



**Yami's approach**  
Actor Yami Gautam opens up about the disciplined approach she follows when selecting projects.

LEISURE | P2



**Army man in spy ring**  
An army personnel and his aide have been arrested for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to ISI

NATIONAL | P8



**Will Iran close Hormuz?**  
US strikes on Iran's three main nuclear facilities have once again raised concerns that Tehran might shut down the Strait of Hormuz

BUSINESS | P11



**Bumrah's magic**  
Jasprit Bumrah gets his 14th five-wicket haul as India manages a slender first innings lead of six runs by dismissing England for 465

SPORTS | P12

**Jagan named accused in fatal road accident**

AGENCIES  
Guntur (AP), June 22: YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been named as an accused in a fatal road accident that allegedly occurred when he was on his way to Rentapalla village in Palnadu district recently, a police official said Sunday.  
On June 18, Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Rentapalla to call on a family member of a YSRCP leader who had died by suicide a year ago. The former CM's vehicle went through the Etukuru bypass.  
"After analysing various evidence, it was found that the deceased was seen under the wheels of Jagan Mohan Reddy's vehicle," said Guntur SP S Satish Kumar late Sunday. A case was initially registered under Section 106(1) of BNS (causing death by negligence) based on a complaint by the deceased's wife. However, after analysing CCTV footage, drone visuals, and circumstantial evidence, 'police confirmed that the deceased was run over by the Ex-CM's vehicle in the convoy,' said police.

**Bolangir man killed over 'sorcery'**

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Kantabanji, June 22: Miscreants killed a man during sleep by slitting his throat over suspected property dispute and sorcery practice at Khujen village under Turekela police limits of Bolangir district late Saturday night, police said.  
The victim was identified as Tularam Jani, 54. Police arrested co-villager Dingar Jani after the daughter of the victim lodged a complaint Sunday.  
The incident occurred when the deceased was sleeping outside his home Saturday night.  
Shortly afterwards, 'Tularam's wife and daughter heard him knocking at the door, soaked in blood. Family members immediately rushed him to the Turekela hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.



DRAWING FLAK: Protesters condemn the US bombing on Iranian nuclear sites during a rally in Quezon City, Philippines Sunday.

**NIA arrests 2 men for harbouring terrorists**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Srinagar, June 22: In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two men for harbouring the terrorists who had carried out the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead, the agency said Sunday.  
According to the NIA, the two men - Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park in Pahalgam - have disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack.  
They have also confirmed that the assailants were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).  
"Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack," the NIA said.  
The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity April 22, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.  
The NIA has arrested the duo under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

# US strikes Iran

■ The United States, which had so far been refraining from any direct intervention in the Iran-Israel conflict, Sunday shocked the world after it carried out overnight strikes at three of Iranian nuclear sites with massive bunker busting bombs and Tomahawk missiles that President Donald Trump claimed had 'obliterated' the targets. Minutes after the assault, Tehran vowed to defend itself, and responded with a volley of missiles at Israel that wounded scores of people and destroyed buildings in its commercial hub Tel Aviv. The risky US gambit seems to have pushed the Middle East to the brink of a major new conflagration in a region already aflame for more than 20 months with wars in Gaza and Lebanon and a toppled dictator in Syria. During the past nine days of war, Israel killed much of Iran's military leadership and spoke of pressing on until it topples the Islamic Republic's clerical rulers who appear to be in no mood to give in.



30,000-pound bombs on a uranium enrichment site early Sunday, raising urgent questions about what remains of Tehran's nuclear programme and how its weakened military might respond.  
Iran lashed out at the US for crossing 'a very big red line' with its risky gambit to launch strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites with missiles and the bunker-buster bombs. "The warmongering and lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far-reaching implications of its act of aggression," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, adding that he would immediately fly to Moscow to coordinate positions with close ally Russia.  
Amid fears of a wider regional conflict, the Trump administration

sent a clear message that it wanted to restart diplomatic talks with Iran. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters that the US 'does not seek war' with Iran. But Tehran said the time for diplomacy had passed and that it had the right to defend itself.  
The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on the Fordo and Natanz enrichment facilities as well as the Isfahan nuclear site. Both Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the sites.  
Trump claimed the US 'completely and fully obliterated' the sites, but the Pentagon reported 'sustained, extremely severe damage and destruction.' US defence officials said an assessment was ongoing.  
Iran, battered by Israel's largest-ever assault on it that began

June 13, has a few ways it could retaliate. It could launch a wave of attacks on US forces stationed in the Middle East with the missiles and rockets that Israel hasn't destroyed. It could attempt to close a key bottleneck for global oil supplies, the Strait of Hormuz between it and the United Arab Emirates. Or it could hurry to develop a nuclear weapon with what remains of its program.  
Meanwhile, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a barrage of 40 missiles at Israel. Israeli authorities reported that more than 80 people suffered minor injuries, though one multistory building in Tel Aviv was significantly damaged.  
Israel's military said it 'swiftly neutralised' the Iranian missile launchers that had fired, and that it began a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran.

# Ensure 'incident-free' Rath Yatra: CM to officials

AGENCIES  
Puri, June 22: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday asked officers to make this year's Rath Yatra in Puri 'incident-free'.  
Majhi gave this direction to the officers at a meeting to review preparedness made for the annual festival scheduled to be held here June 27.



Speaking to media persons after the meeting, he said the administration is fully prepared for the smooth conduct of the Rath Yatra which attracts lakhs of devotees to Puri each year.  
Sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra travel from the Jagannath temple to another shrine (Gundicha) on chariots during the festival.  
"The state administration

has made all necessary arrangements to ensure an incident-free Rath Yatra," the CM said adding that all departments are working in coordination in this regard.  
Notably, the idol of Lord Balabhadra fell on servitors injuring nine of them while it was being taken out from the chariot to a temple as part of the Rath Yatra festival last year.  
Majhi said artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled CCTV cameras will monitor key areas across the pilgrim town during the annual festival to be held under tight security arrangements.  
In view of the diarrhoea outbreak in various districts, the Health department and all other related departments were asked to keep a close watch on the situation.  
It is very important to ensure that unhealthy food or water is not sold at any place. Along with this, safe drinking water and healthy food should also be available for the tourists during the festival, the Chief Minister told the officials.  
He sought the cooperation of the servitors for smooth and timely completion of the rituals during the Rath Yatra.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



As an American, I strongly believe—only a bomb can bring peace

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Dubai, June 22: The United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran by dropping

**India for peace, humanity: PM to Iran Prez**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's 'deep concern' over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through 'dialogue and diplomacy'.  
In a social media post, Modi said he expressed 'deep concern' at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward for the early restoration of regional peace. "We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said. "Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," the Prime Minister added.

**BRIEFS**

**Bomb threat: AI flight diverted to Riyadh**

New Delhi: An Air India flight from Birmingham to the national capital was diverted to Riyadh due to a bomb threat Saturday and landed safely in the Saudi city. In a statement Sunday, the Tata Group-owned airline, which has temporarily reduced services ensure operational stability, said alternative arrangements are being made to fly the passengers from Riyadh to their destinations.  
"Flight AI114 from Birmingham to Delhi of 21 June received a bomb threat and was consequently diverted to Riyadh where it has landed safely and has completed security checks. All passengers have been deplaned and are being provided hotel accommodation," it said.

**Afghan national held in Cuttack**

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police with the help of immigration officials have arrested an Afghan national on charge of staying in India illegally since 2018 by forging documents and doing business in Cuttack city. The man identified as Mohammad Yousof alias Yaha Khan, aged about 54 years, son of Mohammad Nasim Khan of Kabul in Afghanistan was arrested Saturday, police said. However, he forged his name and identified himself as Yaha Khan, son of Moti Khan, at Peyton Sahi, under Badambadi police station in Cuttack city, police said. "Md Yousof was nabbed based on the written complainant by Samapika Pattanaik, DSP, Immigration at BPIA. A case was registered and an investigation was initiated. He was arrested and forwarded to court," the Commissionerate of Police said.

# When Janata govt launched its own cola – Double Seven

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 22: In the summer of 1977, just after the 21-month Emergency ended and India turned the page on nearly three decades of uninterrupted Congress rule, a new political force was not the only thing bubbling to the surface.  
The newly elected Janata Party government had shown the door to Coca-Cola and unveiled its own fizzy response -- Double Seven. The country's first 'sarkari cola' was launched as a symbol of economic self-reliance and political change.  
Named after the landmark year that brought the Morarji Desai-led Janata coalition to power, Double Seven was more than a beverage; it was a political statement in a bottle. The indigenous cola had an elaborate

launch at the annual trade fair at Pragati Maidan.  
The Double Seven cola, popularly known as 'Satattar' (77 in Hindi) was manufactured and marketed by the makers of Modern breads - Modern Food Industries - a government-owned company.  
Interestingly, then MP HV Kamath was also awarded a cash prize for coming up with the name '77'. Although '77' was not ready for sale until 1978, the name was chosen because 1977 was the year of big changes in India - such as the end of the Indira Gandhi government and Coca-Cola.  
At the helm of affairs in the cola episode was then Industry Minister George Fernandes, who decided to throw Coke as well as IBM out of India over their refusal to follow the provisions of what was then the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.



sions of what was then the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Fernandes then introduced the indigenous drink '77'. The government asked the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru to develop the formula.  
Sold with the tagline 'The Taste that Tingles', the cola did not strike the same chord with the public as Coca-Cola, amid tough competition from brands like Campa Cola, Thums Up, and Duke.  
"I remember the launch of Double Seven at the annual trade fair at Pragati Maidan, a proud gift from the Janata Party, an indigenous drink supposedly superior than Coca-Cola and a stark reminder of Indira Gandhi's humiliating defeat in the recent general elections," author Sunil Lala says in his book 'American Khichdi', published in 2009.  
Tata McGraw Hill's book 'Ad-

vertising Management: Concepts and Cases' also mentions Double Seven as an example of government branding and 'swadeshi' marketing gone awry.  
Hill cited the launch of Double Seven as a business school case study in government-backed branding, highlighting the campaign's missteps and beverage-market context of the late 1970s.  
The end of Double Seven, not so surprisingly, coincided with Indira Gandhi reclaiming power in 1980. Coca-Cola made a comeback in October 1983, post-liberalisation of the Indian market by the PV Narasimha Rao government and has maintained a strong presence ever since.  
The Emergency was imposed 50 years ago June 25, 1975, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

# leisure



## OWEN WILSON TO REPRIS HIS ROLE IN MEET THE PARENTS 4

Hollywood actor Owen Wilson, known for projects such as *Zoolander* and *Loki*, is returning for the fourth installment of *Meet the Parents*. The actor, who has previously portrayed the role of Kevin Rawley in the film series, will join Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Teri Polo.

## KATY PERRY, ORLANDO BLOOM TO HAVE 'MAKE-OR-BREAK TALKS'

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom are set to engage in 'make-or-break talks' in the coming weeks. It's claimed that there is hope that the couple can get through a 'rough patch' amid them facing ongoing split rumours, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You will desire absolute freedom in whatever you do today. A lot of entertainment is on the cards for teenagers, like window shopping or going for a movie. Kids may demand a treat from you. Generally, family affairs dominate today.

**TAURUS**  
Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesha. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out. Your new looks will make you tremendously confident and impressive and will make others see you in a new light.

**GEMINI**  
You will make a reputation for yourself as a leader in your social circle. You yearn for something in your heart, and need to concentrate your energies upon attaining it. Your creative mind will come up with solutions today, to certain questions that have been perplexing you for quite some, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesha. All you need is a little attitude adjustment. Today, you are likely to meet an old friend and you will get busy reminiscing about your time together.

**LEO**  
You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life. You will receive the benediction of highly placed superiors, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Children will ring in applause and praises – in the classroom and off it too! Processing logic and reasoning will improve too. Ganesha asks you to keep calm and enjoy the joy ride, irrespective of anything that happens during the day.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people

**SCORPIO**  
Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

**CAPRICORN**  
There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesha. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future. The need of the hour is to stay calm and take criticisms in your stride. Dealing patiently with chaotic situations will pay off in the long run.

**AQUARIUS**  
You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesha. You will be the life of every party you will go to today.

**PISCES**  
This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesha. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is likely to be a drawn out process.

## Salman on battling severe health struggles

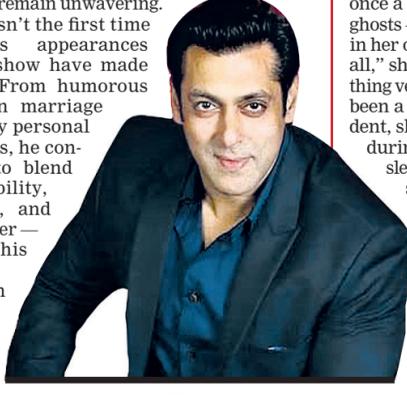
**Mumbai:** Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recently made headlines with a heartfelt revelation on *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, shedding light on the physical challenges he continues to face due to years of intense action work. Known for his larger-than-life persona and blockbuster roles, Salman surprised fans and host Kapil Sharma alike with his candid disclosure about multiple serious health conditions.

Speaking openly, Salman shared, "We've been breaking bones. My ribs are fractured, I had trigeminal neuralgia, I have a brain aneurysm, and AV malformations... and I'm still going. Action scenes, jumping, falling — even when I can't walk, I dance. One day when my mood snapped, it took half of me with it."

The actor's revelation highlighted the immense toll action cinema has taken on his body over the years. Conditions like trigeminal neuralgia, brain aneurysm, and AV malformations are serious, yet Salman has continued to perform physically demanding roles without slowing down. Despite the hardships, his resilience and dedication to his craft remain unwavering.

This isn't the first time Salman's appearances on the show have made waves. From humorous takes on marriage to deeply personal moments, he continues to blend vulnerability, humour, and star power — keeping his connection with fans raw and real.

AGENCIES



## Mumbai:

After winning hearts with her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi*, Sonakshi Sinha is now gearing up for the release of her paranormal thriller *Nikita Roy*. While promoting the film, the actress shared a chilling personal experience that made her rethink her disbelief in the supernatural. In a candid conversation, Sonakshi revealed that she was once a complete skeptic when it came to ghosts — until something eerie happened in her own home. "I used to not believe at all," she admitted. "But one night, something very weird happened. Since then, I've been a little shaken." Recalling the incident, she said it happened around 4 AM, during a semi-conscious state between sleep and wakefulness. "I felt this pressure, like someone was trying to wake me up. I was terrified. I just froze. I didn't open my eyes or move until morning," she said.

The next night, still unnerved, Sonakshi addressed the presence aloud. "I said, 'Whoever came last night, please don't do that again. I was really scared. If

## Sonakshi recalls ghostly encounter

you have something to say, come into my dreams... no face-to-face conversations."

Since then, she said, the mysterious encounters have stopped — but the memory still lingers.



AGENCIES

## Yami's priority



**Mumbai:** Actor Nushratt Bharucha participated in the 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations held in Mumbai. Dressed in a pink top under a cream shrug and matching pants, she was seen mingling with volunteers. However, a video from the event went viral, sparking widespread backlash.

In the clip, Nushratt is seen asking a woman to untie her shoelaces. As one shoe was being untied, she moved slightly and then pointed to the other, prompting the same woman to undo that as well.

The incident didn't sit well with many on social media, drawing sharp criticism. Comments flooded in, questioning her behavior. One user wrote, "Unbelievable, doesn't she have hands?" while another said, "She's come to do yoga but can't even bend to remove her shoes?" Others called it a display of arrogance, saying, "Money and fame have gone to her head," and "Are you a child that you need two people to take off your shoes?"

On the professional front, Nushratt was last seen in *Chhorii 2*, directed by Vishal Furia. The horror sequel also features Gashmeer Mahajani, Saurabh Goyal, Pallavi Ajay, Kuldeep Sareen, and Haridika Sharma. The film premiered worldwide April 11 under the banners of T-Series, Abundantia Entertainment, Psych, and Tamarisk Lane Productions.

AGENCIES

## Nushratt under fire



### FUN POST

#### PEANUTS



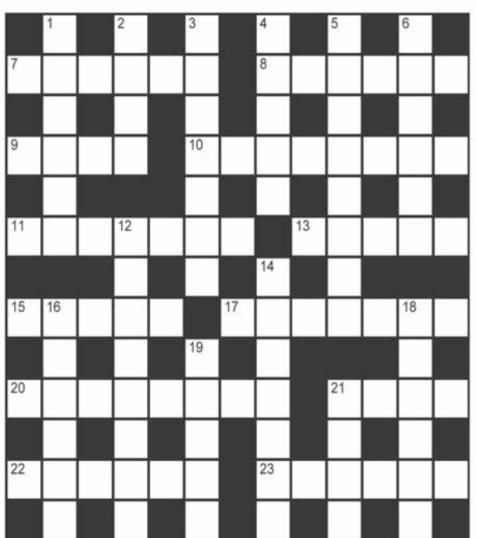
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



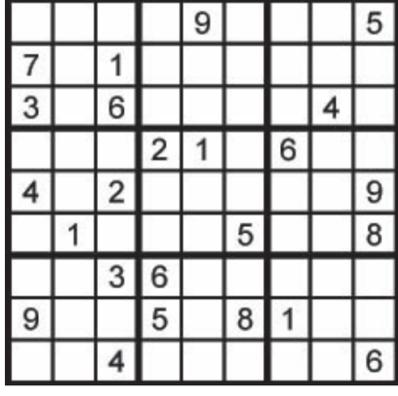
#### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Sweater material
  - 8 Fancy flower
  - 9 Island in the Marianas
  - 10 Building wing
  - 11 Hotel employee
  - 13 Rubberneck
  - 15 Like some jokes
  - 17 One excluded from a society
  - 20 Traitorous
  - 21 Standard
  - 22 Certain shark
  - 23 Close at hand
  - 4 Dutch cheese
  - 5 In seventh heaven
  - 6 Vim's pal
  - 12 Rent receiver
  - 14 Horse race distance
  - 16 Slothful
  - 18 Journalist
  - 19 Perfume ingredient
  - 21 Orderly
- Down
- 1 Withstand
  - 2 Loud sound
  - 3 Catch-22

#### 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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## Over 10K cops to be deployed for Rath Yatra



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Keeping in view footfall of lakhs of devotees in Puri for the Rath Yatra, scheduled for June 27, Odisha Police has unveiled a comprehensive five-layer security arrangement to ensure the smooth and incident-free conduct of the grand event. Speaking at a high-level meeting held in Puri Sunday, Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania said over 10,000 police personnel will be deployed across the Pilgrim city and surrounding areas during the Car Festival. The elaborate security setup

**The DGP emphasised that the large-scale deployment of forces is part of a coordinated strategy to maintain law and order, manage crowds, and respond quickly to emergencies**

includes deployment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs), drone surveillance, and Coast Guard units along the coastline to prevent any untoward incidents. Central armed forces will be stationed at key entry points into Puri town to regulate and monitor incoming traffic. The DGP emphasised that this large-scale deployment is part of a coordinated strategy

to maintain law and order, manage crowds, and respond quickly to any emergencies. The security blueprint includes the integration of modern surveillance tools, deployment of central armed forces, and coordination with medical and disaster response teams to ensure that the festival is conducted peacefully. Earlier it was revealed that,

an Integrated Command and Control Centre will be established at the Puri Town police station for the first time to oversee real-time crowd movement and traffic control. The road from Uttara Square in Bhubaneswar to Puri will be under CCTV surveillance, and efforts are underway to install additional cameras along the Puri-Konark route.

