



## Soundarya's observation

Actor Soundarya Sharma says acting comes from doing, not learning, as one gets better only by doing the work

LEISURE | P2



## US lawmaker killed

Man posing as cop shoots dead Minnesota lawmaker and her husband in politically-motivated attack

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## FPIs show optimism

FPIs bring in ₹3,346.94 crore into the Indian stock markets this week, as investor confidence rises after RBI's rate cut decision

BUSINESS | P11



## Pranati bags bronze

Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinches a bronze medal in the vault final at the 12th Sr Women's Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships

SPORTS | P12

## South Africa wins first major ICC title in 27 yrs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, June 14: South Africa won the World Test Championship against titholder Australia by five wickets after knocking off the last 69 runs required on the fourth morning of the final Saturday.

The Proteas achieved their first major cricket title in 27 years, sparking celebrations at Lord's. They moved from a portentous 213-2 overnight to 282-5, the second-highest successful run chase in the 141-year test history at the home of cricket.

Australia didn't give up the WTC mace easily, relentlessly attacking the stumps and pressuring a South Africa side with an infamous

history of blowing winning positions on big ICC stages.

But South Africa was staunch and composed — only three boundaries in more than two hours — and lost only three wickets Saturday in an air of inevitability.

The desperate Australians used up all of their three reviews in vain within the first 90 minutes but fought to the end. They took the new ball but were still blunted by a flat pitch.

Aiden Markram was the colossus Australia could not topple until it was too late.

The opener resumed the day on 102 and was out for 136 when only six more runs were needed. He spent six hours, 23 minutes in the middle. **P12**

## Snehasis NEET-UG state topper

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, June 14: Rajasthan's Mahesh Kumar has topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, while Utkarsh Awadhya from Madhya Pradesh has bagged the second rank, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Saturday.

Odisha's Snehasis Das secured 60th position in the top 100-list in NEET All India Rank (AIR), becoming the state topper. Das, a student of DPS Kalinga, scored 99.9972390 percentile. Another student from the state, Pabitra Sathy, has been placed 6th in list of 10 SC category toppers by securing 180th position in NEET AIR.

More than 12.36 lakh candidates out of 22.09 lakh test

takers qualified the exam. The number is down from last year's 13.15 lakh qualifying candidates. However, the number of test takers was also higher last year at over 23.33 lakh.

Among the qualifying candidates this year, over 7.2 lakh are females while over 5.14 lakh are males.

While 529 qualifying candidates are foreign nationals, 405 are NRIs and 606 are OCI card holders.

Maharashtra's Krishang Joshi and Delhi's Mrinal Kishore Jha bagged the third and fourth ranks, respectively.

Among females, Delhi's Avika Aggarwal emerged topper, bagging the fifth rank nationally.

The maximum qualifying candidates are from Uttar



Pradesh (over 1.70 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (over 1.25 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1.19 lakh).

A total of 73 candidates have scored marks in the range of 651 to 686 out of 720 while 1,259 candidates have scored between 601 to 650.

"The NTA conducts the exam and declares result based on the eligibility criteria provided by the National Medical Council (NMC). The admitting authorities will now draw a merit list based

on all India rank for the MBBS and BDS seats available in their jurisdiction," said Col B Vijay Kumar, Director (Exams), NTA.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test.

The NTA conducts the NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBSS course — approximately 56,000 in government hospitals, and about 52,000 in private colleges.

Admissions to undergraduate courses in dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also utilise NEET results for admission.



FESTIVE TIME: Girls enjoy a swing ride on the first day of the three-day Raja festivities in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PHOTO: BIKAS NAYAK

## TEHRAN WILL BURN: ISRAEL

Israel's defence minister Israel Katz has warned Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that 'Teheran will burn' if it keeps firing missiles at Israeli civilians. His comments came after Iran launched retaliatory strikes on Israel following the latter's attack on Iran's nuclear, missile and military complex Friday morning. Iranian missiles rained down on Tel Aviv in retaliation as Tehran vowed to open the 'gates of hell', while fresh explosions were heard in the Iranian capital early Saturday. Iran has also warned the UK, US and France against helping to stop its strikes on Israel. Besides, Israel's strikes also put further talks between the United States and Iran over a nuclear accord on hold. With Trump warning of more such attacks, there seems to be no immediate pause to the escalations.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, June 14: Israel's defence minister warned Saturday that 'Teheran will burn' if Iran continues firing missiles, as the countries traded blows a day after Israel launched a blistering surprise attack on Iranian

nuclear and military sites, killing several top generals.

The attacks have left Iran's surviving leadership with the difficult decision of plunging deeper into conflict with Israel's more powerful forces or seeking a diplomatic route.

The ongoing Israeli strikes appear to have halted — for now — any diplomacy between the US and Iran over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

Israel and Iran signalled more attacks are coming despite urgent calls from world leaders to deescalate to avoid all-out war. Iran's UN ambassador said 78 people were killed and more than 320 wounded. Iran retaliated by launching waves of drones and ballistic missiles at Israel, where explosions lit the night skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and shook buildings.

The Israeli military urged civilians, already rattled by Hamas' October 7 attack, to head to shelter for hours. Health officials said three people were killed and dozens wounded.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran will pay a heavy price for harming Israeli citizens. "If (Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah

### Israel apologises for incorrect India map

Jerusalem: The Israeli military Saturday apologised for posting a map that incorrectly depicted Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan after objections from Indian social media users, clarifying that the image 'fails to precisely depict borders'. The map was posted by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) on their X handle Friday to show the range of Iranian missiles.

Ali) Khamenei continues to fire missiles at the Israeli home front — Tehran will burn," Katz said. The US and Iran were scheduled to be in Oman Sunday for their sixth round of indirect talks over Iran's nuclear programme. Abbas Araghchi, Iran's minister of foreign affairs said Saturday the talks were 'unjustifiable' after the Israeli strikes, likely signalling no negotiations this weekend. But he stopped short of saying the talks were cancelled.

Meanwhile, an Israeli drone struck a refinery in Iran's South Pars gas field Saturday, semi-official Iranian news agencies reported.

If confirmed, it would mark the first Israeli attack on Iran's oil and natural gas industry. **MORE P10**

## PM's roadshow Jun 20

Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to participate in a Triranga Yatra and hold a roadshow before attending an event marking the first anniversary of the BJP's maiden government in Odisha June 20, a senior minister said. Modi had last year attended the swearing in ceremony of the Majhi government in Odisha. **P3**

## Jajpur: Diarrhoea toll rises to 13; 11 cholera cases found

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 14: One more person succumbed to diarrhoea in Jajpur Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the infection in the district to 13. The deceased was identified as Gelhei Patra, 72, a resident of Tarailo village in Uchhabali panchayat under Danagadi block. Meanwhile, 11 of the 62 collected samples have tested positive for cholera, Health officials said Saturday.

Eight of the 41 samples tested positive Friday, and three of 21 samples tested positive for cholera bacteria, Saturday. Chief district medical officer Prakash Chandra Bal said that the district Health department has not disclosed the specific areas where cholera cases were identified, as residents might panic.

As of Saturday, 84 patients were receiving treatment at the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur. While the

diarrhoea outbreak is under control in Jajpur Road and Korei hospitals, over 50 patients are currently undergoing treatment in Dharmasala. Bal warned that further testing of diarrhoea samples could reveal additional cholera cases.

A 14-member Central team is expected to visit Jajpur to assess the situation, sources said. National Health Mission (NHM) Director Brundha D visited the district held a review meeting with the district Collector P Anvesha Reddy on the situation Saturday. Reddy has imposed restrictions, organising of community feasts during the Raja festival, consuming unhygienic food or water, and using river, canal, or pond water for bathing or sanitation. Residents are urged to consume home-cooked food and boiled or filtered water. Those showing diarrhoea symptoms are advised to seek help from ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, or nearby health centers.

## Mysterious black iceberg spotted off Labrador coast

In the chilly waters of the North Atlantic, it's not uncommon to see icebergs floating by.

During the spring and summer, bright white glacial giants of every shape and size drift past the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

But floating serenely amid the pale ice chunks was one iceberg that left a fisherman completely baffled.

While its size was impressive, there was one other thing that particularly made it stand out — the fact that it was completely black.

Hallur Antoniussen, originally from the Faroe Islands, was aboard a fishing trawler when he spotted the strange sight last month. "I have seen icebergs that are rolled, what they say have rolled in the beach with some rocks in it," he told CBC Radio.

"This one here is completely different. It's not only that he is all black. He is almost... in a diamond shape."



Mr Antoniussen, 64, said it was hard to estimate the size of the iceberg since it was roughly six kilometres away when he took a photograph of it.

However, he believes it was at least three times the size of a regular bungalow. Icebergs traditionally appear white because they are filled with tiny pockets

of trapped air that scatter all wavelengths of light.

One explanation for the rare black iceberg is that it became mixed with a lot of debris thousands of years ago when it was part of a larger glacier.

As glaciers move towards the ocean they grind along the ground, stirring up debris that becomes mixed in

with the ice.

Glaciologist Dr Lev Tarasov, from Memorial University in Canada, said it would take a long time for this debris to become as uniformly mixed through as it appears in the image.

He believes the iceberg may have rolled over at some point, and is now showing its underbelly.

"Over time, as it travels around Baffin Bay and down the coast of Labrador, it's melting away," he said as quoted by Daily Mail.

"So I think a lot of that ice is melted away. Maybe the part that's clean is underneath?"

"Again, 90 per cent of the ice is underneath the water. So we're only seeing the tip of the iceberg on top." He added that it's possible the dirt on the iceberg may not have seen the light of day 'for hundreds of thousands of years'.

Another possibility for the dark colouration is that the ice became mixed with soot from a huge volcanic eruption, or even debris from a historic meteor strike.

Dr Tarasov said he observed smaller versions of the black iceberg during his fieldwork on the Kangerlussuaq Fjord in Greenland last summer — but not as impressive.

AGENCIES

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Thank God the airline's private now. At least, we know the exact number of crash victims



# 'Complete Ratna Bhandar repair work by July 6'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 14:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has urged the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to expedite the repair and conservation work of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar in order to ensure it is completed by July 6, official sources said, Saturday.

In a letter to the Director General (DG) of ASI, SJTA Chief Administrator Arabin-da Kumar Padhee emphasised the urgent need to complete the conservation work of the Ratna Bhandar before or during the Rath Yatra (June 28 to July 6).

He requested that the task be taken up on a priority basis, considering the religious

and architectural significance of Ratna Bhandar.

Padhee also urged the ASI to ensure that the agency's scheduled supervision of Srimandir's sanctum sanctorum be carried out by an officer in the rank of deputy director or director during the festival.

Expressing gratitude to the ASI for replacing the Khondalite stone near the 'Aruna Stambha' and for the progress made so far in conserving the Ratna Bhandar, Padhee said as per Supreme Court directives, a ramp has been constructed at the North Gate under ASI's guidance to enable the devotees with disability to enter the temple and offer prayers.

He said a revised design has been submitted for air-condi-



tioning the Nata Mandap, and the consent from ASI has been sought for the modification.

Discussions have been held with the ASI consultant regarding the illumination of temples of the subsidiary deities within the complex.

The ASI has granted clear-

ance, and once the detailed report is received, SJTA will invite tenders for the illumination work, Padhee said.

During the ongoing Anasara (period when the deities are secluded for recuperation), Padhee held a crucial meeting with the Daita servitors to en-

sure the timely performance of rituals related to the deities, especially the Pahandi (ceremonial procession of deities), and to ensure their safety.

The Daita Nijog agreed to form four dedicated groups to carry out the Pahandi of the deities. He reiterated that any unauthorised person found on the chariots, including servitors not on duty or those using mobile phones during the procession, would face legal action.

Speaking to the media, he said the individual who touched the deities during Snana Purnima is being identified through CCTV footage, and appropriate action will be taken under the law after the investigation.

# PM set to join Triranga Yatra, hold roadshow in City June 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to participate in a Triranga Yatra and hold a roadshow before attending an event marking the first anniversary of the BJP's maiden government in Odisha June 20, a senior minister said.

Though Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's government completed one year in office June 12, the administration is holding a week-long celebration which will culminate June 20 with the Prime Minister's address.

Modi had last year attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Majhi government in Odisha.

"The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at the airport here at about 3pm from Bihar. He will participate in a Triranga Yatra and lead a roadshow from the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) to Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar," Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik told reporters here.

Official sources said that as part of the celebrations, Modi will address a large gathering and highlight the achievements of Odisha's BJP government.

He may also speak on the plans for the state's development, said a senior leader, who attended a preparatory meeting at the BJP headquarters Friday.

# President, Guv, CM greet people as Raja fest begins



Girls enjoy a swing ride on *Pahili Raja* at Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik Saturday greeted the people of Odisha as the three-day Raja festival began across the coastal state.

The state welcomes the Raja festival every year as a mark of respect for womanhood, fertility, and the rhythms of Mother Earth. This time, the festival, reflecting deep-rooted traditions and cultural pride, is being celebrated between June 14 and 16.

The President, who hails from Odisha, posted on X, "I am wishing my dear countrymen heartily on the occasion of Raja festival. On the arrival of rainy season, this agrarian festival, honouring Mother Earth, is celebrated for three days in Odisha by having sweets, and enjoying swing rides. We should take inspiration from this to live in harmony with nature."

She also said, "On the occasion of Raja festival, I wish happiness and prosperity for the state and the countrymen." The X handle of Governor Odisha said, "On the occasion of Krishivithik Gana Parv # Raja, the Hon'ble Governor Shri @DrHariBabuK has extended his greetings and best wishes and wished that the eternal spirit of this festival may be felt by all. #RajaParba."

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who hails from Keonjhar district, where Raja is a major festival, also wished the people of the state.

"Greetings and best wishes to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Gana Parba, a unique custom of honouring tradition, nature, motherhood and womanhood. May this festival bring joy and happiness to everyone's lives. #Raja #PahiliRaja," he said.



Health and Family Welfare department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S and Bakul Foundation's founder Sujit Mahapatra after the inauguration of Raja celebrations at Bakul Library in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Former CM and BJD president Naveen Patnaik also congratulated the people on the occasion and said, "Heartiest greetings to everyone on the occasion of Odisha's mass festival, Raja. May this unique tradition of paying homage to the land and mother fill everyone's lives with joy and happiness. #RajaParba."

The nomenclature of the festival, 'Raja', is rooted in the Sanskrit word 'Rajawala' (meaning menstruation). Raja marks a symbolic period when Mother Earth is believed to rest and rejuvenate, like women during their menstrual cycle, said Asit Mohanty, a researcher in Odia culture. He said that the festival also witness the beginning of cultivation works which comes coinciding with the onset of the monsoon month 'Asadha'.

During the festival, young girls and women rejoice by wearing new clothes, applying henna and alta, playing traditional games, enjoying

swings called - 'Raja Doli', and eating festive foods, mostly handmade cakes. Special sweets like Poda Pitha, Arisha, Kakara, and others are prepared at houses and offered to guests, Mohanty said.

The first day of the festival is called - 'Pahili Raja' (June 14), middle day is 'Raja Sankranti' (June 15), first day of Asadha, celebrating seasonal transition and 'Basi Raja' (June 16), the last day of the festival.

At the end of the festival, the women in houses observe a ritual called 'Basumati Snana' when the Mother Earth is bathed after her menstruation period, Mohanty said.

He said the girls are excused from household work, and no farming or digging is done, showing reverence to nature's fertility during the three-day Raja festival.

Raja festivals are held across the state including Capital city of Bhubaneswar.

