

Israel strikes Iran's nuclear sites

8 test positive for cholera in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Israel's massive airstrikes on Iranian nuclear and missile sites that followed decades of mutual animosity had its ripple effects across the world as global crude oil prices soared while stocks tumbled. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has consistently viewed Iran as the primary threat to Israel's existence, pointing to the neighbour's nuclear programme, aggressive rhetoric, and support for anti-Israel militant groups throughout the region. Iran, on the other hand, has positioned itself as a champion of the Palestinian cause, depicting Israel as a harmful Western presence in the Middle East. Nevertheless, the recent escalation was triggered by Hamas' attack on Israel October 7, 2023, which provoked a strong Israeli retaliation on Iran's allies – Hezbollah and Houthis. The latest Israeli strikes and counter-strikes by Iran could potentially lead to a broader regional conflagration and roil the global economy with high oil prices

AGENCIES

Dubai, June 13: Israel launched blistering attacks on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure Friday, deploying warplanes and drones previously smuggled into the country to attack key facilities and kill top generals and scientists -- a barrage it said was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon. The ongoing military and intelligence operation raised the potential for all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already



RAGING CONFLICT: Firefighters work at the scene of a damaged building in the aftermath of Israeli strikes in Tehran, Friday (MORE P10)

REUTERS

on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Iran quickly retaliated by sending a swarm of drones at Israel, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of "severe punishment."

Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mosad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used

them to target Iranian air defences and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nu-

clear enrichment facility in Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. It also appeared to strike a second, smaller nuclear enrichment facility in Fordo, about 100 km southwest of Tehran, according to an Ira-

nian news outlet close to the government that reported hearing explosions nearby.

Israel said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

Among those killed were

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Civil defence volunteers' daily allowance hiked

Bhubaneswar: The state government Friday hiked the daily duty allowance of civil defence volunteers from ₹31 to ₹150, officials said. Similarly, the daily training allowance of volunteers has been enhanced to ₹140 from ₹28. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved a proposal in this regard. The new allowance will be implemented retrospectively from May 2025, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

Committed to making women state's strongest asset: Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said his government is committed to empowering women and making them the strongest pillar of the state's development.

Addressing the state-level Nari Shakti Samabesh at the historic Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack, held to mark the completion of one year of his government, Majhi said the sole objective of the gathering was to recognise and enhance the power of women as the driving force behind Odisha's progress.

"This Nari Shakti Samabesh is the first programme of our second year in office. We firmly believe that unless half of the population—our women—are empowered, the state can never truly develop," he remarked.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that launching this initiative from the historic city of Cuttack would



usher in a golden era for the mothers and sisters of Odisha. Highlighting the government's flagship scheme for women empowerment, he described the Subhadra Yojana as the most transformative programme in the state's history.

"Not just for women, such a massive social welfare scheme has not been implemented before," Majhi asserted.

He added that the scheme has reached every village and family, especially in remote tribal-dominated areas, where many women

were previously unaware of government welfare programmes.

"Today, many women across Odisha are generating income for their families by using the Subhadra support, engaging in economic activities, and joint farming initiatives. This scheme is a significant step toward making our mothers financially independent," Majhi said.

The Chief Minister also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for conceptualising the Lakhpati Didi scheme to make women financially self-reliant.

Plane crash: Black box recovered from rooftop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 13: Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) Friday said the black box of Air India's crashed Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft has been recovered from the rooftop of the residential quarters of BJ Medical College here.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed soon after taking off into

Enhance inspection of AI's Boeing 787 fleet: DGCA

New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA Friday ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GE engines, a day after 241 people onboard died in the plane crash in Ahmedabad. The enhanced DGCA inspection will include checks of various systems and a review of take-off parameters of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft of Air India, owned by Tata Group. Air India's fleet includes 26 Boeing 787-8 aircraft and seven Boeing 787-9 planes. Meanwhile, US aircraft engine maker GE Aerospace, in a statement, said it continues to work closely with the appropriate regulatory and investigative agencies. The DGCA has directed Air India to carry out additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 planes equipped with GE engines with immediate effect.

P9

the residential quarters of BJ Medical College.

An official said the black

box was recovered from the rooftop of the residential quarters.

"AAIB began work with full force immediately. Over 40 staff from the state government joined efforts to augment the MoCA (Ministry of Civil Aviation) teams on site. The DFDR (black box) has been recovered from the rooftop," the statement said.

A black box is a small device that records information about an aircraft during its flight. It helps in the investigation of aviation accidents.

When 10 mins separated life & death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 13: Bhumi Chauhan, who moved to London two years ago on a study visa and is currently in India, is thanking God and her stars for missing the ill-fated Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad as she got stuck in traffic and reached the airport late. Chauhan said she missed boarding the AI 171 flight to London, which crashed soon after taking-off Thursday afternoon from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, by just 10 minutes.

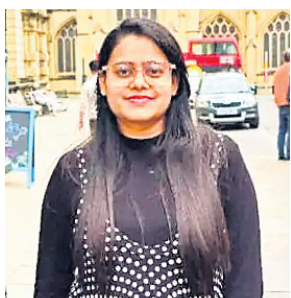
She is visiting her hometown Ahmedabad for the first time after moving to

the UK two years ago.

"I am shivering after I learnt about the crash. I left the airport at 1.30pm as I missed the flight due to traffic. I thank God," Chauhan told PTI Videos.

She said she was in India for vacation after moving to the UK on a study visa and scheduled to go back to London on the flight. The AI 171 flight took off at 1.39 pm and crashed into a medical college complex near the Ahmedabad airport and burst into a ball of fire less than a minute after take-off, leaving just one survivor.

"The flight was on time and I missed it by 10 minutes and I thank God. My prayers for all those who



Bhumi Chauhan

were on board," she said.

Chauhan, who was travelling alone, said she got delayed because of traffic and by the time she reached the airport, boarding and check-in for the flight had closed.

"I requested (to airport

authorities) that I be let in. I was the last passenger. But my request was not accepted. This is a miracle. Mataji and Ganpati bappa protected me. I am terrified at the loss of lives. I am totally numb," she said.

Chauhan said she learnt about the tragedy, which claimed 265 lives (including passengers and on ground deaths), when she was going back home from the airport.

According to Air India, of the 230 passengers on the flight, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 people on board were two pilots and 10 crew members.

DADLS-31

ରଜ ପର୍ବ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ରଜ ପର୍ବ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଥିବା କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଶେଷ ପର୍ବ । ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଏକ ନିଜ୍ଜଳ ମହାନ ପର୍ବ । ଧରିତ୍ରୀ ମାତାର ଉପାସନା ସହିତ ଘରେ ଘରେ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଉଲ୍ଲାସରେ ଏହି ପର୍ବ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ତାଷୀକୁଳଙ୍କ ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହିତ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ନାୟକ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0698/2526

CB nets Bengal woman for ₹74L online fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 13: The state Crime Branch (CB) has arrested a woman from West Bengal for her alleged involvement in a ₹75.10-lakh investment fraud case, an official said Friday.

Police identified the accused as Anushka Mitra, 24, a resident of Durgapur in Bardhaman district. The accused has been brought to Odisha on a transit remand and was produced before a local court here June 7. She is currently in judicial custody, a CB officer said.

Mitra, along with her associates, posed as trade analysts and duped a resident of Balasore district of ₹74.10 lakh through an elaborate investment scam, the officer said.

The accused allegedly lured the complainant with promises of high returns through investments in international metal trading, Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), and Over-the-Counter (OTC) trading. Despite suffering losses, the victim continued investing under their influence, officials said.



Anushka Mitra, along with her associates, posed as trade analysts and duped a resident from Balasore district of ₹74.10 lakh through an investment scam

When he tried to withdraw his funds, the fraudsters demanded additional money. Realising it was a scam, the victim filed an FIR, following which she was arrested, police said.

In a separate development, five persons from Gujarat have been arrested over the past few days by the CB in connection with three separate cyber fraud cases.

According to an official statement, two persons from Gujarat were arrested for their alleged role in a ₹1.4-crore online trading scam.

In another case, two more persons from Gujarat were held for allegedly duping a Bhu-

baneswar resident of ₹1.06 crore by placing him under what investigators termed a ‘digital arrest’.

Impersonating themselves as officials of Mumbai Crime Branch and a courier service, the cyber fraudsters threatened arrest and media exposure and forced him to transfer the money to their bank accounts, the CB said.

In the third case, a 22-year-old man from Gujarat was arrested for allegedly cheating ₹50 lakh from a man of Chhatrapur in Ganjam district, on the pretext of providing high returns from stock market investments, officials added.

Workshop on AI for water governance

SWIC and IIT Bhubaneswar collaborate to boost AI-driven water monitoring

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: A state-level workshop, focusing on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics for enhanced water resource monitoring and governance was jointly organised by the State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC), department of Water Resources (DoWR), and IIT Bhubaneswar’s Research and Entrepreneurship Park here Friday.

The primary objective of the workshop was to introduce best practices in data management and digitisation to improve transparency, efficiency, and decision-making in DoWR through cutting-edge AI technologies. The workshop brought together experts, government officials, and stakeholders to explore innovative AI-driven solutions for sustain-



able water governance.

Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR Anu Garg emphasised the critical role of digitisation and AI in strengthening governance and operational efficiency during her inaugural address. She praised the initiative for fostering collaboration across departments and

aligning with Odisha’s vision for technology-enabled public services.

Key speakers included Water Resources engineer-in-chief Chandra Sekhar Padhi, Director of GWD and SWIC and chief engineer Krushna Chandra Mohanty, IIT Bhubaneswar Computer Science Engineering department head Debi Prosad

'Odisha rivers in grave condition'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Mag-saysay Award winner Rajendra Singh, also known as the ‘waterman of India’ Friday made a strong pitch for protection of rivers by saying that many rivers are in grave condition and nearing extinction in Odisha. He was addressing the Odisha River Protection Conference organised by Mahanadi Bachao Andolan (MBA) and the Odisha River Protection Committee at Red Cross Bhawan here Friday.

