

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
All eyes may be on you today – for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You may have a tendency to feel frustrated when the results are not the way you expected, feels Ganesha. You must still work hard and finish whatever you undertake today. You will discuss some vital issues with a close friend and relive cherished secrets with your life partner.

GEMINI
You will lend your innovative and imaginative spark to your initiatives, which will be quite a few, says Ganesha. Love will bring you immense satisfaction. And you will develop a special bond with your spouse or beloved. You, however, are likely to be dragged into a conflict and will be forced to pick a side.

CANCER
Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain. The best way to deal with criticism is to take them constructively.

LEO
The oath of friendship that you once took as a bunch of raggedy misfits still holds true, and your best buddies are the ones who will stand by your side through hell and high water. Ganesha sees in you the desire to cherish such friends and prove your appreciation by treating them with graceful munificence.

VIRGO
The Scales will balance business and entertainment equally well. The day will be like an endless party, says Ganesha. The emptying of pockets will be proportional to the amount of time you spend doing nothing. But spend prudently, advises Ganesha, and let it not worry you.

LIBRA
Connect and Express – these are the two things you must aim for at work today. You tend to do both things supremely well, be it in a business dialogue on phone, in writing, or in meetings. Getting across to people is not an issue today. But all this work aside, the lingering feeling of wanting to chill out with your sweetheart may become more substantial towards the evening.

SCORPIO
Try adding an entirely new dimension to the way you approach relationships today, advises Ganesha. Being tractable will help iron out the creases in relationships with closed ones. But be wary of complete subjugation, warns Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Confidence-building measures will need to be taken up. Be the herald, and usher in new vigour and confidence in people around you. Your business is set to sky-rocket and a fair share of profits are in the offing, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Memories of the bygone days will flash through your mind, creating a wave of nostalgia and compelling you to get in touch with old pals. On the other hand, there may be a feeling that your loved ones are demanding more than you can give, says Ganesha. But enjoying some light moments with your beloved in the evening will unburden you and charge you up for the next day.

AQUARIUS
Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak by candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage. Ganesha says you'll be grateful for the pleasures only after the pain.

PISCES
A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesha. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.



DAVIS TO STAR IN ALLY CLARK

Oscar-winning actor Viola Davis is set to star in an upcoming thriller film, titled *Ally Clark*. Davis, known for projects such as *Fences* and *How to Get Away with Murder*, will also produce the film alongside Irwin Winkler, according to the entertainment news outlet *Deadline*.

TOM CRUISE SET GUINNESS RECORD FOR M/ SERIES

Hollywood star and four times Oscar nominee Tom Cruise's performance in his latest film *Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning* has earned him a Guinness World Record. The actor has set the record for most burning parachute jumps by an individual.



Vidya on changing landscape of cinema

Mumbai: At a recent award function, Vidya Balan delivered a stirring and insightful masterclass where she passionately reflected on the changing landscape of Hindi cinema. Addressing the dilution of Bollywood's identity, Vidya voiced concern over the industry's growing obsession with lip-sync songs, elaborate dance numbers, and dramatic storytelling. "What's wrong with 100 dancers doing the same step? That's the language of Hindi cinema, and I love it," she declared, earning loud applause.

Her most passionate defence was reserved for Bollywood's traditional elements—lip-sync songs, elaborate dance numbers, and dramatic storytelling. "When tickets are unaffordable to the masses, films are tailored for a niche audience. Then we wonder why mass entertainers are disappearing—how will the masses even watch them?"

Drawing comparisons with South Indian films, she praised their rooted storytelling and refusal to compromise authenticity for international recognition. "They stay true to their conscience, and we're forgetting our unique cinematic flavour."

Quoting veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar, Vidya pointed out how the increasing cost of cinema experiences is shaping the kind of films being made. "When tickets are unaffordable to the masses, films are tailored for a niche audience. Then we wonder why mass entertainers are disappearing—how will the masses even watch them?"

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Mumbai: Actor Wamiqa Gabbi has spoken out strongly against the persistent pay disparity in the film industry. In a recent interview, she questioned why male actors continue to command high fees even when their films flop, while female actors often face pay cuts and criticism. "The fact that pay disparity exists doesn't consume me, but there's always this feeling that you're a woman and will be paid less — and that's just accepted," she said. Highlighting the double standards, Wamiqa pointed out how producers often justify male actors' pay by claiming they draw larger audiences, while ignoring the fact that no film is truly complete without its female lead.

Frustrated by this inequality, Wamiqa is choosing to take matters into her own hands. "I want to find different ways to earn, in a creative way that makes me happy and helps close the gap for myself," she added. Refusing to accept the status quo, she emphasised that not all male-centric films can succeed without a strong female presence.

Recently, she starred in *Bhool Chuk Maa* alongside Rajkummar Rao, Seema Pahwa, and Sanjay Mishra. The romantic comedy was released May 23. She will next appear in *Dil Ka Darwaza Khol Na Darling*, *Bhooth Bangla*, and *Goodachari 2*.



Wamiqa questions pay disparity

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Shraddha's thoughtful approach

Mumbai: Veteran actress Padmini Kolhapure recently opened up about the thoughtful approach her niece, Shraddha Kapoor, takes when selecting film roles.

According to Padmini, the *Stree* actress doesn't make decisions in isolation; instead, she carefully considers advice from her close family members before finalising her choices. Speaking to this news agency, Padmini shared that Shraddha often discusses potential projects with her mother, Shivangi Kolhapure; sister, Tejaswini, father Shakti Kapoor, and even Padmini herself. The senior actress mentioned that this collective support system helps the young actress weigh the pros and cons of each opportunity, ensuring that she makes well-informed decisions that align with her career goals and personal values.

Padmini revealed that despite taking input from her family, Shraddha ultimately trusts her own instincts. The *Vidhaata* actress shared, "Advice, in the sense Shraddha discusses, like with my sister Tejaswini, her mom Shivangi, her father, and, of course, also my husband. So, because she hears everybody, she kind of weighs the pros and cons, and then she goes ahead with her decisions in picking the films."



BFF-2025 begins with celebrated classics

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The second edition of the Bhubaneswar Film Festival (BFF) 2025, organised by the Bhubaneswar Film Circle, commenced Friday here at Soochana Bhawan with an impressive line-up of classic films and the presence of renowned film personalities.

The four-day event kicked off with the screening of *Mitrara Manisha* (1966), a landmark Odia film directed by Mrinal Sen, which explores the erosion of familial bonds over property disputes. Also showcased was *Ankur* (1974), Shyam Benegal's debut Hindi feature, portraying the complex social dynamics through the story of a Dalit couple and a landlord's son.

The festival further featured the Odia classic *Kaa*



(1965), directed by the trio Gour Prasad Ghose, Parbati Ghose, and Ram Chandra Thakur under the pseudonym Siddhartha. Based on Kanhu Charan Mohanty's acclaimed novel, the film is regarded as a literary and cinematic milestone. Another highlight was *Bhakta Salabega* (1983), directed by Radha Panda, a much-loved Odia film based on the life of a Muslim poet and his deep devotion to Lord Jagannath, starring Uttam Mohanty and Aparajita Mohanty.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by acclaimed film critic and writer Satya Saran, *OMG 2* director Amit Rai, legendary theatre artist Anant Mahapatra and noted actor and television

personality Sukant Rath, among others from the film fraternity.

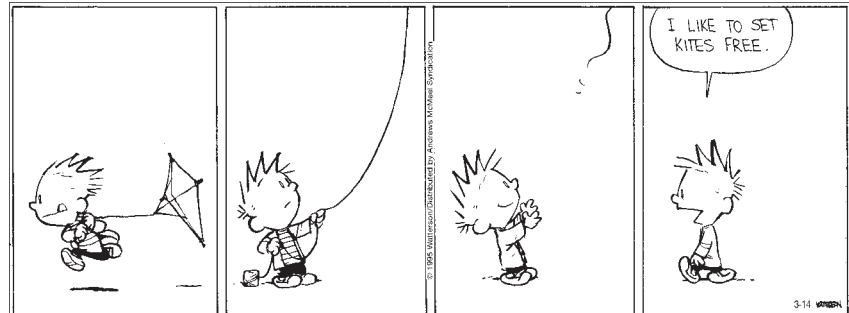
Adding a literary touch to the occasion, a book titled *Moods and Madness* was released. This book pays tribute to iconic figures in Indian cinema such as Guru Dutt, Uttam Mohanty, Raj Kapoor, Shyam Benegal, and others known for their extraordinary contributions to the craft.

The event also witnessed the felicitation of several stalwarts from the Odia film industry - music director Tansen Singh, veteran actors Shyamalendu Bhattacharya and Jaya Swami, costume designer Nirmal Dash, and art director Banchhanidhi Pattnaik - for their outstanding contributions.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9			10		
11					
12			13		
14					
15	16		17		18
19					
20				21	
22					
23			24		

Across

7 Port city of northeastern Brazil

8 European flatfish

9 Ewe's mate

10 Short-tailed songbird

12 Hired

13 Gallic goodbye

15 Running behind time

17 Forsake

20 Opera houses

21 Archaeological site

23 Vipers

24 They protect cooks

Down

1 Sojourn

2 Drill need

3 Beloved of Hero

4 Express verbally

5 Very large pooch (5,4)

6 Fencing word

11 Anteaters

14 Really bad figure

18 Burger toppers

19 Greet the day

22 Ornamental vase

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

DEPARTS	DEPOT
E O E U R L H	
ATLAS ISOLATE	
L A T T P Z R	
THRILLER GALA	
I E S S P	
ASSIST APATHY	
V S T A H	
IDLE CHERRIES	
A U G O K M L	
TUMBLER LIBRA	
O P E N E L T	
RAYON SURREYS	

SUDOKU

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

Avoid visiting Puri with Covid symptoms: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: As the total Covid-19 cases in Odisha reached 38, state health services director Amarendra Nath Mohanty advised people with symptoms for the infection not to visit Puri during the upcoming Rath Yatra later this month, official sources said Friday.

“People with Covid-like symptoms should avoid visiting Puri during the Rath Yatra. They can witness the mega festival through television and other media platforms,” he said.

“At present, we are testing samples of those who have

RATH YATRA AHEAD

been hospitalised, and the test positivity rate remains at 1 or 1.5 per cent, which is low. However, we all have to remain cautious,” he added.

According to Health department sources, 38 positive cases were detected out of 755 samples tested as of June 6, 2025.

Health officials have also confirmed that nine patients have already recovered, while the remaining are in home isolation and stable condition.

In response to the rising cases, the state government has stepped up monitoring and containment efforts across the districts.

Meanwhile, the government has constituted a high-level committee to monitor and guide all official arrangements related to Rath Yatra in Puri.

The committee, which will be headed by Deputy CM Pravati Parida, includes Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra, and Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena as members.

Law department Secretary Manas Ranjan Barik has been appointed the convenor of the committee.

Gun-running racket busted in Puri; 6 held

AGENCIES

Puri, June 6: In a surprise raid, Sea Beach police busted a gun smuggling syndicate in a deserted building near Urban Hat, arresting six miscreants and seizing as many guns along with 20 live cartridges.

Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinit Kumar told reporters Friday that a special team had been formed to track the gun-running racket following a rise in criminal activities in the Holy city.

He said that after months of surveillance, the police discovered the syndicate’s involvement in illegal gun smuggling and managed to arrest the culprits.

The kingpin of the racket, Denga Muna alias Ramesh Parida, 29, who has been involved in 14 criminal cases, was also arrested, the SP said.

The other accused were found to be involved in several criminal cases as well. Interrogation is underway to trace their sources and identify their customer links. All six arrested have been booked under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

OHPC, WAPCOS tie up for 600-MW power project



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: As part of the Union government’s ambitious plan to generate 500-gigawatt renewable energy by 2030, an agreement was signed between Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) Ltd and WAPCOS Ltd Friday for consultancy services for the operation of 600-MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project at Mukhiguda in Kalahandi district.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, and Energy department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev.