## Differently-abled woman raped

**Puri:** A differently-abled woman was allegedly raped by a 56-year-old man under Balanga police limits here, an official said, Saturday. According to Balanga IIC Dibyaranjan Panda, the alleged incident took place late Friday night. "Most of the family members of the victim had gone to attend a wedding late Friday night. Taking advantage of the situation, the accused - Rabi Tripathy - raped her," the IIC said, quoting the police complaint filed by the woman's family. On the basis of the complaint, a case has been registered and the accused arrested. "Rabi has been sent for medical examination, while the survivor's statement has been recorded. The investigation is on," Panda said.

## Graft: CBI arrests EPFO official

**Bhubaneswar:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday arrested a senior official of EPFO Regional Office in Berhampur while he was accepting a bribe, an official said. The accused official worked at the Regional Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Office in Berhampur as a senior social security assistant. A CBI statement said that the CBI sleuths arrested the EPFO official on charges of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant. The investigating agency said that the accused official was taking the bribe from the complainant to approve the authorised signatory application of the employer, a private company, on the EPFO portal.

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# Digital arrest scam: CB nabs 2 more fraudsters

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** The Crime Branch (CB) has made significant progress in the Rs 1.08-crore digital arrest scam with the arrest of two more fraudsters from Gujarat, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to six, official sources said Saturday.

According to CB sources, the investigation team analysed transaction records and other digital evidence. "Based on this intelligence, the team conducted a raid in Sihor, Bhavnagar (Gujarat), and success-

fully apprehended two key accused - Vaghela and Gohli. The accused were brought to Odisha on transit remand and produced before the Court of SDJM, Bhubaneswar," they said.

The case dates back to August 20, 2024 when a complainant from Bhubaneswar reported to the Cyber Crime Police Station that he had been defrauded by unidentified cyber criminals impersonating officials from DHL, the Mumbai Crime Branch, and other government agencies.

The fraudsters falsely accused the

victim of criminal involvement using his Aadhaar credentials and placed him under continuous video surveillance between August 9 and 14.

They coerced him into isolating himself in a hotel room and, under the threat of arrest and media exposure, extracted personal and financial information from him.

The victim was persuaded to liquidate his investments and transfer a total of Rs 1,08,32,000 under the guise of account verification and the issuance of a NoC. Upon realising the fraud, the victim lodged an FIR.

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# Widespread monsoon rains in next 2-3 days

IMD predicts that state is likely to receive widespread monsoon rains within two to three days



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Saturday stated that Odisha is likely to receive widespread monsoon rains within the next two to three days. He said a cyclonic circulation expected to form over the Bay of Bengal will create favourable conditions for the southwest monsoon to progress into central and eastern India, increasing rainfall activity in these regions. The IMD predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall across several districts of Odisha from June 14 to June 18 due to this cyclonic formation. Conditions

remain favourable for further advancement of the monsoon into various parts of Odisha over the next two days, with the monsoon expected to extend into parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar within three days. "Currently, a cyclonic circulation is present over north Odisha and adjoining areas between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level, tilting southward with height. Another system lies over the west-central Bay of Bengal off the north coastal Andhra Pradesh coast at 5.8 km altitude," the IMD said. A third circulation is located over south Bangladesh and

adjoining North Bay of Bengal, extending as a trough to south Odisha at 3.1 km. These systems are expected to enhance rainfall and thunderstorm activity across the state, it said. June 15, districts including Balasore, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, and Kandhamal are expected to experience thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph, and isolated heavy rainfall. Similar conditions are forecast June 16 for Gajapati, Kalahandi, Rayagada, and Koraput districts. June 17, an orange alert has been issued for Sundargarh, Koraput, and Keonjhar districts for heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. Yellow warnings will continue for Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput. June 18 and 19, thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds, and heavy rainfall are expected in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and Sundargarh.



**TRIBUTE VIGIL:** Members of the Bhubaneswar Old Town 'Brahman Nijoga Samiti' light lamps in front of the Lingaraj Temple, Saturday, offering prayers for the victims of the recent Ahmedabad plane crash

# ICAR-CIFA HOLDS GENOME EDITING MEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** To advance the use of modern biotechnological tools in aquaculture, the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), in partnership with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), held a workshop-cum-brainstorming session on 'Current Status & Development of a Roadmap on Genome Editing for Aquaculture Species in India' here Saturday. The event brought together leading national and international experts, researchers, and policymakers to deliberate on the current landscape,



emerging opportunities, and regulatory requirements for implementing genome editing technologies in Indian aquaculture. ICAR-CIFA Director PK Sahoo welcomed dignitaries, scientists, and participants, setting the stage for a forward-looking dialogue on the potential of genome editing to boost aquaculture productivity.

Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science & Agricultural Education), ICAR, New Delhi, JK Jena, emphasised the urgent need to integrate genome editing tools into aquaculture research and development to strengthen food security. In his address, he stressed the importance of collaboration, human resource development, strategic planning, and

clear goal-setting—both for the immediate future and long term—to effectively harness genome editing technologies for advancing aquaculture. Former ICAR-CMFRI director and AFSIB executive council member A Gopalakrishnan provided a comprehensive overview of ongoing national and international efforts in the field. National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad chief executive BK Behera delivered the special address, highlighting the vital role of collaboration and the need to diversify species, including ornamental fish, to strengthen the aquaculture sector.

# BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANISED

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** To mark World Blood Donor Day Saturday, BRIC-Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), in collaboration with the Indian Liver Patient Foundation (ILPF) and Odisha NCC Directorate, organised a large blood donation camp and awareness programme at the ILS auditorium here. The event witnessed active participation from over 100 voluntary blood donors, including NCC cadets, healthcare professionals, students, and community members. Hundreds of units of blood were collected during the camp, underlining a strong sense of civic responsibility and compassion among the participants. The initiative was aimed

to raise awareness about the life-saving importance of regular blood donation and the role of public participation in strengthening healthcare systems. Speaking on the occasion, ILS director Debasis Dash said, "Blood donation is not just a noble act. It's a vital public service. This event reflects the power of collective goodwill in promoting health equity." He added that ILS would extend similar outreach efforts to rural parts of the state. The programme was graced by several dignitaries, including Padma Shri Ashok Mohapatra, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, Justice Subhakar Shukla, educationist B Ravindran, and senior journalist Kishore Dwibedy.



# WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

## 'Elders must never be seen as burden'

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** "Elders must not be seen as a burden," said Bharati Chakra, Head of HelpAge India (Odisha), as she called for school-based sensitisation programmes and youth-involved care centres to strengthen intergenerational ties. Her remarks came during the release of HelpAge India's landmark report, "Understanding Intergenerational Dynamics and Perceptions on Ageing," ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15. The first-of-its-kind national study explored how Indian youth perceive and engage with senior citizens. Conducted across 10 cities, including Bhubaneswar, the report surveyed 5,798 people—70 per cent youth (18-30 years) and 30 per cent older adults (60+). Findings revealed mixed perceptions: while 56 per cent of youth viewed elders as "lonely" and 48 per cent as "dependent," many also saw them as "educated" (51 per cent) and "respected" (43 per cent). Media



emerged as a strong influence on youth perceptions, often casting elders as either wise or comical. SOA University dean Santosh Kumar Raut, noted, "Seniors can mentor youth, fostering mutual confidence," highlighting the value of experience in bridging the generational gap. The study also underscored a wide digital divide. Only 41 per cent of elders use smartphones, 13 per cent access the internet, and 14 per cent completely avoid digital devices. Youth frequently assist seniors with technology but often describe them as "uninterested" (78 per cent) or "forgetful" (66 per cent). Student Soumyashree Mish-

ra urged youth to spend more time with elders: "Keep your phones away—listen, talk, and connect." Pushpita Mahanty, additional director of Urban Health, stressed the need for regular community activities to keep seniors socially engaged. Despite generational shifts, 88 per cent of youth expressed a desire to live with family in old age. Madhusudan Das of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Odisha, said, "Intergenerational relationships are deeply rooted in family values." Common fears among both age groups—loneliness, poor health, and financial insecurity—highlight the urgency for stronger emotional support and shared time to promote healthy ageing in modern India.

# Workshop for boiler operation engineers

Focus on enhancing the efficiency of boiler operations and ensuring the safety of boiler plants

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** A training workshop was recently held under the aegis of the Directorate of Factories and Boilers, with support from the State Labour Institute. The workshop focused on enhancing the efficiency of boiler operations and ensuring the safety of boiler plants across various industrial establishments in the state. Participants, including Boiler Operation Engineers (BOEs) from various factories, took part in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Directorate of Factories and Boilers Deputy Director (Safety) Malay Kumar Pradhan. In his address, Pradhan highlighted the need for unwavering focus in boiler operations and underscored the importance of active participation alongside training. "When factory operations and management prioritise all employees involved, it helps reduce worker dissatis-

**The workshop was inaugurated by Directorate of Factories and Boilers Deputy Director (Safety) Malay Kumar Pradhan**

faction and enhances overall efficiency," he noted. Following the introductory remarks, Sambalpur division deputy director Swaroop Jena, JSW Energy senior vice president and Odisha project head Ashesh Padhi, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, Sambalpur joint vice president Gulshan Tiwari and Tata Steel, Jajpur shift in-charge Abinash Sethy played key roles in conducting the training sessions. At the concluding session, Labour department additional secretary Niti Ranjan Sen addressed the participants and distributed certificates to the attending Boiler Operation Engineers.

# Mouse brain circuit may help curb binge drinking

A new study has identified a small cluster of neurons in the mouse brain that acts as a natural brake on binge drinking, offering promising insights for developing more effective treatments for alcohol use disorder. Despite the enormous human and societal cost of alcohol abuse, existing therapies have often failed to deliver lasting results. In the United States alone, over 16 million people aged 12 and older reported binge drinking on five or more days in the past month. While several medications exist to reduce alcohol consumption, they tend to have limited effectiveness and can cause side effects such as fatigue, drowsiness, or insomnia. For years, research into alcohol abuse has focused on drugs that act on proteins found throughout the brain. These proteins help control how neurons respond to stimuli, but



targeting them often affects unrelated brain functions, leading to unwanted side effects. In the new research, a team of neurobiologists took a more precise approach by identifying a specific group of neurons in the brain's medial orbitofrontal cortex—a region known for

regulating decision-making and behavioural flexibility. Using genetically modified mice, the researchers were able to highlight neurons activated by alcohol. These neurons were tagged with a red fluorescent protein, allowing the team to trace and map their exact locations in the brain. The researchers found that when this particular group of neurons was active, it helped suppress alcohol intake. However, when the same neurons were turned off, the mice consumed significantly more alcohol. This suggests the brain has a built-in mechanism that acts to limit drinking, and when this mechanism fails, it may lead to excessive or uncontrolled consumption.

**Researchers identified a small group of neurons in the medial orbitofrontal cortex that suppresses alcohol intake in mice**  
**Deactivating these neurons led to increased alcohol consumption, suggesting a built-in brain mechanism that regulates binge drinking**  
**Using genetically modified mice, the researchers were able to highlight neurons activated by alcohol**

The findings build on earlier research that pointed to small populations of neurons, known as neuronal ensembles, as key players in memory and emotional regulation. This study is among the first to show that such ensembles may also directly influence alcohol-related behaviour. Although the research was conducted in mice, it raises important questions about whether a similar mechanism exists in the human brain. If so, targeting these specific neurons could offer a way to help people struggling with binge drinking, without the broad side effects seen in current treatments. With ongoing advances in gene therapy and precision medicine, scientists are hopeful that such discoveries could lead to more targeted and effective approaches to treating alcohol use disorder in the future. (The Conversation)

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	36.4°	35.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	26.4°	25.6°	
Humidity	74%	79%	
Rainfall	1.9mm	Nil	

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-909090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# Shifting Subarnarekha alarms villagers

The meandering Subarnarekha River in eastern Odisha continues to erode vast stretches of farmland posing an imminent threat to several villages in Baliapal block. Despite official assurances, protective measures get delayed, intensifying local concern



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kalipada, June 14:** The Subarnarekha River, flowing along the eastern edge of Baliapal block in Balasore district, is causing significant distress as its shifting course continues to eat away riverbanks year after year. Large swathes of agricultural land across several panchayats have already been lost to the river's changing path. Over recent years, parts of villages such as Kudamansing, Manonagar, Rasulpur Nayabali, and Ikadapal have been swal-

lowed by the river. Now, the erosion has reached close to the Panteighat area near Kulhachada village. As a result, residents of Kulhachada in Jamakunda panchayat of Baliapal block and Kuhla village in Rasulpur panchayat of Bhograi block face a growing risk of displacement. Currently, around 200 metres of the Kulhachada riverbank is crumbling daily due to accelerated erosion. In the past six months alone, multiple acres of farmland have disappeared into the riv-

erbed. If the current rate of erosion persists, the Subarnarekha is likely to reach the villages very soon. Locals believe the increasing tidal influx from the Bay of Bengal is intensifying the erosion. While stone pitching was carried out near Pantei village on the eastern bank providing some protection there, the opposite bank near Kulha and Kulhachada has seen no such intervention, leaving it more vulnerable to damage. As a result, the heavily

used Pantei ferry ghat—an essential daily transport route for thousands commuting to Bhograi block and parts of West Bengal—has become increasingly perilous. The original ghat has been rendered inaccessible, forcing passengers to board boats from makeshift locations, often trudging through muddy waters, which is causing serious inconvenience. Local residents have repeatedly appealed to the district administration and the Water Resources department for immediate action.

In July last year, Mukul Bera, Chief Engineer and Special Secretary of the department, along with sitting MLA Subashini Jena and other senior officials, visited the site and promised swift stone pitching work. However, even a year later, not a single layer of soil has been laid. Residents warn that if urgent steps are not taken, the situation could become catastrophic during the monsoon season.

Meanwhile, construction of a bridge over the Subarnarekha from Jamkunda lock to Pantei ghat is underway at an estimated cost of Rs 192 crore by L&T. But the pace of work has been sluggish, making it unlikely to meet the scheduled completion timeline. When contacted, Junior Engineer Nanigopal Sen of the Water Resources department stated that a Rs 3.72-crore proposal for stone pitching has been prepared and the tender process is complete. With the monsoon approaching, necessary emergency steps will be taken based on the severity of the situation, he added.

# CRPF official killed in IED blast in Saranda forest

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/ Chaibasa/ Ranchi, June 14:** A CRPF official was killed in a blast during an anti-Naxal operation at the Odisha-Jharkhand border Saturday morning, officials said. ASI Satyaban Kumar Singh (34) of 134th CRPF battalion, who hailed from Kushinagar in UP, was part of a team that was searching the Saranda forest at the inter-state border for explosives robbed by Maoists from a stone quarry May 27, they said.

He sustained injuries on his left leg when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded around 6am near the K Balang village in Sundargarh district, they said. He was taken to a hospital in Rourkela, where he succumbed to the injuries, officials said.

The search operation was being conducted by a joint



team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Odisha Police.

About 5 tonne of explosives were robbed from a stone quarry in Sundargarh's Banko by Maoists. While three-fourths of the explosives have been recovered so far, the security forces continue their search for the remaining gelatin packets, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi condoled the death of the CRPF official. "Deeply saddened to know about the sacrifice of

ASI Satyaban Singh of CRPF in an IED blast during a combing operation at the Odisha-Jharkhand border. He has set the highest standard of service and courage by sacrificing his life for the security of the country. I pray for the eternal peace of the martyred jawan and express my condolences to the bereaved family," he said in a post on X.

In a statement, the Jharkhand Police said a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the CRPF's 133 battalion headquarters in Ranchi at 5pm.

# Man lynched over goat theft suspicion

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patana, June 14:** A man was brutally beaten to death in an organised attack by four persons over suspicion of goat theft at Sankhua village under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Bipin Bihari Naik, 46, son of Paramananda Naik in the village under Saharpada block. The accused dropped the body near Sankhua High School on Sankhua-Gorandi Jodi road and fled.