To ensure public safety and law enforcement, the DGP has directed a special crime control drive across all police stations in the state. Security checks have been intensified at hotels, lodges, maths, temples, bus stands, railway stations, dharamshalas, and shelters for labourers.

Healthcare arrangements have also been strengthened. A total of 69 primary health centres will be functional during the festival, supported by 64 ambulances and 265 dedicated beds. Additionally, 378 medical personnel, including specialist doctors from AIIMS, will be deployed to handle emergencies.

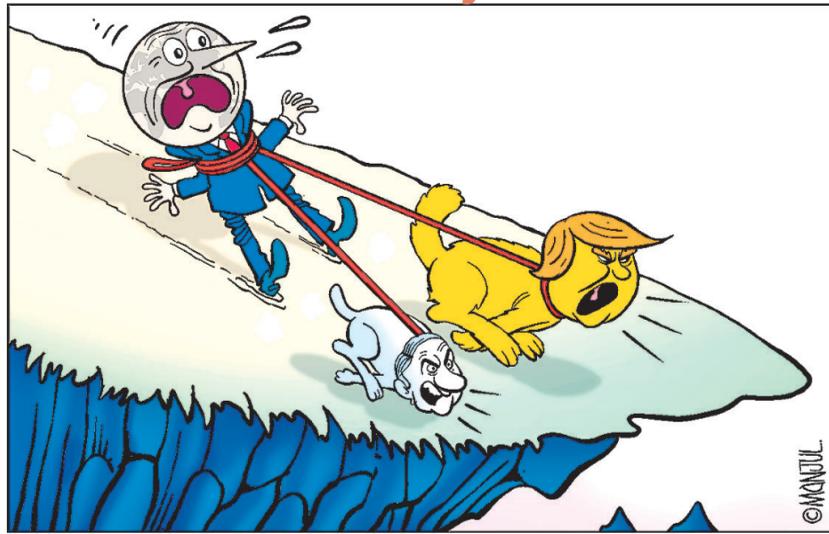
The state government has reviewed logistics, sanitation, transportation, and crowd management strategies to ensure a disciplined and well-organised festival. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan had earlier announced that stringent legal action, including arrests, will be taken against non-servitors attempting to climb the chariots—an act strictly prohibited.

## SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

A Kalas procession from Potapkhari to Dagarpada, dedicated to martyrs, was organised by Cuttack District and Mahanagar Yadav Mahasabha Sunday



## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Afghan nat'l held for staying in Cuttack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Odisha Police, with the help of immigration officials, has arrested an Afghan national on charge of staying in India illegally since 2018 by forging documents and doing business in Cuttack.

The man, identified as Mohammad Yousaf, aged about 54 years, son of Mohammad Naim Khan of Kabul in Afghanistan was arrested Saturday, police said.

However, he forged his name and identified himself as Yaha Khan, son of Moti Khan, at Peyton Sahi, under Badambadi police station in Cuttack city, police said.

“Md Yousaf was nabbed based on the written complainant by Samapika Patnaik, DSP, Immigration at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA). A case was registered and an investigation was initiated. He was arrested and forwarded to court,” the twin city Commissionerate of Police said.

It said that the accused had arrived at BPIA from Dubai (UAE) June 20 and presented a forged Indian passport. During immigration clearance, on suspicion, the staff conducted detailed verification and found that a discreet LOC (lookout circular) was issued from Kolkata Airport against him.

Subsequent system verification confirmed that the person

was Mohammad Yousaf, an Afghan national, who had illegally entered India in 2018 and assumed a fake Indian identity, police said.

During the investigation, it was also revealed that the accused had fraudulently procured Indian identity documents including Aadhaar, PAN card, Voter ID, driving licence and passport using forged details, and had been residing in Cuttack, Odisha while concealing his true identity. He also misused the forged passport for travelling beyond the state, the police said.

The police also said that the accused has confessed to his real identity as Mohammad Yousaf @ Yaha Khan of Kabul, Afghanistan and admitted to forging and using false identity documents to reside and conduct business in India.

Based on his disclosure, multiple fake Indian documents and personal belongings were seized from his possession and house. The investigation also led to the seizure of various Indian and foreign currencies, forged identity cards, a mobile phone, two gold earrings, and ₹30,000 in cash from his possession, police said.

A house search led to the seizure of bank documents in the name of Yaha Khan for which he could not provide satisfactory explanation, the police said.

## Naveen's surgery 'successful': Hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Leader of Opposition and BJD president Naveen Patnaik is stable and his spine surgery for cervical arthritis was “successful”, the private hospital in Mumbai where he underwent the procedure said Sunday.

In a statement issued by CEO and Executive Director of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, Santosh Shetty said: “The Hon'ble former CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, underwent a spine surgery for cervical arthritis today at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai. We are pleased to share that the surgery was successful. Patnaik is stable and currently under observation.”

Ramakant Panda, who is supervising Patnaik's procedure told a local television channel: “With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, Naveen Babu's operation was successful. The main procedure took about two hours, and he was in the operation theatre for four hours in total. He is now fully conscious, has started talking, and is doing well. He will remain under observation for two days, after which he will be shifted to a private room.”

A large number of party leaders and workers gathered at various temples in Odisha Sunday and offered prayers for Patnaik's successful surgery.

A large number of senior BJD leaders and party workers gathered at Lingaraj Temple here, Baba Jhadeswar temple in Balasore district, Shiv temple at Hinjlicut and Budhi Thakurani at Berhampur in Ganjam district this morning and offered prayers for Patnaik's successful surgery and healthy recovery.

The regional party leaders and workers offered 'dipa dana' (lighting earthen lamps) and 'puja' (worship) at Lingaraj temple here.

“We all are gathered here to offer mass 'puja' and 'dipa dana' as our beloved leader Naveen Patnaik is undergoing a medical procedure today. We pray before Lord Lingaraj for his healthy recovery,” said BJD vice president Debi Prasad Mishra.

BJD leader and Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das said Patnaik is not confined within BJD as he is a mass leader of Odisha and people love him very much. “As his treatment is going on, a large number of people gathered at Lingaraj temple to offer prayers for his healthy and speedy recovery,” she said.

Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik, another BJD leader said, “We prayed before Maa Budhi Thakurani wishing for the healthy return of Patnaik. We wish he (Patnaik) should return home with sound health sooner and continue to serve the people of Odisha.”

Swarup Kumar Das, former Balasore MLA, along with several party workers lit earthen diya at Jhadeswar temple in Balasore.

“Not only our party leaders and workers but also the general public is praying for the healthy recovery of Patnaik. With the blessings of the Lord and people of Odisha, I am sure that he will return with good health,” Das said.

Patnaik had left for Mumbai for the surgery June 20.



**FELICITATION CEREMONY:** Artists, who had participated in an online art competition, are being felicitated on the occasion of 125th Birsa Munda's Martyrdom Day at Dhauli Charukala Mahavidyalaya on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Sunday

## State in US Level 2 travel advisory list sparks debate



MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** The United States (US) issuing a Level-2 travel advisory for its citizens in India urging them to ‘exercise increased caution’ while traveling in the country due to ‘increased crime and terrorism’ has sparked a political debate.

Apart from Odisha, the states that figure in the US' travel advisory list are: Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Meghalaya.

The advisory also mentioned that the country is currently witnessing cases of Maoist activities, increase in rape cases, surge in violent crimes and terror attack risks at tourist sites and other locations.

The development provided enough fodder for the Opposition parties to slam the state government over the law and

order situation, especially in the wake of gangrape of a college girl at Gopalpur beach.

Odisha Congress spokesperson Manisha Das Patnaik said, “Odisha holds a special place in the country for its peaceful culture. However, the atrocities against women and increasing crimes and violence in the state have yielded this.”

Patnaik further said, “After the US advisory, the condition of Odisha has come to the fore. We deeply condemn this and the state government should take the responsibility of the situation.”

Similarly, former minister and BJD leader Pratap Keshari Deb said, “During PM Modi's visit to Odisha, he said that he was invited by President Trump but he rejected the invitation to visit the land of Jagannath. Through this, PM Modi was trying to portray he has a strong

ties with Trump. However, the real intention of US is now in front of everyone, through this advisory. The state government should refrain from its 'Vikas Utsav' celebrations and introspect on its condition.”

CPI (M) State Secretary, Suresh Chandra Panigrahy said, “Since BJP is in power in state as well as at the Centre, it needs to be answerable regarding the country's security. If a foreign country's citizen does not feel safe in our country, then the government needs to be blamed. This also raises question on BJP's 11 years of governance in the country and one year in state. We also condemn the action of US President Donald Trump for intervening in our country's affairs. The Centre should ensure no foreign countries should intervene in our affairs.”

Speaking on the issue, Dipak Kumar Dash, assistance professor of Political Science at Christ College, Cuttack and also a foreign affairs expert, said, “Currently, India is maintaining a neutral stand in Iran-Israel conflict as both are friendly nations to India. Recently, PM Modi visited Canada for G7 Summit and developed good relations with Canada and Cyprus. To counter this, the US wants to dent the morale of India by these tactics as they are part of its foreign policy.”

## Min thrust on Agro-Tourism as secondary income source



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo Sunday stated that convergence of agriculture with tourism has a vast potential for generating reliable source of secondary income. He said this while addressing a Consultative Workshop on Agro-Tourism at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) office here Sunday.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment.

The workshop brought together enthusiastic agricultural landowners, progressive farmers, policy makers, and domain experts to explore the immense potential of Agro-Tourism as a catalyst for rural economic transformation.

The workshop was also at-

tended by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who also holds the portfolio of Tourism, Father of Agri-Tourism Concept, Pandurang Taware, pioneer of Agro-Tourism Jayram HR and other dignitaries.

Their views highlighted the vast potential of converging agriculture with tourism to promote supplementary income generation, rural pride, and sustainable enterprise models across Odisha.

During his address, Singh Deo said, “As someone who has worked as a farmer, I truly believe in the potential of organic farming. With the right knowledge and support, farmers can make the most of the Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY) guidelines and explore Agro-Tourism as a reliable source of secondary income.”

Similarly, Parida said, “It's heart-warming to see the youth

reconnecting with their roots celebrating our farm-fresh cuisine, our rural way of life. We need to leverage Odisha's agrarian heritage to build immersive tourism experiences that celebrate the land, people, and culture of the state.

The workshop highlighted the state's focused efforts under 'Vision 2036' framework, wherein 15 priority destinations have been identified for integrated development.

Officials from Tourism department presented a roadmap for integrating Agro-Tourism into Odisha's wider tourism circuit, while experts from Maharashtra and other leading states shared case studies and success models.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where participants shared ideas and committed to piloting projects in select districts of the state.

# CBFC's regional officer post remains vacant; film releases hit by delays



**Odisha Film and Television Directors' Association expressed serious concerns over the issue and recently sent a memorandum letter to CBFC chairman Prasoon Joshi for swift action**

The certification process for Odia films has come to a standstill, with no new appointment, delaying the release of several movies ahead of the crucial festive season.

Odisha Film and Television Directors' Association (OFTDA) has expressed serious concerns over the issue and recently sent a memorandum letter to CBFC chairman Prasoon Joshi in Mumbai. Signatories of the letter included OFTDA chairman Himanshu Shekhar Khatua, president Sabyasachi Mohapatra, vice presidents Bobby Islam and Debu Pattnaik and general secretary Tapas Sargharia.

"Since the retirement of Mr Dash, no films in Odisha have been able to obtain censor certificates," the letter stated. "This has resulted in operational challenges and considerable financial losses for producers, distributors, and other stakeholders," it further added.

Several prominent Odia films, including 'Chi Re Nani', 'Nabakalebara' and 'Ladhei'

are currently unable to secure certification, jeopardising their planned releases during the upcoming festive period, vital for the industry's revenue.

Earlier, Odisha Film Producers and Distributors Guild (OFPDG) had raised the issue by writing to the Prime Minister, but the situation remains unchanged. OFTDA has urged the CBFC to promptly appoint a regional officer to restore normal functioning and prevent further disruption.

The delay in film certification has not only stalled movie releases but also threatens the livelihood of countless professionals associated with the Odia film sector. Industry representatives remain hopeful that their appeals will be addressed quickly, enabling the smooth rollout of films during the festival season.



**SOULFUL MUSIC:** Artistes perform hindustani classical music during golden jubilee celebration of Gandharva Kala Parishad at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday

# ECoR's 365 special trains for Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Given the upcoming famous Rath Yatra festival in Puri, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run 365 special trains to and from Puri, in addition to other regular trains, during the festival period.

The ECoR, in a statement, said it has made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth travel for pilgrims and visitors from across the state and neighbouring states.

These special trains are planned to run from various parts of the state, including



Rourkela, Biramitrapur, Bangiriposi, Junagarh Road, Badampahar, Boudh, Balasore, Angul, Gunupur, Rayagada and other places, the ECoR statement said.

Special trains will also operate to and from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Gondia and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Santragachi in West Bengal, on the important days of the car

festival, it said. "This comprehensive rail connectivity will not only cater to the massive surge of pilgrims during the festival but also significantly ease travel for people in remote and interior districts," the ECoR said in the statement.

This year's arrangements mark a significant scale-up from Rath Yatra 2024 when 315 special trains were operated, an official said.

The ECoR has advised passengers to check schedules and availability through official railway portals and stay updated via public announcements closer to the festival dates.

# Experts call for inclusive, transparent governance

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Thinkers' Club—a forum of intellectuals and professionals, during the 123rd virtual meet Sunday, deliberated on the topic 'How can Odisha become truly 'Vikshit' (Developed) by 2036?'

The focus of the virtual discussion was the state government's 'Vision 2036' document, intended as a roadmap to good governance and holistic development. Participants included former bureaucrats, scholars, and thought leaders from across the globe.

Former chief secretary Sahadeb Sahoo delivered the opening remarks with a candid assessment of challenges—highlighting issues such as digital inequality, electricity shortages, and the marginalisation of the illiterate 30 per cent of the population.

Social thinker Rabi Senapati stressed on basic amenities as the foundation of development, citing real-life examples of medical inaccessibility and lack of drinking water in rural Odisha. Speaking from Boston, Sanjay Panda advocated for leveraging Odisha's rich heritage of arts and handicrafts for global markets. Nanda Nandan Das, drawing parallels with Singapore and Dubai, called for merit-based recruitment, moral education, and land reform as essential pillars of growth.

# Management of mining tailings is vital: OES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** With the rapid advancement of mining and industrialisation, there is a significant increase in volume of pollutants in the environment, posing serious challenges to ecosystems and human health. One of the major concerns happens to be the management of mining tailings—fine-particles of waste materials that often contain water, mixed with heavy metals and other toxic substances. Tailings dams are constructed in order to safely contain these materials and prevent environmental contamination and human hazards.

In this context, the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) organised a workshop on the theme 'Towards Sustainable Tailings Dams: Bridging Indian and International Practices' at its conference hall recently.

The programme was presided over by OES working president Jaya Krushna Panigrahi.



Senior geotechnical engineer at AECOM, Arizona, USA, Bibhuti Bhusan Panda joined as the chief speaker offered a comprehensive explanation of how tailings are generated during ore extraction processes and are stored in dams, typically constructed from earth or rock fill. He emphasised the critical need for ensuring dam stability to avoid leakage or catastrophic failure, which can have devastating effects on both human populations and natural

ecosystems.

"Odisha, being rich in mineral resources and experiencing a surge in mining activities, must prioritise the adoption of advanced geo-environmental practices for sustainable and safe waste management. Learning from global best practices can help reduce the environmental footprint of mining operations," Panda said.

In his presidential address, Panigrahi stressed the importance of meticulous planning

and management of tailings dams to mitigate potential environmental and safety threats.

Outfit's secretary Manoranjan Mishra delivered the welcome address, joint secretary Surabhi Jain introduced the guests and vice president Lala AK Singh concluded the workshop with vote of thanks.

Conducted in hybrid mode, the workshop saw active participation from OES president Sundara Narayana Patro, Krishna Chandra Sahu, VP Upadhyay, Chitta Ranjan Mishra, Ashok Behera, Bimal Mishra, Swapna Behera, Nimain Charan Mishra, Ramachandra Tripathy, and Sashi Bhusan Dash, among others. They shared insights on various aspects of sustainable tailings dam management.

The workshop attracted many members of OES, along with professionals from the mining and industrial sectors, all committed to promoting sustainable practices in mining waste management.

# 45,502 STUDENTS IN SECOND UG MERIT LIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** State Higher Education department, Sunday released the Phase-I second selection merit list for Undergraduate (UG) courses for 2025-26 academic session, in which a total of 45,502 students have been shortlisted.

