





# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

ARIES

You will desire absolute freedom in whatever you do today. A lot of entertainment is on the cards for teenagers, like window shopping or going for a movie. Kids may demand a treat from you. Generally, family affairs dominate today.

TAURUS

Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesha. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out. Your new looks will make you tremendously confident and impressive and will make others see you in a new light.

GEMINI

You will make a reputation for yourself as a leader in your social circle. You yearn for something in your heart, and need to concentrate your energies upon attaining it. Your creative mind will come up with solutions today, to certain questions that have been perplexing you for quite some, says Ganesha.

CANCER

It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesha. All you need is a little attitude adjustment. Today, you are likely to meet an old friend and you will get busy reminiscing about your time together.

LEO

You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life. You will receive the benifice of highly placed superiors, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Children will ring in applaus and praises – in the classroom and off it too! Processing logic and reasoning will improve too. Ganesha asks you to keep calm and enjoy the joy ride, irrespective of anything that happens during the day.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people

SCORPIO

Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesha. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future. The need of the hour is to stay calm and take criticisms in your stride. Dealing patiently with chaotic situations will pay off in the long run.

AQUARIUS

You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesha. You will be the life of every party you will go to today.

PISCES

This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesha. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is likely to be a drawn out process.



## OWEN WILSON TO REPRIS HIS ROLE IN MEET THE PARENTS 4

Hollywood actor Owen Wilson, known for projects such as *Zoolander* and *Loki*, is returning for the fourth installment of *Meet the Parents*. The actor, who has previously portrayed the role of Kevin Rawley in the film series, will join Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Teri Polo.

## KATY PERRY, ORLANDO BLOOM TO HAVE 'MAKE-OR-BREAK TALKS'

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom are set to engage in 'make-or-break talks' in the coming weeks. It's claimed that there is hope that the couple can get through a 'rough patch' amid them facing ongoing split rumours, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



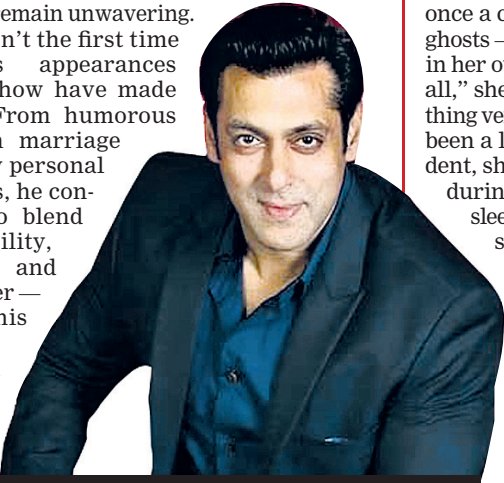
## Salman on battling severe health struggles

**Mumbai:** Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recently made headlines with a heartfelt revelation on *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, shedding light on the physical challenges he continues to face due to years of intense action work. Known for his larger-than-life persona and blockbuster roles, Salman surprised fans and host Kapil Sharma alike with his candid disclosure about multiple serious health conditions.

Speaking openly, Salman shared, "We've been breaking bones. My ribs are fractured, I had trigeminal neuralgia, I have a brain aneurysm, and AV malformations... and I'm still going. Action scenes, jumping, falling — even when I can't walk, I dance. One day when my mood snapped, it took half of me with it."

The actor's revelation highlighted the immense toll action cinema has taken on his body over the years. Conditions like trigeminal neuralgia, brain aneurysm, and AV malformations are serious, yet Salman has continued to perform physically demanding roles without slowing down. Despite the hardships, his resilience and dedication to his craft remain unwavering.

This isn't the first time Salman's appearances on the show have made waves. From humorous takes on marriage to deeply personal moments, he continues to blend vulnerability, humour, and star power — keeping his connection with fans raw and real.



AGENCIES

## Yami's priority



**Mumbai:** Actor Nushrratt Bharuccha participated in the 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations held in Mumbai. Dressed in a pink top under a cream shrug and matching pants, she was seen mingling with volunteers. However, a video from the event went viral, sparking widespread backlash.

In the clip, Nushrratt is seen asking a woman to untie her shoelaces. As one shoe was being untied, she moved slightly and then pointed to the other, prompting the same woman to undo that as well.

