

Manushi's journey

Actor Manushi Chhillar celebrates a full-circle moment, from Miss World winner to judge on the iconic stage

LEISURE | P2



Ends of talks

Ukraine-Russian talks in Istanbul ended within an hour Monday, following a major Ukrainian drone strike on several Russian fighter jets

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Boost to EV sector

New EV policy's lower import tax regime for foreign automakers to strengthen local manufacturing

BUSINESS | P11



IPL final today

champion as PBKS will clash with RCB Tuesday. Neither team has won the IPL before

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | JUNE 3, 2025

Tiger cub dies in NZP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 2: A seven-month-old white tiger cub died at Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, officials said

The white tiger cub, born to Melanistic tiger Krishna and white tigress Rupa November 2 last year, showed signs of lameness in March and was under regular veterinary care, including diagnostic imaging, medication, and nutritional supplementation, a zoo officer

Experts from the Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) have also examined the tiger cub, and blood tests showed no major abnormalities. Despite initial recovery, the cub exhibited some degree of lameness, he said.

On the night of May 31, the cub ate normally and showed no signs of distress. However, on the next day (June 1), it was seen struggling and passed away in the evening, he said.

The officer said that the cause of death will be ascertained after a post-mortem examination.

NEET PG postponed

New Delhi, June 2: The NEET PG 2025 examination has been postponed following a directive from the Supreme Court. The move comes after the court ordered that the postgraduate medical entrance test must be held in a single shift to maintain transparency and fairness.

Earlier, the NEET PG 2025 exam was scheduled for 15 June and was to be held in two shifts. However, NBEMS has now confirmed that it will reorganise the test so that all candidates can take the exam at the same time, in one shift. The SC was responding to a petition filed by Aditi and Others against

JEE (Adv) results out

New Delhi, June 2: Delhi zone's Rajit Gupta bagged the top rank in IIT entrance JEE advanced, results of which were announced Monday.

According to officials at IIT Kanpur, which was the conducting institute this time for Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced, a total of 1,80,422 candidates appeared in both papers 1 and 2 of the exam held on May 18.

"In the exam, 54,378 candidates have qualified, out of which 9,404 are female candidates," an official said. Kota resident Rajit Gupta, who scored 332 out of 360 marks, is the top ranker in the Common Rank List (CRL). Devdutta Maihi of IIT Kharagpur zone is the topranked female candidate with CRL 16. She obtained 312 marks. JEE-Main, which is the admission test for engineering colleges across the country, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced.

Hans Daruka Odisha topper | P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What kind of training are they getting? They can't even lie properly!



INTENSE ERUPTION: Smoke billows from Mount Etna volcano, Italy, Monday

2.5 tonnes of looted

explosives recovered

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Security forces Monday recovered

over 2.5 tonnes of explosive

materials looted by Maoists in

Sundargarh district, a senior

The security personnel of the

state's SOG, CRPF, Jharkhand's

elite Jaguar force and Sundar-

garh's DVF during a joint op-

eration in Odisha-Jharkhand

border, recovered more than

2.5 tonnes of explosives which

was looted by Maoists from K

Balang area of the district May

27, the officer told this agency.

sives were buried under the

earth, others could be located

from underneath rocks," the of-

ficer engaged in the operation

said, adding that the search

operation was continuing since

May 28, a day after the Maoists

looted the explosives when

they were being transported

to a stone quarry for blasting

While some of the explo-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

police officer said.

Ragging: ₹25K fine on 2 house surgeons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 2: Authorities at Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur Monday slapped a penalty of ₹25,000 on two house surgeons on charge of subjecting a fourth year medical student to mental harassment.

According to the anti-ragging cell, two house surgeons allegedly subjected a fourth-year medical student to mental harassment May 12. Following the complaint, the medical college authorities convened a meeting of the anti-ragging committee Monday.

Sources said the incident stemmed from junior students allegedly not showing 'due respect' to their seniors. During the meeting, it was emphasized that such behavior is unacceptable, especially among medical professionals and students.

As a disciplinary measure. the anti-ragging committee decided to impose a fine of ₹25,000 each on the two house surgeons involved, according to MKCG Principal and Dean Dr Suchitra Dash.

Meanwhile, a compromise statement was submitted to the local police station May 16 by both the complainant and the accused students, indicating a mutual resolution of the matter. Berhampur Town Police Inspector Suchitra Parida confirmed that a general diary entry has been made in this regard.

The meeting was attended by Principal-cum-Dean Dr Dash, Registrar Sangram Sekhar Panda, heads of all departments, several committee members, and officers from the Baidyanathpur Police Station.

Monsoon stalls after early onset

Extreme weather and climate change appear to be impacting the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) prediction of above-normal rainfall in 2025. The monsoon, which was expected to bring about 106% of the normal rainfall, seems to have performed a vanishing act after a thunderous start. While nearly half of the country's farmland depends on the annual June-September rains for cropping, the year's rainfall now hinges on a weather system likely to develop in the Bay of Bengal around June 11. As a result, there has been no rain for over a week, and the state has already started to bear the brunt of dry spell with Bhubaneswar, becoming the second hottest place in state Monday. In contrast, at least 34 people have died in the northeastern region after unprecedented floods triggered landslides over the last four days. With no sign of skies to open up for the next few days, Odisha now braces up for another spell of extreme heat wave condition

Mumbai, June 2: Rainfall across the country is likely to remain subdued for over a week as the annual monsoon's progress has stalled after its earliest onset in 16 years, though it is likely to pick up again from June 11, two senior weather bureau officials said Monday.

The monsoon, the lifeblood of the country's nearly \$4 trillion economy, delivers nearly 70% of the rain that India needs to

CM LAUNCHES ₹275CR **PROJECTS IN BHADRAK**

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 13 development projects worth around ₹275 crore at Balia Pada in Bhadrak district

Among the 13 initiatives, nine were inaugurated, while foundation stones were laid for four new projects.

During the event, the Chief Minister made several major announcements for Bhadrak including the establishment of a government university and the much-anticipated medical college, for which the foundation stone will be

Highlighting industrial development in the district, Majhi announced that Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) will invest ₹4,377 crore to set up a Technical Textile Complex **MORE P3** in Bhadrak.



34 DEAD IN NORTHEAST FLOODS

Bhubaneswar: At least 34 people have died in northeastern region after heavy floods caused landslides over the last four days, authorities and media said on Monday, and the weather department predicted more heavy rain. More than a thousand tour ists trapped in the Himalayan state of Sikkim were being evacuated Monday a government statement said, and army rescue teams were pressed into service in Meghalaya state to rescue more than 500 people stranded in

water farms and replenish aqui-

However, it will be subdued in the next few days, but from June 11-12, the monsoon will strengthen and start covering the remaining parts of the country, said SD Sanap, scientist with the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Pune office.

fers and reservoirs.

Monsoon onset over Kerala occurred May 24 and quickly covered southern, northeastern and some parts of western India ahead of its usual schedule, but its progress has stalled for the past few days, according to an IMD chart that tracked the

BHUBANESWAR 2ND

HOTTEST IN STATE

Bhubaneswar: With the monsoon

likely to be stalled for over a week, the

day's temperature is on the rise with

state capital Bhubaneswar recording

the second highest temperature in the state at 39.6 degrees Celsius. The IMD

has issued a vellow warning for mul-

tiple coastal districts in Odisha, cau-

tioning residents about the prevailing hot and humid weather conditions.

People are advised to avoid prolonged

and follow safety measures to counter the effects of intense humidity.

outdoor activities during peak hours

monsoon's progress. A weather system is likely to develop in the Bay of Bengal around June 11 that will strengthen the monsoon and create favourable conditions for its progress in the northern parts of the country, said another weather department

Close shave for 175 after IndiGo flight hit by vulture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, June 2: Around 175 passengers had a narrow escape after an IndiGo flight suffered a bird hit and made an emergency landing here at Birsa Munda Airport Monday, an official said.

All the passengers and crew members are safe while the aircraft Airbus 320 suffered damage, he said.

"An IndiGo flight suffered a bird hit near Ranchi. It was approximately 10 to 12 nautical miles away from here, at about 3,000 to 4,000 feet altitude, when the incident occurred. The flight was coming from Patna to Ranchi, and the pilot had to make an emergency landing here," Birsa Munda Airport, Ranchi, Director RR Maurya

He said all the passengers are safe, but the "aircraft suffered



a dent after being hit by a vulture. Engineers are assessing the damage," he said. The incident occurred at 1.14 pm.

Another official said that the aircraft, which was coming to Ranchi, was scheduled to go to

Smartphones greatest parasite of modern age!

Canberra/Sydney, June 2: Head lice, fleas and tapeworms have been humanity's companions throughout the evolutionary history. Yet, the greatest parasite of the modern age is no blood-sucking invertebrate. It is sleek, glass-fronted and addictive by design. Its host? Every human on Earth with a wifi signal.

Far from being benign tools, smartphones parasitise people's time, their attention and the personal information, all in the interests of technology companies and their advertisers.



Smartphones have radically changed human lives. From navigating cities to managing chronic health diseases such

as diabetes, these pocket-sized bits of tech make people's lives easier. So much so that most of are rarely without them.

Yet, despite their benefits, many are hostage to the phones and slaves to the endless scroll, unable to fully disconnect. Phone users are paying the price with a lack of sleep, weaker offline relationships and mood disorders.

The human-smartphone asso ciation began as a mutualism. The technology proved useful to humans for staying in touch, navigating via maps and finding useful information. From these benign origins, however, the relationship has become parasitic. Such a change is not uncommon in nature; a mutualist can evolve to become a

parasite, or vice versa.

As smartphones have become near-indispensible, some of the most popular apps they offer have come to serve the interests of the app-making companies and their advertisers more faithfully than those of their human users. These apps are designed to nudge users' behaviour to keep them scrolling, clicking on advertising and simmering in perpetual outrage.

Significantly, the users can't easily detect the exploitation. Tech companies that design the various features and algorithms to keep you picking up your phone aren't advertising this aware of the exploitative nature of smartphone apps, responding is also more difficult than simply putting the phone down. How then can users redress

behaviour. But even if one is

the imbalanced relationship with their phones, turning the parasitic relationship back to a mutualistic one? The Australian government's under-age social media ban is an example of the kind of collective action required to limit what these parasites can legally do. To win the battle, there's a need of restrictions on app features known to be addictive, and on the collection and sale of our personal data.



MARK HAMILL RETIRES FROM THE *STAR WARS* UNIVERSE

Actor Mark Hamill has shared that he won't make his return to the Star Wars universe. Hamill has played Luke Skywalker in the first three franchise-spawning Star Wars films. He recently discussed his future in the immortal sci-fi universe, reports

FOR ANDERSON, INTIMATE **SCENES ARE NEVER A JOY**

Hollywood actress Gillian Anderson has shared that intimate scenes are a tricky territory to walk through during the process of acting. For her, such scenes are 'never a joy'. The actress shares an intimate scene in a tent with co-star Jason Isaacs in her new movie The Salt Path, reports Female First UK.





😽 Ganesha Speaks.com

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix busi-

ness with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesha.

Light bulbs will flash relent lessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The Leo charms will ring out loud in your laughter as you deal with bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesha.

You will let your personal iudgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the

CANCER

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home.

You may wear the trendiest suit, drive the swankiest car and dine at the costliest restaurant, but if luck is not on your side, you can forget becoming a business tycoon. Fortunately, that is not the case with you today. With a favourable alignment of the cosmos, you are set for a day where your business proposals will be the hardest thing to overlook

Family matters. And matters Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is

It's a full platter today, and

you have to manage it all somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those that involve writing letters and reviving old contacts. Expect a call to appear for an interview

SCORPIO

In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesha advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, savs Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesha. Catching a film with your beloved today is a very good idea. Chances are vou may have a nice outing along with your friends or family. In either case, the load in your wallet is likely to lessen, steadily if not dramatically.

CAPRICORN

Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Gane sha says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious be-cause of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are del-uged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later. It's your boss you are worried about, says Ganesha.

PISCES Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today, says Ganesha. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example.



Mumbai: Actor Nimrat Kaur may be a known face today, but her path to stardom was paved with uncertainty and perseverance. In a recent interview, Nimrat recalled her early days in Mumbai, juggling theater and ad films while wondering if she'd ever land a breakthrough role. "There were moments I questioned everything-my talent, my future, my survival in the city," she said. Before her acclaimed lead role in The Lunchbox,

Nimrat starred in music videos, ad films, and spent nearly five years on stage. She spoke of the emotional and financial toll during those years. "My bank balance was so low, I didn't know how I'd manage. There were days of loneliness, tears, and fear of returning home in failure," she shared. Yet, a persistent inner voice kept her going. Her breakthrough came with The

Lunchbox, co-starring Irrfan Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, which won accolades at Cannes. Since then, she's appeared in Airlift, Dasvi, and international hits like Homeland and Foundation. Most recently, she starred in Kull: The Legacy of the Raisingghs and Sky Force, and is now gearing up for Section 84. Her story remains a testament to quiet



and unwaver-

hope.

bai: Radhika Apte, who revealed her pregnancy at last year's BAFTAs, has opened up about the tough realities new mothers face in the film industry. Now a mother to a six-monthold daughter, Apte had a brief maternity leave, returning to work just a week after giving birth. Last December, she posted a photo of herself breastfeeding during a virtual work call, sparking conversations about postpartum pressures.

> In a recent interview, Apte admitted the film industry isn't particularly supportive of new mothers. "I don't think they are. I don't know how I'm going to navigate that going ahead, she shared. While some actors are reportedly requesting eighthour shifts

Manushi's full circle moment

Mumbai: Manushi Chhillar, the celebrated Miss World 2017, opened up about her incredible journey from being crowned the titleholder to now serving as a judge on the iconic Miss World stage. Reflecting on her experiences, Manushi shared

insights into how the pageant transformed her life and the meaningful role she now plays in shaping and inspiring the next generation of contestants. Her transition from winner to mentor marks a full-circle moment, highlighting her continued commitment to the values and purpose behind the Miss World

Reflecting on her journey, Chhillar told, Beauty with a purpose' is the soul of Miss World. And I remember, during my year I was a 20-year-old who had this vision. I had a project and I took it to the Miss World competition as a contestant.'

The actress took to Instagram to share glimpses of her experience while judging the show. For the caption, she wrote, "From once being crowned to now judging the competition, honoured to return to the Miss World stage. It's tough being on either side but felt so

nervous and excited for the contestants! Reminded me of my days An unforgettable night of beauty, purpose, and power. @missworld #MissWorld2025 #FullCircleMoment #BeautyWithAPurpose.'



Even before motherhood, Apte had startshifting focus due to dissatisfaction with repetitive acting roles. Her frustration led her to writing, eventually directing the short film The Sleepwalkers. "I'm tired of doing things just for the sake of it," she said, adding that writing gave her creative freedom. Apte will

soon be seen in Netflix India's Akka and Justin Lin's Last Days. which premiered at Sundance.



Umrao Jaan to re-release in restored version

New Delhi: Umrao Jaan, the cult classic 1981 film starring Rekha in the lead role, is set to re-release across PVR INOX theatres in a restored 4K Rekha essayed the role of Amiran,

a courtesan-poetess in the film, which was directed by Muzaffar Ali. The period musical drama also earned the actor a National Award for Best The film has been restored by

NFDC-NFAI. It will be screened as a part of PVR INOX's Time-Classics initiative, which curates landmark films that have shaped Indian cinema's artistic legacy, according to a press release In a statement, Rekha said the character remains a part of her.

"Umrao Jaan is not just a film I acted in, she lives within me, breathes through me, even now,' she said in a statement. "At the time, none of us could

> have imagined the timelessness of the film, the way it would gently etch itself into the soul of Indian cinema. To see it return to the big screen is like watching an old love letter being opened by a new gener-

> > added

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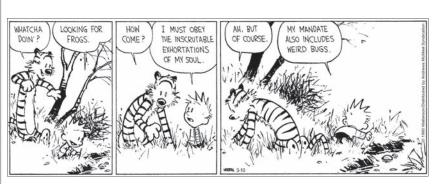
PEANUTS







CALVIN AND HOBBES

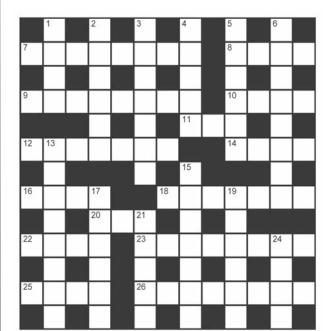


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJu 22 With, in

Nantes

25 Pleased

26 Scatter

23 Tame, in a way

Across

- 7 Singing voice 8 Camera setting
- 9 Storms
- 10 Resting places
- 11 Greek vowel
- 12 Dreamlike
- 14 Peru's capital
- 16 Celestial bear
- 18 Olive family
- shrub 20 Swedish shag

rug

- rabbit

Down

- 2 Smoked

1 Relative of a

- herring

- 3 German city 4 Honkers
- time 17 Gaming area

treatment

13 Comes apart

15 Crop picking

(5.3)

6 Star's stand-in

- 19 Xylophone striker
- 21 Litmus reddeners
- 24 Insolence

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

1

9

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SOLUTIONS

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

6

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4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



CM launches ₹275cr BJP plans to reach out to 1cr families | AGENCIES | ADDITION | ADDITION OF THE PROPERTY | People of Odisha before the projects in Bhadrak

Livelihood and employment are vital for growth: Majhi



Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 13 development projects worth around ₹275 crore at Balia Pada in Bhadrak district Monday.

Among the 13 initiatives. nine were inaugurated, while foundation stones were laid for four new projects.

During the event, the Chief Minister made several major announcements for Bhadrak. including the establishment of a government university and the much-anticipated medical college, for which the foundation stone will be laid soon.

Highlighting industrial development in the district, Majhi announced that Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) will invest ₹4,377 crore to set up a Technical Textile Complex in Bhadrak.

Additionally, MCPI Private Limited will establish an HMLS polyester manufacturing unit with an investment of around ₹2.224 crore.

He also announced the beautification of all martyr memori-

al sites in Bhadrak, adding cultural and heritage significance to the region.

"Since our government came to power, we have fasttracked Bhadrak's development, a land known for revolutionaries. We are committed to fulfilling every promise made to the people without wasting a single moment," he said during his address.