While the first round saw the selection of 1,75,722 students out of 2,65,590 applicants, only 79,752 students took admission. Another 52,126 opted to slide and float, leaving a large number of seats still unfilled across various institutions. Of the newly selected candidates in second round, the tally stands at 17,193 in Science, 23,996 in Arts, 2,757 in Commerce, 200 in Shastri, 1,309 in self-financing courses, and 47 in Law, a total of 20,031 male, 25,468 female, and three transgender students — showcasing inclusive educational efforts.

Ravenshaw University, Cuttack has emerged as the top

choice, leading across Science, Commerce and Arts in second round too.

In Arts stream, the university recorded the highest—91 per cent cut-off in Political Science. In Physical Science the university recorded 92.80 per cent cut-off while in Biological Science it fixed 92.20 per cent cut-off. In Commerce, Ravenshaw University also dominated with 89.83 per cent. In Self-Financing courses, Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar, recorded the cut-off with 87.50 per cent in Computer Science.

University Law College, Utkal University recorded 84.40 per cent for five-Year Integrated BA LLB course.

Authorities have emphasised the importance of timely reporting in the selected institutions between June 23 and June 25, from 10am to 5pm, to confirm their admission and complete the required formalities.

# India's coffee exports more than double in last 11 yrs

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 22:** India's coffee exports have more than doubled to \$1.8 billion in the last 11 years, with the country becoming the 5th largest exporter, according to the government data.

India's coffee exports stood at \$800 million in 2014-15 and have been rising steadily since then. The top export markets for Indian coffee are Italy, Germany, Russia, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US.

India is the seventh largest producer and the fifth largest exporter of coffee in the world. Prices of coffee are ruling at record levels following an adverse weather-induced supply crunch in the largest producing countries of Brazil and Vietnam. India exports over two-thirds of the over 3.5 lakh tonne produced in the country.

The country's coffee exports have grown significantly due to the increasing global demand



for its rich and unique flavours. Approximately three-fourths of India's coffee production consists of Arabica and Robusta beans. These are primarily exported as unroasted beans. However, there is a growing demand for value-added products like roasted and instant coffee, further fuelling the export boom.

India's coffee is primarily grown in the ecologically rich Western and Eastern Ghats, areas famous for their biodiversity

The country's coffee exports have grown significantly due to the increasing global demand for its rich and unique flavours

Approximately three-fourths of India's coffee production consists of Arabica and Robusta beans

port boom.

India's coffee is primarily grown in the ecologically rich Western and Eastern Ghats, areas famous for their biodiversity. Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 MT in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These areas are home to shaded plantations that not only support the coffee industry but also play a vital role in preserving the natural environment, helping to main-

tain the ecological balance of these biodiversity hotspots.

Meanwhile, due to the rise of the cafe culture, higher disposable incomes and a growing preference for coffee over tea, coffee consumption in India is also steadily increasing. This trend has been observed particularly in both urban and rural areas. Domestic consumption has increased from 84,000 tonnes in 2012 to 91,000 tonnes in 2023.

To enhance coffee production and meet growing domestic and international demand, the Coffee Board of India has launched several important initiatives. Through the Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP), the focus is on improving yields, expanding cultivation in non-traditional regions and ensuring the sustainability of coffee farming. These measures are part of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen India's coffee industry, increase productivity and improve its global competitiveness.

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.0°	34.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunder-showers.
Min Temp	25.6°	23.2°	
Humidity	81%	87%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-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.

# Andhra schools lure Odisha children through incentives



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nandapur, June 22:** Amid repeated attempts of intrusion by Andhra Pradesh, now schools in the neighbouring state are attracting students from Odisha's border villages by offering incentives under its education and welfare programmes. According to reports, Andhra officials have successfully enrolled children from Odisha into their schools by promising better infrastructure, education, lodging facilities and financial support. Parents are also being enticed through the Amma Vadi Yojana, under which ₹15,000 is provided to the account of the student's mother. Reportedly, the neighbouring state has also arranged transport facilities such as buses to ferry the students from their areas to the schools.

The Union Ministry of Education recently initiated a process to issue unique identification numbers known as Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID to students across the country — a step that Andhra Pradesh is using to boost its student numbers by admitting children from Odisha.

Students from villages in Padua, Kulabir, Chatua, Panthlung, Kularsingh, Golur and Khinba panchayats under Nandapur block of Koraput district are studying in Andhra Pradesh schools. From Padua and Kulabir panchayats alone, more than 40 students travel

by buses provided by Andhra schools. Similarly, over 60 students from Panthlung, Golur and Kularsingh panchayat are studying in 10 residential schools in Pedabaili of Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra schools also arrange auto-rickshaws and other forms of transport to ferry students across the border. In Jolaput and Khinmung villages under Bilaput panchayat, more than 70 children now study at various government and private schools in Muchingsput of Andhra Pradesh.

Despite this migration of students, local officials from Nandapur block, Koraput district administration and Odisha's Department of Education have remained silent, sparking concerns among the observers and educationists.

Andhra school authorities reportedly visited seven panchayats in Nandapur block during the summer vacation, persuading parents with welfare schemes and successfully enrolling over 200 children. These parents were assured financial aid of ₹15,000 per student under the Amma Vadi Yojana and Vasathi Deevana scheme.

When contacted, Nandapur Block Education Officer (BEO) Bhawani Nandan Patnaik said male and female teachers from the block education department are going door to door in villages along the Andhra Pradesh border to encourage parents to enroll their children in Odi-

sha schools. However, school authorities across the border are enticing parents and students with various offers and incentives.

Patnaik alleged that school buses from Andhra, which are operating without permits, regularly cross into Odisha villages to pick up children. The matter has been reported to the district collector through the district education officer, he said.

When asked for comment, sarpanch Rajesh Lendu noted that 10 years ago, a Telugu teacher was appointed at Jolaput Primary School under Bilaput panchayat. Telugu-speaking children in the area could receive education in both Odia and Telugu languages at Odisha government schools.

However, after the school was upgraded to a high school, the Telugu teaching post was eliminated. Since then, local Telugu-speaking families have been sending their children to schools in Andhra Pradesh.

Lendu urged the Odisha government to reinstate Telugu teachers in all schools in border panchayats so children can receive lessons in their native language alongside Odia.

Koraput District Collector V Keerthi Vasan said strict monitoring of education continues in eight panchayats in Nandapur block, seven panchayats including Kotia in Pottangi block, and six panchayats in Bandhugaon and Narayanpatna blocks bordering Andhra Pradesh.

Steps have also been taken to improve facilities at all government schools in these areas, and teachers and students have been assured access to all basic amenities, he said. Parents are being advised not to fall prey to inducements from Andhra Pradesh and to enrol their children in Odisha schools.

The district administration has alerted the state government about cross-border enrollments through APAAR ID. Action will be taken as per government instructions, he added.



**WAY OF WATER:** Country boats have become the only mode of transport to move from one place to another in flood-hit Bhograi block of Balasore district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Hardships galore as floodwaters recede

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhograi, June 22:** Floodwaters of the Subarnarekha River started to recede Sunday, but hardships continue to grow for villagers trapped in the submerged Bhograi and other blocks of Balasore district.

Many families remain cut off from the outside world and officials struggle to reach them. In some villages, knee-to-waist-deep water was still flowing on the roads, forcing people to abandon their houses and endure harsh conditions.

With rain decreasing in the upper catchment area and all gates at the Galudihii barrage closed, water levels in the Subarnarekha have dropped. The river was found flowing below the danger mark at 9.45 metre at Rajghat.

Meanwhile, the body of Maheswar Pila, 22, of Kulha village in Bhograi, who was swept away by floodwaters Saturday, was recovered Sunday by Odisha Disaster Rapid

**The body of the youth from Kulha village in Bhograi, who was swept away by floodwaters Saturday, was recovered Sunday by ODRAF personnel at Jamkunda in Baliapal block**

Action Force (ODRAF) personnel at Jamkunda in Baliapal block. The body was handed over to his family members after a post-mortem at Baliapal Community Health Centre.

Although floodwaters have receded in villages like Uluda, Dahamunda, Aruhabruti, Kharidpimpal, Nathipur, Manunagar, Mohammed Nagar Patna, Santoshpur, Kulha, Nachhinda, Kushuda, Badhia, Purusottampur, Ramdeichak, Krushnanagar, Gabagaon, Gujudiha, Nilapura, Chirakula, Khalabadia, Baunshkhana, Kumbhargadi, Nankar, Daruha, Chakparulia, Kulida and other villages, relief is only partial.

About 200 families in Manunagar village remain isolated from the rest of the world. Peo-

ple displaced by damaged and mud-filled houses continue to live in deplorable conditions. Drinking water sources are submerged, creating a scarcity of clean water and sparking fears of water-borne diseases. Livestock are also suffering without feed.

In low-lying areas, roads have been still submerged under knee-to-waist-deep water. Neither district nor block officials have been able to reach the most vulnerable residents.

Surya Kumar Nayak, the acting block development officer and Bhograi tehsildar, reviewed the flood situation Sunday as the absence of permanent employees has left administrative work in the block at near standstill.

The Irrigation department

is working to assess damage in flood-hit areas. The additional district magistrate from the Revenue department visited Bhograi to review the flood situation with Nayak Sunday.

Meanwhile, Irrigation department Superintendent Engineer Naba Kumar Mahalik, SDO Priyabrata Singh, Assistant Engineers Basant Kumar Behera, Daktar Singh, Pramath Kumar Dey, Junior Engineer Chittaranjan Siol and other Water Resources department officials are monitoring the embankments round the block.

Congress leaders Satyashiv Das, Sudarshan Jena, Santosh Kumar Jena, Pradeep Kumar Nayak, Karshik Chandra Patra, Deepesh Chandra Ray Mamata Sahu, Meena Rani Soor, Sumanta Behera, Ratan Bag, Shishir Mohapatra and Rajendra Panda distributed dry food items to flood-affected residents of Kumbhargadi panchayat Sunday afternoon.

# Court warns of attaching properties of 28 accused on run; notices posted at houses

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, June 22:** Police in Ganjam district Sunday pasted notices on the walls of the houses of 28 accused, who are on the run and have failed to appear in court despite repeated summons.

They also failed to report to the court even after multiple warrants were issued. Following the court's directive, they have now been declared absconders, and public notices were posted outside their residences.

Under the supervision of Ganjam Superintendent of Police Subhendu Kumar Patra, notices were put up at the homes of 28 accused across several police jurisdictions, including Chhatrapur, Bhanjanagar, Purushottampur and Aska subdivisions.

Of the 28 accused, four are from Bhanjanagar, two each from Jagannathprasad, Belaguntha and Tarasingh police



stations. Similarly five from Gangpur, three each from Buguda and Polasara police stations while four from Chhatrapur, and one each from Purushottampur, Rambha and Khallikote police stations.

Their properties will be attached if they do not appear before the court on time, Patra said. The SP said that similar legal measures will continue in coming days.

# Man dies after falling into drain

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khajuripada, June 22:** A 60-year-old man died after falling into a drain near Raghupadar village under this police limits in Kandhamal district, police said Sunday.

According to reports, the deceased, identified as Chandramani Bhoi, 60, had gone to look for a buffalo when, for reasons unknown, he slipped into a drain near his village and lost his senses. Family members rescued him in an unconscious condition and rushed him to the district headquarters hospital in Phulbani where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Police registered a case (06/25) over a complaint by his nephew Mrutyunjaya Bhoi at Khajuripada police station. An investigation is underway to ascertain the exact reason behind his death, Inspector in-Charge Chapadhari Pradhan said.

# Bridge diversion washed away; Telkoi disconnected

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 22:** The diversion road of the under-construction Baunsajora bridge on the Kanjipani-Kuntala road in Telkoi block of Keonjhar district was washed away Sunday, disrupting traffic throughout the day and severing communication between Telkoi and Jagmohanpur on National Highway 49.

According to sources, heavy rainfall over the past two days caused the collapse of the diversion road near Lokanathpur village. The bridge, being built by the Public Works department (PWD), could not be repaired due to the high flow of water.

As a result, access to Jagmohanpur, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Rourkela has been cut off. More than 20 villages in Telkoi block, including Chhamunda, Binjabahal and areas under Jagamohanpur panchayat, have been disconnected from the block headquarters, affecting emergency services.

"The diversion bridge was



washed away since Sunday morning and has not been repaired yet. People are facing unprecedented problems. Passenger buses and other vehicles are plying on a narrow road through Dobilalpal and Chhamunda," said Chinmay Sahu, a local scribe.

Locals have urged the district administration to take immediate action. The under-construction bridge had remained incomplete ahead of the monsoon, forcing vehicles to use the temporary diversion road, which was swept away by heavy overnight rains.

Residents, however, have blamed the crisis on alleged negligence by the PWD and poor-quality diversion work.

A total of ₹29.39 crore has

been sanctioned for the construction of two bridges over Hanumantia Nala and Baunsajhari Nala, along with improvements to a 12-km stretch of road from Telkoi to Nampashi village in Angul district.

However, the construction has progressed at a sluggish pace, contributing to the current disruption. Following the road washout, PWD officials visited the site.

"The road will be repaired soon and traffic will be normalised," Nihar Nayak, a junior engineer with the PWD, told the media.

As of Sunday evening, more than 12 hours after the washout, repairs had not been completed and communication to Telkoi remained disrupted.

# Trader shot at

**BHADRAK:** A trader suffered bullet injuries after three miscreants opened fire at him in Bhadrak district, police said Sunday. Bidyadhar Patra, a resident of Belamalala village, was returning home on his motorcycle when the assailants suddenly appeared and shot at him before snatching his bag Saturday night, he said. He was initially taken to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, as his condition remained serious, a senior police officer said. Forensic teams have been deployed to collect evidence, while CCTV footage from the area is being examined to trace the miscreants' movements before and after the attack, he said. While robbery appears to be the primary motive, other angles are also being investigated, Eastern Range DIG Satyajit Nayak said. "We are collecting statements from eyewitnesses and nearby shopkeepers. The border district police have been instructed to intensify patrolling," he said.

# Elephant movement brings traffic to standstill

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 22:** Truck traffic was halted for several hours Sunday evening on Ranasal Ghat along the National Highway 520 in the mining-dominated Joda area in this district due to the movement of a herd of elephants on the highway.

Incidents like this have become common in Joda and Barbil areas, where local residents have expressed growing concern and displeasure. The increasing presence of elephants on roads and in these areas is attributed to rampant, unregulated mining and the resulting loss of elephant habitats.

"There is a constant fear of accidents, both on roads and inside mines, due to the frequent movement of elephants," said a local resident.



Adding to the tension, some individuals have reportedly provoked the animals by shouting, throwing stones and striking them with sticks. These actions often agitate the elephants, causing them to move erratically in herds in search of safety. In broad daylight, elephants have been seen crossing roads near Joda and Barbil towns, increasing public fear of defensive attacks by the animals.

"If the Forest department

does not monitor and manage the situation properly, accidents will occur. The human-elephant conflict will escalate and may spiral out of control," warned Rasananda Behera, a member of Native Voice, a local social organisation.

Barbil Range Officer Sanjib Rout, who was monitoring the situation, confirmed the temporary road closure.

"We are keeping a close watch on the movement of the elephant herd camping near

the highway. Vehicle movement was halted this evening to avoid any untoward incident," Rout said.

The region remains on edge following recent fatalities owing to man-elephant conflict. Just days ago, two people were killed in an elephant attack in the Rugudi police station area, leading to unrest. During a confrontation, several forest officials were injured, and eight villagers were arrested for assaulting them. In a separate incident under Bamebari police station limits, another fatal elephant attack triggered further tension, during which a forest officer was again assaulted by locals.

Forest officials continue to monitor the area as efforts are underway to prevent further conflict between humans and wildlife.

# 12 AERO-ENGINE TURBINE DISCS SEIZED; VAN OWNER DETAINED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sunabeda/Semiliguda, June 22:** Police Sunday seized 12 aero-engine turbine discs from a pickup van and detained its owner at Sunabeda in Koraput district, officials said.

According to police, Vinod Kumar Bhatt, deputy manager (SEC) at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), lodged a written complaint with Sunabeda police and SDPO after being tipped off that a pickup van (AP 39 UH 5626) was carrying valuable aero-engine turbine discs belonging to HAL's Sunabeda factory.

Following the complaint, Sunabeda SDPO Sumitra Jena alerted Semiliguda police, who intercepted the van on the



highway as it was heading towards Visakhapatnam. Police recovered the 12 turbine discs and detained the vehicle and its owner before handing them over to Sunabeda police. The driver of the van managed to escape.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the seized vehicle was being used to deliver daily English and Telugu newspapers to Sunabeda and was labelled 'Press' on its windshield. Police also found that the vehicle had not entered the HAL fac-

tory premises and was loaded near the Ganga Maa Temple at Semiliguda.

Officials raised questions as to how turbine engine parts could make it outside the highly secured HAL factory and township premises. Employees have called for a high-level probe into the matter.

Sunabeda police have registered a case (113/25) and taken into custody a scrap dealer from Vizianagaram for questioning, based on suspicion that he was buying the engine parts, station inspector Sushma Kanhar said.

Earlier this month, the transport department fined two trucks for attempting to transport aero engines without proper documents.

FOCUS GLOBAL AFFAIRS

# MORAL COMPASS FOR WORLD



**A world order driven solely by geopolitics and expanding notions of national security inevitably breeds short-termism, deepens divisions, and heightens the chance of major conflict**

Even before US President Donald Trump launched his assault on the global economy, it was facing not only a structural crisis but a collapse in the values that once justified and guided international cooperation. The retraction of multilateralism reflects not just weakened institutions and geopolitical tensions, but also a loss of shared principles for international cooperation and a shift toward unilateralism, transactional diplomacy, and zero-sum nationalism.

