



Kareena's take

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan takes a dig at luxury fashion label Prada for allegedly copying iconic Kolhapuri chappal designs

LEISURE | P2



BRICS summit

Leaders of growing BRICS group of developing nations in Rio de Janeiro Sunday call for reform of traditional Western institutions

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Trade basket

India and Argentina agree to diversify two-way trade and ramp up cooperation in multiple sectors

BUSINESS | P11



Historic win

India outplay England by 336 runs in the second Test to register their first-ever win at Edgbaston

SPORTS | P12

Reuters' X unblocked

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 6: International news agency Reuters' X account was withheld in India for a few hours but restored later Sunday after the government intervened to say it had not sought the blocking of the handle.

Reuters' X account was blocked from being accessed in India overnight, leading to speculations.

The government asked the Elon Musk-owned platform for an explanation and said that it had not sought such a move. X restored access to the account shortly after.

The Reuters account remain blocked for nearly 24 hours, from Saturday evening to Sunday evening. The notice displayed on X till Sunday evening showed that Reuters' X account had been withheld in India 'in response to a legal demand'.

However, a government spokesperson said no legal requirement was made to withhold the account. Earlier in the day, sources said a demand for blocking the account alongside several hundreds of other accounts was made during Operation Sindoor in May. While many of them were blocked, the Reuters handle wasn't.

X seems to have now acted on that request and blocked Reuters' handle in India. And since the issue isn't relevant now, the government has asked X to explain the blocking and lift the embargo, they said.



DIVINE SPECTACLE: Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath adorned in golden attire on their chariots on the occasion of Suna Besha at Puri Sunday. Lakhs of devotees thronged the pilgrim town to have a glimpse of the sibling deities



On the occasion of Suna Besha at Puri Sunday, Lakhs of devotees thronged the pilgrim town to have a glimpse of the sibling deities

Musk launches 'America Party'

AGENCIES

New York, July 6: US tech billionaire Elon Musk said he has formed a new political party to give Americans their freedom back, after a dramatic falling out with Donald Trump.

He announced his plans on his social media platform X that he had set up the 'America Party' to challenge the two-party system in the country.

"Today, the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom," Musk said in a post on X. "When it comes to bankrupting our country with waste & graft, we live in a one-party system, not a democracy," the Tesla and SpaceX CEO said.

Musk did not say where the party may be registered. To legally form the party would require it to register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

The most recent FEC filings showed no indication that has happened, CNN said.

Musk first raised the prospect of forming a party during his public feud with Trump, which saw him leave his role in the administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and engage in a vicious public spat with his former ally.

One nation, one election: Former CJs flag 'issues'

The ambitious 'one nation, one election' bill proposed by the Union government that calls for holding synchronised Parliament and Assembly polls across the country, has raised fresh concerns. A string of former Chief Justices of India (CJIs) have flagged the 'sweeping powers' the bill seeks to offer to the Election Commission (EC). In fact, former CJs DY Chandrachud and Ranjan Gogoi have suggested in unison to lay down guidelines for the EC in exercising discretion to curtail or extend the tenure of a state Assembly beyond the constitutionally mandated five years using simultaneous elections as a pretext. However, as against the Opposition's criticisms, at least three ex-CJIs have not questioned the constitutionality of the concept of simultaneous polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

(EC), and offered suggestions. Former CJI DY Chandrachud, in his opinion submitted to the Joint Committee of Parliament, has dismissed the Opposition's criticism that the synchronisation of Lok Sabha and state Assembly polls violates the Constitution's basic structure, saying the Constitution never mandated holding national and state elections separately. However, he has joined another ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi in questioning the 'sweeping powers' granted to the Election Commission in the proposed constitutional amendment law 'without laying down any guidelines for the exercise of the discretion', according to the opinion submitted to the parliamentary panel.

Chandrachud and another former CJI JS Kehar are scheduled to appear before the committee headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary July 11 so that members can interact with them over the bill's provisions and seek their views on their queries.

Questioning the vast powers the bill seeks to bestow on the EC, Chandrachud said such 'unbounded authority' could enable the poll body to curtail or extend the tenure of a state Assembly beyond the constitu-

tionally mandated five years, under the pretext that simultaneous elections with the Lok Sabha are not feasible.

The Constitution must define, delineate and structure the circumstances under which the ECI may invoke this power, he added. Two former CJs, UU Lalit and Ranjan Gogoi, had appeared before the committee in February and March, respectively. During the interaction, Gogoi agreed with the concerns of some members over the excessive power given to the EC, sources have said.

Lalit had suggested that simultaneous polls should be rolled out in a staggered manner and not at one go, as he had said that cutting short the remaining terms of assemblies with substantive tenure left for the purpose of synchronising election cycles could be legally challenged.

However, all three ex-CJIs have not questioned the constitutionality of the concept of simultaneous polls.

Chandrachud said in his written opinion that simultaneous elections will not infringe upon the voters' right to elect their representatives and that the bill ensures that electors remain continuously represented by their duly elected MPs or MLAs.

Dalai Lama rings in 90th birthday

AGENCIES

Dharamshala, July 6: Thousands gathered in the main courtyard of Tsuglagkhang, the Dalai Lama temple, Sunday to celebrate the 90th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, while greetings poured from across the world for the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Political leaders from India and abroad also shared the stage with the Dalai Lama, throwing their support behind the Buddhist leader, who has been living in exile in India and has been fighting for the rights of the Tibetan people since the region came under Chinese occupation in the 1960s.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is abroad, extended warm wishes to the Dalai Lama, and said he has been an enduring symbol of love, compassion, patience and moral discipline.

Modi said on X, "I join 1.4 billion Indians in extending our warmest wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 90th birthday. He has been an enduring symbol of love, compassion, patience and moral discipline."

He added, "His message has inspired respect and admiration across all faiths. We pray for his continued good health and long life." Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Sikkim minister Sonam Lama, and Hollywood actor Richard Gere addressed the gathering here. P10

Suna Besha: One dead, 70 hospitalised in Puri

AGENCIES

Puri, July 6: One devotee died, and more than 70 others were injured and hospitalised in various incidents in Puri where lakhs of people gathered to witness the 'Suna Besha' (golden attire) ritual of the Rath Yatra festival Sunday, officials said.

The 52-year-old deceased, identified as Babaji Behera of Jagatsinghpur district, fell and suffered head injuries after he was disturbed by a monkey near the 'Singha Dwar' (Lion's Gate) of Srimandir.

Accompanied by his wife, Behera was witnessing the Suna Besha ritual from the premises of Radhaballav Mutt when the incident occurred, police said.

The devotee was first taken to the district headquarters hospital in Puri. After his con-



Condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar where doctors declared him brought dead.

About 70 other people were also injured in multiple mishaps in Puri and were admitted to the district headquarters hospital, doctors said. Around 40 of them have bone fractures. The condition of a woman, who suffered serious injuries, is stated to be critical.

A large number of people were also given first aid treatments at the outpatient department of the hospital and released, a senior doctor said.

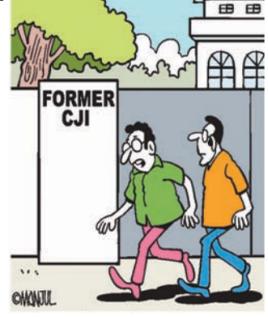
The incidents occurred a week after three devotees were killed and 50 others injured in a stampede outside the Gundicha temple in Puri.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that around 15 lakh devotees witnessed the Lord's 'Suna Besha' smoothly abiding by the norms near the chariots. All arrangements are made keeping in view the safety and security of the devotees, he said. P3

6 injured in Subarnapur

Bhubaneswar: At least six people, including three boys, were injured after they came under the wheels of the chariot when they were pulling it during the 'Bahuda Yatra' (return car festival) in Binika town of Subarnapur district Sunday. The condition of one of the injured boys was stated to be critical, and he was shifted to a hospital at Burla, an official said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Now I know why it takes years for a landlord to get court's permission to evict a tenant

2 women dead, child hurt in Nuapada wall collapse

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, July 6: Two women died and a minor girl was injured Sunday when a wall of an under-construction poultry farm collapsed in Patparpali village under Silbha panchayat in Lakhna police limits of Nuapada district following incessant rains.

The deceased were identified as Rupe Sabar, 70, and her granddaughter-in-law Balamati Sabar, 28. The injured child, Siddhi Sabar, 5, is the daughter of Balamati.

According to reports, Dibakar Sabar, wife of Balamati, was constructing a poultry shed with Rs 1.8 lakh financial assistance under an animal husbandry scheme under the Komna veterinary hospital for rearing 500 broiler chickens. The construction had reached up to the roof level, and plastering work was underway when the disaster struck.

Around 11 am Sunday, Balamati, Rupe and Siddhi were collecting fallen bricks around the structure when a section of the wall suddenly collapsed. While Balamati and Rupe died on the spot, Siddhi sustained moderate injuries and was discharged after treatment at Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital.

The district administration provided Rs 10,000 from the Red Cross fund for funeral expenses.

Serial cabbie killer nabbed after 25 yrs on run

Ajay Lamba alias Banshi also worked in a ganja-supply network from Odisha to Delhi. Last year, he was arrested by Delhi Police in connection with a jewellery-shop dacoity case in Berhampur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: A 49-year-old man, who was on the run for around 25 years, has been arrested in Delhi in connection with a string of crimes where he allegedly hired taxis, killed the drivers, dumped their bodies in remote forested areas of Uttarakhand and sold the vehicles off across the Nepal border, a senior police officer said Sunday. The accused, Ajay Lamba

alias Banshi, was wanted in four brutal robbery-cum-murder cases across Delhi and Uttarakhand. He was declared a proclaimed offender in all the cases, including a 2001 murder case registered at the New Ashok Nagar police station here, police said.

Lamba was the alleged mastermind behind a string of heinous crimes committed between 1999 and 2001, in which he, along with associates, targeted taxi



drivers, killed them, looted their vehicles and dumped the bodies in remote forested areas of Uttarakhand to evade identification, the officer said.

"Born in 1976 and originally a resident of Delhi's Krishna Nagar, Ajay dropped out of school after Class 6 and became involved in crime at an early

age. He was previously declared a 'Bad Character' by the Vikas Puri police under the alias 'Banshi'. In 1996, he changed his name to Ajay Lamba and shifted base to Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, where he teamed up with accomplices Dharendra and Dilip Negi," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime)

Aditya Gautam said. Together, they operated a violent criminal enterprise in which taxis were hired, the drivers killed, the vehicles looted and resold across the Nepal border, he added.

Police said Lamba was never arrested in the four robbery-cum-murder cases lodged against him in Delhi, Haldwani, Almora and Champawat. He was declared a proclaimed offender in all cases and also faced earlier charges, including theft and arms possession, dating back to the 1990s.

Lamba managed to remain undetected for more than two decades by frequently changing locations and identities.

From 2008 to 2018, he lived in Nepal with his family and later, moved to Dehradun. In 2020, he became involved in narcotics smuggling, allegedly working in the ganja-supply network from Odisha to Delhi and other parts of India, the DCP added.

He was arrested in a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by the Sagarpur police in 2021 and again in connection with a jewellery-shop dacoity in Odisha's Berhampur in 2024. He was out on bail in both cases and never disclosed his fugitive status to anyone, police said, adding that they apprehended Lamba from Delhi in a coordinated operation.

leisure

THE OFFICE ACTOR CRAIG ROBINSON QUITS COMEDY



American actor Craig Robinson has announced that he is quitting comedy and will focus his time on his true calling. Robinson, best known for starring in popular sitcoms *The Office* and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, shared the news on Instagram where he posted two videos, saying that he is working on something new.

MEL B MARRIES RORY MCPHEE



Singer Melanie Janine Brown, better known as Mel B, married hairstylist Rory McPhee in an intimate wedding ceremony. According to the entertainment news magazine *People*, the duo took the vows Saturday in The Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
 The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesh says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS
 There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesh assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications.

GEMINI
 You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesh.

CANCER
 Ganesh says that it will be a day of challenge. You will be tempted to plunge into a new venture. But there is no need for haste or anxiety in this regard. Pending work will be completed. Business deals and transactions will end on happy note. Translocation due to business or domestic reasons is possible.

LEO
 You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
 Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
 Ganesh says beware of overspending today. Those of you having close ties abroad may find them beneficial. Ganesh says you should always remain optimistic.

SCORPIO
 Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS
 Brace yourselves; the day has a lot of uncertainties today. First being financial. You may have to shell out money for unexpected expenses. But, this may also teach you to be economically independent.

CAPRICORN
 You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesh. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around.

AQUARIUS
 Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today. Dilemmas dissolved and problems resolved, you shall spend a quiet, romantic evening with your sweetheart, foresees Ganesh.

PISCES
 The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects. A picnic or a short journey with your partner is very much on the cards, says Ganesh.

Kareena calls out Prada

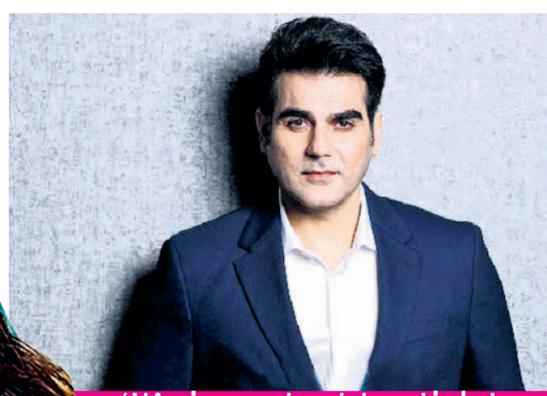
Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor, Sunday, took to social media to call out luxury fashion brand Prada for allegedly copying traditional Kolhapuri chappal designs.

The actress shared a photo of her wearing her OG Kolhapuri chappal as she subtly took a dig at the brand. Taking to her Instagram stories, Bebo posted an image of her flaunting her Kolhapuri chappals and captioned it, "Sorry not Prada... but my OG Kolhapuri." Kareena kept her face out of the frame, letting her stylish Kolhapuri chappals do all the talking.

Kareena's post comes just days after Prada stirred up controversy for showcasing footwear that closely resembled traditional Kolhapuri chappals without crediting their Indian origins.

For the unversed, Prada recently introduced a pair of footwear called 'Toe Ring Sandals,' which closely resemble India's traditional Kolhapuri chappals. These sandals were showcased at the Prada Men's Spring/Summer 2026 fashion show in Milan June 22. However, the design was presented under the European brand's label without any clear credit to its Indian roots.

In response, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Bombay High Court, demanding compensation for Kolhapuri chappal artisans, whose work the plea claims has been copied without acknowledgment.



'It's important to stick to roots in globalised world'

Mumbai: Actor-producer Arbaaz Khan feels that one should stick to their roots no matter how far they go in life.

The actor, who is the son of the legendary screenwriter Salim Khan, feels that holding on to your value system is what makes a person stand out in this rapidly changing world. Arbaaz, and his family has always made it a point to stick to their values, something which has earned them respect from the Hindi film industry and their fans time and again.

Arbaaz told this news agency, "It is extremely important to stick to your roots in a globalised world. I think that is what is so essential to keep your roots or to keep your value system which everybody has their own culture and that flavour that has to remain. It's beautiful. I mean everything can happen, but if you keep the essence of whatever your upbringing is and your roots are, I think that's beautiful".

Earlier, Arbaaz had teamed up with the Dubai-based filmmaker, producer, Ayesha Zaki for a short film *Safe Community Safe World*. The short film was aimed at raising awareness about the often-ignored safety concerns of sanitation workers and stray animals.

Zareen's fangirl moment

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Zareen Khan took a walk down memory lane as she recalled her fangirl moment with Katrina Kaif.

Posting a nostalgic video on social media, the *Veer* actress revealed that it was from the premiere of *Race*, long before she entered the film industry. Khan posted a video of herself in which she is seen taking an autograph from Katrina. Alongside the clip, she wrote, "Oh my Goddd! Came across this video, and the memory is still so fresh. I clearly remember this moment ... it's from the premiere of the movie *Race*. Thanks to a friend who got us passes, we were able to experience the magic firsthand. At that point, I was just a wide-eyed fan, never imagining I'd one day be a part of the film industry."

"But look at how happy I am in this video, a total fangirl ... grinning from ear to ear, getting an autograph from the woman I thought was and is breathtakingly beautiful! #BlastFromThePast #Nostalgia #ZareenKhan."

During her appearance on Bharti Singh and Haash Limbachiya's podcast, Zareen Khan spoke about how being compared to Katrina, which once felt like a big compliment, ended up negatively impacting her journey in the film industry.



Raashii shares travel woes

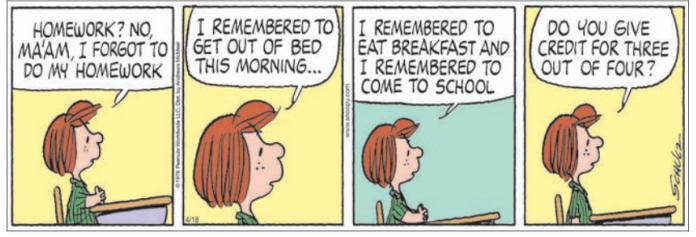
Mumbai: Actor Raashii Khanna has opened up about her growing travel anxiety.

Her candid post quickly drew supportive comments from fans. One follower offered blessings, writing, "May Lord Bholenath give you strength to face all hurdles, including anxiety. Har Har Mahadev." Another reassured her by saying, "Don't worry, your good karma and Lord Shiva's blessings are with you." Others tried to ease her fears, with one writing, "Why are you stressed yaar? Everything is fine." Raashii's honesty clearly resonated with many.

