and technology adoption to mainstream AI innovations in public sector water management.

The workshop featured hands-on exposure to AI platforms, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and paving the way for tech-driven reforms in water resource monitoring and governance across Odisha.

'Odisha rivers in grave condition'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Mag-saysay Award winner Rajendra Singh, also known as the 'waterman of India' Friday made a strong pitch for protection of rivers by saying that many rivers are in grave condition and nearing extinction in Odisha. He was addressing the Odisha River Protection Conference organised by Mahanadi Bachao Andolan (MBA) and the Odisha River Protection Committee at Red Cross Bhawan here Friday.



Among other notable speakers was former administrator Aravind Behera, who highlighted the dangers of unchecked development, warning that destruction in the name of development is unacceptable, just as compromising identity in the name of pride is harmful.

Environment expert Prafulla Samantara urged for the unification of all river-related movements in Odisha into a broader people's movement. Prominent bureaucrat and writer Sanjeev Hota spoke about the declining health of various rivers across Odisha and appealed for efforts to restore and preserve their condition.

MBA convener Sudarshan Das stressed the importance of river movements in Odisha. In his keynote address, he stated that while everyone demands rights over river resources, there is now an urgent need to clearly establish the river's own rights over water and land. He urged activists to focus on this crucial aspect.

Experts at the meet urged the government to publish a White Paper on the condition of rivers in the state and formulate a clear, effective River Policy.

Inaugurating the conference, Singh stated that the health of Odisha's rivers is in a grave condition, with many rivers nearing extinction. He emphasised that the state's health is intrinsically linked to the health of its rivers, and urged the government to prioritise their protection by taking appropriate and immediate measures.

Singh also urged the government to convene a joint convention involving the Water Resources department, experts, river movement activists, and civil society to identify problems and develop solutions for the rivers' survival.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for CURRENCY, BOURSES, and COMMODITIES.

Weather forecast section for Bhubaneswar, including temperature, humidity, and rainfall data.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Birmaharajpur, dated 12.06.2025, I, Niranjan Meher, R/o. Village - Kendupali, PO. - Kamalpur, PS. - Birmaharajpur, Dist. - Subarnapur declare that I have changed my son's name from Krishna Meher to Anshuman Meher. Henceforth he shall be known as Anshuman Meher for all purposes. Niranjan Meher

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, kantabanji, Dist.- Bolangir on dated 02.06.2025. I, Jashonanti Bag, At/Post.-Tundala, P.S.-Kesinga, Dist.-Kalahandi (Odisha). Do hereby declare that I have change my minor son name from Aadhaar Card Harip Bag instead of Harish Kumar Bag. Henceforth my son will be known as Jashobanti Bag for all purpose. Jashobanti Bag

LOST

I, Srinivas Rao, S/o - Sawana Suriya Rao, R/o - Railway Colony, W.No. - 24, PO/PS/Dist. - Jharsuguda declare as follows. That I am the purchaser of land bearing Sale Deed No. 10862102275, Dtd.09.07.2021, vide Ms Khata No. - 1067/6804 of Mouza - Jharsuguda, Unit-1, Ekatali, Tah/Dist. - Jharsuguda. That the original Sale Deed and Patta of the same land is misplace at the time of shifting of the house. If found by anyone kindly contact me in the above address. Sd./-Srinivas Rao Contact : 9827178240

Global recognition for 'Legacy'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Bacardi India Private Limited's debut in the Indian whisky segment has earned remarkable global acclaim, as 'Legacy'—its first premium whisky crafted in India—won the Gold in the Blended Whisky category at the World Whiskies Awards 2025. This prestigious honour highlights a pivotal moment for Indian spirits, placing 'Legacy' among the most celebrated premium Indian whiskies on the international stage.



The World Whiskies Awards, one of the highest honours in the global spirits industry, recognises the finest whiskies across various categories. Whiskies are rigorously judged on a 100-point scale for aroma, flavor, complexity, finish, balance, and character. A Gold award signifies exceptional quality and craftsmanship. 'Legacy' also clinched a Silver medal at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025, organised by The Drinks Business Asia. This dual recognition cements Legacy's

growing stature in both Asian and global whisky markets.

A top executive of the company said, "Legacy's Gold at the World Whiskies Awards 2025 and Silver at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025 are landmark achievements that affirm our vision to elevate Indian whisky globally." "This recognition validates our commitment to creating distinctive, world-class spirits deeply rooted in Indian heritage. 'Legacy' is at the forefront of a new narrative for Indian whisky—one defined by pride, innovation, and global relevance," he added.

Subhadra & beyond: From women devpt to women-led devpt

PROF MAHADEO PRASAD JAISWAL

As India marches toward realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, the focus of the government has shifted from women development to women-led development. Recognising the unique challenges faced by women, particularly in rural areas, the Odisha Government has embarked on a series of transformative initiatives to empower them, harnessing their potential for national development. Addressing the challenges faced by women in rural areas requires capacity building on micro entrepreneurship along with multi-stakeholder collaboration. Partnerships with local industries and communities, and private organisations have been pivotal in reaching the last mile to bring rural and urban women to the forefront of nation building.

recipients of welfare schemes but also active participants in economic growth. By embedding gender-sensitive policies, strengthening family-focused social protection systems, and fostering an inclusive economic environment, Odisha is laying a strong foundation for a more equitable and inclusive future.

The latest data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS V) reflects significant progress in women empowerment. In Odisha, household decision-making power among married women has improved, with 90.2 per cent now actively participating and demonstrating greater autonomy in familial and social spheres. Financial inclusion has also seen remarkable improvement, with 86.5 per cent of women managing their own bank accounts, facilitated by initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana and other financial literacy programmes. Digital inclusion is growing, with mobile phone ownership among women rising from 39.2 per cent to 50.1 per cent, signalling a step toward greater connectivity, access to information, and economic opportunities.

Odisha has made notable strides in improving women's health, education, security, and livelihood opportunities, especially in rural areas. Subhadra, a flagship initiative, stands out

as a cornerstone of this women-led development journey. Launched with an ambitious outlay of ₹55,825 crores, Subhadra is designed to provide direct financial assistance while leveraging technology to ensure seamless service delivery.

Subhadra's impact has been profound, with over 1 crore women receiving the first tranche of financial benefits. Over five years, each beneficiary will receive ₹50,000, in bi-annual instalments of ₹5,000 each. This financial cushion is empowering women by giving them the freedom to invest in their families, start small businesses, and improve their quality of life.

However, Subhadra is more than just a financial assistance scheme. It leverages digital platforms to enhance transparency and ensure ease of access. Initiatives such as 'Kuhu and Suno Subhadra' are being put in place to strengthen its outreach and ensure that beneficiaries navigate their empowerment journey with confidence. These platforms offer information, guidance, and grievance redressal, bridging the gap between beneficiaries and service providers.

A thoughtful and well-designed Gender Budget is helping the respective government departments to identify pri-

oritize and address gender concerns by formulating and implementing futuristic gender policies, provisions and programmes including addressing their day-to-day needs and necessities.

Odisha's commitment to gender-responsive governance is reflected in its holistic approach to addressing the needs of women across various sectors. From menstrual leave policies and the establishment of crèches to support working mothers, to the provision of safe and affordable accommodation through Sakhi Niwas, the state has ensured that women's diverse needs are met. One-Stop Centres provide comprehensive, survivor-centric support for women affected by violence, offering medical, legal, and psychological assistance.

Additionally, Mukhyamantri Sampurna Pushti Yojana (MSPY) is addressing the nutrition needs of women and children, complementing schemes like POSHAN 2.0. This ensures that vulnerable women and children receive adequate nutritional support and healthcare. Initiatives like Mission Vatsalya and the sponsorship programme are safeguarding children's rights and well-being, ensuring they are nurtured and empowered to become responsible citi-

zens. The increase in financial assistance for beneficiaries under the Mamata and PMMVY (from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000) for those giving birth to a girl child reflects the government's commitment to improving the sex ratio at birth and ensuring gender equality. Advika, a scheme for adolescent empowerment, reaches more than 1 million adolescent girls and boys in the state. Under the scheme, life skill education is imparted to empower and enable girls to play a proactive role in the community and deal with various issues and challenges of daily life with confidence. The round-the-clock toll-free Women Helpline connects women in distress with emergency services, legal aid and psycho-social support ensuring a comprehensive response to violence, counselling, and rehabilitation. Additionally, Women and Child Help Desks have been established in police stations.

The state's strong Self-Help Group (SHG) programme has evolved into a robust platform for fostering financial independence, entrepreneurship, and social development among women, bringing together more than 70 lakh women under 6 lakh SHGs, facilitating access to credit, skill development, and livelihood opportunities. With institutional finance

amounting to more than ₹16,586 crores per annum for 2.73 lakh SHGs (2023-24), many such groups have also been able to own and operate women-led enterprises, significantly contributing to local economies.

The government's focus towards creating 'Lakhpati Didis' and empowering them economically through financial instruments has already started yielding results. It has not only enhanced access to credit but has also encouraged entrepreneurship by promoting financial inclusion among women SHGs. Creation of over 5.86 lakh 'Lakhpati Didis' exemplifies the government's focus on the economic empowerment of women.

Odisha's model of women-led development, with Subhadra at its core, is setting a precedent for other states to emulate. By addressing financial, educational and social barriers, Subhadra is enabling women to contribute meaningfully to the state's economic growth. As Odisha continues to chart this transformative journey, Subhadra demonstrates that investing in women is not just a moral imperative but also a catalyst for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

THE AUTHOR IS DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (IIM) SAMBALPUR

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FROM HOPE TO HARDSHIP

Lower Suktel displaced left in lurch

A year after the BJP government assumed power in Odisha, the plight of those displaced by the Lower Suktel Irrigation Project in Bolangir district remains largely unaddressed. In the aftermath of the project's inauguration just ahead of the 2024 general elections by then Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, most of the affected residents continue to face acute hardships, sparking renewed debate on the failure of successive governments to ensure proper rehabilitation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, June 13: The much-anticipated Lower Suktel Irrigation Project in Bolangir district was inaugurated with much fanfare in the run-up to the general elections last year. At the time, large-scale displacement occurred across 29 project-affected villages, with many residents being forced to relocate without adequate resettlement provisions. As a result, numerous families continue to face severe difficulties. A significant number of displaced persons have yet to leave their original villages and remain within the reservoir area in precarious conditions. The community has blamed the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government, which ruled the state for 24 years, for their ordeal. With the BJP-led state regime now



marking its first anniversary, the prevailing dire situation of the displaced has once again come under spotlight.

Those worst affected are landless families living in temporary colonies such as Kusmel. Residents from villages including Banchhorpali, Podhamunda, Koindapali, and Gadshankar's Durguripali lament a complete lack of basic amenities. Despite passage of over a year since their ouster, they have not been allotted homestead land. Families live in tin-sheet houses, enduring scorching summer heat without access to drinking water or educational facilities. Children in these areas have had to drop

out of school. On the other hand, although people were displaced urgently, the dam itself is not yet storing water. Chief construction engineer Surendra Bhoi recently said that water conservation will begin in the 2025-26 fiscal year, with limited irrigation possible on select farmlands. However, with crucial components such as the dam's ancillary structures and pipeline network still incomplete, farmers remain doubtful whether they can irrigate their farmlands in the current kharif season.

