



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Seva Sushasan Garib Kalyan



Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

11 Years of Central Government 1 Year of Odisha Government

**Foundation Stone Laying &
Inauguration of
Infrastructure Projects
worth ₹ 18,700 Crore**

Launch of New Train Services and 100 EV Buses

Launch of Baraputra Sanmaan Scheme

**Release of
Vision Document
Odisha Vision 2036 | 2047**

**Release of Booklet on
Godabarish Mishra
Adarsh Prathamik
Vidyalaya**

Felicitations of Lakshmi Didi

by
Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

20 June 2025 | 4:00 PM | Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

In the August Presence of

Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Governor of Odisha

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Minister of Education

Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, I&B,
Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Smt. Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Ministers of State Government | Members of Parliament | Members of Odisha Legislative Assembly

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

TAURUS
Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesha. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesha wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to remain transparent in all your dealings, forecasts Ganesha. You can be optimistic about your chances of success if you choose to propose to that special someone. The day will bring more pleasure than pain.

CANCER
There is something different about today. It is unlike any other day. Just when you will start believing that there is nothing great about the day, it will spring a surprise. There have been days where life has thrown carrots at you; then there have been days when it has hurled brickbats. Today, you will be on the receiving end of countless kisses.

LEO
Honesty and sincerity are your hallmarks. Being a Leo, it is no surprise that you value these two attributes above all else, says Ganesha. But it also means that you should not be surprised to find yourself today in a situation that somehow feels like a landmark moment in your life. Whether it is a personal matter or something related to work, that you must wait to find out.

VIRGO
The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesha. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

LIBRA
It is more than likely, and possible indeed, that you will surpass your own past performances today. All this is on the cards, despite the fact that your peers at work will try to outwit you. But it is your consummate set of skills that shall help you pre-empt all such attempts, says Ganesha. If it is some peace that you are looking for today, expect to find it in meditation.

SCORPIO
You will see every colour of the kaleidoscope today — people with different temperaments and different attitudes, many of whom will surprise you with their reactions. You may be shocked at the way your colleagues or close friends react to your strategies or success.

SAGITTARIUS
You are on a high today and a feeling of ecstasy surrounds you. You are performance driven and shall give you best in anything you take up. Listen to your inner voice, it will guide you to the correct path. Ganesha showers His benevolent blessings on you. Make the most of this day.

CAPRICORN
You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though. You have planned properly and have faith as those delays are not permanent, assures Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life. The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha.

PISCES
Some conflicts could crop up in the morning on the domestic front. However, they will cease to be a cause of annoyance as the day progresses. Come evening and you will be in as fine a mood as you ever were, ready to spend time basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.



UMA THURMAN GETS NERVOUS EATING BEFORE CAMERA

Hollywood star Uma Thurman revealed that the idea of consuming food on set is something she still gets nervous about. “First of all, you don’t pick what’s on the menu, and you have to speak sometimes and swallow, and then you start to worry about choking,” the actress said.

CHRISTINA RICCI: I WAS A BIT OF A PARTY ANIMAL

Hollywood star Christina Ricci has talked about her teenage years and said that she was a “bit of a party animal”. “There was a period of six years, (from) 16 to 21, when I was a bit of a party animal. But then, you know, that’s not really bad,” the 45-year-old star shared.



Rashmika's note on uncertainty of life

Mumbai: The year 2025 has been a witness to some bitter memories with the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, the Bangalore stampede, and most recently, the Air India crash, making one ponder over the uncertainty of life.

Amidst such a gloomy environment, actress Rashmika Mandanna has urged everyone to be kind to themselves and to also be kind to each other.

“Just being around you guys makes me happy. I know I am repeating myself here but like I said that day..We don’t know how much more time we have with us, time is fragile, we are fragile the future is unpredictable.. so please PLEASE be kind to one another, be kind to yourselves.. and do the things most important to you do the things that really matters,” Rashmika penned on her Instagram handle.

Back in February, Rashmika used social media to drop a powerful message about kindness.

Posting a couple of photos of herself on her official IG, the *Animal* actress shared, “Kindness is so underrated these days. I choose kindness and everything that comes with it. Let’s all be kind to each other.”

Work-wise, Rashmika is gearing up for the release of her forthcoming thriller with Sekhar Kamula, *Kuberaa*.

AGENCIES



Kartik follows Dilip Kumar's footstep

Mumbai: Currently, Kartik is immersed in Anurag Basu’s untitled love story, where he plays an emotionally consuming role opposite Sreeleela. So committed is he that he’s cut off from all personal interaction to stay in character.

“Kartik has never worked so hard to remain in character. He is following Dilip Kumar’s *Devdas* model. The late legendary actor became so involved with the character that he slept and breathed like Devdas. Kartik has cut himself off from all person-to-person interaction. Anurag wanted Kartik to grow a beard, lose weight drastically and try to remain in a dark place,” shared a source close to the project.

A close friend added, “He hardly sleeps, he hardly talks these days. All his focus is on remaining in character for the film.”

This deep-dive method approach — rare in today’s high-speed commercial cinema — reflects Kartik’s evolution from a relatable youth icon to an actor embracing layered, transformative roles.

But that’s just one chapter. He’s also gearing up for two big-ticket projects. *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri*, is a light-hearted romance already winning hearts with its chemistry and music. And he also has the monster comedy

Nagzilla, where he headlines an all-out action spectacle. In parallel, his much-talked-about collaboration with Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions signals a bold new phase in his mainstream arc.

AGENCIES



‘We’re not civilised’

Mumbai: Actress Kajol, who is busy promoting her upcoming film *Maa*, spilled the beans about her working relationship with Ajay in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India. “We do talk about the rules of engagement at work. 90% of the time, if he is going over the top, I just call him out on it, and he calls me out on it. We are not civilised and we will not take it to the corner,” Kajol said.

“But it does not happen very often, because first of all, we don’t work that often together, we work once every five years. So when it does happen, it is pretty much out there and a ‘free for all’ kind of thing,” Kajol said with a laugh.

Kajol clarified that the couple, who have been married for over two decades, don’t have shouting matches but have set boundaries that no one crosses. She added that she is much humbler on sets than otherwise. The *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaenge* actor confessed she is more polite on film sets because it makes the environment more professional and easier.

KAJOL'S WORK DYNAMIC WITH AJAY

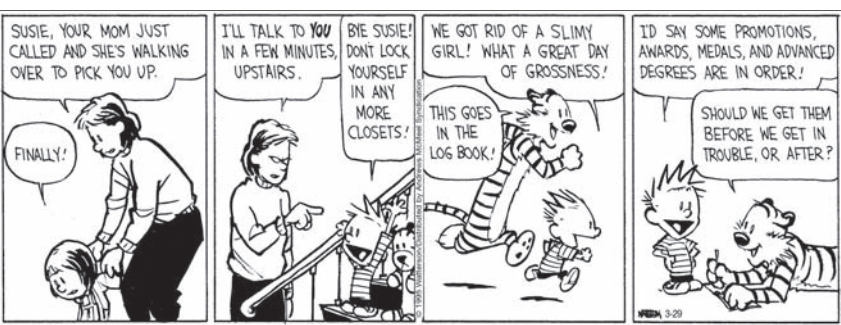
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

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Across

- Mountain lion
- King or queen, e.g. (4,4)
- Danger sign (3,4)
- Scruffs
- Sachet scent
- Faucet
- Merges
- Ebb
- Sheep originating in Spain

- Embrocated
- Aquarium fish
- Copy
- Italian almond liqueur
- Widespread

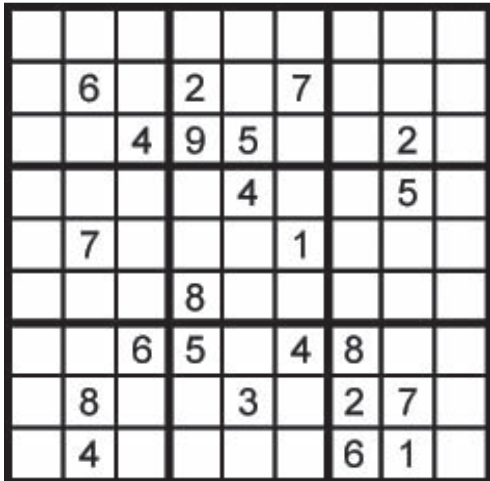
- Say yes
- Work station
- Trite platitude
- Draw (4,4)
- Resistance to change
- Leon Uris novel
- Chinchilla
- Furious
- Tropical vine
- Sicilian rumbler

Down

- Unsafe
- Runway walker
- Grand
- Tedium

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.

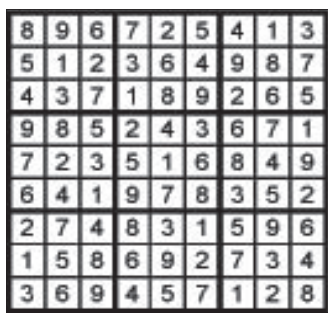


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

[illegible]

PM'S ODISHA VISIT

CM Majhi reviews prep in City



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday reviewed the final preparations at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, where PM Modi will attend a public event Friday as chief guest to mark one year of the BJP-led state government.

The CM inspected the venue and directed officials to ensure flawless arrangements for the PM's visit. Law Minister Prithi-viraj Harichandan, state BJP president Manmohan Samal, BJP In-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, and Co-in-charge Lata Usendi accompanied the CM during the inspection.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries department,

Hemant Sharma, and other senior officials briefed the CM Majhi on the progress of the preparations.

Samal termed the PM's scheduled visit a "historic moment" for the state and the party. He said that preparations have been made with full dedication -- from the airport to Janata Maidan -- where the main event will take place.

