

DADLS - 34



**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



# Seva Sushasan Garib Kalyan



**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

## 11 Years of Central Government 1 Year of Odisha Government

**Foundation Stone Laying & Inauguration of Infrastructure Projects worth ₹ 18,700 Crore**

**Launch of New Train Services and 100 EV Buses**

**Launch of Baraputra Sanmaan Scheme**

**Release of Vision Document Odisha Vision 2036 | 2047**

**Release of Booklet on Godabarish Mishra Adarsh Prathamik Vidyalaya**

**Felicitation of Lakhpati Didis**

by  
**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

20 June 2025 | 4:00 PM | Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

In the August Presence of

**Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati**  
Governor of Odisha

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Union Minister of Education

**Shri Jual Oram**  
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**  
Union Minister of Railways, I&B,  
Electronics & Information Technology

**Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

**Smt. Pravati Parida**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Ministers of State Government | Members of Parliament | Members of Odisha Legislative Assembly

OIPR-15001/13/0714/2526



**UMA THURMAN GETS NERVOUS EATING BEFORE CAMERA**

Hollywood star Uma Thurman revealed that the idea of consuming food on set is something she still gets nervous about. "First of all, you don't pick what's on the menu, and you have to speak sometimes and swallow, and then you start to worry about choking," the actress said.

**CHRISTINA RICCI: I WAS A BIT OF A PARTY ANIMAL**

Hollywood star Christina Ricci has talked about her teenage years and said that she was a "bit of a party animal". "There was a period of six years, (from) 16 to 21, when I was a bit of a party animal. But then, you know, that's not really bad," the 45-year-old star shared.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

**TAURUS**  
Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesha. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesha wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you are likely to remain transparent in all your dealings, forecasts Ganesha. You can be optimistic about your chances of success if you choose to propose to that special someone. The day will bring more pleasure than pain.

**CANCER**  
There is something different about today. It is unlike any other day. Just when you will start believing that there is nothing great about the day, it will spring a surprise. There have been days where life has thrown carrots at you; then there have been days when it has hurled brickbats. Today, you will be on the receiving end of countless kisses.

**LEO**  
Honesty and sincerity are your hallmarks. Being a Leo, it is no surprise that you value these two attributes above all else, says Ganesha. But it also means that you should not be surprised to find yourself today in a situation that somehow feels like a landmark moment in your life. Whether it is a personal matter or something related to work, that you must wait to find out.

**VIRGO**  
The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesha. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

**LIBRA**  
It is more than likely, and possible indeed, that you will surpass your own past performances today. All this is on the cards, despite the fact that your peers at work will try to outwit you. But it is your consummate set of skills that shall help you pre-empt all such attempts, says Ganesha. If it is some peace that you are looking for today, expect to find it in meditation.

**SCORPIO**  
You will see every colour of the kaleidoscope today — people with different temperaments and different attitudes, many of whom will surprise you with their reactions. You may be shocked at the way your colleagues or close friends react to your strategies or success.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are on a high today and a feeling of ecstasy surrounds you. You are performance driven and shall give you best in anything you take up. Listen to your inner voice, it will guide you to the correct path. Ganesha showers His benevolent blessings on you. Make the most of this day.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though. You have planned properly and have faith as those delays are not permanent, assures Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life. The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
Some conflicts could crop up in the morning on the domestic front. However, they will cease to be a cause of annoyance as the day progresses. Come evening and you will be in as fine a mood as you ever were, ready to spend time basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

**Rashmika's note on uncertainty of life**

**Mumbai:** The year 2025 has been a witness to some bitter memories with the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, the Bangalore stampede, and most recently, the Air India crash, making one ponder over the uncertainty of life.

Amidst such a gloomy environment, actress Rashmika Mandanna has urged everyone to be kind to themselves and to also be kind to each other.

"Just being around you guys makes me happy. I know I am repeating myself here but like I said that day..We don't know how much more time we have with us, time is fragile, we are fragile the future is unpredictable.. so please PLEASE be kind to one another, be kind to yourselves.. and do the things most important to you do the things that really matters," Rashmika penned on her Instagram handle.

Back in February, Rashmika used social media to drop a powerful message about kindness.

Posting a couple of photos of herself on her official IG, the *Animal* actress shared, "Kindness is so underrated these days. I choose kindness and everything that comes with it. Let's all be kind to each other."

Work-wise, Rashmika is gearing up for the release of her forthcoming thriller with Sekhar Kamula, *Kuberaa*.

IAN S



**Kartik follows Dilip Kumar's footstep**

**Mumbai:** Currently, Kartik is immersed in Anurag Basu's untitled love story, where he plays an emotionally consuming role opposite Sreeleela. So committed is he that he's cut off from all personal interaction to stay in character.

"Kartik has never worked so hard to remain in character. He is following Dilip Kumar's *Devdas* model. The late legendary actor became so involved with the character that he slept and breathed like Devdas. Kartik has cut himself off from all person-to-person interaction. Anurag wanted Kartik to grow a beard, lose weight drastically and try to remain in a dark place," shared a source close to the project.

A close friend added, "He hardly sleeps, he hardly talks these days. All his focus is on remaining in character for the film."

This deep-dive method approach — rare in today's high-speed commercial cinema — reflects Kartik's evolution from a relatable youth icon to an actor embracing layered, transformative roles.

But that's just one chapter. He's also gearing up for two big-ticket projects. *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri*, is a light-hearted romance alluding to its chemistry and music. And he also has the monster comedy *Nagzilla*, where he headlines an all-out action spectacle. In parallel, his much-talked-about collaboration with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions signals a bold new phase in his mainstream arc.

AGENCIES



**Secret behind Nimrat's humility**

**Mumbai:** Nimrat Kaur, who comes from an army family, credits her nomadic upbringing for keeping her grounded in the unpredictable world of showbiz, despite having no film industry background. "I think a big part of why I am an actor is because I haven't grown up in a comfort zone," she explains. "I don't have childhood friends or places I've lived in for more than two to three years. That constant change made me passionate about discovering new places, meeting new people, and embracing the unfamiliar."

She believes this lifestyle didn't just fuel her love of travel but also shaped her adaptability as

an actor. "It is really akin to what has happened in my life as an actor," she adds.

While many actors venture into businesses — from launching restaurants to building fashion labels — to offset the volatility of the entertainment industry, Kaur prefers to focus solely on her craft. "I wouldn't call myself a hustler to begin with, so I don't reckon with the word 'side-hustle'... principally from that perspective," she says.

Although she chooses not to diversify into other industries, she is committed to her other passion, which is travel. "I love travelling a lot. I pursue it diligently; it's like food for my soul. I treat it as a vertical requirement for my well-being, as important as acting," says Nimrat.

AGENCIES



**'We're not civilised'**

**Mumbai:** Actress Kajol, who is busy promoting her upcoming film *Maa*, spilled the beans about her working relationship with Ajay in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India. "We do talk about the rules of engagement at work. 90% of the time, if he is going over the top, I just call him out on it, and he calls me out on it. We are not civilised and we will not take it to the corner," Kajol said. "But it does not happen very often, because first of all, we don't work that often together, we work once every five years. So when it does happen, it is pretty much out there and a 'free for all' kind of thing," Kajol said with a laugh.

**KAJOL'S WORK DYNAMIC WITH AJAY**

Kajol clarified that the couple, who have been married for over two decades, don't have shouting matches but have set boundaries that no one crosses. She added that she is much humbler on sets than otherwise. The *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaenge* actor confessed she is more polite on film sets because it makes the environment more professional and easier.

AGENCIES



**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

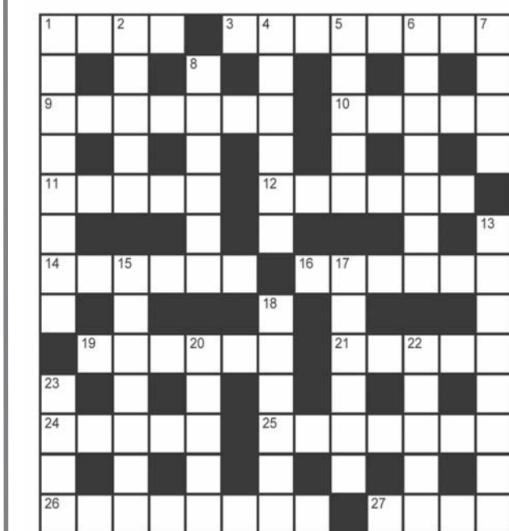


**BREVITY**



**FUN POST**

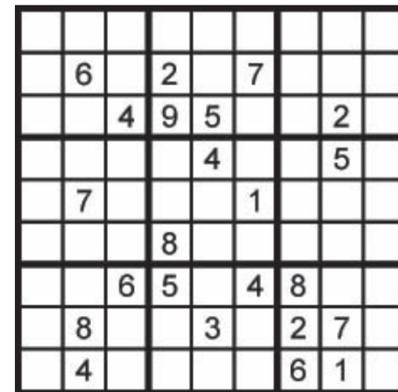
**CROSSWORD**



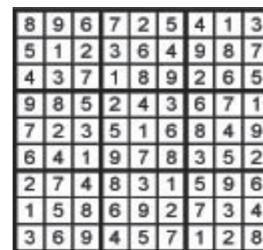
- Across**
- 1 Mountain lion
  - 3 King or queen, e.g. (4,4)
  - 9 Danger sign (3,4)
  - 10 Scruffs
  - 11 Sachet scent
  - 12 Faucet
  - 14 Merges
  - 16 Ebb
  - 19 Sheep originating in Spain
  - 21 Embrocated
  - 24 Aquarium fish
  - 25 Copy
  - 26 Italian almond liqueur
  - 27 Widespread
- Down**
- 1 Unsafe
  - 2 Runway walker
  - 4 Grand
  - 5 Tedium
  - 6 Say yes
  - 7 Work station
  - 8 Trite platitude
  - 13 Draw (4,4)
  - 15 Resistance to change
  - 17 Leon Uris novel
  - 18 Chinchilla
  - 20 Furious
  - 22 Tropical vine
  - 23 Sicilian rumbler

**SUDOKU**

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



**SOLUTIONS**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## Trump: India, Pakistan leaders ended conflict

AGENCIES

New York/Islamabad, June 19: Two 'very smart' leaders of India and Pakistan decided to end last month's conflict that could have turned into a nuclear war, US President Donald Trump said after holding a rare luncheon meeting with Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House.

Trump's comments Wednesday crediting the leaders of the two countries in ending the May 7-10 hostilities are seen at variance with his claims over a dozen times in the last few weeks that he brokered the India-Pakistan ceasefire deal.

In his remarks to the media, Trump said he was 'honoured' to meet Munir and that he discussed with the military chief the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel conflict, amid speculations that Washington is looking at using Pakistani military bases in case it decides to launch attacks on Tehran. **P8**

# MIDDLE EAST CRISIS DEEPENS

The Middle East conflict saw further escalation Thursday as Israel struck key nuclear sites in Iran and Iranian missiles along with drones hit an Israeli hospital and other establishments, causing extensive damage and wounding at least 240 people. Following the attack, Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei 'can no longer be allowed to exist'. President Donald Trump, on the other hand, kept the world guessing about whether the US would join Israel in airstrikes seeking to destroy Tehran's nuclear facilities. Meanwhile, India decided to evacuate its nationals from Israel who wish to leave in view of the unfolding security situation there. Earlier in the day, around 100 Indian students, evacuated from Iran, arrived in Delhi under Operation Sindhu.



el Katz blamed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for Thursday's barrage and said the military 'has been instructed and knows that in order to achieve all of its goals, this man absolutely should not continue to exist'. US President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has kept the world guessing, veering from proposing a swift diplomatic end to the war to suggesting the US might join it. Three diplomats told Reuters that Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi had telephonic conversations several times since Israel began its strikes last week.

In an apparent reference to the US, Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Thursday it would use a different strategy if a 'third party' joined Israel in the war.

In the latest wave of attacks, Israel said it had struck Iran's Natanz and Isfahan nuclear sites. A week of Israeli air and missile strikes wiped out the top echelon of Iran's military command, damaged its nuclear capabilities and killed hundreds of people. Iranian retaliation strikes have killed at least two dozen civilians in Israel.

On Thursday, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement it had launched combined missile and drone attacks at military and industrial sites linked to Israel's defence industry in Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Missiles also hit a high-rise apartment building in Tel Aviv and other sites in central Israel. "At least 240 people were wounded by the Iranian missiles, four of them seriously," said Israel's Health Ministry.

The DG of the Israeli hospital that was damaged in Beersheba, Shlomi Kodesh, told reporters at the site that a missile strike had destroyed several wards and wounded at least 40 people, mostly staff and patients. Earlier, the Israeli military said it targeted the Khondab nuclear site near Iran's central city Arak overnight, including a partially-built heavy-water research reactor.

Countries around the world, including India, are taking measures to evacuate their citizens from Israel and Iran and airspace in the region remains closed. Under Operation Sindhu, the first flight carrying 110 Indian students, who were evacuated to Armenia from war-torn Iran, landed in Delhi Thursday. Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin strongly condemned Israeli strikes on Iran and called for an immediate ceasefire. **P6**



AHEAD OF PM'S VISIT: A carcade rehearsal in progress in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state to attend an event marking the completion of one year of BJP government in Odisha (Report P2 & 3)

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

## Cash row: Committee for Justice Varma's removal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: High court judge Yashwant Varma and his family members had 'covert or active control' over the store room where a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found, proving his misconduct which is serious enough to seek his removal, a report of the inquiry panel probing the incident said.

The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana HC conducted the inquiry for 10 days visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35pm March 14 at the official residence of Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of Delhi HC and now in the Allahabad HC. Former CJI Sanjiv Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending

the judge's impeachment.

"This committee thus holds that the cash/money was found in the store room of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi officially occupied by Justice Varma. More so, the access to the store room has been found to be within the covert or active control of Justice Varma and his family members and that by way of strong inferential evidence, it is established that the burnt cash/money was got removed from the store room during the wee hours of 15.3.2025 from 30 Tughlak Crescent," it said.

It said, "... this Committee is firmly of the view that there is sufficient substance in the allegations raised in the March 22 letter of the CJI, and the misconduct found proved is serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for removal of Justice Varma..." It recommended impeachment motion against Justice Varma.

## K'para: Yoga trainer raped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Derabhis, June 19: A woman yoga trainer posted at a health centre under this block in Kendrapara district was allegedly raped by a youth who attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon Wednesday night, police said.

The survivor, who sustained critical injuries after the accused assaulted her with the sharp-edged weapon, has been admitted to the district headquarters hospital and undergoing treatment, police said.