According to sources, the de-

tailed project report (DPR) for the Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project has been prepared by WAPCOS. This project is a large-scale energy storage system that involves pumping water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir during the periods of low electricity demand and releasing it back during peak demand to generate electricity. OHPC is developing this pumped storage project near the existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project, which has a conventional capacity of 600 MW.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that this collaboration is a significant step toward enhancing the efficiency of the state’s energy sector.



Jr teachers hit streets for job regularisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Hundreds of junior school teachers from across the state Friday staged a protest here demanding regularisation of their services and withdrawal of contractual appointment system.

Holding posters and banners against the contractual appointment of junior teachers in schools, the teachers,

including women, demonstrated at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here.

The teachers, representing various schools across the state, demanded immediate regularisation of their posts and scrapping of the contractual appointment system for junior teachers in schools.

“We are getting a monthly salary of Rs 16,000 each, which is insufficient to man-

age our family. However, in many other BJP-ruled states, the junior teachers are drawing a good amount of salary,” said a lady agitating teacher.

The government does not even provide any social security to the junior teachers, she said.

“We demand the government to provide ‘equal pay for equal work’ to us and regularise our jobs. The

contractual appointment of junior teachers at primary schools must be scrapped,” said another teacher at the protest site.

About 16,000 junior teachers had been serving in different government-run primary schools across the state. The agitating teachers threatened to intensify their protest if the government did not fulfil their demands.

Guv hails cooperatives’ role in devpt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Cooperative societies have emerged as powerful instruments of social and economic transformation in India, offering financial inclusion, generating livelihoods, and empowering communities, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati. He said this while the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 held at New Abhishek Hall, Raj Bhavan here Friday.

The event was organised by the Cooperation department and brought together key stakeholders of the cooperative movement.

“It is indeed an honour to be part of this significant occasion. Cooperatives have shaped the economic, social, and cultural fabric of India and Odisha,” Kambhampati said. He referred to the UN’s proclamation of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives with the



theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World,” highlighting their global relevance in addressing modern challenges.

The Governor praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s initiative to establish a separate Ministry of Cooperation in 2021

and described it as a visionary step to strengthen the cooperative framework at the grassroots level.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Odisha State

Marketing Federation and three newly formed national cooperative bodies — National Cooperative Organics Limited, National Cooperative Exports Limited, and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited.

“This partnership will enable Odisha’s cooperatives to access wider markets, promote organic and sustainable products, and ensure better incomes for farmers and producers,” the Governor added.

Addressing the gathering Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta reiterated the government’s commitment to strengthening the rural economy through cooperatives. He outlined various departmental interventions and highlighted steps taken to enhance transparency and accountability in PACS and LAMPSCS.

New PACS and LAMPSCS submitted their applications for membership to the national cooperatives during the event.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary, Kakatpur dated 02.06.2025, I Adyasha Panda, At - Mudugal, PO : Namaro, PS : Astaranga, Dist. - Puri, PIN : 752109, declare that I have changed my name from Smile Panda to Adyasha Panda. Henceforth I shall be known as Adyasha Panda for all purpose.

By virute of an affidavit No.-1513, dated 29.5.2025 sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Balangir, I, Birendra Bagartti, R/O- Village- Uparudar, P.O.-Taliudar, P.S.- Balangir Sadar, Dist.- Balangir, PIN No.- 767065, Odisha declare that I have changed the name of my daughter Sarita Bagartti to Ashrita Bagartti. Henceforth, she shall be known as Ashrita Bagartti for all purpose. Birendra Bagartti

Education failed to strengthen minds of students: NHRC chief

AGENCIES

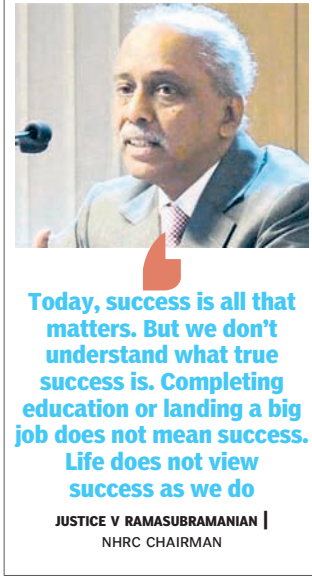
Bhubaneswar, June 6: Education has failed to strengthen the minds of students, said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Justice V Ramasubramanian Friday.

Delivering a talk at Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here, he observed that most students today often say they are ‘getting stressed out’, a term rarely heard 40 years ago.

This, he noted, pointed to the fact that the current generation has been so pampered that it struggles to face any problems.

Justice Ramasubramanian emphasised that education should shape a student’s character, expand their intellect, increase mental strength, and enable them to become self-reliant. “The purpose of holistic education is to develop the character of a person while fostering their physical, mental, moral, and spiritual growth,” the NHRC Chairman stated.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he highlighted that these four parameters — physical, mental, moral, and spiritual development — should guide education so that individuals can live happy and fulfilling lives.



“A person may complete a course, but no one can complete education — it extends from the womb to the tomb,” Justice Ramasubramanian said.

Using several examples, the NHRC Chairman said the education system must equip students with character, mental strength, intellect, and self-reliance.

The NHRC Chairman cited philosopher and historian Will Durant’s famous statement that education is ‘the progressive

discovery of one’s ignorance’, emphasising the importance of understanding this truth.

“We have many literate people, but are we truly educated?” he asked, noting that colleges and universities only introduce students to the world’s knowledge.

“Today, success is all that matters. But we don’t understand what true success is. Completing education or landing a big job does not mean success. Life does not view success as we do,” the NHRC Chairman said.

Justice Ramasubramanian narrated the story of a 45-year-old chartered accountant in the USA, who lost everything during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. Unable to cope, he killed his entire family before taking his own life.

“Despite his education and knowledge, he lacked the mental strength to face adversity,” the NHRC Chairman said, adding, “Do colleges and universities teach students how to manage crises? People have degrees, but are they truly learned?”

The real need, Justice Ramasubramanian emphasised, is to provide people with the skills to face life and to teach them the right attitude.

NIIFT GRADUATION SHOW

Fashion is beyond fabric & thread: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

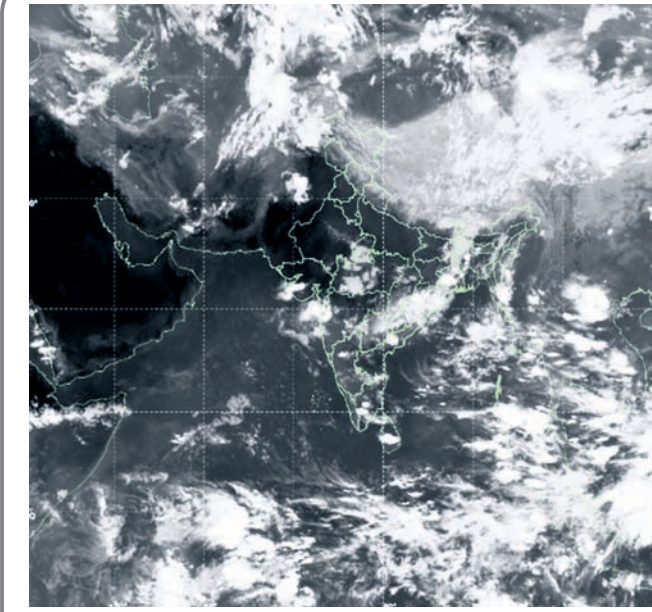
Bhubaneswar, June 6: Fashion is more than fabric and thread—it is a language of culture, identity, and progress, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati while addressing the Graduation Show 2025 of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIIFT) here Friday.

Describing fashion as a powerful form of storytelling, the Governor said, “You, as designers, are storytellers, innovators, and flag bearers of this language. I urge you to create with purpose, embrace sustainability, and honour our nation’s rich heritage while keeping a global outlook.”

He noted that while the world of design is demanding and ever-evolving, the education and experiences students have gained at NIIFT Bhubaneswar have equipped them to meet future challenges with confidence and grace. “Trust in your abilities, stay true to your vision, and never stop learning,” he said.

Kambhampati said, “This event marks a milestone not only for the graduating students but also for this prestigious institution shaping India’s fashion and design landscape.”

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.63 ▼ 0.17	SENSEX	82188.99 ▲ 746.95	GOLD	₹7,240 ▼ ₹634
EURO	97.75 ▼ 0.45	NIFTY	25003.00 ▲ 252.10	SILVER	₹105,508 ▼ ₹1,065



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.7°	35.0°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.4°	25.0°	
Humidity	71%	81%	
Rainfall	Trace	Trace	

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

Historic Kupari region falls prey to minor mineral loot

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, June 6: The Kupari revenue area under Khaira police jurisdiction in Balasore district is rapidly losing its heritage and landscape due to alleged illegal quarrying of laterite and stone.

Once renowned for its fertile lands and cultural significance, massive pits, ponds and abandoned quarries lie scarred in the region these days. Along the Kupari-Bageipura road, and areas such as Barapada, Kalamchua, Haripur and Sarasbahali, fresh and deserted quarries are clearly visible, raising alarm among locals, but seemingly unnoticed by administrative authorities.

Even government-owned land and nearby farmlands have been converted into excavation zones. Activists and social organisations warn that if the state government fails to act swiftly, the illicit mining—allegedly backed by corrupt officials and criminal networks—will permanently tarnish Kupari’s legacy.

Historically, Kupari is known as a convergence point of Buddhist, Jain and Shaivite traditions, with many poets and scholars having celebrated its heritage in their writings. But



today, greed-driven individuals are illegally extracting laterite, murrum and stones depleting natural resources and filling their pockets at the cost of the environment.

Locals alleged that after stripping government plots of laterite, mafias buy farmers’ land at low rates, and continue illegal mining operations. Despite this, the departments responsible—Mines, Housing and Revenue—have allegedly failed to prevent the activity. While minor actions like seizing tractors or earthmovers have been reported, these measures have had little effect, they alleged.

In recent weeks, near the Kupari College area, where the IDCO has allocated land for a small-scale industrial project, mafia groups have been loot-

ing laterite almost every night. Specific plots—such as Plot No. 520 under Khata No. 796, Plot Nos. 800 and 785 under Khata No. 486, and several others in Barapada mouza—are allegedly being misused for the illegal activity.

When contacted, Assistant Mining Officer Abhisek Behera said raids are being conducted on some illegal mines. However, he admitted that the offenders often flee before officials arrive. “Vehicles caught on-site—whether power tillers or tractors—are being seized as per protocol,” he said.

Meanwhile, environmentalists urged immediate and strict enforcement to save Kupari from turning into a cautionary tale of unchecked resource exploitation.

2 minor cousins gangraped in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 6: Two minor cousins were allegedly gangraped after being abducted by four miscreants in Ganjam district, police said Friday.

The incident came to light after the mother of one of the victims lodged a complaint at Golanthara police station Thursday evening. After registering a case, police launched a manhunt to arrest the accused persons, a police officer said.

The victims, aged between 11 to 15 years, along with family members had attended a marriage function Tuesday night in a village. While one of the victims belonged to the nearby village, the other one’s village



was about 40 km from the incident site, he said.

At least two persons, one of them earlier known to a victim, lured them and they went missing. As they did not return till late night, worried family members searched them in the nearby areas, the police said.

The accused took them to a nearby location on their motorbikes and held them captive. The accused then allegedly sexually assaulted the girls before abandoning them.

The victims managed to return home Wednesday morning and recounted their ordeal

to their family members, who repeatedly asked about their whereabouts during the previous night.

Family members of the victims then decided to lodge a police complaint. The accused persons fled from the village after they came to know about the police case against them, the officer said. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said they have formed two police teams and launched a manhunt to nab the accused. Police have identified the accused and will arrest them soon, he said.

The police have also recorded the statements of the victims about the incident and their medical examination is being conducted, the SP said.