"The entire state is filled with enthusiasm. From the airport to Janata Maidan, every arrangement reflects our dedication. His (PM Modi's) guidance will shape our future roadmap. Odisha is now moving ahead with the spirit of 'Modi-maya' governance, and this one-year celebration will mark a turning point in the state's development journey."

He mentioned that the event will witness the unveiling of a

vision document charting the path for 'Samruddha Odisha' by 2036 and the announcement of key development and welfare initiatives. Minister Harichandan told reporters that PM will interact with beneficiaries of the Lakhpati Didi scheme and honour around 25 eminent freedom fighters from the state.

Harichandan also stated that the event may also include inauguration of religious projects like the digital Hundi system for online donation platform for the famous Jagannath temple, Puri, depending on the final schedule.

Police Commissioner Suresh Dev Dutta Singh assured that robust security measures have been implemented to ensure a safe and hassle-free event.

"We have made extensive security arrangements in co-ordination with various agencies, including State Police and Central Armed Police Forces. Adequate deployment has been ensured to cover all critical points. A separate traffic advisory has been issued, and crowd management plans have been drawn up," he said.

"Our aim is to ensure minimum inconvenience to the public while maintaining high levels of safety and security throughout the Prime Minister's visit," Singh added.

Half-day govt holiday in Bhubaneswar today

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Thursday declared a half-day holiday in all state-run offices, revenue and executive magistrate courts here in view of the possible traffic congestion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit June 20. According to a notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department, the prime minister will visit the state Capital Friday to attend the first anniversary of the BJP government led by Mohan Charan Majhi in the state. "The second half of the day June 20 has been declared a holiday for all government offices and revenue and magisterial courts located under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation limits," the notification said.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, NO 15419822M NK (AMB ASST) Sumit Kumar Barai of MH Namkum. My father name is Prafulla Kumar Barai as per service document. I want change of my father name Prafulla Kumar Barai to Prafulla Barai as per Aadhar Card and civil docus. My permanent address is as under : Village + Post : Katapali Teh : Bargarh Distt. : Bargarh PIN : 768038 State : Odisha Mob. No. : 7008024261

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 4430/ dt. 05.06.2025 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Chandbali, I, Pitambar Mallick, S/o- Ghanashyam Mallick, Vill/ P.O.- Panchapada, P.S.- Chandbali, Dist.- Bhadrak, Pin- 756133 declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Seekha Mahalik to Shikha Mallick. Henceforth, she shall be known as Shikha Mallick for all purposes.

Cong, BJD flag law & order

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Odisha to mark the first anniversary of the BJP-led state government, opposition parties Congress and BJD Thursday launched a sharp attack on the government, raising concerns over gangrapes, deteriorating law and order, and the spread of cholera and water-borne diseases.

Both the parties held separate press conferences and accused the BJP state government and its Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi of "inefficiency".

OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said the PM is all set to visit the state at a time when people in 11 districts are battling an acute diarrhoeal outbreak, which has already claimed at least 17 lives.

"At the same time, the gangrape of a college student at Gopalpur beach has rocked entire nation and also brought defame

to the state at the international level," Das told reporters, adding that another "gangrape" has also been reported from Majhi's home district Keonjhar.

"We would welcome the PM to visit the state if he meets the families of the gangrape victims of Gopalpur and Keonjhar and help in improving the law and order situation," the Congress leader said. The OPCC has decided to stage a six-hour hunger strike from 9am Friday in protest against the PM's scheduled visit. Similarly, BJD leaders also accused the state's BJP government of failing to maintain law and order and ensure the safety of women and children in the state. "The state's BJP government is busy in spreading false propaganda while there has been sharp rise in violence against women. Serious crimes continue to occur even during the visits of the PM to the state," Opposition Chief Whip in Assembly and BJD MLA Pramila Mallik told reporters.

Odisha ties up with TBI, IIT-K for clean energy

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo met former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair in New Delhi Thursday, where a tripartite Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed to advance clean energy initiatives and collaborative policy-making.

The agreement was signed between the Odisha Energy department, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), in the presence of Singh Deo and Blair.

According to the pact, Odisha will take the leadership for setting up a "community of practice" among energy ministers of various states of India. A conference of the state's energy ministers will be held in the state later this year, it added.

Blair acknowledged Odisha's pioneering role in electricity sector reforms and commended the state for attracting significant investment in renewable energy over the past year, according to the LoI.

Singh Deo reiterated the state's commitment to a low carbon future and achieving net zero. "The state will adopt a strategic approach aligned to best international standards," it added.

WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY

City AIIMS to get CoE status: Oram

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 19: AIIMS-Bhubaneswar is set to be granted the status of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the management and research of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram made the announcement Thursday while attending the World Sickle Cell Awareness Day celebration at the institute.

Speaking at the event, Oram highlighted the significant role played by AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in providing comprehensive care to SCD patients not only in Odisha but also in neighbouring states.

"The Centre of Excellence status will further enhance AIIMS- Bhubaneswar's capacity for advanced research and quality treatment in Sickle Cell Disease," he said.

The Union Minister added, "Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government of India is committed to eradicating Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047."

"So far, 5.79 crore people have been screened across the country. Among them, 5.55 crore tested negative, 16.38



Ahead of the International Yoga Day celebration, **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, along with staffers of the dailies, participate in a yoga training programme on the office premises in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Yoga instructor Prajna Mohanty trained the participants about various yoga postures, asanas and pranayams.

Min reviews diarrhoea cases in 6 dists

SCHOOLS, ANGANWADIS TO REMAIN SHUT IN 2 DIST

Bhubaneswar, June 19: A high-level review meeting was held at Lok Seva Bhawan Thursday, chaired by Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, to assess and fast-track the state's response to the diarrhoea outbreak in Odisha.

The minister held detailed discussions with District Magistrates of six affected districts — Jajpur, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, and Kendrapara — instructing them to remain vigilant despite a decline in cases.

He emphasised sustained preparedness and full coordination during the upcoming monsoon season, describing the response as a "war-like" effort

for the next three months.

Minister Mahaling reviewed key aspects including purification of drinking water sources, grassroots to tertiary-level treatment readiness, sanitation, food safety, and inter-departmental coordination.

The minister urged all departments to remain committed to public welfare, particularly the care of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, women, and persons with disabilities. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring health and hygiene across the state, noting that infection rates are falling, but caution and proactive measures

will continue.

He also stressed the importance of public awareness on safe drinking water practices, use of ORS, hand hygiene, and early hospital visits in case of symptoms. Following directives from Health Secretary Aswathy S, a special joint team of Central and state experts Thursday visited Jajpur, Cuttack, and Bhadrak districts. They are monitoring water purification efforts, treatment protocols, and data accuracy, and are advising local health officials accordingly.

The meeting saw participation from senior officials, including Health Secretary Ashwati S, and district-level authorities who briefed the Minister on ground-level efforts. Mission Shakti department is conducting an intensive awareness drive through SHG women members, who are disseminating educational materials and hosting village meetings on sanitation and hygiene.

The Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department has undertaken widespread water purification efforts. Contaminated wells and tubewells are being sealed, and drinking water sources are being routinely tested.



| MARKET WATCH | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| CURRENCY | | BOURSES | | COMMODITIES | |
| INDEX | VARIATION | INDEX | VARIATION | INDEX | VARIATION |
| DOLLAR | 86.77 ▲ 0.26 | SENSEX | 81361.87 ▼ 82.79 | GOLD | ₹99,385 ▼ ₹152 |
| EURO | 99.61 ▲ 0.14 | NIFTY | 24793.25 ▼ 18.80 | SILVER | ₹107,405 ▼ ₹1161 |

WEATHER

| | BBSR | CTC | FORECAST |
|----------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Max Temp | 32.0° | 30.2° | Partly cloudy sky |
| Min Temp | 25.6° | 23.8° | |
| Humidity | 88% | 91% | |
| Rainfall | 0.5mm | 3.2mm | |

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D-2/25-26

FOCUS PM'S ODISHA VISIT

A WARM WELCOME TO MODI JI



Before 2014 elections, as the chairman of the BJP campaign committee, Modi Ji offered prayers to Mahaprabhu Jagannath and spoke a lot about the emotional bond between Odisha and Gujarat

This afternoon, the beloved Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, arrives in Odisha. On behalf of four-and-a-half-crore Odias, I extend a heartfelt welcome to him on this sacred land of Lord Jagannath. This visit holds a special significance - Modi Ji completes 11 years of dedicated service as the Prime Minister of India, while I complete my first year as the Chief Minister of the State of Odisha.

In the past year alone, Modi Ji has visited Odisha five times. With today's visit, it becomes his sixth visit since the formation of the double-engine Government in the State. Remarkably, Prime Minister Modi Ji has visited Odisha more times than the total visits of all previous Prime Ministers combined.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's frequent visit to Odisha signifies his unique sense of devotion to Lord Jagannath and love for the State of Odisha. As an MLA, I got chances to meet Modi Ji at party meetings and Government programmes. But during the last one year, I have not only been fortunate to meet him on several occasions, but also felt his vision for the accelerated economic growth of Odisha.

Being involved in social and political activities since my childhood, my concern always remains to make people's lives qualitative and make them happy and prosperous. I tried to reflect people's aspirations in various capacities - as a RSS member, a teacher in the Saraswati Shishu Mandir, a Sarapanch, an MLA and an Opposition leader in the State Assembly. In the two-and-a-half decades, since I came to the Assembly as an MLA in year 2000 and became Chief Minister in 2024, I have dedicated myself to public service by forgetting my personal life.

Now, I bear the responsibility of leading Odisha's development. My journey of over three decades - built on experience, knowledge, and unwavering commitment to public welfare - has shaped my vision. Above

all, the BJP's development model and Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's leadership have inspired me with new resolutions. On this path, I am not alone - 4.5 crore Odias walk beside me. If each of us takes one step forward, together we will move ahead 4.5 crore steps.