He also highlighted major decisions taken by the state government in the last 12 months. which include the launching of Subhadra Yojana, providing farmers ₹800 more per quintal of paddy, opening all four gates of the Jagannath Temple, and allocation of ₹500 crore corpus fund for rituals and services at the Jagannath Temple.

The Chief Minister announced that a detailed report on the government's one-year achievements will be presented to the public June 12.

Speaking on the state's development vision, Majhi said, "Livelihood and employment are vital for growth. We are continuously working to improve citizens' financial well-being through agriculture, allied activities, and industrial development.'

He criticised the previous government for spending 24 years 'only painting pictures of development' under the guise of providing world-class education and healthcare, without delivering concrete outcomes.

"True development has just begun," he asserted.

"In the next few years, Odisha's primary education landscape will be completely transformed—not with flashy slogans, but with real outcomes," he said, targeting the earlier regime's 5T (Technology, Teamwork, Transparency, Time, and Transformation) campaign.

Highlighting the government's industrial momentum, he said, "In just 120 days, under the 'Utkarsa Odisha' initiative, projects worth over ₹80.000 crore have been launched. On May 22 alone, 10 projects worth ₹1.65 lakh crore received approvals. This marks the beginning of an industrial revolution in Odisha, with every district, including Bhadrak, being part of this transformative journey.'

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The BJP has planned to reach out to one crore families in Odisha to highlight the benefits of the 'double-engine' government among people, a party leader said Monday.

During the day, Odisha BJF held a high-level meeting to launch simultaneous celebrations for the completion of 11 years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the first anniversary of the Mohan Charan Majhi dispensation in the state.

The party decided to commence a public outreach programme June 9, before the completion of the first year of the BJP government in Odisha

"The party plans to go to around one crore families in the state and inform people

governance and welfare programmes for the poor," the party's former state president and its anniversary programme chief Samir Mohanty told reporters here.

The state government has planned to organise various programmes across Odisha, highlighting its welfare schemes. The high-level meeting, held

at the BJP state headquarters here, was attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, BJP state president Manmo han Samal, the party's state incharge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, co-in-charge Lata Usendi, state office bearers, spokespersons, Morcha presidents, district presidents and others.

Mohanty said programmes have been chalked out from booth level to mandal, district and state levels, where many

During the day, Odisha BJP held a high-level meeting to launch simultaneous celebrations for the completion of 11 years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the first anniversary of the Mohan Charan Majhi dispensation in the state

Central leaders will address press conferences to make people aware of the 'double-engine' government. The term 'double-engine' is

used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state. In addition, people will also

be informed about the 'poor governance' of the Congress and the BJD, Mohanty said. BJP spokesperson Surath

Biswal claimed that the party had made 21 promises to the elections, and of them, 11 have already been met.

The remaining promises will be met soon, he said.

Biswal said the people in villages and towns will be informed about the BJP's flag ship women empowerment programme like Subhadra. fi nancial assistance to farmers expansion of Ayushman Yoja na and others. The benefits of a 'double-engine' government in the state will also be highlighted, he said.

Another BJP leader said that the party workers will make publicity on how the country is secured under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party aims to use the anniversary celebrations as an opportunity to strengthen its grassroots connections, he added.

Sikkim mishap: No trace of BJP leader, 3 of family **ISKCON KOLKATA RATH YATRA** Sukhoi jet tyres fitted on

Lord Jagannath's chariot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 2: Forty-eight years after trundling on tyres used for Boeing aircraft, the chariot used during ISKCON's Rath Yatra in Kolkata has go new tyres that are used for Suk hoi 4th generation fighter jets

The chariot, with the new set of tyres, will carry Lord Jagannath on this year's Rath Yatra which will be held June 27.

The ageing and worn-out old tyres have been replaced by the new tyres used for Sukhoi 4th generation fighter jets, accord ing to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Vice President of ISKCON Kolkata Radharaman Das told PTI Monday that for the last 48 years, tyres used for Boe ing aircraft were used to pull the chariot of Lord Jagannath but for the last 20 years they have been trying to get a replacement as technical issues cropped up with the four old

"We were looking for replacements but the maker of Boeing tyres, Dunlop had stopped operations years back. After thorough research. Sukhoi's tyres closely matched our specifical tions as those have the same diameter size tyres used in Boeing," he said.

tyres over time.

"We then contacted MRF which makes tyres for the Sukhoi fighter jets. The company's experts came to Kolkata in December last year and inspected our chariot that carries the idol of Lord Jagannath on Rath yatra. After the tyres were fitted the chariot had a test run for over 20 km in the city on May 31," he said.

Some structural adjustments had to be made in the wooden chariot to fit in the Sukhoi tyres. Das said.

"So by the grace of Lord Jagannath his chariot got brand new tyres and we are confident of a smooth journey of the Lord on the day of auspicious Rath Yatra June 27 and Ultorath-the return car festival July 5," he

Each of the four tyres can withstand a load of 16 tonnes. The chariots of other deities will have iron wheels as usual

Asked if using fighter air-

craft tyres for pulling the chariot of the Lord is unique and unprecedented, Das said, "We had fitted Boeing tyres with the main chariot in 1977 for the Lord's journey on the roads of Kolkata. We have no information about such practices followed elsewhere in the country or Asia.'



(VIA JANSATTA)

Itishree Jena's sisters & two nieces reach Jajpur Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Odisha BJP leader Itishree Jena and three other members of her family remained missing after an accident in Sikkim Thursday, while four other relatives of her returned home in Jajpur district Monday.

On May 29 evening, a tourist vehicle carrying 11 people – six members of Itishree's family, four others and the driver plunged nearly 1,000 feet into the Teesta River in Sikkim while returning from Gangtok. The accident occurred between Chungthang and Munshithang when the vehicle skidded off a hilly road.

While four people, includ ing Itishree – the Odisha BJP Mahila Morcha state secretary - remained missing, her son and nephew were among those rescued by Sikkim Police and they are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Gangtok, with her nephew being in critical

condition, BJP MLA Akash Das Nayak said.

Four others, who reached Jajpur Road railway station Monday, were in another vehicle which did not meet with the accident. They were identified as Itishree's two sisters Manjulata Deo and Jharana Mahapatra, and two nieces Jani and Guni, Das Nayak, the local MLA, said.

Das Nayak, who has been monitoring the accident since Day 1, said, "There is no trace of Itishree and three other members of her family even as her hand bag and mobile phone have been recovered. The rescue operation in the Himalayan state has been affected due to rain and rise in water level in Teesta River.

Narrating the ordeal, Itishree's elder sister Manjulata said, "Eleven people of our family were travelling in two cars. While I was in a car with four others. Itishree and five others of our family were in the second vehicle, which met with the accident."

Manjulata, 65, said they did not know that the second vehicle had skidded off the road. "Suddenly, our driver said

the headlights of the second vehicle could not be seen. We returned to locate them but could not find them. Later, the police rescued the two youths by tracking the mobile phones, she said. She said they were still hope-

ful of Itishree and the other missing persons' survival. She hoped they might have been swept away in the river and remained alive. Das Nayak said Chief Minis-

ter Mohan Charan Majhi has called up his Sikkim counterpart Prem Singh Tamang and sent a team of officials to monitor the rescue operation.

"Puri MP Sambit Patra, who is also the BJP's in-charge of Sikkim, is also monitoring the rescue operation," Das Nayak

Guv visits My Son temple complex in Vietnam Champa kingdom and are seen



Bhubaneswar, June 2: Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati, who is now in Vietnam to bring back the holy relics of Lord Buddha to India, visited the famous My Son temple complex in Quang Nam province Sunday, The UNESCO World Heritage Site is being restored with help from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

My Son is one of Vietnam's most valued cultural sites, with some of its Hindu temples dating back to 4th century. These old temples were built by the as key symbols of Southeast Asia's shared cultural past.

During his visit, the Governor reviewed the progress of the ongoing restoration being carried out with Indian support, and was briefed by the officials on the special techniques used to protect the site's ancient structures. The temple complex is located in a scenic valley, surrounded by lush mountains and a flowing spring. It served as an important spiritual and cultural center for the Champa civilisation between the 7th and 13th centuries

Today, about 70 temple structures still stand at My Son. Built with a unique method that hides the mortar lines, the temples have staved strong through centuries and continue to attract interest from historians and architects.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Chitrakar servitors prepare a canvas for 'Patti Dian' ahead of the Rath Yatra festivities in Puri, Monday

PEDAL YOUR WAY TO A HEALTHIER HEART & MIND

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Bicycles are environment-friendly and great for exercise. Regular cycle riding can improve heart health and help build muscle strength. Riding bikes also boost energy level and mood. Moreover, it is one of the most sustainable mode of transports without leaving any carbon footprints, and an excellent way to get around while exercising.

Every year, the World Bicvcle Day is celebrated June 3 to promote the benefits of cycling and raise awareness about its sustainable importance to society. In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly dedicated this day to the highly eco-friendly mode of transport (bicycle), and the current year's theme to celebrate the day is 'Cycling for a Sustainable Fu-

Apart from contributing to sustainability, cycling plays a key role in enhancing both heart health and mental wellbeing

"Not just for fitness, cycling is also recommended for patients suffering from chronic neurological conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease," said Subhranshu Shekar Jena, Neurologist with Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar. "It helps the patients to improve their memory, reasoning and planning skills," he added.

Jena said cycling exercise secretes hormones like endorphins, dopamine, serotonin and others, which are also known to be pain relievers or happy hormones. "These hormones result in the reduction of stress. anxiety, tiredness and mood enhancement. Cycling also helps in curing anxiety disorders, depression and sleep disturbances," he said.

He also recommended regular 15-20 minutes of cycling for students, saying it helps relax the mind and release stress to increase focus.

According to Rusheekanta Mohanta - cardiologist with Heartmate Institute of Cardiovascular Science & Research in Cuttack - cycling is the best form of cardio exercise. "We advice blood pressure and heart disease patients to exercise for

150 minutes, five days a week. We recommend cycling as it helps them travel to nearby

WORLD BICYCLE DAY TODAY

places for their daily work. It eventually adds up to their workout target and daily work simultaneously," he said.

As cycling helps to improve venous return process, it aids the smooth flow of blood from the lower body to the heart. "This allows the heart to pump blood through the body smoothly," Mohanta said

Environmentalist Gyana Ranjan Biswal said cycling is one of the versatile methods when it comes to environmental conservation and health. "Cycle releases zero emissions, as it does not use fuel: therefore, it also saves money, Biswal said.

"Now-a-days, the youth are more into sports and fancy bikes. I urge them to adapt to cycling, as it will not only keep them fit, but it will also keep the environment clean," he suggested.

Biswal said apart from various health benefits, cycling keeps mind and heart healthy. 'Cycling is considered one of the best forms of exercise, as it utilises every body part, which reduces body fat. Besides, riding helps stay alert and feel the environment, which helps to release stress," he said.

Piyush Ranjan Rout, urban

planner, bicycle mayor and founder of We All Ride Bicycle, remembered how people switched to cycling as a shield to fight the virus during Covid-19 pandemic surge. "It was then I suggested peo-

ple to cycle. They joined me in droves. I clearly remember, those who were regular never tested positive for Covid; rather, they got into a healthier lifestyle," Rout said.

However, he expressed disappointment that the City lacks cycling infrastructure which, he said, the government must look into.

"The government should create separate lanes dedicated to cycling all over the City as often roads are not safe for them," he said.

OrissaPOST

REGALING POSE: Artistes perform Odissi at the 35th annual day celebration of Lingaraj Kalanikatan at Town Hall in Puri

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Manoranjan Biswal, S/o- Kishor Chandra Biswal, resident of At- Akhuadakhini, P.O-Odanga, P.S- Patkura, Dist.- Kendrapara-754228, Odisha declare by this affidavit dtd.02.06.2025 that, my actual name is **MANORANJAN BISWAL** but in my **HSC Certificate &** Mark Sheet my name has been mentioned as **MANARANJAN BISWAL**. Hence **MANORANJAN BISWAL** and **MANARANJAN BISWAL** is one and same person belongs to

I, Snigdha Rani Mohanty, W/o - Ashis Mohanty, resident of HIG-30, Phase-2, Gopabandhu Nagar, Po/ Ps - Chhend, Rourkela, Dist. - Sundergarh, PIN - 769015, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No. - 72AA 002332 dtd. - 27.05.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Snigdha Mohanty for all future purposes.

my name.

I, Karttik Dasamahapatra S/o Late Gangadhar Daitapati Resident of Matimanadap Sahi, Nabatakhana gali, P.S.- Puri Town, P.O./ Dist.- Puri, Odisha, PIN-752001, declare by this affidavit No.-04, dtd- 27.02.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as KARTIK KUMAR **DASMOHAPATRA** for all future purposes.

I, Biswajit Sahoo, S/o- Subash Chandra Sahu, resident of Vill/P.O.- Habaspur, P.S.-Junagarh, Dist.-Kalahandi, (Odisha), PIN-766023 declare by this affidavit No.-350, dt. 14.05.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as BISWAJIT SAHU for all future purposes.

Sahaj-Techno India to skill 1 lakh youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Sahaj Retail Ltd, a Kanoria Foundation initiative, Monday said it has tied up with Techno India Group to launch a blue-collar skilling initiative aimed at training 1 lakh youth in rural and semi-urban areas. In the first phase, the skill training initiative would be conducted across five states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal,

Sahaj provides access to essential services including government schemes, financial inclusion, utility payments, and digital literacy through its network, it said in a statement.

The initiative, titled Sahaj-Techno Blue Collar Jobs, is focused on equipping rural and semi-urban youth with vocational skills aligned with industry needs, it said.

In the initial ramp-up, the programme will train 50,000 expanding to 1 lakh candidates. it said, adding, the target demography includes youth in 18-35 age group, with a particular focus on unemployed, underemployed, and school dropout populations.

Women will also be actively included, especially in tailoring and flexible digital roles, it said.

Sahai Retail CEO Biswaiit Chatteriee said the initiative is designed to address the chronic underemployment in

Tight security for Rath Yatra

Bhubaneswar, June 2: With the world-famous Rath Yatra all set begin in Puri June 27, the police administration has prepared a blueprint for elaborate security arrangements in the Pilgrim City to ensure smooth conduct of the annual festival, which witnesses massive influx of devotees from across the globe.

This was revealed during a high-level security meeting chaired by Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack Monday.

The meeting focused on ensuring a well-organised and secure environment for the grand chariot festival, which witnesses lakhs of devotees every year. Senior police officials were directed by the DGP to remain alert and proactive throughout the festival period to manage crowd control, traffic, and law and order effectively.

According to the traditional rituals of the Srimandir, several key events will be observed leading up to and following the Rath Yatra. They are: Snana Purnima June 11, Nabajouban Darshan June 26, Rath Yatra June 27, Hera Panchami July 1, Sandhya Darshan July 4, Ba huda Yatra July 5, Suna Besha July 6, Adharapana July 7 and Niladri Bije July 8.

In view of the massive turnout, the Police department is implementing comprehensive security strategies which in-



Comprehensive security strategies, including installation of CCTVs at key locations in Puri, deployment of road dividers, delineators, and creation of dedicated traffic zones, have been planned

key locations in Puri, deployment of road dividers, delineators, and creation of dedicated traffic zones. These apart, provision for ample parking facilities, setting up of temporary police outposts and enhanced patrolling along the Puri beach, Railway station security upgrades in Puri, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, and Jatani, in coordination with the Railway Protection Force (RPF), will also be ensured.

To curb potential criminal activities, all police stations in the Holy city have been instructed to conduct special drives against anti-social elements, apart from regular

Patrol vehicles, K-9 squads and quick response teams will also

Additional plans include arrangements for VVIP helipads temporary accommodation for police personnel, smooth char iot pulling management, and coordination with the district administration for timely res olution of public issues.

The meeting also discussed emergency response planning for any unforeseen situations during the event.

With less than a month to go. Odisha Police is pulling out all the stops to ensure that 2025 Rath Yatra proceeds smoothly and securely, preserving both

Ravenshaw UG results out; pass rate **84.10**%

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The results of the undergraduate (UG) examinations at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack were declared Monday, with a success rate of 84.10 per cent.

A total of 1,384 students

had appeared the UG (Final Degree) examinations this year and 1,164 of them have cleared the tests, university officials said. The success rate was 85.97

per cent in Arts, 77.17 per cent in Science, 83.20 per cent in Commerce and 90.24 per cent in professional courses. Altogether 549 students

appeared the examinations in various Arts subjects. Of them, 472 have been declared In Science subjects, 333 stu-

dents appeared the tests and 257 of them have cleared the Similarly, 256 students ap-

peared the examination in Commerce subjects. Out of them, 213 have been declared successful.

CM congratulates successful candidates

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi congratulated successful candidates of JEE (Advanced) 2025, the results of which were announced Monday.

Taking to X, Majhi said, "My best wishes and congratulations to all who have succeeded in the JEE (Advanced) 2025. This result is a reflection of your hard work and dedication. Regardless of the exam result everyone should move forward with confidence and strong morale. I wish all the students great success in every field and a bright future in the coming days.

The results brought joy to Odisha as City students delivered an impressive performance. Celebrations erupted at ALLEN Bhubaneswar as faculty members welcomed and felicitated the achievers

ALLEN Odisha-WB Vice President and Zonal Head Rajneesh Kumar Srivastav said as many as 34 students from AL-LEN's classroom programme in Bhubaneswar ranked with-



Daruka state topper

secured an All India Rank (AIR) 39, Nabaneet Priyadarshi (AIR 97), Saman Poddar (AIR 711)

Meanwhile, on national level, ALLEN Career Institute continued its dominance.

CEO Nitin Kukreja announced that Rajit Gupta, a classroom student from Kota, secured AIR 1 with a score of 332 out of 360. Other top performers included Akshat Jindal (AIR 2), Akshat Kumar Chaurasia (AIR 6), and Devash Pankaj Bhaiya (AIR 8).

'ALLEN accounted for eight students in the Top 20, 21 in the Top 50, and 46 in the Top 100. Among them, 42 were from the classroom programme, three from the online test series, and one from the distance learning

Plus III application deadline June 4

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: State Higher Education department has extended the deadline for submitting the Common Application Form (CAF) for Plus III (Undergraduate) admissions through Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal till June 4.

The decision comes in response to demands from students, parents, and guardians who needed more time to complete the application process. The extension provides a much-needed breather for those facing challenges in meeting the original deadline.