"There's so much unrest in the world... Every flight feels heavier now — not just because of the skies, but because of the headlines we carry with us," she wrote. She admitted that what was once a joyful escape now feels like "holding your breath," and asked her followers if



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

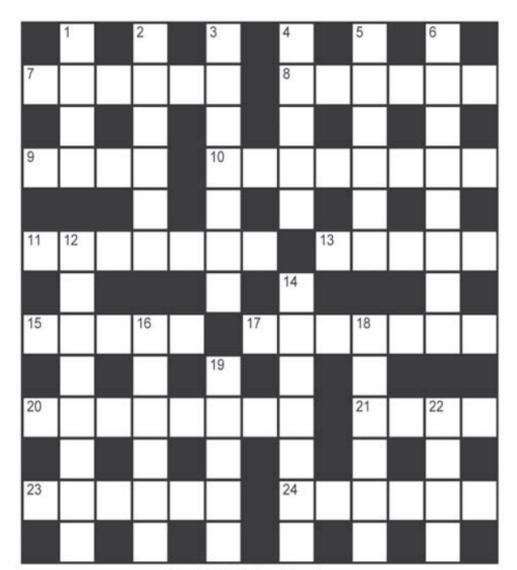


BREVITY



FUN POST

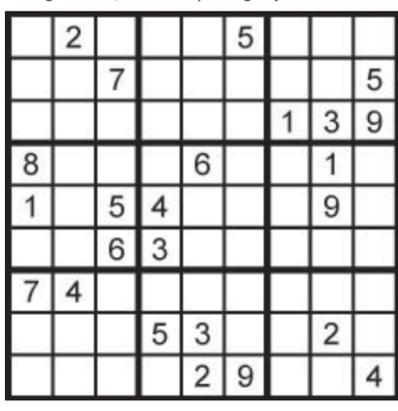
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Funny stuff
 - 8 Latin American dance (3-3)
 - 9 Lightly burn
 - 10 Evaluate
 - 11 Stadium treats (3,4)
 - 13 Beer mug
 - 15 Old Roman port
 - 17 Like goats
 - 20 Highwaymen
 - 21 Broad valley
 - 23 Midpoint
 - 24 Give the cold shoulder
 - 5 Volcanic rock
 - 6 Bawl out
 - 12 Monitored
 - 14 Diver's gear (3,4)
 - 16 Metal bars
 - 18 Business owner's fear (3,3)
 - 19 Peruvian peaks
 - 22 Songbird
- Down**
- 1 Ditty
 - 2 Extremely hot
 - 3 Organise
 - 4 Rifle attachment

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

LAKHS WITNESS SUNA BESHA



AGENCIES

Puri, July 6: Around 15 lakh devotees Sunday witnessed Suna Besha (golden attire) ritual of Lord Jagannath and His siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra on chariots parked in front of the 12th-century shrine here amid unprecedented security arrangements. The servitors decorated the idols with golden attire. The ritual started at 4:45pm, much ahead of the scheduled time of 6:30pm, an official said. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that around 15 lakh devotees are witnessing the Lord's Suna Besha smoothly abiding by the norms near the chariots. All arrangements are made keeping in view the

safety and security of the devotees, he said. In Suna Besha ritual, the deities are decorated with various types of gold ornaments like gold diadems, locally called 'Kiriti', hands and feet made of gold. While Lord Jagannath holds a gold Chakra (disc) in his right hand and a silver conch in his left hand, elder brother Lord Balabhadra wields a golden plough in his left hand, a gold mace in his right hand. Goddess Subhadra also wears different ornaments, the official said. The ritual, which is also called 'Bada Tadhau Besha' in temple terminology, continues in the 12th-century shrine since 1460 since King Kapilendra Deb's regime. He donated

cart loads of gold ornaments to the temple after winning some battles in south India, said Shree Jagannath culture researcher Bhaskar Mishra. As Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar was being repaired by the ASI now, the gold ornaments are currently stored in the temporary strong room after valuables were shifted from the outer chamber of the sacred treasury. Escorted by armed policemen and temple officials, 'Bhandara Mekap' servitor (store in-charge) bring the gold jewellery laced with invaluable stones and hand it over to Puspalaka and Daitapati servitors for decoration of the deities. Meanwhile, Odisha Police have deployed around 205 pla-

toons (1 platoon comprise 30 people) of state police personnel apart from 800 jawans of the central armed police force for crowd management and law and order. In view of the huge flow of devotees to Puri, DGP YB Khurania himself was monitoring the crowd management from the Integrated Crowd Control Centre (ICCC) and urged people to follow the advisory. "Like Rath Yatra and Bahuda Yatra, police are using drones and AI-powered cameras to control crowds and regulate traffic. Adequate parking lots have been created in and around Puri," Khurania said, adding that there was a "non-stop flow of devotees to Puri since Saturday night.



CM: Mukherjee a source of inspiration for every Indian

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday paid tributes to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary saying that the towering leader's life serves as an enduring example and a source of inspiration for every Indian. "India will always take pride in a great public figure like Dr Mukherjee," he said while attending the 125th state-level birth anniversary celebration of Mukherjee. The celebration was organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture department in collaboration with the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department. The Chief Minister described Mukherjee as the saviour of Indian education, culture, tradition, and nationalism. He stated that Mukherjee was among the foremost intellectuals of the early 20th century who rose to champion Indian education, culture, tradition, and nationalism in service of the motherland. "Dr Mukherjee was not only an educationist but also a dedicated national leader, visionary thinker, and true patriot," he emphasised. "Dr Mukherjee's ideology and cultural nationalism laid the ideological foundation of



today's BJP," Majhi added. Referring to Mukherjee's strong views on national integration, Majhi said he firmly believed that Kashmir was an integral part of India and should not be treated with special provisions. "His slogan 'Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan, Do Nishan- Nahi Chalega' still resonates in the hearts of every Indian," he remarked. Majhi further stated that the bold step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to abrogate Articles 370 and 35(A) of the Constitution stands as the most fitting tribute to Mukherjee, fulfilling the dream and struggle

Rush chokes roads to Puri

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, July 6: The Pilgrim city of Puri Sunday witnessed massive influx of devotees who thronged the Srikshetra to catch a glimpse of the resplendent Suna Besha—the golden attire of Lord Jagannath and His divine siblings—as managing the traffic became a Herculean task. The steady stream of pilgrims from Bhubaneswar to Puri overwhelmed the highways, with major chokepoints at Malatipatpur and Batagan bearing the brunt of the traffic. Reports indicated a waiting time of over three hours in these zones, turning what is usually a two-hour drive into



a marathon of patience and devotion. Traffic police, aware of the situation's gravity, swung into action to clear the congestions. LED panels at Uttara and Pipli continued to flash real-time alerts, helping travelers make informed decisions. Meanwhile, Commissionerate Police conducted awareness drives and implemented dynamic diversions to ease the pressure.

Adding to the efforts, SMS alerts and social media updates were used to inform devotees about live conditions and waiting times. Drone visuals from Malatipatpur revealed a thick blanket of vehicles stretching endlessly. Inside Puri, Badadanda (Grand Road) was swarming with pilgrims, delaying the Suna Besha Darshan itself. Authorities urged the public to plan their journey with care, emphasising safety, patience, and cooperation. "Drive cautiously and follow police instructions," read an advisory from Odisha Police, who continued to provide real-time updates and guidance to manage the spiritual surge.

Meenakshi Mahila Cong chief for second time

BHUBANESWAR: Meenakshi Bahinipati, wife of Congress' Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, has been appointed as the president of Odisha Pradesh Mahila Congress for the second time, Sunday. In an official notification, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary KC Venugopal said that the Congress president has approved Meenakshi's appointment with immediate effect. Apart from serving in the same role earlier, Meenakshi has also worked as the president of KDCC for 10 years. She had also held the post of general secretary of OPCC. Besides, she was twice elected as the chairperson of Koraput Municipality. After the announcement, Meenakshi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das, Odisha in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu, and All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba for reposing faith in her leadership. "I'm inspired by the ideals of the party and its deep commitment towards women's empowerment. I will work to intensify the fight for gender justice in the state," she said.

Lopar in Bay; IMD predicts heavy rain

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Heavy to very heavy rainfall, with extremely heavy spells and thunderstorm activity accompanied by lightning, is likely to occur in several districts of state over the next week, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The IMD said, under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha, a low pressure area (Lopar) has formed over Gangetic West Bengal and the surrounding region Sunday. It will trigger heavy rains across Odisha in the next few days.



The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6km above mean sea level, tilting southwestwards with height. It is expected to move slowly

Election for state BJP chief Tuesday

BHUBANESWAR: Setting the ball rolling for the election of a new president of Odisha's BJP unit, the party Sunday announced that polling, if required, will be held July 8. The ruling party released the voters' list during the day. BJP co-state election officer and state general secretary Jatin Mohanty said the candidates for the post of state party president and national council members can file nominations from 12:30pm to 3:30pm Monday. The final list will be published by 4:30pm of the day after the nomination-related complaints are addressed. "If a consensus is not reached through the nomination process, an election will be held for the top post July 8. The name of the new president will be declared on Tuesday," Mohanty said.

west-northwestwards across Jharkhand and north Chhattisgarh over the next 2 to 3 days.

Squally weather with wind speeds of 35 to 45 kmph, gusting up to 55 kmph, is likely to prevail along and off the Odisha coast till July 7. Sea conditions are expected to be rough to very rough, the IMD bulletin said, advising fishermen not to venture into the sea along and off the coast for the next two days. The IMD has already issued orange and yellow warnings for several districts, where heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunderstorms with lightning, and gusty surface winds reaching 30 to 40 kmph are likely to occur over the next seven days.

RAHUL GANDHI'S UPCOMING VISIT

OPCC launches social media campaign

Creating a trending buzz across social media and mobilising public support ahead of Rahul Gandhi's Odisha visit July 11



Pradhan, NSUI state general secretary Bibhuti Bhusan Mohapatra, and other leaders— shared details of the campaign.

of LoP Rahul Gandhi's visit, we are launching a social media campaign with dedicated hashtags starting today. The aim is to boost public participation in the 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' scheduled during his visit. Echoing the same, Pradhan added, "We've introduced hashtags like #OdishawelcomesRahulGandhi, #OdishaWelcomesRaGa, #SamvidhanBachaoRallyOdisha and others to create a trending buzz ahead of Rahul Gandhi's arrival." It is worth noting that Rahul Gandhi, along with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader KC Venugopal, will visit Odisha July 11 to address the 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' rally.



TAZIA PROCESSION: Members of the Muslim community take out a Tazia procession in Siripur Chowk in Bhubaneswar, Sunday as part of Muharram observances

Palm drive expanded in Puri to curb lightning risk



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 6: The Gobinda Tripathi Smruti Parisad Baliput has launched the second phase of its palm plantation initiative across Puri district, aiming to plant 5,000 palm seeds during the current monsoon season. The move comes amid growing concerns over lightning-related fatalities in Odi-

sha, which has reported 1,625 such deaths in the past five years—highest in the country. The campaign, led by former CGM P & C, Government of Odisha, Bijoy Chandra Tripathy, along with well-wishers and family members, is also a tribute to freedom fighter Late Gobind Tripathi. It aims to raise public awareness and encourage community participation in ecological conservation. The launch event saw active participation from key stakeholders, including Parisad Secretary Gobinda Chandra Farak, educationist Chinmaya Vibek, environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal, and palm conservationist Bijay Kumar Bhatt. Local representatives such as Ward Member Satyabham Swain, SHG members, and youth volunteers also joined the initiative, which emphasised sustainable protection measures for the newly-planted saplings. The event was coordinated by Bikram Dutta Parida and Pradipta Kumar Nayak. Building on last year's successful plantation of 5,000 seeds along the Dhanua River stream near the Nua Nai River Bank—where most saplings have now grown to a height of 12 to 18 inches—the organisation has set an ambitious five-year target to establish 25,000 palm trees across the region.

ECoR warns against stunt reels on tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has cautioned the general public against dangerous and unlawful practice of making social media reels or stunt videos on railway tracks, which involves severe life and safety risk. In a recent incident July 5, ECoR received a video clip from a reliable source showing a boy lying on the concrete sleepers of a railway track while a train passed over it. Acting swiftly, the Bolangir RPF inspector rushed to Purnapani Station and alerted the local Baunsuni

police station. A joint inquiry by RPF and local police, along with the villagers, led to the identification of a 12 year old adolescent who had gone to the railway track June 29 and performed the life-threatening stunt while his friend, aged about 15 years, recorded the video. The RPF team, accompanied by villagers and parents of the children, visited the incident spot located between Purnapani and Jharmunda Railway Stations. After necessary formalities, the children, along with their guardians, were taken to the RPF Post at Bolangir for



legal action. Accordingly, Case No C3C/439 has been registered against both minors under Sections 153, 145(b), and 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. ECoR reiterates that such acts are not only illegal but can also result in fatal accidents. Railway tracks are no place for stunts or social media content creation. Trespassing on tracks for entertainment puts lives at extreme risk and disrupts railway operations. "Your life is precious. Say no to 'Stunts On Tracks'. Stay safe, stay away from railway lines," ECoR said.

Blood donation camp held in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Commerce Merrit Academy organised a blood donation camp Sunday as part of the ongoing 'Jai Odisha' campaign. This marks the ninth initiative under the campaign aimed at promoting blood donation awareness and support. The camp was held under the guidance of the institute's founders, Kshitish Mahapatra and Subhashree Behera, with active support from faculty members and volunteers of Jai Odisha. The initiative is being hailed as a significant step toward fostering a more conscious and socially responsible society. Speaking on the occasion, Jai Odisha's founder, Rudra Narayan Samantray, reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to its motto, 'Blood Donation is Life Donation.' He also announced that similar initiatives will continue across the state to promote and sustain the culture of voluntary blood donation.

Father makes son's 'bike' dream real

With inventive spirit and determination, a father turns his son's dream into a remarkable reality by making a motorcycle-style bicycle



MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

motorcycle, while others face hurdles like financial constraints. But one father from Cuttack found a clever way to turn his son's wish into reality despite limited means. Shiva Shankar Sahoo, a 50-year-old mechanist from Rajendra Nagar, grabbed attention with his inventive spirit. When his eight-year-old son insisted on a motorcycle to ride around the city together, Sahoo's limited budget and lack of riding skills stood in the way. Rather than giving up, he chose to create something extraordinary. Using his mechanical expertise, Sahoo transformed his old bicycle into a motorcycle repli-

ca by fitting parts from a 'Hero Honda CD 100'—all except the engine, meaning his son still needs to pedal to move it. The project took about 1.5 months and cost roughly ₹20,000. "My son always wanted a bike, but buying one was beyond my reach," Sahoo shared. "So, I made this bike-like bicycle for him." Riding this one-of-a-kind creation around town often leaves people puzzled. Police have even stopped him, thinking he's a helmet-less motorcyclist—only to be surprised when they realise it's actually a bicycle. Meanwhile, his family and neighbours are filled with joy.

Built at just ₹20,000, combining creativity and budget. Pedal-powered bike brings joy and pride to the family.

Mind diet plan for better brain health boost

Incorporating simple brain-friendly foods into daily diet can help protect memory, enhance focus, and support lasting cognitive health throughout life

well-established eating approaches: one known for its heart-healthy foods and another designed to manage blood pressure. The Mind diet builds on these by including certain foods believed to specifically support brain health. The core of this eating pattern emphasises plant-based ingredients, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and legumes, along with lean proteins like fish and poultry. Low-fat dairy and minimal consumption of red or processed meat also feature prominently. In addition, it limits foods high in sodium, added sugars, and unhealthy fats. What makes the Mind diet stand out is its focus on nutrients that are particularly beneficial for brain function. These



include flavonoids and polyphenols found in colorful produce, folate from leafy greens and legumes, and Omega-3 fatty acids from oily fish and seeds. Numerous studies have backed the effectiveness of this approach. In one, older adults who closely followed the Mind diet experienced slower cognitive decline over several years. Another study found that long-term followers had fewer signs of brain changes typically as-

sociated with Alzheimer's disease, with leafy greens standing out as a particularly important food group. A broader review of multiple studies also supported a link between this diet and better cognitive performance, with one study suggesting it could reduce Alzheimer's risk by more than half. However, much of the available research is observational, relying on self-reported eating habits, which can introduce bias. Only a few controlled trials exist, though one did find that women following the Mind diet showed slight improvements in memory and attention over a short period. Still, the emerging evidence is encouraging. While general nutrition advice recommends a balanced intake of fruit,

vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, this approach fine-tunes those recommendations for brain health. It suggests prioritizing leafy greens, berries, olive oil, and foods rich in healthy fats. Even small dietary changes can make a real difference. Swapping ingredients, using healthy oils in dressings, choosing frozen or canned produce when fresh isn't available, or adding legumes to meals can all contribute to better brain function over time. As understanding of the connection between food and cognitive health deepens, the Mind diet offers a simple, evidence-based way to help protect memory and mental sharpness through the years. (THE CONVERSATION)

WEATHER section with a satellite image of the Earth and a table showing BBSR, CTC, and FORECAST data for Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, and Rainfall.

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Nilagiri MLA files complaint against three BJD leaders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, July 6: Political tension has escalated in Nilagiri following a dispute between BJP MLA Santosh Kumar Khatua and senior BJD leader Lekhasri Samantsinghar. While several police stations across the state have received complaints from the BJD against Khatua demanding his arrest, the matter has taken a new turn with counter-allegations from the BJP side.

Two days ago, a BJD woman leader filed a complaint against Khatua at Nilagiri PS. In response, the BJP held a press conference Friday, describing the allegations made by Samantsinghar as baseless and fabricated.

Further intensifying the controversy, Zone 12 Zilla Parishad member Ranjita Singh lodged a complaint Saturday at Nilagiri PS against Samantsinghar and two other BJD leaders—Jyotiprakash Panigrahi and former MLA Sukanta Kumar Nayak.

