

A DECADE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. A LIFETIME OF POSSIBILITIES

- **World's most affordable data -**
Cost dropped from ₹300 per GB in 2014 to **under ₹10 today.**
- **UPI powers transactions worth ₹1 crore every second -**
Half of the global real time digital transactions happen in India.
- **From 2 to 300+ mobile manufacturing units -**
India is now the **2nd largest mobile phone manufacturer** in the world.
- **5G in a flash -**
One of the fastest rollouts worldwide, covering **99.6% districts** in just 22 months.
- **Digital villages, connected lives -**
42+ lakh route km optical fibre, linking **2.18 lakh Gram Panchayats.**
- **Common Service Centres multiplied -**
From **96,000 in 2014 to 5.76 lakh in 2025 -**
5 times rise.
- **Semiconductor surge -**
India moves towards self-reliance with **₹4+ lakh crore market** in 2024.
- **Middlemen removed, dignity ensured -**
₹44.5+ lakh crore transferred to real beneficiaries via DBT, saving **₹3.5 lakh crore** by preventing leakages.
- **Transparent governance -**
Public procurement worth **₹13.4+ lakh crore** done online through GeM.
- **Empowered farmers -**
1400+ mandis connected through e-NAM, enabling trade of agricultural produce worth **₹4 lakh crore** by farmers.

CBC 06124/13/0001/2526

From Manual to Magical:
10 years of Digital India



leisure



SCARLETT JOHANSSON WARY OF AI 'THREAT'

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

BEYONCE STOPS SHOW DUE TO SCARY PROP MALFUNCTION

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



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rashmi's pertinent question

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Aamir calls religion a 'dangerous topic'

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

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

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

RASHMIKA sets her limits

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

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

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



MUMBAI: Actress Avika Gor, who entered the entertainment industry at a young age, turned a year older Monday. Having spent 20 years in the spotlight, she reflects on the unique bond she shares with her audience—one she describes as deeply personal and long-standing.

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

moments when strangers recognize her and approach her with familiarity. "There are auntsies who just walk up to me and say, 'You've changed our lives.' Some even get emotional. It's so pure. So real. That's a blessing."

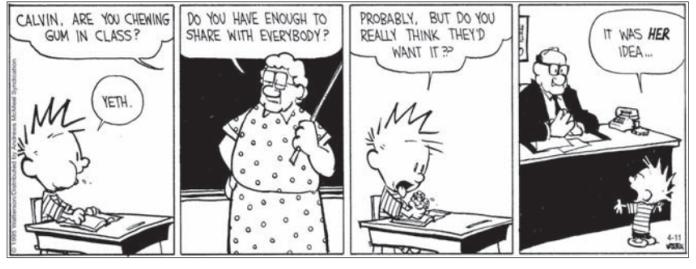
She acknowledged that the nature of her fan support is different from typical celebrity admiration. "There are very few actors in the world who get this kind of belonging from their fans. I'm not just watched—I'm accepted as one of their own."

Avika reflects on bond with audience

PEANUTS



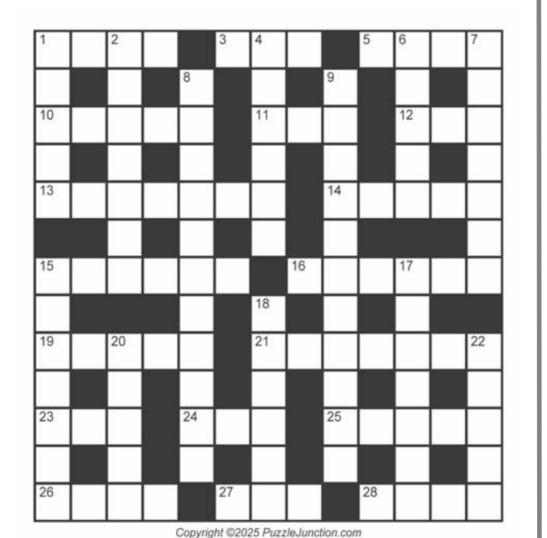
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



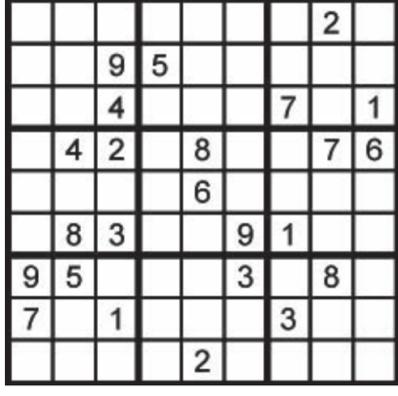
CROSSWORD



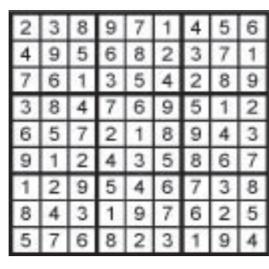
- Across**
- 1 It ebbs and flows
 - 3 Make a scene?
 - 5 Ship's front
 - 10 Also-ran
 - 11 Journey segment
 - 12 Bar stock
 - 13 Carnivorous freshwater fish
 - 14 Utopian
 - 15 Word form
 - 16 Tracked down
 - 19 Fetch
 - 21 Curved sword
 - 23 Peruvian coin
 - 24 Scoundrel
 - 25 Coral formations
 - 26 Himalayan legend
 - 27 Chinese tea
 - 28 Debate side
- Down**
- 1 Garden bulb
 - 2 Demolish
 - 4 After wine or root
 - 6 Worker's demand
 - 7 Type of vehicle
 - 8 Hardware stores
 - 9 Farming
 - 15 Diplomatic building
 - 17 Exchange, as a car (5-2)
 - 18 Rob Roy ingredient
 - 20 Coastal feature
 - 22 Raw fish dish

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

2 Maoists killed Two hardcore Maoists neutralised in a gunfight deep inside a forest under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal
STATE | P3

New regional bloc Pakistan and China are working on a proposal to establish a new regional organisation that could potentially replace SAARC
INTERNATIONAL | P8

IIP growth slows India's industrial production growth dips to nine per cent in May 2025 due to poor performance
BUSINESS | P9

Title drought ends Shuttle Ayush Shetty notches up his first BWF World Tour title in the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season
SPORTS | BACK PAGE

Flood maroons 48 GPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Balasure/Baripada, June 30: At least 48 gram panchayats in Balasure and Mayurbhanj districts are marooned by floodwaters Monday, as major rivers in north Odisha are in spate following incessant rains in the upper catchment areas.

The state government has started evacuating people from low-lying areas and launched rescue and relief operations in Balasure and Mayurbhanj districts, officials said Monday.

The state government has sounded a red alert for both districts as water levels in rivers like Subarnarekha, Budhabalang, Jalaka, and Sono continue to rise.

According to official sources, Subarnarekha river reached a water level of 11.56 metre – well above the danger mark of 10.36 metre at Rajghat by Monday noon. Officials of Central Water Commission (CWC) said that the water level has started receding in the river after 3pm Monday.

According to the emergency office in Balasure, 46 GPs have

Landslide at Similipal

Baripada: Communications to three panchayats in Similipal National Park was disrupted following a landslide inside the wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district due to incessant rain triggered by a low-pressure Sunday night. The landslide occurred near Mahubhandar near the main road connecting Kalikapradas with Gudugudia area in the wildlife sanctuary. P3

been affected by floods, and Subarnarekha water could submerge more areas.

These include 16 GPs in Bhograi, 12 in Baliapal, 12 in Jaleswar, and six in Basta blocks. Similarly, people in Rasgovindpur and Saraskana panchayats in Mayurbhanj district have also been affected by Subarnarekha floods.

Boats have become the only means of transport as nine villages in Bhograi block and four villages under Baliapal block have been cut from outside the world with flood waters swirling in the area.

By Monday morning, as many as 1,138 people had been evacuated in Balasure.

Four teams of ODRA and five teams of Fire Service have been deployed in the district, the official said.



MISSION MODE: Relief materials being unloaded from a boat at a flood affected village under Baliapal block of Balasure district, Monday

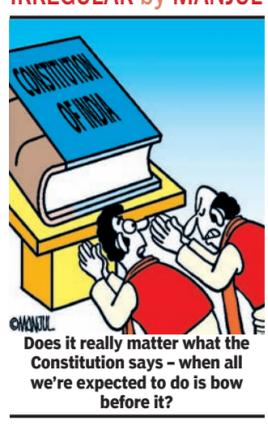
4 shot dead in Manipur

Churachandpur/Imphal: At least four people, including a 72-year-old woman, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Manipur's Churachandpur district Monday, police said. The ambush took place near Mongjang village around 2pm when the victims were travelling in a car, a police officer said. Mongjang is about 5 km from Churachandpur town.

Train fares hiked

New Delhi: The railway ministry issued an official circular Monday, increasing the fares of the non-AC class in mail and express trains by 1 paisa and all AC classes by 2 paisa per km from July 1. P6

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Goons on rampage

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 30: In an audacious attack on a senior government official in the Capital city that raises serious questions on the law and order situation, a group of hooligans allegedly assaulted Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo before dragging him from his office Monday.

Sahoo has lodged an FIR at Kharvelnagar police station.

DCP Jagmohan Meena said three persons have been arrested so far on an FIR lodged by Sahoo at Kharvelnagar police station. "We have arrested Jeevan Rout, Rashmi Mahapatra and Debashis Pradhan. Further investigation is on. Involvement of other persons is being ascertained," the DCP said. Incidentally, Jeevan is a BJP corporator from Ward No-29.

The accused have been charged, apart from other BNS Sections, with attempt to murder - case no 280/202.

Meanwhile, BJD supporters blocked the main arterial road Janpath to protest the assault on the OAS officer. The blockade brought the evening rush hour traffic to a grinding halt



causing utter inconvenience to commuters.

Leader of Opposition and BJD president Naveen Patnaik in a post on X asked Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is also in charge of the Home department, to "restore faith in his government and not allow this heinous act to go unpunished like the assault on an officer by the ex-Governor's son."

