

Modi unveils Odisha Vision Document

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday launched 105 development projects valued at over ₹18,600 crores, unveiled the 'Odisha Vision Document' and flagged off new trains during his visit to the state to mark the first anniversary of Odisha's maiden BJP government.

He also felicitated several people on the occasion. Modi, who visited Odisha for the sixth time since the BJP government was formed in the state in June 2024, launched the projects at a function at Janata Maidan here. The projects launched by the Prime Minister included drinking water and irrigation, health infrastructure, rural roads and bridges, national highways and railway infrastructure.

Modi flagged off the first passenger train to Boudh district after inaugurating the Sonepur-Purunakatak railway line. Railway projects such as the third and fourth rail lines between Sarla-Sason and the fourth rail line between Jharshuguda-Jamga were also launched. This apart, Modi also flagged off 100 electric buses under the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), promoting eco-friendly urban mobility.

Modi said the saffron party fulfilled the long-awaited demands of the people as the four gates of Puri Jagannath temple and its



A VISION FOR STATE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the Odisha Vision Document in the presence of Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravat Parida and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Jual Oram among others at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

'DECLINED TRUMP'S INVITE TO PRIORITISE ODISHA VISIT'



BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said he had declined an invitation from US President Donald Trump to visit Washington, and instead chosen to come to Odisha, the sacred land of Lord Jagannath. Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Modi said, "I was in Canada for the G7 Summit when US President Trump had called me and invited me to Washington for a discussion and lunch. I thanked him for the invitation, saying I have to visit Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath. I humbly rejected his invitation."

Modi had Tuesday declined Trump's invitation to visit the US while returning from Canada, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a statement on the Modi-Trump phone call.

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'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) have been reopened.

Prepared following people's feedback, the Prime Minister unveiled the 'Odisha Vision Document', the roadmap for the state's development goals, anchored around the centenary of Odisha's formation as a linguistic state in 2036 and India's 100 years of Independence in 2047. The vision aims to transform Odisha into a \$500 billion economy by 2036 and a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047.

The Prime Minister also launched 'Baraputra Aithiya Gram Yojana', an initiative to transform birthplaces of

Odia icons into memorials, featuring museums, interpretation centres, statues and libraries, promoting cultural tourism and preserving heritage. Modi also felicitated some women achievers from across the state, including some 'Lakhpati Didis'.

'Lakhpati Didi' is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development focused on empowering women in SHGs. The goal is to help them achieve an annual household income exceeding ₹1 lakh by adopting sustainable livelihood practices. The state tops the list of creating 16.60 lakh 'Lakhpati Didis' in the country.

MORE P3

China, Pak, B'desh hold trilateral meet

In a move that could pose a challenge to India's strategic interests, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh have held their first-ever trilateral meeting at foreign ministry official level in Beijing. Given that India's ties with Bangladesh have deteriorated since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, Dhaka getting closer to China and Pakistan could spell trouble for India. This is the second such trilateral that China has established in India's neighbourhood after its foreign ministers' meeting with Pakistan and Afghanistan last month. China has already succeeded in winning over India's neighbours, one after another, leaving New Delhi with no friends in the region



Pakistani Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch participated in the first phase of the meeting via video link, a Chinese Foreign Ministry press release said here Friday.

In his address, Sun Weidong said Bangladesh and Pakistan are both good neighbours, good friends, and good partners of China, and important partners in high quality Belt and Road cooperation, the Foreign Ministry's press release said.

Cooperation among China, Pakistan and Bangladesh aligns with the common interests of the three peoples, and can contribute to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, Sun who was a former Ambassador to Pakistan and India, said.

The three sides exchanged views extensively on China-Pakistan-Bangladesh trilateral cooperation and agreed to establish a working group to follow up and implement the understandings reached during the meeting, the press release said.

Delhi-Pune Air India flight suffers bird hit

Mumbai: An Air India Pune-bound flight from Delhi suffered a bird hit Friday, forcing the airline to cancel its return journey. The aircraft landed safely and the bird hit was detected after it touched down in Pune, the airline said in a statement. It has been grounded and extensive checks are being carried out by the engineering team, Air India said. "Flight AI2470 scheduled to operate from Pune to Delhi June 20 has been cancelled due to a bird-hit which was detected after the incoming flight landed safely in Pune," it said.

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Oppn criticises Shah for his English remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Opposition parties Friday criticised Home Minister Amit Shah for his reported comments on English saying the language is "not shameful but empowering" and is a tool to break the chains.

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged the BJP-RSS don't want poor children to learn this language because they don't want them to attain equality. In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "English is not a dam, it is a bridge. English is not shameful, it is empowering. English is not a chain -- it is a tool to break the chains."

"The BJP-RSS don't want poor kids of India to learn English - because they don't want you to ask questions, move ahead, and attain equality," he claimed. In today's world, English is as important as one's mother tongue because it will provide employment and boost one's confidence, Gandhi said. "Every language of India has soul, culture, knowledge. We have to cherish them --

and at the same time teach English to every child. This is the path to an India that competes with the world, that gives every child an equal opportunity," the former Congress president said.

In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh attacked the home minister saying, "Millions of Indians each speak more Indian languages - in addition to English - than him."

TMC leader Derek O'Brien said India has 22 constitutionally recognised languages and 19,500 languages and dialects and this is the 'unity in diversity' of our country. In a video statement, the TMC leader said, "In India, 97 per cent people use one of the 22 constitutionally recognised languages as their mother tongue. 19,500 languages and dialects are used as mother tongues. This is the 'unity in diversity' of our great nation. Amit Shah, PM Narendra Modi and gang will never understand this."

CPI leader and RS MP P Sandosh Kumar said Shah's remarks are a "deliberate attempt to stigmatise India's linguistic diversity and push RSS-BJP's cultural majoritarianism."

BJP accounts for 45% of total spending in 2024 LS polls: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spent nearly ₹1,494 crore, accounting for 44.56 per cent of the total election expenditure, during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, poll rights body the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Friday.

The Congress followed next with ₹620 crore or 18.5 per cent of the total expenses among the 32 national and regional parties whose records were analysed, the ADR said.

Together, these parties spent ₹3,352.81 crore during the Lok Sabha and simultaneous Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim between March 16 and June 6, 2024.

The national parties accounted for more than ₹2,204 crore (65.75 per cent) of this expenditure.

"Of the total funds collected, national parties collected ₹6,930.246 crore (93.08 per cent) while regional parties received ₹515.32 crore (6.92 per cent)," the report said.

Halls to homes: Classical music transition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: To steal away from the mad rush of an over-stimulated life into the comfort of a living room where time flows in a trickle and the air is filled with classical ragas is like stepping into a postcard from times gone by. It's a bouquet of music made for the gods.

Baithaks, those intimate gatherings of Indian classical music lovers and the 'music curious', are slowly getting back, reshaping an age-old tradition that largely limited itself to the practitioners of the craft and a few learned patrons.

Music, as it was envisioned by pioneers like Vishnu Digambar Paluskar



and Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, is finding newer audiences - one living room at a time.

So, far away from the impersonality of an auditorium, independent groups and music connoisseurs are creating new performing arts spaces -- either in their living rooms or those of their hosts -- and crucially offering steady em-

WORLD MUSIC DAY

ployment for aspiring artists. At the centre of it all is the idea of introducing the magic of music to those whose ears have never heard it and those who have long yearned for it.

EduTech and strategic consultant Sukanya Banerjee and fitness educator Tejas Jaishankar were among

those who set the ball rolling in 2018 when they opened their south Delhi home to people ready to pay to listen to an aspiring artiste in a small gathering of some 25.

What started with 200 a ticket as 'Evening Raag' in 2018 has transformed into a 2,000 fare as 'Upstairs With Us' five years down the line. The aim is to create an audience that appreciates music enough to pay for it and offer a respectable compensation to the artiste.

"We recognised a bunch of barriers in Indian classical music. Firstly, people are accustomed to government organised events that are free and as a result artistes effectively don't get paid for anything that's not a big concert," Jaishankar told PTI.

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesha. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

TAURUS
Today is a perfect day to relax and enjoy your health, feels Ganesha. However, precaution should be the buzzword while dealing in money matters. You may develop a new interest in jewellers, artists, bankers and orators. Dinner will be laced with all the deserving delicacies of a hearty meal.

GEMINI
It is a good day for you to participate in cultural events and group activities, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to be an important part of some convention or joint venture, but don't get too bogged down by it. In the evening, you may take a fancy to fine arts, such as drawing or classical music.

CANCER
Today, your ability to think clearly in the most adverse conditions will be your key weapon as you get cornered by unrelenting assaults of work and deadlines. The clarity will reflect in your work as you deal with inhuman work pressure. Your mind will save the day for you as well as your peers.

LEO
You sure love playing a team sport, but that does not diminish the fact that you are a tough player to compete with, says Ganesha. If only they had a rugby team at the local club! You derive a sense of completion from the fact that you have given your best effort to any endeavour.

VIRGO
All the work done in the past will reap rich rewards today, says Ganesha. You'll direct things your own way, and in no way would you take orders from anyone. But don't go overboard with all the authority and keep a cool, calm head.

LIBRA
Nothing overshadows your love for your children today. And love is precisely what drives you incessantly to give them the best possible of everything. Be it special classes for that extra edge in education, or a visit to a holy place to seek divine blessing, you will do it all today.

SCORPIO
The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a belligerent mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conversations and discussions with colleagues and friends, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Remember that actions always speak louder than words. You will, in all probability, finish your work that has been seeking your attention for long now. You shall also successfully bring continuing disputes to the table and resolve them logically.

CAPRICORN
Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your horizon of knowledge, feels Ganesha. Talking about personal life, you will feel free to conduct yourself as per your wish.

AQUARIUS
Things have become stagnant but it fails to frustrate your spirit. Slow and steady wins the race and it seems you have imbibed it very well. You will be able to seize opportunities coming your way and march ahead on your path. Financially, you will be on a stable ground, says Ganesha.

PISCES
You need to tread cautiously today when it comes to matters related to business. Do not make any decisions in haste, or it could come back to haunt you at a later date. All financial dealings will need to be carefully monitored. Do not indulge in speculative activities or undue risk taking. A little consideration now will save you a lot of trouble later, says Ganesha.



