



Manushi’s stance

Actor Manushi Chhillar shares her views against the misogynistic attitudes that persist within the entertainment industry

LEISURE | P2



31 Gazans killed

At least 31 people killed and over 150 wounded Sunday while on their way to receive food in the Gaza Strip

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Airlines' grouping

With global airlines' grouping, Indian aviation market is emerging stronger says IATA

BUSINESS | P11



Europe champions

Paris Saint-Germain win their first Champions League title Saturday with a 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan

SPORTS | P12

CDS’ remarks: Cong for immediate Parl session

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday demanded the immediate convening of a special session of Parliament to discuss the military and foreign policy strategy in the wake of revelations made by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan. The Congress also demanded that the government take all parties and the nation into confidence and discuss India’s defence preparedness and strategy after Operation Sindoor. Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the prime minister or the defence minister should have informed the Opposition leaders in the all-party meeting what Gen Chauhan has stated in Singapore.

P9

GST mop-up at ₹2.01L cr in May

New Delhi: Gross GST collections remained above the ₹2 trillion mark for the second month in a row, rising 16.4 per cent in May to over ₹2.01 lakh crore. Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had touched a record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore in April. In May 2024, the mop up was ₹1,72,739 crore. In May, 2025, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 13.7 per cent to about ₹1.50 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 25.2 per cent to ₹51,266 crore. Total gross GST revenues stood at ₹2,01,050 crore in May, 2025. Gross Central GST revenues stood at ₹35,434 crore, State GST revenues at ₹43,902 crore and Integrated GST at about ₹1.09 lakh crore. Revenues from Cess was at ₹12,879 crore.

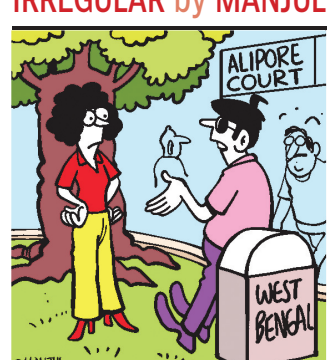
P11

Woman held for killing landlord

Berhampur: A 57-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly setting her landlord on fire in Ganjam district, a police officer said Sunday. The woman, a widow allegedly killed the landlord, a retired Revenue Inspector, by setting him on fire Thursday at Subash Nagar under Baidyanathpur police station limits here to grab the properties of the deceased, the police said. The deceased, identified as Harihar Sahu, 72, and the accused Sudeshna Jena of Amrutul in Sorada were staying alone on the first and ground floor of the house respectively in the area.

P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Such a sad state of affairs! Courts are still not influenced by influencers!

Cop's charred body found on NH-26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna/Junagarh, June 1: The half-burnt body of a police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) was found Sunday morning along with his motorcycle near Banamalipur Chhak on National Highway 26, between Bhawanipatna and Junagarh.



The deceased was identified as Pabitra Golapi, 43, of Sanadubli village in Koraput district. Formerly posted at Kegaon police station in Kalahandi, he had been suspended last month for alleged dereliction of duty and reassigned to the Bhawanipatna reserve office. His wife, Geetanjali Suna, alleged that Kegaon IIC Mukunda Naik subjected her husband to mental harassment, which left him distressed. Naik denied the claim. Police, along with forensic experts and a sniffer dog squad, began an investigation. Pabitra’s brother filed a complaint at Junagarh police station. Preliminary reports suggest Golapi collided with a stationary truck late Saturday, triggering a fire that killed him and destroyed the bike. The truck driver allegedly drove away. Kalahandi SP Nagaraj Devarakonda visited the scene, while CCTV footage is under review. The body was sent for autopsy and later released to the family.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 1: A Ukrainian drone attack has destroyed more than 40 Russian planes deep in Russia’s territory, a Ukrainian security official told The Associated Press Sunday, while Russia pounded Ukraine with missiles and drones a day before the two sides meet for a new round of direct talks in Istanbul.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details, said the attack took over one and a half year to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The operation saw drones transported in containers carried by trucks deep into Russian territory, he said.

The drones reportedly hit 41 planes stationed at several airfields Sunday afternoon, including A-50, Tu-95 and Tu-22M aircraft, the official said.

Moscow has previously used Tupolev Tu-95 and Tu-22 long-range bombers to launch missiles at Ukraine, while A-50s are

used to coordinate targets and detect air defences and guided missiles.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defence Ministry in a statement confirmed the attacks, which spanned five airfields. The FPV drones damaged aircraft and sparked fires on air bases in the Irkutsk region, more than 4,000 kilometres from Ukraine, as well as Russia’s northern Murmansk, it said.

Strikes were repelled in the Amur region in Russia’s Far East and in the western regions of Ivanovo and Ryazan, the ministry said. The attack came the same day as Zelenskyy said Ukraine will send a delegation to Istanbul for a new round of direct peace talks with Russia Monday.

In a statement on Telegram, Zelenskyy said that Defence Minister Rustem Umerov will lead the Ukrainian delegation. “We are doing everything to protect our independence, our state and our people,” Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian officials had previously called on the Kremlin to provide a promised memorandum setting out its posi-



tion on ending the war before the meeting takes place. Moscow had said it would share its memorandum during the talks.

Russia Sunday launched the biggest number of drones — 472 — on Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine’s air force said.

Russian forces also launched seven missiles alongside the barrage of drones, said Yuriy Ignat, head of communications for the air force. Earlier Sunday, Ukraine’s army said at least 12 Ukrainian service members were killed and more than 60 were injured in a Russian missile strike on an army training unit. The strike occurred at

12:50 pm., the statement said, emphasising that no formations or mass gatherings of personnel were being held at the time.

Ukrainian army commander Mykhailo Drapatyi later Sunday submitted his resignation following the attack. He was a respected commander whose leadership saw Ukraine regain land on the eastern front for the first time since Kyiv’s 2022 counteroffensive.

The training unit was located to the rear of the 1,000-kilometre active front line, where Russian reconnaissance and strike drones are able to strike. Ukraine’s forces lack troops and take extra precautions to avoid mass gatherings as the skies across the front line are saturated with Russian drones looking for targets.

Russia’s Ministry of Defence said Sunday that it had taken control of the village of Oleksiivka in Ukraine’s northern Sumy region. Ukrainian authorities in Sumy ordered mandatory evacuations in 11 more settlements Saturday as Russian forces make steady gains in the area.

Ukraine strikes deep inside Russia, hits over 40 aircraft

Scolding doesn’t amount to provoking suicide: SC

In a judgement that is likely to help prevent wrongful prosecutions based on discharge of professional duties, the Supreme Court said to establish the charge of abetment to suicide, it is essential to prove elements such as instigation, provocation, or intentional aid in committing the act. While discharging a teacher who was accused of driving a student to suicide by scolding him, a top court bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra said no mens rea can be attributed to the accused as ‘no normal person could have imagined that a scolding would result in such tragedy.’

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 1: The Supreme Court has discharged a man who was accused of driving a student to suicide by scolding him.

The accused, in charge of a school and a hostel, had scolded the deceased following a complaint by another student. After the incident, the student hanged himself in a room.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra stated that no ordinary person could have imagined that a scolding would

result in such a tragedy. The top court set aside an order of the Madras High Court, which had refused to discharge the teacher for the offence of abetment to suicide under IPC Section 306.

“Having considered the matter in its entirety, we find it a fit case for interference. As has rightly been submitted by the appellant, no normal person could have imagined that a scolding, that too based on a complaint by a student, would result in such a tragedy due to the student so scolded taking his own life,” the bench said.

The apex court said such scolding was the least to ensure that the complaint made against the deceased by another student was taken note of and remedial measures were effected.

“In the considered opinion of this court, under such admitted factual position, no mens rea (knowledge of wrongdoing) can be attributed to the appellant, much less, with regard to abatement of suicide committed by the deceased,” the bench said.

The man, through his lawyer, had submitted that his response was justified and was merely a chiding as a guardian to ensure that the deceased did not repeat the offence, and to maintain peace and tranquillity in the hostel.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla set to script history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: India’s Shubhanshu Shukla is set for his maiden space flight as part of Axiom Space’s fourth commercial mission to the International Space Station, which is scheduled for lift-off onboard SpaceX’s Falcon-9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida June 8.

The launch of the Dragon spacecraft will take place not earlier than 6:41 pm IST from NASA’s spaceport in Florida, making Shukla only the second Indian to travel to space four decades after Rakesh Sharma’s iconic spaceflight onboard Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft in 1994.

Besides Shukla, the mission pilot for the Axiom-4 mission, the other crew include Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary, marking both European nation’s first travel to the International Space Station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years. Veteran US astronaut Peggy Whitson will be the commander of the Axiom-4 mission.

“I am really, really excited to go into microgravity and experience spaceflight on my own,” Shukla, who goes by the nickname ‘Shuks’, said at a press conference in January. Once docked, the astronauts



plan to spend up to 14 days aboard the orbiting laboratory, conducting science, outreach, and commercial activities.

The Ax-4 astronauts will perform around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries during their 14-day stay at the ISS.

Shukla is set to conduct exclusive food and nutrition-related experiments developed under a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), with support from NASA.

The experiments aim to pioneer space nutrition and self-sustaining life support systems vital for future long-duration space travel.

ISRO has lined up a set of seven experiments for Shukla, who will also participate in five joint studies planned by NASA for its human research program.

It has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on

the ISS, including sprouting methi (Fenugreek) and moong (green gram) in microgravity conditions. Shukla will also expose the seeds to the macrobiotic conditions and bring them back to earth where they will be cultivated in plants not just once but over generations.

In January, Shukla said he also planned to capture his experiences on board the ISS through pictures and videos which can be shared with all the “Bharatvaasis’ back home.”

“I want them to share this thrilling experience through my eyes, for I truly believe that, even as an individual travelling to space, this is the journey of 1.4 billion people,” he said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Your charismatic appeal is always ready-to-use. And today, you will possibly reap rich dividends through it. But there is always scope for improvement and you will find yourself drawn to altruism. Ganesha guarantees satisfaction in lending a helping hand to the needy.

TAURUS
You will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesha. People whom you trusted to watch your back might let you down today. Remember, what you sow is what you reap, so do not fall short of putting in the effort required to make something fruitful. Be careful and cautious in dealing with people, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesha. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

CANCER
Today, you will realise that in this materialistic world, everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention. Though Ganesha strongly suggests that this will only bring you grief as the most beautiful of flowers shrivel and your appearance will not help you beyond a point.

LEO
Though God is benevolent, it is but necessary that we reciprocate the magnanimity of the Almighty through our actions. So wake up today with a little prayer on your lips. Make it a point to visit a temple for some peace of mind. The other alternative is to do a small pooja at home. Connect with your spiritual side through meditation and find peace with yourself, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
If curiosity killed the cat, it is going to inspire you to go to exotic places and meet new people, says Ganesha. Enriching experiences enter enthusiastically today. But hold on, don't unpack, as you may set off on yet another adventure. Ganesha sees you being crack ductile and malleable.

LIBRA
Lady Luck offers you a mixed bag today, so expect anything and everything. You may also develop a knack for pointing out others' mistakes, while turning a blind eye to your own shortcomings. Ganesha disapproves of this. Look forward to a delightful evening, for, you will have fun in the company of friends.

SCORPIO
You've been keeping things within for too long now, and today may just be the day when you vent it all out, says Ganesha. This overwhelming pressure may have an effect on your health. Ganesha counsels you to spend quality time with your loved ones to ease up a bit.

SAGITTARIUS
Skilled at multi-tasking as you are, today you may just take things one by one. Instincts will rule the roost for most of the time. And govern your actions too. But as peculiar as the day may be, you shall find yourself back to being your own assured self.

CAPRICORN
If trouble happens to knock at your door today, your guardian angel will come to your rescue, foresees Ganesha. Unlike many others who waste life running after impossible goals, you will be content with your achievements. But that does not, by any means, imply that you aren't ambitious. Just like yourself, your ambitions will be simple in nature, to the extent that it may elicit awe among people.

AQUARIUS
You will seek spirituality as you feel thoroughly defeated by your present situation. Ganesha says that even struggling courageously with circumstances requires a spiritual endeavour. These trying times give you the patience to deal intelligently with challenges and setbacks.

PISCES
Your spiritual and religious streak comes to the fore. You will likely visit a place of worship to soothe your troubled soul. Meditative techniques may also be resorted to in your quest for peace and calm, says Ganesha.



STRANGER THINGS 5 SET FOR THREE-PART RELEASE

Netflix has announced that the fifth and final season of *Stranger Things* will be released in three parts later this year. Part one premieres November 26, followed by part two on December 25, and the series finale arrives December 31.

SWEENEY CONFIRMS SPLIT FROM FIANCÉ

Sydney Sweeney has finally addressed her split with Jonathan Davino. In an interview, the 27-year-old confessed that she and her fiancé broke up three years after getting engaged, adding that she is “loving” her new single life.



Manushi calls out misogyny in showbiz

Mumbai: Manushi Chhillar has spoken out strongly against the misogynistic attitudes that persist within the entertainment industry, shedding light on how working women are often treated with disrespect and suspicion. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the actor and former Miss World called out the gender bias that continues to undermine women's professional success.

“A misogynistic mindset finds it easier to attribute a woman's success to a man's patronage than her own merit,” she wrote, pointing to how successful women, especially in entertainment, are often discussed with unwarranted contempt. While she usually ignores “silly comments,” Manushi noted that she has observed a troubling pattern—where women's achievements are belittled or dismissed, and their competence questioned.

Drawing from her own life, she shared, “I grew up in an empowered, educated environment where irrespective of gender, we all had equal value to add.”

“But I have also been exposed to this mentality of ‘men are hardworking and talented if successful, whereas women are opportunists, gold diggers or manipulators’.” She questioned the root of this prejudice, asking, “Is it as simple as ‘if you hear something bad about a woman, it's from a female who can't be her or a male who can't have her’. Or is there a deep rooted bias?”

AGENCIES

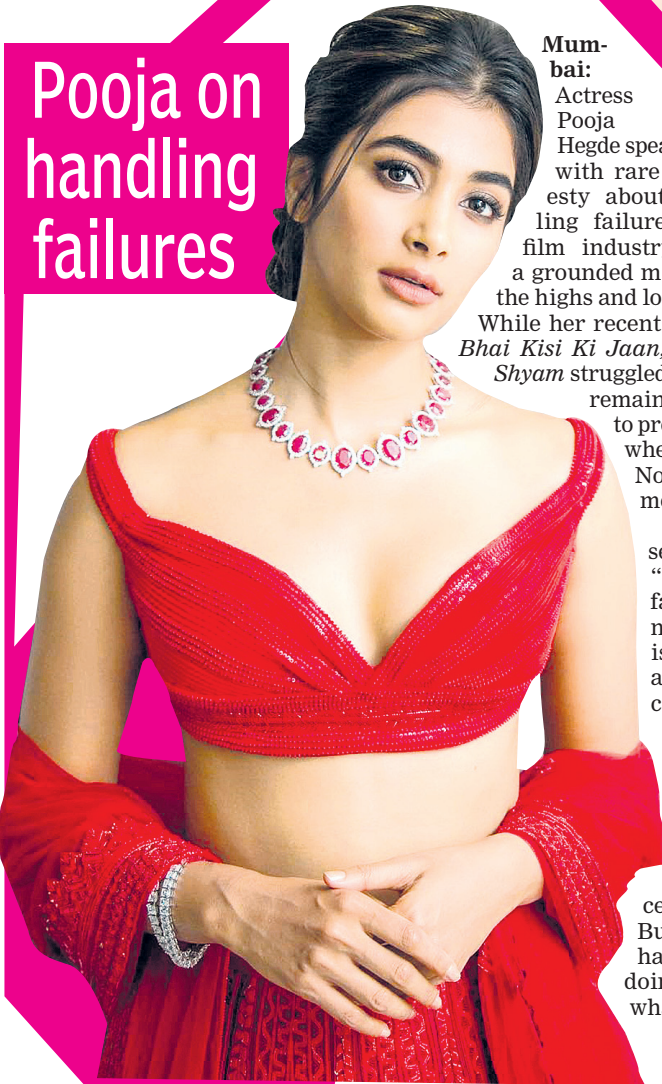


Pooja on handling failures

Mumbai: Actress Pooja Hegde speaks with rare honesty about handling failures in the film industry, showing a grounded mindset despite the highs and lows of her career. While her recent films like *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*, *Cirkus*, and *Radhe Shyam* struggled at the box office, Pooja remains unfazed. “I've been able to predict it. There are some films when you're making it, you feel it. Nothing has come as a big shock to me.”

