Actor Ananya Panday speaks candidly about privilege, her father, and

her career aspirations

LEISURE | P2



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launches 'Zero Accident Day' and 55 projects worth ₹575.77 crore in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

DOWNTOWN | P3



Ukraine's offensive

Ukraine detonates underwater blast targeting key bridge connecting Russia-occupied Crimean peninsula to Russia

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Russian oil imports rise

India's imports of Russian crude oil surge to a 10-month high of 1.96mn barrels per day, driven by continued availability with lesser price than global benchmark

BUSINESS | P11

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18-YEAR WAIT ENDS; RCB CLINCH IPL TITLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 3: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Virat Kohli washed away 18 years of hurt and disappointment on a dream Tuesday night, conquering Punjab Kings by six runs to lift their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title here Tuesday.

The final turned out to be a battle of nerves and RCB certainly channelled their years of disappointment and pain to come back roaring in the contest and seal a commanding victory.

A partisan crowd did not give up on RCB even as they struggled to find the flourish with the bat and ended up posting a total of 190/9 with superstar Kohli making a laborious 35-ball 43.

At the break, RCB's total did not look enough but a persistent effort from their bowlers made the scoreboard pressure ultimately work in their favour.

With 29 needed off the final over, RCB's win was sealed when Josh Hazlewood bowled the second dot ball on the trot. Shashank Singh struck a valiant 61 not out off 30 balls (3x4s, 6x6s), but his effort came far too late as Punjab Kings ended at 184 for seven.

Hazlewood provided the first breakthrough, Krunal Pandya bowled a dream spell of 4-0-17-2 in a summit clash but it was Romario Shepherd's dismissal of PBKS' captain Shreyas Iyer that finally indicated which way the game was headed.

All it took was an innocuous delivery outside off to see the back of the most dangerous batter in the final as Iyer, coming off a terrific knock in Qualifier 2, edged it behind off Shepherd and walked back with his head

Josh Inglis (39 off 23 balls, 1x4s, 4x6s) made every opportunity count when it came to hitting towards midwicket but Pandya had him caught at longon in the 13th over.

Thereafter, every dot ball drew appreciation from fans and they were at their loudest when RCB legend AB de Villiers appeared on the big screen on the ground, and also when PBKS were mathematically knocked out.



RCB's Virat Kohli holds the championship trophy as captain Rajat Patidar and others celebrate during the presentation ceremony of the IPL 2025 at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad

CM launches ₹205cr projects for Deogarh

Bhubaneswar: In a major fillip to healthcare and education sectors in Deogarh district, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Tuesdav launched 15 projects, including a 300-bed hospital, worth a total of ₹205 crore. According to official sources, out of the 15 projects, 11 are in healthcare sector and four others are education infrastructure improvement projects. On the occasion, the CM announced a financial assistance package worth ₹41.17 crore for kendu leaf pluckers and binders across the state. As per the package, each kendu leaf plucker will receive ₹160 for slippers, ₹200 for cloth, and ₹100 for hats. Besides, each binder will get ₹700 for mosquito nets and blankets. The package is set to benefit around nine lakh kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We tried everything but didn't get an invite. Now it's time for you to announce you're boycotting the event

Four asphyxiated

Utter recklessness during construction of a septic tank has cost the lives of four young labourers in Nabarangpur district, raising concern over adherence to safety protocols while undertaking such works. Reports indicate that proper safety precautions were not adhered to while entering the under-construction septic tank, which was left unventilated for several days, leading to asphyxiation of four daily wagers who entered into the tank in phases. Experts say entry into the tank without testing the air quality for toxic gases might have resulted in the shocking incident. Significantly, asphyxiation is the most common consequence, occurring when the body is deprived of oxygen and suffocation sets in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, June 3: In a tragic incident Tuesday morning, four labourers died of asphyxiation after entering an under-construction septic tank in Podalaguda village under Nandahandi block of Nabarangpur district. The deceased were identified as N Santu, 33, Amiya Khura, 31, Lalu Rana, 32, and Trilochan Bhatra, 30.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the tragic incident and extended his condolences to the bereaved family members. As per the X handle of the Chief Minister's Office, CM Majhi also announced that an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each will be provided to



the next of kin of the deceased out of the CMRF.

According to reports, around 9:30am, Trilochan and Lalu entered the tank at the under-construction site of one Mohan Nag to drain water and carry out centering work. When they did not return after a considerable time, Amiya and Santu climbed down into the tank to check on them. However, none of the four labourers emerged from the tank.

Mohan then alerted the fire brigade and local police. Nabarangpur ASP Aditya Sen, DCP Krushnachandra Bhatra, and Nabarangpur Town Police IIC Sambit Kumar Behera reached the spot and took stock of the

The Fire Services personnel found all the four labourers in an unconscious state and rushed them to Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital in an ambulance arranged by the police. However, doctors declared all of them dead on arrival. Postmortem examinations were conducted in the afternoon, following which the bodies were handed over to the families. The cops registered a case (217/25) against the construc-

tion site owner, citing negli-

gence as the cause of the deaths. Preliminary findings indicate lack of safety precautions and oversight during the construction process. Section 106(1) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 which deals with causing death by negligence, was slapped against the owner.

The IIC confirmed that Red Cross has provided ₹15,000 as immediate financial aid to the families of the deceased.

Experts are of the opinion that the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act outlines specific safety measures during construction works. The Act specifies safety measures such as ensuring safe working conditions, providing necessary equipment, and implementing emergency action plans, they said.

Reacting to the incident, Umi Daniel, director of Migration and Education at Aide et Action, emphasised the negligence faced by workers in the informal sector and those in precarious forms of employment. He said, "Workers in the informal sector and those employed under precarious conditions are being neglected. The government should conduct a census of all individuals engaged in informal, precarious, and gig economy jobs.'

Man flings infant daughter to death got married following a love

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parjang, June 3: In a shocking incident, a man allegedly flung his seven-month-old daughter to death following a heated altercation with his wife at Notaripasi in Kantapal Colony-4 under Kankadahada police limits in Dhenkanal district Monday night.

The accused was identified as Sanjay Chatar, a native of Udasahi village under Raruan police limits in Mayurbhanj

Police said that Sanjay had been staying in Notaripasi village, the native place of his wife Janani Munda, after they

affair two years ago. However, their relationship turned sour later as Sanjay would frequently assault Janani and torture her over some frivolous issues.

A tiff ensued between them when the couple had gone to the local market to buy rice. Later that night, Sanjay returned home drunk and warned his wife that he will "remove every trace" of their love marriage and violently hurled their infant daughter on the ground resulting in her

Hearing the screams, locals rushed to the spot and beat up the accused black and blue before handing him over to the

On being informed, a team of Kankadahada police reached the spot rushed a critically injured Sanjay to Dhenkanal headquarters hospital and later to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as his condition worsened.

A scientific team accompanied by Kankadahad police IIC Kalpana Behera arrived at the scene, seized the body of the infant, and handed it over to the family after conducting a postmortem. "A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on, the IIC said.

'Thug Life': Karnataka

HC raps Kamal Haasan

Impeachment motion against Justice Varma in next session

New Delhi, June 3: The Union government is set to move an impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma in Parliament and will seek to build an all-party consensus for action against the judge facing allegations of corruption after the discovery of a large amount of cash from his official residence in Delhi.

Government sources Tuesdav said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Riijiu will be speaking to leaders of different parties to get them on board

for the impeachment motion against Varma following his indictment by a three-member probe committee constituted by the Supreme Court.

A fire incident at Varma's residence in the national capital in March this year, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of cash at the outhouse.

Though Varma claimed ignorance about the cash, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him after speaking to a number of witnesses and recording his statement.

Bengaluru, June 3: During a hearing on upcoming Tamil film 'Thug Life', the Karnataka High Court Tuesday criticised actor and filmmaker Kamal Haasan for his recent remark suggesting that "Kannada was

AGENCIES

could have resolved the situa Kamal Haasan informed the court that the movie 'Thug Life will not be released in Karnataka June 5, the scheduled date for the pan-India release of the

born out of Tamil", and ob-

served that a "single apology

much anticipated movie. The court posted to June 10 the hearing on his plea seeking adequate security at theatres planning to screen it in the state amidst KFCC boycott.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the producers of the movie have informed that they are not willing to screen the movie in Karnataka, un less there is a dialogue or a tri alogue involving the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce.

The court also strongly crit icised Haasan for his recent remark suggesting that "Kan nada was born out of Tamil" and observed that a "single apology could have resolved

the situation" The remark, reportedly made by Haasan at a promotional event in Chennai for his up coming Tamil film 'Thug Life' sparked a backlash in Karnataka, prompting the KFCC to announce that the film would not be screened in the state unless Haasan apologised.

'Freedom day' for 200 Pak prisoners as quake spreads panic

Karachi, June 3: More than 200 inmates escaped from a jail in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi late Monday and early Tuesday when they overpowered prison guards after being allowed to leave their cells following a series of earthquakes,

local officials and police said. The jailbreak began just before midnight and continued into the early hours of Tuesday after hundreds of prisoners were allowed into the courtyard of the District Malir prison because of the tremors, Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, the provincial law minister, told reporters at the scene Tuesday.

Police said the prisoners snatched guns from prison staff and forced open the main gate after a shootout, evading paramilitary soldiers. At least one prisoner was killed and three guards wounded, said Provincial Police Chief Ghulam Nabi

"I heard the firing for quite some time and then some time later prisoners made their way out running in all directions,' Bukhsh, a private security guard at a residential complex opposite the jail who goes by a single name, told Reuters.

He added that some of the prisoners entered the apartment complex before being taken away by police.

On Tuesday, a Reuters reporter who visited the prison saw shattered glass and damaged electronic equipment. A



meeting room, for prisoners to see their families, had been ransacked. Anxious family members had gathered outside.

The jailbreak was one of the largest ever in Pakistan, Lanjar said. The prison, which houses 6,000 inmates, is in the Malir district of Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city.

Prisoners ran through the area throughout the night, some

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jail officials allowed inmates into courtyard after tremors
- Prisoners snatched guards' guns and started shootout
- At least one prisoner killed, three guards hurt
- ■About 80 inmates have been apprehended

of them barefoot, with police giving chase, local TV footage showed. About 80 of those who escaped had been caught, said Murad Ali Shah, the provincial chief minister.

The jail's superintendent, Arshad Shah, told reporters that there were 28 prison guards on duty at night, and that "only a few of such a large number of prisoners escaped". He said the prison did not have security cameras. Officials said the inmates, many of them heroin users, had been unnerved by the earthquakes. "There was panic here be-

cause of earthquake tremors," said Lanjar. The provincial chief minister said it was a mistake for prison authorities to have allowed the prisoners to leave their cells. He urged the inmates still at large to hand themselves in, or face a serious charge for breaking out, "Petty crime charges will become a big case like terrorism," Shah said.

eisure



THOMPSON TO BE FETED AT LOCARNO FILM FEST

Academy Award winning star Emma Thompson will be honoured by the Locarno Film Festival where her latest action thriller The Dead of Winter by Brian Kirk, which she executive produced, will have its world premiere.

CAMERON CO-WRITES FOR **THE DEVILS ADAPTATION**

Filmmaker James Cameron, whose credits include Titanic, The Terminator, and the Avatar franchise, is set to write a script for the movie adaptation of the best-selling novel The Devils by Joe Abercrombie. Both will write the script for the upcoming project.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will make material progress today, says Ganesha. Naturally, you want to share this abundance with your family. Ganesha suggests you give them more quality time. You may also want to take time out to pray and meditate and thank the almighty for favours received.

TAURUS

Good luck will trail you like your shadow today, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to get good news from out of the country in the afternoon. You may take a chance and express your hidden feelings to someone special. Overall, you wil

GEMINI

Today, you will look more presentable than ever, predicts Ganesha. At work, you will employ new business strategies to succeed. By evening, you will give a demo of your supreme sense for style, especially when it comes to dressing up. Your spouse will be enamoured by your new avtaar.

CANCER

Ganesha predicts success for your efforts to strengthen your status or prestige through collective activities. Your kind and generous attribute will see you cross a new peak. You will spend resources for an entertainment or recreational pursuit. Get ready for a hectic and fun-filled day, says Ganesha.

LEO

Today, you will think with your heart, not with your mind, says Ganesha. While that is a good thing sometimes, it may blur your analytical logic. If you happen to be in the business of money-lending, you can be assured of a fantastic profits. Just remember that there is no substitute for hard work.

Lady Luck is your date for the day today. Good tidings bear their way to you from distant lands, and may be across the seas too. Chances are you make take an initiative to let the cat of love out of the bag. Your outlook will be free of confusion today, says Ganesha

For every matter, there is a particular solution unique to it. With your systematic approach to things, you are a firm believer of this statement. And it is a good thing too, since today, this habit shall help you grab the limelight at work, says Ganesha In the second-half of the day, your eye for detail will go a long way in enhancing your insight. You will spend the evening buying electronic gadgets: the latest cellphone or music player, you have your eyes set on something along those lines today.

SCORPIO

A turn of tide in fortunes of life awaits you today, predicts Ganesha. The way you think or not – will affect your health as much. Evenings may be spent in the pleasant company of friends and family, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

A lucky day for you as you go in for improving your appearance. Your social status will be boosted too. Your brainstorms will propel you into the limelight, so be prepared to receive much adulation. Expect people to get gaga over you, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You will love to play God today, and may make use of every tactic of the power game to yield the desired results, says Ganesha. A clear thought process and non-judgemental attitude will show you a new direction to life, but you will have to be focused to meet success. Going by your instincts will not do you any harm unless, of course, you are up to something suicidal.

AQUARIUS

The stars foretell some good news from foreign shores. Also, you will be focused entirely on work. If you are striving to discover innovative ways to achieve speed, accuracy and efficiency, you may succeed today. Ganesha advises you to keep up the hard work

PISCES In times of adversity, it is your loved ones who will stand you in good stead, and it is your patience and persistence which will get you home. Your actions today will demonstrate your dedication and sincerity to the job at hand, says Ganesha.

Triptii's happy place

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri opened up about the special place where she finds true peace and comfort.

Sharing heartfelt moments from her recent trip to the hills, the Ani*mal* actress revealed that the hills and mountains hold a deep connection to her soul and offer her a sanctuary away from the hustle of daily life. Tuesday, Triptii shared a video capturing serene moments from her trip to the hills.

MUMBAI: Actor Nushrratt Bhar-

uccha has finally addressed the

controversy surrounding a viral

video that appeared to show her

pushing a fellow model on the

ramp at a recent fashion event.

In an interview, Nushrratt clari-

with

fied what really happened, ex-

plaining that the person

she moved wasn't a pro-

fessional model but

a student designer

unfamiliar

In the video, she

is seen enjoying

Prabhas in an exciting new venture. Spir-



cing the calm and simplicity that the hills offer.

Sharing this clip, the Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 actress wrote, "Where my heart feels most at ease." Dimri also added the trending song Pahadon Mein by Salman Elahi to her video. On the professional front,

she is set to star alongside

it will be Triptii's debut collaboration with the Baahubali star. The Bulbbul actress will also star opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi

runway etiquette.

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Pankaj for reasonable work hours

kaj Tripathi has sparked a crucial conversation around the demanding work hours in the film industry, echoing sentiments recently raised by Deepika Padukone. In an interview, the OMG 2 actor candidly

revealed the toll of excessive work schedules, sharing that he often finds himself working 16-18 hours a day. "Right now, I'm practicing saying 'no.' Everyone should know where the boundary is—that this is the line, and beyond this, it's a polite 'no," he stated.

The Mimi actor emphasised that even actors, often perceived as privileged, face burnout due to overextended shifts. "The work hours are getting stretched. I'm even saying, the actor has left, but the labourers are still waiting," he remarked, highlighting the ripple effect of such long days on the He also shared that he's learning to protect his

well-being by setting firm boundaries. "At this point, you should just politely say, 'No, this is all that can be done. This is what we committed to, and we've fulfilled that commitment. Thank you. Whatever is left, we'll do tomorrow.'

Pankaj's voice adds weight to the growing call for healthier, more humane working conditions in the entertainment industry.

She said the loud music and backstage instructions created confu-Nushrratt opens up about ramp fiasco

added. "Any model knows the basics—walk to the centre, pause, and turn. That's just runway standard." The viral moment had drawn

criticism online, with many ing her of neces-

attisarv tude and overshadowing others. Nushrratt empha-

sised that her intention was never to dismiss or disrespect anyone, and her actions were part of maintaining the flow of the show.

On the work front, Nushrratt was recently seen in Chhorii 2, directed by Vishal Furia. A sequel

to the 2021 horror hit, the film featured Soha Ali Khan and Gashmeer Mahajani, and is currently streaming on Prime Video. While the performances earned praise, the film received mixed reactions for its lack of scares.

ANANYA'S CONFESSION

day, who made her debut with Student of the Year 2 in 2019, recently spoke candidly about privilege, her father, and her career aspirations. In a recent interview, she acknowledged her privileged background, stating, "I've always said I know I'm privileged. There are probably people out

ity,

there who are more talented, better looking, and more hardworking than shy away from her But identity, nor does am. I've been she see it as a bugiven this opportunand don't want waste it.'

ing pride in being his daughter. "I've taken the shame out of being privileged and look at it with pride. My father, the son of two doctors, chased his dream to become an actor and succeeded. If I can carry forward his legacy and make him proud, that will be my biggest achievement," she said. Ananya added that she doesn't

about her father, veteran ac-

tor Chunky Panday, express-

rden anymore. On the work front, Ananya will be seen with Kartik Aaryan in Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri, releasing February 13. 2026. She also stars in Chand Mera Dil with Lakshya, set to release



SUDOKU

8

5

4

3

SOLUTIONS

2

3

6

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

4

5

6

9

1

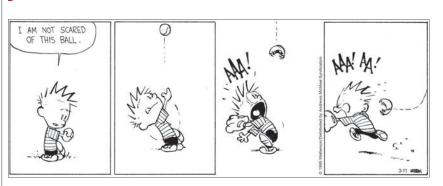
6

5 4

PEANUTS



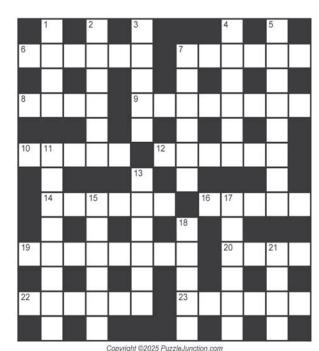
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 16 Looks after

19 Tiny aquarium

(4,4)

20 Mah-jongg

22 Prickly plant

piece

Across

- 6 Takes a break 7 Mason's
- material
- 8 New Zealand
- bird 9 Took in, as
- food
- 10 Ham it up
- 12 Wine bottle
- measures 14 Baby's toy

- <u>Down</u>

- 23 City in Veneto

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 1 Island east of
- Java
- 2 Lend a hand
- 11 Almond paste confection

3 Old Roman

port

4 Desk item

7 Noisy bird

5 Stroked

- 13 Knockabouts
- 15 Papeete locale
- 17 Bistro 18 Drink garnish
- 21 Camera part

H K P G B A R I T O N E TEMPES TS INNS 8 5 9 4 2 6

3

1

9

8

8 6 5

2 3 4 7 9 4 9 3 5 7 8 3 9 4 2 6 3 2 7 8 5 5 7 1 9 4 3 8 2 6 9 8 4 6 1 2 3 5 7

SUDOKU

owntown

CENTRAL DEPUTATION FOR ASHISH THAKARE

Bhubaneswar: Odisha-cadre IAS officer Ashish Thakare, who is currently serving as Secretary of the Board of Revenue, is set to proceed on Central deputation. Thakare has been appointed as Director in D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Delhi, for five years. "The Competent Authority has approved the appointment of Ashish Thakare, IAS (OD: 2011) as Director in the D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Delhi, under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever

of his duties immediately with instructions to take up his new assignment.

event takes place earlier," said the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. The Odisha Chief Secretary has been asked to relieve him



Road accidents not only affect families but also economy: CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Urging people to follow traffic rules, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said road accidents not only affect a family but also the nation's economy.

