

## LORD'S GUNDICHA JOURNEY TODAY

### State govt inks pacts for port expansion, jetty

**Bhubaneswar, June 26:** The state government Thursday signed two concession agreements – one for setting up a captive jetty near Paradip and the other for expansion of Gopalpur Port. According to one of the pacts, JSW Utkal Steel Limited will construct a captive jetty worth ₹2,100 crore in Jagatsinghpur. It is expected to handle 52 million metric tonnes of cargo annually and create around 3,450 jobs. The second pact was inked between Gopalpur Port and the state government to expand the port at an investment of ₹16,554 crore. The upgraded facility can handle 50 million metric tonnes of cargo. It will create 5,000 jobs.



**READY TO ROLL:** Taladhwa, Darpadalan and Nandighosha chariots parked near Srimandir's Singhadwar in Puri, Thursday, ahead of the deities' journey to Gundicha temple Friday

### TIMETABLE

- Mangala Alati: 6:00am
- Mailam: 6:10am
- Tadapa Lagi: 6:30am
- Rosh Homa: 6:30am
- Abakasha: 7:00am
- Surya Puja: 7:10am
- Dwarapala Puja: 7:30am
- Besha Sesa: 7:30am
- Gopala Ballabha and Sakala Dhupa (Kheculi Bhoga): 8:00am to 9:00am
- Rath Pratistha: 9:00am
- Mangalarpana: 9:15am
- Pahandi begins: 9:30am
- Pahandi ends: 12:30pm
- Sri Madanmohan, Sri Ram, Sri Krishna Bij: 12:30pm to 1:00pm
- Chitalagi: 1:30pm to 2:00pm
- Besha Sesa: 1:30pm to 2:30pm
- Chhera Pahanra: 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Charamalaphita, installation of Ghoda, Sarathi: 4:00pm
- Chariot pulling starts: 4:00pm

### THOUSANDS THROG PURI FOR NABAJOUBAN DARSHAN

**Puri:** Thousands of devotees thronged Puri to have Nabajouban darshan of the Srimandir deities, Thursday. Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra reappeared in youthful form after remaining in quarantine for a fortnight in Anasara Gruha following Snana Yatra rituals June 11. According to SJTA, Srimandir opened for devotees for Nabajouban darshan from 8:00am to 10:30am. "The devotees were first allowed to go inside the temple for a 'parmanik' (paid) darshan, which was held between 8:00am and 9:00am, and the general public darshan was conducted between 9:00am and 10:30am," the SJTA said. SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said, "The Nabajouban darshan has been completed smoothly with the support of all the servers. We hope that the Rath Yatra will also be held smoothly."

of Lord Jagannath was the first to be pulled to the Singhadwar, followed by Darpadalan of Devi Subhadra and Taladhwa of Lord Balabhadra. "The three chariots reached near the Singhadwar by 7:40pm," said an SJTA official. The Mangala Alati ritual of the Srimandir deities would be performed at 6:00am Friday. "The deities, along with Lord Sudarshan, will be installed on their respective chariots by 12:30pm. The pulling of chariots towards Gundicha temple will begin by 4:00pm after completion of Chhera Pahanra by 3:30pm," the official said. Meanwhile, 10,000 security

personnel, including those from CAPF, have been deployed for a smooth Rath Yatra. For the first time, NSG commandos have also been deployed for the festival. As many as 275 AI-enabled cameras have been installed at strategic locations in Puri town for the mega event. **More: P3,6&7**

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Indian news channels were banned at home for a decade. After Trump, even international ones got banned

### India refuses to sign SCO docu

**Qingdao, June 26:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday refused to sign a joint communiqué of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) following the omission of the Pahalgam terror attack and not explicitly addressing India's concerns over Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism. The SCO operates under the framework of consensus, and Singh's refusal to endorse the document resulted in the SCO defence ministers' conclave in this Chinese port city ending without a joint communiqué, people familiar with the matter said. The draft communiqué neither figured the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack nor reflected India's position on cross-border terrorism, they said. In his address at the conclave, Singh took a swipe at Pakistan for its relentless support to cross-border terrorism and underlined the need to bring 'perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism to justice'. "Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide shelter to terrorists. There should be no place for such double standards. The SCO should not hesitate to criticise such nations," he said. "Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups," Singh said.

### PAHALGAM OMISSION

**MAY LORD JAGANNATH SHOWER US WITH HIS DIVINE BLESSINGS AND ILLUMINATE OUR PATH TO PROGRESS.**

*Have A Blessed Rath Yatra!*

For You, With You, Always

**TPCODL | TPNODL | TPSODL | TPWODL**

(Joint Ventures of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

DADLS-36

**MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF RATHA YATRA**

On the occasion of world famous Ratha Yatra-2025, I extend my heartfelt wishes to the devotees of Lord Jagannath across the globe.

The path to the elevation of humanity lies in embracing the consciousness and timeless philosophy of Shri Jagannath. May this divine spirit greatly contribute to fostering peace, amity, love and brotherhood in society.

*(Signature)*  
**(Hari Babu Kambhampati)**

**ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା**

ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅସୀମ ଭକ୍ତି ଓ ଭାବାବେଗର ଉତ୍ସବ । ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିକାଶ ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିରେ ଭରିଉଠୁ, ଏହା ହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା ।

**ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ...**

*(Signature)*  
**(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)**  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

# leisure



## DENIS VILLENEUVE TO HELM NEW JAMES BOND MOVIE

Denis Villeneuve, the acclaimed director of *Dune* and *Blade Runner 2047*, will tackle a brand new film in the *James Bond* franchise. The project will be the first film from Amazon since the banner bought MGM Studios in 2022.

## PASCAL ADDRESSES BACKLASH OVER FANTASTIC FOUR CAST

Actor Pedro Pascal has spoken out about the backlash he faced for joining the Marvel film *The Fantastic Four: First Steps* as Mister Fantastic aka Reed Richards. In a recent interview, the actor acknowledged the criticism, stating that he is indeed aware of the discontent surrounding his casting.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesha. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

**TAURUS**  
You are likely to confront a turning point in relationships today, foresees Ganesha. Because you are in need of some compassion and support, you will feel the need to spend time with friends and relatives. Your beloved or better half may bring a change in mood by helping you shed your negative frame of mind, says Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt. Everest. And you will, says Ganesha. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues. The task will require a lot of character and even a few changes in your disposition, but you will do this with ease.

**CANCER**  
The day shall find you in buoyant spirits, indicates Ganesha. As you are feeling lively and full of beans, you will not mind slogging it out, even if in some mindless activities or chores. It is a perfect day for activities like gardening, cooking, baking and even for a nice house warming get-together.

**LEO**  
The trader in you comes to the fore today. With an impeccable eye for recognising profitable avenues, you will quickly spot opportunities that arise from buying goods at cheaper prices, and selling them off at a rate that leaves you with a lump sum profit. Start with small transactions, and treat each transaction with care before you plunge into bigger ventures, like the Bull-n-Bear tussle of stock markets.

**VIRGO**  
You will be in a very ambitious and conscientious mood today. Your actions will speak louder than words. You set the pace with your meticulous planning and careful execution. Ganesha says you may expect a lot of appreciation and recognition for your work coming from your boss and your colleagues.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and

**SCORPIO**  
You will spend most of the day in self-introspection and in testing your capabilities. You will take all the needed steps to improve your professional proficiency. Your rare insight and gifted understanding of human nature will prepare you for leadership in the near future, hopes Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Whatever you take up today, you are on a winning spree, foresees Ganesha. A leader, you will guide and instruct your subordinates when they seek your advice. In a way, you even encourage and motivate them. All in all, you are a happy soul at the end of the day!

**CAPRICORN**  
Often, sentiments take over your mind. Making you impractical, at times, this tendency proves to be harmful for you. Don't show it on your face as others may take advantage of your weakness, advises Ganesha. If you don't control your emotions, it may become an obstacle in your path to success. Be strong and give a tough fight to those who want to go ahead of you.

**AQUARIUS**  
You plot and plan well today! A lot of your time, energy and money may go into less productive activities. But the quality of your work will near perfection. Keep it up, says Ganesha, it is this creativity which gives you an edge over others.

**PISCES**  
Today your intellectual streak comes to the fore. You will indulge your curiosity and take interest in natural phenomenon. Your faith will help you complete all your pending tasks with ease. You will leave things to destiny. You will be more inclined to intellectual pursuits rather than professional, however, do not neglect your responsibilities, says Ganesha.



## PeeCee defends her 'virginity' comment

**MUMBAI:** It's not uncommon for public figures to be misquoted or have their words twisted online, and actress Priyanka Chopra is the latest to address such misinformation. A quote falsely attributed to her recently went viral, claiming she advised men "not to look for virgins as wives" and instead value good manners. The alleged statement read: "Virginity ends in one night, but manners last forever." However, Priyanka was quick to shut down the rumour. Taking to her Instagram, the global star reposted the fake link and clarified, "This is not me, my quote, or my voice. Just because it's online doesn't make it true." She called out the trend of creating fake content for virality, urging people to verify facts before believing or sharing. "None of the links or 'sources' attached to this claim, or many others online, are real or credible," she wrote, encouraging followers to think critically and stay safe online. On the professional front, Priyanka will be seen next in *Heads of State*, an action-comedy premiering July 2 on Amazon Prime Video. Starring alongside John Cena and Idris Elba, plays MI6 agent Noel in a mission to save the world from a looming global threat.



## KAJOL'S SECRET TO HAPPY MARRIAGE

**MUMBAI:** Kajol, known for her wit and infectious charm, recently shared a light-hearted yet insightful take on what keeps her marriage with Ajay Devgn strong after more than two decades. In an interview, the *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* star spoke candidly about the dynamics of her relationship with Ajay, highlighting their contrasting personalities. "He loves silence, and I love to talk," she said with a laugh. When asked about the secret to their lasting bond, Kajol jokingly quipped, "The secret to a happy marriage is partial deafness and selective amnesia." She elaborated in her signature humorous style, "*Kuch cheezin bhoolni bohot zaruri hai, aur kuch chee-*"



## Fatima recalls her mid-flight health crisis

**MUMBAI:** Fatima Sana Shaikh recently opened up about a terrifying health crisis she experienced during a flight to the U.S. via Dubai, shedding light on her ongoing battle with epilepsy. Recalling the incident, she shared, "I had a major episode with multiple seizures mid-flight. I was rushed to the airport hospital where they tried various medications, but nothing worked until they gave me a very high dose. I was already on other medication and juggling two film projects. I had to cancel shoots—I couldn't even get out of bed. I cried whenever I was called to work. That's when I accepted that this is my reality." Fatima also spoke about the emotional toll of the condition and the stigma surrounding epilepsy. She emphasized how privileged she feels to at least have access to treatment and a voice to spread awareness. "There are children who suffer multiple seizures daily and don't even qualify for special needs benefits in education. The underprivileged don't have access to basic medicines or awareness. If I can use my platform to help change that, I'm happy to do so." On the work front, Fatima will next be seen in *Metro... In Dino*, releasing July 4, and *Aap Jaisa Koi* with R. Madhavan, premiering July 11 on Netflix.

zein na sunni bohot zaruri hai," hinting that letting go and tuning out at times is key to harmony. The actress also revealed a lesser-known side of Ajay—his exceptional cooking skills. "He's one of the best cooks I know. He can taste something once and recreate it perfectly. But he'll never reveal his secret ingredients," Kajol shared. The couple first met on the sets of *Hulchul* in 1995 and married in 1999 after four years of dating. They've balanced their film careers while raising two children, Nysa and Yug, and co-starred in several films together over the years. AGENCIES

## Konkana: Detachment important in acting

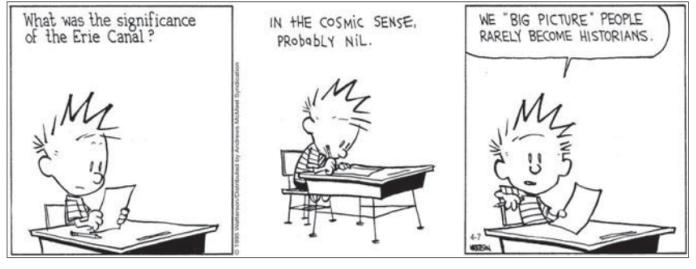
**MUMBAI:** Actress Konkana Sen Sharma likes to be in any space before she gives her shots. The actress, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Metro... In Dino*, has said that it's important for actors to cut off from the outside noise, and control their emotions as a person before they act for the camera. The actress recently spoke with this news agency and spoke about the concept of detachment in the craft of acting. When asked what were her discussions with director Anurag Basu for the scenes or the sequences like, she said, "I don't think we spoke about structure or pitch of a scene or the character. I don't think we had those kinds of conversations. We spoke about the world and the characters and the stage of life and we spoke about those kinds of things a little bit. I read my story but on set it's more of a mood than anything else". She further mentioned that the mood of the scene then trickles from the director and is then picked up by the HODs and the actors. Presented by Gulshan Kumar & T-Series presents, in association with Anurag Basu Productions Pvt. Ltd., *Metro In Dino* is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Anurag Basu, and Taani Basu. AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



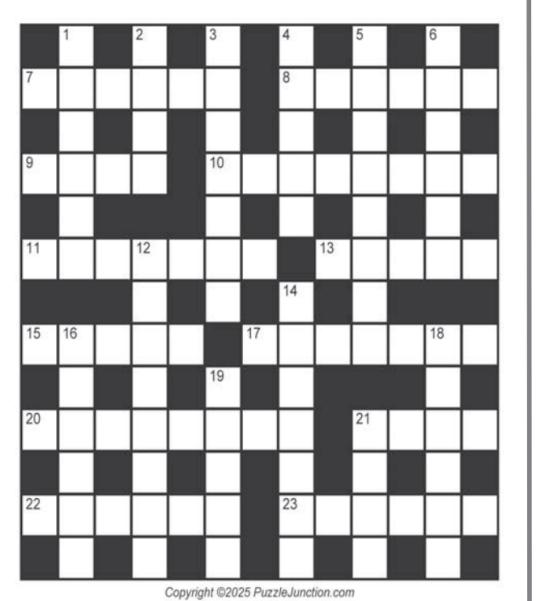
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



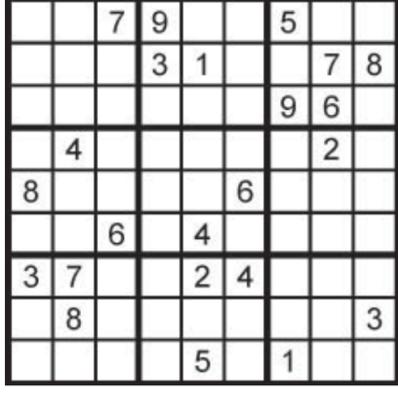
### FUN POST CROSSWORD



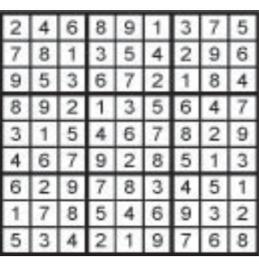
- Across**
- 7 Chinese temple
  - 8 Göteborg locale
  - 9 Grizzly
  - 10 Ottoman
  - 11 Moved quickly
  - 13 Shade of green
  - 15 Plato's plaza
  - 17 Protest
  - 20 Enduring
  - 21 Defeat decisively
  - 22 Petrol alternative
  - 23 Trajectory
  - Down**
  - 1 Black Forest cake
  - 2 Impoverished
  - 3 Confuses
  - 4 Fancy tie
  - 5 Intrepid
  - 6 Cardigan
  - 12 Hare's rival?
  - 14 Kind of crisis
  - 16 Chess move
  - 18 Zero
  - 19 Winter warmer
  - 21 Police action

### 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

# Car fest fervour grips City



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 26:** As the world-famous Rath Yatra is set to begin in Puri Friday (June 27), The Capital city is buzzing with festive fervour. The City will burst into vibrant celebrations and joyous events across temples and institutions, embracing the sacred spirit of this grand festival.