As per the notification issued by the HE department, students can now apply until June 4, 11:45 pm, thanks to a three-day extension from the original deadline of June 1. This move aims to alleviate time constraints faced by students due to pending exam results and document uploads.

The department has shared the information on its X, formerly Twitter, handle.

"On the demand of several students, parents and guardians, the Higher Education department has decided to extend the last date for submission of UG Common Application Form (CAF) till 4th June, 2025, 11:45 PM," read the post.



and Shreyas Samantray (AIR 1000)," Srivastav said. in the top 5000. "Hans Daruka programme," Kukreja said. Rath Yard turns into 'gurukul' for little artisans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 2: With the Rath Yatra approaching fast, construction of the chariots for the Trinity is in full swing at the temporary Rath Yard near Srimandir. The rhythmic sounds of chisels and mallets from the skilled hands of Vishwakarma Maharana servitors fill the air, creating a devotional ambiance. Amidst the hectic works, one scenario that catches the attention is the tiny Rupakar servitors being mentored by the senior servitors at the Rath Yard, which resembles a traditional 'gurukul'.

Undeterred by the scorching sun or even sudden showers, every artisan-young and old—is deeply immersed in the sacred task of building the Lord's chariots.

According to Rath Samhita, servitors known as Rupakars (sculptor-artisans) traditionally enter the Rath Yard on Nrus-



ingha Chaturdashi to begin engraving and carving divine motifs onto the wooden components of the chariots. This space gradually transforms into a traditional learning ground or 'gurukul' for their children.

Boys aged between 11 and 13 years accompany their elders to the workshop-not to play, but to learn. Hammer and chisel in hand, they contribute to the making of the majestic

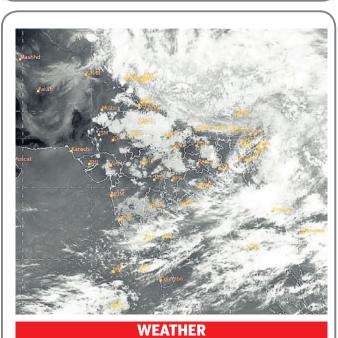
chariots under the watchful eyes of their mentors. Children of various servitor familiescarpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, painters, and sculptors ioin the workshop each year to gain hands-on experience in traditional craftsmanship.

These young apprentices carve intricate designs of Singha Biral, Nara Biral, Gaja Biral, and Nata Ghoda, among others. The effort is part of an age-old

tradition to pass down the legacy of temple service from father to son. Under the magical touch of their small hands, lifeless

wood seems to come alive. The Rupakar servitors are also responsible for a wide range of wooden sculptures for the Srimandir-from Konagujas and Patagujas to images made for Nabakalebara like side deities, charioteers, hors es, pots, companions, and parrots. Their craft goes beyond wood, extending to brass, gold, silver, and other metals, producing lifelike creations that are revered by devotees.

With a commitment to preserving the legacy inherited from their ancestors, today's artisans are ensuring that this sacred tradition endures. Their skill and dedication are now recognised far and wide, and the younger generation of Rupakars take immense pride in calling themselves the servitors of Lord Jagannath.



BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp 39.6°	39.4°	Partly
Min Temp 27.6°	26.4°	cloudy sky
Humidity 77%	65%	•
Rainfall Nil	Nil	

BOOKING ASSIFIED CONTACT OUR VERTISEMENTS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-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.







Nat'l conference on

research trends in

mathematics at FMU

Balasore: The Postgraduate Depart-

ment of Mathematics at Fakir Mohan

trends in research in mathematical

sciences. The academic event drew

enthusiastic participation from schol-

ars, researchers and students across

Santosh Kumar Tripathy inaugurated

Prof Bhaskar Behera served as the pa-

tron. Prof Gauranga Charan Samanta,

head of the Department of Mathemat

ics, and organising secretary Abhaya Naik spoke about hosting the event.

The conference was graced by Prof

Biswaranjan Behera of the Indian Sta-

tistical Institute, Kolkata, who served as the chief guest and highlighted the

evolving frontiers of mathematical

research during his address. Distin-

guished academicians and scholars

including Prof Dilip Kumar Maiti of

Vidyasagar University; Prof Bappaditya Bhowmik, IIT Kharagpur; Prof Sunil

Kumar Prajapati, IIT Bhubaneswar; Prof Subhabrata Paul, IIT Patna, Prof Shi-

besh Kumar Jac Pacif, PICS Institute.

Sambalpur, Prof Nabin Kumar Sahu,

DA-IICT, Gandhinagar, and Prof Sunil Kumar Tripathy, IGIT Sarang shared

their expertise and delivered thought

provoking talks on cutting-edge topics

Kabisuryanagar, June 2:

A man was stabbed to death

during sleep late Sunday

night allegedly by his wife

and father-in-law at Gobind-

pur village under Kabisury-

anagar police limits in Gan-

jam district, reportedly owing

to disputes over her extramar-

The deceased was identified

as Kalia Sethy. His wife, Poo-

ja, and father-in-law. Mochi-

ram Sethy, allegedly entered

the house and stabbed him to

death with a knife, before flee-

ing the scene, the deceased's

father Abhimanyu Sethy has

Kabisuryanagar police ar-

rived at the scene and sent the

body for post-mortem. A case

(395/25) under Section 103 of

the BNS (Bharativa Nyava

Sanhita) was registered and

an investigation launched.

stated in his complaint.

POST NEWS NETWORK

ital affair.

the event as the chief patron, while

the country. Vice Chancellor Prof

University (FMU) recently hosted a two-day national conference on recent



procession of Lord Shiva and his consort Goddess Parvati on the occasion of famous Sital Sasthi Jatra in Sambalpur, Monday

MYRIAD HUES OF SITAL SASTHI Artistes perform various unique and traditional dance forms to the heat of percussion and other instruments during the Nagar Parikrama

CRIMINAL NEXUS UNCOVERED

Koraput cannabis for foreign-made pistols

Nandapur, June 2: Despite multiple seizures of foreign-made pistols in Koraput district—particularly within the Nandapur sub-division police have failed to trace the origin of these weapons.

Sources said that the firearms are making their way into Koraput district as local traffickers are bartering ganja (cannabis) in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in exchange for foreign-manufactured pistols. which they later keep illegally with them.

Although several accused individuals have been interrogated following these seizures, law enforcement authorities have yet to identify or locate the main suppliers. Their failure to act decisively has triggered public discontent, especially among the educated class.

Concerns are growing that access to such lethal weapons among local youth could lead to a surge in criminal activities and antisocial behaviour in the area.

According to police sources, officers from Padua police station under Nandapur sub-division seized an Italian-made pistol from a smuggler during a routine ganja bust. May 29. During questioning, the suspect revealed that he had trafficked ganja to the UP-Bihar region and received the pistol in return from local mafia.

A case (62/2025) was registered along with seizure of the weapon and the accused was sent to court, Inspector in-Charge Ashok Bisoi said, adding that investigations were ongoing.

In a separate incident under Case No. 144/2024, local youths allegedly discharged blank rounds from an unlicenced pistol recently in Gumaguda area to incite fear—another

Radio Outreach marks

second foundation day Jagatsinghpur: Radio Outreach 90.8

FM marked its second foundation day with a vibrant celebration Sunday

Jagatsinghpur, The event witnessed

Erasama-Balikuda MLA Sharada

Jena graced the occasion as chief

evening on its campus in Srirampur of

enthusiastic participation from listeners, artistes, and distinguished guests.

guest, alongside former director of National Academy of Broadcasting and

Multimedia (NABM), Dipak Samantrai,

caster Basant Mohanty, writer Basant

Rojalin Jena. Their presence added sig

nificance to the milestone celebration

of the community radio station, which

has grown as a vital platform for local

voices. Subrat Kumar Pati, Station

Director of Radio Outreach. presided

over the meeting and reflected on the

station's journey and its commitment

to grassroots communication. The

guests lauded the role of commu-

nity radio in spreading awareness

rural communities. Following the

promoting culture, and empowering

formal event, the evening came alive

Nandini Musical Troupe, enthralling

dies. The celebration highlighted the

growing influence of Radio Outreach

the audience with patriotic melo-

90.8 FM as a medium connecting

people, promoting regional talent,

and fostering development through

veteran All India Radio (AIR) broad-

Maniari Das and noted educationist

Although all seized pistols are foreignmade and linked to the ganja smuggling network, police have consistently failed to trace the original sellers or trafficking channels

case that remains under in-

Similarly, under Case No. 50/2024, Nandapur police arrested another suspect in possession of a foreign-made pistol, who has since been remanded to judicial custody. Comparable incidents have also been reported at Machkund police station, where weapons were seized in connection with the drug trade.

Although all seized pistols are foreign-made and linked to the ganja smuggling network, police have consistently failed to trace the original sellers or trafficking channels.

The proliferation of such weapons is causing anxiety among residents, who fear an escalation in violence and social unrest.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Debendra Mallik confirmed that investigations into all cases are underway. The seized firearms have been sent to a forensic laboratory for examination.

He added that further action would be taken in coordination with the Superintendent of Police (SP).

Wife, son held for killing forester PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Nayagarh, June 2: Police have arrested a woman and her son for alleged ly killing her husband in Nay-

agarh district, an officer said. The deceased was identified as Sishir Sahu, a forester in Sarankul Pancharida range of Navagarh district.

A day after recovering the halfburnt body of Sishir, the police arrested the deceased's wife and son after conducting a crime scene recreation, said Navagarh SDPO Jyoti Ranjan Samantaray, Sun day. The deceased's wife Namita also sustained minor burn inju ries while their son Abhisek was unharmed in the incident at their house in Baramasidanda area of the district Friday night, he said.

Namita with the help of Abhisek poured petrol on her husband and set him on fire following a heated argument, Samantaray said. The police said fire services personnel doused the flame. They recovered the half-charred body of Sahu who was trapped inside the house and started an investigation by detaining his wife and son. "During interrogation, Sahu's wife and son confessed to the crime. As per preliminary investigation, the reason behind the crime is family dispute.

The forester was not visiting home regularly and not staying for much time at home," the police officer said.

CABLE ROUTE MARKER FOR TELECOM CABLE OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

ecurity: ₹5,72,500/-Tender closing date & time: at 1100 hrs. o

19.06.2025. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and

consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are

days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)



Regd Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266 | (T) +91-22-6723 9101 Toll free) 1800 270 7000 | CIN: L64920GJ2007PLC058890 | www.adityabirlacapital.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that w.e.f 30th August, 2025, Aditya Birla Capital Limited, Dhenkanal Branch shall permanently close the following premises.

Closing Premises Address:

1st Floor, Shivam Tower, Station Bazar, Dhenkanal. Orissa - 759013

For Aditva Birla Capital Ltd.

Place: Dhenkanal DOP : 03rd June, 2025

Authorized Signatory

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India Manasagangotri, Mysuru-570 006

DIPLOMA IN LANGUAGE TRAINING

(July 2025 - April 2026)

(The last date for receipt of duly filled-in application at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Mysuru is 30th June 2025)

Applications are invited for admission to Diploma in Language Training in any one of the Modern Indian Languages viz Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu at the Seven Regional Language Centres situated at Mysuru. Bhubaneswar, Pune, Patiala, Solan, Lucknow and Guwahati.

teachers, prospective In-service teachers research scholars and general public may submit their applications to the Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Mysuru-570006 on or before the date mentioned above. Please visit www.ciil. org/langtraining.php for further details.

Application may be filled and submitted either Online or Offline at https://ciil.org/admission Applicant who applies Online has to send the hard copy of the application also and if applicant wants to submit application through Offline may download the Application from website and submit by post to the Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Mysuru-570 006 without fail before the due date. Application fee may be remitted either through QR Code or through a Nationalised Bank Demand Draft.

Sd./- Director Central Institute of Indian Languages Manasagangotri, Mysuru

cbc 21248/12/0001/2526

Maoist dump unearthed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, June 2: A team of the District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Bargarh police has seized a cache of Maoist materials hidden in the Gandhamardan reserve forest near Durgeikhola, within the jurisdiction of Paikmal police station.

According to Bargarh Superintendent of Police PS Meena, the seized items include various explosive materials, Maoist literature, clothing, umbrellas, torches, and other essentials reportedly used by the Maoists. The operation was based on intelligence received from four Maoist cadres who had laid down arms before the Bargarh police August 30, last year.

Speaking at a press conference at the district police headquarters Monday evening, SP Meena stated that multiple operations have been ongoing at various locations using information provided

Purushottampur SDPO

also visited the scene for

further inquiry. The inci-

dent has shocked the local

community, especially after

it emerged that the father of

the accused woman wiped

off the vermillion from her

forehead, by assisting in the

murder of his son-in-law.

The deceased is survived by

has filed a complaint alleging

that the duo killed his son

due to ongoing domestic dis-

putes arising from Pooja's ex-

tra-marital affair. He claimed

Pooia frequently spoke to an-

other man on the phone while

Kalia was at work, leading to

repeated arguments between

the couple. The matter had

reportedly reached the local

panchavat authorities on two

previous occasions and was

temporarily resolved.

Police said that Abhimanyu

a 10-year-old son.

Aided by dad, woman

stabs hubby to death



by the surrendered cadres. One such operation May 30 in the Gandhamardan forest led to this successful seizure.

The confiscated materials include 50 detonators, one gelatin stick, a pressure cooker (suspected to be used in IED-making), torches, tarpaulin sheets, umbrellas, a radio set, walkie-talkie charger. mobile charger, Maoist pamphlets and literature, cooking

utensils, medicines, clothing, and a red banner cloth typically associated with Maoist propaganda.

Meena added that the Director General of Police has consistently appealed to Maoists to surrender and return to the mainstream. He noted that with growing public rejection of their ideology. Maoist influence in the region is steadily

elephant tusks worth ₹50L

Force (STF) of Odisha Police has seized two elephant tusks worth a total of Rs 50 lakh and detained one person on the charge of smuggling wildlife body parts, an official statement said.

as Pramod Parida, a resident of Charada village in Boudh district. He was nabbed along with the

tusks near Telibandha Chhak in Boudh police station area in Boudh district around 7pm Sunday, the statement said.

The STF team, with help from



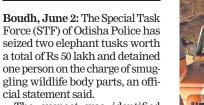
Conservator of Forests (ACF). Boudh, along with the accused, for further action under the Wildlife Protection Act, it said, adding further investigation is underway. Speaking to the mediapersons Monday, STF DIG Pinak Mishra said, "The STF team dealing with wildlife crime received reliable information regarding the smuggling of a pair of elephant tusks in the Boudh forest division. On the basis of this information, a team of STF

carried out a raid on the spot and seized two elephant tusks. The STF has been questioning the person from whom the wildlife products were seized. Our officers are in contact with the Forest department. We are investigating to ascertain the source of the confiscated tusks and to whom the accused was planning to sell them." As per reports, 6,960 poachers

have been arrested in Odisha in the last 10 years in connection with 1,869 wildlife crimes. The state government has set up anti-depredation and anti-poaching squads, anti-poaching camps and bird conservation camps.

The government has also constituted a joint task force to analyse wildlife crimes and take necessary action. However, reports also suggest that the conviction rate in wildlife criminal cases is less than 5 per cent.

Odisha Police STF seizes 2



The suspect was identified

Boudh forest range officers, conducted a raid along Boudh-Sonepur Road (NH-57) near Telibandha Chhak and nabbed Parida and seized the ivory pieces, the statement said.

The seized ivory pieces were handed over to the Assistant



He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO



Trumpeting Claims

he borderline between truth and propaganda gets blurred during war. That is only natural since two warring groups or countries are supposedly propelled by the sole aim of defeating the enemy by hook or by crook. Pure propaganda, half-truth or even falsehood is a potent arsenal in the armory of warring sides. As the Bard said "everything is fair in love and war." But, when a third party starts staking claims of playing a key role in a war between two countries in such a manner that confusion is created between truth and falsehood, it poses a grave problem. This is what is currently happening in the case of India-Pakistan conflict in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack that nearly developed into a full-blown war but luckily stopped short. The claims and counterclaims made by both countries regarding the damage caused by the one on the other are obviously part of war games that rest on falsehood. In this case, all sides are claiming victory. Indian leaders, both civil and military, have openly admitted that the respective Directors General Military Operations (DGMOs) of both nations were in constant touch with each other and a 'rational' war was fought. Pakistan has not refuted this claim. While India has claimed it has struck deep inside Pakistan territory and successfully destroyed terror infra in selected places in a measured aggression, Pakistan has also promoted its Army chief Syed Asim Munir claiming that he could give India a befitting military reply in the 4 day conflict. The third party is China which stated, in its now banned in India news sources Global Times, that the missiles and fighter jets it had supplied Pakistan performed effectively in combating western supplied aircraft such as the French Rafale and Mirage. But the fourth party in this fray is US President Donald Trump who not only claimed credit for effecting the ceasefire between the two nuclear armed countries a couple of hours before the declaration of truce, but still keeps repeating it despite denial by India. He did it again making people, especially in India, wonder who is telling the truth - Trump or India?

In the last few weeks, Trump repeatedly claimed that he told India and Pakistan that the US would stop trade with the two nations if they did not stop the conflict. The Indian government kept insisting that trade was not even discussed by Trump. In his latest boast, Trump has gone even further to claim that the "deal" he is most proud of is that he was able to stop "potentially a nuclear war" between India and Pakistan through trade instead of "bullets." In his typical swagger he said, "Normally, they do it through bullets. We do it through trade." Even as an all-party delegation from India is touring the US as part of India's outreach programme to explain the "gains" of India's Operation Sindoor directed at Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, Trump has revealed Pakistani representatives too are coming

to Washington in the next few days.

India's dogged denial that Trump's mediation was responsible for the ceasefire falls flat as the US President made his claim twice on the same day a couple of days back at Joint Base and in the Oval Office with the words that he would not have any interest in making a deal with either India or Pakistan, "if they were going to be at war with

At the same time he gave a backhanded compliment to the leadership of both the countries saying he talked about trade with them and told them he cannot trade with "people that are shooting at each other and potentially using nuclear weapons.'