At the time of the dam's inauguration, former Bolangir MLA Narasingha Mishra, then Loisingha MLA Dr Mukesh Mahaling, and then MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo had criticised the rushed execution of the project, raising questions about unresolved rehabilitation issues. Interestingly, in a role reversal, sitting BJD MLA Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo has now taken up the cause of the displaced, signalling that their concerns remain politically and socially relevant.

Despite 24 years of BJD reign and one year of BJP rule in state, the fact that many of the displaced still live without land, shelter, water, education, or healthcare remains a matter of ongoing public debate and concern.

2 Naxal commanders arrested in Malkangiri

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, June 13: The Border Security Force (BSF) and Odisha Police have arrested two Maoist commanders Friday following an exchange of fire in the jungles of Malkangiri district, officials said.

Kesa Kawasi (32), an area committee member (ACM) of Kangerghati area, and Rakesh alias Sanu Kunjam (30), ACM of Andhra-Odisha border Maoist military platoon, were apprehended by the security forces from the area near Sodiguda and Tentuliguda villages of the district, they said.

The forces recovered a pistol, 10 electric detonators, a walkie-talkie and a radio, six rounds of bullets, two machetes and some other items from the two Maoists who were apprehended after a brief exchange of fire, the officials said.

Commandant of BSF's 2nd battalion Varunendra Pratap Singh and Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Vinod Patil addressed the press at the district headquarters and informed that the two were caught by the joint forces who were operating in the area based on "credible" intelligence inputs.

Both the Maoists hail from



BSF recovers Maoist dump in Kandhamal

BALIGUDA: Acting on intelligence inputs about a Maoist gathering in the Khamankhol area under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal district, security forces achieved a significant breakthrough during a search operation near Kanibali village. Troops from the 136th Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), based in Khamankhol, launched the operation in the surrounding forest. During the sweep, they recovered a large cache of Maoist materials, dealing a major blow to the Left wing extremists. The recovered items include eight detonators, nine gelatin roll packets, two batteries, 10 metres of electric wire, one power bank, ration supplies, and kitchen utensils. These materials were likely intended for use in subversive activities. The seized items have been handed over to Baliguda police for further investigation. According to reliable sources, the BSF has continued combing operations in the region to ensure no further Maoist presence. The discovery is seen as a significant success in ongoing counter-insurgency efforts in Maoist-affected areas of Odisha.



Chhattisgarh with Kawasi belonging to Bastar district and Rakesh from Bijapur district, they said.

The two Naxalite commanders were involved in multiple cases of attacks, improvised explosive device (IED) blasts against security forces in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Ch-

hhattisgarh and have multiple FIRs registered against them, officials said.

Security forces have stepped up their action against Left Wing Extremists in various states following the Union government's declaration of ending the Naxal menace by March, 2026.

Tuition teacher jailed over minor college girl's suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, June 13: A tuition teacher has been sent to jail in connection with the suicide of a minor girl studying Plus II first year at a junior college under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district.

The accused, S Sanatan Reddy, was arrested Friday by Sub-Inspector Sofia Mishra of Digapahandi police station and produced in the Berhampur POCSO court. As his plea for bail was denied, Reddy was remanded to Berhampur jail. Reports said both Sanatan Reddy and another tutor, S Krishna Reddy, had expressed romantic interest in the girl. When she rejected their advances, they allegedly blackmailed her by threatening to leak her photos, mobile call records and messages on social media.

Distressed by the threats and concerned about her family's reputation, the girl consumed pesticide around June 8 evening. Though her family rushed her to the Digapahandi Com-



munity Health Centre and later shifted her to Berhampur hospital, she died during treatment around June 9 early morning. Her final rites were conducted at the village crematorium.

The girl's brother confronted Sanatan June 10, who allegedly confessed to having a relationship with her under the false promise of marriage. A formal complaint was filed at Digapahandi police station, following which a case (209/25) was registered.

Investigators have seized the girl's diary, notebooks, mobile phone, photos, call logs and messages. The second accused, Krishna Reddy, is reportedly absconding.

Internet services restored in Bhadrak after 36 hours

Collector appeals for peace and caution against misinformation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, June 13: Internet services, which had been suspended in parts of Bhadrak district since 6am Thursday, were restored after 36 hours at 6pm, Friday. The shutdown affected Bhadrak, Tihidi and Dhamnagar blocks, and areas under the Bhadrak Municipality and the Dhamnagar Notified Area Council (NAC).

At a press briefing held Friday evening at the conference hall in the district collectorate, District Magistrate-cum-Collector Dilip Routrai appealed to residents to maintain peace and avoid spreading or believing in misinformation. He reiterated that Bhadrak is known for its communal harmony, where people from all communities celebrate festivals like Ram Navami, Bakrid and Ganesh Puja together.

He acknowledged the incon-

venience caused by the internet shutdown but said the decision proved effective in maintaining law and order. Routrai expressed gratitude to the public and the media for their cooperation during the temporary suspension.

Attending the briefing were key officials, including District Council Chief Development Officer Shubhendra Samal, Deputy Collector Kartik Nath Mandal, and Sub-Collector Saurabh Chakraborty.

The suspension of internet services followed heightened tension after the death of Santosh Parida, 40, of Kasoti village under Kubera panchayat in Tihidi police limits. Parida had been critically injured in an alleged attack by cattle traders May 30 and was undergoing treatment in the ICU of a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, where he passed away Wednesday.

In light of the public unrest

following his death, the administration had imposed the internet shutdown as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of misinformation and maintain peace, said Eastern Range Director General of Police Satyajit Nayak.

The DIG said that altogether 12 people, including the prime accused in the Parida's death, have been arrested, and urged the citizens to maintain peace and not to believe in social media posts.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi directed the officials to ensure that all the accused persons were arrested.

He had announced a compensation package for the next of kin of the family of the deceased.

The compensation package includes ₹10 lakh in cash, a job for one of his family members and financial cover for his children's studies.

Subarnapur's 'Wizard of Clay' readies next generation of terracotta artisans



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, June 13: Mukunda Rana, 60, a terracotta artist from Kuhlbal village in Binika block of Subarnapur district, has earned national recognition for his lifelong dedication to the ancient clay craft. Popularly known as the 'Wizard of Clay', Rana has trained thousands of artisans across Odisha and beyond, significantly contributing to the revival and growth of the craft.

Belonging to a traditional potter family, Rana's journey began early, inspired by his father Brusabha Rana. He embraced clay modelling during his childhood and later moulded his own identity by mastering intricate terracotta sculptures. Though formal education eluded him beyond Class VIII due to poverty, his passion for the craft never wavered.

Rana first gained local acclaim

by creating Ganesh and Saraswati idols for his school. Encouraged by teachers and peers, he gradually transitioned to fine terracotta artistry.

At age 20, he connected with his maternal uncle Manabodh Rana in Barpali of Bargarh district, who himself is a national awardee in terracotta work in 1985. Under his guidance, Mukunda refined his skills.

For over 35 years, Rana has participated in national-level exhibitions in Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Kerala, Bilsapur, Raipur, Bhillai, and Nainital. His detailed, lifelike sculptures have earned him admiration and accolades, including a state award in 2009 and a national award in 2017 for excellence in clay art and his role in craft development.

His creations, ranging from traditional deities to elephants, horses, chariots, and Hanuman

from 'Lanka Podi' lore, adorn museums, government offices, hotels, airports and gardens across the country. His works are especially in demand in larger metro cities due to their aesthetic appeal and craftsmanship.

Through training programmes supported by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Cottage Industries, Rana has conducted skill development workshops in rural Odisha under the 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' model. He has mentored hundreds of youths, especially from economically weaker sections, empowering many to earn a livelihood through clay art.

At home, terracotta has become a family legacy. His son Debananda is a certified terracotta designer, and his wife and daughter-in-law, Gelhei and Deepanjali respectively, assist in production. They specialise in crafting Ganesh, Saraswati, boats, elephants, horses, rope tiles, and Durga idols.

Rana has also helped uplift his community by teaching the craft to villagers. Training programmes at Kumharpada in Subarnapur town have enabled young women and men, including non-potters, to become self-reliant through clay artistry.

Rana believes that while demand for terracotta is higher in states like Gujarat and Maharashtra, where better market linkages exist, artisans from Odisha can achieve more if similar opportunities and support systems are created within the state.

4 killed in elephant attacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 13: Four people, including a couple, were killed in separate elephant attacks in Keonjhar district and forest division Friday, officials said.

The victims were identified as Ranjit Munda, 69, of Badhuhidhara under the Janghira range, and Rina Munda, 40, and Santosh Munda, 45, of Kendudihi village under the Barbil range. The fourth victim, a youth killed near Kali-mata village in the Champua range, has not been identified.

According to forest officials, Rina and Santosh were collecting firewood when elephants attacked them. Rina died on the spot; Santosh later succumbed to injuries. Enraged villagers reportedly assaulted a forest official and refused to release the deceased's body until compensation was assured.

In Janghira, Ranjit Munda died while trying to drive away a herd near Budhakhman village. In Champua, a youth was trampled to death around 6:25pm near a government weighing bridge.

Tension prevailed as locals blocked roads and demanded compensation. Police rescued detained forest personnel. Barbil SDPO Debendra Kumar Pingua said officials were safe.

Forest officers were yet to reach the Champua site at the time of reporting. The frequent elephant incursions and resulting deaths in Barbil have triggered widespread resentment in the region.

Stone pelted at Ispat Express

ROURKELA: Unknown miscreants pelted a stone at the Ispat Express in the early hours of Thursday, around 2am, while the train was en route from Rourkela to Raigangpur. The express train, which travels approximately 778 km from Howrah Junction to Kantabanji, was reportedly targeted near Rourkela.

According to the train's travelling ticket examiner (TTE), miscreants hurled stones at Coach No. C-2 and shattered its outer glass window. Fortunately, no passengers were injured in the incident. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched an investigation and is tightening security measures in response to the act of vandalism.