For the *Retro* actress, failure isn't a setback—it's part of the creative process. “We are artists; we have to be allowed to fail. If we're not, we'll never bring anything new,” she reflects. She acknowledges that acting is just one part of a larger machinery. “I'm not at the edit table. I'm not writing the story. I can only give my best to the role offered.” Rather than dwell on the outcome, the actress focuses on effort and growth. “I gave my hundred percent, and if I did that, I'm content,” she says. Success or failure, she takes both in stride. “It's a trial and error process. A roller coaster. But as long as you're having fun while doing it—that's what matters.”

AGENCIES



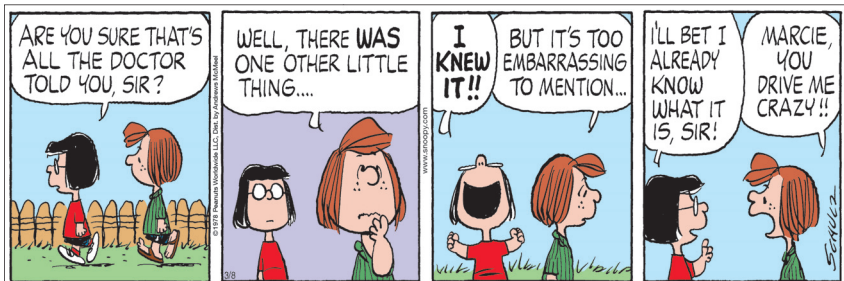
Aamir hints at ‘retirement’

Mumbai: Aamir Khan, one of India's most celebrated actors, has sparked intense speculation about his possible retirement with a heartfelt revelation about his future in cinema. While promoting his upcoming film *Sitaare Zameen Par*, Aamir shared that his long-cherished dream project, *Mahabharat*, may very well be his final film.

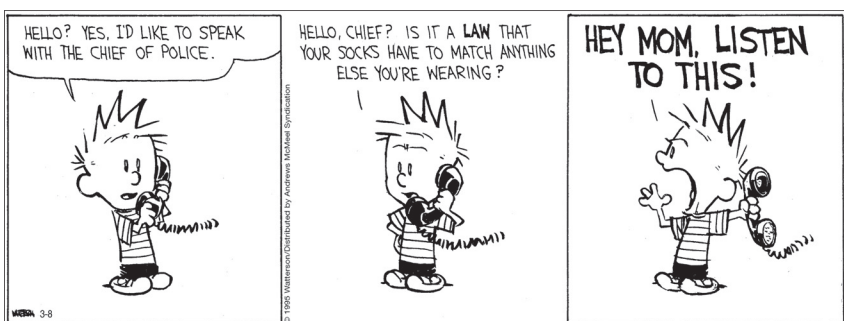
In a recent interview, Aamir spoke candidly about his deep emotional connection with the epic tale. “It's layered, it has emotion, it has scale—everything you find in the world, you will find in *Mahabharat*,” he said, underscoring the grandeur and complexity of the story. But what truly caught attention was his suggestion that this film could mark the end of his cinematic journey. “Maybe after doing this, I will feel that I have nothing left to do. I cannot do anything after this, as the material of this film is going to be like that.” Aamir admitted. He added, “I hope that I die with my shoes on, but since you are asking, this is the one thing I can think of. Perhaps after this, I will feel that I don't need to do anything else.”



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

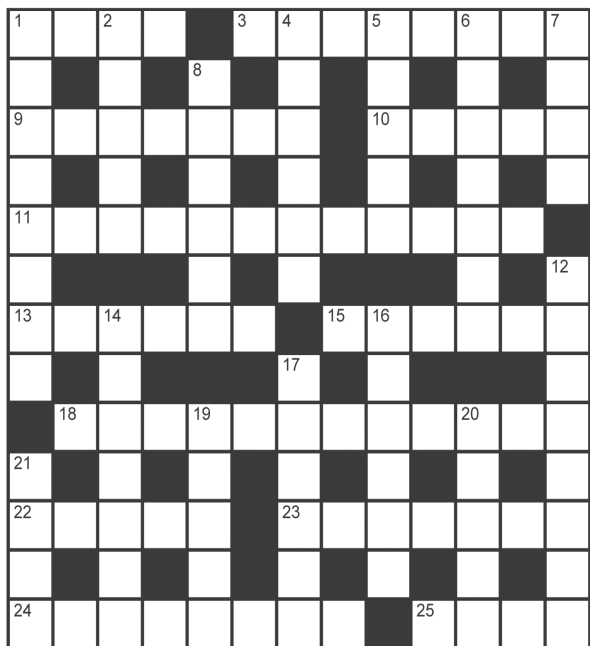


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



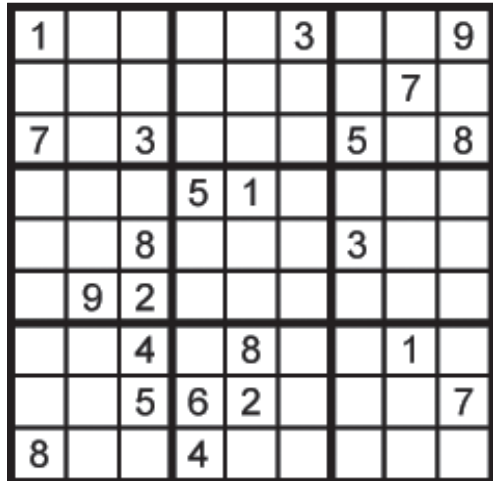
Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

- Across**
- Jetty
 - Sauce ingredient
 - A drink before dinner
 - Time interval
 - Come out of denial
 - Now and then (4,2,1,5)
 - Set aflame
 - Entertains
 - Manufacturing system (8,4)
 - Overturn
 - Like some investments (4-4)
 - Take care of
 - Down
 - Impractical
 - Storage area
 - Argentine grassland
 - Get there
 - Mexican dishes
 - Destiny
 - Creative person
 - Small celestial body
 - Savings (4,3)
 - Tumult
 - Monastery big-wigs
 - Patriarch
 - Boiling mad
 - Word to a sled dog

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

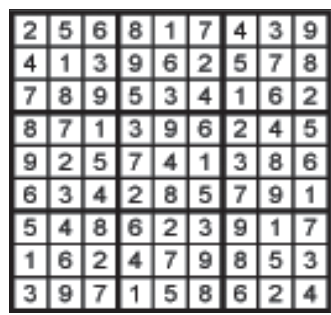


SOLUTIONS

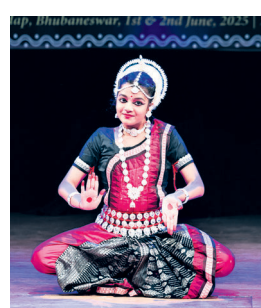
CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



A student performs Odissi during the 33rd Nrityanjali Festival at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday



OMFED milk costlier by ₹2

CM Mohan Charan Majhi announces accidental death compensation of ₹1 lakh for milk farmers affiliated to OMFED



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Consumers will have to shell out ₹2 more per litre of OMFED milk as the state government Sunday decided to increase the milk price by ₹4 per litre of which the government will bear ₹2. This was revealed during a state-level event organised to mark World Milk Day.

Addressing the event, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced accidental death compensation of ₹1 lakh for the milk farmers affiliated to state-owned Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (OMFED).

The farmers will now receive an additional ₹3 for every litre of milk supplied to OMFED, Majhi announced during the programme.

Accordingly, the price of milk will be increased by ₹4 per litre, of which the government will bear ₹2 per litre and the consumer will have to pay

an additional ₹2 per litre, officials said.

Majhi said the state produced around 26.4 lakh tonne milk during the financial year 2023-24.

Per capita availability of milk at national level was 471 gram while it is 156 gram in the state, he said.

"We have to enhance our milk production to come at par with the national average or surpass it. Since our government came to power in the state, we are making all efforts to double the milk production in the next five years," he said.

In order to enhance milk production and boost the dairy sector, Majhi said the government has recently launched Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana (MKY) with an outlay of ₹1,423 crore for five years.

Under MKY, financial assistance of up to 70 per cent is being provided to the beneficiaries.

A target has been set to in-

clude 15 lakh 'gopalaks' (cattle-rearers) under the scheme, he stated.

In the previous financial year 2024-25, about 3 lakh beneficiaries have benefited from the scheme with a grant of ₹71 crore, the CM said.

Further, the state government has launched Mukhyamantri Prani Kalyan Yojana (MPKY) with an outlay of ₹186 crore for the establishment of new 'goshalas' (cow shelters) and support existing registered 'goshalas', he added.

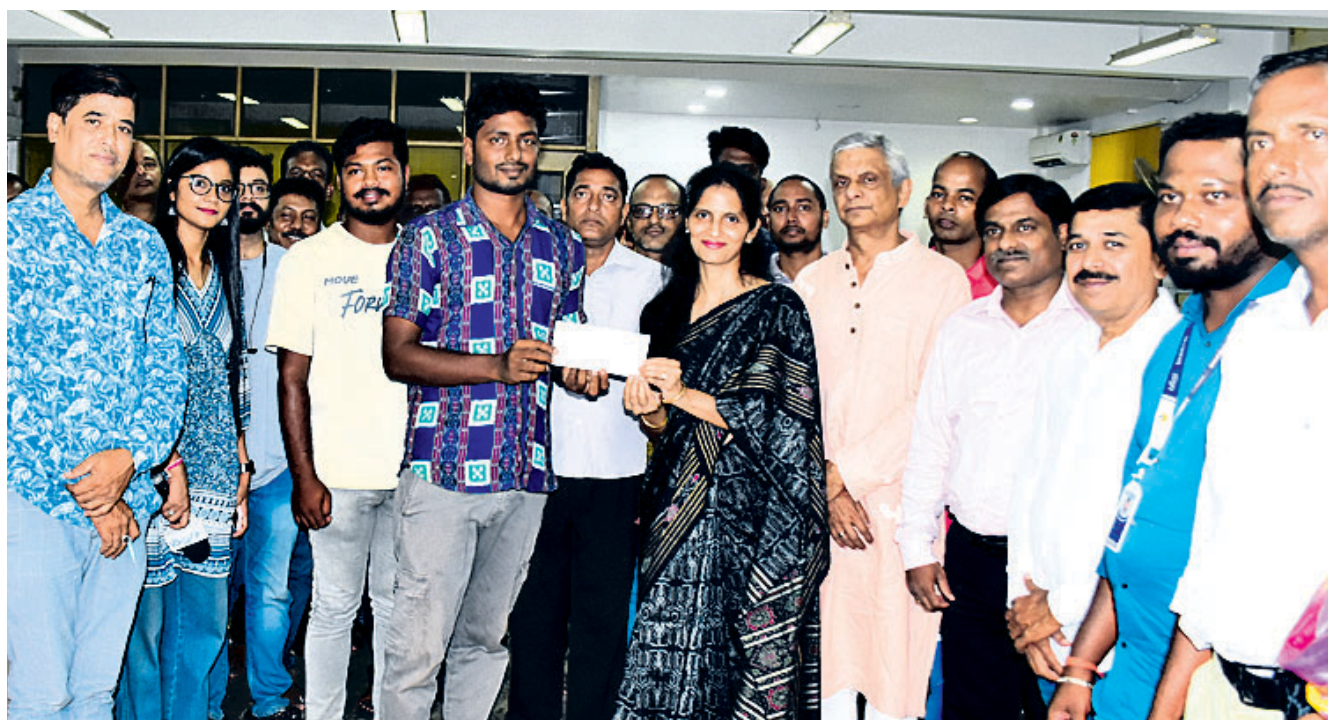
Under MPKY, registered goshalas are provided ₹20,000 per animal for care and maintenance in two instalments. In November last year, ₹9 crore was given to 68 goshalas, while another ₹10.5 crore has been distributed to 77 goshalas, benefiting around 22,000 stray and helpless cattle across the state, he added.

On this occasion, the CM launched three new products of OMFED.

Among others, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik spoke on the occasion.

World Milk Day is being celebrated every year June 1 since 2001 with the aim of spreading widespread awareness about the contribution of livestock keepers in nutritional development and economic growth, and the benefits of milk in a balanced diet.

This year's theme is "Let's celebrate the power of dairy".



BOOSTING MORALE: *Dharitri* and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy hands over a cheque of ₹1 lakh as financial assistance to the head of Odisha Paryabaran Sangrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA) Soumya Ranjan Biswal as the outfit plans to plant 10 lakh mangrove saplings along Orissa coast. Also present are the Editor of the dailies, Tathagata Satpathy, and staffers at the head office in Bhubaneswar Sunday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Speeding car goes on rampage; 3 hurt

BHUBANESWAR: The driver of a speeding car went on a rampage here Sunday seriously injuring at least three persons, according to sources. The speeding car hit four vehicles and crashed into a government quarter on a busy market area in the Capital city, police said. According to the police, the car, moving from AG Square to Rajmahal Square, first hit an auto-rickshaw and then hit two parked cars and another rickshaw before ramming into a roadside government quarter near Unit 2 petrol pump here. On being informed, police with the help of locals rescued the injured persons and sent them to a local hospital here for treatment, the police said. The eyewitnesses alleged that the driver of the car which caused the accident was under the influence of alcohol. Capital Police Station officials detained the car driver and started an investigation into the accident.

R&B engineer in Vigilance net

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Vigilance sleuths Sunday arrested a government engineer for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, an official said.

N Dillip Kumar Choudhury, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division-I, Berhampur, was apprehended a day after disproportionate assets were detected from his possession, the Vigilance official said.

During raids, the anti-corruption officials found one



N DILLIP KUMAR CHOUDHURY

double-storey building worth ₹1 crore and a flat worth ₹50 lakh in Berhampur, another flat worth ₹1 crore in the Capital city and 11 plots in Berhampur and nearby areas whose total value would be around ₹2 crore, he said.

Besides, bank and insurance deposits worth nearly ₹30 lakh, along with two two-wheelers and household articles worth over ₹16 lakh, were also found during the search operations, he added.

The Anti-corruption department registered a case against Choudhury under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.



A Residential School with Difference

ଭିନ୍ନ ଏକ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ - ଭିନ୍ନ ଏକ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତା

KIIT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

(Recognised by Government of Odisha and Affiliated to C.H.S.E., Odisha)

ADMISSION OPEN

for XI & XII Class (+2 Science)

COURSE OFFERED

- 2 yr. full time + 2 Science programme
- 2 yr. Classroom Course (JEE/NEET)
- 1 yr. Achiever Batch (NEET) (Free Education for all)

HURRY UP!

BOOKING GOING ON

APPEARED - 237

- 1st Div. - 218 (92%)
- Result - 100%
- 90% above - 8
- Highest mark - 566
- 500 above - 49

CHSE RESULTS 2025



SASMITA(94.33%)



SUKRU(93.5%)



SATYAJYOTI(92%)



SRUTIPRANGYA(91.33%)



SHRADHANJAN(90.67%)



ANSHUMAN(90.5%)

JEE (MAIN)



KSHETRA (95.647)



SUKRU (92.789)



JAGANNATH (88.681)



ASHIS (IIT)



SHAKTI (IIT)



IPSITA(NIT)

NEET



ABHIPSIT(CTC)



ANINDYA(MKCG)



JEET(SJMC)Puri



SNEHA(MKCG)

Getting many more in IIT, NEET & NIT

Great mind
Germinates in
Great environment



Admission Helpline 24x7
9090091591
06746607062

ADD-ON FACILITIES

- Cent percent Result since inception
- Permanent Campus having 1.5 lakhs sq.ft of building
- Permanent 36 No. of Faculties
- Permanent clean, hygienic and spacious separate in-campus Ladies & Boys Hostel
- Well equipped Laboratories
- Air Conditioned Classroom, Computer Lab & Reading Room
- Value based Education
- 24x7 Proctorial Support
- "HARD TALK" for Personality development
- GD/JAM/SOS for Better Speaking Ability
- Well-Stocked Library
- Salubrious Study Atmosphere

Visit us at : Kiit Science College, Campus-8, KIIT, Patia, BBSR-24, www.kiitsciencecollege.org

Master Canteen renaming row sparks controversy

Opposition slams government for attempting to rename iconic Bhubaneswar landmark, calling it a diversion from real issues

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 1: A political row has erupted in Odisha after the state government hinted at a possible renaming of the historic Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar. The move has triggered sharp reactions from Opposition parties, who allege that the government is attempting to divert attention from pressing governance and public welfare issues.

According to official sources, the state government has directed the General Administration and Public Grievance (GA & PG) department, along with the Revenue and Disaster Management department, to examine a proposal aimed at renaming Master Canteen Square in a way that better reflects Odisha's cultural and historical heritage.

Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra confirmed that the proposal is under active consideration. "The matter is being looked into, and a final decision will be taken by the Chief Minister," he said.



■ CPI(M) and Congress accuse the government of pushing ideological symbolism over developmental priorities

■ State officials claim the renaming proposal aligns with efforts to promote 'Odia Asmita' and cultural pride

Our government is committed to safeguarding and promoting Odia Asmita and the unique identity of our state," he stated.

However, Opposition parties have not taken kindly to the move. BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty criticised what he called the BJP's "name-changing trend" and accused the party of using symbolic gestures to cover up administrative failures. "They tried to rename Ravenshaw University in the past but were forced to withdraw the move after widespread protests. Now they're at it again, to distract from real issues like unemployment and price hikes," he said.

CPI(M) state secretary Suresh Chandra Panigrahy echoed similar concerns, alleging that the BJP-led government is pushing a Hindutva agenda. "Renaming public places, repainting government buildings in saffron, and revising programme titles are all part of a larger ideological narrative," he said. "Instead of indulging in cosmetic changes, the government should focus on job creation and improving basic services."

State Congress spokesperson Prashant Satpathy also voiced strong opposition. "The name Master Canteen carries historical significance, and such renaming attempts only show the government's lack of understanding of Odisha's cultural fabric. When they tried to change the name of Ravenshaw, the state was grappling with major issues. Now, they're once again trying to shift public focus," he said.

Satpathy added that the government should first deepen its understanding of Odia Asmita before altering names rooted in the state's legacy.

Ambulance service for two remote GPs

New ambulance to boost emergency care in remote tribal villages of Khurda district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, June 1: In a significant boost to rural healthcare, two tribal-dominated MADA Gram Panchayats—Niladripasad and Damiabarbara in Banpur block of Khurda district—now have dedicated ambulance services. The 'Force Trax' model ambulances, aimed at improving access to medical care in these underserved areas, were inaugurated Sunday by Law, Works, and Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan.

The ambulance is equipped with essential life-saving medical equipment and will be strategically stationed at the Niladripasad GP headquarters to ensure rapid emergency response.



Its operations will be managed by Bhubaneswar-based NGO Health and Development Initiatives (HDI), in partnership with Niladri Krushi Kalyan Samabaya Samiti (NKKSS), local PRI members, and community leaders.

The ambulance was donated to HDI by LIC Cards under

Life Insurance Corporation of India's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The contribution reflects LIC and its subsidiaries' commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in underserved regions.

The vehicle was formally handed over to HDI director Braj Das by LIC chairman

Siddhartha Mohanty and LIC Cards Mumbai director Rajeev Sachdeva.

Odisha Olympics Association president and former state BJP chief Samir Mohanty, who played a key role in securing CSR funding for the initiative, was also present at the event.

Attendees praised the initiative, calling it a vital step toward enhancing emergency response times, maternal healthcare, and access to critical medical services in the region.

The newly launched ambulance service is expected to significantly improve healthcare access and outcomes in one of the state's most remote and underserved areas.

Sinking idol alarms heritage walkers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, June 1: The fifth edition of the Jagatsinghpur Heritage Walks (JHW) took place Sunday, drawing nearly 40 participants in a tribute to the district's cultural and spiritual legacy.

The walk began at the ancient Astasambhu Temple in Hajipur, a Mahabharata-era shrine believed to have been established by the Pandavas. Despite its historic importance, the temple has suffered severe flood damage over the years, with only parts of the original structure still intact.

Led by JHW convenor Sri-

kanta Singh, participants then visited the Panchasakha Dhyan Pitha—founded 600 years ago by saint Achyutananda—now home to a well-preserved Jagannath Temple.

A major concern emerged at the final stop: the Gopinath Jew Temple in Parbatipur. Heritage lovers raised the alarm over the main idol of Lord Gopinath, which is reportedly sinking into the damp soil of the sanctum. Despite being located several steps below ground, the sanctum remains wet throughout the year, with water rising to the idol's ankles during monsoons. Temple priests and heritage activists called for urgent

conservation efforts to protect this valuable piece of history.

The event also featured the release of JHW's first e-magazine and included a temple cleaning and tree plantation drive. Notable attendees included Biswaranjan Dehury (Odisha Heritage Walks), Chandrabhanu Mishra, Aditya Prasad Ghosh, Prabhudutta Rout, and Hrudanananda Behera, along with local priests and devotees.

The walk underscored the urgent need for awareness and action in heritage preservation—especially when history is in danger of sinking, quite literally, into the ground.

BJD holds joining ceremony in City

Bhubaneswar: A large group of leaders and workers from various parties in Nabarangpur district formally joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in a joining ceremony (Mishrana Parba) here at Sankha Bhawan Sunday. The event was attended by BJD MP Muzibulla Khan (Munna Khan), former minister and senior general secretary Ramesh Majhi, former MLA Sadasiva Pradhan, party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, Dabugam MLA and Nabarangpur district president Manohar Randhari, among others. Several key grassroots leaders, including Sarpanches, Samiti members, and senior Congress leaders, joined the BJD. Notably, Dilip Pradhan, the Congress candidate from Nabarangpur Assembly Constituency for the 2024 General Elections, was among the new joiners. On the occasion, Randhari expressed his appreciation for their decision and extended a warm welcome, highlighting the BJD's inclusive and development-focused approach. Dilip Pradhan said the group was inspired by the leadership, ideals, and governance model of former Chief Minister and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik.

CM orders Kalinga Studio upgrade

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the historic Kalinga Studio Sunday and directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for its modern transformation. The move aims to preserve the legacy of the iconic film studio while upgrading its facilities to meet contemporary standards.

During the visit, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of blending heritage conservation with modern infrastructure to boost Odisha's cultural and creative industries. He instructed the authorities to focus on creating state-of-the-art production and post-production facilities that can attract filmmakers from across the country.

Kalinga Studio, established in 1980, has played a crucial role in the development of Odia cinema and continues to be a symbol of the state's rich film heritage. However, ageing infrastructure has limited its capacity to compete with newer studios.



The proposed modernisation project will include renovation of shooting floors, expansion of editing suites, and incorporation of digital technologies, ensuring the studio meets the needs of today's filmmakers.

Officials from the Information and Public Relations department and Odisha Film Development Corporation accompanied the Chief Minister and assured swift action on the DPR preparation. The project aligns with the state government's broader vision to promote Odisha as a leading hub for creative arts and film production.

The Chief Minister's directive has been welcomed by industry insiders and cultural advocates, who see it as a timely step to rejuvenate Kalinga Studio's legacy and foster growth in the regional film sector.

Odisha launches training to bolster civil defence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: In a key move to boost emergency preparedness, the Odisha government has launched a capacity-building drive to strengthen the Odisha Civil Defence (OCD). As part of this effort, a six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for civil defence volunteers commenced here at the Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA) Sunday.

The programme aims to equip volunteers with essential skills to protect lives and property during emergencies, particularly wartime scenarios involving enemy aircraft and drone attacks. The initiative marks a crucial step in ensuring civil defence readiness statewide.

The workshop was inaugurated by Fire Services, Civil Defence, and Home Guards Director General Sudhanshu Sarangi, who praised the volunteers' commitment and highlighted the vital role they play in community safety during crises.

Home Guards and Fire Services DIG Umashankar Das graced the occasion as the guest of honour, while Chief Fire Officer (SAG) Debendra Kumar Swain delivered the welcome address. OFDRA director Prashant Kumar Das presented an overview of the training module, highlighting the comprehensive scope and objectives of the programme.

At the inaugural session, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) demonstrated key emergency response techniques, reinforcing the importance of hands-on training.

The ToT programme features intensive sessions on wartime citizen protection and rescue techniques, psychological first aid and trauma support, first aid and casualty management, and the respectful handling of deceased individuals.

KHURDA ROAD-BOLANGIR RAIL PROJECT

Final tunnel excavation completed on key rail link

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: The Khurda Road-Bolangir new rail line project has achieved a major milestone with the successful breakthrough of Tunnel T2, completing excavation for all seven tunnels along the strategic corridor. The final breakthrough, accomplished on May 30 between Buguda and Daspalla in Nayagarh district, marks a crucial step toward seamless rail connectivity across Odisha.

Tunnel T2, measuring 1,775 meters with a 2-degree curve, is the second longest in the district and was built using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), an advanced technique ideal for challenging terrain. This tunnel is a vital part of the 75-kilometer stretch between Daspalla and Purunakatak, where all planned tunnel excavations have now



been completed.

This milestone is part of the larger effort to complete the 301-kilometer rail line linking Khurda Road in eastern Odisha to Bolangir in the west. To date, 226 kilometers of the line are operational, with ongoing work on the remaining 75 kilometers between Purunakatak and Adhenigarh.

Railway engineers have

overcome significant geological and environmental challenges to reach this milestone. The Eastern Ghats terrain posed highly variable soil and rock conditions, along with curved alignments demanding precise design and execution. In certain sections, tunneling was conducted simultaneously from both ends to meet project deadlines.

Several tunnels, including Tunnel T4 in Boudh district—the longest at 4,183 meters—needed extra safety measures, such as a 700-meter escape tunnel. Altogether, the tunnel network on this route stretches 12.76 kilometers across Nayagarh and Boudh districts.

Environmental precautions played a key role during construction, as sections of the route pass close to wildlife zones. The project has implemented noise and vibration control measures to minimise ecological impact.

With the Khurda Road to Daspalla (106 km) and Bolangir to Purunakatak (120 km) sections already operational, attention now turns to completing the final link. Once finished, the rail line will significantly cut travel time between Bhubaneswar and Bolangir, boost regional connectivity, and improve access to healthcare, education, and markets for communities along the route.

Officials say the project will be a game-changer for Odisha, particularly for its interior and underdeveloped districts. "This is more than just a railway line; it's a bridge to opportunity for thousands," said a senior railway official involved with the project.

The Khurda Road-Bolangir line is one of Indian Railways' flagship infrastructure projects in Odisha, aimed at enhancing intra-state connectivity and fostering inclusive economic growth. Once fully operational, it is expected to boost trade, streamline freight transport, and connect remote areas with the state's major urban centers.

As the project approaches completion, it holds the potential to transform not only transportation but also the socio-economic landscape of Odisha.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	38.0°	37.6°	Light to moderate rain or Thunder-shower very likely
Min Temp	27.4°	25.0°	
Humidity	80%	79%	
Rainfall	1.6mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

2 yrs on, promises fade after Bahanaga train tragedy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, June 1: Two years after one of India’s deadliest rail disasters struck Bahanaga in Balasore district, the trauma still lingers—but many promises made in its wake remain unfulfilled.

On the evening of June 2, 2023, a signalling error caused the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express to veer onto a loop line, where it collided with a stationary freight train near Bahanaga Bazar railway station. The impact led to the derailment of 19 coaches. Moments later, the Yesvantpur–Howrah Superfast Express travelling on the down line hit the wreckage.

The cries of the injured passengers brought nearby villagers rushing to the site, who were the first responders before rescue efforts were begun by authorities.

The horrific triple-train crash killed more than 250 people and left over 1,000 injured, triggering national and international outrage. In the days that followed, both Central and state authorities announced a series of ambitious development and

rehabilitation plans for the area.

However, much of that momentum has since faded.

Lofty Promises, Little Progress

In the aftermath, praising the timely and tireless rescue efforts of the villagers, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had pledged ₹1 crore from his MPLAD funds for upgrading Bahanaga railway station and surrounding villages, along with an additional ₹1 crore for the local hospital. Other promises included high-mast lighting near the crash site, better street lighting, a new railway overbridge, and a proposal to have one express train halt at Bahanaga station.

The state government also declared that Bahanaga gram panchayat would be developed into a model panchayat. However, that vision has largely failed to materialise.

Two years later, visible changes are minimal.

So far, the only tangible development is the construction of a new classroom block at Bahanaga High School by demolishing the previous structure.



Construction of a proposed mini stadium also remains incomplete.

Some improvements were made at the hospital, reportedly under the ‘Ama Hospital’ Yojana. Yet, the ₹2.5 crore sanctioned under the scheme has yielded no notable outcomes, locals say.

Voices of Discontent

“The promises from both the Central and state governments have not translated into real action,” said Braja Pani, Sarpanch of Bahanaga panchayat. “Except for a road in Kamaripur, no significant work has been done.”

Samiti Member Saroj Rout echoed this sentiment. “Some progress was made at the hospital and school, and a few CRCC

centres and streetlights have been installed under the minister’s fund—but that’s about it,” he said.

Block Chairman Bishwanath Mishra claimed that around 50 per cent of the promised work had been completed. “Road construction is ongoing, and the overbridge survey has been done, but implementation is pend-

Woman held for killing landlord

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 1: A 57-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly setting her landlord on fire in Ganjam district, a police officer said Sunday.

The woman, who is a widow, allegedly killed the landlord, a retired revenue inspector, by setting him on fire Thursday at Subash Nagar under Baidyanathpur police station limit here to grab the properties of the deceased, the police said.

The deceased, identified as Harihar Sahu (72), and the accused Sudeshna Jena of Amrutul in Sorada were staying alone on the first and ground floor of the house respectively in the area. While a daughter of the accused was staying in Hyderabad, another daughter was staying at Ambapua of the city, they said.

On Thursday early morning, the accused entered into the room of the deceased, poured kerosene and set him afire while he was sleeping, the police said, adding that Sudeshna has free access to the deceased’s room. He was rushed to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here and then to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where he died.

Describing that the woman murdered the old man in a planned manner, Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said the accused threw the mobile phone of the deceased inside the courtyard of the house and threw the plastic kerosene bottle in the fire to destroy the evidence of the crime.

The truth came to light when the deceased reportedly disclosed to his daughter that someone had sprinkled kerosene on him and set him on fire during his treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack before his death.

His daughter Madhusmita Sahu lodged an FIR at Baidyanathpur police station Thursday. Preliminary investigation has revealed the accused and the deceased have had a relationship for the last five years. Most of the time, the deceased invited her for sexual pleasure without her will.

2 explosives laden pickup vans seized in Rourkela; 2 detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 1: In a fresh development amid the unsolved case of an explosives-laden truck being hijacked by Maoists in Banko area under K Balang police station, Raghunath-pali police Sunday seized two explosives laden pickup vans near a petrol pump in Deogaon.

Initial estimates suggest the vehicles were loaded with nearly 4 tonnes of explosives. One of the vans was released after police verified its permit documents, while the second remains impounded due to suspected irregularities in its paperwork.

According to reports, both vehicles originated from a licensed explosives storage facility located under the jurisdiction of Itma police. However, the facility had already been sealed before the incident, raising serious questions about how such a large quantity of explosives was still being transported.

The driver of the detained van, along with Shravan Agrawal, the owner of the explosives factory, has been taken into custody for questioning. Officials from the state Goods and Services Tax (GST) department and other enforcement agencies were present at the scene.

No formal case had been registered by the time when this report came in. Sources said the police acted on a tip-off and raided the petrol pump in Deogaon around 12:30pm Sunday. The two vans, reportedly abandoned at the site for two days, had drawn suspicion from local residents, one of whom alerted the authorities.

While the van with valid documentation was released, the second vehicle was detained. Upon inspection, police recovered 116 gelatin sticks and detonators from the vehicle.

Authorities noted that the transport did not appear to comply with standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Tension at DHH after pregnant woman’s death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, June 1: Allegations of medical negligence and bribery triggered public outrage in Nayagarh following the death of a pregnant woman late Saturday night at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here.

The deceased, Mamata Swain, 26, from Balugaon in Nayagarh block, was admitted to the DHH’s maternity ward after experiencing labour around 8pm Saturday. Her husband, Sanjay Kumar Nayak—a BJP youth leader—alleged that the on-duty obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Rabindra Nath Sahu, demanded a bribe of ₹30,000 to perform a caesarean section.

According to Nayak, after he refused to pay the bribe, no medical procedure was conducted, nor was his wife referred to another hospital for treatment. He further claimed that Dr Sahu spent the night in an air-conditioned room and did not attend to his wife, despite repeated calls.

Nayak said he had gone back to the village to arrange the money, but by the time he returned to the hospital at around 3:40am, his wife had died. The doctor reportedly declared her dead at that time.

The alleged inaction and misconduct led to widespread protests Sunday at the DHH, with demonstrators demanding the arrest of the doctor. Leaders and supporters from all major political parties—including

the BJP, Congress, and BJD—joined the protest along with local residents.