Experts at the meet urged the government to publish a White Paper on the condition of rivers in the state and formulate a clear, effective River Policy.

Inaugurating the conference, Singh stated that the health of Odisha’s rivers is in a grave condition, with many rivers nearing extinction. He emphasised that the state’s health is intrinsically linked to the health of its rivers, and urged the government to prioritise their protection by taking appropriate and immediate measures.

Singh also urged the government to convene a joint convention involving the Water Resources department, experts, river movement activists, and civil society to identify prob-



lems and develop solutions for the rivers’ survival.

Among other notable speakers was former administrator Aravind Behera, who highlighted the dangers of unchecked development, warning that destruction in the name of development is unacceptable, just as compromising identity in the name of pride is harmful.

Environment expert Prafulla Samantara urged for the unification of all river-related movements in Odisha into a broader people’s movement.

Prominent bureaucrat and writer Sanjeev Hota spoke about the declining health of various rivers across Odisha and appealed for efforts to restore and preserve their condition.

MBA convener Sudarshan Das stressed the importance of river movements in Odisha. In his keynote address, he stated that while everyone demands rights over river resources, there is now an urgent need to clearly establish the river’s own rights over water and land. He urged activists to focus on this crucial aspect.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Birmaharajpur, dated 12.06.2025, I, Niranjan Meher, R/o. Village - Kendupali, PO. - Kamalpur, PS. - Birmaharajpur, Dist. - Subarnapur declare that I have changed my son’s name from Krishna Meher to Anshuman Meher. Henceforth he shall be known as Anshuman Meher for all purposes. Niranjan Meher

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, kantabanji, Dist.- Bolangir on dated 02.06.2025. I, Jashonanti Bag, At/Post.-Tundala, P.S.-Kesinga, Dist.-Kalahandi (Odisha). Do hereby declare that I have change my minor son name from Aadhaar Card Harip Bag instead of Harish Kumar Bag. Henceforth my son will be known as Jashobanti Bag for all purpose. Jashobanti Bag

LOST

I, Srinivas Rao, S/o - Sawana Suriya Rao, R/o - Railway Colony, W.No. - 24, PO/PS/Dist. - Jharsuguda declare as follows. That I am the purchaser of land bearing Sale Deed No. 10862102275, Dtd.09.07.2021, vide Ms Khata No. - 1067/6804 of Mouza - Jharsuguda, Unit-1, Ekatali, Tah/ Dist. - Jharsuguda. That the original Sale Deed and Patta of the same land is misplace at the time of shifting of the house. If found by anyone kindly contact me in the above address. Sd./-Srinivas Rao Contact : 9827178240

Global recognition for ‘Legacy’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Bacardi India Private Limited’s debut in the Indian whisky segment has earned remarkable global acclaim, as ‘Legacy’—its first premium whisky crafted in India—won the Gold in the Blended Whisky category at the World Whiskies Awards 2025. This prestigious honour highlights a pivotal moment for Indian spirits, placing ‘Legacy’ among the most celebrated premium Indian whiskies on the international stage.

The World Whiskies Awards, one of the highest honours in the global spirits industry, recognises the finest whiskies across various categories. Whiskies are rigorously judged on a 100-point scale for aroma, flavor, complexity, finish, balance, and character. A Gold award signifies exceptional quality and craftsmanship. ‘Legacy’ also clinched a Silver medal at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025, organised by The Drinks Business Asia. This dual recognition cements Legacy’s



growing stature in both Asian and global whisky markets.

A top executive of the company said, “Legacy’s Gold at the World Whiskies Awards 2025 and Silver at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025 are landmark achievements that affirm our vision to elevate Indian whisky globally.” “This recognition validates our commitment to creating distinctive, world-class spirits deeply rooted in Indian heritage. ‘Legacy’ is at the forefront of a new narrative for Indian whisky—one defined by pride, innovation, and global relevance,” he added.

Subhadra & beyond: From women devpt to women-led devpt

PROF MAHADEO PRASAD JAISWAL

As India marches toward realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of becoming a ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047, the focus of the government has shifted from women development to women-led development. Recognising the unique challenges faced by women, particularly in rural areas, the Odisha Government has embarked on a series of transformative initiatives to empower them, harnessing their potential for national development. Addressing the challenges faced by women in rural areas requires capacity building on micro entrepreneurship along with multi-stakeholder collaboration. Partnerships with local industries and communities, and private organisations have been pivotal in reaching the last mile to bring rural and urban women to the forefront of nation building.

Odisha’s 2.2 crore women, who represent nearly half the population, are central to driving the state’s economic growth. Odisha is undergoing a crucial shift towards a women-led, women-centric and gender-responsive development model, where women are not merely

recipients of welfare schemes but also active participants in economic growth. By embedding gender-sensitive policies, strengthening family-focused social protection systems, and fostering an inclusive economic environment, Odisha is laying a strong foundation for a more equitable and inclusive future.

The latest data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS V) reflects significant progress in women empowerment. In Odisha, household decision-making power among married women has improved, with 90.2 per cent now actively participating and demonstrating greater autonomy in familial and social spheres. Financial inclusion has also seen remarkable improvement, with 86.5 per cent of women managing their own bank accounts, facilitated by initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana and other financial literacy programmes. Digital inclusion is growing, with mobile phone ownership among women rising from 39.2 per cent to 50.1 per cent, signalling a step toward greater connectivity, access to information, and economic opportunities.

Odisha has made notable strides in improving women’s health, education, security, and livelihood opportunities, especially in rural areas. Subhadra, a flagship initiative, stands out

as a cornerstone of this women-led development journey. Launched with an ambitious outlay of ₹55,825 crores, Subhadra is designed to provide direct financial assistance while leveraging technology to ensure seamless service delivery.

Subhadra’s impact has been profound, with over 1 crore women receiving the first tranche of financial benefits. Over five years, each beneficiary will receive ₹50,000, in bi-annual instalments of ₹5,000 each. This financial cushion is empowering women by giving them the freedom to invest in their families, start small businesses, and improve their quality of life.

However, Subhadra is more than just a financial assistance scheme. It leverages digital platforms to enhance transparency and ensure ease of access. Initiatives such as ‘Kuhu and Suno Subhadra’ are being put in place to strengthen its outreach and ensure that beneficiaries navigate their empowerment journey with confidence. These platforms offer information, guidance, and grievance redressal, bridging the gap between beneficiaries and service providers.

A thoughtful and well-designed Gender Budget is helping the respective government departments to identify pri-

oritize and address gender concerns by formulating and implementing futuristic gender policies, provisions and programmes including addressing their day-to-day needs and necessities.

Odisha’s commitment to gender-responsive governance is reflected in its holistic approach to addressing the needs of women across various sectors. From menstrual leave policies and the establishment of crèches to support working mothers, to the provision of safe and affordable accommodation through Sakhi Niwas, the state has ensured that women’s diverse needs are met. One-Stop Centres provide comprehensive, survivor-centric support for women affected by violence, offering medical, legal, and psychological assistance.

Additionally, Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pusthi Yojana (MSPY) is addressing the nutrition needs of women and children, complementing schemes like POSHAN 2.0. This ensures that vulnerable women and children receive adequate nutritional support and healthcare. Initiatives like Mission Vatsalya and the sponsorship programme are safeguarding children’s rights and well-being, ensuring they are nurtured and empowered to become responsible citi-

zens. The increase in financial assistance for beneficiaries under the Mamata and PMMVY (from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000) for those giving birth to a girl child reflects the government’s commitment to improving the sex ratio at birth and ensuring gender equality. Advika, a scheme for adolescent empowerment, reaches more than 1 million adolescent girls and boys in the state. Under the scheme, life skill education is imparted to empower and enable girls to play a proactive role in the community and deal with various issues and challenges of daily life with confidence. The round-the-clock toll-free Women Helpline connects women in distress with emergency services, legal aid and psycho-social support ensuring a comprehensive response to violence, counselling, and rehabilitation. Additionally, Women and Child Help Desks have been established in police stations.

The state’s strong Self-Help Group (SHG) programme has evolved into a robust platform for fostering financial independence, entrepreneurship, and social development among women, bringing together more than 70 lakh women under 6 lakh SHGs, facilitating access to credit, skill development, and livelihood opportunities. With institutional finance

amounting to more than ₹16,586 crores per annum for 2.73 lakh SHGs (2023-24), many such groups have also been able to own and operate women-led enterprises, significantly contributing to local economies.

The government’s focus towards creating ‘Lakhpati Didis’ and empowering them economically through financial instruments has already started yielding results. It has not only enhanced access to credit but has also encouraged entrepreneurship by promoting financial inclusion among women SHGs. Creation of over 5.86 lakh ‘Lakhpati Didis’ exemplifies the government’s focus on the economic empowerment of women.

Odisha’s model of women-led development, with Subhadra at its core, is setting a precedent for other states to emulate. By addressing financial, educational and social barriers, Subhadra is enabling women to contribute meaningfully to the state’s economic growth. As Odisha continues to chart this transformative journey, Subhadra demonstrates that investing in women is not just a moral imperative but also a catalyst for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

THE AUTHOR IS DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (IIM) SAMBALPUR

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EAST COAST RAILWAY	
<p>File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/29, Dt. 10.06.2025</p>	
<p>(1) Tender No. e.Tender-NorthKUR-109-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025</p>	
<p>DESCRIPTION : ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (8 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSC STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN MANJURI ROAD-NEW GARGHADHUR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.</p>	
<p>Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 15.14 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2.07,600/-</p>	
<p>(2) Tender No. e.Tender-EastKUR-108-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025</p>	
<p>DESCRIPTION : ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (4 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSC STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN KENDRAPARA ROAD, BHUBANESWAR NEW & CUTTACK - PARADEE SECTIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.</p>	
<p>Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 51.14 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 1,02,300/-</p>	
<p>(3) Tender No. e.Tender-CentKUR-111-2025, Dtd.: 04.06.2025</p>	
<p>DESCRIPTION : ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH AND STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY OF FOUNDATION, PIER, ABUTMENT AND SUBSTRUCTURE ELEMENTS OF (8 NOS) BRIDGES TO CATER THE LOAD OF PSC SLABS IN REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PLATE GIRDER BRIDGE AS PER RDSC STANDARD OF 25T LOADING BETWEEN SECTION NERGUNDI-TALCHER, RAJATHGARH-BARANG, KAPILAS ROAD-SALEGAON & TALCHER-SAMBALPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.</p>	
<p>Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 85.94 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 1,71,900/-</p>	
<p>Completion Period : 180 Days (for all SI Nos.).</p>	
<p>Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 26.06.2025 (for all the Tenders).</p>	
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<p>Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.iरेps.gov.in</p>	
<p>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 the tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer / bidder can participate on e-tendering.</p>	
<p>Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-23/1/Q25-26 Khurda Road</p>	



Graft in ED

When a senior Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer gets caught in a graft case, eyebrows go up. But when insiders start whispering about deeper rot, it's time to take notice.