Child drowns in open water storage

DIGAPAHANDI: A 7-year-old boy drowned Friday morning after accidentally falling into an open water storage near a poultry farm in Ganjam district. The deceased has been identified as Chandan, elder son of Ranjan Bishoyi from Bardanda Sahi in Singpur village under Sanakhemundi block. Around 10:30am, Ranjan had taken his son to his poultry farm near Rajanapalli village under T Gobindapur panchayat. While Ranjan was working inside the farm, Chandan was playing near the water pit on the premises. Accidentally, the child slipped and fell into the pit. Ranjan quickly rescued his son and rushed him to Digapahandi Community Health Centre in an unconscious state. However, the attending doctor declared Chandan dead upon arrival. Police registered an unnatural death case (12/25) and sent the body to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for post-mortem. After the autopsy, the body was handed over to the family. The child was laid to rest in the village cremation ground.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/29, Dt. 10.06.2025	
(1) Tender No. eTender-NorthKUR-109-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025	
DESCRIPTION & ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (8 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSO STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN MANJURI ROAD-NEW GARHMADHUPUR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 115.14 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,07,600/-	
(2) Tender No. eTender-EastKUR-108-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025	
DESCRIPTION & ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (4 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSO STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN KENDRAPARA ROAD-SUBARNAPUR NEW & CUTTACK - PARADEEP SECTIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 51.14 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 1,02,300/-	
(3) Tender No. eTender-CentKUR-111-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025	
DESCRIPTION & ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (8 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSO STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN SECTION NERGUNDI, TALCHER, RAJATHGARH-BARANG, KAPILAS ROAD-SALEGAON & TALCHER-SAMBALPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 85.94 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 1,71,900/-	
Completion Period: 180 Days (for all SI. Nos.)	
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 26.06.2025 (for all the Tenders).	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer / bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-233/Q/25-26 Khurda Road	

PREMISES REQUIRED IN ROURKELA - ODISHA

SBI Funds Management Limited (A Joint Venture between SBI & Amundi), the Asset Management Company for SBI Mutual Fund invites offers from owners / PSUs / PSU Banks / Reputed parties for furnished / unfurnished office premises preferably on Ground Floor with parking facility at **Uditnagar / Bisra Road / Panposh Road, Rourkela, measuring around 800-1000 sq. ft. carpet area.**

The premises should be available for possession immediately or within three months from the date of acceptance of the offer. Brokers please excuse. Interested parties are requested to download the details from our website www.sbfm.com available under 'Downloads - Tenders' and submit offers having premises in those areas only. The last date of receipt / submit of offer in the prescribed formats is **June 27, 2025 at 4.00 P.M.**

The Company reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reasons thereof.

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FOCUS **MULTILATERALISM**

COALITIONS OF THE WILLING



The world's approach to tackling shared challenges - from climate change to public health and sustainable development - has plainly failed

means. This will require, for starters, fundamental reform of the IMF and the World Bank. Both institutions need to adopt a more countercyclical approach to lending. Moreover, they must stop linking loans to oppressive conditionalities that favor the interests of global capital over the well-being of people and the planet. In general, multilateral banks must increase their lending significantly to meet social, developmental, and climate needs, which in turn requires robust, reliable funding.

But there is a major barrier to such changes: important decisions at the IMF and the World Bank require an 85% voting majority, and with a 16% share of those votes, the US effectively wields a veto. Without major governance reforms, these institutions will remain hamstrung, countries will increasingly find ways to bypass them, and they will fade into irrelevance.

Meanwhile, international financial regulations should be strengthened, including by pursuing greater coordination of national laws - possibly on a regional basis at first. Private finance, which has enjoyed decades of lax regulation and positive incentives, should be required to align its behavior with social and planetary goals - or face punishment.

These proposals are hardly radical; such measures have been implemented in past phases of global capitalism, and they are manifestly in the interest of all countries. Nonetheless, in the current geopolitical landscape, they may appear unrealistic. That is why "coalitions of the willing" must take the lead in setting ambitious goals - and doing what it takes to achieve them. The upcoming Conference on Financing for Development is a good place to start.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

It is easy to be pessimistic about multilateralism nowadays. Recent international gatherings - including the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, and multiple COPs - have yielded only unfulfilled promises. At a time when US President Donald Trump is abandoning America's international commitments, rejecting multilateral initiatives, and sowing chaos and confusion in global trade, can the Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) at the end of this month go any better?

To be sure, the US may well act as a spoiler in Seville, or simply disregard any agreements that are made. But that does not mean that the summit will be a bust. After all, America's withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate agreement during Trump's first presidency - mere months after the deal entered into force - did not lead to its demise. While action has been limited, almost everyone recognizes that without the agreement, climate change would likely occur even faster.

Moreover, in April, the US withdrew from negotiations on decarbonizing shipping at the UN's International Maritime Organization, warning that it would consider "reciprocal measures" if any new fees were charged to US ships for their fuel use. Yet the IMO succeeded in getting 108 countries - accounting for 97% of the world's merchant shipping fleet by tonnage - to approve a new mandatory fuel standard for vessels and a global emissions-pricing mechanism, with the revenues supporting, among other things, infrastructure development in developing economies.

It is clearly possible for the world to make progress on shared challenges without the US. The lack of US involvement in the FFD4 might even prove advantageous, given its record of extracting compromises that favor its own multinational

companies, and then refusing to sign or enforce deals anyway. The negotiations for the OECD Global Tax Deal, finalized in 2021, are a case in point.

But success will require other countries to fill the global leadership gap and demonstrate a credible commitment to multilateral cooperation that is essential to our survival. Fortunately, the first draft of FFD4's outcome document recognizes this imperative and advances many useful and practical policy proposals, including several from the final report of the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development (of which I was a member).

A key focus of the document is enabling greater domestic resource mobilization. An outdated international tax system and inadequate checks on illicit financial flows are a severe constraint on low- and middle-income countries' budgets. Reforms in these areas would go a long way toward reducing income and asset inequalities and increasing tax revenues - vital to finance investment in healthcare, education, and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

More broadly, participants at the Seville summit must seek to address the lack of a global financial safety net. A first step could be to initiate

regular allocations of the IMF's reserve asset, special drawing rights. To enhance the intervention's impact, the SDRs could be distributed according to need - a departure from the current approach, which allocates SDRs in proportion to IMF quotas, meaning that the largest shares go to the countries least in need. The IMF could also introduce SDR swaps to meet the immediate liquidity needs of economies that do not benefit from the US Federal Reserve's central-bank liquidity swaps.

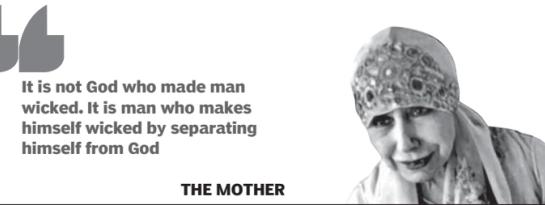
But this is only the beginning. The world's approach to tackling shared challenges - from climate change to public health and sustainable development - has plainly failed. International pledges and agreements have fallen far short, in terms of both scale and quality. The "billions to trillions" vision - which sought to leverage public subsidies to unlock private finance for climate action - has not been realized. The suggestion that donors will close the development-financing gap through sheer goodwill is as unrealistic as it is patronizing.

It is time to embrace an entirely new model of "global public investment," with all countries contributing to the provision of shared public goods according to their



Jayati Ghosh

IT IS CLEARLY POSSIBLE FOR THE WORLD TO MAKE PROGRESS ON SHARED CHALLENGES WITHOUT THE US



THE MOTHER

It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by separating himself from God

Graft in ED

When a senior Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer gets caught in a graft case, eyebrows go up. But when insiders start whispering about deeper rot, it's time to take notice.

The ED, which handles the heavy-lifting on money laundering investigations under the PMLA, has had its share of limelight in recent years. But lately, that spotlight has begun to flicker. Not because it's overworked or under-resourced, but because of who is steering it, and whether they know how to drive.

Traditionally, the ED's top echelons were manned by seasoned IPS officers trained to deal with criminal statutes, investigative pressure, and courtroom scrutiny. But post-2016, a quiet but impactful shift happened. Revenue and finance services officers - often with little exposure to criminal law - began occupying senior posts. Think bean counters suddenly being handed handcuffs.

This isn't a turf war narrative. It's about competence. And consequences. A former IPS officer (who's seen it from the inside) bluntly says the problem isn't power - it's the lack of training. Criminal provisions under PMLA aren't just legal tools; they're legal landmines. Mishandle them, and it's not just the case that blows up - the system does too.

The fix clearly is mandatory rigorous training for all ED appointees, regardless of their parent cadre. Because in a department where power comes easy, the ability to wield it responsibly must come first.

Planes, trains & prime ministers

Only in India can a steam engine enthusiast end up curating the country's highest-octane political museum - and somehow, it makes perfect sense. Ashwani Lohani's appointment as Director of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library isn't just a career twist; it represents a full circle.

This is the man who introduced glamour (and a touch of grease) to the National Rail Museum, then went on to lead Air India, where he was expected to perform miracles on a shoestring and a prayer. He chaired the Railway Board, too, juggling budgets, bottlenecks, and boardroom blues with that uniquely Indian blend of optimism and jugaad.

Now, Lohani finds himself back on familiar tracks, though the engines at Teen Murti run on ideology, not diesel. The museum, which seeks to house the legacies of all of India's Prime Ministers under one roof without spontaneous combustion, could benefit from a steady hand. Lohani's been appointed for a three-year term, though if past precedent is anything to go by, he might just become the next long-term exhibit.

It's a clever appointment. The museum, which was established not without controversy - remember the murmurs about it being a "power play against Nehruvian memory"? - now gains a director who's neither a political insider nor a legacy warrior. Lohani possesses that rare trait: institutional nostalgia coupled with management prowess.

If he can keep Air India from nosediving (well, almost) and coax a smile from a steam locomotive, he might just manage the trickiest task yet: presenting India's political history without sparking a coalition crisis in the galleries.

Let's hope the souvenir shop sells irony by the pound.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

A breath of fresh air or just another paper tiger?

Gujarat's government has decided to put its meetings on a diet: no more than one hour, and preferably virtual if you're dialing in from outside Gandhinagar. It's part of a new set of guidelines issued by the General Administration Department, following recommendations from the Gujarat Administrative Reforms Commission (GARC). The aim is to make meetings more efficient and less time-consuming.

On paper, it sounds like a dream come true for anyone who's ever sat through a three-hour meeting that could've been an email. The guidelines are clear: schedule meetings at least three days in advance, share the agenda beforehand, start on time, and wrap up within an hour. District-level officers are expected to join virtually unless there's a compelling reason to be physically present.

But here's the thing: while the intentions are commendable, the success of such reforms hinges on execution. Will departments adhere to these guidelines, or will they become just another set of rules that look good on paper but are ignored in practice? Babu inertia is a formidable force, and without a robust mechanism to enforce these changes, we might find ourselves back to square one.

Moreover, while the focus on efficiency is laudable, it's essential to ensure that the quality of discussions doesn't suffer. Some issues are complex and require in-depth deliberation. A rigid one-hour cap might lead to rushed decisions or superficial discussions.

In the end, the effectiveness of this reform will depend on the commitment of all stakeholders to genuinely embrace the change. If implemented earnestly, it could set a precedent for other states to follow. If not, it risks becoming just another well-intentioned initiative that failed to make a real impact.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought

PEACE PILGRIM

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up

THOMAS A. EDISON

We are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future

ROBIN S. SHARMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1800:** Napoleon and his troops defeated the Austrians in the Battle of Marengo, securing his military and civilian authority in Paris.
- 1811:** American author Harriet Beecher Stowe - whose novel Uncle Tom's Cabin fueled antislavery sentiment and was cited among the causes of the Civil War - was born in Litchfield, Connecticut.
- 1928:** Che Guevara - a theoretician and tactician of guerrilla warfare, a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution (1956-59), and a guerrilla leader in South America - was born.
- 1940:** German forces entered Paris, beginning a four-year occupation of the French city.
- 1940:** First prisoners at Auschwitz. On this day, the first transport of Polish political prisoners arrived at Auschwitz, which became Nazi Germany's largest concentration, extermination, and slave-labour camp, where more than one million people died.
- 1963:** The manned Soviet spacecraft Vostok 5 was launched, and two days later Vostok 6 was sent into orbit carrying cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova, the first woman to travel in space.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

New Delhi must re-engage with Europe

The rivalry with Pakistan leading to a limited 88-hour war has deflected India's attention on the war in Ukraine. However, the tell-tale experience of the war should nudge India to re-engage with Russia-Ukrainian war. It is so critical as the war with Pakistan has revealed the crux in India-European ties, so-called India-American growing friendship, India-Russia historical relations and India-China continued antagonism. One could surmise that India's position and role (or lack of it) had a visible bearing on India-Pakistan war.