Later that evening, Khatua filed a formal complaint alleging that the three BJD leaders had subjected him to mental harassment, conspired to sabotage his political career, and issued threats to kill him and his family.

According to sources, Nilagiri police have registered a case (252/25) in connection with the complaint.

Injured in suspected IED blast, elephant calf dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 6: A six-year-old elephant calf that was found severely injured in the Saranda forest near the Odisha-Jharkhand border last week has died despite sustained rescue and treatment efforts.

A drone survey conducted June 27 as part of a forest security operation spotted the calf near the M canal with severe injuries to its left hind leg. Six teams of forest officials were immediately mobilised to initiate a rescue operation.

By Saturday morning, under the leadership of Saranda DFO Abhiroop Sinha, rescue teams from West Singhbhum, Rourkela, Keonjhar and a team of wildlife experts from



₹1.68-crore road approved as Andhra eyes Raipahad

Further developmental initiatives for the border village are also in the pipeline as the neighbouring state continues to lure villagers by implementing its welfare schemes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, July 6: Amid row over Andhra Pradesh's continued encroachment in remote Raipahad village under Golur panchayat in Nandapur block of Koraput district, the district administration and the state government have taken a proactive step towards the development of the village.

A pucca (paved) road will soon connect the village to the PMGSY road near Dumuriguda, officials said.

Funds worth ₹1.68 crore have been sanctioned from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for this road project. According to District Collector V Keerthi Vasan, the tender process has already been completed through the Sunabeda Rural Development Division, and construction will commence shortly.

The move comes amid growing dissatisfaction over Andhra Pradesh's continued encroachment in the area. Andhra Pradesh had allegedly been implementing various welfare



measures including housing under Central schemes, MGN-REGS employment, health services, education, electricity, and water to claim administrative control over Raipahad. Reports suggested that despite bilateral discussions between the two states, the Andhra government continued to implement its schemes discreetly in the village.

The silence of the Odisha government on this issue had sparked local resentment and was highlighted in media reports. Subsequently, the district administration in Koraput and state authorities have accelerated efforts to assert their presence and initiate development work in the village.

Key local representatives, including sarpanch (in-charge) Sabitri Burudi, samiti member Laxmi Matam, and social worker Biranchi Matam, along with other ward

members and villagers have welcomed the move. They extended their gratitude to the media reports and the district administration for their efforts.

Further developmental initiatives for the border village are also in the pipeline. Nandapur BDO Durgaprasad Dora and Tehsildar Debabrata Maharana informed that all households in Raipahad will receive pucca houses under housing schemes, and power supply from Andhra Pradesh will be disconnected in favour of Odisha's electricity services. In addition, the state will provide education, healthcare services, potable water, welfare pensions, and land pattas to the villagers.

This marks a significant step in strengthening Odisha's administrative presence in border villages vulnerable to encroachment by the neighbouring state.

Kid drowns in pit

Jaleswar: A five-year-old boy tragically drowned after falling into a pit in the backyard of his house Sunday around 3pm. The deceased has been identified as Sagun Hansda, son of Basanta Hansda from Ghadaghada village under Raibania police limits of Jaleswar block in Balasore district. According to sources, the child was playing near his home when he accidentally fell into the pit and drowned. After a frantic search by family members, his body was found floating in the pit behind the house. He was immediately rescued and rushed to the Hatigarh Community Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

11 ill after eating toxic mushrooms

Rayagada/Tikiri: Eleven members from three families of Tikarapada village in Kashipur block of Rayagada district fell ill after consuming toxic wild mushrooms. All of them are currently undergoing treatment. Six of the affected are being treated at Osapada hospital. Five others including a minor from two neighbouring families were initially treated at Osapada. However, as their condition did not improve, they were shifted to Rayagada DHH around 11pm Saturday. Doctors have reported signs of improvement in their condition. According to sources, three women from the village had gone to the nearby forest Saturday morning and collected wild mushrooms. The mushrooms were later cooked and consumed by the families. By evening, all began experiencing symptoms such as vomiting and dizziness.

Torrential rain plays havoc; roads, bridges washed away in Keonjhar



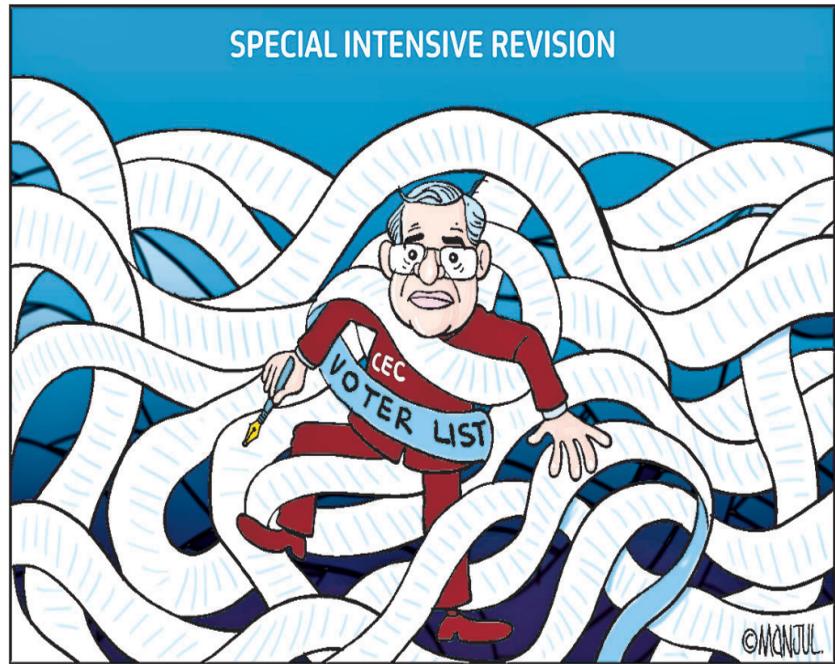
POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 6: Continuous rainfall over the last three days has caused widespread damage across various blocks in Keonjhar district.

Heavy downpour Saturday night led to the washing away of several roads and collapse of culverts and small bridges, severely impacting connectivity. Even in Keonjhar town, poor drainage led to water entering homes, leaving residents stranded and disrupting normal life.

In low-lying areas, rainwater entered houses, throwing normal life into disarray. Local administration officials have been visiting affected areas to assess the situation and are reportedly providing emergency assistance. The Dhaladihi Sahi village under Banspal block has been completely surrounded by floodwater. At least 30 families there remain cut off from the

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Man hacked to death by nephew

Nayagarh/Daspalla: A 70-year-old man was hacked to death by his nephew with an axe over suspected past enmity at Buguda Colony under Takara panchayat and Daspalla police limits in Nayagarh district Sunday morning. Preliminary inquiry indicated that the deceased identified as Kabir Pradhan was attacked and killed by his nephew Ashok Mallick. Chatters were abuzz that the murder is fallout of suspected witchcraft and sorcery. However, the police complaint mentions that the murder appears to have been motivated by past enmity. After the incident, local villagers overpowered Ashok and handed him over to police. A case (189/25) has been registered in Daspalla police station and an investigation is underway. Sources said Ashok, known in the locality for his erratic behavior and substance abuse, often created disturbances in the village. About two years ago, Kabir had reportedly objected to Ashok's unruly conduct while he was intoxicated. Police believe the old confrontation might have triggered Sunday's attack. Police recovered the bloodstained axe used in the murder and sent it for forensic examination.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. e-TM-EE-PURI-38-2025
NAME OF WORK: MAINTENANCE OF DIFFERENT SCHEDULES AND SUPPLY OF CONDITIONAL BASED SPARES OF EARTHING EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN THE LHS COACHES AT COACHING DEPOT PURI FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS
Advertised Value (₹) : 6,21,77,690.42, EMD (₹) : 4,60,900.00, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 11,800/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 08.07.2025
Closing Date & Time : At 1300 hrs. of 22.07.2025.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Coaching Depot Officer, Puri
PR-326/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-EI-NORTH-SEC-KUR-476, Dt: 30.06.2025
NAME OF WORK: SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK FOR CONNECTION WITH ROAD OVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AT LC-182, JB-7, CP-09 ANKM, 370/25-27 ON NH-200 (NEW NH-53), INCLUDING UTILITY SHIFTING AND REPLACEMENT OF OVERAGED RELAYS & LED SIGNALS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Tender Value : ₹ 2,64,74,549.73, EMD : ₹ 2,82,400.00
Bidding Start Date : 08.07.2025
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 22.07.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Khurda Road
PR-319/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/38, Dt. 30.06.2025
(1) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-123-2025, Dtd.: 26.06.2025
DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF 03 NOS. INSPECTION PITS FOR CARRYING OUT TRIP / MINOR SCHEDULE FOR WAG-9 CLASS OF LOCOMOTIVES AND BOUNDARY WALL AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED/ANGUL.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 377.05 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 3,38,500/-
(2) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-131-2025, Dtd.: 25.06.2025
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS TO LOUVERS, NORTH LIGHT, RAIN WATER PIPE AND SHELL ROOF LEAKAGE OF MACHINE SHOP, LIFTING SHOP, BOGIE SHOP, MILL RIGHT SHOP, TL SHOP, CORROSION SHOP, PAINT SHOP, TRIMMING SHOP OF CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP AT MANCHESWAR.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 180.04 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,40,000/-
(3) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-139-2025, Dtd.: 26.06.2025
DESCRIPTION : PREPARATION OF CERTIFIED LAND PLANS PERTAINING TO JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 11.47 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 23,000/-
(4) Tender No. e-Tender-NorthKUR-140-2025, Dtd.: 26.06.2025
DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/WORKS OFFICE AT JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 124.17 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,12,100/-
Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 1 & 2), 06 (Six) Months (for Sl. No. 3) and 10 (Ten) Months (for Sl. No. 4).
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 18.07.2025 (for all the Tenders).
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / Khurda Road
PR-324/Q/25-26

Hirakud: First floodwater released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur/Cuttack, July 6: The authorities of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district Sunday released the season's first floodwater after sounding an alert to the districts in downstream of Mahanadi, officials said.

The season's first flood water was released after a traditional puja. The sluice gate number 7 was first opened as done every year, Chief Engineer SK Behera told reporters. He said that at least 20 such gates were opened by 6pm Sunday.

The chief engineer said the decision to release floodwater was taken to manage the rising water level in the reservoir following incessant rain and increased inflow from upstream areas of Chhattisgarh.

Though the authorities opened eight gates in the first phase by 12 noon, later it was decided to open more such gates to discharge flood water. While the inflow into the reservoir was about 2.50 lakh cusec,



the outflow stands at 3.36 lakh cusec, an official release said.

The full reservoir level (FRL) of Hirakud dam was 630 feet and the present water level stands at 610.04 feet, the official said.

The rising water level in the Mahanadi river system was also attributed to the opening of 46 gates of the Kalma barrage in Chhattisgarh Thursday, the official said.

Meanwhile, 13 districts in the downstream of Mahanadi including Cuttack were alerted and advised to caution

people not to go near the river when the flood water is passing through the river. The people in riverside areas were cautioned through loud speakers prohibiting them from entering the river, an official said.

Cuttack Collector Dattatreya Bhausaheb Shinde said that the district administration has taken all possible measures to receive the season's first floodwaters from the Hirakud reservoir which is likely to reach the Mundali barrage Monday night.

Woman's half-charred body found; kin cry foul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 6: A partially charred body of a woman was recovered from inside a house at Kadramahadev area under Town police station in Balasore Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Madhusmita, wife of Himanshu Shekhar Padhi, a local businessman. The deceased woman's family has filed a written complaint alleging murder by setting her on fire. Police registered a case (159/25) and launched an investigation with the help of a scientific team. The deceased's husband Himanshu has been detained for questioning, police said.

The couple had their wedding anniversary Sunday. However, the deceased's parents were left shaken after her in-laws reportedly informed them that she had committed suicide by setting herself on fire. When her family members arrived, they found her half-burnt body near the toilet inside the house and immediately alerted the police.

Diarrhoea: 10 infected, 2 critical in Digapahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, July 6: At least 10 persons have been hospitalised as a diarrhoea outbreak has been reported in Ustapalli village, a remote tribal pocket in Digapahandi block of Ganjam district.



The affected individuals were admitted to Digapahandi Community Health Centre (CHC) Sunday morning. Following initial treatment, two patients—Damayanti Sabar and Anita Sabar—were referred to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur as their condition deteriorated.

The region has witnessed

continuous rainfall over the past four days, and it is suspected that contaminated water has triggered the spread of diarrhoea. Upon receiving information about the outbreak, ASHA worker Sudeshna Sahu reached the village, raising awareness among residents and distributing essential supplies, including medicines, ORS packets, and halogen tablets. She also kept a close watch on the developing situation.

With the outbreak appearing to spread Sunday morning, affected villagers were carried about 2 km by slings to reach a point where ambulances could transport them to the health centre.

Later in the afternoon, a health team along with officials from the block's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department visited the village, conducted a detailed inspection, and collected water samples for testing.

FOCUS VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE

A MINDLESS POLICY



Across the world, vehicles, even airplanes, run for 40 years or more. India is alone in building a business on scrappage propaganda

It's decided by a bureaucrat, a policeman, or a scrap dealer — often in collusion.

Across the world, vehicles, even airplanes, in India or the US, run for 40 years or more. India is alone in building a business on scrappage propaganda. Vehicular emissions account for just 12% of total pollution. Industry contributes 51%. Is this policy a smokescreen to hide industrial failures? Some say other countries also scrap vehicles. This is misleading. The US introduced the end-use idea in the 1960s when junkyards overflowed. Even today, there is no age bar. As veteran journalist Hasan Suroor writes from London: "In England, no car is banned for age. If a car fails a test, it's fixed and made roadworthy. I drive a 21-year-old car without an issue."

If pollution is really the concern, why did India increase coal consumption from 900 million tonnes to 1 billion tonnes? Why fell millions of trees to build highways? Everyone knows coal is the dirtiest fuel. It's clear the scrappage policy is more about boosting new car sales. In fact, new cars pollute more in production than older ones in use. In Indian families, a car is a generational asset. Who can afford a new one every 10 years?

The Central government must immediately repeal this absurd rule and allow cars to have true life of 40 years. Let the economy grow on real strength — not artificial crises. Why should the government be in junking business when it has withdrawn from production? Let us stop hurting people in the name of progress.

INFA

ery year. Including buses and trucks, this figure could cross Rs 30 lakh crore.

This is not policy — it's madness. The destruction of this wealth impoverishes nearly two crore families annually. This mass scrappage is no accident. It appears to be a rigged game — a racket that enriches a few by stripping millions of their assets. The Central government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore to incentivize states, even in difficult North-East, to push scrappage — a move unheard of anywhere else in the world. No sane economy invests public money to destroy functioning wealth.

The government's scrap vehicle policy claiming to cut pollution is illogical. Pollution checks show that most 10-year-old vehicles emit no more than 1% or a bit more — hardly reason for scrapping. So, what's the real motive?

The dubious figure of banishing two crore ELVs comes from a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a body now embroiled

in controversy. Why? Because the study was funded by Tata Trusts that owns one of the country's biggest car manufacturers. This creates a glaring conflict of interest. A policy based on a report bankrolled by a carmaker undermines public trust. That this has gone unnoticed is due to two reasons: first, a company's public relations machinery is unmatched in India; second, much of the media today functions as a glorified PR agency. CSE continues to push the narrative that vehicles are the main culprits behind Delhi's pollution — a claim unsupported by facts.

During 2023-24 alone, 1.4 lakh vehicles were tagged ELVs, including 75 lakh light vehicles, two-wheelers and 45 lakh commercial vehicles. According to information portal FACTLY, 6.1 crore vehicles have been labelled as ELVs — a term coined to boost automakers' business. But life cannot be predetermined — not for people, not for machines. The "end of life" date is not divine prophecy.

India is now officially a \$4 trillion economy — but in truth, it is far more potent. It does something no other country in the world does, not even the US: it wants to junk vehicles worth Rs 18 trillion every year! In Delhi, 62 lakh so-called "end-of-life (ELV)" vehicles were targeted. Policemen, unable to prevent crimes, were deployed instead to chase down and impound nearly 200 vehicles from people on their way to work, hospitals, or schools — merely for the 'offence' of entering Delhi or stopping at a petrol pump. It's a new, innovative form of harassment that humiliates citizens and deprives them of property — a cruelty even the much-maligned Leftist regimes never committed. Many of these vehicle owners have just completed seven years of EMI payments. Now, the state treats their hard-earned asset as waste.

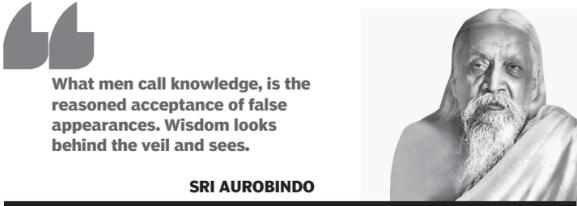
The Quixotic policy also destroys the concept of the National Capital Region (NCR), once envisioned as an integrated urban unit across Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. The central government must now scrap this unimaginative car-junking policy. Let vehicles run until they reach their true end-use — perhaps 40 years or more — and let Indian wealth grow naturally.

Two crore vehicles discarded annually — that's an astounding figure. How can any economy junk so much capital and still sustain or grow? No one has answered this. Based on an average cost of Rs 9 lakh per vehicle (with actual prices ranging between Rs 6 to Rs 13 lakh), this means Rs 18 lakh crore would be destroyed ev-



Shivaji Sarkar

A POLICY BASED ON A REPORT BANKROLLED BY A CARMAKER UNDERMINES PUBLIC TRUST



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

SRI AUROBINDO

Acknowledge Failure

Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Rahul R Singh's candid revelations about Operation Sindoor at a FICCI event 'New Age Military Technologies' on 4 July in New Delhi bring home the fact that India faces a multi-pronged threat when it comes to dealing with its adversary on the western front - Pakistan. The four-day military confrontation between the archrivals was a complex engagement involving multiple actors, characterised by advanced intelligence sharing, real-time battlefield support, and coordinated military assistance. India, in fact, confronted three adversaries along one border - Pakistan, China and Turkey, with the latter countries offering extensive support to Islamabad that kept it ahead of India during the operation. These three were the known enemies but Singh's statements indicated that there were other forces too that the Indian system was not prepared to face.