The matter came to the light after locals spotted the body and alerted the local police.

Police swung into action Saturday and arrested a couple in this connection. The accused identified as

Debasri Patra, 55, and his wife Beenapani Patra, 40 were produced in the court after their arrest, Patana IIC Manas Kumar Mahakur said.

A case was registered in this connection and the body handed over to the family members after a post-mortem. A manhunt has been launched to nab the absconding two accused, the IIC said.

Sources said that Bipin had entered the cowshed of Debasri Friday. Debasri suspected that Bipin had come to steal his goats as recently there had been a series of goat thefts in the area. Debasri raised an alarm and he along with his wife Beenapani, son and another person caught hold of Bipin and lynched him.

## ATTACK BY VILLAGERS

# Forest workers stir in front of DFO office demanding arrest of accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 14:** Members of Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association, Keonjhar branch Saturday evening staged a peaceful protest in front of the Keonjhar division office and gave a memorandum with a six-point charter of demands including arrest of villagers who attacked on-duty forest officials Friday.

Tension erupted near the DFO office Saturday evening when the police personnel deployed outside did not let the forest workers enter into the premises. Later, the forest workers went inside the division office and protested peacefully. Divisional Forest Offi-



cer, Keonjhar Dhanraj HD came to the protest site and held talks with the president and other members of Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association, Keonjhar branch.

After discussion they called off the protest and gave a 48-hour ultimatum to fulfill their demands.

The forest workers said that when they were going to rescue victims of elephant attack in Kendudihi village under Rugudi

police station Friday, the villagers attacked Barbil ranger Sanjib Raut. Guali forester Sarat Kumar Patnaik and protection squad members in the presence of Rugudi IIC and other police personnel. Forester Sarat Kumar Patnaik was admitted to Barbil Community Health Centre in a critical condition for treatment.

The victims were identified as Dipachan Majhi, 37, and Amul Majhi, 28, both residents of Soseing village. According to sources, the two had gone into the nearby Dalampala forest early in the morning to collect firewood. At the time, a wild bear with her cubs was foraging in the same area. Upon spotting the men, the bear launched a sudden attack.

Amul was the first to be mauled, sustaining multiple injuries. When Dipachan tried to intervene and rescue him, the bear turned on him, severely injuring his face and body. Amid the chaos, Amul managed to flee

# 2 YOUTHS CRITICAL IN BEAR ATTACK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada, June 14:** Two youths sustained critical injuries in a bear attack Saturday inside the Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary near Soseing village under Komna police limits in Nuapada district. The victims were identified as Dipachan Majhi, 37, and Amul Majhi, 28, both residents of Soseing village. According to sources, the two had gone into the nearby Dalampala forest early in the morning to collect firewood. At the time, a wild bear with her cubs was foraging in the same area. Upon spotting the men, the bear launched a sudden attack.

Amul was the first to be mauled, sustaining multiple injuries. When Dipachan tried to intervene and rescue him, the bear turned on him, severely injuring his face and body. Amid the chaos, Amul managed to flee to a nearby forest guard outpost, alerting a caretaker who then informed villagers. Over 10 villagers rushed to the spot to rescue the injured. However, as they approached, the bear chased them, forcing all to climb trees for their safety. The animal remained in the area, guarding her cubs and pacing aggressively. The rescuers remained in the trees for nearly four hours until the bear moved away with her cubs. Two villagers used an alternate route to retrieve the injured and took them to Sunabeda Primary Health Centre. They were later shifted to Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital due to the severity of their injuries. Amul suffered deep wounds across his body, while Dipachan's face was severely disfigured, making his eyes, nose, and mouth unrecognisable.

# 2 killed as truck hits motorcycle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada:** Two men were killed late Friday night after a truck collided with their motorcycle head-on near Daldali village square on National Highway 353 under Lakhna police limits in Nuapada district. The deceased were identified as Khyamasagar Dharua, 33, and Purenra Dharua, 45, both residents of Diamunda village in Kurumapuri panchayat. Earlier that day, Khyamasagar's wife, Brunda Dharua, was taken to the Taraboda Primary Health Centre in labour. At around 4:30pm, she gave birth to a baby boy. As both mother and child were stable, they were discharged with medication around 10pm. While Brunda and the newborn returned home in an ambulance, Khyamasagar and Purenra followed on a motorcycle. A truck coming from the opposite direction rammed into them near Daldali square, throwing both riders onto the road. They were rushed to the Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital by locals and police, where doctors declared them dead. Lakhna police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation. The speeding truck fled the scene. On Saturday, family members, villagers and social workers staged a protest outside the hospital demanding compensation. Financial aid of Rs 20,000 and Rs 10,000 was given to each of the families.

# Vedanta Lanjigarh launches mega plantation campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, in a powerful reaffirmation of its commitment to environmental sustainability, launched a mega plantation drive titled 'Mo Gachha Mo Parivar' in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025. The campaign targets the plantation of over 1 lakh fruit-bearing saplings in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, aiming to positively impact more than 30,000 rural families, with popular species like mango, guava, jackfruit, and moringa selected for their ecological, nutritional, and economic value.

The initiative was kicked off through a community-led plantation drive at Balabhadrapur village and Vedanta's plant premises, with participation from more than 600 people, including employees, senior leadership, school children, government officials, and members of the local community. The plantation was symbolically tied to the theme of 'Mo Gachha, Mo Parivar'.

It is a heartfelt pledge to nurture each tree as a member of the family. Beyond beautifying the landscape, the plantation drive is expected to offset approximately 1.5 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the trees. It will contribute to enhanced biodiversity and support the regeneration of natural forests. The initiative also plays a crucial role in improving soil retention and preventing erosion. By introducing fruit-bearing trees, it is set to strengthen rural livelihoods through harvesting and allied income-generating activities. Additionally, it will help build climate resilience in ecologically sensitive regions.

Speaking on the initiative, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO - Vedanta Alumina Business said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, sustainability is not just a responsibility—it's a way of life. Through 'Mo Gachha Mo Parivar', we are sowing seeds of hope, unity, and prosperity. We are proud to walk hand-in-hand with the community toward a greener and more resilient tomorrow."



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) DIVISION, JEYPORE**  
ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B) - 05/2025-26/JYP(K)  
No. 3085 Date: 09.06.2025  
No. B-198: Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

- Name of the Work : Civil works as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of works : 4 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.6.65 lakhs to Rs.20.23 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 1 (One) Month to 4 (Four) Months
- Date & time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 20.06.2025 upto 17.00 hours of 30.06.2025
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 17.00 hours of 30.06.2025
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 01.07.2025
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34027/11/0015/2526

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

All people are hereby notified that the property described below in Schedule annexed hereto is owned and possessed by **Barrister Ranjit Mohanty Trust (BRM Trust)**.

The said Trust is registered as a Public Trust under Indian Trust Act. The Board of Trustees of the said Trust and namely their resolution have resolved to sell the same to our client namely National Insurance Academy having its registered office at 25, Balewadi, Baner Road, NIA P.O. Pune- 411 045.

The owners of the said property mentioned below have assured that BRM Trust is the owner of the same and has full right, title and interest to sell the same and assign the possession thereof to our client.

They are further assured that there is no charge of whatsoever nature, encumbrance, reservation or acquisition over the said property. Based upon the said representation, our client has agreed to purchase the said property. In case anybody has any objection, claim or any charge of whatsoever nature over the said property then they are notified to inform about the same in writing alongwith the necessary supporting documents to the undersigned within 15 days from the publication of the said notice, failing which our client shall presume that there are no charge, encumbrance or claim of whatsoever of anybody over the said property and the said property is free from encumbrances and BRM Trust has clear and marketable title to sell the said property to our client and in that case our client shall proceed further to purchase the said property by executing necessary conveyance Deed. In that case no complaint of whatsoever nature will be entertained thereafter.

**Schedule of the Property**  
**Land:** All that piece and parcel of Plot Nos. 1744 and 1746, Mouza-Pubasan, Khata No. 797/239 (02 Plots), Area: AC. 1.10 decs, Dist: Puri, D.S.R.O.: Pipili, KISSAM- Household alongwith;  
**Building:** One three-storied building measuring 25,000 sqft.  
One two-storied building measuring 18,000 sqft.  
Total: 43,000 sqft.

**Suvashish Pattanaik**, Advocate, Odisha High Court  
Mob.: 9861096779, E-mail: [suvashishpattanaik@yahoo.co.in](mailto:suvashishpattanaik@yahoo.co.in)

**राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**  
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016, [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in)

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NCERT wishes to increase the number of empaneled vendors in all the States and UTs for distribution of its publications including school textbooks for the calendar year 2025 and onwards. Reputed stockists/wholesalers having experience in distribution of books and with sound financial background and who are in a position to meet the sale target in a year and fulfil other conditions as detailed in the application form may apply. School organizations/consortiums interested to procure NCERT publications directly from NCERT for their students may also apply. The application form and documents may be downloaded from the NCERT website [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in). The existing empaneled vendors need not apply. The duly filled in applications along with the required documents in PDF format should be sent through email at [ncert.hpd@gmail.com](mailto:ncert.hpd@gmail.com) within 15 days from the date of publication of this Advertisement in Newspapers.

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**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR**  
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**the Two-year MBA - Executive (MBA-Ex) Program, Batch of 2025-2027**  
Synchronous Classes on Saturdays & Sundays

The MBA-EX program offered by Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur, is a two-year Master's degree program aimed at grooming professionals for leadership and managerial roles. The program will be delivered in hybrid mode via synchronous classes on Saturdays and Sundays and campus in-person immersion every alternate term.

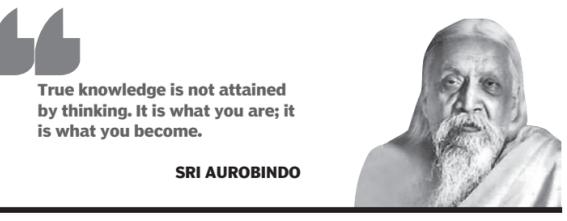
**Course Delivery :** Synchronous classes on weekends and four in-person campus immersions. Mode of Admission: Written Test followed by Personal Interview across five centers.

Admission of reserved-category candidates will be done as per Government of India notification.

**Last Date for Submission of Online Applications : July 10, 2025**  
**Details about eligibility criteria, application fee and mode of application are available at <https://som.iitkgp.ac.in/executive-mba.php>.** Please follow this link for updates.  
For any queries, please contact : [executivemba@vgsom.iitkgp.ac.in](mailto:executivemba@vgsom.iitkgp.ac.in) Tel : 03222-282295/282297.  
cbcc 21255/12/0004/2526

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No.: 14-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26  
Name of the Work: ONE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF 8 NOS. STEEL GIRDER BRIDGES OF SPAN 12.20 METER BY PSC SLABS BETWEEN BHADRAK-MANJURI ROAD SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Advertised Value: ₹ 29,13,414.02. EMD: ₹ 58,300/- Period of Completion: 180 days.  
Bidding start date: 16.06.2025. Tender closing date & time: at 1300 hrs. of 30.06.2025.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details & tender documents will be available at [website.www.reps.gov.in](http://website.www.reps.gov.in)  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-236/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/31, Dt. 10.06.2025  
(1) Tender No. eTender-NorthKUR-110-2025, 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 BHADRAK-MANJURI ROAD SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 101.95 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,01,000/-  
(2) Tender No. eTender-SouthKUR-107-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025  
**DESCRIPTION :** ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (18 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSO STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD-PALASA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 196.64 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,48,300/-  
(3) Tender No. eTender-EastKUR-106-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025  
**DESCRIPTION :** EXECUTION OF CTR(S) FOR A LENGTH OF 4.46 KMS AND TRR(S) FOR 3.675 KMS IN DIFFERENT YARDS UNDER DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 188.53 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,44,300/-  
Completion Period : 180 Days (for Sl. No. 1 & 2) and 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 3).  
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 27.06.2025 (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.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.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 tenders/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-238/Q/25-26 Khurda Road



# Nameless Doctrine

On 12 June, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. It spoke of ending Israel's use of starvation as a weapon of war. A total of 149 nations voted in favour, with America and Israel opposing. India abstained from voting, repeating a pattern it has adopted in the Modi era. This has upset some Indians because it is a break from India's longstanding position on Palestine and Palestinians, but it is in keeping with the thrust of the BJP's Hindutva ideology.

On the other hand, the government's supporters have been upset by the even-handedness with which the world has approached our recent conflict with Pakistan. We cannot get nations to take our side. This column is not a critique of India's foreign policy under Narendra Modi; it is an attempt to explain it. The BJP's manifestoes from the very beginning, in its Jana Sangh avatar in the 1950s, have little to offer in terms of foreign policy doctrine. However, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has laid out his thesis in his writings and this will help us appreciate what India is attempting to do in the world. Jaishankar assumes that in our time the United States and Europe will look inward (his first book of essays was published just before Trump lost in 2020), while China would continue to rise. This would open the space for countries like India to be opportunistic in their engagements with the world and for this they did not need consistency.

What India wanted was a 'multi-polar Asia'—meaning one in which India could claim parity with China. Many balls would need to be kept in the air, Jaishankar writes and India would handle them with dexterity. This was opportunism but that was all right because opportunism, he tells us, was in India's culture. We should understand our abstention from voting against genocide and starvation of children by Israel in this light. The Mahabharata's lessons, Jaishankar says, are that deceit and immorality are merely to 'not play by the rules.' Drona's demanding of Eklavya's thumb, Arjuna's appropriation of Karna's armour, Arjuna using Shikhandi as a human shield, these were but 'practices and traditions.'

Inconsistency in policy was not only fine but required because 'obsessing about consistency' made little sense in changing circumstances. So what was such a doctrine to be called? In a speech he made where he first laid out this doctrine of opportunism and inconsistency, Jaishankar said it is hard to think of a name. He takes up and discards the phrases — 'multi-alignment' ('sounds too opportunistic') and 'India first' ('sounds self centred'). He settles at 'advancing prosperity and influence,' which he says is accurate but thinks is not catchy. He believes some name for it will eventually come if it is pursued long enough, because part of the challenge is that we are still in the early phase of a major transition.

The opponent will point out that this was no real foreign policy at all. This was a cover on top of what was already going on. What interested Modi, and what was inconsistent but made for pageant and ceremony, was being passed off as something meaningful. The opponent will also ask why Jaishankar's doctrine is detached from the rhetoric offered by the BJP. There is no role for India the civilisational entity, which nationalists from Nehru to the BJP have made much of. There is no Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-style romanticism or Vishwaguru-type bombast here, and Jaishankar's nameless doctrine is stripped of all forms of morality and ethic. This is not India engaging with the world on the strength of Indian pluralism. The world is a transactional place and India must be dexterous enough to be able to take advantage of it. One important element of this line of thinking was to take advantage of the war in Ukraine and buy cheap Russian oil. Europe, dependent on Russian gas for energy could hardly press other nations for buying from Russia. India did so, along with China. How much cheaper was it? The average landed price of imported crude for April–December 2022 was \$99.2 per barrel. If oil from Russia was excluded, the average price was \$101.2, meaning a saving of \$2 per barrel. And this money did not come back to the Indian citizen as we have seen in the price of fuel; instead it enriched private refiners.

Jaishankar does not appear to have anticipated that this theory of his worked both ways. In such a world as he imagined, others would also seek to take advantage of India, and treat it in opportunistic fashion. This might help explain why our global outreach has received such a tepid response. We have chosen to be transactional with the world, as our UN votes reveal. The major powers understand and accept this and they will in turn be transactional with us. Whether this is good, bad or indifferent foreign policy is for the reader to decide.

