



- **World's most affordable data -**
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5 times rise.
- **Semiconductor surge -**
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- **Middlemen removed, dignity ensured -**
₹44.5+ lakh crore transferred to real beneficiaries via DBT, saving ₹3.5 lakh crore by preventing leakages.
- **Transparent governance -**
Public procurement worth **₹13.4+ lakh crore** done online through GeM.
- **Empowered farmers -**
1400+ mandis connected through e-NAM, enabling trade of agricultural produce worth **₹4 lakh crore** by farmers.


From Manual to Magical: 10 years of Digital India



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

 **GaneshaSpeaks.com**
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today, love will be a delightful thing for you. You would want to spend all your time with friends and family, not to forget your Lhasa Apso. This doesn't go down well with your peers, who may think you're a shirker, says Ganesha.

TAURUS


In all probability, the fair sex will have a wonderful time in kitchen and at the dining table, foresees Ganesha. You may have family friends and close relatives coming over to your place in the evening. Romance will free-flow with your soul mate later in the day, says a beaming Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will begin a long-lasting romantic relationship today. Also, you will stay ecstatic and highly motivated throughout the day. In the afternoon, you will successfully avoid any confrontation with those who irk you to no end. That, says Ganesha, is the right way to cultivate patience.

CANCER

Give priority to your life and prestige in stead of meddling in others' matters, says Ganesha. Your enterprising nature will give you prestige and respect. Ganesha suggests that you take time off from your chores and indulge in entertainment or travel.

LEO

The long hours you've spent alone are nearing their end, says Ganesha, as the stars align to help you find that special someone; chances are that today shall be the beginning of an enduring romantic relationship for you. This sense of personal joy will spill over into your workplace as well, and will keep you in cheerful spirits. But avoid any confrontation with people around you, especially neighbours and acquaintances, suggests Ganesha.

VIRGO

There is an important turning point about to reveal itself in relationships and how they will proceed. Ganesha sees you busying yourself in arranging a get-together with friends and family. In the evening, the opposite sex will make a whale of a difference between optimism and despair.

LIBRA


Ganesha says you will be able to get good news from abroad, which will prove beneficial to you after a long time. If you are a businessman do not be in any hurry to fill any tenders or sign any agreements. Ganesha says always remember – Prevention is better than Cure.


SCORPIO

You will radiate kindness and care today, says Ganesha. Quarantine yourself from worries at work. Open your heart to loved ones today. Ganesha expects your social skills to set the ball rolling at some social-do today.

SAGITTARIUS

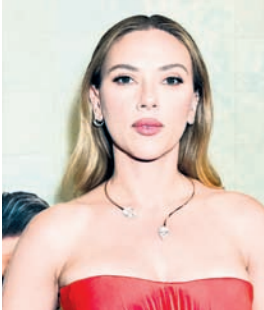
Your nerves are taut, and you are more aware than ever of things around you. Your spiritual side gets a major boost today. On the career front, expect it to be busy day giving interviews for better prospects. In the evening, your charm might just have a few women dangling by your side at places you party.

CAPRICORN

Your extraordinary sense of humour will keep those around you amused throughout the day, so much so that they will look forward to spending more time with you in the future as well, says Ganesha. Also, your ability to solve problems with ease will impress many. Widening social network and maintaining healthy relations with them all will benefit you in numerous ways.

AQUARIUS

Today is reserved for outlining projects that will ultimately shape your future. You may want to chalk out a plan for your education, job, or even a relationship. Later in the day, you may get lucky with sudden and unexpected profits. If you're a professional, there are rewards galore, expects Ganesha.

PISCES

You have been under a lot of pressure of late, but today should see a marked change in your fortunes. A progressive day when it comes to business and professional matters. Fun and frolic too is on the agenda, with invitations to parties and other social get-togethers coming your way, says Ganesha.



SCARLETT JOHANSSON WARY OF AI 'THREAT'

Hollywood acatress Scarlett Johansson believes AI has a role to play in the long-term future of the film industry, but she doesn't think the technology can replace the emotional core of an actor or actress' performance. The 40-year-old said, "I don't believe the work I do can be done by AI."

BEYONCE STOPS SHOW DUE TO SCARY PROP MALFUNCTION

Pop icon Beyonce stopped her show at the NRG Stadium in Houston when one of her props malfunctioned. She was singing 16 Carriages while sitting on top of a red convertible when it began to lean at a sharp angle in the air. She said into her microphone: "Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop."



Rashmi's pertinent question

MUMBAI: Popular television actress Rashmi Desai has raised a very pertinent question after the sudden demise of her friend Shefali Jariwala.

Taking to the stories section of her Instagram handle Rashmi revealed she recently has been unaware regarding the lives of people well-known to her.

She uploaded a video saying, "Hey guys it's been very unfortunate since last one week - I have been going through a lot and I feel like sharing certain things. Everything is fine- health concerns are there but there are a lot of casualties that are happening. I am also facing a lot of judgments for no reason. I don't know why people I know are going through a lot and I am not aware of it."

She later asked the Insta users if they were also facing a similar situation.

"Is it correct or is it a right attitude? Just feeling little heavy," Rashmi asked in the caption.

On Saturday, Rashmi bashed netizens for trolling Shefali's husband Parag Tyagi for taking his dog out for a walk, just hours after his wife's demise.

Hitting back at trolls, Rashmi asked everyone to be kind and empathetic. **IAN5**



Aamir calls religion a 'dangerous topic'

MUMBAI: Aamir Khan, who recently made a comeback to the big screen with *Sitaare Zameen Par*, has opened up about his personal beliefs. Known for his thoughtful take on life and films, the PK actor usually stays away from talking about religion in public. But this time, he shared how he sees people beyond their religion and why he respects every faith.

"When I meet people, I don't see their religion. I just see the person," Aamir said in an interview with *The Lallantop*. He added, "Religion is such a dangerous topic that I don't often speak about it in public. It is also a very personal thing to each and every individual. I respect people from all religions and the way they follow their religious paths."

Aamir's words showed just how careful he is when it comes to matters of faith. By saying that religion is a "very personal thing", he highlighted how important it is for everyone to find their own spiritual path without any interference. His simple way of looking at people — beyond their caste or creed — is something that stands out in today's times. **AGENCIES**

RASHMIKA sets her limits

MUMBAI: Actor Rashmika Mandanna recently attended the We The Women festival in London, an event curated by Barkha Dutt. As a guest at the festival, she addressed a range of topics including personal limits she maintains as an artiste.

The *Pushpa* actor discussed the personal boundaries she maintains in her professional life. She shared that she would turn down any role that required her to smoke on-screen, stating, "I personally would never smoke on-screen, or in real life either, since I do not like the concept of smoking. That is my personal opinion and I like to keep it to myself. If somebody comes and asks me that I will have to do this, I might have to let

the film go."

When questioned about the mixed reactions to her Bollywood film *Animal*, Rashmika responded, "I saw the film as a film. For example, when a hero is smoking in a film and people also smoke every day, if you say the hero is influencing them, when a hero doesn't smoke on-screen, it is not necessary that people also don't smoke. I watch a film as it is, and I don't watch it to get influenced in any way." The film, featuring Ranbir Kapoor in the lead role, stirred debate over its portrayal of gender dynamics and violence. **AGENCIES**



MUMBAI: Actress Avika Gor, who entered the entertainment industry at a young age, turned a year older Monday.

Having spent 20 years in the spotlight, she reflects on the unique bond she shares with her audience—one she describes as deeply personal and long-standing.

"I think I'm proudest of the fact that I grew up in front of everyone," Avika said. "My life has never been a secret. People have seen everything—the highs, the lows—and I think they love me because of that honesty." Avika's journey has not only been about her on-screen roles but also about the public's continued emotional connection with her over the years. She recalled

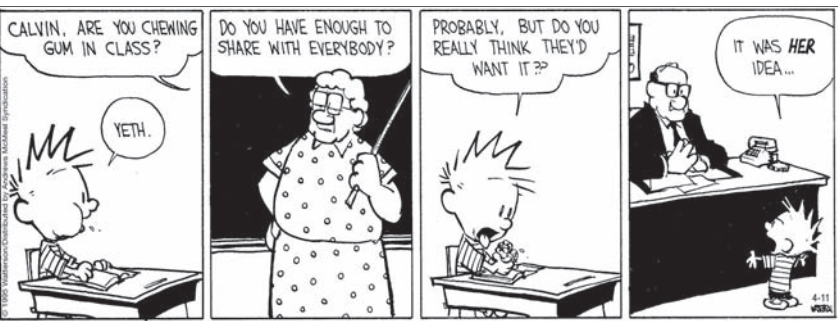
moments when strangers recognize her and approach her with familiarity. "There are aunties who just walk up to me and say, 'You've changed our lives.' Some even get emotional. It's so pure. So real. That's a blessing," She acknowledged that the nature of her fan support is different from typical celebrity admiration. "There are very few actors in the world who get this kind of belonging from their fans. I'm not just watched—I'm accepted as one of their own."