This collusive threat significantly alters India's strategic considerations and defence preparedness, confirming that a multiple-front challenge is not merely a theoretical concept for the Indian military but a tangible danger. One of the most startling disclosures by Lieutenant General Singh was that Pakistan had complete awareness of Indian military deployments, a fact that became clear during the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) discussions. "When the DGMO-level talks were going on, Pakistan actually was mentioning that 'we know that your such and such important vector is primed and ready for action. I would request you to perhaps pull it back'. So he was getting live inputs ... from China," Singh revealed.

China's direct role in supplying strategic military intelligence to Pakistan against India significantly changes the dynamics of the conflict. The Lieutenant General disclosed that 81 per cent of the military equipment Pakistan has procured over the past five years came from China. Thus, China has been using Pakistan as a "live lab" to evaluate the capabilities of its weapons systems. All this is pure commerce for China and pain for India. This also suggests that any conflict involving Pakistan serves as a testing ground for Chinese military technology. This enables China to enhance its defence capabilities for future engagements. Consequently, these improvements will be made accessible to Pakistan, better equipping it against India for any upcoming conflicts. A scenario too menacing for India to ignore.

Singh also highlighted vulnerabilities in the supply chain affecting indigenous defence systems, pointing out that equipment expected to be delivered by October-November 2024 was unavailable during Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

Turkey has also significantly supported Pakistan by supplying it with Bayraktar drones, hundreds of which swarmed over Indian cities along the western border. Ankara also trained Pakistani military personnel for the conflict with India. This highlights Turkey's active involvement in bolstering Pakistan's preparedness against India, suggesting a broader geopolitical alignment that goes beyond the traditional cooperation between Islamabad and Beijing.

Lieutenant General Singh's statements coming weeks after similar revelations on India's vulnerabilities during Operation Sindoor were made by CDS Anil Chauhan in Singapore and defence attaché Captain Shiv Kumar in Indonesia highlights the pressing challenges facing India's defence strategy and the clear dissatisfaction with the political leadership. Threats from multiple fronts and the risk of intelligence breaches are critical issues that demand immediate attention and a strategic response. Military leadership getting candid in admitting the limitations in a country's response to military threats is a sign for the government to act fast before it's too late. Acknowledging that a problem exists is the first step towards finding a solution to it.

WISDOM CORNER

It is a bit embarrassing to have been concerned with the human problem all one's life and find at the end that one has no more to offer by way of advice than 'try to be a little kinder.'

ALDOUS HUXLEY

The simplest questions are the most profound. Where were you born? Where is your home? Where are you going? What are you doing? Think about these once in a while and watch your answers change.

RICHARD BACH

I can control my destiny, but not my fate. Destiny means there are opportunities to turn right or left, but fate is a one-way street. I believe we all have the choice as to whether we fulfil our destiny, but our fate is sealed.

PAULO COELHO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1807: The first of the Treaties of Tilsit was signed between France and Russia after Napoleon's victories over the Russians and Prussians. 1898: Hawaiian Islands annexed by the United States. The U.S. Congress annexed Hawaii through a joint resolution signed by President William McKinley on this day in 1898, paving the way for the islands to become a territory (1900) and later a U.S. state (1959).

1937: Chinese and Japanese troops clashed near the Marco Polo Bridge outside Beijing, launching the Second Sino-Japanese War.

1958: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Alaska Statehood Act into law. Under the law, Alaska became the 49th state of the United States of America on January 3, 1959.

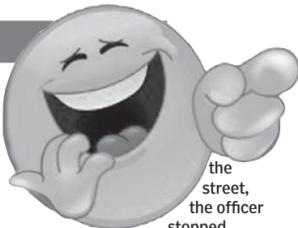
1978: Czech-born tennis player Martina Navratilova defeated Chris Evert to win her first of nine Wimbledon singles titles.

1985: Boris Becker becomes the youngest person to win Wimbledon at age 17. The German tennis player beat American Kevin Curren.

LOL

DESIGNATED DECOY

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible DUI violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started his engine and began to pull away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto



the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyzer test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

SPECTRUM MONETARY POLICY

Is today's market exuberance rational?



Hervé Gouletquet

WHEN THE OUTSIDE WORLD SEEMS TO PRESENT FEWER OPPORTUNITIES THAN RISKS, IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO DEFEND ONE'S TERRITORY

Despite all the policy-induced uncertainty wrought by President Donald Trump's administration, US stock markets seem to be sending a message of normalization. Major indexes have returned to where they were at the beginning of the year and continued to rise. What is going on? Are these new highs credible?

I think not. For starters, despite Trump's recent policy reversals, uncertainty remains high, feeding fears that business and household confidence will suffer, slowing growth over time. Moreover, Trump is far from having completed his attempted trade negotiations and is nowhere closer to his stated goal of balancing the US' external account. So large-scale an undertaking would require the world's major powers to adjust their own savings-investment patterns and relationships vis-à-vis the US. Getting that to happen would entail an extraordinarily painful exercise, assuming it is possible at all.

Lastly, the Trump administration's agenda needs to be considered in the deeper context of what the French economist and historian Arnaud Orain calls "finitude capitalism." Orain distinguishes "between an open world carrying a promise of all-round and unlimited enrichment (for states, private companies, or

individuals) and an ideology which argues the opposite — that the world is finite, that natural resources and global exports are in limited quantity, which entails that overall enrichment is limited, and even impossible."

When the outside world seems to present fewer opportunities than risks, it becomes necessary to defend one's territory. But if the economic system becomes less optimized and efficient as a result of this, so be it.

In any case, faced with continuing uncertainty and the threat of persistent inflationary pressures, all eyes will be on central banks. The US Federal Reserve has adopted a wait-and-see attitude as it monitors the effects of Trump's trade war, and the European Central Bank is already signaling that the new uncertainty will drag down economic growth.

With major countries closing in on themselves, the global economy is being reshaped before our eyes. It is reasonable to expect less efficient management and less diverse supplies to push up prices and therefore interest rates.

Though attention inevitably will shift from demand to supply, the objective for monetary policy will remain the same: to anchor inflation expectations at a "sufficiently low level," and to adopt a policy for bringing inflation back to the target

rate in the medium term. The challenge, then, is twofold: in addition to keeping inflation expectations low, central banks will need to acquire analytical agility and new tools to stay on top of an ever-changing situation. In such an uncertain environment, forward guidance cannot be overly precise. Instead, a multi-scenario approach (a departure from the current practice) will ultimately provide more relevant information to all economic actors.

Another major factor is trade flows, which are changing fast. One clear development, judging by voting patterns at the United Nations, is a reduction in the geopolitical distance of trade. While the US reduces its trade with China, the People's Republic continues to pivot more toward emerging markets and developing countries, becoming the top trade partner for many of them. Have US markets fully accounted for what this means?

Financial globalization is another major issue. The link between geopolitical tensions and financial stability is clear. There are two interdependent channels to watch here. The first is financial, as reflected in capital restrictions, heightened risk aversion, and other variables that affect liquidity.

The second channel is economic and concerns the extent to which new protectionist measures will disrupt value chains. Current trends (in

both channels) suggest that geographical diversification in asset allocations could decline over the medium term, with the resulting risk-return balance likely settling at lower levels.

Finally, in a more unstable geopolitical environment, one must factor in risks that are less endogenous to the economic and financial sphere, such as cybersecurity threats and the complex transition to renewable energy sources.

In such a global economy, where the logic of abundance through globalization is giving way to finitude capitalism, there may be less tolerance for significant current-account imbalances. The more that governments perceive geopolitical and economic risks, the more they could limit trade and financial flows vis-à-vis regions of the world that are considered less friendly. If such insularity becomes too restrictive, we will have foregone the well-known benefits of diversification.

Given the big-picture, medium-term outlook, financial markets can remain unscathed for only so long. For US stock markets in particular, high and rising indices are not sustainable.

The writer is an economist at Accuracy, a business and financial consultancy.

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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

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Political experiment

Sir, Elon Musk has officially launched a new political outfit, the America Party, with 65.4% support on 'X' aimed at disrupting "one-party system" dominating US politics. The move follows President Trump's signing of the controversial "One Big, Beautiful Bill," criticized as "debt slavery," citing its \$3.4 trillion projected deficit by Musk. Earlier a top donor in elections for Trump, Musk went loggerheads with him after leading the defunct Department of Government Efficiency as Trump threatened federal cuts to his businesses. Considering it as return of freedom from two/uni-party system to help America rise from its economic loss it is to be seen how much this nuanced approach is successful in convincing American and global audience. Will Musk be the next President of the US?

RS Narula, PATIALA

Quest for peace

Sir, After months of devastating conflict, a potential turning point may be approaching in Gaza. Israel, the United States, and key Arab nations are quietly advancing talks aimed at securing a 60-day ceasefire—one that could become the foundation for a broader regional peace. US President Donald Trump recently claimed Israel has accepted the key conditions for the proposed truce, though Hamas has yet to agree. Arab intermediaries, however, suggest that Hamas leaders may soon come on board. This limited Gaza truce could catalyze a more ambitious vision: expanding the 2020 Abraham Accords to include normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, a new security pact with Syria, and a broader postwar architecture that integrates Israel more deeply into the region. For Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this would likely require a shift in political alignment—possibly new elections to form a centrist coalition, sidelining far-right allies opposed to concessions on Palestine. The immediate goal is clear: end the Gaza war and secure the release of hostages. Negotiators are working on a package involving a temporary ceasefire, the return of hostages, and a roadmap toward lasting peace. A postwar Gaza, under this plan, would be governed by non-Hamas Palestinian leaders with the backing of key Arab states and US logistical support.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

1,300 nurses appointed in Delhi govt hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The Delhi government Sunday appointed over 1,300 new nursing officers and launched Ayushman Bharat registration vans to strengthen the healthcare system in the national capital.

The event was attended by BJP president J P Nadda, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Health Minister

Pankaj Singh, and other senior ministers.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Gupta sharply criticised the previous government, alleging that

it had allowed the capital's health infrastructure to deteriorate significantly.

"In the past, Delhi's healthcare was in such a poor state that there were only 0.42 hospital beds available per 1,000 people," she said.

"In 38 hospitals, there were only six MRI machines and 12 CT scan machines. Patients were frequently turned away due to a shortage of medicines," she added.

Gupta further alleged widespread corruption under the



Mohalla Clinics initiative.

"There was corruption in medicine procurement and hospital construction — 22 hospitals were announced but never completed," she claimed.

Speaking on the status of Arogya Mandirs, she stated that over ₹1,700 crore was provided by the central government to the previous administration over a five-year period for their

construction, but the funds remained unutilised.

"Now, it is my responsibility to ensure that all 1,150 Arogya Mandirs are completed in the remaining months," Gupta said.

She added that 34 Arogya Mandirs have already been inaugurated, with several more to follow this month. "We plan to add 100 Arogya Mandirs every

month and aim to complete all 1,150 by March next year," she said.

Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh, addressing the newly appointed staff, said their contribution would be crucial in strengthening the city's healthcare system.

"These nurses and health workers will become the backbone of a new, robust healthcare structure in the capital," he said.

Singh also noted that nearly 4 lakh people have been registered under Ayushman Bharat in Delhi, including more than 2 lakh senior citizens above the age of 70. As many as 2,258 patients have already availed treatment under the scheme, he said.

BJP president J P Nadda congratulated the new appointees and termed the occasion a historic moment. "After 15 years, these nursing officers have finally received job secu-

urity. This was not the result of a mere government order — it is the outcome of the people of Delhi choosing the BJP," he said.

He criticised the previous government for its alleged inaction across departments, especially in the health sector. Nadda pointed out

that ₹1,700 crore allocated in 2021 for improving Delhi's health infrastructure remained unused by the former administration.

"Now, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's leadership, it is our responsibility to ensure this amount is fully utilised in the next eight months to complete the Ayushman Mandirs," he said.

Nadda also highlighted that since September 2017, the Modi government has approved free treatment of up to ₹5 lakh for nearly 40 lakh residents of Delhi, particularly those living in slums and underprivileged areas.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Gupta sharply criticised the previous government, alleging that it had allowed the capital's health infrastructure to deteriorate significantly

DELHI'S SUMMER BIRD CENSUS

Over 160 bird species, 21 1st-time sightings recorded

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: More than 160 bird species including endangered and migratory ones like the greater flamingo and Indian pitta have been recorded across the national capital as part of the Delhi Bird Atlas.

The summer phase of the atlas — a pioneering citizen science initiative supported by Wildlife SOS and the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department — reported 21 first-time sightings and saw over 600 checklists uploaded to the eBird platform, surpassing the winter documentation efforts, according to a statement.

The project, which divides Delhi into 145 observation zones, is aimed at building a long-term understanding of avian distribution patterns across seasons, officials said.

Alongside this documentation drive, Wildlife SOS has intensified its rescue efforts during the scorching summer, saving nearly 500 birds till May



2025. These included raptors and migratory species impacted by extreme heat, electrocution, collisions, and habitat stress.

Shyam Sunder Kandpal, Chief Wildlife Warden, said the Delhi Bird Atlas is not just a scientific initiative but a "community-powered effort" to reconnect people with nature and create a data-backed conservation strategy for the capital. The initiative also underscores the growing role of citizens in spotting and reporting injured or distressed birds, often triggering rescue operations.



People participate in a 'Tazia' procession on the tenth day of the mourning period of Muharram, in Varanasi

UP madrasa reform panel seeks 3-month extension

Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari told PTI that the primary objective of forming the committee is to align madrasa education with the needs of a rapidly evolving world and equip Muslim children accordingly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

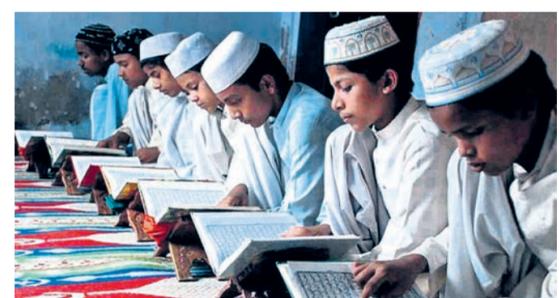
Lucknow, July 6: The implementation of the Uttar Pradesh government's ambitious project aimed at reforming and modernising madrasa education may face further delay, as the committee entrusted with drafting recommendations has sought a three-month extension of its tenure.

"The committee, constituted May 30 this year to propose reforms in madrasa education, has been unable to submit its report within the one-month deadline due to the extensive nature of the task," Registrar of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, R P Singh, told PTI Sunday.

Singh said the committee was initially directed to submit its report by June 30. However, the assignment requires detailed deliberations on several aspects, including proposed amendments to the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Act and relevant regulations. Accordingly, a request has been made to extend the panel's term by at least three months.

The six-member committee, headed by the Director of the Minority Welfare Department, includes Special Secretaries from the Minority Welfare and Waqf Department, Basic Education Department, Secondary Education Department, Finance Department, and Law Department.

Based on its recommendations, the government plans



to amend the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Act, 2004, and the Uttar Pradesh Non-Governmental Arabic and Persian Madrasa Recognition, Administration and Service Regulations, 2016.

The committee is also tasked with suggesting revisions to subjects and curricula for Classes IX to XII in madrasas. Further recommendations are expected to cover rationalisation of the teacher-student ratio, formulation of recruitment and transfer policies for teachers, alignment of qualifications with subject requirements, provision of training and bridge courses in modern subjects, redefinition of madrasa recognition norms, and structural reforms to enhance functioning and improve future prospects for students.

Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari told PTI that the primary objective of forming the committee is to align madrasa education with the needs of a rapidly evolving world and equip Muslim children accordingly.

However, concerns have been raised over the composition of the committee. Maulana Kaab Rashidi, Legal Advisor to Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind (AM), flagged the absence of representatives from madrasas, questioning how core issues would be addressed without input from the community directly involved.

Rashidi also challenged the notion that madrasas solely offer religious instruction, noting that many already provide

modern education and have produced students who have qualified for prestigious institutions such as the IITs. Diwan Sahab Zaman Khan, General Secretary of the Teachers Association Madaris Arabia Uttar Pradesh, expressed hope that the reforms would not interfere with religious teachings. He also cautioned against overburdening students with additional subjects and highlighted the absence of madrasa education experts in the committee, given the magnitude of its mandate.

Khan further stated that even six months may prove insufficient for the committee to complete its work. He also raised concerns over the government's inaction following the Supreme Court's declaration of Kamil and Fazil degrees as invalid, which has left pathways for higher education uncertain for madrasa students.

Since 2017, the Yogi Aditya nath-led government has initiated several steps to modernise and regulate madrasa education, including launching a dedicated portal for registration and conducting a comprehensive survey of all madrasas. The formation of this committee marks the latest move in that direction.

According to official data, there are around 25,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, of which approximately 13,000 are recognised by the state's Madrasa Education Board. Out of these, only 561 receive government aid, while the remainder operate without formal recognition.

Delhi sets Nov deadline to clear Yamuna floodplains

The plan, approved by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, was discussed in a recent meeting chaired by the chief secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The Delhi government has directed agencies to remove all encroachments from the Yamuna floodplains by November under a 45-point action plan for cleaning and rejuvenation of the river, officials said Saturday.

The plan, approved by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, was discussed in a recent meeting chaired by the chief secretary. It involves key departments and agencies including the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department, and Delhi Development Authority (DDA), they said.