The incident didn't sit well with many on social media, drawing sharp criticism. Comments flooded in, questioning her behavior. One user wrote, "Unbelievable, doesn't she have hands?" while another said, "She's come to do yoga but can't even bend to remove her shoes?" Others called it a display of arrogance, saying, "Money and fame have gone to her head," and "Are you a child that you need two people to take off your shoes?"

On the professional front, Nushrratt was last seen in *Chhorii 2*, directed by Vishal Furia. The horror sequel also features Gashmeer Mahajani, Saurabh Goyal, Pallavi Ajay, Kuldeep Sareen, and Hardika Sharma. The film premiered worldwide April 11 under the banners of T-Series, Abundantia Entertainment, Psych, and Tamarisk Lane Productions.

By remaining true to her instincts and process, Yami continues to carve a space for herself in the industry—on her own thoughtful terms.

AGENCIES



## Sonakshi recalls ghostly encounter

you have something to say, come into my dreams... no face-to-face conversations."

Since then, she said, the mysterious encounters have stopped — but the memory still lingers.

AGENCIES



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

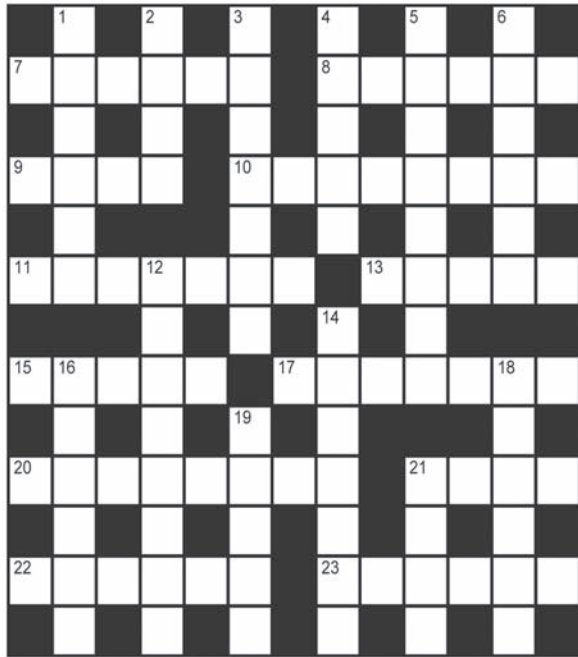


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



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- Across

7 Sweater material

8 Fancy flower

9 Island in the Marianas

10 Building wing

11 Hotel employee

13 Rubberneck

15 Like some jokes

17 One excluded from a society

20 Traitorous

21 Standard

22 Certain shark

23 Close at hand

Down

1 Withstand

2 Loud sound

3 Catch-22

4 Dutch cheese

5 In seventh heaven

6 Vim's pal

12 Rent receiver

14 Horse race distance

16 Slothful

18 Journalist

19 Perfume ingredient

21 Orderly

## 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.

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

## SOLUTIONS

I	S	C	S	I	P
A	N	K	A	R	A
C	L	Y	A	S	A
P	A	R	A	K	E
D	N	E	N	F	
R	A	I	S	I	N
S	E	D	A	N	O
S	T	U	D	S	L
U	S	K	A	L	C
G	R	O	U	S	E
E	P	W	S	G	M

## CROSSWORD

## SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW







# CBFC's regional officer post remains vacant; film releases hit by delays



The certification process for Odia films has come to a standstill, with no new appointment, delaying the release of several movies ahead of the crucial festive season

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** The Odia film industry is grappling with significant setbacks, as the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) office in Cuttack remains directionless, following the retirement of regional officer Girish Chandra Dash, June 1, 2025. The certification process for Odia films has come to a standstill, with no new appointment, delaying the release of several movies ahead of the

**Odisha Film and Television Directors' Association expressed serious concerns over the issue and recently sent a memorandum letter to CBFC chairman Prasoon Joshi for swift action**

are currently unable to secure certification, jeopardising their planned releases during the upcoming festive period, vital for the industry's revenue. Earlier, Odisha Film Producers and Distributors Guild (OFPDG) had raised the issue by writing to the Prime Minister, but the situation remains unchanged. OFTDA has urged the CBFC to promptly appoint a regional officer to restore normal functioning and prevent further disruption. The delay in film certification has not only stalled movie releases but also threatens the livelihood of countless professionals associated with the Odia film sector. Industry representatives remain hopeful that their appeals will be addressed quickly, enabling the smooth rollout of films during the festival season.