Avika
reflects on
bond with
audience

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

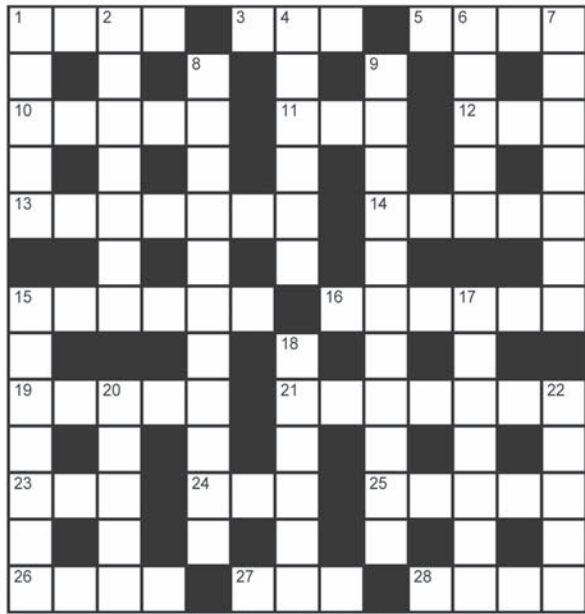


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- It ebbs and flows
 - Make a scene?
 - Ship's front
 - Also-ran
 - Journey segment
 - Bar stock
 - Carnivorous freshwater fish
 - Utopian
 - Word form
 - Tracked down
 - Fetch
 - Curved sword
 - Peruvian coin
 - Scoundrel
 - Coral formations
 - Himalayan legend
 - Chinese tea
 - Debate side
 - After wine or root
 - Worker's demand
 - Type of vehicle
 - Hardware stores
 - Farming
 - Diplomatic building
 - Exchange, as a car (5-2)
 - Rob Roy ingredient
 - Coastal feature
 - Raw fish dish
- Down**
- Garden bulb
 - Demolish

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

O	V	A	T	I	O	N	A	R	D
L	B	N	O	L	D	E			
L	Y	R	I	C	O	C	A	R	I
A	I	O	D		E	D			
S	A	D	G	O	L	F	C	L	U
G	N	E		A		E			
C	R	E	D	I	T	S	T	I	G
A	T	I	A	O					
P	E	R	S	O	N	E	L	R	A
T	E		S	Y	I	E			
U	K	E	L	E	L	E	S	A	L
R	D	E	C	T	L	I			
E	A	S	E	L	T	O	S	T	A

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

A photograph showing a flooded rural landscape. In the foreground, a small wooden boat with two people is on the water. To the right, a small building is partially submerged, with laundry hanging on a line. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.


A group of children are wading through a flooded area, likely a river or a large pond. In the foreground, a young girl in a red dress with a yellow trim is walking. Behind her, another girl in a pink shirt is also wading. To the left, two boys in white shirts and patterned shorts are walking. A large tree trunk is visible in the background, and a bamboo fence runs along the edge of the water.

A photograph showing a flooded area with muddy brown water. A tree trunk is partially submerged in the foreground, and a building is visible in the background.

A photograph showing three men in a small red boat on a river. The man in the foreground is wearing a light pink shirt and dark trousers, leaning forward. The man in the middle is wearing a light blue and white striped shirt and light-colored trousers, standing. The man in the background is wearing a light pink and white checkered shirt and dark trousers, standing. The river is wide and brown, with green trees on the banks.

For DCB Bank Ltd.,
Authorized Officer

To hope for a true change of human life without a change of human nature is an irrational and unspiritual proposition



SRI AUROBINDO

New Democratic Face

US President Donald Trump, who had comfortably defeated his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in the recent presidential election and exuded supreme confidence since then, now seems to be rattled by the challenge posed by Democratic candidate for the mayoral election of the crucial New York City, Zohran Mamdani. The President seems so perturbed that months before the election is to be held, he has threatened to cut New York off from federal funds if the favoured mayoral candidate, a democratic socialist, “doesn’t behave himself” should he be elected. On the surface, the verbal war assumes the appearance of the battle between David and Goliath. For, it does not make much sense that the mighty US President could launch such a venomous attack on the Democratic mayoral candidate calling him “a pure Communist” and a “100% Communist lunatic.” A few months ago, no one had even heard of Mamdani outside of local politics, but now he is being lionised and pilloried by some of America’s biggest political players.

In fact, the life story of the 33-year-old Democrat became a big part of his campaign. He was born in Kampala in Uganda to a family of Indian ancestry before he moved to New York at age seven. His mother, Mira Nair, is a well-known Indian American filmmaker who was born in Rourkela, Orissa. His father is Mahmood Mamdani, a professor at Columbia University who specialises in the study of colonialism.

Being branded a Communist in the USA is a risky proposition and hence Mamdani quickly clarified he is not a Communist. But he reaffirmed his commitment to raise taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers while saying he does not think the country should have billionaires. Trump has said if Mamdani wins, “he’s got to do the right thing or they’re not getting any money.” More than \$100bn flows to New York City from the federal government through different entities and programmes.

Mamdani has said the President has become so personal in his attack because he wants to distract from what Mamdani is supposedly fighting for. He asserted he is a follower of the US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., who once remarked that there has to be a better distribution of wealth for all of “God’s children in this country.” Mamdani has set out his agenda in clear terms which is to raise taxes on New York’s wealthiest and shift the tax burden from over-taxed homeowners in the outer boroughs to more expensive homes in richer and whiter neighbourhoods. He has claimed his agenda is not driven by race, but is more of an assessment of what neighbourhoods are being under-taxed and what are over-taxed. On the other hand, Republicans have accused him of being a Moslem sympathiser, him being a Moslem first and due to his pro-Palestine views. His critics say he wants to change the future of New York through policies which would benefit immigrant families.

It is significant that becoming the Democrat’s nominee means the New York progressives now have something to be hopeful about. Since the defeat of Kamala Harris in November, the Democratic Party has been in the throes of an identity crisis. Some believe future electoral success lies in embracing the left fringe of the party, others want the centre to hold. With 43.5 per cent of the vote in the first round, Mamdani is now poised to run as the party’s candidate for mayor of New York at the general election on 4 November.

He has said his fight is not just about New York, but about the Democratic Party. His words match the rhetoric of Trump and his party. His victory in the primaries has energised the progressive wing of the Democratic Party which has seized on his success as evidence that a bold left-wing platform can be electorally successful. Mamdani has been promising free buses, rent freezes, stabilised housing and the development of a chain of city-owned grocery stores to bring down the prices of basics.

Perhaps the most contentious issue in this campaign has been his position on Israel and Palestine, despite the New York mayor not having any foreign policy responsibilities. Mamdani, himself a Moslem, has accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza and practising apartheid. He has even said he would arrest Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if the latter visits New York while he is mayor. US Vice-President JD Vance has called Mamdani “the new leader of the Democratic Party.” While Mamdani claims he is not anti-Semitic, he embraces the term socialist. If Mamdani succeeds in getting elected as the mayor of New York City, he could become a new face for the Democrats.

WISDOM CORNER

We will be more successful in all our endeavors if we can let go of the habit of running all the time, and take little pauses to relax and re-center ourselves. And we'll also have a lot more joy in living

THICH NHAT HANH

We are born weak, we need strength; helpless, we need aid; foolish, we need reason. All that we lack at birth, all that we need when we come to man's estate, is the gift of education

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity

CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1903: The Tour de France Bicycle Race is flagged off for the first time. The now annual multi-leg bike race lasted for 20 days with a course that stretched about 1,500 miles. The race was first created by the sports daily, L’Auto, as a way to boost its circulation. The first Tour de France was won by Italian-French racer, Maurice Garin.

1908: SOS is adopted as the International Distress Signal. The 2nd International Radiotelegraphic Convention, which was signed in December 1906, made the Morse code distress signal (•••—••••), the standard international maritime distress signal. Even though it was replaced by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in 1999, SOS is universally seen as a distress call and is often mistakenly thought to be an abbreviation of Save Our Souls or Save Our Ship.

1968: The United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR, and 59 other states signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in an attempt to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

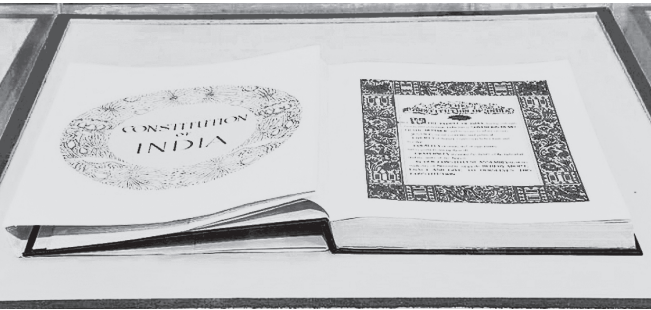
1979: Sony began selling its Walkman, a portable cassette player; an international sensation, the device changed the way people listened to music.

1991: The Warsaw Pact, a defense treaty between 8 communist countries, is formally disbanded in Prague. The pact was founded in 1955, during the height of the Cold War, as a way to counterbalance the power of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Western Europe.

power post

FOCUS NATION

PLAYING WITH PREAMBLE



If this is an over-planned, strategically designed precision strike to take the nation in a new direction, it doesn’t speak well of the concerns and priorities of the ruling alliance

It would be incorrect to categorise the coordinated RSS-BJP attack on the words “secular” and “socialist” in the preamble of the Constitution as a “debate” in the India of today. This is a thought-through and raked-up agenda that does not serve the nation or indeed the RSS-BJP. In fact, it only serves to confirm widespread fears that the combine is looking for newer ways to play with the basic structure of the Constitution, further adding weight to the view long propagated that the RSS never really accepted Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s Constitution. It is also a reminder of the failed “chaar sau paar” campaign that curtailed the BJP amid fears that the three-fourths majority it sought in the general elections of 2024 was to have the numbers to tamper with the Constitution and change its character. If that goal continues to this day, it only speaks of the fixedness of a divisive agenda that cannot be concealed by the attempted cleverness in citing the Emergency to write down or erase “socialist” and “secular” from the Constitution.