3 of a family killed in oil tanker-motorcycle crash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, June 6: Three members of a family, including a 5-year-old girl, were killed and another person was critically injured Friday when an oil tanker collided head-on with a motorcycle in Ganjam district, police said.

The crash occurred around 4pm on State Highway 17 near a Bajaj showroom between Digapahandi and Berhampur. The tanker (OR 05 AT 5745), traveling from Mohana to Berhampur, struck a motorcycle (OD 07 AY 5709) coming from the opposite direction, officers said.

The motorcycle was carrying G Trinath Reddy, 36, of Dakshinapur village under Digapahandi block, and his nieces — Barsha Reddy, 16, of Gautami village under Berhampur Sadar police limits, and Rudrika Reddy, 5, of Pathara village under Kabisuryanagar police station. All three died from their injuries on the spot as the impact crushed the two-wheeler.

Trinath was reportedly taking his nieces, who were visiting his residence on summer vacation, to buy new clothes ahead of a family feast.

Digapahandi police, led by IIC and DSP Prashant Kumar



Patra, reached the spot. With the help of locals, police shifted all the victims to the Digapahandi Community Health Centre, where doctors declared Trinath and his nieces dead on arrival.

In a related incident, Bhaskar Bishoyi, 52, of Dengama village was seriously injured after his motorcycle (OD 07 JZ 8156)

Bison population in Debrigarh sanctuary rises to 788

The gaur population registered an increase of 129 in 6 months

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, June 6: The population of Indian bison (Gaur) in Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary has increased to 788 from 659 in six months, a forest officer said.

The authorities of Hirakud Wildlife Division conducted the census from May 11 to May 13 this year and published the report Friday.

As per the report, the total number of Indian bison in the wildlife sanctuary is 788, which includes 315 juveniles (less than 2 years old) and 128 newborns (less than 3 months old). Of the total bison population, 315 (40 per cent) are juvenile.

For the first time, the census of Indian bison was conducted at Debrigarh during winter 2024 November 12 and 13. At



that time, the total number of bison was found to be 659, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Hirakud Wildlife Division, Pragyan Das.

Within a gap of six months, the number of bison has increased by 129.

Last time 52 herds were re-

corded, this census reported 60 herds - due to increase in population, herds keep dividing with female adults leading the herd and guiding other sub-adults and juveniles, Das said.

Indian bison comes under ‘vulnerable’ (high risk of extinction) category. It is a Sched-

A census of Indian bison was conducted for the first time at Debrigarh during winter, November 12 and 13, 2024

ule-1 species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, she said.

The DFO said that in central Indian landscape and a few other parts of India, summer marks the breeding season for Indian bison.

To determine the peak breeding season, peak calving season and for further understanding of population dynamics of Indian bison, there will be a monthly survey count of the number of newborns in the population during monsoon and winter this year, she said.

“This will strengthen the conservation of this Sched-

ule-1 species in this landscape as Debrigarh displays a healthy density of Indian bison in comparison to other habitats in India,” Das said.

She further said that Debrigarh is termed as “the land of Indian bison” due to good sighting of big herds in the tourism zone as well as in the eco-sensitive zone on the edges of Hirakud wetland.

In the safari zone, a total of 145 Indian bison are residing in six herds. Last year, 118 numbers in five herds used to move in this belt.

Bison can migrate long distances too, but in Debrigarh they are seen to display seasonal movement of 5-15 km per day keeping their territory mostly constant, the forest officer said.

Notably, Indian bison (Bos gaurus) is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and also is the largest extant bovine.

Medha Patkar urges people to protect river Rushikulya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 6: Environmental activist Medha Patkar Saturday appealed to the people for protection of Rushikulya river. The government planned to construct a dam in the river Pipalpanka under Sorada block in the district.

While participating in the ‘Save Rushikulya River’ movement in Ganjam district, she said, “Rivers may be small or big, but they are our mother. We have to protect the rivers from attacks.” She attended a meeting organised by the Rushikulya Banchao Kriyaanusthan Committee (RBKC) and the Centre for Climate Justice, spearheading the agitation against the construction of the dam.

Patkar, who had led the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), said if the river dies, the people would not get water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. “Everyone should come to protect the river,” she said.

The social activist has also cited several examples of how people suffered in different places due to the death of rivers. At Potalam-pur village, she called upon the women to come forward and protect natural resources - rivers and forests. Later, Patkar also delivered a speech on “Constitution and protection of natural resources - rivers, need a strong law” here.

Dy Collector suspended

BHAWANIPATNA: The state government Friday suspended Deputy Collector Chittaranjan Pilla, who was posted in the office of the Kalandahi District Collector, following allegations of serious irregularities in land records. The action was taken based on the recommendation of the Additional Chief Secretary of the Revenue department. The allegations stem from his tenure as additional tahsilard in Bhubaneswar between 2020 and 2022.

National Human Rights Commission, India Short Films Competition - 2025

Entries are invited from the Indian citizens for the NHRC’s ‘Short Films Competition - 2025’ advocating promotion and protection of human rights.

For details download the application form, terms and conditions from the NHRC website www.nhrc.nic.in and send the entry only online at email address : nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com. The last date to receive entries is 31st August 2025.

For clarifications, if any, please write to the Deputy Director (Media & Communication), NHRC, India at the email address as above. cbc 53101/11/0001/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 13-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26 Date: 30.05.2025

Name of the Work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF P.WAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOVAL OF PSR ON CURVE NO.23 UP AT KM 46/27-47/13 AND CURVE NO. 24 DN AT KM 46/28-47/24 IN JUJUMURA-KEREJANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost: ₹ 56,06,840.31, EMD: ₹ 1,12,100/-, Completion period: 12 months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 23.06.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irops.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/23 Dt.: 03.06.2025

(1) Tender No. e-Tender-NorthKUR-82-2025, Dt.: 27.05.2025

Description: SUPPLY OF 50,000 CUM. OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT KENDUJHARGARH DEPOT & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 782.93 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 5,41,500/-

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-NorthKUR-31-2025, Dt.: 27.05.2025

Description: SUPPLY OF 15,000 CUM. OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT KENDUAPADA & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 234.87 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,67,400/-

(3) Tender No. e-Tender-BRUR-84-2025, Dt.: 28.05.2025

Description: PROPOSED STRENGTHENING AND REPLACEMENT OF CORRODED MEMBERS WITH METALIZED NEW MEMBERS AND RE-RIVETING OF BR.N.950 DN BETWEEN GANJAM-CHATRAPUR STATIONS OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 274.03 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,87,000/-

(4) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-85-2025, Dt.: 28.05.2025

Description: PROVISION OF CEMENT CONCRETE (CC) ROAD (APPROACH ROAD OF 1.90 KM) FROM KM 492-22A TO TALCHER ROAD STATION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 633.88 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 4,67,000/-

Completion period: 15 months (for Sl. No. 1), 06 months (for Sl. No. 2), 12 months (for Sl. No. 3) & 10 months (for Sl. No. 4)

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 18.06.2025 (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 rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irops.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/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-205/Q/25-26 | Khurda Road

Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE


E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 8985368533

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “Whatever there is” basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrower / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Jayasen Sahu, S/o: Mr. Gopinath Sahu, 2) Mrs. Sunita Sahu, W/o: Mr. Jayasen Sahu, Both are Address: Main Road, Athagada Patna, Patharapalli, Ganjam, Odisha-761105 / Total Dues: ₹41,82,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land situated over Khata No.: 134/21 , Plot No.: 205, Area: Ac. 0.160 Dec., Plot No.: 207, Area: Ac. 0.415 Dec., Total Land Area: Ac. 0.575 Dec. i.e. 25,047 sqft. having KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Patharapalli, PS: Kabisuryanagar No.: 86, Tahasil: Kabisuryanagar No.: 107, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Jayasen Sahu , S/o: Mr. Gopinath Sahu, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 208, West: Plot No.: 183, 196, 197 & 204, North: Plot No.: 212 & 211, South: Road (Plot No.: 533) & Plot No.: 206	₹18,63,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,86,300/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrower: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, S/o.: Basudev Pradhan / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Kunilata Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Both are At: Baghamara, PO.: Pahanga, Niali, Cuttack-754004 / Total Dues: ₹32,74,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G+1 Storied RCC Residential Building situated over Khata No.: 219/53, Plot No.: 410/678, Land Area: Ac. 0.150 Dec., i.e. 6534 sqft. having KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Baghamara, PS: Gobindpur, Tahasil: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha in the name of Mrs. Kunilata Pradhan , W/o: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Bounded by East: Kunilata Pradhan, West: Sanjay Biswal, North: Accessible through Govt. Plot No.: 369 (Kissam: Gochar) & Plot No.: 368 (Kissam: Chakanala) to connected village Road, South: Maa Barunei Land	₹28,99,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,89,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	PURI BRANCH, PH.: 9437199488 / Borrower: Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra, At: Mahaveer Enclave, Maruti Nagar, Siddha Mahaveer, Puri, PIN - 752002 / Total Dues: ₹38,21,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Flat No.: 108, 1st Floor, Type-1BHK, S+4 Storied RCC Framed structure Residential Apartment Complex having SBA-545 Sqft, Carpet Area: 436 Sqft. with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac. 0.207 Dec. i.e. 9017 sqft., along with parking space in the apartment name & Style as “ MAHAVEER ENCLAVE ” Apartment bearing 1) Khata No.: 264/40, Plot No.: 237/831, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Madhusmita Mishra & Mr. Shreenibas Pathi), 2) Khata No.: 264/39, Plot No.: 237/830, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Debadauta Devi), 3) Khata No.: 264/38, Plot No.: 237/829, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. (Owner: Mrs. Uttara Das), Mouza: Puri Town Unit - 33 Siddha Mahaveer, PS: Puri Town (33), Tahasil: Puri (673), Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra , S/o: Ashok Kumar Mishra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 107, North: Corridor, South: Open Space	₹29,43,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,94,300/- / ₹ 50,000/-
Date & Time of E-Auction: 10.07.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.			
Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 10.07.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.			
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 09.07.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer			
*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.			
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com			
Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 07.06.2025			Authorised Officer Bank of India

Only the soul that is naked and unashamed can be pure and innocent.



SRI AUROBINDO

Scamming the System

Another week, another scam. This time, it's 15 civil servants now under the scanner for allegedly faking their way into coveted IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS posts using bogus reservation claims.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has finally stirred, launching an inquiry after persistent complaints, many filed by RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar, pointed to misuse of caste, EWS, and disability certificates. And these aren't minor goof-ups. Some officers are suspected of faking PwBD (disability) status, others of falsely claiming SC, ST or OBC credentials to game the UPSC.

And this isn't a one-off. Readers will not have forgotten Puja Khedkar from Maharashtra. The 'IAS officer' with the Audi and security detail who turned out to have a talent for forging not just caste and disability certificates, but entire bureaucratic narratives?

The real question isn't just how this happened, but how often it's happening undetected. If UPSC and state governments aren't cross-verifying certificates before appointments, what's the point of elaborate eligibility criteria?

Reservation is meant to level the playing field, not turn into a backdoor for the well-connected and resourceful. If civil services are being quietly infiltrated by fraud, trust in the system crumbles, for both citizens and genuinely marginalised aspirants.

Transparency, real-time verification, and serious consequences are what are needed urgently. Because if those at the top can scam the system, what hope do the rest of us have?


The never-ending auditions for UP's top cop

In Uttar Pradesh, being police chief has become less of a career pinnacle and more of a recurring guest role — glamorous, yes, but strictly “acting only.” Rajiv Krishna, a respected 1991-batch IPS officer, is the latest to don the DGP badge. He replaces Prashant Kumar, who retired on May 31 after a headline-heavy tenure marked by gallantry medals and more than 300 “encounters.”

Speculation of Kumar's extension swirled for weeks. Still, the government kept mum — no official panel sent to the UPSC, no selection committee under state rules, just silence, then a quiet handover. Sound familiar? It should. Krishna is now the fifth acting DGP since 2022. At this point, the title should come with a folding chair and a one-year calendar!