According to the plan, the DDA has been instructed to ensure the removal of encroachments wherever necessary along the floodplains of the Yamuna by November. In



the past, the agency has acted against illegal nurseries and other unauthorised structures along the river.

Officials said encroachments, including waste dumping, unauthorised habitations, and illegal farming, are commonly reported from the floodplain areas in east, northeast, and south Delhi.

In recent years, the DDA has reclaimed 224 acres of floodplain land and developed

demarcation of the floodplain zones.

A DDA survey last year claimed that two-thirds of the Yamuna floodplain land in Delhi has been encroached upon in recent years.

The action plan also includes directives for agencies to remove all forms of encroachment from drains flowing into the Yamuna.

The MCD, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and DDA have been tasked with clearing encroachments from all stormwater drains through a focused drive, while the MCD and I&FC departments will address encroachments along drain alignments.

Ongoing and new projects related to Yamuna rejuvenation have been consolidated under ten working heads, including drains, sewage, solid waste management, ecological flow enhancement, and enforcement, with specific deadlines.

public green spaces like Asita in East Delhi.

The DDA, in April, informed the National Green Tribunal that it had freed 24 acres of land from encroachment under the Yamuna Vanasthali project between Wazirabad Barrage and ISBT Kashmere Gate.

However, officials acknowledged that anti-encroachment drives often face resistance from squatters and are hindered by the absence of proper

Doc delivers baby with hair clip, knife at station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhansi (UP), July 6: A hair clip and a pocket knife became tools during the emergency delivery of a baby girl — right on the platform.

The procedure, carried out by a young army doctor using minimal resources, ensured the safe birth of the child, leaving bystanders awestruck and the new parents overwhelmed.

According to North Central Railway's Jhansi Division Public Relations Officer Manoj Kumar Singh, a pregnant woman travelling

on the Panvel-Gorakhpur Express experienced severe labour pain and was deboarded at Jhansi station Saturday afternoon.

Seeing the critical situation, a female ticket-checking staff member and an army officer stationed nearby sprang into action and came to the assistance of the woman.

Major Dr Rohit Bachwala (31), a medical officer with the Army Medical Corps, was waiting for his train when he witnessed a railway employee rushing a woman in distress on a wheelchair.

Delhi to cover Munak canal with solar panels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: In an effort to reduce water loss and generate renewable energy, the Delhi government is planning to repair a 17-km section of Munak canal and cover it with solar panels, water minister Parvesh Verma said Sunday.

The Munak canal has two main branches — the Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) and the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC) — that are suffering from significant leakage and inefficiency.

In a first-of-its-kind move, the DSB, a raw water stream starting from Haryana and merging with the Munak canal, will be



covered with solar panels. A feasibility study is being carried out by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

Water Minister Verma inspected the Munak canal last week and reviewed conditions on-site along with senior officials.

"The Munak canal is a lifeline for Delhi's water supply. But in its current form, it is also a major source of water loss, pollution and risk. Our plan to cover it with solar panels will help us

In a first-of-its-kind move, the DSB, a raw water stream starting from Haryana and merging with the Munak canal, will be covered with solar panels

A feasibility study is being carried out by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB)

save water, produce clean power and make the canal safer and more secure for the people of Delhi," Verma said.

"In the DSB, nearly 30 per cent of the water is lost due to seepage and evaporation. Beyond water loss, the Munak canal also faces persistent issues of

garbage dumping and accidental drownings." "Open and unguarded stretches of the canal pose a danger to both residents and passersby," a government statement said.

The concept is inspired by a similar successful project in Gujarat, where solar panels have been installed over canal systems to efficiently utilise space, prevent evaporation and generate clean power, the minister said.

The Munak Canal system, which includes the CLC and the DSB, is 102 km long, out of which about 85 km lies in Haryana and approximately 17 km is within Delhi.



All our temples must have... one 'gaushala' (cattle shelter) where all the cattle roaming in the streets are to be brought. That is our prime duty. There will be many people willing to donate for the 'gaushala'

RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR | KERALA GOVERNOR

POSTERS OUTSIDE JABALPUR TEMPLES URGE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Posters asking devotees to wear "culturally appropriate" clothes have been put up at 40 temples in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. A spokesperson for Mahakal Sangh International Bajrang Dal, the outfit that has issued the posters, on Sunday said devotees should not wear jeans, tops, mini skirts, night suits and shorts, while women and girls must also cover their heads



of the day quote

The reason behind the failures of this frustrated fraternity is their foolishness to consider democracy as a Disneyland of the defaulter dynasty

Islam teaches peace and brotherhood and that is the message Hussain (grandson of Prophet Muhammad) carried ... to fight against tyranny and to fight against evil

Rampant deforestation and unregulated development are aggravating the situation. If we do not take corrective steps now, nature will continue to strike back

Cong expresses concerns over World Bank report

Citing the World Bank's poverty and equity brief for India in April 2025, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said three months after its release, the Narendra Modi government's "drumbeaters and cheerleaders have begun spinning the World Bank's data to make the staggeringly out-of-touch claim that India is among the world's most equal societies"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The Congress expressed concerns Sunday over a recent World Bank report that said poverty and inequality remain concerning high in India, and requested the Centre to take steps, including bringing in GST reforms and ending corporate favouritism. Citing the World Bank's poverty and equity brief for India in April 2025, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said three months after its release, the Narendra Modi government's "drumbeaters and cheerleaders have begun spinning the World Bank's data to make the staggeringly out-of-touch claim that India is among the world's most equal societies".

He said in a statement issued on April 27, the Congress had highlighted some of the key concerns that the World Bank had raised in its report.

"These concerns continue to be relevant, and any attempt to engage with the report must grapple with them seriously," the Congress leader said.

He said the World Bank report highlights that wage disparity is high in India, with the median earnings of the top 10 per cent being 13 times higher than the bottom 10 per cent in 2023-24.

"Moreover, 'sampling and



data limitations suggest that consumption inequality (as measured by government data) may be underestimated".

"More updated data (adoption of purchasing power parity conversion factor from 2021 as compared to that of 2017) would result in a higher rate of extreme poverty," Ramesh said in a statement, citing the report.

He said the report also stated that changes in the questionnaire design, survey implementation and sampling in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 "present challenges for making comparisons over time".

"As a lower middle-income country, the appropriate rate to measure poverty in India is that of USD 3.65/day. By this measure, the poverty rate for India in 2022 is significantly

higher at 28.1 per cent," Ramesh said, citing the report.

"The report is therefore rather clear: poverty remains concerning high, and so does inequality," the former Union minister added.

He said the good news that the Centre is so desperately trying to wrangle out of this report is partly attributable to the limited availability and uncertain quality of government data as well as to the selection of benchmarks to measure poverty. He added that in the statement issued by his party in April, "we had also outlined several takeaways for Indian policymakers from the report. These also continue to remain relevant".

Ramesh suggested that the significant variance between differing poverty lines shows that large sections of the population are only marginally above the international extreme poverty line.

Ramesh said the Congress's long-standing demands for increasing wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), conducting the decadal population census (now scheduled to be carried out in 2027) and bringing 10 crore additional people within the ambit of the NFSA find new urgency in light of these numbers.

Gujarat AAP MLA held on attempt to murder charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajpipla, July 6: Gujarat AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava was arrested on charges of attempt to murder after he allegedly attacked a taluka panchayat functionary at Dediapada in Narmada district, police said Sunday.

The incident took place Saturday during a meeting organised at the prant office in Vasava's constituency Dediapada. Vasava was arrested late Saturday night, the police said.

Vasava was produced in a local court this afternoon, which sent him in judicial custody and he is currently lodged in Vadodara central jail, Narmada district Superintendent of Police Prashant Sumbe said.

The court rejected a plea for five-day police remand, the SP added.

As per the FIR registered at Dediapada police station, Vasava, during the meeting Saturday, got agitated after raising objection over his nominee not being considered for appointment as a member of 'Aapno Taluko Vibrant Taluko' (AT-VT), a local-level coordination committee.

Vasava allegedly started abusing a woman president of Sagbara taluka panchayat, which was objected to by Dediapada taluka panchayat president Sanjay Vasava, who was part of the meeting.

As per Sanjay Vasava's complaint, the MLA allegedly attacked him by hurling a mobile phone at him, causing injuries on his head.

The legislator also tried to attack the complainant with a glass but was prevented from doing so by police personnel present there, as per the FIR.

Slew of pleas in SC against Bihar voter list revision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Patna, July 6: The controversy over special intensive revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar intensified as Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, RJD's Manoj Jha and several NGOs moved the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the Election Commission's order, which they claimed violated the Constitution.

The Election Commission (EC) issued a statement on Sunday clarifying that it has not changed its instructions on the revision process, after several social media posts, including one by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, cited an advertisement by the election body published in newspapers to suggest that showing documents is not necessary.

The Congress and other INDIA bloc parties have been opposing the provision whereby voters whose names were included in the electoral roll after 2003 are required to submit documents related to birth.

"Why are people who have been voting in election after election being asked to show their documents for voting?" Kharge said in a post on X.

"When the pressure from the opposition, the public and civil society increased, the Election Commission hurriedly published these advertisements today, which state that now only a form needs to be filled and showing documents is not necessary," he claimed.

In a statement, the Election Commission made it clear that while voters were required to "submit their documents any time before July 25, 2025", those who failed to do so would get an opportunity "during the Claims & Objections period also".

The EC also urged people to "beware of statements being made by a few persons, who without reading the SIR order dated 24 June 2025... are attempting to confuse the public with their incorrect and misleading statements".

Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra, who moved the apex court seeking quashing of the June 24 order of the EC under which Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is being conducted, alleged that it violates several provisions of the Constitution and the Representation of People (RP) Act, 1950.

If not set aside, it can lead to large-scale disenfranchisement of eligible voters in the country, thereby undermining democracy and free and fair elections, her plea submitted.

"The present writ petition has been filed in public interest under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking setting aside of order dated 24.06.2025 issued by Election Commission of India under which SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar is being conducted in violation of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 21, 325, 328 of the Constitution and provisions of Representation of People (RP) Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors (RER) Rules, 1960..." the plea said.

SHORT TAKES

Worker killed in blast at firecracker unit

Virudhunagar (TN): A worker was killed and five others were injured in an explosion Sunday at a firecracker manufacturing unit at a village near here, police said. In this connection, a factory foreman has been arrested. The explosion at the fireworks unit in Keelathayilpatti village is suspected to have been triggered due to "friction" between chemicals during the manufacturing process, a police official said.

4 killed as car falls into gorge

Manali (HP): Four people were killed on the spot and one person critically injured when their car skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near Rani nallah between Manali and Rohtang pass in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district Sunday, police said. The Alto car, bearing registration number HP01K-7850 and a valid Rohtang permit, had five people onboard at the time of the accident, they said.

Unidentified girl found dead

Thane: The body of an unidentified minor girl has been found near a construction site in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said Sunday. A case of murder has been registered and a probe is on into it, they said. Some persons spotted the body, with a hood tightly wrapped around the girl's neck, near a road in front of a construction site in Kasarvadavali area Saturday afternoon and alerted local authorities, an official from the police control room said.

Teenager stabs kin to death

New Delhi: A teenager has been apprehended for allegedly stabbing his 15-year-old relative to death with a piece of glass following a quarrel in east Delhi's Mandawali area, an official said Sunday. Police received information regarding the medico-legal case (MLC) of a "brought dead" boy, identified as Imran, around 12.06 am Sunday from LBS Hospital.

Two militants held

Imphal: Security forces arrested two militants, including a woman, belonging to a proscribed outfit in Manipur's Thoubal and Imphal West districts, police said Sunday. During search operations, arms and explosives were recovered from various parts of Chandel district, a senior officer said.

SC admin seeks Chandrachud's removal from govt residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: In an unprecedented move, the Supreme Court administration has written to the Centre for vacating the official residence of the Chief Justice of India at Krishna Menon Marg here, noting that the current occupant ex-CJI DY Chandrachud has stayed beyond the permissible period.

In a communication July 1 to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the apex court administration said the designated residence for the sitting Chief Justice of India -- Bungalow No. 5 on Krishna Menon Marg -- be vacated and returned to the court's housing pool, sources said. The letter requested the MoHUA secretary to take possession of the bungalow from the former CJI without any

further delay as not only the permission that was granted to him for retention of the accommodation expired May 31, 2025 but also the period of six months provided under the 2022 Rules May 10, 2025. Under Rule 3B of the Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 2022, a retired Chief Justice of India can retain type VII bungalow, a level below the 5, Krishna Menon Marg bungalow, for a maximum period of six months post-retirement.

On December 18, last year, Justice Chandrachud has written to then CJI Khanna requesting him to allow him continue residing in the 5, Krishna Menon Marg bungalow, a level below the 5, Krishna Menon Marg bungalow, for a maximum period of six months post-retirement. On December 18, last year, Justice Chandrachud has written to then CJI Khanna requesting him to allow him continue residing in the 5, Krishna Menon Marg bungalow, a level below the 5, Krishna Menon Marg bungalow, for a maximum period of six months post-retirement.



People take a holy dip at the sarovar during the annual mela at Baba Sidh Gorla Shrine, at Swankha, in Sambha district of J&K

Unseasonal shower drowns brick kiln workers' livelihoods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh/Bulandshahr, July 6: "Just one spell of rain, and a week's work is gone," said Ramvati, sitting beside a half-formed row of soggy bricks outside her home in the western UP village of Nanau. She and her husband had molded 1,600 bricks over two days -- none of them counted, none paid for. The light drizzle lasted only a few hours, but it wiped out five days of their wages.

March to June are traditionally the most productive months for brick kiln workers in western Uttar Pradesh, as the clear, scorching days provide ideal conditions for drying molded bricks under the open sky.

But in recent years, that critical window has been lost due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms.

The rest of the days were marked by cloudy skies, high humidity, or sudden rain -- conditions that turned drying fields into slush and halted production repeatedly.

As a result, workers lost not

Experts argue the burden of climate-linked disruptions must not be passed onto the workers

only bricks but also their most profitable working weeks of the season.

For thousands of interstate migrants from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and eastern UP who power this labor-intensive industry, a single spell of untimely rain has now become more than an inconvenience -- it's an economic disaster.

Ramesh Shrivastav, general secretary of the Mazdoor Adhikar Manch, said the impact of that two-hour rain lasts for nearly a week.

Most workers are paid by the piece -- about Rs 676 per 1,000 bricks, as per the 2024 rate. But in practice, many receive even less. In kiln-speak, the loss caused by rain is called phemaish -- work that is wasted.

Each pair of Patheras, usual husband and wife, can mold up to 1,800 bricks a day. So, when it rains, the loss per pair



is around Rs 1,200 or more, not including the days it takes to resume work.

Traditionally, migrant brick kiln workers return to their villages during the monsoon months when production slows, and drying bricks becomes unfeasible.

They return in winters when operations resume and the weather is reliably dry. This predictable migration pattern has long structured their lives, allowing them to plan agricultural work back home or enroll their children in school during the off-season.

But unseasonal rain is break-

ing that rhythm. Some workers stay longer into the summer to maximize income, only to be caught off guard by unexpected pre-monsoon showers that destroy their work.

Others return early but are called back mid-season when dry spells reappear. The climate's growing unpredictability is now reshaping even this deeply rooted cycle of movement.

Many workers are brought in by middlemen offering advances. Once at the site, they can't leave.

To add to this, unseasonal rain is deepening the crisis.

Workers borrow rations and medicines from the kiln owners. These debts -- locally called toot -- roll over from one season to the next.

While workers bear the immediate brunt of lost wages, kiln owners say they, too, face losses due to unseasonal rain, though of a different kind.

Delays in delivery schedules, rising fuel costs, and client penalties are some of the financial pressures they cite when explaining why they cannot compensate laborers for ruined bricks.

The threat of sudden showers is not just seasonal -- it is structural, and increasingly linked to climate change.

According to a 2024 analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), 55 per cent of Indian sub-districts saw over a 10 per cent rise in southwest monsoon rainfall events from 2012-2022, largely due to short, intense rainfall typical of climate-change dynamics.

These changes have disrupted agricultural and informal labor cycles that once revolved around predictable weather.

Dalit man attacked, paraded half-naked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, July 6: A young Dalit man was assaulted and paraded half-naked with his face forcibly shaved and blackened after his friend eloped with a woman in a village here, police said Sunday.

A viral video of the incident, which happened at Seeda village on the outskirts of Ludhiana Tuesday, has sparked widespread outrage. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident, while efforts are on to nab others involved, police added.

According to police, Harjot Singh was targeted by the woman's family after they suspected him of helping the

couple elope. Harjot's friend and the woman is said to have solemnised their marriage June 19, following which tensions persisted in the village.

On Tuesday, Harjot was at a salon when some men barged in, dragged him out and brutally assaulted him. They forcibly shaved off his beard and mustache, blackened his face, tore his clothes and paraded him semi-naked through the streets while hurling casteist slurs. The men also filmed the act and circulated it on social media, police said.

The attackers have been identified as Gurpreet alias Gopa, Simranjeet Singh alias Simma, Sandeep alias Sam, Rajveer, and Ramandeep alias Kaka, they added.

An FIR was registered on Saturday under Sections 115(2), 127(2) and 351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita as well as the provisions of the IT Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Inspector Paramdeep Singh of Meharban police station confirmed that Simranjeet Singh has been arrested. He said all the remaining accused will be brought to book soon.

"This is not just a case of physical assault. It is a brutal attack on human dignity. We are investigating the matter thoroughly," said a senior police official.

The victim's family has demanded justice and maximum punishment for the accused.