CARLA GUGINO JOINS WINTHROP CAST

Carla Gugino, known for *Spy Kids* and *San Andreas*, will star with Lou Taylor Pucci in *Winthrop*, a film adaptation of the cult podcast *Knifepoint Horror*. Inspired by *The Lockbox*, it begins production in Vancouver this summer.

MILEY, BEYONCE SURPRISE DUET AT PARIS CONCERT

Beyoncé and Miley Cyrus lit up the France leg of the *Cowboy Carter* tour with a surprise duet of their song *II Most Wanted*. Introducing Miley, Beyoncé told the crowd, "I wanted to do something very special for you guys."



Vaani's travel tips

Mumbai:

As we get ready to celebrate World Yoga Day this Saturday, acclaimed actress Adah Sharma reflected on the positive impact of Yoga on everyday life.

Sharing a powerful 'Yoga Day' message, Adah said, "Yoga isn't just physical stretches. It's about making your mind fit so the body can follow. Yoga for me is a disciplined life-style all year around. Eating vegetarian food, being able to keep my calm in stressful situations, and controlling my anger. All of that is Yoga for me."

Aside from being a versatile actress, Adah is also known for her holistic and wholesome lifestyle, an important part of which is Yoga.

Work-wise, Adah will next grace the screen as a *Devi* in an untitled trilingual film with the National Award-winning director BM Giriraj.

Shedding light on her approach towards her character, Adah stressed her commitment to making the portrayal as realistic and authentic as possible.

"I am very fortunate to be getting the opportunity to play such amazing roles and work with such talented filmmakers. Stories like The Kerala Story or fictional ones like Reeta Sanyal, I will do my best to make it as realistic as possible," the actress stated.

In addition to this, Adah is likely to be seen as a superhero in an international film. IANS

Mumbai: There's something uniquely memorable about first solo trips - the excitement, the uncertainty, and, of course, the stories that last a lifetime. For actress Vaani Kapoor, that unforgettable first solo adventure took place in none other than New York City, which was not a pleasant one.

As she doesn't claim to be the most efficient packer, she's got some light-hearted advice for those setting off on their own journeys—especially solo female travellers.

"Don't travel like I do," she quipped. "I travel with my entire house in my suitcase. I practically carry everything in my bag, and I'm always paying for extra baggage. That's not the smartest thing to do."

Vaani's tip? Travel light. Not just for convenience, but because you're bound to pick up new things along the way. "You'll end up buying something or the other anyway. And yes, I always have excess baggage with me. My sister constantly scolds me because she's like, 'Why can't you ever

travel light?'"

Admitting she hates packing but does it anyway, Vaani offered a practical packing hack for over-packers: vacuum bags. "Use those vacuum bags to store all your clothes in and vacuum-seal them to create more space in your bags," she said.

AGENCIES

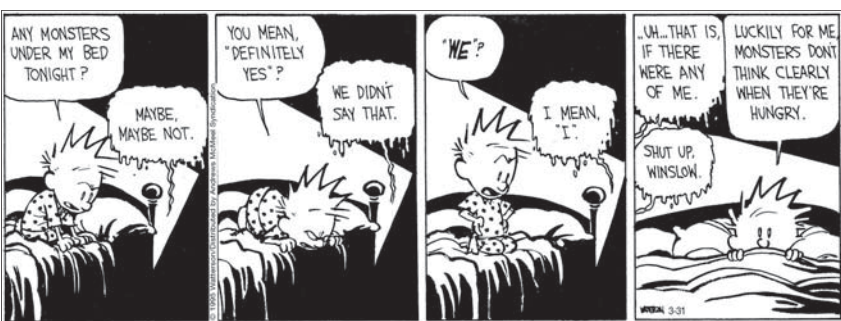
Adah shares her Yoga Day thoughts



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



Pankaj on today's relationships

Mumbai: Acclaimed star Pankaj Tripathi, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *Metro...In Dino*, has talked about how relationships today have become complex due to the fast-paced, demanding nature of modern life.

Asked if he agrees that today's relationships have become very complex and that love has become underrated, Pankaj told this news agency: "Love has not become underrated. Relationships have become complex. If the world itself has become complex, how can relationships not be?"

Citing an example of how currency was created thinking that life would become

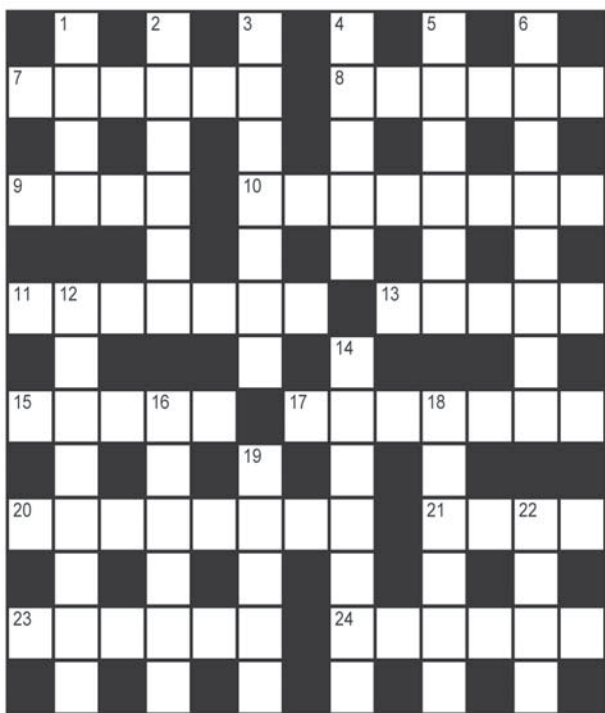
easier, he added: "For example, if you travel from one place to another, how many goods can you carry in exchange? So currency was invented to simplify life. You carry money in your pocket and in return, you get what you need. I believe that the invention of currency in human history was to make life easier. But now, life has become more difficult in the process of earning that currency."

Talking about where do relationship problems begin, he said: "The root of the problem is the mind — the brain. We assume the other person thinks like us. In the early stages of romance, it doesn't matter. But as time passes, each brain starts creating conflict" IANS



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Seoul native
- 8 Spurred on
- 9 Some are corny
- 10 Common raccoon
- 11 Cell phone accessory
- 13 Park sit down
- 15 Angler's basket

Down

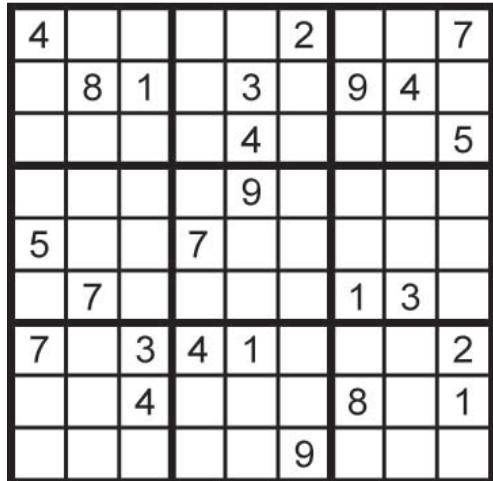
- 17 Book part
- 20 Sing
- 21 Food grain
- 23 Salad starters
- 24 Unusual
- 1 Sharpen
- 2 King's clown
- 3 Menu items

Across

- 4 Go-between
- 5 Palace
- 6 Average
- 12 Seaports
- 14 Words to a sad sack (5,2)
- 16 Crown covering
- 18 Iran, once
- 19 A bit lit
- 22 Fish bait

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Odisha a shining star of India's rich heritage: PM



Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy greets PM Narendra Modi on his arrival at Bhubaneswar airport Friday



PM presses the remote button to unveil several development projects worth over ₹18,600cr in the state



Modi flags off several Railway projects worth over ₹2,750cr



PM Modi, CM Mohan Charan Majhi and state BJP president Manmohan Samal reach Janata Maidan, the venue of the event commemorating the first anniversary of the BJP govt in Odisha



Huge gathering at Janata Maidan

PHOTOS: BIRASH NAYAK & MANORANJAN MISHRA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Odisha is not merely a state, but a shining star of India's rich heritage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while addressing the celebration of the first anniversary of the BJP government in the state, Friday.

Modi said June 20 is a very special day as it marks the completion of one year of Odisha's first BJP government.

"This anniversary is not merely that of a government but of the establishment of good governance devoted to public service and public trust," the PM said.

He said the BJP government has made sincere efforts to live up to the expectations of crores of voters in Odisha and extended his heartfelt greetings to the people, acknowledging their support and trust.

The PM congratulated Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his entire team for their commendable work, noting that their efforts have given a fresh momentum to Odisha's development.

"Odisha is not merely a state, but a shining star of India's rich heritage," he said.

For centuries, Odisha has enriched Indian civilization and cul-



Motorcade makes way for ambulance

The motorcade of PM Narendra Modi gave way to an ambulance during his roadshow here Friday. A video showed the convoy slowing down to allow the ambulance to overtake as people lined up on the road to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister. Modi was going to Janata Maidan to attend the first anniversary celebration of the BJP government in the state in a roadshow from the airport here amid tight security. When the carcade reached near Kalinga Stadium, an ambulance came on the same route and as the emergency vehicle was carrying a patient to the hospital, the PM's convoy made way for it.

ture, Modi noted, adding that in today's time when development and heritage are the two foundations of India's progress, the role of Odisha has become even more significant.

He stated that over the past year, Odisha has wholeheartedly embraced the mantra of development while preserving its legacy, and has made rapid progress along this path.

Modi chaired the state-level function to mark the completion of one year of the BJP government in Odisha. "The growth of 21st century India will be powered by eastern India. This is the era of Purvodaya," Modi said, adding that with this vision, the government is focused on the development of Odisha along with the entire eastern region.

Highlighting the expansion of industrial zones from Paradip to Jharsuguda, he said this is strengthening Odisha's mineral and port-led economy. Modi stated that the Central government is investing thousands of crores in improving road, rail, and air connectivity across the state.

The PM highlighted that nearly ₹1.5 lakh crore has already been invested in Odisha's petroleum and petrochemical sectors in recent years. "Odisha is rapidly advancing towards becoming India's petrochemical hub," he added.

Advertisement for Boyanika (ବୟନିକା) featuring a temple image and promotional text in Odia. Includes discount codes (୧୦%+୨୦%), online shopping link (www.boyanika.com), and SBI card cashback offer (₹1,000 EXTRA CASHBACK).