Never mind that the Supreme Court laid down clear norms for DGP selection — you know, transparency, merit, due process. In UP, it seems those rules are more like guidelines. An acting DGP offers something a permanent one doesn't: flexibility. Or to put it plainly, control.

So here we are again — another senior cop in the hot seat, another procedural shrug from the corridors of power. Forget permanence. In UP, the most secure thing about the DGP post is how insecure it's meant to be.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Haryana's IAS move hits UPSC wall

Haryana's bid to fast-track 27 state civil service officers into the IAS didn't go as planned. The move has just hit a serious roadblock, courtesy of the UPSC. And the timing couldn't be worse — the state's already running short on IAS officers.

At the heart of the issue are pending criminal charges against at least eight of the officers shortlisted for promotion. And we're not talking minor disciplinary notes. These are full-blown charge sheets filed in court. Yet, the state hoped to sneak past that little detail, arguing that a charge sheet doesn't count as a final report under Section 173 of the CrPC. Nice try, but the UPSC wasn't convinced.

The state tried to argue that a mere chargesheet isn't the same as a final report under Section 173 of the CrPC — and therefore, not enough to derail someone's promotion. But the UPSC wasn't buying it. It called the argument “legally not tenable” and sent the whole list back, asking Haryana to come up with a cleaner version — one without the baggage of unresolved legal trouble. Unfortunately, even the officers with no cases against them are stuck in limbo. It's all or nothing, it seems.

This adds to Haryana's IAS headache. The state needs 215 officers, but has only 171. That's a big gap, and one that can't be filled with murky selections or half-baked legal reasoning. And clearly, UPSC's not in the mood to let anyone slip through it with a cloud over their head.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](#). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm. But the harm does not interest them.


T. S. ELIOT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1494:** The Treaty of Tordesillas—an agreement between Spain and Portugal aimed at settling conflicts over lands newly discovered or explored by Christopher Columbus and other late 15th-century voyagers—was signed.
- 1576:** English navigator Martin Frobisher, seeking a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean, departed England, and weeks later he reached Labrador and Baffin Island and discovered the bay that now bears his name.
- 1929:** Through the Lateran Treaty—signed February 11, 1929, by Benito Mussolini for Italy and by Pietro Gasparri, cardinal secretary of state, for the papacy and ratified —Vatican City became a sovereign state.
- 1965:** In the landmark case of Griswold v. State of Connecticut, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favour of the constitutional right of married persons to use birth control.

FOCUS UNITED STATES

WAR ON KNOWLEDGE



The animus against foreign students, who bring enormous economic and cultural benefits to US higher education, is not only xenophobic but hugely damaging to American soft power

US Vice President JD Vance could not have made his point more clearly when, in a 2021 speech taking aim at American universities, he quoted former President Richard Nixon's line that “professors are the enemy.” Despite being a graduate of Yale Law School, Vance has been an eager foot soldier in President Donald Trump's war on the country's elite universities, which includes starving them of research funds, depriving them of foreign students, and trying to interfere in what is taught and how.

To “Make America Great Again,” Trump is now actively engaged in destroying some of the institutions that made the US great in the first place. But what is motivating this frenzied attack on institutions which foster medical and technological breakthroughs, among the many other benefits they provide?

The charge that Harvard University and other top schools are hotbeds of antisemitism is rich coming from a president who professed to recognize “some very fine people” among torch-carrying neo-Nazis who screamed that “Jews will not replace us.” Indeed, the MAGA definition of antisemitism seems to be limited to critics of the current government of Israel. Thus, in their view, opponents of Benjamin Netanyahu, or anti-Zionists, must be antisemites.

There are undoubtedly some actual antisemites among pro-Palestinian student protesters—and perhaps among their teachers, too—but that is hardly a reason to crush higher education. The stated aim of eradicating antisemitism on Ivy League campuses is nothing more than an excuse to attack the academy's leftists and liberals, many of whom happen to be Jews. And if America's university system breaks under the pressure, Jews are most likely to be blamed.

Hatred of intellectuals, and

scientists in particular, has always been a feature of radical populism. In the 1930s, Adolf Hitler claimed that Germans “suffer from over-education. Only knowledge is prized. The know-it-alls are the enemies of action.”

The Nazis associated science with Jewish “cosmopolitans” because it transcends national and cultural differences. Instead, they preferred to view research through the reductionist lens of race. As the pro-Nazi German physicist Johannes Stark wrote in 1934, “the leading scientific positions in the National Socialist state are to be occupied not by elements alien to the Volk but only by nationally conscious German men.”

The MAGA world's loathing of diversity and inclusion programs owes something to this type of thinking, as does the goal of purging universities of “anti-American” elements. The animus against foreign students, who bring enormous economic and cultural benefits to US higher education, is not only xenophobic but hugely damaging to American soft power.

But class resentment might have more to do with this push than racial prejudice, even though race and class, especially in the US, often overlap. American society, like others

tured can, in fact, recognize beauty all too well, which is why they must tune it out. As he wrote: “In every department of human endeavor, inspired talent is an intolerable insult to mediocrity.”

But there is another side to this assault, which Leys, with all his refined taste and erudition, doesn't capture. Personal mediocrity is not the only reason why Trump, Vance, and some of their most ardent supporters detest the highly educated. Again, there is the question of class. Academic degrees, or even good taste in music, are not enough to achieve high social status. In recent years, a degree of conformity to certain views on race, sexuality, and gender has also been required. To be “progressive” was not just a sign of intellectual superiority, but also of moral rectitude.

As a result, even some of the best universities have become rife with intolerance, which is inimical to academic freedom. With politics framed as a form of theology, faith separates the brethren from the infidels. Conservatives and even MAGA adherents are not entirely wrong to feel offended by the moral smugness of educated urban elites who consider themselves better people than Hillary Clinton's “deplorable,” the gun-loving Christians, and the boorish businessmen who have never read a good book.


In this sense, and this sense alone, US universities might benefit from Trump's war against them. If only out of self-preservation, they will have to drop some of the moralism that has come to permeate campus culture and concentrate once again on the basic task of discovering and conveying knowledge, without which we will all be much worse off.

The writer is the author, most recently, of Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah.

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SPECTRUM NATION

Make Indian goods that meet global standards



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THERE IS A NEED TO SPREAD THE MANUFACTURING BASE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY'S LENGTH AND BREADTH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently exhorted Indians to strike out foreign goods from their lives, seeking to keep the flame of ‘Operation Sindoor’ burning by dovetailing it to his government's push for self-reliance. He further stated that if we want to build a developed India by 2047 and take our economy from the 4th to the 3rd position, we will not use foreign goods. Modi wanted traders across the country to take the pledge, no matter how much profit they make by selling foreign goods.

This observation made while addressing an event at Gandhinagar during a two-day visit to Gujarat last week, by Modi is noteworthy as it may remind people of the pre-independence Gandhi-Tagore controversy regarding boycotting foreign goods. There are two things that need to be analysed in this context – one, do we produce goods that stand up to global standards and secondly, whether India can do without using foreign goods. It appears that what Modi implied is that we should give top priority to

India-made goods and, in cases where this is not possible, we should go for imported items.

Analysts believe that there was an indirect reference to China, but questions arise about what consumers would do regarding electronic items which, in some cases, have no comparable Indian substitutes. Not just electronics but there are many sophisticated equipment and appliances in various sectors that are foreign and are essential for different purposes.

Indian manufacturing needs to be given a boost, and as pointed out by the Prime Minister this would get an impetus when increasing number of Indian products are used locally. It needs to be pointed out here that the government should ensure improvement of the quality of the products and give impetus, if necessary, at their upgradation.

It cannot be denied that for a large and diverse country like India, there is a need to spread the manufacturing base throughout its length and breadth. Obviously, for this a plan is critical with year-wise

targets though various incentives have been dished out to motivate entrepreneurs. Even then, small manufacturers find it rather difficult to get loans from banks while also facing problems of fast transportation, storage etc. These need to be looked into to motivate small and medium entrepreneurs to expand their business and become profitable.

It is, however, distressing to note that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) declined by 97 percent to \$353 million during the last financial year (2024-25), reportedly due to largescale repatriation out of the country, driven to an extent by overseas investors such as Hyundai cashing out through initial public offers. The government has been trying to push FDI into the country as it seeks to tap into growing appetite among global investors to diversify beyond China. But reports indicate that companies are opting to invest in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Mexico. The challenge for India to attract foreign investments is indeed

quite tough but only time will tell whether the country would succeed.

Meanwhile, it is good to hear that the country remains the fastest growing economy at 6.5 percent GDP growth globally even as the global economic outlook for 2025 and 2026 remain clouded by multiple challenges, both political and economic, as per the recently released Reserve Bank of India report.


India has a rather strong economy supported by revival in consumption demand with the government's continued thrust on capital spending while adhering to the path of fiscal consolidation, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates. However, the thrust should now be on improving the quality of Indian goods and make them quality-centred and competitive in meeting global standards. Then the country's population would be motivated to buy them in the coming years and fulfil the Prime Minister's dream.

INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



OrissaPOST

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India among defence powers

Sir, In a landmark move, French aviation giant Dassault — the fourth global major after Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Airbus — has partnered with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. to manufacture the Rafale fighter aircraft fuselage in Hyderabad. Production will commence in 2028, initially at two fuselages per month, with full aircraft assembly by 2030. This is part of a Rs 63,000 crore deal covering both production and maintenance in India. Dassault is also collaborating with Lockheed Martin on Rafale wings and tail sections. Meanwhile, Tata is building Apache AH-64 helicopter fuselages in Hyderabad and setting up an Airbus C-295 assembly line in Vadodara. These strategic initiatives mark a giant leap toward Atmanirbhar Bharat, equipping India with cutting-edge aerospace capabilities. The government's vision, backed by private enterprise, deserves applause for elevating India among global defence powers.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Wrong priorities

Sir, The game of cricket is a religion in India and the stakes are very high. A retired bowler like Ashwin got nearly Rs9.50 crores. Fans flock to the stadium to watch their favourites in action and perform at the highest level. I am reading about the tragedy that took place in Bengaluru. Is this for winning an international event? We draw near blanks in the Olympics. Who are the beneficiaries? The cricket players, IPL and cricket boards. Was this celebration warranted? Why don't this nation rethink on cricket?. There are many games that need to be promoted to make a mark in the Olympics and many international events. Unfortunately this country has taken up wrong priorities. One among them this colonial cricket. The Karnataka Cricket Association and the IPL Governing Council were at fault in arranging for the celebrations at a very short notice. The Wankhede Stadium hosted T-20 World Cup winners in an orderly manner despite having a record crowd. It appears as though the Governing council looked for a hurry to bury felicitation thereby curtailing the hotel cost of foreign players and the invites thus ending the day with disaster.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



Delhi contributes to 76% of Yamuna’s pollution: Study

In Delhi, the Yamuna flows for 52 kilometres, of which a critical 22-kilometre segment—from Wazirabad to Okhla —has become the focal point of multiple planning and policy efforts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Delhi contributes a staggering 76 per cent of the Yamuna’s total pollution load despite accounting for just 2 per cent of its length, a newly published study states.

In Delhi, the Yamuna flows for 52 kilometres, of which a critical 22-kilometre segment—from Wazirabad to Okhla —has become the focal point of multiple planning and policy efforts.

The study also states that untreated and partially treated sewage discharge remains the primary pollutant of the river.

“While the city generates 792 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage, only 618 MGD is treated. Nearly 30 per cent of this treated water still fails to meet prescribed discharge standards,” the study states.

The study by Primus Partners, published on World Environment Day, also states that over 500 unauthorized colonies



and 160 villages still lack sewerage access.

“Currently, 37 of the city’s sewage treatment plants (STPs) fail to meet discharge norms and several industrial areas continue to release hazardous effluents, compounded by a lack of environmental flow during lean seasons,” the study added.

Highlighting the pollution generated by large drains, the study also states that the Najafgarh and Shahdara drains receive waste from Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

These together contribute an estimated 80 per cent of the river’s pollution load within the city.