As tensions escalated, Nayagarh Additional Superintendent of Police Sanatan Kalo, SDPO Jyoti Samantaray, Nayagarh Town IIC Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, and hospital superintendent Dr P.C. Sahu arrived at the site to pacify the protesters. However, the situation remained volatile. Two platoons of police were deployed, along with DSPs and IICs from multiple police stations, to bring the situation under control.

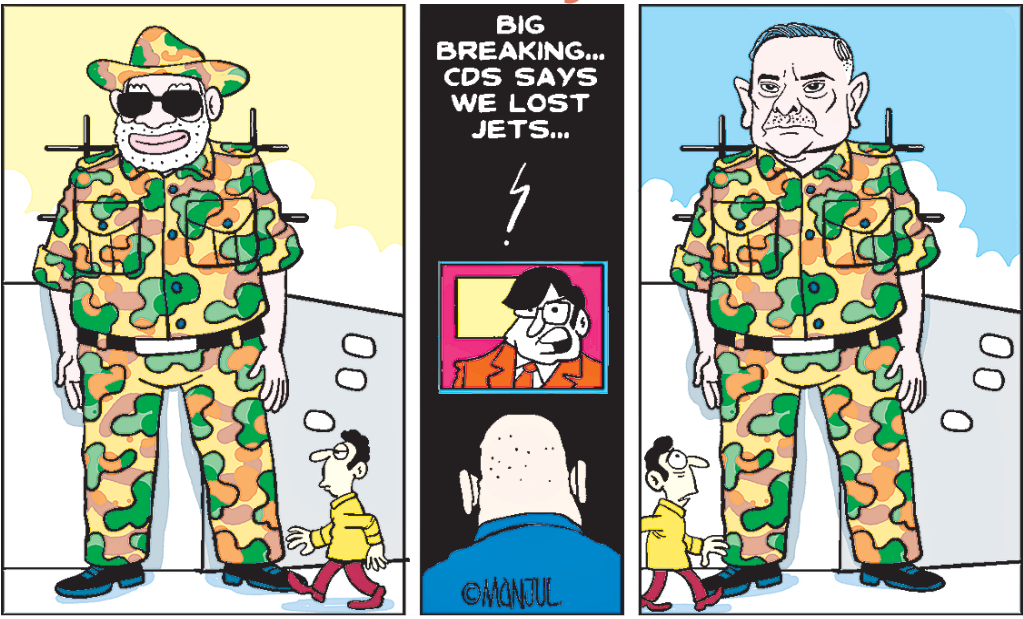
In response to the allegations, Dr Sahu was transferred from the district hospital to the Bhapur community health centre. A three-member medical inquiry team led by Dr Abhisak Panda from Khandapada, and including doctors from Ranpur and Pandusara health centres, conducted an investigation. Their report has been submitted to police.

A separate departmental probe is also underway, and findings will be sent to the state government. The Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO), Dr Shanta Kumar Das, confirmed that preparations have been made to send the deceased’s viscera samples to Chennai for forensic examination. The body has since been handed over to the family.

“This tragic incident and the refusal of timely medical treatment resulted in the loss of not only my wife but also our unborn child,” said Nayak.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Elderly man falls in roadside drain, dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 1: A 62-year-old man was killed after he fell into a roadside drain on Kusumita Ghati road under Baradapal panchayat and Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district Sunday.



The deceased, identified as Bauru Dehuri of Ichinda village, lost balance and fell into a roadside drain resulting in his death on spot. Locals informed the police, who rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

The actual reason behind the man’s death is yet to be ascertained and can be confirmed only after the post-mortem report is available, SI Satyajit Nayak of Sadar police station said. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations were on.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 1: Kamala Maharana, a well-known personality in Kendrapara district who gained recognition for turning waste materials into decorative household items, died Saturday night at age 66.

She was under treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack after sustaining injuries from a fall at home May 28.

As the news of her death spread, numerous prominent individuals gathered at her residence in Gulanagar village under Kendrapara block to pay their last respects. Her funeral was held Sunday at the village cremation ground.

For over eight years, Maharana transformed discarded plastic and other non-biodegradable waste into artistic household products, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. She also involved local women through



self-help groups, empowering them through skill-based initiatives.

Her work was nationally recognised when Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised her efforts during the 98th episode of his monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’. During a campaign visit to Odisha in a previous general election, Modi touched her feet in a gesture of respect—an image that sparked widespread discussion across

the country.

Maharana also gained attention for sending a handmade rakhi to the Prime Minister and for crafting caps for the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force during the ‘Operation Sindhu Sudarshan’.

Mourners described her eco-friendly artistry as an inspiring legacy, reflecting how creativity and sustainability can go hand in hand to drive positive change.

Odia techie transforms US healthcare with AI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, June 1: A talented software professional from Odisha is making waves in healthcare innovation in the United States through the power of artificial intelligence (AI).

Babul Sahu, son of Jawaharlal and Usha Sahu of Natima village in Balasore district, is spearheading transformative efforts in US healthcare.

After a brief stint with Dell in Bengaluru, India’s software capital, Sahu moved to the United States. He currently plays a mission-critical role at SCAN Health Plan, where he is at the forefront of applying AI to improve outcomes for thousands of older adults.

SCAN Health Plan, a 4.5-star-rated organisation, was recently named one of the best insurance companies for Medicare Advantage in California and Nevada by US News & World Report. The organ-

isation credits professionals like Sahu for its continued excellence.

Twice honoured as ‘Employee of the Year’ and recipient of multiple accolades, Sahu’s contributions reflect deep technical expertise, forward-thinking innovation, and a steadfast commitment to patient-centred care.

At SCAN, Sahu leads efforts to integrate AI and neural networks into clinical systems. His work involves analysing extensive datasets—spanning medical records, claims, and clinical notes—to predict health risks and enable early intervention. His predictive models have become vital tools in offsetting emergency scenarios.

One of Sahu’s most impactful innovations addresses the prevention of avoidable hospital readmissions. By leveraging AI to analyse patients’ histories, medications, and post-discharge data, his team identifies high-risk individuals and initiates tailored follow-up



measures—such as early appointments, home visits, and education on symptom management.

These interventions not only reduce patient stress but also cut healthcare costs and lower the risk of re-hospitalisation.

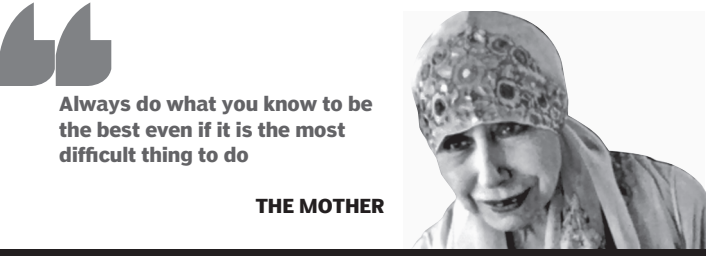
Sahu has also developed AI models to optimise Nursing Facility Level of Care (NFLOC) decisions, supporting proactive planning for patients nearing long-term care. His tools in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) flag high-risk individuals, generate real-time alerts for staff, and

support customised care plans.

In the area of hospice and palliative care, he has created predictive models that identify patients nearing end of life—ensuring timely, compassionate care aligned with personal values and preferences. Sahu’s AI-driven innovations have empowered thousands of elderly individuals to maintain their health and independence, improving quality of life while reducing overall healthcare expenditure. His work is estimated to save millions of dollars for hospitals, insurers, and the broader US healthcare system.

From India’s tech corridors to the heart of healthcare transformation in the United States, Babul Sahu represents the best of global talent—guided by data, driven by empathy, and focused on real-world impact. His work stands as a beacon of innovation and hope in proactive healthcare delivery.

<div>यूनियन बैंक ॐ Union Bank of India A Government of India Undertaking</div>	<div>DUNGURIPALI BRANCH At/PO/PS: Dungguripali, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha-767023, E-mail: ubin0828718@unionbankofindia.bank</div>	<div>POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)</div>
<div>[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES – 2002]</div> <div>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Dungguripali Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount mentioned below & interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</div>		
<div>Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)</div>	<div>Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)</div>	<div>Date of Demand / Possession Notice</div>
<div>Borrower: Subarna Behera, W/o: Late Markanda Behera, At/PO: Dungguripali, Rampur Road, PS: Dungguripali, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha - 767023 / Guarantor: Mr. Nikhil Kumar, S/o: Ramesh Chandra Sharma, At: Surya Market, P.O: Dungguripali, PS: Dungguripali, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha - 767023</div>	<div>₹ 24,06,337.18 + Interest thereon</div>	<div>05.03.2025 / 29.05.2025</div>
<div>Description of Secured Asset</div>		
<div>All that part of the property consisting of Land of an Area: Ac. 0.070 Dec. with Residential Plot and Building bearing Khata No.: 116, Plot No.: 552/2203 (P), Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Dungguripali, PS: Dungguripali, Tahasil: Rampur, Dist.: Sonepur, State: Odisha, PIN - 767023 belonging to Subarna Behera, Bounded by North: Jamuna Patra, South: Sani Sahu, East: Jamuna Patra, West: Road.</div>		
<div>Place: Dungguripali, Date: 31.05.2025</div>		<div>Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India</div>



Reality Check

Recent remarks by India's two top military leaders, in the wake of the four-day military conflict with Pakistan, have underscored the complex nature of modern day warfare. In a significant revelation, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, on 31 May, confirmed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) lost fighter jets during the opening night of Operation Sindoor, the military campaign initiated by India following the Pahalgam terror attack. The CDS, speaking to Bloomberg TV in Singapore, acknowledged these "initial losses" were due to tactical errors. While he did not disclose the exact number of jets lost, he said that it is not the number that matters but the reasons for the failure is what is important.

These statements coming from the country's top military leader assume paramount importance. Meanwhile, nationalist social media trolls in India are very busy attacking the CDS for expressing his opinions to Bloomberg instead of speaking out his mind within the country. Ours should not be to glorify war. An experienced senior general currently holding the highest military post of the country must be believed for what he says. They are the people who are responsible for the lives of each and every army, air force and navy personnel. It is easy to sit inside our safe homes and criticize the nation's military leadership. It is a whole different situation when any close member of our family such as our son, daughter, father or husband is facing artillery fire at the International Border (IB) Posting.

The Opposition has demanded immediate convening of a special session of the Parliament to discuss the country's military and foreign policy strategy in the wake of revelations made by the CDS. The Congress party has called on the government to engage all political parties and the nation in discussions regarding India's defence preparedness and strategy following Operation Sindoor. General Chauhan's remarks also bring home the point that setbacks are natural in any military conflict, no matter how small or big the adversary is. For instance, a small Ukraine launched a huge drone attack on a Russian airbase some 2000 kms away from the border and successfully destroyed more than 40 Russian fighter jets. Interestingly, the Russian government has gone public accepting the attack and consequent damages. This should make the Indian nationalists who are screaming against General Chauhan realise that modern day warfare is not the same as it was even 20 years ago. In a day and age where rockets, missiles and drones have replaced traditional systems of war, speaking the truth has its benefits. This is not the era of Goebbels where false propaganda holds water for long. What General Chauhan and the Air Chief have said are wakeup calls that should be taken positively by all Indians. God forbid but if India gets involved in any major war in the future, the drones and the rockets could be expected in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta or even Charbatia. Let us not, for a moment, think that we are safe just because we live a few thousand kilometres from the border. War is no child's play. It is not limited to soldiers hailing from poor families, weapons sourced from abroad or fancy looking shiny jets. War is real life at stake where our young people survive or perish. To quote an old proverb, "There are no winners in war". There are only the dead or those left behind.

WISDOM CORNER

“All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason

IMMANUEL KANT

“Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don't bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live!

BOB MARLEY

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone

PABLO PICASSO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1840:** English novelist and poet Thomas Hardy, who set much of his work in Wessex, an imaginary county in southwestern England, was born.
- **1865:** Confederate soldiers yielded to Federal troops in Galveston, Texas, marking the end of one of the final land operations of the American Civil War.
- **1886:** Frances Folsom, age 21, married U.S. President Grover Cleveland in the White House and became the youngest first lady in American history.
- **1946:** In the aftermath of World War II, the people of Italy passed a referendum to replace the governing monarchy with a republic. The transition from a monarchy to today's Italian Republic was effected by the favorable outcome of a referendum, in which 89 percent of Italians, also including women for the first time, took part.
- **1953:** Queen Elizabeth II is crowned. The coronation in London's Westminster Abbey was the first televised major international event in history. Elizabeth's accession to the throne followed the death of her father, King George VI, 16 months previously.
- **1979:** Pope John Paul II becomes the first pontiff to visit a communist country. Millions of spectators lined the streets of Warsaw as the Pope began his nine-day tour of his native Poland.

LOL

PRISONER WITH SKILLS

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the community.... and he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over.



The warden was thinking of remodelling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him. But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place".

SPECTRUM

ECONOMY



Yana Gevorgyan

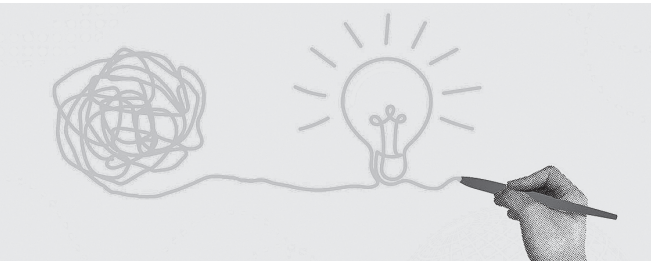
ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE LEGITIMACY STEMS LARGELY FROM THEIR CONVENING POWER MUST NOW ADAPT TO REMAIN RELEVANT AND CREDIBLE

Multilateral institutions are under intense pressure nowadays, especially in global development, where startups and tech giants are moving fast to devise digital solutions, and donors are increasingly demanding agility as a condition of continued support. Organizations whose legitimacy stems largely from their convening power must now adapt to remain relevant and credible. That means shifting from slow, consensus-driven methods to more dynamic frameworks that encourage rapid experimentation.

For example, multilateral bodies like my organization, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), have long focused on ensuring an open and trust-worthy data ecosystem. But as private ventures increasingly outpace us, we must develop the capacity to innovate quickly, albeit in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Multilateral organizations like GEO, United Nations agencies, and development banks have struggled to keep up because they were not built for agility. Governance by many member states results in more bureaucracy and risk aversion, as well as funding that is tightly earmarked. Few multilateral initiatives contain sunset clauses to retire ineffective projects, while legacy structures and incentives make it difficult to discontinue old programs and free up resources for new ideas. All this makes innovation painfully slow.

But these institutions can encourage experimentation and controlled risk-taking by adopting an accelerator model with which they can quickly test proposed solutions. As Strategizer co-founder and CEO Alex Osterwalder has stressed, treating initiatives as a portfolio of bets, with some failures expected, lays the groundwork for breakthroughs. A corporate example is Bosch's accelerator, which invested around \$30 million in 214 projects, treating each one as an investment with



To continue addressing global challenges, multilateral organizations must innovate, or risk being rendered obsolete by more agile actors

transformative potential. This calculated risk-taking, which contrasts sharply with conservative multilateral financing models, ultimately led to 19 successful businesses.

Encouragingly, some multilateral organizations have begun to embrace such a model. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has created a huge development-innovation network, with 91 Accelerator Labs experimenting and adapting in order to improve outcomes for 115 countries. The UN World Food Programme has enhanced its impact with its Innovation Accelerator, which has mobilized nearly \$300 million since 2015 to deploy AI-powered tools and climate-resilience strategies. And GEO's Global Ecosystems Atlas initiative went from concept to prototype in just nine months, demonstrating that rapid innovation is achievable with the right support.

The challenge now is to undertake systemic reforms that will make innovation a core competency of multilateral institutions. For starters, that means establishing accelerators, innovation labs, or venture teams within these organizations, and providing them with a clear mandate to seek and develop new ideas, as well as the autonomy to operate outside normal bureaucratic channels. For example, UNDP's Accelerator Labs are safe spaces for experimentation, largely freed from political oversight while still maintaining trans-

parency and clear governance.

Multilateral institutions should also establish mechanisms to conduct regular reviews of programs. In addition to defined milestones, every initiative should be phased out or terminated if it does not deliver results after a certain period – a common tech-industry practice that prevents stale projects from draining resources indefinitely. Adopting this portfolio approach would ensure a healthy pipeline of programs: high-risk ideas enter the portfolio, and then are either scaled up (if successful) or set aside (if underperforming). As the United Kingdom's funding ultimatum to underperforming agencies has demonstrated, ending or overhauling a failing program is sometimes necessary to make progress.