Op Sindoor proves India safe under Modi: Majhi



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said that Operation Sindoor proved that India is safe under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Majhi was addressing a function organised to celebrate the first anniversary of Odisha's maiden BJP government.

Showering praises on the PM, who was also present on the dais, Majhi said, "Earlier people used to say 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' (it is possible if Modi is there), but today, the entire country is saying 'Modi hai toh desh surakshit hai' (the country is safe when Modi is at the helm)." "With Operation Sindoor, a new India has emerged, which will not bow down under any circumstances. This new India will write its own destiny," the CM said.

Stating that India is reaching new heights of development under Modi's leadership, Majhi said that in the last 11 years, every section of the society has progressed.

"Today, India has become the fourth-largest economy in the world, and is soon going to become \$5 trillion economy. Extreme poverty in the country has come down from 27.1 per cent to 5.3 per cent. This proves that under your leadership, the country is changing and is moving forward on the path of development at a rapid pace," he said.

He said Odisha is also making progress and the state's initiatives are modelled keeping in mind the four categories mentioned by Modi – the poor, the farmers, women and youth.

He wished President Droupadi Murmu on her birthday. Majhi said the Odisha government has secured an investment proposal of ₹17 lakh crore in just two days after Modi's call to the industries during Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave held earlier this year.

Advertisement for health services (ଡାକ୍ତରୀଆ ନିରାକରଣ ପାଇଁ କେତୋଟି ସାଧାରଣ ସତ୍ତର୍କତା) featuring Odisha Health Department logo and a list of 7 health tips in Odia. Includes contact information for health services.

Parking fee hike at rly station sparks outrage



MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 20: A steep hike in two-wheeler parking fees at Bhubaneswar railway station has triggered strong resentment among commuters, who termed the sudden move as arbitrary and unjustified.

Many bike owners, who had parked their vehicles during the Raja holidays, were shocked to discover the revised rates upon returning. The daily fee for two-wheelers shot up from ₹12 to ₹94, while bicycle charges increased from ₹5 to ₹24 overnight. Monthly parking fees were also raised significantly.

Sources said the parking con-

tract is renewed every three years. The new rates came into effect from June 13, following the handover of the parking space by the previous contractor, Maa Tarini Security Services.

As per the earlier tariff chart, the parking fee was ₹6 (including GST) for motorcycles and ₹3 for bicycles for a duration of up to 12 hours. However, from June 13, parking tariffs saw a sharp hike after a new contractor, D&S Associates, took over management of the space.

According to the new rates, a motorcycle or scooter cycle user will pay ₹47 and a cycle user will pay ₹12 to park for 12-24 hours. Similarly, ₹24 for beyond 24 hours for cycle and

₹94 for motorcycle. The monthly charges have been fixed to ₹177 for cycle and ₹885 for motorcycle.

“The hike is too steep. I used to park here every day, but these rates are unaffordable for common people. The government should reconsider and bring down the prices,” said a commuter.

“As students, we don’t have any source of income. Our travel budget is very limited, and such high parking charges will seriously affect our expenses. The railway authorities and the government should look into this issue,” said a student.

A senior official of the East Coast Railway (ECOR) said the parking facility at the railway station is meant exclusively for railway passengers.

“In many cases, vehicles are left in the parking area for months by non-passengers, which limit availability for actual railway users. The revised rates are expected to discourage such misuse,” the official said.



SUPPORT RALLY: Biju Janata Dal leaders gather at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Friday as a show of support for party president and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, as he departs for Mumbai to undergo cervical arthritis surgery

OP PHOTO

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit in the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I, Soumy Sephalika Rath, W/o- Sukanta Kumar Dash, At/P.O.-Kshatriya Barapur, P.S.-Gangapur, Dist.-Ganjam, PIN-761123 do hereby declare that I have changed my former name from Soumy Sephalika Dash to Soumy Sephalika Rath, by this affidavit C.F. No.-123/25, dt.20.05.2025. Henceforth, I will be known as Soumy Sephalika Rath of Aadhaar No.-xxxx xxxx 8056 for all future purposes. Soumy Sephalika Rath Deponent

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bheden dated 10.06.2025, I, Kumodini Bhue, Address : At-Hatagaon, P.o.-Rusuda, Dist.-Baragarh declare that I have changed my name from Susmita Sandha to Kumodini Bhue. Henceforth, I shall be known as Kumodini Bhue for all purposes. Kumodini Bhue

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Astaranga, dated 16.06.2025 I, Suvashri Pradhan, Address : Village-Nuagarh, P.O.-Nuagarh, PS-Astaranga, Dist.-Puri, PIN-752109, State-Odisha declare that I have changed my name from Subhashree Baral to Suvashri Pradhan. Henceforth, I shall be known as Suvashri Pradhan for all purposes. Suvashri Pradhan

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS KIIT tops among private universities in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: KIIT Deemed to be University has achieved a major milestone by ranking No. 1 among all private universities in Odisha in the QS World University Rankings 2026. It also secured the 9th position among India’s leading private higher education institutions and made its debut in the global rankings, earning international recognition for academic excellence.

In its debut appearance, KIIT made a strong mark on the global academic stage by securing the 55th spot in South Asia in the QS Asia University Rankings—highlighting its swift ascent in higher education and commitment to excellence in teaching, research, innovation, and internationalisation.

The QS World University Rankings 2026 assessed over



1,500 top universities globally using rigorous parameters, including academic and employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, research impact, international diversity, research collaboration, employment outcomes, and sustainability.

Reacting to the achievement, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said, “This recognition is the result of our consistent efforts towards academic excellence, social commitment, and global engagement. KIIT, though only 21 years old, has outperformed many long-established institutions. I congratulate all our teachers, staff, and students who have contributed to this proud moment.”

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY Yoga links inner peace to planet health: Experts

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 20: As the world marks the 11th International Yoga Day, this year’s theme—Yoga for One Earth, One Health—has struck a deep chord with practitioners across Odisha. Experts and instructors highlight that yoga not only harmonises the body, mind, soul but now also fosters a stronger connection with the planet.

“Wellness isn’t just a personal goal — it’s a planetary responsibility,” says **Abhishek Mohanty**, fitness and yoga coach. “Yoga unites the body, mind, and soul. When these are in harmony, you become calmer, more focused, and spiritually aware — which, in turn, fosters a deeper sense of responsibility towards the Earth.”

Reflecting on his journey since 2008, he adds, “Yoga helped me overcome depression and anxiety during college. It

transformed my entire lifestyle — from my eating habits to how I manage stress.”

Pragyan Paramita Bhanja Deo, yoga instructor and Khe-lo India athlete, highlights how yoga nurtures self-development through practices like pranayama, kriya, and meditation. “Every asana we perform is rooted in nature — from Bhujangasana to Surya Namaskar. As we engage in yoga, we naturally deepen our connection with the Earth. This awareness encourages more mindful and sustainable choices,” she explains.

Yoga is more than a physical practice — it’s a spiritual and ecological discipline, says **Prajna Mohanty**, a Bhubaneswar-based instructor. “Pranayama balances the body’s bio-energy system, while med-



itation and chanting ‘Om’ help reduce anxiety and build emotional resilience,” she explains.

She says further, “Patanjali’s concept of Pratyahara — withdrawing from negative influences and embracing purity — goes beyond personal peace. It promotes ecological harmony by encouraging us to live with less, make conscious choices, and respect all forms of life.”

Adding to this, **Kajal Satpathy**, founder of Namami Yoga Academy and an aerial yoga expert, emphasises that yoga cultivates inner harmony that naturally extends outward. “It helps us manage stress, breathe better, and live with compassion. And when we live kindly, we become more eco-conscious — consuming less, wasting less, and caring more,” she explains.

Manosmita Mishra, yoga teacher and public health expert, underscores that



regular yoga practice fosters clarity, emotional intelligence, and a sense of purpose. “Yoga reduces stress, improves sleep, enhances breathing, and builds resilience — both mentally and physically. When we feel grounded, we naturally connect with nature,” she says. “You begin to feel disturbed by water waste or dying trees. That’s the deeper impact of yoga — it awakens compassion for the planet,” she adds.

To mark the occasion, schools and institutions across Odisha are hosting essay contests, expert-led workshops, and digital campaigns to raise awareness. Yoga professionals are also encouraging the integration of yoga into daily routines, online platforms, and health publications.

As voices from the state’s yoga community unite, their message rings clear — yoga is not just a path to personal well-being, but a conscious step toward a healthier and more sustainable planet.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	86.67 ▼ 0.10	SENSEX	82408.17 ▲ 1,046	GOLD	₹99,115 ▼ ₹214
EURO	99.86 ▼ 0.24	NIFTY	25112.40 ▲ 319.15	SILVER	₹106,103 ▼ ₹1,29

WEATHER				FORECAST Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers.
	BBSR	CTC		
Max Temp	33.1°	33.8°		
Min Temp	27.0°	25.4°		
Humidity	89%	83%		
Rainfall	5.9	Nil		

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS


Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-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-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-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.

Student injured as plaster falls from roof on first day

“

Sit in meditation! But do not think! Look only at your mind! You will see thoughts coming into it! Before they can enter, throw these away from your mind till your mind is capable of entire silence

SRI AUROBINDO



Quiet Scramble

The Modi government has recently relaxed its rules for selecting joint secretaries to encourage more IAS officers to take on central roles. The timing is telling. As of 2023, only 442 IAS officers were on board at the Centre versus the “required” 1,469 spots. That’s a yawning gap.

By tweaking the rules, babus who’ve spent two years as under-secretary at the Centre can now leap to joint secretary. Previously, one had to be a director or deputy secretary first. Official-speak calls it “widening the pool”, but practically, it’s a gentle shove.

The move has sharpened the state–Centre tug-of-war. These tweaks effectively force officers to choose to stay back in a comfy district DM post, or move to the Centre, learn a different bureaucratic lingo, and get counted for the big leagues. One officer quipped that it’s “do-or-die”—if you skip Centre postings now, your chances at JS are gone forever.

Still, there’s a disconnect. Many observers see little upside in moving to the under secretary level. Who wants to go from being the local boss to a junior foot soldier at North Block, with fewer perks? So, has this really bulked up the IAS presence at the Centre? Probably not, at least not yet.