**SOULFUL MUSIC:** Artistes perform hindustani classical music during golden jubilee celebration of Gandharva Kala Parishad at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday

## ECoR's 365 special trains for Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Given the upcoming famous Rath Yatra festival in Puri, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run 365 special trains to and from Puri, in addition to other regular trains, during the festival period. The ECoR, in a statement, said it has made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth travel for pilgrims and visitors from across the state and neighbouring states. These special trains are planned to run from various parts of the state, including



Rourkela, Biramitrapur, Bangiriposi, Junagarh Road, Badampahar, Boudh, Balasore, Angul, Gunupur, Rayagada and other places, the ECoR statement said.

Special trains will also operate to and from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Gondia and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Santragachi in West Bengal, on the important days of the car

## Experts call for inclusive, transparent governance

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** Thinkers' Club—a forum of intellectuals and professionals, during the 123rd virtual meet Sunday, deliberated on the topic 'How can Odisha become truly 'Vikshit' (Developed) by 2036?' The focus of the virtual discussion was the state government's 'Vision 2036' document, intended as a roadmap to good governance and holistic development. Participants included former bureaucrats, scholars, and thought leaders from across the globe. Former chief secretary Sahadeb Sahoo delivered the opening remarks with a candid assessment of challenges—highlighting issues such as digital inequality, electricity shortages, and the marginalisation of the illiterate 30 per cent of the population. Social thinker Rabi Senapati stressed on basic amenities as the foundation of development, citing real-life examples of medical inaccessibility and lack of drinking water in rural Odisha. Speaking from Boston, Sanjay Panda advocated for leveraging Odisha's rich heritage of arts and handicrafts for global markets. Nanda Nandan Das, drawing parallels with Singapore and Dubai, called for merit-based recruitment, moral education, and land reform as essential pillars of growth.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Jyoti Sharma, W/o Asish Sharma, At- Hemraj Lane, Nayasadak, P.O.- Chandinichouk, P.S.- Lalbag, Dist.- Cuttack, declare by an affidavit before Notary Public, Cuttack Dt- 18.06.25 that name of my husband is Asish Sharma. Asish Sharma and Asish Kumar Sharma is one and same person.

## Management of mining tailings is vital: OES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** With the rapid advancement of mining and industrialisation, there is a significant increase in volume of pollutants in the environment, posing serious challenges to ecosystems and human health. One of the major concerns happens to be the management of mining tailings—fine-particles of waste materials that often contain water, mixed with heavy metals and other toxic substances. Tailings dams are constructed in order to safely contain these materials and prevent environmental contamination and human hazards. In this context, the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) organised a workshop on the theme 'Towards Sustainable Tailings Dams: Bridging Indian and International Practices' at its conference hall recently. The programme was presided over by OES working president Jaya Krushna Panigrahi.



Senior geotechnical engineer at AECOM, Arizona, USA, Bibhuti Bhusan Panda joined as the chief speaker offered a comprehensive explanation of how tailings are generated during ore extraction processes and are stored in dams, typically constructed from earth or rock fill. He emphasised the critical need for ensuring dam stability to avoid leakage or catastrophic failure, which can have devastating effects on both human populations and natural

ecosystems. "Odisha, being rich in mineral resources and experiencing a surge in mining activities, must prioritise the adoption of advanced geo-environmental practices for sustainable and safe waste management. Learning from global best practices can help reduce the environmental footprint of mining operations," Panda said. In his presidential address, Panigrahi stressed the importance of meticulous planning