The ED, which handles the heavy-lifting on money laundering investigations under the PMLA, has had its share of limelight in recent years. But lately, that spotlight has begun to flicker. Not because it's overworked or under-resourced, but because of who is steering it, and whether they know how to drive.

Traditionally, the ED's top echelons were manned by seasoned IPS officers trained to deal with criminal statutes, investigative pressure, and courtroom scrutiny. But post-2016, a quiet but impactful shift happened. Revenue and finance services officers—often with little exposure to criminal law—began occupying senior posts. Think bean counters suddenly being handed handcuffs.

This isn't a turf war narrative. It's about competence. And consequences. A former IPS officer (who's seen it from the inside) bluntly says the problem isn't power—it's the lack of training. Criminal provisions under PMLA aren't just legal tools; they're legal landmines. Mishandle them, and it's not just the case that blows up—the system does too.

The fix clearly is mandatory rigorous training for all ED appointees, regardless of their parent cadre. Because in a department where power comes easy, the ability to wield it responsibly must come first.

Planes, trains & prime ministers

Only in India can a steam engine enthusiast end up curating the country's highest-octane political museum — and somehow, it makes perfect sense. Ashwani Lohani's appointment as Director of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library isn't just a career twist; it represents a full circle.

This is the man who introduced glamour (and a touch of grease) to the National Rail Museum, then went on to lead Air India, where he was expected to perform miracles on a shoestring and a prayer. He chaired the Railway Board, too, juggling budgets, bottlenecks, and boardroom blues with that uniquely Indian blend of optimism and jugaad.

Now, Lohani finds himself back on familiar tracks, though the engines at Teen Murti run on ideology, not diesel. The museum, which seeks to house the legacies of all of India's Prime Ministers under one roof without spontaneous combustion, could benefit from a steady hand. Lohani's been appointed for a three-year term, though if past precedent is anything to go by, he might just become the next long-term exhibit.

It's a clever appointment. The museum, which was established not without controversy — remember the murmurs about it being a “power play against Nehruvian memory”? — now gains a director who's neither a political insider nor a legacy warrior. Lohani possesses that rare trait: institutional nostalgia coupled with management prowess.

If he can keep Air India from nosediving (well, almost) and coax a smile from a steam locomotive, he might just manage the trickiest task yet: presenting India's political history without sparking a coalition crisis in the galleries.

Let's hope the souvenir shop sells irony by the pound.

BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

A breath of fresh air or just another paper tiger?

Gujarat's government has decided to put its meetings on a diet: no more than one hour, and preferably virtual if you're dialing in from outside Gandhinagar. It's part of a new set of guidelines issued by the General Administration Department, following recommendations from the Gujarat Administrative Reforms Commission (GARC). The aim is to make meetings more efficient and less time-consuming.

On paper, it sounds like a dream come true for anyone who's ever sat through a three-hour meeting that could've been an email. The guidelines are clear: schedule meetings at least three days in advance, share the agenda beforehand, start on time, and wrap up within an hour. District-level officers are expected to join virtually unless there's a compelling reason to be physically present.

But here's the thing: while the intentions are commendable, the success of such reforms hinges on execution. Will departments adhere to these guidelines, or will they become just another set of rules that look good on paper but are ignored in practice? Babu inertia is a formidable force, and without a robust mechanism to enforce these changes, we might find ourselves back to square one.

Moreover, while the focus on efficiency is laudable, it's essential to ensure that the quality of discussions doesn't suffer. Some issues are complex and require in-depth deliberation. A rigid one-hour cap might lead to rushed decisions or superficial discussions.

In the end, the effectiveness of this reform will depend on the commitment of all stakeholders to genuinely embrace the change. If implemented earnestly, it could set a precedent for other states to follow. If not, it risks becoming just another well-intentioned initiative that failed to make a real impact.

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

WISDOM CORNER

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought

PEACE PILGRIM

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up

THOMAS A. EDISON

We are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future

ROBIN S. SHARMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1800:

Napoleon and his troops defeated the Austrians in the Battle of Marengo, securing his military and civilian authority in Paris.

1811:

American author Harriet Beecher Stowe—whose novel Uncle Tom's Cabin fueled antislavery sentiment and was cited among the causes of the Civil War—was born in Litchfield, Connecticut.

1928:

Che Guevara—a theoretician and tactician of guerrilla warfare, a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution (1956-59), and a guerrilla leader in South America—was born.

1940:

German forces entered Paris, beginning a four-year occupation of the French city.

1940:

First prisoners at Auschwitz. On this day, the first transport of Polish political prisoners arrived at Auschwitz, which became Nazi Germany's largest concentration, extermination, and slave-labour camp, where more than one million people died.

1963:

The manned Soviet spacecraft Vostok 5 was launched, and two days later Vostok 6 was sent into orbit carrying cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova, the first woman to travel in space.

FOCUS

MULTILATERALISM

COALITIONS OF THE WILLING

The world's approach to tackling shared challenges – from climate change to public health and sustainable development – has plainly failed

It is easy to be pessimistic about multilateralism nowadays. Recent international gatherings – including the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, and multiple COPs – have yielded only unfulfilled promises. At a time when US President Donald Trump is abandoning America's international commitments, rejecting multilateral initiatives, and sowing chaos and confusion in global trade, can the Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) at the end of this month go any better?

Jayati Ghosh

IT IS CLEARLY POSSIBLE FOR THE WORLD TO MAKE PROGRESS ON SHARED CHALLENGES WITHOUT THE US

companies, and then refusing to sign or enforce deals anyway. The negotiations for the OECD Global Tax Deal, finalized in 2021, are a case in point.

But success will require other countries to fill the global leadership gap and demonstrate a credible commitment to multilateral cooperation that is essential to our survival. Fortunately, the first draft of FFD4's outcome document recognizes this imperative and advances many useful and practical policy proposals, including several from the final report of the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development (of which I was a member).

A key focus of the document is enabling greater domestic resource mobilization. An outdated international tax system and inadequate checks on illicit financial flows are a severe constraint on low- and middle-income countries' budgets. Reforms in these areas would go a long way toward reducing income and asset inequalities and increasing tax revenues – vital to finance investment in healthcare, education, and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

More broadly, participants at the Seville summit must seek to address the lack of a global financial safety net. A first step could be to initiate

regular allocations of the IMF's reserve asset, special drawing rights. To enhance the intervention's impact, the SDRs could be distributed according to need – a departure from the current approach, which allocates SDRs in proportion to IMF quotas, meaning that the largest shares go to the countries least in need. The IMF could also introduce SDR swaps to meet the immediate liquidity needs of economies that do not benefit from the US Federal Reserve's central-bank liquidity swaps.

But this is only the beginning. The world's approach to tackling shared challenges – from climate change to public health and sustainable development – has plainly failed. International pledges and agreements have fallen far short, in terms of both scale and quality. The “billions to trillions” vision – which sought to leverage public subsidies to unlock private finance for climate action – has not been realized. The suggestion that donors will close the development-financing gap through sheer goodwill is as unrealistic as it is patronizing.

It is time to embrace an entirely new model of “global public investment,” with all countries contributing to the provision of shared public goods according to their

means. This will require, for starters, fundamental reform of the IMF and the World Bank. Both institutions need to adopt a more countercyclical approach to lending. Moreover, they must stop linking loans to oppressive conditionalities that favor the interests of global capital over the well-being of people and the planet. In general, multilateral banks must increase their lending significantly to meet social, developmental, and climate needs, which in turn requires robust, reliable funding.

But there is a major barrier to such changes: important decisions at the IMF and the World Bank require an 85% voting majority, and with a 16% share of those votes, the US effectively wields a veto. Without major governance reforms, these institutions will remain hamstrung, countries will increasingly find ways to bypass them, and they will fade into irrelevance.

Meanwhile, international financial regulations should be strengthened, including by pursuing greater coordination of national laws – possibly on a regional basis at first. Private finance, which has enjoyed decades of lax regulation and positive incentives, should be required to align its behavior with social and planetary goals – or face punishment.

These proposals are hardly radical; such measures have been implemented in past phases of global capitalism, and they are manifestly in the interest of all countries. Nonetheless, in the current geopolitical landscape, they may appear unrealistic. That is why “coalitions of the willing” must take the lead in setting ambitious goals – and doing what it takes to achieve them. The upcoming Conference on Financing for Development is a good place to start.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM

GEOPOLITICS

New Delhi must re-engage with Europe

DK Giri

IT IS TIME INDIA RE-FOCUSSED ON UKRAINE, DID THE COURSE-CORRECTION AND REVIVED PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE

latter had no gall to militarily back Ukraine. So, conversely, Putin intensified the war aiming at a total victory. He perhaps thinks that Europe is no match for his military power or nuclear deterrence. Apparently, Ukraine is hitting back with calculated military plans like Operation Spiderweb. But the obvious reality on the ground is that Russia is inching forward and nibbling away territories and towns of Ukraine. Europe is not able to resist despite its full backing to Ukraine. NATO spending has increased. Germany has unblocked funds for military expenditure. European countries, mainly border states like Sweden, Norway and Poland are undertaking massive preparations to face the expansion of war into their respective territories. The situation became worse for Europe after Trump returned to the White House. He told off Europe and asked them to prepare and pay for their own defence.