The war in Ukraine is rapidly descending into a catastrophe for Europe and by implication, most of the world. The battle is now full-blown with no holds barred. Russia is hurling swarms of drones and missiles at Ukraine. This ceasefire has not happened despite Donald Trump's tall claim that he was to bring it about in days after assuming the office for the second term. In fact, he was trying to seduce a tiger which had tasted blood with sweet talks. Vladimir Putin sized up Trump and realised that the

latter had no gall to militarily back Ukraine. So, conversely, Putin intensified the war aiming at a total victory. He perhaps thinks that Europe is no match for his military power or nuclear deterrence. Apparently, Ukraine is hitting back with calculated military plans like Operation Spiderweb. But the obvious reality on the ground is that Russia is inching forward and nibbling away territories and towns of Ukraine. Europe is not able to resist despite its full backing to Ukraine. NATO spending has increased. Germany has unblocked funds for military expenditure. European countries, mainly border states like Sweden, Norway and Poland are undertaking massive preparations to face the expansion of war into their respective territories. The situation became worse for Europe after Trump returned to the White House. He told off Europe and asked them to prepare and pay for their own defence.

Where does India stand on Ukrainian war? It has been neutral since it started. New Delhi harped on diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the problem. This stance amount-

ed to tacitly supporting Russia which is the invader and has been increasingly occupying Ukrainian land. New Delhi stuck to its policy of strategic autonomy and Vishwabandhu (friend of the world). However, India's war with Pakistan has exposed the limitations of these approaches. If dialogue and diplomacy are the way to go, why is New Delhi not open to dialogue with Pakistan? Prime Minister Modi has maintained that there can be no dialogue with Pakistan until terrorists are publicly disowned. Apply the same approach to Ukraine. How can Ukraine hold dialogue with a country that is occupying its territory?

It is now obvious that Putin did not invade Ukraine to prevent it from joining NATO. From the course of the war, it is not hard to realise that Putin wants complete subjugation of Ukraine. Will India still be sympathetic to Russia's position and witness the forceful takeover of Ukraine?

The fallout of India's neutrality, strategic autonomy or multi-alignment could be seen in India-Pakistan war. No European country openly came in

support of India. The game is not over in Ukraine, nor in Asia Pacific, where India is facing an adversarial China-Pakistan axis. It is time India re-focused on Ukraine, did the course-correction and revived partnership with Europe.

As India and Europe go for the re-set of their bilateralism, let us deal with the elephant in the room that is Russia. Is Russia protecting India's interest against China? Moscow and Beijing have a strong 'eternal bond'. China is poking India off and on and now with its proxy state Pakistan. Russia has not deterred China against India. So is it not wise for India to negotiate with Europe and America who could ally support India to take on China?

It is time for India to seriously rethink its strategy vis-à-vis Ukraine. It may not take sides, but could pull all stops to stop the war. Trump is failing, which does not mean no one else can succeed. New Delhi can no longer remain aloof from Ukrainian war.

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



DK Giri

IT IS TIME INDIA RE-FOCUSED ON UKRAINE, DID THE COURSE-CORRECTION AND REVIVED PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE

Unsafe commuting

Sir, The accident that took place in Thane district, Maharashtra when passengers fell off two overcrowded running local trains, resulting in four dead and several others injured, raises a serious question over the safety standards in Mumbai's suburban railway system, well known as the "lifeline" of the city. Reportedly, several passengers, clinging to the footboards due to lack of space inside, were seen brushing against each other as the trains passed closely. With over 80-lakh daily commuters, Mumbai's suburban train system is arguably the busiest in the world. Yet, overcrowding, outdated infrastructure, and lack of real-time monitoring make it a frequent site of accidents. Railway experts point out that lack of platform screen doors, dedicated city rail governance, and insufficient rolling stock are core issues behind such recurring tragedies. The incident serves as a grim reminder of the urgent need to modernize Mumbai's railway system - not technologically alone, but structurally and administratively also.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Development paradigm

Sir, The sharp decline in extreme poverty in India - from 27.1% in 2011-12 to 5.3% by 2022-23 - is a milestone worth recognising. It signals not just economic progress, but the cumulative impact of targeted welfare programmes, digital financial inclusion, infrastructure growth, and expanding employment in technology and services. Millions have moved out of deprivation, and with it, the nation has redefined its development trajectory. But behind this achievement lies a deeper question: Can India sustain and deepen this progress in the face of rising inequality, job informality, and global volatility? Despite the gains, many Indians remain excluded from stable, formal employment. The informal sector still dominates, offering little in terms of wage security, legal protections, or social benefits. Inflationary pressures and rising living costs erode real incomes, while skill gaps leave many unprepared for the future economy. Moreover, climate change poses a mounting threat - especially for rural households dependent on agriculture, where extreme weather events are routine. To move forward, India must embrace a new development paradigm - one that links poverty reduction with structural transformation. This means investing heavily in skill development aligned with emerging sectors like artificial intelligence, green energy, and high-tech manufacturing.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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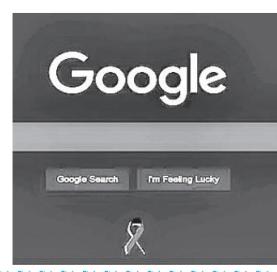


Use of e-governance tools, transparent administrative frameworks, and patient-focused innovations such as Jan Aushadhi Kendras, digital registration systems and dedicated helpdesks demonstrate that efficiency and compassion can coexist in public healthcare settings

J.P. NADRA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

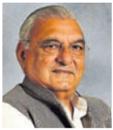
GOOGLE HOMEPAGE SPORTS 'BLACK RIBBON'

Internet giant Google mourned the loss of lives in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad with an image of a black ribbon pinned prominently on the homepage of its search engine. The icon has been placed just below the search bar



of the day quote

The foundation stone of Indian National Defense University was laid in Gurgaon, 2,623 new schools were built, one new Sainik School in Rewari and six new Kendriya Vidyalayas were built. More than 1 lakh jobs were given in the education department



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA
HARYANA FORMER CM

After three-and-a-half years of the takeover of Air India by the Tatas, the management needs to fine-tune various aspects of running a world-class airline, including maintenance



PRAFUL PATEL | FORMER CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

India's energy strategy is shaped by successfully navigating the trilemma of energy availability, affordability and sustainability



HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Fire in east Delhi house due to gas cylinder leak

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a house in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar area Thursday afternoon due to a suspected gas cylinder leak, an official said. No casualties were reported in the incident but a portion of the house was reduced to ashes. A call reporting a fire in a house in Patparganj village was received around 2 pm, he said. "Four fire tenders were immediately rushed to the spot. Our teams managed to douse the flames and prevented the fire from spreading to adjoining structures," DFS official Yogendra Singh said.

Three dead as wall collapses on tin shed

Gwalior: Three persons were killed and an equal number injured after the wall of a house collapsed over a tin shed amid heavy rains and winds in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city Friday, a police official said. The incident took place in Transport Nagar at around 4:30pm, said Bahadrapur police station sub inspector Ramchandra Sharma.

Maharashtra reports 102 COVID-19 cases

Mumbai: Maharashtra Friday reported 102 COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally since January 1 this year to 1914, a health department official said. The cases include 31 from Pune, 27 from Mumbai, 11 from Thane, seven from Amravati, six from Nagpur and five each from Sangli, Satara, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. The number of COVID tests carried out in the state since January 1 stood at 20,468, the health department said. Four deaths have been reported since Thursday, taking the toll this year to 25, including 24 with comorbidities.

K'taka seeks bigger share of central taxes

New Delhi: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday met 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya, demanding a larger allocation for the state from the central tax pool and ₹1.15 lakh crore investment to strengthen Bengaluru's infrastructure for the five-year period beginning April 1, 2026. In the meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, Siddaramaiah flagged that there has been a "stark imbalance in fiscal returns" despite Karnataka contributing nearly 8.7 per cent of the national GDP with just 5 per cent of the population and ranking second in the country in GST collections.

IRAN-ISRAEL SITUATION

Deeply concerned: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: As Israel conducted strikes at Iran's nuclear, missile and military complex, mounting tension in West Asia, India Friday said it is "deeply concerned" over the recent developments between the countries and is "closely monitoring" the evolving situation, even as New Delhi urged both nations to avoid any escalatory steps.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also said that all Indian nationals in the region are advised to exercise caution, stay safe and follow local security advisories.

The MEA issued the statement as tensions between Iran and Israel escalated following the strikes.

Israel Friday launched Operation Rising Lion to strike at Iran's nuclear, missile and military complex, which left key military commanders and nuclear scientists dead.

The Israeli Army also released a video from one of the strikes which has been reported in media. According to in-



ternational reports, Israel has carried out strikes at various places in Iran. "We are deeply concerned at the recent developments between Iran and Israel. We are closely monitoring the evolving situation, including reports related to attacks on nuclear sites," the MEA said in the statement.

As the situation in West Asia escalated, India urged "both sides to avoid any escalatory steps".

The MEA said, "existing channels of dialogue and diplomacy should be utilised to work towards a de-escalation of the situation and resolving

underlying issues". India asserted that it enjoys "close and friendly relations" with both the countries and "stands ready to extend all possible support".

"Our Missions in both countries are in contact with the Indian community. All Indian nationals in the region are advised to exercise caution, stay safe and follow local security advisories," the statement said.

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that the strikes "improve the freedom of action in the air" for the Israeli Air Force.

Earlier Prime Minister Ben-

Netanyahu speaks to Modi

Jerusalem: In a diplomatic push to garner international support for Israel's attacks against Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, among many other world leaders, his office said Friday. Beginning last night, Netanyahu has held conversations with world leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Indian Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, the Prime Minister's Office said in a brief statement. He is due to speak with US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, it added.

Netanyahu said Israel struck at the heart of Iran's nuclear enrichment programme.

Reacting to Israel's strikes, the Iranian armed forces general staff in a statement said, there were "no limits" in their response.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that Israel will face "severe punishment" for the attacks.

The Indian embassies in Israel and Iran issued advisories on its X handles in view of the situation.

India, China to 'expedite' restarting direct flights



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 13: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held talks with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong during which the two sides reviewed the developments in India-China bilateral relations and agreed to continue to "stabilise and rebuild ties" with priority on people-centric engagements, the MEA said Friday.

The meeting took place Thursday and the two sides also agreed to expedite steps involved in resuming direct air services between the two countries.

Misri had held talks with Sun earlier January 27 in Beijing. Sun is on a visit to India from June 12-13, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

During the meeting Thursday, "the two sides reviewed the developments in India-China bilateral relations since their last meeting in Beijing on January 27, 2025 and agreed to continue to stabilise and rebuild ties with priority on people-centric engagements", the MEA said.

The foreign secretary appreciated the Chinese side's cooperation for the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra this year.