One of the City's shining highlights is the ISKCON Temple in Nayapalli, where thousands of devotees

eagerly gather each year for the spectacular chariot festival. This year, the festivities will shine even brighter with the Rath Yatra, Bahuda Yatra (July 5), and the dazzling Suna Besha (July 6). The chariot-pulling ceremony at ISKCON is a lively spectacle, drawing enthusiastic crowds who come to seek blessings from Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra.

Bhubaneswar's renowned educational institutions, including KIIT University, Utkal Univer-

sity, and the Regional College of Management (RCM), are joining the celebrations with great zeal. Since 2007, the Jagannath Temple at RCM has grown into a vibrant hub for Rath Yatra, attracting over 40,000 devotees every year to witness the joyous procession of the deities.

But the festive spirit doesn't stop there. Across neighbourhoods like Patia, VSS Nagar, Sailashree Vihar, Kolathia, Jagamara, Vani Vihar, Bhimatangi, Dumduma, Baramunda, Laxmi Sagar, OUAT, and Old Town, communities come together to pull chariots and offer heartfelt prayers, filling the City with devotion and cheer.

This sacred celebration crosses borders too. Odias living in the USA, Australia, the UAE, and beyond are joyfully honouring Lord Jagannath's divine journey with community events, keeping the tradition alive worldwide.

## Righagarh temple through lens of history

The centuries-old Sri Baladev-jew Temple in Righagarh under Ishwarpur panchayat in Rajnagar block of Kendrapara district holds immense historical significance.

Legend says this temple stands as a lasting tribute to King Balabhadra Bhanja of the Bhanja dynasty. Built in the late 14th century, when Righagarh was the capital of the Kanika estate, the temple was completed under King Balabhadra Bhanja, who installed the deities himself.

In 1909, King Rajendra Narayan Bhanjadeo undertook a major restoration, giving the temple its present appearance. Since then, it has been preserved by the Kanika royal family's temple trust.

By the early 20th century, as King Rajendra Narayan Bhanjadeo moved the capital elsewhere, Righagarh fell into decline. The grand palace eventually crum-



bled into ruin. Yet, despite its rural surroundings, the temple remains a vivid reminder of the area's glorious past and a proud symbol of Kendrapara district's rich cultural heritage.

Interestingly, while the three main deities were crafted in traditional Srikhetra style, Lord Balabhadra's idol here is noticeably larger than Lord Jagannath's.

The temple's jagmohan was built in Rajasthani style, and at its Singhadwara, exquisite depictions of Vishnu's ten avatars from Jayadeva's Gita Govinda and the Navagrahas adorn the walls. Inside the sanctum, one can admire a brass image of Narasimha along-

side Radha-Krishna, four-armed Vishnu idols, rare palm-leaf manuscripts, and sacred shalagrams.

Despite this glorious heritage, neglect has taken its toll. Muddy paths and lack of devotees have even led to the cancellation of Rath Yatra for years. Due to the dense forests and marshes surrounding Righagarh, pulling a chariot was impossible for decades. Even 70 or 80 years ago, attempts failed. Hence, a temple chariot with intricate Rangoli was created inside the shrine so that rituals could continue.

Recently, local youth and cultural leaders like Professor Lalit Lenka and Devendra Raul, supported by Kanika royal Shiven-dranarayan Bhanjadeo and Queen Mrunalini Devi, have revived hopes of conducting a grand Rath Yatra now that roads to Righagarh are fully paved. Bhanjadeo acknowledged that, with collective effort, a full-scale chariot festival may soon become a reality.

BHASKAR ROUFRAY, OP

DSPL-149



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ  
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

“ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ ସର୍ବ ଧର୍ମ ସମନ୍ୱୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା”

ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୫

### ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା

- ବୟୋବୃଦ୍ଧ/ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକୃତୀୟ ଭିତ ଭିତରକୁ ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଖାଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ହାତ ଭଲଭାବେ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଖୋଲା ବିକ୍ରି ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, କୃତ୍ରିମ ରଙ୍ଗ ଦିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବାସି ଓ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ମାଛି ବସୁଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ କିମ୍ବା ପଚାସଡ଼ା ଫଳ ଓ ପନିପରିବା ଖାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧାତରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବାକୁ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଧଳା ଟୋପି କିମ୍ବା ଓଦା କପଡ଼ା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍ ପିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ସମୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ନାନ ସମୟରେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଏତାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସତର୍କ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ
- ରାତ୍ରି ରହଣି କରୁଥିଲେ ମଣ୍ଡାରି/ ମଣ୍ଡାନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ଅନୁଭବ କଲେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଆଶୁ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ

ସର୍ବି, ଜ୍ୱର, କାଶ କିମ୍ବା ଫୁ ଭଳି ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଜନଗହଳି ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ

ଜରୁରୀ ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର :

ପୁରୀ ହସ୍ତିଚାଳ କଣ୍ଠୋଳ ରୁମ୍ : ୦୬୭୫୨-୨୨୨୧୭୫  
ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ୍ : ୧୦୪, ଆୟୁଲାନୁ : ୧୦୮

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-10003/13/02/19/2526



ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE

## RATH YATRA

MCL WISHES ALL A JOYOUS CELEBRATION



Fuelling Growth with Record-Breaking Coal Production & Dispatch



MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN 2024-25

- 225 MT Coal Production
  - 210 MT Coal Despatch
  - 338 MCuM Overburden Removal
- Committed to Atmanirbhar Bharat



MCL

MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Undertaking & Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)  
Jagruati Vihar, Burla, Dist: Sambalpur-768020 (Odisha)

@mahanadicoal | www.mahanadicoal.in

What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances. Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Resource Diplomacy

Resource competition has long underpinned international relations. But it seems to be taking center stage again, much like the nineteenth-century Scramble for Africa or Western grabs for Middle Eastern oil in the last century.

As demand rises for the critical minerals that power the industries of the future, many countries are rushing to gain an edge. The United States recently struck a high-profile minerals deal with Ukraine, which, for its part, wants to prevent a further hemorrhaging of US support for its war with Russia. US President Donald Trump has also talked of acquiring Greenland partly because of its potential mineral wealth, while his administration is negotiating deals with other mineral-rich countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Moreover, natural resources are increasingly being wielded as a foreign-policy weapon. In 2022, after Europe sanctioned Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin scaled back gas exports to the continent. And in the past few months, China has restricted exports of rare-earth elements as part of its trade war with the US, while India has suspended the Indus Water Treaty, a water-sharing agreement with Pakistan, following a terrorist attack on Hindu tourists in Kashmir. And the conflict between Israel and Iran has raised concerns among Israel's Western allies that Iran could disrupt shipments of oil and gas from the Persian Gulf.

Control of oil and gas flows has long shaped geopolitics, but critical minerals have lately taken on new importance because escalating geopolitical tensions are accelerating efforts to bolster defense capabilities and shifting the AI race into high gear, all while the global clean-energy transition continues apace. Constructing new missiles, data centers, and electricity grids requires enormous amounts of metals and minerals, such as copper, cobalt, lithium, and nickel. In an increasingly divided world where China dominates the refining and processing of many of these critical minerals, many countries understandably fear losing access to them.

Looking ahead, climate change seems certain to intensify disputes over resources, particularly water and food supplies. For example, if shifting weather patterns further reduce arable land in vulnerable regions, affected countries may act assertively to protect grain-export routes or to maintain access to international riparian systems. But it makes little sense for countries to adopt a muscular, take-no-prisoners approach to resource diplomacy. History has shown that success requires thoughtful, patient, and tempered tactics.

For starters, resource diplomacy takes careful long-term planning. China's critical-mineral domination was not achieved overnight; it is the result of strategic foresight. Decades ago, the Chinese government adopted a forward-looking industrial policy and began investing in mining projects abroad and forging alliances with resource-rich countries. By contrast, many Western governments, having only recently woken up to the dangers of dependency on other countries for critical minerals, have made little headway in securing their own supply chains for these raw materials, despite introducing multiple initiatives to achieve this goal.

European governments were similarly shortsighted when they allowed themselves to become dependent on Russian gas in the years prior to the Ukraine war. As the continent learned in 2022, scrambling to diversify suppliers during or after a crisis can be highly costly and disruptive.

Moreover, countries must focus less on concluding impressive-sounding deals, and more on getting the boring details right. Understanding the technical and economic aspects of resource extraction and processing will determine whether these agreements achieve their long-term aims.

For example, mining executives have criticized the US-Ukraine resource deal for exaggerating the value of the country's critical minerals and the potential for attracting private investment to exploit them. Likewise, US officials may be overestimating the commercial viability of the minerals under Greenland's ice. In both cases, while Trump's manoeuvres have certainly garnered attention, they may do little to strengthen US mineral security.

Of course, countries should not exert too much control over others' resources, at least not without ensuring significant local benefits. Otherwise, they risk generating resentment and fuelling a backlash. In the 1960s and 70s, Western oil firms were booted out of much of the Middle East because host governments felt they were getting too little in return. Today, Western mining firms are being squeezed in some parts of Africa and Latin America, owing to similar local perceptions. While Chinese mining firms have gained ground in Africa by portraying themselves as more supportive of local development, they, too, are sometimes tarred with the same neo-colonialist brush. Securing resources without sowing suspicion is easier said than done.

Finally, resource-rich countries should recognize that weaponizing their exports may backfire: importers may shift away from the relevant commodity or retaliate in other ways. A striking historical example is the 1973 Arab oil embargo. While this delivered the intended short-term result — inflicting economic pain on Western countries — it also impelled those countries to develop new oil fields outside the Arab world, such as in Alaska and the North Sea.

In the same vein, Russia's decision to cut gas flows to Europe caused initial pain, but ended up devastating a once-lucrative export market, which has now secured alternative energy supplies. And more countries are at risk of making the same mistake. India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty has raised fears that China, Pakistan's ally, may weaponize the waterways under its control that flow to India. Likewise, in tightening global exports of its rare earths, China risks accelerating moves to open up rare-earth mining and processing facilities elsewhere in the world. When it comes to securing access to natural resources or using them as geopolitical tools, headline-grabbing moves rarely produce the desired outcome, especially over the long term. Instead, effective resource diplomacy requires sensitivity, expertise, foresight, and balance — qualities that, unfortunately, are not prevalent among today's political leaders.

The writer, Visiting Senior Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, is the founder and CEO of Resource Resolutions.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

A man should not strive to eliminate his complexes but to get into accord with them: they are legitimately what directs his conduct in the world.

SIGMUND FREUD

Learning is the beginning of wealth. Learning is the beginning of health. Learning is the beginning of spirituality. Searching and learning is where the miracle process all begins.

JIM ROHN

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

# GOVERNANCE AT IMF

FOCUS MULTILATERALISM

Last month, two IMFs were in the news. They are still in the news. One is the Hollywood blockbuster Mission: Impossible's Impossible Mission Force (IMF), and the other is the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the Fund. During 'Operation Sindoor', India's tactical military strike against terrorist hideouts in Pakistan involved in the Pahalgam killings, the IMF approved a loan to Pakistan. That specific act by the IMF has been vehemently criticised by both the public and the government in India, with some even referring to it as the 'International Military Fund'. Is it arguably logical and reasonable to criticise the Leviathan of the world political economy, the IMF, one of the Western-led dominant multilateral institutions?



Avilash Roul

REFORMING MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS MUST NOT BE CONFINED TO SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS OR SELECT MEDIA INTERACTIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE



Daniel Litvin

When it comes to securing access to natural resources or using them as geopolitical tools, headline-grabbing moves rarely produce the desired outcome, especially over the long term

It's not uncommon to hear condemnation of the Bretton Woods Institutions, particularly from left-leaning civil societies and academics. Yet, it is quite unusual for senior members and ministers of a founding member country, i.e. India, to engage in a spree of severe scrutiny of the IMF. On 9 May, the IMF Executive Board approved a lending amount of \$1 billion to Pakistan under an earlier agreed (September 2024) long-term programme. Additionally, another \$1.4 billion was approved for Pakistan's efforts in economic resilience to climate vulnerabilities and natural disasters. Evidently, that was enough to ignite the Indian backlash during the height of a limited war with its arch-rival.

Was the approval of that loan to Pakistan—a country that has been relentlessly supporting terrorism against India—by the IMF board legitimate? The financial assistance provided by the IMF to Pakistan is valid. In fact, Pakistan, which became a member in 1950, has been receiving financial and technical aid from the IMF, like other borrowing member countries. In 2024, the IMF approved a 37-month-long structural adjustment programme loan amounting to nearly \$7 billion. Some Indian leaders expect that the



India's position in the Russia-Ukraine war had a definite reflection in the approval of the bailout for Pakistan

IMF should impose strict conditionalities on Pakistan to discourage it from terrorist activities against India. Generally, IMF loans come with conditionalities that require borrowers to change their economic policies to create markets for Western economies.