Public participation is the cornerstone of Modi Ji's governance model. His mantra - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas - guides our mission. Modi Ji's 11 years of leadership and governance model are the beacons for us all. Rising from humble beginnings, he translated his struggles into transformative governance. Who would have imagined that a mere toilet could become a symbol of dignity for poor families, especially women? Yet, from the Red Fort, he launched a nationwide cleanliness movement. The Ujjwala Yojana revolutionized kitchens, freeing women's time for education and livelihood. Jan Dhan Yojana dismantled the old middlemen system, connecting beneficiaries directly to banks through DBT. And Digital India has reshaped lives. Even in the remote corners of Keonjhar our children now make digital payments.

The love and affection of Modi Ji, the guiding light of welfare of the poor, towards Odisha is unique. In his younger days, he spent time at the Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad. Before 2014 elections, as the chairman

of the BJP campaign committee, he offered prayers to Mahaprabhu Jagannath and spoke a lot about the emotional bond between Odisha and Gujarat. Just as there is a Sun Temple to worship the rising sun in eastern India, there is a Sun Temple too in western India's Gujarat to offer Arghya to the setting sun. At that time Modi Ji also said that there is no district in Gujarat where Odia people do not sweat for the development of Gujarat. With the blessings of the Mahaprabhu, it has been 11 years since he became the Prime Minister of the country.

During the last election campaign, Modi Ji had repeatedly raised the issue of how the people of Odisha are poor despite the state being a rich one. In my 30 years of socio-political life, I have been listening the stories of poverty in a mineral rich state. Now the time has come to strengthen the poor Odia people economically under the leadership of Modi Ji.

Mahaprabhu has blessed us with immense natural mineral wealth, long coastlines, water and forest resources, tribal community and intelligent and hard-working human beings. There was a time when our Sadhab Puas used to go on sea voyages to do business. All the resources are there to make Odisha not only a leading state in India but also in the whole world.

Today, in the gracious presence of Modi Ji, discussion is being held on the development

activities undertaken in Odisha in last one year and the Vision 2036 and 2047. I take this opportunity to reiterate our resolve to facilitate that the benefits of development reach the common Odia families, especially women, farmers, youth and the poor, by making them successful through time-bound manner.

Our primary responsibility is to give a pucca house on everyone's head, clean drinking water and clean fuel to every house and streamlining of schools and hospitals, besides ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. To provide food, financial assistance and free government services to the poor and economically backward people through various social security schemes are the cornerstones of our pro-poor welfare schemes.

In the first year, we have given priority to industrialization through investment. Several investment proposals worth ₹17 lakh Crore have been received in the first year. Odisha is making rapid progress in the fields of IT, renewable energy, tourism, food processing, textiles, and semi-conductor sectors.

Modi Ji has paved the way for Odisha for receiving more Central funds. The mineral policy of the Modi Government was the main force for an increase in the budget size of Odisha. In the 2025-26 FY, our budget size has reached 2.90 lakh Crore.

We have started working in a planned manner to increase the purchasing power of Odia women, farmers, youth and the poor by involving them in development activities. We have to look beyond mining-based economy.

Today, while welcoming Modi Ji, I want to assure my dear Odia brothers and sisters that our Government - from the Chief Minister to the Ministers and the governance systems at the grass root levels - will stand with the common and poor people. Our resolve is to ensure that employment opportunities reach every family.

The writer is Chief Minister of Odisha



Mohan Charan Majhi

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI JI'S FREQUENT VISIT TO ODISHA SIGNIFIES HIS UNIQUE SENSE OF DEVOTION TO LORD JAGANNATH AND LOVE FOR THE STATE OF ODISHA



Dani Rodrik

WHEN PEOPLE ARE ASKED ABOUT WELL-BEING AND LIFE SATISFACTION, THE WORK THEY DO RANKS AT THE TOP, ALONG WITH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY BONDS

In this, they share a common blind spot with economists who, ever since Adam Smith, have emphasized that the ultimate end of production is consumption. But what gives meaning to our lives is not just the fruits of our labor, but also the work itself. When people are asked about well-being and life satisfaction, the work they do ranks at the top, along with contributions to their community and family bonds. For economists, a job provides income but is otherwise a negative – a source of “disutility.” For real people, a job is a source of pride, dignity, and social recognition.

The loss of employment typically produces a reduction in individual well-being that is a multiple of the loss of income. The social effects magnify those costs. Communities that suffer from persistent unemployment experience rising levels of crime, family breakdown, drug abuse, and an increase in authoritarian values. The rise of far-right populists in the US and Europe has been linked to the job losses associated with trade shocks, automation, and fiscal austerity.

Good jobs pay well, but also provide security, autonomy, and a path to self-improvement. None of this is possible without high levels of productivity. A progressive who is focused on abundance of good jobs, rather than abundance of goods and services, would therefore find plenty to agree with in Klein and Thompson's book. But there would also be many quibbles.

Consider housing, one of Klein and Thompson's key examples. Productivity in housing construction has stagnated in recent years, in part because of safety regulations and union rules. As one of Klein and Thompson's interlocutors readily admits, many of the regulations that impede construction productivity also reduce workplace injuries. Fatalities and non-fatal injuries in construction have fallen dramatically in the US since the 1970s, thanks to many of these restrictive rules. That must surely count as an improvement in overall worker well-being, casting the productivity statistics in a somewhat different light.

Klein and Thompson are concerned mainly with services such as housing, transportation, health, and energy, rather than consumer goods per se. But their line of argument echoes economists' case for automation and free trade. These may have been efficient by conventional criteria, and they certainly helped produce an abundance of goods. But they also hurt many workers. They left our societies scarred and helped pave the way for right-wing populism. A good-jobs focus would make us more tolerant of rules and regulations that sacrifice some efficiency for the sake of better labor-market outcomes for non-college-educated workers.

Ultimately, the real challenge for progressives is to devise an agenda that benefits workers in their role as workers as much as in their role as consumers. This requires a distinctive approach to innovation, investment, and regulation. Unions, worker representatives, and collective bargaining must be viewed as essential components of abundance, rather than obstacles to it. Place-based strategies and local economic development coalitions are critical. And government must put its thumb on the scale to ensure innovation takes a worker-friendly direction.

Advanced economies' most glaring failure has been their inability to deliver adequate numbers of good jobs. The damage has gone beyond economic performance, reflected in divided societies and polarized politics. Remedying this failure requires focusing on those who produce abundance, alongside abundance itself.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School. ©Project Syndicate

WISDOM CORNER

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view. HARPER LEE

Unless one is able to live fully in the present, the future is a hoax. ALAN WATTS

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up. PABLO PICASSO



Dhurjati Mukherjee

TECHNOLOGY ALONE IS NOT A FIX, IT NEEDS TO BE PAIRED WITH RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Flooding is a significant issue, affecting not just riverbeds but major cities in India. The country receives 80 per cent of its annual rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. Environmentalists are worried about frequent heavy rains in short periods. They attribute these extreme weather patterns to climate change and warming seas that carry more moisture, causing intense and unpredictable rainfall.

Urban flooding is rising due to multiple factors, partly climate change, and partly poor planning. While total rainfall hasn't changed much over the decade, it's now falling in fewer hours, making it harder for cities to cope.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN's climate science body, India is projected to be one of the most vulnerable regions to escalating heatwaves, humid heat stress, and other extreme weather events in a 1.5 degree C warmer world – threats that could bring irreversible consequences. Added to this, is the

occurrence of erratic rainfall and early monsoons that have been observed over many years. However, what has changed is the intensity and concentration of rainfall in short periods.

Experts blame rapid unplanned urbanisation, poor infrastructure and years of environmental neglect as the main causes of this problem. Delhi's Minto Bridge is flooded every year during the monsoon. Even expanded areas of metros like Salt Lake in Kolkata are frequently submerged if there is heavy rain. Even a newly built underground metro station in Mumbai could not withstand the heavy downpour as photos and videos of the station flooded with muddy water went viral. The pre-monsoon deluge once again exposed the fragile infrastructure of India's financial capital and sparked widespread outrage on social media.

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, more than 2,000 km from the national capital, the problem looks different, but its root cause is the same. Once known for its network of lakes that helped manage excess rainwater, Bengaluru has seen many of

these water bodies encroached upon. In their place now stand apartment complexes, business hubs and roads - leaving the city vulnerable to flooding.

Not just big cities, small towns often suffer equally, if not more. Mapping and real-time sensors are needed to identify high-risk zones and alert communities. Predictive models can also help authorities plan better responses. But technology alone is not a fix, it needs to be paired with responsive governance and community involvement.

Disaster mitigation has emerged as a major issue and clear thinking on the matter calls for technical expertise and well-planned strategy. With the onset of monsoon, flooding becomes a critical disaster. Special drives should be initiated to mitigate rampant encroachment of stormwater drains. Residents often connect rooftop drains to sewage network due to a lack of local-level stormwater drains in the city. Serious efforts are needed to stop the rampant disposal of garbage, road dust and construction waste into storm drains.

Urban planners are of the view that most of the city's drains are poorly designed as they are quite old and not capable of meeting the present needs. Their efficiency can be significantly enhanced by improving the slope, alignment and cross-sections. An important suggestion is that of rainwater harvesting in parks & open spaces which will act as sponges and reduce flooding.