Far-right political forces have accelerated this erosion by turning ideals like gender equality, climate justice, and Indigenous rights into objects of ridicule. Such culture-war rhetoric is undermining the ethical foundations of both democracy and global cooperation, with the populist backlash against solidarity and shared responsibility crossing into the international arena. As nationalism displaces multilateralism, international cooperation is losing its moral direction. In addition, as Hannah Arendt warned, the absence of shared values erodes the human capacity for judgment and opens the door to authoritarianism. Trust collapses, cooperation becomes purely transactional, and instability becomes the norm. International governance becomes brittle; diplomacy becomes coercive. Perceived injustice and ineffectiveness fuels resentment and resistance. A world order driven solely by geopolitics and expanding notions of national security inevitably breeds short-termism, deepens divisions, and heightens the chance of major conflict. No single actor, however powerful, is insulated from these risks.

But rebuilding global economic governance cannot mean simply restoring the past. While the postwar order did embed common ideals like human dignity and solidarity in its foundation documents (starting with the UN Charter), it also reflected

– and fuelled – the power imbalances of its time. Any new system must be grounded in care, solidarity, sovereign equality, and ecological stewardship, which also means updating earlier frameworks to meet current needs and ensuring broader representation. Establishing a new values-based system is not utopian; it is strategically necessary. Institutions that are perceived as fair are more resilient and more likely to command broad-based compliance, which is crucial when our biggest challenges require globally coordinated action.

Moreover, reputational capital matters more than ever. In a multipolar world, influence depends on legitimacy. Achieving inclusive prosperity, social cohesion, and adequate provision of public goods (whether global, regional, national, or local) is essential for long-term well-being and resilience. Combating hunger, poverty, and inequality is not charity; it is sound strategy.

Equity, access to finance, and the distribution of green technology will be central concerns as countries seek to transform their economies to meet climate goals. In the absence of global norms to guide industrial policy in a sustainable direction, these transitions risk reproducing old hierarchies and dependencies. Reform of the international trade system – which is currently deeply regressive,

with net flows from the Global South to the North – is about delivering a green transition that avoids the pitfalls of a world order shaped by and for the benefit of the few.

History offers lessons here. The Bretton Woods institutions and early trade frameworks (like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) emerged from the catastrophe of World War II, when leaders recognized the need for cooperation anchored in values, even if their efforts were uneven. The Havana Charter of 1948 went so far as to call for full employment and labor rights (it was stillborn because the US never ratified it).

But the neoliberal turn of the 1980s brought austerity, deregulation, and the rise of structural adjustment policies, which curtailed many countries' development, deepened inequality, and sidelined labor rights and ecological considerations. The creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995 reflected this shift: while it promised fairness and predictability, it put liberalization and enforcement first. The resulting popular backlash – from the Seattle protests in 1999 to ongoing criticism of trade rules on agriculture and intellectual property – revealed how disconnected the system had become from social and ecological priorities.

Despite these failures, founda-

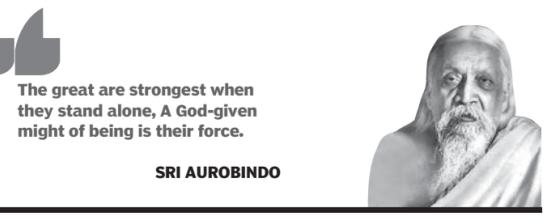
tional values have endured as moral benchmarks. Reformers, civil-society movements, and many leaders continue to invoke them as guideposts for an alternative global order characterized by democratized decision-making, sustainable development, and climate justice. These are not abstract ideals. They are tools for building a more effective system.

Discussions about values are insufficient. To ensure that the global architecture reflects and reinforces shared norms, rather than undermining them, outcomes must be methodically implemented by institutions. To move forward, values must be paired with accountability mechanisms. That means improving institutional oversight, facilitating greater civil-society participation, and creating tools to measure progress in terms not only of GDP, but also of equity and well-being. Discussions about such principles must be embedded in real-world forums: the G20, which convenes major economies from both the Global South and North; the BRICS+ grouping of major emerging economies; the UN's Financing for Development process, including the upcoming summit in Seville; and the UN Climate Change Conference, starting with COP30 in Belém. And it must be central to any discussion of reforming the UN system, including via Charter review.

Fragmentation, inequality, and dysfunction are not inevitable. They reflect choices. The alternative to a failing order is not retreat into nationalism or technocracy, but rather bold re-commitment by states, civil society, and the private sector to the values that can guide us through complexity toward a more humane, sustainable, and resilient economic order.

*The writer is a former special adviser on international affairs for Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE



The great are strongest when they stand alone, A God-given might of being is their force.

SRI AUROBINDO

## Unending War

Last week, when a reporter asked US President Donald Trump whether America would enter the war on Iran with close ally Israel, he replied in his characteristic fashion: "I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do." Now with his decision to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz, Trump has taken a step he had long promised to avoid: military intervention in a significant foreign conflict. Throughout the campaign for his second presidency, Trump had repeatedly stated that the US should have nothing to do with foreign wars and that the billions of dollars that get spent in war efforts should be used to "Make America Great Again."

The bold US strikes, which targeted Iran's super secure nuclear facility, Fordow, located deep underground, represent the most significant foreign policy gamble of Trump's two terms in office, laden with risks and uncertainties. After making the announcement that Iran's key nuclear sites were "completely and fully obliterated," Trump asserted that Tehran must either pursue peace or risk facing additional attacks. This stance could incite Tehran to retaliate by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the world's single most important oil passageway. Iran could also target US military bases and allies across the Middle East and mobilise its proxy groups – Hezbollah and the Houthis – against American and Israeli establishments around the world. Such retaliation from Iran could lead to a protracted conflict, reminiscent of the "forever wars" that the US fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, something that Trump had criticised and vowed to avoid.

It is worth noting that while Iran's military capabilities are significantly weakened, they possess various asymmetric methods to retaliate. At the same time, while Iran's nuclear programme may have been set back for many years, the threat may be far from over. Iran, lest we forget, is the only Shia Moslem country in the world and is surrounded by inimical Sunni states. It, for some time past, seems to be desperate to get recognized as the leader of the Moslem world and therefore it had been funding, arming and training terror outfits like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis against Israel. According to Iranian thinking, Israel, the 'Zionist' state, is the biggest enemy of Islam which the Sunni countries were unwilling to face. Sunni Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other Mid East countries would probably be celebrating the attacks on Iran more than the Israelis.

All the while, the latest conflagration in West Asia triggered by US intervention is going to have its ramifications throughout the world. First and foremost will be the surge in crude oil prices. After remaining volatile over the past week, crude oil is poised to spike as markets reopen Monday. And in the event Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz, as it has threatened to do, one can only guess the impact it will have on the global economy which is already reeled by high inflation and tepid growth. Also, in case the Houthis start targeting ships in the Red Sea, it will leave worldwide supply chains disrupted.

Gulf States, home to multiple US military bases, were on high alert Sunday as the US strikes raised the possibility of a widening conflict in the region. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, heightened its security alert, while Bahrain advised drivers to steer clear of major roads, and Kuwait established shelters within a ministries complex. Bahrain hosts the headquarters of the US Navy's 5th Fleet, and there are US military bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, as well as in neighbouring Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

During his first term, Trump did not encounter any significant international crises, but just six months into his second term, he finds himself in the midst of a major one. He is already facing considerable opposition from congressional Democrats regarding the attack on Iran, and he must also navigate resistance from the anti-interventionist faction of his Republican MAGA supporters. Even if he aims to limit US military involvement in both duration and scope, history shows that such conflicts often lead to unforeseen consequences for American presidents. Trump's policy of "peace through strength" will be put to the ultimate test, particularly as he opens a new military front while failing to fulfil his campaign promises to swiftly end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

For the world at large, peace remains elusive, and it is the civilians who, unfortunately, will have to bear all the brunt, while the arms industry makes hay.



Adriana Abdenur

**ESTABLISHING A NEW VALUES-BASED SYSTEM IS NOT UTOPIAN; IT IS STRATEGICALLY NECESSARY**

SPECTRUM CREATIVE ECONOMY

## India's cultural & creative aspirations

Cultural & creative economy is an emerging area of economic field that offers not only meaning to creative pursuits but also wealth and soft power.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) defines creative industries as creation, production, and distribution cycles that leverage creativity and intellectual capital. These industries encompass knowledge based activities focusing on culture and heritage, including tangible and intangible creative products with economic value. The latest edition of Creative Economy Outlook 2024 by UNCTAD observes the creative economy is rapidly growing, especially in developing countries, and contributes significantly to economic development and job creation.

The creative industry in India is basically a self-organising sector. Indian government fully recognises the importance of the sector. Though the subject is dealt by the Ministry of Culture – as nodal ministry; the creative sector overarches over two dozen or more departments, ministries and national institutions. By engaging with

business organisations, institutions and experts, scope and viability of the sector is being explored. The sentiment of prioritising the sector echoed in the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while inaugurating the World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi last year. He highlighted the vision of linking heritage with growth and development. Eventually, industry bodies and associations have been voicing for collective actions towards a policy for the creative sector.

As reported by Creative Economy Outlook 2024; some of India's advantageous positions include – India tops in film production position, contributing 29% of the global volume in 2022 and record box office revenues reaching around \$1.4 billion in 2023. Among developing economies, India came third after China, Hong Kong in exporting creative goods in 2022. India exported \$21 billion worth of creative goods, 29% share of global exports. India is at fourth position after the US, Germany and Japan in the publishing industry. India is on top among developing countries both in terms of revenue

and number of ISBN registrations in 2022. Also, India's videogames sector is projected to grow at 18.3%.

Some concerns are also being raised by various multilateral institutions with regard to India. According to ILO data (2024), in arts, entertainment and recreation, the average share of women in the creative industries fluctuates from 80.5% in the Dominican Republic to 6.5% in India, with a global average of around 38%. A study conducted by ADB about India's economy finds that the concentration of creative jobs is significantly higher in urban areas, with a substantial 67.1% of all creative workers residing there. In contrast, rural areas have a much lower proportion of creative workers at only 29.6%. The UNCTAD reports that several economies, especially developing ones including India, do not have adequate services trade data to calculate creative services exports. Though this does not mean India doesn't export creative services. Due to lack of robust regulation and enforcement, Indian entertainment sector experiences an annual revenue loss of \$2.8 billion due to

digital piracy.

Culture unites all and is a tool for Track-II diplomacy. Given the size and quality of our diaspora; it continues to enable India as a soft power. It is becoming quite foundational in India with the implementation of New Education Policy that guarantees equal access to creative and cultural experiences to innovate through traditional, conventional as well as in new technological mediums like AI. For expansion of these creative experiences component-wise dissection of the creative sector is required to plan for multidimensional interventions. Innovations and acceleration of activities with market regulations and effective enforcement can help make it a robust sector. Policymaking may be a long and lengthy process but identifying the barriers within the sector is a way out to tap the bottlenecks and to move towards a framework of actions and interventions in leveraging economic potentials of the sector for optimum growth.

*The writer is a Delhi-based independent consultant who worked with Niti Aayog.*

### WISDOM CORNER

**Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.**

STEPHEN HAWKING

**When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.**

KAHILIL GIBRAN

**We're all going to die, all of us; what a circus! That alone should make us love each other, but it doesn't. We are terrorized and flattened by trivialities. We are eaten up by nothing.**

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1314:** Battle of Bannockburn begins. On this day in 1314 began the Battle of Bannockburn, a decisive engagement in Scottish history whereby the Scots defeated the English, regained their independence, and established Robert the Bruce as Robert I.

**1868:** American inventor Christopher Latham Sholes and two others were granted a patent for a typewriter.

**1894:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is founded. The IOC is responsible for organizing the Olympic Games and similar events. The committee was established at the initiative of French educator, Pierre de Coubertin.

**1961:** The Antarctic Treaty comes into force. The treaty was the first arms control agreement signed during the Cold War. It sets Antarctica aside as a scientific preserve and prohibits military activities on the continent.

**1992:** Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Party wins the election in Israel. Rabin became the country's fifth Prime Minister. For his engagement in a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 (together with Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat). A year later, Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist.



Dushyant Meher

**THE CREATIVE ECONOMY IS RAPIDLY GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION**

### 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



### Starved of funds

Sir, This refers to "As UN turns 80, humanitarian aid work faces clouded future," **Orissa POST**, June 22. The United Nations' humanitarian agencies, once viewed as global lifelines, are now crumbling under the weight of mounting crises and chronic underfunding. From Gaza to Kenya, their ability to deliver aid has been severely compromised. In Gaza, where relentless bombing has displaced hundreds of thousands, the agencies are struggling to provide even the most basic necessities—tents, clean water, food, and medical aid. The situation is no different in Kenya, where drought and food insecurity have left millions vulnerable, yet international response has been lukewarm and funding painfully inadequate. Despite the growing scale of human suffering, donor fatigue and geopolitical distractions have left UN agencies starved of the funds essential for timely and effective intervention. Bureaucratic inertia and internal inefficiencies further erode their credibility. These agencies are expected to be neutral arbiters of relief, yet inaction or slow response often deepens public frustration and suffering. The moral and practical failure to address humanitarian emergencies, especially in conflict-ridden regions, underscores a crisis not just of resources, but of global political will.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

### Dramatic escalation

Sir, In a dramatic escalation, the US has bombed Iran's Fordow, Esfahan, and Natanz nuclear facilities using bunker-buster bombs—bypassing congressional approval. The strike ends President Trump's two-week ultimatum for Tehran to sign a nuclear deal. Iran claimed the sites were cleared of nuclear material, denying any radioactive leakage. Israel hailed the move and launched its own strikes. Iran vowed retaliation, prompting a stern US warning of harsher consequences. As Iranian missiles breached defenses, US troops in the region now face heightened threats. India accelerated evacuation via land. While Yemen backed Iran, China and Russia remain noncommittal. With diplomatic channels severed and fears of Red Sea route disruption, global oil prices may surge. Analysts warn the conflict could mark the unofficial start of a wider war.

**RS Narula, PATIALA**

# Delhi govt resolving public grievances via Jan Sunwai camps



Following Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's directive, weekly Jan Sunwai camps are now being held in all revenue districts, said a statement issued by the Delhi government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** The Delhi government is resolving public grievances through weekly Jan Sunwai camps led by the district magistrates, officials Sunday said.

Following Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's directive, weekly Jan Sunwai camps are now being held in all revenue districts, said a statement issued by the Delhi government.

These camps are attended by officials from various departments, including the Municipal Corporation, Delhi Police, Power and other concerned departments, it added. These programmes are not just confined to the government offices, they are being held at community spaces such as schools, local chaupals and banquet halls to make people feel more at ease while presenting their concerns and expectations, the statement said.

The weekly Jan Sunwai Camps, led by the district magistrates, are being held to directly address citizens' grievances, while a 24x7 Public Grievance Monitoring System (PGMS) remains active to ensure continuous redressal of complaints, it added. For added accessibility, complaint boxes are being

placed outside the government offices, allowing citizens to submit their complaints easily, the statement said.

These camps, according to the chief minister's office, receive complaints related to departments such as Revenue, Delhi Jal Board, PWD, Food and Civil Supplies, Social Welfare, Health, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Education, Irrigation and Flood Control, among others. The citizens also raise concerns related to the Delhi Police and Municipal Corporation, covering issues such as encroachments, dark spots, sanitation, potable water, sewage problems, stray animals, road maintenance, illegal constructions, non-functional street lights and tree pruning, it added.

The officers present at the camps attempt to resolve issues on the spot and unresolved issues are referred to the concerned departments for timely action, the statement said. Recently, Jan Sunwai camps were organised in subdivisions like Model Town, Kanjhawala, Seelampur, Kotwali, Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Vasant Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Kapashera, Sarita Vihar and Dwarka. Over 600 people attended the most recent weekend camps.

The Jan Sunwai camps earlier May 17 witnessed the participation of 1,260 citizens and over 1,350 citizens participated in these camps May 24. The chief minister emphasised these are not just grievance redressal camps, they represent a commitment to listening to people and taking swift action.

## SpiceJet asked to pay ₹25K to senior citizen for issuing wrong ticket

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 22:** The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Mumbai (Suburban) has directed budget airline SpiceJet to pay ₹25,000 to a senior citizen for issuing incorrect flight tickets, causing him mental stress and financial loss.

The incident took place in December 2020, when the senior citizen from Ghatkopar had booked a round-trip ticket from Mumbai to Darbhanga with SpiceJet. While his onward journey went as planned, the return flight was cancelled due to bad weather. Acknowledging the urgency of the passenger's situation -- he had to attend a PhD online exam in Mumbai December 8 -- the airline arranged an alternate route via Patna and Kolkata.

However, the replacement booking turned out to be flawed. The connecting flight from Kolkata to Mumbai was scheduled to depart before the passenger would even arrive in Kolkata from Patna. This mistake left him stranded in Patna, forcing him to purchase a new ticket for the next day using his own money. As a result, he also missed his important online examination.



The senior citizen later approached the consumer forum, accusing the airline of negligence and deficiency in service. He demanded a refund of ₹14,577 along with ₹2 lakh for mental agony and ₹25,000 for legal expenses.

SpiceJet responded by stating that the flight was cancelled due to bad weather, which was beyond their control, and that they had refunded the ticket fare through the booking agent.

They also said they had issued the alternate flight ticket free of cost. While the consumer commission accepted that the flight cancellation was not the airline's fault, it pointed out that the issuance of an incorrect ticket was a clear act of negligence.

Although the airline later reimbursed the complainant, the commission said this did not excuse the initial error.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal performs yoga with others during 'Yoga by the Beach' organised a day after the 11th International Day of Yoga, at Dana Pani Beach in Mumbai, Maharashtra

## DU calls UG admission form error 'unintentional'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** The Delhi University has termed the controversial omission of "Urdu" and the inclusion of "Muslim" as a mother tongue in its undergraduate admission form as an "inadvertent error", but several professors have alleged communal bias and demanded immediate correction, accountability and a public apology.

"The University of Delhi sincerely regrets the inadvertent error in its admission form. We acknowledge your concerns and are committed to addressing them," the Delhi University (DU) said in a statement on X.