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- ### WISDOM CORNER
- The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm.** — ALDOUS HUXLEY
  - To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.** — RALPH WALDO EMERSON
  - No one can be perfectly free till all are free; no one can be perfectly moral till all are moral; no one can be perfectly happy till all are happy.** — HERBERT SPENCER
- ### THIS DAY IN HISTORY
- 1775:** George Washington was named commander in chief of the colonies by the Continental Congress.
  - 1844:** Charles Goodyear patents vulcanization. The American inventor is credited with developing the basic concept of strengthening rubber by adding sulfur or similar materials. Vulcanized rubber is today used for a wide array of products, such as tires and shoe soles.
  - 1954:** The Union of European Football Associations is founded. The UEFA is the umbrella organization for association football in Europe. It comprises 54 member countries in Europe and Asia.
  - 1977:** Spain holds the first free elections since 1936. The transition to democracy followed nearly four decades of right-wing dictatorship under Francisco Franco. Adolfo Suárez became Spain's first democratically elected Prime Minister.
  - 1991:** Mount Pinatubo explodes. The stratovolcano's eruption was one of the most violent of the 20th century. About 800 people died, but the event had also global consequences. For example, it caused a global temperature drop of 0.5°C (0.9°F).

## FOCUS CONFLICTS

# IMPERIALISM IN ACTION

From diplomatic arm-twisting and economic and political blackmail to wars and hegemonic trade and tariff mechanisms, Yankee imperialism and its European minion lapdogs continue to wreak havoc on the lives of working people—destroying their homes, happiness, and livelihoods. The deliberate creation of crises, fear, death, destitution, and hopelessness is not merely a consequence of imperialist actions, but an integral part of their strategic design—inseparable from their motives and mechanisms. There is no such thing as “collateral damage” when it comes to the calculated, strategic operations of imperialism across the globe. There is no fundamental difference between old and new forms of imperialism. Both rely on brute force to dominate people, seize resources, and undermine global peace and prosperity. From creating and sponsoring terrorism to supporting dictatorial, authoritarian, and reactionary regimes, imperialism remains the lifeblood of anti-democratic forces across the world. Contemporary imperialism is every bit as brutal as its historical predecessors.

According to the RULAC (Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts) initiative by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, there are currently 110 armed conflicts ongoing around the world. Of all these conflicts, 45 are in the Middle East and North Africa, 35 in sub-Saharan Africa, 21 in Asia, 7 in Europe, and 6 in Latin America. Some of these conflicts have lasted for over 50 years. Meanwhile, the Council on Foreign Relations' Global Conflict Tracker identifies 32 active wars and conflicts

worldwide. Behind many of these conflicts—both visibly and invisibly—are the hands of Yankee imperialism and its European allies. From the wars between Ukraine and Russia, India and Pakistan, and Iran and Israel, to the destruction of Palestine and military operations in Baluchistan, as well as various regions across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, imperialist influence is pervasive in creating and sustaining these conflicts. The devastation of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya stands as a testament to the role of American and European imperialism, driven by lies, manipulation, and unlawful military interventions disguised as democratic diplomacy. All these violent conflicts and wars are orchestrated by imperialist forces to exploit natural resources, while the working masses are made to fight each other in the name of territory, nationalism, religion, culture, and ethnicity. Imperialist powers not only initiate but also actively promote wars and conflicts, ensuring that their factories producing weapons of mass destruction remain profitable—at the cost of human lives and livelihoods.



The global arms trade, driven by American and European interests, fundamentally depends on the expansion and perpetuation of conflict

The global arms trade, driven by American and European interests, fundamentally depends on the expansion and perpetuation of conflict. Without war, their arms industries would collapse. To keep these “arms shops” open, American and European imperialism continues to manufacture and sustain conflict around the world. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Fact Sheet (March 2025), European and American states remain the dominant exporters of arms. The US, France, Germany, Italy, the UK, and China were the major arms exporters between 2020 and 2024. The same report reveals that US arms exports increased by 21% from 2015 to 2024, while France saw an 11% increase. In contrast, Russian arms exports declined by 64% over the same period. On the receiving end, Ukraine, India, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan were the largest arms importers during 2020–2024. American and European imperialists, along with their military-industrial complexes, lay the foundations for this global arms trade.

According to conservative estimates, more than 7 million people have died as a result of recent imperialist wars and conflicts. The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University (USA) reports that over 940,000 people were killed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan during the post-9/11 “War on Terror” led by imperialist powers. Of these, more than 432,000 were civilians killed between 2001 and 2023. An additional 3.6 to 3.8 million people are estimated to have died indirectly in these war zones, bringing the total death toll to at least 4.5 to 4.7 million—and still rising. More than 1.5 million people have been killed in the ongoing Russia–Ukraine war. Since 7 October, 2023, over 65,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli military operations, including 17,492 children. These deaths and the widespread devastation they represent are entirely avoidable. Yet American and European imperialist powers continue to manufacture and promote new conflicts and wars to sustain their hegemonic dominance and profit-driven capitalist systems. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, American imperialism opened a new economic front by unilaterally imposing tariffs on numerous countries, aiming to control and dominate international trade. Such imperialist economic strategies have led to increased costs of essential goods and services, further marginalising working people. There is no escaping from the pervasive and destructive consequences of imperialism on the daily lives of people and the health of the planet. The defeat of imperialism in all its forms is central to achieving lasting global peace, happiness and shared prosperity.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

## SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# The case for green business

Since Donald Trump's return to the White House, the US has taken an everything-everywhere-all-at-once approach to disrupting the domestic and global status quo, and sustainability and climate commitments have been among its first targets. Trump immediately signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement, and his administration then canceled funding for clean-energy projects under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Against this backdrop, some companies are quietly downplaying or abandoning their previously announced environmental and climate commitments.

But no amount of shock-and-awe policy disruption in one country compares to the disruption caused by climate change. Already, the financial costs from disrupted global supply chains—owing to water stress, biodiversity loss, and land degradation—are projected to reach up to \$25 trillion by 2060. Businesses that fail to manage these risks will face higher costs, increased regulatory scrutiny, and reputational damage. For example, automakers that are slow-playing the transition to electric vehicles may find themselves scrambling to catch up as more governments enact legislation to phase out internal combustion engines in the coming years. In time, legacy auto brands are likely to face the same kind of scrutiny and reputational fallout that oil and gas producers have. By contrast, companies that proactively build greater resilience throughout their businesses and supply chains will benefit from greater investor confidence, and thus lower capital costs.

But with the climate-finance industry focused mostly on the net-zero agenda, physical risks and climate-adaptation needs have not received the attention they merit. As a result, banks, asset managers, and (especially) insurers are sitting on a time bomb of potential liabilities. Adapting to a world characterized by biodiversity loss, water stress, and other risks is now crucial to maintaining corporate profitability over the long term.

Far-sighted countries and companies will recognize that this upheaval represents an opportunity. In separate studies, McKinsey Sustainability and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development estimated the economic opportunity represented by the sustainable transition at \$12 trillion per year by 2030.

Similarly, Kantar BrandZ assessments show that perceptions of sustainability enhance brand equity (value in the eyes of customers), drive sales, and allow brands to command a premium. Yet even as sustainability perceptions add as much as 10% to the value of the top 100 brands, these companies are still leaving an estimated \$600 billion on the table. The next decade of business will be defined by companies that recognize sustainability as an economic imperative, rather than just a regulatory requirement. Economic power is shifting fast with the impending generational transfer of wealth. In the US alone, the transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) to Millennials (1981-96) and Gen Z (1997-2012) could amount to \$84.4 trillion over the next 20 years. As Millennial and Gen Z consumers become more dominant in the marketplace, they are seeking brands that reflect their values, and chief among these is a preference for mutualism over individualism: a sense of community and shared responsibility for collective gain in the face of anticipated uncertainty and adversity. In this context, businesses like Airbnb, Vinted, and IKEA are stealing a march with brand

communications that focus on cooperation, community, and a sense of belonging. As global markets increasingly focus on business resilience and respond to the rise of industrial policy and longer-term investment strategies, companies that adapt to generational change will be best positioned to lead the next industrial revolution. We are experiencing much more than the shock of US policy shifts. To remain credible in the eyes of consumers and investors, brands and businesses will have to get serious about building climate resilience into their operations—whether by addressing single points of failure in their supply chains or by implementing robust crisis and recovery plans. For businesses, the need to adapt to climate change isn't going away, and neither is consumer demand for sustainable solutions. Globally, 85% of people surveyed still want to make “greener” choices in their purchases. Companies that shun, renounce, or postpone climate-attuned strategies do so at their own peril.

The writer is Managing Partner of the Sustainable Transformation Practice at Kantar.



Jonathan Hall

COMPANIES THAT SHUN, RENOUNCE, OR POSTPONE CLIMATE-ATTUNED STRATEGIES DO SO AT THEIR OWN PERIL

## 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



## Dangerous escalation

Sir, This refers to “Israel strikes Iran's nuclear sites.” Orissa POST, June 14. Israel's bombing of Iran's nuclear sites, killing top Iranian army officials, has triggered a dangerous and catastrophic escalation in the Middle East. Iran launched a wave of retaliatory attacks, marking one of the most direct confrontations between the two nations in recent history. This sharp intensification threatens to destabilise the region, drawing in global powers and risking a broader conflict. The consequences of this confrontation are severe. With tensions rising near the Strait of Hormuz—a vital energy corridor—global oil prices have surged, threatening economic stability worldwide. For India, the fallout is particularly concerning. As one of the largest importers of Middle Eastern crude oil, India is highly vulnerable to price spikes, which could fuel inflation, widen the trade deficit, and slow economic growth. Additionally, India has millions of citizens living and working in the Gulf region. A prolonged conflict could endanger their safety and force emergency evacuations. Diplomatically, India finds itself in a tight spot, balancing its strategic partnerships with both Israel and Iran.

## Secure the skies

Sir, Air travel has always been regarded as the safest mode of commuting but that record appears to be under threat subsequent to the “Black Thursday.” Even frequent flyers may panic while boarding a flight let alone those with aerophobia. It is very critical to prevent such air crashes and secure the skies. The Boeing 778 Dreamliner, in little over 14 years, has earned a formidable reputation for safety. Very fast and fuel efficient, the aircraft is said to possess a range of 13530 km. That being said, there have been reports and complaints about its assembly defects though no aircraft in the world can perhaps boast of having totally accident-free engines. Mechanic defect, engine failure, bird hit and human error: one or the combination of these are attributed to the gory tragedy at Ahmedabad. Recovery of the black box that contains Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder may answer most of the queries.

The writer is Managing Partner of the Sustainable Transformation Practice at Kantar.



# Forces make major arms haul in Manipur

328 rifles, 9,300 different types of ammunition recovered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Imphal, June 14:** In a major development, the security forces in joint operations, have recovered 328 rifles and around 9,300 different types of ammunition in restive Manipur, officials said here Saturday.

A senior police official said that in the wee hours of Saturday, on the basis of specific Intelligence reports regarding the presence of a large cache of arms and ammunition stashed in different areas of five Imphal valley districts, simultaneous search operations were launched at different locations.

He said that joint teams of Manipur Police, Army, Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) recovered the significant number of arms and a huge cache of ammunition and warlike stores from the outskirts of five valley districts of Imphal



West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kachhing.

Of the 328 arms recovered, 151 are Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs), followed by 73 rifles, 65 INSAS rifles, 12 Light Machine Guns (LMGs), six AK series rifles, five carbines, six pistols and many other different types of arms.

The joint forces also recovered around 9,300 various types of ammunition in the most successful operations, the official said.

A Manipur Police state-

**The recovery is the first major success of the security forces in Manipur after the ethnic violence broke out in the state May 3, 2023**

ment said that these Intelligence-based operations mark a major achievement for the Manipur Police, the security forces, in their continued efforts to restore normalcy, maintain public order, and ensure the safety and security of citizens and their property.

The Manipur Police reit-

erates its commitment to a peaceful and secure Manipur, the statement said.

It said that the public is urged to cooperate with the police and security forces and report any suspicious activities or information related to illegal weapons to the nearest police station or Central Con-

trol Room.

“Senior police officials are in close coordination with all security stakeholders to ensure that such operations continue in a sustained and focussed manner to restore normalcy, maintain public order, and ensure the safety and security of citizens and their properties,” the statement said.

The recovery of 328 arms and 9,300 various types of ammunition is the first major success of the security forces in Manipur after the ethnic violence broke out in the state May 3, 2023.

Various official reports, political parties claimed that during the ethnic riots more than 6,020 varied types of sophisticated arms and lakhs of different types of ammunition were looted from the police stations and police outposts by the mobs, attackers and militants.

Till March 6, around 1,000 looted and illegally-held weapons, including many sophisticated arms, and a huge cache of ammunition, have been returned to the security forces since Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla made the appeal for the first time February 20.

## PAHALGAM ATTACK

# Closed destinations being reopened in phases: Sinha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, June 14:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said the parks at tourist places, which were closed in view of security considerations after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, are being reopened in a phased manner to allow tourists to visit the destinations.

He said that some destinations will be reopened in the first phase from June 17.

Some places were closed after April 22 (attack) in view of security considerations. The divisional commissioners and IGP's of Kashmir and Jammu have taken reports from every district and it has been decided to reopen some destinations in a phased manner, Sinha said.

The lieutenant governor was speaking to reporters after visiting the Nunwan Base Camp of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Sinha said the destinations that have been decided to be reopened for tourists in the first phase include Beetab Valley and the parks near Pahalgam market in the famous tourist destination of Pahalgam, Verinag, Kokernag and Achabal gardens in Anantnag district.

In Srinagar, Badamwari Park, Duck Park near Nigeen and Taqdeer Park near Hazratbal will also be reopened in the first phase. These eight places are being reopened and tourists can visit these, he added.

The lieutenant governor also said that eight destinations would be reopened in Jammu region as well.

Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua, Devipindi, Siyad Baba and Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai valley in Doda, and Pancheri in Udhampur - all in Jammu region - are also being reopened in the first phase, said Sinha.

Eight places are being reopened in the first phase. In the next phase, some other destinations will be reopened, he added. The lieutenant governor said the committee comprising of the divisional commissioners and IGP's of both regions will take reports from districts and then some more places will be reopened in consultations with the Tourism department.



The tourists are coming. There is a new enthusiasm in people after the launch of Vande Bharat (train). Railways people have told me that all tickets have been booked for the next 10-12 days. The number of tourists is increasing gradually, said Sinha.

Endeavours are being made from every side, the Government of India will also be having meetings of the Parliamentary delegations, committees etc. in Srinagar. This will restore the confidence, he added.

Commenting on the Amarnath Yatra that is scheduled to begin July 3, the lieutenant governor said that stringent security arrangements have been made and appealed to people to come here in large numbers.

“But I request them to travel in convoy only from Jammu. Security agencies have formulated a plan for them to travel here and they should stick to that plan,” he said.

“Met the delegation of Hon'ble MLAs, DDC Chairperson & Vice Chairpersons, tour and travel operators, Ponywala association and hoteliers' associations at Pahalgam. I've assured the delegation that restrictions on other tourist spots will be lifted after thorough security assessment,” he said in a post on X. Sinha said the Army and Kashmir Police, Jammu and CAPFs have made foolproof security arrangements for the annual pilgrimage.

“The locals have supported the yatra and I especially want from the people of Kashmir to come forward and participate in this yatra. This is your yatra, it makes your economy stronger and it will start the revival of tourism, so there is a need for all to support it,” said Sinha.