States are not giving adequate attention to addressing floods in metropolitan areas and towns, which are highly congested regions where people experience significant issues due to waterlogging. Many states face financial constraints, making it difficult for them to implement various measures such as ensuring proper water flow through cleared drains, improving sanitation systems, dredging rivers, constructing embankments in villages, among others. These initiatives require substantial funding, and there is a need for the Central government to provide financial assistance to states that are frequently affected by floods and cyclones. INFPA

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

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Tribal health emergency

Sir, Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) continues to cast a long shadow over India's tribal communities, particularly in states like Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Gujarat. According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and medical research studies, 10% to 40% of people in these regions carry the sickle cell trait—one of the highest prevalence rates globally. Yet, despite the gravity of this inherited disorder, awareness remains scarce, screening is often delayed, and access to effective care is alarmingly limited. SCD is a genetic condition that alters the shape of red blood cells, turning them into stiff, sickle-shaped forms that block blood vessels and reduce oxygen flow. This leads to intense pain, fatigue, and long-term organ damage. In children, the risks are even more severe—strokes and silent cerebral infarcts are tragically common when sickled cells obstruct brain vessels. Fortunately, with early detection tools such as transcranial doppler ultrasounds, these life-altering complications can be prevented. Government efforts like the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (launched in 2023) and new regional centers in tribal areas are promising steps forward.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Protecting cheetah cubs

Sir, Eight cheetahs from Namibia were translocated to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in September 2022 as part of Project Cheetah. Later, in 2023, twelve more were brought to the park. Of the 26 cubs born, nine have died. In May 2023, three cubs reportedly died due to severe heat conditions with temperature hovering around 40 degrees. Water supply has been an issue at Kuno but a solution appears to have been thrashed out by authorities. Solar-powered water lift system has come in handy for the park authorities wherein water from Kuno river is transported through a nearly 9-km pipeline to sprinklers and water saucers at more than 15 locations in the park. The green spaces thus created have helped the cubs as well as the mother cheetahs that are frequently seen to be utilising the water points to beat the heat.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



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quote

The state Congress president should be ashamed of using such language. He should engage in politics within limits and choose his words carefully

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

With the whole-hearted efforts of the government of Assam in the last 20 years, our MMR has improved to 125 in 2020-22 from 490 in 2001-03

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

A heavy heart but one filled with hope in Pahalgam this noon. Visited the site of the dastardly terror attack and interacted with locals and tourists who have brought the region back to its lively spirit and everyday rhythm

GAJENDRA SINGH SNEKHAWAT | UNION TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Four die in separate rain-related incidents

Ranchi: Heavy rainfall across Jharkhand left four people, including two schoolboys and a 10-year-old girl, dead in three places, besides causing infrastructural damage in several districts, officials said Thursday. As rain continued to lash various parts of the state, two kutcha houses, a bridge, an abandoned residential building and a portion of an airport wall collapsed in different districts. No casualty was reported in these incidents. Several rivers were also in spate. The bodies of two boys, aged nine and 10, were recovered from under the debris of a collapsed under-construction well in Khunti district Thursday, more than 22 hours after they had been trapped there.

Labourer killed

Itanagar: A 22-year-old labourer from Assam was allegedly murdered in Itanagar following an altercation over noise caused by construction activity, police said Thursday. The body of Prabhash Doley, a native of Assam's Dhemaji district, was found near an under-construction building close to the petrol pump in the Saturday Market area in Chimpu Wednesday night, they said.

Gunmen open fire

Patna: A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Bihar, two motorcycle-borne gunmen Thursday opened fire in a high-security zone in the state's capital Patna, where official residences of several ministers, the leader of Opposition and bureaucrats are located, police said. No one was injured in the firing incident, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Sachiwalay-1) Anu Kumari said. Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, criticised the NDA government in Bihar, alleging that the criminals have been "protected" by the administration.

Minor gangraped

Balrampur (UP): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four men in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district, police said Thursday. The incident took place on the night of June 12 while the girl was returning from a fair, they said. According to the police, Shiva Yadav, Akhtar Raza, Raj Qureshi and Firoz raped the girl and threatened her before fleeing. When the girl reached her home, she informed her family members about the ordeal. The family approached the police on Wednesday and lodged the FIR against the four accused, they said.

'Crashed Dreamliner was well-maintained'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 19: The government Thursday said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau will decide on the location of decoding the black box of Air India's crashed Dreamliner.

A multi-disciplinary team from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has commenced an investigation into the accident that killed around 270 people June 12, it said.

Meanwhile, Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson, in a message to flyers, said the crashed Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was "well-maintained" and had undergone a major check in June 2023 with the next scheduled for December this year.

He also acknowledged that the airline's decision to temporarily curtail its wide-body fleet operations by 15 per cent may have an impact on its customers' travel plans.

The London-bound Air India flight AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad June 12. All but one on board the plane died along with 29 on the ground when the aircraft smashed into a medical complex in the Meghaninagar area of the city shortly after its take-off.

The AAIB is probing the crash, and in addition to this, a high-level panel has been set up under the Home Secretary to investigate the causes of the plane crash. The committee will submit its report in three months.

"A combined unit of the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) has been recovered



India to evacuate its nationals from Israel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: India has decided to evacuate its nationals from Israel who wish to leave in view of the unfolding security situation in that country over the ongoing conflict with Iran.

New Delhi's decision to evacuate its citizens came hours after an Iranian missile struck a hospital in Beersheba area of Israel. "In view of the recent developments between Israel and

Indian students recall Iran-Israel conflict horror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: "We saw missiles in the sky and heard bombs in our neighbourhood... We were petrified," said MBBS student Mir Khalif, his voice still trembling with fear, as he stepped out of the Delhi airport after being evacuated from war-hit Iran under Operation Sindhu.

Khalif arrived in the national capital early Thursday in the first evacuation flight carrying 110 Indian students of the Urmia University of Medical Sciences in Iran's Urmia city as part of the special operation launched by the Indian government in response to the escalating Iran-Israel conflict.

The students, including 90 from Jammu and Kashmir, were moved from Tehran to Armenia earlier this week as explosions and aerial attacks rocked Iranian cities. The rescue was coordinated by the In-

AI to cut 38 int'l flights per week

Mumbai: Air India Thursday said it will cut 38 international flights per week and suspend services on three overseas routes between June 21 and July 15. The Tata Group-owned airline, grappling with disruptions following the fatal plane crash June 12 in Ahmedabad, said the objective of reducing flights on 18 international routes is to restore schedule stability and minimise last-minute inconvenience to passengers. The detailed announcement comes a day after the carrier said it would temporarily reduce flights operated with wide-body planes by 15 per cent. "These reductions will be effective from June 21, 2025, and last until at least 15 July 2025," the airline said.

from the crash site June 13, 2025, and another set was found June 16. This model of aircraft has two black box sets," the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement.

AAIB investigation is progressing steadily with all necessary support from local authorities and agencies, the ministry said, adding that key recovery work, including site documentation and evidence collection, has been completed, and further analysis is now underway.

"It has been reported in certain media outlets that the CVR/DFDR (black box) from the ill-fated AI171 flight is being sent abroad for retrieval and analysis..The decision regarding the location for decoding the flight recorders will be taken by the AAIB after due assessment of all technical, safety, and security considerations," the statement said.

A day after the crash June 13, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation ordered enhanced surveillance of Air India's Boeing 787 fleet, comprising 26 787-8s and seven 787-9s.



Iran, the government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," it said.

India Wednesday announced launching "Operation Sindhu" to evacuate its nationals from Iran after the Persian Gulf nation's conflict with Israel showed no sign of

dian Embassy.

Khalif described the experience in Iran as a nightmare and thanked the Indian government for evacuating them first to Armenia and then bringing them back home.

Huzaif Malik, another student from Kashmir, told PTI, "There are 90 of us from Kashmir. We landed this morning, and now we are heading to Kashmir in sleeper buses. Some students also left for their homes by flights."

Ali Akbar, who hails from Delhi, said the destruction was visible everywhere.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh reached the Delhi airport to receive the students.

Later, in a post on X, he said, "Warmly welcomed home the first group of 110 Indian nationals evacuated from Iran as part of Operation Sindhu, reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the safety and well-be-



Women plant paddy saplings in a field during the monsoon season on the outskirts of Jagdalpur, in Bastar

PTI PHOTO

Kerala minister walks out over Bharat Mata portrait

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 19: Tensions between Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and the state's Left government escalated Thursday after General Education Minister V Sivankutty walked out of a Raj Bhavan event in protest at the display of a Bharat Mata portrait, an image often associated with RSS functions.

Raj Bhavan strongly criticised Minister V Sivankutty for walking out of the programme, organised to distribute 'Scout and Guide Certificates' for school students, while Arlekar was present on the dais, calling it a "serious breach of protocol and a grave insult to the constitutional office of the Governor."

Under attack from Raj Bhavan, the minister hit back at the Governor, alleging that Arlekar had violated the Constitution by turning an official function at his residence into

a political event. Amid mounting criticism from the Left government, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, over the use of a saffron-clad image at official functions, the Governor firmly stated: "There is no question of doing away with Bharat Mata, as we draw our idea of patriotism and nationhood from Bharat Mata."

The new development comes close on the heels of another boycott by another minister in Raj Bhavan over the display of the Bharat Mata image, which indeed set off the controversy. Recently, State Agriculture Minister P Prasad boycotted an Environment Day programme being conducted at the Raj Bhavan, objecting to the display of the saffron-clad Bharat Mata image. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan remarked that the Governor's office should not be used to promote the ideological agenda of the RSS.

Giving details of what happened at the 'Scout and Guide Certificate' distribution pro-

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor Thursday reminded the US of Pakistan's role in sheltering Osama bin Laden, saying he hoped Washington used the meeting between Donald Trump and Pakistan's Army General Asim Munir to tell Islamabad not to support terrorism. The Congress MP made the remark in response to a question from reporters here about Trump's lunch meeting with General Munir. Tharoor said he hoped that during the interaction, the United States had reminded Pakistan of the importance of not supporting terrorism or providing safe havens to terrorists, and of not enabling, guiding, training, arming, financing, equipping or sending terrorists into India. Tharoor, who recently led a delegation of Indian parliamentarians to the US and a few other countries to talk about India's response to terrorism in the wake of the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, said the US could not have forgotten the episode of Al-Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden so quickly.

