



Soundarya's observation

Actor Soundarya Sharma says acting comes from doing, not learning, as one gets better only by doing the work

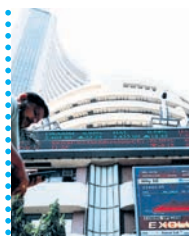
LEISURE | **P2**



US lawmaker killed

Man posing as cop shoots dead Minnesota lawmaker and her husband in politically-motivated attack

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



FPIs show optimism

FPIs bring in ₹3,346.94 crore into the Indian stock markets this week, as investor confidence rises after RBI's rate cut decision

BUSINESS | **P11**



Pranati bags bronze

Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinches a bronze medal in the vault final at the 12th Sr Women's Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships

SPORTS | **P12**

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South Africa wins first major ICC title in 27 yrs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, June 14: South Africa won the World Test Championship against titholder Australia by five wickets after knocking off the last 69 runs required on the fourth morning of the final Saturday.

The Proteas achieved their first major cricket title in 27 years, sparking celebrations at Lord's. They moved from a portentous 213-2 overnight to 282-5, the second-highest successful run chase in the 141-year test history at the home of cricket.

Australia didn't give up the WTC mace easily, relentlessly attacking the stumps and pressuring a South Africa side with an infamous

history of blowing winning positions on big ICC stages.

But South Africa was staunch and composed — only three boundaries in more than two hours — and lost only three wickets Saturday in an air of inevitability.

The desperate Australians used up all of their three reviews in vain within the first 90 minutes but fought to the end. They took the new ball but were still blunted by a flat pitch.

Aiden Markram was the colossus Australia could not topple until it was too late.

The opener resumed the day on 102 and was out for 136 when only six more runs were needed. He spent six hours, 23 minutes in the middle.

P12

Snehasis NEET-UG state topper

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, June 14: Rajasthan's Mahesh Kumar has topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, while Utkarsh Awadhiya from Madhya Pradesh has bagged the second rank, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Saturday.

Odisha's Snehasis Das secured 60th position in the top 100-list in NEET All India Rank (AIR), becoming the state topper. Das, a student of DPS Kalinga, scored 99.9972390 percentile. Another student from the state, Pa-bitra Sathy, has been placed 6th in list of 10 SC category toppers by securing 180th position in NEET AIR.

More than 12.36 lakh candidates out of 22.09 lakh test

takers qualified the exam. The number is down from last year's 13.15 lakh qualifying candidates. However, the number of test takers was also higher last year at over 23.33 lakh.

Among the qualifying candidates this year, over 7.2 lakh are females while over 5.14 lakh are males.

While 529 qualifying candidates are foreign nationals, 405 are NRIs and 606 are OCI card holders.

Maharashtra's Krishang Joshi and Delhi's Mrinal Kishore Jha bagged the third and fourth ranks, respectively.

Among females, Delhi's Avika Aggarwal emerged topper, bagging the fifth rank nationally.

The maximum qualifying candidates are from Uttar



Pradesh (over 1.70 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (over 1.25 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1.19 lakh).

A total of 73 candidates have scored marks in the range of 651 to 686 out of 720 while 1,259 candidates have scored between 601 to 650.

"The NTA conducts the exam and declares result based on the eligibility criteria provided by the National Medical Council (NMC). The admitting authorities will now draw a merit list based

on all India rank for the MBBS and BDS seats available in their jurisdiction," said Col B Vijay Kumar, Director (Exams), NTA.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test.

The NTA conducts the NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBSS course -- approximately 56,000 in government hospitals, and about 52,000 in private colleges.

Admissions to undergraduate courses in dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also utilise NEET results for admission.



FESTIVE TIME: Girls enjoy a swing ride on the first day of the three-day Raja festivities in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PHOTO: BIKAS NAYAK

TEHRAN WILL BURN: ISRAEL

Israel's defence minister Israel Katz has warned Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that 'Tehran will burn' if it keeps firing missiles at Israeli civilians. His comments came after Iran launched retaliatory strikes on Israel following the latter's attack on Iran's nuclear, missile and military complex Friday morning. Iranian missiles rained down on Tel Aviv in retaliation as Tehran vowed to open the 'gates of hell', while fresh explosions were heard in the Iranian capital early Saturday. Iran has also warned the UK, US and France against helping to stop its strikes on Israel. Besides, Israel's strikes also put further talks between the United States and Iran over a nuclear accord on hold. With Trump warning of more such attacks, there seems to be no immediate pause to the escalations.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, June 14: Israel's defence minister warned Saturday that 'Tehran will burn' if Iran continues firing missiles, as the countries traded blows a day after Israel launched a blistering surprise attack on Iranian

nuclear and military sites, killing several top generals.

The attacks have left Iran's surviving leadership with the difficult decision of plunging deeper into conflict with Israel's more powerful forces or seeking a diplomatic route.

The ongoing Israeli strikes appear to have halted — for now — any diplomacy between the US and Iran over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

Israel and Iran signalled more attacks are coming despite urgent calls from world leaders to deescalate to avoid all-out war. Iran's UN ambassador said 78 people were killed and more than 320 wounded.

Iran retaliated by launching waves of drones and ballistic missiles at Israel, where explosions lit the night skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and shook buildings.

The Israeli military urged civilians, already rattled by the war in Gaza sparked by Hamas' October 7 attack, to head to shelter for hours. Health officials said three people were killed and dozens wounded.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran will pay a heavy price for harming Israeli citizens. "If (Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah

Israel apologises for incorrect India map

Jerusalem: The Israeli military Saturday apologised for posting a map that incorrectly depicted Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan after objections from Indian social media users, clarifying that the image 'fails to precisely depict borders'. The map was posted by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) on their X handle Friday to show the range of Iranian missiles.

Ali) Khamenei continues to fire missiles at the Israeli home front — Tehran will burn," Katz said. The US and Iran were scheduled to be in Oman Sunday for their sixth round of indirect talks over Iran's nuclear programme. Abbas Araghchi, Iran's minister of foreign affairs said Saturday the talks were 'unjustifiable' after the Israeli strikes, likely signalling no negotiations this weekend. But he stopped short of saying the talks were cancelled.

Meanwhile, an Israeli drone struck a refinery in Iran's South Pars gas field Saturday, semi-official Iranian news agencies reported.

If confirmed, it would mark the first Israeli attack on Iran's oil and natural gas industry.

MORE P10

PM's roadshow Jun 20

Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to participate in a Tiranga Yatra and hold a roadshow before attending an event marking the first anniversary of the BJP's maiden government in Odisha June 20, a senior minister said. Modi had last year attended the swearing in ceremony of the Majhi government in Odisha. **P3**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thank God the airline's private now. At least, we know the exact number of crash victims

Jajpur: Diarrhoea toll rises to 13; 11 cholera cases found

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 14: One more person succumbed to diarrhoea in Jajpur Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the infection in the district to 13. The deceased was identified as Gelhei Patra, 72, a resident of Tarailo village in Uchhabali panchayat under Danagadi block. Meanwhile, 11 of the 62 collected samples have tested positive for cholera, Health officials said Saturday.

Eight of the 41 samples tested positive Friday, and three of 21 samples tested positive for cholera bacteria, Saturday. Chief district medical officer Prakash Chandra Bal said that the district Health department has not disclosed the specific areas where cholera cases were identified, as residents might panic.

As of Saturday, 84 patients were receiving treatment at the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur. While the

diarrhoea outbreak is under control in Jajpur Road and Korei hospitals, over 50 patients are currently undergoing treatment in Dharmasala. Bal warned that further testing of diarrhoea samples could reveal additional cholera cases.

A 14-member Central team is expected to visit Jajpur to assess the situation, sources said. National Health Mission (NHM) Director Brundha D visited the district held a review meeting with the district Collector P Anvesha Reddy on the situation Saturday. Reddy has imposed restrictions, organising of community feasts during the Raja festival, consuming unhygienic food or water, and using river, canal, or pond water for bathing or sanitation. Residents are urged to consume home-cooked food and boiled or filtered water. Those showing diarrhoea symptoms are advised to seek help from ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, or nearby health centers.

Mysterious black iceberg spotted off Labrador coast

In the chilly waters of the North Atlantic, it's not uncommon to see icebergs floating by.

During the spring and summer, bright white glacial giants of every shape and size drift past the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

But floating serenely amid the pale ice chunks was one iceberg that left a fisherman completely baffled.

While its size was impressive, there was one other thing that particularly made it stand out — the fact that it was completely black.

Hallur Antoniussen, originally from the Faroe Islands, was aboard a fishing trawler when he spotted the strange sight last month. "I have seen icebergs that are rolled, what they say have rolled in the beach with some rocks in it," he told CBC Radio.

"This one here is completely different. It's not only that he is all black. He is almost...in a diamond shape."



Mr Antoniussen, 64, said it was hard to estimate the size of the iceberg since it was roughly six kilometres away when he took a photograph of it.

However, he believes it was at least three times the size of a regular bungalow. Icebergs traditionally appear white because they are filled with tiny pockets

of trapped air that scatter all wavelengths of light.