By running this campaign, the BJP also runs the risk of being seen more as a party aligned to powerful interests of big business, turning away from welfarism and more firmly into the grip of chosen crony capitalists who have fattened since the party took power at the Centre in 2014. The policies have brought increasing inequality, built a jobless growth and have in part led to giveaways like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, described by the government as “amongst the world’s biggest social welfare schemes aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security.” The scheme provides free grains to over 800 million Indians at an estimated total cost of ₹11.80 lakh crore over a five-year period, from 2024-

2028. If this scheme (and a host of others) does not come from a belief in the ideals of a welfare state, then what does it stand for? Are these doles to keep the poor quiet while pro-rich policies take hold? Is there dishonesty at the heart of policymaking, or is the real situation so dire that as much as 70% of India (that benefits from the scheme) cannot hold out without free grains?

While it is true that “socialist” and “secular” were inserted in the preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act during the Emergency, which remains a dark chapter in the history of free India, it is not true that the values go against the grain or the spirit of the Constitution. These are effectively the only parts of the amendment that sit today 50 years down the line. Other parts of the Amendment have been repealed or struck down, but the words added to the Preamble stayed as they help reinforce and highlight what has been the widely accepted ethos of the Constitution. As Subash C Kashyap, former Secretary General of the 7th, 8th and 9th Lok Sabha and a constitutional expert noted for his popular books on the Constitution has written: “...the addition (of the two words) had the effect only of affirming and

clarifying what was believed to be already present as a basic feature of the Constitution.” In 1974 (St. Xavier College Society v/s State of Gujarat), the Supreme Court held that “though the Constitution did not speak of a secular state, there could be no doubt that the Constitution-makers wanted to establish such a State,” Kashyap writes. Also, as he notes, secularism in particular is inherent in the guarantee of freedom of religion as a fundamental right. Ditto for socialism because the Preamble itself spelt out the high ideals when it was resolved to secure to all citizens “justice, social, economic and political”; and “equality of status and opportunity.”

In the historic Keshavananda Bharti case of 1973, well before the Emergency, a 13-judge bench ruled by majority that the “secular character of the Constitution” was part of its “basic structure,” which is “of supreme importance” and “cannot by any form of amendment be destroyed.” The court identified the following as features of the “basic structure” that cannot be touched: (a) Supremacy of the Constitution (b) Republican and democratic form of government (c) Secular character of the Constitution (d) Separation of powers

between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary (e) Federal character of the Constitution. “The above foundation and the above basic features are easily discernable not only from the Preamble but the whole scheme of the Constitution,” the Justices ruled. After the Emergency, in the Minerva Mills case of July 1980, the Court ruled that “no exception can be taken” to the changes in the Preamble because “those amendments are not only within the framework of the Constitution, but they give vitality to its philosophy; they afford strength and succour to its foundation.”

It is this precious heritage that is now sought to be scuttled. A similar attempt was seen in 2015, when the Union government issued ads that depicted an image of the Preamble but without the words “socialist” and “secular.” Soon, BJP leaders Arun Jaitley, M. Venkaiah Naidu and Amit Shah denied that there was any move to amend the Preamble.

But the raking up of the issue again indicates that nothing about the BJP might be casual or not thought through with a load of ideological assumptions and fixed frames that do not help policy in a fast-changing world. If this is an over-planned, strategically designed precision strike to take the nation in a new direction, it doesn’t speak well of the concerns and priorities of the ruling alliance. This is a time India faces several burning issues, the global turmoil adding to internal woes. It is a pity if the ruling alliance would spend its energies on redacting well-accepted and indeed highly regarded parts of the Preamble rather than focusing on building for the future.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR.

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SPECTRUM POLITICS

Austerity budgets are a gift to populists

Time after time, austerity budgets have provided populist political parties with political openings. In the UK, France, Poland, and elsewhere, populists have used austerity budget cuts to browbeat “fiscally responsible” governments.

Because of this dynamic, it is hard to believe that Elon Musk thought that US President Donald Trump’s interest in Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency was motivated by a genuine commitment to saving public money. His sense of betrayal was nevertheless strong enough that he lambasted Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) – which is forecast to add trillions of dollars to the US federal budget deficit and national debt – as a “disgusting abomination.” Even Steve Bannon, a key architect of Trump’s populist MAGA agenda and Musk’s ideological adversary, has made similar criticisms of the bill, as have prominent Senate Republicans like Rand Paul and Ron Johnson.

Such dissent from the right

is unusual. Of course, Republicans have vigorously denounced the spending plans of past Democratic administrations. But when Republican presidents are in power, these affordability concerns instantly vanish. While Republicans understand that banging the drumbeat of fiscal austerity is a political instrument, Democrats have been more earnest – or naive – about its virtues. True, there is good political reason to join Republican dissenters in arguing that the bill’s tax cuts for the rich are “unaffordable.” But history suggests that the Democratic Party may soon lose sight of the strategic character of such ideological alliances and end up playing an unfortunate role in a twisted morality play authored by the right.

Since Ronald Reagan, every Republican president has dramatically increased the deficit through tax cuts and military spending. By contrast, Democratic administrations have done the work of reining in the country’s growing debt, largely by slashing public investment and weakening the

social safety net.

The recent decision by Moody’s to downgrade the US sovereign credit rating was significant. If unrestricted borrowing, coupled with endless tariff uncertainty, fuels inflation and slows growth, more downgrades will follow, making it more expensive for the US government to finance its debts. Although this would have adverse consequences for America, it doesn’t represent an existential threat, which means that Democrats’ calls for fiscal rectitude will not gain traction among Republicans.

The party’s resolve to rebalance the books will, however, influence intraparty debate. Leaders of the Democratic establishment such as Harris, Gavin Newsom, and Rahm Emanuel would fall over one another to reprise the Obama years. But that era’s institutionalization of the bailout state and prolonged fiscal austerity would push the country into another recession – providing fertile ground for popular discontent and further political polarization.

The US is not alone, of

course. Across Europe and elsewhere, governments’ embrace of socialism for the rich and austerity for everyone else has fueled the rise of MAGA-like populist movements. But the fact that so many prominent Republicans are objecting to Trump’s spending bill reflects the hollow ideological core that MAGA shares with other right-wing populist movements. A motley collection of intense grievances does not easily translate into a coherent economic strategy.

Instead, the Democratic Party should focus on building a progressive economic policy platform that can mobilize electoral support. The Democrats – and democrats worldwide – must offer a more appealing vision of the expansive use of the public purse. Otherwise, they may not get their hands back on the levers of fiscal policy for some time to come.

The writer is Professor of Political Economy and Social Theory at the University of Sydney.

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Martijn Konings

ACROSS EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE, GOVERNMENTS’ EMBRACE OF SOCIALISM FOR THE RICH AND AUSTERITY FOR EVERYONE ELSE HAS FUELED THE RISE OF MAGA-LIKE POPULIST MOVEMENTS

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Data accessibility

Sir, A commendable step by the government of India, the launch of the GoStats mobile application by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO) under MoSPI on National Statistics Day 2025 reflects a bold and timely commitment to data accessibility and public empowerment. This innovative platform is designed to bring official statistics closer to citizens—enabling students, researchers, policymakers, and the general public to explore vital socio-economic indicators such as GDP, inflation, and employment with ease. With its intuitive design, interactive “Key Trends” dashboard, downloadable reports, mobile-optimized data tables, and a rich infographics section, GoStats simplifies the use of government data like never before. The app promotes transparency, statistical awareness, and trust by providing source-based visual insights that are both informative and easy to interpret.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Iran’s nuclear capabilities

Sir, The recent US strikes on three of Iran’s uranium enrichment sites have sparked a fierce debate in Washington. Was Iran’s nuclear programme destroyed, merely degraded, or left largely intact? The answer is far from semantic—it will shape the next phase of American diplomacy, deterrence, and possibly conflict. If the US operation truly obliterated Iran’s nuclear infrastructure—as claimed by President Trump—it would demonstrate America’s overwhelming capacity to neutralize Iran’s weapons programme at will. Yet, even then, diplomacy would be essential to avoid repeated strikes. Iran, weakened, would be pressured to negotiate, possibly offering to scale back or abandon its nuclear ambitions. But if the strikes only delayed Iran’s progress, the regime may believe it can endure American firepower and rebuild. Satellite images showing suspicious movement of vehicles at Fordow and Isfahan before the attack hint that Iran may have relocated much of its enriched uranium—possibly the entire 880-pound stockpile enriched to 60% purity. That, combined with uncertainty over the fate of Iran’s advanced centrifuges or undisclosed facilities, means the threat may persist beneath the surface. All said and done, Iran’s accumulated nuclear knowledge cannot be bombed away.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

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NAME OF THE STATIONS	
(1) HARICHANDANPUR (HCNR), (2) PORJANPUR (PNRR), (3) TANGIRIAPAL (TGRL), (4) NAYAGAR (NYG), (5) MAHPUR (MAHI), (6) GOALDIH (GADH), (7) BAITARAN ROAD (BTRD), (8) TAPUR (TAPR), (9) MAJURI ROAD (MZZ), (10) RETANG (RTN), (11) NARAI (NARI), (12) RAJUNAKHALA (RSKA), (13) CHILKA (CLKA), (14) GANGDAHARPUR (GNGD), (15) HUMMA (HMA), (16) KORAI (KRIH), (17) KAPILAS ROAD (KIS), (18) RAMBHA (RBA), (19) KALIKIDHARA (CLDR) & (20) GHANTIKHAL NIDHIPUR (GHNH).	

of the day


quote

Today, we are going to announce the Amaravati Declaration. This will take the initiative to its logical conclusion. I assure you, time and again, that any hurdle I will resolve it. I will sort it out



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

They (BJP) are selling things (institutions and establishments) at throwaway rates to their men.