The Bretton Woods institutions were established with the sole aim of rehabilitating and reconstructing war-ravaged Europe under the leadership of the Allied Powers, especially the US. Independent India neither participated nor became a founding member. Instead, it was India under British rule that participated in the Conference and became a so-called founding member in 1945. The Fund plays a crucial role in the balance of payments. In simple terms, the Fund provides financial assistance to debt-ridden countries like Pakistan in the interest of Western liberal capitalism.

How can India, in its wishful thinking, persuade the IMF or other multilateral institutions to put pressure on Pakistan? Former Foreign Secretary and National Security Advisor (2010-2014), Shivshankar Menon, recently said in an interview that Indian diplomacy must not aim towards preventing the IMF from funding Pakistan. Contrastingly, it is being claimed that the NDA government has been pursuing the tenets of complete diplomacy- Sama (conciliation), Dama (reward), Danda (punishment) and Bheda (dissension) - in protecting India's national interest. Directly, India has the option of a) abstaining from the

loan approval board meetings, or b) formally voting against the loan through its representation in the Board Meeting. Had India attempted these two permissible actions in the IMF?

Indeed, India abstained from formal voting while raising serious concerns about the possibility of Islamabad's misuse of debt financing funds for state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. However, India's formal concerns didn't prevent the IMF from approving the bailout package to Pakistan. More likely, India's position in the Russia-Ukraine war had a definite reflection in the approval of the bailout for Pakistan. Perhaps, European countries holding incredible economic clout and voting share found a suitable payback time for India's bromance with Moscow during the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Does India have enough influence on the IMF Board to change its course of action? Certainly not. India's decision to terminate and temporarily appoint its executive director to prevent Sri Lanka's nominee from becoming director is directly linked to the loan to Pakistan. However, India's influence on the IMF's decisions remains limited because of its voting share. As one of the 25 Executive Directors (EDs) representing 191 member countries at the IMF Board, India's voting share is only 2.63% of the total, while the US holds the largest and only double-digit share at 16.49%. Seven countries appoint their own EDs, while the remaining 18 EDs are chosen from 184 member countries. Western

economies, including the US and European nations, control nearly 44% of the total vote. Meanwhile, India represents a group of countries that includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. With such disparities in decision-making, the IMF and the Bretton Woods institutions are among the least democratic organisations, unlike the UN General Assembly, where each country has one vote.

After a prolonged battle to reform IMF's governance structure, a slight increase in the voting share, adopted in 2010, has not fully reflected the role and power of emerging markets, especially in G20 countries. Besides, IMF does not disclose the decision-making at the Board in public despite being the highest intergovernmental public institution. When the most crucial decisions (no matter if it's authoritarian or whimsical) are being coordinated, completed, communicated and coerced upon in social media, the transparency is not as exemplary as expected from a progressive public institution. Above all, the US elects its citizens as the President of the World Bank Group, while Europe decides its own for the Managing Director of the IMF.

Reforming multilateral institutions must not be confined to speeches and statements or select media interactions in the Western Hemisphere. Moreover, India's boasting of a trillion-dollar economy, or the 'Vishwa Guru', does not transform its claim into realpolitik. India must act with like-minded emerging economies to transform multilateral institutions to reflect fair representation. Whereas China, India's sole competitor for the coveted leadership role for the Global South, has successfully initiated multilateral intergovernmental institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the International Organisation for Mediation to counter Western dominance. India must translate its foreign policy objectives into reality.

The writer is an international advisor on transboundary rivers and climate change risks.

SPECTRUM NATION

## State of poverty: A reality check



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THOUGH GDP GROWTH HAS REMAINED STEADY, FOOD INFLATION HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY, AFFECTING THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED SECTIONS

Notwithstanding the BJP-led NDA government claiming various achievements, a detailed analysis reveals that development has primarily benefited the upper echelons of society. The poorer sections have been overlooked, as evidenced by the declining standards of health and education nationwide, for which the states also bear some responsibility.

These observations have been somewhat substantiated by the World Bank. Though it has found that 171 million Indians had been pulled out of extreme poverty and this is quite encouraging, it has revised the poverty line upwards from \$2.15 per head per day to \$3 per head per day. When the poverty line is raised, more people are expected to be included as poor, not less.

However, if one examines some other metrics of development such as per capita income, the Human Development Index and the Global

Hunger Index, the country's rankings are 144, 130 and 105 respectively, which are poor. Moreover, while the World Bank report has talked about the number coming out of extreme poverty, it has not stated in what category they are now. Most, if not all, of those who may have come out of extreme poverty have to depend on the state for free rations & other forms of support.

One may refer here to the Congress booklet, '11 Saal, Jhootho Vikaas Ke Vaade', (11 years, false development claims) which has quoted extensively from published data to nullify the government's claims. Citing the Global Hunger Index report, the Congress stated: "Malnutrition remains a national crisis. Stunting (low height for age) is at 35.5%, wasting (low weight for height) at 19.3% and underweight (low weight for age) at 32.1%." It referred to the World Bank report regarding Swaachh Bharat, which said: "Toilet

usage dropped since 2018-19 by 20 points among SCs and 24 points among STs due to non-functional toilets, lack of water and poor maintenance."

Though GDP growth has remained steady, food inflation has increased rapidly, affecting the poor and marginalized sections. The most distressing factor, however, has been lack of job creation as manufacturing did not expand while the government also failed to diversify exports and enter new markets.

The government must focus attention on the rural sector and make appropriate allocation for the rural employment programme, which is not being done. Moreover, the money that is being paid is far less than the minimum wages of the states. This should be looked into while such a programme for the urban poor, as argued by many economists, may need to be given a rethink.

Another important aspect that needs to be considered is the education sector which is

in the Concurrent List and thus the Central government has a key responsibility in this sector, more so because the states are cash-starved. The formulation of Right to Education has little meaning if the learning outcomes do not improve.

Given the financial constraints faced by the governments and the fact that international agencies have suggested that the super-rich be taxed more, authorities should consider introducing at least some cess. Many countries, even rich economies, have wealth tax and inheritance tax but in India these do not exist. The government should take note of a quote of political scientist, Sheldon Wolin: "Ordinary men and women can recognize that their concerns are best protected and cultivated under a regime whose actions are governed by principles of commonality, equality and fairness." Thus, in all fairness the present dispensation must garner more resources for the welfare needs of the struggling masses. INFA

## 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)

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

### Stop digging the past

Sir, It is regrettable that political discourse today continues to revolve around events like the Emergency imposed fifty years ago, with the BJP observing Samvidhan Hatya Diwas and the Congress countering with Samvidhan Bachao. Both parties seem to be locked in a historical blame game, one invoking past ills, the other donning the saviour's robe. Leaders must realise that the architects of those events are no more, and history has already delivered its verdict. India today faces challenges far more urgent—unemployment, climate vulnerability, social discord, and a global economic churn. Instead of flogging ghosts of the past, our polity must unite to protect democratic values in the present and future. True constitutional respect lies not in ritualistic remembrance, but in inclusive governance and forward-looking action. Let us debate policies, not personalities from the past. That is the duty we owe to a nation seeking progress, not polarisation.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

### Timely move

Sir, The Odisha government's move to enhance security at popular tourist destinations is a much-needed and commendable step, especially in the wake of the recent horrific gangrape incident at Gopalpur beach. Tourist locations attract thousands of visitors, including families, solo travellers, and foreign nationals. Ensuring their safety is not just a matter of law and order, but also vital for the reputation of the country's tourism sector. Incidents like the one at Gopalpur create fear, distrust, and long-term damage to tourism potential. The government's move to deploy more security personnel, increase surveillance, and coordinate with local police is a step in the right direction. However, this effort must be consistent and backed by strict enforcement and fast-tracked justice delivery. Tourism plays a key role in local economies, and ensuring safety at tourist points should be treated as a top priority. Regular patrolling, functional CCTV systems, and dedicated help lines can go a long way in preventing crimes and ensuring public confidence. This move is timely and deserves full public support and prompt implementation.

Ch Pratap, HYDERABAD

**INT'L DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**  
**'Evidence-based approach needed'**



**Bhubaneswar, June 26:** Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Nityananda Gond Thursday underscored the need for greater collaboration and the adoption of scientific, evidence-based strategies to combat drug abuse. He underlined the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals affected by addiction as key steps toward building a drug-free society. He was speaking as the chief guest at a state-level workshop organised by the department at Lok Seva Bhawan to mark the International Day against

Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Gond said drug abuse is a global concern with serious impacts—from family breakdown and financial strain to links with trafficking and organised crime. Health expert Amrit Pattojoshi highlighted Odisha's health-focused approach to combating drug abuse, which includes expanding treatment centres, peer-led support programmes, and family counseling initiatives. He noted that targeted medical interventions for high-risk groups, along with school-based awareness campaigns, are central to the state's strategy to promote resilience, rehabilitation, and a healthier, drug-free Odisha.

**Excise department holds walkathon**



launched with active participation from all sections of society," he said. The walkathon saw participation from several dignitaries, including Excise Commissioner Dharmendra Mallick, OSBCL Managing Director Ambar Kumar Kar, students, and sports personalities.

**Bhubaneswar:** The Excise department organised a walkathon from Kalinga Stadium to Janata Maidan here Thursday. The event was flagged off by Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, who stressed the importance of shielding youth from the menace of narcotics. "Our aim is to build a healthy, drug-free society. A year-long awareness drive will soon be

**Another accused in Karanjia gangrape held**

**Baripada:** Police have arrested another accused in connection with the alleged gangrape of a 19-year-old woman in Mayurbhanj district, an officer said Thursday. The incident happened under the jurisdiction of the Karanjia police station of the district Tuesday night when the victim was returning to her maternal uncle's home after visiting a nearby temple, said Nabakrushna Nayak, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Karanjia. When she was returning, two persons on a motorcycle offered her a lift. The motorists then took her to a deserted place where another associate joined them and allegedly raped her, he said. Following the incident, the victim's kin registered a complaint with Karanjia police station and the police immediately arrested the prime accused Wednesday while another accused was arrested Thursday, Nayak said. "We are making all efforts to nab the other accused person in this case very soon," the SDPO said. Meanwhile, Congress supporters led by Mayurbhanj district president Bhuban Bihari Sahu staged a protest before the Karanjia police station over the incident, which was reported within 10 days of the alleged gangrape of a college student at Gopalpur sea beach in Ganjam district. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday met the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Karanjia and submitted a memorandum demanding swift action and arrest of all the accused. The BJD team led by Basanti Hembram also included Tanuja Mohanta, Chakradhar Hembram, Raisen Murmu, and others. The leaders called for the case to be fast-tracked and the survivor to be given full support, including medical care, trauma counselling, and protection. Terming the incident as 'barbaric,' the BJD delegation expressed deep concern over the safety of women in tribal-dominated regions like Mayurbhanj.

**Mamata misusing Lord's name: Shankaracharya**

**The Puri seer also criticised ISKCON for conducting different rituals and festivals of Lord Jagannath, including Rath Yatra, on different dates and days not in accordance with the scriptures**

**Puri, June 26:** The Puri seer Thursday accused the West Bengal government of misusing the name of Lord Jagannath for commercial gains rather than religious devotion. Addressing a press conference here, the Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, said, "The West Bengal government is misusing the name of Lord Jagannath for commercial purposes. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee does not have the religious sentiment required to name the Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham'." Clarifying his remarks, the 81-year-old seer

pointed out that Puri's economy is significantly supported by pilgrims from West Bengal. "Even Mamata Banerjee knows that Puri thrives because of Bengali devotees. Local servitors, hotels, and traders benefit from this," he said. "To stop the flow of revenue from Bengal to Odisha, she (Mamata) has constructed a Jagannath Temple in Digha and termed it as 'Dham'. Using the 'Dham' tag is not acceptable," the seer said, adding she thinks Bengali pilgrims will now spend money in Digha. Replying to a question, he also criticised ISKCON for conducting different rituals and festivals of Lord Jagannath, including Rath Yatra, on different dates and days not in accordance with the scriptures. "ISKCON should stop all this," he maintained.

**PJ GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS**  
FULLY RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE  
Kesura, Bhubaneswar- 2, Khurda  
+ 2 ARTS + 2 SCIENCE  
+ 3 COMMERCE  
MBA MCA  
BBA BCA  
Managed by: PANCHANAN JENA MEMORIAL TRUST  
7008566872, 6370687466, 6370415606

**PANDA TRAVEL MART**  
ନିଗ୍ରହକ୍ମ ପତିତପାବନ ଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ  
CHANDRASEKHARPUR | MARKET BUILDING | JANPATH

**Bank of India**  
All other Loans are also available  
Attractive Interest rate  
Vehicle Loan 8.25%  
Home Loan 7.45%  
Best Wishes from Bank of India to all the Devotees on the occasion of Holy Rath Yatra  
Toll Free No.: 1800 220 229 / 1800 103 1906  
Visit : www.bankofindia.co.in  
Relationship beyond banking  
Zonal Manager, Baripada Zone

**Canara Bank**  
Canara Bank  
ବିଶ୍ୱବେଦ ସିଣ୍ଡିକେଟ Syndicate  
Your gateway to a bright future  
Education Loan Scheme for Top - 800 Quality Higher Educational Institutes (QHEI) in India  
Loan Amount: As per course fee and other fee charged by QHEI  
Rate in Interest (Floating ROI): Attractive ROI starting from 7.00% p.a.  
Collateral-free and Guarantor-free Education Loan under PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme  
Open **Aspire** Get 0.50% additional Concession on Education Loan  
Apply online @ [pmvidyalaxmi.co.in](http://pmvidyalaxmi.co.in)  
1800 1030  
National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal <https://cybercrime.gov.in> | National Cyber Crime Helpline- 1930

**HI-TECH MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL**  
www.hi-techhospital.in  
**Hi-Tech Family**  
wishes you a joyous and blessed Rath Yatra!  
May Lord Jagannath shower you with peace, prosperity, and good health.  
Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi  
Chairman, Hi-Tech Group  
Hi-Tech Medical College & Hospital, Health Park, Pandara, Bhubaneswar-751025  
More information call us 0674-3500900

**pnb**  
The name you can BANK upon!  
75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav  
Punjab National Bank extends its warmest congratulation & Best wishes to all the devotees on the occasion of the Holy Rath Yatra  
Happy Rath Yatra

**SBI**  
The banker to every Indian  
yono SBI  
ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭକାମନା  
पवित्र रथयात्रा की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ  
HEARTFELT GREETINGS ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF RATHYATRA  
TRUSTED BY EVERY GENERATION, CELEBRATED BY EVERY INDIAN  
YOUR PARTNERSHIP, OUR PRIDE  
**75th SAAT DASHAK DESH KE SAATH**  
Continuing 219 years of legacy  
STATE BANK OF INDIA, BHUBANESWAR CIRCLE

# Rath Yatra Special

## A RARE SNANA YATRA

The annual Snana Yatra, the sacred bathing ritual of Lord Jagannath, was once held within the precincts of the Srimandir in Puri.