"On the basis of a complaint filed by the woman, we have nabbed the accused - Bapi Mallick of Mandala village in Khadianga panchayat under Sadar police limits," sub-inspector Prapat Kumar Rath said, adding that further investigations are on.

The incident has sparked shockwaves in the locality, it was learnt.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The CBFC's directions to add quotes and disclaimers were brilliant. Felt like watching a film in a Vande Bharat train

REUTERS & ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv/Dubai, June 19: Israel bombed nuclear targets in Iran Thursday and Iran fired missiles and drones at Israel after hitting an Israeli hospital overnight, as a week-old air war escalated with no sign yet of an exit strategy from either side.

Following the strike that damaged the Soroka medical centre in Israel's southern city of Beersheba, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tehran's 'tyrants' would pay the 'full price'. Israeli Defence Minister Isra-

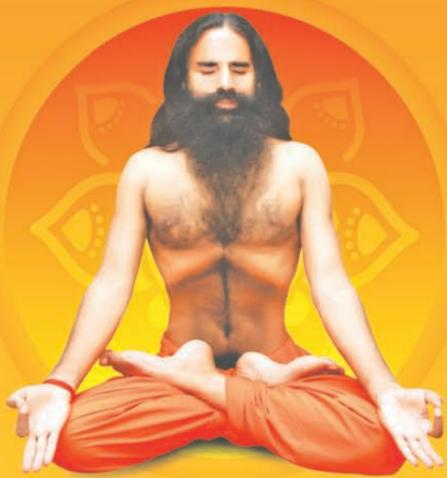
## On the 11th International Yoga Day, take a pledge to build a healthy, prosperous and supremely glorious India

### Yoga-enriched India: The Clarion call of Swami Ramdev ji

On this International Yoga Day, let us pledge to become Yog-vratists and Swadeshi-vratists under the leadership of Swami Ji and build a healthy, prosperous, capable, united and supremely glorious India. Through Patanjali, the Yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi have, over the last three decades, shown the path of freedom from disease and addiction, besides spiritual awakening to more than 200 crore people across 200 countries in the world. This not only saved zillions of rupees, but also laid the foundation of a spiritual, and Sanatan way of life.

### 'God of Awakening'

Crores of people, including the country's top saints and seers, regard Swami Ji Maharaj as the "God of Awakening" who travelled more than 25 lakh kilometers across the country to impart Yoga training to more than 10 crore people, and prepared more than one crore devoted volunteers who offer selfless and desireless service to the humanity. These trained Yogi brothers and sisters of Patanjali are spreading the message of health and awareness among the people through more than one lakh yoga camps and regular yoga classes in every village, city, street and locality of the country. This revolution of rising early in the morning and practising yoga is guiding India towards a new direction.



### World's biggest Yoga Guru

Connect direct with Yoga sage Swami Ramdev Maharaj to learn Yoga



Everyday 5:30 am to 7:30 am and 8:00 pm



Everyday morning at 7:56 am



**Campaign for selfless human welfare** Patanjali has been offering a voluminous service in the fields of Yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi through more than 10,000 Patanjali centres and 2,500 qualified and trained Vaidyas spread all over the country. If we evaluate it in economic terms, this contribution amounts to more than one lakh crore rupees towards nation building. Every project of Patanjali is dedicated to the service of Mother India.

**Prosperity from Swadeshi: Prosperity for Charity** According to a survey of Oxfam Global (UK) and other agencies, between 1765 and 1900, invading foreign companies looted from India valuable worth more than 100 trillion dollars, and this plunder continue even today. Swami ji is determined to stop this loot through Swadeshi movement while helping make India an economic superpower. "Prosperity for Charity": Patanjali has invested, is investing and will continue to invest 100% of its profits in the selfless service of Mother India.

**Freedom from Macaulay education system through Bharatiya Shiksha Board** To free India from Macaulay education system which was brought into practice by Britishers after 1835, institutions like Patanjali Gurukulam and Acharyakulam are preparing children with the strong personality, character and leadership qualities under the guidance of Bharatiya Shiksha Board. Further, by affiliating lakhs of schools with the Bharatiya Shiksha Board, we are building a new India. Educate your children in Patanjali Gurukulam, Acharyakulam, Patanjali Vishwavidyalaya and play your role in the great yajna of nation building.

**Health Revolution: Healthy India** World-class integrated treatment centres like Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram and Niramayam have been established with scientific research based on the traditional knowledge coming from great sages like Charak, Sushruta, Dhanvantari and Patanjali. Crores of people are becoming healthy and fit through these centres. Swamiji's appeal is that every person should do yoga himself and encourage ten others to do yoga. If even 1% of the aware people do yoga in the morning and adopt the Sanatan way of life ordained by yoga, then India's health budget could one day be reduced to zero.

**Research and Solutions: A confluence of science and tradition** More than 500 scientists at Patanjali have developed evidence-based medicines after years of research, for diseases of liver, kidney, heart, brain and respiratory system. More than 5,000 research protocols and research papers by our scientists have been published in more than 500 international journals. It has done a great job of getting Ayurveda recognized globally as a research and evidence-based system of medicines.

**Yogadharma must now become Yugdharma: Sanatan is the only solution** Today Yoga and Sanatan Dharma are the need of the world. Through Yoga and Sanatan values, Patanjali is giving a new direction to the world that is struggling with stress, diseases, social and cultural degradation. **Come, adopt the Sanatan way of life based on Yogadharma.**

**Clarion Call for five great revolutions** Patanjali is striving to make India economic and spiritual power while liberating it from educational, medical, economic and cultural slavery. Patanjali is nurturing more than one lakh cows and is working on a big action plan to save cows.

**Use Patanjali's pure and satvik products, Save your children and family from the poison of adulteration.**



PM'S ODISHA VISIT

CM Majhi reviews prep in City



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday reviewed the final preparations at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, where PM Modi will attend a public event Friday as chief guest to mark one year of the BJP-led state government.

The CM inspected the venue and directed officials to ensure flawless arrangements for the PM's visit. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, state BJP president Manmohan Samal, BJP In-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, and Co-In-charge Lata Usendi accompanied the CM during the inspection.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries department,

Hemant Sharma, and other senior officials briefed the CM Majhi on the progress of the preparations.

Samal termed the PM's scheduled visit a "historic moment" for the state and the party. He said that preparations have been made with full dedication -- from the airport to Janata Maidan -- where the main event will take place.

"The entire state is filled with enthusiasm. From the airport to Janata Maidan, every arrangement reflects our dedication. His (PM Modi's) guidance will shape our future roadmap. Odisha is now moving ahead with the spirit of 'Modi-maya' governance, and this one-year celebration will mark a turning point in the state's development journey."

He mentioned that the event will witness the unveiling of a

vision document charting the path for 'Samruddha Odisha' by 2036 and the announcement of key development and welfare initiatives. Minister Harichandan told reporters that PM will interact with beneficiaries of the Lakhpati Didi scheme and honour around 25 eminent freedom fighters from the state.

Harichandan also stated that the event may also include inauguration of religious projects like the digital Hundi system for the famous Jagannath temple, Puri, depending on the final schedule.

Police Commissioner Suresh Dev Dutta Singh assured that robust security measures have been implemented to ensure a safe and hassle-free event.

"We have made extensive security arrangements in co-ordination with various agencies, including State Police and Central Armed Police Forces. Adequate deployment has been ensured to cover all critical points. A separate traffic advisory has been issued, and crowd management plans have been drawn up," he said.

"Our aim is to ensure minimum inconvenience to the public while maintaining high levels of safety and security throughout the Prime Minister's visit," Singh added.

Half-day govt holiday in Bhubaneswar today

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Thursday declared a half-day holiday in all state-run offices, revenue and executive magistrate courts here in view of the possible traffic congestion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit June 20. According to a notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department, the prime minister will visit the state Capital Friday to attend the first anniversary of the BJP government led by Mohan Charan Majhi in the state. "The second half of the day June 20 has been declared a holiday for all government offices and revenue and magisterial courts located under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation limits," the notification said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, NO 15419822M NK (AMB ASST) Sumit Kumar Barai of MH Namkum. My father name is Prafulla Kumar Barai as per service document. I want change of my father name Prafulla Kumar Barai to Prafulla Barai as per Aadhar Card and civil docs. My permanent address is as under : Village + Post : Katapali Teh : Bargarh Dist. : Bargarh PIN : 768038 State : Odisha Mob. No. : 7008024261

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 4430/ dt. 05.06.2025 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Chandbali, I, Pitambar Mallick, S/o- Ghanashyam Mallick, Vill/ P.O.- Panchpada, P.S.- Chandbali, Dist.- Bhadrak, Pin- 756133 declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Seekha Mahalik to Shikha Mallick. Henceforth, she shall be known as Shikha Mallick for all purposes.

Cong, BJD flag law & order

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Odisha to mark the first anniversary of the BJP-led state government, opposition parties Congress and BJD Thursday launched a sharp attack on the government, raising concerns over gangrapes, deteriorating law and order, and the spread of cholera and water-borne diseases.

Both the parties held separate press conferences and accused the BJP state government and its Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi of "inefficiency".

OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said the PM is all set to visit the state at a time when people in 11 districts are battling an acute diarrhoeal outbreak, which has already claimed at least 17 lives.

"At the same time, the gangrape of a college student at Gopalpur beach has rocked entire nation and also brought defame

to the state at the international level," Das told reporters, adding that another "gangrape" has also been reported from Majhi's home district Keonjhar.

"We would welcome the PM to visit the state if he meets the families of the gangrape victims of Gopalpur and Keonjhar and help in improving the law and order situation," the Congress leader said. The OPCC has decided to stage a six-hour hunger strike from 9am Friday in protest against the PM's scheduled visit. Similarly, BJD leaders also accused the state's BJP government of failing to maintain law and order and ensure the safety of women and children in the state. "The state's BJP government is busy in spreading false propaganda while there has been sharp rise in violence against women. Serious crimes continue to occur even during the visits of the PM to the state," Opposition Chief Whip in Assembly and BJD MLA Pramila Mallik told reporters.

Odisha ties up with TBI, IIT-K for clean energy

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo met former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair in New Delhi Thursday, where a tripartite Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed to advance clean energy initiatives and collaborative policy-making.

The agreement was signed between the Odisha Energy department, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), in the presence of Singh Deo and Blair.

According to the pact, Odisha will take the leadership for setting up a "community of practice" among energy ministers of various states of India. A conference of the state's energy ministers will be held in the state later this year, it added.

Blair acknowledged Odisha's pioneering role in electricity sector reforms and commended the state for attracting significant investment in renewable energy over the past year, according to the LoI.

Singh Deo reiterated the state's commitment to a low carbon future and achieving net zero. "The state will adopt a strategic approach aligned to best international standards," it added.

FITNESS MANTRA



Ahead of the International Yoga Day celebration, Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, along with staffers of the dailies, participate in a yoga training programme on the office premises in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Yoga instructor Prajna Mohanty trained the participants about various yoga postures, asanas and pranayams.

Min reviews diarrhoea cases in 6 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 19: A high-level review meeting was held at Lok Seva Bhawan Thursday, chaired by Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, to assess and fast-track the state's response to the diarrhoea outbreak in Odisha.

The minister held detailed discussions with District Magistrates of six affected districts — Jajpur, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, and Kendrapara — instructing them to remain vigilant despite a decline in cases.

He emphasised sustained preparedness and full coordination during the upcoming monsoon season, describing the response as a "war-like" effort

SCHOOLS, ANGANWADIS TO REMAIN SHUT IN 2 DIST

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday said all schools and Anganwadi centres in Jajpur will remain closed till June 24 and those in Bhadrak till June 21 in the wake of a diarrhoea outbreak, officials said. The district administrations of Jajpur and Bhadrak have issued separate orders in this regard. Schools and Anganwadi centres across Odisha, except those in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, are scheduled to reopen June 20 after the summer vacation. Earlier in the day, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond said the Collectors have been authorised to take a decision on reopening of schools in three diarrhoea-affected districts — Bhadrak, Jajpur and Cuttack — keeping the prevailing situation in mind. "The state government is very concerned about the diarrhoea outbreak. We have asked officials to monitor the situation closely in the vulnerable districts before resuming school activities," Gond said. Two more persons had died of diarrhoea in Jajpur district, taking the death toll to 13, a health department official said Wednesday. A total of 196 patients are currently undergoing treatment at different healthcare facilities in Jajpur, he added.

for the next three months.

Minister Mahaling reviewed key aspects including purification of drinking water sources, grassroots to tertiary-level treatment readiness, sanitation, food safety, and inter-departmental coordination.

The minister urged all departments to remain committed

to public welfare, particularly the care of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, women, and persons with disabilities. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring health and hygiene across the state, noting that infection rates are falling, but caution and proactive measures

will continue.

He also stressed the importance of public awareness on safe drinking water practices, use of ORS, hand hygiene, and early hospital visits in case of symptoms. Following directives from Health Secretary Aswathy S, a special joint team of Central and state experts Thursday visited Jajpur, Cuttack, and Bhadrak districts. They are monitoring water purification efforts, treatment protocols, and data accuracy, and are advising local health officials accordingly.

The meeting saw participation from senior officials, including Health Secretary Ashwati S, and district-level authorities who briefed the Minister on ground-level efforts. Mission Shakti department is conducting an intensive awareness drive through SHG women members, who are disseminating educational materials and hosting village meetings on sanitation and hygiene.

The Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department has undertaken widespread water purification efforts. Contaminated wells and tubewells are being sealed, and drinking water sources are being routinely tested.

WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY

City AIIMS to get CoE status: Oram

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: AIIMS-Bhubaneswar is set to be granted the status of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the management and research of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram made the announcement Thursday while attending the World Sickle Cell Awareness Day celebration at the institute.

Speaking at the event, Oram highlighted the significant role played by AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in providing comprehensive care to SCD patients not only in Odisha but also in neighbouring states.

"The Centre of Excellence status will further enhance AIIMS-Bhubaneswar's capacity for advanced research and quality treatment in Sickle Cell Disease," he said.

The Union Minister added, "Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government of India is committed to eradicating Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047."

"So far, 5.79 crore people have been screened across the country. Among them, 5.55 crore tested negative, 16.38



lakh have been identified as carriers, and 2.10 lakh have been diagnosed with the disease," Oram stated.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar currently provides treatment to over 700 registered SCD patients, more than 500 of whom are in the 0 to 19 age group.

The institute offers regular diagnostic services, treatment, and carrier screening — including screening of extended family members of affected individuals — according to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas.