According to news reports, a major institution is also on the verge of being sold. If trade and industry grow, the lives of common people will change and employment will rise

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Pakistani leaders are meeting their Bangladeshi counterparts. China is building an airbase on the Bangladesh border. If war breaks out, it will expand to three fronts. Without reflecting on these threats, BJP members keep talking about illegal immigration from Bangladesh



ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Ravada Chandrasekhar new Kerala police chief

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government Monday appointed senior IPS officer Ravada A Chandrasekhar as the new police chief of the state. “Ravada A Chandrasekhar IPS, Special Director, Intelligence Bureau (on central deputation) is appointed as Director General of Police-cum-State Police Chief, Kerala,” the order said. Earlier, a special cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, decided to appoint Chandrasekhar to the top post, succeeding Shaik Darvesh Saheb, who retires Monday.

Road rage: Man stabbed to death


New Delhi: Two men and a juvenile were apprehended for stabbing a 19-year-old man in east Delhi's Geeta Colony following a road rage incident, police Monday said. The deceased, identified as Yash Sharma, a resident of Rani Garden, was attacked on the night of June 27 following a scuffle with the accused over a minor accident involving a scooter, they said. “He sustained a deep stab wound on his lower back and was declared brought dead at a hospital,” said a police officer.

Man detained for raping domestic help

Itanagar: A man has been arrested for allegedly raping a 20-year-old domestic worker over a span of two years at his residence here, police said Monday. The woman had filed an FIR June 13 at Bordumsa Police Station in Changlang district, based on which the man was apprehended Sunday, they said. The case was later transferred to the Itanagar Women Police Station, SP (Itanagar Capital Region) Jummar Basar said. The woman, a native of Goju village, had been employed as a domestic help at the accused's home in 2023.

Gujarat sees wettest June in 10 years

Ahmedabad: June is the wettest month in Gujarat since 2015 with rainfall exceeding 288 mm so far, official data shows. Gujarat has recorded 288.70 mm rainfall, or 32.73 per cent of its annual average so far, which is the highest since 2015. The southwest monsoon arrived in Gujarat June 16 and covered the entire state by June 18.



During the Emergency, when fundamental rights were suspended, Parliament did not work, and judiciary became lame, then these words were added

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

AGRA, KANPUR AIRPORTS RECEIVE THREAT MAILS

Security at Agra and Kanpur airports has been beefed up after both facilities received threat mails, officials said Monday. The premises of both airports were thoroughly searched following the threat mails Sunday and nothing suspicious was found, they said



KOLKATA LAW COLLEGE GANGRAPE

Accused involved in multiple sex crimes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 30: The prime accused in the Kolkata law college gangrape case, Monojit Mishra, is a history-sheeter having a slew of pending cases of sexual harassment and violent crimes registered against him, police said Monday.

Mishra's ties with criminal activities are not just confined within the boundaries of the South Calcutta Law College where he allegedly led the sexual assault against his latest victim June 25 but has been previously arrested and charge-sheeted for violent crimes committed outside the campus as well, police added.

PTI retains copies of at least seven formal complaints and FIRs, besides the latest FIR indicting

Mishra and two other students of gang rape, which show that the ex-student has pending cases of sexual assault registered against him across multiple police stations in south Kolkata including at Kasba police station, Gariahat PS, Kalighat PS, Tollygunge PS and Anandapur PS.

Mishra vanished from police radar in 2013, the same year he took admission in the law college,

after he was charged with stabbing a youth on the Chetla Bridge under Kalighat police



BJP's fact-finding team interacts with police officials before their visit at the premises of the law college where an alleged gangrape of a student took place last week

PTI PHOTO

PIL seeks CBI probe

KOLKATA: A PIL was filed before the Calcutta High Court Monday seeking a CBI investigation into the alleged gang rape of a law student in her college by an alumnus and two other classmates. The petitioner prayed for direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to hold a preliminary inquiry into the incident as complained of by the alleged survivor and file an interim report before the court. Claiming that the main accused Monojit Mishra has close proximity with the ruling party in the state, the petitioner prayed in the public interest litigation (PIL) that the investigation into the alleged gang rape case be transferred to the CBI from the Kolkata Police for an impartial probe. It was stated that Mishra was very influential in the conduct of the day-to-day affairs of South Calcutta Law College, of which he is an alumnus. He also sought a direction to the state authorities to compensate the survivor and her family members.

station jurisdiction and was rusticated from the institution.

He had already joined the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad ranks by then and was wielding considerable influence in his institution, a former student of the college recollected.

“In December 2016, he was accused of leading a mob of outsiders to vandalise the college premises. FIRs and counter-FIRs were lodged at the Kasba police station in connection with the incident, but for some unknown reason, the cases got

SNIPPETS

Pharma plant explosion: Govt forms five-member panel to probe incident

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government Monday appointed a five-member committee headed by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao to probe the Sigachi Industries plant blast, which claimed 12 lives and left several others injured, and to oversee ongoing rescue efforts. The committee has also been tasked with recommending measures to prevent such incidents in the future, an official release said. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who has been reviewing the rescue operations with the DGP Jitender and the Chief Secretary, is expected to visit the site Tuesday. Reddy expressed deep shock over the horrific accident, the release added. The committee includes the Special Chief Secretary for Disaster Management, Principal Secretary of the Labour Department, Health Secretary, and Additional Director General of Fire Services.

UP family loses 2nd child in identical boiling pot mishap

SONBHADRA (UP): Tragedy repeated itself in a family here, eerily in a similar manner, after two years and claimed the life of a girl child on each occasion. Shailendra, a native of Jhansi, and his wife, who run a roadside stall selling street food in the Duddhi bazaar area of Sonbhadra district, lost their one-and-a-half-year-old girl after she accidentally fell into a boiling pot of chickpeas at their home, police said Monday. This incident is strangely similar to another tragedy which the family was struck by two years ago when the couple lost their elder daughter, who, too, fell into a hot cooking vessel. The mishap took place at around 9 am Friday when Shailendra was preparing chickpeas in a pot for his food stall. While he and his wife were momentarily engaged in other tasks, their toddler daughter, Priya, who was playing near the utensil, accidentally fell into the hot pot, police said.



Tourists trickle back to high altitude meadows of JK's Bhaderwah as authorities reopen Bhadarwah-Chamba interstate road after Pahalgam terror attack, in Doda district of J&K

PTI PHOTO

Indian Railways hikes passenger fares from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: The railway ministry issued an official circular on Monday, increasing the fares of the non-air-conditioned class in mail and express trains by 1 paise and all air-conditioned classes by 2 paise per kilometre from July 1.

Ministry officials had June 24 hinted at the proposed fare revision. However, the official circular with the fare table according to trains and class categories was released Monday.

The fares of suburban trains and monthly season tickets have been left unchanged in the interest of daily commuters.



The ordinary second-class fare has not been increased

for up to 500 km and for distances beyond that, there is

an increase in the ticket prices by half a paise per km. The passengers of ordinary sleeper class and first class will also have to pay half a paise more per km more from July 1.

“The fare revision also applies to premier and special train services, such as Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Vande Bharat, Tejas, Humsafar, Amrit Bharat, Mahamana, Gatimaan, Antyodaya, Jan Shatabdi, Yuva Express, AC Vistadome coaches, Anubhuti coaches and ordinary non-suburban services, in accordance with the revised class-wise fare structure,” the ministry said in a press note.

“Revised fares will apply

to tickets booked on or after 01.07.2025. Tickets issued before this date will remain valid at the existing fare without any fare adjustment. PRS, UTS and manual ticketing systems are being updated accordingly,” it added.

According to the ministry, there is no change in ancillary charges. For instance, the reservation fees, superfast surcharges and other charges have remained unchanged.

Similarly, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will continue to be charged in accordance with the applicable rules and the fare-rounding principles will remain as per the existing norms.

Most parts of India to get above rainfall in July



Swollen Beas river following heavy rainfall, in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

In rain-induced damages in parts of Himachal Pradesh, while buildings collapsed, landslides and road blockades added worries to the woes of the people in the hill state Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Most parts of India are likely to receive above-normal rainfall in July, the weather department said Monday, asking authorities and people in central India, Uttarakhand and Haryana to stay alert due to the risk of flooding even as some parts of the country are facing the fury of the monsoons.

In rain-induced damages in parts of Himachal Pradesh, while buildings collapsed, landslides and road blockades added worries to the woes of the people in the hill state Monday.

With major rivers in north Odisha in spate, the state government has started evacuating people from low-lying areas and launched rescue and relief operations in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts, officials said Monday.

Delhi and the adjoining National Capital Region (NCR) witnessed light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds

Monday morning, pushing the temperatures several degrees down and rendering the air cleaner. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded widespread precipitation across various parts of Delhi-NCR from Sunday night.

Chandigarh and several parts of Punjab and Haryana also received rainfall Monday. According to the local Met department, Chandigarh received 70.5 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am Monday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said rainfall is likely to be below normal in large parts of the northeast, many areas of eastern India and extreme southern peninsular India.

Average maximum temperatures are expected to remain normal to below normal in many regions. However, parts of the northeast, northwest, east and southern peninsula are likely to see above-normal temperatures, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press briefing.

The country receives 28 cm of rainfall average in July. Mohapatra said there is a high chance of heavy rainfall in central India and the adjoining southern peninsula. This includes east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, adjoining areas of Vidarbha and Telangana and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Delhi court closes JNU student Najeeb Ahmed missing case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: A Delhi court Monday allowed the CBI to close the case of first year JNU student Najeeb Ahmed, who went missing October 15, 2016, saying the agency “exhausted all options”.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Jyoti Maheshwari also “earnestly hoped” Najeeb was traced soon. “This court expresses its regret that while the proceedings in the present case end with this closure report, a closure for Najeeb's mother and other loved ones, still eludes us,” the order said.