He noted the discussion in the April meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism for cooperation in trans-border rivers for resumption of provision of hydrological data and other cooperation, and hoped for progress on them, the MEA said. "The two sides agreed to expedite steps involved in resuming direct air services between the two countries. Foreign Secretary hoped for the early conclusion of an updated Air Services Agreement," it said.

The meeting took place Thursday and the two sides also agreed to expedite steps involved in resuming direct air services between the two countries

India and China further agreed to take "practical steps" for visa facilitation and exchanges between media and think-tanks.

"The two sides positively assessed the activities planned under the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China and agreed to facilitate the same," the statement added.

India and China are intense rivals competing for influence across South Asia.

At least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in the 2020 skirmish in a remote stretch along their 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) high-altitude frontier.

India then moved closer to the United States-led Quad alliance — which also includes Japan and Australia — which seeks to counter China's growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region. New Delhi also clamped down on Chinese companies, preventing them from investing in critical economic sectors, along with a ban on hundreds of Chinese gaming and e-commerce apps, including TikTok.

Later this month, China is expected to allow Indian pilgrims to trek to Mount Kailash in Tibet, a site holy to Hindus and Buddhists.

Indians have not been allowed to take part in the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage since it was also stopped in 2020.

SC rejects plea against security cover to Ambanis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: The Supreme Court Friday pulled up a litigant for filing repeated pleas and rejected his petition seeking revocation of the 'Z' plus security cover provided to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family members, saying arm-twisting of the court's process cannot be allowed.

A partial working day bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan, which warned petitioner Bikash Saha for filing "frivolous" and "vexatious" pleas one after the other on the issue, said the court will be constrained to impose cost on him if he indulges in filing such petitions in future. Saha moved an application in a disposed of petition seeking clarification of a February 2023 order rejecting his plea for revoking the security cover of the Reliance Industries chairman and his family members on the ground that he had no locus standi in the matter.

Justice Manomhan told Saha's counsel, "No arm twisting of the court's process can be allowed. Don't do this. This is a very serious issue and we are warning you. Don't think there is a goldmine to be snatched over here and we are here to facilitate your process. This is something sacrosanct, whether it's a political person or a businessman, the state will take whatever precaution it has to take."



Rural women wait to plant paddy at Kalang village in Laghati, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

16 get life sentence in BJP leader's murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, June 13: A fast track court here sentenced 16 men to life imprisonment for the murder of a local BJP leader in an altercation three years ago, a counsel said Friday.

Advocate Prem Prakash Gautam said the court Thursday convicted them of murder, conspiracy, and rioting.

"A fast track court of Justice Kuldeep Singh on Friday awarded life imprisonment to

all 16 accused after convicting them in the case," Gautam said.

The incident took place on the night of October 12, 2022, after BJP leader Pashupati Nath Singh protested against open drinking at a country liquor shop near his house, and advised the youths to refrain.

"The argument escalated so much that within a short time, 30 to 40 people attacked Pashupati Singh with sticks, rods and iron rods," the lawyer said.

"The attackers also brutally

attacked his son, Rajan Singh, who came to save him after hearing the noise. The seriously injured father and son were taken to the hospital, where doctors declared Pashupati Singh dead," he said. Rajan Singh, who was treated for injuries for several months at the hospital, pursued justice for his father.

Police had originally booked 18 people in the case, of which 16 were arrested. The trial for the remaining two accused still goes on, Gautam added.

How lone survivor of AI crash cheated death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 13: Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, a 40-year-old British businessman from Leicester and the sole survivor of the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad, says his astonishing escape was a combination of fortune and quick decision in identifying a crucial space amidst the wreckage and acting fast.

Talking to DD News a day after the air disaster, Ramesh, originally a native of coastal town of Diu adjoining Gujarat, said his seat, 11A, was close to an emergency door on the left side of the ill-fated plane, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

"Luckily, the portion of the plane where I was seated fell on the ground floor of the hostel premises after the plane crash landed. When I saw that the door of the plane was broken, I told myself I can try and get out". Eventually, I got out of the plane" Ramesh, a British citizen, maintained.

He is currently being treat-

SEAT 11A MYSTERY



ed at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi met him in the morning during his visit to the city.

"I believe that others could not escape because there was a wall on that side (of the hostel) while there was a small gap where I was sitting. I still can't believe how I survived the crash because I saw people dying in front of my eyes," he said.

A resident of Leicester, a city approximately 140 km

north-northwest of London, Ramesh escaped with injuries for which he is undergoing treatment. "Though I managed to escape, my left hand got burnt as the plane caught fire after the crash. I walked out of the aircraft and then an ambulance brought me to hospital. I am getting proper treatment here," he said.

In a viral video shot by a local resident immediately after the crash, Ramesh can be seen walking towards the ambu-

lance after getting hurt in the crash.

"It all happened in front of my eyes. I cannot believe how I survived... For a brief moment, I felt I was about to die but when my eyes opened, I was alive. I unbuckled myself from the seat and exited from an opening," he recalled.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI 171), with 242 people on board, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, crashed into a medical college complex in Meghanagar moments after taking off.

Ramesh survived the tragedy, while 241 others on board, including 169 Indians, 52 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian, perished in the crash. Police have confirmed that at least 265 people, including those on the ground, were killed in the tragedy.

Four MBBS students and a doctor's wife were among those killed at the complex of BJ Medical College located outside the airport perimeter.

OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI

Phone - 06752 222122, e-mail-purim.hud@nic.in Dt. 11.06.2025

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-521 : Sealed quotations are invited from the intending persons/agencies for auction of the temporary **Parking Place & Collection of Sanitation Fee from Grand Road (list enclosed)** of Puri Municipality during Car Festival 2025. The intending persons/agencies shall visit the website: **www.purimunicipality.nic.in & https://puri.odisha.gov.in** and download the auction papers along with the terms and conditions which will be available on the above website from **12.06.2025 to 18.06.2025 up to 5 P.M.** The quotation must reach the office of the undersigned by registered post/speed post on or before **18.06.2025 by 5 P.M.** and will be opened on **19.06.2025 at 10 A.M.** in presence of the Executive Officer & quotationers or their authorized representatives. Puri Municipality authority will in no way be responsible for delay in reaching the quotations.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Puri Municipality, Puri

OIPR-13159/11/0057/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Office of the Superintending Engineer, PARALAKHEMUNDI (R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI

Tel. Ph. No. : 06815-222542, E-mail : I.D : eerparala@yahoo.com

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. S.E., PKD. R&B DIVN.-01/2025-26
No.3190 Date. 11.06.2025

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Superintending Engineer, Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites Percentage rate bid in Single system to be received in on **ONLINE MODE** only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below.
- Nature of works : Electrical Works
- No. of works : 01 (One) no. of works
- Estimated cost (Approximately) : Rs.13.40 Lakhs
- Bid cost : Rs.6,000/-
- Class of contractor : "HT" class
- Availability of Bid Documents in the website : 10.00 Hrs of Dt.18.06.2025 To 15.00 Hrs. of Dt.30.06.2025
- Date of opening of the Bid : 12.00 Hrs. of Dt.01.07.2025
- The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division

OIPR-34065/11/0014/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE
JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

Registered Office : 601 & 602, Peninsula Business Park, 6th Floor, Tower A, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.



The below mentioned Borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in the facilities availed by them from DCB Bank Ltd. against Jewellery pledged with DCB Bank Ltd. (DCB Bank). We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account(s) / change the auction date(s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through https://egold.auctionfiger.net on 21.06.2025 from 12:00 Noon to 03:00 P.M.

Table with multiple columns containing customer details: Sr. No., Customer ID / No., Customer Name, and a corresponding list of items for auction. The table is organized into several vertical sections, each with its own set of columns and rows.



It will not be long before the enemy nations themselves experience just how provoking and unpleasant it is to sit back and watch as our warships freely move near the edges of their sovereign waters

KIM JONG UN | LEADER, NORTH KOREA

MONGOLIA GETS NEW PM

The new prime minister of Mongolia has pledged to address the economic demands of protesters after their daily rallies led to the fall of his predecessor. Lawmakers approved former parliament speaker Zandanshatar Gombojav as prime minister by an overwhelming majority in a vote late Thursday night



Israel's attack on Iran was years in making

After years of waiting, Israel's Netanyahu finally makes his move on Iran

Tel Aviv, June 13: Israel's massive strike on Iran Friday morning came after decades of mutual hostility and a long-running shadow war of covert strikes and sabotage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long identified Iran as its greatest threat, citing the country's nuclear programme, its hostile rhetoric and support for anti-Israel militant groups across the region. Iran has championed the Palestinian cause and portrayed Israel as a malicious Western encroachment on the Middle East.

The latest escalation was set in motion by Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which sparked a crushing Israeli response and eventually drew in Iran's other allies, who were in turn crippled by successive waves of Israeli strikes, leaving Iran largely alone in facing Friday's onslaught.



Netanyahu threatened Iran for years, many saw it as a bluff

Israeli leader sees Iran as existential threat to Israel

Recent Middle East tumult provided a rare chance to strike

military action if necessary to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, but President Donald Trump has been seeking a diplomatic solution after scrapping an earlier nuclear agreement with Iran during his first term.

Israel has long been sceptical of such efforts, fearing they give Iran time to develop a weapon, and has said it would only accept an agreement in which Iran gives up its entire nuclear programme — something Iran has vehemently ruled out. On Thursday, for the first time in 20 years, the board of governors at the IAEA censured Iran for not working with its inspectors. Iran immediately announced it would establish a third enrichment site and swap out some centrifuges for more advanced ones.

Trump said he had asked Netanyahu not to attack Iran while the negotiations are ongoing, but the president has provided unprecedented support to Israel over the years, and his administration has so far expressed no opposition to Friday's strikes.

'We knew everything'

President Donald Trump told Reuters in a phone interview Friday that he and his team knew everything about Israel's plan to attack Iran and that he had given Tehran fair warning it needed to make a deal on its nuclear program. "We knew everything, and I tried to save Iran humiliation and death. I tried to save them very hard because I would have loved to have seen a deal worked out," Trump said. "They can still work out a deal, however, it's not too late," he added. Trump had repeatedly pushed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to delay an Israeli attack to give diplomacy more time, though the president himself had threatened to bomb the Gulf nation if nuclear talks failed. Trump said he had given the Iranians 60 days to come to an agreement, "and today is 61." Iran has balked at the US insistence that it give up uranium enrichment. "We knew just about everything," he said. "We knew enough that we gave Iran 60 days to make a deal and today is 61, right? So, you know, we knew everything." Trump said it was unclear if Iran still has a nuclear program following Israeli strikes on the country. "Nobody knows. It was a very devastating hit," Trump said. Trump said the US still has nuclear talks planned with Iran Sunday but that he was unsure they would take place. He said it was not too late for Iran to make a deal. "They're not dead," Trump said of the US-Iran talks. "We have a meeting with them on Sunday. Now, I'm not sure if that meeting will take place, but we have a meeting with them on Sunday."



For decades, the tyrants of Tehran have brazenly, openly called for Israel's destruction. They backed up their genocidal rhetoric with a programme to develop nuclear weapons



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

Why are Israel and Iran enemies?

Following Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country's leadership immediately identified the US, Britain and Israel as its main enemies because of their ties to Iran's deposed monarch and the long history of Western colonialism and military interventions in the Middle East.