The study also includes voices from communities living along the river, like fishermen and boatmen.

“These community mem-

bers shared how pollution has disrupted their daily lives and contaminated water sources. Despite their profound sadness about the Yamuna’s condition, these communities still maintain a strong emotional bond with the river,” the study says.

Earlier, the BJP government announced several initiatives to clean up the Yamuna.

The BJP-led Delhi government has plans to construct 40 new decentralized STPs, upgrade the overall sewage treatment capacity, install real-time water quality sensors, etc.

In the first budget of the new state government, the water and sewerage sector was allocated funds of Rs 9,000 crore.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta allocated Rs 500 crore for STP repairs in the budget.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), June 6: A total of 45 kilograms of pure gold has been used in the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, according to Nripendra Mishra, the chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee.

Mishra informed Friday, a day after the consecration of the Ram Darbar on the first floor of the temple complex.

He said the estimated value of the gold, excluding taxes, is around Rs 50 crore. Gold has been used extensively in the doors on the ground floor of the temple and the throne of Lord Ram.

He added that gold work is still ongoing in the Sheshavatar Temple.

While the main structure of the Ram Temple has been completed, other parts of the temple complex, including the museum, auditorium, and guest house, are still under construction. These are expected to be completed by December 2025.

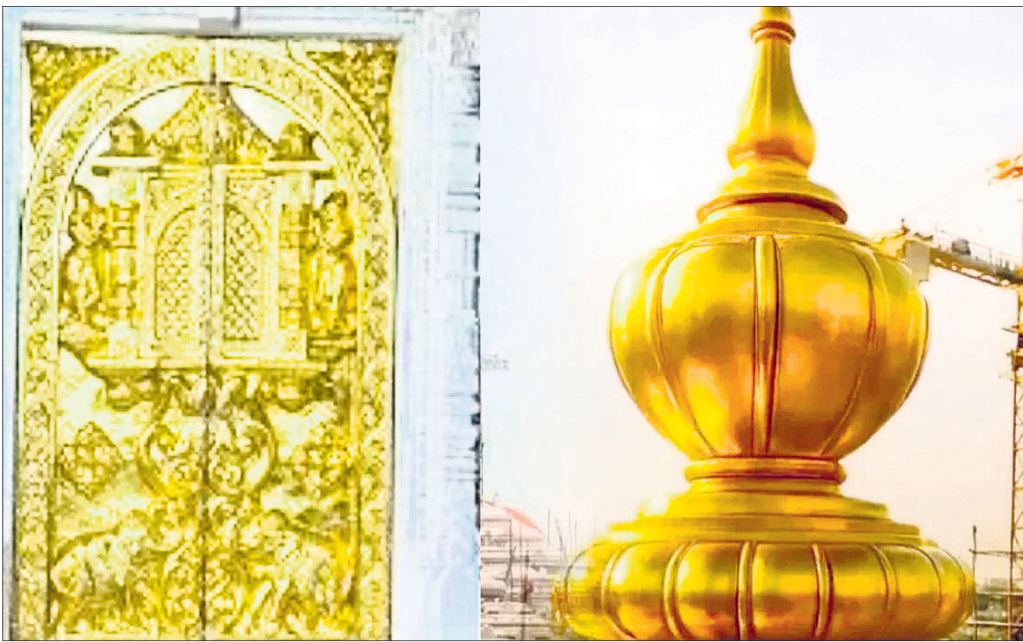
Following the consecration of the Ram Darbar, Mishra said arrangements are being made for controlled public access to the sacred space.

For now, only a limited number of devotees will be allowed to visit the Ram Darbar, and entry will be regulated through passes, which will be issued free of cost.

Meanwhile, the consecration ceremony has drawn large crowds to the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

Champat Rai, Secretary of Ram temple trust, said that Thursday the consecration ceremony of seven idols was completed at the temple.

He stated that the idols in-



While the main structure of the Ram Temple has been completed, other parts of the temple complex, including the museum, auditorium, and guest house, are still under construction which are expected to be completed by December 2025

stalled on the first floor above the sanctum sanctorum include Ram Darbar in the middle, a Shivalinga in the north eastern corner, a Ganapati idol in the southeastern corner, Hanumana idol in the middle of the southern side, Surya in the south western corner, Bhagwati in the north western corner, and Annapurna Mata in the middle of the northern side.

However, many devotees are facing difficulties due to the in-

tense summer heat and limited arrangements to shield them from the sun.

Ramji Mishra, a devotee who travelled from Basti district, said, “The path to the sanctum is very long, and the stones placed on the walkway become scorching hot under the sun. I used to visit Ayodhya before the grand temple was built, and back then the path to see Lord Ram was shorter and more comfortable. Now, the stones are so hot during the day they

can cause blisters.”

His companion, Sudhakar Tiwari, added that although the temple trust has placed red mats over parts of the path, many of them have torn and become dangerously hot.

“It’s best to wear thick socks while visiting the temple in this weather,” he advised.

A Ram Temple Trust official clarified that the newly consecrated Ram Darbar is not yet open for general public.

The trust is expected to finalise a plan for public access in an upcoming meeting, Mishra added. Thursday’s was the second major ceremony at the Ram Temple, the first being the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol January 22 last year in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of dignitaries from across the country.

UP cops sponsor wedding after family’s breadwinner shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gonda (UP), June 6: The police in Gonda city organised the wedding of a young woman whose family was in dire straits due to the death of its breadwinner among other financial hardships, officials said Friday.

The wedding took place in Dhannipurwa village in the Umri Begumganj area Thursday night.

Uday Kumari lost her brother in a dacoity incident in April, which forced the family to postpone her wedding, originally scheduled for May.

Taking the family under their wing, the police took full responsibility for the wedding and solemnised the ceremony in a grand, traditional manner.

The event was carried out with the support of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said.

“The girl was to be married May 5, but on the night of April 24, her brother Shivdeen was shot dead by robbers who had broken into their home. As a result, the wedding had to be called off,” he said.

DELHI GOVT PLANS TO INSTALL WATER ATMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Delhi government will launch a pilot project to install 20 water ATMs through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, providing cold drinking water to the public, officials said Friday.

According to officials, observing that there is a scarcity of drinking water facilities at public places like markets, hospitals, metro stations and bus terminals, the decision has been taken to install water ATMs at such locations on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

According to the Delhi Jal Board’s (DJB) plan, the water ATM shall be a standalone unit with water purification and dispensing arrangements. They will be equipped with real-time water quality monitors and a display system.

“We plan to provide water ATMs in all government schools and drinking water facilities in other areas across the city,” Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said during a public event Friday.

The DJB has invited private



companies to set up standalone water ATMs having a minimum capacity of 500 litres, made of stainless steel and equip with a built-in RO system.

“Water ATMs should be equipped with provisions for cold water during summer months from March to October. The ATM shall be equipped with a GPS system for showing the real-time location of the ATM,” the tender says.

To recover the operation and maintenance costs of the drinking water facility, the company would be allowed advertising rights. In April, Water Minister

Parvesh Verma announced that the Delhi government would be setting up 5,000 water ATMs across the city. This would include around 3,000 installed by the board through its own funds.

DJB maintains a 14,697-kilometer piped network covering 93 per cent of Delhi’s population.

Water is distributed through underground reservoirs and booster pumping stations. In water-scarce areas, which are situated at the tail end of this network, like JJ clusters and unauthorised colonies, water is supplied through water tankers.

Moradabad civic body sets up Operation Sindoor selfie point

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moradabad, June 6: The Moradabad Municipal Corporation has set up a selfie point themed on Operation Sindoor at the Peelikothi Square here.

The structure, it said, was aimed at fostering patriotism among the people, especially the youth. The corporation has also put up posters with a dramatic depiction of Operation Sindoor near the Circuit House on Delhi Road and along several road dividers. The selfie site features a grand cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with the caption, “India is proud of its heroes.”

Moradabad Municipal Commissioner Divyanshu Patel said, “It stands as a symbolic gesture to commemorate the dedication and heroism of India’s defence forces.”



New mango variety named after Defence Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 6: Kalimullah Khan, popularly known as the ‘Mango Man’ of India, has named a newly developed mango variety after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Grown using his signature grafting technique in his Malihabad orchard, the new variety has been named ‘Rajnath Aam’.

Khan, who has earlier named mango varieties after several prominent Indian personalities, including Sachin Tendulkar, Aishwarya Rai, Akhilesh Yadav, Sonia Gandhi, Narendra Modi, and Amit Shah, was awarded the Padma Shri for his unique contributions and dedication to horticulture and fruit breeding.

Speaking about his latest tribute, Khan told PTI Videos, “I name my mangoes after people who have served the country meaningfully. I want these names to live on for generations. Sometimes people forget great leaders, but if a mango reminds them of Rajnath Singh’s good work, then



it’s worth it. He is a balanced and thoughtful individual. During a recent discussion about Pakistan, I found that he sincerely desires peace, not war.”

On the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir that left 26 people dead, Khan blamed Pakistan for initiating aggression.

“But today, the atmosphere has

improved. Peace, not conflict, is the solution. Problems should be resolved through dialogue. War only escalates hatred and brings harm to all. We are all human, and division only causes more damage,” he said.

Talking about the Malihabad region in Lucknow, known world over for its mangoes, Khan re-

called that there were more than 1,300 mango varieties in the area in 1919, but over time, many have disappeared from the market.

“I’ve been working to preserve and revive them, and today I’ve developed over 300 varieties,” he said.

Khan, who began experimenting with crossbreeding mangoes as a child, shared that he only studied up to Class 7.

“I was never inclined toward classroom studies. I respected my teachers and classmates, but I kept failing in Classes 4, 5, 6, and even 7. My heart was always in the orchard.”

Born in 1945, according to official records, Khan said he still feels physically fit, despite having undergone a heart surgery and facing other health issues in his 80s. Among his many creations, he spoke proudly of the “Asl-ul-Muqarrar” variety of mangoes, which he began developing in 1987. He also recalled an encounter with the then World Bank president, who visited Malihabad.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI RIGHT CANAL DIVN. NO. I
At/P.O.: Mukhiguda, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 760026
e-mail address: eueircd1@gmail.com

1. Type of Work : Canal Works
2. Total No. of Works : 14 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 10.17 lakh to Rs.5.03 lakh (Excluding GST)
4. Period of Completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' Class

Procurement Officer	e-Procurement No.	Bid Amount	Availability & Submission of Bids Online
Superintending Engineer, Upper Indravati Right Canal Division No. I, At/P.O.: Mukhiguda, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 760026	SE, RCD-1-01 (01-14)/ 25-26 Dt. 04.06.2025	Rs. 10.17 lakh to Rs.5.03 lakh (Excluding GST)	From 11.06.2025, 10 A.M. to 19.06.2025, 05.00 P.M.

Date of opening of Bid: Dt.20.06.2025 at 10.00 A.M. in the O/o. the Superintending Engineer, UI Right Canal Division No.-I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 760026.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
UI Right Canal Divn. No.I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi
OIPR-32193/11/0010/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HEAD WORKS DIVISION, SAMAL
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Email ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE-HWD-02/2025-26

No. A-255: The Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites item rate bid in Single Cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from reputed and experienced manpower service provider for providing outsourcing personnel on Department of Water Resources, O/o. Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal who must possess valid labour licence for engagement of labour for different works mentioned below. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid.