The incident occurred when Sahoo was hearing grievances at his chamber in BMC.

"Around five or six unknown youths forcefully entered into my chamber. I thought that they have come to lodge their grievances. A corporator was also with them, who asked me whether I had misbehaved with BJP leader Jagannath

Pradhan. With this small interaction, the group of miscreants dragged me from the office and manhandled me," Sahoo told media persons.

The video of the officer being manhandled by a group of miscreants, spread like wildfire and government employees in large numbers came to the streets.

In protest, BMC employees staged a dharna at the office premises and ceased work for the day, demanding immediate action against the culprits and enhanced security for civic staff.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, also a BJD leader, termed the incident as "highly unfortunate".

Meanwhile, condemning the attack, Odisha Administrative Service Association has called for a protest from July 1, and decided to go on mass leave.

15 killed, 34 injured in Telangana plant blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sangareddy (Telangana), June 30: Fifteen people died and 34 persons suffered injuries in the explosion at Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Telangana's Sangareddy district, state Health Minister C Damodar Rajanarasimha said Monday night.

The minister, who monitored the rescue and relief operations, said the death toll rose to 15. Earlier, it was 13.

The government is providing advanced medical care to the injured and shifted two of them to different private super-specialty hospitals, he told reporters.

Describing the incident as very unfortunate, he said the government would ensure respectable compensation to the kin of the deceased.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would visit the accident site Tuesday morning, he added.

The government is hopeful that the remaining people will recover soon, he added.

Expressing grief over the tragedy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the incident. He wished an early recovery to the injured.



In a post on 'X', he announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured.

Meanwhile, anxious family members of workers employed at the plant arrived here in search of their near and dear ones, although many got little information.

The worried family members, who said they had no information about the well-being of their loved ones soon after the tragedy, questioned police personnel and even visiting the Health Minister for details about the safety of the workers.

The workmen of the factory belong to various states, including Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal, besides Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

20.58L to lose ration in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The state government will suspend ration cards of nearly 20.58 lakh people for not doing e-KYC verification, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said here Monday.

The minister said the last day for e-KYC verification was Monday (June 30). The verification drive was started across the state in August 2024 to remove ineligible and dead beneficiaries from the national and state food security schemes. The deadline was extended multiple times.

"We are planning to suspend the ration cards of 20.58 lakh beneficiaries, who have not completed their e-KYC verification till the last date. We will give them a window period of three months," Patra said.

During the next three months, their rice quota will not be issued so that all genuine beneficiaries will come to the fair price stores for their quota of rice, he said. "Whenever they will visit the PDS store, we will conduct their e-KYC verification and renew their ration cards," the minister said. He further said that the government will deactivate the ration cards of the beneficiaries, who will not turn out at the PDS stores during the period.

Reusable cups replacing recycling at concerts

Michael Martin likes to tell people he sells 'ugly cups.' The hope is no one will like them enough to want to keep them.

Martin, who runs a reusable serveware company called r.World, tried offering nicer-looking cups as part of his quest to reduce the mountains of plastic bottles left behind at concerts and music festivals. For a small refundable deposit, attendees could get their beer and soft drinks in sturdy cups branded with band logos, a 'Washington Post' report said.

But the deposit system, which had worked in Europe, didn't translate well to the United States. People didn't seem to understand or care that they were supposed to return the cups. They pocketed them as souvenirs. "Americans feel like if they pay the deposit, they've bought the cup and have the right to take it home," Martin said.

That's why, at a recent Keith



Urban concert at Maryland's Merriweather Post Pavilion, the venue was packed with fans drinking out of clear plastic glasses with plain block lettering that implied: "Please return me. I'm reusable!" People were guided to drop the cups in bright yellow bins, so they could be collected and taken to a facility to be cleaned, sanitized and packaged for reuse.

About 200 music venues,

stadiums, arenas, zoos and convention centers across the United States are using r.World's 'ugly cups.'

Whereas just a few years ago, environmentally conscious venue operators promoted recycling to steer waste away from landfills, there has been a growing movement in favor of reusable food and drink containers.

Venues are now seeking out full-service reuse companies,

willing to pay higher costs to avoid the scourge of plastic waste. Last year, the world's second-largest concert promoter, AEG, replaced all single-use cups at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles with reusable drinkware. Businesses are popping up around the country to meet the demand, with names like Re:Dish, Bold Reuse and Cup Zero.

"I wish I could say reuse is mainstream. It's not quite there yet, but there certainly is a groundswell," said Caroline Vanderlip, founder of the company Re:Dish, which has industrial-scale washing facilities in Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

When the company began signing up clients in 2022, Vanderlip said most of the interest came from big businesses with company cafeterias. Re:Dish is now in universities, K-12 public schools, senior living centers and is about to ink

its first deal with an arena, she said. What started as a coastal movement is growing, she said. "I have heard from three markets in the Midwest in the last two weeks."

The change has been rapid. Martin wouldn't share financial details about his Minneapolis-based company, but he pointed to the number of reusable cups and food containers it has in circulation as evidence of its growth.

Back home, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has an order in place instructing the street vendors to discontinue the use of disposable items such as paper plates and cups in an effort to promote hygiene and sustainability. However, the vendors can serve food using reusable utensils like steel plates with oil papers placed on those while serving. A few tea stalls in the City have replaced paper cups with glass and clay cups.

Stampede: OHRC notice to Puri administration

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Expressing concern over the death of three persons and injuries to about 50 people in a stampede during the Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Monday asked the district administration and the police to take appropriate measures to prevent occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

While taking up a petition pertaining to the tragic incident that sparked a statewide outrage, the rights panel served notices on the Puri Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) to inform the OHRC about what actually led to the stampede despite having foolproof security.

The OHRC has also directed the authorities to provide proper healthcare to the injured persons. At least three devotees,

including two women, were killed and around 50 others injured in the stampede near the chariots at Saradhabali in front of the Shree Gundicha Temple in Puri Sunday.

Opposition Congress and BJD have criticised the state government and "held it responsible" for the incident.

Hours after the tragedy, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi issued an apology to the devotees of Lord Jagannath. The state government has suspended two police officers on charge of dereliction of duty and transferred Puri Collector and SP with immediate effect.

The CM also announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh each to the bereaved families. The state government has asked the Development Commissioner to probe the incident and submit a report within 30 days.

Administrative probe into stampede begins

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri/Bhubaneswar, June 30: A day after the stampede in Puri in which three persons were killed and 50 others injured, Development Commissioner (DC) Anu Garg Monday started the administrative probe into the incident.

Garg, who is also the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), has been entrusted with the inquiry into the tragedy near Gundicha Temple in Puri during the Rath Yatra. She visited Puri and inspected the place of tragedy where the stampede took place.

"Today, I saw the spot where the stampede took place Sunday morning. I have also discussed with the people connected with the incident. I have been allowed 30 days of time to inquire the matter," Garg told reporters at Puri.

The DC said, "I will inquire into the circumstances under which such a very unfortunate incident took place. I will also see what more measures could be further taken to avoid such incidents in future."

Apart from verifying the place of occurrence, Garg had a preliminary discussion with Arabinda Padhee, who is the chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). Padhee is looking after different aspects of the Rath Yatra including rituals.

Besides, Garg also spoke to the Puri District Collector and SP. She had a preliminary discussion with police officers, personnel of Jagannath Temple Police (JTP), senior servitors and also some mediapersons.

While Garg completed her first visit to Puri Monday, sources said she will start the next phase of inquiry after the completion of the Rath Yatra July 8. She will submit the report to CM Mohan Charan Majhi on the stampede incident in a month.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that the government has so far transferred the Collector and SP of Puri besides placing two police officers under suspension on charge of dereliction of duty. "The government will certainly take action based on the findings of the administrative inquiry conducted by the DC," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress rejected the state government's order for an administrative inquiry into the incident and demanded a judicial inquiry by the Puri District Judge.

The BJD held the state government 'completely responsible' for the chaos in Puri and the stampede. The party demanded the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who was heading a ministerial committee to oversee Rath Yatra affairs and the Law Minister.

Addressing a press conference, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty Monday alleged that there were no administrative officers or policemen present during the place of stampede even as the record says that 22 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) or 660 police personnel were deployed near the Gundicha Temple.

"The state government is fully responsible for the loss of three devotees' lives and the injury of more than 50 others in the stampede. The state government addressed the situation only after BJD president Naveen Patnaik reacted. The government hastily changed the District Magistrate and SP and tried to remove the blame from its own head," Mohanty alleged.

The BJD raised questions on the deployment of hundreds of AI cameras and CCTV cameras for monitoring the Rath Yatra if they were not used during the crisis. "If there were so many systems, then how did such an incident happen? The government should provide insurance coverage for all the devotees coming to Puri during the Rath Yatra in the coming days," the BJD leader said.

Meanwhile, a group of accredited journalists from Bhubaneswar Monday met the CM highlighting issues they faced while covering the Rath Yatra in Puri.



KITE KALEIDOSCOPE: The skies near Light House Square on Puri beach recently came alive with a vibrant kite festival, organised by Planet Development Foundation 2.0.

SINGH DEO: COLD STORAGE IN EVERY SUB-DIVISION SOON

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: In a major move towards strengthening agricultural infrastructure and safeguard farmers' produce, the state government has decided to construct cold storages in every sub-division.

This was revealed by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Farmers Empowerment and Energy, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at a meeting held at Lok Seva Bhavan Monday.

The meeting focused on expanding cold storage infrastructure to prevent post-harvest losses, eliminate artificial shortages, and ensure better price realisation for farmers. "Providing farmers with effective farm-to-market linkages, fair prices for their produce, and protecting surplus crops are our top priorities," the Deputy CM, who chaired the meeting, said.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Singh Deo noted that Odisha, once a food-deficit state, has now become a food-surplus state. "Our surplus fruits, vegetables, and grains are now reaching foreign markets. There is growing international demand for Odisha's indigenous fragrant rice and vegetables," he said.