## Lone AAP lawmaker withdraws support to NC-led J&K govt

**Jammu:** The lone Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik Saturday announced withdrawal of his support to the National Conference-led government in Jammu and Kashmir. The withdrawal of support by Malik will have no impact on the government as the National Conference-Congress alliance has a majority on its own. The NC has 42 MLAs and the Congress six in the 90-seat Assembly and the government also enjoys the support of five independent MLAs. “I, Mehraj Malik, MLA from Doda, hereby withdraw my support to NC in the government coalition. This decision has been taken in the best interest of my people of Jammu and Kashmir whose trust and welfare will always be my top priority,” the AAP legislator wrote on X. Malik scripted history by defeating BJP's Gajay Singh Rana from Doda Assembly constituency by 4,538 votes in last year's Assembly polls, making him AAP's first and only winning candidate from J&K. He was appointed as the state president of AAP March 21 this year.



Security personnel serve 'chhabee', a cold sweet drink, to passersby to offer relief from the scorching heat, in Jammu, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

## SIBLAC urges Nepal to respect sanctity of Mt Kanchenjunga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gangtok, June 14:** The Sikkim Bhutia Lepcha Apex Committee (SIBLAC) Saturday appealed to the Nepal government and the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) to immediately halt a planned expedition to Mt Kanchenjunga, citing the mountain's deep spiritual and cultural significance to the indigenous communities of Sikkim.

In two separate letters addressed to Nepal's tourism minister and the NMA president, SIBLAC urged the authorities to reconsider their decision to allow a joint mountaineering expedition involving climbers from India and Nepal, which is scheduled to begin from Nepal June 18 under the aegis of India's National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS).

According to SIBLAC, Mt Kanchenjunga is not merely a geographical landmark but a sacred entity, revered as a guardian deity by the Sikkimese people.

The organisation noted that the mountain is central to the state's religious and cultural

heritage, and is associated with annual prayers and ceremonies deeply rooted in local traditions.

The letters further reference the 2001 notification by the Government of Sikkim, which banned mountaineering activities on the mountain out of respect for local beliefs. They also invoked provisions of Article 371F and Sikkim's special status within the Indian Constitution, emphasising the protection of indigenous customs and religious sentiments.

SIBLAC warned that any expedition involving summiting Kanchenjunga, particularly from Nepal, could be perceived as a serious cultural violation, and called for the mountain to be treated with spiritual reverence rather than as a site for adventure tourism.

The committee requested both governments to act with sensitivity and uphold the sacred status of the mountain.

The appeal concluded with a request to halt the planned ascent and preserve the spiritual and environmental sanctity of the region, while respecting the sentiments of the Sikkimese people.



## Arunachal plans World War II museum facelift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Itanagar, June 14:** The Arunachal Pradesh government will develop the World War II museum at Jairampur in Changlang, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said, emphasising the region's importance in the Burma Campaign.

The museum is located at the historical Stilwell Road, a strategic World War II route.

Chairing a meeting here Thursday, Mein noted the historical significance of the Pangsau Pass and the Stilwell Road.

“This area is of immense historical value, and we aim to develop a one-of-a-kind museum to preserve and showcase this legacy while transforming it into a major heritage-cum-tourism hub,” he said.

The deputy CM said the collection of artefacts needs to be enhanced so that a dedicated gallery showcasing the contributions of the indigenous people can be developed, noting the role played by people of the Singpho, Khamti, Adi, Nocte, Mishmi, and Naga tribes, who served as soldiers and porters during what is popularly known as the ‘Burma War’.

During the Pangsau Pass Winter Festival, a Willy Jeep rally from the Hump WWII Museum in Pasighat, East Siang district, to Pangsau Pass, as well as a supercar rally, have been planned to attract tourists and history enthusiasts.

## 2 Manipuri crew members of London-bound AI flight killed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Imphal, June 14:** Two cabin crew members from Manipur - Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma (20) and Lamnunthem Singson (26) - were killed when the London-bound Air India flight, carrying over 240 passengers, crashed shortly after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport.

Former Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, in a social media post, confirmed the death of Sharma and Singson.

Singh, in a post on his social media platform X handle, said, “It is heartbreaking to share that two young cabin crew members from Manipur, Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma and Lamnunthem Singson, were among those who lost their lives in today's Air India crash in Ahmedabad.”

“Both were full of life, serving with dedication and pride. Their sudden passing is a huge loss for their families, friends, and for all of us back home. May their souls rest in peace and may their loved ones find the strength to get through this unimaginable pain,” Singh said.

Sharma belonged to the Meitei community and hailed from Manipur's Thoubal, while Singson, a resident of Kangpokpi district, was from the tribal Thadou community.

A relative of Sharma said in Imphal that after hearing about the plane crash, they dialled her several times, but none of the calls were received.

“Her mobile phone was also still on and it was continuously



ringing,” K Khenjita, a relative of Sharma, said.

Her last message before take-off was, “I'm going to London. In a few minutes, we'll take off. We may not be able to talk afterwards.”

Sharma was recruited by Air India during a recruitment call in Imphal three years ago, while she was studying for an undergraduate course.

“She got selected and was based in Mumbai,” family members said.

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and former Chief Minister Singh expressed shock and grief over the plane crash.

“The Hon'ble Governor of Manipur has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic and shocking incident of an aircraft crash that occurred during a flight from Ahmedabad to London. He has prayed to the Almighty for the speedy recov-



ery of all those injured in this unfortunate mishap,” the Raj Bhavan said on its X handle.

Chief Ministers of all north-eastern states - Assam (Himanta Biswa Sarma), Tripura (Manik Saha), Arunachal Pradesh (Pema Khandu), Meghalaya (Conrad K Sangma), Nagaland (Neiphiu Rio), Mizoram (Lalduhoma) - in separate posts in their X handles expressed deep shock over the plane crash. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner (VT-ANB), on its way to London, with 242 people on board, including two pilots and 10 cabin crew, crashed a few minutes after taking off from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

Flight operations at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, were temporarily suspended after the accident, but resumed after a few hours.

## Wife of pony ride operator killed in Pahalgam attack receives job letter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, June 14:** The Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday provided a job to the wife of Adil Shah, a local pony ride operator who was killed in the April 22 Pahalgam attack while battling terrorists, officials said.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over the appointment letter to Adil Shah's wife Gulnaz Akhter at their house in the Hapatnar area of Pahalgam in Anantnag district. After interacting with Adil Shah's family members and some locals, Sinha told reporters that the government job to Akhter was a symbol of gratitude from the administration to her husband's valour.

“Gulnaz Akhter has been given a permanent job in the fisheries department in Anantnag. This is a mark of gratitude from the administration. We have talked to the family and the people of the village, who want increased employment opportunities in the region. We will take care of that in the days to come,” Sinha said.

The L-G said the J&K government has already provided financial assistance to Adil Shah's family for the bravery shown by the pony ride operator.

Taking to X, Sinha said, “Met the family members of martyr Syed Adil Hussain at Anantnag. Handed an appointment letter to his wife Mrs Gulnaz Akhter on compassionate grounds. The whole country is proud of the bravery of Adil who sacrificed his life while protecting tourists at Pahalgam on April 22.”

**“We should be united in our grief and provide as much solidarity as we can to the families of the passengers and others, including medical students, who lost their lives in the incident. It is a moment where we need to stand together and just provide solidarity”**  
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

## AXIOM-4 MISSION NOW EYES JUNE 19 LIFT-OFF

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others are expected to travel to the International Space Station June 19, after SpaceX successfully resolved the liquid oxygen leak in its Falcon-9 rocket, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced Saturday



### of the day quote

Five foreign universities will set up campuses on a 250-acre plot in Navi Mumbai to enable Mumbai Metropolitan Region to emerge as a global education hub



DEVENDRA FADNIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

We thank LG Sahab for handling over the job order that was already prepared by the Fisheries Department, a department under the elected government led by Minister Javed Dar



TANVIR SAÏD | NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

Only the state government contributes more funds to schemes that carry the PM's name and his image on sticker--the PMAY, PMMSY and Jaljeevan



MK STALIN | CHIEF MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

# Congress slams govt over UN Gaza vote



*The Opposition party demanded answers from the government on whether India has abandoned its principled stand against war, against genocide, and for justice*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The Congress Saturday attacked the Centre for abstaining from voting during the UNGA resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza and alleged that India's foreign policy is in shambles.

The Opposition party also demanded answers from the government on whether India has abandoned its principled stand against war, against genocide, and for justice.

“It is now increasingly evident that our Foreign Policy is in shambles. Perhaps, PM Modi must now take a call on his EAM's repeated blunders and set some accountability,” Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

In a post on X, he said that 149 countries voted for a UNGA resolution for a ceasefire in Ga-

za while India was only one of the 19 countries that abstained.

“We virtually stand isolated by this step,” he added.

Kharge further stated that the Congress had condemned the attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel October 8 2023.

“We have consistently condemned the indiscriminate actions that included a siege of the Gaza Strip and bombings in it. 60,000 people have died and there is a widespread and horrific humanitarian crisis. Have we abandoned India's consistent stand advocating for a ceasefire, peace, and dialogue in the Middle East and West Asia?” he asked.

Kharge affirmed that this position is deeply rooted in India's long-standing tradition of non-alignment and moral diplomacy, through which the nation has always promoted justice and peace in global conflicts.

Noting that October 19 2023, the Congress called for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, he said, “India cannot stand by silently or passively while the region faces horrific violence, humanitarian catastrophe, and increasing

instability.”

Echoing similar sentiments, AICC general secretary, organisation, KC Venugopal said India always stood for peace, justice, and human dignity.

“But today, India stands alone as the only country in South Asia, BRICS, and SCO to abstain on a UNGA resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza. 60,000 killed. Most of them women and children. Thousands starving. International aid blocked. A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding,” he said in a post on X, questioning if India has abandoned its principled stand against war and genocide.

Venugopal called on the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to explain what had changed in the last six months that led India from supporting a ceasefire to abstaining from the vote.

Training guns on the Narendra Modi-led government, he accused the Centre of having little regard for Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy and questioned why it had abandoned Atal Bihari Vajpayee's principled stance on Palestine.

Emphasising that India has long been a principled voice for ceasefire, peace, and dialogue in the Middle East, Venugopal reiterated that India has historically championed the cause of justice and humanitarian values in global conflicts.

# After SCO statement on Iran-Israel tensions, India says no change in position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** India Saturday asserted that its position on the Israel-Iran situation remains as stated earlier and urged the international community to utilise channels of dialogue and diplomacy towards de-escalation, after the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) issued a statement critical of Israel's military strikes.

India had Friday said it was “deeply concerned” at the recent developments between Iran and Israel and “closely monitoring” the evolving situation, even as New Delhi had urged both countries to avoid any escalatory steps.

The statement by SCO dated June 14 said, “The member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) express serious concern over the escalating tensions in the Middle East and strongly condemn the military strikes carried out by Israel on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran June 13.”

China currently holds the chairmanship of the SCO. The influential economic and security bloc's members include Russia, India and Pakistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India had communicated its position to other SCO members and did not participate in the discussions on the statement.

“The SCO has issued a statement on recent developments between Israel and Iran. India's own position on the mat-

ter had been articulated by us 13 June 2025, and remains the same,” the MEA said in a statement.

“We urge that channels of dialogue and diplomacy be utilised to work towards de-escalation and it is essential that the international community undertake endeavours in that direction,” it said.

The MEA further said the “overall position of India as stated above was communicated to other SCO members”. “Keeping that in mind, India did not participate in the discussions on the above-mentioned SCO statement,” it added.

In its statement Saturday, the MEA said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar too discussed this matter with his Iranian counterpart Friday and “conveyed the deep concern of the international community at the turn of events”.

“He also urged the avoidance of any escalatory steps and an early return to diplomacy,” the statement said.

The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation established in 2001 in Shanghai in China by Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The SCO statement on the Israel-Iran situation claimed, “Such aggressive actions (by Israel) against civilian targets, including energy and transport infrastructure, which have resulted in civilian casualties, are a gross violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.”



## 4 Naxalites killed in encounter with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balaghat (MP), June 14:** Four Naxalites, including three women, were killed in an encounter with security forces in a forest area of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said.

A grenade launcher, a self-loading rifle (SLR), two .315 bore rifles, other weapons and material were also recovered from the site, he said.

In a post on X, the CM said, “Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji, the state has achieved a major success in the campaign to eradicate Naxalism by March 2026.”

“One male and three female armed Naxalites have been killed in an encounter during a joint operation of Hawkforce, District Force and CRPF in the forests of Pachmadar and Katejhiriya,” he said.

The search operation, in which a large number of police officers and jawans are engaged, is still underway, he said while congratulating the police force for eliminating the Naxalites.

“Hearty congratulations to our indomitable, courageous soldiers and senior police officers of the state for this success,” CM Yadav added.

Talking to PTI over the phone, Balaghat Zone Inspector General of Police Sanjay Kumar said efforts to identify the deceased Naxalites were on.

The operation against the Naxalites is still on, he said from the spot located in the Roopjhar police station limits, about 40 km by road from the district headquarters.

The operation was launched following intelligence inputs about their movement received last evening, he said.

# Fire largely contained on Singapore-flagged vessel



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The fire onboard a Singapore-flagged cargo vessel that on June 9 following a container explosion off the Kerala coast has now been “largely contained” and efforts are underway for boundary cooling to avoid any flare-up, ICG officials said Saturday.

A spokesperson of the Indian Coast Guard said that a total of 11 ICG ships are currently deployed for the firefighting operation on cargo vessel MV Wan Hai 503.

The incident took place at approximately 9.20 am IST June 9, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in the Kannur district of Kerala and 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi.

Earlier in the day, ICG spokesperson Comdt Amit Uniyal told PTI, “Eight ICG ships -- Sachet, Samarth, Saksham, Samudra Prahari, Vikram, Rajdoot, Kasturba Gandhi and Arnvesh -- are participating in the firefighting operations”.

In the evening, he said, while the fire has “largely been contained”, three more ICG ships (total 11 ships) have been deployed.

Additionally, an offshore patrol vessel of the ICG is carrying out mid-sea refuelling of a salvage tug to sustain the towing operation, the official said.

The ICG Friday said that it

**A spokesperson of the Indian Coast Guard said that a total of 11 ICG ships are currently deployed for the firefighting operation on cargo vessel MV Wan Hai 503**

had achieved a “major milestone” in the ongoing operation to suppress fire onboard cargo vessel MV Wan Hai 503, as its towing commenced to keep the ship away from the coast.

The firefighting operations continued Saturday, with the ICG spokesperson saying that “continuous boundary cooling is in progress”.

The Indian Navy Saturday shared some details of what it described as a “daring aerial insertion” of a salvage team onboard the vessel a day ago.

“In a prompt response, the salvage team members were embarked onboard a Seaking helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi. The Naval helicopter successfully inserted the team on the vessel amidst challenging weather and sea conditions and fire onboard,” a Navy spokesperson said.



Indian Air Force's (IAF) aerobatics team 'Surya Kiran' flies past during the Combined Graduation Parade of the 215th course at the Air Force Academy (AFA) Dundigal, near Hyderabad, Saturday.

# Rajasthan's Mahesh Kumar bags AIR 1

*The maximum qualifying candidates are from Uttar Pradesh (over 1.70 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (over 1.25 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1.19 lakh)*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Rajasthan's Mahesh Kumar has topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, while Utkarsh Awadhya from Madhya Pradesh has bagged the second rank, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Saturday.

More than 12.36 lakh candidates out of 22.09 lakh test takers qualified the exam. The number is down from last year's 13.15 lakh qualifying candidates. However, the number of test takers was also higher last year at over 23.33 lakh.

Among the qualifying candidates this year, over 7.2 lakh are females while over 5.14 lakh are males. While 529 qualifying candidates are foreign nation-

## NEET-UG RESULT



als, 405 are NRIs and 606 are OCI card holders.

Maharashtra's Krishang Joshi and Delhi's Mrinal Kishore Jha bagged the third and fourth ranks, respectively.