There’s also a fairness itch here. Babus tied up in negotiations with their state governments over transfers feel penalised but their state is reluctant to relieve them. They are stuck. That’s the system excluding them from the Centre even before they can apply.

So, while the tweak signals intent, it also smacks of top-down micro-management. The Centre wants boots on its ground; the states want to hang on to theirs. And the individual officer? He’s stuck in the middle—or caught in a bureaucratic Catch 22.

The policy tweak is a step, but it just might not be enough to cross the finish line.

Amitabh Kant bows out as G20 Sherpa—a curtain call, not an exit

There’s something to be said about a babu who not only survives four decades of public service but manages to exit on a high, leaving behind a trail of deliverables that actually delivered. Amitabh Kant, India’s G20 Sherpa since 2022 and former CEO of NITI Aayog, has stepped down from his latest assignment, marking the end of a remarkable innings that stretched across 45 years. Few officials have been so consistently at the right place, at the right time, with the right PowerPoint!



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

As Sherpa, Kant helped steer India through one of its most high-profile multilateral events—the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi. From consensus-building on climate and development to deftly navigating geopolitical tightropes (remember the Russia-Ukraine language dead-lock?), he brought both gravitas and good old-fashioned negotiation skills to the table. His tenure wasn’t just about speechifying; it was about delivering outcomes, often in rooms full of clashing national interests and veiled threats.

Of course, Kant’s legacy predates his Sherpa stint. His tenure at NITI Aayog saw the early architecture of India’s startup ecosystem, national missions on innovation, and a policy voice that occasionally managed to cut through the bureaucratic noise.

Now, as he hints at championing free enterprise, startups, and think tanks in his next avatar, one hopes he carries forward his ability to push big ideas without letting them get buried in file-noting. The G20 role may be behind him, but something tells us Amitabh Kant isn’t done being relevant. Not just yet.

Babus’ big migration begins

The babus are on the move—literally. With three new spanning towers in the Central Vista zone ready for occupancy, ministries have been told to pack up their files (and potted plants) and head to the Common Central Secretariat. MoHUA has kicked things off, and others—from Finance to Health—are bracing for their turn.

This was long overdue. For decades, government departments have been scattered across Delhi in crumbling, creaky buildings. Bringing them together under one roof should improve coordination, reduce duplication, and save taxpayers a fair bit of money on inter-ministry note-carrying.

But governance isn’t just about geography. Moving to a new building doesn’t fix the culture of delay, turf wars, or that all-too-familiar tendency to measure productivity in kilograms of paperwork. Fancy new elevators don’t move files any faster.

That said, symbolism matters. The Modi government has pushed the Central Vista as a visual metaphor for a more decisive, aspirational India. The buildings are meant to look like the future, and in fairness, they do. The challenge is whether the bureaucratic mindset will follow suit.

So yes, let’s welcome the move. It’s clean, central, and overdue. But let’s not pretend the hard part is over. The true transformation of governance lies not in where officials sit, but in how they think, act, and collaborate.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](#). Let’s multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

“Whoever is happy will make others happy too”

ANNE FRANK

“There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women”

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

“Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come”

GRETA THUNBURG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1813:** The Battle of Vitoria was fought during the Peninsular War, breaking Napoleon’s power in Spain.

■ **1905:** Jean-Paul Sartre, a French novelist, playwright, and exponent of existentialism who was awarded but declined the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964, was born.

■ **1945:** Japanese resistance on Okinawa was finally crushed , less than three months after U.S. troops landed there as the last stepping-stone before the planned assault on Japan’s main islands in World War II.

■ **1982:** Prince William of Wales (later Prince William, duke of Cambridge) was born to Charles, prince of Wales and heir to the British throne, and Diana, princess of Wales.

FOCUS NATION

PRICE OF HUMAN LIFE



Unless there is a fundamental change in approach that places a premium on accountability above all else, we will simply lurch from one disaster to the next

It was meant to be a week when the Narendra Modi-led NDA government would celebrate its 11th year in power with the signature ‘band, baaja, baarat’ media hype that has been its forte. And yet, for once, even the astute headline management skills of the government’s cheerleaders couldn’t detract from the awfulness of the breaking news in the second week of June: at least 270 people dead in the worst civil aviation disaster in this country since two planes collided in mid-air in 1996. That the Air India flight 171 crashed just outside Ahmedabad in Gujarat, the home state of the government’s Big Two, perhaps makes the tragedy even more poignant.

While it is premature to speculate over the causes of the crash – various aviation ‘experts’ in TV studios have proffered different theories – the crash has triggered a renewed debate over air safety. While official data suggests India’s safety track record is at par with global standards, there are enough reasons for concern.

Just to give a context. A parliamentary standing committee report on the Ministry of Civil Aviation in March this year pointed out that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was operating with 53% of its sanctioned posts vacant while the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has a vacancy rate of 35%. The government’s ambitious UDAN scheme aims to connect 120 new destinations but its budget has been slashed by 32%. While the number of airports has nearly doubled in the last decade, the amount being spent on maintaining safety standards lags behind. Which raises a big question: will a horrific air crash change anything on the ground? The black box and flight data recorder may provide more clues as to what happened for a Dreamliner plane to explode into a fireball just seconds after take-off but will the inquiry be fair and transparent in revealing the truth given the

mighty stakeholders involved? Which brings one to ask a critical question: is there any ACCOUNTABILITY in our system to ensure responsibility is fixed on key figures in a time-bound manner? Just look at the series of events in a disastrous month of June that still has some days to run.

On 4 June, just a day after the IPL final, a stampede in Bengaluru during the victory celebrations of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru left 11 people dead, many more injured. The rushed event was organized despite the fact that the police had not given the required permission. With back to back events being organized at the Vidhan Soudha and Chinnaswamy Stadium, the police were overwhelmed by surging crowds. A public spectacle for a privately-run franchise’s triumph was given priority over the urgent need for public safety. Instead of accepting responsibility, the faction-ridden Congress government in Karnataka has busily disowned its culpability. Bengaluru’s top cop has been suspended while no politician who happily posed with the star players has been held to account.

On 9 June, four people died and nine were injured in a rail accident in Mumbai near Mumbai. The commuters fell onto the tracks while they were standing on the footboards of overcrowded trains. People hanging by the door in peak hour crowding is not new with a sharp curve

along the Mumbra track making it even more hazardous. While a Central Railway committee is probing the incident, the underlying causes of a shambolic public transport system in a megapolis like Mumbai remain unaddressed. Is the creaking suburban train system suffering from neglect as alleged by commuter organisations while the private car traffic whizzes by on a shining coastal road?

On 16 June, a bridge collapsed near Pune due to over-crowding amidst heavy rainfall leaving four people dead and several more injured. The 30-year-old bridge was deemed ‘unsafe’ but despite red flags being raised by locals for several years, a work order for the construction of a new bridge was delayed and reportedly issued only five days before the collapse. Approval of ₹8 crore for a new bridge was given last year but bureaucratic red-tapism meant that it was all too late to avoid a tragedy. Yet again, Maharashtra’s BJP-led ruling alliance politicians have fumed and promised action, only presumably until the next bridge collapse serves as another wake-up call.

On 15 June, seven people died when a chopper flying from the Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi in Uttarakhand crashed in the forest. Worryingly, this was the fifth such incident in just six weeks in the area, raising questions over the feasibility of the helicopter services in inclement weather in the mountains. The

Chief Minister Pushkar Dhama has promised to put in place a Standard Operating Procedure while the DGCA has assured extra surveillance. Once again, a case of too little, too late.

Indeed, the chronology of each such tragedy follows a familiar pattern. Little attention is paid to adhering to strict safety norms in a characteristic ‘chalta hai’ attitude. Rather than focusing on the rigors of daily governance, priority is given to optics of political grandstanding. More fast trains are flagged, more airports are commissioned, more tourist sites are created, more glitzy sports celebrations are organised.

Building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, as envisaged by the Modi government, is a noble aim. Yet, the grim reality on the ground often doesn’t match the dreams being spun in the air in a nation of 1.4 billion people. And then, when every now and then, a rickety bridge collapses, a stampede is caused by mass hysteria or there is a rail or air accident, those in positions of power are the first to shrug off responsibility. After all, in almost instances, it is the faceless, anonymous Indian who pays with their lives. Unless there is a fundamental change in approach that places a premium on accountability above all else, we will simply lurch from one disaster to the next. Because in India if there is one sport that we deserve an Olympic medal in, it is ‘passing the buck’.

Post-script: Ironically, just a few days ago, a BBC investigative report exposed the truth of the Mahakumbh stampede deaths in January this year. Officially, the UP government claimed 37 people died, the detailed BBC investigation found the number was at least 82. If we lie about death, what price is there for human lives?

The writer is a senior journalist and author. His latest best-selling book is 2024: The Election That Surprised India.

SPECTRUM INTRNATIONAL YOGA DAY

Ancient answer to modern life’s turmoil



Bhagirathi Jena

POLICYMAKERS SHOULD LEVERAGE YOGA’S PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE POTENTIAL TO ALLEVIATE OUR OVERBURDENED MEDICAL SYSTEMS

As we celebrate International Yoga Day, the world finds itself at a crossroads of unprecedented stress and unrest. In India’s rapidly changing landscape, psychological distress has reached epidemic proportions—56 million suffer from depression, 38 million from anxiety disorders (WHO). At the same time, a staggering 1.71 lakh lives were lost to suicide in 2022 (NCRB). Students are particularly vulnerable, with 11% reporting chronic anxiety, 14% experiencing extreme emotional swings, and 43% grappling with mood disorders—largely triggered by academic pressures. These statistics paint a grim picture of our collective well-being, exposing the hollowness of material progress divorced from inner peace.

In this crisis, Maharshi Patanjali’s Yoga Sutras emerge not as ancient scripture but as a vital prescription for modern living. When he defines yoga as “chitta vritti nirodha” (cessation of mental fluctuations), Patanjali addresses the core malady of our age: the restless, fragmented mind.