Over the past two decades, Israel has repeatedly accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons and is believed to have carried out numerous covert attacks on its nuclear programme, including cyberattacks and the killing of Iranian nuclear scientists — while rarely acknowledging such operations.

Iran insists its nuclear program is entirely peaceful, but the UN atomic watchdog agency has warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chooses to.

The International Atomic Energy Agency and Western nations assess Iran had an organized nuclear weapons programme until 2003. Iran insists its programme is peaceful while still enriching uranium to near

weapons-grade levels.

Israel sees a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential threat and had long aspired to breaking up Iran's regional network of allies — including Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah, the Houthis rebels in Yemen, and the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad, who was overthrown in December.

Iran's Axis of Resistance weakened

Over the past four decades, Iran built up a network of militant proxy groups it called the "Axis of Resistance" that wielded significant power across the region in recent years but has suffered major setbacks since the October 7 attack.

Hamas' military capabilities have been decimated in more than 20 months of ongoing war that has also killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, de-

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Israel shuts global embassies after attack on Iran
Middle East airspace shut, airlines cancel flights
Indians in Israel advised to avoid unnecessary travel
United Nations Security Council will meet later Friday

steps to weaponise enriched uranium. "If not stopped, Iran could produce a nuclear weapon within a very short time," he said. The United States and Israel have long vowed to take

stroyed much of the Gaza Strip, displaced around 90 per cent of its population and raised fears of famine.

Hezbollah traded strikes with Israel for nearly a year before Israel clobbered it with a sophisticated attack involving paggers and walkie-talkies, targeted strikes that killed most of its leaders and an air and ground campaign that devastated southern Lebanon. The weakening of Hezbollah contributed to the downfall of Assad, which paved the way for Israel to seize parts of southern Syria and carry out strikes that destroyed much of its military assets.

Iran itself was weakened after two previous exchanges of fire with Israel, both linked to the war in Gaza. A wave of Israeli strikes last October destroyed missile sites and weakened Iran's air defences.

Why did Israel decide to strike now?

Netanyahu said time was running out to strike Iran, alleging Iran had taken recent

LONG HISTORY OF SIMMERING TENSIONS

Iran's N-programme primary target

2010 — The Stuxnet computer virus is discovered and widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation. The virus disrupted and destroyed Iranian centrifuges.

2018 — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel obtained tens of thousands of pages of data showing Iran covered up its nuclear program before signing a deal with world powers in 2015. An ex-Mossad chief confirms the information was obtained by more than a dozen non-Israeli agents from safes in Tehran in 2018.

2020 — Alleged Israeli attacks against Iran's nuclear program are stepped up significantly after the disintegration of the 2015 nuclear deal meant to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

July 2020 — A mysterious explosion tears apart a centrifuge production plant at Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility. Iran blames the attack on Israel.

November 2020 — A top Iranian military nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, is killed by a remote-controlled machine gun while travelling in a car outside Tehran. A top Iranian security official accuses Israel of using "electronic devices" to remotely kill the scientist, who founded Iran's military nuclear programme in the 2000s.

April 11, 2021 — An attack targets Iran's underground nuclear facility in Natanz. Iran blames Israel, which does not claim responsibility, but Israeli media widely reports the government orchestrated a cyberattack that caused a blackout at the facility.

April 16, 2021 — Iran begins enriching uranium up to 60 per cent, its highest purity ever and a technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

June 2022 — Iran accuses Israel of poisoning two nuclear scientists in different cities within three days of each other, though circumstances remained unclear.

Mideast wars

Oct 7, 2023 — Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip storm into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage, beginning the most intense war between Israel and Hamas. Iran, which has armed Hamas, offers support to the militants.

Feb 14, 2024 — An Israeli sabotage attack causes multiple explosions on an Iranian natural gas pipeline running from Iran's western Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province to cities on the Caspian Sea.

April 1, 2024 — An Israeli airstrike demolishes Iran's Consulate in Damascus, Syria, killing 16 people including two Iranian generals.

April 14, 2024 — Iran launches an unprecedented missile and drone attack on Israel, firing over 300 missiles and attack drones in response to the Israeli airstrike in Damascus. Working with a US-led international coalition, Israel intercepts much of the incoming fire.

July 31, 2024 — Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh is assassinated by an apparent Israeli airstrike during a visit to Tehran. Israel had pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the October 7 attack.

Sept 27, 2024 — Israeli airstrike kills Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Formed by Iranian Revolutionary Guard members who went to Lebanon in 1982 to fight invading Israeli forces, Hezbollah was the first group that Iran backed and used as a way to export its brand of political Islam.

Oct 1, 2024 — Iran launches its second direct attack on Israel, though a US-led coalition and Israel shoot down most of the missiles.

Oct 26, 2024 — Israel openly attacks Iran for the first time, striking air defence systems and sites associated with its missile programme.

April 30, 2025 — Iran executes a man it said worked for Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence agency and played a role in the killing of Revolutionary Guard Colonel.

SHORT TAKES

WB, IFC okay \$700mn for Pak's Reko Diq plan

Islamabad: The International Finance Corporation and the World Bank have approved a concessional loan of \$700 million for a major mining and resource development initiative in Pakistan, according to a media report. The Reko Diq project is located in Balochistan province, which is known as a mineral-rich region of the country. This approval by lenders is a significant victory for Pakistan, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. As a result of this approval, the private sector is expected to invest \$2.5 billion in the Reko Diq project, one of Pakistan's most important initiatives, the report said.

Cambodia, Thailand cold war escalates

Phnom Penh: Cambodia escalated its cold war with Thailand Friday when it announced a ban on Thai movies and TV shows and a boycott of the neighbouring country's international internet links. Tensions between the Southeast Asian countries have soared since an armed confrontation in a border area May 28 that each side blamed on the other and which left one Cambodian soldier dead. Cambodian officials said the import and screenings of Thai movies would be banned, and that broadcasters would be ordered not to air Thai-produced shows, which include popular soap operas.

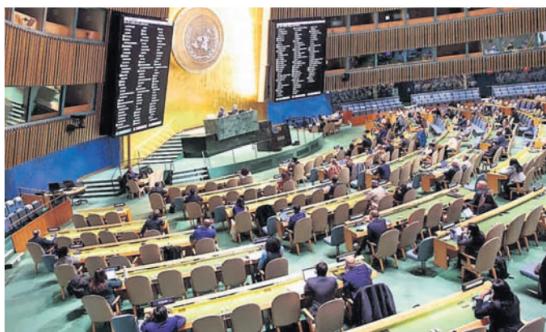
Ceasefire draft in Gaza: India abstains in UNGA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 13: India has abstained in the UN General Assembly from a vote on a draft resolution that demanded an "immediate, unconditional and permanent" ceasefire in Gaza.

The 193-member UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt the resolution introduced by Spain that demanded an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, to be respected by all parties and recalled its demand for the immediate, dignified and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups.

India was among the 19 nations that abstained, while 12 nations voted against the resolution, which got 149 votes in favour. Among the nations abstaining were Albania, Cameroon, Ecuador,



Ethiopia, Malawi, Panama, South Sudan and Togo.

In the explanation of vote on the resolution titled 'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said the resolution comes against the backdrop of worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza.

India is deeply concerned at the deepening humanitarian crisis and condemns the loss of civilian lives, he said.

Harish said India has earlier abstained on resolutions on the Israel-Palestine issue. "Our vote today is in continuation of this in the belief that there is no other way to resolve conflicts but through dialogue and diplomacy. A joint effort should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer. For these reasons, we would abstain on this resolution."

TRUMP ALLOWED TO KEEP NATIONAL GUARD IN LA

Saturday's military parade expected to draw nationwide protests

REUTERS

Los Angeles, June 13: US President Donald Trump can keep his deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles, according to a court ruling, as protests against immigration raids look set to enter their second week in the strongest backlash since his return to power in January.

Trump Friday welcomed the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that temporarily paused a lower court ruling that blocked the mobilization, although it does not mean that the court will ultimately agree to side with him.

"We saved L.A. Thank you for the Decision!!!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Cities across the United States were bracing for more demonstrations especially Saturday, when those also opposed to a weekend military parade in Washington, opens new tab marking the US Army's 250th anniversary are expected to take to the streets.

"They've defied our courts, deported Americans, disappeared people off the streets, attacked our civil rights, and slashed our services," the group No Kings, which is behind the day of action, wrote on its website.

A battalion of 700 US Marines was expected to arrive Friday



in Los Angeles, marking an extraordinary use of military forces to support civilian police operations within the United States.

Troops have stood guard at a federal detention center in the city's downtown where many of the protests have taken place in a show of solidarity for immigrants detained inside.

The protests so far have been mostly peaceful, punctuated by incidents of violence, and restricted to a few city blocks. Demonstrations have also taken place in other US cities this week including New York and Chicago.

The guard had also accompanied Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on operations to detain immigrants. Democratic leaders in Cali-

fornia have strongly opposed the ramping up of immigration enforcement since it began last Friday.

"Peace begins with ICE leaving Los Angeles," Mayor Karen Bass, who has imposed a nighttime curfew over one square mile (2.5 square km) of downtown Los Angeles, said on Thursday.

Trump is carrying out a campaign promise to deport immigrants, employing forceful tactics consistent with the norm-breaking political style that got him elected twice.

Democrats have said that the use of military force was unnecessary and an example of Trump's authoritarianism. Americans are divided over Trump's decision to activate the military.

5 arrested in connection with vandalism at Tagore's ancestral home in B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, June 13: At least five persons have been arrested in connection with the vandalism of the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh, with the authorities saying that no relics associated with the poet were damaged.

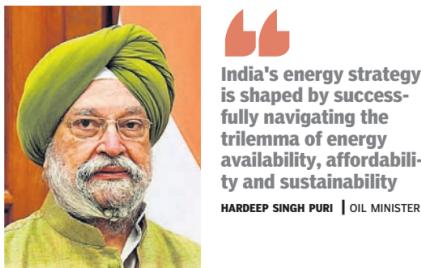
The Rabindra Kachharibari or Rabindra Memorial Museum, which was closed after the vandalism Sunday, was reopened for visitors Friday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Kachharibari is the ancestral home and revenue office of the Tagore family located in Sirajganj district.

Purchased by Rabindranath's grandfather Dwarakanath Tagore in 1840, the premises worked as a favourite recluse for the Nobel laureate, who wrote many of his notable literary works at this site.

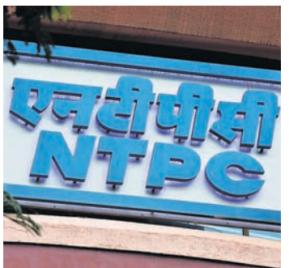
In a statement, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs said that no relics or artefacts associated with Rabindranath Tagore's memory were damaged during the incident when an altercation broke out between an employee on duty and a visitor over a parking ticket, the paper said.

India Thursday strongly condemned the vandalism and termed the violent attack a "disgrace" to the memory and inclusive philosophy espoused by the poet.