Biswas also informed that the institute provides prenatal

diagnostic services for early detection of conditions such as Down syndrome, neural tube defects, thalassemia, and Sickle Cell Anaemia within the first 20 weeks of pregnancy.

He noted, "If both parents are carriers, there is a 25 per cent chance that the child may be affected."

During his visit to the institute, Oram personally interacted with SCD patients and their families. He acknowledged the commitment of the institute in offering compassionate and comprehensive care, especially to patients from tribal and underserved communities.

Table with Market Watch data including Currency, Bourses, and Commodities.

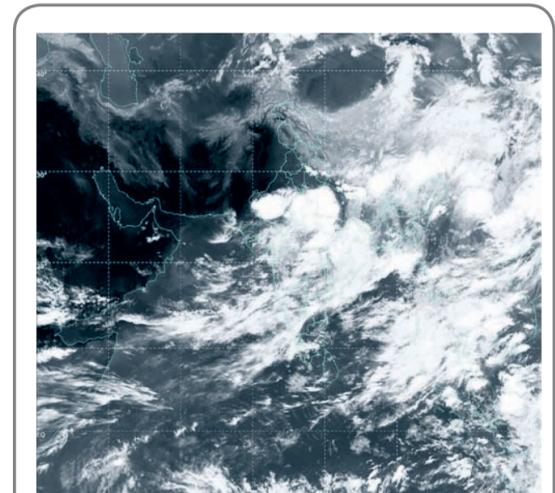


Table with Weather forecast data including Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, and Rainfall.

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# PM to launch ₹2,750cr Rly projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch development projects worth over ₹19,000 crore, including ₹2,750 crore of railway infrastructure works, during his day-long visit to the state Friday, official sources said.

During the day, the PM will also attend an event to mark the first anniversary of the BJP-led state government.

As part of the programme, Modi will lay the foundation stones for the third and fourth railway lines between Sarla and Sason.

"This project will significantly reduce traffic congestion on the busy Jharsuguda-Sambalpur section and promote industrial development in western Odisha," a railway official said.

In a major boost for Boudh district, the PM will inaugurate the 73-km-long Sonepur-Purunakatak railway line, a part of the larger 301-km Khurda Road-Balangir railway project.



"With this, the Boudh district headquarters will be connected to the national railway network for the first time," officials said, adding that this will facilitate devotees to visit Bhairavi temple at Purunakatak.

The construction of the 4th rail line between Jharsuguda and Jamga will boost economic growth and support industrial development. The freight train maintenance facility established at Sarla will improve logistics efficiency and ensure freight transport smoother and more reliable, officials added.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation a host of other railway infrastructure projects,

including the fourth rail line between Jharsuguda and Jamga, a freight train maintenance facility at Sarla, a subway at Bamra-Dharuadihi section, a road over bridge at Jaleswar, among others.

The new trains proposed to be launched by the PM are (18313/18314) Boudh-Bhubaneswar New-Boudh Weekly Express and (18311/18312) Sambalpur-Boudh-Sambalpur Weekly Express.

Apart from this, Bhubaneswar-Sonepur-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express and two pairs of Balangir-Sonepur Shuttle Passenger Trains will now originate from Purunakatak, they said.

## Gopalpur gangrape: Four minors undergo age test

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** Four minor boys, who were among the 10 people arrested for their alleged involvement in the gangrape of a college student at Gopalpur sea beach June 15, Thursday underwent a medical test to ascertain their exact age, police said.

The ossification test was conducted after the police urged the Juvenile Justice Board to treat the four minors - who claim to be 17 years old - as "adults" for the trial.

The police took them to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (FMT) at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for the test.

"We have conducted the ossification test, a medical procedure that uses X-rays to assess the age of a person," said Sudeepa Das, the head of the FMT department.

Das said they have also collected blood samples of all the 10 accused and the 20-year-old woman for the DNA test.

## Baripada gangrape: Hubby turns hostile

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, June 19:** The alleged gangrape of a married woman under Sadar police limits here in Mayurbhanj district has taken a surprise turn with the husband of the survivor turning hostile and rejecting his claims Thursday.

The woman's husband alleged that he had lodged a false complaint of gangrape of his wife in the police station after being coerced by some people. The husband of the survivor backing off

from his previous charges and rejecting the allegations in a fresh statement has gone viral in social media Thursday.

On the other hand, Congress leaders have alleged that efforts are being made to hush up the case and demanded stringent action against the accused persons. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Congress party led by former vice-president Arabinda Das, state president of Chamber of Commerce Jagesh Agarwal and woman leader Susmita Agarwal met Mayurbhanj SP Varun Gun-

tupalli and demanded immediate arrest of the accused persons.

The woman's husband had lodged a complaint at the Sadar police station that four persons had abducted his wife when she was asleep June 16 night and gangraped them inside a closed room in another village. Police registered a case and launched an investigation but failed to arrest the accused as they were absconding. When contacted, Sadar SDPO Prabhat Mallick said the charges appeared to be false during the probe.

## Two minor sisters meet watery grave

Basudevpur: Two minor girls drowned as they slipped their legs and fell in a pond during a visit to their maternal uncle's house at Bhutiana-lisahi in Kismatkrushnapur panchayat under this block in Bhadrak district Thursday afternoon. The deceased were identified as Chandini Mandal, 5, and Nandini Mandal, 6, both daughters of Tapoi and Ratan Mandal of Karanpalli village. A pall of gloom and mourning descended on the area after reports of their deaths spread. The siblings accompanied by their parents visited their uncle's house as the latter was ailing.

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## I-T raids on ex-minister Naba Das' residences

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, June 19:** The Income Tax (I-T) department conducted extensive raids Thursday at the residence of former Health minister Naba Kishore Das in Sarbahal, Jharsuguda, and at multiple other locations linked to his family and business associates. The raids, which began around 5am, involved a large team of I-T officials supported by personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Sources said the raids focused on alleged irregularities involving coal and mineral transportation, as well as suspected benami (proxy-owned) companies. The department is reportedly investigating whether Naba Das' son Vishal Das and other family members operated transport companies under questionable partnerships and ownership structures.

The I-T team has reportedly obtained documents suggesting that Vishal is in-

involved in businesses dealing with fly ash and coal, and may have also floated several companies with others as directors to conceal true ownership and evade taxes. It was alleged that some employees were made directors in these firms without their knowledge, enabling large-scale financial transactions under their names.

The department is examining whether proper tax was paid on these transactions and if there was any money laundering through these entities. Several documents related to these operations have been seized for scrutiny.

The raids are part of a wider operation being carried out simultaneously at 19 locations across Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bhubaneswar, and Delhi. Notably, Naba Das had previously come under scrutiny by the I-T department during general elections. He was also subjected to a separate Goods and Services Tax (GST) raid at that time.

## Inter-caste marriage: 40 of woman's family shave heads

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, June 19:** At a time when the state government is encouraging inter-caste marriages and providing incentives, in an attempt to eradicate caste related discrimination and promote social integration, a shocking incident has come to the fore at Baiganaguda under Gorakhpur panchayat of Kashipur block in this district where 40 members of a tribal family had to shave their heads and perform a traditional "purification" ritual after a young woman from their family married a man from a different caste.

According to sources, the woman, belonging to a ST community, married a man from a SC community against her family's wishes. The couple reportedly tied

the knot after a love affair. Following the marriage, locals expressed strong disapproval and allegedly insisted that the woman's family undergo a traditional cleansing ritual to "remain within the caste." This involved sacrificing goats, chickens and pigs, and shaving the heads of all participating family members.

The family is said to have complied with the demands, conducting the rituals at considerable personal expense.

Kashipur BDO Bijay Soe confirmed that he is aware of the incident. He said he has instructed the block-level extension officer to visit the village and investigate the matter.

"A detailed inquiry will unravel the truth behind the incident," Soe said.

## Doctor suspended

**Jajpur:** A doctor working at Dharmasala CHC in this district was suspended Thursday for allegedly asking patients to buy medicines from private outlets, officials said. The doctor, identified as Hemanta Kumar Maharana, allegedly asked the patients to purchase medicines from private outlets instead of giving them those available at the CHC, they added. Patients complained about it to Health Secretary Aswathy S, who visited the health centre Monday following the outbreak of diarrhoea in the area. The suspension order was issued by the Health and Family Welfare department. Maharana was directed to report to the district headquarters hospital.

## Woman dies of diarrhoea

**Derabisi:** An elderly woman died of diarrhoea while three of her family members were taken ill of the disease at Chakroda under Kendrapala block in this district Thursday. The deceased was identified as Manjula Jena while three of her ailing family members have been admitted to the DHH for treatment. The incident has sparked panic among the residents after reports of the woman's death spread. On being informed, Khageswar Nayak and health officials rushed to the spot and started disinfecting the water sources and surroundings in the village. They also conducted awareness programme on preventive measures to be adopted to check the spread of infection.

# Viksit ODISHA Viksit BHARAT

## Gift of Rail Projects worth over ₹ 2750 Crores for the People of Odisha

**Inauguration of**

**New Rail line between Sonepur - Purunakatak**

- Connectivity of Boudh to the Indian Railways' network
- Boost to industry, attracts investment and creates jobs

**Dedication to the Nation of**

**Freight Train Maintenance Facility with Routine Overhauling of Wagons at Sarla**

- Faster turnaround near key industrial hubs like Jharsuguda
- Better economic growth in the Sambalpur region

**Laying of Foundation Stone for**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Rail line between Sarla - Sason**

- Removal of congestion on the busy Jharsuguda-Sambalpur rail line
- Greener transport - shift from road to rail, cut carbon emissions

**Subway in Bamra-Dharuadihi Section**

- No more delays at railway crossings - smoother vehicle flow
- Improve safety, prevent train-vehicle accidents

**Flagging Off of**

**New Train Services**

Boudh - Bhubaneswar New - Boudh Express

Sambalpur - Boudh - Sambalpur Express

**Beginning of Train services to Purunakatak**

- Boost to tourism & regional connectivity
- Improvement of social and cultural unity across regions

**Link C - Dumetra (Part of Bondamunda - Ranchi Doubling Rail line)**

- Smooth traffic flow & enhancement of traffic facilities
- Enhancement of train frequency and sectional capacity

**Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Jaleswar**

- Elimination of delays at railway crossings
- Smooth vehicular flow

**4<sup>th</sup> Rail line between Jharsuguda - Jamga**

- Better punctuality and smoother train operations
- Economic and Industrial growth in the region

by

# Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)

In the august presence of

**Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati**

Governor, Odisha

**Mohan Charan Majhi**

Chief Minister, Odisha

**Jual Oram**

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

**Dharmendra Pradhan**

Union Minister of Education

**Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2025**    **04:00 P.M.**    **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

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FOCUS **PM'S ODISHA VISIT**

# A WARM WELCOME TO MODI JI



**Before 2014 elections, as the chairman of the BJP campaign committee, Modi Ji offered prayers to Mahaprabhu Jagannath and spoke a lot about the emotional bond between Odisha and Gujarat**

This afternoon, the beloved Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, arrives in Odisha. On behalf of four-and-a-half-crore Odias, I extend a heartfelt welcome to him on this sacred land of Lord Jagannath. This visit holds a special significance - Modi Ji completes 11 years of dedicated service as the Prime Minister of India, while I complete my first year as the Chief Minister of the State of Odisha.

In the past year alone, Modi Ji has visited Odisha five times. With today's visit, it becomes his sixth visit since the formation of the double-engine Government in the State. Remarkably, Prime Minister Modi Ji has visited Odisha more times than the total visits of all previous Prime Ministers combined.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's frequent visit to Odisha signifies his unique sense of devotion to Lord Jagannath and love for the State of Odisha. As an MLA, I got chances to meet Modi Ji at party meetings and Government programmes. But during the last one year, I have not only been fortunate to meet him on several occasions, but also felt his vision for the accelerated economic growth of Odisha.

Being involved in social and political activities since my childhood, my concern always remains to make people's lives qualitative and make them happy and prosperous. I tried to reflect people's aspirations in various capacities - as a RSS member, a teacher in the Saraswati Shishu Mandir, a Sarapanch, an MLA and an Opposition leader in the State Assembly. In the two-and-a-half decades, since I came to the Assembly as an MLA in year 2000 and became Chief Minister in 2024, I have dedicated myself to public service by forgetting my personal life.

Now, I bear the responsibility of leading Odisha's development. My journey of over three decades - built on experience, knowledge, and unwavering commitment to public welfare - has shaped my vision. Above

all, the BJP's development model and Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's leadership have inspired me with new resolutions. On this path, I am not alone - 4.5 crore Odias walk beside me. If each of us takes one step forward, together we will move ahead 4.5 crore steps.

Public participation is the cornerstone of Modi Ji's governance model. His mantra - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas - guides our mission. Modi Ji's 11 years of leadership and governance model are the beacons for us all. Rising from humble beginnings, he translated his struggles into transformative governance. Who would have imagined that a mere toilet could become a symbol of dignity for poor families, especially women? Yet, from the Red Fort, he launched a nationwide cleanliness movement. The Ujjwala Yojana revolutionized kitchens, freeing women's time for education and livelihood. Jan Dhan Yojana dismantled the old middlemen system, connecting beneficiaries directly to banks through DBT. And Digital India has reshaped lives. Even in the remote corners of Keonjhar our children now make digital payments.

The love and affection of Modi Ji, the guiding light of welfare of the poor, towards Odisha is unique. In his younger days, he spent time at the Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad. Before 2014 elections, as the chairman

of the BJP campaign committee, he offered prayers to Mahaprabhu Jagannath and spoke a lot about the emotional bond between Odisha and Gujarat. Just as there is a Sun Temple to worship the rising sun in eastern India, there is a Sun Temple too in western India's Gujarat to offer Arghya to the setting sun. At that time Modi Ji also said that there is no district in Gujarat where Odia people do not sweat for the development of Gujarat. With the blessings of the Mahaprabhu, it has been 11 years since he became the Prime Minister of the country.

During the last election campaign, Modi Ji had repeatedly raised the issue of how the people of Odisha are poor despite the state being a rich one. In my 30 years of socio-political life, I have been listening the stories of poverty in a mineral rich state. Now the time has come to strengthen the poor Odia people economically under the leadership of Modi Ji.

Mahaprabhu has blessed us with immense natural mineral wealth, long coastlines, water and forest resources, tribal community and intelligent and hard-working human beings. There was a time when our Sadhab Puaas used to go on sea voyages to do business. All the resources are there to make Odisha not only a leading state in India but also in the world.

Today, in the gracious presence of Modi Ji, discussion is being held on the development

activities undertaken in Odisha in last one year and the Vision 2036 and 2047. I take this opportunity to reiterate our resolve to facilitate that the benefits of development reach the common Odia families, especially women, farmers, youth and the poor, by making them successful through time-bound manner.