TRUMP-MUNIR LUNCH

The students, including 90 from Jammu and Kashmir, were moved from Tehran to Armenia earlier this week as explosions and aerial attacks rocked Iranian cities

The rescue was coordinated by the Indian Embassy

Jaiswal shared some photos of the students on X.

Officials Wednesday said that the first evacuation flight of Indian nationals being moved out of Iran was to arrive in India from the Armenian capital of Yerevan in the early hours of June 19.

Meanwhile, at the Delhi airport, several parents waited anxiously to reunite with their children. Haider Ali, the father of MBBS student Maaz Haider, said, "We are happy and grateful, but our hearts are still heavy knowing that many students are still stuck in Tehran. We urge the government

RAHUL'S NEW ADDRESS

Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, will be Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's new address and he has started the process of shifting on the occasion of his birthday Thursday but will start living there before the next Parliament session, party sources said



Act against those blocking Haasan's film: SC to K'taka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 19: The Supreme Court Thursday directed the Karnataka government to act against those obstructing the release of Kamal Haasan starrer "Thug Life" in the state and said a movie, stand-up comedy or a poem's recital can't be stopped only because someone's sentiments are hurt.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan said, "There is no end to hurting sentiments in India. If a stand-up comedian says something, sentiments are hurt and there is vandalism and protests. Where are we heading? Does it mean because of protests, a movie should be stopped or stand up comedy should be stopped or reciting of poems be stopped?" The top court then recorded Karnataka government's assurance that it would provide adequate security to cinema theatres screening the film.

"The State has filed an affidavit, paving the way for the release of the movie..., we find that it would be in the interest of justice to bring closure to the matter. We don't find it appropriate to lay guidelines or impose costs. However, we direct the State of Karnataka that if any individual or group prevents the release of a movie or resorts to coercion or violence, the State shall act promptly by taking action under criminal and civil law, including damages," the bench said.

to bring them back too." Parvez Alam from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, whose son studied in Urmia, said, "We were under constant stress. The students were shifted to Armenia and looked after well. We thank the government for this."

The Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the evacuation.

In a post on X, the association shared photos of a Kashmiri student's reunion with her family.

While relieved to be back in India, some students complained about the condition of the buses arranged for them to travel back to Kashmir.

Taking note, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed officials to ensure that the students are ferried in deluxe buses.

5 Assembly bypolls in 4 states largely peaceful

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana/Ahmedabad, June 19: Bypolls were held in five Assembly segments across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala Thursday, with the Kaliganj seat in West Bengal registering a polling percentage of nearly 70 by 5 pm.

The polling that commenced at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm was largely peaceful, with the exception of a few isolated incidents, officials said.

While the deaths of the incumbent MLAs necessitated the bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal and Punjab, the resignation of two legislators led to the polling in Kerala and another seat in Gujarat. At Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district, a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5 pm.

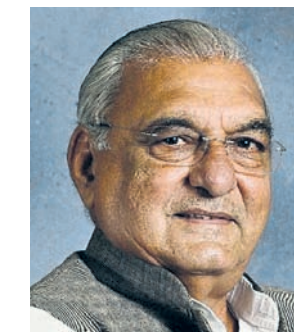
Sources said the polling percentage may go further up as there were queues outside polling booths. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February. His daughter, Alifa



Ahamed, was fielded in the bypoll by the ruling TMC.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated Ashish Ghosh for the contest, while Congress candidate Kabil Uddin Shaikh is in the fray with the support of the CPI(M). Fourteen companies of central forces were deployed across the constituency to ensure free-and-fair polling.

Minor tension was reported from a few booths. At Chandgarh Adarsha Vidyapith's booth



There is a huge shortage of DAP in many areas, including Sonipat, Jhajjar, Fatehabad, Hisar and Rohtak. The farmers are wandering from door to door for fertilisers, and the government is sitting idle even as the paddy transplantation season has started

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

Voters were not allowed to carry mobile phones inside polling stations and were instructed to deposit the devices at designated spots under the supervision of EC-appointed volunteers.

Kerala's Nilambur constituency saw a steady voter turnout of 59.68 per cent till 3 pm. People came out in good numbers at the 263 polling booths across the constituency, which has over 2.32 lakh voters.

Among the 10 contestants, the key contenders are ruling LDF's pick M Swaraj, Aryadan Shoukath (of the Congress-led UDF), TMC state convener and independent candidate P V Anvar and Mohan George of the BJP-led NDA. The UDF candidate expressed confidence about winning by a huge margin. Swaraj was also confident of securing a win.

Anvar, whose resignation as the MLA from Nilambur necessitated the bypoll, told reporters about the developments carried out in the constituency when he was representing it.

In Gujarat, the Visavadar seat in Junagadh district recorded

a poll percentage of 54.61 and Kadi in Mehsana district saw a voter turnout of 54.49 per cent till 5 pm.

The BJP, Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) fielded their candidates in the two seats. The Kadi seat, reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates, fell vacant February 4 following the death of BJP MLA Karsan Solanki.

In the Visavadar seat, BJP candidate Kirit Patel and Congress nominee Nitin Ranpariya cast their votes in the early hours.

The AAP fielded its former Gujarat president, Gopal Italia, from Visavadar. He is not registered as a voter in the constituency. Despite its near-total dominance in the state, the BJP has not won the Visavadar seat since 2007. Party leaders are hopeful this time of overcoming the 18-year jinx.

In the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, the BJP has 161 legislators, the Congress 12 and the AAP four. While one seat is with the Samajwadi Party, two are with independents.

INDIA, FRANCE BEGIN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'SHAKTI'

A joint exercise between the militaries of India and France, aimed at enhancing operational coordination and focused on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment, began Thursday, officials said



ONGC well blowout

US experts to help firm contain gas leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sivasagar (Assam), June 19: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Thursday said experts from the US will assist the company in controlling the leakage of gas from a crude oil well in Assam's Sivasagar district, where a blowout took place eight days ago.

In its daily bulletin on the blowout incident, ONGC said the foreign experts are likely to reach the site Friday evening.

"An international team of well control experts has been mobilised from the United States of America, and is expected to reach the site by the evening of June 20 to augment the response with specialised expertise," it said.

The blowout took place June 12 at a well of Rudrasagar oil field of ONGC at Barichuk of Bhatiapar. A private firm, S K Petro Services, was operat-

Patanjali research published in International Wiley journal



AGENCIES

Haridwar, June 19: Novel research conducted by Patanjali's scientists on C. elegans confirms that the Ayurvedic formulation Neurogrit Gold not only helps improve memory loss caused by Parkinson's disease but also increases lifespan; however, it does not hamper the growth or progeny of these organisms. This exemplary study has been published in the world-renowned Wiley publication journal, CNS Neuroscience & Therapeutics.

On this occasion, Acharya Balkrishna stated that, in Parkinson's disease, not only does a person suffer mentally, but their social interactions also shrink significantly. Acharya Ji further stated that Neurogrit Gold is a remarkable fusion of ancient wisdom—Ayurveda—and modern science. This research demonstrates that if natural herbs are analysed through a scientific lens, they can offer revolutionary solutions to modern-day health challenges. Neurogrit Gold is composed

of natural herbs like Jyotishmati and Giloy, along with traditional Ayurvedic Bhasmas such as Ekangveer Ras, Moti Pishti, Rajat Bhasma, Vasant Kusumakar Ras, and Rasraj Ras—all considered beneficial for neurological disorders.

Dr Anurag Varshney, Vice-President and Chief Scientist of Patanjali Research Foundation, stated that this is the first time a novel experiment has been conducted on C. elegans using an Ayurvedic formulation. The results are not only exciting for the scientific community but also hold great promise for human health in the future.

However, when dopamine fails to perform its role, the body begins to tremble, and people often forget even simple tasks they once did with ease. This condition is known as Parkinson's disease. Neurogrit Gold helped reduce oxidative stress levels in the organisms while enhancing the expression of pink-1 and pdr-1 genes—responsible for mitochondrial autophagy—and cat-2, which regulates dopamine synthesis.

Canada a base for Khalistani violence in India, says report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June19: Politically motivated violent extremism threat in Canada since mid-1980s has manifested through Khalistani extremists seeking to use violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan within India's Punjab, a report by Ottawa's intelligence agency has said.