1	Name of the Works	: Labour supply for operation and maintenance of water supply system at Samal Barrage Township for the period May 2025 to March 2026
2	Estimated Cost	: Approximately 19.84 lakhs
3	Cost of Tender Paper	: Rs.6000.00 (Non-refundable)
4	EMD/Bid Security	: Rs.19,900.00 (Refundable)
5	Class of Contractor	: Registered firm with valid labour licence, EPF and ESI registration certificate
6	Period of Completion of work	: During the FY 2025-26
7	Date and time of availability of bid document in the website	: From 11.00 A.M. of Dt.09.06.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.18.06.2025 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in).
8	Date, time and place of opening of online tender	: Dt.19.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in O/o. the Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal
9	Date, time and place for finalization of tender through Transparent Lottery System (if required)	: Intimate Later
10	Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)	: The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III
11	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender	: Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal, At/P.O.: Samal Barrage Township, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN - 759037 Email ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal
OIPR-32020/11/0011/2526



Today marks Gupta's second acquittal in coal block related cases whereas he has been convicted in five other cases and his appeals are currently pending in Delhi High Court. The CBI has also challenged his acquittal in the first case. Special Judge Sanjay Bansal while pronouncing the verdict on Friday convicted JAS Infrastructure Capital Ltd and its then director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal for cheating and criminal conspiracy in securing coal block's allocation. The judge would hear arguments on sentencing July 8.

international

of the day quote

Russia's competent authorities have received information that British intelligence services use the British Council in clandestine operations aimed at eroding the sovereignty of independent countries and it engages in secret subversive activities

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, RUSSIA

Chad has no planes to offer, no billions of dollars to give but Chad has his dignity and pride

MAHAMAT IDRISSE DEBY | PRESIDENT, CHAD

Grateful for today's exchange with the Indian All-Party Parliamentary Delegation. Germany and India share a trusted partnership, especially on global security. We also discussed the brutal 22 April terrorist attack in Pahalgalam. I'm deeply shocked. Germany stands with India in the fight against terrorism

ARMIN LASCHET | MEMBER OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG

SHORT TAKES

Red Cross confirms office closures in Niger

Dakar (Senegal): The International Committee of the Red Cross announced the closure of its offices in Niger and the departure of its foreign staff, four months after the ruling junta ordered the organisation to leave the country. The ICRC confirmed the closure and departure in a statement Thursday. "We reiterate our willingness to maintain constructive dialogue with the authorities of Niger with a view to resuming our strictly humanitarian protection and assistance activities," Patrick Youssef, the ICRC's regional director for Africa, said.

HK activist Joshua faces 2nd charge

Hong Kong: Hong Kong authorities once again arrested prominent activist Joshua Wong Friday and charged him with conspiracy to collude with a foreign country under a Beijing-imposed national security law. Wong, 28, was originally set to be released in January 2027 from a 56-month jail sentence he is serving under the same law for conspiracy to commit subversion after he participated in an unofficial primary election.

Ivory Coast announces cholera outbreak

Abidjan (Ivory Coast): Ivory Coast announced a cholera outbreak Thursday, confirming seven deaths from the disease. Daniel Kouadio Ekra, head of the National Institute of Public Hygiene, confirmed the epidemic, saying stool sample analyses conducted by the Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire, detected "cholera vibrio." "May 25, 2025, the Port-Bouët-Vridi health district reported five deaths in the village of Vridi Akobrate," he said. So far, 45 cases have been recorded in Vridi Akobrate, in the outskirts of Abidjan, the capital, including the seven fatalities.

Russia downed three drones targeting Moscow

Moscow: Russian air defence forces shot down three drones attempting to attack Moscow, Sergei Sobyandin, the Russian capital's mayor, said Friday. He did not provide further details about the incident but said emergency services were working at the sites where debris from the downed drones had fallen.

China's rare earth weapon changes contours of trade war battlefield

REUTERS

Beijing, June 6: China has signalled for more than 15 years that it was looking to weaponise areas of the global supply chain, a strategy modelled on longstanding American export controls Beijing views as aimed at stalling its rise.

The scramble in recent weeks to secure export licences for rare earths, capped by Thursday's telephone call between US and Chinese leaders Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, shows China has devised a better, more precisely targeted weapon for trade war.

Industry executives and

analysts say while China is showing signs of approving more exports of the key elements, it will not dismantle its new system.

Modelled on the United States' own, Beijing's export licence system gives it unprecedented insight into supplier chokepoints in areas ranging from motors for electric vehicles to flight-control systems for guided missiles.

"China originally took inspiration for these export control methods from the comprehensive US sanctions regime," said Zhu Junwei, a scholar at the Grandview Institution, a Beijing-based think tank focused



on international relations.

"China has been trying to build its own export control systems since then, to be used as a last resort."

After Thursday's call, Trump said both leaders had been "straightening out some of the points, having to do mostly with rare earth magnets and some other things".

- China's expanding sanctions regime modelled on the US
- Export licence system key for global supply chain surveillance
- Impossible to know what share of requests get approved

He did not say whether China committed to speeding up licences for exports of rare earth magnets, after Washington curbed exports of chip design software and jet engines to Beijing in response to its perceived slow-rolling on licences.

China holds a near-monopoly on rare earth magnets, a crucial component in EV motors.

FROM BROS TO FOES

Trump-Musk tie implodes

After long months when Donald Trump and Elon Musk appeared united in their chaotic mission to remake Washington, their relationship imploded this week like a star going supernova

ASSOCIATED PRESS



It began with Musk complaining about the centerpiece of Trump's legislative agenda, which the president at first took in stride

Eventually Trump let slip that he was disappointed in his former adviser, prompting Musk to unleash a flood of insults and taunts

Musk to unleash a flood of insults and taunts.

He accused Trump of betraying promises to cut federal spending, shared a suggestion that the president should be impeached and claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about his association with infamous paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Perhaps most vicious-

ly, Musk insisted that Trump wouldn't have won last year's election without his help.

Trump, not one to slouch from a fight, could hold back no longer. He posted that Musk had been "wearing thin," that he had "asked him to leave" his administration, that the tech titan had "gone CRAZY."

On and on it went, as liberals savoured the spectacle of their most despised political opponents clawing at each other's digital throats and conservatives reeled at the prospect of having to pick sides. Laura Loomer, a right-wing provocateur and conspiracy theorist, saw an opportunity to position herself as the voice of reason.

"This fight should be taken offline," she said — on social media, of course.

TRUMP VS HARVARD

Court halts ban on int'l students

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 6: A federal judge late Thursday temporarily blocked a proclamation by President Donald Trump that banned foreign students from entering the US to attend Harvard University.

Trump's proclamation, issued Wednesday, was the latest attempt by his administration to prevent the nation's oldest and wealthiest college from enrolling a quarter of its students, who accounts for much of Harvard's research and scholarship.

Harvard filed a legal chal-

lenge the next day, asking for a judge to block Trump's order and calling it illegal retaliation for Harvard's rejection of White House demands. Harvard said the president was attempting an end-run around a previous court order.

A few hours later, US District Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston issued a temporary restraining order against Trump's Wednesday proclamation. Harvard, she said, had demonstrated it would sustain "immediate and irreparable injury" before she would have an opportunity to hear from the parties in the lawsuit.

Gaza marks start of Eid with outdoor prayers in rubble

With much of Gaza in rubble, men and children were forced to hold the traditional Eid al-Adha prayers in the open air and with food supplies dwindling, families were having to make do with what they could scrape together for the three-day feast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, June 6: Palestinians across the war-ravaged Gaza Strip marked the start of one of Islam's most important holidays with prayers outside destroyed mosques and homes early Friday, with little hope the war with Israel will end soon.

With much of Gaza in rubble,

men and children were forced to hold the traditional Eid al-Adha prayers in the open air and with food supplies dwindling, families were having to make do with what they could scrape together for the three-day feast.

"This is the worst feast that the Palestinian people have experienced because of the unjust war against the Palestinian people," said Kamel Emran after attending prayers in the southern city of Khan Younis. "There is no food, no flour, no shelter, no mosques, no homes, no mattresses ... The conditions are very, very harsh."

The Islamic holiday begins on the 10th day of the Islamic lunar month of Dhul-Hijja, during the Hajj season in Saudi Arabia. For the second year, Muslims in Gaza were not able to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the traditional pilgrimage.



Israel issues new warning

In the southern city of Rafah, seven people were shot and killed on their way to try and collect humanitarian aid from a distribution point, according to officials at Nasser Hospital in nearby Khan Younis where the bodies were brought.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the hospital's claim but said it was looking into the report.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a newly formed group of mainly American contractors that Israel wants to use to replace humanitarian groups in Gaza that distribute aid in

GUATEMALA'S FUEGO VOLCANO ERUPTS

An ongoing eruption at central Guatemala's Fuego volcano has caused over 700 people living in nearby communities to evacuate. The volcano, located some 18 km (11 miles) from the city of Antigua Guatemala, was producing ash plumes some 4.8 km (29.8 miles) high and lava stream that was accumulating around its crater



US issues new round of Iran-related sanctions

REUTERS

Washington, June 6: The US has issued a new round of Iran-related sanctions targeting 10 individuals and 27 entities including at least two companies it said were linked to Iran's national tanker company, the US Treasury Department said Friday.

The sanctions, which target Iranian nationals and some entities in the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, were announced as US President Donald Trump's administration is working to get a new nuclear deal with Tehran.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control added Ace Petrochem FZE, and Moderate General Trading LLC, both registered in the UAE, to its Specially Designated Nationals List, freezing any of their US assets. OFAC said they are both linked to the state-owned National Iranian Tanker Company which is under US sanctions for exporting oil.

Talks between Iran and the US that aim to resolve a decades-long dispute over Tehran's nuclear ambitions have been stuck over disagreements about uranium enrichment.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Taiwan accuses China of carrying out 'provocative' military patrol near island



REUTERS

Taipei, June 6: Taiwan accused China Friday of raising tensions in the region with a "provocative" military patrol involving warplanes and warships near the island, an unusual public rebuke in what are typically routine accounts of Chinese military activity.

Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has complained of repeated Chinese military drills and patrols nearby. Since President Lai Ching-te took office last year China has held three major rounds of war games.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting mid-afternoon Friday, it had detected 21 Chinese military aircraft, including J-16 fighters, operating with warships to carry out "so-called joint combat readiness patrols" and "harass the airspace and seas around us".

"The Ministry of National Defence stresses that these acts are highly provocative, fail to pay proper attention to the maritime rights of other countries, bring anxiety and threat to the region, and blatantly undermine the status quo in the region," it said.



Britain's King Charles III reacts after firing an artillery piece during his visit to the Royal Regiment of Artillery at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Salisbury, England, Friday

PTI PHOTO

coordination with the UN, told The Associated Press that reports of violence in Rafah were inaccurate and that aid distribution was completed "peacefully and without incident."

In northern Gaza on Friday, Israel issued a new warning to civilians saying the military was about to undertake intensive operations in an area after it said rockets were fired toward Israel from the sector.

UN warns of risk of famine

After blocking all food and aid from entering Gaza for more than two months, Israel began allowing a trickle of supplies to enter for the UN several weeks ago.

But the UN says it has been unable to distribute much of the aid because of Israeli military restrictions on movements and because roads that the military designates for its trucks to use are unsafe and vulnerable

to looters.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome said Thursday that Gaza's people are projected to fall into acute food insecurity by September, with nearly 500,000 people experiencing extreme food deprivation, leading to malnutrition and starvation.

"This means the risk of famine is really touching the whole of the Gaza Strip," Rein Paulson, director of the FAO office of emergencies and resilience, said in an interview.

Over the past two weeks, shootings have erupted nearly daily in the Gaza Strip in the vicinity of new hubs where desperate Palestinians are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed according to Gaza hospital officials.

of the day

Quote

Fraud-hit IndusInd Bank is doing well now, the resignation of MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia should be seen as a good enough step from an accountability perspective

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

Our partnership is not just about products, it's about co-creating solutions that empower India's energy independence. Whether it is solar, storage, or hydrogen, we believe our combined strengths can build a cleaner, more sustainable tomorrow

FARUK PATEL | CMD, KP GROUP

NSE Sustainability's mission is to provide stakeholders, including investors, businesses, regulators and the public with accurate, comprehensive and unbiased evaluations of corporate sustainability practices

ASHISHKUMAR CHAUHAN | MD, NSE

SHORT TAKES

L&T to raise ₹500cr

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Friday said it will raise ₹500 crore through ESG bonds. An ESG bond is a debt security that funds an environmental, social, or governance goal. HSBC is acting as the sole lead arranger in the transaction, it said. As part of the ESG bond deal, the company said it is committed to environmental targets, including a decrease in intensity of fresh water withdrawal and emissions of greenhouse gases. These initiatives are in line with the company's long-term sustainability goals of achieving water neutrality by 2035 and carbon neutrality by 2040. The issuance is compliant with Sebi's regulatory framework announced on Thursday, which is designed to promote transparency, accountability, and alignment with international ESG standards. The framework outlines key requirements for issuers, including the disclosure of sustainability objectives, mandatory external assessments such as second party opinions, and post-issuance reporting. It also mandates clear key performance indicators and targets to measure ESG outcomes, crucial steps in supporting country's net-zero and climate-resilient growth agenda.