Majhi made the statement while launching the 'Zero Accident Day' initiative—as a part of which efforts will be made to prevent road accidents - at Lok Seva Bhawan in the City.

He said the programme will be held till June 28 in collaboration with IIT-Madras across the state to ensure zero road accident casualties every day.

"If we can put a restriction on certain aspects, we can substantially bring down the number of deaths. Accidents are not just individual losses but collective losses. Therefore, I request everyone to strictly follow all traffic rules from leaving home till returning," he said.

Majhi said speed is the major factor behind 75.2 per cent of road fatalities in India.

"The drivers are forgetting the golden rule of driving speed thrills, but it also kills," he said, noting that more than 5,500 people died in road accidents in the state in 2023.

He said accident deaths are also occurring due to driving on the wrong side, driving under the influence and using mobile phones Majhi while driving.

At the programme, CM launched 55 projects worth ₹575.77 crore. Among them

crore were 11 automated vehicle testing systems in different districts, and the second phase of the Driving Electronic Enforcement to Save Human Lives (DEESHA) project.

DEESHA will now be operational on an additional 485 km of highways in the state. Under this, automated e-chal-

₹205cr projects for Deogarh dist

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched 15 projects, including a 300-bed hospital, worth a total of ₹205 crore in Deogarh district Tuesday.

Of the 15 projects, 11 were in the healthcare sector and four others were education projects.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced a financial assistance of ₹41.17 crore for kendu leaf pluckers and binders across the state.

As per the package, each kendu leaf plucker will receive ₹160 for slippers, ₹200 for clothes and ₹100 for hats. Besides, each binder will get ₹700 for mosquito nets and blankets.

The package is set to benefit around nine lakh kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal staffers.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that Deogarh district has all the potential for development. "We will connect the district

with the mainstream of the state's development trend,'

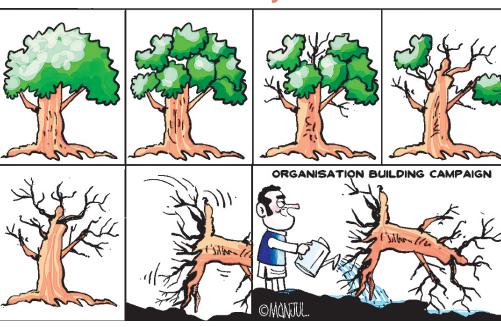
Majhi said his government stresses on equitable development of all the 30 districts of Odisha.

He said the dream of building a prosperous Odisha can be realised only by focusing on education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, industry, investment and employment.

The Chief Minister said that efforts are underway to achieve the goal of building a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and a developed India by 2047 through the development of all

Majhi said his government has not wasted a single minute in translating promises into

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Cops rescue missing minor after 30-hr search operation

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The twin city Commissionerate Police has rescued an 11-yearold girl, who was missing from her home following a heated exchange of words with her mother, after a 30-hour-long search operation in the City, official sources said Tuesday.

A woman had filed a complaint with the Mancheswar police June 1 that her daughter went missing around 9am following an argument between them. As it was a sensitive matter, police treated it as a priority case and swung into action immediately, said Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh.

"We formed multiple teams to investigate the case. Through

network, analysis of digital evidence and CCTV surveillance system, we were able to rescue the girl in 30 hours," he told mediapersons here. The girl was rescued from

the Mancheswar railway station area June 2 at around 3pm and handed over to her family, Singh said. It appears that she had left home due to a trivial issue that

escalated during her argument with her mother, the police of-In a similar incident, police reunited a missing minor boy

with his family. On June 2 at about 2pm, the police received a call that a boy, around 10 years old, was found

begging for food near a sweet-

meat stall on Puri Canal Road

On getting the information a police team immediately proceeded to the spot, rescued the minor boy, and took him to the Pahal police station.

vide his correct residential ad dress, he said. After making enquiries in

The boy was unable to pro

various slums, it was established that the child had gone missing from Patharbandha Basti, a slum under Saheed Nagar police limits, around 10am that day. Later, the boy was safely

handed over to his family mem bers, the police commissioner said. The Bhubaneswar-Cut tack Commissionerate Police felicitated the police officers involved in the safe rescue of the two minors, he added.

Sikkim mishap: Hunt on for 8 missing tourists

Gangtok, June 3: The eight tourists including Odisha's Itishree Jena who went missing after their car plunged into the Teesta river in Sikkim are yet to be found, with the search operation entering its fifth day l'uesday, officials said.

They were among the 11 people travelling in the vehicle that plunged more than 1,000 feet into the river near Munsithang along the Lachen-Lachung highway in Mangan district on the night of May 29. Two people were rescued alive, while the body of one was recovered immediately after the accident.

The search for the missing eight tourists is being carried out by personnel of the NDRF, Fire and Emergency Services, Forest department, Tourism department, TAAS (Travel Agents Association of Sikkim), and police.

No trace of the missing persons has been found so far, an official said. Extensive searches have

Of the eight missing tourists, four are from **Odisha and two each** from Tripura and **Uttar Pradesh**

been carried out along the river downstream, but they could not be located, he said.

Of the 11 persons on the ill-fated vehicle, two were identified as Swayam Supratim Nayak and Sairaj Jena, both from Odisha. They were rescued on the night of the ac-

Of the eight missing tourists, four are from Odisha and two each from Tripura and Uttar Pradesh, the official said.

They were Ajit Kumar Navak, Sunita Nayak, Sahil Jena and Itshree Jena from Odisha, Debjyoti Joy Dev and Swapnanil Deb from Tripura, and Kaushalendra Pratap Singh and Ankita Singh from Uttar Pradesh, he added.

The driver was identified as Passang Denu Sherpa of Singhik in North Sikkim.

ECoR augments 32 trains with additional coaches

Bhubaneswar, June 3: In a bid to meet the increased passenger demand during the summer season, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to temporarily augment 32 trains (16 pairs) with additional coaches during June, official sources

lans are issued to drivers who

do not follow traffic rules. He

also laid the foundation stone

for the project's third phase,

under which over 1,000 km of

Majhi also inaugurated the

He also flagged off 15 premium

buses which will connect

Puri to Ayodhya, Tir-

upati, Ujjain, Hyder

abad and Bhilai,

Bhubaneswar to

Visakhapatnam,

Bhawanipatna to

Hyderabad, and

Raigarh to Hyder-

He also inaugurat-

ed bus terminuses in

Basudevpur and Dhamra in

Road safety ambassadors -

filmstar-turned-MLA Sidhant

Mohapatra and sand artist Su-

darshan Pattnaik - were pres-

ent in the programme.

Bhadrak district, and Basta in

Balasore district.

second registered vehicle scrap-

ping centre in Jajpur district.

highways will be covered.

launches

'Zero Accident

Day', 55 projects

worth ₹575.77

said Tuesday. The move aims at ensuring better convenience and comfortable journey experience to passengers travelling across major routes within ECoR's

jurisdiction. "12074/12073 Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express, 22823/22824 & 22811/22812 Bhubaneswar–New Delhi Rajdhani Express, 20817/20818 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani (via Sambalpur City), 20837/20838 Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road Express, 12882/12881 Puri-Shalimar Garib Rath Express, 22883/22884 Puri-Yesvantpur Garib Rath Express and 12892/12891 Puri-Bangiriposi Express will be augmented."

Now, Puri-Rourkela Vande **Bharat to run Saturdays**

Bhubaneswar: The Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat Express will days, a statement said. The train will start services Saturdays from June 7, it said. "Please note that there is no change in the existing timings and scheduled stoppages of the train at any station. The revised weekly off aims to better align with passenger demand and operational requirements," the East Coast Railway (ECoR) said. Passengers are advised to plan their travel accordingly, it added.

ECoR said in a statement.

20809/20810 Similarly, Sambalpur-Nanded Express, 08311/08312 Sambalpur-Erode Special Express, 58506/58505 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur Passenger, 58501/58502 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Passenger, 08547/08548 Visakhapatnam– Tirupati Special and 08579/08580 Visakhapatnam–Cherlapalli Special are among the trains which will be augmented for

passenger convenience, it said. ECoR sources clarified that these augmentations are temporary and are being implement-

ed only for June 2025 to accommodate the increased demand

during summer vacations. The move will provide additional berths across various categories, including AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class, and Chair Car, covering key destinations such as New Delhi, Howrah, Yesvantpur, Patna, Tirupati, Bengaluru, and Kirandul.

Passengers have been advised to check the official website or visit the nearest railway enquiry counter for updated coach positions and reservation availability, ECoR said.

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, June 3: Four people have been arrested and brown sug-

ar worth ₹40 lakh seized from

their possession during raids

in Balasore and Khurda dis-

Acting on a tip-off, police and excise officials conducted

a raid late Monday night and

seized 145 grams of brown

sugar from Bhograi Jagan-

nathpur Chak area, a police

Two people were arrested

and further inquiry was un-

derway in this regard, the of-

officer said.

tricts, police said Tuesday.

Suraj: State's history will inspire youth to develop new mindset



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 3: State's rich history will inspire and guide the youth toward developing a new mindset, said Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj.

Speaking at a workshop on the history of the Kalinga War organised by the Odisha Sahitya Akademi here Tuesday, Suraj said that the outcomes of the workshop will be compiled into a document to help future generations understand their history and encourage them to take pride in it.

He emphasised that in the coming days, the youth will play a pivotal role in building a developed Odisha and a developed India, creating a unique identity for themselves as

proud descendants of Kalinga. The workshop not only shed light on the history of the Kalinga War but also discussed Odisha's maritime history, the history of the Odisha navy, and various Buddhist legends.

Special sessions were organised under the titles: Social, Political, Economic and Military Status of Kalinga Raiva Sabha Before the Kalinga War, Status of Kalinga Rajya Sabha During the Kalinga War Period, and Status of Kalinga After the Ka-

linga War.

READY TO ROLL: Chariot wheels being readied ahead of the Rath Yatra in Puri, Tuesday

ficer added. The seized contraband is estimated to be around ₹15 lakh.

In addition to drugs, ₹5,500 in cash was seized from their possession, he said.

In another incident, police arrested two persons and



seized 258 grams of brown sugar worth around ₹25 lakh from their possession in Chhannagiri Chhak in Jankia police station area in Khurda district Monday.

"We received a tip-off about the movement of drug peddlers on a motorcycle. Acting swiftly, our police team intercepted the two-wheeler Monday and seized the contraband," Khurda Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath said. The arrested persons are both males, aged 20 and 22 years, she said.

BSF jawan dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, June 3: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan allegedly died by suicide Tuesday at his office in Kandhamal district, police officials said.

The deceased was identified as L Davi, a native of Tiruvattar area Tamil Nadu. They said Davi was posted at the BSF office located on the premises of the DPRO in Phulbani. He reportedly hanged himself with a rope when no one else was around during the morning hours.

A fellow jawan later discovered the incident and immediately alerted Phulbani Town Police which recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination. The body was then transported to Bhubaneswar, from where it will be flown to Tamil Nadu for the final rites.

downtown



TPSODL strengthens power infrastructure in Malkangiri district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 3: Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has successfully upgraded the Mathili Primary Sub-Station (PSS) in Malkangiri district, a region known for its rugged terrain and predominantly tribal population. This enhancement ensures a more stable and reliable electricity supply to thousands of residents in one of state's most remote areas.

Malkangiri in southern Odisha known for its picturesque landscapes, dense forests, and rich tribal heritage. It is home to several indigenous communities, contributing to its vibrant cultural identity. The Mathili PSS previously operated with two power transformers-a 5 MVA unit and a 3.15 MVA unit. With the latest upgrade, the 3.15 MVA transformer has been replaced with a new 5 MVA transformer, increasing the substation's total capacity to 10 MVA

TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg emphasised the importance of this upgrade, stating, "The upgrade of Mathili Primary Sub-Station is a step toward ensuring uninterrupted and quality electricity for the people of Malkangiri. By enhancing capacity, we are improving power reliability in this tribal-dominated, hilly region, Our commitment remains strong in strengthening infrastructure and empowering communities with seamless energy access.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Narasinghpur on dt.22.04.2025, I, Smt. Chandrakanti Naik, D/o. Sibaram Naik and W/o. Anil Kumar Naik, At-Bhitarkarikol, Ward No. 13., P.O.- Kantol, P.S.- Athagarh, Dist.-Cuttack, Odisha, Pin 754029 have changed my name from Chandrakanti Naik to Sibani Naik for all

purposes.

Before the Notary Public, Bargarh, Affidavit No.164, dt 21.05.2025, I, Sunil Kumar Agrawal, S/o. Kailash Prasad Agrawal, Ward No.1, Nadipara, Kailash Hardware Store, Bargarh do hereby declare that in my daughter's old passport my name recorded as Sunil Agrawal instead of Sunil Kumar Agrawal. Hereafter I shall be known as Sunil Kumar Agrawal for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Birmaharajpur, dated 29.05.25, I, Srikara Padhan, R/o. Village-Baraghat, P.O.- Khandahata, P.S.- Subalaya, Dist.-Subarnapur declare that I wish to correction of my Name and DOB from Shrikar Padhan, DOB-15.04.2005 to Srikara Padhan, DOB-20.01.2005 in my Aadhaar card for all purposes. Srikara Padhan

Comprehensive database of water resources soon



Bhubaneswar, June 3: Odisha will create a comprehensive database of all water resources, spanning from the village level to the state level. This initiative will mark the first complete census of water resources in the state, undertaken at the behest of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, official sources said Tuesday.

The censuses will be carried out using a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CA-PI) system and a web-based application. The initiative comprises four censuses—Census of

major and medium irrigation, the first census of springs, the second census of water bodies, and the seventh census of mi-

nor irrigation.

For the first time, this effort is being conducted in a coordinated and convergent manner by the Water Resources and Planning & Convergence departments which represents a unique example of users and producers of statistics working together to ensure better data quality.

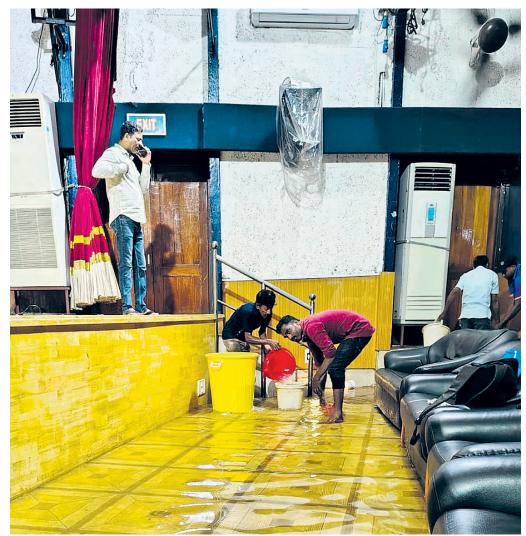
Commission-Development er-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg said, "This comprehensive database will be crucial for planning the state's water resources for irrigation, industry, pisciculture and for human and animal consumption."

Senior officials from various stakeholder departments participated, including the Water Resources, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Electronics and Information Technology, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Chief Engineer (Minor Irrigation), Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation, Central Ground Water Board, and State Ground Water Board.

The focus of the initiative will be on the effective implementation of the irrigation and spring censuses to capture quality data.

Garg emphasised the importance of a coordinated and convergent approach among all stakeholders to ensure accurate data collection and the creation of a comprehensive database of the state's water resources.

At the district level, the superintending engineer, executive engineer, and Planning and Statistics deputy director will work together in a coordinated manner to ensure the successful completion of the census operations.



DIRE SITUATION: Staffers at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar clear the water-logged floor of the auditorium after a brief spell of rain lashed the Capital city Tuesday

Buddha's holy relics return after exposition tour in Vietnam

The relics, escorted by a Central government delegation, led by Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, will be ceremoniously received at the Palam Air Force Station by the officials of International Buddhist Confederation along with senior Indian monks

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: The month-long exposition of Lord Buddha's holy relics, spanning multiple cities in Vietnam. drew over 17 million devotees, officials Monday said.

The sacred relics, enshrined at a vihara in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath, had reached Ho Chi

Minh City May 2. These relics returned to India on the night of June 2 in an

Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft

after an overwhelming spiritual response during their exposition tour across Vietnam, said a senior official.

The sacred relics of Lord Buddha were taken to that country for the exposition during the gala celebrations of the United Nations Day of Vesak being hosted by Vietnam.

"An extraordinary spiritual movement swept across Vietnam as millions of devotees participated in a historic veneration pilgrimage of the Buddha's sacred relics from India. "The sacred tour, spanning

multiple revered locations from the south to the north of the country, drew more than 17.8 million devotees in total, uniting Buddhists and spiritual seekers in a profound display of reverence and cultural solidarity," the Ministry of Culture said in a statement Monday.

Ay Thanh Tâm Monastery, Ho Chi Minh City, from May 3 to 8, the exposition drew 18.77.000 devotees at Tam Chuc

Kambhampati bats for Odisha-Da Nang ties

disha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati proposed exploring province-level ties between Odisha and Da Da Nang People's Committee, a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan said Tuesday. He said Odisha has a rich history, strong cultural traditions, and fast economic growth. "We also have many important Buddhist sites. If Da Nang is interested, we can explore building ties between our two regions," he said. Kambhampati said Buddhism has been a strong link between India and Vietnam for nearly 1,800 years. He said India values its Buddhist heritage and is working to protect and promote Buddhist sites. Cooperation between the two countries is expanding in areas like trade, defence, tourism, health, digital economy, education, and sustainable development, he said. More direct flights between the two countries have helped improve people-to-people contact, he added

Pagoda, Ha Nam Province, from May 17–19, over two million devotees: and at Quan Su Pagoda, Hanoi, May 13–17, over seven million devotees, including two million at the central relic procession, according to data shared by the ministry.