He added that agriculture is not only a year-round source of food but also provides sustained employment in the state.

Soil conservation joint dir under Vig scanner

'OFFICER OWNS 84-ACRE LAND'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Vigilance sleuths carried out simultaneous searches at eight locations linked to Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Joint Director (Bhubaneswar) Dayanidhi Bagh on allegations of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) and claimed to have unearthed crores worth assets including 84-acre land, which is highest in the history of Odisha Vigilance, belonging to the officer, Monday.

Vigilance sleuths, led by 10 deputy superintendents of police, eight inspectors, 10 ASIs and other supporting staffers, conducted the searches at three places in Bhubaneswar, two in Kalahandi and three in Nabarangpur rerated to Bagh on the basis of search warrants issued by the Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhawanipatna.

Bagh was a former project director of the Watershed Department in Rayagada.

Following the searches, the anti-corruption wing claimed to have unearthed assets worth crores of rupees in the name of Bagh and his family members.

A 1450 sqft 3BHK flat in Gothapatana area of Bhubaneswar, a 3000 sqft under construction building at



Padalguda in Nabarangpur town, a 1400 sqft shopping complex in Nabarangpur town, a farm house spread over 40 acres at Bijraguda in Nabarangpur, another farm house spread over 6 acres at Phatakote in Nabarangpur, 27 acres of land in Nabarangpur district and 11 acres of land on the outskirts of Bhabanipatna town were among the assets found in the name of Bagh and his family members.

"These apart, ₹58,41,422 as bank deposits was also found," they said.

OHRC seeks report on 19 migrant workers' detention

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a complaint alleging the illegal detention of 19 migrant labourers from Malda district, West Bengal, by the Mahanagar Police in Cuttack district. The matter was mentioned by complainant Pradipta Nayak, who based his plea on media reports.

According to the complaint, despite showing valid identity proofs like Aadhaar and Voter ID cards, the workers were allegedly detained without legal justification. It is further alleged that their mobile phones were seized and they were sent to a detention centre in Athagarh.

The complainant submitted a letter from the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Harischandrapur Police Station in Malda, confirming that the individuals in question are permanent residents of the area and that their families had sought police verification of their whereabouts.

7 yellow anacondas born at NZP

Bhubaneswar: Seven yellow anacondas were born at Nandanakan Zoological Park (NZP) Sunday, marking a significant addition to the Zoo's reptile population, an official said. The parent snakes were brought from the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in October 2019. The last breeding happened in July 2022. With the new births, the Zoo now has two adult males, two adult females, and ten young yellow anacondas. One more snake is expected to deliver soon, the Zoo official said. This is an important step in the Zoo's efforts to protect and care for reptiles, he said. The yellow anacondas are mostly found in Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bolangir, No.1744 date 09.06.2025, I, Dayanidhi Dharua, R/o. - Jaljadipali, P.O. - Chhatapipal, P.S. - Puintala, Dist. - Bolangir declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Nidhi Dharua in my Aadhaar card No.xxxx xxxx 0324 instead of Dayanidhi Dharua. Now I want to rectify of my name as Dayanidhi Dharua for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Rayagada, No.10685 dtd.30.06.2025, I, Sri Monotosh Mondal, S/o - Sri Golak Mondal resident of Jagannath Mandir Street, near Opposite KNK Rice Mill, Rayagada, P.O./P.S./Tah/Dist. : Rayagada, Odisha state that, my name is mentioned as Monotosh Mondal in my son's Aadhaar Card. In his 10th Migration Certificate my name has been mentioned as Manotosh Mondal. Hence Monotosh Mondal and Manotosh Mondal is one and same person.

RCPS GLASGOW FELLOWSHIP CONFERRED ON SOA PRO-VC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Prof (Dr) Neeta Mohanty, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research Collaboration) at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University, has been awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS) of Glasgow. The honour recognises her exceptional contributions to dental education, research, innovation, and public health.

The 425-year-old RCPS of Glasgow is a global community of healthcare professionals committed to improving patient care through education and innovation.

Prof Neeta, who served as dean of SOA's Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS) for over a decade, has exemplified transformative leadership in oral health and dental education. With an academic career spanning more than 28 years, she has played a pivotal role in shaping future dental professionals, driving impactful research, and strengthening



institutional governance. She has more than one hundred peer reviewed publications to her credit including in high impact factor internationally acclaimed journals, books and book chapters. Her research work had culminated in United States and Indian patents backed by government grants.

Prof Neeta is the director of Cochran India Affiliate Center at IDS and is also the founder of Orease Oral Care Solutions Private Limited, a start-up focused on innovative solutions in oral care.

National Doctors' Day: A celebration under crisis

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 30: As Odisha gears up to observe National Doctors' Day (July 1), the occasion is tinged with concern. While heartfelt tributes honour the dedication of medical professionals, the state's healthcare infrastructure tells a troubling story — more than 74 per cent of specialist posts in Community Health Centres (CHCs) lie vacant. Out of 1,500 sanctioned posts, only 386 are filled, exposing a severe shortfall that continues to hamper rural healthcare delivery.

The issue was recently acknowledged in the state Assembly, where Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling admitted to the acute shortage of specialists. For millions living in Odisha's remote districts, this crisis means delayed diagnoses, restricted treatment options, and long, often unaffordable, journeys to urban centres for



even basic specialist care. Orissa POST spoke to experts to understand the root causes behind the persistent vacancies — and why filling these critical roles remains a daunting challenge. Health expert Amrit Pattojoshi attributed the shortage to poor working conditions. "The infrastructure is outdated or non-functional. Junior doctors are often left alone to handle complicated cases without proper support. In such an

environment, motivation fades quickly," he explained.

Patojoshi advocates a rotation-based model, suggesting that doctors serve in rural areas for three years before becoming eligible for a posting of their choice. He also emphasised the need for improved infrastructure and quality schooling options for doctors' families.

Subasish Behera, another health expert, pointed to the stark urban-rural divide in medical access. "Over 70 per cent of Odisha's population resides in rural areas, yet a single doctor may be responsible for more than 10,000 people. In contrast, urban areas enjoy a much better ratio of about 1:1,500," he noted.

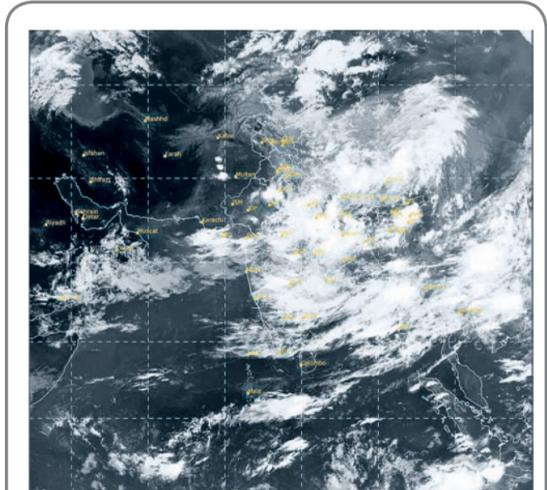
Prasant Nayak, head of the Urology department at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, said that National Doctors' Day is like taking another oath as a doctor — a renewed commitment to serve patients with dedica-

tion and compassion.

Nayak added that the state has made significant strides over the past five years, especially in areas such as cancer treatment, radiotherapy, and other specialised care.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas remarked, "Doctors are the backbone of the healthcare system—serving with unwavering dedication, compassion, and expertise. Their commitment goes far beyond healing bodies; they touch hearts and transform lives every single day."

Bhoomika Dash, actress and practicing dentist, emphasised that the medical profession works for the well-being of society. As a dental specialist, she strives to raise awareness about oral health care, highlighting that many people often do not take dental hygiene seriously, which can lead to serious health concerns, including oral cavity cancer.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	28.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.2°	23.0°	
Humidity	78%	92%	
Rainfall	TRACE	4.4mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

2 Maoists killed in encounter



other Maoist materials from the spot. The bodies of the two Maoists were also retrieved. According to police sources, a large-scale combing operation involving the Special Operations Group (SOG), DVF, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is underway in the region to flush out any remaining insurgents. The successful operation is seen as a major blow to Maoist activity in Kandhamal district, which has seen increased counter-insurgency efforts in recent months. Director General of Police YB Khurania congratulated the Kandhamal SP and the DVF team for the successful anti-Maoist operation. The Odisha Police, in a press statement Monday, declared it a major success in its operation against the Maoists. Two dreaded CPI(Maoist) cadres, each carrying a reward of ₹3 lakh on their heads, were arrested by the Malkangiri Police earlier June 13. As per reports, as many as six Maoists were killed by the security forces while the cops arrested eight other ultras in 2024 in Odisha. Police sources revealed that 24 Maoists have surrendered in 2024.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, June 30: Kandhamal district police achieved a significant breakthrough Monday in their anti-Maoist operations as they neutralised two hardcore Maoists in a gunfight deep inside a forest under Baliguda police limits. Acting on intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists near the Indrisuga reserve forest, a joint operation was launched by the District Voluntary Force (DVF) on the instructions of Kandhamal SP Harisha BC. Around 12 noon, an exchange of fire broke out between the Maoists and the

DVF team. In the ensuing encounter, two cadres of the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the banned Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist), identified as Manku and Chandan, were killed. Preliminary investigation suggests that Manku was an Area Committee Member (ACM) and Chandan was an active party cadre of the Maoist group operating in the region. Following the gun battle, police recovered one rifle, a revolver, live ammunition, one walkie-talkie, batteries, and



Two men row a boat in flood affected Bhograib block in Balasore as the area remained marooned



People travel in knee-deep water in flood affected Udala block of Mayurbhanj district



Flood waters gushes on a village road under Bhograib block



RDC B Parameswaran, Balasore Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas and officials visiting a flood affected village under Bhograib block

MAN BEATEN TO DEATH OVER PETTY ARGUMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, June 30: A man was allegedly beaten to death with a wooden stick in the early hours of Monday following a heated argument in Bhismagiri village under Digapahandi police limits in Ganjam district. The deceased, identified as B Ramachandra Patra alias Tulu, 40, had recently returned to his native village from Bhubaneswar, where he worked as a daily wage labourer. Since last Friday, his family was conducting a religious ceremony in

honour of Lord Nrusingha at their residence. The event was attended by relatives and close friends, but one neighbour K Santosh Patra, 32, and his family were reportedly not invited. Sources said Santosh confronted Ramachandra Sunday evening regarding the exclusion, leading to a heated exchange that escalated into a brief scuffle. Though community elders and family members mediated a truce, tensions remained. Later that night, due to a

power outage around 2am, Ramachandra was sleeping outside on the verandah. At dawn, Santosh allegedly attacked him with a wooden stick while he was asleep, beating him to death before fleeing the village. Upon receiving information, Digapahandi police reached the spot, recovered the body, and sent it to the Berhampur District Headquarters Hospital for post-mortem. A forensic team and dog squad from Berhampur also visited the scene and conducted a field investigation.

Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M personally visited the site and later reviewed the case progress at the local police station. Police registered a case (236/25) and initially detained two of Santosh's relatives for questioning. They were later released. Based on further intelligence, Santosh was apprehended from Digapahandi bus stand while attempting to escape. During the investigation, the stick used in the murder was recovered from a nearby drain.

Landslide at Similipal; 3 GPs marooned

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 30: Communications to three panchayats in Similipal National Park was disrupted due to a landslide inside the wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district following incessant rainfall Sunday night triggered by a low-pressure. The landslide occurred near the Mahubhandar village near the main road connecting Kalikaprased with Gudugudia area in the wildlife sanctuary. The total rainfall at various



places in Similipal recorded during last 12 hours was 432.60mm while the average is 24.03mm. Plying of four-wheelers to Gudugudia and Kalikaprased area inside the wildlife sanctuary has been banned. State Forest

and Environment Minister Ganesha Ram Singh Khuntia and Sai Kiran, deputy director, North Division of Similipal Tiger Reserve visited the spot and took stock of the situation. The minister has directed all concerned officials to clear the area and resume travelling on the route. Ambulances, fire brigade personnel and tourists taking night halt in the wildlife sanctuary have been asked to take the Chahala route and return via Jashipur to safety.

Truck hits school vehicle; driver dead, students hurt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 30: A truck collided head-on with a school vehicle on National Highway 20 near the Nuagaon petrol pump in Anandpur subdivision Monday morning, killing the driver and injuring 10 others, including students and a teacher. According to police, the incident occurred under Ramchandrapur police station limits when a Bolero jeep carrying students from Xavier School in Khalana village attempted to cross the highway to refuel. A speeding truck en route to Jajpur Road collided with the vehicle causing it to overturn on the roadside. The driver of the vehicle, identified as Abhisek Sahu, 25, died on the spot. A teacher and two students were critically injured, while eight other students sustained minor injuries. The injured were first taken to Sainkul Primary Health Centre and later referred to Anandpur Sub-Divisional Hospital. Most have since been discharged. Police seized both vehicles and launched an investigation. The driver's body was sent for post-mortem, and the school vehicle was recovered using a crane, said Ramchandrapur IIC Manoj Kumar Swain. Despite regulations on school transport safety, enforcement remains lax, with students frequently travelling in unsafe vehicles such as jeeps, pick-up vans and auto-rickshaws, authorities noted.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS / RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) - 2026

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			10.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
2	Reserved for UPSC Examination			17.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
3	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	03.09.2025	23.09.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
5	CBI (DSP) LDCE	24.12.2025	13.01.2026	28.02.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAY
6	CISF AC (EXE) LDCE-2026	03.12.2025	23.12.2025	08.03.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2026	10.12.2025	30.12.2025	12.04.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
8	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2026				
9	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	14.01.2026	03.02.2026	24.05.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
10	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2026 through CS(P) Examination 2026				
11	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			06.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
12	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2026	11.02.2026	03.03.2026	19.06.2026 (Friday)	3 DAYS
13	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2026			20.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
14	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.06.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
15	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			04.07.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
16	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2026	18.02.2026	10.03.2026	19.07.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2026	11.03.2026	31.03.2026	02.08.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
18	Reserved for UPSC Examination			08.08.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
19	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.08.2026 (Friday)	5 DAYS
20	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2026	20.05.2026	09.06.2026	13.09.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
21	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2026				
22	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			26.09.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			10.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
24	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			31.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2026			22.11.2026 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
26	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	16.09.2026	06.10.2026	12.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
27	Reserved for UPSC RT / Examination			19.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note : The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations / RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.

CBC-55101/14/0002/2526

AHANA GYNAECARE & IVF

Wishes You A **Happy Doctors' Day 2025**

NABH-Accredited Small Healthcare Organisation

1st and only exclusive gynaecology and maternity hospital in Bhubaneswar to get the honour.

Headed by **Dr. Sujit Kumar Behera**, Chief Gynaecologist & Advanced Laparoscopic Surgeon

State-of-the-art IVF & Infertility unit, headed by **Dr. Sanjeev Behera**

1st Hospital in Bhubaneswar with Permission from Govt. Authority towards undertaking Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PGT), Screening (PGS), & Diagnosis (PGD)

Fully-equipped Fetal Medicine Dept., headed by **Dr. Shweta Pani**

All Pregnancy Ultrasonography Scans like Fetal Echo, Genetic Counselling, Fetal Therapy and Invasive Procedures like Amniocentesis, CVS & Fetal Reduction

Services offered:

- Advanced Gynaecology Laparoscopic Procedures
- Fetal Medicine Unit with Invasive Procedures
- OPD services for Cardiology, Endocrinology & Ultrasound
- IVF-ET, ICSI, IUI & other Fertility services
- High-Risk Pregnancy handling
- Neonatal Unit with Level - 3 NICU

Plot No. 119, District Center, C.S. Pur, Bhubaneswar-751016

0674 68 11 111 & 0674 23 00 888 | 91243 64151

ahanagynaecare@gmail.com | www.ahanagynaecare.com

DCB BANK

Registered Office : 6th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned borrower(s), co-borrower(s) have availed loan/s facility(ies) from DCB Bank Limited by mortgaging your immovable properties (securities). Consequently your loans were classified as non-performing assets. DCB Bank Limited for the recovery of the outstanding dues, issued demand notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Asset And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of service upon you. Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, properties mortgaged, outstanding dues, demand notice sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:

Sr. No.	Name and address of the Borrower, Co-borrower / Guarantor, Loan Account No., Loan amount	Secured Property Address	1) Demand Notice Date 2) Outstanding Dues 3) NPA Date
1.	1. MR. M SIMANCHAL PATRA, 2. MR. JITENDRA KUMAR PATRA, 3. MR. M SANJUKTA PATRA, 4. MR. RUTURAJ PATRO. All address at - KARAPALLI GP / TOWN - KARAPALLI, P. S. - GOPALPUR BERHAMPUR, ORISSA - 761002 Loan Account Number - HMBLJAG00049967 Loan Amount Sanctioned : Rs. 4,40,540/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NOS. 1355 & 1356, KHATA NO. 22, ADMEASURING AREA EXTENT OF ACRE 0.149 & EXTENT OF ACRE 0.207, SITUATED AT MOUZA - KORAPALLI, TAHASIL KONISI, DISTRICT - GANJAM. BOUNDED BY : EAST - ROAD, WEST - N.M. NORTH - LAND OF ABHI SAHU, SOUTH - LAND OF BABAJI PATRO. (THE SECURED ASSETS).	1) 24-05-2025 2) Rs. 2,41,214.78 (Rupees Two Lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and Seventy Eight Paise Only) as on 24th May 2025 3) NPA Date - 10-03-2025
2.	1. MR. AMRESH KUMAR SWAIN, 2. MRS. ANJALI SWAIN. All address at - LB-66, STAGE - 1, BRIT COLONY LAXMI SAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, ORISSA - 751006 Loan Account Number - DAHLJUR00471012 Loan Amount Sanctioned : Rs. 5,20,000/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING KHATA NO. 514/1360, PLOT NO. 615/2017, ADMEASURING AREA - ACRE 0.023 DCML. (IDENTIFIED AS SUB PLOT NO. 11) CORRESPONDING TO KHATA NO. 514/508 WHICH FURTHER CORRESPONDING TO KHATA NO. 57, SITUATED AT : MOUZA - KESHARA, P. S. - SAHID NAGAR, NO. 79, TAHASIL - BHUBANESWAR, DIST. - KHURDA AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER : NORTH - SUB PLOT NO. 12, SOUTH : SUB PLOT NO. 8, EAST : ROAD BY VENDOR, WEST : REVENUE PLOT NO. 614. (THE SECURED ASSETS).	1) 02-06-2025 2) Rs. 1,36,450.76 (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty and Seventy Six Paise Only) as on 02nd June 2025 3) NPA Date - 14-04-2025
3.	1. MR. RAMESH BEHERA, 2. MRS. RATNAMANJARI BEHERA. All address at - BADASAHARA, BALIAPATA, BADASAHARA, NAYAGARH, ORISSA - 752083 Loan Account Number - DBLADUR00571701 Loan Amount Sanctioned : Rs. 12,50,000/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING KHATA NO. 274/111, PLOT NO. 1203, CORRESPONDS TO KHATA NO. 173, PLOT NO. 1203, ADMEASURING AREA ACRE 0.060 DEC., SITUATED AT MOUZA - BALIAPATA, P. S. - FATEGARH, NO. 135, S.R. KHANDAPARA, TAHASIL - BHAPUR, DISTRICT - NAYAGARH AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER - EAST : RATNAMANJARI BEHERA, WEST : BISWANATH BEHERA, NORTH : ROAD, SOUTH : ROAD. (THE SECURED ASSETS).	1) 02-06-2025 2) Rs. 11,35,806.44 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Six and Forty Four Paise Only) as on 02nd June 2025 3) NPA Date - 04-05-2025