The eightfold path of Ashtanga Yoga presents a step-by-step

antidote to contemporary afflictions. Its ethical foundations—Yamas (restraints like non-violence and truthfulness) and Niyamas (observances like contentment and self-discipline)—counteract the greed and aggression poisoning our social fabric. Consider how Ahimsa (non-violence), when applied beyond the mat, could temper online hatred and geopolitical tensions alike. The physical aspects (Asana and Pranayama) are now scientifically validated to reduce cortisol levels by 27% (Journal of Clinical Psychology), while the meditative limbs (Dharana to Samadhi) rewire neural pathways, with MRI studies showing increased gray matter in practitioners’ brains.

Patanjali’s genius lies in offering multiple yogic paths tailored to human diversity. The active find solace in Karma Yoga’s selfless service, particularly meaningful when 53% of Indian employees report disengagement at work (The State of the Global Workplace 2025 report by Gallup). For intellectuals drowning in information overload, Jnana Yoga’s discernment between transient and eternal provides anchorage. Meanwhile, Raja

Yoga’s mind-training techniques are being adopted by the corporate world and government establishment alike to enhance leadership focus, proving ancient wisdom meets modern boardroom and good governance needs.

The healthcare sector is witnessing yoga’s transformative power firsthand. Leading cancer hospitals now integrate yoga therapy, with studies showing a 40% reduction in chemotherapy-related fatigue (National Cancer Institute).

At the societal level, yoga’s potential is even more profound. In a world where numerous nuclear warheads exist, Patanjali’s teaching that “the root of suffering is misidentification with the transient” offers a philosophical vaccine against destructive ideologies.

The UN’s adoption of International Yoga Day recognizes this civilizational gift India offers to global peace.

Yet, the true test lies in translating philosophy into daily practice. Corporate yoga sessions that ignore ethical foundations or fitness-centric approaches that discard meditation are like prescribing painkillers without treating the dis-

ease. Patanjali’s system works precisely because it integrates body, mind and values—asanas prepare the body for meditation, ethical living creates mental clarity, and self-realisation blossoms into compassionate action.

This Yoga Day must transcend symbolic celebrations. Schools need yoga education that builds emotional resilience early, potentially reducing those alarming student suicide figures. Most importantly, individuals must move beyond treating yoga as mere exercise to embracing it as “the spiritualization of life for a holistic living” that Swami Vivekananda envisioned.

The solutions to modern crises—mental health epidemics, social fragmentation, even geopolitical tensions—may well lie in this 5,000-year-old tradition. Patanjali’s yoga isn’t about touching your toes, but about transforming lives. This International Yoga Day, let us reclaim yoga not as a commodity but as consciousness, not as routine but revolution—the ultimate homecoming for a stressed civilisation seeking its soul.

The writer is a senior officer working at the Parliament of India.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



OrissaPOST

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India must decode its duty

Sir, The Air India crash at Ahmedabad demands more than technical scrutiny — it calls for institutional candor. The recovery of two black box sets is no ordinary detail; it is a symbol of aviation accountability. Yet, ambiguity persists over whether decoding will occur in India’s newly established ₹9 crore lab or be outsourced again. This is not a routine drill — it is a test of sovereignty, speed, and sincerity. Wherever the analysis occurs, India must retain operational command, ensuring the data remains unsullied by opacity or external tampering. The nation awaits not a protracted silence but a timely, factual, and transparent preliminary report. In aviation, delay kills not just time, but trust. Let us not allow procedural fog to cloud public faith. The black box holds the voices of the fallen — their truth deserves more than bureaucratic dithering. India must decode — not defer — its duty..

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Science of inner engineering

Sir, On June 21, the world unites to celebrate International Yoga Day, an initiative proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 and adopted by the United Nations with overwhelming global support. What began as an ancient Indian practice has now evolved into a global wellness movement, blending India’s deep-rooted ethos, spiritualism, and holistic healing. Yoga, far beyond mere physical exercise, is a science of inner engineering. It offers a transformative path to self-discipline, mental clarity, and spiritual elevation. India’s gift of yoga to the world is not just cultural pride, but a timely solution to modern lifestyle ailments. Amid rising cases of non-communicable diseases—like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and cancer—yoga provides a drugless remedy, focusing on mind-body harmony, stress control, and disciplined living. This ancient wisdom, once confined to ashrams and scriptures, now echoes across continents—in parks, schools, offices, and even prisons. Its global traction is a testament to yoga’s universal appeal and relevance. As the world embraces yoga, it not only adopts a practice but aligns with India’s civilizational vision—that health, peace, and spiritual well-being are humanity’s shared heritage.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

CLASS ACT

Pune school soars from brink of closure to fame

The school has hogged the global limelight after being shortlisted among the top 10 contenders for the prestigious ‘World’s Best School Prize’ for Community Collaboration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 20: With just three students, the future appeared bleak for a government school in Maharashtra’s Pune district in 2022 as the authorities toyed with the idea of closing it down. Then, the unthinkable happened after Dattatray Ware, a national award-winning teacher, was shunted to the Zilla Parishad school in the nondescript Jalindarnagar of Khed tehsil following some controversy.

Three years on, the school has hogged the global lime-light after being shortlisted among the top 10 contenders for the prestigious ‘World’s Best School Prize’ for Community Collaboration.

Ware, fondly called Guruji, remains the axis of the remarkable turnaround of the school, which now has over 120 students. He has introduced many innovative teaching practices, including the ‘Subject Friend’ system, a peer-learning model where students of different ages teach and learn from each other.

He also led a significant revamp of the school’s infrastructure with active support from the local community. Ware had earlier earned widespread recognition for his work at a Zilla Parishad school in Wablewadi, Shirur tehsil.

After rigorous rounds of interviews and assessments, the Zilla Parishad School at Jalindarnagar is now among the top 10 contenders in the World’s Best School Prize competition, organised by UK-headquartered T4 Education.

Jalindarnagar Zilla Parishad



The turnaround of the school is a fine example of how public participation and vision of a teacher like Ware Guruji can change the face of a school. I congratulate Ware Guruji, other teachers, students, parents and locals from the village for this achievement. We will extend all possible help to the school to emerge as the winner

SACHINDRA PRATAP SINGH | EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

School is the only school in the country to have achieved the feat in the category of community collaboration, said Ware.

“It is the general expectation that our schools should become global in outlook and students should get a qualitative and world-class education. We took part in the competition to understand what sort of parameters are needed to get recognition at the global level and to know our exact standing at the world level,” said Ware.

He said they learnt about the development June 18.

“In the next phase, the final winner out of these 10 contenders will be determined through a public vote. We appeal to the general public to come forward and vote for the school to help it achieve the rare feat,” Ware said.

The other 9 finalist schools are from Brazil, the United Kingdom, Dubai, Pakistan, Italy, Costa Rica, and Argentina.

T4 Education, which calls itself a global platform bringing together a community of over 2,00,000 teachers from more than 100 countries to transform education, has founded World’s

Best School Prizes – for Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives.

In its citation, T4 Education said the Jalindarnagar school has successfully changed the mindset that public schools have no future through its “transformative teaching methodology”.

“The school is revolutionising public school education by providing quality student-led learning with its Subject Friend system, a peer-learning model where students of different ages teach and learn from each other,” it said.

Subjects like coding, programming, robotics, and electronics have been introduced into the curriculum, along with multilingual learning, T4 Education noted, adding that the Zilla Parishad school now serves 120 “confident and skilled students”.

The school’s educational model has been officially accepted by the government for implementation in other government schools across the country, it said.

Yogi inaugurates Gorakhpur Link Expressway

The 91.352-km expressway connects Gorakhpur to several districts, including Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Azamgarh/Lucknow, June 20: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Friday inaugurated the Rs 7,283 crore Gorakhpur Link Expressway, thus making operational the seventh expressway in the state.

The 91.352-km expressway connects Gorakhpur to several districts, including Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh.

With the opening of this expressway, the state now accounts for 42 per cent of the country’s total access-controlled expressway network, up from the earlier 38 per cent, the state government said in a statement. Of the seven expressways in the state, five were built and completed in the eight years of the Yogi Adityanath government, it said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said there are a total of 2,900 km of access-controlled expressways across the country, and more than 1,200 km of these are located in Uttar Pradesh alone.



Singh said Ganga Expressway will also be added to the list soon, taking UP’s share to more than 62 per cent.

He stated that Gorakhpur Link Expressway has not only crossed geographical barriers, but is also set to transform the socio-economic landscape of Purvanchal.

The expressway entailed to-

tal investment of Rs 7,283 crore, with Rs 3,400 crore spent on construction and the remaining allocated to land acquisition and other expenses. For this, 1,100 hectare of land was acquired from 22,000 farmers.

Uttar Pradesh is the first and only state in the country where the maximum number of expressways are not only

ready, but many are under construction and proposed, the statement said.

The 7 expressways operational in UP are: Purvanchal Expressway (341 km), Bundelkhand Expressway (296 km), Agra-Lucknow Expressway (302 km), Yamuna Expressway (165 km), Delhi-Meerut Expressway (96 km), Noida-Greater Noida Expressway (25 km) and Gorakhpur Link Expressway (91 km).

The state’s longest expressway Ganga Expressway (594 km), Ballia Link Expressway (35 km) and Lucknow-Kanpur Greenfield Expressway (63 km) are being completed rapidly.

Besides, the construction of the Chitrakoot Link Expressway, which connects the Agra-Lucknow Expressway to the Purvanchal Expressway and the Bundelkhand Expressway via Farrukhabad, is in progress. Additionally, the construction of the link expressway connecting the Ganga Expressway and the Jewar Airport Link Expressway is also underway.



Women perform yoga at Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, ahead of the ‘International Day of Yoga’, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Friday

PTI PHOTO

HC raises alarm over commuter deaths on Mumbai local network

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 20: The Bombay High Court Friday expressed concern over deaths of commuters on Mumbai local trains, describing the situation as “alarming,” an observation coming days after five people lost their lives post-falling off a packed suburban service.

The court suggested installing automatic door-closing mechanisms in Mumbai local trains to prevent commuters from falling off, but insisted this was an advice purely from a “layman” perspective and Railway expert views were needed on the issue.

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Aradhe and Justice Sandeep Marne urged authorities to take measures to ensure tragic incidents don’t occur on the Mumbai suburban network in the future.

Citing an affidavit filed by the Railways, the court noted that in 2024 alone over 3,588 fatalities happened on local trains (due to various accidents on the suburban network), which means on an average ten Mumbaiers die everyday.