One explanation for the rare black iceberg is that it became mixed with a lot of debris thousands of years ago when it was part of a larger glacier.

As glaciers move towards the ocean they grind along the ground, stirring up debris that becomes mixed in

with the ice.

Glaciologist Dr Lev Tarasov, from Memorial University in Canada, said it would take a long time for this debris to become as uniformly mixed through as it appears in the image.

He believes the iceberg may have rolled over at some point, and is now showing its underbelly.

"Over time, as it travels around Baffin Bay and down the coast of Labrador, it's melting away," he said as quoted by Daily Mail.

"So I think a lot of that ice is melted away. Maybe the part that's clean is underneath?"

"Again, 90 per cent of the ice is underneath the water. So we're only seeing the tip of the iceberg on top."

He added that it's possible the dirt on the iceberg may not have seen the light of day 'for hundreds of thousands of years'.

Another possibility for the dark colouration is that the ice became mixed with soot from a huge volcanic eruption, or even debris from a historic meteor strike.

Dr Tarasov said he observed smaller versions of the black iceberg during his fieldwork on the Kangerlussuaq Fjord in Greenland last summer — but not as impressive.

AGENCIES

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
One more hectic day! Today you will be busy trying to figure out solutions to your problems, both at home and office. Your superiors give you some leeway and it will be quite a consolation, says Ganesha. Experienced people will give you highly esteemed advise.

TAURUS
This is a great day for showcasing your administrative and organizing abilities, says Ganesha. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superiors, partners and competitors and gaining their admiration and support. Just one thing.

GEMINI
You may come up with a precise understanding of others today, says Ganesha. You will please your sweetheart with both your presence and presents. You will browse through dozens of showrooms for that perfect, and expensive, gift for your beloved. You will also work towards achieving your long-term goals.

CANCER
Today, you and your soul mate will be rolling in the hay; there will be little time or inclination to do anything else. In fact, you will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack. Your mind can think of nothing more, and nothing less.

LEO
Try and put on some protective gear today – maybe a suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesha. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected.

VIRGO
Surf's up as you enjoy an unexpected achievement! But your joy ride today may well be spent in vexing about the problems you have. Expect to gain new money for a new venture. Your business will rise atop the highest wave today, foretells Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha feels the day will be beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government. But you already expect that. It is more than likely that public servants will have encouraging and optimistic achievements lined up for their efforts.

SCORPIO
Ganesha feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS
It is not your nature to warm the bench, but you will wake up feeling lazy and laid-back today, says Ganesha. This may be due to the fatigue of some recent endeavors. For a change, you will try and delegate your work and responsibility to those around you.

CAPRICORN
People may call you a busy bee, but that you admittedly will be, says Ganesha. Work will demand your undivided attention, but the good thing is you will quickly get done with pending work one by one. In fact, you will be left with plenty of time in the evening which you are likely to spend romancing with your sweetheart. In fact, if you are lucky enough, your affair could take a new turn today as a physical relation is on the cards.

AQUARIUS
Amid all the boring work buzz, you will manage to sustain your sense of humour. And, why not? After all, you are an expert at inducing a laugh riot! You are in a gregarious mood and that explains it. This also makes you a welcome guest at any party you may wish to grace.

PISCES
Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than nothing. However, the distress of those lost dollars is likely to be eased by the ecstasy awaiting you in the evening.



HOLLYWOOD IS A BIT OF MESS NOW: DAKOTA

Actor Dakota Johnson says Hollywood is a 'bit of a mess' as studios want to remake the successful projects again and again. Johnson was on a press tour for her latest film *Materialists*, where she was asked why "Hollywood is risk-averse".

JULIANA CANFIELD TO STAR IN *F.A.S.T*

Hollywood actor Juliana Canfield, best known for her role in drama series *Succession*, is going to be a female lead in the upcoming action thriller *F.A.S.T*. According to the entertainment news outlet *Deadline*, the 33-year-old actor will star opposite Brandon Sklenar in the film from Warner Bros.



Soundarya's take on stage & movies

Mumbai: Actress Soundarya Sharma, who is getting a lot of positive response to her song *Laal Pari* from *Housefull 5*, recently shared her experience working in two different media of the atre and cinema.

The actress has done a workshop at the National School of Drama, in the national capital. She has also studied at Lee Strasberg Theatre in Los Angeles and did an acting course at NYFA, Los Angeles.

The actress concurred that she is still quite new to both the media, and is learning the ropes on how things move in the industry.

The actress said, "Theatre is a different form than camera or cinema. When you perform in the theatre, you have to reach the person in the last row. So, you have to be a little more exaggerated version of every emotion, how you perform and of the character. So, both are different media".

She further mentioned, "Emotions are the same but the way of expressing them is different. Housefull 5 is a very different film altogether. It's not like it's very high on different forms of emotions and everything. I think the constant emotion is happiness, a fun element which is like day to day. But yeah, more to come as and when I do more work. Because you get better only by doing the work. Acting comes from doing, not learning."

IAN S



Sharvari's incredible b'day gift

Mumbai: Sharvari had more than one reason to celebrate her birthday this year. The *Al-pha* actress took to Instagram to share the thrilling announcement about her starring in filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's next project, alongside music and acting sensation Diljit Dosanjh and rising actor Vedang Raina. The announcement dropped on her birthday, and Sharvari, overwhelmed with joy and gratitude, decided to share her happiness on social media.

"What an incredible surprise to see this announcement happen on my birthday!"

Best birthday ever! @imtiazialiofficial sir, I have manifested to be directed by you ever since I've dreamt to be an actor..

This will be the most amazing learning experience for me.. It is an honour to be a part of your vision... Thank you for choosing me.. It feels so special to be a part of this dream team @naseeruddin49 @diljiddosanjh @vedangraina... Eeeeee!!! So excited for this new journey." Sharvari wrote in her heartfelt caption.

Imtiaz Ali, known for crafting some of the most memorable romantic dramas in Hindi cinema, is teaming up with Diljit Dosanjh again after their critically acclaimed *Amar Singh Chamkila*. The addition of Sharvari and Vedang Raina has fans buzzing about the chemistry and freshness this trio promises.

PTI



BIPASHA CALLS OUT FAT-SHAMING TROLLS

New Delhi: Actor Bipasha Basu slammed body-shaming trolls, calling them "deeply disturbing reflections of the society towards women".

Basu penned a lengthy note in the comment section of the video, which had glimpses of how her appearance has been trolled after she gained post-pregnancy weight.

The actor, known for her work in projects such as *Raaz*, *Omkara* and *Dhoom 2*, said she is a confident woman who isn't bothered by such comments.

"Hope the human race does not remain so shallow and so low forever... and they encourage and applaud women for the million roles they play each day. I am a super confident woman with a very evolved loving partner and family. Memes and trolls do not define me ever... nor did they make me who I am," Basu wrote in the caption.

The Humshakals actor added such remarks can be hurtful to others.

"But these are deeply disturbing reflections of the society towards women. Another woman in my place could be deeply affected and scarred with the viciousness... Anyways if we have more strong voices and atleast women understanding and applauding women for who they are then women will rise higher and higher :) We are unstoppable ladies," she said.

PTI

Sanjay admitted to dating 3 women at same time



Mumbai: Sanjay Dutt's unique style and on-screen charm cemented his place in Bollywood as a star who could do comedy, drama, and action with equal ease. The actor often makes headlines for his personal life, and he had once opened up about dating three people at the same time.

In an old interview with a news magazine, Sanjay was asked about the topic of double dating. "You need to be clever... one shouldn't know what is happening with the other," he said. He also revealed that he had even dated three women simultaneously. "It was nice to be loved by people. Especially by the ladies!" he added.

One of the most talked-about chapters from his love life was his relationship with actress Tina Mu-

nim. The two were childhood friends whose bond grew into a serious romance during the early '80s. In an old conversation with Stardust, Sanjay had shared his intense feelings for Tina, saying, "I was quite passionate about Tina... She was one of those people who guided me and always pushed me towards my family." He went on to clarify that although Tina had a strong presence in his life, he never let her make decisions about his career.

He also addressed Tina's own link-ups within the industry and clarified that she was not dating a lot of people, as it was humanly impossible.