You the borrower/s and co-borrowers / guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above-mentioned securities. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act by virtue of which you are at liberty to redeem the secured asset within period stipulated in the aforesaid provision. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

Date : 01.07.2025
Place : Ganjam, Khurda, Nayagarh

For DCB Bank Ltd.,
Authorised Officer

FOCUS NATION

PLAYING WITH PREAMBLE



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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR.
©THE BILLION PRESS

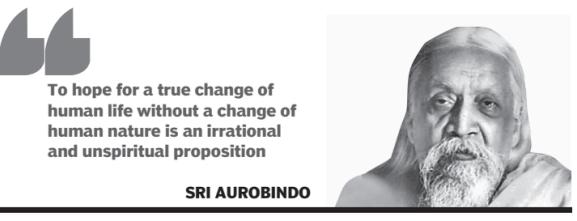


Jagdish Rattanani

IN THE HISTORIC KESHAVANANDA BHARTI CASE OF 1973, WELL BEFORE THE EMERGENCY, A 13-JUDGE BENCH RULED BY MAJORITY THAT THE 'SECULAR CHARACTER OF THE CONSTITUTION' WAS PART OF ITS 'BASIC STRUCTURE'

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

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



SRI AUROBINDO

New Democratic Face

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WISDOM CORNER

- We will be more successful in all our endeavors if we can let go of the habit of running all the time, and take little pauses to relax and re-center ourselves. And we'll also have a lot more joy in living**
THICH NHAT HANH
- We are born weak, we need strength; helpless, we need aid; foolish, we need reason. All that we lack at birth, all that we need when we come to man's estate, is the gift of education**
JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU
- Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity**
CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1903:** The Tour de France Bicycle Race is flagged off for the first time. The now annual multi-leg bike race lasted for 20 days with a course that stretched about 1,500 miles. The race was first created by the sports daily, L'Auto, as a way to boost its circulation. The first Tour de France was won by Italian-French racer, Maurice Garin.
- 1908:** SOS is adopted as the International Distress Signal. The 2nd International Radiotelegraphic Convention, which was signed in December 1906, made the Morse code distress signal (•••---•••), the standard international maritime distress signal. Even though it was replaced by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in 1999, SOS is universally seen as a distress call and is often mistakenly thought to be an abbreviation of Save Our Souls or Save Our Ship.
- 1968:** The United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR, and 59 other states signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in an attempt to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.
- 1979:** Sony began selling its Walkman, a portable cassette player: an international sensation, the device changed the way people listened to music.
- 1991:** The Warsaw Pact, a defense treaty between 8 communist countries, is formally disbanded in Prague. The pact was founded in 1955, during the height of the Cold War, as a way to counterbalance the power of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Western Europe.

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Austerity budgets are a gift to populists



Martijn Konings

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

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

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

Such dissent from the right

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

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

social safety net.

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

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

The US is not alone, of

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

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

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

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



Data accessibility

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

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Iran's nuclear capabilities

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

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Burning of toxic waste closes macabre chapter

All 337 tons of waste of Union Carbide factory burnt to ashes at disposal unit in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, June 30: All 337 tons of waste of the now defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal has been burnt to ashes at a disposal plant in Pithampur, nearly six months after being brought to the unit, an official said Monday.

While 30 tons of the waste was burnt earlier during three trials at the plant, the remaining 307 tons was incinerated between May 5 and the intervening night of June 29-30, the State Pollution Control Board official said, marking the end



We have no information about any adverse effect on the health of people living in the surrounding areas during the incineration of the waste

SRINIVAS DWIVEDI | REGIONAL OFFICER, STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

disposal plant operated by a private company in Pithampur began around 7.45 pm on May 5 and ended on the intervening night of June 29-30 at 1 am, State Pollution Control Board's regional officer Srinivas Dwivedi told PTI.

It was incinerated at a maximum rate of 270 kg per hour under the supervision of technical experts of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board, following the High Court's directive issued on March 27, he said.

During the waste disposal, the emission of different gases and particles from the Pithampur plant was monitored on a real-time basis by an online mechanism and all the emissions were found to be within the standard limits, the official said.

According to Dwivedi, the ash and other residue left after burning the total 337 tons of waste were being safely packed in sacks and kept in a leak-proof storage shed of the plant.

Special landfill cells were being constructed as per the scientific process to bury the residue (waste leftovers) in the ground, and this work is expected to be completed by November, he said.

"If everything goes well, these residue will also be disposed of by December. Before this, the residue will be treated scientifically so that their burial does not cause any harm to the environment," the official said.

The waste was transported from Bhopal to the plant in Pithampur, about 250 km from the state capital, January 2.

Initially, 30 tons of waste was burnt at the plant during three trials.

After this, citing the analysis report, the state government told the HC that during the trials conducted at the rates of 135 kg per hour, 180 kg per hour and 270 kg per hour, the emissions were found to be within the prescribed standards.

According to the state government, the waste from the Union Carbide factory includes soil from the premises of the closed unit, reactor residue, Sevin (pesticide) residue, naphthal residue and "semi-processed" residue.

Scientific evidence shows that the effect of Sevin and naphthal chemicals in this waste has already become "almost negligible", as per the State Pollution Control Board.

There was no presence of methyl isocyanate gas in the waste and it also did not contain any radioactive particles, it said.

Scolded over phone use, minor girl fakes her own kidnapping

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jabalpur, June 30: Upset after being scolded by her mother for excessive mobile phone use, a 13-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur allegedly faked her own kidnapping and even demanded a ransom of ₹15 lakh through a handwritten note, police said Monday.

The girl, a Class 7 student who lives with her mother in Priyadarshini Colony under the jurisdiction of Khamaria police station, left home Sunday morning without informing anyone.

According to officials, the mother initially assumed her daughter had gone to visit friends or her maternal grandmother and would return soon. But as hours passed without any sign of her, she began making calls and searching the area.

When no leads emerged after several hours, the mother lodged a missing person complaint at the Khamaria police station, prompting police to begin a widespread search. Several teams were deployed at various locations in the city.

During the search, the mother found a handwritten note inside her daughter's school bag that claimed the girl had been kidnapped. The note, written in Hindi, read, "Your daughter has been kidnapped. If you want her safe, arrange ₹15 lakh within 15 days. If you inform the police, she will be killed."

Following an extensive search across seven locations in the city, police finally traced the girl to an isolated spot and safely reunited her with her mother.

The highly poisonous methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984, causing one of the biggest industrial disasters in the world. At least 5,479 persons were killed and thousands were maimed

of a dark chapter of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

The waste disposal at the plant in Dhar district's Pithampur industrial area was undertaken following directives of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The highly poisonous methyl isocyanate gas leaked from

the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984, causing one of the biggest industrial disasters in the world. At least 5,479 persons were killed and thousands were maimed.

The process of burning 307 tons of the factory waste at the

BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY



QUALITY EDUCATION

Arunachal shifts from 'aspirant' to 'performer'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, June 30: Arunachal Pradesh has made significant strides in improving access to quality education by reducing the dropout rate at the secondary level to 11.7 per cent and achieving 100 per cent adjusted net enrolment at the elementary level, Chief Minister Pema Khandu has said.

Highlighting key education sector achievements under his administration's "PEMA 3.0 Year of Reforms and Growth", Khandu said the state has also recorded a substantial improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio, now standing at 11:1, far better than the national average of 24:1.

"These milestones reflect our commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all," Khandu said in a social media post Sunday.

He announced that Arunachal Pradesh has officially transitioned from an "Aspirant" to a "Performer" state in the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2024 under Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education).

The SDG India Index, developed by NITI Aayog, serves as the country's primary tool for tracking national and sub-national progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Meme-worthy meltdown: MP CM suspends 8 engineers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 30: Bhopal's much-anticipated Aishbagh Railway Overbridge (ROB), intended to ease traffic congestion after the closure of a key railway crossing, has become the centre of controversy following revelations of a dangerously sharp 90-degree turn in its design.

The Madhya Pradesh government has taken swift action, suspending eight engineers of the Public Works Department (PWD), including two Chief Engineers, and initiating a

departmental inquiry against a retired Superintending Engineer.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced the disciplinary measures late Sunday night via a post on X, stating that he had taken cognisance of the issue and ordered an investigation.

The inquiry, conducted under the supervision of PWD Minister Rakesh Singh and executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), found serious lapses in the bridge's design and execution.

The NHAI report flagged the 90-degree turn as a major safety



hazard, recommending that vehicles should not exceed speeds of 35-40 kmph while navigating the curve. Any higher speed, the report warned, could lead to accidents.

The bridge, which spans 648 meters and cost ₹18 crore, was originally scheduled for completion within 18 months of its launch in May 2022. However, delays and design flaws have kept it from being inaugurated. The design flaw has not only drawn criticism from engineers and safety experts but also sparked a wave of memes and ridicule on social media.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. 16-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRIFICATION OF IPL-1, IPL-2 AND IPL-3 WITH TRAMWAY TYPE OHE IN COACHING COMPLEX OF BHUBANESWAR STATION.
Advertised Value (₹) 3,101,38,548.47
EMD (₹) : 2,00,700.00, Period of Completion: 180 Days.
Bidding Start Date : 01.07.2025.
Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 1300 Hrs. of 15.07.2025.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Khurda Road
PR-296/Q/25-26

Following Raja's murder, Meghalaya makes hiring guides must

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, June 30: In a move aimed at enhancing the safety of tourists, the authorities in Meghalaya have made it compulsory for visitors to hire guides while participating in outdoor activities within the East Khasi Hills district, officials said Monday.

The orders came a month after Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi's murder, planned by his wife during their honeymoon in the Sohra region of the state.

"In view of safety reasons, it is now mandatory for all tourists to take the services of a registered tourist guide while undertaking treks (and outdoor



activities) in the area," East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner Rosetta M Kurbah said in an order.

Mandatory guide services will not only ensure better safety for

visitors but also help prevent incidents such as getting lost, sustaining injuries, or being vulnerable to criminal activities in isolated areas, she said.