Among females, Delhi's Avika Aggarwal emerged topper, bagging the fifth rank nationally. The maximum qualifying candidates are from Uttar Pradesh (over 1.70 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (over 1.25 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1.19 lakh).

A total of 73 candidates have

scored marks in the range of 651 to 686 out of 720 while 1,259 candidates have scored between 601 to 650.

“The NTA conducts the exam and declares result based on the eligibility criteria provided by the National Medical Council (NMC). The admitting authorities will now draw a merit list based on all India rank for the MBBS and BDS seats available in their jurisdiction,” said Col B Vijay Kumar, Director (Exams), NTA. The National Eli-

gibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test.

The NTA conducts the NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBBS course -- approximately 56,000 in government hospitals, and about 52,000 in private colleges.

Admissions to undergraduate courses in dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also utilise NEET results for admission.

NTA conducted NEET at 5,468 centres located at 552 cities in India and 14 cities in other countries May 4. The cities outside India were Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Bangkok, Colombo, Doha, Kathmandu, Kuwait, Lagos, Kaula Lumpur, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah and Singapore.

The exam was conducted in 13 languages -- Assamese, Bengali, English, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Odia.

# national



“ Thank all foreign leaders and Governments for their condolences at the tragic loss of lives in the Ahmedabad air crash. We appreciate this deeply ”  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

## SIKANDAR SINGH MALUKA RE-INDUCTED INTO PARTY FOLD

Rebel Akali leader and former Punjab minister Sikandar Singh Maluka was Saturday re-inducted into the party fold. According to a statement issued by the Shiromani Akali Dal, Maluka rejoined the party in the presence of party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal



## PM to take part in G7 Summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-nation tour starting Sunday, during which he will take part in the G7 Summit in Canada, and visit Cyprus and Croatia to shore up India's bilateral cooperation with these two countries.

“This will be the first ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Croatia, marking an important milestone in the bilateral relationship,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced Saturday.

Modi will first visit Cyprus June 15-16 at the invitation of the country's president, Nikos Christodoulides.

“This will be the first visit of an Indian prime minister to Cyprus in over two decades,” the MEA said in a statement.

While in Cyprus capital Nicosia, the prime minister will hold talks with President Christodoulides and address business leaders at Limassol, it said.

“The visit will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union,” the statement said.

In the second leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Kananaskis in Canada June 16-17 to participate in the G7 Summit at the invitation of Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney.

This would be the prime minister's sixth consecutive participation in the G7 Summit.

The prime minister will also hold several bilaterals on the sidelines of the Summit.

# High-level panel to find 'root cause'

Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers, including 12 crew members, crashed in the Meghaninagar area shortly after takeoff from the Ahmedabad International Airport Thursday afternoon, killing 270 persons, including 241 passengers on board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Ahmedabad, June 14: The Centre Saturday set up a high-level multi-disciplinary panel to ascertain the “root cause” of the crash of the London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad and assess any contributing factors including mechanical failure, human error and regulatory compliances even as the death toll in the disaster rose to 270.

As the panel headed by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was mandated to give its report in three months, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said aviation regulator DGCA has ordered “extended surveillance” for the Tata-owned airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner series planes. The Civil Aviation ministry said the committee will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations.

In a post on X, Air India said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The carrier now has 26 Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8 (AI171) and another 29 persons including five MBBS students on the ground were killed when the aircraft came down Thursday moments after taking off from the Sardar Val-

## AHMEDABAD AI PLANE CRASH



Airport before falling inside the nearby campus of the state-run BJ Medical College in Meghaninagar area and going up in flames.

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as Black box, was recovered from the 'rooftop' of the hostel building at the crash site Friday

## Air India to provide ₹25L interim payment to kin of deceased, survivors

Mumbai: Air India Saturday announced that it will provide an interim payment of ₹25 lakh to the families of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash. This interim payment is in addition to the ₹1 crore compensation already announced by the parent company, Tata Sons, Air India said in a statement. “To provide immediate financial support, Air India will be making an interim payment of ₹25 lakh or approximately 21,000 British pounds to each of the families of the deceased and also to the survivors,” Air India CEO and managing Director Campbell Wilson said in a video message. This, he said, is in addition to the ₹1 crore or approximately 85,000 British Pounds already committed by Tata Sons. Campbell said that over 200 trained caregivers are now in place, adding “with each family assigned dedicated assistance along with access to counselling and other services.” The process of reuniting next of kin with their loved ones and personal effects has begun. “Our teams are working closely with the families and authorities to help the reunification process,” Air India chief said.

With probe agencies looking into all possible causes for the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Naidu told reporters in Delhi that decoding of the Black box is going to give “in-depth insight” into what happened moments before the tragedy.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as Black box, was recovered from the “rooftop” of the hostel building at the crash site Friday.

There was no word yet on recovery of another Black box— the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). This instrument records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises.

Naidu said India has very strict aviation safety standards and robust protocols, and everything will be done to further

improve safety.

The central panel headed by the Union home secretary will also suggest comprehensive guidelines to prevent incidents like the Ahmedabad crash in the future. It will have its first meeting on Monday. The panel will publish its report in three months, a statement by the Civil Aviation ministry said.

The panel will ascertain the root cause of the crash and assess the contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, weather conditions, regulatory compliances and other reasons, it said.

It will also recommend necessary improvements and formulate suitable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent such incidents in the future. The SOPs would also include best international practices regarding preventing and handling such incidents, the statement said.

## of the day quote

Some places were closed after April 22 (attack) in view of security considerations. The divisional commissioners and IGP of Kashmir and Jammu have taken reports from every district and it has been decided to reopen some destinations in a phased manner

MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

At a time when nations today act decisively to neutralise nuclear threats, India's tragic inaction during the 1980s remains a cautionary tale of what could have been—and what wasn't

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

The circumstances surrounding her disappearance and subsequent death are deeply troubling and have raised serious concerns among her family, friends and the wider community

GAURAV GOGOI | APCC PRESIDENT

## POST OF THE DAY

Goa CM has assured Goa Taxi drivers that there will be no App-based aggregators like Ola and Uber in Goa. After Goa government decided to bend their unreasonable demands, now Goa Taxi drivers are stating we do not want any Taxi Apps. They want Goa to be living in the 19th century, while India and the world is living in the 21st century and beyond. If the government bends to the Taxi Drivers unreasonable demands and does not use iron fist, the unreasonable and unfair behaviour will only get more aggressive.

@PrinceArihan

## SHORT TAKES

**Mandal to become RID's 1st EBC state prez**

Patna: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Saturday appeared all set to have an EBC (Extremely Backward Class) leader as its Bihar unit chief with veteran politician Mangani Lal Mandal filing his nomination papers at the party office in the presence of founding president Lalu Prasad. Mandal, a former state minister and an ex-MP with tenures in both Houses of Parliament, had returned to the RJD in January this year after severing ties with the JD(U) headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

**2 held for deceiving NEET aspirants**

New Delhi: The CBI arrested two men from Maharashtra for allegedly deceiving NEET UG 2025 aspirants and their families by claiming they could manipulate scores, and charging ₹90 lakh per candidate, officials said Saturday. Sandeep Shah and Salim Patel, residents of Solapur and Navi Mumbai, respectively, allegedly hoodwinked candidates by posing as middlemen with access to non-existent officials of the NTA.

**Communal tensions: 38 held in Dhubri**

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Saturday said 38 people were arrested in Dhubri, where shoot-at-sight was ordered at night following communal tensions. The state government has also transferred the district's Senior Superintendent of Police Navin Singh, and appointed Halakandi SSP Leena Doley in his place.



Domestic workers paint a wall to press their various demands ahead of 'International Domestic Workers' Day', at a neighbourhood in Kolkata, West Bengal, Saturday

## Patanjali launches statewide campaign to promote Int'l Yoga Day

AGENCIES

Kurukshetra, June 14: Haryana is abuzz with preparations for the upcoming 11th International Yoga Day celebrations, scheduled for June 21. Under the guidance of revered Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev and the Haryana Yoga Commission, this year's event is set to be a grand affair, with activities spanning across the state.

The central venue will be Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra, where a massive yoga

session is planned. In the lead-up, local communities are actively promoting yoga through door-to-door campaigns and workshops. Notably, villages like Sirsa, Lohdwa, and Saharsa have been organizing yoga classes and awareness programs to encourage participation. In Lohdwa, yoga instructors Omprakash Malhotra and Sushila Garg have been conducting sessions, while in Saharsa, Swami Kesavanand and Swami Girish have been leading classes at local mosques, emphasizing yoga's

universal appeal. The Haryana government has also been proactive, with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announcing the establishment of 100 new gymnasiums across the state to make yoga more accessible. Additionally, a yoga marathon involving schools, colleges, and the general public is scheduled for June 19 as a rehearsal for the main event. The theme for this year's celebration is “Har Ghar Aangan Yoga,” underscoring the government's commitment to integrating yoga into daily life.

# Law minister backs institutional arbitration as part of Indian culture

The government has been pushing for institutional arbitration instead of ad hoc arbitration asserting it is efficient and more result oriented, the industry on the other hand feels arbitration in India is slow, inefficient and plagued with red tape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal Saturday pitched for institutional arbitration, saying it was part of Indian culture after the ONGC chairman urged making arbitration proceedings timely and not “timeless”.

Singapore, London and Dubai have emerged as hubs of international arbitration to settle high stakes, high value commercial disputes. Addressing a conference on institutional arbitration here, the minister also said that organisations should be ready to be flexible and rigid, depending on the need of the hour, to ensure that its interests remain protected and it contributes towards nation building.



Meghwal lamented that while arbitration was part of Indian culture, the concept got

“disturbed” somewhere and other countries became hub of international arbitration. He hoped that India will soon emerge as the new hub of international arbitration. Earlier, speaking on the occasion, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh said time is money, and hence there was a need to make the procedure of arbitration timely and not “timeless”.

He said settlement of commercial disputes in a time-bound manner was quintessential for the business ecosystem. He also felt that there was a need to make arbitration “more corporate and less legal”.

She recalled a recent directive from the Department of Legal Affairs, which pushes for reducing judicial interventions and using institutional and not ad hoc arbitration. The chairman of India International Arbitration Centre, Justice (ret'd) Hemant Gupta, said the mindset has to change for parties to go for institutional arbitration, rather than an ad hoc system to settle commercial disputes. He said people will have to choose institutional arbitration to understand its benefits over court-appointed arbitration.

## Delhi Assembly to go fully digital by July

Rijiju lays foundation stone for e-Vidhan project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: The Delhi Assembly is set to become fully paperless by July under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), as Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday laid the foundation stone for the e-Vidhan project.

The initiative is a part of the Centre's ‘One Nation, One Application’ drive aimed at digitising legislative processes across states.

The event held at the Assembly premises marked a major milestone in Delhi's transition to digital governance and environmental responsibility.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Chief Whip Abhay Verma and other dignitaries attended the event.

The programme commenced with a minute of silence for the victims of the recent Ahmedabad plane crash.

“The laying of the foundation stone for the e-Vidhan project at the Delhi Legislative Assembly is a commendable step towards adopting technology for legislative efficiency and trans-



parency,” said Rijiju speaking at the event.

“I want to see the Delhi Assembly as a model Assembly and this initiative will certainly help in achieving that goal,” he added.

Rijiju emphasized that beyond going paperless, the project aims to enhance transparency, digital security and public participation.

“Given Delhi's unique and complex administrative structure, this digital transformation carries special relevance,” he said. The speaker described the initiative as a “historic milestone” and announced that plans are already underway to turn the Delhi Assembly into a green, tech-enabled and culturally vibrant institution.

“As Delhi moves towards becoming the first assembly powered entirely by renewable energy, the e-Vidhan initiative is setting new benchmarks in

digital democracy and environmentally conscious legislative practices,” he said.

Gupta also noted that a tripartite MoU was signed between the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the GNCTD and the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat March 22, 2025. Over ₹9 crore in grants have been received under the NeVA project, with more than ₹1 crore released as the first instalment.

A 500-kilowatt solar project is being installed to power the Delhi Assembly, which is on track to become the first in India to run completely on renewable energy. The plans are also in place to upgrade the Assembly's infrastructure, including the renovation of the House before the Monsoon Session, the creation of a modern e-library and the transformation of the historic Assembly premises into a cultural and heritage site.



The (Israeli) strikes led to a sharp increase in the price of oil, which is negative for us... The Russians are getting stronger due to greater income from oil exports

GOLDEN TOILET THEFT

Two men who stole a \$6.4 million golden toilet from an English mansion were sentenced to more than two years in prison. The 18-carat fully functioning toilet was on display as a piece of contemporary art at Blenheim Palace...



Putin, Trump discuss Middle East tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, June 14: Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump held a 50-minute phone call Saturday to discuss the escalating situation in the Middle East and Ukraine peace talks.

During the conversation, Putin briefed Trump on his recent talks with the leaders of Iran and Israel and reiterated Russia's proposal to seek mutually acceptable solutions on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"The dangerous escalation of the situation in the Middle East was naturally at the centre of the exchange of opinions," Ushakov told journalists following the conversation between Putin and Trump.

"Vladimir Putin, having condemned the military operation against Iran, expressed serious concern about the possible escalation of the conflict," he said, warning of "unpredictable consequences for the entire situation in the Middle East."

Putin also emphasised Russia's readiness to carry out possible mediation efforts, and noted that Russia had proposed steps "aimed at finding mutually acceptable agreements" during US-Iran negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme.

"Russia's principled approach and interest in the settlement remain unchanged," Ushakov said.

Trump described the regional situation as "very alarming," Ushakov said, but acknowledged the "effectiveness" of Israel's strikes on targets in Iran.

The leaders did not rule out a possible return to negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme, according to Ushakov.

According to Ushakov, Putin told Trump about the implementation of the agreements during peace talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, including the exchange of prisoners of war.

"Our president noted that an exchange of prisoners of war is taking place, including seriously wounded and prisoners of war under 25 years of age," Ushakov said, along with expressing readiness to continue negotiations with the Ukrainians.

Israel's goal: Regime change in Iran



REUTERS

Nuclear talks now meaningless: Iran

Dubai: Israel's strikes also put further talks between the United States and Iran over a nuclear accord into doubt. The US and Iran were scheduled to meet in Oman, Sunday, Iran's top diplomat said Saturday that talks with the United States were "unjustifiable" after Israeli strikes on his country...

of attacks also spoke to a broader aim.

In a video address hours after Israeli fighter jets began striking Iranian nuclear facilities and air defence systems, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, appealed to the Iranian people directly.

"The Islamic regime, which has oppressed you for almost 50 years, threatens to destroy our country, the State of Israel," Netanyahu said.

Israel's objective was to remove the nuclear and ballistic missile threat, he said, but added: "As we achieve our

objective, we are also clearing the path for you to achieve your freedom. "The regime does not know what hit them, or what will hit them. It has never been weaker. This is your opportunity to stand up and let your voices be heard," Netanyahu said.

But despite the damage inflicted by the unprecedented Israeli attack, decades of enmity toward Israel - not only among Iran's rulers but its majority-Shiite population - raises questions about the prospect for fomenting enough public support to oust an entrenched theocratic leadership in Tehran

Political violence: US lawmaker, husband shot dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brooklyn Park, June 14: A man posing as a police officer shot and killed a Minnesota lawmaker and her husband in a brazen attack at their home early Saturday, and a second lawmaker and his wife were wounded in a separate shooting in what Gov. Tim Walz described as "targeted political violence."

Police were searching for the gunman responsible for the attacks on the Democratic legislators. Writings found inside a fake police car recovered at

one of the shooting scenes mentioned the names of multiple lawmakers and other officials, Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley said.