It said a small group of Khalistani extremists are continuing to

use Canada as a base for fundraising and planning of violence primarily in India. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service's report for 2024 was released Wednesday, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney with a focus on rebuilding bilateral ties that plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

ED conducts raids in Bihar constable recruitment 'scam'

Patna: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted multi-state searches in connection with a money laundering investigation into an alleged scam in the recruitment of police constables in Bihar during 2023, official sources said. The masterminds of the alleged scam are the same as that of the NEET-UG paper leak 'scam' of 2024, they said. At least a dozen locations of private entities like agents, exam paper leak syndicate members and their associates in Patna and Nalanda in Bihar, Ranchi (Jharkhand), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Kolkata (West Bengal) were raided under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

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2. Class of Contractors - Valid Electrical H.T. License with Civil 'D' or above class (As per specified in DTCN)
3. Availability of Bid in Portal - 20.06.2025 at 10.00 AM to 30.06.2025 upto 05.00 PM
4. Bid Clarification - On or before 25.06.2025 during office hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Koraput
5. Bid Opening - 01.07.2025 at 11.00 AM onwards.
The bidders who have awarded similar nature of work previously but not satisfactory progress till date or the defaulter contractors need not apply. All other information will available in Govt. Portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
L.I.Division, Koraput
OIPR-32173/11/0006/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE / NOTICE
No. C/SBP/Public Auction/R.Garments/KSNG/25 Date : 12.06.2025
Notice is hereby given under Section 83 and 84 of the Railway Act 1989 that 05 numbers of Parcel Packages consisting 1924 pieces readymade garments are kept at Parcel Office of Kesinga Railway Station under the custody of the Railway will be disposed off by public auction on open-cum sealed bid system at the following place and time as per auction rules.

| Description of Consignments | Place of Auction | Date of Auction with Time |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 05 numbers of Parcel Packages consisting 1924 pieces readymade garments are kept at Parcel Office of Kesinga Railway Station. | Station Manager's Office at Kesinga Railway Station | 30.06.2025 at 1100 hrs. |

Intending bidders may visit the spot as mentioned above for necessary examination of consignment during day light hours. The Railways reserve the right to cancel auction or withdraw any or all the consignments without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Complete details available at : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Sambalpur
PR-254/Q/25-26

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

ATTENTION: ALL PENSIONERS OF BORDER SECURITY FORCE BSF PENSION ADALAT

Ftr HQ BSF South Bengal is organizing Pension Adalat to redress the grievances related to pension for pensioners residing in State of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar & Eastern States i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Nagaland.
Date & Time : 08th July' 2025 from 0930 hrs to 1700 hrs.

Venue : Ftr HQ BSF South Bengal, Plot No.-II/E/II, Action Area-II, E, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700161

2. Above pension adalat will be held through hybrid mode (Video Conference as well Physical Mode). BSF Pensioners/family pensioners in above mentioned States may either physically come to Frontier HQR, BSF, South Bengal (Kolkata) or may join through vide conference. Pensioners/family pensioners may report to their nearest Sector HQrs of BSF, who will facilitate connection with Pension Adalat members through video conference system. BSF pensioners/family pensioners desirous of redressing their grievances related to their pension may provide their email ID, contact number and address to e-mail ID sbfrtr@bsf.nic.in. For any queries, they may contact BSF SB help desk 14419 or Phone No. 033-29624419 (extn No. 157). For further details please visit our website [@frontiersouthbengal](http://www.bsf.nic.in).
3. No TA/DA is admissible to retirees/family pensioners who will attend the Pension Adalat.

cbc 19110/11/0022/2526

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University
Applications are invited for the post of **Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University**. The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to be:

- A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
- A distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years experience as Professor in a University or 10 years experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.

Salary and Service Conditions

- The post carries a pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a Committee constituted under the provisions of Act of the University.
- The Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University was published on 13.12.2022 with the last date of receipt of application till 11.01.2023 (extended till 23.01.2023). However, due to unavoidable reasons, the process of appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University could not take off for a very long time. Therefore, now fresh applications are invited from the candidates regardless they have applied before or not. Only those applications which will be received against this fresh advertisement will be considered for the post.
- The advertisement is available on the websites <http://www.education.gov.in> and <https://sindhu.ac.in>.
- Candidates are required to "APPLY ONLINE ONLY" on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:
<https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/index.php/>

The above link will be active from **20.6.2025, 10.00 Hours to 19.07.2025, 17.00 Hours.**
cbc 21201/11/0007/2526

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION
(An autonomous body of GOI under the aegis of M/o Housing & Urban Affairs)
9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001.
Ph-23717249/23355408/23322192, E-mail : cgewho@nic.in Website : www.cgewho.in

REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TURNKEY HOUSING PROJECT AT BHUBANESWAR
CGEWHO invites offers from construction agencies, for development of a composite housing project, on Turnkey model, complete with all infrastructure and amenities on 3 to 5 Acres of land at Bhubaneswar for approximately 250 Dwelling Units. The agency shall be responsible for transfer, registration of land in favour of CGEWHO, approval of plans and construction of the said housing project with all the essential services and amenities. The land should be within a radius of 10 km from CV Raman College, Bhubaneswar. The housing project proposed to be built, shall have preferably 3 BHK & 4 BHK types of Dwelling Units with lifts and other amenities that includes a Community Centre, swimming pool, badminton courts as per norms of the statutory authorities. While giving the proposal, it must be ensured by the agency that all the statutory requirements as per the local bye-laws and RERA guidelines of the State should strictly be followed. The construction agency may identify one or more places of suitable land.
2. The land details are to be given as per the "Land Proforma" uploaded along with this EOI document. CGEWHO shall assess the suitability of land with regard to its vicinity towards schools, colleges, markets, hospitals, Railway Station etc as per the pre-defined "Weightage Chart" on a scale of 200 points. Only those lands scoring 80% marks and above in the "Weightage Chart" shall be considered prequalified. CGEWHO, after assessing the suitability of land and the construction capability of agencies as per the prequalification criteria as mentioned in this document, shall forward the Design Parameters and draft Contract Agreement to the prequalified agencies, for the submission of price bid along with the Detailed Project Report. The price bid should be prepared on the basis of the pre-defined specifications, payment terms and other details provided in the draft contract agreement and design parameter. The cost quoted shall be lump sum price on the per square feet of the carpet area (as defined in RERA) inclusive of one covered car parking for each Dwelling Unit.
3. Application Form along with detailed minimum prequalification criteria, for this EOI can be downloaded from www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO or www.cgewho.in or CPP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.in) from 20/06/2025 onwards. Last date for submission of EOI is within the 30 days of release of advertisement. A non-refundable fee of Rs 10000/- + GST @ 18% towards cost of EOI documents through Demand Draft in favour of CEO, CGEWHO payable at New Delhi, should be submitted physically at H.O. address as mentioned above. No off line submission of EOI will be accepted and the same will be summarily rejected.
4. Any proposal received not conforming to EOI guidelines will be considered as technically non-compliant and is liable to be rejected. The procedure for selection of Construction Agencies will be made available with the application Forms.
5. CGEWHO reserves its right to disqualify any or all applications, without assigning any reason thereof. No correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.

CBC 20105/12/0005/2526

Chief Executive Officer
CGEWHO

of the day

quote

I gave instructions that no one is immune. I prefer not to deal with headlines and to let actions speak for themselves



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

At the global stage, we are finding multiple ways of dividing ourselves. The world is fracturing and polarising, and there is a desperate need for governments that will take a lead in transcending these barriers. That is what PM Narendra Modi and PM Keir Starmer have committed to do



LISA NANDY | CULTURE SECRETARY, UK

The numbers indicate cooling, but all our numbers are (like) a rearview mirror. Judging by the way businesses currently feel and the indicators, we are already, it seems to me, on the brink of going into a recession



MAXIM RESHETNIKOV | ECONOMY MINISTER, RUSSIA

SHORT TAKES

Congo, Rwanda to sign peace deal June 27

Dakar: Congo and Rwanda will sign a peace agreement in Washington June 27, a joint press release from the nations and the US State Department said Wednesday. Both countries have agreed to the terms of the deal aimed at ending fighting in eastern Congo. The draft agreement includes “provisions on respect for territorial integrity and a prohibition of hostilities; disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of non-state armed groups,” the joint statement said. The agreement that will be signed also includes a commitment to respecting territorial integrity and the conditional integration of non-state armed groups.

2,500 Pak bureaucrats have dual nationality

Islamabad: A Pakistan senator from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has revealed that as many as 2,500 bureaucrats, including four federal secretaries, are dual nationality holders. Senator Afnan Ullah Khan explained he had moved a bill in the House seeking a bar on civil servants' dual nationality that was unanimously passed by the Senate committee.

Ex-president Nasheed rejoins his former party

Male: Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed, along with members of The Democrats, has rejoined the Maldivian Democratic Party, a move welcomed by leaders of the main opposition Thursday. After conflicts with another former president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Nasheed, who was then heading the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), resigned in June 2023 during the last presidential election and joined The Democrats, a party that was formed by his loyalists in July 2023.

Huge methane gas reserve found in Nepal

Kathmandu: A preliminary report published Thursday has revealed that the total methane gas reserves in western Nepal could reach approximately 430 billion cubic metres, enough to possibly meet the Himalayan nation's demand for gas for around 50 years. The report, prepared by the China Geological Survey (CGS), presented initial findings from just one of the four targeted wells in Jaljale area of Dailekh district, raising the possibility of the Himalayan nation tapping into domestic sources of energy.



We don't have time for infighting. We have to protect our sovereignty. The government is ready to support the military in all ways

PAETONGTARN SHINAWATRA | PRIME MINISTER, THAILAND

UKRAINE, RUSSIA EXCHANGE POWS IN LATEST SWAP

Ukraine and Russia exchanged prisoners of war(POWs) Thursday, officials from both countries said, the latest round of swaps under an agreement struck in Istanbul



India, Pak ended conflict: Trump



President Trump expressed keen interest in forging a “mutually beneficial” trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic convergence and shared interests, the Pakistan army said in a statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Islamabad, June 19: Two “very smart” leaders of India and Pakistan decided to end last month's conflict that could have turned into a nuclear war, US President Donald Trump said after holding a rare luncheon meeting with Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White

House.

Trump's comments Wednesday crediting the leaders of the two countries in ending the May 7-10 hostilities are seen at variance with his claims over a dozen times in the last few weeks that he brokered the India-Pakistan ceasefire deal.

In his remarks to the media Trump said he was “honoured” to meet Munir and that he discussed with the military chief the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel conflict, amid speculations that Washington is looking at using Pakistani military bases in case it decides to launch attacks on Tehran.

The US president was also effusive in lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and referred to his telephonic conversation with the Indian leader Tuesday night.