NTPC TO RAISE RS 4,000 CR VIA NCDS

NTPC Friday said it has decided to raise Rs 4,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDS). Proceeds will be utilised for funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, the company said in a regulatory filing. NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 4,000 crore June 17, 2025, through private placement at a coupon of 6.89 per cent annually for 10 years 1 day, maturing on June 18, 2035, the filing said



of the day quote

The launch of the Green India Council and Skilling Council marks a decisive step toward integrating sustainability and workforce development into the core of our industry

SHEKHAR PATEL | PRESIDENT, CREDAI

About Rs 38,000 crore revenue deficit grants was given to Kerala, but not to Karnataka. Similarly, a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore was recommended for Karnataka by 15th Finance Commission but Government of India refused to give it to us

SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

The rupee fell to a low of 86.25 before recovering to 85.92 before ultimately closing at 86.07. It has taken one country's military strike on another to bring home the fragility of markets

ANIL KUMAR BHANSALI | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINREX TREASURY ADVISORS LLP

Crude oil price impacts stock market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Shares of crude oil sensitive sectors oil marketing companies, aviation, paints, adhesives and tyres declined Friday following a spike in global oil benchmark Brent crude prices amid escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The stock of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd fell by 1.90 per cent, Indian Oil Corporation dropped 1.78 per cent and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd declined 1.41 per cent on the BSE.

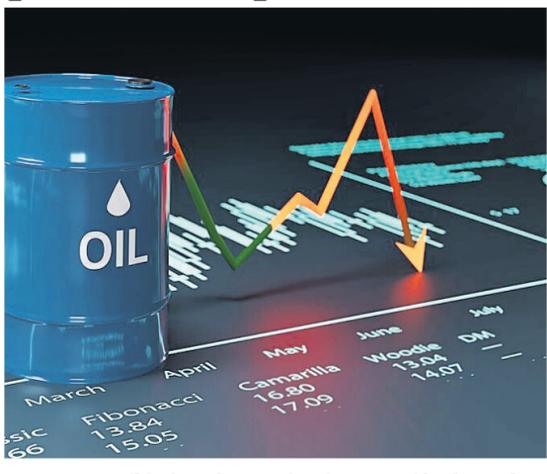
In intra-day trade, BPCL tanked 6.11 per cent, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd tumbled 5.34 per cent and Indian Oil Corporation dropped 3.91 per cent. Shares of InterGlobe Aviation edged lower by 3.71 per cent and those of SpiceJet dipped 1.95 per cent.

During the day, SpiceJet fell 5.64 per cent and InterGlobe Aviation dropped 5.62 per cent. Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 8.39 per cent to \$75.20 a barrel.

Among paints stocks, Indigo Paints went lower by 2.63 per cent, Berger Paints dipped 0.59 per cent and Asian Paints declined 0.14 per cent.

Shares of Ceat slipped 1.35 per cent and Apollo Tyres edged lower by 1.13 per cent.

The economic consequences of Israeli strike can be profound if the attack and coun-



Geopolitical tensions are heating up, and it's impacting the oil market! Israel's airstrikes on Iran have sparked fears of supply disruptions, causing crude oil prices to surge. The worry is that the situation could escalate into a full-blown regional crisis, which would have significant implications for global oil supplies

NAVNEET DAMANI | GROUP SENIOR VP, MOFSL

terattack by Iran lingers long. Brent crude prices have flared up around 12 per cent to \$78. The impact on market will depend on how long the conflict lingers.

"In the near-term the market will be in a risk-off mode. Sectors that use oil derivatives as inputs like aviation, paints, adhesives and tyres will be hit hard. Oil producers like ONGC

and Oil India will remain resilient," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent Friday as weak global markets and a spike in Brent crude oil prices after Israel attacked Iran's capital weighed on investor sentiment. "Crude oil futures surged

Gold futures breach ₹1 lakh mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Gold prices surged for the third consecutive session Friday, bouncing Rs 2,011 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,00,403 per 10 grams, as a weakening rupee and escalating tensions in the Middle East drove investors to the safe haven asset.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the most-traded August delivery contracts of the precious metal zoomed Rs 2,011, or 2.04 per cent, to hit a record high of Rs 1,00,403 per 10 grams in the morning trade.

Later, it traded at Rs 1,00,145 per 10 grams, up Rs 1,753, or 1.78 per cent, with an open interest of 16,602 lots on the bourse. Gold future prices earlier surged Rs 2,048 to hit a fresh record high of Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams.

Subsequently, the October contract of the yellow metal jumped Rs 1,970, or 1.98 per cent, to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,01,295 per 10 grams on the MCX.

Analysts said the sharp rally in gold prices was primarily driven by a weaker rupee and heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which spurred demand for the precious metal.

Friday, rupee declined 56 paise to 86.08 against US dollar in the initial trade due to a



spike in global oil prices and a firm dollar amid rising tensions in the Middle East following Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear sites.

On the global front, gold futures rose \$41.62 per ounce, or 1.22 per cent, to trade at \$3,444.02 per ounce.

"Gold prices rallied sharply amid escalating Israel-Iran tensions, boosting safe-haven demand. In the morning session, the precious metal breached the \$3,420 per ounce-mark and hit 6-week highs," Rahul Kalantri, Vice-President of Commodities at Mehta Equities, said.

Kalantri further said the rally in gold was further supported by US producer price index (PPI) and core PPI data, which indicated cooling inflation in US. The data reinforced investor expectations that US Federal Reserve may begin easing its monetary policy stance in the coming months.

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves jump
Mumbai: India's forex reserves increased by \$5.17 billion to \$696.65 billion for the week ended June 6. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday. The overall reserves had dropped by \$1.237 billion to \$691.485 billion for the week ended May 30. Forex reserves had touched an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in end-September 2024. For the week ended June 6, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves rose by \$3.47 billion to \$587.68 billion, the data released Friday showed. The gold reserves were up by \$1.58 billion to \$85.88 billion during the week, RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) also rose by \$102 million to \$18.67 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF also inched up by \$14 million to \$4.4 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

ICRA to acquire Fintellix
New Delhi: ICRA has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Fintellix India, a provider of risk and reporting solutions to global financial institutions, for \$26 million. In a stock exchange filing, ICRA said its board has granted approval for the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding in Fintellix India Pvt Ltd for a consideration of INR equivalent to \$26 million by way of a secondary purchase, pursuant to execution of a share purchase agreement and other transaction documents. The rating agency said the acquisition will additionally strengthen ICRA Group's portfolio of credit risk assessment and monitoring tools by adding risk reporting capabilities to its existing solutions. ICRA's portfolio includes credit risk software solutions, early warning systems (EWS) and asset classification tools. Fintellix, a Bengaluru-based product-led company, specialises in risk, supervisory, and data analytics solutions on its proprietary data platform.

HCL Foundation, TN govt sign pact
New Delhi: HCLFoundation, the CSR arm of HCLTech, has partnered with the Tamil Nadu government to reinforce entrepreneurship and vocational education in the state. HCLFoundation has inked two memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Tamil Nadu government to this effect, HCLTech said in a regulatory filing. The first MoU, signed with StartupTN (Department of MSMEs) commits HCLFoundation to support 100 startups over the next three years.

Crisil predicts one more RBI rate cut

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 13: Given the current inflation trajectory, headline inflation is projected to average 4 per cent this fiscal (FY26), from 4.6 per cent last fiscal. Lower inflation keeps the window open for one more repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), apart from the 100 basis points cut announced so far, Crisil forecast.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation dropped to 2.8 per cent in May, the lowest reading since February 2019, from 3.2 per cent in April as food inflation continued to decline.

Fuel and core inflation also softened. Food inflation fell to 1 per cent, the lowest since October 2021, from 1.8 per cent in April. Fuel inflation reversed trend and eased marginally to 2.8 per cent from 2.9 per cent.

Core inflation eased to 4.18 per cent from 4.23 per cent in April. Core inflation remained below its trend level (measured by the decadal average) of 4.9 per cent. Among food items, pulses, vegetables and spices saw deflation, while cereals recorded lower inflation.

According to Crisil Intelligence Research's Thali Index released last week, the cost of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis in May fell 6 per cent each on-year largely due to lower vegetable prices.

"The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal monsoon of 106 per cent of the long period average (LPA). The rains would have a positive impact on the upcoming kharif season," said crisil report.

LIC, Bajaj Allianz fast track claim settlement for crash victims

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 13: In the wake of the tragic crash of Air India Flight AI-171 in Ahmedabad, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Friday announced immediate measures to ease the financial burden on the families of the victims.

The insurer said that it would expedite claim settlements and offer several concessions to support the affected families.

LIC also expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of passengers, crew members, and people on the ground that lost their lives in the crash.

"LIC of India expresses deep grief over the death of on-board passengers and crew members of Air India flight AI-171 and also people on the ground that were killed due to the plane crash in Ahmedabad," the company said in a statement.

The insurer assured that it is fully committed to supporting those affected and would expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. LIC has introduced several special concessions to help ease the claim process for the victims' families.

"In lieu of death certificates, any evidence in government records of death of the policy-

holder due to the plane crash or any compensation paid by Central/State Government or Airline Authorities will be accepted as proof of death," the statement said.

LIC also said that all efforts will be made to reach out to the claimants and ensure that claims are settled expeditiously. For further assistance, families can contact the nearest LIC Branch, Division, or customer zone.

On the other hand, Private insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance also announced special measures for its policyholders affected by the crash. The company has set up a dedicated claims settlement desk to prioritise death and disability claims of those impacted.

"With utmost urgency, an expeditious process has been established to swiftly settle these policy claims," Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance said in a statement. "In response to this unfortunate incident," the company added,

"it has activated special measures to assist families of its policyholders affected by the crash." To reduce delays, Bajaj Allianz said it has simplified the documentation process for nominees, legal heirs, or policyholders to submit their claims.



India seeks to halt rare earth exports to Japan

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 13: India has asked Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) to suspend a 13-year-old agreement on rare earth exports to Japan and to safeguard supplies for domestic needs, sources said, aiming to reduce India's dependence on China.

IREL also wants to develop India's capacity for rare earth processing, which is dominated globally by China and has become a weapon in escalating trade wars. China has curbed its rare earth materials exports since April, pressuring auto-makers and high-tech manufacturers worldwide.

In a recent meeting with auto and other industry executives, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asked IREL to stop its exports of rare earths, mainly neodymium, a key material used in magnets for electric vehicle motors, said source.

Under a 2012 government agreement, IREL supplies rare earths to Toyotsu Rare Earths India, a unit of Japanese trading house Toyota Tsusho which processes them for export to Japan where they are used to make magnets.

In 2024, Toyotsu shipped more than 1,000 metric tons of rare earth materials to Japan, commercially available customs data showed. That is one-third of the 2,900 tons mined by IREL, although Japan relies mainly on China for



In a recent meeting with auto and other industry executives, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asked IREL to conserve its rare earths aiming to secure domestic supplies and lessen reliance on China. IREL intends to expand domestic mining for local processing and magnet facilities

its rare earths supply.

IREL has been exporting rare earths due to a lack of domestic processing capacity, but following the recent disruptions to supplies of Chinese material it wants to keep its rare earths at home and expand domestic mining and processing, a second source said, adding that IREL is awaiting statutory clearances at four mines.

However, India may not im-

mediately be able to stop supplies to Japan because they fall under a bilateral government agreement, the source said.

IREL wants this to be "amicably decided and negotiated because Japan is a friendly nation", source added.

Japan's Trade Ministry said in a statement, "We would like to refrain from answering questions about bilateral exchanges in general, not just about this matter."