"Originally scheduled to con clude May 21, the exposition was extended until June 2 up on special request by the Government of Vietnam due to the spiritually charged atmosphere and growing public reverence. the ministry said in a statement earlier May 30.

The relics, escorted by a Cen-

tral government delegation, led by Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, will be ceremoniously received at the Palam Air Force Station by the officials of International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) along with senior Indian monks, the ministry added.

The holy relics of Lord Buddha were transported to Vietnam by the special IAF aircraft from the Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, befitting the status of a 'State Guest'.

The holy relics hold special significance for the Buddhist community around the world and their exposition in Vietnam

took place for the first time. Following their arrival in Del hi, the holy relics will be placed on public exposition at the Na tional Museum for a day from the morning of Tuesday (June 3)

A formal prayer meeting will be held in the afternoon by se nior monks, the secretary gener al of the IBC and representatives of the diplomatic corps. The rel ics will depart Delhi in a presiden tial cavalcade Wednesday (June 4) with full protocol reserved for the Heads of State. They will be escorted to Sarnath via Varanasi where they will be ceremonially enshrined at Mulagandha Kuti Vihar

H&UD Minister inspects monsoon prep in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: With the early onset of monsoon rains in the state, Minister for Housing and Urban Development Krushna Chandra Mahapatra reviewed the monsoon preparedness and took stock of the drainage situation in the Capital city Tuesday.

Accompanied by senior officials and engineers from Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mahapatra inspected several waterlogging-prone areas, including the ISKCON Temple site near Krishna Tower, Kalinga Studio Square near Ayurvedic Hospital, Rajiv Nagar, Esplanade Mall and Durga Mandap in Bomikhal and major drain channels (Drain no 9 & 4) in the City.

The Minister expressed concern over blockages and delays in cleaning operations and issued immediate instructions for the deployment of additional manpower and machinery to speed up desilting and clearing of drains on war footing.

Following the field visit, the minister reviewed the overall monsoon preparedness across



The minister reviews the overall monsoon preparedness across the state with 115 **Urban Local Bodies** (ULBs) through video conference, warns officials against any negligence

the state with 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through video conference. Key focus areas and discussion included sanitation. drainage readiness, revenue

generation, holding tax collection, and preparatory plans for the 'One Year Celebration' of departmental initiatives.

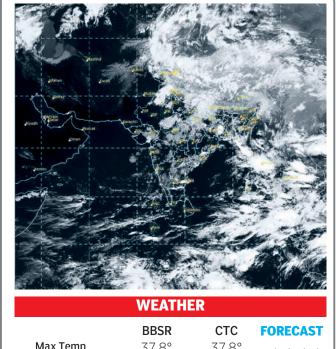
'Any lapses or negligence leading to waterlogging or public inconvenience would invite strict accountability. The safety and convenience of citizens during monsoon is non-negotiable," Mahapatra emphasised.

H&UD principal secretary Usha Padhee advised all ULBs to rigorously follow the SOPs issued by the department and assured that full support will be extended wherever needed. "Officers must remain proactive and ready to face any challenge," she added

Environmentalist Bapi Gochhayat appeals citizens to use bicvcle

Paradip: The increasing environmental pollution has become a major threat to human society and the living world. Starting from the country's Capital Delhi to industrial cities Paradip and Angul in the state, dust, smoke and air pollution has increased massively. Population growth and the excessive use of fossil fuels in vehicles emit harmful and polluting gases in the environment, resulting in rise of global temperature. In this context, environment activist Bani Gochhavat, with the help of Paradip Muncipality celebrated 'World Bicycle Day' here Tuesday. Students from various nearby schools participated in this initiative. With an aim to use bicycle in order to commute to nearby places, to remain fit and keep peace of mind, the day is celebrated across the globe. On the occasion, 35 students started their journey from light house near Paradip beach and cycled to Paradip bus stand. creating awareness through slogans and urged the workers and residents of the City to use bicycle to their workplace or to commute to nearby market. At the event. Preeti Ranian Padhi of Paradip Municipality, Saniit Kumar Jena of Saraswati Sishu Mandir and vouths, including Sachitananda Kandar, Bishwaiit Swain, Subham Baliarsingh were present in the programme.

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	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	37.8°	37.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	28.5°	27.4°	
Humidity	97%	62%	
Rainfall	57.2mm	Nil	

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Residents pin hope on ring road to get respite from river pollution



Loharakhandi river course obstructed at Bhanjanagar after British-era design altered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanianagar, June 3: Residents of Bhanjanagar have pinned their hopes on the government's nod for the construction of a ring road along the banks of Loharakhandi River which will help resolve their perennial sufferings from the clogged and polluted river.

This is because the flow of water in the river at Bhanjanagar has been reduced to a trickle due to engineering missteps during the construction of a new bridge that replaced a British-era structure.

According to reports, in 2005-06 when it was decided to dismantle the old bridge - constructed in 1883 - plans were initially made to demolish both the roof and the pillars. However, the old pillars proved too strong to break completely. Consequently, engineers repaired the existing pillars and laid a new roof atop them.

During the process, the engineers raised the ground level of the bridge above the riverbed. As a result, water flow near the bridge has been severely obstructed. For the past 17 years, waste and sludge from surrounding areas have accumulated on both sides of the bridge, unable to drain properly, reports added.

All sewage from the City ends up stuck near the bridge contributing to environmental pollution. During floods, the stagnant waste gets washed downstream, further contam-

As the errors made during the redesign of the bridge are now irreversible, residents of Bhanjanagar have no option but to suffer.

In this backdrop, local MLA Pradyumna Kumar Nayak has proposed constructing a ring road along the riverbank. A budget of ₹400 crore has been earmarked for the project, and it is hoped that once approved, it will help resolve the drainage and traffic issues.

Historically, the British administration had a long-term vision for Bhanjanagar. After they arrived in the region, they prioritised road connectivity and drinking water systems in the area. In 1883, the bridge was constructed over Loharakhandi River to connect Berhampur and Bhanjanagar by road. Later, in 1894, the Bhanjanagar water reservoir was built for irrigation and to supply drinking water to Berhampur.

In 2005, the then-MLA Bikram Keshari Arukh initiated efforts to demolish the old bridge, which had deteriorated considerably, and construct a new one. Parts of the old structure, including the roof, were removed to make way for the new bridge, which was inaugurated by Arukh August 3, 2008. This had resumed road connectivity between Bhanjanagar and Berhampur.

Female elephant electrocuted in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada, June 3: A female elephant was electrocuted Monday night after coming in to contact with a solar-powered electric fence of a farmhouse at Nalia Sahi area of Dangapal forest beat, under Chhendipada forest range, in Angul district, Forest officials said

According to initial findings the elephant was electrocuted around 8pm after touching the solar fence surrounding a farmhouse owned by Sudam Pradhan Forest officials believe the animal died instantly from the shock.

Officials noted that this is the first such incident in the district where a solar-powered fence caused death to an elephant, prompting intensified inquiry by the Forest department.

Sources said a herd of 17 el ephants had entered Dangapal village from a nearby protected forest area. The giants reportedly crossed an existing forest solar barrier and approached Sudam Pradhan's farmhouse. Another person, Pankaj Pradhan had drawn a connection to his farm house.

Around 8pm, one of the elephants—a 25-year-old female came into direct contact with the high-voltage fence reportedly set



Explosive godowns raided in 3 districts; two arrested

Bhubaneswar, June 3: A day after recovering around 2.5 tonnes of gelatin sticks looted by Maoists in Sundergarh district, Odisha Police Tuesday intensified raids on different explosive godowns in three districts and arrested two persons for allegedly violating explosive act, a senior officer said.

The raids on explosive ware houses were being conducted in the mineral-rich and bordering police districts of Sundergarh. Rourkela and Keonjhar, DIG, Western Range, Brijesh Rai

The DIG said that Sraban Agarwal, the owner of a warehouse at Badagaon in Sunder garh district and the driver of a truck transporting explosive materials, were arrested by the Special Investigating Team (SIT). The arrests were made based on the detection of two explosive-laden trucks at a place in Raghunathpali police station area Sunday.

The police had found explosive-loaded trucks parked near a petrol pump following which one driver was arrested. The materials were getting transported to some undisclosed place. The explosive materials wal's warehouse, police said.

Earlier, police had detained Agarwal in Rourkela and later arrested him following interrogations by the SIT. His Badgaon warehouse was sealed last week after the May 27 incident (Maoist loot of explosives), which raised alarms about explosive

security and potential misuse. Police sources said that three explosives-laden trucks left Agarwal's warehouse May 27. While Maoists looted one truckload of explosives, Agrawal misled authorities by claiming the other two trucks were delivered to clients

However, police later Sunday found two explosives-laden trucks parked suspiciously near a fuel station at Balughat 116 packets of gelatin sticks, 416 detonators and 750 metre of charging electric wires were recovered from the two trucks fuelling suspicions of a broader

Police arrested Agarwal for illegally supplying explosives to stone quarries and mines by violating the standard operating procedure (SOP).

illegal trade.

The security personnel Monday recovered around 2.5 tonnes of explosives during a search operation in jungles near Saranda forest on the Jharkhand border.

On May 27, armed Maoists had hijacked the explosives-laden truck from Banko stone quarry in the K Balang area of Sundergarh district.

Man held for posting live-in partner's explicit images

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara , June 3: A man was arrested in Kendrapara district Tuesday on the charge of posting objectionable images of a government nurse on social media platforms, police said.

The accused was in a livein relationship with the woman. Later, following some problem between them, he uploaded explicit photographs of the nurse on social media, a police officer said.

Based on an FIR lodged by the woman, the accused was arrested and a case registered against him under various Sections of the IT Act and BNS, he said.

The accused was produced before a local court, which rejected his bail application and sent him to judicial custody.

Vigilantes smear cow dung on beef traders, parade them in village

Morada, June 3: Two alleged beef traders were assaulted and smeared with cow dung before they were paraded in a village by a group of vigilantes under Chitrada police outpost and Morada police station limits in Mayurbhanj district

The alleged beef traders were identified as Pitambar Mukhi of Baramail Idar village under Morada block and Sunaram Murmu of Mohanpur village. They have been detained by the police for questioning, reports said.

According to reports, Mukhi and Murmu were travelling on a motorcycle with 38 kg beef packed in several bags from Basta area in Balasore

At around 5.30 pm, activists of local outfit 'Bajrang Sena' including Yud-

FROM DEBT TO DIGNITY

'Lakhpati Didi' Mamata becomes

and some more were tipped off about the consignment. They started trailing the duo from Patapur Square in Chitrada, before intercepting

> As word about the incident spread, locals gathered in large numbers, and tensions escalated at the spot. The mob allegedly vandalized the motorcycle, stripped the duo of their clothes and smeared cow dung on their faces and bodies. They were later paraded through the village up to Sirshapal Square.

them near Magad bridge, po-

On being informed, Chitrada outpost officer Niranjan Soren reached the spot and brought the situation under control. A case (No.151/25) has been registered at Morada police station in this connection. The trader duo has been detained for questioning.

Man kills wife for not serving egg curry in lunch

Baripada, June 3: In a shocking incident, a 41-year-old woman died after being allegedly hit on the head by her husband for not cooking egg curry for lunch, police said. The incident occurred in Kutiling village in Mayurbhani district, they said.

Police said Lama Baskey, 55, came home from work for lunch and found that his wife Basanti had not prepared egg curry. Though he had brought eggs earlier for the purpose, Basanti served him rice with a different curry.

Infuriated by this, the accused got into a heated argument with the woman. The altercation turned violent when Lama allegedly attacked Basanti and hit her head repeatedly with a pipe.

The accused has confessed to the crime," said Banamali Barik, the inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Udala police station. The body was sent for post-mortem examination to the Udala Sub Divisional Hospital, he said. The husband was arrested on the basis of a police complaint lodged by the woman's mother. Main Hembram, he added

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Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue:

Friday, 6th June 2025; 6:00 p.m. onwards. at Pride Ananya Resort, 12/411, Bankimuhan, VIP Road, Puri - 752 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Manas Ranjan Mishra, Mobile: 93384 83842. Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m



Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know You Customer (RYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with register Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov/infortemediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal investors may read out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaint directly with the AMCs. If they are not satisfied with the resolution spiven by AMCs, they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on https://scores.gov/in.SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.infogin.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully

PUBLIC NOTICE M/S. MANI TIRUMALA PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha has accorded Environment Clearance to Residential Apartment Complex named and styled as "Mani Tribhuvan Phase-II" being developed over Khata No- 725/2490 and 2 others and Plot No - 58 and 22 others located in Mouza - Kalarahanga, P.S.- Infocity, Tahasil -Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurdha, Odisha by M/s. MANI TIRUMALA PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006.

The copies of Environment Clearance vide EC Identification No-EC24C3801OR5964873N dated 23/05/2025 are available for the reference with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha and Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and may also be seen at website of the authority /board.

> For Mani Tirumala Projects Private Limited Prithiwiraj Mukherjee **Authorised Signatory**

E-AUCTION



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kendrapara, June 3: From the shadows of financial struggle to becoming a beacon of rural empowerment, Mamata Nath Sharma of Taradipal village in Kendrapara district has emerged as a true changemaker. Recently honoured at the National Lakhpati Didi Conference held at the state Lok Seva Bhawan, Mamata's story reflects the spirit of resilience, opportunity, and transformation that lies at the heart of India's rural development vision.

The Lakhpati Didi Yojana, launched by the Central government December 23, 2023, aims to empower rural women to earn at least ₹1 lakh annually by promoting self-employment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Implemented in state under the Odisha Livelihood Mission and Mission Shakti, the initiative fosters self-reliance and leadership among grassroots women.

Kendrapara district has stood out,

symbol of rural empowerment achieving 97 per cent of its target and earning second place in the state, just

behind Nayagarh, in creating the high-

est number of 'Lakhpati Didis' Mamata's entrepreneurial journey began in 2011 when she joined her village SHG. Battling poverty, she took a loan of ₹30,000 to buy a wheat grinding machine. With determination, she served nearby villagers from seven surrounding areas, slowly earning profits and repaying her debts.

Her commitment didn't stop there. Over the years, she took additional loans from SHGs, banks, and federations - always repaying on time - and used the funds to grow her business. Today, Mamata runs a thriving variety store and a multi-unit processing centre. Her facility includes machines for rice milling, spice grinding, oil extraction, ginger-garlic paste making,

But Mamata is more than an entrepreneur - she is also a devoted farmer. She cultivates paddy, pulses like green and black gram, and vegetables including ridge gourd, cucumber, and pumpkin. Her ability to blend agriculture with enterprise makes her a model for sustainable rural livelihoods.

As a senior member of a 12-woman SHG, Mamata leads by example. In winter, the group produces and sells items like papad, sattu, and packaged spices. Mamata also mentors fellow women, helping them launch their own income-generating ventures.

Selected as one of three representatives from Kendrapara to attend the National Conference, Mamata has brought pride to her community and inspired countless women across rural Odisha. Her journey—from a borrower to a job creator—is a living embodiment of the Lakhpati Didi dream.

EAST COAST RAILWAY MECON Limited requires Experienced Professionals as follows (1) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-10-25

Description of work: COMPREHENSIVE
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PANTRY ELECTRICAL PANTRY CARS OF (LHB & NON-LHB COACHES) TRAINS AT PURI COACHING DEPOT FOR A PERIOD OF

03 YEARS. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,07,31,475.93, EMD: ₹2,03,700/-.

(2) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-11-25 Description of work: COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF WATER PURIFIERS, WATER COOLER CUM PURIFIERS, WATER COOLERS, REFRIGERATORS AND DEEP FREEZER OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THREE YEARS.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 70,77,593.64, <u>EMD:</u> ₹ 1,41,600/-.

(3) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-12-25 Description of work ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT/ANNUAL CHARGES FOR VENDING TRANSACTION PER METER PER LISER FOR PREPAID METERING SYSTEM INSTALLED IN PRIVATE STALLS, UNION OFFICES, CLUBS, INSTITUTES ETC IN DIFFERENT STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR FIVE YEARS.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 14,66,832.50, EMD: ₹29,300/-.

(4) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-13-25 Description of work: MODIFICATION
FOR PROVISION OF INDIVIDUAL
MPCBs FOR EACH WATER PUMP AND
SHIFTING OF ITS CONTROLLER TO
ON-BOARD PANEL IN SET OF
PANELS AS PER RCF SPECIFICATION NO. EDS 355 REV.1 WITH AM NO. 1-2 FOR LHB NON-AC EOG/HOG

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 19,38,300.70, (5) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-14-25

Description of Work: BALANCE
ELECTRIFICATION WORK IN
CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF IN
NOS. OF PATHWAY OF 700M X 1.5M SIZE
WITH LIGHTING & WELDING FACILITIES
ATTALLIED THUM: AT TALCHER (TLHR) Approx cost of the work: ₹ 39,26,606.77

Completion period: 36 months (for Sl. No. 1 & 60 months (for SI. No. 3) & 03 months (for

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 20.06.2025 (for all tenders). No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be ejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available n website www.ireps.gov.in

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-193/Q/25-26 Khurda Road



Also Please Note:

Place: Cuttack, Date:03.06.2025

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK Plot No.: CM-2B, 1st Floor, Sector-7, Near Markat Nagar Police Station, CDA, Cuttack-753014, Odisha, India,

Tel.: 0671-2361377, Mob.: 7077727133 E-mail: sarcut@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX - IV - A [See Proviso to Rule 6 (2), 8 (6) & 9 (1)]"

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2), 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below

SI. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s)	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Outstanding Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
	Kumar Biswal / Guarantor: Mr. Subrat Kumar Biswal, S/o: Bhagabata Biswal, Both are residing At: Kuansha Kara Sahi, PO: Bhadrak Town, Bhadrak - 756100	Equitable mortgage of Land & Building situated at Khata No.: 348 & 349, Plot No.: 1429, Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec. & 1431/2434, Area: 0.010 Dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.060 Dec., Mouza: Kuansha, PS: Bhadrak Town, of Suvendu Kumar Biswal &	as per demand notice + (unapplied interest and other charges as applicable) and contractual dues as on 03.06.2025 is			** Symbolic	18.06.2025 (within working hours 10.00 AM to 04.00PM)

Property is in symbolic possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility

Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession Bank will handover the possession of property symbolically only and successful auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in

https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Tel No.: 0671-2361377, Mob.: 7077727133

The Authorized Officer/Bank has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/ modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and without assigning any reason including calling upon the next highest bidder to perform in case the earlier bidder fails to perform

All statutory dues/arrears of property tax, electricity dues, other dues if any including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc shall have to be borne by the purchaser. Authorised Officer shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, etc. or any other dues to the Government, Local Authority or anybody, in respect of the properties under sale. Bank does not undertake any responsibility to procure any permission/NOC/license in respect of property under sale. Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD: 24.06.2025 latest by 5.00 P.M.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/ MORTGAGORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(5), 8(6) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



In concentration and silence we must gather strength for the right action.