"However, attributing ulterior motives to this entirely unintentional oversight is unwarranted. We request all not to vitiate the university's diverse and harmonious environment," the statement added.

The academics from the DU, however, criticised the language used in the form, arguing it reflects a communal mindset and undermines the Constitution. "Under 'Mother Tongue', the form omits Urdu



entirely while listing 'Muslim' as a mother tongue. Is it beyond the DU's understanding that Muslims speak the same languages as others from their regions? This cannot be anything but Islamophobic," Abha Dev Habib, a professor at Miranda House, wrote in a Facebook post.

The professor said the omission is particularly concerning given that Urdu is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Con-

stitution. Echoing similar concerns, Rudrashish Chakraborty, Associate Professor at Kirori Mal College and DUTA executive member, said the error is not a clerical one but part of a larger pattern.

"By removing Urdu and replacing it with 'Muslim' as a mother tongue, the administration has effectively targeted a language and a culture. It's a serious viola-

The controversy further escalated over the form's requirement for applicants under reserved categories to mention sub-castes like "mocha" and "dhobi". The faculty members described the move as insensitive and casteist.

tion of academic standards and constitutional values," he said, calling it a "brazen attempt to create an 'other' out of the largest minority community in the country".

He also took issue with the use of the term "mother tongue" in the form, arguing that "native language" would have been more academically appropriate.

"The DU administration should take a refresher course in academic English before prescribing it for students," he wrote on Facebook.

The controversy further escalated over the form's requirement for applicants under reserved categories to mention sub-castes like "mocha" and "dhobi".

The faculty members described the move as insensitive and casteist. While the university has acknowledged the issue, it has not yet clarified how the error occurred or what changes are being made.

The professors and rights groups are calling for transparency, a formal apology and safeguards to prevent such lapses in future.

## Speed limit hike considered for heavy vehicles on Bor Ghat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 22:** Heavy vehicles descending the Bor Ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway might soon move down the slope a bit faster, with authorities considering an increase in the existing speed limits, officials and transporters have said.

Deliberations are underway to raise the speed limit for heavy vehicles like trucks and buses from the current 40 kmph to 45-50 kmph on the downward incline of the Pune-Mumbai arm, also known as the Khandala Ghat. A decision is likely to be taken soon, they said. The current speed limit of 60 kmph for cars in the 10-km ghat section is unlikely to be changed. On other stretches of the country's first access-controlled expressway, the speed limit is 100 kmph for smaller vehicles and 80 kmph for heavy vehicles.



The current limit on the ghat section, located between Lonavala in Pune district and Khalapur in Raigad district, results in frequent e-challans as it is challenging for heavy vehicles to move slowly on a sharp

downward incline, slows down traffic and causes accidents, they claimed.

After follow-ups and discussions, the authorities have given a positive signal for an upward revision of the speed limit,

transporters said. According to transporters, particularly bus owners, e-challans have increased on the ghat section following the introduction of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), which comprises several speed-monitoring cameras and other equipment, on the 95-km carriageway.

A vehicle is fined ₹2,000 for the first speed violation, and the amount increases for subsequent infractions.

Teams from the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), highway police, the state transport department and transporters conducted a joint survey of the ghat section last month to assess the ground reality.

The transporters and a few officials called the current speed limit of 40 kmph for heavy vehicles on Bor Ghat "unscientific", "unrealistic" and "unfair".

## More than 5,000 cyclists join Fit India Sundays Pandharpur edition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pandharpur, June 22:** The Fit India Sundays on Cycle's Pandharpur edition to mark the 4th Akhil Maharashtra Pandharpur Cycle Wari Sammelan recorded the largest-ever cycling gathering in India with more than 5,000 enthusiasts coming together here.

Cyclists from more than 90 clubs from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh covered distances of up to 450 kilometres to make it to the event here, embarking on their arduous yet memorable journeys four to five days ago.

The event was jointly organised by the Mumbai Regional Centre of the Sports Authority of India and the Pandharpur Cycle Wari Sangh.

The cyclists "took part in the spiritually significant



Nagar Pradakshina and the energetic Ringan Sohala, showcasing exemplary determination, devotion, and endurance," the organisers informed in a release.

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse and JB Gore, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Govt of Maharashtra, were among the guests at the event. MP Dhairyashel Mohite Patil, MLA Prashant Paricharak, MLC Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil and SAI Mumbai RC director Pandurang Chate were also present.

## Another battle of Pawars unfolding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, June 22:** Election was being held Sunday to Baramati's Malegaon Cooperative Sugar Mill where Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is contesting for the chairperson's post, while the rival NCP (SP) led by Sharad Pawar has also entered the fray.

Ajit Pawar is among the 90 candidates, contesting the poll under the banner of different panels and not on party tickets, for the 21-member board of directors of the sugar mill located in Baramati. Only members of the mill are eligible to vote.

The Nilkantheshwar panel headed by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar, who is contesting a cooperative sugar mill election after more than four decades, currently holds power in the mill.

Results will be declared June 24. Besides the Nilkantheshwar panel and the Ranjan Tawre-led Sahakar Bachav, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) has entered the fray after floating the 'Baliraja Sahakar Bachav' panel, making the contest triangular. Sharad Pawar is not directly in the fray.

Ajit Pawar cast his vote Sunday morning in Pune's Baramati and expressed hope that the people will vote for development. "This is an election conducted through a democratic process. Voters have the right to choose their representative. It is the voters who will decide who will bring development. I am a candidate for the chairman's post. I have been working here for 35 years," Ajit Pawar told reporters after casting his vote.

## Delhi Police to use smart sensors, cameras to curb shootings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** With several cases of gun violence in the national capital, Delhi Police is stepping up its response with a new tech-driven initiative involving advanced sensors and high-resolution cameras. These systems will instantly alert officers, help identify assailants and track getaway vehicles used to flee crime scenes.

Currently in its implementation stage, the project aims to enhance surveillance and rapid response across the city.

Sensors capable of detecting gunfire within a 500-metre to

one-kilometre radius are being installed at strategic locations. Once a firing sound is detected, the sensors will trigger an alert to nearby PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras, prompting them to rotate and focus precisely on the direction of the sound. "These sensors will send an alert to the nearest PTZ camera, which will then swivel toward the suspected firing location. This will allow us to capture footage of the incident, the accused and the vehicle they use to escape," a senior police officer told PTI.

The system will integrate Facial Recognition System (FRS) cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)



cameras. While the FRS-enabled cameras will assist in identifying suspects in real time, the ANPR cameras will record vehicle number plates, aiding in tracing escape routes

and identifying those involved. Additionally, the entire network will be linked to the Integrated Command, Control, Communication and Computer Centre (C4I) at Delhi Police

Headquarters. Alerts will also be sent to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) offices and local police stations.

Once a firing is detected, the operator at C4I will quickly assess the authenticity of the alert. If verified, an imme-

mediate alert will be sent to the nearest PCR unit to respond to the scene without delay. "This system will not only help us respond faster but will also act as a strong deterrent. Knowing they are under surveillance, criminals may think twice before opening fire in public," the officer said.

The technology has already undergone successful trials at the Police Training College in Jharoda Kalan a few months ago. Following the pilot's success, it is now being expanded across key locations in the city as part of a broader strategy to counter rising incidents of gun violence.



There is a faint signal of hope in the update in that the rate of increase in carbon dioxide emissions over the last decade has slowed compared to the 2000s. But global mean sea-level rise continues to accelerate

JAIRAM RAMESH | SENIOR CONG LEADER

STEALTH FRIGATE INS TAMAL TO BE COMMISSIONED INTO NAVY JULY 1

Indian Navy's Russian-manufactured guided missile frigate INS Tamal that carries an array of missiles and surveillance systems will be commissioned into the force at Russia's coastal city of Kaliningrad July 1. The ship has 26 per cent indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land, officials said



of the day quote

I am informing you today that BRS or Congress Party, KCR (former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao) or Rahul Gandhi totally failed in fulfilling the aspirations of four crore people of Telangana

G KISHAN REDDY | UNION MINISTER

It is important that the election data is stored and remains safe. Only then can action be taken if there is any complaint ever. I feel that the Election Commission is taking such a decision under pressure from the BJP

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Arunachal is rising on the digital highway - connecting people, empowering communities, and creating opportunities across every corner!

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

India for peace, humanity: PM to Iran President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

The phone conversation initiated by Pezeshkian came hours after the US bombed three major nuclear sites - Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan - in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict.

In a social media post, Modi said he expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diploma-

cy is the way forward for the early restoration of regional peace. "We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said.

"Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," the Prime Minister added. President Pezeshkian, briefed PM Modi in detail and shared his perspective on the current situation in the region, especially the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. The US attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities has triggered fears of a wider regional

conflict, with many leading countries and blocs calling for restraint. The PMO said Modi conveyed to the Iranian president that India was on the side of peace and humanity.

"In this context, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward. He reiterated India's support for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," it said in a statement. Modi thanked Pezeshkian for the continued support being extended for the safe return and repatriation of the Indian community, it said.

The two leaders reiterated the shared commitment to continue to work for strength-

ening bilateral cooperation in different areas including trade and economic cooperation, science and technology and people-to-people ties, the PMO said.

The two leaders agreed to remain in touch. Soon after American B-2 bombers struck the Iranian installations with "bunker buster" bombs, US President Donald Trump said the Iranian nuclear facilities were "completely and totally obliterated" and warned of more attacks if Iran does not agree on peace.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the US has committed a "grave violation" of the UN Charter, international law and the nuclear

non-proliferation treaty by attacking Iran's "peaceful nuclear installations".

The Iranian foreign minister said he is travelling to Moscow to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The events this morning are outrageous and will have everlasting consequences. Each and every member of the UN must be alarmed over this extremely dangerous, lawless and criminal behaviour," he said. Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, he said in a statement. On its part, Russia strongly condemned the "irresponsible" US strikes on the Iranian nuclear facilities and said it "grossly" violated international law, the

UN Charter and UNSC resolutions.

China too strongly condemned the US bombing of the nuclear facilities, saying the actions "seriously" violated the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and have "exacerbated tensions" in the Middle-East.

The 27-nation European Union urged all sides to step back and return to the negotiating table.

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said. The EU foreign ministers are discussing the situation Monday.

OPERATION SINDHU

Over 1400 evacuated from Iran

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 22: India Sunday evacuated more than 300 Indian nationals from Iran amid the escalating tensions between the Persian Gulf nation and Israel following the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said 311 Indians landed in Delhi on a special flight from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

With the fresh batch of evacuees, the total number of those brought back from Iran now stands at 1,428. Three-hundred eleven Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 1630 hours June 22, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He said a total of 1,428 Indian nationals have been evacuated from Iran so far. India launched Operation Sindhu last week to bring back Indians from Iran and Israel in view of increasing hostilities between the two nations.

Israel and Iran have fired hundreds of missiles and



drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began over a week back. The tensions escalated sig-

nificantly following the US bombing of three major Iranian nuclear sites Sunday morning.

India has evacuated its na-

tionals on chartered flights operated from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat since Wednesday.

Iran lifted airspace restrictions Friday to facilitate three chartered flights from Mashhad. The first flight landed in New Delhi late Friday with 290 Indians, and the second one landed in the national capital Saturday afternoon with 310 Indians.

Another flight arrived from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan Thursday. A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat landed in New Delhi early Saturday morning.

6th All India GRP chiefs' conference concludes



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 22: The 6th All India Conference of Government Railway Police (GRP) Chiefs, organised under the aegis of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), concluded in New Delhi, with a strong focus on enhancing railway passenger safety and tackling crime on the vast Indian Railways network. The conference, presided over by RPF Director General Shri Manoj Yadava, saw participation from DGPs, ADGPs, senior GRP officials from states and UTs, and representatives from the Ministry of Railways.

Key discussions centered on improving inter-agency coordination, intelligence-sharing, and joint operational strategies to combat the evolving methods used by criminal elements. Special emphasis was placed on intensifying passenger awareness campaigns about theft and fraud, and converting complaints lodged via the Rail Madad portal into formal FIRs to improve crime detection.

Efforts to dismantle organised inter-state criminal networks also featured prominently, with suggestions to use proactive surveillance, state-wide coordination, and technologies

like facial recognition systems. Strengthening GRP collaboration across states was stressed to close jurisdictional gaps exploited by offenders.

Addressing crimes against women passengers was another major focus. Proposals included increased patrolling, CCTV installations at stations and in coaches, and the deployment of "Meri Saheli" teams to ensure women's safety. The misuse of railway premises by drug traffickers and smugglers was also addressed, with strategies for real-time intelligence and intensive checking.

A critical presentation by the Intelligence Bureau highlighted the risk of terrorist threats to railway infrastructure, urging vulnerability assessments and fortified protocols. Child safety and anti-trafficking efforts were also discussed, emphasising early intervention and rehabilitation mechanisms.

DG RPF Shri Manoj Yadava emphasised the need for collective responsibility and coordination among security agencies. He reaffirmed the commitment of RPF and GRP to make Indian Railways a zero-tolerance zone for crime and ensure safe travel for all.

SHORT TAKES

Man commits suicide in police custody

Shimla: A 36-year-old man from Haryana, who was arrested on charges of theft, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself inside the lock-up at the Kala Amb police station in Sirmour district Sunday, police said. Ajay Kumar was arrested Saturday, after which a local court remanded him to police custody. He was found hanging inside the lock-up at 3:50 pm Sunday, police said. The chief judicial magistrate reached the spot and initiated an inquiry after informing the state human rights body, they said.

Gram panchayat polls conclude in Gujarat

Ahmedabad: Voting in 3,894 gram panchayats in Gujarat concluded at 6pm Sunday in a largely peaceful manner, though stray incidents of violence were reported from some districts, officials said. Around 81 lakh persons were eligible to exercise their franchise to elect 3,656 sarpanchs and 16,224 panchayat members. The State Election Commission (SEC) is yet to announce the voter turnout.

Scrap collector held for raping minor

Thane: A scrap collector was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in Navi Mumbai, a police official said Sunday. Accused Mohammad Ajmer alias Irfan Mustafa Shaikh (19) befriended the girl while both would go about picking up scrap in the area and had promised to marry her, the APMC police station official said.

Police lathicharge farmers

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Police lathi-charged a group of farmers at a sugarcane farm in Tandulwadi area of Dharashiv district, an official said Sunday amid criticism by the Opposition. A police official confirmed the "mild" lathicharge, claiming some farmers were carrying inflammable substances with them.

Cops rescue woman, 2 minor daughters

Chhatarpur (MP): Police rescued a woman and her two minor daughters Sunday, a day after they were abducted by more than a dozen armed men after opening fire and injuring her husband in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district and arrested seven persons over two days.

Par panel to discuss judges' code of conduct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: A Parliamentary panel is set to discuss the code of conduct for judges in the higher judiciary, even as the government is poised to move an impeachment motion against former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma.

The judge is under scrutiny over the recovery of unaccounted for cash from his national capital residence. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in a meeting Tuesday, will discuss the issue and will also deliberate on the post-retirement assignments of judges.

"The Committee will hear the Secretary, Department of Justice on the subject 'Judicial processes and their reform' concerning issues of Code of Conduct for the judges of higher judiciary and taking up post-retirement assignments by judges," a notice sent by the committee secretariat informed members of the panel.

Army personnel, associate arrested

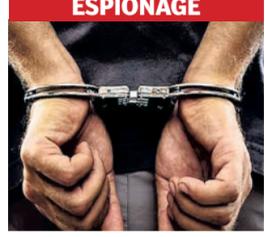
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 22: An army personnel posted in Jammu and his aide have been arrested for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), a top Punjab Police officer Sunday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said one of the accused has been identified as Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Dhariwal in Amritsar serving in the Indian Army in Jammu. His associate has been identified as Sahil Masih who also belongs to Dhariwal, the police chief said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Singh was in direct contact with operatives of the ISI and is suspected of sharing sensitive and confidential information via pen drives, he said.

In an intelligence-led operation, police arrested Gurpreet and Masih, while they were attempting another handover of



sensitive data, the DGP said, adding that the key ISI handler involved in the case has been identified as Rana Javed.

The DGP said two mobile phones containing virtual numbers, used to communicate with ISI operatives, have been recovered from both the accused. Further investigations are underway to dismantle the broader espionage-terror network and identify all collaborators in this case, Yadav added.

Sharing more details, Senior Superintendent of Police (Amritsar Rural) Maninder Singh claimed that Gurpreet, who was recruited by the Army in

Bihar polls: EC plans door-to-door voter verification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Seeking to ensure greater accuracy in electoral rolls in Bihar where assembly polls are due later this year, the Election Commission is mulling intensive house-to-house verification during the revision of the voter list in the state.

Officials pointed out Sunday that concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and others persistently over the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral rolls. Several parties, including the Congress, have accused the poll authority

of fudging data to help the BJP. Officials lamented that despite following a detailed protocol, insinuations and allegations are often made against the EC of arbitrarily inflating the electoral roll, even though the exercise is conducted with com-

plete transparency and under constant scrutiny of political parties. To make the system



robust and free of any kind of errors, the poll panel is contemplating an intensive house-to-

house verification during the upcoming electoral roll revision before Bihar assembly polls to "purify" the electoral rolls, sources said. Such intensive and rigorous revision of the electoral rolls has been done in the past as well with the last such exercise undertaken in 2004, they pointed out. The regular exercise of revision of electoral rolls is undertaken annually throughout the country by the EC and also before the holding of elections or bypolls.

The provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualification are clearly laid down in Article 326

of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 respectively, they said.

The voter list is revised regularly due to deaths and inclusion of new voters. Inter-state and intra-state movement of voters is another key reason why rolls need updating. For instance, during 2024, according to the forms received by the EC, 46.26 lakh people shifted their residence, 2.32 crore applied for corrections and 33.16 lakh requested for replacement.

Thus, in a single year, nearly 3.15 crore changes were required to be made across the country.