While it accepted the agency's closure report, the court granted liberty to the CBI to re-open the investigation on the receipt of any credible information on Ahmed's whereabouts and intimate the court accordingly.

The judge said there was no evidence of any scuffle or exchange of Najeeb with any person on the day of his disappearance once he returned to the hostel to show his disappearance was caused by any suspect or any other person at JNU. “An analysis of the discussion shows that CBI has undertaken a holistic investigation and exhausted all options,” the court said. She also noted that when Najeeb left the hostel room, his cell phone and laptop were lying in the room only.

“It is evident that all conceivable aspects which could have been investigated upon, have been thoroughly covered by CBI, but no credible information could be received regarding the whereabouts of Najeeb Ahmed. An analysis of the above discussion shows that CBI has undertaken a holistic investigation and exhausted all options,” the court said.



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Wes

@rajuparulekar

Srinagar: Ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, a slew of top-tier security arrangements have been made, including the deployment of hi-tech gadgetry along the routes leading to the south Kashmir cave shrine, officials said Monday. For the first time, facial recognition systems (FRS) have been installed at strategic locations on both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes of Amarnath Yatra, and the installation of the technology has already yielded results with the arrest of two overground workers (OGWs) of terrorist organisations June 19.

To a question on attempts to create a rift between them, he

To a question on attempts to create a rift between them, he

of the day

quote

Pakistan gave a quid pro quo plus” response to India, which is the new normal set by Pakistan if India insists on its dangerous notion of limited war under the nuclear threshold

ISHAQ DAR | FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN



Today begins a new path that we will walk together, with the conviction to build a fairer and more democratic Chile. In the face of the threat from the far-right, we respond with unity, dialogue and hope

JEANNETTE JARA | CHILEAN COMMUNIST



Our historic trade deal with the United States delivers for British businesses and protects UK jobs

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK



SHORT TAKES

6 killed in crash of small plane in Ohio

Youngstown (US): Six people were killed when a small plane crashed minutes after taking off from an Ohio airport, officials said. The Cessna 441 with six people on board crashed near Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport Sunday morning, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Authorities remained on the scene Monday. There were no survivors, Western Reserve Port Authority Executive Director Anthony Trevena said at a news conference. The victims were taken to the Trumbull County Coroner's Office, Trevena said, but he did not release their names.

China lifts 2-year ban on seafood from Japan

Beijing: China has reopened its market to seafood from Japan after a nearly two-year ban over the discharge of slightly radioactive wastewater from the tsunami-destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant. A notice from the customs agency said the ban had been lifted Sunday and that imports from most of Japan would be resumed. The ban, imposed in August 2023, was a major blow to Japan's fisheries industry. China was the biggest overseas market for Japanese seafood, accounting for more than one-fifth of its exports. The nuclear plant at Fukushima was heavily damaged by a deadly tsunami that followed a huge offshore earthquake in 2011. Water still must be pumped in to cool the radioactive fuel. The water is then stored in what was an ever-growing complex of tanks on the property. After years of debate, the utility won government permission to discharge the water gradually into the sea after treating it to remove most of the radioactive elements. Japanese officials said the wastewater would be safer than international standards and have negligible environmental impact. China disagreed and imposed a ban, saying the discharge would endanger the fishing industry and coastal communities on its east coast.

B'desh begins murder trial of student activist

Dhaka: Bangladesh Monday commenced the murder trial of student activist Abu Sayeed, whose death during an anti-government protest last year ignited a nationwide movement leading to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime. Sayeed, a 23-year-old student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, was shot dead by police July 16 last year during demonstrations against the then Hasina government.



Financing is the engine of development. And right now, this engine is sputtering. We are here in Sevilla to change course, to repair and rev up the engine of development to accelerate investment at the scale and speed required

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

DUBAI CONDUCTS FIRST TEST FLIGHT OF AERIAL TAXI

Dubai has successfully completed the first test flight of an aerial taxi, a fully electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, marking a major step in its efforts to introduce sustainable and next-generation urban transport. The aerial taxi is designed to offer fast and zero-emission travel within cities



SINO-INDIA BORDER DISPUTE

China opens to delimitation talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

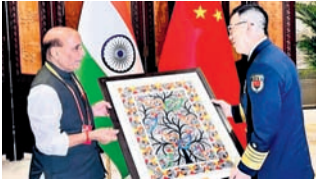
Beijing, June 30: China Monday said that the boundary dispute with India is complicated and will take time to settle but at the same time, it expressed its readiness to hold discussions on the delimitation of the border and keep it peaceful.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his meeting with Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Qingdao June 26 proposed that India and China should solve the “complex issues” under a structured roadmap comprising steps to de-escalate tensions along the frontiers and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders.

Singh and Dong held bilateral talks on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese port city of Qingdao, with a focus on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Asked for China's reaction to Singh's remarks, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, “What I can tell you is that China and India have established the Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism on the boundary question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question”.

The two sides have diplomatic and military communication mechanisms at various levels, she said. “China stands ready to maintain communication with India on issues including delimitation negotiation and border management, jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil, and promote cross-border exchange and co-operation,” she said.



The positive side is that the two countries have already established mechanisms at various levels for thorough communication. We hope that India will work with China in the same direction, continue to stay in communication on relevant issue and jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil

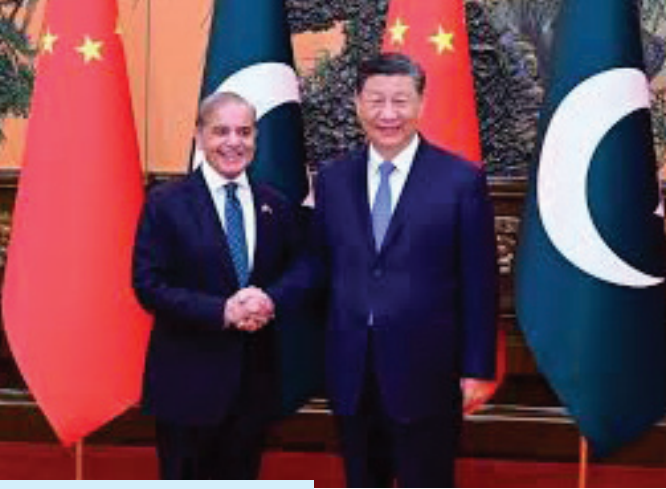
MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

Questioned about the prolonged delay in resolving the border issue despite 23 rounds of the SR-level talks, Mao said, “The boundary question is complicated, and it takes time to settle it”.

“The positive side is that the two countries have already established mechanisms at various levels for thorough communication. We hope that India will work with China in the same direction, continue to stay in communication on relevant issue and jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil,” she said.

The 23rd round of the meeting of the SRs, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, was held here in December last year. It was the first meeting of the SRs since frictions had emerged in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas in 2020.

The SRs in their meeting positively affirmed the implementation of the latest disengagement agreement of October 2024, resulting in patrolling and grazing in relevant areas.



A recent trilateral meeting between Pakistan, China and Bangladesh in Kunming, China, was part of those diplomatic manoeuvres, its goal was to invite other South Asian countries, which were part of SAARC, to join the new grouping

new grouping. However, Bangladesh's interim government had dismissed the idea of any emerging alliance between Dhaka, Beijing and Islamabad, saying the meeting was not “political”. “We are not forming any alliance,” foreign affairs adviser M Touhid Hossain had said. According to sources, India

would be invited to the new proposed forum, while countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Afghanistan are expected to be part of the grouping.

The main purpose of the new organisation is to seek greater regional engagement through enhanced trade and connectivity, the newspaper said.

It added that if the proposal is materialised, it would replace the SAARC, which has been suspended for a long time due to the India-Pakistan conflict.

Its biennial summits have not taken place since the last one in Kathmandu in 2014.

The 2016 SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to “prevailing circumstances”.

The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.

SNIPPETS

Iran raises death toll from war with Israel to more than 900

Dubai: Iran raised the official death toll for its war with Israel Monday, with official media reporting 935 people were killed in the country during the 12-day conflict. The state-run IRNA news agency did not give a breakdown between military and civilian casualties, but said of the 935 people, 38 were children and 132 were women. Its previous report last week said 627 people had been killed. The US-based Human Rights Activists over the weekend said 1,190 people had been killed according to data collected by the agency's network of medical and local volunteers. Of those, it said 436 were civilians, 435 military and 319 have not yet been identified. The group has consistently reported higher casualties than the official reports from Iran. Israel relentlessly attacked Iran beginning June 13, targeting its nuclear sites, defence systems, high-ranking military officials and atomic scientists.

Jury in Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs’ sex trafficking trial to start deliberating

New York: The jury in Sean “Diddy” Combs' sex trafficking trial is expected to begin its deliberations Monday, after hearing dueling narratives from prosecutors and defense lawyers last week about whether the music mogul forced his former girlfriends to take part in drug-fueled sexual performances. US District Judge Arun Subramanian began delivering legal instructions to the jury in Manhattan federal court Monday. Once the judge finishes, the 12-member jury will begin deliberating. There is no timeframe for deliberations, and any verdict must be unanimous. Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and two counts each of sex trafficking and transportation to engage in prostitution. A former billionaire known for elevating hip-hop in American culture, Combs could be sentenced to life behind bars if convicted on all five counts.

REUTERS

Cairo/Jerusalem, June 30: Israeli strikes killed at least 60 people across Gaza Monday as residents in the enclave's north reported one of the heaviest bombardments in weeks, while Israeli officials were due in Washington for a new ceasefire push by the Trump administration.

A day after US President Donald Trump urged an end to the 20-month-old war, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran, and possible wider regional diplomatic deals.