Kurbah who is also the Chair-

person of the District Tourism Promotion Society (DTPS) cited safety and security concerns following the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case that shook the state which also led to the arrest of eight people from Indore.

Tourism officials said the order would be strictly enforced, and violators may face penalties or be denied access to trekking routes.

The administration also plans to deploy more trained guides and work with local communities to implement the directive effectively.

The East Khasi Hills District has popular trekking destinations such as the double-decker living root bridge, waterfalls and meadows.

India pavilion in NY to celebrate two centuries of Assam Tea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 30: Assam's Chief Secretary Ravi Kota has inaugurated an India pavilion at the Summer Fancy Food Show 2025 in New York to celebrate 200 years of Assam Tea.

Assam Tea is a global symbol of strength, flavour, and heritage that has shaped livelihoods, cultures, and economies since its discovery in 1823 along the banks of the Brahmaputra River, the chief secretary was quoted as saying in an official statement.

"As we celebrate 200 years of Assam Tea, we do so not only with pride in our legacy but with a clear vision for the



As we celebrate 200 years of Assam Tea, we do so not only with pride in our legacy but with a clear vision for the future

RAVI KOTA | CHIEF SECRETARY, ASSAM

future," he said during the inauguration Sunday.

For Assam, the pavilion serves as both a celebratory and strategic platform as Assam Tea stands as a bridge between tradition and innovation, Kota said.

He pointed out four startups - Aromica Tea, Woolah Tea, Dorei Tea, and Earth Tea - "provide a flavour of tea startups brewing innovation in Assam and so we wanted to bring these brands here".

"They are innovating new blends of exotic tea, and I am

GOING GLOBAL

In 2024-25, over 100mn kg of Assam tea were shipped to over 90 countries, generating nearly \$285mn in exports

Major destinations include UK, Russia, UAE, Germany, Iraq, and China, underscoring Assam's position as a trusted supplier to both traditional and emerging tea markets

confident that these innovations will gain global visibility from this event," he added.

He also highlighted the vital role played by Assam's small tea growers, who contribute to 40 per cent of the state's production, and also pointed out the transformative impact of bought-leaf factories in the eco-system.

Kota said that a key enabler

of this thriving industry is the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre, the largest in India by volume.

Trading over 250 million kg annually, it provides buyers worldwide with access to a diverse array of Assam teas through a digital, transparent, and highly regulated platform.

"The Assam government is committed to deepening India-US relations through strategic initiatives involving AI, blockchain, and specialised summits," Kota said.

"We are also planning to host the 'Heritage to Wellness' Tea Showcase across the US and sign MoUs with American universities, retailers, and innovation platforms to enhance traceability and promote sustainable partnerships," he added.

Consul General of India in New York Binaya S Pradhan was also present on the occasion.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES O/O THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER HADUA IRRIGATION DIVISION, NARASINGHPUR
e-Mail Id- hidirrigation@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE-HID (NSPR)-04/2025-26
No.A-: The Superintending Engineer, Hadua Irrigation Division, Narasinghpur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate basis bid in single cover system through e-procurement for the work mentioned below.

1	Total No. of Works	01 (One) Manpower Service Provider on out sourcing basis
2	Estimated Cost put to tender	Approximately Rs.13.30 Lakhs
3	Tender Paper Cost	Rs. 6,000/- (Non-refundable)
4	Class of Contractor	Registered Manpower Service Provider
5	Availability of Bid documents and receipt of bid through online	From 10.00 A.M. of 01.07.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of 15.07.2025 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
6	Date, time & place for opening of online tenders	16.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M. and onwards in the O/o, the SE, Hadua Irrigation Division, Narasinghpur
7	Date, time & Place for finalization of tender through transparent lottery system (if required)	Intimated Later

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha at www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The corrigendum/cancellation of the tender, if any will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Hadua Irrigation Division, Narasinghpur
OIPR-32243/11/0010/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT (STBA)
No. SDCM/KUR/STBA/NSG-6/2025/Phase-5 Dt.: 19.06.2025
Applications are invited for selection and appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) for 03 (Three) years on commission basis at 20 (Twenty) "NSG-6" Category stations over Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway for issuing of Unreserved Tickets through computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division.
No. of STBAs required: Only one (01) STBA at each station to work Round the Clock.
NAME OF THE STATIONS
(1) HARICHANDANPUR (HCNR), (2) PORJANPUR (PNR), (3) TANGIRIPAL (TGR), (4) NAYAGARH (NYG), (5) MAHIPUR (MAHI), (6) GOALDIH (GADH), (7) BAITARANI ROAD (BTV), (8) TAPANG (TAP), (9) MANJUURI ROAD (MZZ), (10) RETANG (RTN), (11) NARANPUR (NANR), (12) RAJSUNAKHALA (RSKA), (13) CHILKA (CLKA), (14) GANGADHARPUR (GNGD), (15) HUMMA (HMA), (16) KORAI (KRHI), (17) KAPILAS ROAD (KIS), (18) RAMBHA (RBA), (19) CHILKIDHARA (CLDR) & (20) GHANTIKHAL NIDHIPUR (GNHN).
Applications for the above Stations duly filled should reach the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road by 1100 Hrs on or before 18.07.2025. If the last day i.e. 18.07.2025 happens to be or is declared to be holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day.
Closing Date of Submission of Applications : 1100 Hrs of 18.07.2025.
Opening Date and Time of Application Box : 1130 Hrs of 18.07.2025.
For Detailed terms and conditions and application format please visit our website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in & <http://tenders.gov.in> or contact Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road, PO - Jatni, Dist - Khurda, Pin-752050.
PR-294/Q/25-26 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Khurda Road



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

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

AGRA, KANPUR AIRPORTS RECEIVE THREAT MAILS

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



of the day quote

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



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

They (BJP) are selling things (institutions and establishments) at throwaway rates to their men. According to news reports, a major institution is also on the verge of being sold. If trade and industry grow, the lives of common people will change and employment will rise



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

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

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



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

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI | AIMIM CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Ravada Chandrasekhar new Kerala police chief

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

Road rage: Man stabbed to death

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

Man detained for raping domestic help

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

Gujarat sees wettest June in 10 years

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

KOLKATA LAW COLLEGE GANGRAPE

Accused involved in multiple sex crimes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI PHOTO

PIL seeks CBI probe

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

station jurisdiction and was ruscated from the institution.

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

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

BRICS summit to denounce Pahalgam attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: The BRICS leaders' declaration to be unveiled at the grouping's annual summit in Rio de Janeiro is set to forcefully denounce the Pahalgam terror attack and call for a firm approach to unitedly confront terrorism in line with India's expectation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the summit in the Brazilian city July 6 and 7. India will be the grouping's chair for the next year. The Prime Minister is travelling to Brazil as part of his five-nation tour from July 2 to 9. The other countries that the prime minister is visiting are Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina and Namibia. Dammu Ravi, secretary (economic relations) in the external affairs ministry, told a media briefing that Modi's participation in the summit will be an expression of India's solidarity with the bloc and it will be a great opportunity for him to connect with the leaders of the Global South.

Ravi suggested that the BRICS leaders' declaration will have reference to the challenge of terrorism that will be much to the satisfaction of India. "There is no contradiction in the way the members have come out with their understanding, sympathy and solidarity with India on Pahalgam I think this has been very well captured in the (leaders) declaration and all the members are very sensitive to this matter," he said.

SNIPPETS

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

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

UP family loses 2nd child in identical boiling pot mishap

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



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

PTI PHOTO

Indian Railways hikes passenger fares from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

Ministry officials had June 24 hinted at the proposed fare revision. However, the official circular with the fare table according to trains and class categories was released Monday. The fares of suburban trains and monthly season tickets have been left unchanged in the interest of daily commuters.



The ordinary second-class fare has not been increased for up to 500 km and for distances beyond that, there is

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

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

"Revised fares will apply

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

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

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

Most parts of India to get above rainfall in July



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

PTI PHOTO

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delhi court closes JNU student Najeeb Ahmed missing case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

national



Ease of living, ease of doing business, ease of agriculture, and ease of education have ushered in a new work culture, enhancing self-confidence and self-esteem among Indians

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA TO MEET STUDENTS, ISRO ENGINEERS FRIDAY

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to interact with school students and scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from his orbital post on the International Space Station via ham radio Friday evening



of the day quote

We need to invest in skilling, branding, design innovation, and global market access for these artisans. They don't just deserve credit—they deserve better prices, wider exposure, and the chance to build lasting, dignified livelihoods from their craft

The government, as usual, sits idle. Farmers have to face a shortage of fertilisers in every crop season because the BJP government does not make any arrangements in time

For the first time in the history of Himachal Pradesh, an attempt was made to overthrow a democratically elected government. However, the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha took a lawful stance and disqualified the concerned MLAs

Pak couple dies of dehydration while crossing border

Jaisalmer, June 30: A minor couple from Pakistan, eager to start anew in India, faced a significant hurdle — securing an Indian visa. In an act of desperation, they embarked on a journey, crossing the border that goes through Thar desert on foot. The 17-year-old boy and 15-year-old girl braved the harsh conditions, managing to cross into Jaisalmer. Tragically, the unforgiving environment ultimately proved fatal, with the couple reportedly succumbing to dehydration, according to a local activist. Their decomposed bodies were found

in the Tanot area June 28. Superintendent of Police (SP) Chaudhary said that the boy's body was found under a tree. He was wearing a sky-blue salwar kurta. A yellow scarf and a mobile phone were also found near the body, with an empty jerry can, possibly containing water earlier, near his face. About 50 feet away, police found the body of the girl wearing a yellow ghaghra-kurta and red-and-white bangles. Both bodies were lying face-down and had decayed to the point that facial recognition was not possible. Chaudhary said that both bodies appeared to be several days old, having turned

- The 17-year-old boy and 15-year-old girl braved the harsh conditions, managing to cross into Jaisalmer
- Tragically, the unforgiving environment ultimately proved fatal, with the couple reportedly succumbing to dehydration
- Their decomposed bodies were found in the Tanot area June 28

According to Dilip Singh Sodha, district coordinator of Seemant Lok Sangathan, the boy hailed from Pakistan's Sindh province and had applied for a pilgrimage visa to India nearly one and a half years ago. Sodha said when the boy lost all hope of securing the Indian visa, he, along with his wife, decided to cross the border. "He wanted to live in India. He somehow entered Indian territory but unfortunately died in the hope of a better life," said Sodha, who circulated the details of the ID cards on social media and came in contact with the boy's relatives in Jaisalmer, who confirmed his identity.