This claim of Trump is something that should not be allowed to go unchallenged if there is no truth in it as the Indian government is claiming. This has put the credibility of Indian leadership in danger. People are wondering which one of these two is speaking the truth. If the truth is on the side of the US President, then it becomes a serious matter for India as the latter's stand in the international forums has, for decades, been that it will not brook third party involvement in the Kashmir issue. Trump's claim has compromised India's position on the most sensitive issue. India's response mainly through occasional denials by the External Affairs Minister and foreign ministry officials appears rather lame. Since Trump keeps repeating his claim, it is time India should take the matter up at the highest level with the Prime Minister denying it or it should stop any kind of disowning it.

The all-party delegation of Indian Parliamentarians, led by Congress MP Sashi Tharoor, is scheduled to visit Washington DC on 3 June after completing their visits to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, and Brazil, conveying India's resolve against terrorism and emphasising Pakistan's links to terrorism. It needs to get a clarification from the US administration as to why Trump is still continuing with his claim which the Indian government has stated to be false. Tharoor as the delegation head should use his known verbal skills to find out who is telling the truth. This is no less important than his diplomatic offensive in defence of Operation Sindoor. Otherwise he too will be exposed as a pompous and ornamental English speaker who has very little

substance and understanding.

WISDOM CORNER

If you want something you have never had, you must be willing to do something you have never done.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

NEALE DONALD WALSCH

The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you

WALTER BAGEHOT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

- **1492:** Martin Behaim presents the world's first globe. The German geographer called his terrestrial globe Erdapfel, or Earth Apple. It is kept in a darkened room at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg,
- **1844:** Great auks became extinct as the last two known specimens were killed by fishermen on Eldey island, Iceland (some sources give July 3, 1844, as the date of extinction).
- 1937: Some six months after abdicating the British throne, Prince Edward, duke of Windsor (formerly Edward VIII), married American socialite Wallis Simpson (who became duchess of Windsor).
- **1965:** Ed White emerged from the orbital spacecraft Gemini 4 and became the first American astronaut to walk in space.
- 1973: The world's first supersonic airliner crashes. The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144, sometimes referred to as Concordski, disintegrated in mid-air during the 1973 Paris Air Show. 14 people died.
- **1989:** Pro-democracy protest in Tiananmen Square crushed by Chinese military. On this day in 1989, the Chinese government called in the military to put down a pro-democracy demonstration carried out by more than 100,000 people in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, resulting in hundreds of

FOCUS BUSINESS

HEROES OF PRODUCTIVITY

ductivity growth is good for society. It generally translates into higher wages, consumer surplus (prices below what you are willing to pay), larger profits, and greater shareholder value. Less understood, however, is how productivity growth is created. New research from the McKinsey Global Institute shows that the lion's share comes from just a few firms making audacious moves.

While the conventional wisdom holds that productivity growth stems from gradual, collective improvements to efficiency across many companies, our analysis suggests otherwise. A tiny number of firms are driving potent bursts of progress, because they have made bold, idiosyncratic strategic moves that force competitors to respond. Rather than a thousand or a million firms moving an inch, the real gains come from just a few extraordinary firms

moving thousands of miles. We based our analysis on 8,300 companies in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, focusing especially on four sectors: retail, automotive and aerospace, travel and logistics, and computers and electronics. We used these companies to create a "lab economy," tracking precisely who was creating value and contributing to national productivity growth, and who was destroying value by dragging productivity down. Although we looked at the relatively stable period between 2011 and 2019 - after the global financial crisis but before the COVID-19 pandemic – we found similar patterns in the data from 2019 to 2023.

In our lab economy, we found that fewer than 100 productivity "standouts" account



Real productivity growth doesn't come from playing it safe. It comes from creating the conditions for bold bets to pay off

for two-thirds of the sample's growth. These are firms that added at least one basis point to their respective national sample's productivity growth in 2011-19. At the same time, an even smaller number of "stragglers" made negative contributions of at least one basis point. This is a much more extreme concentration than the prevailing view of productivity would suggest.

What sets standouts apart? In our sample, they pursued five strategic plays – often in combination – to power ahead: scaling more productive business models or technologies (such as e-commerce or lowcost carrier models); shifting regional and product portfolios toward the most productive businesses or even adjacent opportunities; reshaping customer value propositions in both mass and niche markets; building scale and network effects; and transforming operations to boost labor efficiency and reduce cost. Thus, our case studies highlight Apple's strategic expansion into services, EasyJet shaping the discount airline trend, and Zalando pioneering apparel e-commerce.

This lens on productivity helps us see more clearly why some countries pull ahead while others stall. While we already knew that the US leads major European economies in terms of productivity growth, a closer look at the firms in our lab economy confirms why. Between 2011 and 2019, US productivity grew by 2.1% per year within our sample, compared to 0.2% in Germany and a flat zero in the United Kingdom, because the 44 US standouts outnumbered the 14 stragglers by a factor of three. By contrast, the UK had a more even distribution, with 30 standouts and 25 stragglers, whereas Germany had 13 standouts and 16 stragglers.

But it's not just about having standouts; resources must be shifted toward them. The US was itself a standout in this respect, with half its productivity growth coming from reallocating labor away from stragglers and toward the vanguard of productivity growth. In Europe, job mobility was more subdued, and the stragglers dragged down productivity growth.

This insight has major implications for policymaking. Many current policies aim to boost welfare by supporting small firms and spreading best practices. But if a handful of firms drive most of the gains, we need

the pattern we observe. That means enabling faster reallocation of capital and labor, and building ecosystems that help winners scale up. Consider: If Germany could have counted 19 more standouts like the retailer REWE in the period analyzed, its private-sector productivity growth would have more than doubled. Encouraging bold moves could be even more consequential in emerging economies, where standout firms have the potential to leapfrog some of the technologies and business models deployed in advanced economies. Moreover, if the kind of firms that can become standouts are fewer and further between, fast productivity growth may be difficult to achieve without deliberately nurturing potential standouts'

emergence and success. Business leaders, for their part, should stop treating productivity as a byproduct of operations and start managing it as a strategic outcome. That means tracking it, investing in it, and making gutsy calls - accompanied by resource shifts – on where to grow and where to pull back.

Amid today's economic uncertainty, companies around the world are delaying investment decisions, cutting costs, and otherwise trying to hus band their limited resources. Yet the lesson from our research is that they should be doing the opposite. Real productivity growth doesn't come from playing it safe. It comes from creating the conditions for bold bets to pay off.

Chris Bradley is a director of the McKinsey Global Institute in Sydney. Jan Mischke is a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute in Zurich.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Chris Bradley &

RATHER THAN A

THOUSAND OR A

MILLION FIRMS

INCH, THE REAL

FROM JUST A FEW

EXTRAORDINARY

FIRMS MOVING

THOUSANDS OF

MOVING AN

GAINS COME

Jan Mischke

Scaling investment for blue economy



Marisa Drew

GIVEN INVESTORS' APPETITE FOR SUSTAINABLE, **SCALABLE RETURNS, THE OPPORTUNITY IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, AND GOVERNMENTS** ARE WAKING **UP TO IT**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

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suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

espite carrying 80% of the world's trade, absorbing 30% of its carbon-dioxide emissions, and providing food security for almost three billion people, the global blue economy (oceans and waterways) is suffering from acute underinvestment, and nowhere more so than in Africa. In the face of heightened economic volatility and tightening financial constraints, the transition to a more sustainable blue economy represents a major, largely underappreciated opportunity for the continent.

This is not just some abstract idea. Given investors' appetite for sustainable, scalable returns, the opportunity is hiding in plain sight, and governments are waking up to it. Spanning more than 30,000 km of coastline, Africa's blue economy does \$300 billion worth of business each year, and it is uniquely positioned to benefit from the broader shift to more sustainable models. The African Union projects that the blue economy will increase to \$405 billion in 2030, and to as much as \$576 billion by 2063. As these sectors expand, employment levels could increase from 49 million jobs in 2019 to 78 million by 2063.

Highlighting the sectors

with the most potential helps to put these numbers into context. Consider food. where the development of sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices could help meet the growing demand for protein in Africa and beyond. Our calculations suggest that sustainable aquaculture-based fish production could grow eightfold in Africa, reaching approximately 19 million metric tons per year by 2050.

The energy sector is similarly promising. According to research from the World Bank, South Africa could reach 900 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity, and it is not unique. All told, offshore wind alone could boost Africa's electricity generation 45-fold

The sustainable blue economy also has an important role to play in climate adaptation. With sea levels around much of Africa's coastline rising faster than the global level average, marine restoration and conservation can build natural resilience while also delivering benefits to food systems, biodiversity, and other sectors such as tourism.

But to make the blue economy truly sustainable, Africa and the Middle East will need approximately \$70 billion in annual investment from now

to 2030. To reach that target, governments should leverage innovative financial mechanisms to bring more capital into the blue economy and advance sustainable, scalable projects. Fortunately, demand for such solutions is growing, and over 80% of African countries have already embedded the blue economy into their national development plans or climate strategies.

Decision-makers across many markets are beginning to treat the ocean as a strategic asset that needs to be protected and sustainably managed. But while solutions like blue debt instruments hold much potential, many issuers have vet to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the sustainable debt market. Greater use of blue bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and social bonds could channel capital where it is needed most.

Similarly, debt conversions for nature - often referred to as "debt-for-climate swaps," whereby financing or debt relief is explicitly earmarked for sustainable projects - represent attractive options for sovereign issuers, depending on their financial characteristics. Such transactions can reduce debt-service payments and free up capital to support a country's sustainability goals.

Moreover, efforts to develop sustainable blue economy strategies and practices are increasingly supported by regulatory reforms, marine spatial planning programs, and regional cooperation models like the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Great Blue Wall Initiative. These are lay ing the foundation for a wave of investible projects supported by real assets, local ownership,

and measurable returns. The momentum will keep building this year. In June, the Blue Economy and Finance Forum and the UN Ocean Conference offer opportunities to bring bankable projects to global investors and accelerate the African sustainable blue economy's growth. The risks – ranging from regulatory bottlenecks to insufficient capacity to develop projects - are manageable with

the right partnerships. Making Africa's blue economy sustainable is no longer an untested idea. Our own latest research, Harnessing Africa's Blue Economy, shows this is a growing investible market one that banks, asset managers, and governments cannot afford to ignore

The writer is Chief Sustainability Officer at Standard Chartered. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Provocative comment

Sir, Film actor Kamal Hassan's comment that Kannada language descended from Tamil provoked an outrage across Karnataka, especially in the Kannada film sector. The actor's comment and subsequent hullaballoo bring to the fore several aspects of this issue. A very important thing celebrities or public figures must keep in mind is that they must refrain from making comments about sensitive issues. They need to ensure that there is factual accuracy in what they say. Kannada language did not descend from Tamil as Kamal Hassan opined. In fact, all South Indian languages originated from a common ancestral language called proto-Dravidian. This explains the close connection between these languages. The actor has moved to the Karnataka High Court requesting the release of his film "Thug Life" in Karnataka following the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce's suspension of the film's release in the state until the actor apologised. Those who are criticizing the actor must understand that it is only the actor's personal opinion and not a general opinion.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Asymmetrical warfare

Sir, In a striking demonstration of asymmetrical warfare, Ukraine's recent airstrikes on Russian airbases have underscored a pivotal truth of modern conflict: even nations with relatively modest technological arsenals can deliver crippling blows through ingenuity and unconventional tactics. This evolving face of warfare highlights the ascendancy of strategy over sheer firepower, and signals a significant shift in the global security paradigm. According to Ukraine's official statements, more than 40 Russian fighter jets were decimated, a loss that speaks volumes about the effectiveness of innovative military planning. For a nation like India, with its complex geopolitical landscape and varied security concerns, this event offers vital lessons particularly concerning the protection and surveillance of critical military infrastructure. It stands as a clarion call to reexamine and fortify the layers of our internal defence mechanisms. This audacious assault, aptly named Operation Spiderweb by Ukraine's Security Service, was not the product of impulse but the culmination of an 18-month clandestine campaign—marked by precision, patience, and profound coordination.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH



TWO STATES





Beekeeping changing lives

Unemployed youths in Himachal transforming their lives with beekeeping

Hamirpur/Una, June 2: Starting his humble beekeeping vocation with a meagre Rs 1 lakh, Anubhav Sood from Una is now a proud business owner with an annual income of Rs 30 lakh

His story mirrors that of many unemployed young men across Himachal Pradesh who are embracing beekeeping under the Mukhyamantri Madhu Vikas Yojana, yielding positive results, officials said Monday.

The scheme has proven beneficial for both the unemployed and those engaged in farming and fruit cultivation, as it aids in pollination while generating additional income.

Anubhav, who hails from Ambota Village, is also responsible for 10 people to whom he provides direct employment.

Inspired by his mother Nisha Sood, who is associated with food processing, Anubhav took a month's training at Nauni University, Solan, followed by a week's training at the Sher-e-Kashmir Agricultural University, Katra and started beekeeping with 25 boxes.

Later, he expanded his business by taking a loan of Rs 10 lakh from the Canara Bank under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Program and launched his product Pahadi Honey in the market offering



jasthan for honey production in different seasons and with this technique, he is producing higher quality and diverse honey varieties. The products are certified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

Rs 1.60 lakh, including 50 boxes of bee species, is provided for beekeeping under the scheme besides financial assistance of Rs 10,000 for transporting bees, Deputy Director Horticulture Una KK Bhardwai said.

The department also provides an 80 per cent subsidy or financial assistance of Rs 16,000 on the purchase of beekeeping equipment, he added.

of Neri village in Kullu district also has a story similar to that of Anubhav's

He started beekeeping five years ago and is also earning in high figures now. "Beekeeping has double benefits. It helps apple orchards by ensuring proper pollination which is essential for fruit production, he says, adding that his apple crop has also increased by 30

Thakur started with two boxes of hill bees which can even survive snowy conditions and now, he has 60 boxes producing 200 kgs of honey annually sold for Rs 2000 per kg. There are 20 to 25000 bees in one box.

Gopal Kapoor (84) from Gwalpathar village in Hamirpur is another success story. Although he was not unemployed, he was in dire straits financially which made him turn to beekeeping.

Earning Rs 3 to 4 lakh annually now, Gopal started with five boxes and at present has 50 boxes of Italian and Indica species.

All these men are also imparting training in beekeeping to other farmers.

This scheme gives youth and others as well the freedom to be self-employed, and the beekeeping training being free is another bonus, Deputy Com-

Dehradun, June 2: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Saturday announced the launch of "Aapada Sakhi Yojana" and said the women volunteers will be trained under this scheme in pre-disaster warnings, first aid. relief and rescue operations and psychological support.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Presiding over the Monsoon and 2025 Preparedness Work shop organised by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) here, Dhami said the "Aapada Sakhi Yojana", modeled after the existing Aapada Mitra scheme, will help empower women volunteers in disaster preparedness and response.

The chief minister underscored Uttarakhand's vulnerability to natural disasters and said there is a need to "learn from past calamities".

"Natural disasters cannot be avoided, but their impact can certainly be mitigated through preparedness and vigilance," he

Describing the USDMA's work as the collective responsibility of all departments, Dhami said that public participation is also very important in this.

The chief minister said the result of any government effort will be limited unless the soci-



the first to reach the spot during a disaster. sary to train disaster

voluntary organisations and organisations like Red Cross at the rural level

Women volunteers to mitigate impact of disasters in U'khand

CM Dhami launches 'Aapada Sakhi Yojana'

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | CM, UTTARAKHAND

ety is aware, trained and alert. "The local people are the first

to reach the spot during a disaster. So, it is also necessary to train disaster management committees, women and youth groups, voluntary organisations and organisations like Red Cross at the rural level,' he added.

Dhami cited examples from last year's Gaurikund cloudburst and the landslide in Toli village of Tehri Garhwal

district, where prompt action saved hundreds of lives.

The chief minister further said that technological tools such as GIS mapping, drone surveillance and satellite monitoring are being deployed to identify high-risk zones.

The government is ensur ing proper deployment of rescue equipments like JCBs cranes and Bailey bridges along with stockpiling essen tials like food grains, fuel and medicines in vulnerable dis tricts, he added.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member Rajendra Singh, who was also present at the work shop, said the Meteorological Department has predicted more than normal rainfall for Uttarakhand this monsoon and added that the time from June 15 till September is crucial for the state from the disaster point

Nearly 2,23,000 growers in HP adopt natural farming

In a first-of-its-kind decision, the government has promoted natural farming by providing a minimum support price for various crops grown through this method

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla. June 2: Nearly 2.23.000 farmers and horticulturists in Himachal Pradesh have adopted natural farming, either partially or fully, in almost all panchayats, the government said recently.

The government focuses on exploring options for additional income generation for farmers, ensuring fair prices for their produce, providing quality seeds and expanding and strengthening irrigation facilities, besides providing crop insurance and promoting agricultural research.

In a first-of-its-kind decision, the government has promoted natural farming by providing a minimum support price (MSP) for various crops grown through this method.

Last year, an MSP of Rs 30 per kg was fixed for maize. This decision brought cheers to the faces of farmers and motivated them towards adopting chemical-free farming on a large scale. The government further increased the MSP for maize from Rs 30 to Rs 40 per kg in 2025-26. So far, the government has procured around 400 metric tonnes of maize from 1,509 farmers at the MSP.

Similarly, the procurement process for wheat is ongoing in the state, and it is being procured at an MSP of Rs 60 per kg.

Seeing the response of the farmer for opting for natural farming, the government has further announced an MSP of Rs 90 on raw turmeric. From this fiscal, the government has decided to provide an MSP for raw turmeric that will be processed and marketed under the brand name 'Himachal Haldi'.

beneficial in terms

honey contains anti-bac-

terial and anti-allergic el-

ements and its consump-

Black Diamond, Multi Flora

Kesar, Acacia which fetch 500

to Rs 1200 per kilogram, depend-

Currently, he has 300 bee box-

Anubhav says he migrates

es and produces about 10,000 kg

ing on the variety.

of honey in a year.

DR ASHOK CHAUDHARY | DISTRICT

of health benefits, as

The government has set a target to connect 9.61 lakh farmers with natural farming in phases.

To facilitate the sale of produce from natural farming. designated spaces are being developed in 10 market yards with the necessary infrastructure. Under the Prakritik Kheti Khushal Yojana, in 2023-24 and 2024-25, an expenditure of Rs 27.60 crore has been incurred. and for the current financial year, a Budget of Rs 7.28 crore has been allocated. A high-level committee at the

state level, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has been formed to provide valuable guidance under the scheme.

The implementation and monitoring are being done by a special task force headed by the Chief Secretary.