Turning Right

oland's Right-wing Opposition candidate Karol Nawrocki, backed by the nationalist Law and Justice Party (PiS) and US President Donald Trump's administration, narrowly won the presidential election securing 50.89 per cent vote against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski's 49.11 per cent. The result was a dramatic shift from initial exit poll results released immediately after voting ended. In that survey, which had a 2 percentage point margin of error, Trzaskowski was shown the winner garnering 50.3 per cent vote compared to 49.7 per cent for Nawrocki. The turnout was 71.6 per cent. Right-wing advances in Poland come close on the heels of victory by liberal forces in Romania only a few weeks back.

The results are a clear indication of the growing frustration of the people, especially young voters, with the brand of politics practised by established liberal parties that have failed to deliver. Europe is being swept by Far-Right parties for this very reason. Traditional voters are seemingly tired of pro-immigration, pro LGBTQ and other policies of Left parties and the trend shows the populace is reposing faith in parties that swear by regional interests and nationalism, no matter whether it is pseudo or genuine. Nawrocki, backed by the nationalist PiS and also by the Trump administration, could rightly gauge the mood of the Polish population whom he won over with his promise of pulling Poland away from the European mainstream in a more populist direction.

A Nawrocki victory deals a body blow to the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk which has already been plagued by many of its legislative efforts blocked by PiS-aligned incumbent President Andrzej Duda. The election result is likely to have repercussions in bigger proportions. Though the president under Polish constitution has no powers to rule the country, he has the veto power to every legislative measure of the government. Tusk should now be prepared for challenges from the new president to what he wants in the form of legislations.

Rubbing salt into Tusk's injuries, Nawrocki said in his speech immediately after the polls closed: "We will save Poland, we will not allow the power of Donald Tusk to be complete." Hence, Nawrocki's presidency means a high level conflict between the president and the prime minister leading to governance paralysis for all practical purposes. It is clear that it will be difficult for the government to implement key reforms because the president can stall most of them.

The Polish presidency is essentially a ceremonial function, and the government is in charge of foreign policy, but the president can veto legislation or send it for judicial review. The Tusk-led coalition does not have the votes in parliament to override that. This is why Nawrocki could to make it very difficult for the PM to govern. Watchers of Polish politics say the Opposition camp, now led by Nawrocki, may also strive for early parliamentary polls, though it is not clear if the gamble will pay off.

The victory of Nawrocki offers important lessons to liberal politicians as he emerged like a phoenix battling a series of revelations about his past. He is accused of helping arrange prostitutes for guests of a luxury hotel while working as a security guard. He is also known to have taken part in fights as a football hooligan and that he acquired an apartment from a pensioner under questionable circumstances. Even these could not deter conservative voters from strongly backing Nawrocki since they were worried about Trzaskowski's liberal record as mayor of Warsaw, where he supported LGBTQ+ rights and did not see eye to eye with the powerful Roman Catholic Church hierarchy on many issues.

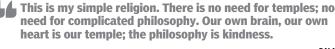
Nawrocki ran on the ticket of making Poland "normal," hinting strongly he would fight the EU's federalist tendencies, oppose climate policy, torpedo attempts to give more rights to LGBTQ+ people or relax Poland's strict abortion rights.

These are familiar election pledges being mouthed by Far-Right forces in many countries in Europe, which have been facing growing immigration problems in recent times. It is time for Left leaning parties and leaders to tune in to the voice of the people.

WISDOM CORNER

Power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY



Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity.

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1783: Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier launched an uncrewed hot-air balloon, the first public demonstration of the discovery that hot air in a large lightweight bag rises. The flight of the Montgolfière lasted only about 10 minutes, but it secured the French inventors a place in the history books.
- **1796**: Napoleon Bonaparte commanded the Siege of Mantua, which resulted in the exclusion of Austrians from northern Italy.
- 1913: British suffragette Emily Davison entered the racetrack during the Epsom Derby and moved in front of King George V's horse, which struck her; she died four days later and became a martyr to the cause of women's suffrage.
- 1919: The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote, was passed by the Senate, two weeks after being approved by the House of Representatives; the amendment was ratified the following year.
- 1940: Dunkirk evacuation ended. Following a massive rescue effort that included civilian boats, the withdrawal of Allied troops trapped at Dunkirk, France, was completed on this day during World War II; more than 300,000 soldiers were saved.
- 1989: Poland holds the first free elections after World War II. The
- landslide victory of the Polish trade union, "Solidarity", marked the beginning of the Autumn of Nations, a wave of revolutions resulting in the fall of communism.

FOCUS POLITICS

THE QATARI PLANE

that Qatar gave Donald Trump? It was just over a week ago that the American president accepted this \$400 million "gift" from the Gulf monarchy - a move that was somehow certified as legal by his attorney general, Pam Bondi, herself a former lobbyist for Qatar. In the days since, Trump has doled out seats for a private dinner to the largest holders of his personal "memecoin." With Trump, the corrupt conduct has come so fast that it is hard to keep up, making it difficult for public opinion to focus on any particular scandal.

Yet there is something special about the plane story. It sheds more light on the peculiarities of Trump's regime in comparison to other kleptocracies, and it may foreshadow future political turbulence for what is already the most corrupt administration in US history

The backstory is that, after receiving a private tour of the Qatari Boeing 747 - a gilded "palace in the sky" – in Florida, Trump is said to have become fixated on it. Boeing's delivery of new Air Force One jets apparently has been delayed until 2027 or later, and here was a plane with all Trump's favourite trappings: gold (whether real or fake) and an excess of ornamentation in a style that one architecture critic calls "regional car dealership rococo.

Originally, palaces served as the residences of Roman emperors. By mixing official administration and private life, they signaled that the state belonged to a particular person. Thus, as an aesthetic form, the palace is fundamentally inappropriate in a democracy (unless, as in some former or current monarchies, there are clear design choices that distance the occupant from anything resembling dictator chic).

Trump's total disregard for the functional requirements of Air Force One further demonstrates that he is mainly interested in a made-for-



Even die-hard Trump supporters are queasy about his taking 'sacks of goodies' from a state known for funding Hamas. The supposedly 'free' gift might yet turn out to be politically costly

TV presidency. Only what is immediately visible matters. Never mind that it may take years to bring the "flying palace" up to standard (Air Force One is supposed to be a flying command post capable of surviving nuclear war, free of any enemy listening devices). The fact that this process might cost billions is secondary to the immediate impression of getting a great "deal" and basking in the ersatz glamor of Gulf state royalty.

No wonder Trump's administration has ended up being staffed by inexperienced - and. in more than one case, evidently incompetent - TV talking heads, mostly from Fox News. But even more important, the plane signals to everyone that America's president is open for business and eager to monetise his office. As South African President Cyril Ramaphosa put it during his recent visit to the White House: "I am sorry I don't have a plane to give you.'

In this regard, the Trump regime is fundamentally different from other autocracies in which the ruler enriches himself and his family. After all, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán have always been careful to hide their ill-gotten wealth. The murdered Russian dissident Alexei Navalny was targeted precisely because he exposed

Putin's corruption, offering undeniable evidence of "Putin's Palace" on the Black Sea. Similarly, Orbán faces growing public scrutiny of his sonin-law, one of the country's richest individuals. Thus, when it comes to cor-

ruption, Trump is in a class of his own. Since he has always sold himself as a successful businessman, any new venture no matter how obvious the conflict of interest – appears to strengthen his brand. And unlike other aspiring autocrats, he does not worry about international organisations, let alone international opinion. There is no need, for example, to try to fool the European Commission into thinking that European Union funds are not being siphoned off to your cronies and family – as Orbán has long taken pains to do.

ing his attorney general shut down anti-kleptocracy units and abolish penalties for US companies paying bribes abroad, Trump is sending a clear signal that self-dealing is now the business of America. And once people are convinced that everyone is corrupt, those truly committed to kleptocracy have won the game.

On the contrary, by hav-

Americans are learning the hard way that simply exposing corruption takes you only so far. There is a long-running pattern of right-wing populists coming to power as great an-

ti-corruption crusaders, only to extend the swamp. It is naive to think that such flagrant betrayals will doom them politically. All too often, they convince their followers that corruption is not corruption, but rather a legitimate part of the mass clientelism typical of populist regimes. The "real people" get benefits and bureaucratic favours (including clemency), while everyone else gets nothing.

Other populist tricks work only in particular contexts. For example, former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, shadowed by accusations of tax fraud throughout his career, would wink at Italians: 'Everyone is doing it. I'm just particularly good at it." If this sounds familiar, that is because Trump said much the same thing when he ran for the presidency in 2016. But he has gone further than Berlusconi in actually gutting the tax authority, making things easier for cheats.

That said, the Qatari plane scandal could disrupt the pattern of impunity. As evidence of brazen corruption, it is much easier to grasp than, say, abstract schemes to profit from cryptocurrency purchases (at least until a financial crash that affects everyone). It can also be read as a flying admission of failure. Have we really reached the point where a major US company, Boeing, can no longer deliver equipment on time to the most powerful person in the world? One is reminded of the East German leaders who were ferried around in Volvos - a tacit acknowledgement that the state socialist regime's industrial capacities were insufficient.

Last but not least, even diehard Trump supporters are queasy about his taking "sacks of goodies" from a state known for funding Hamas. The supposedly "free" gift might yet turn out to be politically costly.

> The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

JEST THIS

Jan-Werner Mueller

ONCE PEOPLE

THAT

GAME

EVERYONE

IS CORRUPT.

THOSE TRULY

COMMITTED TO

KLEPTOCRACY

HAVE WON THE

ARE CONVINCED

Climbing Everest is quite a feat



Melvin Durai

THANKFULLY. **COMMERCIAL PLANES ARE PROHIBITED** FROM FLYING **OVER MOUNT EVEREST. PREVENTING** PEOPLE LIKE ME FROM EASILY **CHECKING OFF A BUCKET LIST ITEM**

any people have bucket lists — lists of things they'd like to do before they die, such as running a marathon, swimming across the English Channel or getting gored by a bull in Spain.

I've never written a bucket list, but if I did, climbing Mount Everest would definitely be one of the things I'd leave out.

I'm not going to fool myself into thinking I could ever climb Mount Everest, especially since I lose my breath just watching other people climbing.

Climbing can be exhausting, as I realised recently when I made my way to the 21st floor of a building. I had to catch my breath several times as people got on and off the elevator.

Mount Everest is 8,849 metres high, which is like climbing 50,000 steps, according to Glorious Eco Trek Nepal. That's 3,000 to 4,000 flights of stairs, depending on the number of steps in each flight. At my age and physical condition, I'd want to take only two flights: one flight onto a plane, and another flight to the mountain top.

There'd be no landing spot, of course, so I'd have to use a parachute, which would result in me achieving three bucket list items: (1) Getting to the top of Mount Everest; (2) skydiving; and (3) being carried on a stretcher.

Thankfully, commercial planes are prohibited from flying over Mount Everest, preventing people like me from easily checking off a bucket list item. Anyone who wants to climb Mount Everest has to do it the hard way. I'd never be able to make it to the summit even once, so I'm full of awe when I hear about Kami Rita Sherpa, a Nepali guide who recently broke his own record by reaching the summit for the 31st time.

Climbing Mount Everest 31 times is a huge achievement. It's like walking barefoot 31 times across Rivadh, Saudi Arabia, in the middle of the road during the hottest month, while holding a sign that says "The crown prince is evil." Your chances of survival are slim, unlike the prince.

Kami Rita is 55, an age when many people are counting down the years to retirement and would never attempt a mountain climb. But Kami Rita has been doing it since 1994, when he was 24, guiding other climbers as they achieve their dreams of reaching Everest's summit.

During his latest climb, he led a team of 22 Indian Army members and 27 fellow Sherpas to the summit.

"I'm proud of this achievement," he told the New York Times. "As a guide, I fulfilled the long-cherished dreams of climbers to stand atop the world's highest point. I'm happy that I fulfilled their dreams this year as well."

The biggest lesson he has learned over the years is about valuing life. "Taking clients to the summit is not the ultimate success; bringing them safely back to the base of the mountain is more important," he said. "Reuniting clients with their families is the greatest achievement.'

Yes, there's no point in making it to the top if you can't make it to the bottom and be admired by bottom-dwellers like me. You can take photos at the top, but you can't share them online until you have wifi at the bottom.

While Kami Rita's record is impressive, so is the record set by another climber, Tashi Gyalzen Sherpa, 29, who reached the summit of Everest four times in just 15 days. How is that possible? I have no idea, but someone needs to check if Tashi Gyalzen has a twin brother.

Whatever the case, he deserves not just the hero's welcome he received in Kathmandu, but also a statue (or twin statues).

As for me, I'm not contemplating Mount Everest. I'm contemplating a comfy reclining chair. which is easy to mount and gives me "ever rest."

Truth in crossfire

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Sir, This refers to "Trumpeting claims," Orissa Post, June 3. US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions that the US. brokered the ceasefire during Operation Sindoor clash head-on with India's official version—one rooted in direct military negotiations between Indian and Pakistani commanders. The discrepancy isn't just diplomatic; it's strategic misinformation. Operation Sindoor saw India emerge decisively dominant, forcing Pakistan into de-escalation. In that context, Trump's claims appear less about facts and more about self-serving global posturing. His history of inconsistency, fickle-minded statements, and an obsession with grabbing credit—even on grave international matters-makes his narrative suspect. Such false or inflated claims are not new in the fog of war. Truth becomes a hostage—twisted, withheld, or weaponised to suit political agendas. For India, acknowledging US brokerage would dilute its hard-won leverage and military success. For Trump, it's a convenient story to amplify global relevance. In the case of Operation Sindoor, expecting clear, unfiltered truth is naïve, too. What remains are conflicting versions shaped by ego, ambition, and political theatre. Until independently verified, Trump's claims are just that—claims.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Attacks on universities

Sir, Universities across the world are facing an intensifying wave of political interference, financial disinvestment and ideological attacks. Nothing illustrates this better than the recent episode of Harvard, for which the Trump administration froze billions of federal funds. Ironically, at a time when advances in biotechnology, engineering and artificial intelligence are poised to transform science and medicine and improve lives of people globally, American universities are struggling to respond to increased political control and the prospect of draconian funding cuts. The academic and institutional autonomy and the scientific process promoted and championed by former president George Bush for generations as a core principle, are under threat in the Trump regime now. Attacks on universities with political meddling and gains, will not only harm education and students' careers, but importantly will have a disastrous effect on society at large

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





Heavy rains trigger floods across Northeast

The flood situation in the Northeast remained critical as the toll due to deluge and landslides triggered by heavy rain over the past few days rose to 45, while over 8 lakh remained affected

Over 1.64L affected

than 1.64 lakh people were affected

overflowed and breached embank-

ments following heavy rainfall in

the state, officials said. The body

of a person who was washed away

in floodwaters was found in Imphal

population of 56,000 people had been

Though the water level of rivers flow

decreased significantly Tuesday.

continue to be inundated for the

fourth day. At least 1,64,879 people

have been affected by the flood while

Officials said that 643 localities have

district, while 82.79 hectares of agri-

cultural field have been under water

At least 3.917 flood-hit people have

have been opened.

in Manipur, 1 dead

Imphal: The flood situation in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 3: The flood situation in Assam deteriorated Tuesday with six more people dving, taking the toll in this year's deluge and landslides to 17, while the number of the affected population increased to over 6.33 lakh in 21 districts, an official bulletin said.

Seven rivers were flowing above the danger level in the state, including the Katakhal overtopping its highest flood level at Matizuri in Hailakandi district, it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took stock of the flood situation from Chief Minister

Arunachal flood toll rises to 11; 938 affected in 23 districts

Itanagar: The death toll in floods and landslides triggered by relentless rain in Arunachal Pradesh has increased to 11 as a labourer died in a wall collapse incident in Anjaw district, officials said Tuesday. According to a State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) statement, while 38-year-old Bhaben Murmu died when a wall collapsed during a landslide June 1, three GREF workers were injured in the incident. A total of 938 people are now affected by floods in 156 villages in 23 districts, it said. Lower Subansiri distric reported significant damage, including the destruction of 114 kutcha houses, 45 pucca houses, and nine huts. The district has also seen serious infrastructure losses, including the damage of 51 roads 17 power lines, 23 water supply lines and two schools, officials said. Widespread destruction has also been reported in the Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) and Pakke Kessang, where key assets such as ICR's main water pipeline and the road at Dariya Hill have been severely affected.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, assurtime-bound assistance to the afing him of full support from the central government Sarma visited Cachar district,

fected people. BJP president JP Nadda also expressed concern over the situation in most parts of North East and urged the people in the affected areas to take

tance as Manipur's lifeline.

Rain, landslides wreak

havoc in Nagaland

Kohima: Landslides triggered by

Nagaland, with crop destruction

major land sinking occurred near

landslide was reported along the

Kigwema-Mima-Chakhahama road.

visited the site of the road sinking at

Village, where a 50-meter stretch of

Public Works Department and the

and directed immediate action to

NH-2 has collapsed, cutting off the key

route between Nagaland and Manipur.

National Highways and Infrastructure

Development Corporation Ltd. (NHID-

NHIDCL to create an alternate road for

stranded goods trucks and commuters

and emphasised the urgency of the

situation, given the highway's impor

Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang

heavy rains damaged roads across

said Tuesday. In Kohima district, a

Kisama Heritage Village, while a major

precautions and follow the advisories from local authorities.

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASD-MA) bulletin said that six deaths, one each from Hail-

Mizoram issues

travel advisory

ment has issued a travel advisory

urging all dignitaries and officials

from both the Centre and state

governments to avoid visiting

the state until June 13 due to

incessant rains that battered

the state since May 24. The advi

rainfalls that hit the state over

the past several days triggering

and flash floods, leading to loss

of lives and affecting normal life

advisory is being issued solely

administration to focus entirely

the government said. It said that

District Disaster Management

Authorities (DDMAs), under the

leadership of respective Deputy

Commissioners, are currently en

gaged in round-the-clock disaster

response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts.

on disaster relief operations

widespread landslides, mudslides

kandi, Sribhumi, Morigaon, Cachar, Sonitpur and Tinsukia, were reported since Monday.