Where does India stand on Ukrainian war? It has been neutral since it started. New Delhi harped on diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the problem. This stance amount-

ed to tacitly supporting Russia which is the invader and has been increasingly occupying Ukrainian land. New Delhi stuck to its policy of strategic autonomy and Vishwabandhu (friend of the world). However, India's war with Pakistan has exposed the limitations of these approaches. If dialogue and diplomacy are the way to go, why is New Delhi not open to dialogue with Pakistan? Prime Minister Modi has maintained that there can be no dialogue with Pakistan until terrorists are publicly disowned. Apply the same approach to Ukraine. How can Ukraine hold dialogue with a country that is occupying its territory?

It is now obvious that Putin did not invade Ukraine to prevent it from joining NATO. From the course of the war, it is not hard to realise that Putin wants complete subjugation of Ukraine. Will India still be sympathetic to Russia's position and witness the forceful takeover of Ukraine?

The fallout of India's neutrality, strategic autonomy or multi-alignment could be seen in India-Pakistan war. No European country openly came in

support of India. The game is not over in Ukraine, nor in Asia Pacific, where India is facing an adversarial China-Pakistan axis. It is time India re-focussed on Ukraine, did the course-correction and revived partnership with Europe.

As India and Europe go for the re-set of their bilateralism, let us deal with the elephant in the room that is Russia. Is Russia protecting India's interest against China? Moscow and Beijing have a strong 'eternal bond'. China is poking India off and on and now with its proxy state Pakistan. Russia has not deterred China against India. So is it not wise for India to negotiate with Europe and America who couldably support India to take on China?

It is time for India to seriously rethink its strategy vis-à-vis Ukraine. It may not take sides, but could pull all stops to stop the war. Trump is failing, which does not mean no one else can succeed. New Delhi can no longer remain aloof from Ukrainian war.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions. ©NIFA

Unsafe commuting

Sir, The accident that took place in Thane district, Maharashtra when passengers fell off two overcrowded running local trains, resulting in four dead and several others injured, raises a serious question over the safety standards in Mumbai's suburban railway system, well known as the "lifeline" of the city. Reportedly, several passengers, clinging to the foot-boards due to lack of space inside, were seen brushing against each other as the trains passed closely. With over 80-lakh daily commuters, Mumbai's suburban train system is arguably the busiest in the world. Yet, overcrowding, outdated infrastructure, and lack of real-time monitoring make it a frequent site of accidents. Railway experts point out that lack of platform screen doors, dedicated city rail governance, and insufficient rolling stock are core issues behind such recurring tragedies. The incident serves as a grim reminder of the urgent need to modernize Mumbai's railway system — not technologically alone, but structurally and administratively also..

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Development paradigm

Sir, The sharp decline in extreme poverty in India—from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 5.3% by 2022–23—is a milestone worth recognising. It signals not just economic progress, but the cumulative impact of targeted welfare programmes, digital financial inclusion, infrastructure growth, and expanding employment in technology and services. Millions have moved out of deprivation, and with it, the nation has redefined its development trajectory. But behind this achievement lies a deeper question: Can India sustain and deepen this progress in the face of rising inequality, job informality, and global volatility? Despite the gains, many Indians remain excluded from stable, formal employment. The informal sector still dominates, offering little in terms of wage security, legal protections, or social benefits. Inflationary pressures and rising living costs erode real incomes, while skill gaps leave many unprepared for the future economy. Moreover, climate change poses a mounting threat—especially for rural households dependent on agriculture, where extreme weather events are routine. To move forward, India must embrace a new development paradigm—one that links poverty reduction with structural transformation. This means investing heavily in skill development aligned with emerging sectors like artificial intelligence, green energy, and high-tech manufacturing.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

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6th Floor, Tower A, Senapati Bapat Marg,
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DCB BANK

The below mentioned Borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in the facilities availed by them from DCB Bank Ltd. against Jewellery pledged with DCB Bank Ltd. (DCB Bank). We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account(s) / change the auction date(s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 21.06.2025 from 12:00 Noon to 03:00 P.M.

Customer Name			Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name
Bargarh Location			114	101144116	Narendra Kumar Pradhan	229	103866428	Bisnupriya Mohanty	343	106048001	Luku Khilo	462	102722776	Sk Makbul Rahman	584	107039645	Dilip Duria
1	106284553	Chumaki Bhoi	115	102196377	Dillip Kumar Pradhan	230	106505701	Priyadarshani Das	344	104906142	Subash Sahu	463	102862816	SK Azad Alli	585	104634766	Minati Acharya
2	103139002	Tuna Seth	Dharamgarh Location			231	107104585	Nishikanta Dalei	345	107360674	Krishna Chandra Nayak	464	107359224	Kara Prasad Hansdah	586	104784990	Aswin Kumar Pattanayak
3	107022997	Suresh Nag	116	105919628	Satya Sabar	232	104469760	Mirza Abutalim Beg	346	104310347	Sathiram Nayak	Cuttack Location			587	107443160	Balaram Barika
Hinjlicut Location			Patnagarh Location			Bijipur Location			347	105468081	Maradapu Dantesh Sailu	465	102859971	Pramod Swain	588	105490657	Deepa Rani Tikadar
4	107733772	Sakuntala Sahu	117	106656125	Rupamanjari Malik	233	105421424	Enandi Digal	348	106852720	Dhiren Kumar Mohanty	466	107415260	Abhiram Sahu	589	107415541	Rambha Kumari Nayak
5	105099221	Anil Nahak	118	102749343	Manoj Meher	234	101465638	Deepak Kumar Jaysingh	349	106646193	Usha Rani Padhy	467	106684979	Annapurna Barik	590	102876872	Pramila Jena
6	102328617	Radha Nayak	119	102789995	Rajkumar Meher	235	104155372	P Laxman Patra	350	106027011	Bulu Dash	468	106647830	Sonali Giri	591	104520480	Christo Asrit Jaladit Bag
7	106856768	Silu Pradhan	120	106350107	Archana Parua	236	106602410	Badal Swain	351	103024684	Horijan Bhakta Ram	469	107357058	Bishnupriya Sena	592	106474074	Jagannath Khora
8	104513610	Dinabandhu Pradhan	121	104491645	Gopal Malik	237	103807754	Debadatta Nayak	352	106065589	Ch Prabin Kumar	470	106133747	Subhalaxmi Barik	593	102864021	Jaya Dhangadamajhi
9	106459489	Santoshi Behera	122	107832852	Shukru Dharua	238	104516673	Kabita Bhatta	353	107708739	Himansu Sekhar Pattanayak	471	105523044	Laxmipriya Parida	594	102934893	Geetanjali Sahu
10	103485214	Purna Chandra Pattanayak	123	106492231	Ananta Barik	239	104561251	Sabita Behera	354	106195943	Umesh Nayak	472	106761817	Balaram Pradhan	595	102922795	Keshba Khara
11	102768525	Sanjay Jena	124	107341649	Hemanta Malik	240	106713776	Manash Behera	355	106647230	Archana Naik	473	107417363	Rabindra Tarai	Bhubaneswar Location		
12	102915568	Tutu Nayak	125	107743821	Sesa Behera	241	106183381	Subhalaxmi Swain	356	106759482	Abdul Razaq	474	107434832	Jibaniyoti Samal	596	104424896	Dillip Kumar Sahu
Dunguripali Location			126	104464329	Sushama Majhi	242	104155522	Ajit Kuamr Dash	357	102672107	Sujata Daku	475	105748086	Anupama Biswal	597	106129409	Chandaneswar Jhankar
13	103798090	Jayantee Sahu	127	105464218	Kumaphula Malik	243	102756045	Anjan Kumar Swain	358	102852567	Aslam Beig	476	106247153	Salman	598	106548521	Ashok Kumar Kanhar
14	104467413	Ashok Kumar Karna	128	102101499	Sanjay Padhan	244	102629774	Prabhasini Behera	359	107318832	Nihar Ranjan Takri	477	106441190	Truptimayee Satapathy	599	102857721	Kusha Meher
Nayagarh Location			Cuttack Location			245	104864161	Pradipta Sahani	360	104641504	Dhiraj Kumar Bagh	Jeypure Location			600	102844567	Satyanarayan Meher
15	107738266	Shusil Barik	129	103605905	Sankara Pati	246	105975028	Monalisa Pattanaik	361	102346337	Gouranga Sing	478	105119080	Subhashree Suchismita Das	601	106681574	Dahneswar Patra
16	107686357	Ranjan Barik	130	102597674	Satyabhama Mahapatra	247	103454062	Kshitish Das	362	102762262	Ruven Dhanaphul	479	107670850	Sonia Suna	602	106084517	Lalita Mahanandia
17	106508821	Mantu Meher	131	106866266	Sunita Mallick	248	105581509	Prakash Ranjan Patra	363	107630464	Sanjukta Gouda	480	106968721	Polavarapu Murali	603	103146832	Dharani Bhokta
18	107586646	Jogindra Dwari	132	106284630	Sibani Mahapatra	249	104770996	Raj Kumar Sahoo	364	106759382	Anantram Mundagudia	481	107776981	Vsarita	604	107317180	Soumyashree Nanda
19	101999273	Sukanta Kumar Dash	133	107405970	Ganga Barik	250	103011921	Sanjay Kumar Lenka	365	107171600	Mithun Barik	482	104963452	Bhramidipati Venkata Srin	605	106795823	Nirupama Mahakud
20	106982269	Sushil Kumar Bhoi	134	102843525	Girish Chandra Barik	251	103120972	Trinath Sahoo	366	104733545	Khirod Chandra Mallick	483	104723529	Kumar Gourab Bhatra	606	104466052	Sarad Dwari
21	106759310	Pandaba Khamari	135	107082334	Dipak Sahoo	252	104968904	Amit Kumar Rout	367	106223749	Sanjay Kachim	484	107496326	Ugraswena Bhatra	607	103304771	Rajendra Tarla
22	106639854	Kalia Bagarti	136	102876312	Deepak Kumar Pattanaik	253	104123942	Naresh Kumar Sahoo	368	102749768	Satyabrat Pattanayak	485	107709104	Uttam Praharaj	608	107039030	Nirbikar Meher
23	103183022	Pitabas Majhi	137	106981163	Meri Singh Deo	254	106006426	Smruti Ranjan Nayak	369	105622075	Saroj Kumar Dash	486	107331110	Gopinath Naika	609	102826705	Sidheswar Meher
24	104826860	Chittaranjan Padhan	138	106030823	Prasanna Kumar Naik	255	104793504	Sunil Kumar Gupta	370	105052023	Sanjay Patra	487	107026376	Dambaru Paik	610	103450484	Pramod Sahu
25	100949528	Laxman Meher	139	106410160	Brajbandhu Parida	256	103522088	Aloka Kumar Mania	371	103543449	Prasant Patra	488	107705457	Ramesh Bisoyi	611	106104050	Sudhansu Sekhar Ranavains
26	103413318	Kandula Murali Krishna	140	105979688	Priyanka Mohapatra	257	103005203	Sunil Kumar Das	372	102841733	Bipini Kumara Nayak	489	103838957	Kapilas Nayak	612	104911775	Biswajit Meswa
Attabira Location			141	106823603	Santosh Kumar Muduli	258	106553326	Debendra Kumar Sahoo	373	102444361	Suresh Barik	490	102761045	Dharmendra Kumar Pradhan	613	105552590	Biren Sethi
27	105868868	Bhojaraj Padhan	142	102234922	Bishnupriya Panda	Dhenkanal Location			374	104793099	Sujit Kumar Mazumder	491	104664245	Trinath Jani	614	102871537	Debadatta Rath
28	105965589	Rabindra Kumar Seth	Raghnathpur Location			259	102263358	Sibaprasad Mohapatra	375	105085921	Anil Kumar Patra	492	105276256	Phul Kumar Bhatra	615	103843159	Akhju Jena
29	103855368	Satyanarayan Naik	143	101588305	Santosh Kumar Prusty	260	107653985	Bhabani Shankar Swain	Langarasahi Location			493	104622985	Subrat Kumar Dash	616	103764528	Manas Kanhar
30	101627930	Rajat Seth	144	107108920	Subrat Kumar Dehuri	261	107728347	Runa Nayak	376	103102481	Simanchal Kanhar	494	103761716	Umesh Bagh	617	104693215	Ranjan Malik
31	103675678	Siddiredi Nagarjun	145	106494481	Asish Kumar Bal	262	104245780	Soma Prusty	377	104415677	Sumesh Sahani	495	104770928	Nirmal Bhatra	618	102841493	Rama Chandra Rana
32	106746944	Tikeswar Chhanda	146	107071176	Pravakar Muduli	Bhawani Patna Location			378	106093637	Anant Rana	496	102281807	Sunil Kumar Mohapatra	619	105250991	Alilbha Bhoi
33	107069606	Laxman Kanta	147	106813239	Kunilata Behera	263	104830991	Dulamani Bag	379	105998040	Sanjita Behera	497	106722390	Akhtar Alli	620	103132616	Sushant Bhokta
34	102046586	Rabinarayan Naik	148	107282093	Mamini Pradhan	264	106674302	Himadri Naik	380	101629116	Priyanka Panda	498	106535829	Praphula Kumar Gouda	621	106809365	Debashish Dehuri
35	101019142	Kalbala Mahakur	149	107635982	Swarnalipi Das	265	107001454	Madan Majhi	381	107602198	Simanchal Sahu	499	106403004	Md. Sehbaz Kureshi	622	102834596	Lokanath Meher
36	106905486	Bibeka Mendali	150	107005642	Anil Kumar Nath	266	107005536	Pradeep Kumar Hota	382	106416675	Jayant Kumar Kanhar	500	10				