Lord Jagannath, revered as the presiding deity of Odias, embodies human-like activities. Each year, accompanied by His siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, He embarks on a journey to the Gundicha Temple on chariots and returns to the temple's sanctum after a nine-day sojourn. This vibrant festival, globally renowned as the Rath Yatra, has occasionally faced interruptions in its long history.

Historical records reveal that the Rath Yatra was halted for extended periods due to Mughal invasions. According to historian and researcher Surendra Kumar Mishra, the temple faced 16 attacks, resulting in Lord Jagannath's absence from Puri for approximately 164 years and four months. During this period, the Rath Yatra was conducted only nine times, with eight instances occurring outside Puri—at Gadakujanga for five years, and once each at Gadamantri, Chilika Lake's Mahi-



sha-Barahampur islet, and Nairi village on the northern banks of Chilika Lake. For 155 years, the Rath Yatra remained suspended.

A notable exception occurred in 1692, when both the Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra were conducted within the temple's fortified walls due to an impending attack. That year, Mughal commander Ekram Khan, on the orders of Aurangzeb, invaded the temple. Fearing desecration, the temple priests relocated Lord Jagannath's idol first to the rear of Devi Bimala's temple within the complex, and later to the Bhagabati temple.

Ekram Khan breached the temple's Lion's Gate, and his brother, Maramast Khan, ascended the Ratna Bedi, the temple's sanctum, only to find a sandalwood idol adorned with precious gemstone eyes. The invaders looted treasures and took that idol to Cuttack.

Historian Kedarnath Mahapatra, citing the Madala Panji, Mughal records, and Chakada Pothi (palm leaf manuscripts) accounts, mentions that King Dibyasingh Dev could not resist the attack.

To protect the deities, a strategic deception was employed: Ekram Khan was given a replica idol and 30,000 rupees, prompting his departure. He sent these to the Bijapur treasury of the Mughal emperor.

The original idols were secretly brought back from Gadakokal, where the Chandan Yatra had already concluded. Upon their return, the temple's four gates were sealed, and worship was conducted covertly, with only select priests accessing the sanctum through a hidden southern gate. The Mahadev was also not lit atop the temple on the day of Ekadashi.

That year, the Snana Yatra deviated from tradition. Typically held at the Snana Mandap in the temple's Ananda Bazaar on Jyestha Purnima, the ritual was instead performed on a wooden throne near the Ratna Bedi, where Lord Jagannath's Nabajitanna Beshu (youthful attire) is usually displayed. That year, the ceremony occurred without devotees, a rare occurrence in the temple's history, underscoring the extraordinary circumstances of the time.

## Srimandir's spiritual glory shines at Alarnath

Located about 25 km from the holy town of Puri, the ancient temple of Lord Alarnath in Brahmagiri is a spiritual gem revered by Vaishnavites and pilgrims, especially during the Anavasara (or Anasara) of Lord Jagannath and His siblings - Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra - when Srimandir closes its doors to devotees for about 15 days following the ritualistic bath (Snana Yatra) of the deities.



**The legend & deity**

According to legend, Lord Brahma came down to this place and worshipped Lord Vishnu. Pleased with his devotion, Lord Vishnu asked him to carve out a four-handed deity in black stone, carrying a sankha, chakra, gada and padma in each hand. The hill was called Brahmagiri since Lord Brahma had worshipped Lord Vishnu at that place.

The temple is believed to have been built by the rulers of Alwar, Rajasthan; hence the name Alwarnath or Alarnath.

When Lord Jagannath, along with His siblings, falls ill after the grand bathing festival, He retreats from public view to recuperate. During this time, the devout, eager for darshan (divine sight), turn to Alarnath, believing that Lord Jagannath manifests here to bless His devotees.

Many also claim that the name 'Alarnath' has been derived from 'Alvarna', which can mean 'unseen' or 'invisible'— aptly reflecting the deity's role during the Anavasara period when Lord Jagannath is not seen in Puri.

**Historical & spiritual significance**

The Alarnath temple is closely associated with Lord Chaitanya, the 16th-century saint and founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism. During one of his visits to Puri, Lord Chaitanya is said to have spent time in deep devotion and meditation at Alarnath during the Anavasara (or Anasara) of Lord Jagannath. So intense was his love for the Lord that he reportedly experienced divine ecstasy at the temple, leaving an imprint on his body on the stone floor in front of the sanctum. The mark can still be seen today.

This connection has made Alarnath a vital pilgrimage stop for Gaudiya Vaishnavas and



followers of Lord Chaitanya, particularly during Srimandir's closure.

**Architecture & rituals**

The temple is built in the traditional Kalinga style of architecture with an ornate vimana (sanctum tower) and intricately carved stonework. Inside the sanctum, the idol of Lord Alarnath is resplendent, seated with divine symbols and adorned with garlands and sandalwood paste.

During the Anavasara, the temple sees a surge in pilgrims who come to witness special rituals and partake in the Khiri bhoga—a rice pudding offering believed to be especially favoured by the Lord. This bhoga is considered extremely auspicious and is eagerly sought after by visiting devotees.

**A spiritual alternative**

For many, a visit to Lord Alarnath offers an intimate and powerful alternative to the grandiosity of Srimandir. It is not merely a stopgap for devotees during the Lord's brief absence but a deeply sacred space in its own right, filled with centuries of devotion, mysticism, and divine presence.

In the quiet village of Brahmagiri, away from the hustle of Puri, Lord Alarnath continues to receive the love of devotees, standing as a timeless symbol of unwavering faith and divine accessibility.

## WHEN THE LORD FOUND REFUGE IN GADAMANTRI

On Ashadha Shukla Dwitiya, the deities of Jagannath Temple in Puri traditionally embark on their world-famous Rath Yatra - from Srimandir to Gundicha Temple. Lord Jagannath, along with his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Goddess Subhadra, undertakes this ceremonial journey to their birthplace and returns on the tenth day during Bahuda Yatra.

However, history records instances when the deities had to be taken on processions far from the temple—sometimes even outside Puri—due to threats of invasion. Historians note that such processions have occurred eight times beyond Puri: five times to



shetra of Mahaprabhu in northern Chilika), and once to Gadamantri. There is also a unique historical account of an internal Rath Yatra within the sanctum of the Srimandir.

According to noted historian Surendra Kumar Mishra, in 1621, Ahmed Beg Khan launched an attack on the Jagannath Temple. On the advice of the Gajapati king, the temple servitors, with the assistance of the Paikas (warriors), first moved the deities to Andharigada near Manikapatna via the river route. But when intelligence revealed Ahmed Beg Khan was advancing toward them, there was no time left for further relocation.

Mishra interprets this turn of events as divine will—Mahaprabhu's own 'Lila' (divine play), beyond human understanding. Ultimately, a decision was made to relocate the Brahmas (soul essence of the deities) to Gadamantri. There, Gajapati Purushottam Dev of the Bhoi dynasty re-consecrated the deities through a Nabakalebara (ritual regeneration of the divine bodies).

This emergency Nabakalebara was held at Gadamantri, and shortly afterwards, in 1622, the king passed away. His son, Gajapati Narasingha Dev, arranged for all necessary

rituals and services to continue at Gadamantri until the situation in Srikshetra (Puri) stabilised. Records suggest that the deities remained at Gadamantri for roughly two and a half years. During this period, two significant festivals were conducted: Rath Yatra and Chandan Yatra.

On Rath Yatra day, the deities were taken in a chariot procession from the present-day Sritrutiyadeb temple to a make-shift Gundicha temple erected to the south of Lord Kapileswar Mahadev's shrine which is located on the eastern side of Gadamantri. The deities resided there for nine days before returning to their original location.

The route taken during this Rath Yatra, now almost 400 years old, is today known as Badadanda. With no subsequent processions held after that era, the temporary Gundicha temple gradually disappeared, though the site is still known locally as 'Gundichaghar Pada.'

In 2015, during a second round of heritage research, Mishra discovered that the Gadamantri site once had 22 water bodies and 23 dandas (land segments). Of these, 12 dandas have been transformed into private gardens or properties, leaving only 11 in existence today. The condition of the ponds has also deteriorated—only one, known as the Chandan Pokhari, still remains, although its water level has drastically reduced.

The Chandan Pokhari lies to the southeast of the Sri Kapileswar temple. Not far from it is Kurumapahad, another landmark associated with the event. The Kapileswar temple itself was consecrated by the King of Gadamantri, There, Gajapati Ranpur during the Kesari dynasty's reign, at a time when Gadamantri was under the Ranpur kingdom.

Historical documents confirm that in 1622, Chandan Yatra rituals were conducted at this very pond, with active participation from servitors. The site, though now obscure, was once a thriving centre of devotion during one of the most turbulent times in the history of Lord Jagannath's worship.

### RATH TRIVIA

- Nandighosha:** The chariot of Lord Jagannath, featuring 16 wheels and covered in red and yellow cloth.
- Taladhawaja:** The chariot of Lord Balabhadra, with 14 wheels and adorned in red and green cloth.
- Darpadalana:** The chariot of Goddess Subhadra, with 12 wheels and clad in red and black cloth.
- Charioteers:** Each chariot is guided by a charioteer: Daruka for Jagannath, Matali for Balabhadra, and Arjuna for Subhadra.
- Construction:** The chariots are built annually by approximately 1,400 carpenters.
- Rope of Nandighosha:** Sankhachuda
- Rope of Taladhawaja:** Basuki
- Rope of Darpadalana:** Swarnchuda

## The royal seamsters

The unsung 'Darji' servitors behind Lord Jagannath's eternal service

Among the various types of traditional services offered to Lord Jagannath at the Shree Jagannath Temple, one of the most essential yet lesser-known is the Darji Soba—the tailor's service. Renowned scholar Surendra Kumar Mishra explains that this service is an indispensable component of temple rituals and has been meticulously preserved for generations.

The tailors serving in this capacity are collectively known as 'Darji Sevaks'. They operate under the leadership of a 'Sardar' (chief), who



organises and supervises their tasks, as recorded in the Srimandir Registrar's Rights (ROR). These servitors work according to ancient service rolls (Bedhapatra), with only the Darji chief authorised to tie the ceremonial cloth known as 'Sadhi/Saree'. No other tailor may perform this specific duty.

This hereditary service, traditionally passed down within families, Darji servitors are often associated with the Mahapatra surname. They start serving once they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge. Each Bedha (service group) has a defined structure and sequence, determining who works when and in what order. There are a total of 12 Bedhas dedicated to tailoring duties, ensuring year-round service in alignment with the temple calendar.

This system illustrates the scale and complexity of 'Darji' service. During Nabakalebara—the periodic ritual of replacing the deities' wooden forms—the 'Darji' servitors are responsible for stitching elaborate appliqué canopies for the temporary workshops and ceremonial mandaps such as Kollibakuntha, Yajna Mandap, Kalasa Mandap, Snana Mandap, Nrusinha Mandap, and others. They also craft individual canopies for Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra, Lord Sudarshan, and Lord Jagannath.

Beyond these, the tailors produce pillows, cushions, and temple flags—each allowed for the buying and selling of the tailoring rights—a practice still remembered today. If a tailor could not perform his duties or lacked heirs, he was permitted to sell his service entitlement to another qualified individual.

## Here, siali ropes guide Nandighosha

A sleepy village under Banspal block in Keonjhar district hums with activity soon as the Rath Yatra approaches, when the villagers get the opportunity to serve the deities using the ropes for Nanchariot using siali vines—a unique tradition associated with the annual festival of Lord Baladevjev temple.

Sources said the use of ropes beautifully crafted from siali vines is prevalent at the shrine for centuries. As per the tradition, members of Bhuyana community carry a siali rope that would be used for pulling Nandighosha chariot

of Bhuyana tribal community move in groups and harvest the bark of siali vines from nearby forests, and painstakingly weave these sacred ropes as an offering to the Lord. In past, six Bhuyana villages were supplying these ropes. Meanwhile, the residents of Danala village in Suakati panchayat under Banspal block have inherited this revered tradition.

Every year, when the car festival approaches, the residents gather to weave the ropes that are used to pull the Nandighosha, the only chariot for deities of Lord Baladevjev temple.

The villagers start the preparations for weaving the ropes on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, which marks the commencement of chariot works. They trek into the hills of Gandhamardan with all assistance to collect Siali bark. After collecting the bark, they wait to receive the

Lord's symbolic blessing on Snana Purnima to weaving the ropes that will steer Nandighosha.

For devotees, Siali ropes represent devotion and tradition, a vital part of pulling the chariot. Many believe the chariot cannot move without them. Devotees often tear off small pieces of the ropes during the festival and preserve them at home as sacred keepsakes. According to Kunja Dehuri, the Bhuyan chief of Danala village, "We start collecting fine siali hills from ya ya. On Snana Purnima, we obtain permission and ropes."

"Although it's a painstaking process, we continue with utmost devotion," said Santal Behera, a Danala resident.

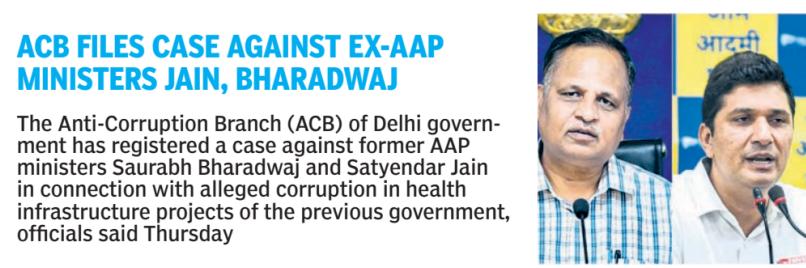
They cut vines from trees that are free of birds, ants, or insects. The harvested



vines brought back to the village mandap, where the bark is stripped, spun into thread, and twisted into strong ropes. Bhimasen Puhana, another resident of the village, said three ropes are prepared for the chariot and an extra one is kept as backup. The thickness of each rope is about 15 to 18 inch while its length is 145 to 150 ft. "Use of ropes spun from siali vines to pull the chariots is an ancient tradition," said Raj Kishore Panda, the temple's head priest.