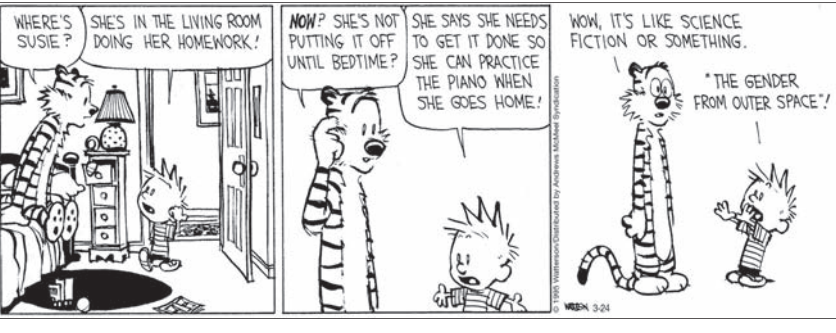
He shared that he trusted her immensely.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



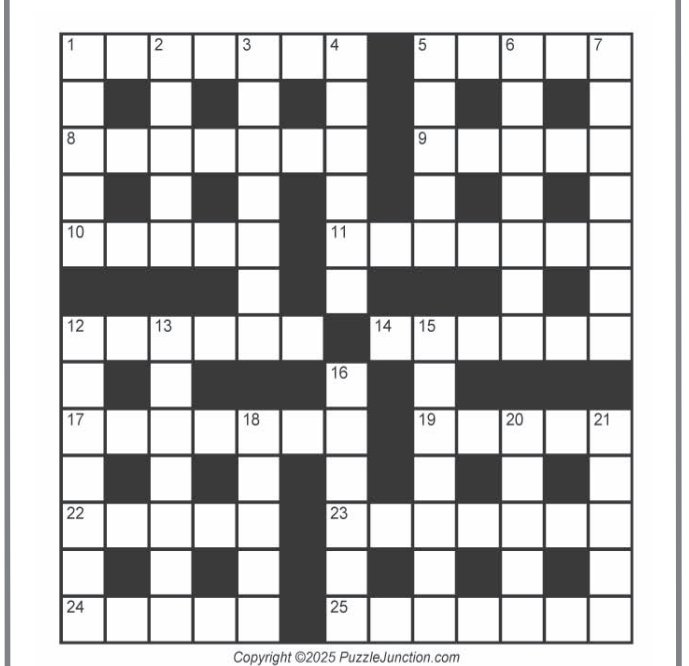
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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- Across**
- 1 Pruning
 - 5 Book parts
 - 8 Leading figure of fauvism
 - 9 Ring-tailed animal
 - 10 Honor
 - 11 Nervous strain
 - 12 Hunting expedition
 - 14 Deviate
 - 17 Big cat
 - 19 Fr. holy men
 - 22 Jordan's capital
 - 23 Shakespeare character
 - 24 Some wedding guests
 - 25 Square-rigger part
 - 4 City district
 - 5 Edible nut
 - 6 Ice mass
 - 7 Field of study
 - 12 Dried seedless grape
 - 13 Deep-sea diver
 - 15 Newscast segment
 - 16 Stupidity
 - 18 Queen
 - 20 Model material
 - 21 Tempest
- Down**
- 1 Punctuation mark
 - 2 Aquarium fish
 - 3 One in the know

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	F	F	A	I	R	S		R	E	B	U	S	
R	A	M	A	A								I	
E	N	S	N	A	R	L	E	D		T	A	N	
N	H	G	A	O	R					C			
A	L	I	B	I		M	O	N	T	A	G	E	
			O	N	I					N		R	
A			N	E	E	D				T	H	U	S
V	A			F	A					P			
E	M	B	R	A	C	E				I	S	A	C
R		L	N	N	T					R		L	
A	P	E			G	E	N	U	I	N	E	L	
G		E	E		A					N		D	
E	T	H	Y	L		L	U	N	E	T	T	E	

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Widespread monsoon rains in next 2-3 days

IMD predicts that state is likely to receive widespread monsoon rains within two to three days



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Saturday stated that Odisha is likely to receive widespread monsoon rains within the next two to three days.

He said a cyclonic circulation expected to form over the Bay of Bengal will create favourable conditions for the southwest monsoon to progress into central and eastern India, increasing rainfall activity in these regions.

The IMD predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall across several districts of Odisha from June 14 to June 18 due to this cyclonic formation. Conditions

remain favourable for further advancement of the monsoon into various parts of Odisha over the next two days, with the monsoon expected to extend into parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar within three days.

“Currently, a cyclonic circulation is present over north Odisha and adjoining areas between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level, tilting southward with height. Another system lies over the west-central Bay of Bengal off the north coastal Andhra Pradesh coast at 5.8 km altitude,” the IMD said.

A third circulation is located over south Bangladesh and

adjoining North Bay of Bengal, extending as a trough to south Odisha at 3.1 km. These systems are expected to enhance rainfall and thunderstorm activity across the state, it said.

June 15, districts including Balasore, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, and Kandhamal are expected to experience thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph, and isolated heavy rainfall.

Similar conditions are forecast June 16 for Gajapati, Kalahandi, Rayagada, and Koraput districts. June 17, an orange alert has been issued for Sundargarh, Koraput, and Keonjhar districts for heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. Yellow warnings will continue for Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput. June 18 and 19, thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds, and heavy rainfall are expected in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and Sundargarh.



TRIBUTE VIGIL: Members of the Bhubaneswar Old Town ‘Brahman Nijoga Samiti’ light lamps in front of the Lingaraj Temple, Saturday, offering prayers for the victims of the recent Ahmedabad plane crash

ICAR-CIFA HOLDS GENOME EDITING MEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: To advance the use of modern biotechnological tools in aquaculture, the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), in partnership with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), held a workshop-cum-brainstorming session on ‘Current Status & Development of a Roadmap on Genome Editing for Aquaculture Species in India’ here Saturday.

The event brought together leading national and international experts, researchers, and policymakers to deliberate on the current landscape,



emerging opportunities, and regulatory requirements for implementing genome editing technologies in Indian aquaculture.

ICAR-CIFA Director PK Sahoo welcomed dignitaries, scientists, and participants, setting the stage for a forward-looking dialogue on the potential of genome editing to boost aquaculture productivity.

Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science & Agricultural Education), ICAR, New Delhi, JK Jena, emphasised the urgent need to integrate genome editing tools into aquaculture research and development to strengthen food security.

In his address, he stressed the importance of collaboration, human resource development, strategic planning, and

clear goal-setting—both for the immediate future and long term—to effectively harness genome editing technologies for advancing aquaculture.

Former ICAR-CMFRI director and AFSIB executive council member A Gopalakrishnan provided a comprehensive overview of ongoing national and international efforts in the field.

National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad chief executive BK Behera delivered the special address, highlighting the vital role of collaboration and the need to diversify species, including ornamental fish, to strengthen the aquaculture sector.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANISED

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 14: To mark World Blood Donor Day Saturday, BRIC-Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), in collaboration with the Indian Liver Patient Foundation (ILPF) and Odisha NCC Directorate, organised a large blood donation camp and awareness programme at the ILS auditorium here.

The event witnessed active participation from over 100 voluntary blood donors, including NCC cadets, healthcare professionals, students, and community members.

Hundreds of units of blood were collected during the camp, underlining a strong sense of civic responsibility and compassion among the participants.

The initiative was aimed

to raise awareness about the life-saving importance of regular blood donation and the role of public participation in strengthening healthcare systems.

Speaking on the occasion, ILS director Debasis Dash said, “Blood donation is not just a noble act. It’s a vital public service. This event reflects the power of collective goodwill in promoting health equity.” He added that ILS would extend similar outreach efforts to rural parts of the state.

The programme was graced by several dignitaries, including Padma Shri Ashok Mohapatra, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, Justice Subhankar Shukla, educationist B Ravindran, and senior journalist Kishore Dwibedy.



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 14: “Elders must not be seen as a burden,” said Bharati Chakra, Head of HelpAge India (Odisha), as she called for school-based sensitisation programmes and youth-involved care centres to strengthen intergenerational ties.

Her remarks came during the release of HelpAge India’s landmark report, “Understanding Intergenerational Dynamics and Perceptions on Ageing,” ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15.

The first-of-its-kind national study explored how Indian youth perceive and engage with senior citizens. Conducted across 10 cities, including Bhubaneswar, the report surveyed 5,798 people—70 per cent youth (18-30 years) and 30 per cent older adults (60+).

Findings revealed mixed perceptions: while 56 per cent of youth viewed elders as “lonely” and 48 per cent as “dependent,” many also saw them as “educated” (51per cent) and “respected” (43 per cent). Media



emerged as a strong influence on youth perceptions, often casting elders as either wise or comical.

SOA University dean Santosh Kumar Raut, noted, “Seniors can mentor youth, fostering mutual confidence,” highlighting the value of experience in bridging the generational gap.

The study also underscored a wide digital divide. Only 41 per cent of elders use smartphones, 13 per cent access the internet, and 14 per cent completely avoid digital devices. Youth frequently assist seniors with technology but often describe them as “uninterested” (78 per cent) or “forgetful” (66 per cent).

Student Soumyashree Mish-

ra urged youth to spend more time with elders: “Keep your phones away—listen, talk, and connect.” Pushpita Mahanty, additional director of Urban Health, stressed the need for regular community activities to keep seniors socially engaged.

Despite generational shifts, 88 per cent of youth expressed a desire to live with family in old age. Madhusudan Das of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Odisha, said, “Intergenerational relationships are deeply rooted in family values.”

Common fears among both age groups—loneliness, poor health, and financial insecurity—highlight the urgency for stronger emotional support and shared time to promote healthy ageing in modern India.

Workshop for boiler operation engineers

Focus on enhancing the efficiency of boiler operations and ensuring the safety of boiler plants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: A training workshop was recently held under the aegis of the Directorate of Factories and Boilers, with support from the State Labour Institute. The workshop focused on enhancing the efficiency of boiler operations and ensuring the safety of boiler plants across various industrial establishments in the state.