President Trump expressed keen interest in forging a “mutually beneficial” trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic conver-

gence and shared interests, the Pakistan army said in a statement.

The US president was accompanied at the meeting by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and US Special Representative for the Middle East Steve Witkoff. Munir was joined in by Pakistan's National Security Advisor Lt Gen Asim Malik, who is also head of the spy agency, ISI.

Ahead of his meeting with Trump, Munir reportedly pitched for Nobel Peace Prize for President Trump for preventing a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

It was clear from Trump's media comments that the last month's conflict between India and Pakistan as well as the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel standoff figured prominently in his meeting with Munir.

“The reason I had him here was that I want to thank him for not going into the war (with India); ending the war. And I want to thank Prime Minister Modi as well,” the president said.

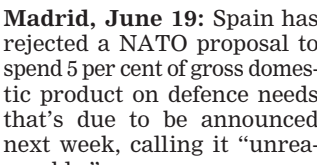
“We're working on a trade deal with India. We're working on a trade deal with Pakistan.”

The US president also recalled his meeting with PM Modi in the White House in February.

Trump said he was “happy” that “two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war.” “That could have been a nuclear war. Those are two nuclear powers, big ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that (to end the conflict),” he said.

Spain rejects NATO's anticipated defence spending increase

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Madrid, June 19: Spain has rejected a NATO proposal to spend 5 per cent of gross domestic product on defence needs that's due to be announced next week, calling it “unreasonable.”

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, in a letter sent Thursday to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, said that Spain “cannot commit to a specific spending target in terms of GDP” at next week's NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

Most US allies in NATO are on track to endorse US President Donald Trump's demand that they invest 5 per cent of GDP on their defence and military needs. In early June, Sweden and the Netherlands said that they aim to meet the new target.

A NATO official Thursday said that discussions between allies were ongoing about a new defence spending plan.

“For Spain, committing to a 5 per cent target would not only be unreasonable, but al-

so counterproductive, as it would move Spain away from optimal spending and it would hinder the EU's ongoing efforts to strengthen its security and defence ecosystem,” Sánchez wrote in the letter seen by The Associated Press.

Spain was the lowest spender in the 32-nation military alliance last year, directing less than 2 per cent of its GDP on defence expenditure.

Sánchez said in April that the government would raise defence spending by 10.5 billion euros (\$12 billion) in 2025 to reach NATO's previous target of 2per cent of GDP.

Sánchez called for “a more flexible formula” in relation to a new spending target Thursday — one that either made it optional or left Spain out of its application.

New Zealand halts millions of funds to Cook Islands over its China ties

Relations between other Pacific islands and their larger regional backers Australia and New Zealand have stumbled over ties with China in recent years as Beijing has vied to increase its Pacific sway

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, June 19: New Zealand has halted millions of dollars in funding to the Cook Islands over the “breadth and content” of agreements the smaller Pacific nation made with China, officials said Thursday.

New Zealand, which is the smaller Pacific nation's biggest funder, won't consider any new money for the Cook Islands until the relationship improves, a spokesperson for Foreign Minister Winston Peters told The Associated Press. Cook Islands

Prime Minister Mark Brown told lawmakers in Parliament Thursday that the funding was “not halted, it's paused,” and downplayed the significance of the amount frozen.

Relations between other Pacific islands and their larger regional backers Australia and New Zealand have stumbled over ties with China in recent years as Beijing has vied to increase its Pacific sway.

But the latest move by New Zealand's government was striking because it reflected growing friction between two countries with strong



constitutional ties — Cook Islands is self-governing but shares a military and passports with New Zealand — over their diverging approaches to managing relations with Beijing.

SETBACK TO MUSK'S MARS MISSION

SpaceX Starship rocket explodes



REUTERS

Texas, June 19: SpaceX's massive Starship spacecraft exploded into a dramatic fireball during testing in Texas late Wednesday, the latest in a series of setbacks for billionaire Elon Musk's Mars rocket program.

The explosion occurred around 11 pm local time while Starship was on a test stand at its Brownsville, Texas Starbase while preparing for the tenth test flight, SpaceX said in a post on Musk's social-media platform X.

The company attributed it to a “major anomaly,” and said all personnel were safe.

“Preliminary data suggests that a nitrogen COPV in the payload bay failed below its proof pressure,” Musk said in a post on X, in a reference to a nitrogen gas storage unit known as a Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessel. “If further investigation confirms that this is what happened, it is the first time ever for this design,” he continued.

SpaceX didn't immediately respond to a request for further comment.

The Starship rocket appeared to experience at least two explosions in quick succession, lighting up the night sky and sending debris flying, according to video capturing the moment it

- EXPLOSION ATTRIBUTED TO NITROGEN STORAGE UNIT FAILURE, MUSK SAYS
- STARSHIP ROCKET HAS FACED MULTIPLE FAILURES THIS YEAR
- HUGE ROCKET KEY TO MUSK'S MISSION TO REACH MARS

exploded.

The 400-foot (122-meter) tall Starship rocket system is at the core of Musk's goal of sending humans to Mars. But it has been beset by a string of failures this year.

In late May, SpaceX's Starship rocket spun out of control about halfway through a flight without achieving some of its most important testing goals. The Starship lifted off from SpaceX's Starbase, Texas, launch site, flying beyond the point of two previous explosive attempts earlier this year that sent debris streaking over Caribbean islands and forced dozens of airliners to divert course.

Two months earlier, the spacecraft exploded in space minutes after lifting off from Texas, prompting the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to halt air traffic in parts of Florida.

ernment budget document. It's likely to prove difficult for New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who is in China for his first official visit and due to meet President Xi Jinping this week.

Beijing, which said in February that the deals were not intended to antagonise New Zealand, defended its strategic partnership with the country of 15 islands and 15,000 people.

“Both New Zealand and the Cook Islands are important partners of China,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in Beijing.

“China-Cook Islands cooperation targets no third party, nor should it be interfered with or constrained by any third party.”

In a report tabled in the Cook Islands Parliament this week, the Public Accounts Commit-

Major Hurricane Erick hits Mexico's Pacific coast

REUTERS

Mexico City, June 19: Hurricane Erick made landfall on the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico, Thursday morning, authorities said, potentially bringing intense rains and life-threatening floods and mudslides.

The storm made landfall around 5:30 am local time in the town of Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, in the state of Oaxaca, as a category 3 major hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 205 km/h and gusts of 250 km/h, Mexico's national water commission, Conagua, said.

Scientists have warned that Erick, the first hurricane to make landfall in Mexico this hurricane season, could become the most intense hurricane along Mexico's Pacific coast this early in the season, which runs from May to November.

Forecasters predict an above-average active season, with between eight and 11 hurricanes, and four to six of those reaching major hurricane status.

The storm center is expected to move inland over southern Mexico throughout the day with winds that could be especially destructive near its core, the US National Hurricane Center said in a report.

Up to 16 inches (about 41 cm) of rain is expected to hit the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero, according to NHC.

Moving forward, “Erick is expected to rapidly weaken over the mountains of Mexico, and the system is likely to dissipate tonight or early Friday,” the center added.

“Heavy rainfall will lead to life-threatening flooding and mudslides, especially in areas of steep terrain,” NHC warned, as local authorities asked residents to remain vigilant.

Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Conagua gave a similar warning, adding that waves in coastal areas were reaching up to 10 meters (33 ft) high.

tee registered “concern” about a reduction of 10 million New Zealand dollars (\$6 million) in the government's purse, the first known mention of the finance freeze. The money was earmarked for “core sector support”, which funds the Cook Islands' health, education and tourism sectors, with audits by Wellington on how it's spent.

The money is part of NZ \$200 million directed to the Cook Islands by New Zealand over the past three years as part of an almost 60-year-old free association compact. The links demand consultation by Cook Islands leaders with Wellington on agreements with other countries that might affect New Zealand.

The pacts with China were the first serious test of those rules.

INDIA-ENGLAND
TEST

The Pataudi family will continue to be honoured with a newly-commissioned Pataudi Medal to be presented to the winning captain of each India-England Test series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leeds, June 19: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson formally unveiled the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy ahead of the opening match of the five-Test series between India and England, here Thursday.

The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, a joint initiative between the two boards ECB and BCCI, hereon replaces the Pataudi Trophy (for series in England) and the Anthony de Mello Trophy (for series in India) for all India-England Test contests.

The trophy launch was earlier scheduled for June 14 but it was pushed for a later date due to the tragic Air India aircraft crash in Ahmedabad.

The Pataudi family will continue to be honoured with a newly-commissioned Pataudi Medal to be presented to the winning captain of each India-England Test series.

The trophy features imagery of Anderson and Tendulkar in action, along with their engraved signatures — a tribute to two of the sport's most iconic figures who also hold top two spots for most Tests played by any player.

While Tendulkar retired after his 200th Test more than a decade ago, Anderson played

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy unveiled



his 188th and last in 2024.

Tendulkar remains the highest run-scorer in Test history with 15,921 runs. He made his debut at the age of 16 and went on to enjoy a distinguished 24-year international career.

In 32 Tests against England, Tendulkar amassed 2,535 runs at an average of 51.73, with a highest score of 193 at Headingley in 2002.

Anderson, one of the finest exponents of swing bowling, took 704 Test wickets which is the most for any fast bowler. He ranks third on the all-time list, behind only spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708).

Anderson set his own standards in Test crickets against India, scalping 149 wickets in 39 matches at an average of 25.47,

including six five-wicket hauls.

While unveiling the trophy, Tendulkar said Test cricket will continue to remain the pinnacle of the sport for him.

"For me, Test cricket embodies life — you give your best, and if things go wrong, it gives you another day to regroup, think, unlearn, and bounce back," he said.