Our primary responsibility is to give a pucca house on everyone's head, clean drinking water and clean fuel to every house and streamlining of schools and hospitals, besides ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. To provide food, financial assistance and free government services to the poor and economically backward people through various social security schemes are the cornerstones of our pro-poor welfare schemes.

In the first year, we have given priority to industrialization through investment. Several investment proposals worth ₹17 lakh Crore have been received in the first year. Odisha is making rapid progress in the fields of IT, renewable energy, tourism, food processing, textiles, and semi-conductor sectors.

Modi Ji has paved the way for Odisha for receiving more Central funds. The mineral policy of the Modi Government was the main force for an increase in the budget size of Odisha. In the 2025-26 FY, our budget size has reached 2.90 lakh Crore.

We have started working in a planned manner to increase the purchasing power of Odia women, farmers, youth and the poor by involving them in development activities. We have to look beyond mining-based economy.

Today, while welcoming Modi Ji, I want to assure my dear Odia brothers and sisters that our Government - from the Chief Minister to the Ministers and the governance systems at the grass root levels - will stand with the common and poor people. Our resolve is to ensure that employment opportunities reach every family.

*The writer is Chief Minister of Odisha*



Mohan Charan Majhi

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI JI'S FREQUENT VISIT TO ODISHA SIGNIFIES HIS UNIQUE SENSE OF DEVOTION TO LORD JAGANNATH AND LOVE FOR THE STATE OF ODISHA**



Dani Rodrik

**WHEN PEOPLE ARE ASKED ABOUT WELL-BEING AND LIFE SATISFACTION, THE WORK THEY DO RANKS AT THE TOP, ALONG WITH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY BONDS**

SPECTRUM **SUSTAINABILITY**

## Urban flooding: Poor planning to blame

Flooding is a significant issue, affecting not just riverbeds but major cities in India. The country receives 80 per cent of its annual rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. Environmentalists are worried about frequent heavy rains in short periods. They attribute these extreme weather patterns to climate change and warming seas that carry more moisture, causing intense and unpredictable rainfall.

Urban flooding is rising due to multiple factors, partly climate change, and partly poor planning. While total rainfall hasn't changed much over the decade, it's now falling in fewer hours, making it harder for cities to cope.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN's climate science body, India is projected to be one of the most vulnerable regions to escalating heatwaves, humid heat stress, and other extreme weather events in a 1.5 degree C warmer world - threats that could bring irreversible consequences. Added to this, is the

occurrence of erratic rainfall and early monsoons that have been observed over many years. However, what has changed is the intensity and concentration of rainfall in short periods.

Experts blame rapid unplanned urbanisation, poor infrastructure and years of environmental neglect as the main causes of this problem. Delhi's Minto Bridge is flooded every year during the monsoon. Even expanded areas of metros like Salt Lake in Kolkata are frequently submerged if there is heavy rain. Even a newly built underground metro station in Mumbai could not withstand the heavy downpour as photos and videos of the station flooded with muddy water went viral. The pre-monsoon deluge once again exposed the fragile infrastructure of India's financial capital and sparked widespread outrage on social media.

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, more than 2,000 km from the national capital, the problem looks different, but its root cause is the same. Once known for its network of lakes that helped manage excess rainwater, Bengaluru has seen many of

these water bodies encroached upon. In their place now stand apartment complexes, business hubs and roads - leaving the city vulnerable to flooding.

Not just big cities, small towns often suffer equally, if not more. Mapping and real-time sensors are needed to identify high-risk zones and alert communities. Predictive models can also help authorities plan better responses. But technology alone is not a fix, it needs to be paired with responsive governance and community involvement.

Disaster mitigation has emerged as a major issue and clear thinking on the matter calls for technical expertise and well-planned strategy. With the onset of monsoon, flooding becomes a critical disaster. Special drives should be initiated to mitigate rampant encroachment of stormwater drains. Residents often connect rooftop drains to sewage network due to a lack of local-level stormwater drains in the city. Serious efforts are needed to stop the rampant disposal of garbage, road dust and construction waste into storm drains.

Urban planners are of the view that most of the city's drains are poorly designed as they are quite old and not capable of meeting the present needs. Their efficiency can be significantly enhanced by improving the slope, alignment and cross-sections. An important suggestion is that of rainwater harvesting in parks & open spaces which will act as sponges and reduce flooding.

States are not giving adequate attention to addressing floods in metropolitan areas and towns, which are highly congested regions where people experience significant issues due to waterlogging. Many states face financial constraints, making it difficult for them to implement various measures such as ensuring proper water flow through cleared drains, improving sanitation systems, dredging rivers, constructing embankments in villages, among others. These initiatives require substantial funding, and there is a need for the Central government to provide financial assistance to states that are frequently affected by floods and cyclones. INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**TECHNOLOGY ALONE IS NOT A FIX, IT NEEDS TO BE PAIRED WITH RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



### Tribal health emergency

Sir, Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) continues to cast a long shadow over India's tribal communities, particularly in states like Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Gujarat. According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and medical research studies, 10% to 40% of people in these regions carry the sickle cell trait—one of the highest prevalence rates globally. Yet, despite the gravity of this inherited disorder, awareness remains scarce, screening is often delayed, and access to effective care is alarmingly limited. SCD is a genetic condition that alters the shape of red blood cells, turning them into stiff, sickle-shaped forms that block blood vessels and reduce oxygen flow. This leads to intense pain, fatigue, and long-term organ damage. In children, the risks are even more severe—strokes and silent cerebral infarcts are tragically common when sickled cells obstruct brain vessels. Fortunately, with early detection tools such as transcranial doppler ultrasounds, these life-altering complications can be prevented. Government efforts like the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (launched in 2023) and new regional centers in tribal areas are promising steps forward.

*Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD*

### Protecting cheetah cubs

Sir, Eight cheetahs from Namibia were translocated to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in September 2022 as part of Project Cheetah. Later, in 2023, twelve more were brought to the park. Of the 26 cubs born, nine have died. In May 2023, the three cubs reportedly died due to severe heat conditions with temperature hovering around 40 degrees. Water supply has been an issue at Kuno but a solution appears to have been thrashed out by authorities. Solar-powered water lift system has come in handy for the park authorities wherein water from Kuno river is transported through a nearly 9-km pipeline to sprinklers and water saucers at more than 15 locations in the park. The green spaces thus created have helped the cubs as well as the mother cheetahs that are frequently seen to be utilising the water points to beat the heat.

*Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA*

“Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.”



THE MOTHER

## Abundance for Workers

The surest way for policy advocates to lose a progressive audience is to start talking about the economy's supply side, the importance of incentives, and the dangers of excess regulation. These ideas are traditionally associated with conservative agendas. Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson's new book *Abundance* aims to change all that.

As Klein and Thompson point out, the left has traditionally focused on demand-side remedies. A key tenet of the New Deal in the United States and social democracy in Europe is Keynesian management of aggregate demand to ensure full employment. Another is public transfers to mitigate the impact of unemployment, ill health, and old age.

Klein and Thompson rightly underscore that it is improvements in supply that are the source of broad-based posterity in the US and other advanced economies. As productivity rises, low- and middle-income families reap the benefits of cheaper and more varied and plentiful goods and services. Increasingly, however, the US economy's ability to build things has been hobbled, Klein and Thompson argue, by environmental, safety, labor, and other regulations, and by complex and time-consuming local permitting rules.

These rules and regulations may be well-meaning, but they can be also counterproductive. When governments and communities place obstacles in the way of investment and innovation, they undercut prosperity. Public transport lags behind, productivity in housing construction plummets, and deployment of renewables falters.

The examples Klein and Thompon offer are telling. California's high-speed railroad is years behind schedule, way over budget, and has been sharply reduced in length. President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan promised 500,000 charging stations nationwide for electric vehicles; only seven were built in the first two years of the program.

Klein and Thompson's vision of progress features energy from renewable sources and cheap, safe nuclear power; fresh water from desalination; fruits and vegetables from hyper-productive vertically stacked farms; meat produced in labs without slaughtering live animals; miracle drugs delivered by autonomous drones; and space-based factories supplying our other needs without requiring any human workers. And since AI has greatly shortened the workweek, we all can enjoy more vacation time without sacrificing our living standards.

Klein and Thompson are right to want to shift progressives' attention to the supply side of the economy. Keynesian social democracy no longer provides an adequate answer to the malaise experienced by workers. But their depiction of utopia reflects a vision that ultimately remains consumerist. They say very little about people as workers. Their focus is squarely on the abundance of goods and services that the economy generates - on how much we build, rather than on the builders.

In this, they share a common blind spot with economists who, ever since Adam Smith, have emphasized that the ultimate end of production is consumption. But what gives meaning to our lives is not just the fruits of our labor, but also the work itself. When people are asked about well-being and life satisfaction, the work they do ranks at the top, along with contributions to their community and family bonds. For economists, a job provides income but is otherwise a negative - a source of "disutility." For real people, a job is a source of pride, dignity, and social recognition.

The loss of employment typically produces a reduction in individual well-being that is a multiple of the loss of income. The social effects magnify those costs. Communities that suffer from persistent unemployment experience rising levels of crime, family breakdown, drug abuse, and an increase in authoritarian values. The rise of far-right populists in the US and Europe has been linked to the job losses associated with trade shocks, automation, and fiscal austerity.

Good jobs pay well, but also provide security, autonomy, and a path to self-improvement. None of this is possible without high levels of productivity. A progressive who is focused on abundance of good jobs, rather than abundance of goods and services, would therefore find plenty to agree with in Klein and Thompson's book. But there would also be many quibbles.

Consider housing, one of Klein and Thompson's key examples. Productivity in housing construction has stagnated in recent years, in part because of safety regulations and union rules. As one of Klein and Thompson's interlocutors readily admits, many of the regulations that impede construction productivity also reduce workplace injuries. Fatalities and non-fatal injuries in construction have fallen dramatically in the US since the 1970s, thanks to many of these restrictive rules. That must surely count as an improvement in overall worker well-being, casting the productivity statistics in a somewhat different light.

Klein and Thompson are concerned mainly with services such as housing, transportation, health, and energy, rather than consumer goods per se. But their line of argument echoes economists' case for automation and free trade. These may have been efficient by conventional criteria, and they certainly helped produce an abundance of goods. But they also hurt many workers. They left our societies scarred and helped pave the way for right-wing populism. A good-jobs focus would make us more tolerant of rules and regulations that sacrifice some efficiency for the sake of better labor-market outcomes for non-college-educated workers.

Ultimately, the real challenge for progressives is to devise an agenda that benefits workers in their role as workers as much as in their role as consumers. This requires a distinctive approach to innovation, investment, and regulation. Unions, worker representatives, and collective bargaining must be viewed as essential components of abundance, rather than obstacles to it. Place-based strategies and local economic development coalitions are critical. And government must put its thumb on the scale to ensure innovation takes a worker-friendly direction.

Advanced economies' most glaring failure has been their inability to deliver adequate numbers of good jobs. The damage has gone beyond economic performance, reflected in divided societies and polarized politics. Remedying this failure requires focusing on those who produce abundance, alongside abundance itself.

*The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School. ©Project Syndicate*

## WISDOM CORNER

- “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.” **HARPER LEE**
- “Unless one is able to live fully in the present, the future is a hoax.” **ALAN WATTS**
- “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” **PABLO PICASSO**



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Ministry of Ayush  
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However, I do have differences of opinion with some in the Congress leadership. You know what I am talking about, as some of those issues are there in the public domain and have been reported by you (media)

SHASHI THAROOR | CWC MEMBER

RAHUL'S NEW ADDRESS

Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, will be Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's new address and he has started the process of shifting on the occasion of his birthday Thursday but will start living there before the next Parliament session, party sources said



of the day quote

The state Congress president should be ashamed of using such language. He should engage in politics within limits and choose his words carefully

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

With the whole-hearted efforts of the government of Assam in the last 20 years, our MMR has improved to 125 in 2020-22 from 490 in 2001-03

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

A heavy heart but one filled with hope in Pahalgam this noon. Visited the site of the dastardly terror attack and interacted with locals and tourists who have brought the region back to its lively spirit and everyday rhythm

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Four die in separate rain-related incidents

Ranchi: Heavy rainfall across Jharkhand left four people, including two schoolboys and a 10-year-old girl, dead in three places, besides causing infrastructural damage in several districts, officials said Thursday. As rain continued to lash various parts of the state, two kutcha houses, a bridge, an abandoned residential building and a portion of an airport wall collapsed in different districts. No casualty was reported in these incidents. Several rivers were also in spate. The bodies of two boys, aged nine and 10, were recovered from under the debris of a collapsed under-construction well in Khunti district Thursday, more than 22 hours after they had been trapped there.

Labourer killed

Itanagar: A 22-year-old labourer from Assam was allegedly murdered in Itanagar following an altercation over noise caused by construction activity, police said Thursday. The body of Prabhsh Doley, a native of Assam's Dhemaji district, was found near an under-construction building close to the petrol pump in the Saturday Market area in Chimpu Wednesday night, they said.

Gunmen open fire

Patna: A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Bihar, two motorcycle-borne gunmen Thursday opened fire in a high-security zone in the state's capital Patna, where official residences of several ministers, the leader of Opposition and bureaucrats are located, police said. No one was injured in the firing incident, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Sachiwalay-1) Anu Kumari said. Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, criticised the NDA government in Bihar, alleging that the criminals have been "protected" by the administration.

Minor gangraped

Balrampur (UP): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four men in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district, police said Thursday. The incident took place on the night of June 12 while the girl was returning from a fair, they said. According to the police, Shiva Yadav, Akhtar Raza, Raj Qureshi and Firoz raped the girl and threatened her before fleeing. When the girl reached her home, she informed her family members about the ordeal. The family approached the police on Wednesday and lodged the FIR against the four accused, they said.

'Crashed Dreamliner was well-maintained'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 19: The government Thursday said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau will decide on the location of decoding the black box of Air India's crashed Dreamliner.

A multi-disciplinary team from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has commenced an investigation into the accident that killed around 270 people June 12, it said.

Meanwhile, Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson, in a message to flyers, said the crashed Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was "well-maintained" and had undergone a major check in June 2023 with the next scheduled for December this year.

He also acknowledged that the airline's decision to temporarily curtail its wide-body fleet operations by 15 per cent may have an impact on its customers' travel plans.

The London-bound Air India flight AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad June 12. All but one on board the plane died along with 29 on the ground when the aircraft smashed into a medical complex in the Meghaninagar area of the city shortly after its take-off.