Melissa Hortman, a former Minnesota House Speaker, and her spouse were shot and killed early Saturday in their Brooklyn Park home. A second state lawmaker, Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, were shot multiple times in Champlin. Officials say both Hortman and Hoffman were mentioned in the suspect's writings.

"When we did a search of the vehicle, there was a manifesto that identified

Why key Tehran allies are staying out of Israel-Iran conflict?

Beirut: Hezbollah has long been considered Iran's first line of defence in case of a war with Israel. But since Israel launched its massive barrage against Iran this week, the Lebanese militant group has stayed out of the fray. A network of powerful Iran-backed militias in Iraq has also remained mostly quiet...

governments known as the "Axis of Resistance".

The allies also include Iraqi Shiite militias and Yemen's Houthis rebels, as well as the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

At one point, Hezbollah was believed to have some 150,000 rockets and missiles, and the group's former leader, Hassan Nasrallah once boasted of having 100,000 fighters.

Seeking to aid its ally Hamas in the aftermath of the Palestinian militants' October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel and Israel's offensive in Gaza, Hezbollah began launching rockets across the border.

That drew Israeli airstrikes and shelling, and the exchange escalated into full-scale war last September. Israel inflicted heavy damage on Hezbollah, killing Nasrallah and other top leaders and destroying much of its arsenal, before a US-negotiated ceasefire halted that conflict last November.

Israel continues to occupy parts of southern Lebanon and to carry out near-daily airstrikes.



backed by loyal security forces. Singh cautioned that no one knows what conditions would be required for an opposition to coalesce in Iran.

Friday's assault was the first phase of what Israel said would be a prolonged operation. Experts said they expected Israel would continue to go after key Iranian nuclear infrastructure

to delay Tehran's march to a nuclear bomb - even if Israel on its own does not have the capability to eliminate Iran's nuclear program. Iran says its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes only. The U.N. nuclear watchdog concluded this week that it was in violation of its obligations under the global non-proliferation treaty.

Sweden will reach a new NATO spending target to 5 per cent of GDP...



Sweden will reach a new NATO spending target to 5 per cent of GDP, where at least 3.5 per cent of GDP will be allocated towards core defense requirements to fulfil NATO's new capability targets

ULF KRISTERSSON | SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

The Iran US talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not now take place...



BADR AL-BUSAIDI | OMAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

Let me stress that China's position on fighting terrorism is consistent and clear...



LIN JIAN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

2 Australians shot in Bali, 1 dead

JAKARTA: An Australian man was fatally shot and another Australian man injured in a shooting incident on the Indonesian island of Bali just after midnight on Saturday, local police told media. Bali police are currently hunting for two people believed to be involved in the shooting in a villa in the Badung regency on the southern side of the tourism island, spokesperson Ariasandy said...

Dubai high-rise catches fire; 3,800 evacuated

Dubai: A massive fire broke out in a 67-storey building in Marina here, the Dubai Media Office (DMO) said Saturday. All 3,820 residents from 764 apartments of the Marina Pinnacle were safely evacuated after the fire started late on Friday night.

Austria plans tougher gun laws

Vienna: The Austrian government plans to tighten national gun laws after enduring its worst school shooting, Chancellor Christian Stocker said in an interview broadcast on Saturday. Speaking to ORF radio, Stocker said officials aimed to set stricter eligibility rules for possession and purchase of arms after a 21-year-old Austrian man on Tuesday shot dead ten people at a high school in the city of Graz before killing himself.

How wheel was invented: Unlikely birth of world-changing technology

THE CONVERSATION

Atlanta, June 14: Imagine you're a copper miner in south-eastern Europe in the year 3900 B.C.E. Day after day you haul copper ore through the mine's sweltering tunnels.

You've resigned yourself to the gruelling monotony of mining life. Then one afternoon, you witness a fellow worker doing something remarkable.

With an odd-looking contraption, he casually transports the equivalent of three times his body weight on a single trip. As he returns to the mine to fetch another load, it suddenly dawns on you that your chosen profession is about to get far less taxing and much more lucrative.

What you don't realise: You're witnessing something that will change the course of history - not just for your tiny mining community, but for all of humanity.

Despite the wheel's immeasurable impact, no one is certain as to who invented it, or when and where it was first conceived. The hypothetical scenar-

io described above is based on a 2015 theory that miners in the Carpathian Mountains - in present-day Hungary - first invented the wheel nearly 6,000 years ago as a means to transport copper ore. The theory is supported by the discovery of more than 150 miniaturised wagons by archaeologists working in the region. These pint-sized, four-wheeled models were made from clay, and their outer surfaces were engraved with a wickerwork pattern reminiscent of the basketry used by mining communities at the time.

Carbon dating later revealed that these wagons are the earliest known depictions of wheeled transport to date.

This theory also raises a question of particular interest to me, an aerospace engineer who studies the science of engineering design. How did an obscure, scientifically naive mining society discover the wheel, when highly advanced civilisations, such as the ancient Egyptians, did not?

It has long been assumed that



wheels evolved from simple wooden rollers. But until recently no one could explain how or why this transformation took place. What's more, beginning in the 1960s, some researchers started to express strong doubts about the roller-to-wheel theory.

After all, for rollers to be useful, they require flat, firm terrain and a path free of inclines and sharp curves. Furthermore, once the cart passes them, used rollers need to be continually brought around to the front of the line to keep the cargo mov-



many lawmakers and other officials. We immediately made alerts to the state. We took action on alerting them and providing security where necessary," said Bruley.

State Patrol Col. Christina Bogojevic asked people "out of

an abundance of caution" not to attend any of the "No Kings" protests that were scheduled for across the state on Saturday.

Bogojevic said authorities didn't have any direct evidence that the protests would be targeted, but said the suspect had some "No Kings" flyers in their car. Organisers announced that all of the protests across the state were cancelled.

Hours after the shootings, hundreds of police and sheriff deputies from departments in the region, some in tactical gear with assault style weapons were

phenomenon called "mechanical advantage".

This same principle allows pliers to amplify a user's grip strength by providing added leverage. Similarly, if we could modify the shape of the roller to generate mechanical advantage, this would amplify the user's pushing force, making it easier to advance the cart.

Our algorithm worked by modelling hundreds of potential roller shapes and evaluating how each one performed, both in terms of mechanical advantage and structural strength. The latter was used to determine whether a given roller would break under the weight of the cargo. As predicted, the algorithm ultimately converged upon the familiar wheel-and-axle shape, which it determined to be optimal.

During the execution of the algorithm, each new design performed slightly better than its predecessor. We believe a similar evolutionary process played out with the miners 6,000 years ago.

To begin our investigation, we created a computer programme designed to simulate the evolution from a roller to a wheel.

Our hypothesis was that this transformation was driven by a

**of the day** **QUOTE**

By joining hands with CREDAI, we aim to accelerate the adoption of world-class cement products and green concrete solutions in India's real estate sector

**VINOD BAHETY** | CEO (CEMENT BUSINESS), ADANI GROUP

Currently, the gap between annual results and full annual reports ranges between 70-140 days. Shortening this gap would significantly enhance transparency for investors

**ANANTH NARAYAN** | SEBI WHOLE TIME MEMBER

Our collaboration with Equitas Small Finance Bank will enable us to reach an even wider audience and offer them with competitive financing offers, to add to the joy of buying a new car

**PARTHO BANERJEE** | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING & SALES), MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

**SHORT TAKES**

**Spicejet PAT jumps nearly 3X in Mar qtr**

**Mumbai:** Budget carrier Spicejet Saturday said its standalone profit after tax surged nearly three-fold to Rs 324.87 crore in the March 2025 quarter. The Gurugram-based airline had posted a PAT of Rs 119 crore in the fourth quarter of FY24, according to a regulatory filing. However, the revenue from operations for the reporting quarter declined 16 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,446.37 crore from Rs 1,719.3 crore in Q4 FY24, SpiceJet said in the filing. For the 2024-25 fiscal, SpiceJet posted a standalone PAT of Rs 58.74 crore against a loss of Rs 409.43 crore in the year-ago period. The revenue from operations fell 25 per cent to Rs 5,284 crore in FY25 against Rs 7050 crore a year ago, as per the exchange filing.

**Moody's upgrades Yes Bank rating**

**New Delhi:** Moody's Ratings Friday upgraded Yes Bank's long-term foreign currency and local currency bank deposit ratings by a notch to Ba2, from Ba3, driven by a gradual improvement in the bank's credit profile. The global rating agency has upgraded its Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) to ba3 from b1, Moody's said in a statement. The upgrade of Yes Bank's ratings and BCA is driven by a gradual improvement in the bank's credit profile including its capital and loan loss reserves, which will provide sufficient buffers against the bank's unseasoned asset risks and improving yet modest profitability and funding, it said. "Yes Bank's Ba2 deposit ratings are one notch above its Ba3 BCA based on our expectation of a moderate likelihood of support from the Government of India (Baa3 stable) in times of need," it said.

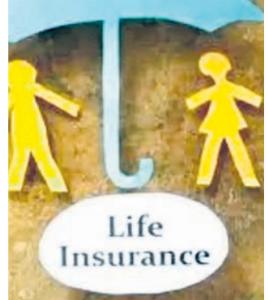
**All-cash deal: ITC buys Sresta Natural**

**New Delhi:** Multi-conglomerate ITC has completed the acquisition of Sresta Natural Bioproducts, which owns the '24 Mantra Organic brand' in an all-cash deal valued at Rs 472.50 crore. This will help ITC to expand its play in the fast-growing organic food products segment. "The company has completed the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of SNBPL on 13th June, 2025," ITC said in a regulatory filing. On the acquisition cost, ITC said it had an upfront consideration of Rs 400 crore on a cash-free debt-free basis and addition, consideration of up to Rs 72.50 crore, which is payable in the next 24 months.

**Insurers ease claim process of Air India plane crash victims**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Insurance companies – SBI Life, HDFC Life and ICICI Lombard Saturday said they have relaxed the claim settlement process for Air India plane crash victims. Understanding the overwhelming emotional strain that arises from procedural challenges in such situations, SBI Life has eased the claim process to offer faster financial assistance.



Claim can be intimidated with minimum documents like claim form, policy document and details of KYC and bank account of the nominee, SBI Life said in a statement.

In a tragic accident, Air India flight number AI 171 to London crashed in Ahmedabad Thursday killing 274 people: 241 passengers, 33 on-ground deaths.

To support affected families, HDFC Life in a separate statement said it has simplified its claim process. Nominees/legal heirs can now initiate claims with just a proof of death from local authorities (Government, Police, or Hospitals).

ICICI Lombard in a statement said it is working closely to ensure a thorough and timely assessment of claims, while offering full support and it remains committed to those affected.

**TARIFF PRESSURES**

**Foxconn ships majority of India-made iPhones to US**

The move shows Apple has realigned its India exports to almost exclusively serve the US market

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 14:** Nearly all the iPhones exported by Foxconn from India went to the United States between March and May, customs data showed, far above the 2024 average of 50% and a clear sign of Apple's efforts to bypass high US tariffs imposed on China.

The numbers, being reported by Reuters for the first time, show Apple has realigned its India exports to almost exclusively serve the US market, when previously the devices were more widely distributed to countries including the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Britain.

During March-May, Foxconn exported iPhones worth \$3.2 billion from India, with an average 97% shipped to the United States, compared to a 2024 average of 50.3%, according to commercially available customs data seen by Reuters.

India iPhone shipments by Foxconn to the United States in May 2025 were worth nearly \$1 billion, the second-highest ever after the record \$1.3 billion worth of devices shipped in March, the data showed.

US President Donald Trump Wednesday said China will face 55% tariffs after the two countries agreed on a plan, subject to both leaders' approval, to ease levies that had reached triple digits.

- Foxconn shipped iPhones from India worth \$3.2 billion in March-May
- Nearly all the India exports went to the US
- Foxconn's India iPhone shipments to US worth \$4.4 billion Jan-May vs \$3.7 billion for whole of 2024
- Trump has criticised Apple over India production

India is subject, like most US trading partners, to a baseline 10% tariff and is trying to negotiate an agreement to avert a 26% "reciprocal" levy that Trump announced and then paused in April.

Apple's increased production in India drew a strong rebuke from Trump in May. "We are not interested in you building in India, India can take care of themselves, they are doing very well, we want you to build here," Trump recalled telling CEO Tim Cook.

In the first five months of this year, Foxconn has already sent iPhones worth \$4.4 billion to the US from India, compared to \$3.7 billion in the whole of 2024. Apple has been taking steps

**UNACCOUNTED INCOME INVESTED IN VDAS ON RADAR**

The Central Board Direct Taxes (CBDT) is investigating tax evasion and laundering of unaccounted income by high-risk persons through investment in crypto currency. Such entities and individuals which are engaged in Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) transactions and have failed to comply with the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been identified for verification, sources said



**RBI rate cut boosts investors' confidence**

**FPIs infuse over Rs 3,346cr into Indian stock markets this week**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 14:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) brought in Rs 3,346.94 crore into the Indian stock markets this week, as investor confidence received a strong boost following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) rate cut.

According to data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), FPIs were active buyers in the Indian equity market during the first three trading sessions of the week – from June 9 to June 13.

The positive mood in the market was largely driven by the RBI's decision to reduce the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 percent, a move that many saw as a clear signal to support economic growth and improve market liquidity.

Market experts believe that this surprise rate cut has played a big role in attracting foreign investments, as it reflects a pro-growth approach from the central bank.

The Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision June 6 has been welcomed by investors, who see it as a timely step to strengthen the economy and improve corporate earnings.

Even though global factors continue to affect market movements, India remains an attractive destination for foreign investment due to its strong fundamentals, policy support, and growing economy.

In May, foreign investors put Rs 19,860 crore into the Indian

stock market, making it the best month of the year so far for foreign investment.

Meanwhile, according to analysts, Indian equity markets saw increased volatility this week and ended in the red.

While the week began on a positive note due to progress in US-China trade talks, that optimism faded quickly after Israel launched a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

The incident triggered a wave of caution among global investors, pushing them toward safer assets like gold and US bonds.

Oil prices also jumped above \$76 per barrel, breaking months of stability, as fresh concerns over supply disruptions emerged.



**18-MONTH DEADLOCK ENDS**

**Trump approves Nippon Steel's \$14.9 billion purchase of US Steel**

REUTERS

**Washington, June 14:** US President Donald Trump approved Nippon Steel's \$14.9 billion bid for US Steel Friday, capping a tumultuous 18-month effort by the companies that survived union opposition and two national security reviews.

Trump signed an executive order saying the tie-up could move forward if the companies sign an agreement with the Treasury Department resolving national security concerns posed by the deal. The companies then announced they had signed the agreement, fulfilling the conditions of Trump's directive and effectively garnering approval for the merger.

"We look forward to putting our commitments into action



- ◀ Companies fulfill Trump's requirements for deal
- ◀ Agreement includes \$11 billion in new investments
- ◀ Nippon Steel says it will take 100% stake in US Steel
- ◀ No details on 'golden share' to be issued to US govt

to make American steelmaking and manufacturing great again," the companies said in the statement, thanking Trump.

They added the agreement includes \$11 billion in new investments to be made by 2028 as well as governance, production and trade commitments. Nippon Steel will buy a 100% stake in US Steel, a spokesperson for the Japanese company in Tokyo said Saturday.

The steelmakers provided no detail on the "golden share" they pledged to issue to the US government, raising questions about the extent of US control.

The takeover will set up the ailing US firm to receive the critical investment, allowing Nippon Steel to capitalize on a host of American infrastructure projects while its foreign competitors face steel tariffs of 50%.

**Sreeleathers opens new showroom**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Renowned footwear and accessories brand Sreeleathers' fully air-conditioned showroom was officially inaugurated at Lingipur, Bhubaneswar Saturday. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Odia film actress Sivani Sangita.