Participants, including Boiler Operation Engineers (BOEs) from various factories, took part in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Directorate of Factories and Boilers Deputy Director (Safety) Malay Kumar Pradhan.

In his address, Pradhan highlighted the need for unwavering focus in boiler operations and underscored the importance of active participation alongside training. “When factory operations and management prioritise all employees involved, it helps reduce worker dissatis-

The workshop was inaugurated by Directorate of Factories and Boilers Deputy Director (Safety) Malay Kumar Pradhan

faction and enhances overall efficiency,” he noted. Following the introductory remarks, Sambalpur division deputy director Swaroop Jena, JSW Energy senior vice president and Odisha project head Ashesh Padhi, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, Sambalpur joint vice president Gulshan Tiwari and Tata Steel, Jajpur shift in-charge Abinash Sethy played key roles in conducting the training sessions.

At the concluding session, Labour department additional secretary Niti Ranjan Sen addressed the participants and distributed certificates to the attending Boiler Operation Engineers.

Mouse brain circuit may help curb binge drinking

A new study has identified a small cluster of neurons in the mouse brain that acts as a natural brake on binge drinking, offering promising insights for developing more effective treatments for alcohol use disorder.

Despite the enormous human and societal cost of alcohol abuse, existing therapies have often failed to deliver lasting results. In the United States alone, over 16 million people aged 12 and older reported binge drinking on five or more days in the past month.

While several medications exist to reduce alcohol consumption, they tend to have limited effectiveness and can cause side effects such as fatigue, drowsiness, or insomnia.

For years, research into alcohol abuse has focused on drugs that act on proteins found throughout the brain. These proteins help control how neurons respond to stimuli, but



targeting them often affects unrelated brain functions, leading to unwanted side effects.

In the new research, a team of neurobiologists took a more precise approach by identifying a specific group of neurons in the brain’s medial orbitofrontal cortex—a region known for

regulating decision-making and behavioural flexibility.

Using genetically modified mice, the researchers were able to highlight neurons activated by alcohol. These neurons were tagged with a red fluorescent protein, allowing the team to trace and map their exact loca-

Researchers identified a small group of neurons in the medial orbitofrontal cortex that suppresses alcohol intake in mice

Deactivating these neurons led to increased alcohol consumption, suggesting a built-in brain mechanism that regulates binge drinking

Using genetically modified mice, the researchers were able to highlight neurons activated by alcohol

tions in the brain.

The researchers found that when this particular group of neurons was active, it helped suppress alcohol intake. However, when the same neurons were turned off, the mice consumed significantly more alcohol.

This suggests the brain has a built-in mechanism that acts to limit drinking, and when this mechanism fails, it may lead to excessive or uncontrolled consumption.

The findings build on earlier research that pointed to small populations of neurons, known as neuronal ensembles, as key players in memory and emotional regulation. This study is among the first to show that such ensembles may also directly influence alcohol-related behaviour.

Although the research was conducted in mice, it raises important questions about whether a similar mechanism exists in the human brain. If so, targeting these specific neurons could offer a way to help people struggling with binge drinking, without the broad side effects seen in current treatments.

With ongoing advances in gene therapy and precision medicine, scientists are hopeful that such discoveries could lead to more targeted and effective approaches to treating alcohol use disorder in the future.

(The Conversation)

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	36.4°	35.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	26.4°	25.6°	
Humidity	74%	79%	
Rainfall	1.9mm	Nil	

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Shifting Subarnarekha alarms villagers

The meandering Subarnarekha River in eastern Odisha continues to erode vast stretches of farmland posing an imminent threat to several villages in Baliapal block. Despite official assurances, protective measures get delayed, intensifying local concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalipada, June 14: The Subarnarekha River, flowing along the eastern edge of Baliapal block in Balasore district, is causing significant distress as its shifting course continues to eat away riverbanks year after year. Large swathes of agricultural land across several panchayats have already been lost to the river's changing path.

Over recent years, parts of villages such as Kudamansing, Manonagar, Rasulpur Nayabali, and Ikadapal have been swal-



lowed by the river. Now, the erosion has reached close to the Panteighat area near Kulhachada village. As a result, residents of Kulhachada in Jamakunda panchayat of Baliapal block and Kuhla village in Rasulpur panchayat of Bhograi block face a growing risk of displacement.

Currently, around 200 metres of the Kulhachada riverbank is crumbling daily due to accelerated erosion. In the past six months alone, multiple acres of farmland have disappeared into the riv-

erbed. If the current rate of erosion persists, the Subarnarekha is likely to reach the villages very soon.

Locals believe the increasing tidal influx from the Bay of Bengal is intensifying the erosion. While stone pitching was carried out near Pantei village on the eastern bank providing some protection there, the opposite bank near Kulha and Kulhachada has seen no such intervention, leaving it more vulnerable to damage.

As a result, the heavily

used Pantei ferry ghat—an essential daily transport route for thousands commuting to Bhograi block and parts of West Bengal—has become increasingly perilous. The original ghat has been rendered inaccessible, forcing passengers to board boats from makeshift locations, often trudging through muddy waters, which is causing serious inconvenience. Local residents have repeatedly appealed to the district administration and the Water Resources department for immediate action.

In July last year, Mukul Bera, Chief Engineer and Special Secretary of the department, along with sitting MLA Subashini Jena and other senior officials, visited the site and promised swift stone pitching work. However, even a year later, not a single layer of soil has been laid.

Residents warn that if urgent steps are not taken, the situation could become catastrophic during the monsoon season.

Meanwhile, construction of a bridge over the Subarnarekha from Jamkunda lock to Pantei ghat is underway at an estimated cost of Rs 192 crore by L&T.

But the pace of work has been sluggish, making it unlikely to meet the scheduled completion timeline.

When contacted, Junior Engineer Nanigopal Sen of the Water Resources department stated that a Rs 3.72-crore proposal for stone pitching has been prepared and the tender process is complete. With the monsoon approaching, necessary emergency steps will be taken based on the severity of the situation, he added.

CRPF official killed in IED blast in Saranda forest

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/ Chaibasa/ Ranchi, June 14: A CRPF official was killed in a blast during an anti-Naxal operation at the Odisha-Jharkhand border Saturday morning, officials said.

ASI Satyaban Kumar Singh (34) of 134th CRPF battalion, who hailed from Kushinagar in UP, was part of a team that was searching the Saranda forest at the inter-state border for explosives robbed by Maoists from a stone quarry May 27, they said.

He sustained injuries on his left leg when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded around 6am near the K Balang village in Sundargarh district, they said. He was taken to a hospital in Rourkela, where he succumbed to the injuries, officials said.

The search operation was being conducted by a joint



team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Odisha Police.

About 5 tonne of explosives were robbed from a stone quarry in Sundargarh's Banko by Maoists. While three-fourths of the explosives have been recovered so far, the security forces continue their search for the remaining gelatin packets, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi condoled the death of the CRPF official.

"Deeply saddened to know about the sacrifice of

ASI Satyban Singh of CRPF in an IED blast during a combing operation at the Odisha-Jharkhand border. He has set the highest standard of service and courage by sacrificing his life for the security of the country. I pray for the eternal peace of the martyred jawan and express my condolences to the bereaved family," he said in a post on X.

In a statement, the Jharkhand Police said a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the CRPF's 133 battalion headquarters in Ranchi at 5pm.

Man lynched over goat theft suspicion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, June 14: A man was brutally beaten to death in an organised attack by four persons over suspicion of goat theft at Sankhua village under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Bipin Bihari Naik, 46, son of Paramananda Naik in the village under Saharpada block. The accused dropped the body near Sankhua High School on Sankhua-Gorandi Jodi road and fled.

The matter came to the light after locals spotted the body and alerted the local police.

Police swung into action Saturday and arrested a couple in this connection. The accused identified as

Debasri Patra, 55, and his wife Beenapani Patra, 40 were produced in the court after their arrest, Patana IIC Manas Kumar Mahakur said.

A case was registered in this connection and the body handed over to the family members after a post-mortem. A manhunt has been launched to nab the absconding two accused, the IIC said.

Sources said that Bipin had entered the cowshed of Debasri Friday. Debasri suspected that Bipin had come to steal his goats as recently there had been a series of goat thefts in the area. Debasri raised an alarm and he along with his wife Beenapani, son and another person caught hold of Bipin and lynched him.

ATTACK BY VILLAGERS

Forest workers stir in front of DFO office demanding arrest of accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 14: Members of Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association, Keonjhar branch Saturday evening staged a peaceful protest in front of the Keonjhar division office and gave a memorandum with a six-point charter of demands including arrest of villagers who attacked on-duty forest officials Friday.

Tension erupted near the DFO office Saturday evening when the police personnel deployed outside did not let the forest workers enter into the premises. Later, the forest workers went inside the division office and protested peacefully.

Divisional Forest Offi-



cer, Keonjhar Dhanraj HD came to the protest site and held talks with the president and other members of Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association, Keonjhar branch.

After discussion they called off the protest and gave a 48-hour ultimatum to fulfill their demands.