The AAIB is probing the crash, and in addition to this, a high-level panel has been set up under the Home Secretary to investigate the causes of the plane crash. The committee will submit its report in three months.

"A combined unit of the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) has been recovered



AI to cut 38 int'l flights per week

Mumbai: Air India Thursday said it will cut 38 international flights per week and suspend services on three overseas routes between June 21 and July 15. The Tata Group-owned airline, grappling with disruptions following the fatal plane crash June 12 in Ahmedabad, said the objective of reducing flights on 18 international routes is to restore schedule stability and minimise last-minute inconvenience to passengers. The detailed announcement comes a day after the carrier said it would temporarily reduce flights operated with wide-body planes by 15 per cent. "These reductions will be effective from June 21, 2025, and last until at least 15 July 2025," the airline said.

from the crash site June 13, 2025, and another set was found June 16. This model of aircraft has two black box sets," the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement.

AAIB investigation is progressing steadily with all necessary support from local authorities and agencies, the ministry said, adding that key recovery work, including site documentation and evidence collection, has been completed, and further analysis is now underway.

"It has been reported in certain media outlets that the CVR/DFDR (black box) from the ill-fated AI171 flight is being sent abroad for retrieval and analysis...The decision regarding the location for decoding the flight recorders will be taken by the AAIB after due assessment of all technical, safety, and security considerations," the statement said.

A day after the crash June 13, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation ordered enhanced surveillance of Air India's Boeing 787 fleet, comprising 26 787-8s and seven 787-9s.



Women plant paddy saplings in a field during the monsoon season on the outskirts of Jagdalpur, in Bastar

PTI PHOTO

Kerala minister walks out over Bharat Mata portrait

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram, June 19: Tensions between Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and the state's Left government escalated Thursday after General Education Minister V Sivankutty walked out of a Raj Bhavan event in protest at the display of a Bharat Mata portrait, an image often associated with RSS functions.

Raj Bhavan strongly criticised Minister V Sivankutty for walking out of the programme, organised to distribute 'Scout and Guide Certificates' for school students, while Arlekar was present on the dais, calling it a "serious breach of protocol and a grave insult to the constitutional office of the Governor."

Under attack from Raj Bhavan, the minister hit back at the Governor, alleging that Arlekar had violated the Constitution by turning an official function at his residence into

a political event. Amid mounting criticism from the Left government, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, over the use of a saffron-clad image at official functions, the Governor firmly stated: "There is no question of doing away with Bharat Mata, as we draw our idea of patriotism and nationhood from Bharat Mata."

The new development comes close on the heels of another boycott by another minister in Raj Bhavan over the display of the Bharat Mata image, which indeed set off the controversy. Recently, State Agriculture Minister P Prasad boycotted an Environment Day programme organised at the Raj Bhavan, objecting to the display of the saffron-clad Bharat Mata image. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan remarked that the Governor's office should not be used to promote the ideological agenda of the RSS.

Giving details of what happened at the 'Scout and Guide Certificate' distribution pro-

gramme for schoolchildren, Sivankutty said that when he reached the Raj Bhavan after attending another event with the Chief Minister, he saw a Bharat Mata portrait with a saffron flag on the stage, and that floral tributes were being offered and a lamp was being lit in front of it. "What happened at the event shows arrogance," he said.

As the event commenced and he was invited to deliver the presidential address, he strongly protested against the display of the portrait in an official government programme and walked out from there, Sivankutty told reporters here. "I told the Governor, during my speech, that it was a state government programme being conducted jointly by the Raj Bhavan and the state administration. The Bharat Mata portrait displayed here is that of a political organisation. Lighting a lamp before it was not correct, as it is an official programme."

Act against those blocking Haasan's film: SC to K'taka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: The Supreme Court Thursday directed the Karnataka government to act against those obstructing the release of Kamal Haasan starrer "Thug Life" in the state and said a movie, stand-up comedy or a poem's recital can't be stopped only because someone's sentiments are hurt.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan said, "There is no end to hurting sentiments in India. If a stand-up comedian says something, sentiments are hurt and there is vandalism and protests. Where are we heading? Does it mean because of protests, a movie should be stopped or stand up comedy should be stopped or reciting of poems be stopped?" The top court then recorded Karnataka government's assurance that it would provide adequate security to cinema theatres screening the film.

"The State has filed an affidavit, paving the way for the release of the movie... we find that it would be in the interest of justice to bring closure to the matter. We don't find it appropriate to lay guidelines or impose costs. However, we direct the State of Karnataka that if any individual or group prevents the release of a movie or resorts to coercion or violence, the State shall act promptly by taking action under criminal and civil law, including damages," the bench said.

India to evacuate its nationals from Israel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: India has decided to evacuate its nationals from Israel who wish to leave in view of the unfolding security situation in that country over the ongoing conflict with Iran.

New Delhi's decision to evacuate its citizens came hours after an Iranian missile struck a hospital in Beersheba area of Israel. "In view of the recent developments between Israel and

Iran, the government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," it said. India Wednesday announced launching "Operation Sindhu" to evacuate its nationals from Iran after the Persian Gulf nation's conflict with Israel showed no sign of

letting up.

"The government of India accords the highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad," the MEA said. It said the government will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Indian embassy in Tel Aviv reiterated its earlier advisories urging all Indian citizens in Israel to remain vigilant and strictly follow the safety guidelines issued by Israeli authorities.

Tharoor reminds US of 'Osama'

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor Thursday reminded the US of Pakistan's role in sheltering Osama bin Laden, saying he hoped Washington used the meeting between Donald Trump and Pakistan's Army General Asim Munir to tell Islamabad not to support terrorism. The Congress MP made the remark in response to a question from reporters here about Trump's lunch meeting with General Munir. Tharoor said he hoped that during the interaction, the United States had reminded Pakistan of the importance of not supporting terrorism or providing safe havens to terrorists, and of not enabling, guiding, training, arming, financing, equipping or sending terrorists into India. Tharoor, who recently led a delegation of Indian parliamentarians to the US and a few other countries to talk about India's response to terrorism in the wake of the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, said the US could not have forgotten the episode of Al-Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden so quickly.



Indian students recall Iran-Israel conflict horror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: "We saw missiles in the sky and heard bombs in our neighbourhood... We were petrified," said MBBS student Mir Khalif, his voice still trembling with fear, as he stepped out of the Delhi airport after being evacuated from war-hit Iran under Operation Sindhu.

Khalif arrived in the national capital early Thursday in the first evacuation flight carrying 110 Indian students of the Urmia University of Medical Sciences in Iran's Urmia city as part of the special operation launched by the Indian government in response to the escalating Iran-Israel conflict.

The students, including 90 from Jammu and Kashmir, were moved from Tehran to Armenia earlier this week as explosions and aerial attacks rocked Iranian cities. The rescue was coordinated by the In-

dian Embassy.

Khalif described the experience in Iran as a nightmare and thanked the Indian government for evacuating them first to Armenia and then bringing them back home.

Huzaif Malik, another student from Kashmir, told PTI, "There are 90 of us from Kashmir. We landed this morning, and now we are heading to Kashmir in sleeper buses. Some students also left for their homes by flights."

Ali Akbar, who hails from Delhi, said the destruction was visible everywhere.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh reached the Delhi airport to receive the students.

Later, in a post on X, he said, "Warmly welcomed home the first group of 110 Indian nationals evacuated from Iran as part of Operation Sindhu, reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the safety and well-be-



ing of its citizens abroad." Singh also shared some photos of the arrival of Indian nationals at the airport. Singh confirmed that evacuation efforts under Operation Sindhu are ongoing, with more flights

scheduled.

The Union minister thanked the governments of Turkmenistan and Armenia for their support.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir

The students, including 90 from Jammu and Kashmir, were moved from Tehran to Armenia earlier this week as explosions and aerial attacks rocked Iranian cities

The rescue was coordinated by the Indian Embassy

Jaiswal shared some photos of the students on X.

Officials Wednesday said that the first evacuation flight of Indian nationals being moved out of Iran was to arrive in India from the Armenian capital of Yerevan in the early hours of June 19.

Meanwhile, at the Delhi airport, several parents waited anxiously to reunite with their children. Haider Ali, the father of MBBS student Maaz Haider, said, "We are happy and grateful, but our hearts are still heavy knowing that many students are still stuck in Tehran. We urge the government

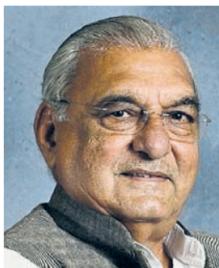
to bring them back too." Parvez Alam from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, whose son studied in Urmia, said, "We were under constant stress. The students were shifted to Armenia and looked after well. We thank the government for this."

The Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the evacuation.

In a post on X, the association shared photos of a Kashmiri student's reunion with her family.

While relieved to be back in India, some students complained about the condition of the buses arranged for them to travel back to Kashmir.

Taking note, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed officials to ensure that the students are ferried in deluxe buses.



**There is a huge shortage of DAP in many areas, including Sonipat, Jhajjar, Fatehabad, Hisar and Rohtak. The farmers are wandering from door to door for fertilisers, and the government is sitting idle even as the paddy transplantation season has started**

**BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA** | FORMER HARYANA CM

## INDIA, FRANCE BEGIN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'SHAKTI'

A joint exercise between the militaries of India and France, aimed at enhancing operational coordination and focused on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment, began Thursday, officials said



# 5 Assembly bypolls in 4 states largely peaceful

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ludhiana/Ahmedabad, June 19:** Bypolls were held in five Assembly segments across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala Thursday, with the Kaliganj seat in West Bengal registering a polling percentage of nearly 70 by 5 pm.



The polling that commenced at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm was largely peaceful, with the exception of a few isolated incidents, officials said.

While the deaths of the incumbent MLAs necessitated the bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal and Punjab, the resignation of two legislators led to the polling in Kerala and another seat in Gujarat. At Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district, a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5 pm.

Sources said the polling percentage may go further up as there were queues outside polling booths. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed in February. His daughter, Alifa

Voters were not allowed to carry mobile phones inside polling stations and were instructed to deposit the devices at designated spots under the supervision of EC-appointed volunteers.

Kerala's Nilambur constituency saw a steady voter turnout of 59.68 per cent till 3 pm. People came out in good numbers at the 263 polling booths across the constituency, which has over 2.32 lakh voters.

Among the 10 contestants, the key contenders are ruling LDF's pick M Swaraj, Aryadan Shoukath (of the Congress-led UDF), TMC state convener and independent candidate P V Anvar and Mohan George of the BJP-led NDA. The UDF candidate expressed confidence about winning by a huge margin. Swaraj was also confident of securing a win.

Anvar, whose resignation as the MLA from Nilambur necessitated the bypoll, told reporters about the developments carried out in the constituency when he was representing it.

In Gujarat, the Visavadar seat in Junagadh district recorded

a poll percentage of 54.61 and Kadi in Mehsana district saw a voter turnout of 54.49 per cent till 5 pm.

The BJP, Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) fielded their candidates in the two seats. The Kadi seat, reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates, fell vacant February 4 following the death of BJP MLA Karsan Solanki.

In the Visavadar seat, BJP candidate Kirit Patel and Congress nominee Nitin Ranpariya cast their votes in the early hours.

The AAP fielded its former Gujarat president, Gopal Italia, from Visavadar. He is not registered as a voter in the constituency. Despite its near-total dominance in the state, the BJP has not won the Visavadar seat since 2007. Party leaders are hopeful this time of overcoming the 18-year jinx.

In the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, the BJP has 161 legislators, the Congress 12 and the AAP four. While one seat is with the Samajwadi Party, two are with independents.

## US experts to help firm contain gas leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sivasagar (Assam), June 19:** State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Thursday said experts from the US will assist the company in controlling the leakage of gas from a crude oil well in Assam's Sivasagar district, where a blowout took place eight days ago.

In its daily bulletin on the blowout incident, ONGC said the foreign experts are likely to reach the site Friday evening.

"An international team of well control experts has been mobilised from the United States of America, and is expected to reach the site by the evening of June 20 to augment the response with specialised expertise," it said.

The blowout took place June 12 at a well of Rudrasagar oil field of ONGC at Barichuk of Bhatiapur. A private firm, S K Petro Services, was operat-

ing the well on behalf of the 'Maharatna' company. ONGC also said it continues to make concerted efforts to control the unabated gas discharge from the well.

Meanwhile, the energy major has also initiated the development of an alternate route to facilitate safe and efficient movement in and out of the well site.

## Patanjali research published in International Wiley journal



AGENCIES

**Haridwar, June 19:** Novel research conducted by Patanjali's scientists on C. elegans confirms that the Ayurvedic formulation Neurogrit Gold not only helps improve memory loss caused by Parkinson's disease but also increases lifespan; however, it does not hamper the growth or progeny of these organisms. This exemplary study has been published in the world-renowned Wiley publication journal, CNS Neuroscience & Therapeutics.

of natural herbs like Jyotishmati and Giloy, along with traditional Ayurvedic Bhasmas such as Ekangveer Ras, Moti Pishti, Rajat Bhasma, Vasant Kusumakar Ras, and Rasraj Ras—all considered beneficial for neurological disorders.

Dr Anurag Varshney, Vice-President and Chief Scientist of Patanjali Research Foundation, stated that this is the first time a novel experiment has been conducted on C. elegans using an Ayurvedic formulation. The results are not only exciting for the scientific community but also hold great promise for human health in the future.

However, when dopamine fails to perform its role, the body begins to tremble, and people often forget even simple tasks they once did with ease. This condition is known as Parkinson's disease. Neurogrit Gold helped reduce oxidative stress levels in the organisms while enhancing the expression of pink-1 and pdr-1 genes—responsible for mitochondrial autophagy—and cat-2, which regulates dopamine synthesis.

## Canada a base for Khalistani violence in India, says report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 19:** Politically motivated violent extremism threat in Canada since mid-1980s has manifested through Khalistani extremists seeking to use violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan within India's Punjab, a report by Ottawa's intelligence agency has said.

use Canada as a base for fundraising and planning of violence primarily in India. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service's report for 2024 was released Wednesday, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney with a focus on rebuilding bilateral ties that plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

## ED conducts raids in Bihar constable recruitment 'scam'

**Patna:** The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted multi-state searches in connection with a money laundering investigation into an alleged scam in the recruitment of police constables in Bihar during 2023, official sources said. The masterminds of the alleged scam are the same as that of the NEET-UG paper leak 'scam' of 2024, they said. At least a dozen locations of private entities like agents, exam paper leak syndicate members and their associates in Patna and Nalanda in Bihar, Ranchi (Jharkhand), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Kolkata (West Bengal) were raided under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

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No.CAD-836:Revival of 13 No. Packages of Lift Irrigation Project Works under Koraput & Malkangiri District.