But on the ground in the Palestinian enclave, there was no sign of fighting letting up. The Israeli military issued evacuation orders Monday to residents in large districts in the northern Gaza Strip, forcing a new wave of displacement.

“Explosions never stopped; they bombed schools and



Israel's Dermer due in US for talks on Gaza, Iran, wider deals

Israeli tanks push into Gaza City suburb, residents say

20 killed in strike on beachfront cafe, health authorities say

‘It felt like earthquakes,’ Gaza father says of bombardment

homes. It felt like earthquakes,” said Salah, 60, a father of five children, from Gaza City. “In the news we hear a ceasefire is near, on the ground we see death and we hear explosions.”

Israeli tanks pushed into the eastern areas of Zeitoun suburb in Gaza City and shelled

several areas in the north, while aircraft bombed at least four schools after ordering hundreds of families sheltering inside to leave, residents said.

At least 58 people were killed in Israeli strikes Monday, health authorities said, including 10 people killed in Zeitoun and at

Dalai Lama set to reveal succession plan as China watches

REUTERS

Dharamshala, India, June 30: The Dalai Lama will address a major three-day gathering of Buddhist religious figures this week ahead of his 90th birthday, as his followers wait for the Tibetan spiritual leader to share details about his succession in a move that could irk China.

Beijing views the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, as a separatist and says it will choose his successor. The Dalai Lama has said his successor will be born outside China and urged his followers to reject anyone chosen by Beijing.

Tibetan Buddhists hold that enlightened monks are reborn to carry forward their spiritual legacy. The 14th Dalai Lama will turn 90 Sunday and

has said he would consult senior monks and others at this time to share possible clues on where his successor, a boy or a girl, could be found following his death.

“The rest of my life I will dedicate for the benefit of others, as much as possible, as extensive as possible,” the Dalai Lama told a gathering of his followers Monday as they offered prayers for his long life.

“There will be some kind of a framework within which we can talk about the continuation of the institution of the Dalai Lamas,” he said, without elaborating on the framework.

He has previously said he could possibly reincarnate in India, where he lives in exile near the northern Himalayan town of Dharamshala. He was identified as the reincarnation of his predecessor when he was two.

Dolma Tsering Teykhang,



the deputy speaker of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile in Dharamshala, said it was important for the world to hear directly from the Dalai Lama on the issue because while China “tries to vilify him at every chance, it is trying to frame rules and regulations on how to have the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in their hand”.

“China is trying to grab this institution for its political purpose,” she said.

“We want the incarnation of the Dalai Lama to be born not only for the survival of Tibet as a distinct culture, religion and nation, but also for the well-being of the whole humanity.”

Thupten Ngodup, Tibet's chief state oracle, said typical-

China views Dalai Lama as separatist, plans to choose successor

Dalai Lama has said his successor to be born outside China, possibly in India

Tibetan officials emphasise importance of Dalai Lama's reincarnation for cultural survival

ly such discussions on the reincarnation do not take place when a monk is still alive but things are different now mainly because the “Chinese government is interfering”.

Beijing said in March that the Dalai Lama was a political exile who had “no right to represent the Tibetan people at all”. China has said it is open to discussing his future if he recognises that Tibet and Taiwan are inalienable parts of China, a proposal the Tibetan govern-

ment in exile has rejected.

‘AS IF HE’S NOT THERE’ The religious conference this week, being held for the first time since 2019, will be attended by more than 100 Tibetan Buddhist leaders and will feature a video statement from the Dalai Lama.

Hollywood star Richard Gere, a long-time follower of Tibetan Buddhism, will be among those attending, organisers have said.

The Dalai Lama will attend prayers called by the Tibetan government in exile July 5 and participate in his birthday celebrations a day later, according to a schedule shared by the organisers.

He will speak at the celebrations for about half an hour. India's parliamentary affairs minister, Kiren Rijiju, and some other Indian officials are expected to attend.

of the day

quote

Gold remains under pressure, trading near \$3,300 per ounce, as renewed optimism over global trade negotiations lifted risk sentiment



KAYNAT CHAINWALA | AVP-COMMODITY RESEARCH, KOTAK SECURITIES

The new antenna is ready for commercial release in June, with international shipments starting in July. These antennas will be for both domestic operators and international customers



NITIN BANSAL | MD, ERICSSON INDIA

As one of the first system integration companies to integrate OpenAI to improve efficiency and enhance customer experiences, they're accelerating productivity and setting a new standard for how industries can transform using generative AI



GIANCARLO GC LIONETTI | CCO, OPENAI

SHORT TAKES

e-KYC setu system for registered entities


New Delhi: To make the KYC process easier, markets regulator Sebi on Monday said that registered intermediaries are allowed to use 'e-KYC Setu System' of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to perform digital KYC. Registered intermediaries can use this facility to perform digital KYC, as an additional alternate mechanism available to them to carry out Aadhaar-based e-KYC of their clients. Under the present framework, registered intermediaries use e-KYC services of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in the securities market. This service has been accepted as a valid process for digital Know Your Client (KYC) verification using KYC User Agency mechanism and or the Digilocker.

Japan's SMBC seeks CCI nod

New Delhi: Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) has sought clearance from the fair trade regulator CCI to acquire a 20 per cent stake in private sector lender Yes Bank. The development came after State Bank of India (SBI) and seven other lenders last month announced selling 20 per cent of their combined stakes in Yes Bank to SMBC for a consideration of ₹13,483 crore, making it the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector. SMBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc (SMFG). After the completion of the transaction, SMBC will become the single largest shareholder of Mumbai-based Yes Bank.

SEBI extends compliance deadline

New Delhi: Markets regulator SEBI Monday extended the deadline by two months till August for regulated entities to adopt and implement the cybersecurity and cyber resilience framework. The framework is designed to ensure that SEBI regulated entities (REs) maintain a robust cybersecurity posture, remain equipped with adequate cyber resiliency measures and can withstand, respond to, and recover from cyber threats, effectively. This marks the second extension granted by the regulator.



We expect the rupee to gain on weakness in the US dollar in improved global risk sentiments. However, any recovery in crude oil prices may cap sharp gains, USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 85.30 to 85.85

ANUJ CHOUDHARY | RESEARCH ANALYST, MIRAE ASSET SHAREKHAN

VI EXPANDS 5G COVERAGE

Vodafone Idea has expanded 5G coverage to 23 more cities, including states capitals Jaipur, Kolkata, and Lucknow, the company said Monday. Vi has already launched 5G service in five cities -- Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, and Patna. It announced the next phase of its 5G rollout, with network deployment now underway in 23 cities. These include Ahmedabad, Agra, Aurangabad, Kozhikode, Cochin, Dehradun, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Madurai, Malappuram, Meerut, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Rajkot, Sonapat, Surat, Siliguri, Trivandrum, Vadodara and Vizag, the company said



Industrial output growth slows to nine-month low

India's industrial output growth experienced a slowdown in May 2025, reaching a nine-month low of 1.2%, primarily due to contractions in the electricity and mining sectors. While manufacturing showed positive growth, driven by machinery, non-metallic minerals, and basic metals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: India's industrial production growth slowed to a nine-month low of 1.2 per cent in May 2025 due to poor performance of manufacturing, mining and power sectors caused by the early onset of Monsoon, according to official data released Monday.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 6.3 per cent in May 2024. The National Statistics Office also revised downward the industrial production growth for April to 2.6 per cent from the earlier estimate of 2.7 per cent released last month.

The previous low was observed in August 2024 when IIP remained unchanged.

The NSO data showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth decelerated to 2.6 per cent in May 2025 from 5.1 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production contracted by 0.1 per cent against a growth of 6.6 per cent a year ago. Power production declined by 5.8 per cent in May 2025



against 13.7 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

During the April-May period of FY26, industrial production grew by 1.8 per cent compared to 5.7 per cent a year ago.

Aditi Nayar Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA said, "The early onset of the monsoon doused activity in mining and the demand for electricity, with both these sub-sectors of the IIP reporting a contraction in May 2025, amidst an anaemic growth of manufacturing.

Moreover, the underlying trends were uneven, with three of the use-based categories displaying a contraction, amidst a continued high 14.1 per cent expansion in capital goods, boosted by a low base, Nayar said.

Tepid industrial volume growth in the first two months of the quarter does not augur well for industrial GVA (gross value added) growth in Q1 FY2026, she added.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 14.1 per cent in May 2025 from 2.6 per cent in the year-ago period. Consumer durables (or white goods production) contracted by 0.7 per cent during the reporting month against a growth of 12.6 per cent in May 2024.

In May 2025, consumer non-durables output contracted 2.4 per cent compared to a growth of 2.8 per cent a year ago. Infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 6.3 per cent in May 2025, down from a 7.6 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods contracted by 1.9 per cent in May 2025 against 7.3 per cent growth a year earlier. The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 3.5 per cent in the month under review against 3.5 per cent a year ago.

Bank credit growth slows

RBI reported a slowdown in bank credit to industry, growing at 4.9% in the fortnight ending May 30, 2025, compared to 8.9 per cent the previous year. Non-food bank credit also decelerated to 9.8 per cent from 16.2 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 30: Bank credit to industry expanded at 4.9 per cent in the fortnight ended May 30, against 8.9 per cent growth in the corresponding period of the previous year, the Reserve Bank said Monday.

The RBI has released the data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for May 2025 collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), accounting for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit by all commercial banks.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit as on the fortnight ended May

30, 2025, grew by 9.8 per cent as compared to 16.2 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (May 31, 2024).

"Credit to industry recorded a y-o-y growth of 4.9 per cent, compared with 8.9 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year. Among major industries, outstanding credit to 'all engineering', 'construction' and 'rubber, plastic and their products' recorded an accelerated y-o-y growth," it said.