With these, the toll in floods and landslides so far has reached 17.

34 airlifted from Sikkim's landslide hit Chaten

aerial evacuation carried out under the current emergency response plan in the state where inclement weather

Gangtok: Altogether 34 people – 27 tourists and seven family members of the army personnel - were evacuated from landslide-affected Chaten area in north Sikkim Tuesday, officials said.

This was the first successful aerial evacuation carried out under the current emergency response plan in the state where inclement weather condition

"Two MI-17 V5 helicopters successfully airlifted 34 stranded individuals from Chaten to Pakyong Greenfield Airport. Among those rescued were seven family members of Army personnel and 27 tourists. The injured personnel were also onboard and are currently receiving necessary medical treatment," an official said.

Three army personnel were killed and six soldiers went missing after a landslide hit a military camp at Chaten, Several others were also injured. The landslide, which occurred at 7 pm Sunday near Lachen town in Mangan district, was triggered by heavy rainfall in the area.

Search and rescue operations to find out six missing army personnel are continuing Tuesday as a team of 23 NDRF personnel, equipped with satellite phones and essential relief equipment. reached Chaten, officials added

The NDRF has begun reconnaissance of alternate tranship ment routes and is coordinating with the Indian Army for sustained support.

The Army's 112nd Brigade has established a vital foot route between Lachen and Chaten enabling the possibility of phased ground movement in areas currently inaccessible by road. The state government has

outlined a strategic evacuation plan whereby tourists from Lachen will be moved to Chaten via the foot route and subsequently airlifted, depending on weather conditions, officials said. However, persistent inclement weather, including heavy rainfall in Chaten, prevented any further helicopter sorties. Due to this, teams from the state administration, which were scheduled to be airlifted to Chaten during the day, will now be deployed Wednesday to bolster relief operations on the ground.

Senior officials are monitoring the evolving situation, coordinating inter-agency operations and facilitating the rapid deployment of personnel, aid. and communication infrastructure to the impacted region.

Meanwhile, the state government has officially declared the situation a natural disaster, prompting an urgent and coordinated multi-agency response.

Chief Secretary R Telang is leading a team which is work ing in close coordination with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Sikkim State Di saster Management Authority (SSDMA) and Indian Army to help stranded civilians and re store critical access to the affect ed areas of Chaten and Lachen in Mangan district.

In Guwahati, as part of 'flood free mission' the authorities demolished the building of Institute of Cooperative Manage ment to clear encroachment along a waterbody known as Silsako beel.

Road, rail and ferry services remained affected in the state due to heavy rain in several areas. More than 5.15 people in 65 revenue circles and 1,254 villages of 22 districts remained affected, with Sribhumi the worst-hit district with 1,94,172 flood-hit population.

A total of 165 relief camps are sheltering 31,212 displaced people, while another 157 relief distribution centres are also functional.

A crop area of 12,610 hectares has been inundated, while 94 animals have been washed away in the last 24 hours.

Cong MP Randhawa seeks Amritsar be declared 'no-war zone'

which is among the worst-hit.

during the day and assured of



Chandigarh, June 3: Punjab Congress MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to take steps toward declaring Amritsar district, which is home to the Golden Temple, a 'no-war zone'.

The letter was sent weeks after the latest India-Pakistan armed conflict. India carried out pre-dawn missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan launched an offensive against Indian military bases and resorted to shelling the border areas for the next three days.

In the letter, Randhawa wrote that the city is the spiritual heartbeat of the Sikh faith. "Its sacred aura transcends religious boundaries, offering comfort, unity, and compassion in a world increasingly torn apart by conflict and division. I wish to clarify that this appeal is not a request for political sovereignty akin to the Vatican City, but rather a plea for international spiritual recognition and enduring security protections. In an era marked by rising global tension and militarisation, it is imperative that Sri Amritsar is shielded from the threats of war and violence - now and forever."

"As many global powers lean increasingly toward conflict, the Sikh ethos of 'Sarbat da Bhala' (the welfare of all) must be elevated and preserved as one of humanity's last hopes for coexistence and peace," he said.

He said that recent geopolitical tensions, particularly during the Indo-Pak standoff, have revived legitimate concerns regarding Amritsar's potential vulnerability in the event of military conflict.

Nagaland to review reservation policy

Kohima, June 3: The Nagaland government Tuesday agreed in principle to set up a commission within 15 days to examine the core demands of five tribes concerning the state's reservation policy

This was stated by CORRP, a panel comprising representatives of five major tribes of

Its members held a meeting convened by Deputy Chief Minister (Home) Y Patton during the day over their demand for a review of the state's reservation policy. Patton told reporters after the meeting that the state Cabinet would discuss the matter later this month.

Tesinlo Semy, Convenor of the Committee on Review of Reservation Policy (CORRP), told reporters that the discussions were "fruitful" and that the government has assured them that a commission would be formed by June 17.

"The commission will examine the core demands of the

mendations to the government. The cabinet will then take a decision." Semv said.

While no date was fixed for the next meeting, he said that the CORRP would meet with the government again after 15 days. Asked about the composition and leadership of the Commission, Semy said the decision rests with the Cabinet.

The five major Naga tribes of Nagaland held coordinated protest rallies in various districts May 29, demanding a review of the state's long-standing job reservation policy.

The coordinated action was led under the banner of the CORRP, an organisation formed in 2023 as mandated by the apex tribal organisations of the five tribes - Angami, Ao, Lotha, Rengma and Sumi. They had submitted an "Ultimatum Reminder", citing the Nagaland government's alleged failure to respond to two key communications: a memorandum dated September 20, 2024, and a 30-day ultimatum served April 26, 2025.

Punjab waives ₹68cr loan for Dalit families All 4,727 cases (including 4.685 defaulting loanees and 42 regular loanees)

will be covered under this

loan waiver scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh. June 3: The Punjab Cabinet Tuesday gave its nod to waive loans amounting ₹68 crore taken by over 4,000 Dalit families from the Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said.

At a cabinet meeting chaired by Mann in Chandigarh, it was decided that loans disbursed till March 31, 2020 will be waived.

Addressing the media after the meeting, the chief minister said the state government will waive the debt incurred due to loans taken by Dalit families from the corporation for various purposes, including for opening shops, dairy farming,

The decision will benefit 4,727 beneficiaries, he said. Mann said Finance Minis-



With the cabinet approval, the promise will now be fulfilled, Cheema, who was also at the

media briefing, said the debt would include the principal amount and any interest on it, including penal interest. It is a big relief for the SC community,

The minister said the debt had been pending for the past 20 years and added that neither the Congress nor the Akali Dal-BJP governments of the past cared for SC families when they were in power.

Later, an official spokesper-

son of the chief minister's office stated that the loan waiver covers all loans disbursed by the PSCFC, offering significant relief to SC and Divyangian (persons with disabilities) loanees.

All 4,727 cases (including

4,685 defaulting loanees and 42 regular loanees) will be covered under this loan waiver scheme. No due certificates will be is-

sued by the district managers of

"The full amount of ₹67.84 crore comprising ₹30.02 crore in principal, ₹22.95 crore in interest, and ₹14.87 crore in penal interest will be reimbursed to the PSCFC by the state government. The cut-off date for calculating the final interest

which the government issues the notification to implement the scheme," said the spokes-Loanees who have previ-

amount will be the date or

ously availed benefits under earlier waiver schemes are also eligible for coverage under this initiative. No recovery proceedings will be initiated against Ioanees under PSCFC loan regulations post-waiver.

Their accounts will be considered fully settled as of the cut-off date. However, loanees who filed court cases against the Corporation will not be eli gible unless they uncondition ally withdraw their cases and provide documented proof.

As per the 2011 Census. Scheduled Castes constitute 31.94 percent of Punjab's total population. Many members of this community availed loans from PSCFC to establish self-employment ventures aimed at their economic upliftment.

However, some borrowers have been unable to repay their loans due to circumstances beyond their control, leading to defaults, said the spokesperson

Ferozepur fort thrown open to public after 200 years

The move reaffirms the government's commitment to preserve national heritage and promote responsible border tourism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ferozepur, June 3: In an initiative to boost tourism and align the local populace with the military heritage in this border region, the Army's Golden Arrow Division has opened the historic two centuries old Ferozepur Fort to the public.

It is for the first time in over 200 years that this significant architectural and historical site has been made accessible to the

The move reaffirms the government's commitment to preserve national heritage and promote responsible border tourism, said Major General RS Manral, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Golden Arrow Division.

"Strategically positioned near the Indo-Pakistan border, Ferozepur Fort is a remarkable example of 19th-century military architecture from the Sikh empire" said the GOC, adding that its unique hexagonal design and robust defensive features showcase the strategic ingenuity of its time.

'The reopening of Ferozepur Fort not only reconnects the region with its storied past but also reaffirms its identity as a symbol of valour, resilience and national pride, firmly placing it on Punjab's cultural and heritage tourism map," said Major General Manral.

Brig Bikram Singh, Station Commander, said Ferozepur holds a special place in India's freedom movement, having pro-



duced numerous martyrs and revolutionaries who bravely resisted colonial rule.

This fort and its surroundings have borne witness to pivotal historical events, which continue to symbolize national pride and sacrifice, he added. Once a critical outpost in

the Sikh empire frontier defence network, the fort holds enduring tales of courage and resistance and also features prominently in narratives of Once a critical outpost in the Sikh empire frontier defence network, the fort holds enduring tales of courage and resistance and also features prominently in narratives of the first war of Independence in 1857

This fort was converted into British Garrison in 1839 under the instructions of the **Duke of Wellington**

ater, the British converted ater, the british of this fort as an arsenal (Weapon Store) in 1858 and subsequently, the dry gun cotton store, the powder magazine and ammunition stores were also constructed here

the first war of Independence

This fort was converted into

Later, the British converted this fort as an arsenal (Weapon Store) in 1858 and subsequently, the dry gun cotton store, the

Wellington.

British Garrison in 1839 under

the instructions of the Duke of

tion stores were also construct ed here. This fort served as the mother depot for the supply of guns, ammunition, trained horses and bullocks. About 10,000 bull-

powder magazine and ammuni-

ocks and as many horses and even 150 camels were tethered at any time in this fort. The fort continued to play the

role of arsenal till 1941 when the ammunition was shifted to Kasubegu as a tactical move by the British at the beginning of World War-II.

national



Maa Ke Naam' campaign to be taken up at mass scale from June 5; 70 lakh saplings to be planted this year REKHA GUPTA

TN, TRIPURA, DELHI TOP IN **ADULT LITERACY: FLNAT**

Delhi, Tripura and Tamil Nadu are among the top performers in dealing with challenges related to adult literacy and education while Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh lag behind in certification outcomes, according to results of the Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)



to return, but achieved by just taking cosmetic



TARIO HAMEED KARRA | CONGRESS CHIEF, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

I request students to venture in areas of mental health education and geriatric... where a lot of research is being done, and







SHORT TAKES

Terror links: 3 J&K officials dismissed

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday dismissed three government employees for their alleged involvement with proscribed terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, officials said. A police constable, a school teacher and a junior assistant in a government medical college were terminated under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution, which allows dismissal without an inquiry "in the interest of national security". All three are currently lodged in jail, they said. Over 75 government employees with terror links have been dismissed so far by

Stalin pays tributes to M Karunanidhi

Chennai: DMK president M K Stalin paid rich tributes to his father and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on his birth anniversary Tuesday hailing him as a towering Tamil personality who elevated Tamil Nadu. Stalin paid floral tributes to a portrait of the late leader at Gopalapuram here. Karunanidhi's (June 3, 1924 - August 7, 2018) birth anniversary today is being observed as Classical Language Day.

Protestors picket outside govt offices

Imphal: A 48-hour picketing launched by the All Naga Students Association, Manipur (ANSAM), led to the shutdown of government offices across the Naga-majority hill district of Senapati, affecting administrative functioning Tuesday. The protest which began June 2 was launched against the Centre's decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and the border fencing along the Myanmar boundary.

NEET-PG: NBE seeks SC nod to defer exam

New Delhi: The National Board of Examination has moved the Supreme Court seeking to conduct August 3, the NEET-PG 2025 exam in one shift in line with the top court's directions. The National Board of Examination's (NBE) plea said it would hold the examination, scheduled to take place June 15, between 9 am and 12.30 pm. The NBE's plea, among other things, sought the top court's "permission to schedule the NEET PG 2025 August 3, 2025 which is the earliest possible available date given by its technology partner, i.e., M/s Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) in accordance with the directions passed by this vide order dated May 30, 2025".

Biryani added to anganwadi food menu in Kerala

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), June 3: When little Shanku's wish for biryani instead of the usual "upma" at his village anganwadi went viral three months ago, it caught the eye of Kerala Health Minister Veena George.

Now, thanks to that simple request, the state has overhauled the food menu in childcare centres across Kerala, offering children a wider variety of tasty and nutritious meals. The new menu, unveiled

Tuesday, includes beloved dishes such as egg biryani, pulav, dal payasam, soya dry curry, and nutri laddus. These dishes will replace the long-standing, more basic fare, bringing joy and better nutrition to thousands of children. Unveiling a revised menu

for anganwadi children, Min-



ister George said it is the first time that a unified menu is being implemented for state-run childcare centres.

The new menu offers more delicious, diverse, and nutritious meals, aiming to improve children's health by reducing sugar and salt intake while increasing protein-rich content, she said. George, who also serves as

the Minister for Women and Child Development, announced the changes during the state-level Praveshanotsavam (reopening ceremony) of anganwadis held here.

The revised menu covers supplementary nutrition--including breakfast, lunch, and general feeding. Children will also receive traditional snacks

biryani, pulav, dal payasam, soya dry curry, and nutri laddus such as kozhukkatta and ilayada, along with nutrient-rich op-

The new menu,

unveiled Tuesday,

dishes such as egg

includes beloved

tions like wheat crumb pulay, raita, and chickpea curry on specific days. Milk and eggs, previously provided twice a week, will now be served three times a week, she added. The new menu also includes details about ingredients and nutritional values for each dish, the statement said.

In February this year, George had promised to revise the menu after a video of Shanku,

a young boy from Alappuzha, requesting biriyani and chicken fry instead of upma at his anganwadi went viral on social media. In the video, the tod-

dler--wearing a cap--was heard sweetly telling his mother: "I want 'birnani' (biriyani) and 'poricha kozhi' (chicken fry) in the anganwadi instead of upma." His mother later explained

that she had recorded the video while he was eating biryani at home and uploaded it to Instagram, where it quickly gained widespread attention.

Netizens supported the child's request, with some suggesting that better meals should be served to children at anganwadis, even if it means reducing the food served to convicts in jails. Reacting to the minister's gesture, Shanku said he

Punjab: Man held for spying for Pak during **Operation Sindoor**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 3: A man hailing from Punjab's Tarn Taran district was arrested for allegedly sharing with Pakistani intelligence operatives sensitive information about troop deployment and strate gic locations during Operation Sindoor, police said Tuesday.

He was also allegedly in contact with Pakistan-based pro-Khalistan leader Gopal Singh Chawla. Punjab Director General of Police Gauray Yadav said the accused has been identified as Gagandeep Singh alias Gagan, a resident of Mohalla Rodupur, Gali Nazar Singh Wali, in Tarn Taran.

He was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information related to the army's movements during Operation Sindoor with Pakistani Intelli gence Operatives (PIOs). Police also recovered a mobile phone containing information, which he shared with the PIOs.

The accused was allegedly in contact with Pakistan's intelli gence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and also re ceived money for passing on sensitive information, the police said. He was arrested in a joint operation of the Tarn Taran police and the Counter Intelligence wing of police.

"Arrested accused had been in contact with the #Pakistan #ISI and (Pakistan based Khalistani supporter) Gopal Singh Chawla, sharing sensitive information concerning army movements during #Oper ationSindoor," the DGP said in a post on X. Investigations said the accused was engaged in shar ing classified details, including troop deployments and strategic locations, posing a threat to na tional security. Gagandeep had been in touch with Khalistani supporter Chawla for the past five years, through whom he was introduced to the PIOs Yadav said. "He also received payments from #PIOs via #Indianchannels," he further said.

INDO-PAK CONFLICT

Modi surrendered after Trump's call, says Rahul



Bhopal, June 3: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi Tuesday alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi surrendered after a call from US President Donald Trump during the India-Pakistan military conflict.

Addressing a party convention in Bhopal, he said the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. didn't budge in the 1971 war despite the US sending its Seventh Fleet.

"A call came from Trump and Narendra ii immediately surrendered - history is a witness, this is the character of BJP-RSS, they always bow down," Rahul stated after launching the Congress' 'Sangthan Srijan Abhiyan' here in the pres ence of Congress leaders and workers. Rahul said that India split Pakistan in 1971 despite America's threat.

"Congress's Babbar Sher and lionesses fight with superpowers, they never bowed down,' he added. He said no phone call came during the 1971 war. Even though the 7th fleet, weapons, and an aircraft carrier arrived. Indira Gandhi didn't surrender and said she would do whatever she wanted. Apparently referring to BJP and RSS, Rahul said they are habituated to writing "surrender letters" since Independence

"This is the difference. This is their character. All of them are like this. They have a habit of writing surrender letters since the time of independence. Congress never surrenders. Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and (Vallabhbhai) Patel never surrendered, they fought against superpowers," he said.

According to Rahul, the country is witnessing a conflict of ideology. "A battle of ideology is going on. On the one side is Addressing a party convention in Bhopal, he said the then **Prime Minister,** Indira Gandhi, didn't budge in the 1971 war despite the US sending its Seventh Fleet

Congress and the Constitution of India and on the other side is the BJP and RSS who do not believe in it (Constitution) and want to destroy it," he alleged

The Congress leader claimed that the second fight is for social justice. "Jitu (MP Congress president Jitu Patwari) said he spoke about caste census. In the Lok Sabha, I promised the country that whatever happens, the caste census will be passed by Parliament. I know BJP and RSS people very well, put a little pressure on them, push them a little, and they run away in fear," he charged.

Rahul said the Telangana model will be implemented for conducting a caste census, not the Bihar model which was "designed by babus". He accused the BJP government of empowering Adani and Ambani at the

cost of the vouths of the country. Rahul was in Bhopal to launch the Sangthan Srijan Abhiyan' for strengthening the Congress at the grassroots level aimed at infusing new enthusiasm among workers for the 2028 Madhya Pradesh polls.