Execution of L.I. Project Works- Under Koraput & Malkangiri District

1. Cost of Projects - 5,389 to 15,403 Lakhs each
2. Class of Contractors - Valid Electrical H.T. License with Civil 'D' or above class (As per specified in DTCN)
3. Availability of Bid in Portal - 20.06.2025 at 10.00 AM to 30.06.2025 upto 05.00 PM
4. Bid Clarification - On or before 25.06.2025 during office hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Koraput - 01.07.2025 at 11.00 AM onwards.
5. Bid Opening -

The bidders who have awarded similar nature of work previously but not satisfactory progress till date or the defaulter contractors need not apply. All other information will available in Govt. Portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).

**Sd./- Executive Engineer**  
**L.I. Division, Koraput**

OIPR-32173/11/0006/2526

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE / NOTICE**  
No. C/SBP/Public Auction/R.Garments/KSNG/25 Date: 12.06.2025  
Notice is hereby given under Section 83 and 84 of the Railway Act 1989 that 05 numbers of Parcel Packages consisting 1924 pieces readymade garments are kept at Parcel Office of Kesinga Railway Station under the custody of the Railway will be disposed off by public auction on open-cum sealed bid system at the following place and time as per auction rules.

Description of Consignments	Place of Auction	Date of Auction with Time
05 numbers of Parcel Packages consisting 1924 pieces readymade garments are kept at Parcel Office of Kesinga Railway Station.	Station Manager's Office at Kesinga Railway Station	30.06.2025 at 1100 hrs.

Intending bidders may visit the spot as mentioned above for necessary examination of consignment during day light hours. The Railways reserve the right to cancel auction or withdraw any or all the consignments without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Complete details available at: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Sambalpur**

PR-254/Q/25-26

## BORDER SECURITY FORCE ATTENTION: ALL PENSIONERS OF BORDER SECURITY FORCE BSF PENSION ADALAT

Ftr HQ BSF South Bengal is organizing Pension Adalat to redress the grievances related to pension for pensioners residing in State of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar & Eastern States i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Nagaland.

Date & Time: 08th July' 2025 from 0930 hrs to 1700 hrs.

Venue : Ftr HQ BSF South Bengal, Plot No.-II/E/II, Action Area-II, E, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700161

2. Above pension adalat will be held through hybrid mode (Video Conference as well Physical Mode). BSF Pensioners/family pensioners in above mentioned States may either physically come to Frontier HQR, BSF, South Bengal (Kolkata) or may join through vide conference. Pensioners/family pensioners may report to their nearest Sector HQrs of BSF, who will facilitate connection with Pension Adalat members through video conference system. BSF pensioners/family pensioners desirous of redressing their grievances related to their pension may provide their email ID, contact number and address to e-mail ID [sbfttr@bsf.nic.in](mailto:sbfttr@bsf.nic.in). For any queries, they may contact BSF SB help desk 14419 or Phone No. 033-29624419 (extn No. 157). For further details please visit our website [@frontiersouthbengal](http://www.bsf.nic.in).

3. No TA/DA is admissible to retirees/family pensioners who will attend the Pension Adalat.

**cbc 19110/11/0022/2526**

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University. The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to be:

- A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
- A distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years experience as Professor in a University or 10 years experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.

#### Salary and Service Conditions

- The post carries a pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

#### Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a Committee constituted under the provisions of Act of the University.
- The Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University was published on 13.12.2022 with the last date of receipt of application till 11.01.2023 (extended till 23.01.2023). However, due to unavoidable reasons, the process of appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University could not take off for a very long time. Therefore, now fresh applications are invited from the candidates regardless they have applied before or not. Only those applications which will be received against this fresh advertisement will be considered for the post.

The advertisement is available on the websites <http://www.education.gov.in> and <https://sindhu.ac.in>.

Candidates are required to "APPLY ONLINE ONLY" on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:

<https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/index.php/>  
The above link will be active from 20.6.2025, 10.00 Hours to 19.07.2025, 17.00 Hours.

**cbc 21201/11/0007/2526**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION**  
(An autonomous body of GOI under the aegis of M/o Housing & Urban Affairs)  
9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001.  
Ph-23717249/23355408/23322192, E-mail : [cgewho@nic.in](mailto:cgewho@nic.in) Website : [www.cgewho.in](http://www.cgewho.in)

## REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TURNKEY HOUSING PROJECT AT BHUBANESWAR

CGEWHO invites offers from construction agencies, for development of a composite housing project, on Turnkey model, complete with all infrastructure and amenities on 3 to 5 Acres of land at Bhubaneswar for approximately 250 Dwelling Units. The agency shall be responsible for transfer, registration of land in favour of CGEWHO, approval of plans and construction of the said housing project with all the essential services and amenities. The land should be within a radius of 10 km from CV Raman College, Bhubaneswar. The housing project proposed to be built, shall have preferably 3 BHK & 4 BHK types of Dwelling Units with lifts and other amenities that includes a Community Centre, swimming pool, badminton courts as per norms of the statutory authorities. While giving the proposal, it must be ensured by the agency that all the statutory requirements as per the local bye-laws and RERA guidelines of the State should strictly be followed. The construction agency may identify one or more places of suitable land.

2. The land details are to be given as per the "Land Proforma" uploaded along with this EOI document. CGEWHO shall assess the suitability of land with regard to its vicinity towards schools, colleges, markets, hospitals, Railway Station etc as per the pre-defined "Weightage Chart" on a scale of 200 points. Only those lands scoring 80% marks and above in the "Weightage Chart" shall be considered prequalified. CGEWHO, after assessing the suitability of land and the construction capability of agencies as per the prequalification criteria as mentioned in this document, shall forward the Design Parameters and draft Contract Agreement to the prequalified agencies, for the submission of price bid along with the Detailed Project Report. The price bid should be prepared on the basis of the pre-defined specifications, payment terms and other details provided in the draft contract agreement and design parameter. The cost quoted shall be lump sum price on the per square feet of the carpet area (as defined in RERA) inclusive of one covered car parking for each Dwelling Unit.

3. Application Form along with detailed minimum prequalification criteria, for this EOI can be downloaded from [www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO) or [www.cgewho.in](http://www.cgewho.in) or CPP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)) from 20/06/2025 onwards. Last date for submission of EOI is within the 30 days of release of advertisement. A non-refundable fee of Rs 10000/- + GST @ 18% towards cost of EOI documents through Demand Draft in favour of CEO, CGEWHO payable at New Delhi, should be submitted physically at H.O. address as mentioned above. No off line submission of EOI will be accepted and the same will be summarily rejected.

4. Any proposal received not conforming to EOI guidelines will be considered as technically non-compliant and is liable to be rejected. The procedure for selection of Construction Agencies will be made available with the application Forms.

5. CGEWHO reserves its right to disqualify any or all applications, without assigning any reason thereof. No correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.

**CBC 20105/12/0005/2526**

**Chief Executive Officer CGEWHO**



We don't have time for fighting. We have to protect our sovereignty. The government is ready to support the military in all ways

UKRAINE, RUSSIA EXCHANGE POWS IN LATEST SWAP

Ukraine and Russia exchanged prisoners of war (POWs) Thursday, officials from both countries said, the latest round of swaps under an agreement struck in Istanbul



of the day quote

I gave instructions that no one is immune. I prefer not to deal with headlines and to let actions speak for themselves

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

At the global stage, we are finding multiple ways of dividing ourselves. The world is fracturing and polarising, and there is a desperate need for governments that will take a lead in transcending these barriers. That is what PM Narendra Modi and PM Keir Starmer have committed to do

LISA NANDY | CULTURE SECRETARY, UK

The numbers indicate cooling, but all our numbers are (like) a rearview mirror. Judging by the way businesses currently feel and the indicators, we are already, it seems to me, on the brink of going into a recession

MAXIM RESHETNIKOV | ECONOMY MINISTER, RUSSIA

India, Pak ended conflict: Trump



President Trump expressed keen interest in forging a "mutually beneficial" trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic convergence and shared interests, the Pakistan army said in a statement.

Trump's comments Wednesday crediting the leaders of the two countries in ending the May 7-10 hostilities are seen at variance with his claims over a dozen times in the last few weeks that he brokered the India-Pakistan ceasefire deal.

In his remarks to the media Trump said he was "honoured" to meet Munir and that he discussed with the military chief the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel conflict, amid speculations that Washington is looking at using Pakistani military bases in case it decides to launch attacks on Tehran.

The US president was also effusive in lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and referred to his telephonic conversation with the Indian leader Tuesday night.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Islamabad, June 19: Two "very smart" leaders of India and Pakistan decided to end last month's conflict that could have turned into a nuclear war, US President Donald Trump said after holding a rare luncheon meeting with Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White

2 Indian sentenced in multi-million dollar fraud schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, June 19: Two Indian nationals studying in the United States have been sentenced to federal prison in separate but similar fraud cases involving elaborate scams that targeted elderly Americans and resulted in millions of dollars in losses.

Kishan Rajeshkumar Patel, 20, who entered the US on a student visa, was sentenced this week to 63 months (over five years) in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering. According to the US Department of Justice (DOJ), Patel participated in an online phishing conspiracy that impersonated US government officials and used fear tactics to extract money and gold from senior citizens.

"The conspiracy used various online phishing methods and impersonated US government officials, while Patel fraudulently received the cash and gold from victims, conveying a portion to co-conspirators and keeping a percentage for his own benefit," the DOJ said.

Spain rejects NATO's anticipated defence spending increase

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, June 19: Spain has rejected a NATO proposal to spend 5 per cent of gross domestic product on defence needs that's due to be announced next week, calling it "unreasonable."

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, in a letter sent Thursday to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, said that Spain "cannot commit to a specific spending target in terms of GDP" at next week's NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

Most US allies in NATO are on track to endorse US President Donald Trump's demand that they invest 5 per cent of GDP on their defence and military needs. In early June, Sweden and the Netherlands said that they aim to meet the new target.

A NATO official Thursday said that discussions between allies were ongoing about a new defence spending plan.

"For Spain, committing to a 5 per cent target would not only be unreasonable, but al-



so counterproductive, as it would move Spain away from optimal spending and it would hinder the EU's ongoing efforts to strengthen its security and defence ecosystem," Sánchez wrote in the letter seen by The Associated Press.

Spain was the lowest spender in the 32-nation military alliance last year, directing less than 2 per cent of its GDP on defence expenditure.

Sánchez said in April that the government would raise defence spending by 10.5 billion euros (\$12 billion) in 2025 to reach NATO's previous target of 2 per cent of GDP.

Sánchez called for "a more flexible formula" in relation to a new spending target Thursday — one that either made it optional or left Spain out of its application.

New Zealand halts millions of funds to Cook Islands over its China ties

Relations between other Pacific islands and their larger regional backers Australia and New Zealand have stumbled over ties with China in recent years as Beijing has vied to increase its Pacific sway

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, June 19: New Zealand has halted millions of dollars in funding to the Cook Islands over the "breadth and content" of agreements the smaller Pacific nation made with China, officials said Thursday.

New Zealand, which is the smaller Pacific nation's biggest funder, won't consider any new money for the Cook Islands until the relationship improves, a spokesperson for Foreign Minister Winston Peters told The Associated Press. Cook Islands

Prime Minister Mark Brown told lawmakers in Parliament Thursday that the funding was "not halted, it's paused," and downplayed the significance of the amount frozen.

Relations between other Pacific islands and their larger regional backers Australia and New Zealand have stumbled over ties with China in recent years as Beijing has vied to increase its Pacific sway.

But the latest move by New Zealand's government was striking because it reflected growing friction between two countries with strong



constitutional ties — Cook Islands is self-governing but shares a military and passports with New Zealand — over their diverging approaches to managing relations with Beijing.

SETBACK TO MUSK'S MARS MISSION

SpaceX Starship rocket explodes



REUTERS

Texas, June 19: SpaceX's massive Starship spacecraft exploded into a dramatic fireball during testing in Texas late Wednesday, the latest in a series of setbacks for billionaire Elon Musk's Mars rocket program.

The explosion occurred around 11 pm local time while Starship was on a test stand at its Brownsville, Texas Starbase while preparing for the tenth test flight, SpaceX said in a post on Musk's social-media platform X.

The company attributed it to a "major anomaly," and said all personnel were safe.

"Preliminary data suggests that a nitrogen COPV in the payload bay failed below its proof pressure," Musk said in a post on X, in a reference to a nitrogen gas storage unit known as a Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessel. "If further investigation confirms that this is what happened, it is the first time ever for this design," he continued.

SpaceX didn't immediately respond to a request for further comment.

The Starship rocket appeared to experience at least two explosions in quick succession, lighting up the night sky and sending debris flying, according to video capturing the moment it

- EXPLOSION ATTRIBUTED TO NITROGEN STORAGE UNIT FAILURE, MUSK SAYS
STARSHIP ROCKET HAS FACED MULTIPLE FAILURES THIS YEAR
HUGE ROCKET KEY TO MUSK'S MISSION TO REACH MARS

exploded.

The 400-foot (122-meter) tall Starship rocket system is at the core of Musk's goal of sending humans to Mars. But it has been beset by a string of failures this year.

In late May, SpaceX's Starship rocket spun out of control about halfway through a flight without achieving some of its most important testing goals. The Starship lifted off from SpaceX's Starbase, Texas, launch site, flying beyond the point of two previous explosive attempts earlier this year that sent debris streaking over Caribbean islands and forced dozens of airliners to divert course.

Two months earlier, the spacecraft exploded in space minutes after lifting off from Texas, prompting the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to halt air traffic in parts of Florida.

The storm center is expected to move inland over southern Mexico throughout the day with winds that could be especially destructive near its core, the US National Hurricane Center said in a report.

Up to 16 inches (about 41 cm) of rain is expected to hit the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero, according to NHC.

Moving forward, "Erick is expected to rapidly weaken over the mountains of Mexico, and the system is likely to dissipate tonight or early Friday," the center added.

"Heavy rainfall will lead to life-threatening flooding and mudslides, especially in areas of steep terrain," NHC warned, as local authorities asked residents to remain vigilant.

Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Conagua gave a similar warning, adding that waves in coastal areas were reaching up to 10 meters (33 ft) high.

Major Hurricane Erick hits Mexico's Pacific coast

REUTERS

Mexico City, June 19: Hurricane Erick made landfall on the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico, Thursday morning, authorities said, potentially bringing intense rains and life-threatening floods and mudslides.