The question is not whether he will forgive me or not... Who is asking for it? The document presented in the high court by the SOG during our (Congress) tenure had the names of his (Shekhawat) family members. I just made it public

OVER 21K PILGRIMS VISIT AMARNATH SHRINE

More than 21,000 devotees had a darshan of the naturally formed ice Shivering inside the holy cave shrine of Amarnath on the fourth day of the annual pilgrimage Sunday, officials said



KOLKATA GANGRAPE GUV expresses concern over college affairs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 6: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose Sunday expressed concern over the "disturbing reports" regarding the state of affairs at the South Calcutta Law College, where a first-year student was allegedly gangraped by an alumnus and two of her seniors recently.

Bose is also the chancellor of the Calcutta University to which the institute was affiliated. "No one, however powerful or well-connected, can be allowed to hold an educational institution hostage or to exert totalitarian power with elements of violence," Bose was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Raj Bhavan Sunday.

The prime accused in the case, Monojit Mishra, had been involved with the student wing of the state's ruling Trinamool Congress. A contractual employee of the college, Mishra was expelled from the institute after the June 25 incident.

The Governor urged students to continue with their studies without fear, confident that the college administration, university authorities, and law enforcement agencies are united in protecting their welfare. Bose has also urged Vice Chancellor Prof Santa Datta (De) to take every necessary step to safeguard the interests of the students and to ensure that the administration of the colleges under the varsity functions strictly in accordance with established rules and regulations, the statement said.

Tension in Jattari over desecrated Sufi tomb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh (UP), July 6: Tension flared in Jattari town, about 40 km from Aligarh, Sunday morning following reports that unidentified persons desecrated the tomb of a revered Sufi saint located at a graveyard in the town's main market area.

As news of the incident spread, a crowd began to gather near the shrine of Hafiz Allah Mehar Shah, prompting senior police officials to rush to the scene and calm the situation.

Authorities assured the public that the damage to the tomb and the surrounding metal railing would be repaired immediately and that CCTV cameras would be installed at the shrine complex to prevent future incidents.

Circle Officer Varun Kumar Singh told reporters that a case was registered against unknown persons based on a complaint filed by the shrine's management committee.

"Strict action will be taken against those responsible for disturbing the peace," Singh said, adding that some persons had entered the tomb premises through a section of the boundary wall that had been broken for some time.

Crackdown on illicit anti-TB drug sales in Pondy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The Pondicherry administration has launched raids against private drug retailers flouting the ban on sale of anti-tuberculosis drugs in contravention of norms.

The joint enforcement raids are being conducted by the State TB Cell in collaboration with the Department of Drugs Control.

The Pondicherry administration in alignment with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) implemented the ban on the sale of anti-TB drugs by private chemists, Dr S Govindarajan, Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM), Puducherry, told PTI.

The move, initiated in 2017, followed directives from the Central TB Division, Union Health Ministry advising that anti-TB drugs should only be dispensed through government sources to ensure strict treat-

ment adherence and minimise the risk of drug-resistant TB, he said.

These inspections aimed both at preventing unauthorised sales and to sensitise chemists regarding the public health implications of selling anti-TB drugs without notifying the State TB Officer (STO), Dr C Venkatesh, STO, said.

As part of ongoing efforts, multiple awareness meetings were held with wholesalers, retailers, and pharmacists across Puducherry, Dr Govindarajan informed.

"They were instructed to stop dispensing anti-TB drugs to patients and instead report such cases using a standardised notification form," he said.

These reports enabled the STO office to track patients and ensure treatment completion, Dr Govindarajan stated.

"The druggists were again and again educated in a series of meeting that the selling of anti-TB drugs outside to TB pa-



The joint enforcement raids are being conducted by the State TB Cell in collaboration with the Department of Drugs Control

tients lent to non-completion of full course of drug intake by the patient and the patient might become defaulter or the patient turned into Multi-Drug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB) case which was dreadful than the profit the druggist made from the sale," he said.

Over time, these measures have yielded notable success, Dr Venkatesh said.

"The sale of anti-TB drugs through private channels has significantly declined," he said. Most chemists have voluntarily withdrawn from stocking TB medications due to low demand.

Additionally, private practitioners in the UT were sensitised and are now actively reporting TB cases to the STO, thus bringing more patients under the government-supported treatment regimen, Dr Venkatesh said.

The State TB Cell has established three dedicated teams to conduct evening visits to private clinics for one-on-one discussions with practitioners, emphasising the importance of notifying TB cases and supporting treatment completion.

"So far, eight joint raids have been conducted in the last two months, and prosecution was initiated against

a chemist found violating the directives," Dr Venkatesh said.

These sustained efforts have ensured that all TB patients in Pondicherry are now notified under the programme and are receiving free anti-TB drugs from government sources, with continuous monitoring to ensure full treatment adherence.

The initiative underscores the administration's commitment to preventing the emergence of Multi-Drug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB), a serious threat linked to poor treatment compliance and unregulated drug availability, Dr Venkatesh added.

Pondicherry has slashed its TB incidence by an impressive 59 per cent compared to 2015 levels, earning it a 'silver medal' in India's sub-national TB certification in 2022.

The Union territory is deploying modern screening and diagnostic tools - AI-enabled chest X-rays and NAAT at scale to identify patients early.

MONSOON MAYHEM

Cloudbursts in Mandi, Chamba



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

grant woman was swept away in Barsar area of Hamirpur district as the water level in Shukra Khad rose. The woman, identified as Kiran from Bihar, used to work at a crusher unit.

She was washing utensils outside her house when the floods swept her away, the officials said, adding that search and rescue operations are underway to trace her. Swan river overflowed after heavy rain in Una which received over 110 mm of rains since Saturday evening. There are reports of water damaging a petrol pump in Ghaluwal, and entering few houses in Dhalwal in Una district.

The district administrations of Kangra, Mandi and Sirmaur have been on alert following the red warning.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Saturday said the state government was prepared to deal with the situation. "We are ready," he said.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), the estimated losses due to the rains so far stand at around ₹572 crore, though the chief minister maintained the figure was close to ₹700 crore as data was still being compiled. Reports of damage to link roads and small bridges being washed away following a cloudburst in the Swad nallah (drain) in Shilbhadani village of the Padhar area in Mandi district have been received. However, no loss of life has been reported so far.

A total of 243 roads are closed in the state of which 183 are in Mandi district alone while 241 transformers and 278 water supply schemes have been affected across the state, the SEOC said.

Shimla, July 6: Amid a red alert for extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places in three out of 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh, cloudbursts were witnessed in Mandi and Chamba districts Sunday but no casualty was reported, said officials.

Since the onset of monsoon June 20, the state has reported 78 deaths, of which 50 were linked to rain-related incidents such as cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides.

The MeT office issued a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in Kangra, Sirmaur and Mandi districts Sunday. Besides, an orange warning was sounded for heavy to very heavy rainfall in seven other districts, excluding the tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti.

Pedestrian bridges were washed away in Kugdi and Kotarang drains and about 50 bigha of private land in Kotarang village adjacent to the drain was swept away in Mandi, the officials said.

While another cloudburst occurred in Churah of Cham-ba Sunday morning and flash floods in Kanghela drain washed away a newly constructed bridge, cutting off four panchayats from the main road. Meanwhile, a 29-year-old mi-



Rescue operation underway at a flood-affected area, in Mandi district. Fourteen people have died, and a search is on for 31 missing, as cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides caused massive destruction in Himachal Pradesh

NMC relaxes medical faculty rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Non-teaching specialists or consultants with 10 years of experience at government hospitals can now be appointed as associate professors, while those with two years can serve as assistant professors without the mandatory senior residency, in a move to widen the pool of eligible faculty.

The new regulations by the National Medical Council (NMC) also stipulate that non-teaching government hospitals with over 220 beds can now be designated as teaching institutions.

The previous 2022 regulations allowed non-teaching doctors to become assistant professors after two years in 330-bed non-teaching hospitals that were being converted into medical colleges.

"A non-teaching consultant or specialist or medical officer, possessing PG medical degree with at least two years of experience in a government hospital



having at least 220 beds shall be eligible to become an assistant professor of that broad specialty without the requirement of experience as senior resident and shall complete the basic course in biomedical research within two years of appointment," the Medical Institutions (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations, 2025 notified recently said.

These regulations, brought in by the Post Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) under NMC, aim to widen the pool of eligible faculty and facilitate the expansion of undergraduate (MBBS) and post-graduate (MD/MS) seats in medical colleges across India, the Commission said.

India's healthcare system is undergoing significant trans-

The previous 2022 regulations allowed non-teaching doctors to become assistant professors after two years in 330-bed non-teaching hospitals that were being converted into medical colleges

formation with the Centre announcing a vision to add 75,000 new medical seats over the next five years.

"However, a critical bottleneck has been the availability of qualified faculty required to initiate or expand medical programs. These new regulations are a major step towards unlocking the existing human resource potential within government health systems and optimising medical education infrastructure," it said.

NATGRID urges states to use database to curb crime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The NATGRID, which shares real-time information for intelligence services and investigations with law-enforcement agencies, has asked all state police forces to enhance their engagements with it and proactively use its database for crime control and checking criminal activities.

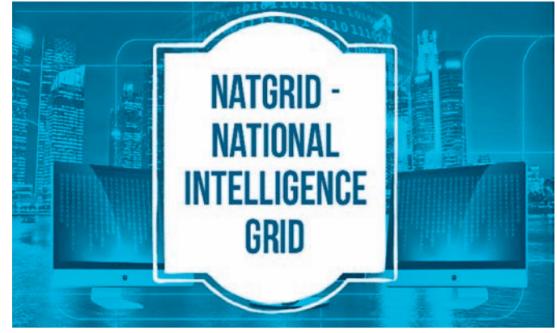
The NATGRID, which comes under the direct control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), shares with 11 central agencies and all state police forces real-time information from its database on terror activities, organised criminal gangs, financial transactions, immigration, circulation of counterfeit currency and narcotics, besides other inputs.

In a letter to the police chiefs of all states, Piyush Goyal, Chief Executive Officer of the NATGRID, has requested them to enhance the usage in their respective forces to increase the number of active users and encourage them to effectively utilise the NATGRID solution.

The letter specifically emphasised on encouraging the district superintendents of police (SPs) for a wider use of the NATGRID database in their crime-control and law-enforcement initiatives.

"This may please be reviewed in your meetings periodically. NATGRID is continuing to augment more features/functionality in the solution and conducting regular training/feedback sessions," Goyal said in the letter.

The letter said with collabo-



rative efforts, many new users have started using the system proactively and there has been a significant increase in the usage of NATGRID solution.

"I would like to highlight and commend the consistent usage of NATGRID solution by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana,

Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Assam, which are the top performers for the period Jan-Jun 2025," Goyal said in the letter.

Besides these states, he also appreciated the efforts made by Tamil Nadu, which enhanced "the number of active users who have fired at least one que-

ry in a month" by four times in June, with the resultant significant increase in their usage of the system as well.

Conceptualised after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the NATGRID disseminates information to agencies like the IB, R&AW, CBI, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Enforcement Directorate, besides others.

It has a database of more than 20 categories like railways, banks, airlines, credit-card companies and immigration.

The work on the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) was accelerated after Amit Shah became the Union home minister in 2019, officials said.

The necessity for the NAT-GRID came after the worst

terror attack in India's history in the country's commercial capital in 2008 exposed the deficiency that security agencies had no mechanism to look for vital information on real time.

The lack of real-time information was considered to be one of the major hurdles in detecting US terror suspect David Headley's movement across the country during his multiple visits between 2006 and 2009.

Headley provided key information and videos of terror targets to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which carried out the 26/11 Mumbai attacks that claimed 166 lives.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had given its approval to the ₹3,400 crore project April 8, 2010 but its work slowed down after 2012.



How can you expect us not to stand firm while the Israeli enemy continues its aggression, continues to occupy the five points, and continues to enter our territories and kill? We will not be part of legitimizing the occupation in Lebanon and the region. We will not accept normalization (with Israel)

NAIM KASSEM | HEZBOLLAH LEADER

BULL-RUNNING FESTIVAL

Tens of thousands of revelers packed the main square in Pamplona's, northern Spain, Sunday to celebrate the traditional "chupinazo" firework blast that marks the start of the San Fermin bull-running festival



FRENCH INTELLIGENCE

China used embassies to undermine sales of Rafale fighter jets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 6: China deployed its embassies to spread doubts about the performance of French-made Rafale jets after they saw combat in India and Pakistan's clashes in May, French military and intelligence officials have concluded, implicating Beijing in an effort to hammer the reputation and sales of France's flagship fighter.

Findings from a French intelligence service seen by The Associated Press say defence attaches in China's foreign embassies led a charge to undermine Rafale sales, seeking to persuade countries that have already ordered the French-made fighter — notably Indonesia — not to buy more and to encourage other potential buyers to choose Chinese-made planes.

The findings were shared with AP by a French military official on condition that the official and the intelligence service not be named.

Four days of India-Pakistan clashes in May were the most serious confrontation in years between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, and included air combat that involved dozens of aircraft from both sides.

Military officials and researchers have since been digging for details of how Pakistan's Chinese-made military hardware — particularly warplanes and air-combat missiles — fared against weaponry that India used in airstrikes on Pakistani targets, notably French-made Rafale fighters.

Sales of Rafales and other armaments are big business for France's defence industry and help efforts by the government in Paris to strengthen ties with other nations, including in Asia where China is becoming the dominant regional power.

Khamenei makes first public appearance since Iran-Israel conflict

Tehran: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday made his first public appearance since the 12-day war between Israel and Iran began, attending a mourning ceremony on the eve of Ashoura. The absence of Khamenei during the war had suggested heavy security for the Iranian leader, who has final say on all state matters. State TV in Iran showed Khamenei waving and nodding to the chanting crowd as he entered and sat. Iran has acknowledged the deaths of more than 900 people in the war, as well as thousands of injured. It also has confirmed serious damage to its nuclear facilities, and has denied access to the sites for inspectors with the UN nuclear watchdog. Khamenei hosted a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, at a mosque next to his office and residence in the capital, Tehran.

UAE's Golden Visa for Indians made easy

Indians can now get without trade license, property purchase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, July 6: The United Arab Emirates government has started a new type of Golden Visa, which will be based on nomination, albeit with some conditions, unlike the current practice of investing large amounts in either property or business here.

Until now, one of the ways to get Dubai's Golden Visa from

India was to invest in property whose value should be at least AED Two Million (Rs 4.66 crore), or invest a large amount in business in the country.

Under the "new nomination-based visa policy," Indians can now enjoy the UAE's Golden Visa for life by paying a fee of AED 1,00,000 (around Rs 23.30 lakh), beneficiaries and people involved in the process have told PTI.

Over 5,000 Indians will apply for this nomination-based visa in three months, they said.

India and Bangladesh have been selected for the first phase of testing this visa, and



a consultancy named Rayad Group has been chosen to test the initial form of the nomination-based golden visa in India. Rayad Kamal Ayub, Managing Director of Rayad Group, said this is a golden opportunity for Indians to get the UAE's Golden Visa.

"Whenever an applicant applies for this Golden Visa, we will first check their background, which will include anti-money laundering and criminal record checks, as well as their social media," said Rayad Kamal.

The background check will also show if and how the applicant can benefit the UAE's market and business activities in any other way such as culture, finance, trade, science, Start Up, professional services, etc. "After this, RayadGroup will send the application to the government, which will make the final decision on

the nomination-based Golden Visa," he added.

Applicants seeking the UAE Golden Visa under the nomination category may obtain pre-approval from their home country without the need to visit Dubai.

The UAE government's initiative and India's selection as the first country for this visa reflect the strong business, cultural, and geopolitical relations between India and the UAE, which have become stronger after the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries, effective May 2022.

RIO SUMMIT

Leaders of growing BRICS group gather



Leaders attending the 17th annual BRICS summit pose for a group photo in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

REUTERS

Rio De Janeiro, July 6: Leaders of the growing BRICS group of developing nations were set to gather in Rio de Janeiro Sunday, calling for reform of traditional Western institutions while presenting the bloc as a defender of multilateralism in an increasingly fractured world.

With forums such as the G7 and G20 groups of major economies hamstrung by divisions and the disruptive "America First" approach of US President Donald Trump, expansion of the BRICS has opened new space for diplomatic coordination.

"In the face of the resurgence of protectionism, it is up to emerging nations to defend the multilateral trade regime and reform the international financial architecture," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told a BRICS business forum Saturday. BRICS nations now represent over half the world's population and 40% of its economic output, Lula noted.

The BRICS group gathered leaders from Brazil, Russia, India and China at its first summit in 2009. The bloc later added South Africa and last year included Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United

Brazil hosts BRICS summit, eager to avoid provoking Trump's ire

Bloc of developing nations now includes Iran, Saudi Arabia

Rio summit first to include Indonesia as full member

Xi Jinping skips, Putin online, Modi and Ramaphosa present

Arab Emirates as full members. This is the first leaders' summit to include Indonesia.

"The vacuum left by others ends up being filled almost instantly by the BRICS," said a Brazilian diplomat who asked not to be named. Although the G7 still concentrates vast power, the source added, "it doesn't have the predominance it once did."

However, there are questions about the shared goals of an increasingly heterogeneous BRICS group, which has grown to include regional rivals along with major emerging economies.

Stealing some thunder from this year's summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping chose to send his prime minister in his place. Russian President Vladimir Putin is attending online due to an arrest warrant from the ICC.

Still, many heads of state will

gather for discussions at Rio's Museum of Modern Art on Sunday and Monday, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Over 30 nations have expressed interest in participating in the BRICS, either as full members or partners.

GROWING CLOUD, COMPLEXITY

Brazil, which also hosts the United Nations climate summit in November, has seized on both gatherings to highlight how seriously developing nations are tackling climate change, while Trump has slammed the brakes on US climate initiatives.

Both China and the UAE signaled in meetings with Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Haddad in Rio that they plan to invest in a proposed Tropical Forests Forever Facility, according to two sources with knowledge of the discussions about funding conservation of endangered forests around the world.