According to the data, credit to agriculture and allied activities registered a y-o-y growth of 7.5 per cent as against 21.6 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year.

RBI further said credit to the services sector moderated to 9.4 per cent y-o-y (20.7 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year), primarily due to decelerated growth in credit to 'non-banking financial companies' (NBFCs).

On the other hand, credit growth to 'computer software' segment remained robust.

Fiscal deficit slips to 0.8%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: The Central government's fiscal deficit fell to 0.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of May, mainly due to a whopping ₹2.69 lakh crore dividends received from the Reserve Bank of India.

The fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, had touched 11.9 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2025-26 or ₹1.86 lakh crore in April.

Following the RBI's dividend payout, the Centre's fiscal deficit was reduced to 0.8 per cent of BE of 2025-26 or ₹13,163 crore, the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP or ₹15.69 lakh crore. It stood at 3.1 per cent of BE of 2024-25 in the first two months of the previous financial year.

According to the CGA, the amount the government received under the head 'dividends and profits' was ₹2.78 lakh crore or 86 per cent of the BE.

The data on monthly ac-



counts showed that the Government of India received ₹7.32 lakh crore, 21 per cent of corresponding BE 2025-26 of total receipts, up to May 2025. This comprised ₹3.5 lakh crore tax revenue (net to centre), ₹3.56 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹25,224 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

CGA said ₹1.63 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the Government of India, which was

Gross GST collections double in five years



India's Goods and Services Tax collections have doubled in the past five years, reaching a record ₹22.08 lakh crore in FY25, a 9.4 per cent year-on-year growth. The average monthly GST collection in FY25 stood at ₹1.84 lakh crore. Since its launch in 2017 GST has seen consistent growth, with registered taxpayers rising over 1.51 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Gross GST collections doubled in five years to reach an all-time high of ₹22.08 lakh crore in the 2024-25 fiscal years, from ₹11.37 lakh crore in FY21, government data showed Monday.

The gross goods and services tax (GST) collections touched its highest-ever level of ₹22.08 lakh crore in 2024-25, registering a 9.4 per cent growth over the previous fiscal year.

The average monthly collection stood at ₹1.84 lakh crore in

FY25, up from ₹1.68 lakh crore in FY24 and ₹1.51 lakh crore in FY22. In eight years, the number of registered taxpayers under GST has risen from 65 lakh in 2017 to over 1.51 crore.

"Since its rollout, the goods and services tax has shown strong growth in revenue collection and tax base expansion. It has steadily strengthened India's fiscal position and made indirect taxation more efficient and transparent," a government statement on eight years of GST said.

In 2024-25, GST recorded its highest-ever gross collections of ₹22.08 lakh crore, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 9.4 per cent. In 2023-24 and 2022-23, GST collections were ₹20.18 lakh crore and ₹18.08 lakh crore in 2022-23. In 2021-22, total gross GST collections were ₹11.37 lakh crore, and the average monthly collection was ₹95,000 crore.

GST, which was launched July 1, 2017, completes eight years Monday.

GST subsumed about 17 local taxes and 13 cesses into a five-tier structure, simplifying the tax regime. Monthly GST collection had touched a record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore in April 2025. In May 2025, it was at ₹2.01 lakh crore. The numbers for June will be released Tuesday.

Markets snap four-day rally

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 30: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled Monday after a four-day rally amid emergence of profit-taking, mainly in bank stocks.

After staying in the negative territory throughout the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex later dropped 452.44 points or 0.54 per cent to settle at 83,606.46. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 120.75 points or 0.47 per cent to 25,517.05.

From the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

However, Trent, State Bank of India, Bharat Electronics, Titan and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.81 per cent and mid-cap index went up by 0.67 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, realty dropped 0.87 per cent, bankex (0.59 per cent), auto (0.49 per cent), metal (0.49 per cent), oil & gas (0.19 per cent) and financial services (0.17 per cent).

Bank GNPAAs decline to multi-decadal low

Schedule commercial continued to record improvement in their asset quality, with the gross NPA ratio and net NPA ratio declining to multi-decadal lows of 2.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 30: The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the banking system declined to a multi-decadal low of 2.3 per cent in March 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Monday.

The level of the GNPAAs had stood at 2.6 per cent in September 2024. In the half-yearly The Reserve Financial Stability Report, the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the GNPAAs for 46 banks accounting for 98 per cent of the total assets of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), may rise to 2.6 per cent by March 2027. It can be noted that dud assets have been one of the most challenging part for the banking system for a large part of the latter part of the previous decade, especially due to stress among corporate segment, but



the system has been improving on the key ratios ever since.

Given the prevalent tendencies among banks to evergreen loans or not recognise NPAs at all, the RBI had to step in and force lenders to recognise certain loans as non-performing

through the asset quality review. As the state-run lenders had to be capitalised using public money as a result of the same. The FSR said loan write-offs, including technical write-offs -- which can be recovered in the

future -- were one of the prime reasons for the reduction in GNPAAs over the last five years. As per the FSR, write-offs to GNPA ratio for SCBs moved up to 31.8 per cent in FY25 from 29.5 per cent in the previous year, led by private sector lenders and foreign banks, and added that write-offs by PSBs exhibited a marginal decline. The half-yearly slippage ratio, measuring new accretions to NPAs as a share of standard advances at the beginning of the half year, remained stable at 0.7 per cent. From a sectoral perspective, the agricultural sector had the highest contribution to GNPAAs at 6.1 per cent, while it was

broadly stable on the personal loans side at 1.2 per cent. However, public sector banks' GNPAAs from the credit card segment moved up to 14.3 per cent as against 2.1 per cent in case of the private sector rivals. Share of the large borrowers in the GNPAAs was 37.5 per cent as compared to their 43.9 per cent share in the overall outstanding loans. This cohort's GNPA ratio declined from 3.8 per cent in September 2023 to 1.9 per cent in March 2025, the FSR said. None of the top-100 borrowers were classified as NPAs, the FSR said, adding that their share in the overall loan pie was stable over the last six months at 15.2 per cent.

US OPEN

Ayush clinches maiden BWF World Tour title

The 20-year-old, a 2023 junior world championships bronze winner, defeated the third seeded Yang 21-18 21-13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Iowa (US), June 30: Rising shuttler Ayush Shetty notched up his first BWF World Tour title with a commanding straight-games victory over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season.

The 20-year-old, a 2023 junior world championships bronze winner, defeated the third seeded Yang 21-18 21-13 in 47 minutes Sunday to cap off an impressive week, which included a come-from-behind win against top seed Chou Tien Chen in the semifinals. It was Shetty's third victory over Yang, having defeated him twice earlier this year at Malaysia and Taipei Open.

"It means a lot, it's my first title in the senior circuit. So I'm really happy," the 6-ft-4 inch shuttler told BWF.

In the women's singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma finished runner-up after a fighting three-game loss to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the United States.

Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded



There are a lot of positives to take away. I played some excellent badminton here, and I'm looking forward to the Canada Open next week

AYUSH SHETTY

teenager went down 11-21 21-16 10-21 in 46 minutes.

"I'm very happy with my performance. I was a bit nervous before entering the court, and I made many mistakes. This is my first Super 300 final, so I'm happy about

that," Tanvi said.

SHETTY VS YANG

The men's singles final began evenly with scores tied at 6-6, but Shetty, seeded fourth, surged ahead with a string of winners to lead 11-6 at the interval. Yang narrowed the gap to 13-11 and drew level at 16-16, but Shetty regained control with well-placed shots to secure the opening game with a decisive jump smash.

The second game saw the Mangalore shuttler race to a 7-2 lead before Yang briefly caught up, but the Indian maintained composure,

mixing variations and sharp defence to keep his opponent at bay. Leading 17-12, Shetty closed out the match with a cross-court punch followed by a powerful smash to seal his maiden World Tour title.

"He was defending quite well in the first game. I varied my smashes a bit, played some half-smashes and drops and that made a difference," said Shetty.

"In the first game I was hurrying a bit playing some sharp strokes. In the second game I was more confident, I opened up the game and that made the difference."

Shetty had reached the finals of 2023 Odisha Masters Super 100 tournament, besides making the summit clash at the 2023 Bahrain International and 2024 Dutch Open.

TANVI VS ZHANG

In the women's singles final, Tanvu struggled to settle early as Zhang built an 11-5 lead in the opening game, which the Indian couldn't breach.

In the second game, Tanvi came out attacking, taking a 4-0 lead and maintaining her advantage despite Zhang pushing her with long rallies.

From 11-9 at the interval, the Indian continued her aggressive approach, forcing errors from Zhang and taking the game to force a decider.

However, Tanvi ran out of steam in the third game as Zhang surged to an 11-4 lead at the break and closed out the match comfortably to claim the title.

SHORT TAKES

Pugilist alleges abuse

New Delhi: A woman coach with the Sports Authority of India's National Boxing Academy in Rohtak has been accused of sexual harassment by a minor pugilist, who according to the FIR filed by her parents, has slipped into depression because of repeated "mental and physical abuse". Despite having a copy of the FIR, PTI is withholding the name of the accused as the matter is under investigation.

When reached for a comment, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) acknowledged receiving a complaint from the 17-year-old victim about intimidation and incidents of slapping but denied being told about sexual harassment as alleged in the FIR. In her FIR lodged at a Rohtak police station, the victim has stated that the coach tried to forcibly remove her clothes once, slapped her on multiple occasions, threatened to ruin her career and called her a "person of bad character" in front of other boxers leading to her isolation.