The storm made landfall around 5:30 am local time in the town of Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, in the state of Oaxaca, as a category 3 major hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 205 km/h and gusts of 250 km/h, Mexico's national water commission, Conagua, said.

Scientists have warned that Erick, the first hurricane to make landfall in Mexico this hurricane season, could become the most intense hurricane along Mexico's Pacific coast this early in the season, which runs from May to November.

Forecasters predict an above-average active season, with between eight and 11 hurricanes, and four to six of those reaching major hurricane status.

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ernment budget document. It's likely to prove difficult for New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who is in China for his first official visit and due to meet President Xi Jinping this week.

Beijing, which said in February that the deals were not intended to antagonise New Zealand, defended its strategic partnership with the country of 15 islands and 15,000 people.

"Both New Zealand and the Cook Islands are important partners of China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in Beijing.

"China-Cook Islands cooperation targets no third party, nor should it be interfered with or constrained by any third party."

In a report tabled in the Cook Islands Parliament this week, the Public Accounts Commit-

tee registered "concern" about a reduction of 10 million New Zealand dollars (\$6 million) in the government's purse, the first known mention of the finance freeze. The money was earmarked for "core sector support", which funds the Cook Islands' health, education and tourism sectors, with audits by Wellington on how it's spent.

The money is part of NZ \$200 million directed to the Cook Islands by New Zealand over the past three years as part of an almost 60-year-old free association compact. The links demand consultation by Cook Islands leaders with Wellington on agreements with other countries that might affect New Zealand.

The pacts with China were the first serious test of those rules.

SHORT TAKES

Congo, Rwanda to sign peace deal June 27

Dakar: Congo and Rwanda will sign a peace agreement in Washington June 27, a joint press release from the nations and the US State Department said Wednesday. Both countries have agreed to the terms of the deal aimed at ending fighting in eastern Congo. The draft agreement includes "provisions on respect for territorial integrity and a prohibition of hostilities; disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of non-state armed groups," the joint statement said. The agreement that will be signed also includes a commitment to respecting territorial integrity and the conditional integration of non-state armed groups.

2,500 Pak bureaucrats have dual nationality

Islamabad: A Pakistan senator from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has revealed that as many as 2,500 bureaucrats, including four federal secretaries, are dual nationality holders. Senator Anfan Ullah Khan explained he had moved a bill in the House seeking a bar on civil servants' dual nationality that was unanimously passed by the Senate committee.

Ex-president Nasheed rejoins his former party

Male: Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed, along with members of The Democrats, has rejoined the Maldivian Democratic Party, a move welcomed by leaders of the main opposition Thursday. After conflicts with another former president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Nasheed, who was then heading the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), resigned in June 2023 during the last presidential election and joined The Democrats, a party that was formed by his loyalists in July 2023.

Huge methane gas reserve found in Nepal

Kathmandu: A preliminary report published Thursday has revealed that the total methane gas reserves in western Nepal could reach approximately 430 billion cubic metres, enough to possibly meet the Himalayan nation's demand for gas for around 50 years. The report, prepared by the China Geological Survey (CGS), presented initial findings from just one of the four targeted wells in Jaljale area of Dailekh district, raising the possibility of the Himalayan nation tapping into domestic sources of energy.

# business

## of the day **note**

**Gold prices slipped below \$3,390 per ounce as US dollar held firm following the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged at 4.25-4.50 per cent**

**KAYNAT CHAINWALA** | AVP-COMMODITY RESEARCH, KOTAK SECURITIES

**Fintech players must aim to export our successful models abroad and capture global markets. We have the talent, we have the market scale and we have the proven solutions. The Indian fintech market is projected to grow to over \$400 billion by 2028-29**

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

**Despite repeated threats, Iran has never closed the Strait of Hormuz due to the strategic and economic costs. The strait is essential for global energy flows, handling 20 per cent of oil trade and major LNG exports**

**HITESH JAIN** | STRATEGIST, YES SECURITIES

## SHORT TAKES

### SEIL listed on Exchange

**New Delhi:** Siemens Energy India Ltd (SEIL) got listed on stock exchanges BSE and NSE Thursday. While Germany-based Siemens AG and its subsidiaries hold 69 per cent stake in SEIL, subsidiaries of Siemens Energy AG hold 6 per cent, with the remainder in free float. With the listing, SEIL is now positioned to operate with greater agility, transparency, and strategic focus, ready to lead in one of the world's most dynamic and fast-growing energy markets, a statement said. The company supports the integration of renewable energy, modernization of the national grid, and decarbonization of key industries. In December 2023, Siemens Ltd said its board has approved the demerger of its energy business into a separate entity.

### L&T raises ₹500 cr via debentures

**New Delhi:** Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Thursday said it has raised ₹500 crore through debentures. The company has today allotted 50,000 or 6.35 per cent listed, rated, unsecured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures of ₹1 lakh each (the NCDs) aggregating to ₹500 crore, L&T said in a filing to BSE. These debentures are linked to the identified sustainability targets and are issued under the Framework for Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Debt Securities (other than green debt securities) issued by SEBI, the company said. The NCDs would mature on June 19, 2028, and the interest would be paid on an annual basis. The said debentures are proposed to be listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). Larsen & Toubro has reported a 25 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹5,497 crore for the quarter ended on March 31, 2025, supported by higher revenues and an exceptional gain.

### MagicFleet to double monthly deliveries

**New Delhi:** Hyperlocal commerce firm magicpin's logistics arm magicFleet expects to double its monthly deliveries to 20 lakh by the end of the current fiscal year, a top official of company said Thursday. The logistics firm has crossed the 10 lakh monthly deliveries mark within nine months of its launch in September 2024 and has onboarded over 1 lakh riders in less than a year, he added. magicpin CEO and Founder Anshoo Sharma said the firm is already among the top three food delivery players in the country.



The rupee extended its decline for the third consecutive day, driven by persistent geopolitical uncertainty and a hawkish stance from US Federal Reserve

**DILIP PARMAR** | SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

## AMAZON TO INFUSE OVER ₹2,000 CRORE IN INDIA

Amazon will invest over ₹2,000 crore in 2025 to scale up its all-India operations network, the e-commerce giant said Thursday. Investments will support network expansion and upgrades to serve customers faster and more reliably, advance technology and innovation, and improve employee and associate well-being, Amazon said in a release



## FINANCE FRAMEWORK

# RBI issues project finance norms for banks, NBFCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 19:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday issued norms to provide a harmonised framework for financing of projects in infrastructure and non-infrastructure sectors by banks, Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFCs) and other regulated entities.

RBI (Project Finance) Directions, 2025 lay down the revised regulatory treatment upon change in the 'date of commencement of commercial operations' (DCCO) of such projects in the backdrop of a review of the extant instructions and analysis of the risks inherent in such financing.

The RBI said the directions entail the adoption of a principle-based regime for resolution of stress in project finance exposures, harmonised across regulated entities (REs).

It also entails rationalisation of permissible DCCO extensions with an overall ceiling of three years and two years for infrastructure and non-infrastructure sectors, respectively.

For the purpose of application of prudential guidelines contained in the latest norms, projects have been broadly divided into three phases - design phase, construction phase, and operational phase.

"In under-construction projects where the aggregate exposure of the lenders is up to ₹1,500 crore, no individual lender shall have an exposure which is less than 10 per cent of the aggregate exposure," the RBI said.

For projects where aggregate exposure of all lenders is more



than ₹1,500 crore, the exposure floor for an individual lender shall be 5 per cent or ₹150 crore, whichever is higher.

Further, a lender shall ensure that all applicable approvals/clearances for implementing/constructing the project are obtained before financial closure. An indicative list of such pre-requisite approvals/clearances includes environmental clearance, legal clearance, regulatory clearances, as applicable to the project, the RBI said.

On resolution of stress, it said a lender shall monitor the performance of the project and any buildup of stress on an ongoing basis and shall be expected to initiate a resolution plan well in advance.

"Occurrence of a credit event with any of the lenders during the construction phase, shall trigger a collective resolution in terms of the prudential framework," RBI said and added the reference to 'default' in the prudential framework shall be read as 'credit event' for the purpose of project finance accounts, unless specified otherwise.

The RBI also said that a project finance account downgrad-

ed to NPA for non-compliance can be upgraded only after the account performs satisfactorily post actual DCCO.

It further said a lender may recognise income on accrual basis in respect of project finance exposures which are classified as 'Standard'. For NPAs, income recognition shall be as per extant instructions.

Central bank (Project Finance) Directions, 2025 shall come into force with effect from October 1, 2025, the central bank said. In May 2024, RBI had issued draft guidelines on 'Prudential Framework for Income Recognition, Asset Classification and provisioning pertaining to Advances - Projects under Implementation'.

As part of the stakeholder consultation exercise, inputs/feedback were received from around 70 entities, including banks, NBFCs, industry associations, academicians, law firms, individuals and the Central Government, RBI said.

It also said the inputs or feedback received were examined and suitably incorporated while formalising the final directions.

## M&S investigates cyber breach; TCS out of probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 19:** TCS Thursday said Marks & Spencer is investigating the incident of a cyber breach earlier this year, and made it clear that the country's largest IT services company is outside the purview of the probe.

Addressing shareholder queries at the company's annual general meeting, its independent director Keki Mistry, who was presiding as the chairman, said no TCS systems were compromised and none of its other customers were impacted.

"This incident is currently under review and investigation by the customer," Mistry said, referring to the incident which had forced the British retailer to close its online business for over three weeks and is estimated to dent the operating profit by GBP 300 million. He said, no TCS systems or users were compromised, none of the company's other customers have been impacted, he said, adding that the company has followed the laid out procedure and continues to provide support for ensuring full recovery of the systems and business.

## Markets end lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 19:** Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the third straight session on Thursday, in line with weak trends in global markets, as geopolitical uncertainties due to the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict unnerved investors.

In a largely volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 82.79 points, or 0.10 per cent, to settle at 81,361.87. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 18.80 points or 0.08 per cent to 24,793.25.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Nestle and Tata Steel were among the major laggards. In contrast, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 1.77 per cent and the midcap index lost 1.64 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, services dropped 1.68 per cent, realty (1.63 per cent), utilities (1.61 per cent), power (1.24 per cent), IT (1.14 per cent), metal (1.18 per cent) and commodities (1.05 per cent).

Auto sector emerged as the only gainer. In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the negative territory, while South Korea's Kospi ended marginally higher.

European markets were trading lower in mid-session deals. US markets ended on a mixed note Wednesday.

"Markets traded lacklustre on the weekly expiry day and ended almost flat amid mixed cues. US Fed's decision to maintain the status quo, which was largely anticipated, failed to elicit any significant reaction," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.26 per cent to \$76.90 a barrel.

# Indian money in Swiss banks triples

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Zurich, June 19:** Indian money parked in Swiss banks more than tripled in 2024 to 3.5 billion Swiss francs (nearly ₹37,600 crore) on back of a huge jump in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, annual data released by Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday.

However, money in customer accounts of Indian clients rose by only 11 per cent in the year to 346 million Swiss francs (nearly ₹3,675 crore) and accounted for just about one-tenth of overall funds. The sharp increase in the overall funds followed a 70 per cent decline in funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through local branches and other financial institutions, in 2023 to a four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss francs.

This is the highest since 2021, when the total Indian money in Swiss banks had hit a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion.

These are official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and do



not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. Plus the figure not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities.

The total amount of CHF 3,545.54 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to their Indian clients at the end of 2023, included CHF 346 million in customer deposits (up from CHF 310 million at 2023-end), CHF 3.02 billion held via other banks (up from CHF 427 million), CHF 41 million (up from CHF 10 million) through fiduciaries or trusts, and CHF 135 million as 'other amounts' due to custom-

ers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments (down from CHF 293 million).

The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, as per SNB data.

According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

# India's green hydrogen demand to touch 5 MMT by 2030

Blending green hydrogen with grey hydrogen in refining and fertilisers sectors, as well as with natural gas in the PNG (piped natural gas) segment is the roadmap to boost demand in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 19:** Unlocking green hydrogen demand at scale is critical to achieving the goal of 5 million metric tonnes production by 2030, said a new joint report by Bain & Company, CII and Rocky Mountain Institute.

The report 'From Promise to Purchase: Unlocking India's Green Hydrogen Demand' was released on Thursday at CII International Business Conclave on green hydrogen.

India has set a bold near-term milestone of creating 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of green hydrogen production capacity by 2030. However, the report stated that unlocking green

hydrogen demand at scale is critical to achieving this vision.

The report lays out a potential pathway to make this vision a reality. The study stated that India can achieve its 5 MMT green hydrogen target through measured blending, strategic sector selection, leveraging public procurement, and aligning with export opportunities.

According to the report, demand for green hydrogen is expected to reach up to 2 million metric tonnes (MMT) from oil refining, 0.9 MMT from the fertiliser sector, and 0.1 MMT from piped natural gas by 2030. Niche sectors such as chemicals, glass, and ceramics could contribute approximately 0.07



MMT, while public procurement of green steel could unlock up to 0.6 MMT of demand.

On the export front, green hydrogen exports could generate between 0.8-1.1 MMT, and green steel exports could create an additional 0.1-0.2 MMT of demand

for green hydrogen, it stated.

The report outlines a series of demand-side initiatives to boost market uptake. "This report is a playbook for turning ambition into action," said Sumant Sinha, Chairman CII Energy Transition and Hydro-

# From MFs to IPOs: SEBI clears new rules

Migration to AIF Regulations would help the VCFs to secure an additional liquidation period to liquidate the assets and wind up the schemes, said SEBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 19:** Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs) to use liquid mutual funds and overnight funds as an additional option to the bank fixed deposit to meet their deposit requirements.

This would provide IAs and RAs an additional option, along with bank fixed deposits, to comply with regulatory requirements and help in promoting ease of doing business.

Under the current rule, IAs and RAs are required to maintain a deposit with a scheduled bank. Such a deposit is required to be lien-marked to the Administration and Supervisory Body (ASB) for IAs and RAs.

IAs and RAs, through their associations, have represented that they are facing certain operational difficulties in opening the FD accounts, such as non-uniform interpretation of third-party FD procedures across different bank branches and lien marking of the same in favour of ASB.

They suggested that as an alternative to FD, units of a liquid mutual fund lien marked in favour of ASB may also be permitted.

Accordingly, the board approved a proposal in this regard Wednesday. While approving

the proposal, the SEBI's board noted that liquid mutual funds may be considered low-risk and less volatile instruments. Further, a lien can be marked on liquid mutual funds.

"The operation of lien and invocation of lien on units of liquid mutual fund remains within the securities market ecosystem, bringing in more efficiency," SEBI said.