KP Group, Delta Electronics sign pact

New Delhi: KP Group Friday said it has inked three strategic initial pacts with energy and power management solutions provider Delta Electronics India. This collaboration spans three high-impact areas: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Green Hydrogen and EV Charging Infrastructure and Solar PV Inverters, a statement said. The Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed by Niranjana Nayak, MD of Delta Electronics India, and Faruk Patel, Chairman and Managing Director of KP Group, marking a significant step toward co-developing future-ready energy infrastructure that aligns with India's clean energy ambitions. The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) MoU outlines a detailed framework for developing and deploying scalable BESS projects. As part of the pact focusing on integrated green hydrogen refuelling and EV charging infrastructure, KP Group will lead the development of green hydrogen production plants powered by renewable energy.



The Union budget has allocated ₹1,500 crore for recycling of critical minerals under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

DINESH MAHUR | JOINT SECRETARY, MINES MINISTRY



RITES, HCL TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN

RITES Ltd Friday said it has signed an agreement with Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) to develop the supply chain for metals and minerals, including critical minerals. The partnership will focus on exploration, extraction, refining, and production activities in India and abroad including participation in mineral block auctions and the development of mining infrastructure



RBI's rate cut boosts benchmark indices

Stock market responded optimistically to the RBI's aggressive growth push policy. The rate cut and liquidity boost is expected to facilitate swift transmission of lower rates, and reinforcing RBI's strong commitment towards economic growth

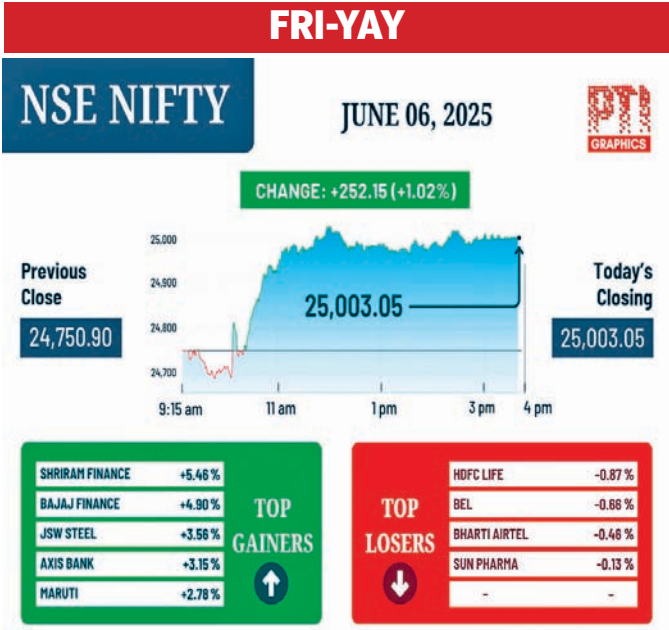
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 82,188.99.

With the repo rate announcement, Nifty Bank index hit its all-time high Friday, rising 1.47 per cent, after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to cut cash reserve ratio (CRR) by a huge 1 per cent, unlocking ₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity to the banking system for lending to productive sectors of the economy.

With the reduction in four equal tranches ending November 29, 2025, the CRR would come down to 3 per cent. This means that the commercial banks would have to maintain a lower level of 3 per cent in liquid cash form with the RBI, allowing them to have higher funds for lending.

Among bank counters, Axis Bank advanced 3.15 per cent, IndusInd Bank rose 2.50 per cent, Bank of Baroda (1.65 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.61 per cent), HDFC Bank (1.42 per cent), State Bank of India (0.84 per cent), Federal Bank (0.39 per cent) and ICICI Bank



(0.16 per cent). The stocks of IDFC First Bank jumped 7.04 per cent, AU Small Finance Bank surged 3.94 per cent, and BSE bank index jumped 1.25 per cent to 63,556.36.

Interest-rate-sensitive stocks were in huge demand Friday, with the realty index climbing nearly 5 per cent as investors cheered the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50

basis points.

Among realty stocks, Godrej Properties surged 6.75 per cent, DLF jumped 6.61 per cent, Oberoi Realty climbed 6.41 per cent, Prestige Estates Projects rallied 5.03 per cent, Sobha (4.72 per cent), Macrotech Developers (3.68 per cent), Signature Global (India) Ltd (3.02 per cent), The Phoenix Mills (2.31 per cent), Anant Raj (1.20 per

SEBI freezes Mehul Choksi's bank account to recover dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has ordered the attachment of bank accounts and shares and mutual fund holdings of Mehul Choksi to recover dues ₹2.1 crores in a case of violation of insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems.

The latest move followed a demand notice issued to Choksi May 15, warning attachment of assets as well as bank accounts if he failed to make the payment within 15 days.

The demand notice came after Choksi failed to pay the fine imposed by SEBI in January 2022 in a case of violation of insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems Ltd.

Choksi, who was the chairman, managing director and a part of promoter group of Gitanjali Gems, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi. Both are facing charges of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) of more than ₹14,000 crores. Both Choksi and Modi fled India after the PNB scam came to light in early 2018.

In April, Choksi was arrested in Belgium following an extradition request by Indian probe agencies. He was located in Belgium last year

when he went there for getting medical treatment. He had been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India.

Nirav Modi was arrested by the Scotland Yard Police in March 2019 and is currently in jail in that country. In an attachment notice dated June 4, the regulator said the pending dues of ₹2.1 crore include the initial fine of ₹1.5 crore and interest of ₹60 lakh.

To recover the dues, SEBI asked Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) and National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and mutual funds not to allow any debit from the accounts of Choksi. Further, SEBI told banks to attach all accounts, including lockers, held by the defaulter.

In its order passed in January 2022, the regulator imposed a penalty of ₹1.5 crore on Choksi and restrained him from the securities market for one year.

It was noted that fraudulent LoUs were issued on behalf of entities belonging to the Gitanjali Group, including GGL. "Noticee no. 1 (Choksi) was found to have communicated UPSI (unpublished price sensitive information) to Noticee no. 2 (Gajera) without any underlying legal obligation." Sebi had said in its final order.

FY26 GDP forecast at 6.5%, says RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 6: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday retained GDP growth projections for the current fiscal at 6.5 per cent, saying the Indian economy presents a picture of strength, stability and opportunity in the backdrop of global uncertainty.

The FY26 growth projections are compared with the 6.5 per cent economic growth recorded in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

RBI has projected economic growth at 6.5 per cent for the June quarter and 6.7 per cent for the September quarter. For the December and March quarters of FY26, GDP growth is estimated at 6.6 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Friday cut the benchmark policy rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent and said frontloading rate cuts would support economic growth.

"As global environment remains uncertain, it has become even more important to focus on domestic growth amidst sustained price stability. Accordingly, today's monetary policy actions should be seen as a step towards propelling growth to a higher aspirational trajectory," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

In the bi-monthly monetary policy, Malhotra said that

amidst heightened volatility in capital flows and exchange rates, central banks of emerging market economies have a tougher task to stabilise their economies against global spillovers.

"In this global milieu, the Indian economy presents a picture of strength, stability, and opportunity... This matrix of fundamentals provides the necessary core strength to cushion the Indian economy against global spillovers and propel it to grow at a faster pace," he said.

He further mentioned that the strength comes from the strong balance sheets. Besides, there is stability on all three fronts - price, financial, and political - providing policy and economic certainty in this dynamically evolving global economic order.

Thirdly, the Indian economy offers immense opportunities to investors through 3Ds: demography, digitalisation and domestic demand.

The RBI Governor said India's growth remains lower than aspirations amidst a challenging global environment and heightened uncertainty. Thus, it is imperative to continue to stimulate domestic private consumption and investment through policy levers to step up the growth momentum.

Starlink gets DoT nod to start satcom service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence from the telecom department for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country.

Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications to provide satellite internet services in the country whereas Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals.

DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence, and said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it. Starlink will now have to comply with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services.

The licence came hours after a huge public spat between Musk and US President Donald Trump. The companies that have received the licence would, however, have to wait a tad longer for commercial satcom spectrum as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) just recently sent its recommendation



tions on pricing, and terms and conditions, to the government for its consideration.

The players will be able to start their services after the allocation of radio wave frequencies. Typically, even before the commercial spectrum, the trial spectrum is required to test, and verify the systems and processes on security parameters to demonstrate that all norms and requirements, are being complied with.

However, status of the Starlink's final nod from the Indian space regulator, In-SPACe could not be immediately ascertained. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology and is aptly described

by some as broadband beamed from the skies.

Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low Earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above Earth).

This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its mesh delivers broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, and video calls. Starlink, which had been vying for an India licence for some time now, recently signed pacts with Ambani's Reliance Jio and Mittal's Bharti Airtel, which together control more than 70 per cent of the country's telecom market, to bring the US satellite internet giant's services to India.

RBI policy growth-oriented & borrower-centric: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Reserve Bank monetary policy action to cut repo rate by large 50 basis points is among the most growth-oriented and borrower-centric interventions seen in recent years, and will reduce repayment burden on individuals as well as corporate, experts said.

Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points on Friday, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

Bandhan Bank Chief Economist Siddhartha Sanyal said the monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting sprang several major surprises, including 50 bps against expectation of a 25 bps rate cut.

Bank of Baroda Chief Econo-

mist Madan Sabnavis said the RBI has surprised with a 50 bps cut in repo rate and cut in CRR. However, significantly it has been stated that the stance is changed to neutral, which also means that we may not expect rate cuts in the near future.

Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman of BLS E Services, said the reduction in repo rate will bring relief to borrowers with lower EMIs, marking a cumulative 100 bps reduction since February.

Anantharam V Varayur, Co-Founder, Manasum Homes Senior Living, said, "With lower EMIs, families can now consider senior living options that offer a community, medical access, and dignity in aging."

Varayur added that it is crucial to note that the benefits of this rate cut will vary across loan types, with borrowers linked to the External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) likely to see the most immedi-



ate impact.

Capital Small Finance Bank MD & CEO Sarvjit Singh Samra said the significant 50-bps repo rate cut to 5.50 per cent, coupled with a substantial yet staggered 100-bps CRR reduction, is a well-calibrated decision that will infuse ₹2.5 lakh crore into the system.

"With a 100-bps repo rate cut in 2025 so far, this marks the sharpest easing cycle since the

pandemic, aimed at proactively anchoring growth," Samra said.

Manappuram Finance Managing Director & CEO V P Nandakumar said the RBI's June 2025 monetary policy is among the most growth-oriented and borrower-centric interventions seen in recent years.

The 50 basis points repo rate cut, combined with a 100 bps CRR reduction, signals the central bank's clear intent to stim-

A highly encouraging development for both existing and prospective homebuyers. This rate cut is poised to create a significant improvement in affordability, especially for first-time purchase. With the MPC shifting to a neutral stance and a phased CRR cut, liquidity and credit growth may see a boost

SHIKHAR AGGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, BLS E SERVICES

ulate credit flow and catalyse economic activity.

Sachin Sachdeva, Vice President, Sector Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA, said with 100 bps cut in CRR to be implemented in phases starting September 2025, banks will see a benefit of 3-4 bps on the interest margins for FY26.