## India's coffee exports more than double in last 11 yrs

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 22:** India's coffee exports have more than doubled to \$1.8 billion in the last 11 years, with the country becoming the 5th largest exporter, according to the government data. India's coffee exports stood at \$800 million in 2014-15 and have been rising steadily since then. The top export markets for Indian coffee are Italy, Germany, Russia, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US. India is the seventh largest producer and the fifth largest exporter of coffee in the world. Prices of coffee are ruling at record levels following an adverse weather-induced supply crunch in the largest producing countries of Brazil and Vietnam. India exports over two-thirds of the over 3.5 lakh tonne produced in the country. The country's coffee exports have grown significantly due to the increasing global demand



for its rich and unique flavours. Approximately three-fourths of India's coffee production consists of Arabica and Robusta beans. These are primarily exported as unroasted beans. However, there is a growing demand for value-added products like roasted and instant coffee, further fuelling the ex-

port boom. India's coffee is primarily grown in the ecologically rich Western and Eastern Ghats, areas famous for their biodiversity. Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 MT in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These areas are home to shaded plantations that not only support the coffee industry but also play a vital role in preserving the natural environment, helping to maintain the ecological balance of these biodiversity hotspots. Meanwhile, due to the rise of the cafe culture, higher disposable incomes and a growing preference for coffee over tea, coffee consumption in India is also steadily increasing. This trend has been observed particularly in both urban and rural areas. Domestic consumption has increased from 84,000 tonnes in 2012 to 91,000 tonnes in 2023. To enhance coffee production and meet growing domestic and international demand, the Coffee Board of India has launched several important initiatives. Through the Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP), the focus is on improving yields, expanding cultivation in non-traditional regions and ensuring the sustainability of coffee farming. These measures are part of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen India's coffee industry, increase productivity and improve its global competitiveness.

## 45,502 STUDENTS IN SECOND UG MERIT LIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** State Higher Education department, Sunday released the Phase-I second selection merit list for Undergraduate (UG) courses for 2025-26 academic session, in which a total of 45,502 students have been shortlisted. While the first round saw the selection of 1,75,722 students out of 2,65,590 applicants, only 79,752 students took admission. Another 52,126 opted to slide and float, leaving a large number of seats still unfilled across various institutions. Of the newly selected candidates in second round, the tally stands at 17,193 in Science, 23,996 in Arts, 2,757 in Commerce, 200 in Shastri, 1,309 in self-financing courses, and 47 in Law, a total of 20,031 male, 25,468 female, and three transgender students — showcasing inclusive educational efforts. Ravenshaw University, Cuttack has emerged as the top

choice, leading across Science, Commerce and Arts in second round too. In Arts stream, the university recorded the highest— 91 per cent cut-off in Political Science. In Physical Science the university recorded 92.80 per cent cut-off while in Biological Science it fixed 92.20 per cent cut-off. In Commerce, Ravenshaw University also dominated with 89.83 per cent. In Self-Financing courses, Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar, recorded the cut-off with 87.50 per cent in Computer Science. University Law College, Utkal University recorded 84.40 per cent for five-Year Integrated BA LLB course. Authorities have emphasised the importance of timely reporting in the selected institutions between June 23 and June 25, from 10am to 5pm, to confirm their admission and complete the required formalities.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.0°	34.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunder-showers.
Min Temp	25.6°	23.2°	
Humidity	81%	87%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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## A group of people are in a small, dark-colored boat on a body of water. A man stands at the stern, holding a long wooden pole vertically. He is shirtless and wearing a red cloth around his waist. Several other people are seated in the boat, including a man in a red and white checkered shirt and a woman in a red and yellow sari. The water is calm, and the background shows a hazy, distant shoreline.

OP PHOTO

## POST NEWS NETWORK



miscreants opened fire at him

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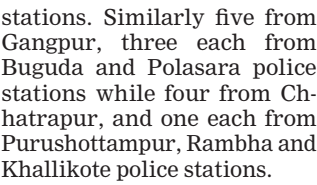
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## POST NEWS NETWORK



miscreants opened fire at him

## POST NEWS NETWORK



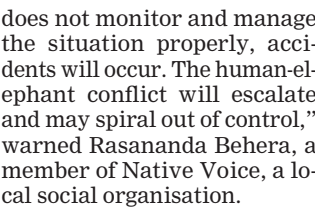
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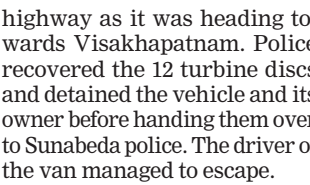
“The diversion bridge was

A total of ₹29.39 crore has Telkoi remained disrupted.