To further encourage farmers to adopt natural farming, the government is providing various types of subsidies, including Rs 750 per drum up to a maximum of Rs 2,250 for the purchase of drums. An assistance of Rs 8,000 is

being given for the construction of a concrete floor in cowsheds and for building a pit to collect cow urine. A subsidy of 50 per cent up to

ing provided for the purchase of indigenous cows, with an additional provision of Rs 5,000 for their transportation. Another advantage of natural farming is zero-budget farming.

a maximum of Rs 25,000 is be-

The minimal input costs increase farmers' income, leading to a significant improvement in their standard of living.

Crops grown using natural methods are more nutritious, and the absence of chemicals helps preserve the soil's fertility and quality as well.



Women dance during the Shimla Summer Festival

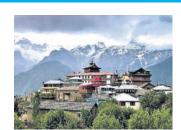
HP to develop 77 new eco-tourism sites

Eco-tourism means travelling to natural places without harming the environment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, June 2: The Himachal Pradesh government will develop as many as 77 eco-tourism sites in different forest circles across the state under the Eco Tourism Policy-2024 in the next five years, an official said here Sunday.

The new eco-tourism policy 2024 has been specially made to support this idea, keeping both tourism and nature safe. The goal is to attract tourists in a way that protects nature, creates local jobs, and helps the economy grow in a clean and sustainable manner, a statement issued here said.



With its snow-covered mountains, thick forests, clean rivers and rich wildlife, Himachal Pradesh has always been a favourite place for nature lovers. Now, the new eco-tourism policy aims to use this natural beauty in a responsible way.

Under this policy, 77 eco-tourism sites are being developed in different parts of the state, including Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Rampur, Solan, Nahan, Hamirpur, Nalagarh, Dharamshala, Palampur, Chamba, Dal-

housie, Nurpur and Reckong Peo. Out of these, eco-tourism operators have already been selected for Potter Hill and Shoghi in Shimla, Solang Nallah in Kullu and Kasol in Parvati Valley. The rest of the sites are being developed in phases, the spokesperson added.

Visitors will be able to enjoy eco-friendly activities like trekking, bird watching, forest camping, jungle walks, homestays and nature interpretation trails.

An important part of this eco-tourism push is involving the local people and eco-tourism committees have been formed in each forest circle to take care of these projects.

Local youth are being trained as nature guides and workers. So far, more than 70 guides and 135 Multi-Purpose Workers (MPWs) have been trained by Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism

Society (HPECOSOC). To make travel and bookings easier for tourists, the government has made eco-tourism services available online. Over 100 forest rest houses and camping sites can now be booked through the HPECOSOC website.

RESPITE FROM HEAT

Hailstorm, rain lash Shimla

Shimla, June 2: Hailstorms followed by heavy rain struck Shimla Monday evening prompting the meteorological department to issue an orange alert for thunderstorms, light ning, and strong winds across four to five districts in the state

Thunderstorms, along with lightning and gusty winds with speeds up to 40-60 kmph are expected at isolated places in Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi on Tuesday and Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi on Wednesday, the forecast said.

An orange warning for gusty winds reaching speeds of 40 to 50 kmph, has also been issued for the tribal districts of Kin naur and Lahaul and Spiti

Tuesday and Wednesday. Light to moderate rainfall has affected various parts of the state, with the following rainfall recorded: Dadahu in Sirmaur district received 27.4 mm, fol lowed by Jatton Barrage (21.6 mm), Poanta Sahib (18.8 mm) Bharmour (18 mm), Kasauli and Rajgarh (14 mm each), Solan (8.6 mm), Agahar (5.2 mm), Palam pur and Nahan (4.4 mm each) Sundernagar (4 mm), Chhatra ri (3.5 mm), and Banjar, Mandi

and Kasol (3 mm). Thunderstorms were witnessed in Kangra, Sunderna gar, Bhuntar, Murari Devi and Palampur while gusty winds with wind speeds ranging be tween 37 to 52 kmph lashed Seobagh, Tabo, Neri and Kotkhai.

Keylong was recorded to be the coldest location at night with a low temperature of 4 degrees Celsius, while Una reached the highest daytime temperature at 39 degrees

Valley of Flowers in Chamoli opens for tourists

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**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gopeshwar, June 2: The Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district opened to tourists for this year Sunday, an official said.

Forest Range Officer Chetna Kandpal of the Valley of Flowers Range said that the first group of 83 tourists from Ghangaria were given permission by issuing permit for the national park.

Four tourists had taken permission online and 79 tourists had taken permission in a normal way, he added

Thousands of tourists from India and abroad come here every year. The Valley of Flowers opens for tourists in June every year and is closed after snowfall begins in October.

With the onset of monsoon, flowers start blooming in the



valley which reaches its peak by September.

During this time, hundreds of species of flowers like Brahma Kamal, Blue Poppy and Cobra Lily bloom here due to which the entire valley looks like a colourful carpet.

Reaching the Valley of Flowers is an exciting experience After climbing about 13 kilometers from Govindghat -- the main base camp and starting point for the trek to the Valley of Flowers -- one reaches the Ghangaria base camp from where the entrance to this na tional park is at a distance of about three kilometers.

The entry in the Valley of Flowers is allowed only during daytime and tourists have to come out before sunset.



national



Akshay Sachdeva said. In-

cessant rainfall since May 29

triggered landslides in several

parts of Mangan district, caus-

ing partial damage to bridges in

Phidang and Sangkalang and

disrupting road connectivity for

several days. With rainfall ex-

ceeding 130 mm, major damage

occurred along the routes to key

tourist destinations, including

Lachen, Lachung, Gurudong-

mar, the Valley of Flowers and

Zero Point. The tourism and

civil aviation department, in an

advisory, has urged all tourists

to exercise caution while trav-

elling to Sikkim and plan their

trips based on the latest road

Sikkim Chief Secretary R Tel-

ang chaired a high-level meeting

to review the disaster situation

in Mangan district. During the

meeting, key issues such as

road blockages, evacuation of

stranded tourists and urgent res-

toration of essential services like

power, roads and telecommuni-

cations were focused on, the In-

formation and Public Relations

Department said in a statement.

In Manipur, more than 19,000

people have been affected by

floods as several rivers over-

flowed and breached embank-

ments, following heavy rainfall

in the northeastern state for the

last four days, officials said

Monday. At least 3,365 houses

have been damaged, 103 locali-

ties affected, and 19,811 people

hit by floods triggered by tor-

rential rains during the peri-

od, they said. Thirty-one relief

camps, mostly in Imphal East

district, have been opened to

mitigate the hardships of the

people who have been evac-

uated from their homes and

and weather updates.

In just one year, your **Government availed a** debt equivalent to 44 percent of the total debt our Government availed in five full years. This is despite the fact that during this one-year period, your (N Chandrababu Naidu) Government had nothing to show for, with respect to development or welfare

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSRCP CHIEF

AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PM TO VISIT INDIA

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles will visit India this week as part of a four-nation trip that is aimed at boosting Canberra's security cooperation with South and Southeast Asia. The Deputy Prime Minister's visit to India coincides with the fifth anniversary of the firming up of the Australia and India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which underpins the two countries' relationship and shared vision for the Indian Ocean, an Australian readout said





USD 30 trillion and the (Central) government are making plans to become USD 30 trillion, we brought the Telangana Rising 2047 policy document to make the state a

partner in it, to put the A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

state at the top

My greetings to Telangana people who are celebrating the 11th state (Telangana) formation day. Every family in Telangana must live in happiness and prosperity and proceed in the path of development

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

Once again. COVID-19 infections are spreading rapidly in the country. New cases are continuously

emerging in the capital and other parts of the country. In such a situation, it is important for us to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | FORMER DELHI CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Punjab Cabinet clears Land Pooling Policy

Chandigarh: The Punjab Cabinet Monday gave its nod to the Land Pooling Policy with Cabinet minister Aman Arora asserting that not even a single yard will be forcibly acquired from land owners. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, was held here. After the meeting, renewable energy minister Arora slammed the Opposition parties for allegedly misleading people about the state government's Land Pooling Policy for the past several days. Arora claimed that there is no better Land Pooling Policy than this one, not only in the state but also in the country.

Maha ATS conducts searches in Thane

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad on Monday conducted searches in Thane district, including at the houses of some former office-bearers and members of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) on the basis of specific intelligence, officials said. Twelve persons were detained in these searches and then released later after detailed questioning, an official said.

160-member BSF team sent to Congo

New Delhi: A 160-member Border Security Force (BSF) contingent, comprising 25 women personnel, was Monday flagged off for deployment with the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, an African nation ravaged by armed conflict and mass displacement. BSF director general (DG) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior officers met the team at the headquarters of the force here on Lodhi Road.

Four killed as car rams into truck

Chandigarh: Four men in their 20s were killed when their car rammed into a truck in Haryana's Mahendragarh district early Monday, police said. The men, aged between 25-30, were returning from Neemhera village in Mahendragarh district to Gurugram. The accident took place near Unhani village under Kanina.

Northeast flood situation critical



Gangtok, June 2: The flood situation in the Northeast remained critical Monday as the toll due to deluge and landslides triggered by heavy rain over the past few days rose to 36. while over 5.5 lakh remained affected across several states

In the current wave of floods and landslides across the northeastern region, Assam reported the highest number of fatalities at 11, followed by 10 in Arunachal Pradesh, six in Meghalaya, five in Mizoram, three in Sikkim and one in Tripura. In Assam, more than 5.35 lakh people were affected by the deluge in 22 districts as the death toll increased by one to reach 11, while 15 rivers were flowing in a spate, an official bulletin said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Lakhimpur district, among the worsthit areas, and assured the affected people of all possible assistance. Road, rail and ferry services remained affected in the state due to heavy rain in several areas.

In Sikkim, three army personnel died and six soldiers went missing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chhaten, a defence official said Monday. The landslide, which occurred at 7 pm Sunday near Lachen town in Mangan district, was triggered by heavy rainfall in the area, he said.

Altogether 1,678 tourists, stuck in north Sikkim's Lachung and Chungthang towns following rain-triggered landslides there, were evacuated. and more than 100 others are still stranded in Lachen, DGP

Karnataka HC for 'Thug Life' release PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bangalore, June 2: Anticipat-

ing disruption in the release of his upcoming movie 'Thug Life', actor and politician Kamal Haasan Monday approached the Karnataka High Court seeking urgent intervention for the adequate security at theatres planning to show it. The movie is scheduled for release June 5.

Kamal Haasan moves

Haasan's move follows the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) announcement of a boycott of the film unless the actor publicly apologises for his recent remark that "Kannada language originated from Tamil". The remarks made during a promotional event in Chennai triggered widespread backlash from pro-Kannada organisations and sparked a political row.

In a writ petition filed by Haasan's production house Raaj Kamal Films International, the actor requested the high court to restrain any individual, group, or authority—including the KFCC and state officials-from obstructing the screening of the film in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, speaking to PTI, KFCC president M Narasimhalu reiterated the Chamber's stand. "Let Kamal Haasan go to court. We have not done anything illegal. But we will not allow the screening of ThugLife in Karnataka unless he apologises," Narasimhalu said.

"This is not just a film industry matter anymore. It has become a question of language and state pride. We have also received a letter from the government regarding the issue. The people of Karnataka, pro-Kannada organisations, and even politicians have de-

manded an apology," he added. The producers of the movie maintained that Haasan's remarks were taken out of context and that they were intended to express cultural harmony between the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The statement, the petition said, was made during a cordial interaction with Kannada superstar Shiva Raikumar, who also reportedly defended Haas-



Members of Koya tribal community perform during Telangana's formation day celebrations in Secunderabad

Modi to brief ministers on Operation Sindoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. June 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers Wednesday, the first after India's punitive military action against Pakistan under Operation Sindoor launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Sources said the ministers are likely to be given details of the operation, which is also expected to figure in the ruling BJP's programmes starting next week to mark the first anniversary of the Modi government in its third term.

Besides speaking on Oper ation Sindoor, the Prime Minister may give an overall highlight of his governance thrust in the council meeting as the ministers prepare to communicate with people across the country during the anniversa ry events.

India's precise strikes on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir followed by its counterattack on the neighbouring



country's military facilities, especially air bases, have been a highlight of Modi's recent speeches. He has affirmed that Op-

eration Sindoor has marked India's "new normal" in punishing terror acts linked to Pakistan and vowed to go after terrorists and their sponsors with equal ferocity in case of any future terror incidents on the Indian soil.

The Council of Ministers, which generally meets in a few months but has no fixed frequency, unlike the Union Cabinet's, and key government polupcoming G7 summit

PM unlikely to attend

icies are discussed threadbare in the presence of top bureaucrats. On April 22, terrorists shot down 26 civilians in the popular Kashmir destination. igniting nationwide outrage and calls for retribution.

Convict Gnanasekaran gets life imprisonment 'Bharat Gen', Al-based model

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 2: A Mahila Court here Monday awarded life sentence for a minimum period of 30 years without remission to the accused Gnanasekaran, who has been convicted for rape of a girl student on the Anna University campus in December last year.

Mahila Court judge M Raialakshmi, who convicted 37-year-old Gnanasekaran May 28, awarded life imprisonment for a minimum period of 30 years without remission for the offence of rape, which falls under section 64 (1) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act (BNS) and the judge imposed a total fine of Rs 90,000 on him.

Chief Minister MK Stalin said the very stringent punishment





has been secured and thanked the court and welcomed the judgment. The chief minister recalled that recently the government had made amendments ruling out remission for sexual offenders. In this case, the court has awarded punishment without scope for remission. The

court has lauded the police department and this has shattered the thought of some to seek political mileage even in this matter.

The court awarded sentences in respect of each of the 11 charges proved by the prosecution against the accused and the sentences shall run concurrent-

ly. The judge sentenced Gnanassekaran to imprisonment for 10 years under section 87 of BNS (Kidnapping or inducing a person for illicit purposes). In case of involvement of others, the AIADMK said it would bring them to book after it formed the government following polls to the state Assembly in 2026. The convicted person was slapped with a sentence of 7 years imprisonment under section 76 BNS (Assault or use of criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe or compel her to be naked). The judge sentenced Gnanasekaran to 7 years imprisonment also under section 351 (3) BNS (making threats with the intent to cause fear or compel someone to do or not do something).

for Indian languages, launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh launched 'Bharat Gen', an indigenously developed artificial intelligence-based multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) for Indian languages, here Monday.

Developed under the National Mission on Interdis-Cyber-Physical ciplinary Systems (NM-ICPS) and implemented through TIH Foundation for IoT (Internet of Things) and IoE (Internet of Everything) at IIT Bombay, Bharat Gen aims to revolutionise AI development across India's linguistic and cultural spectrum, Singh said.

The initiative is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and brings together a consortium of leading academic institutions, experts, and innovators Singh described Bharat Gen as a "national mission to create AI that is ethical, inclusive multilingual, and deeply root

ed in Indian values and ethos' The platform integrates text speech, and image modalities, offering seamless AI solutions in 22 Indian languages. "This initiative will empower criti cal sectors such as healthcare education, agriculture, and governance, delivering region-specific AI solutions that understand and serve every Indian," Singh said.

'Next Covid pandemic' far from over: Delhi HC

New Delhi, June 2: The Delhi High Court recently observed the Covid pandemic was far from over as it asked for details on the Centre's preparedness for the collection of samples, centres and transport policy.

Justice Girish Kathpalia said though it was confident that the steps and protocols would be in place, the same ought to be brought on record by the authorities concerned.

"Considering that the next Covid pandemic is far from over and in fact, active, amongst the community, today, as per news reports, the vacuum, if any, of steps taken post the meeting of May 30, 2023, is a serious issue," the judge said.

The court's May 28 order



certain urgency, considering that there are wide reports of COVID-19, being active in the community, as on date; it

would, therefore, be expected from the respondent to crystallise an urgent set of measures. in order that these SoPs

are in place and whatever

India sees gradual rise in Covid cases

ndia's active COVID-19 case count infections reported since Sunday. June, according to data from the Health Ministry's COVID-19 dashhave been reported in Delhi, Tamil Kerala continues to report the high est number of active cases at 1,435, followed by Maharashtra with 506 483 active cases and has reported

decision was taken in the meeting, has reached its proper conclusion.'

The court was hearing a contempt plea filed by one Dr Rohit Jain alleging non-compliance by the authorities of an order passed by the division bench of the high court January 27, 2023.

The bench had disposed of Jain's plea on the issue while directing the Central government to treat it as a representation and decide it within 12 weeks through a reasoned order.

Jain said despite the orders, no guidelines were framed by the Centre with respect to establishing minimum standards for sample collection, centres and transport. The court said the Centre's standing counsel Monika Arora should ensure that officers concerned were apprised of the court's directions and place a status report within the six weeks.

The court then posted the hearing July 18. It was informed that a meeting was held under the chairmanship of additional director general of health services May 30, 2023 and the petitioner was also in

In the meeting, a decision to constitute four sub-committees of experts of pathology, bio chemistry, haematology and microbiology was arrived at The committee members from the Centre-run hospitals were to define standards of procedure for sample collection. sample collection centres and the sample transport policy and submit a report.

The guidelines were to include storage standards as well. The court, however, noted that there was no update provided by the authorities on the minutes of the meeting. Even though on first blush, the contempt petition may not subsist considering the decision that was taken to form the sub-committees, it said.

national



We see new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as digital technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture, healthcare, defence, railways, space and overall economic partnership

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

BAR BODY EXEMPTS LAWYERS FROM BLACK COATS IN SUMMER

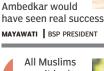
The Delhi Bar Association (Tis Hazari) has exempted its members from wearing the compulsory black coats in summer in the district court. The notice of May 24 said, "All the members are hereby informed that advocates are exempted from wearing black coats during summer, ie, from May 16 to September 30, as per the amendment in rule under Section 49 (1) (gg) of the Advocates Act of 1961"



any benefits from government forced to run to Lucknow for assis-

tance but return empty-handed AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

In that case the mission of self-respect and dignity



initiated by Baba-

saheb Dr Bhimrao







(1) If you believe

AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 2: The coun-

sel for the 22-year-old female

influencer, Sharmishtha Panoli

arrested for allegedly uploading

a video with communal com-

ments, Monday filed a petition

in the Alipore Court here, alleg-

ing that she was denied basic

amenities in jail and threatened

port in this regard by June 4,

Samimuddin said. "No proper

hygiene is maintained inside

the Alipore Women's Correc-

tional Home. My client is being

denied basic amenities. She has

kidney-related issues and has

not been keeping well. Her med-

ical condition is delicate and

may deteriorate in the absence

The court has sought a re-

Mohammed

by other inmates.

lawyer



in India's really fast growth rate, invest in the Indian markets. (2) If you believe in AI revolution, invest in US Markets (3) If you believe that excessive

money printing is destroying the world, buy Bitcoin (4) If you believe in the fact: that

government is here to plan your retirement-- buy their bonds (5) If you believe you can really buy Real Estate with 500Rs, buy (6) If you believe in the theory:

trust no one. Be diversified like me You have infinite options to put your money where your mouth is. You don't need to fight people on the internet who present contrary Invest your money. Show returns.