Equally important is earmarking funds for high-risk, high-reward experiments. This "venture fund" within a multilateral institution can be used to co-finance pilot projects or tech trials without diverting resources from core programs. In addition to introducing risk capital, these organizations should adopt innovation accounting, which uses metrics focused on learning and early impact, such as the number of prototypes tested or pivots made. Inspired by lean startup methodology, these benchmarks hold teams accountable for validated learning and enable data-driven decisions about which pilots to scale or shut down. Instead of avoiding failure at all costs,

multilateral institutions must learn how to fail productively.

Similarly, innovation will falter if staff are terrified that managers will punish their every misstep. Leaders must actively promote a risk-tolerant culture. That means celebrating teams that test bold ideas (even if the results are mixed), instituting rewards for creativity and problem-solving, and training teams in smart risk-taking. Organizations like the World Bank and UNDP have started to cultivate this kind of environment by sponsoring innovation challenges and recognizing internal "intrapreneurs."

Lastly, traditional hierarchies and lengthy planning cycles are at odds with the innovation process. Multilateral institutions should embrace more agile organizational structures, such as cross-disciplinary teams that can respond rapidly to emerging issues, or project-management techniques that enable adaptive planning, including short sprints, iterative design, and user feedback loops. In terms of procedures, this might mean streamlining the approval process for pilot projects, or allowing teams more discretion to test innovations without requiring approval for every minor change. For example, the UNDP has moved away from a purely top-down approach to a more networked, responsive model that is flexible enough to accommodate its Accelerator Labs.

To continue addressing global challenges, multilateral organizations must innovate, or risk being rendered obsolete by more agile actors. Given their legitimacy, neutrality, and the trust they have built with governments and communities, these institutions are more likely to have their technological solutions adopted, scaled, and sustained. But first, they must adapt to the age of rapid innovation.

The writer is Director of the Group on Earth Observations Secretariat.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Buoyant fields, faltering factories

India's agricultural sector is charting new territory as record-breaking food production sets the stage for a stronger presence in global export markets. While farms flourish, a contrasting picture emerges in the industrial landscape, where stagnating production signals underlying economic strain. This divergence underscores a shifting balance in India's growth narrative—buoyant fields amid faltering factories.

To pace it up further, the Centre also increased kharif crop MSP focusing on pulses, oilseeds and coarse grains. The MSP for paddy was raised by ₹69, 3%, to ₹2369 per quintal. The Centre claims that its procurement of wheat has surpassed previous three-year records yet below the target.

Amid such farm yield bonanza, the stymied industrial production remains a concern. The country's industrial output growth slowed to an 8-month low in April, dragged down by contraction in mining, sluggish electricity and manufacturing sectors. It

is dipping since reaching a peak of 6.2% in April 2024 which had fallen to minus 0.1% during mid-year. India has achieved a record food grain production of 353.95 MT in 2024-25 crop season. This is largely due to record harvests of paddy - 149.07 MT, wheat - 117.50 MT, and maize - 42 MT. In fact, India surpassed China to become the world's largest rice producer. Maize production jumped by 12.3%. Oilseeds yield also rose by 7.4%.

Another heartening news is India's agricultural exports rising 6.4% to \$51.9 billion in 2024-25, from \$48.8 billion during the preceding fiscal year. This was as against the almost flat 0.1% growth in the value of its overall goods' exports in 2024-25.

The country is hit by lower capital expenditure affecting the ₹86,000 crore construction equipment industry. It grew 21% in 2022-21 and 24% in 2023-24. Overall construction infrastructure activities are stated to be slowing down. The infra and construction goods sector slowed by 4% this April

against 8.5% in April, 2024, according to National Statistics Office (NSO). The construction industry has been thriving on liberal government expenditure. Its thaw speaks a lot that the private sector contribution to the country's growth is below expectation.

The manufacturing sector remained subdued, growing by 3.4% in April, lower than 4.2% a year earlier. The IIP dip is stated to be lower than estimated at 2.7% fall. The slowdown is broad-based across sectors, according to rating agency ICRA. In 2024-25, India's private sector capex also saw a decline, falling by nearly 9% to ₹26.8 lakh crore. This represents a three-year low and the second consecutive year-on-year decline.

Both the developments, in agriculture and industry, are significant in the light of the US policy manipulations by President Donald Trump. India is on protracted negotiations with the US to moderate and modify the tariff regime. Surfeit of bilateral transactions like the Indo-UK trade

deals are changing the global trade scenario. Developing countries are particularly at the receiving end as they have to spend more effort, time and resources on talks.

The stock markets too are tizzy having lost severely since January as it crashed with Trump's tariff hikes and retaliation from China fueled investors' jitters amid fears that a full-blown trade war could impact economic growth across the world. The pace of policy pronouncements, along with postponements and modifications, has created heightened uncertainty for companies and US trading partners.

A fluid trade policy environment is likely to continue as the administration continues to negotiate, takes steps to impose additional sectoral tariffs and reviews requests for product-specific exemptions from tariffs amid the latest US Federal Court striking down Trump tariffs. The coming year or months may see many global changes and the fortunes of India.

INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Guardians of forests

Sir, Last week a forest guard was killed by poachers near Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha's Dhenkanal district. This is yet another painful reminder of the dangerous fragility that forest frontline workers face in India. Forest guards play a vital role in protecting the country's natural resources. They work tirelessly and protect forests, yet often face threats, including attacks by poachers and wild animals. Despite the crucial role these sentinels play in protecting forests and wildlife, they don't feel valued by the Forest Department for the work they do under challenging conditions. In fact, a forest guard grieved that the lives of tigers are valued more than theirs, as television channels and top officials visit promptly when a tiger dies, but not when a forest guard loses his life in the line of duty. The fact that forest guards are underpaid despite long working hours with few holidays adds further to their feeling of being grossly undervalued. It is therefore important that the government provide at least basic infrastructure to forest guards to ensure decent and safe working conditions for them. .

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

India's Tiger Man

Sir, Valmiki Thapar, one of India's most prominent wildlife conservationists and authors who dedicated his life to the study and conservation of tigers, particularly in Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park, has passed away, casting a pall over the conservation world. Thapar, known as 'India's Tiger Man,' was the international voice of Indian tigers for many years. Thapar advocated for tighter anti-poaching laws and attempts to safeguard tiger habitats during his five-decade career. Thapar was a pioneer of community-based conservation in India; in the late 1980s, he was one of the founders and driving force behind the Ranthambore Foundation, a non-governmental organization that worked in almost 100 villages surrounding the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. His strategy was innovative, ranging from providing primary healthcare to the community to effectively re-wilding degraded and barren areas of land to developing dairy products to promote stall-fed cattle and deter unlawful grazing in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR



DELHI'S DEMOLITION DRIVE

Residents watch their decades-old homes razed

Around 370 working class families lived in the jhuggi cluster which has been in existence for around 60 years in south Delhi's Madras Camp



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Residents of Madras Camp in south Delhi's Jungpura looked on in despair as bulldozers rolled into their locality, tearing down homes many had lived in for decades.

"Where will we live now?" — the sentiment was writ large on most faces as civic authorities carried out the demolition drive at the slum clusters near Barapullah bridge following a Delhi High Court order.

"I have been living here for the past 60 years now. My children were born here, everything happened here. We are sitting on the road. We do not know where to go," said Janki, an elderly woman, sitting on the side of the road.

Residents and activists have urged the government to ensure proper rehabilitation before proceeding with further evictions.

Around 370 working class families lived in the jhuggi cluster which has been in existence for around 60 years. They were served eviction notices last month and those eligible would

be relocated to government flats in Narela.

On April 12, officials declared a list of families that were eligible for the government-allotted flats. Only 189 families were found eligible for the flats.

A notice issued by authorities to the residents May 30 stated that trucks would be stationed at Barapullah Bridge from 11 pm Friday till June 1 to assist in transporting their belongings to the allotted flats.

Sumidhi, another resident, echoed the same concern. "I have been living here for 30 years now. Several generations have lived here. My daughter is also pregnant now. We were told we would be given homes."

"There are so many families living here and earning a livelihood, but only 100-150 have been allotted (government flats). Where will we go now? We have not been allotted a house," she said

Shanti, another resident of the jhuggi cluster, said their house was torn down without warning. "They demolished our house, we couldn't even take out all our belongings.

We have lost many household items that we bought with our hard-earned money, she said.

Raju, who has been living in the camp for 45 years, said that even those who were allotted homes in Narela are struggling.

"Around 189 families were given houses, but the condition of those houses is terrible. There is no electricity, no water supply, and even the doors and windows are broken," he said.

South East Delhi District Magistrate Anil Banka said the demolition drive was taken following high court orders. "This is part of an anti-encroachment drive as directed by the court. The narrowing of the Barapullah drain had made cleaning difficult, which leads to flooding during the monsoon," he said.

He added that 370 houses were demolished in the drive, and out of them, 189 families were found eligible for relocation to Narela.

The operation was carried out with the help of the PWD, DUSIB, Revenue Department, and Delhi Police, he added.

AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj posted on X saying the demolition drive at the Madras Camp appeared to go against the Delhi Chief Minister's assurance that no slum would be removed.

"Thousands of people lost their homes today as bulldozers moved into the Barapullah Madras Camp," he wrote. He also urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to take note of the situation faced by Tamil residents in the national capital.

Gusty winds bring relief for Delhiites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Parts of Delhi witnessed a spell of very light to light rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds, Sunday evening, bringing temporary relief from the heat.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said an east-south-eastward moving cloud cluster triggered the weather activity, with winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kilometres per hour, gusting up to 50 kmph, over the southern parts of the national capital within a span of one to two hours.

The wind speed picked up significantly in several locations -- Palam and Jharoda Kalan in southwest Delhi recorded gusts of 65 kmph and 37 kmph respectively at 4:30 pm, while a thundersquall was reported over Safdarjung between 4:35 pm and 4:37 pm, with winds peaking at 66 kmph.

Additionally, Pragati Maidan reported the highest gust of the day at 76 kmph at 4:45 pm.

According to the IMD, the sudden spell was caused by multiple interacting weather systems. These include a Western Disturbance as a cyclonic circulation over north Pakistan in the middle tropospheric levels, another cyclonic circulation over Haryana in the lower levels and a continuous moisture feed from the Arabian Sea.

Other dynamical and thermodynamical factors also contributed to the development of the storm, it stated. The maximum temperature was recorded at 37.9 degrees Celsius, 2.1 notches below the seasonal average. Meanwhile, the relative humidity oscillated between 98 per cent and 56 per cent.

The weather department has forecast a thunderstorm, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph), for Monday with the maximum and minimum temperatures expected to settle around 37 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees Celsius, respectively.



Visitors at the India Gate during rainfall, in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

CRACKDOWN ON CRIMINALS

Record arrests of foreign nationals by Delhi Police



According to the officials, 132 foreign nationals have been arrested as of May

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 1: In a significant escalation of enforcement efforts, the Delhi Police have arrested a record number of foreign nationals involved in criminal activities this year, marking a peak in such detentions over the past few years.

Although the highest number of 152 foreign criminals was arrested in 2022, the police have nearly reached that figure within the first five months of this year.

According to the officials, 132 foreign nationals have been arrested as of May, a number significantly higher than in any other year except 2022.

These arrests include foreign nationals accused of committing various criminal offences in Delhi.

Police officials reported that a Chinese national was arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport in May for allegedly stealing debit and credit cards from passengers on an international flight.

In 2021, only 78 foreign nationals were arrested by the Delhi Police -- the lowest number in the last five years. Following this, police increased their surveillance of foreign

nationals and accelerated arrest operations.

These efforts yielded results, with 152 foreign nationals arrested in 2022. Police data show that in 2023 and 2024, 94 and 112 foreign nationals were arrested, respectively. This year, as of May 20, the Delhi Police have already apprehended 132 foreigners involved in various types of criminal activities.

Last month, the Delhi Police arrested two foreign nationals who were part of an international drug cartel and primarily targeted college-going youths.

Police officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, stated that most foreign national criminals are involved, either in drug syndicates or cyber fraud.

According to sources, it has been observed in some cases that criminal-minded accused individuals overpay their rent to avoid the tenant verification process.

Delhi Police officials said that a drive is being conducted against drug cartels operating in the National Capital under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The police are not only arresting peddlers but also investigating the forward and backwards linkages of the cartels. The increased number of arrests of foreign nationals is the result of this drive. They are mainly involved in drug cartels or cyber fraud-related crimes. Both types of criminals are being dealt with strict action as required.

The official clarified that these arrests are not part of the drives being conducted nationwide against illegal immigrants residing in India.

In the case of illegal immigrants, the police are focusing more on deporting them rather than filing an FIR (First Information Report) against them.

Earlier, Delhi Police had reported that around 900 Bangladeshis were caught, and later, the process of deportation was initiated to send them back to their country.

'HISTORIC' MOMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 1: A parcel train containing 24 tonnes of cherry left Jammu and Kashmir's Katra station for Mumbai Saturday, marking the first such initiative which was described by the Jammu division of the Northern Railway as "historic".

The parcel train, which will reach Mumbai's Bandra station within 30 hours, was earlier scheduled for June 3 but was advanced to facilitate two more indents for loading of cherries, one from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station and another from Jammu station, in the coming days, a railway official said.

The fruit growers in Kashmir welcomed the initiative and hoped that the much-awaited Kashmir rail link will be connected to the railway network soon to facilitate transportation of the perishable fruits directly from the valley to various destinations across the country.



"Today will be counted as a historic day in the recently created Jammu division of Northern Railway as railways took a unique initiative to transport 24 tonnes of cherry from Katra to Bandra Terminus," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM), Northern Railway, Jammu, Uchit Singhal said.

He said it has been possible after a lot of discussion among the Railway authorities, fruit growers associations and horticulture department of Jammu Kashmir.

"After this success, Jammu division has two more indents for loading of cherries, one from Katra and one from Jammu, in the coming days to transport the produce to different destination stations," Singhal said.

He said this is a good beginning and the initiative would be a win-win situation for both railways and fruit growers and in turn the economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ali Mohammad, a member of New Kashmir Fruit Association Srinagar, who reached Katra to oversee the loading of Cherry said this is a very good initiative by the northern Railways as it will not only reduce the time taken by the perishable produce to reach its destination but will also bring down the transportation charges.

"We brought cherries in trucks from Kashmir and loaded it in the parcel train before it left for its destination in Mumbai at 10 am," he said.

However, he said they are

First parcel train carrying Kashmiri cherries leave J&K for Mumbai

NDMC to construct 27-mtr clock tower

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 1: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will construct a clock tower at the Talkatora roundabout as a grand architectural landmark, Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal said Sunday.

He said that the clock tower would be approximately 27 metre tall and feature a 2-meter clock.

Chahal stated that the project has received approval from the Delhi Urban Art Commission and aims to establish a distinct identity within Lutyens' Delhi.

The NDMC Vice Chairman added that most municipal bodies across the country have iconic clock towers as their symbols, and now NDMC will also develop such a grand architectural landmark.

The surrounding area will feature granite flooring, steel railings, and marble decorations.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs 1.3 crore, and the target is to complete construction by December 2025.

Unfazed by terror threat, devotees flock to Kheer Bhawani Mela

With unwavering faith in the Indian Armed Forces, devotees, particularly from the Kashmiri Pandit community, are preparing to celebrate one of their most revered festivals June 3 at the historic temple of Ragnya Devi in Tullamulla

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ganderbal, June 1: As the sacred annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela draws near, large numbers of pilgrims have begun arriving in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, undeterred by the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

The shrine, dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi -- a reincar-

nation of Goddess Durga -- becomes a focal point of religious fervour each year as devotees from across India and abroad converge for the Mela.

Despite heightened tensions following the brutal April 22 Pahalgam terror incident, the spirit of the pilgrims remains unshaken.

Extensive security arrangements have been deployed across the region to ensure the safety of the devotees. Authorities have assured that all necessary measures -- including drinking water supply and essential amenities -- are in place to provide a worry-free experience for pilgrims.

Kashmiri Pandits, many of whom were displaced during the 1990 exodus, have expressed that their devotion remains stronger than ever.

They also lauded the Indian government and armed forces for



launching 'Operation Sindoor' in response to the Pahalgam attack, calling it a fitting reply to Pakistan-backed terrorism.

"The terrorists tried to spread fear, but our devotion has only grown," said a pilgrim from Chandigarh, speaking to IANS. "They want to derail tourism, but Kashmir is a part

of India. We will keep coming here. No one can frighten us."

Another devotee, Sunita, who migrated to Delhi during the 1990s, expressed deep emotional resonance on returning to the shrine for the first time.