The attack on Iran's three or four nuclear sites (by the USA) in the morning is a violation of international law, United Nations Chapter, NPT. It also violates the United States' Constitution because it says without Congressional permission, the country can't fight

MASKED MEN LOOT ICE CREAM PARLOUR

Three unidentified masked men allegedly looted an ice cream parlour in northwest Delhi's Keshavpuram area and decamped with cash, mobile phones and several ice cream and kulfi packets, police Sunday said.



of the day quote

Today an incredible 300,105 participants took part in the largest yoga lesson ever, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India - organised by Gov. of Andhra Pradesh to celebrate International Day of Yoga

The Sangh Parivar gave stability to that movement, kept it going and a ban was also imposed on it and finally there was a change of power

Every time during the rainy season, Naxalites used to get rest (as swollen rivers hamper anti-Naxal operations inside dense forest), but this time, we will not let them sleep during monsoon and we will move further to achieve the target of 31/3 (2026 to eliminate Naxalism)

AI trims narrowbody flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Air India Sunday said it will temporarily reduce 118 weekly flights operated with narrow-body planes on 19 routes as well as suspend services on three routes.



The announcement comes days after the Tata Group-owned carrier said it will cut international flights operated with wide-body planes by 15 per cent temporarily

The temporary cuts in services account for about 5 per cent of the airline's overall narrow-body operations and the move is aimed at ensuring operational stability amid disruptions in the wake of the fatal plane crash in Ahmedabad June 12.

All the 19 routes where reduction in narrow-body services have been done are domestic and of the three routes where flights have been suspended, two are international and one is domestic.

The announcement comes days after the Tata Group-owned carrier said it will cut international flights operated with wide-body planes by 15 per cent temporarily. In a statement, the airline said it is going for "temporary cuts of less than 5 per cent to its overall

narrow-body network".

"This voluntary decision leads to the temporary suspension of Air India's services on 3 routes and reduction of frequency on 19 routes. The changes are effective until at least 15 July 2025," it said.

As many as seven weekly flights each on three routes - Bengaluru-Singapore, Pune-Singapore and Mumbai-Bagdogra - have been suspended till at least July 15. Flights on various other routes, including Delhi-Bengaluru

and Delhi-Mumbai, have been reduced.

On the Bengaluru-Chandigarh route, the weekly services have been cut to seven, Delhi-Bengaluru to 113, Delhi-Mumbai to 165, Delhi-Kolkata to 63, Delhi-Coimbatore to 12, Delhi-Goa (Dabolim) and Delhi-Goa (Mopa) to seven each.

Also, weekly flights on the Delhi-Hyderabad route have been reduced to 76, Delhi-Indore to 14, Delhi-Lucknow to 21, Delhi-Pune to 54, Mumbai-Ahmed-

abad to 37, Mumbai-Bengaluru to 84 and Mumbai-Kolkata to 30.

The statement said weekly flights are also being cut on Mumbai-Coimbatore route to 16, Mumbai-Kochi to 34, Mumbai-Goa (Dabolim) to 29, Mumbai-Hyderabad to 59 and Mumbai-Varanasi to seven. "Despite these temporary reductions, Air India will continue to operate close to 600 daily flights with its narrow-body aircraft on 120 domestic and short-haul international routes," the statement said.

According to the airline, the reductions are aimed at strengthening Air India's network-wide operational stability and minimising last-minute inconvenience to passengers. Air India also apologised to passengers affected by the curtailment in flights and said it is offering re-accommodation on alternative flights, complimentary re-scheduling or full refunds.

Air India June 19 said it will cut 38 international flights per week and suspend services on three overseas routes between June 21 and July 15.

HONEYMOON MURDER

Meghalaya Police arrests two in MP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong/Indore, June 22: A special investigation team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police arrested two persons in Madhya Pradesh in connection with the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, a senior officer said.

With the fresh apprehensions, the total number of people arrested in the case rose to seven. The SIT Saturday night arrested a property dealer for concealing a box belonging to Raghuvanshi's wife Sonam, who hid it in a flat in Indore after the murder last month.

"Meghalaya Police SIT arrested one Silome James from Bhojra toll-gate in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh while he was trying to flee to Bhopal around 7.30 pm Saturday.

He is a property dealer and lessee of a building at Heera Bagh Colony in Indore where Sonam had stayed and kept the jewellery and other items she took with her after the incident," East Khasi Hills district SP Vivek Syiem told PTI.

Later, the SIT nabbed a security guard, identified as Balla Ahirwar, from his native village in Ashok Nagar district of Madhya Pradesh around 2

am Sunday. He was posted at the property.

The two will be produced before a court in Indore, seeking a transit remand for being taken to Shillong for further investigation, he added. The box is believed to have contained key evidence linked to the murder, according to sources.

The arrested property dealer led the SIT to the place where he had disposed of all the items of the box by burning, the officer said.

A member of the SIT said that Sonam's boyfriend Raj Kushwaha owned a firearm and this was kept at the property along with jewellery and a laptop.

At the site where James had burnt the box, there were no signs of the pistol, laptop or any of the jewellery belonging to Raja, he said, adding that a forensic team had also visited the spot and collected all available evidence.

The flat was rented out to murder co-accused Vishal Chauhan by James, who runs a property management firm in Indore, they said. James told reporters June 13 that Chauhan approached him May 30 and rented the flat for Rs 17,000 per month, signing a formal agreement.

DGCA issues revised guidelines for adverse weather flight ops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Aviation watchdog DGCA has revised its operational guidelines for operators during adverse weather conditions, emphasising that safety should take precedence over "schedule adherence" and encouraged pilots to divert flights in unpredictable conditions.

Issuing an updated operations circular to scheduled and non-scheduled operators, the regulator also said pilots should cross-check visual cues with instruments to ensure accurate approach and landing assessments to deal with visual illusions that may occur during night operations in rain or on wet runways.

The circular also comes against the backdrop of recent helicopter accidents in Kedarnath region and an IndiGo flight enroute to Srinagar encountering severe turbulence last month.

Citing the growing impact of climate change on operational unpredictability, DGCA has advised flight crew to maintain heightened vigilance, "with an emphasis on safety taking precedence over schedule adherence". "Captains are encouraged to initiate diversions or air-turnbacks, as required by prevailing conditions," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement Sunday.

The circular outlines conditions under which flight crew are expected to consider diversion, return, or rerouting due to adverse weather, including severe turbulence, windshear, icing, obstructive thunderstorms, or sudden visibility deterioration. Further, operators and pilots have been advised to adopt a conservative approach to decision-making as well as have weather avoidance planning in place.



People take a boat ride to move to a safer place at an area inundated with floodwater at Ghatol, in Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal

POST OF THE DAY

Pakistan has condemned America's air strike on Iran. But Narendra Modi is still silent. Iran helped India many times - On Kashmir, on oil, and even with the Chabahar port. Now it's time to speak for them #USAirForce #WorldWar3 #IsraelIranWar @Politix2029

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon reaches Punjab, Himachal

New Delhi: The monsoon has now covered all of Ladakh and moved into most parts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, and some parts of Punjab, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Sunday. It said that the weather conditions are suitable for the monsoon to move into more parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, as well as the remaining parts of west Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and J&K over the next two days. If the primary rain system reaches Delhi as expected (June 24), it could be the earliest arrival in the city since 2013, when it got here June 16. The monsoon reached Delhi June 28 last year, June 25 in 2023, June 30 in 2022 and July 13 in 2021.

Four killed in road accident

Kolkata: At least four people, including three women, were killed and 18 injured when a people carrier multi-utility vehicle hit a dumper from behind at Gokarna in West Bengal's Murshidabad district Sunday, a police officer said. The driver of the hired vehicle also died in the accident that happened on the state highway that occurred at 10.30 am under the jurisdiction of Kandi police station, he said.

Two killed in road mishap

Hazaribag: Two persons died and another was injured when their motorcycle collided with a car in Jharkhand's Hazaribag Sunday, police said. The incident occurred on a bridge on Hazaribag-Barkagaon road in Katkamdag area. The deceased were identified as Karthik Ram and Chandan Rajwar, Katkamdag police station in-charge Pankaj Kumar said.

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh, June 22: Under the guidance of Swami Ramdev Ji Maharaj, the 11th International Yoga Day was grandly celebrated in Kurukshetra by Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haryana Yog Aayog, and the AYUSH Department of Haryana. Swami Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna, and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led over 1 lakh participants in yoga practice at the historic Brahma Sarovar. Simultaneously, Patanjali Yog Samiti conducted free yoga sessions across all 650 districts of India under the Common Yoga Protocol.

Ramdev called yoga the foundation of life, culture, intellect, and nature. He highlighted its spiritual essence and global reach, stating over 2 billion people now practice yoga. This year's theme was "One Earth, One Health." He praised Prime

Baba Ramdev, CM Saini lead over 1L participants



Minister Modi's global efforts in promoting yoga and urged people to adopt it as a way of life.

Ramdev also emphasised the economic power of yoga, claiming that widespread yoga practice could reduce India's RS10 lakh crore healthcare budget to zero. He also called for a national commitment to swadeshi, noting foreign powers looted India of \$100 trillion from 1765

to 1900. Through swadeshi, he aims to stop modern economic exploitation and make India an economic superpower. He urged citizens to boycott foreign goods and support Indian-made products in daily life.

Under "Prosperity for Charity," Patanjali donates 100% of its profits to national service. Swami Ji also promoted Indian education through Patanjali Gurukulam, Acharyakulam,

and the Bharatiya Shiksha Board to build strong character and leadership among youth.

CM Saini reaffirmed Haryana's commitment to promoting yoga for a stress-free and drug-free state. Acharya Balkrishna highlighted yoga's role in boosting immunity, reversing diseases, and enhancing overall wellness, citing numerous research studies.

The event saw participation from Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, Minister Arti Rao, MP Naveen Jindal, AYUSH officials, and Patanjali representatives. Around 400 villages were engaged to ensure full state participation, with over 11 lakh people joining online from district and tehsil levels. The celebration demonstrated how ancient practices like yoga can be integrated into modern life for personal and national transformation.

Shah lays foundation for NFSU campus, forensic lab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, June 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday laid the foundation stones for the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) campus and a Central Forensic Science Lab in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

Shah, who is on a two-day visit of the state during which he will tour a security camp and chair meetings on ongoing anti-Naxal operations, was accompanied by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Assembly Speaker Raman Singh and ministers.

The state government has allotted 40 acres of land for the NFSU campus, which will be built by the Centre at a cost of Rs 400 crore, informed Deputy CM Vijay Sharma, who also holds the Home portfolio in the Sai cabinet.

The Central Forensic Science Lab will come up on 6-7 acres of land near the NFSU campus, he added.

Later in the day, Shah will chair a meeting of Director Generals of Police (DGPs) and Additional DGPs of Chhattisgarh and six neighbouring states on anti-Naxal operations, after which he will take part in a meeting on the security situation and ongoing operations against Left Wing Extremism, Sharma said.

Shah will also meet the family members of Additional Superintendent of Police Akash Rao Girpunje who lost his life after a pressure IED planted by Naxalites exploded June 9, the deputy CM informed. Shah will visit a Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Narayanpur district Monday, where he will interact with security personnel and Naxalism-affected villagers. He will also take a ground review of the development works going on there, Sharma added.

Newborn screening, early treatment can cut sickle cell deaths: ICMR

THE AIM OF THE STUDY WAS ALSO TO UNDERSTAND THE REGIONAL VARIABILITY AND ROLE OF GENETIC MODIFIERS IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS FOR NEWBORN SCREENING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Post-birth diagnosis resulting in early treatment can substantially improve the quality of life and reduce mortality in patients with sickle cell disease to less than five per cent from the reported 20-30 per cent, according to an ICMR study.

As many as 63,536 newborns were tested over a five year period from 2019-2024 as part of the study on Newborn Screening for Sickle cell Disease conducted by the National Institute of Immunohaematology in Mumbai under the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR) across seven centres in

high prevalence areas of India. The study is yet to be published.

The newborn screening program helps find out if a baby is born with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), a serious inherited blood disorder, soon after birth, explained Dr Manisha Madkaikar, Director of ICMR-Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Nagpur.

"If not detected early, this disease can cause life-threatening problems like severe infections, anaemia (low blood levels), and even strokes in infants," she stressed. "Finding the disease early can save lives by allowing doctors to start treatment before



problems begin," Dr Prabhakar Kedar, Scientist F, ICMR-NIIH, who is the principal investigator of the study, said.

Babies diagnosed early can be given preventive antibiotics (like penicillin) to avoid infections and get regular checkups and care from specialists, Dr Madkaikar said. Early detection also helps in getting important vaccines to protect

against serious illnesses while parents can also be taught the signs of danger so they can act quickly.

During the study, 7,275 babies (11.4 per cent) were found to be carriers of the sickle cell gene. This means they don't have the disease but can pass it on to their children, Dr Kedar said, adding, 569 babies (0.9 per cent) were found to have SCD.

These babies were followed up for the confirmation of diagnosis, parents were counselled about SCD, preventive measures to be taken for or to avoid complications, and informed about prenatal diagnosis to avoid any further births of affected children in the family.

The seven centres which participated in the study are National Institute For Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases in Jodhpur, Society for Education, Welfare and Action-Rural (SEWA-Rural) in Gujarat, the Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association (NAWA), Tamil Nadu, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health in Mumbai, ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH) in Jabalpur, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and ICMR-Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRH-CM) in Chandrapur.

Leaders alarmed

Every member of the international community has a moral responsibility: to stop the tragedy of war before it becomes an irreparable abyss.

The irresponsible decision to subject the territory of a sovereign state to missile and bomb strikes, no matter what arguments are used, grossly violates international law, the UN Charter, and the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which previously unequivocally qualified such actions as unacceptable.

Iran must never acquire the bomb. With tensions in the Middle East at a new peak, stability must be the priority. And respect for international law is critical. Now is the moment for Iran to engage in a credible diplomatic solution.

This is a dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge - and a direct threat to international peace and security. There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control - with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world.

Pakistan condemns the US attacks on the nuclear facilities of Iran, which follow the series of attacks by Israel. We are gravely concerned at the possible further escalation of tensions in the region.

Trump abandons anti-war crusade

Once the loudest voice against America's "forever wars," US president Trump is now at the centre of a high-stakes military escalation, one year in the making, and fuelled in part by his own decisions



Trump is back in the war business. I am not sure anyone in Moscow, Tehran or Beijing ever believed his spiel that he is a peacemaker. It always looked more like a campaign phrase than a strategy

RICHARD GOWAN | UN DIRECTOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

REUTERS

Washington, June 22: A day after blasting the Nobel Committee for ignoring his anti-war legacy, US President Donald Trump ordered "spectacular" airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, shattering his long-crafted image as a peacemaker.

With his unprecedented decision to bomb Iran's nuclear sites, directly joining Israel's air attack on its regional arch foe, US President Donald Trump has done something he had long vowed to avoid - intervene militarily in a major foreign war.

The dramatic US strike, including the targeting of Iran's most heavily fortified nuclear installation deep underground, marks the biggest foreign policy gamble of Trump's two presidencies and one fraught with risks and unknowns.

The US president, who insisted Saturday that Iran must now make peace or face further attacks, could provoke Tehran into retaliating by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil artery, attacking US military bases and allies in the Middle East, stepping up its missile barrage on Israel and activating proxy groups against American and Israeli interests worldwide, analysts said.

Such moves could escalate into a broader, more protracted conflict than Trump had envisioned, evoking echoes of the "forever wars" that America fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, which he had derided as "stupid" and promised never to be dragged into.

"The Iranians are seriously weakened and degraded in their military capabilities," said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East negotiator for Democratic and Republican administrations. "But they have all sorts of asymmetric ways that they can respond... This is not going to end quick."

In the lead-up to the bombing that he announced late Saturday, Trump had vacillated between threats of military action and appeals for renewed negotiation to persuade Iran to reach a deal to dismantle its nuclear program.

A senior White House official said that once Trump was convinced that Tehran had no interest in reaching a nuclear agreement, he decided the strikes were "the right thing to do."

while Iran's nuclear program may have been set back for many years, the threat may be far from over.

Iran denies seeking a nuclear weapon, saying its program is for purely peaceful purposes.

"In the long term, military action is likely to push Iran to determine nuclear weapons are necessary for deterrence and that Washington is not interested in diplomacy," the Arms Control Association, a non-partisan US-based organisation that advocates for arms control legislation, said in a statement.

"Military strikes alone cannot destroy Iran's extensive nuclear knowledge. The strikes will set Iran's program back, but at the cost of strengthening Tehran's resolve to reconstitute its sensitive nuclear activities," the group said.

Eric Lob, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, said Iran's next move remains an open question and suggested that among its forms of retaliation could be to hit "soft targets" of the US and Israel inside

and outside the region.

But he also said there was a possibility that Iran could return to the negotiating table - "though they would be doing so in an even weaker position" - or seek a diplomatic off-ramp.

In the immediate aftermath of the US strikes, however, Iran showed little appetite for concessions.

'EVERY US CITIZEN IS TARGET'

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said it would not allow development of its "national industry" to be stopped, and an Iranian state television commentator said every US citizen or military member in the region would now be legitimate targets.

Early Sunday, Iran's foreign ministry issued a statement warning that Tehran "considers it its right to resist with all its might against US military aggression."

Karim Sadjadpour, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, posted on X: "Trump indicated this is now the time for peace. It's unclear and unlikely the Iranians will see it the same way. This is more

20 HOURS OF OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER

June 21, 9.53 am: Aircraft Spots on X reported movement of B-2 stealth bombers from the Whiteman Air Force Base in USA.

June 21, 11.11 am: Aircraft Spots reported movement of B-2 bomber aircraft towards Andersen Air Base in Guam.

June 21, 5.22 pm: Six B-2 aircraft appear to be headed towards Guam, Fox News reported.

June 21, 10.05 pm: The Pentagon said no strike order has been issued despite deployment, Wall Street Journal reported.

June 22, 4.30 am: Iran's Fordow nuclear facility hit by US's B-2 bombers, Iranian state media reported.