Prove them wrong. And, get rich in the process:)

@Akshat_World

16 Naxalites surrender

SHORT **TAKES**

Sukma: Sixteen Naxalites, including six carrying a collective cash reward of ₹25 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Monday, police said. Of them, nine cadres belonged to Kerlapenda village panchavat under Chintalanar police station limits. With this surrender, the village has become Naxalite-free, making it eligible for development projects of ₹1 crore as per a new scheme of the state government, an official said. All 16 cadres, including a woman, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials, here citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman' Maoist ideology and atrocities by ultras on local tribals. Sukma Superintendent of

Ambedkar's statue defaced

Police Kiran Chavan said.

Chandigarh: A statue of BR Ambedkar was defaced with black paint by an unidentified person in Punjab's Jalandhar district, said police Monday. In a CCTV clip, the miscreant, wearing a cap and face covered with a cloth, could be seen spraying paint on the statue's face. The incident took place in Nangal village in Phillaur sub-division of Jalandhar district. This is the second incident in two months in the same village when the statue was vandalised

Couple dies in road accident

Bijnor (UP): A couple, who were returning on a motorcycle after distributing their son's wedding cards, died in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district, police said Monday.

Tourism in Kashmir slowly returns after Pahalgam attack

Gulmarg (J&K), June 2: The tourism sector in Kashmir has started the long journey to normalcy as tourists, though in smaller numbers, are returning to the valley after the Pahalgam terror attack served a big blow to the industry. Groups of tourists, especial-

ly from states like Maharashtra and Gujarat, are reaching the famous tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, infusing hopes of a gradual turnaround in the sector. Though in marginal num-

bers, tourist arrivals have led to some sort of an activity in the sector which was considered almost dead in the days following the April 22 attack in Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam in which 25 tourists and a local were killed. Chief Minister



Omar Abdullah is leading from the forefront and is actively involved in the efforts to restore faith in the valley's tourism potential.

The chief minister has been visiting famous tourist spots, taking his administration there, engaging with the stakeholders and interacting with tourists.

Influencer alleges jail threats

of basic health and hygiene fa-

cilities. We have submitted a pe-

tition and the court has sought a

report by June 4," Samimudding

She is currently housed at

Alipore Women's Correctional

Home in South Kolkata, where

she will have to stay till June

13 as per the order of a city

court Saturday. On Monday,

her counsel Mohd Samimuddin

told media persons that his cli-

ent was suffering from kidney

stones and hence she requires

proper hygiene, which was

lacking at the correctional

home where she is housed now.

tered against Panoli at Garden

Reach Police Station May 15,

for posting an Instagram Vid-

eo, where she made some com-

ments on 'Operation Sindoor'

To recall, an FIR was regis-

Abdullah recently chaired two back-to-back meetings,? one of his council of ministers and another of the senior officers of the government,? at Pahalgam and Gulmarg respectively to negate the perception of fear in the valley.

The Pahalgam attack had led to mass cancellations of bookings. Following the attack, tour-

that had reportedly hurt the

religious sentiments of a par-

In the face of strong criti-

cism, she deleted that video

and also tendered a public

apology for the matter. Howev-

er, based on the FIR registered,

the police first sent her a no-

tice, which failed since she had

gone into hiding in Gurugram

Thereafter, an arrest war-

rant was issued against her,

and finally, she was arrested

from Gurugram by Kolkata

Police Saturday morning and

was brought back to Kolk-

ata on transit remand on the

same day. Panoli was present-

ed at the city court in Kolkata

Saturday afternoon, and after a

detailed hearing in the matter.

she was remanded to judicial

BJP leaders in West Ben-

gal, including Leader of the

Opposition in the Assembly

and state BJP president, ques-

tioned the "overnight" action

of Kolkata Police against Pa-

noli and called the move vote-

bank vendetta. Adhikari said

that Kolkata Police was hyper-

active in arresting Panoli from

Gurugram for making a com-

ment in the wake of the Pahal-

gam terror attack, where Hin-

dus were targeted selectively,

which she later deleted and

even apologised for.

custody till June 13.

ticular community.

in Harvana by then.

ists left the valley in droves, leaving trips midway, while confirmed bookings were also cancelled and there was a lack of interest in visiting Kashmir. But now the clouds of fear are making way for the sunshine of positivity as queries about bookings are on the rise day

'People have started coming back. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's meetings and visits (to Pahalgam and Gulmarg) have sent a positive message that the destinations are open. It has led to improvement in tourism," Asif Burza, a hotelier with properties in Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg, said.

Afsa Malik, a tourist from Gandhinagar, Gujarat, said she sees no fear in Kashmir and appealed to people across the country to visit the valley.

Malik, who is in the valley

with her family in a group of 17 people, said Kashmir is a beautiful place and their experience so far has been really good. Another tourist from Gujarat, Mohammad Aftab, said the atmosphere in the Kashmir valley is unlike the perception about the place right now. A group of tour operators

from Maĥarashtra are on a familiarisation tour to the valley to dispel the negative perception and to attract tourists. The efforts are leading to a change in perception and hope of a turnaround.

Popular tourism destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg are witnessing tourist footfalls, with the numbers increasing with each passing day. Tourist groups, and families from different parts of the country can be seen enjoying their time at the popular spots.

India to get remaining S-400 missile systems by 2026, says Russia PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Russia is committed to delivering the remaining units of the S-400 air defence system to India by 2025-2026, the country's Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Roman Babushkin, said Monday highlighting that the system performed "very efficiently during the recent India-Pakistan tensions.

Babushkin also hinted at expanding bilateral cooperation with India in air defence and anti-drone systems. "We heard that the S-400 performed very efficiently during the recent clashes between India and Pakistan. We have a long history of collaboration. The air defence systems, according to what we are experiencing, the situation in Europe and here, this is one of the promising topics of our partnership in defence preparation in general," Babushkin told PTI Videos.

Babushkin confirmed that the contract for the remaining two S-400 units is on track, with deliveries expected to be completed by 2025-26, in line with publicly announced timelines. India signed a USD 5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Trium missile system, a state-of-the art air defence platform capa ble of engaging multiple aerial threats at long ranges. Three squadrons have already been

PRO-PALESTINIAN SPEECH

Indian-American student barred from graduation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 2: An Indian-American student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was barred from attending her graduation ceremony after delivering a speech denouncing the war in Gaza, according to media

Megha Vemuri, the 2025 class president of MIT, is the latest in the list of students to face discipline after protesting the war in Gaza. Vemuri told CNN that after her speech, the university's senior leadership informed her she was not allowed to attend Friday's commencement ceremony and was barred from campus until the event concluded.

School officials confirmed that they told Vemuri that she was prohibited from attending the undergraduate ceremony. MIT leadership said that they stand by the punishment they issued to Vemuri.

"MIT supports free expression but stands by its decision, which was in response to the individual deliberately and repeatedly misleading Commencement organisers and leading a protest from the stage," a school spokesperson said in a statement.

The school said that she would receive her degree.

Vemuri, who grew up in Georgia, was a scheduled speaker at Thursday's OneMIT Commencement ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she took to the podium, with a keffiyeh - a symbol of pro-Palestinian solidarity draped over her graduation robe. She praised her peers for protesting the war in Gaza and criticised the university's ties to Israel.

An MIT spokesperson told CNN Vemuri's sppech Thursday "was not the one that was provided by the speaker in advance." Vemuri's father Sarat said that she was a double major, in computation and cognition and linguistics, and was told that she would receive her diploma by mail.

Vemuri said she was grateful for her family, who have been present this week, supporting her. She says she's not disappointed about not getting to walk the stage. "I see no need for me to walk across the stage of an institution that is complicit in this genocide," Vemu-The Council on American-Is-

lamic Relations (CAIR) has condemned the university's decision to ban Vemuri from the ceremony. College campuses across the US have witnessed protest encampments and accusations of antisemitism since the Hamas-led attack on Israel in October 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza.

The tensions coupled with the Trump administration's attacks on universities, have left some school communities wrestling with how to balance civility and safety with open expression and debate, The New

York Times said. New York University recently said it was withholding the diploma of a student who condemned "genocide" in Gaza while delivering a graduation speech. Several students at Harvard, Columbia and other universities nationwide are also facing disciplinary threats.

'Bulldozers instead of houses': AAP, **Cong criticise BJP**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress Monday sharply criticised the Delhi BJP government, claim ing "nearly 800 slum homes were demolished in Madrasi Camp just a day after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta publicly assured that no slums would be touched"

There was no immediate re sponse available from the Delhi government or the BJP over the allegations. Addressing a press conference Monday, AAP's Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj accused the BJP of "betraying the poor". He said while the BJP leaders promised permanent housing during elec tions, they are now using bull dozers to displace the same people they courted for votes.

"Madrasi Camp has existed for 60 years. Before (the Delhi assembly) elections, the BJP leaders played carrom (board) with chil dren and dined in the slums. To day, they have demolished those very homes," Bharadwaj said. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav also condemned the demolition drive, calling it "shocking

and saddening", a statement said. Yadav alleged that the Rekha Gupta government adopted a pick-and-choose policy.

While allotting alternate housing, it left 155 families without shelter despite extreme weather conditions, he said. The Congress leader further alleged that the BJP's handling of the eviction stands in stark contrast to its manifesto promises which pledged to uplift JJ cluster residents through schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas

Mehbooba seeks dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 2: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Monday sought dignified return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, saying their reintegration must not be viewed merely as a symbolic return, but as an opportunity to build a shared, inclusive and forward-looking future for Jammu and Kashmir.

The former Chief Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here, her first one-on-one meeting with the LG in about five vears, and submitted an "inclu-

sive and phased roadmap" to fa-

cilitate "meaningful progress"

on the front. The PDP chief also submitted copies of the proposal to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. In her proposal, the former J&K CM said every displaced Kashmiri Pandit family should be allotted half-akanal (one kanal= 505.87 sq mt) of state land in their district of origin, contingent upon their willingness to return.

Rag pickers look for recyclable materials at greater adjutant storks also perch at a waste disposal site ahead of

World Environment Day, at Boragaon on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam

The families whose original homes still exist, but are in dilapidated or semi-damaged condition, should be provided targeted financial grants or interest-free loans for structural repairs and modernisation,

she added.

She also demanded establishment of two reserved assembly constituencies for the community. "This issue goes beyond politics and touches the very core of our collective conscience. It is a moral imperative and a societal responsibility to ensure that our Pandit brothers and sisters, who were tragically displaced from their homeland, are provided with the opportunity to return in a manner that is dignified, secure and sustainable," she said Mehbooba said every politi-

cal party in the union territory, irrespective of ideology, has consistently supported the idea

of their return. "The shared pain of their displacement and the yearning for reconcil-

iation bind us all in the belief that Kashmir can once again be a place where communities coexist peacefully. To facilitate meaningful progress on this front, an inclusive and phased roadmap has been attached for your consideration," she said.

The PDP president said the proposal emphasises an all-stakeholders approach, ensuring that any policy or plan pitched is rooted in empathy, mutual trust and most importantly, the on ground realities. "I urge your office to initiate a dialogue driven process involving representatives from the community, civil society, local leaders and relevant administrative agencies. Only through inclusive deliberations can we chart a future where no community feels alienated in their own land," she added in the letter to the LG. She described the mass

displacement as one of the largest internal migrations in post-independence, which necessitates a comprehensive, justice-oriented and sustain able policy framework."The return of Kashmiri Pandits is not merely a demographic or administrative concern but stands as a matter of historical justice, reconciliation and the restoration of Kashmir's plural istic ethos," she said.

international



We have to recognise the world has changed. With greater instability than there has been for many, many years, and greater threats

SWEDEN TO END INT'L ADOPTIONS

Sweden should phase out international adoptions, a government-appointed commission said Monday, after an inquiry prompted by concerns that children had been taken from their biological parents without permission. The commission identified irregularities including illegal adoptions and other unethical practices





clearer that for decades, chilhave been affected and harmed in the

context of international adoption CAMILLA WALTERSSON GRONVALL | SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER, SWEDEN

It signals that the country's economy is beginning to recover and that the stock exchange will operate as a private company and serve as a genuine hub for Syria's economic development, with a strong focus

MOHAMMED YISR BARNIEH SYRIAN FINANCE MINISTER, SYRIA

The United States has unilaterally provoked new economic and trade frictions exacerbating the



eral economic and trade relations WANG WENTAO I

CHINESE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

SHORT **TAKES**

Philippines, EU to set up security, defence dialogue

Manila: The Philippines and the European Union have agreed to start a dialogue on security and defence in order to tackle emerging threats like cyber attacks and foreign interference, Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo said Monday. The announcement came during the visit to Manila of EU foreign policy chief Kaia Kallas for meetings with Manalo as well as a courtesy call with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Gilgit-Baltistan reports first polio case in 2025

Islamabad: Gilgit-Baltistan has reported its first polio case of the year, even as a vaccination team escaped unhurt in an armed attack in the region in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, an official said Monday. The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad confirmed the new case of wild poliovirus in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district. A 23-month-old child was diagnosed with poliovirus in the Tangir area of the district, the region's Health Secretary Asifullah Khan said.

Two PIOs charged for aiding scam syndicates

Singapore: Two Indianorigin men were among nine people charged in Singapore Monday for allegedly acting as money mules, enabling scam syndicates to use their bank accounts. Yuvan Thirumaran, 24, and Amariit Singh Jugindar Singh, 50, were among six men and three women charged with scam-related offences. facing between one and 19 counts each, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

3 dead, 7 missing

in Tibet landslide Beijing: Three people were killed and seven others went missing in a landslide in Tibet, officials said Monday. Two people were injured in the landslide that displaced about 200,000 cubic metres of mud and rocks in Muta township of Qamdo city in Tibet Sunday night, experts from water and natural resources departments said. The injured people are in stable condition in the hospital, an official said. About 500 rescuers, medical workers and firefighters, as well as sniffer dogs, are involved in the search and rescue operation, supported by ambulances, excavators and telecommunication and electricity supply facilities, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted officials as saying.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Peace talks end in an hour

Ukraine attack on Russian nuclear bombers overshadows peace talks in Turkey

Istanbul, June 2: Peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul ended barely an hour after they began Monday, a day after a massive Ukrainian drone attack on Russia's nuclear-capable strategic bombers.

The talks - the second such direct contacts between the sides since 2022 - had already begun nearly two hours later than scheduled with no explanation of the delay.

Although the atmosphere was subdued and dialogue brief, the talks did yield an agreement to conduct a new prisoner exchange and Ukraine said another round of talks was In Russia, before the talks

began, angry war bloggers had called on Moscow to deliver a fearsome retaliatory blow against Kyiv after Ukraine Sunday launched one of its most ambitious attacks of the war, targeting Russian nuclear-capable long-range bombers in Siberia and elsewhere

Ukraine and Russia have issued starkly different assessments of the damage done to Russia's fleet of strategic bombers - a key element in its nuclear arsenal - but it was clear from publicly available satellite imagery that Mos-



- **SECOND ROUND OF DIRECT**
- RUSSIA AND UKRAINE STANCES STILL FAR APART
- BOTH SIDES AGREE TO **NEW PRISONER SWAP**

cow had suffered some serious equipment losses.

The eyes of the whole world are focused on the contacts here," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan had told the Russian and Ukrainian delegations at the start of talks as they

opposite sides of the room in the sumptuous Ciragan Palace by the Bosphorus.

He said the aim of the meeting was to evaluate the conditions for a ceasefire, to discuss a possible meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, and to look at more prisoner exchange opportunities.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, who headed Kyiv's delegation, announced after the talks that a new prisoner exchange had been agreed to follow up on the biggest prisoner swap of the war brokered at the last round of talks.

He said the new exchange

would focus on those severely injured in the war and on young people.

Umerov also said that Moscow had handed its own draft peace accord to Ukraine and that Kyiv - which has drawn up its own version - would review the Russian document.

Ukraine has proposed holding more talks before the end of June, but believes that only a meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and Russian President Vladimir Putin can resolve the many issues of contention, Umerov said.

Zelenskiy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said Kyiv's delegation had handed over a list of children it said had been deported to Russia and which it wanted back. Moscow says such children were moved in order to protect them from fighting.

The two sides had been expected Monday to discuss their respective and wildly different ideas for what a full ceasefire and a longer term path to peace should look like amid pressure from US President Donald Trump, who has said the US could abandon its role as a mediator if there is no progress.

But Umerov said Kyiv had been unable to react to Russia's proposals for peace because it

Iran poised to dismiss US nuclear proposal

Dubai, June 2: Iran is poised to reject a US proposal to end a decades-old nuclear dispute, an Iranian diplomat said Monday, dismissing it as a "non-starter" that fails to address Tehran's interests or soften Washington's stance on uranium enrichment.

"Iran is drafting a negative response to the US proposal, which could be interpreted as a rejection of the US offer," the senior diplomat, who is close to Iran's negotiating team, told Reuters

The US proposal for a new $\,$ nuclear deal was presented to Iran Saturday by Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, who was on a short visit to Tehran and has been mediating talks between Tehran and Washington.

After five rounds of discussions between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi and President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, several obstacles remain.

Among them are Iran's rejection of a US demand that it commit to scrapping uranium enrichment and its refusal to ship abroad its entire existing stockpile of highly enriched uranium - possible raw material for nuclear bombs.

Tehran says it wants to master nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and has long denied accusations by Western



failing to address its interests

Us demands Iran scrap uranium enrichment and ship stockpile ran seeks right to enrichment

and guarantee US will not tear

up future accord

velop nuclear weapons.