Kabaddi going global

New Delhi: The organisers of the World Super Kabaddi League (WSKL) Monday announced that the inaugural edition of the tournament, featuring about 30 countries, will be held in Dubai, tentatively in February-March next year. Backed by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF), WSKL will adopt a franchise-based model featuring eight teams in its inaugural season. Each team will have a strong international presence alongside Indian talent.

"Kabaddi has always deserved a larger stage not just for India but for the global sporting community. With WSKL, our goal is to reimagine the sport for a global audience, unlock international talent, and take decisive steps towards Olympic recognition," said Sambhav Jain, Director and Founder, SJ uplift Kabaddi Pvt Ltd that operates the League. WSKL has already secured interest and participation from prominent kabaddi nations including South Korea, Iran, Thailand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Canada, and the United States, with discussions underway to onboard additional countries, the release added.

PSG rout Messi's Inter Miami



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta, June 30: Joao Neves scored a pair of goals for Paris Saint-Germain and the world's best team overwhelmed one of the game's greatest players, embarrassing Lionel Messi and Inter Miami 4-0 in the round of 16 at the Club World Cup Sunday.

With Messi facing the team where he spent two seasons before moving to Major League Soccer in the twilight of his stellar career, the European champions quickly erased the Herons' hopes of pulling off a monumental upset before a crowd of 65,574 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

Neves scored his first goal just six minutes into the match, converting a header at the back post off a free kick. The Portuguese midfielder added another in the 39th minute before Inter Miami totally fell apart in the closing stages of the first half, surrendering an own-goal and then watching helplessly as Achraf Hakimi tacked on another in stop-

page time to send PSG to the locker room with a four-goal cushion.

The pink-clad fans tried to stir No 10 with occasional chants of "Messi! Messi! Messi!" but it did little good. The Argentine star spent most of the first half just lingering in the midfield, surrounded by PSG players and barely getting a chance to touch the ball.

Inter Miami's best chance came early in the second half. A pass to Luis Suarez sent him clear at the side of the net, but the

ball slid harmlessly off his foot without a shot. The 38-year-old striker kicked a water bottle over the barrier in frustration, summing up the day for the Herons.

Messi finally connected with Inter Miami's first shot on goal in the 63rd minute, but it was easily scooped up by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. Messi had another chance on a header with about 10 minutes remaining, forcing Donnarumma to make a diving save in the only real threat to his third shutout of the tournament.

PSG advanced to a quarter-final match next Saturday, also in Atlanta, against Bayern Munich. The German club defeated Flamengo of Brazil 4-2.

The clash was reminiscent of PSG's historic 5-0 rout of Inter Milan a month ago in the Champions League final, when the Paris club won its first European title and established itself as the clear favorite heading into the expanded Club World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, June 30: England have named an unchanged playing XI for the second Test against India even as fast bowler Jofra Archer missed Monday's training session at Edgbaston due to a family emergency.

While Archer is expected to rejoin the squad Tuesday on the eve of the second Test beginning Wednesday, England have stuck with the side that secured a five-wicket win in the series opener at Headingley.

Archer, who had missed the opening Test, was added to the England squad for the five-match series last week but will have to wait for his chance.

Men's fast bowler Jofra Archer will not be joining the England Test squad for today's training session at Edgbaston, Monday 30 June, due to a family emergency. He is expected to rejoin the squad tomorrow, Tuesday, the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) said on Monday.

Archer, who has struggled with elbow-related injury to his bowling arm over the last several years, last played in a Test more than four years ago against India in Ahmedabad.

The second Test is scheduled to begin here from Wednesday. England lead the series 1-0.

No Archer as England name playing eleven for 2nd Test vs India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 30: The 2025 Wimbledon Championship kicked off in superb fashion as Benjamin Bonzi wasted little time in notching the first major upset by stunning ninth seed Daniil Medvedev 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-2 in the men's singles first round here Monday.

Ranked ninth in the ATP ranking, Medvedev has had a horrid run in Grand Slams this year. His first-round Wimbledon exit follows after a second-round defeat to Learner Tien at the Australian Open and a first-round loss to Cameron Norrie at Roland Garros.

Competing on the hottest opening day ever recorded at the grass-court major, according to the Met Office, the World No 64 Bonzi's precision and patience from the back of the court proved too much for Medvedev during their first-round clash. He also overpowered Medvedev with a relentless barrage of serving as per ATP.

"This is special for me today. This is my first Top 10 win at a Slam. Obviously, it is always special at this tournament. The atmosphere, all the courts, and the grass, everything really.

FIRST MAJOR UPSET Medvedev suffers shock early Wimbledon exit



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

I love this place, so it's very special and Daniil is a great player. He has reached two semifinals. I knew it was a tough match, but sometimes it is better to play this kind of player in the first round. Anything can happen, so I'm very happy with the win," said Bonzi in his on-court interview.

With his three-hour, seven-minute victory, Bonzi is into the second round at Wimbledon for the third time in his career. It marks the first time in seven appearances that Medvedev has failed to advance past the first round.

Bonzi struck cleanly from the baseline and found great success behind his own serve, which proved clinical in the first and third-set tie-breaks. After improving to 2-0 in his Head2Head series with Medvedev and earning the second Top 10 win of his career, the Frenchman will next face Vit Koprieva or Jordan Thompson.

Sabalenka powers into second round

London: World No 1 Aryna Sabalenka began her Wimbledon 2025 campaign in commanding fashion Monday, dispatching qualifier Carson Branstine 6-1, 7-5 in 73 minutes on a record-hot opening day at the All England Club. Sabalenka has played only two of the past four Wimbledon tournaments -- but made the semifinals both times. The people paid to figure these things out have installed Sabalenka as the one to beat, ahead of Iga Swiatek, Elena Rybakina, and Coco Gauff.

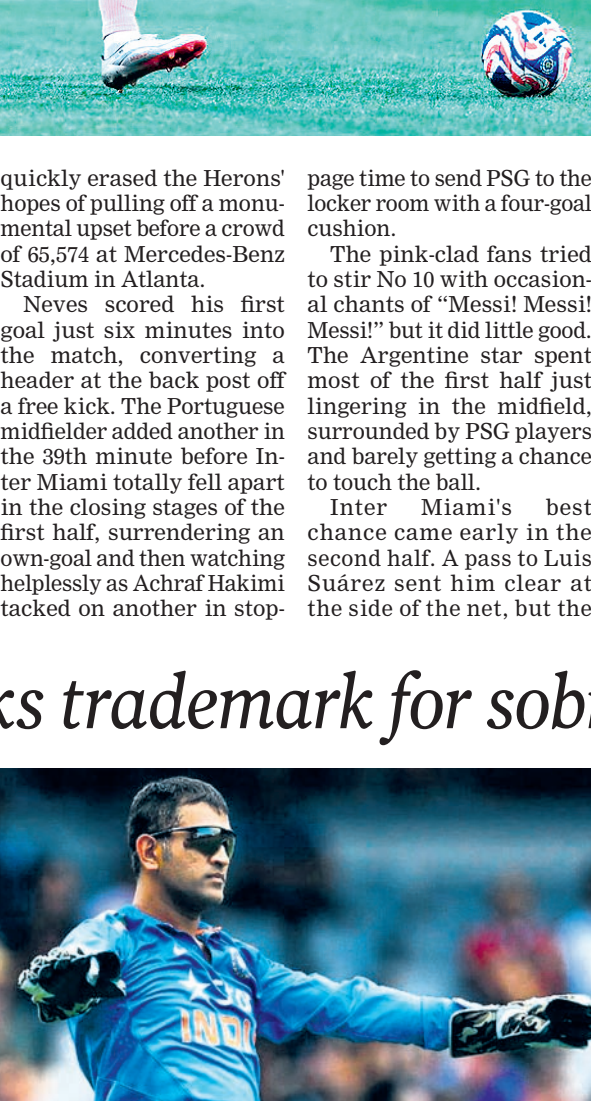
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhoni seeks trademark for sobriquet 'Captain Cool'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has filed a trademark application for the phrase 'CAPTAIN COOL', a sobriquet widely associated with his calm on-field demeanour.

According to the Trade Marks Registry portal, the application's status is 'accepted and advertised'. It was published in the official trademark journal June 16. The application



was filed June 5.

The proposed trademark is registered under the cat-

egory for sports training, providing sports training facilities, sports coaching and services.

Interestingly, another company, Prabha Skill Sports (OPC) Pvt Ltd, had earlier filed a similar application for the phrase. However, that application's status is showing as 'rectification filed'.

Earlier this month, Dhoni was inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame for the year 2025 along with seven cricketers, including Australian great Matthew Hayden and South Africa's Hashim Amla.

The ICC hailed Dhoni as a player who excelled not just in numbers but also in "extraordinary consistency, fitness and longevity".

"Celebrated for his calm under pressure and unmatched tactical nous, but also a trailblazer in the shorter formats, MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the game's greatest finishers, leaders and wicketkeepers has been honoured with his induction into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame," the ICC statement had said.

HERE, NOW

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MEETLE MEET 2025

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A QUIZ Extravaganza

It's time for MEETLE MEET. An initiative by the state's only home grown English daily, OrissaPOST to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the Preliminaries will take place August 9 and the Grand Finale August 10. Like in the previous years, top educational institutions of the State both from schools and higher education institutions will be competing for Prizes worth ₹3,50,000 & the Champions Title in both Junior and Senior segments.

RULES & REGULATIONS

● Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com

● Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.

● Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.

● OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.

● Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will not be entertained.

● There can be only one winner from one family.

● Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof – Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)

● No employee or families of OrissaPOST team can be part of the competition.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Celebrated as Doctor's Day in honour of the physician and the second CM of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, this date also marks the nationalization of an Indian institution in 1955. Celebrating its 70th foundation day, name this iconic financial entity.