The forest workers said that when they were going to rescue victims of elephant attack in Kendu-dihi village under Rugudi

police station Friday, the villagers attacked Barbil ranger Sanjib Raut, Guali forester Sarat Kumar Patnaik and protection squad members in the presence of Rugudi IIC and other police personnel. Forester Sarat Kumar Patnaik was admitted to Barbil Community Health Centre in a critical condition for treatment.

The victims were identified as Dipachan Majhi, 37, and Amul Majhi, 28, both residents of Sosing village. According to sources, the two had gone into the nearby Dalampala forest early in the morning to collect firewood. At the time, a wild bear with her cubs was foraging in the same area. Upon spotting the men, the bear launched a sudden attack.

Amul was the first to be mauled, sustaining multiple injuries. When Dipachan tried to intervene and rescue him, the bear turned on him, severely injuring his face and body. Amid the chaos, Amul managed to flee

to a nearby forest guard outpost, alerting a caretaker who then informed villagers.

Over 10 villagers rushed to the spot to rescue the injured. However, as they approached, the bear chased them, forcing all to climb trees for their safety. The animal remained in the area, guarding her cubs and pacing aggressively. The rescuers remained in the trees for nearly four hours until the bear moved away with her cubs.

Two villagers used an alternate route to retrieve the injured and took them to Sunabeda Primary Health Centre. They were later shifted to Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital due to the severity of their injuries. Amul suffered deep wounds across his body, while Dipachan's face was severely disfigured, making his eyes, nose, and mouth unrecognisable.

2 killed as truck hits motorcycle

Nuapada: Two men were killed late Friday night after a truck collided with their motorcycle head-on near Daldali village square on National Highway 353 under Lakhna police limits in Nuapada district. The deceased were identified as Khyamasagar Dharua, 33, and Purendra Dharua, 45, both residents of Diamunda village in Kurumapuri panchayat. Earlier that day, Khyamasagar's wife, Brunda Dharua, was taken to the Taraboda Primary Health Centre in labour. At around 4:30pm, she gave birth to a baby boy. As both mother and child were stable, they were discharged with medication around 10pm. While Brunda and the newborn returned home in an ambulance, Khyamasagar and Purendra followed on a motorcycle. A truck coming from the opposite direction rammed into them near Daldali square, throwing both riders onto the road. They were rushed to the Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital by locals and police, where doctors declared them dead. Lakhna police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation. The speeding truck fled the scene. On Saturday, family members, villagers and social workers staged a protest outside the hospital demanding compensation. Financial aid of Rs 20,000 and Rs 10,000 was given to each of the families.

Vedanta Lanjigarh launches mega plantation campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, in a powerful reaffirmation of its commitment to environmental sustainability, launched a mega plantation drive titled 'Mo Gachha Mo Parivar' in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025. The campaign targets the plantation of over 1 lakh fruit-bearing saplings in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, aiming to positively impact more than 30,000 rural families, with popular species like mango, guava, jackfruit, and moringa selected for their ecological, nutritional, and economic value.

The initiative was kicked off through a community-led plantation drive at Balabhadrapur village and Vedanta's plant premises, with participation from more than 600 people, including employees, senior leadership, school children, government officials, and members of the local community. The plantation was symbolically tied to the theme of 'Mo Gachha, Mo Parivar'.

It is a heartfelt pledge to nurture each tree as a member of the family. Beyond beautifying the landscape, the plantation drive is expected to offset approximately 1.5 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the trees. It will contribute to enhanced biodiversity and support the regeneration of natural forests. The initiative also plays a crucial role in improving soil retention and preventing erosion. By introducing fruit-bearing trees, it is set to strengthen rural livelihoods through harvesting and allied income-generating activities. Additionally, it will help build climate resilience in ecologically sensitive regions.

Speaking on the initiative, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO – Vedanta Alumina Business said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, sustainability is not just a responsibility—it's a way of life. Through 'Mo Gachha Mo Parivar', we are sowing seeds of hope, unity, and prosperity. We are proud to walk hand-in-hand with the community toward a greener and more resilient tomorrow."



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) DIVISION, JEYPORE

ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B) - 05/2025-26/JYP(K)

No. 3085 Date: 09.06.2025

No. B-198: Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1. Name of the Work

: Civil works as mentioned in DTCN

2. No. of works

: 4 Nos.

3. Estimated Cost

: Rs.6.65 lakhs to Rs.20.23 lakhs

4. Period of Completion

: 1 (One) Month to 4 (Four) Months

5. Date & time of Bidding

: From 11.00 hours of 20.06.2025 upto 17.00 hours of 30.06.2025

6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal

: 17.00 hours of 30.06.2025

7. Bids received online shall be opened on

: 11.00 hours of 01.07.2025

8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid

: Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
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Nameless Doctrine

On 12 June, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. It spoke of ending Israel’s use of starvation as a weapon of war. A total of 149 nations voted in favour, with America and Israel opposing. India abstained from voting, repeating a pattern it has adopted in the Modi era. This has upset some Indians because it is a break from India’s longstanding position on Palestine and Palestinians, but it is in keeping with the thrust of the BJP’s Hindutva ideology.

On the other hand, the government’s supporters have been upset by the even-handedness with which the world has approached our recent conflict with Pakistan. We cannot get nations to take our side.

This column is not a critique of India’s foreign policy under Narendra Modi; it is an attempt to explain it. The BJP’s manifestoes from the very beginning, in its Jana Sangh avatar in the 1950s, have little to offer in terms of foreign policy doctrine. However, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has laid out his thesis in his writings and this will help us appreciate what India is attempting to do in the world. Jaishankar assumes that in our time the United States and Europe will look inward (his first book of essays was published just before Trump lost in 2020), while China would continue to rise. This would open the space for countries like India to be opportunistic in their engagements with the world and for this they did not need consistency.

What India wanted was a ‘multi-polar Asia’—meaning one in which India could claim parity with China. Many balls would need to be kept in the air, Jaishankar writes and India would handle them with dexterity. This was opportunism but that was all right because opportunism, he tells us, was in India’s culture. We should understand our abstention from voting against genocide and starvation of children by Israel in this light.

The Mahabharata’s lessons, Jaishankar says, are that deceit and immorality are merely to ‘not play by the rules.’ Drona’s demanding of Eklavya’s thumb, Arjuna’s appropriation of Karna’s armour, Indra’s using Shikhandi as a human shield, these were but ‘practices and traditions.’

Inconsistency in policy was not only fine but required because ‘obsessing about consistency’ made little sense in changing circumstances. So what was such a doctrine to be called? In a speech he made where he first laid out this doctrine of opportunism and inconsistency, Jaishankar said it is hard to think of a name. He takes up and discards the phrases — ‘multi-alignment’ (‘sounds too opportunistic’) and ‘India first’ (‘sounds self centred’). He settles at ‘advancing prosperity and influence,’ which he says is accurate but thinks is not catchy. He believes some name for it will eventually come if it is pursued long enough, because part of the challenge is that we are still in the early phase of a major transition.

The opponent will point out that this was no real foreign policy at all. This was a cover on top of what was already going on. What interested Modi, and what was inconsistent but made for pageant and ceremony, was being passed off as something meaningful. The opponent will also ask why Jaishankar’s doctrine is detached from the rhetoric offered by the BJP. There is no role for India the civilisational entity, which nationalists from Nehru to the BJP have made much of. There is no Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-style romanticism or Vishwaguru-type bombast here, and Jaishankar’s nameless doctrine is stripped of all forms of morality and ethic. This is not India engaging with the world on the strength of Indian pluralism. The world is a transactional place and India must be dexterous enough to be able to take advantage of it. One important element of this line of thinking was to take advantage of the war in Ukraine and buy cheap Russian oil. Europe, dependent on Russian gas for energy could hardly press other nations for buying from Russia. India did so, along with China. How much cheaper was it? The average landed price of imported crude for April–December 2022 was \$99.2 per barrel. If oil from Russia was excluded, the average price was \$101.2, meaning a saving of \$2 per barrel. And this money did not come back to the Indian citizen as we have seen in the price of fuel; instead it enriched private refiners.


Jaishankar does not appear to have anticipated that this theory of his worked both ways. In such a world as he imagined, others would also seek to take advantage of India, and treat it in opportunistic fashion. This might help explain why our global outreach has received such a tepid response. We have chosen to be transactional with the world, as our UN votes reveal. The major powers understand and accept this and they will in turn be transactional with us. Whether this is good, bad or indifferent foreign policy is for the reader to decide.

power post

P6

FOCUS CONFLICTS

IMPERIALISM IN ACTION



The global arms trade, driven by American and European interests, fundamentally depends on the expansion and perpetuation of conflict




Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS ‘COLLATERAL DAMAGE’ WHEN IT COMES TO THE CALCULATED, STRATEGIC OPERATIONS OF IMPERIALISM ACROSS THE GLOBE



Aakar Patel

WE HAVE CHOSEN TO BE TRANSACTIONAL WITH THE WORLD, AS OUR UN VOTES REVEAL. THE MAJOR POWERS UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THIS AND THEY WILL IN TURN BE TRANSACTIONAL WITH US



Jonathan Hall

COMPANIES THAT SHUN, RENOUNCE, OR POSTPONE CLIMATE-ATTUNED STRATEGIES DO SO AT THEIR OWN PERIL

recent imperialist wars and conflicts. The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University (USA) reports that over 940,000 people were killed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan during the post-9/11 “War on Terror” led by imperialist powers. Of these, more than 432,000 were civilians killed between 2001 and 2023. An additional 3.6 to 3.8 million people are estimated to have died indirectly in these war zones, bringing the total death toll to at least 4.5 to 4.7 million—and still rising. More than 1.5 million people have been killed in the ongoing Russia–Ukraine war. Since 7 October, 2023, over 65,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli military operations, including 17,492 children. These deaths and the widespread devastation they represent are entirely avoidable. Yet American and European imperialist powers continue to manufacture and promote new conflicts and wars to sustain their hegemonic dominance and profit-driven capitalist systems.

Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, American imperialism opened a new economic front by unilaterally imposing tariffs on numerous countries, aiming to control and dominate international trade. Such imperialist economic strategies have led to increased costs of essential goods and services, further marginalising working people. There is no escaping from the pervasive and destructive consequences of imperialism on the daily lives of people and the health of the planet. The defeat of imperialism in all its forms is central to achieving lasting global peace, happiness and shared prosperity.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

worldwide. Behind many of these conflicts—both visibly and invisibly—are the hands of Yankee imperialism and its European allies. From the wars between Ukraine and Russia, India and Pakistan, and Iran and Israel, to the destruction of Palestine and military operations in Baluchistan, as well as various regions across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, imperialist influence is pervasive in creating and sustaining these conflicts. The devastation of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya stands as a testament to the role of American and European imperialism, driven by lies, manipulation, and unlawful military interventions disguised as democratic diplomacy.

All these violent conflicts and wars are orchestrated by imperialist forces to exploit natural resources, while the working masses are made to fight each other in the name of territory, nationalism, religion, culture, and ethnicity. Imperialist powers not only initiate but also actively promote wars and conflicts, ensuring that their factories producing weapons of mass destruction remain profitable—at the cost of human lives and livelihoods.

The global arms trade, driven by American and European interests, fundamentally depends on the expansion and perpetuation of conflict. Without war, their arms industries would collapse. To keep these “arms shops” open, American and European imperialism continues to manufacture and sustain conflict around the world.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Fact Sheet (March 2025), European and American states remain the dominant exporters of arms. The US, France, Germany, Italy, the UK, and China were the major arms exporters between 2020 and 2024. The same report reveals that US arms exports increased by 21% from 2015 to 2024, while France saw an 11% increase. In contrast, Russian arms exports declined by 64% over the same period. On the receiving end, Ukraine, India, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan were the largest arms importers during 2020–2024. American and European imperialists, along with their military-industrial complexes, lay the foundations for this global arms trade.

According to conservative estimates, more than 7 million people have died as a result of

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

The case for green business

Since Donald Trump’s return to the White House, the US has taken an everything-everywhere-all-at-once approach to disrupting the domestic and global status quo, and sustainability and climate commitments have been among its first targets. Trump immediately signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement, and his administration then canceled funding for clean-energy projects under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Against this backdrop, some companies are quietly downplaying or abandoning their previously announced environmental and climate commitments.

But no amount of shock-and-awe policy disruption in one country compares to the disruption caused by climate change. Already, the financial costs from disrupted global supply chains – owing to water stress, biodiversity loss, and land degradation – are projected to reach up to \$25 trillion by 2060. Businesses that fail to manage these risks will face higher costs, increased regulatory scrutiny, and reputational damage. For example, automakers that are slow-playing the transition to electric vehicles may find themselves scrambling to catch up as more governments enact legislation to phase out internal combustion engines in the coming years. In time, legacy auto brands are likely to face the same kind of scrutiny and reputational fallout that oil and gas producers have. By contrast, companies that proactively build greater resilience throughout their businesses and supply chains will benefit from greater investor confidence, and thus lower capital costs.

But with the climate-finance industry focused mostly on the net-zero agenda, physical risks and climate-adaptation needs have not received the attention they merit. As a result, banks, asset managers, and (especially) insurers are sitting on a time bomb of potential liabilities. Adapting to a world characterized by biodiversity loss, water stress, and other risks is now crucial to maintaining corporate profitability over the long term.

Far-sighted countries and companies will recognize that this upheaval represents an opportunity. In separate studies, McKinsey Sustainability and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development estimated the economic opportunity represented by the sustainable transition at \$12 trillion per year by 2030.

Similarly, Kantar BrandZ assessments show that perceptions of sustainability enhance brand equity (value in the eyes of customers), drive sales, and allow brands to command a premium. Yet even as sustainability perceptions add as much as 10% to the value of the top 100 brands, these companies are still leaving an estimated \$600 billion on the table. The next decade of business will be defined by companies that recognize sustainability as an economic imperative, rather than just a regulatory requirement.

Economic power is shifting fast with the impending generational transfer of wealth. In the US alone, the transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) to Millennials (1981-96) and Gen Z (1997-2012) could amount to \$84.4 trillion over the next 20 years. As Millennial and Gen Z consumers become more dominant in the marketplace, they are seeking brands that reflect their values, and chief among these is a preference for mutualism over individualism: a sense of community and shared responsibility for collective gain in the face of anticipated uncertainty and adversity. In this context, businesses like Airbnb, Vinted, and IKEA are stealing a march with brand

communications that focus on cooperation, community, and a sense of belonging.

As global markets increasingly focus on business resilience and respond to the rise of industrial policy and longer-term investment strategies, companies that adapt to generational change will be best positioned to lead the next industrial revolution. We are experiencing much more than the shock of US policy shifts. To remain credible in the eyes of consumers and investors, brands and businesses will have to get serious about building climate resilience into their operations – whether by addressing single points of failure in their supply chains or by implementing robust crisis and recovery plans.

For businesses, the need to adapt to climate change isn’t going away, and neither is consumer demand for sustainable solutions. Globally, 85% of people surveyed still want to make “greener” choices in their purchases. Companies that shun, renounce, or postpone climate-attuned strategies do so at their own peril.

The writer is Managing Partner of the Sustainable Transformation Practice at Kantar.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Dangerous escalation

Sir, This refers to “Israel strikes Iran’s nuclear sites,” **Orissa POST**, June 14. Israel’s bombing of Iran’s nuclear sites, killing top Iranian army officials, has triggered a dangerous and catastrophic escalation in the Middle East. Iran launched a wave of retaliatory attacks, marking one of the most direct confrontations between the two nations in recent history. This sharp intensification threatens to destabilise the region, drawing in global powers and risking a broader conflict. The consequences of this confrontation are severe. With tensions rising near the Strait of Hormuz—a vital energy corridor—global oil prices have surged, threatening economic stability worldwide. For India, the fallout is particularly concerning. As one of the largest importers of Middle Eastern crude oil, India is highly vulnerable to price spikes, which could fuel inflation, widen the trade deficit, and slow economic growth. Additionally, India has millions of citizens living and working in the Gulf region. A prolonged conflict could endanger their safety and force emergency evacuations. Diplomatically, India finds itself in a tight spot, balancing its strategic partnerships with both Israel and Iran.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Secure the skies

Sir, Air travel has always been regarded as the safest mode of commuting but that record appears to be under threat subsequent to the “Black Thursday.” Even frequent flyers may panic while boarding a flight let alone those with aerophobia. It is very critical to prevent such air crashes and secure the skies. The Boeing 778 Dreamliner, in little over 14 years, has earned a formidable reputation for safety. Very fast and fuel efficient, the aircraft is said to possess a range of 13530 km. That being said, there have been reports and complaints about its assembly defects though no aircraft in the world can perhaps boast of having totally accident-free engines. Mechanic defect, engine failure, bird hit and human error: one or the combination of these are attributed to the gory tragedy at Ahmedabad. Recovery of the black box that contains Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder may answer most of the queries.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

of the day

quote

Some places were closed after April 22 (attack) in view of security considerations. The divisional commissioners and IGP's of Kashmir and Jammu have taken reports from every district and it has been decided to reopen some destinations in a phased manner

MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

At a time when nations today act decisively to neutralise nuclear threats, India's tragic inaction during the 1980s remains a cautionary tale of what could have been—and what wasn't

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

The circumstances surrounding her disappearance and subsequent death are deeply troubling and have raised serious concerns among her family, friends and the wider community

GAURAV GOGOI | APCC PRESIDENT

X

POST OF THE DAY

Goa CM has assured Goa Taxi drivers that there will be no App-based aggregators like Ola and Uber in Goa. After Goa government decided to bend their unreasonable demands, now Goa Taxi drivers are stating we do not want any Taxi Apps. They want Goa to be living in the 19th century, while India and the world is living in the 21st century and beyond. If the government bends to the Taxi Drivers unreasonable demands and does not use iron fist, the unreasonable and unfair behaviour will only get more aggressive.