"We're not scared even after the terror attack. Mata Kheer Bhawani called us. We are here

because of her and because of PM Modi. This is all possible because of him," she told IANS.

Umar Raina, another pilgrim, told IANS, "We only pray that Kashmiri Pandits are able to come back to their motherland. We want peace to prevail in Kashmir and to return to our homes."

Sharing similar sentiments, Shriti Dhar, a regular visitor to the Mela, said, "Our armed forces have always protected us. We are proud of them. The arrangements this year are really good. We've witnessed violence since our childhood, and the Indian Armed Forces have always been our shield."

Meanwhile, top officials, including IGP Jammu and Kashmir Police, DC Jammu Sachin, and Relief Commissioner Arvind, flagged off the Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra in Jammu.

of the day

note

When under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the brave Indian jawans destroyed the air defence system of Pakistan through Operation Sindoor... compelled the enemy to bow, it was inspired by the actions and principles of self-defence that the Lokmata espoused 300 years ago during her reign

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Today's Uttar Pradesh has become a remarkable example of cultural preservation. This journey began in 2014 when Narendra Modi chose Kashi as his constituency, and it accelerated in 2017 with Yogi Adityanath becoming CM

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

Assam is already witnessing intense rain in Silchar (42 cm), Karimganj (35 cm), Hailakandi (30 cm) and in nearby areas. People in low-lying and river-bank areas are advised to stay alert and follow local advisories. Stay safe, stay prepared

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

5 killed in HP road crash

Mandi: Five people were killed and one sustained serious injuries when the pickup vehicle they were travelling in rammed into the railings of a bridge here Sunday, police said. The accident took place when the vehicle was on its way from Ludhiana in Punjab to IIT-Mandi. According to preliminary investigation, the driver, who was injured in the accident, lost control over the vehicle and hit the railings of the bridge, police said.

Heavy rain lashes Agartala; one dies

Agartala: A man died after he fell into a manhole as incessant rain caused massive inundation across Tripura with the state's capital Agartala witnessing a record rainfall of around 200 mm in just three hours, officials said Sunday. Normal life was affected as overnight rain battered the city, with people seen wading through knee-deep waters in front of Chief Minister Manik Saha's residence. Saha Sunday said around 1,300 families have taken shelter in camps in West Tripura district due to incessant rainfall in the past 48 hours.

R'sthan: Tigress gives birth to four cubs

Alwar: In a boost to tiger conservation efforts in Rajasthan, a tigress at the Sariska Tiger Reserve has given birth to four cubs, taking their total population in the sanctuary to 48, officials said Sunday. The forest department confirmed the birth of the cubs to tigress ST-19, citing camera trap images and ground patrolling in the Bareilly Bari area of the reserve. This is the third tigress in Sariska to deliver four cubs within a year, following similar births by ST-12 and ST-22.

65-yr-old woman raped at home

Hathras (UP): Police here have arrested a man for allegedly raping a 65-year-old woman at her home, officials said Sunday. The victim's son filed a complaint, stating that his mother was sleeping in her room around 11:30 am Friday when the accused who lives in the neighbourhood entered the house and raped her.



Today, while paying my obeisance to Maa Ganga, I prayed for the development and prosperity of our country and also of Delhi

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

MAJOR BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE

The Bihar government has transferred 45 IAS officers, including several district magistrates (DMs), in a major shake-up in its bureaucracy ahead of the assembly elections, due later this year



Mukhtar Ansari's MLA son Abbas disqualified from UP Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 1: UP MLA Abbas Ansari, son of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, has been disqualified as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly after he was sentenced to two years in jail in a hate speech case, official sources said Sunday.

Abbas Ansari became MLA for the first time in 2022 by winning the election from the Mau Sadar Assembly seat on an SBSP ticket under the Samajwadi Party-led alliance. The seat has now been declared vacant, the sources told PTI.

The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) MLA was sentenced to two years imprisonment by a special MP-MLA court Saturday in the hate speech case of the 2022 polls. Under the Representation of the People Act, there is a provision to terminate the membership of the legislative house if the court sentences a member to two years imprisonment or more.

SBSP is currently an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government and the party president is a cabinet minister in the state.

When contacted, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Sunday told PTI, "He (Abbas Ansari) is an MLA of the party. The court has pronounced its judgement. We will move the high court to present our side."

According to the website of the Uttar Pradesh legislature, the other disqualified MLAs in the current 18th Legislative Assembly are Azam Khan (Samajwadi Party), his son Abdullah Azam Khan (SP), Haji Irfan Solanki (SP), Vikram Singh (BJP) and Ramdular (BJP).

EC holds revision of voters' list for bypolls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: For the first time in nearly two decades, the Election Commission revised the voters' list of five constituencies for holding Assembly bypolls there in a bid to ensure a "spotless" electoral roll.

The last time a special summary revision took place for a bypoll was in 2006 in Tamil Nadu, officials pointed out. Citing provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, officials said the electoral roll is to be revised before every election and bypoll unless otherwise directed by the EC.

If the electoral roll is not revised, the validity or continued operation of the said electoral roll shall not be affected, they said, quoting the law. The validity of the current electoral roll continues till the completion of the special revision.

Officials underlined that it is for the commission to decide if revision of electoral rolls has to be conducted or not, depending on the requirement. Bypolls to five Assembly seats in four states will be held June 19, the poll authority announced last month.

While two Assembly bypolls will be held in Gujarat, one each will take place in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. The

THE LAST TIME A SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION TOOK PLACE FOR A BYPOLL WAS IN 2006 IN TAMIL NADU, OFFICIALS POINTED OUT

PROVISIONS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950, OFFICIALS SAID THE ELECTORAL ROLL IS TO BE REVISED BEFORE EVERY ELECTION AND BYPOLL UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE EC

counting of votes will take place June 23. In Gujarat, the bypoll to the Kadi seat was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki.

Another bypoll to the Visavadar seat in the state is taking place due to the resignation of sitting member Bhayani Bhupendrabhai Gandubhai. In Kerala, the Nilambur seat will go to a bypoll since P V Anvar has resigned, while a bypoll will be held in Punjab's Ludhiana seat due to the death of sitting member Gurpreet Bassi Gogi.

A by-election to the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal has been necessitated due to the death of sitting Assembly member Nasiruddin Ahamed. Special Summary Revision is the legal term for revision of electoral rolls to weed out voters who have left the constituency or have died, and to add new names

OP SINDOOR

Shah slams Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 1: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday launched a blistering attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of "stooping low" by opposing Operation Sindoor and the Wakf Amendment Bill to appease the Muslim vote bank, and alleged that the Murshidabad riots were "state-sponsored".

Addressing party leaders and workers in Kolkata, Shah gave a clarion call to uproot the TMC government from power in the 2026 Assembly elections.

"The tenure of Mamata Banerjee as the CM will end in 2026. The BJP will uproot this TMC government in the next elections. To appease the Muslim vote bank, Mamata didi opposed Operation Sindoor. By doing so, she is insulting the mothers and sisters of this country. You have not only opposed the military operation, but you have also played with the lives of crores of mothers and sisters," Shah claimed.

The Home Minister said he has come to Bengal to "appeal to the women of the state and explain the value of sindoor (vermillion) to those who are against Operation Sindoor". Shah claimed the mothers and sisters of Bengal would teach Banerjee and her party a lesson in 2026 for opposing the military strike, launched in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in April that left several tourists, including some from Bengal, dead.

Banerjee had recently accused the Centre of politicising Operation Sindoor for electoral



Addressing party leaders and workers in Kolkata, Shah gave a clarion call to uproot the TMC government from power in the 2026 Assembly elections

gains. Responding to the allegation, Shah said, "During previous regimes in which Mamata didi was also a minister, no steps were taken to deal firmly with terror attacks. But our PM Narendra Modi took firm measures against terror attacks. But Mamata didi has a problem with it."

Shah asserted that the Centre had launched a "deep strike 100 km into Pakistan, targeting terrorist headquarters. "Numerous terrorists were killed, but this seems to trouble Mamata ji. By doing so, you are not only opposed to the mission but also disregard the sentiments and emotions of the women of our country," he alleged. Referring

to the killing of tourists from the state in the Pahalgam attack, Shah claimed, "When tourists from Bengal were killed in the assault, Mamata didi remained silent, but now she is having problems with Operation Sindoor."

Turning his attention to the Murshidabad violence that erupted during protests over the contentious Waqf Amendment Act, Shah alleged that it was "state-sponsored". "The way a TMC minister incited the violence, it can be said that the Murshidabad riots were state-sponsored, which caused injustice to the Hindus...Mamata Banerjee's minister abused the BSF, and the party's leaders were standing there and encouraging the rioters," he claimed.

"Mamata Banerjee is opposing the Waqf Amendment Act for appeasement politics...What is wrong with the Waqf Act? Should the land of Bengal be sacrificed because of Waqf," he claimed, adding that the Act was necessary to end corruption and irregularities in Waqf properties.

Over 4 lakh hit by Assam floods as toll reaches 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Rangia/Jorhat, June 1: Two more deaths took the toll in floods and landslides in Assam to 10 as more than 4 lakh people remained affected in over 20 districts Sunday, with seven major rivers in spate, an official bulletin said.

The situation is likely to aggravate for people living in low-lying and river bank areas due to continued heavy rainfall in the state and neighbouring areas, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma cautioned. Union Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Sarma during the day to take stock of the situation and assured of all possible assistance, as multiple agencies remained engaged in rescue and relief operations. Fourteen stranded people were rescued by an IAF helicopter from the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.

Road, railway and ferry services have been hit in different parts as most areas in the state continued receiving rain over the past few days. The state government announced ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of the five persons killed in

landslides in Guwahati over the last few days. An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin issued late evening said one death each has been reported in Cachar and Sribhumi districts over the last 24 hours. The toll in floods and landslides in the state is now at 10. The bulletin said 3,64,046 people in 56 revenue circles and 764 villages of 19 districts are reeling under floods.

Cachar is the worst-hit with 1,03,790 affected people, followed by Sribhumi with 83,621 and Nagaon with 62,700. An official statement from Cachar said all educational institutions in the district will remain closed for two days till Tuesday. As much as 3,524.38 hectares of crop land has been inundated and 696 animals washed away, the ASDMA bulletin said.

A total of 52 relief camps are sheltering 10,272 inmates, while another 103 relief distribution centres are functional. 'Urban floods' have been reported from four districts, affecting over 41,000 people, while four districts also remained affected by landslides.



Two squirrels at play on a tree branch in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Night owls face higher risk of cognitive decline: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: A night owl — or an evening person with a late sleep-wake cycle — could be at a higher risk of cognitive decline with age compared to an early bird or a morning person, a study has found.

Chronotype refers to one's sleep-wake type or times during the day when one naturally tends to be awake and asleep. A 'night owl' chronotype is said to have a later sleep-wake cycle, compared to an 'early bird' or a 'lark'.

"Are you an early bird or a night owl? It's hard to adjust what your biological clock — your so-called chronotype — is, but you can adjust your life to it as best you can," study author Ana Wenzler, from the Univer-



sity Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands, said.

Analysing the performance of about 23,800 participants on a cognitive test over a period of 10 years, the study found that evening people decline cognitively faster than morning people. The findings have

been published in The Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease.

"Unhealthy behaviour such as smoking, drinking and unhealthy eating happens more often in the evening," Wenzler said.

"In our study, we also saw

CHRONOTYPE REFERS TO ONE'S SLEEP-WAKE TYPE OR TIMES DURING THE DAY WHEN ONE NATURALLY TENDS TO BE AWAKE AND ASLEEP

A 'NIGHT OWL' CHRONOTYPE IS SAID TO HAVE A LATER SLEEP-WAKE CYCLE, COMPARED TO AN 'EARLY BIRD' OR A 'LARK'

this: evening people smoke and drink more often and exercise less. Twenty-five per cent of the risk of cognitive decline can be explained from our research by smoking and poor sleep," she said.

A greater decline was seen in higher-educated people — a delay of an hour in the sleep-wake cycle corresponded to a decline of 0.8 in cognition per decade. Wenzler said the decline might be related to their disturbed sleep rhythm.

"They are often people who have to go back to work early in the morning and are therefore more likely to sleep too short, giving their brains too little rest," she said.

The author explained that people's biological clock can change with age. "Children are morning people. That changes when you reach puberty, when you become an evening person. Around your 20s, that gradually shifts back towards morning people for most people. By the age of 40, most people are morning people again," Wenzler said.

However, this is certainly not the case for everyone, which is probably why evening people deviate from the norm, according to Wenzler, who recommended working against one's body "as little as possible".

Simhastha Kumbh Mela to begin Oct 31 next yr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nashik/Mumbai, June 1: The Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh Mela will begin October 31, 2026, with the traditional hoisting of flags at the two prominent pilgrimage towns, while the first 'Amrut Snan' or ritual dip in the Godavari river will take place August 2, 2027.


The much-awaited dates were announced at a meeting of sadhus and mahants in Nashik chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who said the world would be awestruck by the scale of arrangements to be made for the magnificent congregation.

The Simhastha Kumbh Mela will begin October 31, 2026, with 'Dhwajaroohan' (flag hoisting) at Trimbakeshwar and Ramkund in Nashik. On July 29, 2027, 'Nagar Pradakshina' will be held at Nashik, while the first 'Amrut Snan' will be held August 2, 2027. The second Amrut Snan will be held August 31, 2027, and the third and last one will be held in Nashik September 11, 2027 and September 12, 2027, at Trimbakeshwar.

The flag will be taken down July 24, 2028, which will mark the conclusion of the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, which is held once in 12 years. The previous Simhastha Kumbha Mela was held at Nashik and Trimbakeshwar in the year 2015-16. The Kumbh Festival is traditionally held at Nashik-Trimbakeshwar, Prayag (Allahabad), Haridwar, and Ujjain. Ardh Kumbh is held at Prayag and Haridwar after every six years. The Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh is unique as Vaishnav Akhadas and Shaiva Akhadas bath separately here.




Blasphemy must be condemned, always! Secularism isn't a shield for some and a sword for others. It must be a two-way street. West Bengal Police, the nation is watching. Act justly for all



PAWAN KALYAN | AP DEPUTY CM

From 2026 onward, we will institutionalise a three-day annual Sikkim Police Meet to celebrate, strengthen, and support the tireless work of our police force



PREM SINGH TAMANG | SIKKIM CM

This government is deeply rooted in power, money, land grabbing and syndicate. Unplanned construction, land grab and contractor specific flyover have taken priority over the needs of the ordinary people of Guwahati



GAURAV GOGOI | ASSAM CONGRESS PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

XPOST

OF THE DAY



Pic 1 : How ECB covers their grounds during rain. Hover Covers that quickly cover the pitch.



Pic 2 : How world's richest BCCI covers its grounds during rain. Cheap Quality Tarpaulins, barely covering the outfield.

Note : BCCI is 1000% richer than ECB

#MlvSPBKS

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Passenger caught with 48 snakes at airport

Mumbai: An Indian who arrived at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport from Thailand was found to be carrying 48 highly venomous snakes and five turtles, an official said Sunday. Customs officials intercepted the passenger Saturday night after he got down from a flight from Bangkok, he said. During a search of his baggage, the Customs officials discovered 48 highly venomous viper snakes and five turtles, he said. A team from RAWW (Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare) assisted in the identification and handling of these species, he said.

Handicapped girl abducted, strangled

New Delhi: A 22-year-old differently-abled woman was allegedly kidnapped and murdered in southeast Delhi's Madanpur Khadar area in the early hours of Sunday, an official said. The victim was reported missing around 1:02 am and police was alerted through a PCR call initially made to Sarita Vihar Police Station and subsequently transferred to Kalindi Kunj Police Station, he said.

Rebel Akali MLA Sukhi asked to present his side

Chandigarh: Rebel Akali MLA Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi, who is facing a disqualification plea for defecting from the SAD to the AAP last year, has been asked to present his side, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said Sunday. Sukhi, who is a two-time Akali MLA from the Banga assembly seat, was appointed as the Aam Aadmi Party's state vice-president for the Doaba zone Saturday.

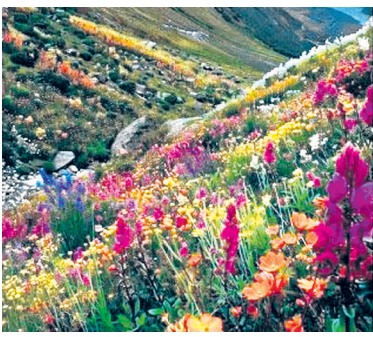


I am saying without any political differences that PM should focus on the enemy instead of self-boasting that no one except for him would have done it. Our full support is with the Armed Forces

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

VALLEY OF FLOWERS IN CHAMOLI OPENS

The Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district opened to tourists for this year Sunday, an official said. The Valley of Flowers, known for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and variety of flora, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005



ALL EYES ON SHARMISHTA

Political row erupts over arrest of influencer

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 1: The BJP Sunday slammed the West Bengal government over the arrest of influencer Sharmishta Panoli, accusing the Trinamool Congress dispensation of targeting the “young Hindu woman” to appease its vote bank.