In May, the regulator floated a consultation paper proposing to allow 'use of liquid mutual funds for compliance with the deposit requirements'.

The scheme provides a settlement opportunity to VCFs who have completed the migration to the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations.

The settlement amount consists of two parts - ₹1 lakh for delay of up to 1 year in winding up the scheme and ₹50,000 for every subsequent year of delay or part thereof and an amount (based on a slab-wise structure) ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹6 lakh depending on the cost of unliquidated investments as on the date of application for migration.

Explaining the features of the scheme, Sebi said that prior to applying under the settlement scheme, VCFs should have completed the migration to AIF Regulations. The settlement amount and all expenses related to settlement will be borne by the Investment Manager/Sponsor.

## GSI to celebrate 11th International Yoga Day

**Kolkata:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the Ministry of Mines, is set to celebrate the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) June 21 with nationwide participation. Marking this year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," GSI has planned 50 events across 46 locations to promote holistic well-being and a healthy lifestyle among its personnel and the public. GSI will organise guided yoga sessions at its Headquarters in Kolkata, regional and state unit offices, 12 geo-heritage sites, 6 drilling field camps, and 3 training centres. More than 3,000 participants, including GSI personnel, school students, and members of local communities, are expected to take participation. GSI will also take part in one day countdown event for International Day of Yoga 2025, a live yoga session with the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, in Hyderabad June 20.

## UCO Bank gets new Zonal Head

**Sambalpur:** Gaurab Chatterjee has taken over as the new Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Sambalpur Zone. He holds a B.Tech in Agricultural Engineering and MBA in Finance. Prior to this, he has worked in diverse areas of banking, ranging from Branch Head in rural areas to Treasury Operations in Mumbai, Risk Management Department and handling overseas operations. Chatterjee brings with him a rich experience of 20 years in the banking sector. He will focus more on corporate lending to agro-based industries and MSMEs, CASA, digital banking and improved customer service.

A welcome ceremony was organized at Zonal Office, Sam-



balpur, which was attended by Branch Heads of Sambalpur City based Branches and senior officials. The employees expressed their enthusiasm for his tenure and wished him all the best. Under his leadership, Sambalpur Zone is expected to achieve new heights in business growth and customer service.

INDIA-ENGLAND TEST

# Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy unveiled

WORLD TEAM BLITZ C'SHIPS

**The Pataudi family will continue to be honoured with a newly-commissioned Pataudi Medal to be presented to the winning captain of each India-England Test series**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Leeds, June 19:** Legendary Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson formally unveiled the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy ahead of the opening match of the five-Test series between India and England, here Thursday.

The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, a joint initiative between the two boards ECB and BCCI, hereon replaces the Pataudi Trophy (for series in England) and the Anthony de Mello Trophy (for series in India) for all India-England Test contests.

The trophy launch was earlier scheduled for June 14 but it was pushed for a later date due to the tragic Air India aircraft crash in Ahmedabad.

The Pataudi family will continue to be honoured with a newly-commissioned Pataudi Medal to be presented to the winning captain of each India-England Test series.

The trophy features imagery of Anderson and Tendulkar in action, along with their engraved signatures — a tribute to two of the sport's most iconic figures who also hold two top spots for most Tests played by any player.

While Tendulkar retired after his 200th Test more than a decade ago, Anderson played



his 188th and last in 2024.

Tendulkar remains the highest run-scorer in Test history with 15,921 runs. He made his debut at the age of 16 and went on to enjoy a distinguished 24-year international career.

In 32 Tests against England, Tendulkar amassed 2,535 runs at an average of 51.73, with a highest score of 193 at Headingley in 2002.

Anderson, one of the finest exponents of swing bowling, took 704 Test wickets which is the most for any fast bowler. He ranks third on the all-time list, behind only spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708).

Anderson set his own standards in Test cricket against India, scalping 149 wickets in 39 matches at an average of 25.47,

including six five-wicket hauls.

While unveiling the trophy, Tendulkar said Test cricket will continue to remain the pinnacle of the sport for him.

"For me, Test cricket embodies life — you give your best, and if things go wrong, it gives you another day to regroup, think, unlearn, and bounce back," he said.

"It is the highest form of the game that teaches you endurance, discipline and adaptability, against all odds. I owe my foundation to Test cricket, as it has seen me grow from disappointments to triumphs, from aspirations to fulfilment," he said.

The legendary batter said India and England have played pivotal role in shaping the future of Test cricket

over the years. "India and England have played a big role in shaping Test cricket in a way that it remains an evolving inspiration for subsequent generations.

"Now, as I share this recognition with my on-field challenger and an off-field gentleman James, I hope that the world celebrates the essence of Test cricket even more — allowing it to traverse boundaries yet untroubled," Tendulkar said.

Anderson said the recognition is a real honour for him and Tendulkar. "It's a proud moment for me and my family to have this iconic series named after Sachin and myself," he said.

"The rivalry between our two nations has always been something special, full of history, intensity and unforgettable moments."

"To be recognised in this way is a real honour. I'm look-

ing forward to seeing the next chapter unfold in England this summer. It promises to be compelling, competitive cricket — exactly what you'd expect from two great sides. This is elite sport at its finest," he said.

ECB chairman Richard Thompson said, "Jimmy and Sachin have given cricket fans around the world so many unforgettable moments, and it is fitting that their names will now be part of every men's Test series between England and India."

"This trophy is a celebration of their incredible careers and the extraordinary impact they have had on the game, reflecting the deep respect between our two cricketing nations."

Thompson said the ECB will continue to carry forward the legacy of Pataudi family and their contributions towards the game.

"The Pataudi family also has

a hugely important place in the cricketing connections between our countries, and I'm pleased that we will continue to honour their legacy through the awarding of the Pataudi Medal that will be provided to the winning captain," he said.

BCCI president Roger Binny described the occasion as "momentous".

"This is a truly momentous occasion for cricket. To rename the prestigious Test series between India and England after two absolute titans of the game, Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson, is a fitting tribute to their unparalleled contributions.

"The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy will not only celebrate their individual legacies but also serve as a permanent reminder of the fierce yet respectful rivalry that has defined India-England Test cricket for decades," he said.

## Modi lauds Deshmukh for beating World No 1



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 19:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded India's chess sensation Divya Deshmukh for her first-ever victory over World No. 1 Hou Yifan in the second leg of the blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships in London.

Representing Hexamind Chess Club, the 18-year-old Indian sensation squared off against the Chinese titan, who played for the WR Chess Team. In a thrilling 74-move battle, Divya outplayed Yifan, who blundered her bishop in a drawn pure rook vs bishop endgame.

"Congratulations to Divya Deshmukh on defeating the World No 1, Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships, London. Her success highlights her grit and determination. It also inspires many upcoming chess players. Best wishes for her future endeavours," PM Modi wrote on X.

Following her win, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also praised Divya on her stunning win over World No 1. "Heartiest congratulations to our chess star Divya Deshmukh on her stunning win over world No 1 Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of the Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships in London. Wishing you the very best for the future games," he posted on X.

SHORT TAKES

### Historic Billie Jean King Cup play-offs

**Bangalore:** In a historic first, Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) will host Group G ties of the prestigious Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bangalore 14, 15 and 16. This will be the first time ever that the Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs will be held on Indian soil. The Playoffs will feature 21 nations split into seven groups of three teams each. In a unique format, every group tie will be hosted by a nation, and the venues were formally announced following a draw held Thursday in London. India recently qualified for the Playoffs, only for the second time in its history, following a spectacular performance in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie held in Pune. India qualified along with New Zealand for the playoff, following its 2-1 win over Korea.

### Hockey India, TN govt sign MoU for jr WC

**Chennai:** Hockey India Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to co-host the FIH Men's Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10 this year. The official logo of the tournament was also unveiled during the announcement event here. In a historic first, the 2025 edition will feature 24 teams from across the world, making it the most inclusive and competitive edition of the event till date. HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 is a crucial event in the international hockey calendar — a breeding ground for future legends of the sport. We are extremely pleased to partner with the Government of Tamil Nadu for this edition."

### Mbappe hospitalised

**Miami:** Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe has been hospitalized with an acute case of gastroenteritis, the Spanish club said Thursday. World Cup winner Mbappe missed Madrid's opening game at the Club World Cup against Saudi Arabian team Al Hilal in Miami because of a fever. Coach Xabi Alonso said he hoped the France international would be available for the team's next game against Pachuca Sunday. But his hospitalization casts doubt over what part he might be able to play in the monthlong tournament in the United States. Madrid said Mbappe would "undergo a series of tests and follow the appropriate course of treatment."

## Hyderabad Heroes romp to hat-trick of triumphs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 19:** The Bengaluru Bravehearts registered their second victory, and the Hyderabad Heroes maintained their winning streak, as they completed a hat-trick of wins during the Rugby Premier League (RPL) Season 1, at the Shahaji Raje Bhosale Sports Complex (Andheri Sports Complex) here Thursday.

The Bengaluru Bravehearts saw off the Mumbai Dreamers in a low-scoring thriller. The Bengaluru Bravehearts won 12-7. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Heroes won comprehensively, with a scoreline of 43-12.

In the first game of the day, the Bengaluru Bravehearts started brightly. Akuila Rokolisoa scored a try and then converted his kick after that to give his side the lead. However, the Mumbai Dreamers, who were still looking for their first win, equalised when Waisea Nacuqu cancelled out Akuila Rokolisoa's try and conversion.

In the second match of the day, the Kalinga Black Tigers, who needed a win, drew first blood against the Hyderabad Heroes. The Tigers had Perry Baker getting the first try of the game, leaving the Heroes a



little surprised.

From then on in, the Hyderabad Heroes showed why they were in the top half of the table, as they cranked up the intensity and roared back into the game. Tries from Motu Opetai and Javed Hussein were crucial for the Hyderabad side, who were further aided by Terio Tamani's two conversions.

After that, the Hyderabad Heroes thwarted the Tigers' attack with their own moves, Terio Tamani, Max Roddick, and Joji Nasova added a try each, and Tamani added six more points to his conversion tally.

In the final quarter, Manuel Moreno and Joji Nasova added a couple of more tries to put the seal on the game. The Heroes won by a margin of 43-12.

## Young guns shine as Juventus hammer Al-Ain

*The convincing victory sent Juventus top of Group G level on three points with England's Man City*

REUTERS

**Washington, June 19:** Randal Kolo Muani and Francisco Conceicao both scored twice as the young guns of Juventus made a statement in their Club World Cup opener with a dominant 5-0 win over Emirati club Al-Ain Wednesday.

Kolo Muani grabbed both of his goals in the first half. Conceicao scored either side of the break while Turkey forward Kenan Yildiz also found the net as Juventus dazzled the crowd at Audi Field with some mesmerizing football.

"I'm very happy to win the game, the team played a great game so we're happy and now we'll get ready for the next game," said Kolo Muani. "I finished last season well and we've started this good as well."

The convincing victory sent Juventus top of Group G level on three points with England's Manchester City, who beat Wydad Casablanca 2-0 earlier Wednesday.

Twice Asian champions Al-Ain conceded two thirds of the



pitch for much of the first half and Juventus midfielder Khephren Thuram ran the show from about 35 metres out with Conceicao and Yildiz buzzing around in front of him.

A neat exchange of passing in the 11th minute set Alberto Costa free on the edge of the box and the young Portuguese right back lofted over a cross which Kolo Muani met with a powerful header at the far post for the opening goal.

Juventus next play Morocco's Wydad in Philadelphia Sunday, while Al-Ain, who lost to Real Madrid in the 2018 Club World Cup final, face City in Atlanta later the same day.

### Reality check for Alonso as Madrid make lacklustre start

Xabi Alonso's glittering Real Madrid playing career offered no protection for his new coach against the harsh spotlight of expectation Wednesday, as they laboured to a deflating 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in their Club World Cup opener. The result laid bare the task facing the 43-year-old Spaniard, who will be expected to conjure instant success after swapping Bayer Leverkusen for the pressure cooker of 15-time European champions Madrid. "We know things take time, we need to correct a few details, everything takes time it's been only nine days of work for me here," Alonso told a press conference after watching his depleted squad struggle against opponents they were expected to dispatch with ease. With captain Dani Carvajal and centre backs Antonio Ruediger and Eder Militao absent, Real's defensive fragility was exposed despite the summer additions of Dean Huijsen and Trent Alexander-Arnold.



PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE

## Chopra seeks first major title of season, up against Weber

*Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, June 19:** Having breached the 90m mark, two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra would now be eyeing a top finish when he goes up against familiar rivals in the prestigious Paris Diamond League Friday in a star-studded field here.

Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight

competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark.

Weber had upstaged Chopra in the Doha DL May 16 after the Indian superstar finally breached the elusive 90m mark. Weber had recorded 91.06m with his last throw to trump Chopra who had sent his spear to a distance of 90.23m in the same event.

The 31-year-old Weber had also beaten Chopra at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet May 23 in Poland where both performed below their best under chilly and overcast conditions. Weber had produced 86.12m while Chopra could only come up 84.14m to finish second.

Peters was there in the field too at both the Doha DL and the



Poland event. He had finished third in both.

In Paris, Chopra would look to upstage Weber after finishing second in back-to-back competitions as he returns to the French capital after eight years for a Diamond League

competition.

Chopra had skipped the Paris DL last year in order to focus on the Olympic Games where he took the silver with a throw of 89.45m. He last competed in the Paris DL in 2017 as a junior world champion and finished

fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

In the eight-man field at the Charlety Stadium Friday, five have crossed the 90m mark. Chopra and Weber were the latest entrants to the exclusive club. Peters has already done it in 2022.

Kenya's 2015 world champion Julius Yego and Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics gold-winner Keshorn Walcott are the other two in the 90m club. Both achieved the feat back in 2015 and since then their performances have declined.

"Few meetings can boast a field of five javelin throwers over 90m. Foremost among them is Tokyo Olympic champion and Paris silver medallist Neeraj Chopra of India, who is as powerful as he is consistent," the Paris DL organisers stated in a promotional release for the event.

The other three in the eight-man field are Luiz Mauricio Da Silva of Brazil, who has a season's as well as personal best of 86.34m, Andrian Mardare of Moldova (PB: 86.66m) and Remi Rougetet of France.

Chopra began the 2025 season with a title in an invitational meet at Potchefstroom, South Africa, which was a minor -- category F -- event with a throw of 84.52m.

Four days after the Paris DL, Chopra will compete at the Golden Spike athletics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24.

After that, the reigning world champion will feature in the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic July 5 in Bangalore, a World Athletics category A event which he is hosting.

Peters, Yego and Da Silva will also be there in the NC Classic.