“This is an alarming situation. Though you have projected that there was a reduction (in casualties) of 49 per cent (compared to previous years),” the court added.

The division bench made the

observations while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) related to deaths of commuters in accidents on Mumbai’s suburban network, considered the city’s lifeline. Taking note of the June 9 incident where five passengers died and eight others sustained injuries after falling off a crowded local train near Mumbra station in adjoining Thane district, the court observed measures taken by authorities to stop such untoward incidents were not sufficient.

The court suggested they (trains) should be equipped with automatic doors (currently they have open doors). The bench, however, was quick to add that it was a “layman” suggestion and they were not an expert on Railway safety.

The Railways informed the bench that they have set up a multi-disciplinary committee to examine the cause of the Mumbra incident and waiting for its report. The panel will give recommendations and suggestions for avoiding such untoward incidents in the future.

The court directed the Railways to place on record suggestions made by the committee, along with timeline for their implementation. The committee should be open to including the suggestions made by the petitioner (a commuter) for avoiding reoccurrence of such incidents.



Rhino rehabilitation areas to be set up in Dudhwa

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government Thursday said it has approved the establishment of two new Rhino Rehabilitation Areas (RRAs) in Dudhwa National Park in Lakhimpur. Under the Forest and Wildlife Department’s ambitious plan, a budget of Rs 1.5 crore has been allocated for the project, the government said in a statement. “This fund will be utilised for the long-term preservation of the natural habitats of rhinos and other endangered species, training personnel for wildlife monitoring, and procuring essential medicines and equipment,” the government said. “Additionally, a portion of the funds will be dedicated to raising awareness among local communities about the importance of rhino and wildlife conservation,” it said. The Forest and Wildlife Department has launched this long-term conservation project focused on protecting the natural habitat of rhinos and other endangered species in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh. The project will be implemented specifically in Dudhwa National Park, with the goal of ensuring sustainable measures for habitat protection.



rhino and wildlife conservation,” it said. The Forest and Wildlife Department has launched this long-term conservation project focused on protecting the natural habitat of rhinos and other endangered species in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh. The project will be implemented specifically in Dudhwa National Park, with the goal of ensuring sustainable measures for habitat protection.

SNIPPETS

Minister launches gharial conservation drive in UP

Bahraich (UP): Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav Friday launched a conservation programme for gharial species here. During a boat safari on the Gerua River in Katarniaghat, the minister released seven one-year-old gharial hatchlings into the river’s currents, marking the official start of the initiative, officials said. During his boat ride, Yadav observed dolphins, crocodiles and gharials, officials said. Speaking to reporters, the Union minister said a meeting was held during his visit to Dudhwa Tiger Reserve with public representatives, departmental officials, conservation NGOs and villagers residing near forest areas. He noted that numerous suggestions were received and these would be incorporated into a new action plan for the development and conservation of forests and wildlife. Furthermore, Yadav instructed departmental officials to ensure timely action on pending cases related to human-wildlife conflict compensation to avoid delays in providing assistance to victims.



Lakhimpur Kheri scripts record by constructing 1,030 ponds in a month

The ‘monumental achievement’ was accomplished under the ‘Har Gaon Talab Abhiyan’ (every village pond campaign), a special initiative of the rural development department aimed at water conservation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri, June 20: The Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh has registered its name in the India Book of Records by constructing 1,030 water pools in just one month, officials said.

The “monumental achievement” was accomplished under the ‘Har Gaon Talab Abhiyan’



(every village pond campaign), a special initiative of the rural development department aimed at water conservation, the officials said.

Chief Development Officer (CDO) Abhishek Kumar said, “The water pool in every village campaign was not only an initiative for wa-

ter conservation but it also worked to accelerate the rural economy.”

In a felicitation ceremony Wednesday at the Collectorate, India Book of Records Judge Pramil Dwivedi honoured Kheri District Magistrate (DM) Durga Shakti Nagpal and CDO Kumar with certificates and

medals, commending the collective efforts of the administration and the villagers.

Nagpal emphasised the significance of the achievement, saying, “For the district administration, this is not just a record but a historic achievement arising from public participation in the direction of water conservation.”

She said the team completed the target of digging “more than 1,000 ponds in a month and that too with the resolve that every pond should be ready before the first rain”.

The DM credited the CDO for his “full dedication and leadership”, transforming the campaign into a “mission mode”. The initiative saw the digging of 70 to 80 ponds in each block, converting approximately 700 acres of land into water conservation areas.

Tiger strolling on highway brings traffic to halt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gondia, June 20: Traffic on a state highway passing through a village in Maharashtra’s Gondia district came to a standstill for over half an hour after a tiger was seen taking a stroll there, prompting thousands of curious onlookers to throng the spot to catch a glimpse of the majestic feline.

The drama ended after the tiger was finally tranquilised by the forest department personnel from a nearby spot.

The incident occurred around 10 am on the highway between Sakhritol and Anjora in Amgaon taluka. It took more than two hours for the forest team to tranquilise and rescue the big cat as it had a tough time controlling the large crowd. An official said the tiger had earlier been spotted near human settlements located on the peripheries of Yermada, Wadad, Togaon, Ovara, Lohara, Teda, Saoli and other villages. Forest teams were keeping a watch over the feline’s movements to prevent any untoward incident.

of the day

quote

One cannot ignore the US. The Pakistan Army Chief getting an invitation means they are developing closer ties with the US. This is not good for India. If another conflict breaks out between India and Pakistan in the future, the US will come out in support of Pakistan and may also supply weapons

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN | SENIOR CONG LEADER

Official programmes will be held at 11 places. I will be participating in the Yoga programme in Sonia Vihar on Yamuna bank. There will be programmes at Thyagraj Stadium, Chhatrasal Stadium, Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Cricket ground in Dwarka Sector 6, among others

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

I have directed all district commissioners to strictly implement the Act and ensure that slaughter, sale or consumption of beef is banned within the restricted area

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

XPOST

OF THE DAY

Iran gave us oil without drama. Iran trusted India when others doubted. But Modi ditched them for PR with Israel and hugs with Trump. Now Iran is in China camp and India is in deep mess. This is what happens when clown runs foreign policy

@Politicx2029

SHORT TAKES

CBI books ex-officials of TCE, JNPT


New Delhi:The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed a case against former officials of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE), and two dredging companies over alleged irregularities worth over Rs 800 crore in a project to deepen ship navigational channels near Mumbai, officials said. The agency took the action after a three-year-long preliminary inquiry to look into the allegations of inflated estimates, throttling of competition to favour international bidders, extension of undue favours to contractors, and suppression of reports of independent expert organisations.

Train hits push trolley; one killed, 4 injured

Katihar: A railway personnel was killed and four others were injured Friday when the Awadh Assam Express coming from Delhi ploughed into a push trolley in Katihar district of Bihar, a senior official said. According to Manoj Kumar Singh, the Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Katihar, the trolleyman died on the spot while the injured persons were rushed to a hospital.

Rajnath likely to visit China next week

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to travel to China next week to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), people familiar with the matter said Friday. It will be the first visit to China by a senior Indian minister after the ties came under severe strain following the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020. New Delhi and Beijing are in the process of finalising Singh's visit to China, the people said.



Operation Sindoore

is proof that New India is assertive, resolute and will no longer be a victim of terrorism. It will respond with strength and strategy

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

UDDHAV MEETS SENA (UBT) DISTRICT CHIEFS

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Friday met his party's district unit presidents to discuss preparations for the local body polls to be held across Maharashtra later this year. Local body polls will be held for 29 municipal corporations, for which the ward delimitation process has already begun, as well as 32 zilla parishads (ZP), 336 panchayat samitis and 248 municipal councils



AI cancels 8 flights; bookings drop 20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 20: Air India Friday cancelled eight flights, including four on international routes, due to operational reasons even as the impact of the Ahmedabad plane crash last week is becoming manifest on its overall bookings dropping nearly 20 per cent.

In a statement Friday, Air India announced cancellation of several flights -- Dubai-Chennai (AI906), Delhi-Melbourne (AI308), Melbourne-Delhi (AI309) and Dubai-Hyderabad (AI2204) (AI309) and Dubai-Hyderabad (AI2204). On domestic routes, Pune-Delhi (AI874), Ahmedabad-Delhi (AI456), Hyderabad-Mumbai (AI-2872) and Chennai-Mumbai (AI571) flights were cancelled.

The Delhi-Pune flight was cancelled after the airline, on its arrival from Delhi, detected that it had a bird hit. Consequently, it was grounded for extensive inspection. The airline also said it made all arrangements, including accommodation for the stranded passengers.

Refunds on cancellation or complimentary rescheduling were also offered to passengers, the airline said. According to the tour operators body, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), bookings for Air India flights have declined by around 20 per cent on domestic as well as international routes while the average fares have dropped by 8-15 per cent in the aftermath of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash last week. Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism



In a statement Friday, Air India announced cancellation of several flights -- Dubai-Chennai (AI906), Delhi-Melbourne (AI308), Melbourne-Delhi (AI309) and Dubai-Hyderabad (AI2204) (AI309) and Dubai-Hyderabad (AI2204). On domestic routes, Pune-Delhi (AI874), Ahmedabad-Delhi (AI456), Hyderabad-Mumbai (AI-2872) and Chennai-Mumbai (AI571) flights were cancelled

& Hospitality (FAITH) General Secretary Rajiv Mehra also said that an up to 20 per cent decline in bookings has been observed for Air India flights while the fares have turned cheaper by about 10 per cent on certain sectors where there is high competition with other carriers. An Air India spokesperson did not respond to a query seeking comments from the airline on decline in bookings.

"Following the unfortunate incident involving Air India, we have observed a temporary decline in bookings, particularly on international sectors," IATO president Ravi Gosain told PTI. Noting that there has been a moderate adjustment in fares across key Air India routes, he said, "On an average, ticket prices have reduced by 8-12 per cent on domestic sectors where

231 victims identified

Ahmedabad: Over a week after 270 people were killed in the Ahmedabad plane crash, 231 victims have been identified through DNA tests, and the mortal remains of 210 of them were handed over to their families, a health official said Friday. A London-bound Air India flight AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad June 12. All but one on board the plane died along with nearly 29 on the ground when the aircraft smashed into a medical complex in Meghaninagar area of the city shortly after its take-off. Authorities are carrying out DNA matching to establish the identity of the victims, as several bodies were charred beyond recognition or damaged.

the airline competes directly with low cost carriers like IndiGo and Akasa."