international

Israel's attack on Iran was years in making

After years of waiting, Israel's Netanyahu finally makes his move on Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, June 13: Israel's massive strike on Iran Friday morning came after decades of mutual hostility and a long-running shadow war of covert strikes and sabotage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long identified Iran as its greatest threat, citing the country's nuclear programme, its hostile rhetoric and support for anti-Israel militant groups across the region.

Iran has championed the Palestinian cause and portrayed Israel as a malicious Western encroachment on the Middle East.

The latest escalation was set in motion by Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which sparked a crushing Israeli response and eventually drew in Iran's other allies, who were in turn crippled by successive waves of Israeli strikes, leaving Iran largely alone in facing Friday's onslaught.

Why are Israel and Iran enemies?

Following Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country's leadership immediately identified the US, Britain and Israel as its main enemies because of their ties to Iran's deposed monarch and the long history of Western colonialism and military interventions in the Middle East.

Over the past two decades, Israel has repeatedly accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons and is believed to have carried out numerous covert attacks on its nuclear programme, including cyberattacks and the killing of Iranian nuclear scientists — while rarely acknowledging such operations.

Iran insists its nuclear program is entirely peaceful, but the UN atomic watchdog agency has warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chooses to.

The International Atomic Energy Agency and Western nations assess Iran had an organised nuclear weapons programme until 2003. Iran insists its programme is peaceful while still enriching uranium to near



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Israel shuts global embassies after attack on Iran
- Middle East airspace shut, airlines cancel flights
- Indians in Israel advised to avoid unnecessary travel
- United Nations Security Council will meet later Friday

stroyed much of the Gaza Strip, displaced around 90 per cent of its population and raised fears of famine.

Hezbollah traded strikes with Israel for nearly a year before Israel clobbered it with a sophisticated attack involving pagers and walkie-talkies, targeted strikes that killed most of its leaders and an air and ground campaign that devastated southern Lebanon. The weakening of Hezbollah contributed to the downfall of Assad, which paved the way for Israel to seize parts of southern Syria and carry out strikes that destroyed much of its military assets.

Iran itself was weakened after two previous exchanges of fire with Israel, both linked to the war in Gaza. A wave of Israeli strikes last October destroyed missile sites and weakened Iran's air defences.

Why did Israel decide to strike now?

Netanyahu said time was running out to strike Iran, alleging Iran had taken recent



It will not be long before the enemy nations themselves experience just how provoking and unpleasant it is to sit back and watch as our warships freely move near the edges of their sovereign waters

KIM JONG UN | LEADER, NORTH KOREA

MONGOLIA GETS NEW PM

The new prime minister of Mongolia has pledged to address the economic demands of protesters after their daily rallies led to the fall of his predecessor. Lawmakers approved former parliament speaker Zandanshatar Gombojav as prime minister by an overwhelming majority in a vote late Thursday night



'We knew everything'

President Donald Trump told Reuters in a phone interview Friday that he and his team knew everything about Israel's plan to attack Iran and that he had given Tehran fair warning it needed to make a deal on its nuclear program. "We knew everything, and I tried to save Iran humiliation and death. I tried to save them very hard because I would have loved to have seen a deal worked out," Trump said. "They can still work out a deal, however, it's not too late," he added. Trump had repeatedly pushed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to delay an Israeli attack to give diplomacy more time, though the president himself had threatened to bomb the Gulf nation if nuclear talks failed. Trump said he had given the Iranians 60 days to come to an agreement, "and today is 61." Iran has balked at the US insistence that it give up uranium enrichment. "We knew just about everything," he said. "We knew enough that we gave Iran 60 days to make a deal and today is 61, right? So, you know, we knew everything." Trump said it was unclear if Iran still has a nuclear program following Israeli strikes on the country. "Nobody knows. It was a very devastating hit," Trump said. Trump said the US still has nuclear talks planned with Iran Sunday but that he was unsure they would take place. He said it was not too late for Iran to make a deal. "They're not dead," Trump said of the US-Iran talks. "We have a meeting with them on Sunday. Now, I'm not sure if that meeting will take place, but we have a meeting with them on Sunday."



LONG HISTORY OF SIMMERING TENSIONS

Iran's N-programme primary target

2010 — The Stuxnet computer virus is discovered and widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation. The virus disrupted and destroyed Iranian centrifuges.

2018 — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel obtained tens of thousands of pages of data showing Iran covered up its nuclear program before signing a deal with world powers in 2015. An ex-Mossad chief confirms the information was obtained by more than a dozen non-Israeli agents from safes in Tehran in 2018.

2020 — Alleged Israeli attacks against Iran's nuclear program are stepped up significantly after the disintegration of the 2015 nuclear deal meant to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

July 2020 — A mysterious explosion tears apart a centrifuge production plant at Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility. Iran blames the attack on Israel.

November 2020 — A top Iranian military nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrazadeh, is killed by a remote-controlled machine gun while travelling in a car outside Tehran. A top Iranian security official accuses Israel of using "electronic devices" to remotely kill the scientist, who founded Iran's military nuclear programme in the 2000s.

April 11, 2021 — An attack targets Iran's underground nuclear facility in Natanz. Iran blames Israel, which does not claim responsibility, but Israeli media widely reports the government orchestrated a cyberattack that caused a blackout at the facility.

April 16, 2021 — Iran begins enriching uranium up to 60 per cent, its highest purity ever and a technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

June 2022 — Iran accuses Israel of poisoning two nuclear scientists in different cities within three days of each other, though circumstances remained unclear.

Mideast wars

Oct 7, 2023 — Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip storm into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage, beginning the most intense war between Israel and Hamas. Iran, which has armed Hamas, offers support to the militants.

Feb 14, 2024 — An Israeli sabotage attack causes multiple explosions on an Iranian natural gas pipeline running from Iran's western Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province to cities on the Caspian Sea.

April 1, 2024 — An Israeli airstrike demolishes Iran's Consulate in Damascus, Syria, killing 16 people including two Iranian generals.

April 14, 2024 — Iran launches an unprecedented missile and drone attack on Israel, firing over 300 missiles and attack drones in response to the Israeli airstrike in Damascus. Working with a US-led international coalition, Israel intercepts much of the incoming fire.

July 31, 2024 — Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh is assassinated by an apparent Israeli airstrike during a visit to Tehran. Israel had pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the October 7 attack.