@PrinceArihan

SHORT TAKES

Mandal to become RJD's 1st EBC state prez

Patna: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Saturday appeared all set to have an EBC (Extremely Backward Class) leader as its Bihar unit chief with veteran politician Mangani Lal Mandal filing his nomination papers at the party office in the presence of founding president Lalu Prasad. Mandal, a former state minister and an ex-MP with tenures in both Houses of Parliament, had returned to the RJD in January this year after severing ties with the JD(U) headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

2 held for deceiving NEET aspirants

New Delhi: The CBI arrested two men from Maharashtra for allegedly deceiving NEET UG 2025 aspirants and their families by claiming they could manipulate scores, and charging ₹90 lakh per candidate, officials said Saturday. Sandeep Shah and Salim Patel, residents of Solapur and Navi Mumbai, respectively, allegedly hoodwinked candidates by posing as middlemen with access to non-existent officials of the NTA.

Communal tensions: 38 held in Dhubri

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Saturday said 38 people were arrested in Dhubri, where shoot-at-sight was ordered at night following communal tensions. The state government has also transferred the district's Senior Superintendent of Police Navin Singh, and appointed Halikandi SSP Leena Doley in his place.



“Thank all foreign leaders and Governments for their condolences at the tragic loss of lives in the Ahmedabad air crash. We appreciate this deeply

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SIKANDAR SINGH MALUKA RE-INDUCTED INTO PARTY FOLD

Rebel Akali leader and former Punjab minister Sikandar Singh Maluka was Saturday re-inducted into the party fold. According to a statement issued by the Shiromani Akali Dal, Maluka rejoined the party in the presence of party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal



High-level panel to find ‘root cause’

Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers, including 12 crew members, crashed in the Meghaninangar area shortly after takeoff from the Ahmedabad International Airport Thursday afternoon, killing 270 persons, including 241 passengers on board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Ahmedabad, June 14: The Centre Saturday set up a high-level multi-disciplinary panel to ascertain the “root cause” of the crash of the London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad and assess any contributing factors including mechanical failure, human error and regulatory compliances even as the death toll in the disaster rose to 270.

As the panel headed by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was mandated to give its report in three months, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said aviation regulator DGCA has ordered “extended surveillance” for the Tata-owned airline’s Boeing 787 Dreamliner series planes. The Civil Aviation ministry said the committee will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations.

In a post on X, Air India said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA). The carrier now has 26 Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8(AI171) and another 29 persons including five MBBS students on the ground were killed when the aircraft came down Thursday moments after taking off from the Sardar Val-



AHMEDABAD AI PLANE CRASH

Airport before falling inside the nearby campus of the state-run BJ Medical College in Meghaninagar area and going up in flames.

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was

manufacturer’s protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GEnx engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace. The officials, who did not want to be named, also claimed there were no issues with the engines or the aircraft.

“Around 270 bodies have been brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital so far from the plane crash site,” President of Junior Doctors association of BJ Medical College, Dr Dhaval Gameti, told PTI. The death toll in the country’s worst ever air disaster in three decades was earlier put by authorities at 265.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder(DFDR), commonly known as Black box, was recovered from the ‘rooftop’ of the hostel building at the crash site Friday



Domestic workers paint a wall to press their various demands ahead of 'International Domestic Workers' Day', at a neighbourhood in Kolkata, West Bengal, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Patanjali launches statewide campaign to promote Int’l Yoga Day

AGENCIES

Kurukshetra, June 14: Haryana is abuzz with preparations for the upcoming 11th International Yoga Day celebrations, scheduled for June 21. Under the guidance of revered Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev and the Haryana Yoga Commission, this year’s event is set to be a grand affair, with activities spanning across the state.

The central venue will be Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra, where a massive yoga

session is planned. In the lead-up, local communities are actively promoting yoga through door-to-door campaigns and workshops. Notably, villages like Sirsa, Lohdwa, and Saharsa have been organizing yoga classes and awareness programs to encourage participation. In Lohdwa, yoga instructors Omprakash Malhotra and Sushila Garg have been conducting sessions, while in Saharsa, Swami Kesavanand and Swami Girish have been leading classes at local mosques, emphasizing yoga’s

universal appeal. The Haryana government has also been proactive, with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announcing the establishment of 100 new gymnasiums across the state to make yoga more accessible. Additionally, a yoga marathon involving schools, colleges, and the general public is scheduled for June 19 as a rehearsal for the main event. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Har Ghar Aangan Yoga,” underscoring the government’s commitment to integrating yoga into daily life.

Delhi Assembly to go fully digital by July

Rijiju lays foundation stone for e-Vidhan project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: The Delhi Assembly is set to become fully paperless by July under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), as Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday laid the foundation stone for the e-Vidhan project.

The initiative is a part of the Centre’s ‘One Nation, One Application’ drive aimed at digitising legislative processes across states.

The event held at the Assembly premises marked a major milestone in Delhi’s transition to digital governance and environmental responsibility.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Chief Whip Abhay Verma and other dignitaries attended the event.

The programme commenced with a minute of silence for the victims of the recent Ahmedabad plane crash.

“The laying of the foundation stone for the e-Vidhan project at the Delhi Legislative Assembly is a commendable step towards adopting technology for legislative efficiency and trans-



parency,” said Rijiju speaking at the event.

“I want to see the Delhi Assembly as a model Assembly and this initiative will certainly help in achieving that goal,” he added.

Rijiju emphasized that beyond going paperless, the project aims to enhance transparency, digital security and public participation.

“Given Delhi’s unique and complex administrative structure, this digital transformation carries special relevance,” he said. The speaker described the initiative as a “historic milestone” and announced that plans are already underway to turn the Delhi Assembly into a green, tech-enabled and culturally vibrant institution.

“As Delhi moves towards becoming the first assembly powered entirely by renewable energy, the e-Vidhan initiative is setting new benchmarks in

digital democracy and environmentally conscious legislative practices,” he said.

Gupta also noted that a tri-partite MoU was signed between the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the GNCTD and the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat March 22, 2025. Over ₹9 crore in grants have been received under the NeVA project, with more than ₹1 crore released as the first instalment.

A 500-kilowatt solar project is being installed to power the Delhi Assembly, which is on track to become the first in India to run completely on renewable energy. The plans are also in place to upgrade the Assembly’s infrastructure, including the renovation of the House before the Monsoon Session, the creation of a modern e-library and the transformation of the historic Assembly premises into a cultural and heritage site.

Law minister backs institutional arbitration as part of Indian culture

The government has been pushing for institutional arbitration instead of ad hoc arbitration asserting it is efficient and more result oriented, the industry on the other hand feels arbitration in India is slow, inefficient and plagued with red tape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal Saturday pitched for institutional arbitration, saying it was part of Indian culture after the ONGC chairman urged making arbitration proceedings timely and not “timeless”.

The government has been pushing for institutional arbitration instead of ad hoc arbitration asserting it is efficient and more result oriented.

The industry on the other hand feels arbitration in India is slow, inefficient and plagued with red tape.

Singapore, London and Dubai have emerged as hubs of international arbitration to settle high stakes, high value commercial disputes.

Addressing a conference on institutional arbitration here, the minister also said that organisations should be ready to be flexible and rigid, depending on the need of the hour, to ensure that its interests remain protected and it contributes towards nation building.

Meghwal felt that officers should be willing to take risk and not follow the beaten track to ensure financial interests of their organisation.



Meghwal lamented that while arbitration was part of Indian culture, the concept got

“disturbed” somewhere and other countries became hub of international arbitration.

He hoped that India will soon emerge as the new hub of international arbitration.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh said time is money, and hence there was a need to make the procedure of arbitration timely and not “timeless”.

He said settlement of commercial disputes in a time-bound manner was quintessential for the business ecosystem.

He also felt that there was a need to make arbitration “more

corporate and less legal”.

Singh said disputes largely arise out of three reasons: executives being excessively conservative who pass the buck to save their skin; excessive optimism of vendors who take contracts at low bids and subsequently fail to complete the job and create disputes to wriggle out of the situation; and rigidity in contracts, which make completing tasks difficult.

Law Secretary Anju Rathi Rana said the government has been consistently trying to make arbitration and mediation processes faster and easier.

She recalled a recent directive from the Department of Legal Affairs, which pushes for reducing judicial interventions and using institutional and not ad hoc arbitration.

The chairman of India International Arbitration Centre, Justice (retd) Hemant Gupta, said the mindset has to change for parties to go for institutional arbitration, rather than an ad hoc system to settle commercial disputes.

He said people will have to choose institutional arbitration to understand its benefits over court-appointed arbitration.

THE REDEMPTION OF PROTEAS

South Africa shed ‘chokers’ tag as they lift the World Test Championship mace, beating Australia by five wickets at the Home of Cricket

AGENCIES

London, June 14: Chokers no more. The South Africans consigned the word to history when they ripped the World Test Championship mace from Australia's callused grip inside four days of a riveting final at Lord's.

South Africa wore a new label Saturday — champion — by claiming its first major cricket trophy in 27 years when it wrapped up a five-wicket win.

The last 69 runs required on day four were confidently knocked off by the Proteas in just over two hours — only three boundaries — with Australia typically fighting all the way to the inevitable end.