The festival is also famous for its towering 72-ft high Nandighosha chariot regarded as the tallest in the world.

The chariot carries the deities Lord Baladevjev, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath to the Mausi Maa temple, pulled by thousands of devotees.



**Navy staffer arrested for leaking Op Sindoor details, other classified info to Pak**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, June 26:** An Indian Navy staffer posted in naval headquarters in Delhi was arrested in Jaipur for allegedly leaking defence-related sensitive information to a Pakistani handler in exchange for money, a police official said Thursday.

Vishal Yadav, an Upper Division Clerk (UDC) in the Directorate of Dockyard at the Navy building, allegedly also shared details on Operation Sindoor -- strikes carried out by the Indian Armed Forces in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Inspector General of Police (CID-Security) Vishnu Kant Gupta said Yadav, originally from Rewari in Haryana, leaked the classified information to a female Pakistani handler posing as an Indian woman.

He was arrested Wednesday in Jaipur and will be subjected to a joint probe by multiple agencies.

"Yadav confessed to receiving approximately Rs 2 lakh in total for the information he passed on," Gupta said.

"This included Rs 50,000 for leaking information related to Operation Sindoor," the IGP said, adding some of the payments were also made in cryptocurrency.

## Top court issues guidelines for retention, disposal of records

The Supreme Court highlights a lacuna over the management of administrative records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 26:** The Supreme Court Thursday issued guidelines for retention and disposal of documents to create accountability and efficiency across all registry wings.

The top court highlighted a lacuna over the management of administrative records.

In a message, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said over the years, the registry of the Supreme Court has witnessed a significant increase in the volume and diversity of administrative records generated across multiple branches.

"While judicial records pertaining to case proceedings are governed by explicit provisions contained in Order LVI of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, and further elaborated in Chapter XXI of the Handbook on Practice and Office Procedure of the Supreme Court of India, 2017, a lacuna has persisted with respect to the management of administrative records," he said.

The CJI continued, "This disparity leads to inconsistent practices across branches, affecting archival clarity and efficiency. The 'Guidelines for



Retention and Destruction of Records 2025' aim to remedy this by promoting coherence, accountability, and efficiency in managing administrative records, including institutional decisions, policy implementations, inter-departmental correspondences, audits, and engagements with external stakeholders."

CJI Gavai underscored the importance of properly managing these records for transparency and accountability and guidelines to establish a rational framework.

"Operational efficiency is enhanced by the systematic elimination of obsolete documents, easing storage burdens and improving record retrieval speed. The Guidelines ensure compliance with audit and statutory obligations by defining appropriate retention

periods based on fiscal, legal, an administrative relevance. They are aligned with national public record management standards."

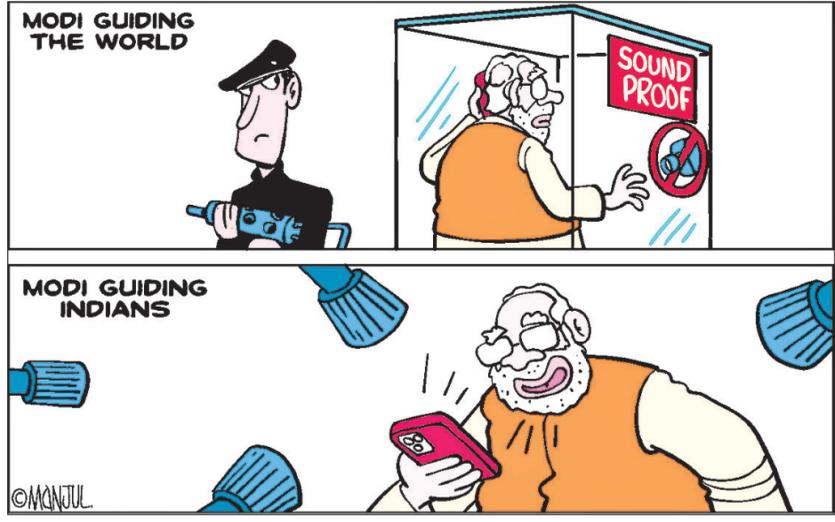
The guidelines were stated to have borne out of detailed consultations among registrars and officials of the registry.

"I place on record my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Pradip Y. Ladekar, Registrar at the Supreme Court, who played the instrumental role in drafting these Guidelines. He was ably supported by his staff members throughout the process. I also appreciate Bharat Parashar, Secretary General, and SC Munghate, Officer on Special Duty (in the rank of Secretary General), for their leadership and guidance in steering the Registry through this important initiative," he said.

According to the issued guidelines, original submission notes or paper books bearing signatures of the chief justice of India and judges of the Supreme Court to be preserved permanently.

Further, policy files, office orders and circular files were to be preserved permanently.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## US asks visa applicants to share social media usernames

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 26:** Outlining each visa adjudication as a "national security decision", the US has asked applicants to share their social media usernames or handles of each platform they have used in the last five years.

The US Embassy in India shared the information in a brief statement issued Thursday, which also cautioned against "omitting" social media

information as it could lead to "visa denial and ineligibility for future visas".

The statement which was posted on X read, "Visa applicants are required to list all social media usernames or handles of every platform they have used from the last 5 years on the DS-160 visa application form. Applicants certify that the information in their visa application is true and correct before they

sign and submit."

The communication continued, "Omitting social media information could lead to visa denial and ineligibility for future visas." The US Embassy asked those applying for an F, M, or J non-immigrant visa to switch the privacy settings of their social media accounts to "public" to facilitate vetting, which it said was necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the US under law.

## Pilgrims barred from pulling chariots on roads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Digha, June 26:** Pilgrims attending the grand Rath Yatra festival originating from the newly constructed Jagannath temple here Friday will have to stand behind barricades along the 1 km procession route and wouldn't be allowed to spill onto the streets to pull the ropes of the chariots of the sibling deities, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Thursday.

Soon after a high-level meeting with officials of Digha Shankarpur Development Authority (DSDA), senior police officers and ISKCON monks in Digha to plan and oversee Friday's festival that's expected to register a high footfall, Banerjee said pilgrims will get the opportunity to touch the chariot ropes



which would be laid alongside the barricades.

"We cannot allow people to descend on the streets to pull the raths, as there could be chaos. But they will have the opportunity to touch those ropes from behind the barricades," the chief minister said.

The chariot procession is scheduled to start at 2.30 pm,

although the ceremonial rituals at the temple would begin from 9 am, officials said.

The slow-moving chariots would take nearly two hours to reach their destination, around a kilometre away, for the benefit of the pilgrims who would be gathered in large numbers to catch a glimpse and participate in the spectacle, they added.

Banerjee, who reached Digha Wednesday to oversee the celebration preparations, inspected the three ceremonial chariots of Lord Jagannath and his siblings kept near the temple, a DSDA official said.

She also reviewed the Yatra route with DSDA officials and police personnel.

"Follow this route. Everything has to be smooth and helpful for the people," she

was heard telling DGP Rajiv Kumar in the presence of Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and other dignitaries.

The seaside resort town of Digha in Purba Medinipur district has been fully decked up ahead of the celebrations, adorned with temple-themed cutouts, giant images of deities and illuminations designed by artists from Chandernagore.

Saffron flags featuring Lord Jagannath and banners reading 'Welcome to Jagannath Dham' lined the entire 180 km stretch of the national highway from Kolkata to the town.

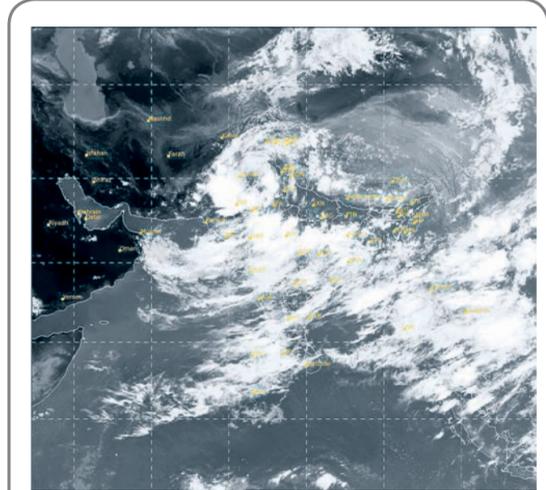
While thousands of devotees have already reached Digha, devotional songs invoking Lord Jagannath were being played continuously over the public address system.

## Shukla enters International Space Station

New Delhi: IAF test pilot Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Thursday became the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station as he and three other astronauts entered the orbital laboratory to warm hugs and handshakes after the docking of their spacecraft at the end of a 28-hour journey around the earth.

Scripting history with this feat, Shukla, 39, became the 634th astronaut to travel to space with the Indian Air Force's fighter pilot ending his brief remarks after entering the ISS with a "Jai Hind Jai Bharat" message. He is also the second Indian to go to space in 41 years and the first since Rakesh Sharma's eight-day sojourn in 1984. "With your love and blessings, I have reached the International Space Station. It looks easy to stand here, but my head is a little heavy, facing some difficulty; but these are minor issues," he said in brief remarks in Hindi at the formal welcome ceremony at the ISS. "We will get used to it. This is the first step of this journey."

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.69 ↓ 0.33	SENSEX	83755.87 ↑ 1000.36	GOLD	₹96,798 ↓ ₹559
EURO	100.34 ↑ 0.02	NIFTY	25549.70 ↑ 304.25	SILVER	₹106,304 ↑ ₹324



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.2°	31.6°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.4°	23.5°	
Humidity	95%	94%	
Rainfall	54.8mm	57.0mm	

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/E-Tender/34 Dtd. 23.06.2025

1) Tender No. e-Tender-CenKUR-25-2025, Dtd. 13.06.2025

**DESCRIPTION :** EXECUTION OF TSR(P) FOR A LENGTH OF 18.228 KMS, TRR(P) FOR 14.64 KM AND RENEWAL OF PSC FAN SHAPE LAYOUT AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS UNDER SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 623.79 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 4,61,900.00

2) Tender No. e-Tender-SouthKUR-118-2025, Dtd. 12.06.2025

**DESCRIPTION :** SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRACK MOUNTED AUTOMATIC (ELECTRONIC TYPE) GAUGE FACE LUBRICATOR ON 100 NOS. CURVE LOCATIONS UNDER DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (SOUTH), DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST) AND SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (HQ) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 876.09 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 5,88,100.00

3) Tender No. e-Tender-CenKUR-122-2025, Dtd. 12.06.2025

**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED REPAIRS TO CESS/ WIDENING OF CESS, BALLAST RETAINING WALL AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 342.20 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,21,100.00

4) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-117-25, Dtd. 17.06.2025

**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED REPAIRS TO BIKE STAND SUCH AS REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING DAMAGED ROOFING WITH GALVANIZED IRON PROFILE SHEETS, FLOORING ETC. AT RAIL SADAN (ZONAL HEAD QUARTER OFFICE), CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 58.00 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,16,000.00

Completion period: 08 (Eight) Months (for Sl. 01 & 03), 60 (Sixty) Months (for Sl. 02) & 06(Six) Months (for Sl. 04)

**Tender Closing Date and Time :** At 1500 Hrs. of 09.07.2025 (for all the tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road  
PR-290/Q/25-26

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, BIPLABA KESHARI MEHER, S/o- Kishore Chandra Meher, R/o- W/No- 29, At-Sakhigopinath Pada, PS- Dhanupali, Dist-Sambalpur, Pin-768001, Odisha, declare by this Affidavit No.- CF NO.- 615, Dtd- 05/03/2025, that now onwards I shall be known as BIPLABA KESHARI MEHER for all future purposes.

By affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Malkangiri, I, Jagamohan Behera, S/o A. Chudamani Behera, residing at Jagannath Mandir Road, Post-Rayagada (K), Dist-Rayagada hereby declare that my minor son's actual name is Ramkrishna Behera in Aadhaar Card No. XXXX XXXX 3026. Both names refer to the same person. I seek correction to Ramkrishna Behera.

## DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

### Role of RPF under the NDPS Act

**J**une 26, observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, highlights the urgent need to combat the global drug menace. India, facing growing challenges from rising narcotic consumption among youth, has empowered the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the NDPS Act, 1985, since 2019 to prevent misuse of its vast railway network for drug trafficking.

Indian Railways, due to its extensive reach and high passenger volume, had become a key conduit for drug smuggling. The RPF, traditionally tasked with protecting railway property, now plays a pivotal role in narcotics control. In 2024, the



RPF conducted over 1700 operations, seizing contraband worth 227.5 crore and arresting 1,489 traffickers.

Major recoveries include 31.5 kg methamphetamine worth 150 crore in Madurai, 1.03 kg brown sugar in Nabadwip Dham, and over 24 kg of charas in various states. These operations reflect a shift towards intelligence-led policing and

strategic coordination with agencies like NCB, DRI, and state police.

Emerging smuggling corridors such as the Luming-Arunachal and Odisha-Southern States routes indicate evolving trafficking trends. Common tactics include using general class coaches, night trains, and concealing drugs in luggage.

To combat these challenges, the RPF is enhancing capabilities through dog squads, advanced training, data analytics, and installation of large baggage scanners at key stations. However, issues like resource gaps, porous borders, and balancing surveillance with privacy remain.

MANJOY YADAVA IPS

## Responsibility of interim govt to protect Hindus: India on damage to temple in Dhaka

**NEW DELHI:** India Thursday denounced the reported destruction of a Durga temple in Dhaka and said it is the responsibility of Bangladesh's interim government to protect Hindus as well as religious institutions.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said India is prepared to engage with Bangladesh on "all matters" in an environment that is conducive for mutually beneficial dialogue. His remarks came in response to a question on possible renewal of Ganges water treaty with Bangladesh next year.

Jaiswal was critical of Bangladeshi authorities for the reported destruction of the temple. "We understand that extremists were clamoring for demolishing the Durga temple in Khilkhet, Dhaka," he said. "The interim government, instead of providing security to the temple, projected the episode as illegal land use...and they allowed the destruction of the temple today," he said. "This has resulted in damage to the deity before it was shifted. We are dismayed that such incidents continue to recur in Bangladesh," he added.

**यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India**  
Kriya Yogo Ashram Rajabati, PO.: Rairakhhol, Sambalpur, Odisha-768106, E-mail: ubin0572411@unionbankofindia.bank

**REDHAKHOL BRANCH**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.07.2025 between 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M. for recovery dues as mentioned hereunder to the Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor. The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit also mentioned hereunder.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Pending Litigation Related to property	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment	Contact Person / Contact No.
1.	<b>Borrower: M/s. Mahima Indane, through Legal heirs of the deceased Prop. Kalpana Nayak, represented by Pradyumna Kumar Naik / Guarantor: All the Legal heirs of the deceased Kalpana Nayak, represented by Pradyumna Kumar Naik, All are At: Sakasingha, P.S.: Angul Sadar, Tahasil: Banarpal, Dist.: Angul-759123</b>	Land with commercial Building thereon situated at Mouza: Barsikiakhhol, P.S.: Rampur, Tahasil: Redhakhhol, Dist.: Sambalpur bearing MS Khata No.: 39/14, Plot No.: 139/397 having Area: Ac 0.40 Dec., Standing in the name of Pradyumna Kumar Naik, Prithvi Raj Singh Mantri, Khirabdi Mahima & Jayashree Mahima (Legal heirs of Late Kalpana Nayak), Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South: Road, East: Vacant Land, West: Vacant Land	NA	₹18,11,465.91 as on 10.06.2025 + further interest, costs and charges thereon	₹39,75,000/- / ₹3,97,500/- / ₹39,750/-	Mr. Sanjeeb Meher, Mob.: 9090776601

**For registration and login and bidding rules please visit : <https://baanknet.com>**

Place: Redhakhhol, Date: 26.06.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

national

1 JeM terrorist killed, 3 others trapped as encounter breaks out in Udhampur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 26: A terrorist of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was killed in an encounter with security forces Thursday, while three of his associates remained trapped in a forested area in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said.

The group of four terrorists was being tracked for a year. They were confronted by a joint search party of the army and police in the remote Bihali area of Basantgarh in the morning, they said.

According to officials, reinforcements have been rushed in and a massive search operation is going on despite bad weather.

"In the ongoing operation by the Indian Army and the J&K Police, one terrorist has been neutralised till now. Operation continues," a defence spokesperson said.

Operation Bihali came a week ahead of the start of the annual Amarnath Yatra in the Kashmir Himalayas.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Bhim Sen Tuti said contact was established with the terrorists at around 8.30 am.

"They are believed to be four in



number and we have been tracking (this group) for the last one year," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function here. He said a search operation was going on despite foggy conditions, and the real picture would emerge once the weather improves.

Officials added that the trapped terrorists are members of the Pakistan-based JeM and were found hiding near Karoor nullah by the joint search party led by the army's para commandos.

Earlier in the day, Jammu-based White Knight Corps of the Army

said on X, "Based on specific intelligence, a joint operation was launched by Indian Army and J&K Police in the Bihali area of Basantgarh. Contact has been established with terrorists. The operation is currently in progress."

Besides, security forces conducted a search operation in the Purmandal area of Samba district late Wednesday following reports of suspicious activity. However, the operation concluded peacefully after nothing was found on the ground, officials said.

Drugs are the biggest scourge for our youth. The Modi government is heading with a whole-of-government approach to this threat, striking narco-cartels ruthlessly and bringing back addicted youth to normal life with empathy

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

FAST PATROL VESSEL 'ADAMYA' INDUCTED INTO INDIAN COAST GUARD

Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) 'Adamyia', the first in a series of eight being constructed for the Indian Coast Guard, and equipped with state-of-the-art technology, was inducted into the maritime force Thursday, officials said



EC starts delisting 345 registered unrecognised parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 26: The Election Commission Thursday said it has started proceedings for delisting of 345 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) which have failed to fulfil the essential condition of contesting even a single election for the last six

years since 2019.

The offices of these parties could also not be physically located anywhere, the EC said.

These RUPPs are from different states and UTs across the country, it said.

Since 2001, the EC has carried out exercise of weeding out defunct RUPPs "three to four" times, officials said.



The Supreme Court had earlier barred EC from "derecognizing" political parties noting that it was not prescribed under law.

However, the EC has found a way to "delist parties". Parties delisted can be listed again by the poll authority without getting into the process of giving them fresh recognition, a former EC functionary pointed out.

Besides over 2,800 RUPPs there are six national and 67 state recognised political parties in the country.

Not tenable: EC on Cong seeking digital voters' list

New Delhi: A day after the Congress urged the Election Commission to provide machine-readable digital copy of the Maharashtra voters' list, EC sources Thursday said the demand is "not tenable" under the prevailing legal framework, asserting that a similar plea of the party was junked by the Supreme Court in 2019. The EC sources said while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been demanding for machine-readable, digital copy of the electoral roll for the last seven months, such demand by the Congress is "not new". "Rather, it forms part of a strategy by the political party for well over eight years, a fact that appears to have been selectively obscured in the present representation," an EC source pointed out. The EC sources said the demand reiterated by Gandhi, albeit consistent with the position historically maintained by the Congress, is "not tenable within the contours of the prevailing legal framework". They pointed out that the issue was already agitated by the Congress before the Supreme Court in a writ petition in 2018 filed by Kamal Nath, the then president of the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee.

UPSC likely to open 'correction window'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 26: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is planning to open a "correction window" for candidates to rectify their mistakes in the application forms filled for the NDA & NA and CDS examinations to be held this year.

The correction window will open for three days and will be a one-time measure, according to the UPSC statement issued Thursday. Combined Defence Services (CDS) exam-II, 2025 and National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy (NA) -II, 2025, were notified May 28 and will be held September 14. The UPSC said that this window would give an opportunity to the candidates to edit their details and make necessary corrections in the 'common application form' and 'examination application form'.

UPSC chairman Ajay Kumar said that the online portal provides repeated checks before the final submission of any application form. "Despite that, apparently, some mistakes have been made by the applicants in attaching their documents and filling up their details. As the portal is new and applicants are filling the information for the first time, UPSC is giving an opportunity to correct and rectify any wrong information filled during the application process, as a one-time measure," he said.

Kumar said the necessary software module to enable the correction window is being developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), and as soon as the same is ready and tested, it will be made available to the applicants.

Government of Odisha ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR ITDA, KAPTIPADA, UDALA e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. ITDAKPD-03/2025-26 No.1262/ITDA, Dt.25.06.25

OFFICE OF THE BARIPADA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARIPADA Phone:06792-252703, Fax:-06792-252703, Email:baripadam.hud@nic.in Website:www.baripadamunicipality.in No.942, Date:24.06.2025 DTCN PART-I (TECHNICAL BID) SECTION-II COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH 'e' Procurement

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhawan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email Id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8(1)]

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India Branch Office : 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhil, Near Santoshi Maa Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

No.5-ORC496/2022-BHU 27th May 2025 To The Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & CC Deptt., Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751 001. Sub: Diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual Pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.).

# international



**Hong Kong is a great city. What is not great is the policies of the mainland Chinese government, the Hong Kong government, that have eroded freedom**  
GREGORY MAY | US CONSUL GENERAL

## NK OPENING BORDERS

North Korea next week will open a signature tourist site, Wonsan-Kalma, on its east coast that it called a prelude to a new era in its tourism industry, though there is no word on when the country will fully reopen its borders to foreign visitors



## of the day quote

**There is no progress yet towards setting a date for the next round of peace talks with Ukraine. We are in favour of continued US efforts to mediate**  
DIMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

**Germany is committed to being humane and will help where people suffer but I don't think it's the foreign office's job to finance this kind of sea rescue**  
JOHANN WADEPHUL | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

**I sign the labour reform into law before Bolívar and the working people. We must elect a government that will uphold this law and enforce it**  
GUSTAVO PETRO | PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA

# Khamenei talks tough

Iran's supreme leader warns against further American attacks in his first statement since ceasefire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dubai, June 26:** Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Thursday his country had delivered a "slap to America's face" with its strike on an American base in Qatar, and warned against any further US attacks in his first public comments since a ceasefire was declared with Israel after 12 days of war.

Khamenei spoke in a recorded video broadcast on Iranian state television, his first appearance since June 19. The 86-year-old looked and sounded more tired than he did only a week ago, speaking in a hoarse voice and occasionally stumbling over his words.

The more-than 10 minute speech by the supreme leader was filled with warnings and threats directed toward the United States and Israel.

He downplayed Sunday's US strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites using bunker-buster bombs and cruise missiles, saying that US President Donald Trump — who said the attack "completely and fully obliterated Iran's nuclear programme — had "exaggerated" its impact.

"They could not achieve anything significant," he said. UN nuclear watchdog confirms damage to Iran sites

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency Director Rafael Grossi, reiterated Thursday that the damage done by Israeli and US strikes at Iranian nuclear facilities "is very, very, very considerable."

"I think annihilated is too much but it suffered enormous damage," Grossi told French broadcaster RFI.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei, Wednesday also conceded that



"our nuclear installations have been badly damaged, that's for sure."

Khamenei has not been seen in public since taking shelter in a secret location after the outbreak of the war June 13 when Israel attacked Iranian nuclear facilities and targeted top military commanders and scientists.

Following Sunday's US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, Trump was able to help negotiate a ceasefire that came into effect Tuesday.

Iranian leader warns US against further attacks

Khamenei claimed the US had only intervened in the war because "it felt that if it did not intervene, the Zionist regime would be utterly destroyed."

"It entered the war to save them, yet it gained nothing," he said.

He said his country's attack on the US base in Qatar on Monday was significant, since it shows Iran "has access to important US centres in the region and can act against them whenever it deems necessary."

"The Islamic Republic was victorious and, in retaliation,

**The Islamic Republic was victorious and, in retaliation, delivered a hand slap to America's face. Should any aggression occur, the enemy will definitely pay a heavy price**  
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

delivered a hand slap to America's face," he said, adding "this action can be repeated in the future."

"Should any aggression occur, the enemy will definitely pay a heavy price," he said.

Since the ceasefire, life has been gradually returning to normal in Iran.

On Thursday, Iran partially reopened its airspace, which had been shut down since the war broke out, and shops in the capital of Tehran began to reopen, with traffic returning to the streets.

Life slowly returns to normal

Majid Akhavan, spokesperson for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, said Iran had reopened the airspace for the eastern half of the country to domestic and international flights, including those transiting Iranian airspace.

# Oli govt in minority in Nepal's Upper House

Key Madhesi party withdraws support

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A key Madhesi party in Nepal has formally withdrawn support to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli-led ruling coalition, reducing it to a minority in the National Assembly.

However, the decision by Janata Samajwadi Party, Nepal (JSP Nepal), led by Upendra Yadav, will not immediately affect the coalition government's longevity as the ruling alliance has sufficient strength in the House of Representatives.

Oli's party said it didn't see any reason for the JSP Nepal to withdraw support.

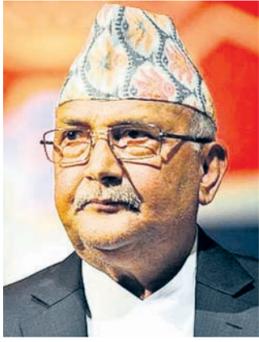
JSP Nepal decided to withdraw its support to the government during the party's executive council meeting held June 23 and 24.

"The party will now officially convey its decision to the Speaker of the Parliament after convening a meeting of our Parliamentary Party in a few days," JSP Nepal vice president Shiva Lal Thapa told PTI.

Last year, while assuming the leadership of the government with the support of Nepali Congress, Oli had promised to end corruption, bring good governance, make economic progress and amend the constitution, he said.

In the National Assembly, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) with its 18 members is the largest party; followed by Nepali Congress with 16 members; Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) has 11 members while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) has eight seats.

Among the rest, the JSP Nepal has three seats; the Rashtriya Janmorcha and the Loktantrik Samajwadi Party



**We had extended support to the government on four agendas. However, now after a year, we don't see that the government is concerned about these issues. Therefore, we decided to withdraw support to the Oli-led government**  
SHIVA LAL THAPA | VICE PRESIDENT, JSP NEPAL

each have one seat and there is one independent. That leaves the ruling coalition of Nepali Congress and CPN (UML) with 27 seats in the 59 member house.

However, JSP-Nepal's decision will not immediately affect the coalition government's longevity, though it will put some moral pressure on the government, said Sunil Manandhar, former environment minister and central member of CPN-Maoist Centre.

The ruling alliance has sufficient strength in the House of Representatives, therefore, it will not weaken the strength of the ruling alliance, he pointed out.

It cannot affect the lawmaking process either. "It can only prevent the government in the process of constitutional amendment, which is one of the key agenda of Oli-led government," he added.

## SHORT TAKES

### 29 kids killed in school

**Bangui:** An explosion and the stampede that followed killed at least 29 schoolchildren and injured more than 250 at a high school in Central African Republic's capital city, authorities said Thursday. The explosion occurred Wednesday at the Barthelemy Boganda High School in Bangui when power was being restored to an electrical transformer within the school premises after it malfunctioned, according to the country's Ministry of National Education. Most of the victims — including 16 girls — died at the scene after the explosion resulted in a stampede while others were confirmed dead at the hospital, the Ministry of Health said in a statement. At least 260 were injured and being treated in various hospitals, the ministry said.

### PIO woman assaulted

**Ottawa:** A 23-year-old Indian woman was brutally attacked and robbed near her home in Winnipeg, the capital of the Canadian province of Manitoba, and a teenager has been arrested in connection with the incident, police said. The woman, identified by community members as Tanpreet Kaur, was walking back to her apartment in Winnipeg after finishing her evening shift late when she was ambushed by two strangers at the 1-99 block of Roslyn Road shortly after midnight June 23. Winnipeg police said in a statement on Wednesday that bystanders in the area stopped the attack after which suspects quickly fled after stabbing and robbing the victim of her property.

### Toll from deluge rises

**Johannesburg:** The death toll from severe floods that inundated parts of South Africa's rural Eastern Cape province two weeks ago has risen to 101, with a 12-month-old baby the youngest fatality, authorities said Thursday. Two children are still missing. Heavy rain June 9 and 10 caused by a cold front resulted in floods that swept away victims and their houses, trapped others in their homes, damaged roads and other infrastructure and cut electricity supplies.