Expansion of the BRICS has added diplomatic weight to the gathering, which aspires to speak for developing nations across the Global South, strengthening calls for reforming global institutions such as the United Nations Security Council and the International Monetary Fund.

POWER SHARING

Xi fuels speculation about political future

All of Chinese president Xi's predecessors retired after two five-year terms, while he continued in power with no term limits, earning him the label of president for life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 6: Chinese President Xi Jinping, widely regarded as a leader for life, is beginning to delegate authority to key organs of the ruling Communist Party, a first in his over 12-year rule.

Xi's move sparked speculation that he may be laying the groundwork for an orderly power transition or scaling back his role in preparation for possible retirement.

Speculation about Xi's power transition was rife after state-run Xinhua news agency recently reported that the powerful 24-member Political Bureau of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in its meeting June 30 reviewed a set of new regulations on the work of the party's institutions.

The meeting presided over by Xi himself stressed that the regulations will further standardise the establishment, responsibilities, and operations of the CPC Central Committee's decision-making, deliberative, and coordinating institutions.

Such institutions should exercise more effective leadership

and coordination over major tasks and focus on planning, discussing, and overseeing major tasks, the Xinhua report said.

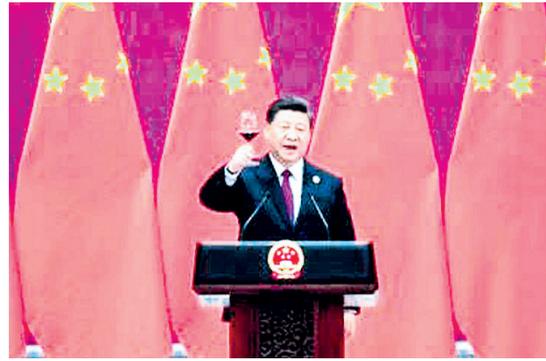
While the overseas Chinese dissident community in recent months was abuzz with speculation of a power struggle within the secretive and tightly controlled CPC, a China-based political analyst who spoke on condition of anonymity said the regulations on these party bodies could hint at preparations for Xi's retirement.

"The rules may be set up to regulate the bodies because it's a key time for power transition," the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post Sunday quoted the analyst as saying.

Other experts, however, averred that Xi, regarded as the most powerful leader after CPC founder Mao Zedong, may be delegating some powers to focus on larger issues.

Xi's move of delegating power comes amid US President Donald Trump's tariff war disrupting China's \$440 billion exports to America, besides major headwinds faced by the Chinese economy, with growth falling due to continued slowdown, and the collapse of the housing market, the mainstay of the economic growth.

Analysts say his plan to remain in power or share power was expected to unravel before or during the next five-year congress of the CPC to be held in 2027, by which time his third term will end.



Dalai Lama turns 90, gets global support in challenge for China

Political leaders from India and abroad shared the stage with the Dalai Lama, throwing their support behind the Buddhist leader, who has been living in exile in India and has been fighting for the rights of the Tibetan people since the region came under Chinese occupation in the 1960s

REUTERS

Dharamshala, July 6: The spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama, turned 90 Sunday after a week of celebrations by followers during which he riled China again and spoke about his hope to live beyond 130 and reincarnate after dying.

The Nobel laureate is regarded as one of the world's most influential religious leaders, with a following that extends well beyond Buddhism, but not by Beijing, which calls him a separatist and has sought to bring the faith under its control.

Fleeing his native Tibet in 1959 in the wake of a failed uprising against Chinese rule, the 14th Dalai Lama, along with hundreds of thousands of Tibetans, took shelter in India and has since advocated for a peaceful "Middle Way" to seek autonomy and religious freedom for the Tibetan people.

Dressed in his traditional yellow and burgundy robe, the Dalai Lama arrived at a temple to smiles and claps from thousands of monks and followers who had gathered on a rainy morning in the small Indian hill town of Dharamshala, where he lives. He waved and



greeted them as he walked slowly to the stage with support from monks.

"As far as I am concerned, I have a human life and as humans it is quite natural for us to love and help one another," the Dalai Lama said, speaking after a Tibetan cultural performance that included songs for his long life. "I live my life in the service of other sentient

beings," he said, flanked on the stage with long-time supporters including western diplomats, Indian federal ministers, Hollywood star Richard Gere and a monk who is expected to lead the search for his successor.

In a sign of solidarity, Taiwan's president Lai Ching-te, leaders of Indian states bordering Tibet, and three former US presidents sent greetings to the

Dalai Lama, including Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, whose video messages were played during the event.

In the preceding week of celebrations, the Dalai Lama had said he would reincarnate as the leader of the faith upon his death and that his non-profit institution, the Gaden Phodrang Trust, had the sole authority to recognise his successor.

China has said that the succession will have to be approved by its leaders, and the United States has called on Beijing to cease what it describes as interference in the succession of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist Lamas.

SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

Guests gathered at the ceremony took turns to speak, including Indian Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, a practising Buddhist, who had earlier made a

rare statement contradicting China by backing the Dalai Lama's position on his successor.

He later clarified that the statement was made in his personal capacity as China warned New Delhi against interfering in its domestic affairs at the expense of bilateral relations.

On Sunday, Rijiju said the Dalai Lama was India's "most honoured guest... We feel blessed for his presence here in our country". He said he has always held the view that there was a need to contribute significantly towards the cause of the Tibetan people, and added that, as a devotee, "We will follow the directions and the guidelines to be issued from the institution of the Dalai Lama."

Cultural performances were held throughout the morning, including from Bollywood playback singers, while messages from global leaders were read out.

of the day quote

Bilawal has become a symbol of confusion and contradiction in Pakistan's foreign policy discourse... PPP was founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on the legacy of Kashmir, but today, Bilawal is betraying that legacy by pursuing political gains at the expense of Kashmiri blood

SEIKH WAQAS AKRAM | SPOKESPERSON OF THE JAILED FORMER PM IMRAN KHAN-LED PTI, PAKISTAN

Regarding the conversation with the president of the United States, which took place a day earlier, it was probably the best conversation we have had during this whole time, the most productive

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Justice and reform must come before elections. On this very soil of Bengal, we will ensure justice for the killings of our brothers—shot by Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League, and the police — we will bring those who committed mass killing to justice

NAHID ISLAM | NCP CONVENOR, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

Israeli strikes kill 38 Palestinians in Gaza

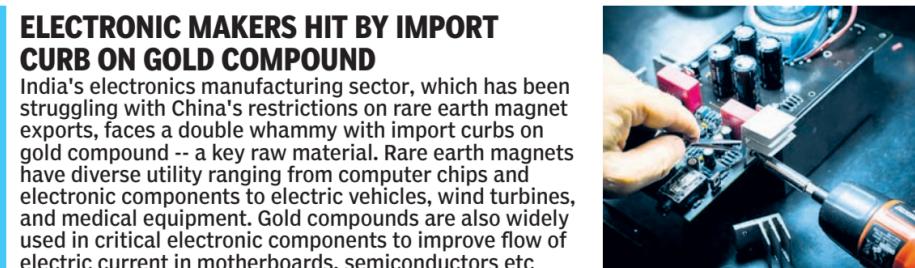
Deir al-Balah: Israeli airstrikes killed at least 38 Palestinians in Gaza, hospital officials said Sunday, as Israel's military said it has struck over 100 targets in the embattled enclave in the past day. The fighting came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was preparing to fly to Washington for talks at the White House aimed at pushing forward ceasefire efforts. President Donald Trump has floated a plan for an initial 60-day ceasefire that would include a partial release of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for an increase in humanitarian supplies allowed into Gaza. The proposed truce calls for talks on ending the 21-month war altogether.

Death toll from Texas floods reaches 43

Hunt: At least 43 people, including 15 children, have been confirmed dead following flash floods in central Texas, authorities said Saturday as rescuers continued a frantic search for dozens more campers, vacationers and residents who were still missing. The casualty toll will likely rise, authorities said, as localities beyond the main site of the disaster in Kerr County were affected by the flooding. A Travis County official said four people had died from the flooding there, with 13 unaccounted for, and officials reported another death in Kendall County. Officials said more than 850 people had been rescued, including some clinging to trees, after a sudden storm dumped up to 15 inches (38 cm) of rain in an area around the Guadalupe River, about 85 miles (140 km) northwest of San Antonio.

China retaliates against EU tariffs

Bangkok: China said Sunday that European medical device companies will be barred from selling to the Chinese government as a countermeasure for the European Union's restrictions on the sale of similar products from China. European companies will be excluded if the budget for procurement is above 45 million yuan (\$6.28 million), according to a notice from the Finance Ministry Sunday with the restrictions in place the same day. China Friday imposed anti-dumping duties on European brandy, most notably cognac produced in France.



ELECTRONIC MAKERS HIT BY IMPORT CURB ON GOLD COMPOUND
 India's electronics manufacturing sector, which has been struggling with China's restrictions on rare earth magnet exports, faces a double whammy with import curbs on gold compound -- a key raw material. Rare earth magnets have diverse utility ranging from computer chips and electronic components to electric vehicles, wind turbines, and medical equipment. Gold compounds are also widely used in critical electronic components to improve flow of electric current in motherboards, semiconductors etc



of the day **QUOTE**

I have asked them to share the details with the Union finance ministry also. I will also talk and see how to bring (products) in the 5 per cent (GST) bracket... we will try to find a solution to this

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Gold prices in the international market, currently at \$3,345 per ounce, could remain under selling pressure due to the solid US macroeconomic data that dented hopes of a July interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve

NS RAMASWAMY | HEAD OF COMMODITIES DESK AND CRM, VENTURA

Access to on-demand CTOs is a game-changer, especially for startups and PE-backed firms. SkillsCapital's model blends AI precision with human insight, helping companies avoid the costly mistakes of poor leadership hires

PRADEEP SINGH | IIT DELHI ALUMNUS

NCLAT: Insolvency law cannot override PMLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code cannot override the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), said appellate tribunal NCLAT, adding assets of a debt-ridden firm once attached by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and confirmed by competent authority cannot be released for its resolution.

Under section 14 of IBC, a moratorium is applied on those assets for the purpose of resolution. However, if the property is alleged to be "proceeds of crime" and is already under adjudication by competent authority under a penal statute, such property cannot be deemed to be part of the freely available resolution estate, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) said.

The appellate tribunal held that if there is any attachment by ED under the PMLA, which is "validly made and confirmed, it cannot be undone under IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code).

Citing section 238 of IBC, which has an overriding effect over other laws, a three-member NCLAT bench said it "cannot override the PMLA in respect of proceedings involving proceeds of crime."

PMLA and IBC operate in distinct spheres and there is no



"irreconcilable inconsistency" exists between the two, said NCLAT adding ED does not act as a creditor, but as a public enforcement agency.

"The attached assets are not to satisfy creditors, but to uphold penal objectives and international obligations under FATF and UN Conventions," said the appellate tribunal, while upholding an order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

NCLAT also cited a directive issued by the Supreme Court in the Embassy Property matter, saying it "lacks jurisdiction to interfere with the PAO, which has been subsequently confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority under the PMLA".

The appellate tribunal's 36-page-order came over a plea filed by the resolution professional of Dunar Foods, challenging an NCLT ruling, which had refused to direct the ED to release provisionally attached assets of the debt-ridden company.

December 22, 2027, the Mumbai bench of NCLT had ordered insolvency proceedings against Dunar Foods, which was engaged in processing and exporting basmati rice. The insolvency petition was filed by a consortium of banks led by public sector lender SBI for a loan repayment default of Rs 758.73 crore.

Accordingly, CIRP (corporate insolvency resolution process)

was initiated against Dunar Foods with the appointment of a resolution professional.

Meanwhile, the ED initiated an investigation under PMLA against PD Agroprocessors, an associate company of Dunar Foods. It traced the flow of alleged tainted funds to Dunar Foods based on scheduled offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), alleging that large export advances received by Dunar Foods from PD Agroprocessors were proceeds of crime.

ED then attached Dunar Foods' several immovable and movable assets worth Rs 177.33 crore, prompting the resolution professional (RP) of the firm to move NCLT seeking immediate de-attachment of the provisionally attached properties.

However, the NCLT May 21, 2018 dismissed the RP's application and held that the provisional attachment order issued by the ED under PMLA did not fall within the scope of the moratorium under Section 14 of the IBC.

NCLT had said that PMLA is a special penal statute and has a 'distinct adjudicatory mechanism'; hence unless and until the attachment was set aside by the PMLA adjudicating authority, the NCLT has no jurisdiction to direct its release.

Bilateral trade basket for India and Argentina



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buenos Aires, July 6: India and Argentina Saturday agreed to diversify two-way trade and ramp up cooperation in defence, critical minerals, pharmaceutical, energy and mining sectors.

Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with Argentine President Javier Milei, a day after landing at the South American nation in the third leg of his five-nation tour.

"We are marking 75 years of India-Argentina diplomatic relations and 5 years since we elevated our relationship to a Strategic Partnership. We have covered significant ground in our bilateral relations, but we agree that the journey ahead is even more promising," Modi posted on X after the talks.

The prime minister said that there is immense scope to enhance India-Argentina cooperation in areas like pharmaceuticals and sports as well. The resolve by the two sides to expand cooperation in the critical minerals sector assumes significance as India has been looking at steady supply of rare earth minerals to minimise dependence on China.

Argentina's rich reserves of critical minerals, including lithium, copper and rare earth elements align with India's need for secure and sustainable resources to drive its clean energy transition and industrial growth, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Periasamy Kumaran said.

Modi and Milei also deliberated on boosting bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

"The prime minister underlined India's growing energy and industrial needs and em-

phasised that Argentina could serve as a reliable partner in supporting India's developmental journey," Kumaran said.

With the world's second-largest shale gas and fourth-largest shale oil reserves, along with substantial conventional oil and gas deposits, Argentina holds strong potential to become an important energy partner for India.

Kumaran said the two leaders focused on expanding cooperation in areas of defence and security, infrastructure, mining and mineral resources, agriculture, green energy, communication technologies, digital innovation, education and people to people linkages.

Modi and Milei also emphasised the need to enhance market access for each other's agricultural and dairy products. The Indian side also offered support for maintenance of Argentina's military helicopter fleet. It also offered Argentina a number of military platforms.

Prime Minister Modi sought Argentina's support in expanding the India-MERCOSUR trade agreement, noting that it could deepen trade ties between the two nations as well, he said.

The preferential trade agreement (PTA) is aimed at expanding economic ties between India and the MERCOSUR trade bloc that includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The talks also included India and Argentina in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly its capacity to produce high-quality, affordable medicines.

On the contrary, The Argentine side updated the Indian delegation on the fast-track approval process available for import of Indian medicines.

SHORT TAKES

Mcap of six top valued firms erodes by ₹70,325.5cr

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 valued firms eroded by Rs 70,325.5 crore last week, with HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank emerging as the worst-hit in line with a bearish trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 626.01 points or 0.74 per cent. In the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever Ltd were the gainers, while HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Bajaj Finance faced erosion from their market valuation. HDFC Bank's valuation declined by Rs 19,284.8 crore to Rs 15,25,339.72 crore. ICICI Bank lost Rs 13,566.92 crore in its market valuation which stood at Rs 10,29,470.57 crore. The valuation of Bajaj Finance dropped by Rs 13,236.44 crore to Rs 5,74,977.11 crore and that of LIC diminished by Rs 10,246.49 crore to Rs 5,95,277.16 crore. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever Ltd.

Gold may see volatile moves

New Delhi: Gold prices may see heightened volatility in the coming week as investors track a crucial July 9 tariff deadline, policy signals from major central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, and key global macroeconomic data, analysts said. Traders are expected to remain cautious ahead of any major policy cues or geopolitical developments. The 90-day suspension of Trump tariffs on imports from several countries, including India, ends on July 9, reviving the risk of a 26 per cent additional duty on Indian goods entering US. Investors will also closely monitor the release of the US Fed's FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting minutes. Last week, the precious metal futures for August delivery rose Rs 1,563, or 1.61 per cent, on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). NS Ramaswamy, Head of Commodities Desk and CRM at Ventura, said gold prices in the international market, currently at \$3,345 per ounce, could remain under selling pressure due to the solid US macroeconomic data that dented hopes of a July interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

FPIs see withdrawal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Foreign investors put in Rs 14,590 crore in the country's equity market in June, marking the third straight month of investment, supported by improving global liquidity conditions, easing geopolitical tensions, and a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India.

However, FPIs turned net sellers in July and pulled out Rs 1,421 crore in the first week of the month, data with the depositories showed.

Going forward, in the near term, FPI flows are expected to remain choppy on account of tariff deadline developments and US data volatility, Vaqar-javed Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst, Angel One, said.

Though, In May, FPIs saw a net investment of Rs 19,860 crore, and Rs 4,223 crore in April. Prior to this, FPIs had pulled out Rs 3,973 crore in March, Rs 34,574 crore in February, and a substantial Rs 78,027 crore in January.

With this, FPIs' outflow stood at Rs 79,322 crore in 2025 so far.

"FPIs exhibited a cautious yet improving stance in June 2025, beginning the month with notable outflows from the equity markets driven by elevated US bond yields, trade tensions, overvalued Indian stocks and deteriorating geopolitical environment," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

However, sentiment shifted towards the later part of the month as global liquidity conditions improved, geopolitical tensions eased, the RBI cut rates, the rupee strengthened, and oil prices stabilised, he added.

US-INDIA TRADE TALKS, TCS EARNINGS TO DRIVE STOCK MARKET THIS WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Equity investors are up for an eventful trading week ahead as the 90-day suspension period of the reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump ends July 9, analysts said, adding that a positive outcome from the trade negotiations could further lift market sentiment, particularly benefiting trade-sensitive sectors.