South Africa moved from a portentous 213-2 overnight to a winning 285-5, the second highest successful run chase in the 141-year test history at the home of cricket.

Victory laid to rest ghosts of heart-breaking losses on big ICC stages that have haunted South Africa for decades. The venues and dates are infamous in South Africa cricket, among them Birmingham 1999, Dhaka 2011, Auckland 2015, Kolkata 2023 and Bridgetown 2024.

But London 2025 will go down as one of the greatest days in South Africa sports, when its cricket underdogs grabbed the advantage and didn't let go against a red-hot Australia.

The stunning result also bodes well for South Africa's



preparations for its home ODI World Cup in 2027. It's a different format, but the Proteas' mindsets won't be burdened by not having won a global trophy since the Champions Trophy's precursor in 1998.

Australia didn't give up the WTC mace easily, relentlessly attacking the stumps and trying to prey on any South Africa butterflies. The desperate Australians used up their three reviews in vain within the first 90 minutes and fought to the end. But the serial champions lost an ICC

HISTORIC TRIUMPH: With this victory, South Africa has laid their hands on their first-ever world title in international cricket. Also, this is their second ICC trophy after the ICC Knockout 1998

final for only a fourth time in 14 chances.

The Proteas were staunch, losing only three wickets Saturday. One of them was Aiden Markram, the colossus Australia could not topple until it was too late.

He resumed the day on 102 and was out for 136 when only six runs from victory. He spent six hours, 23 minutes in the middle. Australia didn't celebrate his wicket. Instead, players slapped Markram on the back and congratulated him on his match-winning knock as the Lord's crowd stood and applauded.

"Growing up, Lord's was the one venue I wanted to play at," Markram said. "To do it at a final and win is something really special."

About 15 minutes later, Kyle

Verreynne hit the winning run, a drive into the covers.

Markram and an injured Bavuma set up the victory the day before with an unbeaten partnership of 143 runs. They could not finish what they started, adding only four runs together before Bavuma edged Cummins behind for 66, one more than he had overnight.

Markram was named man of the match. He also took two vital wickets, that of Steve Smith on 66 in Australia's first innings, when Smith became the highest foreign test

Whilst we were batting, we could hear the Aussies using that dreaded word, choke. It's been years since we've overcome a final. We've been etched in history, we're part of something that has never been done

TEMBA BAVUMA | CAPTAIN, SOUTH AFRICA

It's the pinnacle, I love Test cricket. Huge achievement to make the final, one-game shootout is a spectacle, didn't end up on the right side, but it's been a great week

PAT CUMMINS | SKIPPER, AUSTRALIA

run-scorer at Lord's, and Josh Hazlewood to end Australia's second innings. Kagiso Rabada had nine-for in the match.

South Africa's target was set at 282, considered too far. But in a batting unit far less experienced than Australia's and considered a weak point, Markram and Bavuma chanced on ideal batting conditions on day three Friday and exploited them mercilessly. The turning point was Bavuma dropped in the slips on 2 by Smith, who broke his finger and didn't return to the match.

South Africa was criticized by some before the final for its supposedly easier road in the 2023-25 WTC cycle — it didn't face Australia or England in a series — but it has won eight straight tests, its second longest streak in history.

ASIAN GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pranati surpasses Dipa's feat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinched a bronze medal in the vault final at the 12th Senior Women's Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Jecheon, South Korea, Saturday.

With this performance, Nayak secured her third medal in the continental championships, surpassing veteran gymnast Dipa Karmakar's tally of two. She had previously won bronze in the vault at the 2019 edition in Ulaanbaatar

and again in 2022 in Doha.

Karmakar had won her first continental medal, a vault bronze, at Hiroshima in 2015 and followed it up with a gold in Tashkent earlier this year.

The 30-year-old Nayak, who had earlier claimed a bronze at the FIG World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, in March this year, scored 13.466 to finish third on the podium.

China's Yihan Zhang bagged the gold with a score of 13.650, while Vietnam's Thi Quynh Nhu Nguyen took silver with 13.583.

Young Indian gymnast

Protistha Samanta also impressed, narrowly missing out on a medal with a fourth-place finish after registering a score of 13.016 at the Jecheon Gymnasium.

Nayak, a Tokyo 2020 Olympian, had posted a strong first attempt in the final, scoring 13.666, but a lower second vault of 12.866 affected her overall score.

She had entered the final after placing fourth in the qualification round with a score of 13.083. Protistha also made it to the medal round, qualifying with a commendable 12.916.

Rugby Premier League set for spectacular debut

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 14: Rugby royalty showcased an exciting preview of the upcoming action in store during the launch press conference of the inaugural season of GMR Rugby Premier League. Present on the occasion were the team coaches and marquee players from their respective franchises.

From Hyderabad Heroes, coach DJ Forbes, along with Prince Khatri and Manuel Moreno, from Chennai Bulls, coach Ben Gollongs and Alex Davis, and Bengaluru Bravehearts, Mohit Khatri and Pol Pla, along with their coach Pack Hernandez, were present.

Also in attendance were coach Tomasi Cama, Deepak Punia, and Matias Osadczuk of Delhi Redz, coach Mike Friday, Asis Sabr and Maurice Longbottom of Kalinga Black Tigers, and lastly from Mumbai Dreamers, coach Tim Walsh,



Akash Balmiki and James Turner.

The team coaches and players of the respective franchises shared their thoughts ahead of the season.

The media were addressed by the CEO of GMR Sports, Satyam Trivedi, and Rugby India Pres-

ident Rahul Bose, who were then joined by all six franchise owners for a photo opportunity.

The media also got a chance to witness the players in action as they passed the ball around and explained the rules of the game to the media.

President of Rugby India, Ra-

hul Bose, spoke along similar lines and stated, "It is truly incredible what we have managed to do here. We have big names from all over the world of rugby playing together as teammates. Looking forward to the high-octane action we are about to witness over the next few days."

Team MGD1 becomes first Indian side to win Rapid Team C'ship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 14: Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and Pranav registered crucial wins on the final day as Team MGD1 became the first Indian team to clinch the FIDE World Rapid Team Championship title.

Seeded sixth, Team MGD1 posted 10 wins from 12 rounds over three days to emerge champions after a closely-fought battle with Team Hexamind Friday.

Having won silver and bronze in the last two editions, MGD1 began their campaign with a perfect day one. But a draw against Team Freedom and a loss to Team Hexamind on day two left them needing a flawless finish to stay in the hunt.

The side responded in style, winning all four rounds on the final day to seal the title.

Comprising GMs Arjun Erigaisi, Pentala Harikrishna, Leon Mendonca, David Anton Guijarro, Tsolakidou Stovroula, Pranav, Atharva Tayade, and captain Srinath Narayanan, MGD1 secured the championship with key victories in the final round.

Wins by Arjun and Pranav against Malcom's Mates proved decisive.

"This is very special! With the Indian team in the Olympiad we were the favourites to win and out here with Team MGD1 we were the underdogs. And yet we won gold again," Narayanan in a release.

The teams will now face-off in Blitz competition.

Dominant Arya-Arjun shoots down gold

Shooting pair stuns Olympic Champions from China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munich, June 14: India's Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta dished out a thoroughly dominant performance and outplayed China's reigning Olympic and world champion duo Zifei Wang and Lihao Sheng 17-7 to win the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup here Saturday.

Arya and Arjun were in fine fettle when it mattered the most to win the top prize in the prestigious tournament, not giving the Chinese an inch.

The Indian duo entered the gold medal round after aggregating 635.2 in the qualifications, just .7 behind Wang and Sheng (635.9), which is also the qualifications world record.

Arya had paired with Rudranksh Patil to win the 10m air rifle mixed team silver in the World Cup in Lima, Peru,

earlier this year.

The other Indian pair in the event, Elavenil Valarivan and Ankush Jadhav finished sixth in the qualifications with 631.8.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad and Jon-Hermann Hegg bagged the bronze medal with a 16-14 victory over the UAS's Sagen Maddalena and Peter Matthew Fiori.

This is India's fourth medal and second gold in the ongoing World Cup after Suruchi Singh's yellow metal and the two bronze won by Sift Kaur Samra and Elavenil in their respective individual events earlier this week.

In the 10m air pistol mixed team event, the combo of Manu Bhaker and Aditya Malra ended sixth with a combined total of 577 in the qualifications, while the Suruchi Singh and Varun Tomar was placed 10th with 576.



EVES SUFFER NARROW DEFEAT TO AUSSIES

London: The Indian women's hockey team fought back from a 0-3 deficit but suffered a narrow 2-3 defeat to Australia in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 match at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre here Saturday. Before the start of the match, both teams observed a minute's silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the recent aircraft tragedy in Ahmedabad. After going three goals down, India fought back through goals from Deepika (44) and Neha (52), but the Australians held their nerve in a fierce final quarter to secure the win. Courtney Schonell (16'), Lexie Pickering (27'), and Tatum Stewart (35') scored goals for Australia. The match also marked a personal milestone for midfielder Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, who completed her 50th appearance for India. There was little to separate the two sides in the opening quarter, with both teams showing intent and valuing possession. India adopted a patient approach but were quick to apply pressure on the Australian defence.