Earlier in the day, he addressed a meeting of Congress' political affairs committee and discussed key issues with senior party leaders.

He chaired a meeting at the state Congress office in Bhopal where general secretary in-charge Harish Choudhary, AICC organisation in-charge K C Venugopal, Patwari, Kamal Nath, former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, Leader of Opposition in the MP assembly Umang Singhar and other party leaders were present.

Later in the evening, Choudhary and other leaders briefed media persons about the day-



People during the annual Urs of Shah-e-Hamdan, in Downtown, Srinagar

Leaders across party lines Tuesday hailed the congregation of devotees at the Mela Kheer Bhawani in Kashmir, despite the Pahalgam attack and heightened border tension, as a symbol of resilience and advocated for the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

Mela Kheer Bhawani, one of the biggest religious functions of Kashmiri Pandits, is being celebrated on 'Zyeth Atham', also known as 'Jyeshtha Ashtami', Tuesday.

Amid tight security arrangements, hundreds of people, mostly Kashmiri Pandits, left for the Valley in a convoy of 60 buses early Sunday from Jammu to take part in the annual fair in Ganderbal district. President of the ruling National Conference (NC), Farooq Abdullah, hoped that Kashmiri Pandits would return to the Valley as their presence at the Mela Kheer Bhawani in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack was "a befitting reply" to its perpetrators.

This (presence of devotees at the mela) is a huge thing. This is Mata's (temple deity) doing. She has called them here, to their homes," Abdullah told reporters here after visit-



ing the temple shrine during the annual mela. "Fear among people is beginning to end. This is a befitting reply to those who want to end brotherhood in the hearts of the people." Abdullah, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said.

Abdullah said Kashmir is a place of "rishi-munis and sufis", and the Kheer Bhawani Mela is part of this common faith. He expressed hope that the mela would spark the Kash miri Pandits' return to their homeland.

"People come here for darshan, to pray for an end to their problems as well as the problems facing the country. We have also come here and hope the mela is the beginning of the return of our brothers and sisters so that they can live here. "We have come here with the hope that Mata will bring them back home so that they live here comfortably," he said. NC alliance partner, the Jammu and Kashmir Congress, also asserted that the turnout at the mela was a befitting reply to the Pahalgam terror attack and shows how the people of Kashmir continue to believe in religious brotherhood.

Asserting that the Kashmiri Pandits need to be integrated in a "natural" manner, Karra said. "We have to give them political empowerment by reserving seats for them so that they can contest elections together with the people here. That is a natural way to get integrated, which is very necessary.'

Opposition leader Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) said any political process in Jammu and Kashmir was incomplete without the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

"PDP believes that Jammu and Kashmir cannot be solved with guns. There is no military solution, and the gun of militants is also not a solution. There should be a political process," she said.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha described the large number of devotees attending the fair as a "good sign", especially in light of the Pahalgam attack.

Shubhanshu Shukla's space flight postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in Florida.

New Delhi, June 3: Axiom Space's mission to the International Space Station (ISS). carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, has been postponed to June 10 at 5:52 pm IST, on board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre

The announcement was made during a virtual press conference with the Axiom-4 mission crew members, who are currently in quarantine before their travel to the ISS The spaceflight was originally scheduled for May 29 and then rescheduled to June 8. Shukla will be the second Indian to travel to space four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's

Soyuz spacecraft in 1984. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to interact with the Axiom-4 crew during their 14-day stay at the ISS "We will have one with an In dian VVIP," Shukla said to a question on interaction with the prime minister from space. Shukla said the Ax-4 crew will interact with school students educators and members of the Indian space industry

EC to streamline system for real-time voter turnout updates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Facing allegations of fudged voter turnout figures, the Election Commission Tuesday said it is introducing a technology-driven system to provide timely updates on approximate voting percentage data which "significantly" reduces the time lag associated with the present method.

The EC said that the present manual method would lead to delays creating "misperceptions". The EC's announcement

goes to polls later this year. Under the initiative, the

presiding officer (PRO) of each polling station will now be directly entering voter turnout on the new ECINET application every two hours on polling day to reduce the time lag in the updation of the approximate polling trends.

This will be automatically aggregated at the constituency level. The approximate voting percentage data will continue to be published every two hours as before, the



poll authority said. "Notably, voter turnout data will now be entered into ECINET by PROs immediately after the close of poll, before they leave the polling station. It will reduce the delays and ensure that

The EC said that the present manual method would lead to delays creating

he EC's announcement comes months before Bihar goes to polls later this year

the approximate percentage of votes polled be available on the updated voter turnout app constituency-wise after the end of polls subject to network con-

nectivity," it said. Under the Conduct of Elec-

tions Rules, 1961, PROs are required to furnish Form 17C, detailing the account of votes recorded, to polling agents, who are nominated by the candidates and are present at the polling station at the close of poll.

While this legal requirement remains unchanged, the process of updating the VTR (voter turnout) app, which had evolved as a facilitative, non-statutory mechanism to keep the public informed of the approximate voter turnout percentage, is being streamlined to ensure faster updates. Till now, voter turnout da-

ta was collected manually by sector officers and relayed to returning officers via phone calls, SMSes, or messaging This information was ag-

gregated every two hours and uploaded to the VTR app. The polling percentage trends were often updated hours later, based on physical records ar riving late in the night or even the next day, leading to delays of four-five hours or more, the EC said.

national



This family-centred party expects its leaders to only praise the family and not the country. This is not just condemnable and worrisome. Is such thinking acceptable in a flourishing democracy?

DELHI GOVT LAUNCHES AIR POLLUTION ACTION PLAN

Deployment of 2,300 electric autos at Metro stations, installing of mist sprayers at 13 pollution hotspots and audit of PUC centres every six months -- these are some of the features of the Air Pollution Mitigation Plan 2025 launched by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Tuesday





dra ji immediately history is a witness, this is the character of BJP-RSS, they always

RAHUL GANDHI I LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned a developed India (by 2047). There is per hectare agricultural income. An agriculture minister's work cannot be considered complete until he visits farmers' fields. Let us make the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' a success SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN I UNION

AGRICULTURE MINISTER

The Leader of Opposition has come to our state. He should come. It

Everyone has the right to come. He offered floral tribute to his Dadi ji (grandmother) and did not remove his shoes. This did not suit me. This is against our sanskar (culture). He should take

MOHAN YADAV | CHIEF MINISTER,





I've deleted my post on Kamal Haasan and Kannada language issue. But let me make one thing Tamil and Kannada are united. No

matter how hard Sanghis try, they can't divide us. South India stands together. Always

@Politicx2029

SHORT **TAKES**

PM Modi to inaugurate Kashmir rail link June 6

Jammu: In his first visit to Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the muchanticipated Kashmir rail project later this week, marking a milestone in the region's connectivity. Modi will start his visit June 6 by dedicating to public the Chenab rail bridge, which is a key part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link (USBRL) that will provide direct train connectivity to the valley.

5 killed in two road accidents

Gonda (UP): Five people were killed in two separate road accidents that took place within 24 hours here, police said Tuesday. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Manoi Kumar Rawat said the first accident occurred Tuesday on the Dariikuan-Mankapur road under Motiganj police station limits. Ranieet Yadav (18), a resident of Uttar Purwa Sothiya village, was returning home on a motorcycle after visiting a temple in Kolhampur, Nawabgani, with his mother Meena Yaday (43) and fellow

■ 12-year-old boy dies while playing cricket

villager Bindu Devi (35).

Firozabad (UP): A 12-year-old match in Tundla town of Firozabad The boy, identified as Ansh, was batting when the incident took place, they said. Ansh, a resident of Gadhi Ranchhor locality under Narkhi police station area, had gone to Tundla Monday evening to play the final match representing Future Cricket Academy, Superintendent of Police (City) Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

Oppn parties demand special session of Parl

New Delhi, June 3: INDIA bloc parties Tuesday rallied together to push their demand for a Special Session of Parliament in the wake of Operation Sindoor, with leaders from 16 parties writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stressing that there were "serious questions facing the nation".

Senior Opposition leaders, who held a meeting here, asserted that the session was needed to discuss a series of events, including the Pahalgam attack, followed by Operation Sindoor, US President Donald Trump's claim of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and the death of civilians in border areas in Pakistan shelling.

- **≪** Several Opposition parties have been demanding a special session of Parliament since the Pahalgam terror attack
- **∢** The demand was also raised in an all-party meeting held to inform the lawmakers about **Operation Sindoor**
- **44 Operation Sindoor, India's** military response to the April 22 attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead

The leaders said they stood with the government after the Pahalgam attack, and through Operation Sindoor, and they should now accept their demand for a special session.

"There are serious questions facing the nation about the terror attack, killing of civilians in Poonch, Uri and Rajouri, the ceasefire announcements, and the implications on our national security and foreign policy. We have supported the government's efforts to engage with the international community on India's position," Opposition leaders said in a joint letter.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh and Deepender Hooda, Trinamool Congress' (TMC) Derek O'Brien, Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) Manoj Jha, Samajwadi Party's (SP) Ramgopal Yadav, and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay

Raut attended the meeting. "Sixteen parties have written a letter to the Prime Minister demanding a special session of Parliament. The government



Pak planned 48-hour operation against India but it folded up in 8 hours: CDS

Pune: Pakistan launched multiple attacks on early May 10 aiming to bring India to its knees in 48 hours but it had to fold up the offensives in eight hours and reach out to New Delhi for talks seeking an end to the hostilities, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said Tuesday. In the first detailed account of India's clashes with Pakistan, Gen Chauhan said India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack was to draw "limits of tolerance" to cross border terrorism and not tolerating Islamabad's nuclear blackmail. In an address at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, the top military commander appeared to reject criticism against him for acknowledging three days ago that India lost an unspecified number of combat jets during the initial phase of Operation Sindoor.

is responsible to Parliament. Parliament is responsible to people," O'Brien told reporters after the meeting. Opposition leaders said the letter would be sent to the Prime Minister's Office soon. Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge of the Congress, Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party (SP), Abhishek Banerjee of the TMC, TR Baalu of the DMK, and Arvind Savant of the Shiv Sena (UBT) are among the signatories. The Rashtriya Janata Dal, the National Conference, the CPI(M), the IUML, the CPI, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), and the JMM, among others, are also among those who signed the letter. The DMK could not join the meeting as it coincided with Karunanidhi's birth anniversary.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will write a separate letter to the prime minister raising the same demand. While the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) had earlier said it did not have any demand for a special session of Parliament, Raut said he will talk to NCP leaders over the issue. Sharing a copy of the letter on X, Jairam Ramesh

said the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha had written to the Prime Minister to call a special session of Parliament May 10.

"Such a session has become all the more necessary and urgent following the revelations of the CDS (Anil Chauhan) in Singapore the day before yesterday. It would have been more appropriate and in keeping with the finest of our democratic traditions if the information revealed in Singapore had first been shared in an all-party meeting or in a Parliament session, or in a briefing in New Delhi."

Meanwhile, evidence mounts of China being embedded in the Pakistani military establishment at various levels -- the same China to whom Modi had given a public clean chit June 19, 2020, he said. Congress leader Hooda said the party and all Opposition parties extended support to the government. Ramgopal Yadav said people of India are being kept in the dark. Trinamool Congress has suggested that the session should be held in June, after the multi-party delegations that have travelled to different countries to convey India's stand against terrorism return to the country.

Another diplomatic blunder: Congress

New Delhi, June 3: The Congress Tuesday said India not being invited at the G7 meeting in Canada is "yet another big diplomatic bungle' after the "blunder" of allowing the US to "mediate" between India and Pakistan.

Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia. For the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the upcoming G7 summit to be held in Canada's Alberta province, people familiar with the matter have said

It is learnt that Ottawa is yet to send an invitation to the Indian prime minister for the summit but Modi, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the G7 Summit of the presidents of the USA and France; the prime ministers of the UK, Japan, Italy and Canada; and the Chancellor of Germany is taking place in Kananaskis in Alberta, Canada, from June 15.

Mexico, South Africa and Ukraine and the prime minister of Australia have also been invited to the summit, he noted. "Before 2014, G7 was actually G8 for many years and had included Russia. Dr Manmohan Singh would be invited for G8 Summits where his voice would be heard. It was at one such summit in Germany in June 2007 where the famous Singh-Merkel formula for climate change negotiations had been unveiled." Ramesh said in a post on X.

He said the tradition of inviting Indian prime ministers continued after 2014. "But now, for the first time in 6 years, 'Vishwaguru' will not be in attendance at the Canada summit. Whatever spin may be given, the fact remains that this is vet another big diplomatic bungle - after the blunder of allowing the US to overturn decades of Indian foreign policy by mediating between India and Pakistan and allowing American authorities to call for continued talks at a 'neutral site'," the Congress leader said in his post.

The India-Canada relations had hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Cal HC directs state to produce case diary in Sharmistha arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 3: The Calcutta High Court Tuesday directed the West Bengal government to produce the case diary in connection with the arrest of law student Sharmistha Panoli June 5, when her interim bail prayer will be heard again.

The vacation bench of Justice Partha Sarathi Mukherjee directed that the Garden Reach police station case in connection with which Panoli was arrested will be investigated, while proceedings in all other FIRs in this regard will remain stayed till further orders.

The court said that the state will ensure that no further case will be registered on the alleged action of Panoli. The court directed the state

to produce the case diary on the next date of hearing June 5.

Justice Mukherjee observed that one must be careful in making comments in public in a diverse country like India. Pe titioner Panoli's lawver claimed that no offence is made out in the complaint filed against her for allegedly making some remarks on social media during the Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

He claimed that there was a war of words on social media between users across India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, which was undertaken by India in response to the Pahal gam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 men, most of whom were tourists.



Women personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) keep vigil near the India-Pakistan border ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra 2025 in Jammu

Bihar minister sues Prashant Kishor

Patna, June 3: Senior Bihar minister Ashok Choudhary Tuesday filed a defamation suit against Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor for alleging that he had bribed Union minister Chirag Paswan to secure a Lok Sabha ticket for his daughter.

Choudhary, whose daughter Shambhavi is Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) MP from the reserved constituency of Samastipur, spoke to iournalists at the civil court. Kishor, however, said he cannot be intimidated by filing

"After Prashant Kishor made objectionable remarks against my daughter and me,

I sent him a legal notice, to which his reply was unsatisfactory. He clearly has no regret for what he had said," the JD(U) national general secretary said.

"I have therefore taken recourse to legal remedy. I challenged Prashant Kishor to prove that I had paid money to Chirag Paswan or withdraw his allegations with an apology. I am determined to take this fight to the Supreme Court, if the need arises," he added.

Choudhary described Kishor, a former poll strategist who had been briefly associated with the JD(U), as "a political trader, who has offered his services to parties of all hues for a fee".

turbine fuel to four per cent

Patna: The Bihar Cabinet Tuesday approved a proposal for reducing value-added tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) from 29 per cent to 4 per cent, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said. The state Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, approved the proposal of the Commercial Tax department to reduce VAT on ATF to attract more commercial flights. In a statement issued after the cabinet meeting, Choudhary said, "The Cabinet approved the reduction of VAT on ATF from 29 per cent to 4 per cent under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). With this decision of the government. the air ticket prices will further reduce and attract more commercial fights in the state. It will further enhance the state's revenue and will also generate employment.

Bihar slashes VAT on aviation : Gaurav Gogoi takes charge as Assam Congress chief

Guwahati: Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi Tuesday launched his innings as the Assam Congress president with the slogan 'Juz Hobo' (there will be battle) as he urged party workers to prepare themselves for next year's Assembly polls. Assuming charge as the state unit chief, he also appealed for the support of all sections of society to topple the current BJP regime and replace it with a government that works for "harmony and inclusive development". Gogoi took charge from outgoing president Bhupen Kumar Borah, who had helmed the state's main opposition party for over four years, at the state Congress headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan, here earlier in the day.

NDRF to search for missing Indore woman in Meghalaya

Shillong: NDRF personnel Tuesday joined the search for a missing tourist from Indore a day after her husband's body was found in a gorge in Sohra area of Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, police said. Raja Raghuvanshi (29) and his wife Sonam had gone missing May 23 hours after they checked out of a homestay at Nongriat village, 20 km from where his body was found Monday. "A team of 17 rescuers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) joined the search and rescue operations at Sohra today," district Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem told PTI. He said NDRF will expedite the search even as rescuers are already using drones mountaineers and special police forces to search for the woman. Raja's brother identified his body through a distinctive tattoo on the deceased's right hand which read 'Raia', the officer said. A woman's white shirt, a strip of medicine, a part of the LCD screen of a mobile phone and a smartwatch were also seized at the spot, he said, adding that a homicide case was registered.

No contempt if Parl, state legislature simply make laws: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The Supreme Court has said any law made by Parliament or a state legislature cannot be held to contempt of court.

A bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observation while disposing of a 2012 contempt plea filed by sociologist and former Delhi University professor Nandini Sundar and others.

The contempt plea alleged failure of the Chhattisgarh government to comply with its

2011 directions to stop support to vigilante groups like Salwa Judum and arming tribals in the name of special police officers (SPO) in the fight against Maoists.

The petition contended that there has been contempt of the order of the apex court as the Chhattisgarh government has legislated the Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011 which authorised an auxiliary armed force to assist security forces in dealing with Maoist/Naxal violence and legalising existing SPOs by inducting them as members.

Besides accusing the Chers said instead of "desisting" hattisgarh Government of not acknowledging the directions on Salwa Judum, the petition-

from using SPOs and disarming them, the state government passed the "Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011" regularising all SPOs with effect from the date of the top court order July 5, 2011.

They alleged that state government has also not vacated all school buildings and ashrams from the occupation of the security force nor has it compensated the victims of Salwa Judum and SPOs.

The top court May 15 said that the passing of an enactment subsequent to the order passed by the top court by Chhattisgarh cannot be an act of contempt.