Sept 27, 2024 — Israeli airstrike kills Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Formed by Iranian Revolutionary Guard members who went to Lebanon in 1982 to fight invading Israeli forces, Hezbollah was the first group that Iran backed and used as a way to export its brand of political Islam.

Oct 1, 2024 — Iran launches its second direct attack on Israel, though a US-led coalition and Israel shoot down most of the missiles.

Oct 26, 2024 — Israel openly attacks Iran for the first time, striking air defence systems and sites associated with its missile programme.

April 30, 2025 — Iran executes a man it said worked for Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence agency and played a role in the killing of Revolutionary Guard Colonel.

SHORT TAKES

WB, IFC okay \$700mn for Pak's Reko Diq plan

Islamabad: The International Finance Corporation and the World Bank have approved a concessional loan of \$700 million for a major mining and resource development initiative in Pakistan, according to a media report. The Reko Diq project is located in Balochistan province, which is known as a mineral-rich region of the country. This approval by lenders is a significant victory for Pakistan, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. As a result of this approval, the private sector is expected to invest \$2.5 billion in the Reko Diq project, one of Pakistan's most important initiatives, the report said.

Cambodia, Thailand cold war escalates

Phnom Penh: Cambodia escalated its cold war with Thailand Friday when it announced a ban on Thai movies and TV shows and a boycott of the neighbouring country's international internet links. Tensions between the Southeast Asian countries have soared since an armed confrontation in a border area May 28 that each side blamed on the other and which left one Cambodian soldier dead. Cambodian officials said the import and screenings of Thai movies would be banned, and that broadcasters would be ordered not to air Thai-produced shows, which include popular soap operas.

Ceasefire draft in Gaza: India abstains in UNGA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 13: India has abstained in the UN General Assembly from a vote on a draft resolution that demanded an "immediate, unconditional and permanent" ceasefire in Gaza.

The 193-member UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt the resolution introduced by Spain that demanded an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, to be respected by all parties and recalled its demand for the immediate, dignified and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups.

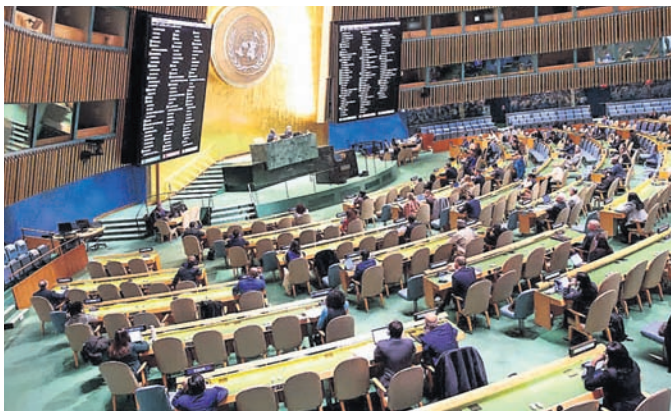
India was among the 19 nations that abstained, while 12 nations voted against the resolution, which got 149 votes in favour. Among the nations abstaining were Albania, Cameroon, Ecuador,

Ethiopia, Malawi, Panama, South Sudan and Togo.

In the explanation of vote on the resolution titled 'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said the resolution comes against the backdrop of worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza.

India is deeply concerned at the deepening humanitarian crisis and condemns the loss of civilian lives, he said.

Harish said India has earlier abstained on resolutions on the Israel-Palestine issue. "Our vote today is in continuation of this in the belief that there is no other way to resolve conflicts but through dialogue and diplomacy. A joint effort should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer. For these reasons, we would abstain on this resolution."



TRUMP ALLOWED TO KEEP NATIONAL GUARD IN LA

Saturday's military parade expected to draw nationwide protests

REUTERS

Los Angeles, June 13: US President Donald Trump can keep his deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles, according to a court ruling, as protests against immigration raids look set to enter their second week in the strongest backlash since his return to power in January.

Trump Friday welcomed the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that temporarily paused a lower court ruling that blocked the mobilization, although it does not mean that the court will ultimately agree to side with him.

"We saved L.A. Thank you for the Decision!!!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Cities across the United States were bracing for more demonstrations especially Saturday, when those also opposed to a weekend military parade in Washington, opens new tab marking the US Army's 250th anniversary are expected to take to the streets.

"They've defied our courts, deported Americans, disappeared people off the streets, attacked our civil rights, and slashed our services," the group No Kings, which is behind the day of action, wrote on its website.

A battalion of 700 US Marines was expected to arrive Friday



in Los Angeles, marking an extraordinary use of military forces to support civilian police operations within the United States.

Troops have stood guard at a federal detention center in the city's downtown where many of the protests have taken place in a show of solidarity for immigrants detained inside.

The protests so far have been mostly peaceful, punctuated by incidents of violence, and restricted to a few city blocks.

Demonstrations have also taken place in other US cities this week including New York and Chicago.

The guard had also accompanied Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on operations to detain immigrants.

Democratic leaders in Cali-

fornia have strongly opposed the ramping up of immigration enforcement since it began last Friday.

"Peace begins with ICE leaving Los Angeles," Mayor Karen Bass, who has imposed a nighttime curfew over one square mile (2.5 square km) of downtown Los Angeles, said on Thursday.

Trump is carrying out a campaign promise to deport immigrants, employing forceful tactics consistent with the norm-breaking political style that got him elected twice.

Democrats have said that the use of military force was unnecessary and an example of Trump's authoritarianism.

Americans are divided over Trump's decision to activate the military.

5 arrested in connection with vandalism at Tagore's ancestral home in B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, June 13: At least five persons have been arrested in connection with the vandalism of the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh, with the authorities saying that no relics associated with the poet were damaged.

The Rabindra Kachharibari or Rabindra Memorial Museum, which was closed after the vandalism Sunday, was reopened for visitors Friday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Kachharibari is the ancestral home and revenue office of the Tagore family located in Sirajganj district.

Purchased by Rabindranath's grandfather Dwarakanath Tagore in 1840, the premises worked as a favourite recluse for the Nobel laureate, who wrote many of his notable literary works at this site.

In a statement, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs said that no relics or artefacts associated with Rabindranath Tagore's memory were damaged during the incident when an altercation broke out between an employee on duty and a visitor over a parking ticket, the paper said.

India Thursday strongly condemned the vandalism and termed the violent attack a "disgrace" to the memory and inclusive philosophy espoused by the poet.

of the day

quote

The launch of the Green India Council and Skilling Council marks a decisive step toward integrating sustainability and workforce development into the core of our industry

SHEKHAR PATEL | PRESIDENT, CREDAI

About Rs 38,000 crore revenue deficit grants was given to Kerala, but not to Karnataka. Similarly, a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore was recommended for Karnataka by 15th Finance Commission but Government of India refused to give it to us

SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

The rupee fell to a low of 86.25 before recovering to 85.92 before ultimately closing at 86.07. It has taken one country's military strike on another to bring home the fragility of markets

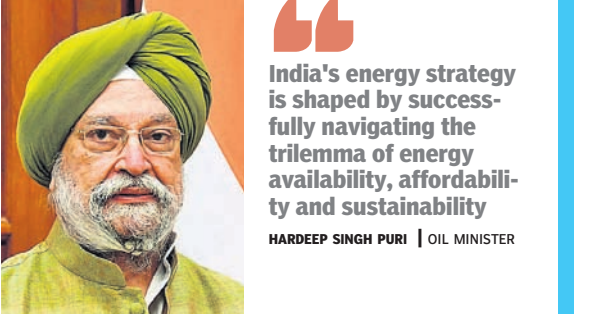
ANIL KUMAR BHANSALI | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINREX TREASURY ADVISORS LLP

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves jump
Mumbai: India's forex reserves increased by \$5.17 billion to \$696.65 billion for the week ended June 6. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday. The overall reserves had dropped by \$1.237 billion to \$691.485 billion for the week ended May 30. Forex reserves had touched an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in end-September 2024. For the week ended June 6, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves rose by \$3.47 billion to \$587.68 billion, the data released Friday showed. The gold reserves were up by \$1.58 billion to \$85.88 billion during the week, RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) also rose by \$102 million to \$18.67 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF also inched up by \$14 million at \$4.4 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

ICRA to acquire Fintellix
New Delhi: ICRA has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Fintellix India, a provider of risk and reporting solutions to global financial institutions, for \$26 million. In a stock exchange filing, ICRA said its board has granted approval for the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding in Fintellix India Pvt Ltd for a consideration of INR equivalent to \$26 million by way of a secondary purchase, pursuant to execution of a share purchase agreement and other transaction documents. The rating agency said the acquisition will additionally strengthen ICRA Group's portfolio of credit risk assessment and monitoring tools by adding risk reporting capabilities to its existing solutions. ICRA's portfolio includes credit risk software solutions, early warning systems (EWS) and asset classification tools. Fintellix, a Bengaluru-based product-led company, specialises in risk, supervisory, and data analytics solutions on its proprietary data platform.

HCL Foundation, TN govt sign pact
New Delhi: HCLFoundation, the CSR arm of HCLTech, has partnered with the Tamil Nadu government to reinforce entrepreneurship and vocational education in the state. HCLFoundation has inked two memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Tamil Nadu government to this effect, HCLTech said in a regulatory filing. The first MoU, signed with StartupTN (Department of MSMEs) commits HCLFoundation to support 100 startups over the next three years.



India's energy strategy is shaped by successfully navigating the trilemma of energy availability, affordability and sustainability

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

NTPC TO RAISE RS 4,000 CR VIA NCDS

NTPC Friday said it has decided to raise Rs 4,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDS). Proceeds will be utilised for funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, the company said in a regulatory filing. NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 4,000 crore June 17, 2025, through private placement at a coupon of 6.89 per cent annually for 10 years 1 day, maturing on June 18, 2035, the filing said



Crude oil price impacts stock market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Shares of crude oil sensitive sectors oil marketing companies, aviation, paints, adhesives and tyres declined Friday following a spike in global oil benchmark Brent crude prices amid escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The stock of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd fell by 1.90 per cent, Indian Oil Corporation dropped 1.78 per cent and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd declined 1.41 per cent on the BSE.