Speaking on the launch, Sangita invited people to visit the new store amid festival Raja celebrations. "You'll find a wide variety of quality products — from bags to ladies' purses all at affordable prices. It's the perfect place for your Raja shopping," she said. The new showroom will showcase an extensive range of products, including footwear for men, women, and children,

along with sports shoes, handbags, school bags, wallets, belts, briefcases, and suitcases.

Staying true to the brand's philosophy of "World Class, Right Price," the store aims to provide quality products at an affordable cost.

"We are committed to upholding the legacy of our founder Suresh Chandra Dey and my late father Ashish Dey," said Subhashish Dey, Managing Director, Sreeleathers. Franchisee Umang Agarwal assured customers that the new outlet will prioritise customer satisfaction and after-sales service.

To mark the occasion, Sreeleathers announced inaugural discounts — 10% off on purchases between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,500 and 15% off on purchases above Rs 2,500. These offers are valid till June 30, 2025.

**SHIFT TO STABILITY**

**Large-caps outshine small-caps in Q4 FY25**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 14:** Large-cap companies have delivered stronger earnings growth than mid and small-cap firms in the fourth quarter of FY24-25, a new report said Saturday.

According to a report by brokerage firm Equirus Securities, which analysed 270 major listed companies, found that large caps showed resilience in a mixed market environment, with their earnings and profits performing better than expected.

The report highlights that EBITDA and earnings for the entire group of companies tracked by Equirus surpassed analyst estimates by 4 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

This translated to a year-on-year (YoY) growth of 6 per cent in EBITDA and 4 per cent in earnings, while revenues were in line with expectations, rising 5 per cent from the same quarter last year. When broken down by market size, the divergence was clear. Large-cap companies recorded a healthy 6 per cent growth in earnings compared to last year.

Mid-cap firms posted a modest 2 per cent increase, while small-cap companies saw their earnings fall sharply by 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY).

This trend, according to the report, suggests that investors are increasingly favouring established, stable companies in uncertain market conditions.

The report also noted sector-specific differences. If oil marketing companies (OMCs) are excluded, EBITDA and earnings for the rest of the companies still grew by 5 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

The growth was even stronger when excluding banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) companies – EBITDA and earnings grew by 7 per cent and 6 per cent YoY in that group.

Strong performances were reported in the retail, pharma, capital goods, and consumer durables sectors.

**US firms deepen commitment to India's office market**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 14:** US firms have achieved record-breaking office leasing volumes in India in the past couple of years, with 2024 marking the highest annual activity ever recorded, with global capability centres (GCCs) emerging as the primary growth driver, a report showed Saturday.

The leasing volumes from 2017 through Q1 2025 shows US occupiers maintained a commanding 34.2 per cent share of India's office market during the 2022-Q1 2025 period, with 2024 recording the highest annual leasing numbers in absolute terms.

In fact, Q1 2025 has also maintained the same quarterly average as the previous year, according to a JLL report.

While US firms' market share has modestly declined since

- Bangalore has strengthened its position as the preferred destination, capturing 35% of all US occupier leasing activity
- Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR have emerged as the second and third most attractive markets, followed by Chennai and Pune

the pre-pandemic period, their absolute leasing volume has increased by approximately 16 per cent, indicating a strategic deepening of American corporate presence in India despite overall market diversification, the report mentioned.

"US-origin GCCs consistently represent over two-thirds of all leasing activity by American firms. This underscores India's central position in long-term business strategies for major US corporations," said Dr Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India, JLL.

**GCCs EXPAND FOOTPRINT**



India's combination of skilled talent at scale, supportive ecosystem, cost advantages, and growth-oriented policy environment continues to make it an increasingly attractive destination for US corporations looking to establish and expand their global capabilities

**RAHUL ARORA** | HEAD-OFFICE LEASING AND RETAIL SERVICES, SENIOR MD (KARNATAKA, KERALA), JLL

The predominance of GCCs within US firms' real estate footprint demonstrates that

American companies view India not merely as an outsourcing destination, but as a critical

# THE REDEMPTION OF PROTEAS

South Africa shed 'chokers' tag as they lift the World Test Championship mace, beating Australia by five wickets at the Home of Cricket

AGENCIES

**London, June 14:** Chokers no more. The South Africans consigned the word to history when they ripped the World Test Championship mace from Australia's callused grip inside four days of a riveting final at Lord's.

South Africa wore a new label Saturday — champion — by claiming its first major cricket trophy in 27 years when it wrapped up a five-wicket win.

The last 69 runs required on day four were confidently knocked off by the Proteas in just over two hours — only three boundaries — with Australia typically fighting all the way to the inevitable end.

South Africa moved from a portentous 213-2 overnight to a winning 285-5, the second highest successful run chase in the 141-year test history at the home of cricket.

Victory laid to rest ghosts of heartbreaking losses on big ICC stages that have haunted South Africa for decades. The venues and dates are infamous in South Africa cricket, among them Birmingham 1999, Dhaka 2011, Auckland 2015, Kolkata 2023 and Bridgetown 2024.

But London 2025 will go down as one of the greatest days in South Africa sports, when its cricket underdogs grabbed the advantage and didn't let go against a red-hot Australia.

The stunning result also bodes well for South Africa's



preparations for its home ODI World Cup in 2027. It's a different format, but the Proteas' mindsets won't be burdened by not having won a global trophy since the Champions Trophy's precursor in 1998.

Australia didn't give up the WTC mace easily, relentlessly attacking the stumps and trying to prey on any South Africa butterflies. The desperate Australians used up their three reviews in vain within the first 90 minutes and fought to the end. But the serial champions lost an ICC

**HISTORIC TRIUMPH: With this victory, South Africa has laid their hands on their first-ever world title in international cricket. Also, this is their second ICC trophy after the ICC Knockout 1998**

final for only a fourth time in 14 chances.

The Proteas were staunch, losing only three wickets Saturday. One of them was Aiden Markram, the colossus Australia could not topple until it was too late.

He resumed the day on 102 and was out for 136 when only six runs from victory. He spent six hours, 23 minutes in the middle. Australia didn't celebrate his wicket. Instead, players slapped Markram on the back and congratulated him on his match-winning knock as the Lord's crowd stood and applauded.

"Growing up, Lord's was the one venue I wanted to play at," Markram said. "To do it at a final and win is something really special."

About 15 minutes later, Kyle

Verreynne hit the winning run, a drive into the covers.

Markram and an injured Bavuma set up the victory the day before with an unbeaten partnership of 143 runs. They could not finish what they started, adding only four runs together before Bavuma edged Cummins behind for 66, one more than he had overnight.

Markram was named man of the match. He also took two vital wickets, that of Steve Smith on 66 in Australia's first innings, when Smith became the highest foreign test

**Whilst we were batting, we could hear the Aussies using that dreaded word, choke. It's been years since we've overcome a final. We've been etched in history, we're part of something that has never been done**

TEMBA BAVUMA | CAPTAIN, SOUTH AFRICA

**It's the pinnacle, I love Test cricket. Huge achievement to make the final, one-game shootout is a spectacle, didn't end up on the right side, but it's been a great week**

PAT CUMMINS | SKIPPER, AUSTRALIA

run-scorer at Lord's, and Josh Hazlewood to end Australia's second innings. Kagiso Rabada had nine-for in the match.

South Africa's target was set at 282, considered too far. But in a batting unit far less experienced than Australia's and considered a weak point, Markram and Bavuma chanced on ideal batting conditions on day three Friday and exploited them mercilessly. The turning point was Bavuma dropped in the slips on 2 by Smith, who broke his finger and didn't return to the match.

South Africa was criticized by some before the final for its supposedly easier road in the 2023-25 WTC cycle — it didn't face Australia or England in a series — but it has won eight straight tests, its second longest streak in history.

## Team MGD1 becomes first Indian side to win Rapid Team C'ship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 14:** Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and Pranav registered crucial wins on the final day as Team MGD1 became the first Indian team to clinch the FIDE World Rapid Team Championship title.

Seeded sixth, Team MGD1 posted 10 wins from 12 rounds over three days to emerge champions after a closely-fought battle with Team Hexamind Friday.

Having won silver and bronze in the last two editions, MGD1 began their campaign with a perfect day one. But a draw against Team Freedom and a loss to Team Hexamind on day two left them needing a flawless finish to stay in the hunt.

The side responded in style, winning all four rounds on the final day to seal the title.

Comprising GMs Arjun Erigaisi, Pentala Harikrishna, Leon Mendonca, David Anton Guijarro, Tsolakidou Stovroula, Pranav, Atharva Tayade, and captain Srinath Narayanan, MGD1 secured the championship with key victories in the final round.

Wins by Arjun and Pranav against Malcom's Mates proved decisive.

"This is very special! With the Indian team in the Olympiad we were the favourites to win and out here with Team MGD1 we were the underdogs. And yet we won gold again," Narayanan in a release.

The teams will now face-off in Blitz competition.

## FIH PRO LEAGUE

### Late goals sink India again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Antwerp (Belgium), June 14:** There was no end to Indian men's hockey team's woes in the FIH Pro League as the side slumped to its fifth straight defeat, losing 2-3 to Australia despite leading the contest by two goals after Abhishek's brace, here Saturday.

The Indian team has already lost twice to Netherlands and Argentina in the tournament. Starting strong, India took a 2-0 lead by the 35th minute through Abhishek's (8th, 35th minutes) brace.

But the Kookaburras came out all attacking after the change of ends, scoring through Nathan Ephraums (42nd), and two penalty corner conversions by Joel Rintala (56th) and Tom Craig (60th) to secure the win.

After suffering four close defeats against Netherlands and Argentina in their first four matches of the European leg of

Pro League, the Indians looked a motivated lot against Australia and dominated the share of exchanges in the first two quarters.

The Indians were without skipper and ace dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as he has been rested due to an injury suffered in the last match against Argentina. The Indians showed intent from the word go and took lead in the eighth minute through Abhishek,

who flicked from top of the circle after receiving a pass from Manpreet Singh.

India secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 48th minute but could not convert. The Australians pressed hard in the final 10 minutes, earning four penalty corners in quick succession, the last of which was converted by Rintala.

Just 42 seconds from the hooter, India conceded another penalty corner and Craig deflected in Jeremy Hayward's flick to hand Australia the win.



**India suffer fifth straight loss, go down 3-2 against Australia**

## ASIAN GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Pranati surpasses Dipa's feat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinched a bronze medal in the vault final at the 12th Senior Women's Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Jecheon, South Korea, Saturday.

With this performance, Nayak secured her third medal in the continental championships, surpassing veteran gymnast Dipa Karmakar's tally of two. She had previously won bronze in the vault at the 2019 edition in Ulaanbaatar

and again in 2022 in Doha. Karmakar had won her first continental medal, a vault bronze, at Hiroshima in 2015 and followed it up with a gold in Tashkent earlier this year.

The 30-year-old Nayak, who had earlier claimed a bronze at the FIG World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, in March this year, scored 13.466 to finish third on the podium.

China's Yihan Zhang bagged the gold with a score of 13.650, while Vietnam's Thi Quynh Nhu Nguyen took silver with 13.583.

Young Indian gymnast

Protistha Samanta also impressed, narrowly missing out on a medal with a fourth-place finish after registering a score of 13.016 at the Jecheon Gymnasium.

Nayak, a Tokyo 2020 Olympian, had posted a strong first attempt in the final, scoring 13.666, but a lower second vault of 12.866 affected her overall score.

She had entered the final after placing fourth in the qualification round with a score of 13.083. Protistha also made it to the medal round, qualifying with a commendable 12.916.

## Dominant Arya-Arjun shoots down gold

Shooting pair stuns Olympic Champions from China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Munich, June 14:** India's Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta dished out a thoroughly dominant performance and outplayed China's reigning Olympic and world champion duo Zifei Wang and Lihao Sheng 17-7 to win the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup here Saturday.

Arya and Arjun were in fine fettle when it mattered the most to win the top prize in the prestigious tournament, not giving the Chinese an inch.

The Indian duo entered the gold medal round after aggregating 635.2 in the qualifications, just .7 behind Wang and Sheng (635.9), which is also the qualifications world record.

Arya had paired with Rudranksh Patil to win the 10m air rifle mixed team silver in the World Cup in Lima, Peru,

earlier this year.

The other Indian pair in the event, Elavenil Valarivan and Ankush Jadhav finished sixth in the qualifications with 631.8.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad and Jon-Hermann Hegg bagged the bronze medal with a 16-14 victory over the UAS's Sagen Maddalena and Peter Matthew Fiori.

This is India's fourth medal and second gold in the ongoing World Cup after Suruchi Singh's yellow metal and the two bronze won by Sift Kaur Samra and Elavenil in their respective individual events earlier this week.

In the 10m air pistol mixed team event, the combo of Manu Bhaker and Aditya Malra ended sixth with a combined total of 577 in the qualifications, while the Suruchi Singh and Varun Tomar was placed 10th with 576.



## EVES SUFFER NARROW DEFEAT TO AUSSIES

**London:** The Indian women's hockey team fought back from a 0-3 deficit but suffered a narrow 2-3 defeat to Australia in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 match at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre here Saturday. Before the start of the match, both teams observed a minute's silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the recent aircraft tragedy in Ahmedabad. After going three goals down, India fought back through goals from Deepika (44) and Neha (52), but the Australians held their nerve in a fierce final quarter to secure the win. Courtney Schonell (16), Lexie Pickering (27), and Tatum Stewart (35) scored goals for Australia. The match also marked a personal milestone for midfielder Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, who completed her 50th appearance for India. There was little to separate the two sides in the opening quarter, with both teams showing intent and valuing possession. India adopted a patient approach but were quick to apply pressure on the Australian defence.



## Rugby Premier League set for spectacular debut

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 14:** Rugby royalty showcased an exciting preview of the upcoming action in store during the launch press conference of the inaugural season of GMR Rugby Premier League. Present on the occasion were the team coaches and marquee players from their respective franchises.

From Hyderabad Heroes, coach DJ Forbes, along with Prince Khatri and Manuel Moreno, from Chennai Bulls, coach Ben Gollongs and Alex Davis, and Bengaluru Bravehearts, Mohit Khatri and Pol Pla, along with their coach Pack Hernandez, were present.

Also in attendance were coach Tomasi Cama, Deepak Punia, and Matias Osadczuk of Delhi Redz, coach Mike Friday, Asis Sabr and Maurice Longbottom of Kalinga Black Tigers, and lastly from Mumbai Dreamers, coach Tim Walsh,



Akash Balmiki and James Turner.

The team coaches and players of the respective franchises shared their thoughts ahead of the season.

The media were addressed by the CEO of GMR Sports, Satyam Trivedi, and Rugby India Pres-

ident Rahul Bose, who were then joined by all six franchise owners for a photo opportunity.

The media also got a chance to witness the players in action as they passed the ball around and explained the rules of the game to the media.

President of Rugby India, Ra-

hul Bose, spoke along similar lines and stated, "It is truly incredible what we have managed to do here. We have big names from all over the world of rugby playing together as teammates. Looking forward to the high-octane action we are about to witness over the next few days."

The Rugby Premier League is set to commence Sunday (June 15) with six teams, Bengaluru Bravehearts, Chennai Bulls, Delhi Redz, Hyderabad Heroes, Kalinga Black Tigers, and Mumbai Dreamers fighting for glory.

Each team will comprise five foreign players, five domestic players, and three from bridge nations — countries in the second and third tiers in the world rugby hierarchy.

Each match will be of 16-minute duration, divided into four quarters. With the clock being stopped for each transgression, decision, and injury, each match will be of 23-30 minutes duration. Four matches will be held each evening. All matches will be played at the Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai.

The RPL season 1 is scheduled to start at 5:45 PM. Fans can tune into the Star Sports channel and JioHotstar to watch the live action.