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The great are strongest when they stand alone, A God-given might of being is their force.



# Unending War

Last week, when a reporter asked US President Donald Trump whether America would enter the war on Iran with close ally Israel, he replied in his characteristic fashion: “I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I’m going to do.” Now with his decision to bomb Iran’s nuclear facilities at Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz, Trump has taken a step he had long promised to avoid: military intervention in a significant foreign conflict. Throughout the campaign for his second presidency, Trump had repeatedly stated that the US should have nothing to do with foreign wars and that the billions of dollars that get spent in war efforts should be used to “Make America Great Again.”

The bold US strikes, which targeted Iran’s super secure nuclear facility, Fordow, located deep underground, represent the most significant foreign policy gamble of Trump’s two terms in office, laden with risks and uncertainties. After making the announcement that Iran’s key nuclear sites were “completely and fully obliterated,” Trump asserted that Tehran must either pursue peace or risk facing additional attacks. This stance could incite Tehran to retaliate by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the world’s single most important oil passageway. Iran could also target US military bases and allies across the Middle East and mobilise its proxy groups – Hezbollah and the Houthis – against American and Israeli establishments around the world. Such retaliation from Iran could lead to a protracted conflict, reminiscent of the “forever wars” that the US fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, something that Trump had criticised and vowed to avoid.

It is worth noting that while Iran’s military capabilities are significantly weakened, they possess various asymmetric methods to retaliate. At the same time, while Iran’s nuclear programme may have been set back for many years, the threat may be far from over. Iran, lest we forget, is the only Shia Moslem country in the world and is surrounded by inimical Sunni states. It, for some time past, seems to be desperate to get recognized as the leader of the Moslem world and therefore it had been funding, arming and training terror outfits like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis against Israel. According to Iranian thinking, Israel, the ‘Zionist’ state, is the biggest enemy of Islam which the Sunni countries were unwilling to face. Sunni Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other Mid East countries would probably be celebrating the attacks on Iran more than the Israelis.

All the while, the latest conflagration in West Asia triggered by US intervention is going to have its ramifications throughout the world. First and foremost will be the surge in crude oil prices. After remaining volatile over the past week, crude oil is poised to spike as markets reopen Monday. And in the event Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz, as it has threatened to do, one can only guess the impact it will have on the global economy which is already roiled by high inflation and tepid growth. Also, in case the Houthis start targeting ships in the Red Sea, it will leave worldwide supply chains disrupted.

Gulf States, home to multiple US military bases, were on high alert Sunday as the US strikes raised the possibility of a widening conflict in the region. Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil exporter, heightened its security alert, while Bahrain advised drivers to steer clear of major roads, and Kuwait established shelters within a ministries complex. Bahrain hosts the headquarters of the US Navy’s 5th Fleet, and there are US military bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, as well as in neighbouring Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

During his first term, Trump did not encounter any significant international crises, but just six months into his second term, he finds himself in the midst of a major one. He is already facing considerable opposition from congressional Democrats regarding the attack on Iran, and he must also navigate resistance from the anti-interventionist faction of his Republican MAGA supporters. Even if he aims to limit US military involvement in both duration and scope, history shows that such conflicts often lead to unforeseen consequences for American presidents. Trump’s policy of “peace through strength” will be put to the ultimate test, particularly as he opens a new military front while failing to fulfil his campaign promises to swiftly end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

For the world at large, peace remains elusive, and it is the civilians who, unfortunately, will have to bear all the brunt, while the arms industry makes hay.

## WISDOM CORNER

- Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

STEPHEN HAWKING
- When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

KAHLIL GIBRAN
- We're all going to die, all of us; what a circus! That alone should make us love each other, but it doesn't. We are terrorized and flattened by trivialities. We are eaten up by nothing.