According to sources, the West Bengal Police arrested 22-year-old Panoli from Haryana's Gurugram Friday night for allegedly uploading a video with communal comments claiming Bollywood actors were silent on Operation Sindoor.

A court in Kolkata Saturday sent Panoli to judicial custody till June 13. The Instagram influencer has been booked under relevant sections for promoting enmity between different groups, malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, apart from intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace. Reacting sharply over the Panoli's arrest, BJP co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya accused the TMC government of "selectively enforcing" the law as part of its appeasement politics.

"Sharmishta Panoli, just 22 years old, has been arrested and sent to 14-day judicial custody over a video she had already deleted and publicly apologised for May 15," Malviya wrote in a post on X. There have been no reports of communal unrest linked to her remarks, yet the



Kolkata police is acting with “uncharacteristic haste”, he charged.

“Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself has made far more divisive statements, which have had far-reaching consequences, including tragic loss of life and destruction of property on multiple occasions,” he said and asked, “Will the law be applied to her with the same urgency?” “This isn't just a case in West Bengal. It reflects how a young Hindu woman is being targeted to appease a vote bank,” Malviya said. Justice must not be “politically convenient”, the BJP leader said, adding that "India is watching".

Who is Sharmishta Panoli?

Sharmishta Panoli is a fourth-year student at a Pune law school, as per her Linke-

Need to differentiate between hate speech & patriotism: Police

New Delhi: The Kolkata Police Sunday presented its patriotic credentials while countering 'misleading narrative' surrounding their action and her objectionable social media content. In a post on social media platform X, the Kolkata Police justified their action of apprehending the 22-year-old law student, claiming they acted lawfully according to the procedure established by law. “Hate speech and abusive language should not be misconstrued as freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution,” said the police. “The accused was not arrested for expressing patriotism or for personal belief; legal actions were taken for sharing offensive content which promotes hatred among the communities,” the police said. “Some social media accounts are spreading false information that Kolkata Police has unlawfully arrested a law student for opposing Pakistan. This narrative is mischievous and misleading,” said the post.

Air India to reassess Turkish Technic maintenance plans

New Delhi: Air India will look to send its wide-body planes, whose heavy maintenance is being done by Turkish Technic, to other MRO entities, as part of recalibrating its plans taking into cognisance the recent developments related to Turkiye, according to the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson. Against the backdrop of Turkiye backing Pakistan and condemning India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country in May, aviation security watchdog BCAS, May 15, revoked the security clearance for Turkish company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd in the "interest of national security". Aviation safety regulator DGCA May 30 granted a one-time final extension of three months to IndiGo on damp leasing of two Boeing 777 aircraft from Turkish Airlines till August 31 but directed the airline to terminate the lease within the three-month period.

CBI arrests senior IRS officer in ₹25L bribery case

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, along with an associate, for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹25 lakh from a pizza chain owner, officials said Sunday. Amit Kumar Singal, additional director general posted at the Directorate of Taxpayer Services here, allegedly demanded a total bribe of ₹45 lakh to settle an income tax notice issued to Sanam Kapoor, owner of La Pino'z Pizza, they said. The first instalment of ₹25 lakh was delivered to Singal's residence in Mohali, Punjab Saturday, where a businessman named Harsh Kotak allegedly received the money on the officer's behalf. Acting on Kapoor's complaint a CBI team raided the premises and arrested Kotak. Another team of the central agency arrested Singal, a 2007-batch IRS officer, from his residence in Delhi the same day.

Terror, extortion module busted in Amritsar

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police Sunday claimed to have dismantled a terror and extortion module linked to an operative of Pakistan's ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) with the arrest of two men. Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said BKI member Jeevan Fauji was orchestrating an extortion racket, targeting individuals in Punjab's border districts. Two of his associates -- Karajpreet Singh, a resident of Verowal, and Gurlal Singh alias Harman, a resident of Goindwal Sahib in Tarn Taran -- have been apprehended, he said. Police teams have also seized a .30-bore pistol, along with a live cartridge.



A man casts fishing net at a flood-affected area amid rainfall, on the outskirts of Agartala, Tripura. Incessant rain caused massive inundation across Tripura with the state's capital Agartala witnessing a record rainfall of around 200 mm in just three hours, officials said

Bihar: Rape victim dies at Patna hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 1: A girl, who was battling for life after being raped in Bihar's Muzaffarpur recently, died at a state-run hospital Sunday, police said.

The minor was raped May 26 in her village in Muzaffarpur and brought to the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) Saturday in a critical condition, an official said.

The rape victim, referred to PMCH, was left waiting in an ambulance for several hours Saturday, allegedly due to the unavailability of a hospital bed, state Congress president Rajesh Ram alleged. A purported video of the incident had gone viral on social media, exposing the "insensitivity of the government and the hospital administration, he claimed. PTI couldn't independently verify the authenticity of the video.

Ram was present at the PMCH along with the party's media cell Bihar in-charge Rajesh Rathore Saturday.

The state Congress chief Sunday claimed, "It is a heart-wrenching incident and an insult to our state, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar." He alleged, "The victim died as the law and order and the health system in the state have collapsed. The NDA government in the state and the PMCH administration are solely responsible for the death of the girl.

CDS' remarks: Cong for immediate Parl session



The Congress demanded that the government take all parties and the nation into confidence and discuss India's defence preparedness and strategy after Operation Sindoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: The Congress Sunday demanded the immediate convening of a special session of Parliament to discuss the military and foreign policy strategy in the wake of revelations made by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan.

The Congress also demanded that the government take all parties and the nation into confidence and discuss India's defence preparedness and strategy after Operation Sindoor.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the Prime Minister or the defence minister should have informed the Opposition leaders in the all-party meeting what Gen Chauhan has stated in Singapore.

"The Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan has made some important statements on Operation Sindoor in, of all places, Singapore. It would have been better if the prime minister or the raksha mantri had briefed Opposition leaders first in an all-party meeting.

"Gen Chauhan's statements strengthen the case for the immediate convening of the Parliament to discuss larger strategic foreign policy and economic issues in the post Operation

Sindoor era," Ramesh told PTI. Gen Chauhan in Singapore Saturday said that India rectified tactics and hit deep inside Pakistani territory after suffering losses of aircraft in the recent military clashes with Pakistan. He also dismissed as "absolutely incorrect" Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian jets.

Gen Chauhan, in an interview with Bloomberg TV, said India flew all its jets and carried out high-precision strikes to hit back at Pakistan after ascertaining the reasons for the initial losses.

Ramesh said it is a matter of concern that such statements are coming from the CDS from Singapore, of all places.

"Why couldn't the Prime Minister have briefed Opposition leaders?" he asked while referring to the statements of Gen Chauhan.

"We have been demanding all-party meetings and a special session of Parliament precisely for this purpose," he asserted. Ramesh also reiterated his demand for a special review committee on the lines of one set up after the Kargil war on India's defence preparedness.

He said three days after the Kargil war ended, the then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had set up a Kargil Review Committee headed by the father of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the report was tabled and discussed in Parliament later.

Ramesh asked whether such a committee was being set up now, especially in the wake of the Chief of Defence Staff's statements about the "losses."

Armed forces united by uniform not divided by religion: HC

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur rejected the petition by the Indian Army Lieutenant, who served as a 'Troop Leader' of a squadron, against the termination order passed March 3, 2021, that dismissed him from the Indian Army without pension and gratuity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 1: The Delhi High Court has upheld the termination of services of a Christian army officer over his consistent refusal to fully participate in the weekly regimental religious parades and said the armed forces were united by their uniform rather than being divided by their religion.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur re-

jected the petition by the Indian Army Lieutenant, who served as a "Troop Leader" of a squadron, against the termination order passed March 3, 2021, that dismissed him from the Indian Army without pension and gratuity.

The court opined that the petitioner kept his religion above the lawful command from his superior, and disobedience was an offence under the Army Act. "In the present case, the question is not of religious



freedom at all; it is a question of following a lawful command of a superior. It is not disputed by the petitioner that his superiors have been calling upon him to attend the religious parades by even entering the sanctum sanc-

torum and perform the rituals if this would help in boosting the morale of the troops. In the present case, the petitioner has kept his religion above a lawful command from his superior. This clearly is an act of indiscipline,"

said the bench.

"Our Armed Forces comprise personnel of all religions, castes, creeds, regions, and faiths, whose sole motto is to safeguard the country from external aggressions, and, therefore, they are united by their uniform rather than divided by their religion, caste, or region," it stated. The petitioner submitted that his regiment maintained only a temple and a gurdwara for its religious needs and parades, and being of monotheistic Christian faith, he sought exemption from entering the innermost part of the temple while accompanying his troops for the weekly religious parades and other events. The authorities defended the termination, say-

ing efforts were made through other Christian officers in the army, and he was also taken to the pastor of a local church, who told the petitioner that entering the 'sarv dharm sthal' as part of his duties would not impinge on his Christian faith. However, he remained undeterred.

In its judgement passed May 30, the court "saluted" the dedication of "those who guard our borders day and night in adverse conditions" and said uniformity in appearance as well as respect for all the religions was quintessential to a cohesive, disciplined, and coordinated functioning of an armed force and the ethos of the armed forces placed nation before religion.

international

of the day quote

So long as a country's nuclear activities are under the IAEA's monitoring, there is no cause for concern. The Islamic Republic of Iran is neither pursuing nuclear weapons nor does it possess any undeclared nuclear materials or activities

KAZEM GHARIBABADI | IRAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

If Russia prevails in Ukraine, it's not about Europe. It's not about one region. It will send a very clear signal also to smaller states here in Indo-Pacific that anyone can ignore their borders, that any fabricated excuse can justify invasion

DOVILE ŠAKALIENE | LITHUANIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

In our newest intelligence reports, our intelligence agency said that the biggest cyber threat is coming from China, and that we do see most cyber activity when it comes to us being as from China. That was the case last year, but that's still the case. So we only see this intensifying

RUBEN BREKELMANS | DUTCH DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

7 killed as train derails in Russia

Moscow: A passenger train derailed in western Russia late Saturday after a bridge collapsed because of what local officials described as "illegal interference." Officials said at least seven people were killed and 30 injured. The bridge in Russia's Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, was damaged "as a result of illegal interference in transport operations," Moscow Railways said in a statement without elaborating. Russia's federal road transportation agency, Rosavtodor, said the destroyed bridge passed above the railway tracks where the train was travelling.

Nigeria mishap kills 22 athletes

Abuja: A bus veered off a bridge in Nigeria's northern state of Kano, killing at least 22 athletes returning home from a sports festival and leaving several other passengers injured, the state's governor said. The cause of the accident, which happened on Saturday, was not immediately known. The athletes had taken part in the Nigerian National Sports Festival in the southern state of Ogun over the last week. The driver appeared to lose control of the bus and the vehicle, with over 30 passengers, plunged off the Chiromawa Bridge on the Kano-Zaria expressway, according to Abba Kabir Yusuf, the governor of Kano. Survivors of the crash were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Two killed in Pak blasts

Peshawar: At least two people were killed in two separate explosions in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Sunday, officials said. A blast took place at a tube well near a house in Kohat district's Darra Adam Khel town, about 35 kilometres southwest of Peshawar, killing two people, a rescue official said. Rescue, medical and disaster management teams reached the scene after receiving information about the incident. The house was completely destroyed in the explosion, the official said. In another incident, unidentified attackers planted an (IED in an under-construction building in Bannu district, another rescue official said. The explosion which heavily damaged the building belonging to the Rescue 1122 emergency services occurred after midnight, the official said. However, no casualties were reported in the incident, the official said.

31 Gazans gunned down while heading to aid hub

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafah, June 1: At least 31 people were killed and over 150 were wounded Sunday while on their way to receive food in the Gaza Strip, according to health officials and multiple witnesses.

The witnesses said Israeli forces fired on crowds around a kilometre from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation. The army in a brief statement said it was "currently unaware of injuries caused by (Israeli military) fire within the humanitarian aid distribution site. The matter is still under review".

The foundation — promoted by Israel and the United States — said in a statement it delivered aid "without incident" early Sunday. It has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, which are in Israeli military zones where independent access is limited.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 31 people were killed and 170 others were wounded.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's aid distribution has been marred by chaos in its first week of operations, and multiple witnesses have said Israeli troops fired on crowds near its delivery sites.

Before Sunday, at least six people had been killed and more than 50 wounded, according to local health officials.

The foundation says the private security contractors guarding its sites have not fired on the crowds. Israel's military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions.

The foundation said in a statement it distributed 16 truckloads of aid early Sunday "without incident," and dismissed what it described as "false reporting about deaths,



Smoke rises to the sky following an Israeli strike in Gaza City, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

mass injuries and chaos".

Thousands of people headed toward the distribution site in southern Gaza hours before dawn. As they approached, Israeli forces ordered them to disperse and come back later, witnesses said.

When the crowds reached the Flag Roundabout, around 1 kilometre away, at around 3 a.m., Israeli forces opened fire, the witnesses said.

"There was fire from all directions, from naval warships, from tanks and drones," said Amr Abu Teiba, who was in the crowd. He said he saw at least 10 bodies with gunshot wounds and several other wounded peo-

ple, including women. People used carts to ferry the dead and wounded to a field hospital. "The scene was horrible," he said.

Most people were shot "in the upper part of their bodies, including the head, neck and chest", said Dr. Marwan al-Hams, a health ministry official at Nasser Hospital, where many of the wounded were transferred after being brought to the field hospital run by the Red Cross.

He said 24 people were being treated in Nasser Hospital's intensive care unit. A colleague, surgeon Khaled al-Ser, later said 150 wounded people had

arrived, along with 28 bodies.

Ibrahim Abu Saoud, another witness, said the military fired from about 300 metres away.

Abu Saoud said he saw many people with gunshot wounds, including a young man who he said died at the scene. "We weren't able to help him," he said.

Mohammed Abu Teaima, 33, said he saw Israeli forces open fire and kill his cousin and a woman as they headed toward the distribution site. He said his cousin was shot in his chest and his brother-in-law was among the wounded.

"They opened heavy fire directly toward us," he said.

Sunday's proceedings marked the start of the former Bangladesh prime minister's trial in absentia nearly 10 months after the ouster of her government following the protests



The prosecution charged Hasina with exercising absolute authority to ruthlessly suppress the uprising. The two others were accused of provocation, complicity, abatement, instigation and facilitation.

"Upon reviewing the evidence, we concluded that it was a coordinated, widespread and systematic attack," ICT-BD chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told the court.

All three were accused of superior command responsibility for the crimes.

The prosecution said they would submit video, audio, and forensic evidence during the trial and listed 81 people to appear as witnesses.

The tribunal's investigation agency on May 12 in its report to the chief prosecutor's office named Hasina as the instigator of the killings during the upris-

ing that ousted her government. The chief prosecutor urged the court to treat the Awami League as a criminal organisation since the crimes were committed on a partisan basis.

The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus last month ordered the disbanding of the party until the trials of its leaders were completed.

Under the ICT-BD law, if convicted, Hasina and the co-accused could face the death penalty. The proceedings were broadcast live on television for the first time in Bangladesh's history.

RECORD NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN UK

UK government figures Sunday showed that more than 1,100 migrants arrived in the country Saturday in small boats from France across the English Channel, the highest number recorded on a single day so far this year.



China says Hegseth calling it threat touts Cold War mentality

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, June 1: China Sunday denounced US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth for calling the Asian country a threat, accusing him of touting a Cold War mentality as tensions between Washington and Beijing further escalate.

The foreign ministry said Hegseth had vilified Beijing with defamatory allegations the previous day at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a global security conference. The statement also accused the United States of inciting conflict and confrontation in the region.

"Hegseth deliberately ignored the call for peace and development by countries in the region, and instead touted the Cold War mentality for bloc confrontation," it said, referring to the post-World War II rivalry between the US and the former Soviet Union.

"No country in the world deserves to be called a hegemonic power other than the US itself," it said, alleging that Washington is also undermining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

Hegseth said in Singapore Saturday that Washington will bolster its defences overseas to counter what the Pentagon sees as rapidly developing threats by Beijing, particularly in its aggressive stance toward Taiwan.