On international routes, especially to Europe and South-east Asia, fares have seen a drop of 10-?15 per cent, depending on route occupancy and competition. These reductions are a mix of promotional strategies and yield correction due to lowered demand," Gosain said.

Indian student in Canada dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: With less than a month to go for her 27th birthday, family members of Tanya Tyagi, who passed away in a Canadian University, remember her as a hard-working woman, a bright student and a brilliant dancer.

Tanya's cousin, Vipul Tyagi (25), said the sad news of the demise of Tanya, a post-graduate student of food technology in the University of Alberta, was broken to her father Wednesday morning by her roommates. "We received a call from her roommates that they found her dead on the bed. The investigating officer in Canada has informed us that the cause of the death is possibly heart failure. However, it will be confirmed by the detailed reports, which will come after three months," Vipul said.

The process of bringing Tanya's mortal remains from Canada will begin around midnight Friday and the same will be received by her family that resides in Delhi. Vipul recalled that the family members used to talk to Tanya at least once a day and said her last phone call was short as she was tired and wanted to go to sleep. Tanya went to Canada to pursue her master's degree in August 2023. She pursued her B.Tech from a college in India and wanted to study food technology in the University of Alberta, which is one of the best, as she enjoyed researching, Vipul recalled, adding that she had big dreams for her future.



Modi slams RJD for insulting Ambedkar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siwan (Bihar), June 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday slammed the RJD for allegedly insulting Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar and asserted that the people of Bihar would not tolerate any disrespect to the Dalit icon.

At a rally in Siwan district, which marked his fifth visit this year to the state and second in less than a month, Modi hailed the "big role" played by Bihar in India's emergence as the "third largest economy" of the world.

In a nearly 45-minute-long speech that followed the launch of projects worth more than Rs 5,900 crore and the flagging off of a Vande Bharat train, the Prime Minister cautioned the people against "attempts to recapture economic resources of Bihar" by the RJD-led Opposition in the assembly polls due later this year.

"Ambedkar was against dynasty rule. But they (RJD and its allies) do not like it. So they have his portrait placed at their feet. On my way, I saw posters demanding an apology for this insult to Babasaheb," said Modi. He added, "But there has been no apology. This is because they hold Dalits in contempt. In contrast, Modi has Babasaheb in his heart and would like to keep his portrait close to his chest". Modi, who did not mention RJD chief La-

lu Prasad by name, referred to the instance of a portrait of Ambedkar being placed close to the feet of the ailing septuagenarian, for which he (Prasad) has been drawing flak from the BJP-led NDA.

Modi also asserted that the world was greatly impressed with India's progress and underscored Bihar's big role in the country's emergence as the world's "third largest economy".

Training his guns at the opposition INDIA bloc, he said, "Beware, those responsible for jungle raj are looking for another opportunity to wreak havoc like they had once done."

They are playing various tricks to ensure that they recapture the state's economic resources, claimed Modi, in an apparent reference to several populist promises made by the RJD and its ally Congress in the run-up to the Assembly polls.

"Unlike the NDA, which worked for development of all with support of all (sabka saath sabka vikas), the opposition stood for family rule (parivar ka saath, parivar ka vikas), which was against the spirit of the Constitution, given to us by Babasaheb Ambedkar", Modi claimed. "This is the reason why the Congress-RJD people have portraits of Babasaheb Ambedkar placed at their feet. In contrast, Modi keeps Babasaheb Ambedkar in his heart," remarked the Prime Minister.

Dhankhar slams top court over Emergency-era verdict



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Friday slammed the Supreme Court for its verdict delivered during the Emergency, dubbing it as the "darkest" in the judicial history of the world.

According to an official statement, he said the judgment of the Supreme Court overruling that of nine high courts legitimised dictatorship and authoritarianism. Dhankhar also questioned the then president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed for signing the proclamation of Emergency on the "instance" of then prime minister Indira Gandhi and not the entire council of ministers.

Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns here, the vice president said, "A president cannot act on the advice of an individual, the prime minister.

The Constitution is very categorical. Referring to the role of the judiciary during the Emergency, Dhankhar said, "That was a time when the fundamental essence of democracy capsized in times of distress. People look up to the judiciary. "Nine high courts in the country have gloriously defined that emergency or no emergency, people have fundamental rights and there is access to the justice system. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court overturned all nine high courts and gave a judgment which will be the darkest in the history of any judicial institution in the world that believes in the rule of law," he further said.

In the 1976 ADM Jabalpur case, a five-judge Constitution bench, by a majority of 4-1, upheld the suspension of fundamental rights during the national emergency.

The majority verdict of the then chief justice of India A N Ray and Justices M H Beg, Y V Chandrachud and P N Bhagwati held that the right to seek legal remedy for violations of Article 21 was suspended during the Emergency.



Workers of West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM) take part in a protest march demanding their appointment letters and recognition as government employees, in Kolkata

UK COLLEGE ROW ECHOES IN KOLKATA

Bengal BJP head, London doc held after roadside meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 20: In a dramatic flashpoint echoing the UK's 'Kellogg College Lecture' controversy, West Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar and London-based doctor Rajat-shubhra Bandyopadhyay were detained for several hours by the police Friday, moments after they held a brief roadside interaction in Kolkata, sparking a political uproar.

Majumdar who is also a Union minister of state and Bandyopadhyay, a British passport holder with roots in South Kolkata, were later released. The BJP alleged that the detentions were linked to the doctor's now-famous confrontation with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a lecture at Kellogg College, Oxford University, in March. Bandyopadhyay had asked the CM to name a single major industry that had come to Bengal during her tenure, following which chaos ensued and university security had to intervene.

World may exceed 1.5°C carbon budget in 3 years: Scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: If the world continues to release carbon dioxide at the current rate, the carbon budget for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be exhausted in just over three years, according to an international group of scientists.

The carbon budget refers to the total amount of carbon dioxide the planet can emit while still having a good chance of staying below a certain temperature threshold. In this case, the limit is 1.5 degrees Celsius, which countries agreed to at the Paris climate conference in 2015. Exceeding the carbon budget does not

mean the 1.5-degree limit will be crossed immediately. It means the world is on course to surpass it very soon unless emissions are drastically cut.

The latest "Indicators of Global Climate Change" study, published in the journal Earth System Science Data, also found that the carbon budget for 2 degrees Celsius could be exceeded by 2048 if current levels of CO2 emissions continue.

Scientists said human activities have led to the release of around 53 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Gt CO2e) into the atmosphere every year over the past decade. This is mainly due to increasing emissions from burning



fossil fuels and deforestation.

In the last 10 years (2015 to 2024), the Earth's temperature was 1.24 degrees Celsius higher than it was before the industrial era began.

Scientists say 1.22 degrees Celsius of this warming was caused by human activities.

The year 2024 was the hottest on record and marked the first calendar year with a global av-

Exceeding the carbon budget does not mean the 1.5-degree limit will be crossed immediately

It means the world is on course to surpass it very soon unless emissions are drastically cut

erage temperature more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 baseline, the period before human activities such as fossil fuel use began significantly affecting the climate.

A permanent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius target in the Paris Agreement refers to sustained warming over a 20 to 30-year period.

Last month, the World Meteorological Organization said there is a 70 per cent chance

that the average global temperature between 2025 and 2029 will exceed pre-industrial levels by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In 2022, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to keep the temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius since the Industrial Revolution.

However, IPCC chair Jim Skea told PTI in an interview in March that the 43 per cent reduction target is now outdated due to a lack of action, meaning the actual reduction needed is even higher.



“Three separate carbon sources - pollen, seeds and organic muds and sediments - have now been dated by different radiocarbon labs over the course of the trackway research, and they all indicate a last glacial maximum age for the footprints,” said Jason Windingstad, a University of Arizona doctoral candidate in environmental science and co-author of the study published this week in the journal *Science Advances*.

ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY SERIES DAY 1

Ton-up Gill, Jaiswal lead India to 359/3



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates after scoring a century during the play on day one of the first cricket test match between England and India at Headingley in Leeds, England, Friday

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leeds, June 20: Yashasvi Jaiswal and captain Shubman Gill announced their readiness to carry India's batting into the post Virat Kohli-Rohit Sharma era, striking marvellous hundreds to guide the visitors to a dominant 359 for three against a faltering England on the first day of the opening Test here Friday.

Gill (127 batting) and Jaiswal (101, 159b) shared a 129-run partnership for a determined third wicket alliance that carried India to 221 from a slightly wobbly 92 for two after KL Rahul (42) and debutant B Sai Sudharsan (0) were dismissed in quick succession.

Rishabh Pant (65 batting) was keeping vigil with Gill at close.

But there was an underlying significance to the centuries of Jaiswal and Gill other than giving India a head-start on the first day of the newly-minted five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

Players observe silence in memory of plane crash victims

India and England players along with on-field umpires observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad ahead of the first Test here Friday. In the gruesome accident of the Air India flight to London, 270 people, including 241 passengers and crew on board, were killed on June 12. Players of both teams also wore black armbands as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the crash in Ahmedabad last week.

Both Jaiswal and Gill are not newcomers to the unforgiving Test arena, but there has been this widespread anxiety over how the 'New Gen' India stars would step into the big shoes of their predecessors. Jaiswal was the first to reach the three-figure mark, the fifth in his flourishing career, off 144 balls and Gill reached his own landmark off 140 balls in the final passage of the day, heralding the start of a new era in Indian cricket.

But the way they reached that point was entirely different. Jaiswal eschewed his natural flair as the first session offered its own share of assistance to the English bowlers in the shape of movement and carry.

However, it was an altogether different matter that the home bowlers were not prudent enough to exploit that offering, and later the pitch eased up considerably.

But a flaccid track and a fangless England attack without James Anderson or Stuart Broad could not take the sheen out of the knocks of Jaiswal and Gill.

Jaiswal began the morning session with a gorgeous drive through mid-off off pacer Chris Woakes, and he only grew in confidence from there.

Perhaps, the only time he showed his aggressive mindset was when the left-hander carted pacer Josh Tongue for a six and then later hammered him for two consecutive fours

to reach 99.