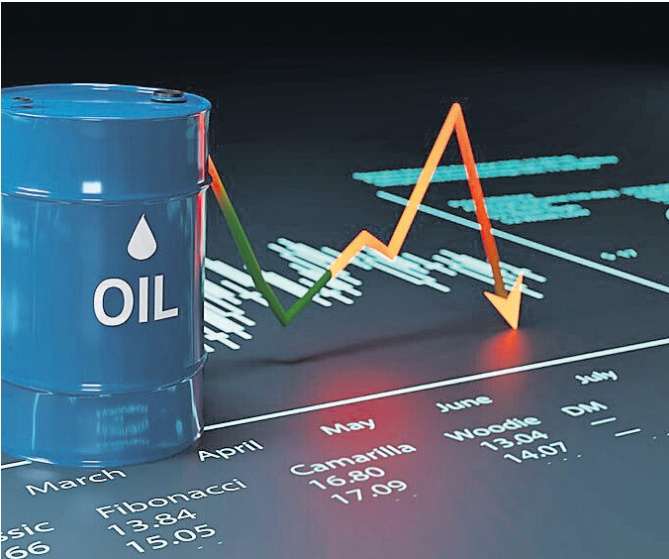
In intra-day trade, BPCL tanked 6.11 per cent, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd tumbled 5.34 per cent and Indian Oil Corporation dropped 3.91 per cent. Shares of InterGlobe Aviation edged lower by 3.71 per cent and those of SpiceJet dipped 1.95 per cent.

During the day, SpiceJet fell 5.64 per cent and InterGlobe Aviation dropped 5.62 per cent. Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 8.39 per cent to \$75.20 a barrel.

Among paints stocks, Indigo Paints went lower by 2.63 per cent, Berger Paints dipped 0.59 per cent and Asian Paints declined 0.14 per cent.

Shares of Ceat slipped 1.35 per cent and Apollo Tyres edged lower by 1.13 per cent.

The economic consequences of Israeli strike can be profound if the attack and coun-



Geopolitical tensions are heating up, and it's impacting the oil market! Israel's airstrikes on Iran have sparked fears of supply disruptions, causing crude oil prices to surge. The worry is that the situation could escalate into a full-blown regional crisis, which would have significant implications for global oil supplies

NAVNEET DAMANI | GROUP SENIOR VP, MOFSL

terattack by Iran lingers long. Brent crude prices have flared up around 12 per cent to \$78. The impact on market will depend on how long the conflict lingers.

"In the near-term the market will be in a risk-off mode. Sectors that use oil derivatives as inputs like aviation, paints, adhesives and tyres will be hit hard. Oil producers like ONGC

and Oil India will remain resilient," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent Friday as weak global markets and a spike in Brent crude oil prices after Israel attacked Iran's capital weighed on investor sentiment. "Crude oil futures surged

Crisil predicts one more RBI rate cut

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 13: Given the current inflation trajectory, headline inflation is projected to average 4 per cent this fiscal (FY26), from 4.6 per cent last fiscal. Lower inflation keeps the window open for one more repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), apart from the 100 basis points cut announced so far, Crisil forecast.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation dropped to 2.8 per cent in May, the lowest reading since February 2019, from 3.2 per cent in April as food inflation continued to decline.

Fuel and core inflation also softened. Food inflation fell to 1 per cent, the lowest since October 2021, from 1.8 per cent in April. Fuel inflation reversed trend and eased marginally to 2.8 per cent from 2.9 per cent.

Core inflation eased to 4.18 per cent from 4.23 per cent in April. Core inflation remained below its trend level (measured by the decadal average) of 4.9 per cent. Among food items, pulses, vegetables and spices saw deflation, while cereals recorded lower inflation.

According to Crisil Intelligence Research's Thali Index released last week, the cost of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis in May fell 6 per cent each on-year largely due to lower vegetable prices.

"The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal monsoon of 106 per cent of the long period average (LPA). The rains would have a positive impact on the upcoming kharif season," said crisil report.

LIC, Bajaj Allianz fast track claim settlement for crash victims

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 13: In the wake of the tragic crash of Air India Flight AI-171 in Ahmedabad, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Friday announced immediate measures to ease the financial burden on the families of the victims.

The insurer said that it would expedite claim settlements and offer several concessions to support the affected families.

LIC also expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of passengers, crew members, and people on the ground that lost their lives in the crash.

"LIC of India expresses deep grief over the death of on-board passengers and crew members of Air India flight AI-171 and also people on the ground that were killed due to the plane crash in Ahmedabad," the company said in a statement.

The insurer assured that it is fully committed to supporting those affected and would expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. LIC has introduced several special concessions to help ease the claim process for the victims' families.

"In lieu of death certificates, any evidence in government records of death of the policy-

holder due to the plane crash or any compensation paid by Central/State Government or Airline Authorities will be accepted as proof of death," the statement said.

LIC also said that all efforts will be made to reach out to the claimants and ensure that claims are settled expeditiously. For further assistance, families can contact the nearest LIC Branch, Division, or customer zone.

On the other hand, Private insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance also announced special measures for its policyholders affected by the crash. The company has set up a dedicated claims settlement desk to prioritise death and disability claims of those impacted.

"With utmost urgency, an expeditious process has been established to swiftly settle these policy claims," Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance said in a statement. "In response to this unfortunate incident," the company added,

"it has activated special measures to assist families of its policyholders affected by the crash." To reduce delays, Bajaj Allianz said it has simplified the documentation process for nominees, legal heirs, or policyholders to submit their claims.



Job postings in India rebound 8.9% after months decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 13: Indian job postings rebounded by 8.9 per cent in May after witnessing eight consecutive monthly declines, and the rate of job creation continues to outpace other countries driven by the nation's transition towards more formal economic arrangements, a report said Friday.

On a year-on year basis, however, job postings in India dipped slightly by 1.8 per cent in May.

Despite trending downwards, Indian job postings are almost 80 per cent above pre-pandemic levels, which is high compared to other major markets, according to the report by global job site Indeed.

Several countries, led by the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Switzerland, have posted volumes that are currently below pre-pandemic levels and by comparison, India's posting volumes are very healthy, added the report.

"Indian job creation continues to outpace other countries because of the nation's transition towards more formal economic arrangements.

"As the nation transitions, job creation across the formal sector will be much stronger than overall employment growth nationwide, and we have consistently seen that in recent years. Other economies are not going through a transition of this nature," Indeed's APAC Senior Economist Cal-



lam Pickering said.

The report by Indeed is based on an analysis of data in 2020 (pandemic period), 2024 and 2025 till May on the global job site's platform. It further revealed that job postings in around 80 per cent of occupa-

tions in India increased over the past three months.

The postings mainly increased in childcare (27 per cent), personal care and home health (25 per cent), education (24 per cent), and production and manufacturing (22 per

Gold futures breach ₹1 lakh mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Gold prices surged for the third consecutive session Friday, bouncing Rs 2,011 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,00,403 per 10 grams, as a weakening rupee and escalating tensions in the Middle East drove investors to the safe haven asset.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the most-traded August delivery contracts of the precious metal zoomed Rs 2,011, or 2.04 per cent, to hit a record high of Rs 1,00,403 per 10 grams in the morning trade.

Later, it traded at Rs 1,00,145 per 10 grams, up Rs 1,753, or 1.78 per cent, with an open interest of 16,602 lots on the bourse. Gold future prices earlier surged Rs 2,048 to hit a fresh record high of Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams.

Subsequently, the October contract of the yellow metal jumped Rs 1,970, or 1.98 per cent, to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,01,295 per 10 grams on the MCX.

Analysts said the sharp rally in gold prices was primarily driven by a weaker rupee and heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which spurred demand for the precious metal.

Friday, rupee declined 56 paise to 86.08 against US dollar in the initial trade due to a



spike in global oil prices and a firm dollar amid rising tensions in the Middle East following Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear sites.

On the global front, gold futures rose \$41.62 per ounce, or 1.22 per cent, to trade at \$3,444.02 per ounce.

"Gold prices rallied sharply amid escalating Israel-Iran tensions, boosting safe-haven demand. In the morning session, the precious metal breached the \$3,420 per ounce-mark and hit 6-week highs," Rahul Kalantri, Vice-President of Commodities at Mehta Equities, said.

Kalantri further said the rally in gold was further supported by US producer price index (PPI) and core PPI data, which indicated cooling inflation in US. The data reinforced investor expectations that US Federal Reserve may begin easing its monetary policy stance in the coming months.

India seeks to halt rare earth exports to Japan

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 13: India has asked Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) to suspend a 13-year-old agreement on rare earth exports to Japan and to safeguard supplies for domestic needs, sources said, aiming to reduce India's dependence on China.

IREL also wants to develop India's capacity for rare earth processing, which is dominated globally by China and has become a weapon in escalating trade wars. China has curbed its rare earth materials exports since April, pressuring automakers and high-tech manufacturers worldwide.

In a recent meeting with auto and other industry executives, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asked IREL to stop its exports of rare earths, mainly neodymium, a key material used in magnets for electric vehicle motors, said source.

Under a 2012 government agreement, IREL supplies rare earths to Toyotsu Rare Earths India, a unit of Japanese trading house Toyota Tsusho which processes them for export to Japan where they are used to make magnets.

In 2024, Toyotsu shipped more than 1,000 metric tons of rare earth materials to Japan, commercially available customs data showed. That is one-third of the 2,900 tons mined by IREL, although Japan relies mainly on China for



In a recent meeting with auto and other industry executives, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asked IREL to conserve its rare earths aiming to secure domestic supplies and lessen reliance on China. IREL intends to expand domestic mining for local processing and magnet facilities

its rare earths supply.

IREL has been exporting rare earths due to a lack of domestic processing capacity, but following the recent disruptions to supplies of Chinese material it wants to keep its rare earths at home and expand domestic mining and processing, a second source said, adding that IREL is awaiting statutory clearances at four mines.