China's army "is rehearsing for the real deal," Hegseth said. "We are not going to sugarcoat it — the threat China poses is real. And it could be imminent."

The Chinese statement stressed that the Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair, saying the US must "never play with fire" with it.

Poles vote for new president in runoff

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw, June 1: Poles began voting Sunday in a decisive presidential runoff that could set the course for the nation's political future and its relations with the European Union.

The contest pits Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, a liberal pro-EU figure, against Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the right-wing Law and Justice party.

The outcome will determine whether Poland continues along a nationalist path or pivots more decisively toward liberal democratic norms. With conservative President Andrzej Duda completing his second and final term, the new president will have significant influence over whether Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist government can fulfill its centrist agenda, given the presidential power to veto laws.

Voting began at 7 am local time and will end at 9 pm, when an Ipsos exit poll is expected. Final results are likely to be



announced Monday. The runoff follows a tightly contested first round on May 18, in which Trzaskowski won just over 31 per cent and Nawrocki nearly 30 per cent, eliminating 11 other candidates.

Katarzyna Malek, a 29-year old voter in Warsaw, cast her ballot in the first round for a left-wing candidate but went for Trzaskowski on Sunday, viewing him as more competent and more likely to pursue stronger ties with foreign partners and lower social tensions.

"I hope there will be less division, that maybe there will be more dialogue," she said.

Rome's 'Hollywood on the Tiber' plans comeback

Cinecitta has hosted over 3,000 films, attracting world-renowned directors such as Martin Scorsese, Federico Fellini and Francis Ford Coppola

REUTERS

Rome, June 1: Europe's largest film studio Cinecitta is aiming to re-launch Italy as a movie powerhouse, even as US President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on foreign productions cast a shadow over the film industry globally.

Cinecitta, the homonymous company that manages Rome's historic film studio, approved a five-year plan this week backed by the EU's post-COVID Recovery Fund, which includes building new high-tech sound

stages and boosting production capacity by 60% by 2026.

"We want to lead the game," said CEO Manuela Cacciamani. "Cinecitta must be a factory that works at full capacity... with excellence as a minimum standard."

Founded in 1937 under Benito Mussolini's fascist rule, Cinecitta became known as the "Hollywood on the Tiber". It has hosted over 3,000 films, attracting world-renowned directors such as Martin Scorsese, Federico Fellini and Francis Ford Coppola. The company is tar-



getting revenue of 51.9 million euros (\$58.8 million) in 2023, almost double the 2024 figure, and aims to turn a 4.3-million-euro

net profit after a loss of 11.6 million euros last year.

Trump has said he will impose a 100% tariff on movies

produced outside the United States to save Hollywood from "a very fast death", but has issued few details on how the levy would work.

The tariff plan threatens to disrupt the current industry set-up, in which big U.S. productions rely on the services of studios around the world that can provide expertise, cheaper costs and striking location scenery.

Trump's sweeping tariffs were temporarily reinstated by a federal appeals court Thursday, a day after a U.S. trade court blocked them, ruling Trump had exceeded his authority.

Cacciamani told Reuters Cinecitta was monitoring "with the utmost care" developments regarding the tariff threat.

"The hope is that two historic powers of cinema world-

wide, (Italy and the U.S.) which owe so much to each other, will continue to cooperate," she said.

Italy's tax credit of up to 40% for film production is "among the most competitive worldwide", Cinecitta said, helping attract some of last year's international successes such as "Emilia Perez" and the papal thriller "Conclave".

Among projects slotted for filming in Cinecitta this year is Mel Gibson's "The Resurrection of The Christ", a sequel to his 2004 "The Passion of The Christ".

Gibson is one of Trump's "Special Ambassadors" in Hollywood, tasked with rescuing the U.S. film industry alongside actors Jon Voight and Sylvester Stallone. His next film, being shot in Italy, would be exposed to the tariff.

KINGS OF EUROPE

GOLDEN DAWN FOR PSG

Paris Saint-Germain humiliate Inter 5-0, seal 1st-ever Champions League trophy



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, June 1: Paris Saint-Germain, Champions League winner.

At long last the club that was transformed by Qatari billions and bought and sold a succession of the world's greatest players in an extravagant bid to get to the top has got its hands on the big one.

European club soccer's grand-est prize has a new home after PSG thrashed Inter Milan 5-0 in Saturday's final in Munich.

It was the trophy that not even Lionel Messi, Neymar or Kylian Mbappe could deliver to the French club. Coach Luis Enrique has achieved it after overseeing PSG's shift from the era of galactico signings to one of genuine team-building.

Fitting then that Désiré Doué, the 19-year-old French forward, emblematic of the club's new generation, was the chief inspiration and player of the match as PSG recorded the biggest win in a final in the competition's 70-year history. In a scintillating performance, Doué scored two goals and set

up another goal in little over an hour on the field before being substituted.

Achraf Hakimi, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and substitute Senny Mayulu all scored around Doué's double in a game in which PSG could have run out an even bigger winner.

PSG joins European royalty

Now PSG can truly sit alongside the royalty of European soccer. Not by virtue of turnover or merchandizing but on the merits of its achievements on the field. The Champions League is the ultimate barometer of the continent's elite clubs and up until now PSG has been a flashy contender that always came up short.

That all changed at Allianz Arena, the home of Bayern Munich, one of the titans of Europe, and a fitting stage for PSG's crowning moment. Not least because it was against Bayern that it lost its only other Champions League final in 2020, leaving Neymar in tears in an empty stadium in Lisbon where fans were locked out because of the pandemic.

On this occasion, thousands

HISTORIC TREBLE: This landmark victory not only awards PSG the coveted trophy but also crowns them among the elite clubs that have completed the prestigious treble – winning the league, national cup, and the Champions League in the same season

It's in the bag, it's coming home with us to Paris tomorrow. My first day at the PSG campus I said the ultimate goal was to fill the trophy cabinet. The only trophy missing was the Champions League. Here we have ticked that box

LUIS ENRIQUE | COACH, PSG

It shouldn't overshadow the season we've had. You just need to think of the journey we've been on in the Champions League

GIUSEPPE MAROTTA | PRESIDENT, INTER MILAN

of PSG supporters were there to revel in the moment, waving flags, lighting flares and drowning out their rivals from Inter, many of whose supporters left the stadium long before the final whistle.

They'd been partying in the streets of Munich throughout the day, but that was nothing compared to the scenes of joy when captain Marquinhos held the trophy aloft with fireworks and golden confetti exploding

behind him.

After so many setbacks in this competition, PSG truly delivered on the night.

It took just 12 minutes for the French champion to go ahead with a move of speed and precision when Vitinha's threaded pass into the box found the feet of Doué. The forward could have shot, but instead slid in Hakimi to tap into an open net.

Former Inter player Hakimi muted his celebrations, but the

2 dead, hundreds held as celebrations turn wild

Two fans died and a police officer is in a coma after mass nationwide celebrations for Paris Saint-Germain's historic Champions League victory, European soccer's biggest prize, French authorities said Sunday. The fatalities marred a night of exuberance after PSG clinched its first – and long-awaited – Champions League title, in a 5-0 win over Inter Milan. The Eiffel Tower glowed in team colours, and fans partied through the night. The triumphant team denounced the violence, as the players were arriving in Paris and heading to a big victory parade Sunday. The title “should be a moment of collective joy”, PSG said in a statement. “These isolated acts are contrary to the club's values, and don't at all represent the immense majority of our fans.” The overnight celebrations were largely peaceful but degenerated into violence in some areas. A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death in the western city of Dax during a PSG street party after Saturday night's final in Munich, the national police service said. A man in his 20s was killed in Paris when his scooter was hit by a car during PSG celebrations, and the driver has been detained, Paris police said. The circumstances of both are being investigated. A police officer was hit accidentally by fireworks at a PSG gathering in Coutances in northwest France and placed in an artificial coma because of grave eye injuries, the national police service said. A total of 201 people were injured around the capital, four of them seriously, the Paris police chief said. In the Alpine city of Grenoble, a driver ran into pedestrians who had gathered for a PSG celebration, injuring three or four people, the regional prosecutor's office said. It said the driver was detained. The city also saw fans throwing projectiles at firefighters and police using dispersion grenades. By 2 am Sunday, a total of 294 arrests had been made, including 30 people who broke into a shoe shop on the Champs-Élysées. Two cars were set alight close to Parc des Princes, police added.



PSG fans went wild.

Eight minutes later and the lead was doubled when Doué's shot from the right of the box deflected off Federico Dimarco and past Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

He got his second in the 63rd, sliding the ball into the bottom corner when through on goal.

Kvaratskhelia added the fourth 10 minutes later and Mayulu struck in the 86th, just two minutes after coming on.

Doué and Mayulu became the third and fourth teenagers to score in a Champions League final following Patrick Kluivert in 1995 and Carlos Alberto in 2004.

Enrique's epic encore

Luis Enrique, who won the

2015 Champions League with Barcelona, became the seventh coach to win the trophy with two different teams, joining greats Carlo Ancelotti, Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho.

He also led PSG to a first treble of trophies — the Champions League added to Ligue 1 and the French Cup — matching his achievement with Barcelona 10 years ago.

His players threw him high in the air in celebration after the whistle.

For PSG, this moment has been 14 years in the making since it was bought by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011 and, awash with newfound riches, targeted marquee signings to speed up its route to the top.

NORWAY CHESS

Gukesh's roller-coaster ride continues as Erigaisi upsets No 2 Nakamura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger, June 1: Reigning world champion D Gukesh's roller-coaster ride continued with the Indian suffering a defeat in an Armageddon tie-break as he slipped to tied-fifth place, while Arjun Erigaisi upset American world No 2 Hikaru Nakamura to maintain his fourth position in Norway Chess.

Defending champion Magnus Carlsen continued to shine Saturday, taking his points tally to 9.5 following his Armageddon tie-break victory against another American GM Fabiano Caruana with black pieces.

On a day when the tournament delivered gripping action across all boards, all three games in the 'Open' category ended in draws, with the Armageddon tie-break being applied to break the deadlock.

In a match, where fortunes swung wildly, Chinese GM Wei Yi was winning in the middlegame, while Gukesh, playing with black pieces, had the advantage in the endgame. But the Classical game finally ended in a stalemate after a lot of uncertainty.

Wei, who has proved a difficult customer in Armageddon having defeated Carlsen and Nakamura in earlier games here, registered his third tie-break win as Gukesh was left searching for answers to overturn his fortunes.

Nakamura observed that Gukesh's tendency to go after Wei from the get-go despite having black pieces would explain why the Indian ran into trouble in the Classical game. In the end, it was the world champion who came close to winning the game, but a draw was fair to both the exponents.

In the women's section, two-time world rapid champion, Koneru Humpy took the lead with 8.5 points following a tie-break win against China's Lei Tingjie, while R Vaishali scored a decisive win against Iranian-Spanish player Sara Khadem to log three points and move to fourth spot with 6.5 points.

DREAM RUN

Oscar Piastri wins Spanish Grand Prix

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montmelo (Spain), June 1: Oscar Piastri won the Spanish Grand Prix ahead of McLaren teammate Lando Norris as McLaren continued its early dominance of the Formula 1 championship Sunday. Piastri flew away from his pole position and executed a flawless race to extend his lead in the driver standings.

Norris crossed behind him after he recovered from a bad start. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third. Max Verstappen crossed fifth but was dropped to 10th after he was given a 10-second penalty for colliding with fourth-place finisher George Russell late after he had been ordered to give back a place when he had overtaken the Mercedes by driving off course.

It was the third McLaren one-two of the season and the team's seventh win in nine races, with Piastri taking five of those victories.

Pugilists return with eight medals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangkok, June 1: Deepak and Naman Tanwar spearheaded India's campaign at the 4th Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament, securing two golds as part of an impressive eight-medal haul. Competing against tough international opponents, and despite limited exposure or experience, the Indian boxers delivered a stand-out week of performances.

This display of grit and potential marks a promising start for Indian Boxing's second chapter offering renewed hope for the future of Indian boxing.

Deepak clinched the men's 75kg gold with a 5-0 win over Abdurakhimov Javokhir of Uzbekistan while Naman Tanwar got the better of China's Han Xuezhen 4:1 in the 90kg final.

In the women's 80+kg final, Kiran went down 2:3 against Kazakhstan's Yeldana Talipova in a keenly fought bout to settle for a silver.

Speaking on India's achieve-



ment, BFI President-Chairman, Interim Committee, Ajay Singh, said: “I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to our medallists at the Thailand Open. This performance reflects the growing depth and consistency that our boxers are capable of on the international stage. They have shown composure, skill, and strategic maturity against some of the best in the

world, especially in the heavier weight categories this time around. It's a clear sign that the systems we've put in place are working. As we now shift focus to the second leg of the World Cup in Kazakhstan, we carry forward this momentum and belief. The goal is clear, to keep building, keep performing, and keep raising the bar.”

Five Indian women boxers

will also return home with bronze medals. Tamanna (51kg), Priya (57kg), Sanju (60kg), Saneh (70kg) and Lal-fakmawii Ralte (80kg) came up with strong performance to finish on the podium.

The Indian contingent reaffirmed their standing as one of the world's leading boxing nations with a strong performance at the 4th Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament.

India had fielded a 19-member strong contingent in the prestigious boxing tournament, held under the aegis of World Boxing-backed Asian Boxing, that has attracted talented boxers from powerhouses like China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, South Korea, and host Thailand.

Indian boxers had won six medals, including one gold, in the World Boxing Cup in Brazil and will be gearing up for the second leg at the end of this month in Kazakhstan. The World Boxing Cup Finals will be played in New Delhi later this year.

FRENCH OPEN

Djoko, Sinner flex muscles



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, June 1: Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner flexed their muscles Saturday, powering into the fourth round of the French Open in straight sets, as Madison Keys saved three match points to advance alongside three other American women.

Djokovic eased past Austrian qualifier Filip Misolic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Court Philippe Chatrier to keep his quest for a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title on track. The three-time French Open winner took just over two hours to beat 153rd-ranked Misolic and will next play Britain's 81st-ranked Cameron Norrie for a place in the quarter-finals.

Djokovic played in the night session on centre court with the match overlapping with the UEFA Champions League final between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan.

"I don't know if it was good for me to get this scheduled slot, because it was interesting, the crowd was really following the (football) game," he said. "And I could hear once they (PSG) scored, and it was way too many times that they were celebrating. I was like, 'Wow, there's a lot of goals from Paris' and 'What's going on?'. So now I heard it's 5-0, so it's quite a result, to be honest."

The 38-year-old faced on-

Bopanna, Yuki bow out

India's campaign ended at the French Open with the third round defeats of Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri with their respective partners in the men's doubles event, here Sunday. Bopanna and his Czech partner Adam Pavlasek fought tooth and nail before falling 2-6-7(5) to second seeds Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten, ranked three and four in the world, respectively. Bhambri and his American partner Robert Galloway lost 4-6-4-6 to ninth seeds Christian Harrison and Evan King from the United States. N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bolipalli have already exited the tournament.



Tenzin fighting odds to break the glass ceiling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 1: The life of Tenzin Pema, the first Tibetan professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter, is an inspiring story of rising above innumerable personal and professional hurdles to break the glass ceiling.

The 30-year-old has carved a career in combat sports, earning a silver medal at the Wushu International Championship in Moscow (2019), silver in the World Kickboxing K1 Championship (2018), and a gold in the Kickboxing State Championship (2017).

She has also earned medals in multiple professional MMA bouts at various levels.

But all these accolades came to Pema, an orphan, after sup-

porting herself doing various daily jobs such as maid, babysitter and milking cows from the age of 10.

"I grew up in difficult circumstances, working part-time jobs to meet my expenses, in addition to my studies to fulfil my dream of becoming a professional fighter," Pema recalled.

But why did she want to become a fighter? Pema said she wanted to prove to herself and to the world that she was "worthy" after years of struggles and trauma.

However, the path to realising her dream was not an easy one, as she had to face constant bullying for being a woman, for her looks and origin.

"People did not understand what being a Tibetan meant" she said, but those early struggles



were her biggest source of inspiration. But the turning point in Pema's life and career came in 2019 when she bagged a silver

Fighter's life is not easy. It is full of pain, perseverance, and an unbreakable will to rise after every fall

TENZIN PEMA

medal at the Wushu Championship in Russia, which made the then Sports Minister Anurag Thakur take notice of her.

"I fought for three years to receive a scholarship but after the intervention of the then sports minister Anurag Thakur, I received my scholarship and I will always be thankful to him for the help," she said.

However, Pema, rather painfully, admits that people often do not understand that effort that goes into becoming a fighter.