June 22, 5.20 am: US President Donald Trump announced the bombing of Fordow and two other nuclear facilities in Iran.

June 22, 5.34 am: Trump cites Open-Source Intelligence to say that Fordow has been destroyed.

likely to open a new chapter of the 46-year-old US-Iran war than conclude it."

At the same time, Trump is already facing strong push-back from congressional Democrats against the Iran attack and will also have to contend with opposition from the anti-interventionist wing of his Republican MAGA base.

Trump, who faced no major international crisis in his first term, is now embroiled in one just six months into his second.

Even if he hopes US military involvement can be limited in time and scope, the history of such conflicts often carries unintended consequences for American presidents.

Trump's slogan of "peace through strength" will certainly be tested as never before, especially with his opening of a new military front after failing to meet his campaign promises to quickly end wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

US B-2 BOMBERS, BUNKER-BUSTERS USED IN IRAN STRIKE

Washington: The US Air Force's B-2 Spirit stealth bombers were involved in strikes on Iran's nuclear sites Saturday. The B-2 is one of America's most advanced strategic weapons platforms, capable of entering sophisticated air defenses and delivering precision strikes against hardened targets such as Iran's buried network of nuclear research facilities.

The US B-2 costs about \$2.1 billion each, making it the most expensive military aircraft ever built. Made by Northrop Grumman, the bomber, with its cutting-edge stealth technology, began its production run in the late 1980s but was curbed by the fall of the Soviet Union. Only 21 were made without refueling enables global strike.

No elevated radiation levels detected yet

Iran enriches uranium at two key sites, Natanz and Fordo. President Donald Trump said US forces struck both sites, along with a third site, Isfahan, early Sunday, and Iran confirmed the strikes.

The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said in a statement after the strikes that it "can confirm that no increase in off-site radiation levels has been reported as of this time".

The agency said it will "provide further assessments on (the) situation in Iran as more information becomes available".

Risk from uranium is minimal Even if radiation did leak from one of the sites, experts said, the amount would be unlikely to pose a risk to people near the facilities or in the wider region.

"Very little uranium will be released in these kind of attacks," said David Albright, a physicist and nuclear weapons expert who founded the Institute for Science and In-

ternational Security, based in Washington, DC.

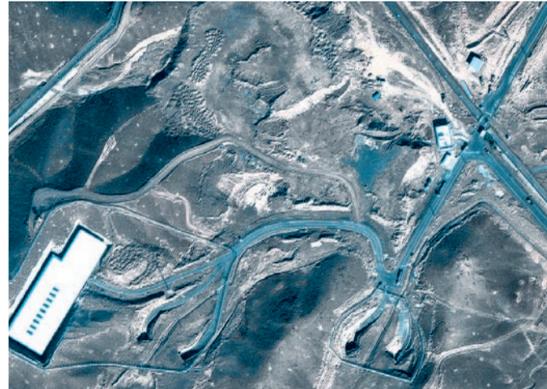
Uranium itself is not especially toxic, he said, and is common in parts of the environment. A person standing near an enrichment facility with a leak would probably be exposed to no more radiation than someone who took several trans-Atlantic flights, which receive slightly higher radiation because radiation doses are larger at high altitudes, he said.

In order to become sick, someone would have to ingest large quantities of uranium, Albright said, pointing out that the element can be found naturally in seawater and the earth's crust.

A chemical used in uranium enrichment could be a threat

Rather than radiation, experts said the greater risk from any attack on nuclear enrichment sites might be from fluorine gas.

Fluorine is mixed with a concentrated form of uranium to create uranium hexafluoride, which is then fed into centri-



fuges. Fluorine is extremely volatile, will quickly corrode and can burn the skin. It is especially deadly if inhaled.

A far greater concern to the public would be if Israel were to attack Iran's only commercial nuclear power plant, said Fabian Hinz of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

In a nuclear power plant, the reactor core and the spent

nuclear fuel are the most radioactive components. Some of it remains dangerous for thousands of years.

The Bushehr power plant is 750 kilometres south of Tehran. But "it seems very unlikely that the Israelis are going to strike" Bushehr, Hinz said, because it isn't considered to be part of the Iranian nuclear programme geared toward developing weapons.

US MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Air Base, Naval Facility, Outpost, Radar Facility. REUTERS GRAPHICS

How Iran could retaliate after US strikes on its N-programme

Dubai, June 22: Iran has spent decades building multi-tiered military capabilities at home and across the region that were at least partly aimed at deterring the United States from attacking it. By entering Israel's war, the US may have removed the last rationale for holding them in reserve.

That could mean a wave of attacks on US forces in the Middle East, an attempt to close a key bottleneck for global oil supplies or a dash to develop a nuclear weapon with what remains of Iran's disputed programme after American strikes on three key sites.

A decision to retaliate against the US and its regional allies would give Iran a far larger target bank and one that is much closer than Israel, al-

lowing it to potentially use its missiles and drones to greater effect. The US and Israel have far superior capabilities, but those haven't always proven decisive in America's recent history of military interventions in the region.

Ever since Israel started the war with a surprise bombardment of Iran's military and nuclear sites June 13, Iranian officials from the supreme leader on down have warned the US to stay out, saying it would have dire consequences for the entire region.

It should soon be clear whether those were empty threats or a grim forecast. Below is a look at what Iran's next move might be.

TARGETING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, through which some 20%

of all oil traded globally passes, and at its narrowest point it is just 33 kilometers (21 miles) wide. Any disruption there could send oil prices soaring worldwide and hit American pocketbooks.

Iran boasts a fleet of fast-attack boats and thousands of naval mines that could potentially make the strait impassable, at least for a time. It could also fire missiles from its long Persian Gulf shore, as its allies, Yemen's Houthi rebels, have done in the Red Sea.

The US, with its 5th Fleet stationed in nearby Bahrain, has long pledged to uphold freedom of navigation in the strait and would respond with far superior forces. But even a relatively brief firefight could paralyze shipping traffic and spook investors, causing oil prices to spike and generating interna-



tional pressure for a ceasefire.

ATTACKING US BASES AND ALLIES IN THE REGION

The US has tens of thousands of troops stationed in the region, including at permanent bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Ar-

ab Gulf countries just across the Persian Gulf from Iran - and much closer than Israel.

Those bases boast the same kinds of sophisticated air defenses as Israel, but would have much less warning time before waves of missiles or swarms of armed drones. And even Israel,

which is several hundred kilometers (miles) further away, has been unable to stop all of the incoming fire.

Iran could also choose to attack key oil and gas facilities in those countries with the goal of exacting a higher price for US involvement in the war. A drone attack on two major oil sites in Saudi Arabia in 2019 - claimed by the Houthis but widely blamed on Iran - briefly cut the kingdom's oil production in half.

ACTIVATING REGIONAL ALLIES

Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance - a network of militant groups across the Middle East, is a shadow of what it was before the war ignited by Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel out of the Gaza Strip - but it still has some formidable capabilities.

Israel's 20-month war in

Gaza has severely diminished the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, and Israel mauled Lebanon's Hezbollah last fall, killing most of its top leadership and devastating much of southern Lebanon, making its involvement unlikely.

But Iran could still call on the Houthis, who had threatened to resume their attacks in the Red Sea if the US entered the war, and allied militias in Iraq. Both have drone and missile capabilities that would allow them to target the United States and its allies.

Iran could also seek to respond through militant attacks further afield, as it is widely accused of doing in the 1990s with an attack on a Jewish community center in Argentina that was blamed on Iran and Hezbollah.



**We are in for big trouble now because of this war. It will have a cascading effect on India's trade with West Asian countries**  
**SHARAD KUMAR SARAF** | CHAIRMAN, TECHNOCRAFT INDUSTRIES

**AMAZON INDIA LAUNCHES DIAGNOSTICS SERVICES**

Amazon India Sunday announced the launch of Amazon Diagnostics, an at-home service for customers to book lab tests, schedule and track appointments, and access digital reports through the Amazon app. The service, being offered in collaboration with Orange Health Labs, will be available in Bengaluru, Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, across over 450 PIN codes. The service offer over 800 diagnostic tests and doorstep sample collection within 60 minutes, company said in a statement



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

The company plans to begin the production at Kotre Basantpur block (coking coal mine) with a peak rated capacity of 5 million tonnes (MT) by October  
**NILENDU KUMAR SINGH** | CMD, CCL

This is for the first time since Q3, 2021 (July-September) that housing sales have fallen below 1 lakh unit mark. Supply, too, has stayed below 1 lakh unit mark for the fourth consecutive quarter  
**SAMIR JASUIA** | CEO, PROPEQUITY

The wine demand was also impacted by multiple temporary regulatory and other market disruptions, including general elections and state elections in key markets such as Maharashtra  
**RAJEEV SAMANT** | CEO, SULA VINEYARDS

**Will Iran close Strait of Hormuz?**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** US strikes on Iran's three main nuclear facilities have once again raised concerns that Tehran might shut down the Strait of Hormuz - one of the world's most critical chokepoints, through which a fifth of global oil and gas supply flows.

**Glimpse:**

**Geography:** The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The narrow channel, approximately 21 miles (33 kilometres) wide at the narrowest point, separates Iran (north) from the Arabian Peninsula (south). But shipping lanes in the waterway are even narrower - two miles wide in each direction, making them vulnerable to attacks and threats of being shut down.  
 Lifeblood of global oil & gas: The Strait of Hormuz is of great strategic and economic importance, especially as oil tankers collecting from various ports on the Persian Gulf must pass

through the strait. It serves as the maritime artery through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas flows.

The bulk of oil exports from regional powerhouses - Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Qatar, Iran, and Kuwait - must transit this narrow waterway. India imports about 90 per cent of its crude oil, with over 40 per cent of those imports originating from Middle Eastern countries whose exports transit the Strait of Hormuz.

Many experts consider a prolonged Strait of Hormuz disruption less likely due to US naval presence. Besides hurting exports of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Qatar, any Iranian closure of the Strait of Hormuz would affect its exports as well.

While Iranian hardliners have threatened closure, and state media have warned of oil spiking to USD 400 per barrel, analysis by global trade analytics firm Kpler suggests "a very low probability" to a full blockade, citing strong disincentives for Iran.

China, Iran's largest oil customer (which imports 47 per

cent of its seaborne crude from the Middle East Gulf), would be directly impacted. The world's second-largest economy is the number one importer of Iranian oil, reportedly accounting for over three-quarters of its oil exports.

**Prices**  
 Global oil prices surged following Israel's wave of attacks on Iranian military leaders, residential buildings, army bases and nuclear sites June 13. Benchmark Brent crude oil prices have shot up to \$77 per barrel, up 10 per cent since the conflict started. Oil analysts at Goldman Sachs warn that oil prices could exceed \$90 if the conflict escalates.

**Impact on India**  
 India sources about 40 per cent of its supplies from Middle East nations such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. These countries export crude oil to India through the Strait of Hormuz route.

In recent years, Russia has emerged as a key supplier and imports from Moscow are now more than the combined flow from the Middle East. Also, imports from the United

**THREATS OF CLOSURE- TIMELINE**

- During the Iran-Iraq war from 1980 to 1988, both nations targeted commercial vessels in the Gulf in what came to be known as the Tanker War - yet the Strait of Hormuz was never fully closed.
- In 2011 and 2012, Iranian officials, including then-Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi warned of a potential closure of the waterway if the West slapped further sanctions on its oil exports over its nuclear program.
- Iran in 2018 threatened to shut the Strait of Hormuz when tensions spiked following US withdrawal from the nuclear deal and the reimposition of sanctions.
- In 2019, four ships were attacked near the Strait of Hormuz, off the coast of Fujairah in the UAE, amid heightened tensions between Iran and United States during Donald Trump's first term.
- In April 2024, Iranian armed forces seized a container ship near the Strait of Hormuz, amid escalating regional tensions following a deadly Israeli strike on Iran's consulate in Damascus, Syria.

States have risen 439,000 bpd in June, a big jump from 280,000 bpd purchased in the previous month. While supplies remain unaffected so far, vessel activity suggests a decline in crude loadings from the Middle East in the coming days.

This suggests that current MEG supplies are likely to tighten in the near term, potentially triggering future adjustments in India's sourcing strategy. Russian oil (Urals, ESPO, Sokol) is logistically detached from Hormuz, flowing via the Suez Canal, Cape of Good Hope, or the Pacific Ocean. Indian refiners have built refining and payment flexibility, while optimizing runs for a wider crude slate.

**India increases oil imports from Russia, US**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** India has ramped up purchases of Russian oil in June, importing more than the combined volumes from Middle Eastern suppliers such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, amid market volatility triggered by Israel's dramatic attack on Iran.

US military struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, directly joining Israel which first struck Iranian nuclear sites on June 13. Indian refiners are likely to import 2-2.2 million barrels per day of Russian crude oil in June - the highest in the last two years and more than the total volumes bought from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait, preliminary data by global trade analytics firm Kpler showed.

India's oil imports from Russia were 1.96 million barrels per day (bpd) in May. Imports from United States also rose to 439,000 bpd in June, a big jump from 280,000 bpd purchased in the previous month.

Full-month projections for imports from the Middle East stand at around 2 million bpd, lower than the previous month's buying, according to Kpler.

India, traditionally sourced its oil from the Middle East, began importing a large volume of oil from Russia soon after the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This was primarily because Russian oil was available at a significant discount to other international benchmarks due to Western sanctions and some European countries shunning purchases.

This led to India's imports of Russian oil seeing a dramatic rise, growing from less than 1 per cent of its total crude oil imports to a staggering 40-44 per cent in a short period. The conflict in the Middle East has so far not impacted oil supplies.

This suggests that current MEG supplies are likely to tighten in the near term, potentially triggering future adjustments in India's sourcing strategy. As the conflict between Is-

rael and Iran escalates, Tehran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and a major LNG export transit. India imports about 40 per cent of all its oil and about half of its gas through the narrow Strait.

Indian refiners have built refining and payment flexibility, while optimizing runs for a wider crude slate. Even US, West African, and Latin American flows - though costlier - are increasingly viable backup options.

India's June volumes from Russia and the US confirm this resilience-oriented mix," he said. "If conflict deepens or there is any short-term disruption in Hormuz, Russian barrels will rise in share, offering both physical availability and pricing relief. India may pivot harder toward the US, Nigeria, Angola, and Brazil, albeit at higher freight costs.

India's June 2025 crude oil imports tell a story of strategic positioning, not panic. Russian oil acts as a logistical and financial shield, while US and Atlantic Basin volumes reinforce optionality. Though the Middle East remains essential, especially for crude and LPG, refiners are better prepared than ever to respond quickly to supply shocks. The Strait of Hormuz remains a low-risk but high-impact chokepoint - and India's refining sector is aligning itself to ensure continuity, flexibility, and resilience," he added.

Between June 1st and 19th, India imported an estimated 2.1-2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude, maintaining Russia's share at over 35 per cent of India's total crude intake. This aligns with a consistent pattern seen over the past 30 months.

Imports from the United States during the same period stood at approximately 439,000 bpd, signalling a steady expansion in India's transatlantic trade links and a broader diversification of supply.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Market outlook**

**New Delhi:** The domestic stock market will continue to monitor the Israel-Iran conflict and its impact on global supplies besides prices of crude oil this week, analysts said. Friday, BSE Sensex surged 1,046.30 points, or 1.29 per cent, to settle at 82,408.17. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 319.15 points, or 1.29 per cent, to 25,112.40. Looking ahead, global cues will remain key factors, with investors eyeing US manufacturing and services PMI, and further developments on the geopolitical front. Markets may consolidate with bouts of volatility, Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

**NTPC begins commercial supply**

**New Delhi:** State-run power giant NTPC Sunday said that the 245 MW power capacity at Plot-3 of Nokh solar PV in Rajasthan has become fully operational with the start of commercial electricity supply from the second and last part of 52 MW. The first part capacity of 193 MW started commercial operation on June 9, 2025, according to a regulatory filing. Consequent upon successful commissioning, the second and last part capacity of 52 MW out of 245 MW capacities at Plot-3 of NTPC's Nokh Solar PV Project (3x245MW), Rajasthan, is declared on Commercial Operation with effect from 00:00 hours of June 22, 2025. With this, the total standalone and group commercial capacity has now become 60,318 MW & 81,420 MW respectively, the filing stated.

**TNGECL to develop BESS projects**

**New Delhi:** NLC India Ltd Sunday said its arm has bagged a contract from Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Ltd (TNGECL) for the development of standalone battery energy storage system projects. This is the first large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project to be undertaken by NLC India Ltd (NLCIL Group). The projects will be implemented under the build-own-operate model with viability gap funding support, it said. NLC India Ltd reported over four-fold jump in consolidated profit to Rs 468.46 crore in the March quarter of FY25.

**Fred Smith dies at 80**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Memphis, June 22:** Fred Smith, the FedEx Corp. founder who revolutionised the express delivery industry, has died, the company said.

FedEx started operating in 1973, delivering small parcels and documents more quickly than the postal service. Over the next half-century, Smith, a Marine Corp. veteran, oversaw the growth of a company that became something of an economic bellwether because various other companies rely on it.

Memphis, Tennessee-based FedEx became a global transportation and logistics company that averages 17 million shipments per business day. Smith stepped down as CEO in 2022 but remained executive chairman.

Smith, a 1966 graduate of Yale University, used a business theory he came up with in college to create a delivery system based on coordinated air cargo flights centred on a main hub.

The company also played a major role in the shift by American business and industry to a greater use of time-sensitive deliveries and less dependence on large inventories and warehouses. Smith once told that he came up with the name Federal Express because he wanted the company to sound big and important when in fact it was a start-up operation with a future far from assured.

At the time, Smith was trying to land a major shipping contract with the Federal Reserve Bank that didn't work out. In the beginning, Federal Express had 14 small aircraft operating out of the Memphis International Airport flying packages to 25 US cities.

**Tesla to launch robotaxi service**

REUTERS

**San Francisco, June 22:** Elon Musk's vision of Tesla's future is set for a public test Sunday, when a dozen or so self-driving cars in Austin, Texas start a limited, paid robotaxi service.