However, India may not im-

mediately be able to stop supplies to Japan because they fall under a bilateral government agreement, the source said.

IREL wants this to be "amicably decided and negotiated because Japan is a friendly nation", source added.

Japan's Trade Ministry said in a statement, "We would like to refrain from answering questions about bilateral exchanges in general, not just about this matter."

social service (6.8 per cent) and software development (4.2 per cent), it added.

Indeed's (Job portal) data showed that, as of May 2025, 1.5 per cent of Indian job postings mentioned generative AI in their job descriptions, more than double from the last year. Around 12.5 per cent of data analytics roles mentioned generative AI, ahead of software development (3.6 per cent) and scientific research (3.1 per cent).

When it came to geographical locations, regional hubs emerged for jobs that either use or help develop generative AI. In Karnataka, 2.4 per cent of job postings mention generative AI, just ahead of 2.3 per cent in Telangana, added the report.

Suruchi: India's new golden girl

Sensational Suruchi nails another ISSF World Cup gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, June 13: The sensational Suruchi Singh dominated a quality field to win her third straight individual ISSF World Cup gold medal in a thrilling women's 10m air pistol final here Friday, reaffirming her position as Indian shooting's latest golden girl.

The 19-year-old shot 241.9 in the eight-woman final to leave France's Paris Olympic silver medalist Camille Jedrzejewski (241.7) 0.2 behind in second place.

China's Yao Qianxuan (221.7) bagged the bronze medal.

National champion Suruchi had earlier won the event in the year's first two World Cup stages in Buenos Aires and Lima as well. Buenos Aires was in fact her tournament debut and she has now won gold in all three of her first ISSF World Cup stages.

Continuing a run of form that stretches back to the Nationals in December, the Haryana girl shot 588 in qualification to equal the national record held by double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker. Yao topped the 110-field with a junior world record score of 589.

Bhaker ended 21st with a total of 574, while Palak was 30th with 570.

In the final, a 52.1 in the first series set her on course but by the end of the second five-shot series she was down to second. A 9.7 for her 11th brought her down to fourth and that seemed to have spurred her.

A cracking 10.8 gave her the lead back after the 12th and thereafter it was a battle of attrition. Camille and Yao were the prime chasers and the Frenchwoman took advantage



of a few 9s by the Indian to go into the lead after the 18th shot.

Then Yao fired a 9.4 in her 22nd shot and the Indian took the second spot behind Camille going into the final two shots. She was 0.5 behind at that stage of the final.

That became 0.5 ahead after the 23rd shot when she fired a 10.5 to Camille's 9.5, and despite both shooters finishing with 9s, Suruchi held on to win.

Bhaker, who was doing commentary in the final, expressed her delight after her younger

compatriot's gold medal and believed Suruchi looked a bit nervous in the final.

The gold medalist said she was a bit lucky to have claimed the top prize.

"It was the closest among all the finals that I have played (in three World Cups) and I think I was a bit lucky too," Suruchi said after the win.

This is India's first gold medal in the prestigious tournament after the bronze won by Anjum Moudgil and Sift Kaur Samra earlier this week.

SHORT TAKES

Jr women's hockey team bags third win

Antwerp: India defeated Belgium 3-2 to secure their third consecutive victory against the side in their ongoing tour of Europe here. Sonam opened India's account in the fourth minute, which was followed by goals from Lalthantluangi (32') and Kanika Siwach (51'). Marie Goenns (37') and Marte Marie (40') were the scorers for Belgium. Following Sonam's early goal, India maintained their dominance in the first half and extended their lead in the third quarter with a penalty corner conversion by Lalthantluangi. Belgium replied strongly with back-to-back goals in the 37th and 40th minute to level the game. Marie Goenns scored the first goal through a penalty stroke followed by a field goal by Marte Marie. With nine minutes left on the clock in the fourth quarter, Kanika converted a penalty corner to help India maintain their winning streak on the tour. India will next play Australia Saturday.

AIFF to decide on Marquez's future

New Delhi: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has confirmed that the executive committee will be meeting June 29 to review the tenure of India head coach Manolo Marquez after a string of poor results. Manolo was appointed in August 2024, after the controversial exit of Igor Stimac, and has since led the team to only one victory, a 3-0 win in a friendly over Maldives. After having faced elimination in the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers last year, India also find themselves in a position of trouble in regards to qualifying for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, a tournament the team has not missed out on since they expanded it to 24 teams in 2019. The AIFF president also went on to pinpoint on what was going wrong with the national team and believes the lack of Indian forwards has resulted in the poor performances. India has scored only seven goals since the beginning of 2024, out of which three came against Maldives.

WTC FINAL

Aiden Markram's unbeaten 102 puts South Africa in sight of championship glory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 13: Aiden Markram stepped up when it mattered the most by hitting a magnificent 102 not out, taking South Africa within 69 runs of a historic triumph in the ICC World Test Championship after ending the third day's play at 213/2 in 56 overs in the final being played at the Lord's here Friday.

After Australia's second innings ended at 207 and put South Africa on a chase of 282, the Proteas lost two wickets early. But Markram was pristine in his shot selection and with conditions being the best for batting, the right-handed batter was rock solid in slamming his eighth Test century off 156 deliveries in the fag end of the day.

He also stitched an unbroken 143-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Temba Bavuma, who hit 65 not out off 121 balls, despite tweaking his left hamstring and hobbling to complete his runs. With Markram and Bavuma showing poise, precision, and authority in amassing runs while complementing each other, the duo have ensured that South Africa are on the cusp of something special on Day Four on Saturday.

Australia, the defending champions, will need something extraordinary on the fourth day of the final if they are to become the first side to retain their World Test Championship title. The final session began with Markram getting his fifty off 69 balls and soon brought up the fifty of his



Australia batter Steve Smith out of WTC final after breaking pinkie

partnership with Bavuma, who hobbled on to take singles that were on offer due to a lack of proactive fields.

With boundaries flowing off Markram's bat and Bavuma also chipping in with some drives, it meant there was no stopping South Africa, as the South African skipper brought up his 29th Test fifty in 83 balls.

With the South African crowd chanting his name,

Markram got his century by flicking Hazlewood through mid-wicket, and the crowd cheered for him, which included his wife Nicole and legendary batter AB de Villiers in attendance, as day three did turn out to be the moving day of the clash.

Brief scores:

Australia 212 and 207 in 65 overs (Mitchell Starc 58, Alex Carey 43; Kagiso Rabada 4-59, Lungi Ngidi 3-38) lead **South Africa** 138 and 213/2 in 56 overs (Aiden Markram 102 not out, Temba Bavuma 65 not out; Mitchell Starc 2-53) by 69 runs

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Struggling India look to bounce back against formidable Aussies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antwerp, June 13: Low on confidence after four successive defeats, a struggling India will be desperate to arrest the slide and stay in contention for the top prize when they take on a formidable Australia in the men's FIH Pro League Saturday.

The European leg of the tournament has been disappointing for the Indian men's hockey team, which suffered 1-2 and 2-3 losses to Olympic champions Netherlands in Amstelveen, followed by back-to-back defeats against Argentina.

Ranked fifth with 15 points from 12 games, India need to bounce back strongly against Australia to collect crucial points and remain in the race for a top-three finish.

"A win against Australia will be



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

very critical for us, as it will not only help us gain crucial points but also give the team a winning momentum," said captain Harmanpreet Singh, who had missed the last match due to a finger injury, in a release.

"We've had a few close games in the last four matches, and while we have been on the losing end, we want to change that and get some wins under our belts."

While poor penalty-corner conversions and the recurring issue of conceding late goals cost them dearly against the Netherlands, it was sloppy defending that led to a 3-4 defeat to Argentina in the first game. In the second, a potential equaliser from a late penalty was disallowed as India went down 1-2.

India also struggled to earn penalty corners, managing only three compared to Argentina's eight.

Eves eye strong outing

London: Having worked extensively to iron out the chinks in their armour, India will aim for a strong showing in the European leg of the Women's Hockey Pro League, beginning with their clash against Australia here Saturday. Currently ranked sixth with nine points, India will face Australia June 14 and 15, followed by back-to-back matches against Argentina June 17 and 18. The team will then travel to Antwerp June 19 for two games against Belgium, scheduled for June 21 and 22, before concluding the European leg with matches against China June 28 and 29 in Berlin. India will look to build on the momentum gained during the India leg of the Pro League in February, where they held world No. 1 Netherlands to a 2-2 draw in Bhubaneswar and earned a bonus point via shootout.

Up against a strong Australian side, India can ill afford any more slip-ups and will have to play out of their skins to turn their fortunes around.

Currently ranked world number 7, India will look to draw confidence from their win over former world number one Australia during the Paris Olympics Pool stage.

India will conclude their European leg with two matches against Belgium June 21 and 22.

Allen sets MLC 2025 ablaze with record-breaking 51-ball 151

Allen goes past Gayle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

California, June 13: Finn Allen stole the show on the opening night of Major League Cricket (MLC) 2025 with a historic innings, smashing a 51-ball 151 to power the San Francisco Unicorns to a massive 123-run victory over defending champions Washington Freedom.

Allen's whirlwind knock set multiple records. He became the fastest player to score 150 in T20 history and broke Chris Gayle's long-standing record of 18 sixes in a T20 innings by clearing the boundary 19 times. His assault began right from the tournament's first over, launching his first



six with an audacious lap shot.

While Tim Seifert chipped in with a short cameo before falling early,

and Jake Fraser-McGurk had another forgettable outing, Allen dominated from one end. Sanjay Krishnamurthi added to the fireworks with four sixes in an over off Rachin Ravindra — a feat Ravindra himself matched later during the chase.

Allen hit three consecutive sixes off both Mitchell Owen and fellow Kiwi Glenn Phillips, reaching 86 off just 28 balls. His century, which came off only 34 deliveries, set a new MLC record, surpassing Nicholas Pooran's 40-ball ton. With seven overs still left, Allen continued to pile on the runs, and when he smashed his 18th six, SFU had already posted the highest total in MLC history.

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