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1314:** Battle of Bannockburn begins. On this day in 1314 began the Battle of Bannockburn, a decisive engagement in Scottish history whereby the Scots defeated the English, regained their independence, and established Robert the Bruce as Robert I.
- 1868:** American inventor Christopher Latham Sholes and two others were granted a patent for a typewriter.
- 1894:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is founded. The IOC is responsible for organizing the Olympic Games and similar events. The committee was established at the initiative of French educator, Pierre de Coubertin.
- 1961:** The Antarctic Treaty comes into force. The treaty was the first arms control agreement signed during the Cold War. It sets Antarctica aside as a scientific preserve and prohibits military activities on the continent.
- 1992:** Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Party wins the election in Israel. Rabin became the country's fifth Prime Minister. For his engagement in a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 (together with Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat). A year later, Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist.

FOCUS

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

# MORAL COMPASS FOR WORLD



**A world order driven solely by geopolitics and expanding notions of national security inevitably breeds short-termism, deepens divisions, and heightens the chance of major conflict**



Adriana Abdenur

ESTABLISHING A NEW VALUES-BASED SYSTEM IS NOT UTOPIAN; IT IS STRATEGICALLY NECESSARY

Even before US President Donald Trump launched his assault on the global economy, it was facing not only a structural crisis but a collapse in the values that once justified and guided international cooperation. The retraction of multilateralism reflects not just weakened institutions and geopolitical tensions, but also a loss of shared principles for international cooperation and a shift toward unilateralism, transactional diplomacy, and zero-sum nationalism.

Far-right political forces have accelerated this erosion by turning ideals like gender equality, climate justice, and Indigenous rights into objects of ridicule. Such culture-war rhetoric is undermining the ethical foundations of both democracy and global cooperation, with the populist backlash against solidarity and shared responsibility crossing into the international arena. As nationalism displaces multilateralism, international cooperation is losing its moral direction. In addition, as Hannah Arendt warned, the absence of shared values erodes the human capacity for judgment and opens the door to authoritarianism. Trust collapses, cooperation becomes purely transactional, and instability becomes the norm. International governance becomes brittle; diplomacy becomes coercive. Perceived injustice and ineffectiveness fuels resentment and resistance. A world order driven solely by geopolitics and expanding notions of national security inevitably breeds short-termism, deepens divisions, and heightens the chance of major conflict. No single actor, however powerful, is insulated from these risks.

But rebuilding global economic governance cannot mean simply restoring the past. While the postwar order did embed common ideals like human dignity and solidarity in its foundation documents (starting with the UN Charter), it also reflected

– and fuelled – the power imbalances of its time. Any new system must be grounded in care, solidarity, sovereign equality, and ecological stewardship, which also means updating earlier frameworks to meet current needs and ensuring broader representation. Establishing a new values-based system is not utopian; it is strategically necessary. Institutions that are perceived as fair are more resilient and more likely to command broad-based compliance, which is crucial when our biggest challenges require globally coordinated action.

Moreover, reputational capital matters more than ever. In a multipolar world, influence depends on legitimacy. Achieving inclusive prosperity, social cohesion, and adequate provision of public goods (whether global, regional, national, or local) is essential for long-term well-being and resilience. Combating hunger, poverty, and inequality is not charity; it is sound strategy.

Equity, access to finance, and the distribution of green technology will be central concerns as countries seek to transform their economies to meet climate goals. In the absence of global norms to guide industrial policy in a sustainable direction, these transitions risk reproducing old hierarchies and dependencies. Reform of the international trade system – which is currently deeply regressive,

with net flows from the Global South to the North – is about delivering a green transition that avoids the pitfalls of a world order shaped by and for the benefit of the few.

History offers lessons here. The Bretton Woods institutions and early trade frameworks (like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) emerged from the catastrophe of World War II, when leaders recognized the need for cooperation anchored in values, even if their efforts were uneven. The Havana Charter of 1948 went so far as to call for full employment and labor rights (it was stillborn because the US never ratified it).

But the neoliberal turn of the 1980s brought austerity, deregulation, and the rise of structural adjustment policies, which curtailed many countries' development, deepened inequality, and sidelined labor rights and ecological considerations. The creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995 reflected this shift: while it promised fairness and predictability, it put liberalization and enforcement first. The resulting popular backlash – from the Seattle protests in 1999 to ongoing criticism of trade rules on agriculture and intellectual property – revealed how disconnected the system had become from social and ecological priorities.