Seemant Lok Sangathan is an advocacy group for the rights of Pakistani minority migrants in India. Sharing details of the arduous journey taken by both, Sodha said that as per his relatives, the boy's bike was found nearly 20 km away from the border, and their bodies were found about 12-13 km inside India. Jaisalmer Circle officer Roop Singh Inda said that the police have sought information from the local foreigners registration office (FRO) in Jaisalmer on the boy's visa application. The officer said that post-mortem was conducted and the last rites will be undertaken by the local authorities.

Protect borders, allow free road access: Three Manipur groups to Govt

New Delhi, June 30: Three prominent Meitei civil-society groups from Manipur conveyed to the Centre Monday that the territorial integrity of the northeastern state must be maintained, while seeking urgent steps for the rehabilitation of ethnic violence-hit people. A 19-member delegation comprising representatives of the three groups -- Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO) and Federation of Civil Society Organisations (FOCS) -- held a meeting with four representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), led by adviser A K Mishra. The delegation told the MHA representatives that there is an urgent need to ensure free movement for all, emphasising that it is not only a fundamental right and a constitutional obligation of the government, but also the first essential step towards restoring peace in the state, according to a statement issued by the three groups. Blockades have been put up by some groups on certain roads in Manipur since ethnic clashes broke out in the state in May 2023. The delegation unequivocally reaffirmed its non-compromising stance on any initiative that could undermine the territorial integrity of the northeastern state, the statement said, adding, "This principle remains sacrosanct to every Manipuri." The civil-society groups said a phased and time-bound plan for the resettlement of the internally-displaced people to their original places of habitation was discussed, with a target for completion within this year in phases. The delegation reiterated the necessity of implementing a National Register of Citizens (NRC) or a similar mechanism to effectively address the issue of illegal immigration in Manipur. The delegation expressed its clear stance against any extension of the Suspension of Operations agreements, without a prior comprehensive and amicable understanding among all stakeholders in the state, the statement said.

60 kg heroin seized near Barmer IB: Police

Chandigarh, June 30: In a joint operation with the BSF and Rajasthan Police, Punjab Police recovered over 60 kilogram heroin near the International Border in Barmer, Rajasthan after busting a major international drug cartel, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav Monday.



Those arrested were identified as Gagandeep Singh alias Gagan (23) of village Rampura in Amritsar, Jashanpreet Singh alias Jashan (20) of village Khurmania in Amritsar, Gursahib Singh (25) of village Boparai Baj in Amritsar, Rajeev Panjgotra alias Rajveer (29) of village Kalyana in J&K, Somnath (62) of Fatehpur Brahmana in J&K, Prashotam Singh alias Kala (50) of Simbal camp in J&K, Kulvir Singh (24) of village Mullechak in Amritsar, Rajinder Kaur (42) of village Tanda in J&K and one hawala operator. Commissioner of Police, Amritsar, Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the operation began after Gursahib was arrested last month with one kilogram heroin from Chheharta.

EC to weed out ineligible voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: The Election Commission officials Monday defended the move to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, saying many "non-eligible persons" have been able to procure voter cards as the ongoing exercise was not held periodically since 2004. They also said that "many persons" have, knowingly or unknowingly, managed to retain multiple voter cards of different constituencies and it is impossible to detect such cases through software tools. Referring to "non-eligible persons", the officials pointed out that eligibility documents too are not readily available. Therefore, in case of complaints and objections by any elector or political party, it becomes difficult to enquire into such complaints in a rational manner. Many persons are ordinary residents of one place and have got their voter card there, but they have somehow been successful in retaining their earlier card before migration which is a criminal offence. Opposition parties have maintained that the exercise could deprive genuine voters of their right to benefit the ruling dispensation in Bihar.



either across the country or in parts, nine times in the 52 years period from 1952 to 2004. i.e. once nearly every six years on an average. However, intensive revision has not been done in the last 22 years. The Election Commission will carry out an intensive review of electoral rolls this year in six states beginning with Bihar to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth. Bihar is going to polls later this year while the assembly polls in five states -- Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal -- are scheduled in 2026. The move, which would be later expanded to other states, assumes significance in the wake of a crackdown in various states on illegal foreign migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Election Commission officials said although the poll authority has addressed the issue of duplicate voter cards numbers -- same card numbers erroneously issued to two different persons -- the issue of many persons enrolling in different places by giving different unmatching details to procure more than one electoral photo identity card can only be resolved through SIR. It is practically impossible to detect such cases through software tools. In some constituencies, they pointed out, that the number of migrants has become more than the victory margins which can affect democratic integrity. As per the 2011 census, there were 454 million migrants in India up from 315 million in 2001. Even as per Migration in India Report 2021, the percentage of migrants in the population was estimated at around 29 per cent, which on an average is more than the winning margin in many of the constituencies, the officials underlined.

POST OF THE DAY

The maximum jail term for which Gautam Adani can be sentenced in USA is 34 years. But considering judicial discretion and practical considerations, Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani may be convicted with a jail term ranging from 5-10 years, according legal experts. Modi Government has not been able to serve the summons and complaints to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani, as received from @SECQOV

SHORT TAKES

School official sets self ablaze over work stress

Jaipur: An administrative officer at a government school in Rajasthan's Didwana-Kuchaman district allegedly attempted to kill self due to work-related stress Monday, police said. The incident took place in the veranda of the Government Higher Secondary School in Makrana town when Ramavtar Sharma (58), posted as the administrative officer, arrived on the premises carrying petrol in a plastic bottle, a police officer said.

3 of family killed in road accident

Khunti: Three persons of a family were killed when their motorcycle rammmed into a roadside tree in Jharkhand's Khunti district Monday, police said. The accident took place on Karra-Brida road near Sangore when a man along with his son and nephew was returning to their village. Karra police station in-charge Anish Kumar Yadav said the injured were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Security tightened on Amarnath Yatra routes

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

Leadership issues: Firebrand T'gana MLA Raja Singh resigns from party

HYDERABAD: Upset over the possible appointment of Ramchander Rao as BJP's Telangana President, the party's firebrand MLA Raja Singh Monday wrote to Union Minister G Kishan Reddy saying that he is resigning from the primary membership of the saffron party. Reddy is presently the state chief and the party high command is likely to announce new successor Tuesday. Singh said the decision to appoint the new head of the party in the state has come as a shock and disappointment, not just to him, but to lakhs of Karyakartas, leaders, and voters who have stood by the party through every high and low. "With great sadness, I have decided to resign from the primary membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I request you, Shri Kishan Reddy ji, to kindly inform the Hon'ble Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly that T Raja Singh is no longer a member of the BJP," he said in the letter.

Teen girl sexually assaulted, 3 women robbed after their car stops on highway

PUNE: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in a car and three women occupants robbed of gold ornaments by two motorbike-borne unidentified persons in the wee hours of Monday on a highway in Daund in Pune district of Maharashtra, a police official said. The incident took place around 4:15am near Bhigwan on the highway when the car the victims were travelling in halted after the driver wanted to answer nature's call, the official said. There were seven people in the car -- the driver aged 70, three women, two 17-year-old boys and a 17-year-old girl. They were from two different families from a village in Junnar tehsil of Pune district and on their way to temple town of Pandharpur in Solapur district, he said. "As the driver felt sleepy, he halted the car near a tea stall. When the driver stepped out to answer nature's call, two unidentified men approached the vehicle and threatened the occupants with sharp weapons and robbed gold ornaments. One of the accused then took the 17-year-old girl out of the car and sexually assaulted her," said the officer.

Surjewala meets K'taka MLAs, Kharge says high command to decide on CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 30: The Congress brass Monday asserted matters like leadership change will be decided by party high command, comments that came amid the "CM change" chorus from a section of party leaders in Karnataka, while it reached out to 'disgruntled' MLAs in the southern state. Terming the meetings with MLAs as an organisational exercise undertaken by both AICC and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Surjewala said, any news that is circulated in the media about leadership change is only a "figment of imagination". This is a continuous exercise for introspection and development of the state. It is a long exercise. It will happen over a period of a month or month-and-a-half, during which he will be

meeting party legislators, MPs, defeated candidates, District Congress Committee chiefs, before meeting ministers, Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, he said. According to party sources, as part of the first phase of his three day visit, Surjewala on Monday held one-on-one meetings with legislators from the Chikkaballapura and Kolar districts. He is expected to have heard their grievances and collected feedback on the government's functioning, they said. Meanwhile, when reporters asked about some state Congress leaders openly discussing a possible change of chief minister in the state in October, Kharge, who was in the city said it is up to the party high command to decide on such matters and that one should not create any unnecessary problem. Speculation over leadership change has resurfaced after



Congress MLA H A Iqbal Husain claimed that Shivakumar may get an opportunity to become Chief Minister in two to three months, while Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna hinted at "revolutionary" political developments in the state after September. However, Siddaramaiah in Mysuru asserted that the Congress government in the state

will remain "as solid as a rock" for five years and maintained that he and Shivakumar share good terms. He also hit out at BJP leaders for claiming he would not be the CM to inaugurate the world-famous Mysuru Dasara celebrations this year, calling them "experts in lying." Asked whether he and Shivakumar were on good terms, Siddaramaiah replied, "We are on good terms". He then held and raised Shivakumar's hand as a sign of unity. To a question on attempts to create a rift between them, he

AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, began meetings with MLAs to sort out things. Separately, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge asserted that it is up to the party high command to decide on matters such as change of guard. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Congress government in the state will remain "as solid as a rock" for five years and maintained that he and his deputy D K Shivakumar share good terms.

said, "We don't listen to what others say." Shivakumar nodded in agreement. There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post after the declaration of Assembly election results in May 2023, and the Congress had managed to convince the latter and made him the Deputy Chief Minister. There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rotational chief minister formula," according to which Shivakumar will become CM after two-and-half years but they have not been officially confirmed by the party. Surjewala's meeting with Congress MLAs also came in the wake of public remarks by a couple of legislators, which have embarrassed the party's government.