Ashok Kapur, Chairman, Krishna Group and Krisumi Corporation, said a reduced

FINAL GAME OF ONE-UPMANSHIP AT NORWAY CHESS

Gukesh inches closer to title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger (Norway), June 6: Reigning world champion D Gukesh crossed another hurdle, beating China’s Wei Yi in the ninth and penultimate round to earn three full points and emerge as a top contender, along with Norwegian star Magnus Carlsen, for the prestigious Norway Chess title here.

With one round to go, Gukesh is placed second on 14.5 points, while five-time world champion Carlsen – who fought back from a losing position to defeat American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana and earn full points is just half-a-point ahead in the six-player double round-robin tournament Thursday.

Gukesh will take on American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, while Carlsen will play Arjun Erigaisi in the deciding 10th round, with both hoping to prove a point in one-upmanship by claiming the title and a USD 69,000 prize purse.

If defending champion Carlsen wins, it will be his seventh Norway Chess title dating back to 2016, while Gukesh would be hoping for his maiden triumph in two outings here.

Another American GM, Hikaru Nakamura on 13 points, has an outside chance, provided the other results go in his favour.

Nakamura left Arjun Erigaisi high and dry, crushing the Indian’s challenge in the Armageddon tie-break after steering the game toward a draw, though both had more than 40 minutes on the clock.

Gukesh looked more assured and refreshed after the second



Gukesh will take on American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, while Carlsen will play Arjun Erigaisi in the deciding 10th round, with both hoping to prove a point in one-upmanship by claiming the title and a USD 69,000 prize purse

rest day on Wednesday and forced his Chinese opponent to resign on the 40th move.

A missed Bishop f7 by Wei Yi saw Gukesh, who played with white, pounce on the opportunity and gain the decisive edge.

“I just thought it was quite a pleasant position to play. And then he (Wei Yi) missed this Bishop h7, which was kind of cute,” said Gukesh after his

third Classical win in the tournament, with the two previous ones coming against world No 1 Carlsen and country-mate Erigaisi on successive days after the first rest day.

“Right now, I’m happy with the game that I played today. Tomorrow (Friday), hopefully, another good game I can play. And whatever the result will be, we’ll see later. But yeah, just

focusing on playing the game,” Gukesh told the tournament broadcaster.

The 19-year-old world champion will have a tough job on hand when he takes on Caruana in the final round, given that the American had been leading the points table before Carlsen came back from an unfavourable position to turn the tables on the 2018 Norway

Chess champion.

Carlsen beats Caruana

Carlsen, playing white, took advantage of blunder on the 48th move to defeat Caruana after the American had things going his way for a major part of the game. Carlsen was surprised how Fabiano gave away the initiative.

The five-time world champion said that the win had given him a morale-booster ahead of the last game against Erigaisi.

Humpy blows away a great opportunity

In the women’s section, two-time world rapid champion Koneru Humpy, playing with black pieces, blew away a superb opportunity to virtually seal the title, losing to Lei Tingjie of China.

Humpy, the overnight leader, is now second with 13.5 points, while 35-year-old Ukrainian GM Anna Muzychuk has taken a two-point lead over the Indian after decimating Chinese world champion Ju Wenjun (12.5).

Humpy will take on Ju in the final round with an eye on three points, and will also hope for Muzychuk to lose to R Vaishali.

Thursday’s Results (Round 9):

Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA – 13 points) bt Arjun Erigaisi (Ind – 11.5) in Armageddon tie-break; D Gukesh (Ind – 14.5) bt Wei Yi (Chn – 8); Magnus Carlsen (Nor – 15) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA – 12.5).

Women: R Vaishali (Ind – 9.5) lost to Sara Khadem (Esp – 9); Ju Wenjun (Chn – 12.5) lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr – 15.5); Lei Tingjie (Chn – 13) bt Koneru Humpy (Ind – 13.5).

SHORT TAKES

French Open: Carlos Alcaraz reaches final

Paris: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz reached the French Open final Friday after Lorenzo Musetti retired from their semifinal early in the fourth set. Alcaraz was leading 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-0, 2-0 when the eighth-seeded Italian had to stop playing on Court Philippe-Chatrier. “It’s not great to win a match like this. Lorenzo is a great player,” Alcaraz said. “I wish him all the best, and wish him a quick recovery and hope to see him soon on the court.” The 22-year-old Alcaraz, who is seeded second, goes for his second French Open title and fifth major overall against either top-ranked Jannik Sinner of Italy or 24-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final.

European T20 Premier League postponed

Dublin: The European T20 Premier League (ETPL), co-owned by Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan, has been shelved until 2026. The ICC-sanctioned new annual T20 franchise tournament was initially slated to take place from July 15 to August 3. Sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) November 27, last year, the six-team tournament represents a landmark collaboration among the cricket boards of Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands, a united effort to grow the game and elevate European cricket on the world stage.

Lovlina launches boxing academy in Guwahati

Guwahati: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has unveiled her boxing academy in Barchandra in north Guwahati and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a grant of Rs 2 crore for its development. Set up on land purchased by Borgohain in 2021, the Lovlina Borgohain Boxing Academy, inaugurated on Wednesday, aims to provide grassroots boxers with professional infrastructure, including a 26x26 boxing ring and a fully equipped gym. The centre is Guwahati’s first of its kind and will cater to youth from across Assam and the northeast.

KLM Open: Ahlawat, Sharma struggle

Amsterdam: Indian golfers Veer Ahlawat and Shubhankar Sharma opened their campaign at the KLM Open with disappointing rounds of seven-over 78 each and looked in danger of missing the cut here. The Indian pair has struggled since the Hero Indian Open in March this year.

INDONESIA OPEN

Satwik-Chirag bow out at QF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 6: India’s top men’s doubles pair Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament after losing to Malaysia’s Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun in the quarterfinals here Friday.

The former world No 1 Indian duo, who won the title in 2023, went down 19-21, 16-21 in a 43-minute contest against the flat-hitting Malaysian pair, who notched up their first win over the Indians in five meetings.

Satwik-Chirag’s loss ended the Indian challenge in the competition.

The Indians looked rusty as they struggled with their serve and return against Man and Wee, who won the Malaysia Masters last month and Indonesia Masters in January.

The Indians also lacked the discipline in defence and anticipation and were often put in uncomfortable positions and rushed errors throughout the match by the Malaysians.

Satwik sent a couple into the net, allowing the Malaysians to edge ahead 9-7. They went into the mid-game interval leading 11-9.

Satwik-Chirag levelled at 11-all with aggressive flat exchanges, but Man and Tee



The former world No 1 Indian duo, who won the title in 2023, went down 19-21, 16-21 in a 43-min contest against the flat-hitting Malaysian pair

restored a 15-12 cushion. The Indians clawed back to 17-17 after the Malaysians hit the net twice, but couldn’t capitalise.

A quick return from Tee took the score to 19-17 before Chirag pounced on a loose net shot. However, Satwik faltered at the net again to hand the Malaysians game point, which they converted.

Switching sides, the Indians looked unsettled and trailed 3-7 early in the second game. The Malaysians used the flat trajec-

tory and drift to their advantage, and a sharp smash from Tee widened the gap to 15-9.

Despite being 13-17 down, the Indians showed late resistance. A run of attacking points brought them back to 16-18, including a couple of high-quality flat smashes.

But Man’s brilliance at the net and Tee’s curling floater at 20-16 sealed four match points and they sealed the contest without further delay to enter the semifinals.

Khelif skips Eindhoven after mandatory sex test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eindhoven, June 6: Olympic champion Imane Khelif is skipping the Eindhoven Box Cup in the Netherlands less than a week after World Boxing announced mandatory sex testing for all athletes.

The Algerian boxer, who won gold at the Paris Games last summer amid scrutiny over her eligibility, did not register in time for the event before applications closed Thursday.

“The decision of Imane’s exclusion is not ours. We regret it,” tournament media director Dirk Renders told The Associated Press.

The 26-year-old Khelif had intended to return to international competition at the Eindhoven tournament this weekend before World Boxing announced its new sex testing policy last Friday. The governing body specifically mentioned Khelif, saying she’d have to screened to be approved to fight at any upcoming events, including the Eindhoven Box Cup.

Eindhoven mayor Jeroen Dijsselbloem criticised World Boxing’s decision.

“As far as we are concerned, all athletes are welcome in Eindhoven. Excluding athletes based on controversial gender tests’ certainly does not fit in with that,” Dijsselbloem wrote

SECOND UNOFFICIAL TEST DAY 1

India A reach 213/3 at tea



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Northampton, June 6: opener KL Rahul lead the charge with a fluent 93 not out while Dhruv Jurel hit an unbeaten 37 not out as India A reached 213 for three at tea on the opening day of their second unofficial Tests against England Lions, here Friday.

In a prolonged second session to make up for the lost time and overs in the opening one, Indian batters made merry on a sporting track with none of the Lions bowlers barring Chris Woakes (3/30) being able to make any inroads.

India lost only one wicket in the second session in the form of Karun Nair (40), who was trapped leg-before by Woakes.

Rahul made a watchful 93 off 143 deliveries as he hit 12 fours and a six, putting on a sturdy 89-run stand for the third wicket with Nair after India were rocked early.

But after Nair’s dismissal and particularly after crossing his fifty, Rahul took the aggressive route to move close to a triple-figure mark while putting on an unbeaten 87 runs for the fourth wicket.

England all-rounder Woakes,

playing in this contest to get some game-time and prove his fitness after he was named the Test side for the opening match of the five-Test series against India, seemed to be hitting his strides. Woakes continued to move the ball around dangerously and challenged the defences well to snaffle each of the three wickets fallen since the play began here at the County ground.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (17) and Abhimanyu Easwaran (11) fell in the first session.

Nair, who hit four boundaries to make 40 off 71 balls, looked set for a big total but fell during a passage of play in which Woakes and George Hill troubled the No 4 batter.

Woakes beat the bat a few times before finding an edge off Nair’s bat which flew past gully for four outside off in the 34th over. On the next delivery, he angled one into the batter who failed to get his bat down on time.

Another England hopeful Josh Tongue, however, struggled for rhythm as he gave away 61 runs from 14 overs.

Brief scores: India A 213/3 in 52 overs (KL Rahul 93*, Karun Nair 40, Dhruv Jurel 37*; Chris Woakes 3/30) vs **England Lions**.

Indian compound archers fail at World Cup Stage 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya (Turkey), June 6: Indian compound archers disappointed at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 as none of them managed to reach the medal rounds in the individual category, here Friday.

India, who finished second behind South Korea with two gold, one silver, and four bronze medals at the previous stage in Shanghai, are yet to open their medal account here.

Madhura Dhamangaonkar, the fourth seed and winner of the last World Cup, was ousted in the quarterfinals by fifth-seeded Mariana Bernal of Mexico. Madhura lost 152-159 in the women’s individual section. Mariana was consistent throughout, while Madhura struggled to find her rhythm after an opening round of 29 out of a possible 33.

World champion Aditi Swami also exited in the last-eight stage, going down 147-152 to Mexico’s second-seeded Andrea Becerra.

In the men’s section, 13th seed Rishabh Yadav lost to 28th seed Nicolas Girard of France 149-157 in the quarterfinals.

Yadav had earlier edged out senior teammate Abhishek Verma 157-154 in the pre-quarterfinals.

World champion Ojas Deotale suffered a shock first-round exit, going down 157-161 to USA’s James Lutz.

World champion Aditi Swami also exited in the last-eight stage, going down 147-152 to Mexico’s second-seeded Andrea Becerra

The Indian compound archers appeared to be struggling with the new scoring rule implemented at this stage.

Starting with the Antalya leg, the ‘X’ ring – the innermost circle – now counts as 11 points, pushing the perfect score per round (three arrows) from 30 to 33. Earlier on Thursday, India had also crashed out from the team events in both the recurve and compound sections.

They will now look to salvage their campaign through the mixed team event, which gets underway later in the day.

Hopes will also rest on the recurve individual events.