Despite these failures, founda-

tional values have endured as moral benchmarks. Reformers, civil-society movements, and many leaders continue to invoke them as guideposts for an alternative global order characterized by democratized decision-making, sustainable development, and climate justice. These are not abstract ideals. They are tools for building a more effective system.

Discussions about values are insufficient. To ensure that the global architecture reflects and reinforces shared norms, rather than undermining them, outcomes must be methodically implemented by institutions. To move forward, values must be paired with accountability mechanisms. That means improving institutional oversight, facilitating greater civil-society participation, and creating tools to measure progress in terms not only of GDP, but also of equity and well-being. Discussions about such principles must be embedded in real-world forums: the G20, which convenes major economies from both the Global South and North; the BRICS+ grouping of major emerging economies; the UN's Financing for Development process, including the upcoming summit in Seville; and the UN Climate Change Conference, starting with COP30 in Belém. And it must be central to any discussion of reforming the UN system, including via Charter review.

Fragmentation, inequality, and dysfunction are not inevitable. They reflect choices. The alternative to a failing order is not retreat into nationalism or technocracy, but rather bold re-commitment by states, civil society, and the private sector to the values that can guide us through complexity toward a more humane, sustainable, and resilient economic order.

*The writer is a former special adviser on international affairs for Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.*

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## SPECTRUM CREATIVE ECONOMY

# India’s cultural & creative aspirations

Cultural & creative economy is an emerging area of economic field that offers not only meaning to creative pursuits but also wealth and soft power.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) defines creative industries as creation, production, and distribution cycles that leverage creativity and intellectual capital. These industries encompass knowledge based activities focusing on culture and heritage, including tangible and intangible creative products with economic value. The latest edition of Creative Economy Outlook 2024 by UNCTAD observes the creative economy is rapidly growing, especially in developing countries, and contributes significantly to economic development and job creation.

The creative industry in India is basically a self-organising sector. Indian government fully recognises the importance of the sector. Though the subject is dealt by the Ministry of Culture – as nodal ministry; the creative sector overarches over two dozen or more departments, ministries and national institutions. By engaging with business organisations, institutions and experts, scope and viability of the sector is being explored. The sentiment of prioritising the sector echoed in the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while inaugurating the World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi last year. He highlighted the vision of linking heritage with growth and development. Eventually, industry bodies and associations have been voicing for collective actions towards a policy for the creative sector.

As reported by Creative Economy Outlook 2024; some of India’s advantageous positions include – India tops in film production position, contributing 29% of the global volume in 2022 and record box office revenues reaching around \$1.4 billion in 2023. Among developing economies, India came third after China, Hong Kong in exporting creative goods in 2022. India exported \$21 billion worth of creative goods, 29% share of global exports. India is at fourth position after the US, Germany and Japan in the publishing industry. India is on top among developing countries both in terms of revenue and number of ISBN registrations in 2022. Also, India’s videogames sector is projected to grow at 18.3%.

Some concerns are also being raised by various multilateral institutions with regard to India. According to ILO data (2024), in arts, entertainment and recreation, the average share of women in the creative industries fluctuates from 80.5% in the Dominican Republic to 6.5% in India, with a global average of around 38%. A study conducted by ADB about India’s economy finds that the concentration of creative jobs is significantly higher in urban areas, with a substantial 67.1% of all creative workers residing there. In contrast, rural areas have a much lower proportion of creative workers at only 29.6%. The UNCTAD reports that several economies, especially developing ones including India, do not have adequate services trade data to calculate creative services exports. Though this does not mean India doesn’t export creative services. Due to lack of robust regulation and enforcement, Indian entertainment sector experiences an annual revenue loss of \$2.8 billion due to digital piracy.

Culture unites all and is a tool for Track-II diplomacy. Given the size and quality of our diaspora; it continues to enable India as a soft power. It is becoming quite foundational in India with the implementation of New Education Policy that guarantees equal access to creative and cultural experiences to innovate through traditional, conventional as well as in new technological mediums like AI. For expansion of these creative experiences component-wise dissection of the creative sector is required to plan for multidimensional interventions. Innovations and acceleration of activities with market regulations and effective enforcement can help make it a robust sector. Policymaking may be a long and lengthy process but identifying the barriers within the sector is a way out to tap the bottlenecks and to move towards a framework of actions and interventions in leveraging economic potentials of the sector for optimum growth.