"It is the highest form of the game that teaches you endurance, discipline and adaptability, against all odds. I owe my foundation to Test cricket, as it has seen me grow from disappointments to triumphs, from aspirations to fulfilment," he said.

The legendary batter said India and England have played pivotal role in shaping the future of Test cricket

over the years.

"India and England have played a big role in shaping Test cricket in a way that it remains an evolving inspiration for subsequent generations.

"Now, as I share this recognition with my on-field challenger and an off-field gentleman James, I hope that the world celebrates the essence of Test cricket even more — allowing it to traverse boundaries yet untroubled," Tendulkar said.

Anderson said the recognition is a real honour for him and Tendulkar. "It's a proud moment for me and my family to have this iconic series named after Sachin and myself," he said.

"The rivalry between our two nations has always been something special, full of history, intensity and unforgettable moments."

"To be recognised in this way is a real honour. I'm look-

ing forward to seeing the next chapter unfold in England this summer. It promises to be compelling, competitive cricket — exactly what you'd expect from two great sides. This is elite sport at its finest," he said.

ECB chairman Richard Thompson said, "Jimmy and Sachin have given cricket fans around the world so many unforgettable moments, and it is fitting that their names will now be part of every men's Test series between England and India."

"This trophy is a celebration of their incredible careers and the extraordinary impact they have had on the game, reflecting the deep respect between our two cricketing nations."

Thompson said the ECB will continue to carry forward the legacy of Pataudi family and their contributions towards the game.

"The Pataudi family also has

a hugely important place in the cricketing connections between our countries, and I'm pleased that we will continue to honour their legacy through the awarding of the Pataudi Medal that will be provided to the winning captain," he said.

BCCI president Roger Binny described the occasion as "momentous".

"This is a truly momentous occasion for cricket. To rename the prestigious Test series between India and England after two absolute titans of the game, Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson, is a fitting tribute to their unparalleled contributions.

"The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy will not only celebrate their individual legacies but also serve as a permanent reminder of the fierce yet respectful rivalry that has defined India-England Test cricket for decades," he said.

WORLD TEAM
BLITZ C'SHIPS

Modi lauds Deshmukh for beating World No 1



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded India's chess sensation Divya Deshmukh for her first-ever victory over World No. 1 Hou Yifan in the second leg of the blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships in London.

Representing Hexamind Chess Club, the 18-year-old Indian sensation squared off against the Chinese titan, who played for the WR Chess Team. In a thrilling 74-move battle, Divya outplayed Yifan, who blundered her bishop in a drawn pure rook vs bishop endgame.

"Congratulations to Divya Deshmukh on defeating the World No 1, Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships, London. Her success highlights her grit and determination. It also inspires many upcoming chess players. Best wishes for her future endeavours," PM Modi wrote on X.

Following her win, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also praised Divya on her stunning win over World No 1. "Heartiest congratulations to our chess star Divya Deshmukh on her stunning win over world No 1 Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of the Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships in London. Wishing you the very best for the future games," he posted on X.

SHORT TAKES

Historic Billie Jean King Cup play-offs

Bangalore: In a historic first, Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) will host Group G ties of the prestigious Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bangalore 14, 15 and 16. This will be the first time ever that the Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs will be held on Indian soil. The Playoffs will feature 21 nations split into seven groups of three teams each. In a unique format, every group tie will be hosted by a nation, and the venues were formally announced following a draw held Thursday in London. India recently qualified for the Playoffs, only for the second time in its history, following a spectacular performance in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie held in Pune. India qualified along with New Zealand for the playoff, following its 2-1 win over Korea.

Hockey India, TN govt sign MoU for jr WC

Chennai: Hockey India Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to co-host the FIH Men's Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10 this year. The official logo of the tournament was also unveiled during the announcement event here. In a historic first, the 2025 edition will feature 24 teams from across the world, making it the most inclusive and competitive edition of the event till date. HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 is a crucial event in the international hockey calendar — a breeding ground for future legends of the sport. We are extremely pleased to partner with the Government of Tamil Nadu for this edition."

Mbappe hospitalised

Miami: Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe has been hospitalized with an acute case of gastroenteritis, the Spanish club said Thursday. World Cup winner Mbappe missed Madrid's opening game at the Club World Cup against Saudi Arabian team Al Hilal in Miami because of a fever. Coach Xabi Alonso said he hoped the France international would be available for the team's next game against Pachuca Sunday. But his hospitalization casts doubt over what part he might be able to play in the monthlong tournament in the United States. Madrid said Mbappe would "undergo a series of tests and follow the appropriate course of treatment."

Hyderabad Heroes romp to hat-trick of triumphs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 19: The Bengaluru Bravehearts registered their second victory, and the Hyderabad Heroes maintained their winning streak, as they completed a hat-trick of wins during the Rugby Premier League (RPL) Season 1, at the Shahaji Raje Bhosale Sports Complex (Andheri Sports Complex) here Thursday.

The Bengaluru Bravehearts saw off the Mumbai Dreamers in a low-scoring thriller. The Bengaluru Bravehearts won 12-7. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Heroes won comprehensively, with a scoreline of 43-12.

In the first game of the day, the Bengaluru Bravehearts started brightly. Akuila Rokolisoa scored a try and then converted his kick after that to give his side the lead. However, the Mumbai Dreamers, who were still looking for their first win, equalised when Waisea Nacuqu cancelled out Akuila Rokolisoa's try and conversion.

In the second match of the day, the Kalinga Black Tigers, who needed a win, drew first blood against the Hyderabad Heroes. The Tigers had Perry Baker getting the first try of the game, leaving the Heroes a



little surprised.

From then on in, the Hyderabad Heroes showed why they were in the top half of the table, as they cranked up the intensity and roared back into the game. Tries from Motu Opetai and Javed Hussein were crucial for the Hyderabad side, who were further aided by Terio Tamani's two conversions.

After that, the Hyderabad Heroes thwarted the Tigers' attack with their own moves. Terio Tamani, Max Roddick, and Joji Nasova added a try each, and Tamani added six more points to his conversion tally.

In the final quarter, Manuel Moreno and Joji Nasova added a couple of more tries to put the seal on the game. The Heroes won by a margin of 43-12.

PARIS DIAMOND
LEAGUE

Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 19: Having breached the 90m mark, two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra would now be eyeing a top finish when he goes up against familiar rivals in the prestigious Paris Diamond League Friday in a star-studded field here.

Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight

competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark.

Weber had upstaged Chopra in the Doha DL May 16 after the Indian superstar finally breached the elusive 90m mark. Weber had recorded 91.06m with his last throw to trump Chopra who had sent his spear to a distance of 90.23m in the same event.

The 31-year-old Weber had also beaten Chopra at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet May 23 in Poland where both performed below their best under chilly and overcast conditions. Weber had produced 86.12m while Chopra could only come up 84.14m to finish second.

Peters was there in the field too at both the Doha DL and the

Young guns shine as Juventus hammer Al-Ain

The convincing victory sent Juventus top of Group G level on three points with England's Man City

REUTERS

Washington, June 19: Randal Kolo Muani and Francisco Conceicao both scored twice as the young guns of Juventus made a statement in their Club World Cup opener with a dominant 5-0 win over Emirati club Al-Ain Wednesday.

Kolo Muani grabbed both of his goals in the first half. Conceicao scored either side of the break while Turkey forward Kenan Yildiz also found the net as Juventus dazzled the crowd at Audi Field with some mesmerising football.

"I'm very happy to win the game, the team played a great game so we're happy and now we'll get ready for the next game," said Kolo Muani. "I finished last season well and we've started this good as well."

The convincing victory sent Juventus top of Group G level on three points with England's Manchester City, who beat Wydad Casablanca 2-0 earlier Wednesday.

Twice Asian champions Al-Ain conceded two thirds of the



Reality check for Alonso as Madrid make lacklustre start

Xabi Alonso's glittering Real Madrid playing career offered no protection for their new coach against the harsh spotlight of expectation Wednesday, as they laboured to a deflating 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in their Club World Cup opener. The result laid bare the task facing the 43-year-old Spaniard, who will be expected to conjure instant success after swapping Bayer Leverkusen for the pressure cooker of 15-time European champions Madrid. "We know things take time, we need to correct a few details, everything takes time it's been only nine days of work for me here," Alonso told a press conference after watching his depleted squad struggle against opponents they were expected to dispatch with ease. With captain Dani Carvajal and centre backs Antonio Ruediger and Eder Militao absent, Real's defensive fragility was exposed despite the summer additions of Dean Huijsen and Trent Alexander-Arnold.



fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

In the eight-man field at the Charlety Stadium Friday, five have crossed the 90m mark. Chopra and Weber were the latest entrants to the exclusive club. Peters has already done it in 2022.

Kenya's 2015 world champion Julius Yego and Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics gold-winner Keshorn Walcott are the other two in the 90m club. Both achieved the feat back in 2015 and since then their performances have declined.

"Few meetings can boast a field of five javelin throwers over 90m. Foremost among them is Tokyo Olympic champion and Paris silver medallist Neeraj Chopra of India, who is as powerful as he is consistent," the Paris DL organisers stated in a promotional release for the event.

The other three in the eight-man field are Luiz Mauricio Da Silva of Brazil, who has a season's as well as personal best of 86.34m, Andrian Mardare of Moldova (PB: 86.66m) and Remi Rougetet of France.

Chopra began the 2025 season with a title in an invitational meet at Potchefstroom, South Africa, which was a minor --category F -- event with a throw of 84.52m.

Four days after the Paris DL, Chopra will compete at the Golden Spike athletics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24.

After that, the reigning world champion will feature in the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic July 5 in Bangalore, a World Athletics category A event which he is hosting.

Peters, Yego and Da Silva will also be there in the NC Classic.