It was Jaiswal's first innings in England, and he made it memorable, making a hundred soon after scampering for a single despite suffering some cramps on his hands.

If Jaiswal's innings was more about adaptation, Gill's knock was all about following his natural batting doctrine, which has its fundamentals in timing and elegance.

The right-hander played shots with minimum follow-through through on-side and with a flourish on the off-side.

The 25-year-old's languid grace wowed the crowd when he essayed an off-drive off Chris Woakes and followed it up with a dreamy clip off the pads for a four as currently England's second most experienced Test bowler went for nearly five runs an over across the first two sessions.

Once he went past the fifty off just 56 balls, Gill slowed down a touch, and nerves grew once he went past 90.

There was a cheeky up-pish shot through the gully of Tongue and a full-stretched dive saved him from a potentially close run out.

But Gill did not want to let go of the opportunity to score a hundred in his first innings as India's Test captain.

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: Yashasvi Jaiswal b Stokes 101, KL Rahul c Root b Carse 42, B Sai Sudharsan c Smith b Stokes 0, Shubman Gill not out 127, Rishabh Pant not out 65
Extras: (B-1, LB-10, NB-7, P-5) 24, **Total:** (For 3 wickets in 85 Overs) 359, **Fall of wickets:** 1-91, 2-92, 3-221.
Bowling: Chris Woakes 19-2-89-0, Brydon Carse 16-5-70-1, Josh Tongue 16-0-75-0, Ben Stokes 13-1-43-2, Shoaib Bashir 21-4-66-0.

After string of losses, Indian hockey men's & women's to take on Belgium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antwerp (Belgium), June 20: Their dream of booking a direct ticket to next year's World Cup crushed after six consecutive losses in the European leg of Pro league, India are now hoping to conclude their campaign on a positive note with wins in their last two matches against Belgium.

The Indian men's hockey team will take on world No 3 Belgium in consecutive matches here Saturday and Sunday.

After a good outing in the home leg earlier this year, the Indian men entered the European leg with high hopes, but they had a horrendous outing instead.

The losses meant India slipped from third to the eighth and penultimate position in the nine-team standings. The winner of the Pro League will automatically qualify for the World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by Belgium and Netherlands.

Against Netherlands, India lost 1-2 and 2-3, followed by defeats against Argentina (2-3, 1-2) and Australia (2-3, 2-3).

It was not that India played badly throughout the European leg, but what cost them dearly was their perennial habit of conceding late goals.

The Indian defence crumbled under pressure at late stages, evidence of which was their opponents scoring most of their winners in the last 13 minutes of the match.

India's senior players committed elementary mistakes when put under pressure.

Harmanpreet has stood tall in defence but the likes of Amit Rohidas and Sumit need to buckle up to support young goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera.

The Indian forward line too needs to convert the chances that come their way.

Chief coach Craig Fulton would also be worried about



Players to get monthly allowance

New Delhi: In a first for Indian hockey players, the sports ministry has approved an out of pocket allowance of ₹25,000 per month for those picked in the national camp of both men and women after repeated requests from the sport's governing body. Eighty players (40 men and 40 women) will benefit from the allowance which is given to athletes in the developmental group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme. The decision was taken at the Mission Olympic Cell's monthly meeting here Thursday. The allowance would cost the government ₹20 lakh per month. The core group athletes are entitled to ₹50,000 per month. "The allowance was being requested for by Hockey India for some time and we have decided to accept the demand. The players have performed reasonably well and it is on merit," Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told reporters in an informal interaction here. Hockey India will have to submit a list of players every month for disbursement of the funds. Currently, the hockey players draw salaries from the departments and organisations that they are employed with even though a proposal to have a graded contract system by Hockey India has been in the deliberation stage for past few years. Both the teams, men's and women's are currently competing in the FIH Pro League's European leg where the results have not been particularly encouraging so far.

the team's penalty corner conversion rate, although Harmanpreet scored a few from them.

Women's team also struggling

The Indian women's team has suffered four consecutive losses so far in London. They lost 2-3 and 1-2 against Australia, and went down 1-4 and 2-0 to Argentina.

However, under chief coach Harendra Singh, the women played fast-paced attacking

hockey with sharp passes.

But they were found wanting in penalty corner conversions.

The women too will play Belgium in back-to-back matches Saturday and Sunday, and will look for their first win in the European leg. The team is currently placed seventh in the nine-team standings and will end their campaign with consecutive matches against China in Berlin June 28 and 29.

SHORT TAKES

Hockey Masters Cup: AP, Odisha win in men's section

Chennai: Hockey Karnataka and Hockey Himachal had an eventful day in the women's category while Hockey Andhra Pradesh and Hockey Association of Odisha successfully registered win in their respective matches in the men's category on Day 3 of the Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 here Friday. In the last match of the day, the Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Punjab 5-2 in the men's category. Dharam Pal Singh (17') and Ram Saran (22') scored for Hockey Punjab. In response, Anil Kullu (33', 37') scored two goals, whereas captain Lajrus Barla (18'), Sunil Lakra (30'), and Rajat Kumar Minz (45') also contributed with one goal each to register another victory in the tournament.

India will host Word Para Athletics C'ships

New Delhi: Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajharia Friday said India will host the 'best-ever' World Para Athletics Championships to held here later this year, adding that they are leaving no stone unturned to make the event a grand success. India will host its first-ever World Para Athletics Championships from September 26 to October 5 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here.

Bangladesh in pole position against SL

Galle (Sri Lanka): Bangladesh held the upper hand at the end of Day 4 of the series-opening cricket test against Sri Lanka, reaching 177-3 in their second innings to lead by 187 runs Friday. With seven wickets in the hutch and the pitch beginning to show signs of wear and tear, the tourists will fancy their chances of pulling off a rare test victory overseas and pocketing some precious World Test Championship points in the process.

155 register for 2nd Indian Supercross Racing League

Pune: A record-breaking 155 riders including six-time German Supercross champion Greg Aranda have registered for the Aranda auction for the second edition of the Indian Supercross Racing League, organisers announced Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, June 20: India's junior archers returned with nine medals -- two gold, six silver, and one bronze -- from the Asia Cup Leg 2 here Friday.

It seemed a successful outing on paper, but a deeper look once again highlighted a troubling trend that has come to define Indian archery at all levels -- faltering when it matters the most.

Despite making seven of the 10 finals across recurve and compound disciplines, Indian archers finished on top of the podium just twice.

The rest of the finals -- five in all -- ended in heartbreak, with the Indians visibly crumbling under pressure.

It wasn't so much that the losses stood out, but the manner in which the Indian archers lost was more concerning with top seeds going down to lower-ranked opponents, arrows straying to outer rings, and composure evaporating at the slightest of resistance.

As usual, the results were particularly alarming in recurve the Olympic discipline -- where India failed to win a sin-

ASIA CUP LEG 2



gle gold. In fact, apart from two silver medals in team events, the recurve archers returned empty-handed.

The men's team, top-seeded after the qualification round, simply fell apart against Japan in the final. Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda, and Juyel Sarkar failed to touch the 50-mark in two of the three sets, bowing out in straight sets 6-0.

It was a similar story in the recurve mixed team final.

Fourth-seeded Choudhary and Vaishnavi Pawar were error-prone throughout their clash against Indonesia.

INDIA'S DOPING WOES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: India's doping woes came to the fore once again with the country topping the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2023 testing figures among countries which analysed 5,000 or more samples even as the sports ministry promised an "aggressive clean-up" and an amended Anti-Doping Act after addressing objections from the WADA.

India's positivity rate for banned substances stood at 3.8 per cent -- 214 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) from 5606 samples. The sample size was significantly higher from 2022 when 3865 tests returned an AAF rate of 3.2 per cent.

Of the 5606 tests, 2748 were conducted in-competition. India's positivity rate for banned substances was significantly higher than China (28,197 samples, 0.2 per cent AAF rate),

USA (6798 samples, 1.0 per cent AAF rate), France (11,368 samples, 0.9 per cent AAF rate), Germany (15,153 samples, 0.4 per cent AAF rate) and Russia (10,395 samples, 1.0 per cent AAF rate).

As compared to India's 214, France, Russia, USA, China and Germany recorded 105, 99, 66, 60 and 57 AAFs respectively.

"Any amount of doping is unacceptable but we have to acknowledge that our testing is vigorous and with every year the sample size is increasing. With our aggressive awareness campaigns, we intend to bring the numbers down in the next two years," a sports ministry source said when approached for a comment on the latest report.

Globally, 204,809 tests were conducted in 2023, of which 1820 came positive for banned drugs with India's share of 214 accounting for over 11 per cent



of the total number of offenders, the highest for any country.

In all, Delhi's National Dope testing Laboratory (NDTL) tested 6,077 samples, including those from neighbouring countries. It's Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) rate of 3.63 per cent makes up the highest per-

centage of positive dope results among the 30 WADA-accredited facilities across the world.

Athletics leads the number of India's positive cases with 61 AAFs from 1223 samples -- 567 in-competition and 539 out-of-competition urine samples as well as 117 blood sam-

ples. One AAF was reported from among the blood samples.

Weightlifting accounted for 38 AAFs from 451 samples, while powerlifting and wrestling contributed 28 and 10 AAFs respectively.

The numbers have expectedly raised an alarm and an admission that the country is yet to implement its Anti-Doping Act, which was passed in 2022, due to objections from WADA on some unspecified provisions. "The NADA bill will be brought back to the Parliament after a restructuring. We have addressed the objections raised by WADA, which required changes to certain provisions," a sports ministry source said.

The National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 empowers the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) with legal authority and investigative powers similar to law enforcement bodies.

NADA even conducted a

workshop recently involving officers of CBI and INTERPOL to understand doping investigation mechanisms, including interrogation of suspected dope offenders and banned substances' suppliers.

"The ministry is going to tackle this menace aggressively. There will be compulsory monthly doping awareness programmes and nutritional supplements will be tested at specialised labs in Gandhinagar and Delhi to ensure that they do not contain prohibited substances," a ministry source said.

"Most of the time, doping by a young athlete is either unintentional due to lack of knowledge or in desperation to get that one national performance that would help in getting a government job. But we will drill it into their psyche that they have more to lose if they don't comply with anti-doping rules," he added.

WADA numbers reveal high positivity rate