The top court said in order

to ensure that rule of law per meates to fulfil constitutional objectives of establishing an egalitarian social order, the halance between the respec tive sovereign functionaries must always be delicately maintained. "Every State Legislature

has plenary powers to pass an enactment and so long as the said enactment has not been declared to be ultra vires the Constitution or, in any way, null and void by a Constitutional Court, the said enactment would have the force of law.'

boy died after being hit in the chest by a cricket ball during a district, police said Tuesday.

international



It is clear that without global pressure, from the United States, **Europe**, and everyone in the world who holds power, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will not agree even to a ceasefire

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY

HUNGARY'S PRIDE BAN

Police issued an order Tuesday denying a request to hold an LGBTQ+ event later in central Budapest, a consequence of recent steps by the right-wing populist government aimed at banning the popular Budapest Pride march.



country, and India is doing well. So, India needs to other developing

ment facilitation for development, many developing countries - 90 out of the 126 who are members, would like to move with this

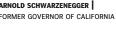
NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION CHIEF

We look forward to having





Avenue doesn't agree with you



SHORT TAKES

Gunmen kill

20 in Nigeria Abuja: At least 20 people have been killed during simultaneous attacks by unidentified gunmen on several communities in Nigeria's north-central Benue state, police said Tuesday. The attacks occurred late Sunday in communities within the Gwer West and Apa areas, said Udeme Edet, spokesperson for the Benue police. Edet said 12 people were killed in Apa and 10 in Gwer West, but local reports suggest the death toll may exceed 30. Five people who survived the attacks are currently receiving medical treatment in a local hospital, she added. Nigeria's police often provide lower death tolls than local authorities and witnesses when reporting on attacks. Paul Biam, chief of staff to Benue Gov. Hyacinth Alia, visited the communities Monday and said the administration is doing all it can to prevent Gwer West and Apa areas of Benue state have witnessed an untick in attacks in recent months. Last week, gunmen killed at least 20 people in an attack on the village of Aondona, in Gwer West. While it remains unclear who was responsible for the killings, such attacks are common in Nigeria's northern region, where local herders and farmers often clash over limited access to land and water.

Teenage influencer

shot dead in Pak Islamabad: A teenage social media influencer, who had more than a million followers across TikTok and Instagram, was shot dead at her residence in Islamabad, officials said Tuesday, in a third such incident in Pakistan in the last five months. Sana Yousaf, 17, was shot dead Monday at her house in Islamabad's Sector G-13/1, falling under the jurisdiction of the Sumbal police station, police said. She has over 740,000 followers on TikTok and close to 500,000 on Instagram. Islamabad police arrested an accused, identified as Umar Hayat, also known by his nickname "Kaka", in Faisalabad, Geo TV reported Tuesday. Hayat, also a TikToker, has confessed to the murder, the channel said. The accused, who had come to meet Sana at her residence, is said to have fired two shots, resulting in her death. A female TikToker in Punjab's Khushab area was killed by her cousin recently. Similarly, in February, another female TikToker was found dead at her home in

Peshawar.

Ukraine blasts Crimea-Russia bridge

Kyiv, June 3: Ukraine has detonated a massive underwater blast targeting the key road and rail bridge connecting the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula to Russia, damaging its underwater supports.

The operation, claimed by Kyiv's SBU security service, is the second high-profile operation by Ukraine in days striking significant Russian assets after a sophisticated drone raid on Moscow's strategic bomber fleet Sunday. The attack came as Ukraine

confirmed it had been invited to the NATO summit later this month, after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned it would be a "victory" for Russia if it was not present. The latest strike on the 12-mile-long Kerch bridge – a prestige project of the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, which he opened in 2018 - comes amid what appear to be determined efforts by Ukraine to change the narrative promoted by the Trump administration that Kyiv holds few cards in the war.

The mining of the bridge, which is heavily defended by Russian forces, follows the audacious long-range drone attack on airbases deep in-

side Russia, which Zelenskyy claimed had damaged "34% of [Russia's] strategic cruise missile carriers"

In a further development Tuesday Russia's state investigative committee accused Ukraine Tuesday of carrying out "acts of terrorism" by blowing up two railway bridges in Russia over the weekend. It seven people were killed and 113 injured, including children, when two trains crashed as a result of the attacks.

The SBU said the operation against the bridge had been planned for several months

and involved the equivalent of more than a metric tonne of TNT, which it said had "severely damaged" the base of the bridge supports.

It is the third time that Ukraine has targeted the key logistics route since Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022.

In October 2022, a truck exploded on the bridge, while in July 2023, the SBU said it had blown up a part of the bridge using an experimental naval drone. Both times, Russia repaired the damaged sections.

Lt Gen Vasyl Maliuk of the SBU, who supervised the latest operation, described the bridge as "an absolutely legitimate target, especially considering that the enemy used it as a logistical artery to supply its troops".

He added: "Crimea is Ukraine, and any manifestations of occupation will receive our tough response.3

The SBU published footage showing a blast coming out of the water and debris flying, along with a photo of some damage to the side of the bridge.

Road traffic on the bridge linking Russia and the Crimean peninsula had been temporarily suspended, Russian authorities said on Telegram Tuesday. Russian state media reported it had been closed to traffic for about four hours.

The attack on the bridge came as Russia Tuesday said it was wrong to expect a quick breakthrough in Ukraine talks. a day after Moscow rejected Kyiv's call for an unconditional ceasefire at negotiations in Istanbul - more than three years into a Russian offensive that has killed tens of thousands on both sides and forced millions from their homes in eastern Ukraine. Russia instead offered a partial truce of two to three days in some areas of the frontline, its top negotiator said after

Dutch govt collapses after Wilders quits coalition



The Hague, June 3: Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof announced his resignation Tuesday, most likely ushering in a snap election, hours after anti-Muslim politician Geert Wilders quit the right-wing coalition for failing to back tougher migration policies.

Ministers from Wilders' PVV party will leave the cabinet, while the others will continue for now as a caretaker government. Any election is unlikely to be held before October, and the fractured political landscape means formation of a new government may well take months.

Anger over migration and the high cost of living are boosting the far right and widening divisions in Europe, just as it needs hostile Russia and an unpredictable and combative US president in the form of Donald Trump.

"I have told party leaders repeatedly in recent days that the collapse of the cabinet would be unnecessary and ir responsible," Schoof said after an emergency cabinet meeting triggered by Wilders' decision

"We are facing major chal lenges both nationally and internationally that require decisiveness from us.

Schoof said he would hand his resignation to King Willem-Alexander later on Tuesday. Wilders had said he saw no other option than to guit the coalition, as it had not backed the stricter migration policies he had demanded.

Indian-origin man

kneels on his neck

Melbourne, June 3: A 42-year

critical as Oz cop

Pro-monarchy protest continues in Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, June 3: The pro-monarchists Tuesday continued their indefinite protest for restoration of monarchy for the sixth consecutive day, barring Monday when they observed the memorial of slain king Birendra Shah. On Monday, Nepal observed

the 24th memorial day of the Narayanhiti Royal Palace massacre, a tragic event that claimed the lives of King Birendra Shah and several members of the royal family June 1, 2001. During the protests led by Ra-

striya Prajatantra Party (RPP) president Rajendra Lingden and former home minister and RPP president Kamal Thapa, the agitators chanted slogans against the republic system and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

Tuesday's protest, which remained peaceful according to the police, was organised at Sifal ground near Pashupatinath temple area, where hundreds of pro-monarchists gathered and shouted slogans, demanding reinstatement of monarchy.



including the RPP, had launched Kathmandu-centred protest programmes from May 29 with the objectives of reinstatement of monarchy and establishment of a Hindu state in Nepal. On May 30, the authorities had banned protests and public gatherings around the Narayanhiti Palace area in Kathmandu, amid demonstrations by pro-monarchist groups.

According to a notice issued by Chief District Officer Rishiram Tiwari, the restriction was imposed until July 8.

Similar prohibitory orders had earlier been enforced in front of the residences of the President and Vice President. the Parliament building as well as in Bhadrakali, Singha Durbar and surrounding areas.

Gaza officials say Israeli forces killed 27 heading to aid site

health officials and witnesses say Israeli forces fired on people as they headed toward an aid distribution site Tuesday, killing at least 27, in the third such incident in three days. The army said it fired "near

Rafah, June 3: Palestinian

a few individual suspects" who left the designated route, approached its forces and ignored warning shots. The near-daily shootings have come after an Israeli and US-backed foundation established aid distribution points inside Israeli military zones, a system it says is designed to circumvent Hamas. The United Nations has rejected the new system, saying it doesn't address Gaza's mounting hunger crisis and allows

Israel to use aid as a weapon. The Israeli military said it was looking into reports of casualties on Tuesday. It previously said it fired warning shots at suspects who approached its forces early Sunday and Monday, when health officials and witnesses



said 34 people were killed. The military denies opening fire on civilians or blocking them from reaching the aid sites.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates the sites, says there has been no violence in or around them. On Tuesday, it acknowledged that the Israeli military was investigating whether civilians were wounded "after moving beyond the designated safe corridor and into a closed military zone," in an area that was "well beyond our secure distribution site."

The shootings all occurred at the Flag Roundabout, around a kilometre from one of the GHF's distribution sites in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah. The entire area is an Israeli military zone where journalists have no access outside of army-approved embeds.

Yasser Abu Lubda, a 50-year-old displaced from Rafah, said the shooting started around 4 am Tuesday and that he saw several people killed or

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

old Indian-origin man is on life damage in Australia after a police officer allegedly knelt on his neck during an arrest, mis taking him for being involved in domestic violence.

The incident occurred last week on Payneham Road at Royston Park in Adelaide's eastern suburbs.

Gaurav Kundi, father of two children, is on life support with suspected brain damage after the arrest, the australiatoday. com news portal reported on Monday. The video footage of the incident obtained by 9news. com portal shows Kundi being forced onto Payneham Road while he and his wife, Amritpal Kaur, loudly protest his innocence. "I've done nothing wrong," Kundi shouts, while Kaur films and cries out that the police are acting unfairly Kundi loses consciousness af ter being tackled to the ground. He is currently at the Royal Ad elaide Hospital on life support

India 'rubbed US the wrong way': Lutnick

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 3: India did certain things, like buving military gear from Russia and aligning with BRICS which seeks to reduce dollar dependence, that "rubbed the US the wrong way," Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said, stressing that President Donald Trump deeply admires India and the two countries are going to have a "great relationship together."

"The Indian economy is extraordinary, your human capital capacity is amazing, your growth rate is amazing. But, you know, there were certain things that the Indian government did that generally rubbed the United States the wrong way," Lutnick said in his keynote address at the eighth edition of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit here Monday.

"For instance, you generally buy your military gear from Russia. That's a way to kind of get...under the skin of America, if you go to buy your armaments from Russia. So I think India is starting to move towards buying the military equipment from the United States, which then goes a long way," he said.

Lutnick also cited the example of India being a part of



BRICS grouping, "which is, 'oh, let's move to not support the dollar and dollar hegemony'. That's not really the way to make friends and influence people in America.'

"So, you know, the President calls that out directly and specifically and the Indian government is addressing it specifically and directly and that's how you move on to a really positive place - put it on the table, address it straight on, resolve it straight on, and get to a really good place. And I think that's where we are," Lutnick said.

At the event Lutnick said one should expect a trade deal between India and the US in the "not too distant future" "So the idea is when they

put the right person and India put the right person on the other side of the table, and we've managed, I think, to be in a very, very good place. And you should expect a deal between the US and India in the not too distant future because I think we found a place that really works for both countries," Lutnick said at the USISPF Leadership Summit 2025. "I would say very optimis-

tic," Lutnick said about the trade deal between India and the US.

South Korea's Lee poised to win presidential election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul. June 3: South Korea's liberal opposition candidate Lee Jae-myung was poised to win an early presidential election, vote counts and media projections suggested, while his challenger conceded defeat early Wednesday.

The victory would cap months of political turmoil triggered by the stunning but brief imposition of martial law by now-ousted conservative leader Yoon Suk Yeol.

Even before Lee's win was formally declared, his main conservative rival, Kim Moon Soo, conceded, telling journalists he "humbly accepts the people's choice" and congratulated Lee for winning the election.

It was unclear whether Lee's election would cause any major, immediate shift in South Korea's foreign policy. Lee, previously accused by critics of tilting toward China and North Korea and away from the US and Japan, has repeatedly stressed South Korea's alliance with the US as the foundation of its foreign policy.

The toughest external challenges awaiting a new president are US President



Donald Trump's tariff policy and North Korea's advancing nuclear programme. But experts say whoever becomes president in South Korea can't do much to secure major progress in South Korea's favour on those issues.

With more than 86 per cent of ballots counted as of 1:45 am Wednesday, Lee, the Democratic Party candidate, led with more than 48 per cent of votes and Kim had 42.7 per cent.

The exit poll by South Korea's three major television stations - KBS, MBC and SBS — earlier showed Lee proiected to obtain 51.7 per cent of total votes cast, beating Kim with 39.3 per cent.

ADB approves \$800mn for Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 3: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved USD 800 million for Pakistan to strengthen fiscal sustainability and improve public financial manage ment, an official said Tuesday Khurram Schehzad, advisor

to the finance minister con firmed the development in a brief statement on social me dia, saying that the package in cludes a USD 300 million policy-based loan (PBL) and a USD 500 million programme-based guarantee (PBG).

He said, "ADB approves USD 800 million financing package for Pakistan" under the Resource Mobilisation Reform Programme. Separately, the Philippines-based lender also confirmed the development in a statement, saying that subprogramme 2 of the "Improved Resource Mobilisation and Util isation Reform Programme' includes a policy-based loan of USD 300 million, and ADB's "first-ever policy-based guarantee" of up to USD 500 million. which is expected to mobilise financing of up to USD 1 billion from commercial banks.

"Pakistan has made significant progress in improving macroeconomic conditions. said ADB country director for Pakistan, Emma Fan.

business



It is only the US, China and **Germany which are larger** than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the

PNB SLASHES RATES ON EDUCATION LOAN

Punjab National Bank (PNB) Tuesday said it has reduced interest rates on its education loan offering under the Vidyalaxmi Scheme by 20 basis points. This initiative further strengthens the bank's commitment to enhance education accessibility. The Vidyalaxmi Scheme is designed to provide comprehensive financial support to students towards quality-driven higher education, it said





strategy for AI, is to build AI in India, make Al work for India and build AI applica-

tions that are truly responsible, safe, trustworthy, and that make a difference to the lives of common people

ABHISHEK SINGH | CEO, INDIAAI

SMID offers a compelling mix of growth potential, valuation, comfort and supportive macro trends, making it a strong candidate for investment

I think what people like us in the

MANISH SONTHALIA DIRECTOR, EIML

industry look for is stability. And what we look for is

transparency. And I think

those are factors that we find in great abundance here in the US. which makes it a very attractive destination for investment for us

SHORT **TAKES**

Vedanta to raise ₹4,100 cr via NCDs

New Delhi: Vedanta Ltd is raising Rs 4,100 crore through unsecured non-convertible debentures to repay existing debt and meet capex needs, sources said. The base issue of Rs 4,100 crore along with a greenshoe option allows the company to raise up to a tota of Rs 5,000 crore, as per the placement memorandum. The proceeds would be used for general corporate purposes repayment-prepayment of the existing debt and for capital expenditure requirements. Vedanta is touting its strong cash flows and ongoing growth projects and has already managed to get anchor investors. Anchor investors for the Series-1 debentures, which have a base issue size of Rs 2,250 crore and a greenshoe option of Rs 750 crore, include ICICI Prudential MF, Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, Kotak Mahindra MF, and Axis MF. Reliance General Insurance Company and two other financial institutions are the anchor investors for the Series -2 which has a base issue size of Rs 1,000 crore and a greenshoe option of Rs 750 crore. A third series has a base size of Rs 850 crore. In its Q4 earnings call, the company said it foresees a 20 per cent EBITDA growth with about 10 per cent growth in volumes and around 10 per cent from cost compressions and

Transrail bags

marketing premiums.

bumper orders New Delhi: Mumbai-based Transrail is an EPC player in the T&D segment, along with civil, railways, poles and lighting, having a footprint across 59 countries. It has secured new orders worth Rs 534 crore in domestic and international markets. The orders have been secured by the transmission & distribution (T&D) segment of the company, Transrail said in a statement. "With FY26 order intake already crossing Rs 1,600 crore, we remain focused on efficient execution and timely delivery," Randeep Narang, MD & CEO said. As of March 31, the un-executed order book stood at Rs 14,551 crore, registering a growth of 44 per cent on a year-onyear basis. The company has completed more than 200 projects in the power T&D vertical, along with comprehensive and extensive project execution capabilities in terms of manpower, and supply of materials (including

self-manufactured products).

India's Russian oil imports surge India seeks WTO talk with US over tariff on auto components

New Delhi, Jun 3: India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a 10-month high of 1.96 million barrels per day in May, driven by continued availability at significant discounts compared to global benchmark prices, according to ship-tracking data from Kpler.

India, the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation, bought from abroad around 5.1 million barrels of crude oil. Whereas, Russia was the largest supplier, accounting for over 38 per cent of the supplies. India, which has traditionally

sourced its oil from the Middle East, began importing a large volume of oil from Russia soon after the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This is primarily because Russian oil was available at a significant discount to other international benchmarks due to Western sanctions and some European countries shunning purchases.

This led to India's imports of Russian oil seeing a dramatic rise, growing from less than 1

TCS to update Virgin

New Delhi, Jun 3: India's larg-

est IT services company Tata

Consultancy Services Tuesday

announced a seven-year extend-

ed partnership with Virgin At-

lantic to modernise the airline's

core systems by implementing a cloud-first, AI-powered digi-

tal core that enhances business

agility, improves resilience of

systems, and allows for higher

The companies did not di-

vulge the financial details of the

deal, which expands a two-de-

cade-long strategic partnership

between the two organisations.

command centre, co-developed

with TCS, will provide real-time

operational insights to enhance

decision-making, streamline

technology operations and em-

power front line staff with up to

According to the companies,

this will support the elevation

of both customer and crew ex-

periences, enabling efficient,

smarter and more sustainable

journeys, and hyper-person-

alised customer experience

across every touchpoint of air-

Oli Byers, CFO, Virgin At-

lantic, said, "As we look ahead

to this next phase of our digital

transformation, technology will

enable us to deliver smarter,

simpler, and more memorable

experiences. TCS has been a

partner for more than two de-

cades and together we'll contin-

ue to build towards our vision of

becoming the most loved travel

TCS' bouquet of technology

solutions will support Virgin

Atlantic in building a resilient

and sustainable digital core, en-

abling the airline to innovate

continuously while delivering

value across revenue, efficien-

cv. and customer experience

metrics, and become sustain-

company, powered by AI."

date, contextual data.

line travel.

Virgin Atlantic's technology

scale of operations.

Atlantic with Al

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ports to a staggering 40-44 per cent in a short period.