"In this proposal, the US stance on enrichment on Iranian soil remains unchanged, and there is no clear explanation regarding the lifting of sanctions," said the diplomat, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Araqchi said Tehran would formally respond to the proposal soon. Tehran demands the immediate removal of all US-imposed curbs that impair its oil based economy. But the US says nuclear-related sanctions should be removed in phases

The stakes are high for both sides. Trump wants to curtail Tehran's potential to produce a nuclear weapon that could trigger a regional nuclear arms race and perhaps threaten Is rael. Iran's clerical establish ment, for its part, wants to be rid of the devastating sanctions

MAN ATTACKS COLORADO **CROWD WITH FIREBOMBS**

Boulder, Colorado, June 2: Eight people were injured Sunday when a 45-year-old man yelled "Free Palestine" and threw incendiary devices into a crowd in Boulder, Colorado where a demonstration to remember the Israeli hostages who remain in Gaza was taking place, authorities said.

Four women and four men between 52 and 88 years old were transported to hospitals, Boulder police said. Authorities had earlier put the count of the injured at six and said at least one of them was in a critical condition

"As a result of these preliminary facts, it is clear that this is a targeted act of violence and the FBI is investigating this as an act of terrorism," the FBI special agent in charge of the Denver Field Office, Mark Michalek, said.Michalek named the suspect as Mohamed Soliman, who was hospitalized shortly after the attack. Reuters could not immediately locate contact information for him or his family.

FBI Director Kash Patel also described the incident as a "targeted terror attack," and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser said it appeared to be "a



hate crime given the group that was targeted." Boulder Police Chief Stephen Redfearn said he did not believe anvone else was involved. "We're fairly confident we have the lone suspect in custody," he said.

The attack took place on the Pearl Street Mall, a popular pedestrian shopping district in the shadow of the University of Colorado, during an event organized by Run for Their Lives, an organization devoted to drawing attention to the hostages seized in the aftermath of Hamas's 2023 attack on Israel.

In a statement, the group said the walks have been held every week since then for the hostages, "without any violent incidents until today.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that the victims were attacked "simply because they were Jews" and that he trusted US authorities would prosecute "the cold blood perpetrator to the fullest extent of the law".

Nationalist Karol Nawrocki wins Polish presidential poll presidential election

Warsaw, June 2: Nationalist opposition candidate Karol Nawrocki narrowly won Poland's presidential election, results showed Monday, delivering a big blow to the centrist government's efforts to cement Warsaw's pro-European orien-

In a victory for European conservatives inspired by US President Donald Trump, Nawrocki secured 50.89% of the vote, election commission data showed. The outcome presages more political gridlock as he is likely to use his presidential veto to thwart Prime Minister Donald Tusk's liberal policy agenda. Tusk's government has been seeking to reverse judicial reforms made by the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) government that lost power 18 months ago but President Andrzej Duda, a PiS ally, has blocked those efforts. Nawrocki is likely to con-

tinue that pattern as president. The judicial reforms helped sour relations with Brussels under the PiS government. The European Union's top court ruled that a new procedure for appointing judges did not



guarantee their impartiality, opening the way for rulings to be questioned, and Brussels sued Poland after its Constitutional Tribunal questioned the

primacy of EU law. Nawrocki's rival, Rafal Trzaskowski, Tusk's ruling Civic Coalition (KO) candidate, had declared victory immediately after the publication of an exit poll late Sunday that showed the result would be very close.

"I'm sorry that I didn't manage to convince the majority of citizens of my vision of Poland." Trzaskowski said on X. "I congratulate Karol Nawrocki on winning the presidential election."

Nawrocki, a conservative historian and amateur boxer who was backed by PiS, had presented the vote as a referendum on Tusk's 18-month-old

congratulate Nawrocki PM Tusk expected to

government. "The referendum on the dismissal of the Tusk government has been won," PiS lawmaker Jacek Sasin wrote on X.

Result is major blow for

comment on the election

pro-EU government

Central European

conservatives

at 1800 GMT

Tusk did not immediately comment on the election outcome. Public and private broadcasters said he would give a televised address at 8.00 pm Monday.

Poland's blue-chip stock index had shed around 2% by early afternoon Monday as investors anticipated more political paralysis. The zloty currency also fell versus the euro.

edge," said 32-year-old IT specialist Patryk Marek. "Feelings are for sure mixed for this moment. But how small this margin was, it tells us how divided we are almost in half as voters.

INDIA-PAK CONFLICT Pakistan despatches

teams to US, Russia to present its perspective

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jun 2: A high-level Pakistani delegation, com prising three former foreign ministers, is travelling to the US as part of Islamabad's global diplomatic push to seek support following its recent conflict with India.

The Pakistani team will be in the US around the same time an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is visiting the US to highlight India's policy of zero-tolerance to terrorism and expose Pakistan's support

to terrorist groups. "On Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive, a high-level multi-party delegation will visit New York, Washington DC London and Brussels from June 2," the Foreign Office (FO) said

Monday. The nine-member delegation is led by the Pakistan People's Party Chairman and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhu-

The move comes after India sent seven multi-party delega tions to 33 global capitals as part of its diplomatic outreach following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives.

The others members of the Pakistani delegation to the US include federal minister Musa dik Malik, former foreign min isters Hina Rabbani Khar and Khurram Dastgir Khan, former ministers Sved Faisal Ali Subz wari and Sherry Rehman, Sena tor Bushra Anjum Butt. It also includes two ex-foreign secre taries - Jalil Abbas Jilani and Tehmina Janjua.

The delegation will meet voys, Geo News reported.



Peshawar pre-partition 'Picture House' cinema razed for plaza

The theatre at oncevibrant "Cinema Road" near the historic Qissa Khwani Bazaar in

Peshawar was established in 1931, before the partition of India and Pakistan, by Sikh trader Daswat Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, Jun 2: The historic 'Picture House' cinema, once a cultural landmark of Peshawar, has been demolished, marking the symbolic end of once-thriving movie culture in this city of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The theatre at once-vibrant "Cinema Road" near the histor-

ic Qissa Khwani Bazaar in Pe-

shawar was established in 1931.

before the partition of India and

Pakistan, by Sikh trader Das-

The grandfather of Tayyab Raza, the current owner of the cinema, acquired it in 1947 from Singh. The 'Picture House', demolished to make way for a commercial plaza, remained a key cultural and entertainment hub in Peshawar for over eight decades and regularly hosted three shows a day. The cinema, which showcased

films in Pashto, Urdu, and Punjabi, gained immense popularity in the 1940s with the screening of Sohrab Modi's film Pukar in 1940 and Sikandar in 1941. The 'Picture House', a part of

the once bustling, famous entertainment city, drew audiences from across Peshawar and its surrounding areas. The city also had Noveltv

Cinema and Tasveer Mahal on the same lane, earning the area the nickname "Cinema Road". These cinemas kept the Qissa

Khwani Bazaar alive late into

the night, with the final shows

ending as late as 2 am.

Crowds made way to the bazaar afterwards, where stalls selling tikka, lassi, and other traditional foods catered to

However, in the past five months, thirteen cinemas in Peshawar have been permanently closed, with most making way

for commercial plazas. The closures have left dozens

of employees jobless and raised concerns among artists and film enthusiasts alike.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Heritage Council General Secretary Shakil Waheedullah lamented the lack of government at-

tention towards preserving such historic institutions and warned that Peshawar's rich cultural identity was steadily fading into obscurity. He expressed concern over

the negligence of the archaeological and culture department for their failure to protect the demolition of historic structures of the pre-partition era. Due to deteriorating econom-

ic conditions, cinema culture is declining across the province, he said, adding that employees were left unemployed because of the closures

Waheedullah said that although the covid-19 pandemic played a role in reducing public gatherings, the growing popularity of Indian films and streaming applications lured audiences away from traditional cinema houses.

Picture House Cinema manager Wasim Khan said the cinema industry had suffered a huge loss due to movie-goers moving away from theatres.

"Everything was on a knife

tto Zardari.

the UN Secretary-General, the president of the UN General As sembly, the ambassadors of the 14 countries of the 15-member UN Security Council, including the Chinese and Russian UN en



business



As Indian carriers expand to access new markets, one has to see a corresponding change to the approach for access because **Indian carriers will want** access to our markets across the world

7.29MN GREEN JOBS BY FY28

India's green sector is expected to add close to 7.29 million jobs by FY28, as it is witnessing aggressive investment in building green tech capabilities, NLB Services said Monday. The majority of the new job creation is set to be fuelled by industries like renewable energy, waste management, electric vehicles, sustainable textiles, and green construction



decades, India's real estate narrative revolved around the top 7-8 metro



cities. But that story is being rewritten. What we're witnessing is not just spillover from saturated metros: it's a fundamental reshaping of the growth landscape. Cities once considered peripheral are now emerging as vibrant hubs for housing, employment, infrastructure, and investment

ASHWINDER R SINGH VICE CHAIRMAN, BCD GROUP

By removing inefficiencies, aggregating demand, and leveraging technology,

we're not just making e-commerce accessible to Bharat; we're making it the most affordable way to shop for daily essentials

ANGAD KIKLA | CEO, CITYMALL

India is a very strategic market for L'Oreal. We intend to more

than double our business in the next couple of years, expand our factories which are today manufacturing 95 per cent of what we sell in India and

NICOLAS HIERONIMUS | CEO, L'OREAI

also exporting to rest of the

SHORT **TAKES**

Dairy cos to record almost 13% growth

Mumbai: Dairy companies are likely to witness 11-13 per cent revenue growth this financial year on strong demand, increasing share of value-added products (VAP) and higher milk prices, a report said Monday. The profitability will improve by 20-30 basis points (bps), aided by better realisations, healthy milk supply keeping procurement prices in check and a favourable shift towards VAP, hich fetches higher margins. Crisil Ratings said in a report. Despite the higher capex, credit profiles of dairy companies are expected to remain stable because of improving cash flows and strong balance sheets, the report said. According to Crisil Ratings, profitability will benefit from improving realisations and a modest increase in procurement prices, resulting in a 20-30 bps improvement in operating margin to 5.3 per cent, supporting the overall cash generation. Debt protection metrics are also expected to remain comfortable this fiscal, and the capital structure will remain steady, it stated.

HCLTech, UiPath to drive agentic automation

New Delhi: IT major HCLTech Monday said it has partnered with US software firm UiPath to drive agentic automation for the latter's customers globally. The partnership will drive large-scale transformation for businesses across various sectors, facilitating intelligent and more autonomous business process operations that need minimal human intervention, a company statement said. **HCLTech** will leverage its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to deploy the UiPath platform, enabling autonomous operations in finance, supply chain, procurement, customer service, marketing, and human resources. Additionally, HCLTech will set up an AI Lab with UiPath in India to develop **Industry Focused Repeatable** Solutions (IFRS) and MVPs for the full automation lifecycle. "Partnering with HCLTech allows UiPath to extend the power of its AI-powered automation to enterprises

globally, accelerating intelligent

transformation at scale," said

Ashim Gupta, CFO at UiPath.

India unveils new EV policy to lure global manufacturers

New Delhi, Jun 2: India's new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy outlook seems brighter for India as the government has decided to lower import tax for foreign automakers that pledge to invest in domestic EV production, as it looks to strengthen local manufacturing and draw in global industry leaders.

Automakers will be permitted to import up to 8,000 electric vehicles at a reduced duty rate of 15 per cent, compared to the current 70–100 per cent, provided they commit to investing ₹4,150 crore in local EV manufacturing, according to the new EV policy notified by the government.

They will be required to begin operations at their manufacturing facilities in India within three years of receiving approval and must meet specified local content requirements, according to the notified guidelines under the scheme to promote manufacturing of E-Passenger cars in India.

The government Monday notified guidelines to give effect to the Scheme, paving the way for electric car makers to apply once the application window opens. Officials said the application window may open in a couple of weeks for at least 120 days.

"To encourage the global manufacturers to invest under the Scheme, the approved applicants will be allowed to import Completely Built Units (CBUs) of e-4W with a minimum CIF value of \$35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15 per cent for a period of 5 years from the application approval date. Approved applicants



'We do', say global automakers, but for Tesla



Global auto giants including Mercedes Benz, Skoda-Volkswagen, Hyundai , and Kia have shown interest in manufacturing electric cars in India. The said companies have expressed interest during the stakeholder discussions between the government and the industry regarding the scheme to promote manufacturing of E- Passenger Cars in India', the detailed guidelines for which were unveiled by Union Heavy Industries

Minister H D Kumaraswamy. However, Tesla is not interested in manufacturing cars in India but keen on establishing showrooms in the country, the minister said US President Donald Trump has said that if Tesla were to build a factory in India to circumvent that country's tariffs, it would be "unfair" to their national interest. It is to be noted that Tesla CEO Elon Musk had said in April last year that his visit to India has been delayed due to the company's heavy obligations.

would be required to make a minimum investment of ₹4.150 cr in line with the provisions of the scheme," an official statement said.

The maximum duty foregone per applicant has been capped at ₹6.484 crore on the investment made under the Scheme. Expenditure incurred on new plant, machinery, equipment and associated utilities, engineering research and development (ER&D) would be eligible for availing investment-linked benefits under the scheme.

However, expenditure on land will not be considered. The window for receiving applications through the notice

inviting applications will be for a period of 120 days (or more). Further, the Ministry of Heavy Industries shall have the right to open the application window, as and when required till March 15, 2026 with a non-refundable application fee of ₹5,00,000.

To qualify and receive benefits under the scheme, an applicant is required to have global group revenue from automotive manufacturing of a minimum ₹10.000 crores. Moreover, the global investment of a company or its group companies in fixed assets must be at least ₹3,000 crore, based on the latest audited annual financial statements

Capital market dips amid global stress

Mumbai, Jun 2: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty Monday ended marginally lower, following sluggish trends in global markets amid renewed global trade concerns

After tumbling 796.75 points or 0.97 per cent to 80,654.26 in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex witnessed volatile trends and later ended 77.26 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 81,373.75

The NSE Nifty dipped 34.10 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,716.60. During the day, it dropped 224.55 points or 0.90 per cent to 24,526.15.

From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Titan, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Infosys and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the biggest laggards On the other hand, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Eternal and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.58 per cent and small cap index went up by 0.36 per cent. Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT dropped 0.70 per cent, metal (0.58 per cent), teck (0.45 per cent), consumer durables (0.40 per cent), commodities (0.18 per cent) and oil & gas (0.13 per cent).

Realty surged 2.38 per cent, services (1.20 per cent), FMCG (0.65 per cent), utilities (0.57 per cent) and power (0.35 per

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled lower, while South Korea's Kospi ended in positive territory. Euro pean markets were trading lower in mid-session deals US markets ended on a mixed note Friday

Clearances obtained for different coal blocks project proponent compen-

New Delhi, Jun 2: The government Monday said during the month of May three important clearances were obtained, including forest clearances and mining lease execution for different coal blocks.

According to a coal ministry statement, during May three important clearances were obtained, including Stage-I and Stage-II forest clearances and mining lease execution for different coal blocks. Forest clearance for coal mining projects is a mandatory process, required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, when a project involves the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. This process ensures that the sates for the loss of forest cov er through compensatory afforestation and other measures. While, mining lease is a le

gal agreement that grants a company the right to extract minerals from a specific land area, typically in exchange for rent or royalties. It's a contrac between a landowner (often the government) and a mining company, allowing them to explore and mine the land for a set period.

The ministry further said that coal production from captive and commercial mines for the month of May was at 16.432 million tonnes (MT), representing a year-on-year growth of 24.57 per cent compared to

OMFED announces incentive, launches new milk products



Bhubaneswar, June 2: OMFED announced ₹3 per litre incentive for dairy farmers Monday, following a directive from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on the occasion of World Milk Day 2025. Addressing a press conference at OMFED Head Office. MD Viiav Amruta Kulange said, "Starting June 1, dairy farmers across Odisha will receive an additional ₹3 per litre of milk. Of this, ₹2 per litre will be borne by the state government and ₹1 per litre

by OMFED." Kulange added that cooperative societies and milk federations would also receive ₹1 per litre of milk. He said, "The consumer price of milk remains unchanged for now. A decision on price adjustments will be taken after the committee meeting in 15 to 20 days." The initiative is expected to benefit nearly 2.5 lakh dairy farmers in the state. Additionally, OMFED introduced three new products includes 1 kg plain curd in bucket packaging. 175 ml and 350 ml pouches of Binjharpuri desi Cow A2 Ghee, and 500 ml glass bottles of Binjharpuri desi Cow A2 Milk with 90 day shelf life. Thanking the Chief Minister for the initiative, Kulange said, "This decision reaffirms the government's commitment to Odisha's dairy farmers and the rural economy.'

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai witness dip in PV sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 2: Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor India Monday reported a dip in passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in the domestic market

Maruti's domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers stood at 1,35,962 units last month compared with 1,44,002 units in the year-ago period, a decline of 6 per cent.

Sales of mini segment cars Alto and S-Presso declined to 6,776 units against 9.902 units in the same month last year.

Similarly, sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, and WagonR, also fell to 61,502 units compared to 68,206 units in May 2024. Utility vehicles Grand Vitara. Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, and Jimny clocked sales of 54,899 units last month, from 54,204 units earlier.

MSI Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee said the dip in overall sales in the entry-level segment is impacting the overall performance of the company.

Whereas, Hyundai India said its dispatches to dealers in the domestic market declined 11

per cent to 43,861 units in May compared with 49,151 units in the year-ago period. Sunday, Tata Motors reported

an 11 per cent vear-on-year drop in total passenger vehicle sales to 42,040 units in May. Mahindra & Mahindra said its passenger vehicle dispatches rose to 52,431 vehicles last month, a growth of 21 per cent, as compared to 43,218 units in May last

Kia India reported a 14 per cent year-on-year increase in dispatches to dealers in the domestic market in May. The company billed 22,315 units last month against 19,500 units

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Sunday said its sales increased 22 per cent year-on-year to 30,864 units in May. The company's wholesale to dealers in the domestic market stood at 29,280 units last month, while exports were at 1.584 units.