### Curbs on cannabis sale

**Bangkok:** Thailand is further tightening control of cannabis by banning sales of the plant to those without prescriptions. Thailand became the first country in Asia to decriminalise cannabis in 2022, in a move that boosted Thailand's tourism and farming, and spawned thousands of shops. But the country has faced public backlash over allegations that under-regulation has made the drug available to children and caused addiction.

# India calls out Pak's attempts to deflect attention from atrocities against children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, June 26:** India strongly rejected Pakistan's "unwarranted aspersions" over UN processes and attempts to deflect attention from atrocities committed against children in the country and rampant cross-border terrorism, asserting that the world has not forgotten the Pahalgam attacks.

"I am constrained to respond to the politically motivated remarks made by the delegate of Pakistan, one of the grave violators of the CAAC (Children and Armed Conflict) agenda," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador P Harish said.

In a statement at the UN Security Council open debate on 'Effective strategies to end and prevent grave violations against children' Wednesday, Harish said that Pakistan is casting unwarranted aspersions over UN processes and also smearing India at various discussions to pursue their nefarious agenda.

"We reject this attempt by Pakistan to deflect attention from the atrocities committed against children in their country, as highlighted in the Sec-



**It is high time that Member States shed their political inhibitions to hold both terrorist perpetrators and their state sponsors accountable for exploiting the most innocent and vulnerable population**  
P HARISH | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AMBASSADOR

retary General's report, as well as their rampant cross border terrorism," Harish said.

Harish said that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' report on CAAC provides details of serious violations against children in armed conflict in Pakistan.

Secretary General has "expressed concern at the rise in such grave violations reported including attacks against schools, particularly girls' schools, against health workers, and about the incidents in the border areas with Afghanistan where a series of killing and maiming of Afghan children was directly attributed to cross border shelling and air strikes by Pakistani armed forces!"

"To preach at this body after such behaviour is grossly hypocritical," Harish said.

He told the Council that the

world has not forgotten the "savagely targeted attacks" by Pakistani and Pakistani-trained terrorists killing 26 tourists in India in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir April 22.

He noted that the Security Council had issued a Press Statement April 25 that had underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act accountable and bring them to justice.

"And yet, they try to preach to others," the Indian envoy said.

The Secretary General's report on Children and armed conflict noted that a total of 99 grave violations against 86 children (27 boys, 14 girls, 45 sex unknown) were reported in Pakistan. A total of 13 attacks on schools were reported and insecurity had a negative impact on health workers.

# WH video embraces Trump as 'daddy' after NATO chief's remark

REUTERS

**Brussels, June 26:** The White House embraced the moniker of "daddy" for Donald Trump in a video that it released after NATO chief Mark Rutte used the term in a conversation with the US president.

"Daddy's home," the White House posted, opens new tab on X, along with the video featuring the song "Hey Daddy (Daddy's Home)" by Usher and images of Trump at the NATO summit in The Hague.

Rutte, the Dutch secretary general of the military alliance, used the word "daddy" in an appearance with Trump at Wednesday's summit after the

US president berated Israel and Iran over violations of a ceasefire, which later appeared to be holding.

In response, Rutte laughed and said: "And then daddy has to sometimes use strong language to get (them to) stop."

On Tuesday, Trump said Iran and Israel had been fighting "so long and so hard that they don't know what the f\*\*\* they're doing".

In an interview with Reuters after the summit, Rutte said he had used the word "daddy" to describe how some allies seem to view the United States, rather than about Trump specifically.

"In Europe, I hear sometimes



countries saying, 'Hey, Mark, will the US stay with us?' And I said that sounds a little bit like a small child asking his daddy, 'Hey, are you still staying with

the family?" Rutte said. "So in that sense, I used daddy, (it's) not that I was calling President Trump daddy." Asked if this meant other NA-



Protesters scatter as police fire teargas at them during a demonstration in downtown Nairobi, Kenya. PTI PHOTO

## Death toll from Kenya's anti-govt protests rises to 16

**Nairobi:** The number of Kenyans who died during Wednesday's nationwide protests over police brutality and bad governance has doubled to 16, according to the state-funded human rights commission. Property was also destroyed in the protests that attracted thousands of frustrated young Kenyans. At least two police stations were razed down by angry protesters. Kenyans demonstrated Wednesday in 23 of 47 counties across the country calling for an end to police brutality and better governance. Thousands chanted anti-government slogans, and the protests morphed to calls for President William Ruto to resign. Many protesters were enraged by the recent death of a blogger in custody and the shooting of a civilian during protests over the blogger's death.

## Trump gets 'golden share' power in US Steel buyout

**Harrisburg:** President Donald Trump will control the so-called "golden share" that's part of the national security agreement under which he allowed Japan-based Nippon Steel to buy out iconic American steelmaker US Steel, according to disclosures with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. The provision gives the president the power to appoint a board member and have a say in company decisions that affect domestic steel production and competition with overseas producers. Under the provision, Trump — or someone he designates — controls that decision-making power while he is president. However, control over those powers reverts to the Treasury Department and the Commerce Department when anyone else is president, according to the filings. The White House responded in a statement that the share is "not granted to Trump specifically, but to whoever the president is" when asked why Trump will directly control the decision-making and why it goes to the Treasury and Commerce departments under future presidents.

TO members were like children who were now growing up after a pledge to spend more on defence, Rutte said they "already

have grown up" but realised they had to step up and "equalise" defence spending with the United States.



**Gold saw a modest gain Thursday, buoyed by bargain buyers and a weaker US dollar. The US dollar index fell below 97.0, marking its lowest level since March 2022**  
**SAAMIL GANDHI** | SENIOR ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

## AMAZON ADDS 'FULFILLMENT CENTRES' AHEAD OF PRIME DAY SALE

Amazon Thursday announced the launch of five new fulfilment centres (its smart warehouses) as the e-commerce giant spruced up its operations network in India ahead of Prime Day 2025 scheduled next month. The new sites are operational in Delhi NCR, Rajpura (Punjab), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Kochi (Kerala), and Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Amazon said in a release. The fulfilment centres will be operated and managed by strategic partners (players in the logistics industry)



### SHORT TAKES

#### Nestle approves 1:1 bonus share

**New Delhi:** The board of FMCG maker Nestle India approved the issuance of bonus equity shares in the ratio of 1:1 to its existing shareholders Thursday. The bonus equity share of face value of Re 1 will be fully issued to equity shares of face value of Re 1 each, held by the members of the company, Nestle India said in a regulatory filing. However, "record date for determining the entitlement of the members of the company to receive bonus equity shares will be announced in due course", it added. June 19, Nestle had announced that the company's board will consider the bonus shares issue, subject to final approval in the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) held by Nestle India July 24, said MD Suresh Narayan.

#### HIT rebrands as Vertis

**New Delhi:** Infrastructure investment (InvIT) firm Highways Infrastructure Trust (HIT) Thursday said the company has rebranded as Vertis Infrastructure Trust (Vertis). The rebranding comes into effect from June 18. Derived from the Latin word 'verto', meaning 'to turn' or 'to evolve', the name signifies a forward-looking mindset of thoughtful transformation, the company said in a statement.

## RBI urges banks to pass on 50bps rate cut to customers

*The Reserve Bank of India is encouraging banks to lower lending rates to ensure recent policy rate cuts are effectively passed on to borrowers. Financial conditions are favorable for this transmission, with banks already reducing rates following earlier cuts*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 26:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin / report has suggested that all banks should bring down their lending rates for speedy transmission of the policy rate, which was lowered by 50 basis points earlier this month.

An article published in the Reserve Bank's June Bulletin stressed that the financial conditions remained conducive to facilitating an efficient transmission of rate cuts.

Most of the banks have already passed on the rate cuts announced in February and April to their customers.

It may be mentioned here that several large banks, including SBI, Bank of Baroda, and HDFC Bank, have already passed on the benchmark lending rate-linked interest rate to borrowers by the same margin within days of the RBI cutting repo rate by a jumbo 50 bps on June 6.

Besides reducing the repo rate by 50 bps earlier



this month, the RBI had announced a reduction in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 bps to 3 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in a staggered manner during the latter half of the year.

"Financial conditions remained conducive to facilitate an efficient transmission of rate cuts to the credit market," said an article on 'State of the Economy' in the Reserve Bank's June 2025 Bulletin.

The reduction in CRR would release primary liquidity of about Rs 2.5 lakh crore into the banking system by December 2025.

"Besides providing durable liquidity, it will reduce the

cost of funds for banks, thereby facilitating monetary policy transmission to the credit market," the article added. The central bank, however, said that the views expressed in the Bulletin article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

The article noted that the 50-bps cut in the policy repo rate during February-April 2025 reflected in banks' repo-linked external benchmark-based lending rates (EBLRs) and marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR).

Consequently, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh and outstanding rupee loans of banks declined by 6 bps and 17 bps, respectively, during the period February-April 2025.

On the deposit side, the weighted average domestic term deposit rates (WADT-DRs) on fresh and outstanding deposits moderated by 27 bps and 1 bp, respectively, during the same period.

## SENSEX SURGES 1,000 POINTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 26:** Rallying for the third consecutive session, equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged over 1 per cent Thursday.

Stable crude oil prices in international markets and a strengthening trend in the rupee following a weak US dollar against major currencies also bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,000.36 points or 1.21 per cent to settle at 83,755.87. During the day, it surged 1,056.58 points or 1.27 per cent to 83,812.09.

As many as 2,097 stocks advanced while 1,900 declined and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 304.25 points or 1.21 per cent to 25,549.

From the Sensex constituents, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank were among the major gainers.

Shares of Reliance Industries climbed nearly 2 per cent Thursday, with its market valuation again breaching the coveted Rs 20 lakh crore marks. In contrast, Trent, State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent, and smallcap index went up by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, metal jumped 2.28 per cent, oil & gas (1.88 per cent), energy (1.68 per cent), commodities (1.39 per cent), financial services (1.25 per cent), utilities (1.24 per cent) and power (1.13 per cent).

## Adani offers seva at Puri Rath Yatra

**PURI:** After its vast and largely volunteer-led support effort to feed the multitude at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj earlier this year, the Adani Group has now turned its attention to another of India's most iconic religious festivals – the Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha. Held annually at the Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri, the nine-day chariot procession draws millions of pilgrims from across the country and beyond. For the Adani Group, corporate social responsibility has always extended beyond infrastructure, education and healthcare. Increasingly, it includes direct and active participation in India's spiritual and cultural life, not as sponsor, but as seva. In keeping with Chairman Gautam Adani's deep belief that "Seva Hi Sadhana Hai" (Service is Worship), the Adani Group is undertaking a comprehensive seva effort to support both pilgrims and frontline officials during the Rath Yatra from 26 June to 8 July. This year's support includes nearly 4 million meals and drinks distributed free of cost, designated food counters providing free, nutritious meals to pilgrims and officials, beverage counters across the city offering cool drinks to beat the heat, support for lifeguards from the Puri Beach Lifeguard Mahasangha, volunteers for beach clean-up, especially plastic waste, free T-shirts for official volunteers, fluorescent safety vests for municipal workers, and also a variety of jackets, raincoats, caps and umbrellas for officials and devotees. The seva effort is in collaboration between the Adani Group, Puri district administration, ISKCON and local volunteer organisations.



## Vedanta collabs with sand artist Manas Kumar Sahoo to celebrate Rath Yatra



**BHUBANESWAR:** India's largest producer of aluminium, Vedanta Aluminium unveiled a grand sand sculpture of Lord Jagannath at Puri Beach as part of the Rath Yatra 2025 celebrations. The majestic artwork has been crafted by renowned sand artist Manas Kumar Sahoo, whose creations have earned him global

recognition. Spanning 15 feet in length and 6 feet in height, the sculpture was made over two days using 10 tonne of sand. Adorned with vibrant colours and a delicate garland of flowers, it beautifully portrays Lord Jagannath bestowing blessings upon devotees. The sculpture has become a centre of attraction for pilgrims and tourists alike. The masterpiece was praised by Padma Shri Pravakar Maharana, a celebrated sculptor and heritage conservationist from Konark. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Rath Yatra is not just a festival; it is a celebration of faith, community, and the timeless bond between Lord Jagannath and his devotees. This year, Vedanta Aluminium will organise several key initiatives during Rath Yatra and Bahuda Yatra, including the distribution of hot meals through Anna Chatra-Bhandara, drinking water, and breakfast for devotees.

## ICRA cuts FY26 PV growth outlook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 26:** Ratings agency ICRA Thursday lowered domestic passenger vehicles wholesale volume growth forecast to one to four per cent for FY26, citing concerns over high inventory levels and shortage of critical components such as rare earth magnets for electric vehicles.

ICRA had earlier pegged the passenger vehicles (PV) wholesale volume growth for FY26 at four to seven per cent over FY25.

The downward revision is "led by concerns regarding high inventory levels and supply shortage of critical components such as rare earth magnets, induced production constraints, especially for electric vehicles," ICRA said in a statement.

"However, steady model launches from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are expected to partially support the overall industry volumes in the current fiscal year," it added.

**Apollo HOSPITALS**  
**RANKED NO:1**  
**BEST PRIVATE MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL IN BHUBANESWAR**



Source : The Week - Hansa Research Survey, 2024

www.apollohospitals.com



**ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ଏବଂ ଭକ୍ତିର ମହାଯାତ୍ରାରେ ସାମିଲ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ**  
 ପାଣିପାଗର ସଠିକ ପୂର୍ବାନୁମାନ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ଆଖିରେ - ଯାତ୍ରା ହେଉ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ

**VEDANTA WITH ODISHA, FOR INDIA**

ALUMINIUM. IRON ORE. CHROMIUM. MANGANESE.

These are strategic metals powering space exploration, clean energy, infrastructure and national defence.

Odisha's mineral potential will shape India's future. Vedanta stands with the Government in unlocking this potential.