Job postings in India rebound 8.9% after months decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 13: Indian job postings rebounded by 8.9 per cent in May after witnessing eight consecutive monthly declines, and the rate of job creation continues to outpace other countries driven by the nation's transition towards more formal economic arrangements, a report said Friday.

On a year-on year basis, however, job postings in India dipped slightly by 1.8 per cent in May.

Despite trending downwards, Indian job postings are almost 80 per cent above pre-pandemic levels, which is high compared to other major markets, according to the report by global job site Indeed.

Several countries, led by the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Switzerland, have posted volumes that are currently below pre-pandemic levels and by comparison, India's posting volumes are very healthy, added the report.

"Indian job creation continues to outpace other countries because of the nation's transition towards more formal economic arrangements.

"As the nation transitions, job creation across the formal sector will be much stronger than overall employment growth nationwide, and we have consistently seen that in recent years. Other economies are not going through a transition of this nature," Indeed's APAC Senior Economist Cal-



lam Pickering said.

The report by Indeed is based on an analysis of data in 2020 (pandemic period), 2024 and 2025 till May on the global job site's platform. It further revealed that job postings in around 80 per cent of occupa-

tions in India increased over the past three months.

The postings mainly increased in childcare (27 per cent), personal care and home health (25 per cent), education (24 per cent), and production and manufacturing (22 per

cent), it said. However, these gains more than offset some weakness in sectors like dental opportunities, down 10.2 per cent over the past three months, along with agriculture and forestry (8.6 per cent), community and

social service (6.8 per cent) and software development (4.2 per cent), it added.

Indeed's (Job portal) data showed that, as of May 2025, 1.5 per cent of Indian job postings mentioned generative AI in their job descriptions, more than double from the last year. Around 12.5 per cent of data analytics roles mentioned generative AI, ahead of software development (3.6 per cent) and scientific research (3.1 per cent).

When it came to geographical locations, regional hubs emerged for jobs that either use or help develop generative AI. In Karnataka, 2.4 per cent of job postings mention generative AI, just ahead of 2.3 per cent in Telangana, added the report.

Suruchi: India's new golden girl

Sensational Suruchi nails another ISSF World Cup gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, June 13: The sensational Suruchi Singh dominated a quality field to win her third straight individual ISSF World Cup gold medal in a thrilling women's 10m air pistol final here Friday, reaffirming her position as Indian shooting's latest golden girl.

The 19-year-old shot 241.9 in the eight-woman final to leave France's Paris Olympic silver medalist Camille Jedrzejewski (241.7) 0.2 behind in second place.

China's Yao Qianxuan (221.7) bagged the bronze medal.

National champion Suruchi had earlier won the event in the year's first two World Cup stages in Buenos Aires and Lima as well. Buenos Aires was in fact her tournament debut and she has now won gold in all three of her first ISSF World Cup stages.

Continuing a run of form that stretches back to the Nationals in December, the Haryana girl shot 588 in qualification to equal the national record held by double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker. Yao topped the 110-field with a junior world record score of 589.

Bhaker ended 21st with a total of 574, while Palak was 30th with 570.

In the final, a 52.1 in the first series set her on course but by the end of the second five-shot series she was down to second. A 9.7 for her 11th brought her down to fourth and that seemed to have spurred her.

A cracking 10.8 gave her the lead back after the 12th and thereafter it was a battle of attrition. Camille and Yao were the prime chasers and the Frenchwoman took advantage



It was the closest among all the finals that I have played (in three World Cups) and I think I was a bit lucky too
SURUCHI SINGH

of a few 9s by the Indian to go into the lead after the 18th shot.

Then Yao fired a 9.4 in her 22nd shot and the Indian took the second spot behind Camille going into the final two shots. She was 0.5 behind at that stage of the final.

That became 0.5 ahead after the 23rd shot when she fired a 10.5 to Camille's 9.5, and despite both shooters finishing with 9s, Suruchi held on to win.

Bhaker, who was doing commentary in the final, expressed her delight after her younger

compatriot's gold medal and believed Suruchi looked a bit nervous in the final.

The gold medalist said she was a bit lucky to have claimed the top prize.

"It was the closest among all the finals that I have played (in three World Cups) and I think I was a bit lucky too," Suruchi said after the win.

This is India's first gold medal in the prestigious tournament after the bronze won by Anjum Moudgil and Sift Kaur Samra earlier this week.

SHORT TAKES

Jr women's hockey team bags third win

Antwerp: India defeated Belgium 3-2 to secure their third consecutive victory against the side in their ongoing tour of Europe here. Sonam opened India's account in the fourth minute, which was followed by goals from Lalhantluangi (32') and Kanika Siwach (51'). Marie Goenns (37') and Marte Marie (40') were the scorers for Belgium. Following Sonam's early goal, India maintained their dominance in the first half and extended their lead in the third quarter with a penalty corner conversion by Lalhantluangi. Belgium replied strongly with back-to-back goals in the 37th and 40th minute to level the game. Marie Goenns scored the first goal through a penalty stroke followed by a field goal by Marte Marie. With nine minutes left on the clock in the fourth quarter, Kanika converted a penalty corner to help India maintain their winning streak on the tour. India will next play Australia Saturday.

AIFF to decide on Marquez's future

New Delhi: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has confirmed that the executive committee will be meeting June 29 to review the tenure of India head coach Manolo Marquez after a string of poor results. Manolo was appointed in August 2024, after the controversial exit of Igor Stimac, and has since led the team to only one victory, a 3-0 win in a friendly over Maldives. After having faced elimination in the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers last year, India also find themselves in a position of trouble in regards to qualifying for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, a tournament the team has not missed out on since they expanded it to 24 teams in 2019. The AIFF president also went on to pinpoint on what was going wrong with the national team and believes the lack of Indian forwards has resulted in the poor performances. India has scored only seven goals since the beginning of 2024, out of which three came against Maldives.

WTC FINAL

PROTEAS INCH CLOSER TO HISTORIC VICTORY

Aiden Markram's unbeaten 102 puts South Africa in sight of championship glory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 13: Aiden Markram stepped up when it mattered the most by hitting a magnificent 102 not out, taking South Africa within 69 runs of a historic triumph in the ICC World Test Championship after ending the third day's play at 213/2 in 56 overs in the final being played at the Lord's here Friday.

After Australia's second innings ended at 207 and put South Africa on a chase of 282, the Proteas lost two wickets early. But Markram was pristine in his shot selection and with conditions being the best for batting, the right-handed batter was rock solid in slamming his eighth Test century off 156 deliveries in the fag end of the day.

He also stitched an unbroken 143-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Temba Bavuma, who hit 65 not out off 121 balls, despite tweaking his left hamstring and hobbling to complete his runs. With Markram and Bavuma showing poise, precision, and authority in amassing runs while complementing each other, the duo have ensured that South Africa are on the cusp of something special on Day Four on Saturday.

Australia, the defending champions, will need something extraordinary on the fourth day of the final if they are to become the first side to retain their World Test Championship title. The final session began with Markram getting his fifty off 69 balls and soon brought up the fifty of his



Australia batter Steve Smith out of WTC final after breaking pinkie

partnership with Bavuma, who hobbled on to take singles that were on offer due to a lack of proactive fields.

With boundaries flowing off Markram's bat and Bavuma also chipping in with some drives, it meant there was no stopping South Africa, as the South African skipper brought up his 29th Test fifty in 83 balls.

With the South African crowd chanting his name,

Markram got his century by flicking Hazlewood through mid-wicket, and the crowd cheered for him, which included his wife Nicole and legendary batter AB de Villiers in attendance, as day three did turn out to be the moving day of the clash.

Brief scores:

Australia 212 and 207 in 65 overs (Mitchell Starc 58, Alex Carey 43; Kagiso Rabada 4-59, Lungi Ngidi 3-38) lead **South Africa** 138 and 213/2 in 56 overs (Aiden Markram 102 not out, Temba Bavuma 65 not out; Mitchell Starc 2-53) by 69 runs

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Struggling India look to bounce back against formidable Aussies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antwerp, June 13: Low on confidence after four successive defeats, a struggling India will be desperate to arrest the slide and stay in contention for the top prize when they take on a formidable Australia in the men's FIH Pro League Saturday.

The European leg of the tournament has been disappointing for the Indian men's hockey team, which suffered 1-2 and 2-3 losses to Olympic champions Netherlands in Amstelveen, followed by back-to-back defeats against Argentina.

Ranked fifth with 15 points from 12 games, India need to bounce back strongly against Australia to collect crucial points and remain in the race for a top-three finish.

"A win against Australia will be



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

very critical for us, as it will not only help us gain crucial points but also give the team a winning momentum," said captain Harmanpreet Singh, who had missed the last match due to a finger injury, in a release.

"We've had a few close games in the last four matches, and while we have been on the losing end, we want to change that and get some wins under our belts."

While poor penalty-corner conversions and the recurring issue of conceding late goals cost them dearly against the Netherlands, it was sloppy defending that led to a 3-4 defeat to Argentina in the first game. In the second, a potential equaliser from a late penalty was disallowed as India went down 1-2.

India also struggled to earn penalty corners, managing only three compared to Argentina's eight.

Eves eye strong outing

London: Having worked extensively to iron out the chinks in their armour, India will aim for a strong showing in the European leg of the Women's Hockey Pro League, beginning with their clash against Australia here Saturday. Currently ranked sixth with nine points, India will face Australia June 14 and 15, followed by back-to-back matches against Argentina June 17 and 18. The team will then travel to Antwerp June 19 for two games against Belgium, scheduled for June 21 and 22, before concluding the European leg with matches against China June 28 and 29 in Berlin. India will look to build on the momentum gained during the India leg of the Pro League in February, where they held world No. 1 Netherlands to a 2-2 draw in Bhubaneswar and earned a bonus point via shootout.

Up against a strong Australian side, India can ill afford any more slip-ups and will have to play out of their skins to turn their fortunes around.

Currently ranked world number 7, India will look to draw confidence from their win over former world number one Australia during the Paris Olympics Pool stage.

India will conclude their European leg with two matches against Belgium June 21 and 22.

Allen goes past Gayle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

California, June 13: Finn Allen stole the show on the opening night of Major League Cricket (MLC) 2025 with a historic innings, smashing a 51-ball 151 to power the San Francisco Unicorns to a massive 123-run victory over defending champions Washington Freedom.

Allen's whirlwind knock set multiple records. He became the fastest player to score 150 in T20 history and broke Chris Gayle's long-standing record of 18 sixes in a T20 innings by clearing the boundary 19 times. His assault began right from the tournament's first over, launching his first



six with an audacious lap shot.

While Tim Seifert chipped in with a short cameo before falling early,

and Jake Fraser-McGurk had another forgettable outing, Allen dominated from one end. Sanjay Krishnamurthi added to the fireworks with four sixes in an over off Rachin Ravindra — a feat Ravindra himself matched later during the chase.

Allen hit three consecutive sixes off both Mitchell Owen and fellow Kiwi Glenn Phillips, reaching 86 off just 28 balls. His century, which came off only 34 deliveries, set a new MLC record, surpassing Nicholas Pooran's 40-ball ton. With seven overs still left, Allen continued to pile on the runs, and when he smashed his 18th six, SFU had already posted the highest total in MLC history.

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