A key advantage lies in the pricing of Urals crude from Russia, which, although not always steeply discounted, remains significantly cheaper than West African and Middle

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: Celebi

Ground Handling India's arbi-

tration application for interim

measures against Ahmedabad

International Airport over the

cancellation of security permits

has been dismissed, according

to an exchange filing by the

Turkish firm's parent company.

filed by our company, Celebi

Ground Handling India Pvt

Ltd, in which our company

owns 61 per cent of the capital,

against Adani Ahmedabad In-

ternational Airport Limited in

the Ahmedabad Commercial

Court on 27.05.2025, seeking in-

terim measures due to the can-

cellation of security clearances

by the Civil Aviation Security

Bureau in relation to its oper-

ations at Ahmedabad Interna-

tional Airport, was rejected on

02.06.2025," the company stated.

appeal to the Supreme Court

revoked the security clearance

for Turkish ground-handling

firm Celebi Airport Services

at Indian airports, in the wake

of Turkey's support to Paki-

stan after the Pahalgam terror

attacks and Operation Sindoor

launched by India to avenge the

In a notification, the Minis-

try of Civil Aviation said, "In

the exercise of power conferred

killings of 26 tourists.

on the issue.

The company said it would

The Indian government has

"The arbitration application

margins for Indian processors. price cap set by Western allies.

This pricing edge has supported stronger refinery gross For instance, in May, average FOB prices for Urals stood around \$50 per barrel, comfortably below the \$60 a barrel;

India is likely to maintain a diversified crude basket, but Russian barrels will remain central to its import strategy provided discounts persist and payment mechanisms remain viable. With the monsoon season approaching, some Indian refiners may reduce crude runs which could temporarily affect imports, particularly of sweeter grades, said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Kpler

This happened in February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, it triggered a series of sanctions from US, the European Union, and other Western nations aimed at crippling Rus sia's economy. One of the main sanctions was on Russian oil exports, which significantly impacted Russia's ability to sell oil to European markets.

As a result, Russia began of fering crude oil at heavily discounted prices in an attempt to find new buyers for its oil India, with its large energy needs and an economy sensitive to oil price fluctuations. found this offer too attractive to ignore.

gained Rs 70 to Rs 99,000 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday, supported by rupee depreciation, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 200 to Rs 98,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

\$25.22 per ounce or 0.75 per cent to \$3,356.41 per ounce.

release of US macroeconom the bullion prices.

imports," it said.

New Delhi, Jun 3: India Tuesday sought consultations with US under the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) safeguard agreement over American tariffs on auto components.

This move comes shortly after India reserved the right to impose retaliatory duties on select US products in response to American tariffs on steel and aluminium.

On March 26, 2025, US adopted a measure in the form of a tariff increase of 25 per cent ad valorem on imports of passenger vehicles and light trucks, and on certain automobile parts originating in or from India, a communication sent by India to WTO said.

"India considers that the measure, in its design and effect, constitutes a safeguard measure within the meaning of General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) 1994 and the Agreement on Safeguards, as it is intended to protect US domestic industry from increased It added that America has

failed to notify the WTO Committee on safeguards under a provision of the Agreement on Safeguards (AoS) on taking a decision to apply the safeguard measure. "Accordingly, as an affected

Member with significant export interest to the United States in the products concerned, India requests consultations with the United States," it said. In the consultations, India

would like to exchange views on the measure. "India looks forward to re

ceiving a prompt reply to this request from United States and to setting a mutually convenient date and venue for the consultations," it said.

India reserves all its rights under the agreement establishing the WTO. The US imported \$89 billion worth of auto parts globally last year, with Mexico accounting for \$36 billion, China for \$10.1 billion, and India for just

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Jun 3: Gold prices

Silver prices went up by Rs

100 to Rs 1,00,200 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) Tuesday. The rupee declined 21 paise to settle at 85.60 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday. Meanwhile, spot gold in the global markets fell by

HDFC Securities' senior analyst of commodities Saumil Gandhi said traders are now anticipating the ic data, such as JOLTS Job Openings data, along with speeches from key Federal Open Market Committee (FO-MC) members, will influence

Markets fall for 3rd day mained in negative terrain

mark indices Sensex and Niftv tumbled nearly 1 per cent Tuesday, weighed down by a widespread selloff amid foreign fund outflows and growing geopolitical uncertainties. Domestic markets stayed

Mumbai, Jun 3: Equity bench-

on the back foot for the third straight session as investors offloaded energy, finance and IT stocks, traders said, 30-share BSE index tanked 636.24 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at 80,737.51. During the day, it dropped 798.66 points or 0.98 per cent to 80,575.09.

The NSE Nifty plunged 174.10 points or 0.70 per cent to 24,542.50. As many as 2,266 stocks declined, while 1,731 advanced and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The domestic market re-

amid mixed global cues, geopolitical issues and a volatile currency market led by a weak USD. Profit-booking is evident across sectors, except for real estate stocks, supported by expectations of an interest rate cut by the RBI. From the Sensex firms,

Adani Ports declined 2.42 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Fi nance, Power Grid, Eternal IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Tata Consultancy Services and Ul traTech Cement were among the biggest laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the only gainer in the pack. Adani Group's 11 listed companies ended lower. The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.52 per cent, while the smallcap index dipped 0.07 per cent.

On the other hand, commodities and realty were the gainers.

FY26 GDP target raised to 6.4%: UBS

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Mumbai, Jun 3: Swiss brokerage UBS Tuesday raised its FY26 GDP growth forecast for India to 6.4 per cent from an earlier 6 per cent, underlining that economic momentum is holding up despite the trade war.

Official data released last week said India's economic growth slowed to 7.4 per cent in the March quarter, bringing down the annual growth rate to 6.5 per cent during 2024-25. In FY24, the economic growth was 9.2 per cent.

UBS said its expectation of a higher economic growth is driven by a better-than expected domestic demand momentum, a likely easing of tariffs

on Chinese imports, hopes of cinching an US-India trade deal, and the tailwind of lower global crude oil prices.

"We now raise our forecast of India's FY26 real GDP growth to 6.4 per cent from 6 per cent. Our higher GDP forecast assumes no significant increase in the effective tariff rate against India and the overall global tariff situation remaining the same," it said.

The brokerage said its composite economic indicator suggests economic momentum held up in April despite the trade war. It expects household consumption growth to pick up and become broad based as rural consumption gathers pace on hopes of a favourable

monsoon and lower food prices. and an improvement in urban demand on policy stimulus including income tax relief, lower inflation and rate cuts.

The growth in capital expenditure is likely to decelerate marginally in FY26 on the risk of China offloading excess capacity in the manufacturing sector and heightened global uncertainty dragging on private corporate capex, it said. adding that stretched balance sheets will lead to a disappointment in the state capex.

India's goods exports are like ly to lag amid weaker global trade prospects, it said, adding that services exports will likely remain supportive.

Dual-track approach in India-US trade: NITI Aayog

A dual-track approach is essential now. In the short term, India should consider to selectively reduce high tariffs on non-sensitive imports and negotiate non-tariff safeguards on vulnerable segments such as poultry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ably profitable.

New Delhi, Jun 3: In the aftermath of 'reciprocal tariffs' by US, India should adopt dual-track approach and selectively reduce high tariffs on non-sensitive agricultural commodities imports from Washington, while also strategically offer concessions where domestic supply gaps exist, a NITI Aayog working paper has said.

Paper, titled 'Promoting India-US Agricultural Trade under New US Trade Regime', said that India's agricultural sector needs safeguards, to en-

ducers and consumers, against excessive volatility in interna tional markets.

It noted that sudden announcement of "reciprocal tariffs" and enhanced market access for US exports following re-election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in January 2025 have sent shock waves across the world.

of edible oil in the world and US has huge export surplus of soybean which is GM, the paper said India can offer some concession to US in import of sovbean oil to meet demands in that country and reduce trade imbalance, without harming

India is the largest importer

domestic production. The paper also suggested that India should negotiate more access to US market for

shrimp, fish, spices, rice, tea,

coffee, rubber. India earns

approximately \$5.75 billion annually from agri-exports to US. Expanding this through duty waivers or TRQs should high-performing exports like be part of trade talks.

Alongside strategic trade management, it said India

must undertake medium-term structural reforms to improve the global competitiveness of its farm sector.

"This includes bridging the productivity gap by embracing appropriate technologies, market reforms, private sector participation, improvement in logistics and development of competitive value chains," it said.

The Indo-US agricultural trade has experienced significant changes and steady growth in the last two decades, signalling deepening bilateral economic ties. The composition of agricultural trade between India and the US revealed that

both countries are diversifying their export portfolios.

While traditional items such as frozen shrimp, basmati rice, and spices continue to dominate, there has been a marked increase in the export of processed cereals, and other value-added products.

India's imports from US remain concentrated in high-value commodities such as almonds, pistachios, and walnuts. India has maintained surplus in agriculture trade with USA and the same has increased over time. However, the relative importance of agriculture in the bilateral trade is diminishing.

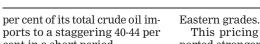








Celebi's plea rejected



upon DG, BCAS, the security

clearance in Celebi Airport

Services India Pvt Ltd is here-

by revoked with immediate ef-

fect in the interest of National

The Turkish company han-

dles around 70 per cent of the

ground operations at Mumbai

airport, including passenger

services, load control, flight op-

erations, cargo and postal ser-

vices, warehouses and bridge

Minister of State for Civil

Aviation and Cooperation,

Murlidhar Mohol, also stated

that there were requests from

across India to ban Celebi NAS

ness of the issue and the call

to protect national interests.

we have taken cognizance of

these requests and Ministry

of Civil Aviation has revoked

security clearance of the said

company. Ensuring the safety

and interests of the nation re-

mains our top priority," the

Since its entry in 2008, Cele-

As per reports, the firm is

partly owned by Sumeyye

Erdogan, daughter of Tayyip

Erdogan. Sumeyye Erdogan is

married to Selcuk Bayraktar,

the man who produces Bayrak-

tar military drones, which Pa-

kistan used against India.

bi has expanded its presence in

India's aviation sector.

minister posted.

Recognising the serious-

Airport Services India Ltd.

Security.

Gold gains ₹70/10gms silver gains ₹100/kg

VIRAT KOHLI LIFTS IPL TITLE AFTER 18 LONG YEARS

VK18 MEETS DESTINY ON 18TH YEAR

Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacques

their former owner Vijay Mal-

lya, a horse lover, let him be his

own and allowed him time to

Perhaps, he fitted seamless-

ly into the upmarket and bold

image of the franchise. It was

a soap opera. But the relation-

ship took a new turn in 2011. The Royal Challengers trusted a

22-year-old with the leadership

role. Many 22-year-olds could

mature into a thoroughbred.

But RCB trusted Kohli, and

Kallis etc.





Ahmedabad, June 3: 11.20 pm. The chiselled, sweat-glistened face of Virat Kohli was filled with impatience. The maiden IPL title for him and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru was a good over away.

He was desperate for that famous Kohli run — fingers pointed heavenwards with a wide grin plastered across the face. 11.25 pm: Josh Hazlewood successfully defended 29 runs in the 20th over. But all Kohli could do was to hide his face in his palms with tearfilled eyes and baulk. Teammates soon enveloped him as their endearing No. 18 met his destiny after 18

Was it the credit-rolling moment of an extraordinary relationship between a player and franchise that lasted 18 years through mind boggling highs and heartbreak-

It's a weird thought at this moment of personal and collective glory. But it could not be avoided as the journey came to its much-desired full circle.

The first chapter of the Kohli and the RCB series began in 2008, and it has transformed into a long-drawn TV drama like the 'Young and Restless". Kohli was young and restless 18 years back — an irreverent, chubby South Delhi dandy who just wanted to take on the whole wide world in pursuit of victory. An anomaly in the dressing

have wilted in the high-pres-This win is as much sure environment, but not this for the fans as it is 22-year-old. Kohli was in the hot for the team. I've seat for 12 years and 143 matchgiven this team my youth, prime and es, and he remained firm there too even when the team failed experience. Tried to win to bag a trophy. it every season, gave it everything I can

Gradually, he established a close connection with Bengalureans. His charisma was a big factor in turning the city dwellers into RCB faithfuls.

Kohli was at the forefront of his club's PR pushes, its

ated

syn-

ergy he feels the red and gold jersey. Kohli was a magnificent distraction for RCB fans from their lack of trophy triumph until now. A driven indi-

vidual, it does not need any second guessing to realise that Kohli felt the hurt seeing a bare cupboard even as two rival Southern clubs added trophies. But Kohli never showed the angst in public or never thought of severing his ties with RCB In fact, he always underlined his closeness to the outfit. The finest showman of this decade of cricket, the lead guitarist of the IPL and T20s stood crowned. Nothing else mattered more on this emo-











Fans celebrate after Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 T20 final cricket match against Punjab Kings, in Bangalore Tuesday



Virat Kohli's wife and bollywood actor Anushka Sharma and others cheer during the final match



Former UK prime minister Rishi Sunak celebrates RCB's triumph. Guiarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, ICC Chairman Jay Shah BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla and businesswoman Akshata Murty are also seen

FIVE BEST FINDS

Red-hot form of Sai

Sai Sudharsan proved to be a sensational performer for Gujarat Titans this IPL and is all set to win the Orange Cap this season. Over 15 matches, he amassed 759 runs at a commanding average of 54.21. His highest score is an unbeaten 108, reflecting his ability to anchor the innings and accelerate when needed.

> Sai's strike rate of 156.17 shows he balances patience with aggression effectively. His tally includes 88 fours and 21 sixes. showing his capability to find the boundary consistently. Although Sai has been part of GT for a couple of

seasons before this reason, IPL 2025 is the true season where he proved his capabilities to the full extent.

14-year-old scripts history

Vaibhav Suryavanshi made history with his debut at just 14 years of age, making him the youngest player to play in the IPL. On top of that, he also scored a 35-ball century this season vs GT, which is the second-fastest overall and the

fastest by an Indian batter in tournament history. In terms of numbers, he played 7 matches this season and amassed 252 runs at a solid average of 36.00. His highest score is 101. Vaibhav's strike rate stands at an impressive 206.55, underlining his aggressive batting style.

MOST EXPENSIVE FLOPS Rishabh Pant - Lucknow Super Giants (₹27cr)

The Lucknow Super Giants were in desperate need of a fresh leader for their franchise after the departure of KL Rahul, and the franchise pulled out all stops to bag Rishabh Pant. LSG fended off competition from a few other franchises, especially Punjab Kings, and splashed out Rs 27 crore for the swashbuckling wicketkeeping batsman. However the weight of the price tag seemed to be too much

to bear for Pant as he put on a horror show for LSG in IPL 2025 as they failed to qualify for the playoffs. Pant endured a difficult season and was the butt of social media memes due to many questionable captaincy decisions and a poor

overall show with the bat. He did redeem himself, with the bat, in the final league game of the season against Royal Challengers Bengaluru as he hit a superb century.

Ravichandran Ashwin – Chennai Super **Kings (₹9.75cr)**

SK brought back their 'prodigal son' to much ✓ fanfare, but R Ashwin's return to his hometown franchise was anything but celebratory. The veteran off-spinner was expected to be the five-time champions' frontline bowler, but he was ineffective throughout the season as CSK finished dead last. His performances were even more disappointing when you take into consideration that CSK plays their home games on the spin-friendly surfaces of the MA Chidambaram stadium, which Afghanistan

left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad made full use of. In fact, Ahmad was the lone bright spark in CSK's disastrous campaign, as the 24-year-old picked up 24

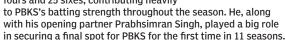
Bright spark for Chennai

yush Mhatre was a mid-season signing by Ayush Mhatre was a mini-scase. See Section and CSK as a replacement for skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, but he made a strong impression and

a bright spark for Chennai Super Kings in the limited appearances he made. He played 7 matches and accumulated 240 runs. He has maintained a healthy batting average of 34.29 and a strike rate of 188.97, reflecting his ability to score ETHAD

Punjab's new hitter

Priyansh Arya has emerged as a key player for Punjab Kings in IPL 2025. Over 16 matches, he has scored 451 runs, averaging 28.19. His highest score of 103 demonstrates his capacity to play long innings. With a strike rate of 183.33. Privansh has been effective in maintaining a brisk scoring rate. He also has a knack for finding the boundary, smashing 51 fours and 25 sixes, contributing heavily



All-rounder Vipraj shines

Vipraj Nigam has been an intriguing all-round option for Delhi Capitals. Although Delhi failed to qualify for the playoffs, Vipraj's name will still be considered in the list of one of the best players of IPL 2025. He played 14 matches, bowled 39 overs and picked up 18 wickets with best bowling figures of 2/18. His economy rate of 9.12 complements his bowling strike rate of 21.27, showcasing his efficiency in restricting runs and taking timely wickets. With the bat, Vipraj has scored 142 runs at an average of 20.29, hitting 15 fours and 8 sixes, highlighting his ability to contribute crucial lower-order runs.



Venkatesh lyer - Kolkata Knight **Riders (₹ 23.75cr)**

After letting go Aof their star captain Shreyas Iyer ahead of IPL 2025, defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders dished out big money to retain star top-order batsman Venkatesh Iyer, spending

₹23.75 crore in the auction for his signature. However, Iyer was another player who couldn't bear the pressure of the price tag. The lanky southpaw never got going in IPL 2025 as the defending champions crashed out in the league stage as they finished eighth in the table. While Iyer flattered to deceive with the bat, a lower batting position definitely contributed to his poor show for the defending champions. In the last league game against the Sunrisers Hyderabad, which SRH won by a whopping 110 runs, KKR threw a hint at what's next for the left-handed batter. Iyer was dropped for that fixture against SRH for the second time in IPL 2025, and it seems KKR is moving on from their expensive 'mistake'.

Jake Fraser-McGurk – Delhi Capitals ₹9cr)

D^C retained the 23-year-old toporder batsman for Rs 9 crore after a standout season in IPL 2024. The aggressive right-handed batsman entered IPL 2025 carrying a big reputation, but his season crashed and burnt before being dropped

midway through. Fraser-McGurk couldn't find the middle of the bat every time he was on the pitch, and the Delhi franchise dropped him after just 6 innings, where he scored a measly 55 runs. He returned to Australia after the IPL 2025 was temporarily suspended due to the military tensions between India and Pakistan and never returned, as he was too rattled by the conflict. And based on his performances this season, Fraser-McGurk's exile from DC could be a permanent one.

Mohammad Shami – Sunrisers Hyderabad (₹10cr)

ast year's runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad splashed Rs 10 crore on Mohammad Shami as they looked to onboard an experienced new ball specialist to lead their bowling attack. However, Shami failed to deliver on all fronts as he picked up only six wickets throughout the season and failed to be economical with his bowling. The 34-year-old had a forgettable season as SRH finished sixth in the table. In fact, SRH were languishing near the bottom of the table, but they rounded off the league stage with a hat-trick of wins, which propelled them to sixth. Shami was a shadow of his usual self as he leaked runs in the powerplay and at the death and was ineffective in picking up wickets to stem the flow from the opposition

batters. Not only did Shami end the season on a disappointing of his team not qualifying for the playoffs, but also the heartbreak of missing out on India's tour of England.

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