In May 2024, TKM had sold a total of 25,273 units. In the two-wheelers space, Hero Moto-Corp said its domestic dispatches to dealers rose to 4,88,997 units last month, compared to 4,79,450 units in the year-ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Jun 2: Cellular Operators Associations of India (COAI) has approached the telecom department to raise concerns over Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations on the satcom spectrum, saying "incorrect assumptions" have led to unjustifiably low spectrum charges for satellite services relative to terrestrial

COAI claimed that Trai's recommendations are based on incorrect assumptions and that their implementation will hit the sustainability of terrestrial services, which form the foundation of India's digital infrastructure.

COAI argued that the recommendations provide a regulatory advantage to commercial NG-SO satellites against terrestrial broadband service providers and, if accepted by the DoT in their present form, will undermine competition and create a non-level playing field.

COAI slams TRAI satcom advocacy TRAI would surely be fully aware that with the advent of next-generation non-geostationary satellite orbit (NGSO)

broadband services including low Earth orbit (LEO) and medium Earth orbit (MEO) constellations satellite services are now capable of directly substituting and competing with terrestrial fixed and mobile broadband networks, said COAI

networks.

In a letter dated May 29,



"Use of accurate capacity data from both terrestrial and satellite operators would have yielded a more transparent and reliable assessment of respective capacities of satellite and terrestrial networks," it said.

the same market.

The "fundamental flaw" in the capacity assumptions ex-

career opportunities,

reflecting a

rapidly growing job market,

with machine learning jobs

in sectors like healthcare,

ecommerce, and financial

SIMPLILEARN.COM

education, marketing, retail,

particularly cited as the second

most sought-after AI jobs. This

demand is fueled by the broader

application of these technologies

ercise undermines the DoT's clear mandate to ensure competitive parity between satellite and terrestrial services.

COAI further said that the regulator was expected to recommend a pricing structure that ensures a level playing field between satellite-based and terrestrial operators after doing a complete techno-economic analysis, but has instead, surprisingly, based its recommendations on the ad-hoc spectrum charges set on an administrative basis for non-competing VSAT services using Geo-Stationary

(GSO) satellites.

This comes after the tele com regulator last month recommended that satellite communication companies like Starlink pay four per cent of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) as spectrum charges to the government. COAI fur ther argued that the additional proposal to subsidise user ter minals or satellite operators through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) fund further tilts the level playing field against

the terrestrial operator. The association said that limited consideration of stakeholder inputs coupled with the absence of comprehensive consultation on key issues such as ensuring a level play ing field, evaluating network capacity, determining assignment methods, and establish ing fair spectrum valuation along with reliance on flawed assumptions, has culminated in recommendations that are not only inequitable but may also contravene the principles embodied in the Telecommuni cations Act, 2023.

AI & Machine Learning sector pleasing employers

Real estate 5% and insurance 6% growth emerged as relatively bright spots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 2: While hiring in the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) sector posted 25 per cent yearon-vear growth in May 2025, the broader Information Technology sector saw a decline in job opportunities.

According to the Naukri (an online job portal) JobSpeak May 2025 report, overall hiring in the IT sector fell by 5 per cent compared to the corresponding



period in the previous year.

"In an otherwise stable job market, what stood out in May was the continued momentum in AI/ML hiring across metros alongside steady demand for senior professionals, a trend

that's held firm over the past year," Naukri Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

In May 2025, overall hiring remained stable, except industries like real estate (5 per cent growth) and insurance (6 per cent growth) emerged as relatively bright spots, according

to the report. On the contrary, hiring in Retails, Telecom/ISP, and Banking, Finance & Broking declined 8-9 per cent. Howev-

Financial Services ramped up hiring by 29 per cent.

Emerging IT hub Hyderabad. and Kochi witnessed hiring growth of 7 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, with much of this growth attributed to senior-level hiring (professionals with over 16 years of experience). Pune also experienced a 4 per cent overall hiring increase, driven in large part by a sharp 26 per cent rise in hiring by startups.

Based on job listings and hiring activity on the Naukri platform, the JobSpeak index calculates hiring trends by analyzing new job listings, job applications, and recruiter activity across various industries, cities, and experience levels.

ore production in FY26

NMDC targets 55MT iron

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 2: NMDC aims to increase iron ore production by 22 per cent to 55 million tonnes in FY26, as part of its aggressive 100 million tonnes expansion plan

The company had produced 45 million tonnes of iron ore in the financial year ended March 31, 2025. As per a regulatory filing, NMDC has reported a 45 per cent rise in iron ore output to 8.43 MT in April-May period of FY26.

Tata Steel has initiated discussions with NMDC and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) to secure future iron ore supplies, said Tata Steel's VP, DB Sundara Ramam.

GUKESH TURNS TABLES IPL set to crown

Carlsen slams table after Indian teen prodigy scores first Classical Win over the World No 1 in Norway Chess showdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger, June 2: World champion D Gukesh got his revenge on Magnus Carlsen as he pounced on a blunder by the World No 1 to defeat him for the first time in a classical game, leaving the Norwegian superstar so frustrated that he banged his fist on the board after Round 6 of Norway Chess Tournament here.

The win Sunday propelled 19-year-old Gukesh to third position with 8.5 points and he is just one point shy of joint leaders Carlsen and American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana.

Five-time world champion Carlsen seemed to have the upper-hand almost throughout the four-hour-long contest but a critical mistake allowed Gukesh to turn the tables on the Norwegian and secure a remarkable win.

Carlsen realised his mistake but by then it was too late. The Norwegian superstar vented his frustration by banging his fist on the table, causing the chess board to be dishevelled.

Disbelief and frustration was writ large on his face as he shook hands with Gukesh before placing all the pieces back on the board and walking away patting the winner on the back. Gukesh was calm person-

ified amid all this. He closed Shukla set to become acting BCCI president

as Binny hits age cap

New Delhi, June 2: Veteran

cricket administrator Rajeev

Shukla is set to replace Roger Binny as BCCI president in an

interim capacity after the lat-

ter turns 70 next month, BCCI

Binny, who had replaced

Sourav Ganguly as the Board

president in 2022, turns 70 July

19, crossing the age-limit thresh-

old for a BCCI office-bearer.

Shukla, 65, is currently serving

as the BCCI vice-president, a post

he has held since 2020. He would

be the active BCCI chief until

fresh elections are held during

the body's AGM in September.

charge in a such a scenario.

He (Shukla) will perform that

role until fresh elections are

held in September," said a BC-

CI source. The Rajya Sabha MP

from the Congress party has

previously also served as the

chairman of the Indian Premier

Most recently, CK Khan-

na had served as the acting

BCCI president from 2017 to

2019 during the tenure of the

Committee of Administrators

that governed the board for 33

months. Binny was the pres-

ident of the Karnataka State

Cricket Association before tak-

ing charge of the world's richest

cricket board three years ago.

the game, the former all-round-

er was a member of the 1983

World Cup-winning team under

Kapil Dev. He later went on to

coach the India Under-19 team

that won the 2000 edition of ICC

World Cup for that age group.

Counted among the greats of

Court-appointed

League (IPL).

Supreme

"As per convention, the senior most office-bearer takes

sources told PTI Monday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TÝR

There wasn't much I could do. It was just clearly lost (his position)...luckily he (Carlsen)

got into a time scramble. First Classical win over Magnus, not the way I expected (or) wanted it to be but I will take it. I was just trying to make moves (today) which kind of were tricky for him. 99 out of 100 times I would lose... just a lucky day

D GUKESH | WORLD CHAMPIO

his eyes for a moment after the rather tense handshake with a clearly upset Carlsen.

The victory had come after a crushing Round 1 loss to iconic player which had cast a shadow on whether Gukesh would be able to overcome Carlsen's challenge in the reverse game.

Arjun Erigaisi, following an Armageddon tie-break win against China's Wei Yi, is tied fourth with Hikaru Nakamura on 7.5 points in a tournament where virtually all the six players have a chance of winning the prestigious title.

Carlsen's time scramble gone wrong

Carlsen, playing with black pieces, had earlier outplayed Gukesh with a near-perfect game. But the Indian kept prolonging the proceedings by finding the right moves to

Eventually, Carlsen dropped his knight, and Gukesh pounced on his opponent's error to go for the kill.

"One thing I learned from this tournament was time scrambles can go out of control," said Gukesh.

On his loss in Round 1 despite being in an advantageous position, Gukesh said, "I don't know, I'm still kind of shaken from that game. I don't know what happened, basically.

"There wasn't much I could do; it was clearly lost," he add-

Gukesh's Polish coach Grzegorz Gajewski said the win was

a huge confidence booster for

the world champion. "It's going to give him a bump of confidence. Because once you've done it, you know you can do it again. And that's the plan," said Gajewski.

'After the first game (which Gukesh lost to Carlsen), we saw that the main problem was time management, and because of the time trouble, he managed to lose the position that he should not have lost

"So, we decided that we had to correct this time manage ment, and already in the game with Hikaru (Nakamura), we could witness this improvement and progress," he added.

The tournament saw another intense day in the women's section with R Vaishali getting the better of Koneru Humpy in the Armageddon tie-break

RESULTS (ROUND 6):

(Open) D Gukesh (Ind - 8.5) beat Magnus Carlsen (Nor -9.5); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind – 7.5) beat Wei Yi (Chn - 6.5) in Armageddon tie-break; Fabiano Caruana (USA - 9.5) beat Hikaru Nakamura (USA – 7.5) in Armageddon tie-break. (Women) R Vaishali (Ind - 8) beat Koneru Humpy (Ind - 9.5) in Armageddon tie-break; Ju Wenjun (Chn - 8.5) beat Lei Tingjie (Chn - 6) in Armageddon tiebreak; Anna Myzychuk (Ukr -9.5) beat Sara Khadem (Esp - 6) in Armageddon tie-break.

French Open: Djoko clinches 100th win

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Paris, June 2: Novak Djokovic etched another chapter in his storied career Monday, becoming just the second player in history to register 100 career wins at Roland Garros

The 38-year-old Serbian 6-3, 6-2 to advance to the quarclay-court major.

"It's a very pretty number, but 101 victories sounds better," Djokovic quipped after the match. "I will continue to search for another victory, it's clearly not finished for me here. I'm very honoured to make history in this sport, which has given me everything in my life.

With Monday's triumph, the three-time French Open champion joined Rafael Nadal, who has 112 wins at the event, as the only two players to record 100 victories at Roland Garros Djokovic's win-loss record in Paris now stands at an impres-

The 24-time Grand Slam winner wrapped up the match in just two hours and 14 minutes, becoming the oldest men's singles quarterfinalist at Roland Garros since Istvan Gulyas in 1971. "I feel good. I always have high expectations," Djokovic

achieved the milestone in dominant fashion, cruising past Britain's Cameron Norrie 6-2, terfinals for a record-extending 16th consecutive year at the

The job is only half done. It's not yet finished. We have another match tomorrow. From that mindset, my

new winner

CLASH OF TITANS AS RCB, PBKS EYE MAIDEN

TITLE TO END LONG TROPHY DROUGHT

RAJAT PATIDAR | CAPTAIN, RCB PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

We are not looking

on the stage that we

are in the finals. We

cricket. We are not play-

ing here for the stage.

I always like to keep

things simple

Ahmedabad, June 2: Virat Kohli's nearly two-decade long agonising wait to lay hands on an IPL Trophy with Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be up against Shreyas Iyer's resolve to make first-time winners out of the tenacious Puniah Kings when the 18th season finale of the world's biggest T20 league unfolds here Tuesday.

The summit clash here at the Narendra Modi Stadium could witness a thousands of fans donning jersey No 18 to support Kohli, who is in an IPL final for a fourth time overall.

The sentiments of the fans would indeed run high given it will be Kohli's last appearance on the cricket field for a while, having recently retired from Test cricket and India's next ODI assignment a few months away.

Parting ways with issues that plagued their previous campaigns, RCB have been clinical all the way through, coming into the final with an eight-wicket hammering of Punjab in a one-sided Qualifier 1. Kohli (614 runs) has gone

about his business like every other year, piling up runs at the top and continuing to lay platforms but where it has made the difference for RCB is that there's a lot more substance to their batting beyond the superstar.

Kohli has not been the only one to carry the focus and attention this year, rather he has quietly gone about his business in fortifying for RCB.

Phil Salt is a perfect foil for the Indian superstar who goes all-out in his attack, while Mayank Agarwal, skipper Raiat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma are the trusted lieutenants of that batting line-up.

Like Kohli in their batting, the calm and composed Josh Hazlewood (21 wickets) has been at the helm of RCB's rise

FAREWELL FOLKS!

approach was that my job is half done. I have to come back tomorrow

SHREYAS IYER | CAPTAIN, PBKS

and the fourth highest wicket-taker and the Australian would want to add more to move up the ladder in one last

On their part, stung by that crushing defeat in their homeground at Mullanpur, Iyer's Kings showed no scars from that defeat as they knocked out five-time winners Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2 to reach their first final after 11 years. It's only fitting that PBKS

and RCB, who finished at the top two positions respectively after a gruelling 70-match league round, have a crack at the trophy which has eluded them from the time the competition began. Perennial finishers in the second half of the 10-team points table, Punjab Kings have staged a sensational turnaround with two dogged personalities in captain Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting at the helm.

For Iver (603 runs), a second consecutive appearance in an IPL final after winning it last year with Kolkata Knight Riders speaks volumes about his capabilities as a leader who marshals his troops as good as any other in the format.

It is, therefore, not a surprise to see Iyer being the only cricketer in the 18-year history of the tournament to have led three different teams in IPL finals, with Delhi Capitals being the third.

Iyer's perseverance is not the only quality that stands out for the 30-year-old Punjab captain but also the fact that he remains as hungry to win this IPL as he was when he began the journey with the franchise a few months ago.

While there are no predictions of rains impacting the contest, an additional hour to the playtime extending the duration to 120 minutes and having a reserve day in the final are the measures in place to ensure the contest is completed.

Yates wins elusive Giro d'Italia title

Rome, June 2: British rider Simon Yates cruised to overall victory in the Giro d'Italia — finally winning the race that had eluded him so often.

After attacking on the gravel-road climb to take the pink jersey in the penultimate stage Saturday, Yates finished nearly four minutes ahead of runner-up Isaac Del Toro, the 21-year-old Mexican who wore pink for 10 days before Yates took control.

It's the second Grand Tour title for Yates after he won the Spanish Vuelta in 2018.

Yates wore pink for 13 days during the 2018 Giro before cracking on one of the final climbs. He also had to withdraw from the Italian race in 2020 and 2022 - because of coronavirus and a knee injury, respectively.

Yates, who rides for Team Visma Lease a Bike, finished 3 minutes, 56 seconds ahead of Del Toro and 4:43 ahead of Richard Carapaz, the 2019 champion from Ecuador.

Dutch rider Olav Kooij, Yates' teammate, won the final stage in a sprint finish. It was his second victory in this Giro after also winning the 12th stage — and third overall after winning one in 2024.

"Perfect final weekend for us. After yesterday we were all really happy with what Simon pulled off," Kooij said. "To finish it off is real-

During the non-competi-



It's a defining moment of my career, there's no doubt about that. I'm still in shock of what I've done. It's something that I've been working toward for

a long time

tive neutralized period just before the mostly ceremonithe peloton passed through the Vatican and was blessed by Pope Leo XIV. The 143-kilometer (89-mile)

final stage concluded with a circuit of eight laps through downtown Rome and finished next to the Circus Maximus - the ancient Roman chariot-racing stadium.

At age 32, Yates already acknowledged that this victory is "the peak" of his career. His best finish in the Tour de France was fourth in 2023

India continues to be second in AIU's doping offenders' list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: India continued to occupy the second spot in the latest global list of track-and-field athletes ineligible to compete due to doping offences, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has revealed.

India has 128 athletes in the list released by AIU May 31, with Kenya (134) on top. The list also includes athletes serving a period of ineligibility as a result of national level cases and decisions. The AIU has jurisdiction over international-level athletes and their support persons.

For many years, India has been among the countries with highest number of dope offend-



ers, and top officials of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) have voiced concern that the country could be banned if the trend continues. In May, the AIU handed sanctions to 14 athletes, out of which five were Kenvans

and three were from India.

Alarmed by the rising doping cases among Indian track and field athletes, the AFI had last year set up a high-powered committee headed by Delhi Police Special Cell Commissioner

Sagarpreet Hooda to look into the doping issue. On the recommendation of a high-powered committee, the AFI had decided to set up an anti-doping cell to track down the coaches and training centres suspected to be involved in doping.

Recently, the AFI had made it mandatory for all the coaches - qualified and unqualified -- in the country to register on its portal from this season onwards if they want to continue to train athletes to take part in competitions under the national body.

The AIU was established by World Athletics to combat doping and address other forms of ethical misconduct in the sport of athletics.

KLAASEN RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

in against

at 7-91.

in searing

jaws of defeat. Ahmedabad. "I felt like

to the conditions. I had a

his thoughts were going

World Cup and I said to

people in my position to

Cape Town: South African power-hitter Heinrich Klaasen Monday announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect as he aims to strike a work-life balance, prioritising his commitments in franchise leagues across the globe. The 33-year-old Klaasen had announced his retirement from Test cricket in January last year and has now also decided to quit the white ball formats having represented the Proteas in 4 Tests, 60 ODIs and 58 T20Is in which he

scored 2764 runs. "It is a sad day for me as I announce that I have decided to step away from interna tional cricket. It took me a long time to decide what's best for me and my family for the future. It was truly a very difficult decision but also one that I have absolute peace with," Klaasen announced on his Instagram. One of the most sought after batters in the T20 leagues, Klaasen had recently represented Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL and scored a ton in the concluding league game. His next assignment will be Major League Cricket in the United States for Seattle Orcas later this month.

MAXWELL QUITS ODIS TO FOCUS ON T20 FORMAT

Melbourne: Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell Monday retired from ODIs to focus on next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, saying that he did not want to "play for selfish reasons" given how his body has been struggling to hold up. The 36-year-old explosive batter and often underes timated off-spin er played 149 ODI matches for Australia including what regarded

many the greatest one-day innings of all-time. Maxwell Afghanistan at the 2023 World Cup with his side reeling In a high-pressure situation and battling severe cramps heat, he smashed 201 off just 128 balls to snatch victory from Australia went on to win the World Cup, beating favourites India in

I was letting the team down a little bit with how body was reacting good chat with (Chair of Selectors) George Bailey and I asked him what forward," he told the 'Final Word Podcast'. "We talked about the 2027 him I don't think I am going to make that, it's time to start planning for have a crack at it and make the position their own'."

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