Besides, Q1 earnings from TCS and foreign fund movement would also dictate sentiment at the Dalal Street, experts said.

"This week holds significant importance not only for Indian markets but for global equities

as well. The most anticipated event is the outcome of the US trade (tariff) deadline on July 9, which could shape global trade dynamics. Investors will also closely monitor the release of the US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes on the same day," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Domestically, the spotlight will shift to corporate earnings, with IT major TCS and retail giant Avenue Supermarkets among the prominent companies scheduled to report their quarterly results, setting the tone for the Q1 earnings season, he added.

Movement in global oil benchmark Brent crude and the rupee-dollar trend would also be monitored by investors this week.

"A positive outcome from the US-India trade negotiations could further lift market sentiment, particularly benefiting trade-sensitive sectors like IT, pharma, and auto. Considering the broader indices currently trading at elevated levels, the market participants will closely watch for signs of earnings catch-up from upcoming Q1—starting this week," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Last week, BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 626.01 points or 0.74 per cent, and the NSE Nifty declined 176.8 points or 0.68 per cent.

India expands treaty talks with over 15 nations to boost FDI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: India is actively negotiating bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with over a dozen countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, Oman, European Union, Switzerland, Russia, and Australia, a government official said.

Besides these nations, talks are underway with Tajikistan, Cambodia, Uruguay, Maldives, Switzerland, and Kuwait. These investment treaties help in protecting and promoting investments in each other's countries.

With India approaching to become the third-largest economy and a hub for global manufacturing, the government is taking a series of measures to



further improve its investment regime that encourages investors.

"It is expected that in the next 3-6 months, BIT with some of these countries will be finalised and announced," the official added.

The government in the last Budget has announced revamping the current model of BITs to make it more investor-friendly

and attract foreign players.

The country signed BITs with two countries in 2024. Last year, the Centre announced implementation of these treaties with UAE and Uzbekistan.

Unlike a chapter related to investment promotion or facilitation in free trade agreements recently concluded, the investment protection element under a BIT provides a wide range of

Uncertainties loom over India-US trade negotiations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: With India setting its red lines on key issues in sectors such as agriculture and dairy for the proposed interim trade agreement with the US, the ball is now in Washington's court to finalise the deal, sources said.

They said if issues are settled, an interim trade pact could be announced before July 9, which marks the end of the 90-day suspension period of the Trump tariffs announced April 2 on dozens of countries, including India.

"India has drawn its red lines... now the ball is in the US court," they said.

April 2, US imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. India is seeking full exemption from this 26 per cent tariff. "If the proposed trade talks fail, the 26 per cent tariffs will come into force again," one of the sources said.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal last week stated that India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines and will accept the proposed trade deal with US only when it is fully finalised, properly concluded and in the national interest.

FTAs are possible only when both sides get benefitted and it should be a win-win agreement, he has said. "National interest should always be supreme. Keeping that in mind, if a deal is made then India is always ready to deal with developed countries," Goyal had said earlier.

SALES OF ELECTRIC CARS SURGE IN JUNE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 6: Sales of electric motor cars grew multifold in June 2025 while passenger car sales (that run on internal combustion engines) declined amid weak consumer demand last month, the mobility bulletin of Shriram Finance said.

Truck rentals remained firm in June 2025 on the back of increased hiring by the private sector, the findings said. Accordingly, round-trip rentals for 18-ton payloads across various routes, whether Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi or Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi, grew, it said.

On a year-on-year basis, truck rentals grew by 5 per cent in June 2025 as compared to June 2024, while they rose by



1.3 per cent last month as compared to rental rates clocked in the month of May 2025.

On a monthly basis, sales of electric two-wheelers increased by 5 per cent to 93,872 units, from 88,986 units sold in May

2025. Sales of electric motor cars in June 2025 grew to 9,804 units up by 1,267 per cent from 717 units sold in June 2024.

On a monthly basis, sales of electric motor cars marginally went up by 1 per cent to 9,804

units from 9,693 units sold in May 2025, the study released on Saturday said.

Commenting on the findings, Shriram Finance Managing Director Y S Chakravarti said, "June 2025 underscored a positive shift in economic momentum across multiple transport and automotive verticals. Truck rentals saw healthy month-on-month growth, spurred by a revival in manufacturing activity."

Export driven freight movement shows continued resilience, setting a constructive tone for Q2. While fuel consumption and FASTag collections dipped slightly, their sharp year-on-year rise signals enduring structural recovery and seasonal mobility trends,

he said.

Chakravarti, who is also the CEO said, passenger car sales continue to reel under subdued consumer sentiment, shaped by ongoing market uncertainty.

On the sales of electric vehicles, he said, it is accelerating ahead of forecasts, powered by robust consumer interest and a wave of fresh model launches by leading automakers.

Referring to the fuel consumption, the study said the petrol consumption increased by 6.4 per cent in June 2025 to 3.51 MT as compared to 3.30 MT recorded in June 2024.

Diesel consumption grew by 1.2 per cent in June 2025 to 8.08 MT while it stood at 7.98 MT in June 2024, the study said.

HISTORIC TRIUMPH

Edgbaston breached

Akash stars as India register first-ever win at Edgbaston over England in 2nd Test; level series 1-1



Shubman Gill, who hit 269 and 161, getting his first victory as India's Test captain. Despite rain delaying day five's start by 100 minutes, India managed to pick the remaining seven wickets and successfully exorcise their ghosts of losing at Headingly from a sureshot winning position with a famous victory in Birmingham.

Akash kickstarted India's path of victory by removing overnight batters Ollie Pope and Harry Brook in the early phase of morning session, before Washington's dismissal of England skipper Ben Stokes on the stroke of lunch meant the visitors' were well set to get a huge win.

Akash, who took out Ben Duckett and Joe Root in a scintillating spell Saturday, gave India the perfect start in his second over of the day when he got extra bounce on a back of the length delivery and hit Ollie Pope on his elbow before deflecting onto his stumps.

He then got one to jag back in sharply off a length into Brook and it also kept low to trap Harry Brook lbw, with the review not coming to his aid as ball tracking said it would have hit top of middle stump on 'umpire's call'.

Brief Scores:
India 587 and 427/6 dec in 83 overs (Shubman Gill 161, Ravindra Jadeja 69 not out; Josh Tongue 2-93, Shaobai Bashir 2-119) beat England 407 and 271 in 68.1 overs (Jamie Smith 88, Ben Stokes 33; Akash Deep 6-99, Washington Sundar 1-28) by 336 runs

When your two fast bowlers take 17 wickets, then it becomes easy for the skipper. Bumrah bhai was not there but the bowlers we have in the squad are capable of taking 20 wickets in a match

SHUBMAN GILL | SKIPPER, INDIA

and being 0-1 down after losing the unloseable Test at Leeds. Akash, who came in as Bumrah's replacement for this game, stepped in to produce a fast

bowling performance for ages - troubling batters with the new ball on a flat pitch to bowl out England for 271 on the last day, with more than a session to spare.

Akash has also become just the second Indian bowler to take a ten-wicket haul in a Test in England after Chetan Sharma took 10-188, co-incidentally at Birmingham back in 1986. He was well supported by Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar taking a wicket each, with

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Birmingham, July 6: Pacer Akash Deep picked a superb 6-99 to complete a ten-wicket match haul as India beat England by 336 runs to get their first-ever Test match win at Edgbaston Sunday. The statement victory has also meant that India have levelled the five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series at 1-1.

India came into this game without Jasprit Bumrah, not including Kuldeep Ya-

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2025

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

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

A 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.

As a reader of OrissaPOST, this is a chance for you to be part of the exciting Grand Finale if you can give correct answers in the daily quiz. Starting July 01, 2025 there will be one question each day for you to answer till July 31, 2025. Every day two winners will be selected from correct entries. Then winners will be decided by draw of lots. The winners will be invited for the Grand Finale which will be conducted by a nationally acclaimed quizmaster. So buckle up and get set for some brainstorming.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Born in 1966 in Odisha's Dhenkanal district, which mountaineer became the first Odia woman to summit Mt Everest? Unfortunately, she lost her life on her 2019 summit attempt while descending

ANSWER TO SATURDAY'S QUESTION

Sylhet

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



YV SAIMADHAV



ABHISHA BEHERA

Others who answered correctly are
Janvi Naik, Smrutii Ranjan Senth, Amandip Lakra, Jigyansa Priyadarshini, Sambit Biswaketan, Abhisha Behera, Ruchismita Prusty, Priyanshu Nayak, Sekhar Rao, Archit Mohapatra, Dibyanshu Pani, Shoumik Jena, Subhashree Jena, Megha Satapathy, SK Azaruddin, Jyoti Prakash Jayadev, Pratyush dhal, Anjubala mohanty, Bhumika subhalaxmi, Anurag Samantaray, Rudranarayana Sahoo, Om Prakash rath, Niranjan Nayak, Pratyush Satapathy

SHORT TAKES

Srikanth loses in semis

Calgary: India's Kidambi Srikanth lost to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 21-19, 14-21, 18-21 in the semifinal of the Canada Open Super 300 badminton tournament here Saturday. Srikanth had made a strong start to the contest winning the first game 21-19 but his Japanese opponent fought back hard in the next two to win the game which lasted one hour and 18 minutes. In the decider, the scores were levelled 18-18 when Nishimoto pounced on a weak return and then Srikanth sprayed wide twice to hand over the match to the Japanese. Earlier, the former world championships silver medalist, who had reached the finals of the Malaysia Masters in May this year, outclassed world number six Chou Tien-Chen 21-18 21-9 in a 43-minute quarterfinal clash on Friday.

Eves rewarded \$50K

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation Sunday announced a reward of \$50,000 for the senior Indian women's team following their historic qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time through the qualifiers. The Blue Tigresses delivered a flawless campaign, winning all four matches convincingly to seal their spot at the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026. India's last appearance at the continental showpiece came in 2003, when there were no qualifiers. They also participated in 2022 as hosts but were forced to withdraw due to a Covid-19 outbreak. This time, qualification was earned purely on merit.

Pak to be ignored

Karachi: Pakistan is likely to be sidelined from the World Clubs T20 Championship expected to be launched next year. A source aware of the developments said that the winning team in the Pakistan Super League was unlikely to be invited for the event which is being fast tracked with the blessings of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and its chairman Jay Shah. "The Pakistan Cricket Board was invited to send its CEO of the PSL for a meeting held on the sidelines of the cricket connect meetings in London last month but no one showed up," the source said.

Best-ever show at World Boxing Cup

Sakshi, Jaismine, Nupur clinch gold; India bags 11 medals at World Boxing Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Astana, July 6: India's women boxers spearheaded a memorable campaign as Sakshi (54kg), Jaismine (57kg), and Nupur (+80kg) clinched gold medals with contrasting victories at the second World Boxing Cup here Sunday.

Their stellar performances helped India finish with an impressive tally of 11 medals - the country's best-ever haul at the event - comprising three gold, five silver, and three bronze. Jugnoo (men's 85kg), Pooja Rani (women's 80kg), Hitesh Gulia (men's 70kg) and Abhinash Jamwal (men's 65kg) signed off with silver medals after losing their respective finals.

Sakshi was at her attacking best against USA's Yosline Perez to get a unanimous verdict from the judges in the women's 54kg final while Jaismine kept her cool under pressure to get the better of Jucielen Cequeira Romeu of Brazil 41 in the women's

In the evening session, Jaismine had to use her long reach to keep her Brazilian opponent at bay in the third and final round after there was not much to separate the two after the first two rounds.



57kg weight category. Nupur then overcame the challenge of Kazakhstan boxer Yeldana Talipova to earn a 50 verdict in the 80+kg final.

In the first session of the final day, it was Sakshi who managed to stand atop of the podium with a stellar display that combined speed and combination punches and open India's gold medal account.

In the evening session, Jaismine had to use her long reach to keep her Brazilian opponent at bay in the third and final round after there was not much to separate the two after the first two rounds.

Asian Para C'ship: Harvinder twin gold leads India to second finish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 6: World number 1 and reigning Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh bagged two gold medals to complete a hat-trick of podium finishes, powering India to the second place in medal standings behind hosts China at the Beijing 2025 Asian Para Archery Championships here Sunday.

India ended the competition with a tally of three gold, three silver and three bronze medals. China topped the standings with 10 gold, four silver and three bronze. Singh, who shot a personal best and set a new competition record of 663 points to top the recurve men's qualifying round, first won gold in the recurve open mixed team event alongside Bhawna.

On the final day, he added another gold by clinching the recurve men's open title, wrapping up a brilliant campaign with three medals.

Harvinder and Bhawna defeated China's Zihan Gao and Jun Gan in the recurve open mixed team final, winning 5-4 (14-8) after Gao



missed in the shoot-off.

In the recurve men's open final, Harvinder outclassed Thailand's Hanreuchai Netsiri 7-1 to secure India's third gold of the meet.

India's another gold came in the compound women's team event, where Sheetal Devi and Jyoti edged out China's Lu Zhang and Jing Zhao 148-143.

The Chinese pair faltered with a miss from Lu Zhang in the final end.

Earlier, Harvinder and Vivek Chikara had settled for silver in the recurve men's open doubles after losing 4-5 (17-18) in a shoot-off to China's Jun Gan and Lixue Zhao.

Rakesh Kumar and Shyam Sunder Swami clinched silver in the compound men's open doubles, narrowly going down 155-156 to China's Ai Xinliang and Yicheng Zhang.

The Indian pair were leading by a point before the Chinese archers shot all perfect 10s in the final end to snatch victory.

India's third silver came in the compound open mixed team event, where Rakesh Kumar and Jyoti lost 150-153 to China's Jing Zhao and Ai Xinliang.

Pooja and Bhawna claimed bronze in the recurve women's open doubles, defeating Indonesia 6-2.

Historic 100th Wimbledon victory for Djoko

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 6: Novak Djokovic became only the third player in Wimbledon history to reach 100 victories - after Martina Navratilova and Roger Federer - with his 6-3 6-0, 6-4 win in the third round over Miomir Kecmanovic.

Djokovic, who has won seven of his 24 Grand Slam titles at the All England Club, took control by winning nine consecutive games from 3-3 in the first set on Centre Court against his Serbian compatriot Saturday, en route to his latest milestone.

The 38-year-old Djokovic, playing in his 20th Wimbledon tournament, will next face No 11 Alex de Minaur for a spot in the quarterfi-



nals. Djokovic, who could potentially meet No 1 Jannik Sinner in the semifinals, has lost the past two Wimbledon finals to Carlos Alcaraz.

Djokovic made just eight unforced errors through two sets and led 5-1 in the final

set before Kecmanovic made him work for the victory.

"I have enjoyed myself very much except maybe the last couple of games. Things got a bit complicated," said Djokovic, who finished with 60 winners and 19 unforced errors, along with 16 aces.

India to bid for both 2029, 2031 World Athletics C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 6: India will mount a "strategic" bid for both the 2029 and 2031 World Athletics Championships when the process begins later this year, hoping to get the hosting right of one of the two editions of the showpiece, national federation spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said Sunday.

World Athletics, the sport's governing body, will announce the hosts of both the 2029 and 2031 editions in September 2026.

The deadline for expression of interest by the member countries is October 1, 2025.

MILESTONE MOMENT Inaugural season of Odisha Pro T20 League launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 6: The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) announced the launch of the Odisha Pro T20 League (OPTL), a landmark franchise-based T20 tournament set to debut in September 2025. Featuring six dynamic teams representing various regions of Odisha, the league aims to redefine the cricketing landscape of the state.

The OPTL is designed as a premier platform to nurture emerging talent, offering players high-intensity competition, wide exposure and the opportunity to showcase their skills alongside some of the best in the sport.

Speaking on the launch, Secretary of the OCA, Sanjay Behera said, "The Odisha Pro T20 League marks a transformative step in the journey of cricket in our state. With top-tier talent and professional execution, we are confident this league will become a major force in Indian domestic cricket. Odisha as a State has been contributing significantly to the development of multiple sports and now it's time for cricket."

To ensure excellence in planning and execution, OCA has partnered with Arivaa Sports as the exclusive management partner for the league. Arivaa Sports has a proven track record, having successfully executed similar leagues in Bengal, Vidarbha and Saurashtra.



Rajneesh Chopra, Co-Founder of Arivaa Sports, added, "We are excited to collaborate with OCA in building a league that not only entertains but also drives grassroots development. The Odisha Pro T20 League has the potential to uncover hidden talent and contribute significantly to the state's cricketing future."

As part of the league's rollout, the OCA invited organizations to come forward and participate in the franchise ownership process. The Expression of Interest (EOI) document for securing Franchise Rights will be available for download from the official OCA website from July 7 to 13.

Interested applicants must follow the submission guidelines outlined in the EOI. Franchise allotments will be made through a merit-based process, with a focus on long-term vision and commitment to cricket development in Odisha.

Further announcements regarding the tournament schedule, team structures, player draft, and commercial partnerships will be done in due course of time.

Magnus wins Super United Rapid and blitz

Zagreb: World number one Magnus Carlsen yet again proved he is the best in the world as he won the Super United Rapid and blitz chess tournament with a round to spare while reigning world champion D. Gukesh finished third in the standings. After falling as many as four points behind Gukesh in the nine-round rapid event, Carlsen made the most of it in the blitz section games, scoring 7.5 points out of nine in the first leg. In the return games his score of four points out of first eight games was enough to grant him another tournament victory. Gukesh, who started off brilliantly in the rapid section bagging as many as 14 points went out of sorts in the blitz section scoring just 1.5 out of his first nine games. Even though he made some steady progress in the last nine blitz games, it was never enough to catch Carlsen. Out of the \$17,500 prize pool Carlsen won \$40,000, Wesley \$30,000 and Gukesh won \$25,000 with the fact that he proved his critics wrong by performing exceptionally.