**Transforming Odisha:**

- World's largest aluminium smelter with 18 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) capacity in Jharsuguda
- Upcoming investment of Rs.1 lakh crore for 30 lakh TPA, greenfield integrated aluminium complex
- Raw material and power supply to over 500 downstream industries in proposed Aluminium Park
- Accelerating Kalahandi's development through world-class alumina refinery of 50 lakh TPA
- Exploring manganese production
- Tripling ferrochrome output to 5 lakh TPA

# Anush retires his iconic horse Sir Caramello

The duo made history at the Paris Olympics, becoming India's first rider-horse pair in dressage, inspiring future generations of equestrian athletes



You are a national hero, and your legacy will forever be part of Indian history. Now, it's your time — to wander through wide open fields, feel the breeze on your face, and spend your days doing all the things you love. A gentle, joyful chapter awaits you. Love you, Caramello

ANUSH AGARWALLA

Olympic stage. Anush took to his social media to share the emotional announcement, posting a heartfelt tribute to Sir Caramello — the horse who carried him and the nation to a sporting first. "My dearest Caramello, You've been more than a horse — my partner, my strength, and my greatest teacher. You

carried not just my dreams, but the nation's dreams, and gave me your trust unconditionally. You taught me that hard work always pays off and made me believe in myself when no one else did. You changed Indian dressage forever — proving we belong on the Olympic stage and inspiring a new generation." "You are a national hero,

and your legacy will forever be part of Indian history. Now, it's your time — to wander through wide open fields, feel the breeze on your face, and spend your days doing all the things you love. A gentle, joyful chapter awaits you. Love you, Caramello," Anush Agarwalla said in a statement. Sir Caramello's retirement is more than a farewell — it is

a celebration of a sporting legend. The bond between Anush and Caramello has been a symbol of trust, discipline, and perseverance. Their Olympic journey not only elevated India's presence in global equestrian sport but also inspired a generation of aspiring riders back home. Agarwalla, astride Sir Caramello Old, finished ninth in Group E in the Dressage Grand Prix Individual Qualifier round of the 2024 Olympics Equestrian competitions. But the ninth-place finish in his group was still a good enough achievement for Indian equestrian, as he became the first Indian to compete in dressage at the Summer Olympic Games after achieving the Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) four times to obtain a quota for the country.

# Archer returns to England squad against India

The star pacer last played in a Test more than four years ago against India in Ahmedabad



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 26: Fast bowler Jofra Archer returns to the England Test set-up for the first time since February 2021 after being named in the squad for the second Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy game against India, starting at Edgbaston July 2.

"The 30-year-old right-arm quick returns to the England Test set-up for the first time since February 2021 and will be looking to add to his 13 Test caps at Edgbaston next week," the ECB said in a statement.

England lead five-match series 1-0 after defeating India in the opening Test by five wickets at Leeds.

A recurrence of an elbow injury and a stress fracture in the back meant Archer was largely sidelined from playing Tests for England after February 2021. Archer turned out for Sussex in their recent County Championship game against Durham at Chester-Le-Street, marking his first red-ball appearance in four years, and returned with figures of 1-32 in 18 overs.

A thumb injury sustained while playing for Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Indian Premier League (IPL) in early May further delayed Archer's return to first-class cricket and caused him to miss England's white-ball series against the West Indies.

With the 30-year-old pacer, whose last Test appearance came over four years ago against

England lead five-match series 1-0 after defeating India in the opening Test by five wickets at Leeds

India in Ahmedabad in 2021, now making a long-awaited return to the Test team, he will be looking to add to his 13 caps and 42 wickets at an average of 31.04, at Edgbaston next week.

It remains to be seen who, between Josh Tongue, who picked seven wickets in the first game, and Brydon Carse, with four scalps to his name, will drop out of the playing eleven to accommodate Archer. Sam Cook, Jamie Overton, and Jacob Bethell retain their places in the squad.

England are currently leading the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series 1-0, after sealing a thrilling five-wicket win with a successful chase of 371 at Headingley. Another win for them at Edgbaston will give them a chance to seal the five-match series in the third game at Lord's, starting July 10.

England squad: Ben Stokes (c), Ollie Pope (vc), Harry Brook, Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Jamie Smith (wk), Sam Cook, Jacob Bethell, Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes.

## MIXED DISABILITY SERIES

### India register thrilling 2-wicket win over Eng at 'Home of Cricket'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 26: India's Mixed Disability Team held its nerve and sealed a thrilling two-wicket win over England in the last over at Lord's in the third T20I of Mixed Disability Vitality seven-match IT20 series at the Lord's Cricket Ground.

The occasion was historic as it was the first-ever international Disability match at the 'Home of Cricket.' The date, venue and the result of the match all made for a tremendous coincidence- 42 years back, India, led by the legendary Kapil Dev, had clinched the 1983 World Cup on June 25 at Lord's in 1983.

"We dedicate our team's historic win to Kapil Dev sir's team's 1983 World Cup-winning team," said Ravi Chauhan, the general secretary of the Differently-Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI).

June 25 is incidentally celebrated as the 'World Mixed Disability Day.'

## ASIAN SQUASH DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Clean sweep by India

Historic moment as seeders secure hat-trick of gold medals in men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, June 26: In a remarkable achievement, India swept all the three titles -- men's, women's and mixed events -- in the second Asian Squash Doubles Championships after beating their respective rivals in the finals here Thursday.

The top-seeded men's pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar lost the first set but made a comeback to beat their Pakistani opponents Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal 2-1 (9-11, 11-5, 11-5) in the summit clash that lasted 88 minutes.

The Indian duo had reached the final after beating Hong Kong pair of Chi Him Wong



and Ming Hong Tang in the semifinals.

In the women's doubles final, second seeds Joshana Chinappa and Anahat Singh also rallied from a set down to win 2-1 (8-11, 11-9, 11-10) against Malaysia's Ainaa Amani and Xin Ying Yee in a 35-minute final.

Joshna and Anahat had



made it to the summit clash after beating Hong Kong's Po Yui Kirstie Wong and Yee Lam Toby Tse.

The top-seeded mixed doubles pair of Abhay and Anahat made it a clean sweep of titles for India as they beat Malaysia's Rachel Arnold and Ameeshraj Chandaran 2-0

(11-9, 11-7) in the 28-minute summit showdown.

In the process, Abhay and Anahat bagged their second title of the championships.

They had made it to the last-two stage after beating another local pair of Ainaa Amani and Syafiq Kamal in the semifinals.

## SHORT TAKES

### SKY undergoes surgery

New Delhi: India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has undergone a successful surgery for a sports hernia in his lower right abdomen in Munich, Germany. PTI had reported last week that Suryakumar was suffering from sports hernia in his right lower abdomen and will go under the knife if required. "Life Update: Underwent surgery for a sports hernia in the lower right abdomen. Grateful to share that after a smooth surgery, I'm already on the road to recovery. Can't wait to be back," the 34-year-old batter wrote on his social media handle Wednesday. A sports hernia is a soft tissue injury in the groin or lower abdomen, often involving muscles, tendons, or ligaments. India's next white-ball assignment is a tour of Bangladesh in August, which will have three ODIs and three T20Is.

### Tanvi to lead India

New Delhi: The fast-rising Tanvi Sharma was Thursday named in India's 19-member squad for the Badminton Asian Junior Championships (team and individual) to be held in Solo, Indonesia from July 18 to 27. Tanvi won a gold in the Badminton Asia women's team championship. Junior world No 1 men's doubles pair of Bhargava Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gibburu will also be critical to India's chances in the event. The team competitions are scheduled from July 18-22 while the individual events will be held from July 23-27. The team event will be played in a relay format, with the first side to reach 110 points declared the winner. It will begin with a group stage, followed by knockout rounds, with the top two teams from each group advancing.

### India-Oz match craze

Melbourne: India's white-ball tour of Australia is still four months away but Cricket Australia (CA) has already sold more than 90,000 tickets for eight matches with third ODI in Sydney and first Twenty20 in Canberra completely sold out. India will travel Down Under in October-November to compete in three ODIs -- starting October 19 in Perth -- and five T20 Internationals -- the last one in Brisbane November 8.

## Shoan betters national meet record, Karnataka finish first

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 26: Shoan Ganguly bettered his national meet record in 400m medley on the fifth and final day of the Senior National Aquatic Championships with Karnataka finishing at the top with a haul of total 41 medals.

Karnataka's Ganguly clocked 4:24.64 to finish first in the 400m medley whereas Advait Page came in second with 4:26.90, followed by Aryan Nehra from Madhya Pradesh with a timing of 4:30.35. In women's 100m backstroke, Karnataka's Vihitha Loganathan bagged the gold medal with 1:05.18 followed by Bengal's Soubrity Mondal (1:05.19) and Odisha's Pratyasa Ray (1:05.64). SSCB's Likitha Prema finished first in men's 100m breaststroke with 1:03.16, while Tamil Nadu pair of Danush Suresh (1:03.11) and MS Yadesh Babu (1:03.81) came in



second and third respectively.

In women's 100m breaststroke, RSPB's Harshitha Jayaram finished with 1:13.24 followed by Mannata Mishra (Odisha) and Saanvi Deshwal (Maharashtra), who both clocked 1:15.57.

On the final day of the 78th edition of the tournament, Karnataka recorded a total haul of 41 medals including 16 gold medals, 11 silver and 14 bronze.

At the second was Tamil Nadu with 16 medals (8 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze) followed by Maharashtra at third with overall 17 medals (4 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze).

## ICC introduces stop clock in new WTC cycle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, June 26: The ICC has introduced stop clock in Test cricket to deal with slow over rates while allowing fielding teams to decide which batter should be on strike in case of a 'deliberate' short-run as part of the playing conditions for 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle.

The new rules have been implemented from the 2025-2027 World Test Championship which got underway with the first of the two Tests between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Galle.

According to the ICC Test Match Playing Conditions on the governing body's website, the use of the stop clock — like in limited-overs cricket — has been implemented to eradicate the issue of slow over-rate.

"The fielding side shall be ready to start each over within 60 seconds of the pre-

vious over being completed. An electronic clock will be displayed at the ground that counts up seconds from zero to 60," the ICC said.

The fielding side will thus be given two warnings and in case of a third infraction, the batting side will be awarded with five penalty runs.

These warnings will be reset to zero after the completion of 80 overs, the ICC said.

Meanwhile, ESPNcricinfo reported that the ICC no longer mandates the umpires to change the ball once they discover saliva on it. The ban on the use of saliva remains in force.

The website said fielding teams may deliberately apply saliva on the ball to force a ball-change but the current document available on playing conditions for men's Test cricket does not mention any such change.

The ICC also said in case

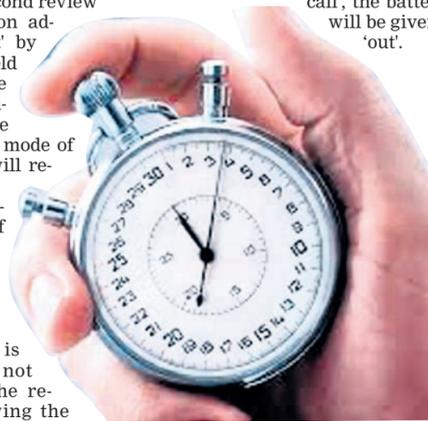
there are instances of referrals being made by both player and the on-field umpire, the process will be carried out in a chronological order, effectively as per the order of their occurrence.

The ICC instructed that in case of a second review of a decision adjudged 'out' by an on-field umpire, the default decision for the subsequent mode of dismissal will remain 'out'.

For example, if a batter challenges an on-field call for caught-behind and is adjudged not out with the replays showing the

ball hit the pads, the TV umpire would subsequently turn to see if the batter was out leg-before.

In such a scenario, the default decision for this mode of dismissal will be 'out' and if the ball-tracking shows 'umpire's call', the batter will be given 'out'.



## In Greenland, 24-hour summer sun means its football season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuuk (Greenland), June 26: For most of the year, Greenland is covered in ice and snow and its locals retreat indoors. But for three short months beginning in June, everyone heads outside — day and night — to watch or play football, the island's favorite sport.

On an island of roughly 56,000 people, about 5,500 — nearly 10% of the population — are registered football players. So it was a crushing blow in early June when the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football, or CONCACAF, unanimously rejected the Greenlandic Football Association's application to become a member.

Some blamed politics for the decision in light of US President Donald Trump's repeated wish to take control of the strategic, mineral-rich island. CONCACAF is one of six conti-

mental federations under FIFA, soccer's world governing body that oversees the World Cup.

But Patrick Frederiksen, captain of the national team, thinks CONCACAF's rejection came down to money.

"We all know it's really expensive to travel to Greenland," he said. Earlier this month, the first direct flight from the US to Greenland by an American airline landed in the capital, Nuuk. The one-way ticket from Newark International Airport in New Jersey cost roughly \$1,200. The return flight from Nuuk had a \$1,300 to \$1,500 price tag. Other flights require a layover in Iceland or Copenhagen, Denmark.

Greenland, technically European territory, might have been expected to seek membership in UEFA. But the European federation only allows members from countries recognized as independent per sovereignty rules introduced



in 2007. CONCACAF has no such restrictions. Despite the recent headlines, the Arctic island's inhabitants are more concerned this summer with getting to the nearest field. They want to take advantage of the 24-hour sunlight even if the temperatures hover around 5 to 10 degrees Celsius (41 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit) in Nuuk.

"We meet outside and play football all night long," player

Angutimmarik Kreutzmann said. "It's not getting dark and we have so much freedom."

Come watch a game From youth clubs to the national team, football energises the entire island.

Picturesque outdoor fields, featuring views of drifting icebergs and snow-capped mountain peaks even in late June, range from artificial turf to dirt to real grass, though older play-

ers remember dribbling across gravel pitches.

"You should come watch a game," said Oscar Scott Carl, coach of the B-67 club in Nuuk. "You can see how much people go into the game, how much cheering from the attenders."

"It's also a big part of creating unity in the country, having a sport to gather around and celebrate wins and being a part of something bigger than one football, to be honest," he added. The Kalaallit Arsaattartut Kattuffiat, Greenland's national football association, was founded in 1971 and regulates multiple men's and women's teams. Community projects are also important to the island's soccer culture and national team players serve as role models for local youth. Something to show the world

The national team of the Faeroe Islands, a semi-independent Danish territory in the North Atlantic, is a member of

FIFA and UEFA, which oversees European soccer.

It's a sore spot for Greenlanders, especially after CONCACAF's decision. The Faeroe Islands team joined the tournaments more than three decades ago, before there were requirements such as a stadium with tens of thousands of seats, among others.

Visit Greenland, the government's tourism agency, said that a national stadium has "long been on the wish list for many in Greenland." But with such a small population, an arena with a minimum of 40,000 seats — more than 70% of the island's inhabitants — "is sadly not in the pipeline," the agency wrote on its website.

Still, Jimmy Holm Jensen, chairman of Nuuk's B-67 club, wishes Greenland's teams could at least play in international soccer tournaments. Right now, they only can compete in friendly matches abroad.