Though Tesla is dispensing with a webcast product launch event helmed by Musk, fans will be scouring the internet for videos and reports from the coterie of invited riders that will be allowed to hail the small stable of Model Y SUVs for trips within a limited area of the city, accompanied by a Tesla safety monitor in the front passenger seat. The driver's seat will be empty.

The service in Austin will have other restrictions as well. Tesla plans to avoid bad weather,

difficult intersections, and won't take anyone below the age of 18. Musk has said he is ready to delay the start for safety reasons, if needed.

Tesla is worth more than most of its biggest rivals combined, and Musk has said that is supported by the company's future ability to create robotaxis and humanoid robots. For years, he has promised self-driving cars were just around the corner.

Commercializing autonomous vehicles has been risky and expensive. GM's Cruise was shut down after a fatal accident and regulators are closely watching Tesla and its rivals. Alphabet's Waymo, which runs a paid robotaxi service in several US cities, and Amazon's Zoox.

**European auto brands struggle to please Indian car buyers**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** European mass market automotive brands Renault, Volkswagen, and Skoda continue to struggle to enhance presence in the Indian market, witnessing sales decline in the last three financial years, industry data showed.

According to data by JATO Dynamics, a leading provider of data and analytics to the global automotive industry, Renault saw the biggest sales dip in India to 37,900 units in 2024-2025 from 45,439 units in 2023-2024, and 78,926 units in 2022-2023. Similarly, Skoda's sales in India



in 2024-2025 were at 44,866 units, marginally higher from 44,522 units in 2023-2024, but down from 52,269 units in 2022-2023. On the other hand, the Volkswagen brand posted sales of 42,230 units in 2024-25, down from 43,197 units in 2023-2024. The brand had clocked sales of 41,263 units in 2022-2023. "Renault, Skoda, and Volk-

swagen faced several headwinds in India despite their tenure," JATO Dynamics India President Ravi G Bhatia told PTI. Explaining why these brands have struggled in India, he said, "Initially, these brands focused heavily on sedans - Vento, Rapid, and Scala - which limited their exposure to the fast-expanding SUV segment."

Simultaneously, Bhatia said, "They were slower in refreshing product lines, with many models remaining unchanged over extended periods. Network reach has also remained narrow, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, restricting access to a broader audience."

**Jobs in audio electronics segment at risk : Elcina**

Prices of China-origin magnets have increased due to tightened supply and administrative bottlenecks and other sources such as Japan, EU and US are 2-3 times more expensive and also lack sufficient capacity to meet India's rising demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** Over 21,000 jobs are at risk in the country's audio electronics segment due to restrictions imposed by China on the export of rare earth metals, according to an estimate shared by industry body Electronic Industries Association of India (Elcina) with government.

In April, China implemented strict export licensing on rare earth elements like terbium and dysprosium which are key inputs for high-performance NdFeB (Neodymium-Iron-Boron) magnets used in consumer electronics.

The country's oldest electronics industry body said that



the move has disrupted global supply chains, hitting India's fast-growing hearables and wearables sector hard and the device makers are switching to import fully assembled speaker modules from China.

"This creates a regressive

**As the country remains heavily reliant on imports for these components, this presents a clear challenge. However, the specific impact on the television manufacturing segment is expected to be relatively limited**

ARIJUN BAJAJ | VIDEOTEX DIRECTOR

stated in the report. Elcina estimates that the rare earth metal-based magnets account for around 5 to 7 per cent of the bill of materials and India imports nearly 100 per cent of its NdFeB magnet requirement with China accounting for 90 per cent of the total imports.

The industry body said that prices of China-origin magnets have increased due to tightened supply and administrative bottlenecks and other sources such as Japan, EU and US are 2-3 times more expensive and also lack sufficient capacity to meet India's rising demand.

Electronics manufacturing services firm Videotex, which produces televisions, said rare earth-based magnets are critical in TV manufacturing, particularly for speakers, due to their superior performance and compact size.

Videotex makes TVs for Havels (Lloyd), Reliance Group (BPL & Reconnect), Vijay Sales, Toshiba and over 25 other brands.

# Bumrah does it again

The pace spearhead picks up 14th fifer but England draw parity with India by making 465

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Leeds, June 22:** KL Rahul drove his way to a sublime 47 after England negated India's advantage by totalling 465 in their first innings as the visitors had another ordinary day in the field on day three of the first Test here Sunday.

India dropped as many as five catches and barring Jasprit Bumrah, the effort from the pacers left a lot to be desired, allowing England to even out the game after the Shubman Gill-led side posted 471 in its first essay.

At stumps, India reached 90 for two with Rahul (47 batting off 75) and Shubman Gill (6 batting off 10).

Brydon Carse had Yashavi Jaiswal (4 off 11) caught behind with a ball that seamed away while Ben Stokes got rid of debutant Sai Sudharsan (30 off 48) for the second time in the game, the southpaw's flick falling into the hands of Zak Crawley at mid-wicket.

Rahul was a delight to watch as majority of his seven fours came via the cover and square drive off the fast bowlers. He did not look any discomfort whatsoever despite the ball doing a bit in overcast conditions.

Stumps were drawn when rain arrived at Headingley with India leading by 96 runs.

In an extended afternoon session, Harry Brook ran out of luck on 99 before Jasprit Bumrah completed a well deserved five-wicket haul to ensure a slender six-run first innings lead for India.



Before Bumrah castled Josh Tongue to end England innings, Chris Woakes (38 off 55) punished a predictable Indian pace attack to take his team close to India's 471.

Hosts continued to find the boundaries as will as they collected 138 runs in 23.4 overs in the afternoon session with the loss of five wickets.

Prasidh Krishna removed Jamie Smith (40 off 52) and Brook (99 off 112) with the short ball but leaked too many runs at the same time with his one di-

mensional tactic, conceding 128 runs in 20 overs.

Bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur was under bowled again, raising questions over his selection. Bumrah, who has by far been the best Indian bowler on display, picked up his 14th fifer in the longest format ending with figures of 5/83 in 24.4 overs.

India's fielding have been their weakest link so far in the game and having been give two lives, Brook was dropped again, on 82, by Jaiswal off Bumrah.

The explosive England batter however could not use those chances to score a famous hundred and was dismissed on 99 in the 88th over. India had taken the new ball after 80 overs but were not able to make good use of it.

Captain Shubman Gill made questionable calls like introducing Ravindra Jadeja towards the end of the session and bringing back Bumrah for a late burst.

In the opening session, Brook went on the offensive against an inconsistent Indian pace attack, taking England to 327 for five at lunch.

Resuming at an overnight 209 for three, Brook ensured that England scored at a brisk pace, totalling 118 runs in 28 overs.

The visitors got two welcome wickets of overnight centurion Ollie Pope (106 off 137) and England captain Ben Stokes (20 off 52).

Like day two, the other Indian pacers could not match the accuracy of Bumrah.

Brook, dismissed off a Bumrah no ball at the stroke of stumps on day two, was dropped by wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant on 46 shortly before lunch. Jadeja, who was able to extract sharp turn from the rough, got one to turn away sharply but Pant could not hold on to the rising ball.

**Brief Scores:**

**India** 471 and 90 for 2 (KL Rahul batting 47, Sai Sudharsan 30)

**England** 465 (Ollie Pope 106, Harry Brook 99, Jasprit Bumrah 5/83)

## BEST-EVER PERFORMANCE

# Asian Para-Badminton C'ships: Shuttlers bag record 27 medals

AGENCIES

**Bangkok, June 22:** Team India won 27 medals at the Asian Para-Badminton Championship 2025 in Thailand, marking its best-ever performance at the event. This includes four gold medals, 10 silver medals and 13 bronze medals.

India delivered a commanding performance at the Asia Para-Badminton Championships 2025, held in Thailand from 17-22 June, showcasing the nation's growing dominance in para-badminton across multiple classifications. With medals in almost every category, the Indian contingent underlined both its depth and consistency at the continental level.

One of the tournament's most thrilling encounters came in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 final, where Sukant Kadam and Nitesh Kumar battled past fellow Indians Jagadesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar in a gripping three-set match that ended 21-17 11-21 21-11. The bronze in the same category also went to India, with Mohammad Arwaz Ansari and Abhijeet Sakhuja stepping onto the podium, as per a press release.

Reflecting on the tournament, Sukant Kadam said, "It was one of those finals where you have to dig deep and trust your training. The competition is getting stronger each year, and this gold is a result of staying focused on the small things that make a difference."

In the mixed doubles SH6



event, Tokyo Paralympic gold medallist Krishna Nagar and his partner Nithya Sre gave it their all in a high-energy final against China's Lin Naili and Li Fengmei, narrowly missing the top spot and settling for silver after a 13-21, 21-19, 14-21 contest. Krishna also secured a bronze in men's singles SH6 and another in men's doubles SH6, where he partnered with Dhinakaran Pandurangan.

Krishna Nagar echoed the sentiment, adding, "These matches test you physically and mentally. Every medal counts, but more importantly, every match prepares us for the bigger goals ahead. We'll take the positives from here and keep building."

India's women athletes also made their mark. Nithya Sre was among the standout performers, winning silver in women's singles SH6 and another silver in women's doubles SH6 alongside Rachana

Shaileshkumar Patel. In the women's doubles SL3-SU5 category, Manasi Joshi and Thulasimathi Murgesan went down fighting in the final against China, while the bronze went to the pair of Mandeep Kaur and Manisha Ramdass.

India dominated the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 event, sweeping all three medals, with Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murgesan taking gold in a clinical straight-sets win over Ruthick Raghupathi and Manasi Joshi, while Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur earned bronze.

In men's singles SL4, Surya Kant Yadav earned a silver after a hard-fought final against Malaysia's Mohd Amin Burhanuddin, with Naveen Sivakumar taking bronze. Nitesh Kumar's golden run continued in men's singles SL3, where he defeated Indonesia's Muh Ai Imran in straight sets, with Umesh Vikram Kumar securing bronze.

## SHORT TAKES

### Strong start for India

**Beijing:** India made a strong statement on the opening day of the Para Powerlifting World Cup here by winning four medals, including a gold, silver, and two bronze. The tournament features top para powerlifters from over 40 countries and serves as a qualification event for the 2026 World Championships and the 2028 Paralympic Games. Gulfam Ahmed opened India's account with a bronze in the highly competitive men's elite 59kg category. He lifted 145kg in his opening attempt and followed it up with a best lift of 151kg in his second. His third attempt of 153kg was disallowed, but his earlier lifts were enough to secure India's first medal of the tournament. In the men's elite 72kg category, Ramubhai Bambhava added another bronze to India's tally with a successful lift of 151kg in his first attempt.

### Wrestlers dominate

**Vung Tau:** The Indian men's freestyle team produced its best ever show at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championship, winning six gold and a silver to clinch the team title. In an unprecedented success for India, both men's and women's teams won the team championships. The women team had won medal in each of the 10 categories. Jaspooran Singh won the silver in 125kg weight class. The Greco Roman team won three medals, including a gold, in the tournament.

## Odisha's swimmer Shristi wins gold on opening day

13 swimming pool complexes will be built in 13 districts, says sports minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** The 78th Senior National Aquatic Championship (swimming competition) is being held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The competition, which started Sunday, will continue until June 26.

In the women's 100m butterfly, Odisha's Shristi Upadhaya and Railways' Astha Choudhary shared the top step of the podium, both clocking identical 1:03.50. Karnataka swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu (1:03.52) finished a close third.

Organised with the support of the Swimming Federation of India, Odisha State Swimming Association, and the Sports and Youth Services Department of the Government of Odisha, the event has attracted participation from over 400 athletes from across the country. From Odisha, a total of 14 athletes - 7 men and 7 women - are participating.

At opening ceremony held Sunday, Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attended as the chief guest. In his speech, he said that hosting the 78th Senior National Aquatic Cham-



ampionship in Odisha is a matter of pride and honor for all of us. He expressed hope that all participants would achieve great success through their outstanding performances and wished them bright futures. He affirmed the Odisha Government's commitment to the overall development of sports and athletes. To strengthen the swimming infrastructure in the state, it has been decided that 13 swimming pool complexes will be constructed in 13 districts in the coming days. The minister stated that this will not only reinforce our sports infrastructure but also help nurture swimming talent.

## FIH Pro League: India finish eighth

Men's team ends Pro League campaign with 4-3 win vs Belgium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Antwerp, June 22:** The Indian men's hockey team showed character as they snatched a 4-3 win against hosts Belgium to end an otherwise forgettable campaign at the FIH Hockey Pro League on a positive note here Sunday.

It was goals by Sukhjeet Singh (21', 35'), Amit Rohidas (36') and Harmanpreet Singh (59') that ensured India's win, and ended their outing in the eighth place, 14 points ahead of Ireland.

For Belgium, Arthur de Sloover (8'), Thibaut Stockbroeckx (84') and Hugo Labouchere (41') scored.

It was a memorable outing for Sukhjeet and Dilpreet Singh who completed their 100 international caps.

Belgium were quick to get off the blocks, pressing high and looking to catch Indian defenders off guard. Their tactics paid off early with Arthur de Sloover scoring a stunning goal to go one up in the match. He fired it into the top right corner of the post, leaving no room for the Indian goalie to defend. The goal certainly dislodged



India's momentum, who until then showed glimpses of attacking intent with quick bursts in their variation.

The visitors' first real opportunity came in the 20th minute when they earned the first penalty corner of the match and with skipper Harmanpreet back on the pitch, confidence was high in the Indian set-up.

It was a good injection from Hardik, but the powerful flick was well-blocked leading to a brisk counter attack by the Belgians. But Pathak, at the other end, prevented a potential 2-0 lead with a fine save.

Only a minute later, India converted a sensational penalty corner and this time it was a clever variation which saw Sukhjeet step up and deflect the ball inside the post with precision.

With minutes left for the final hooter, an important video referral by India saw them being awarded a penalty stroke. Though Sloover protested, and eventually was handed a yellow card, there was a clear push from him and Harmanpreet sealed the issue in his team's favour to end a run of seven successive losses in the European leg of the league.

### Eves suffer sixth straight defeat

The Indian women's hockey team went down 0-2 to Belgium to suffer its sixth successive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League and inch closer to relegation here Sunday. After two goalless quarters, Belgium scored twice in quick succession in the third quarter to win the reverse fixture a day after a 5-1 mauling of the beleaguered Indian side. After Saturday's debacle, India began aggressively with a clear intent to overcome the disappointment of the previous loss. They tried to find space backed by good pace as India built on a good momentum. India even won a penalty corner early in the quarter but could not convert. India made 22 circle penetrations in the game, almost the same as Belgium, but had no luck in conversion. India will desperately look for back-to-back wins against China next weekend to avoid relegation.



## David 'Syd' Lawrence, England's first British-born Black cricketer, no more

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Gloucester (England), June 22:** David 'Syd' Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to play for England, has died. He was 61.

Lawrence's family made the announcement Sunday with a statement through Gloucestershire, where Lawrence was the club president.

He announced a year ago he had motor neurone disease.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Lawrence MBE following his brave battle with motor neurone disease," the family said. "Syd was an inspirational figure on and off the cricket field and no more so than to his family who were with him when he passed. A proud Gloucestershire man, Syd took on every challenge with everything he could and his final contest with MND was



no different. His willingness to encourage and think of others right up to the end was typical of the man he was."

He played five tests for England from 1988-92, taking 18 wickets. His international career prematurely ended at 28 when he broke his knee cap after falling awkwardly when running in to bowl against New

Zealand on the final day of a test in Wellington.

A strapping fast bowler who was renowned for being one of the quickest on the English county circuit, Lawrence was beginning to establish himself in tests and a five-for against the West Indies in 1991 helped England seal a series-levelling win at the Oval, with Viv Rich-

ards among his haul.

Lawrence also played a sole one-day international against the West Indies at Lord's in 1991, taking 4-67.

For Gloucestershire, he grabbed 625 wickets in 280 matches. The England and India teams gave Lawrence a moment's silence Sunday in Leeds before the third day's play in the first test.

After he detailed his experiences of racism during his playing career, Gloucestershire issued an unreserved apology in September 2021, and six months later he became the county's first Black president.

Only last week, Lawrence received an MBE in King Charles III's birthday honors for outstanding services to cricket. Lawrence was also recently named an honorary life vice president of the England and Wales Cricket Board, and chair Richard Thompson paid tribute.

## Black Tigers salvage impressive tie

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 22:** The Chennai Bulls are back at the top of the points table, and the Hyderabad Heroes' juggernaut was brought to a halt by the dynamic Bengaluru Bravehearts. And in the final game of the day, the Mumbai Dreamers, who had an impressive lead at one stage, squandered their position and had to share the spoils with the Kalinga Black Tigers, here in Mumbai, at the Shahaji Raje Bhosale Sports Complex, Sunday evening, during Season 1 of the Rugby Premier League.

In the first game of the day, the Bengaluru Bravehearts brought the Hyderabad Heroes' winning streak to a halt, defeating them 26-21.

Game two saw the Chennai Bulls jump back to the top of the points table after a comprehensive 24-7 win against the Delhi Redz. The Delhi Redz, who have had a recent uptick in their fortunes, started off the game in solid fashion.

In the final game Sunday,



the Kalinga Black Tigers came from behind to clinch a 17-17 draw. The result gives the Mumbai Dreamers their first points of the season.

The Kalinga Black Tigers had the better of the early exchanges on the night, as Asis Sabar scored a try and put them in the lead. However, the Mumbai Dreamers, who were still looking for their first points in the season, first equalised through Elias Hancock's try, and then Waisea Nacuqu made the con-

version count. The two sides broke for half-time, with two points separating them.

Vuviwawa Naduvalo and Henry Hutchison scored two brilliant tries for the Dreamers in the next quarter, which extended their lead to a 12-point one. The Tigers had their task cut out, and they responded with a try and conversion from Ethan Turner. In the final minutes, Perry Baker equalised with a try for the Tigers, who snatched a tie from the jaws of defeat.