Junior lawyers and law students stage a protest against the alleged rape of a student at a law college in Kolkata, West Bengal

international



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

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

DUBAI CONDUCTS FIRST TEST FLIGHT OF AERIAL TAXI

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



of the day quote

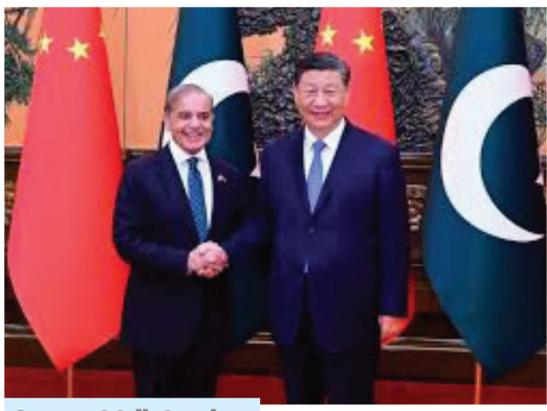
Pakistan gave a quid pro quo plus" response to India, which is the new normal set by Pakistan if India insists on its dangerous notion of limited war under the nuclear threshold

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

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

Pak, China eye new bloc to replace SAARC

The new organisation could potentially replace the regional bloc SAARC, which comprises India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka



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

Islamabad, June 30: Pakistan and China are working on a proposal to establish a new regional organisation that could potentially replace the now-defunct South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), according to a media report Monday.

Quoting diplomatic sources familiar with the development, the Express Tribune newspaper reported that talks between Islamabad and Beijing are now at an advanced stage as both sides are convinced that a new organisation is essential for regional integration and connectivity.

Citing sources, the paper said that this new organisation could potentially replace the regional bloc SAARC, which comprises India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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

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

Munir describes terrorism in J&K as 'legitimate struggle'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 30: Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir has described terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as a "legitimate struggle", saying his country would always stand by the people of Kashmir in their struggle.

Field Marshal Munir also warned India of a "befitting response" in case of any future attack, weeks after the two nations briefly locked horns in a dangerous conflict. "What India labels as terrorism is, in fact, a legitimate and lawful struggle for freedom, recognised by international law," Munir said while addressing a passing out ceremony at Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi, Saturday.

"Those who have tried to suppress the Kashmiri people's will and pursue conflict elimination instead of resolution have only made the movement more relevant through their own actions," he claimed.

He said that Pakistan would always stand by the people of Kashmir in their struggle for the right to self-determination. "Pakistan is a strong advocate for a just resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people," he added.

In the past, Munir had described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugalur vein".

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. The ties between the two countries nosedived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

SINO-INDIA BORDER DISPUTE

China opens to delimitation talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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



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

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

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

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

6 killed in crash of small plane in Ohio

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

China lifts 2-year ban on seafood from Japan

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

B'desh begins murder trial of student activist

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

SNIPPETS

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

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

Jury in Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial to start deliberating

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

ISRAEL POUNDS GAZA, KILLING 60

REUTERS

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

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

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

"Explosions never stopped; they bombed schools and



Israel's Dermer due in US for talks on Gaza, Iran, wider deals. 20 killed in strike on beachfront cafe, health authorities say. 'It felt like earthquakes,' Gaza father says of bombardment. Israeli tanks push into Gaza City suburb, residents say

homes. It felt like earthquakes," said Salah, 60, a father of five children, from Gaza City. "In the news we hear a ceasefire is near, on the ground we see death and we hear explosions." Israeli tanks pushed into the eastern areas of Zeitoun suburb in Gaza City and shelled

several areas in the north, while aircraft bombed at least four schools after ordering hundreds of families sheltering inside to leave, residents said. At least 58 people were killed in Israeli strikes Monday, health authorities said, including 10 people killed in Zeitoun and at

least 13 killed southwest of Gaza City. Medics said most of the 13 were hit by gunfire, but residents also reported an airstrike.

Twenty people, including women, children and a local journalist were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a beachfront cafe in Gaza City, medics said. The Palestinian Journalist Syndicate said more than 220 journalists had been killed in Gaza since the war began in October 2023.

The Israeli military said it struck militant targets in northern Gaza, including command and control centers, after taking steps to mitigate the risk of harming civilians.

The bombardment followed new evacuation orders to vast areas in the north, where Israeli forces had operated before and left behind wide-scale destruction. The military ordered people there to head south, saying that it planned to fight Hamas militants operating in northern Gaza, including in the heart of Gaza City.

Dalai Lama set to reveal succession plan as China watches

REUTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

"We want the incarnation of the Dalai Lama to be born not only for the survival of Tibet as a distinct culture, religion and nation, but also for the well-being of the whole humanity." Thupten Ngodup, Tibet's chief state oracle, said typical-

China views Dalai Lama as separatist, plans to choose successor

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

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

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

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

ment in exile has rejected.

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

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

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

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



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

ANJU CHOUDHARY | RESEARCH ANALYST, MIRAE ASSET SHAREKHAN

VI expands 5G coverage

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



of the day quote

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

KAYNAT CHAINWALA | AVP-COMMODITY RESEARCH, KOTAK SECURITIES

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

NITIN BANSAL | MD, ERICSSON INDIA

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

GIANCARLO GC LIONETTI | CCO, OPENAI

Industrial output growth slows to nine-month low

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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

e-KYC setu system for registered entities

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

Japan's SMBC seeks CCI nod

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

SEBI extends compliance deadline

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

Bank credit growth slows

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fiscal deficit slips to 0.8%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

The data on monthly ac-



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

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

Gross GST collections double in five years



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

The average monthly collection stood at ₹1.84 lakh crore in

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

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

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

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

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

Markets snap four-day rally

AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

Bank GNPAAs decline to multi-decadal low

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

US OPEN

Ayush clinches maiden BWF World Tour title

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

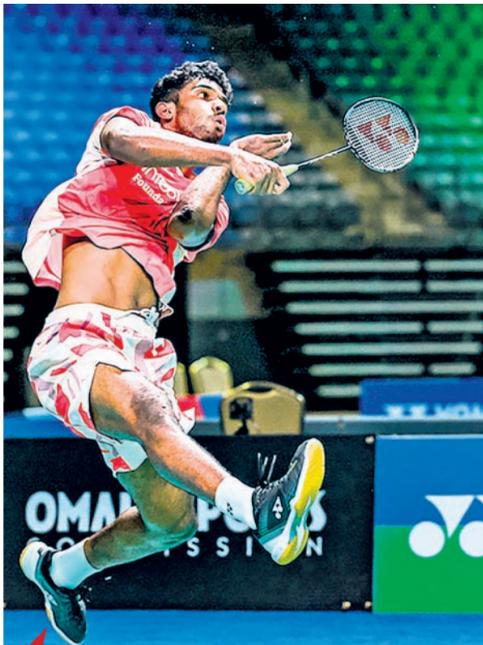
Iowa (US), June 30: Rising shuttler Ayush Shetty notched up his first BWF World Tour title with a commanding straight-games victory over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season.

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

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

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

Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded



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

AYUSH SHETTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

TANVI VS ZHANG

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

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

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

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

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2025

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

QUIZ Extravaganza

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will not be entertained.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee or families of OrissaPOST team can be part of the competition.

TODAY'S QUESTION

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

SHORT TAKES

Pugilist alleges abuse

New Delhi: A woman coach with the Sports Authority of India's National Boxing Academy in Rohtak has been accused of sexual harassment by a minor pugilist, who according to the FIR filed by her parents, has slipped into depression because of repeated "mental and physical abuse". Despite having a copy of the FIR, PTI is withholding the name of the accused as the matter is under investigation. When reached for a comment, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) acknowledged receiving a complaint from the 17-year-old victim about intimidation and incidents of slapping but denied being told about sexual harassment as alleged in the FIR. In her FIR lodged at a Rohtak police station, the victim has stated that the coach tried to forcibly remove her clothes once, slapped her on multiple occasions, threatened to ruin her career and called her a "person of bad character" in front of other boxers leading to her isolation.

Kabaddi going global

New Delhi: The organisers of the World Super Kabaddi League (WSKL) Monday announced that the inaugural edition of the tournament, featuring about 30 countries, will be held in Dubai, tentatively in February-March next year. Backed by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF), WSKL will adopt a franchise-based model featuring eight teams in its inaugural season. Each team will have a strong international presence alongside Indian talent. "Kabaddi has always deserved a larger stage not just for India but for the global sporting community. With WSKL, our goal is to reimagine the sport for a global audience, unlock international talent, and take decisive steps towards Olympic recognition," said Sambhav Jain, Director and Founder, SJ uplift Kabaddi Pvt Ltd that operates the League. WSKL has already secured interest and participation from prominent kabaddi nations including South Korea, Iran, Thailand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Canada, and the United States, with discussions underway to onboard additional countries, the release added.

PSG rout Messi's Inter Miami



ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

With Messi facing the team where he spent two seasons before moving to Major League Soccer in the twilight of his stellar career, the European champions

quickly erased the Herons' hopes of pulling off a monumental upset before a crowd of 65,574 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST MAJOR UPSET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medvedev suffers shock early Wimbledon exit



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

Sabalenka powers into second round

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



Dhoni seeks trademark for sobriquet 'Captain Cool'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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



was filed June 5. The proposed trademark is registered under the cat-

egory for sports training, providing sports training facilities, sports coaching

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

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

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

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