*The writer is a Delhi-based independent consultant who worked with Niti Aayog.*

L

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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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Starved of funds

Sir, This refers to “As UN turns 80, humanitarian aid work faces clouded future,” **Orissa POST**, June 22. The United Nations’ humanitarian agencies, once viewed as global lifelines, are now crumbling under the weight of mounting crises and chronic underfunding. From Gaza to Kenya, their ability to deliver aid has been severely compromised. In Gaza, where relentless bombing has displaced hundreds of thousands, the agencies are struggling to provide even the most basic necessities—tents, clean water, food, and medical aid. The situation is no different in Kenya, where drought and food insecurity have left millions vulnerable, yet international response has been lukewarm and funding painfully inadequate. Despite the growing scale of human suffering, donor fatigue and geopolitical distractions have left UN agencies starved of the funds essential for timely and effective intervention. Bureaucratic inertia and internal inefficiencies further erode their credibility. These agencies are expected to be neutral arbiters of relief, yet inaction or slow response often deepens public frustration and suffering. The moral and practical failure to address humanitarian emergencies, especially in conflict-ridden regions, underscores a crisis not just of resources, but of global political will.

*N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE*

## Dramatic escalation

Sir, In a dramatic escalation, the US has bombed Iran’s Fordow, Esfahan, and Natanz nuclear facilities using bunker-buster bombs—bypassing congressional approval. The strike ends President Trump’s two-week ultimatum for Tehran to sign a nuclear deal. Iran claimed the sites were cleared of nuclear material, denying any radioactive leakage. Israel hailed the move and launched its own strikes. Iran vowed retaliation, prompting a stern US warning of harsher consequences. As Iranian missiles breached defenses, US troops in the region now face heightened threats. India accelerated evacuation via land. While Yemen backed Iran, China and Russia remain noncommittal. With diplomatic channels severed and fears of Red Sea route disruption, global oil prices may surge. Analysts warn the conflict could mark the unofficial start of a wider war.

*RS Narula, PATIALA*



# Delhi govt resolving public grievances via Jan Sunwai camps



Following Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's directive, weekly Jan Sunwai camps are now being held in all revenue districts, said a statement issued by the Delhi government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** The Delhi government is resolving public grievances through weekly Jan Sunwai camps led by the district magistrates, officials Sunday said.

Following Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's directive, weekly Jan Sunwai camps are now being held in all revenue districts, said a statement issued by the Delhi government.

These camps are attended by officials from various departments, including the Municipal Corporation, Delhi Police, Power and other concerned departments, it added. These programmes are not just confined to the government offices, they are being held at community spaces such as schools, local chaupals and banquet halls to make people feel more at ease while presenting their concerns and expectations, the statement said.

The weekly Jan Sunwai Camps, led by the district magistrates, are being held to directly address citizens' grievances, while a 24x7 Public Grievance Monitoring System (PGMS) remains active to ensure continuous redressal of complaints, it added. For added accessibility, complaint boxes are being

placed outside the government offices, allowing citizens to submit their complaints easily, the statement said.

These camps, according to the chief minister's office, receive complaints related to departments such as Revenue, Delhi Jal Board, PWD, Food and Civil Supplies, Social Welfare, Health, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Education, Irrigation and Flood Control, among others. The citizens also raise concerns related to the Delhi Police and Municipal Corporation, covering issues such as encroachments, dark spots, sanitation, potable water, sewage problems, stray animals, road maintenance, illegal constructions, non-functional street lights and tree pruning, it added.

The officers present at the camps attempt to resolve issues on the spot and unresolved issues are referred to the concerned departments for timely action, the statement said. Recently, Jan Sunwai camps were organised in subdivisions like Model Town, Kanjhawala, Seelampur, Kotwali, Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Vasant Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Kapashera, Sarita Vihar and Dwarka. Over 600 people attended the most recent weekend camps.

The Jan Sunwai camps earlier May 17 witnessed the participation of 1,260 citizens and over 1,350 citizens participated in these camps May 24. The chief minister emphasised these are not just grievance redressal camps, they represent a commitment to listening to people and taking swift action.

## SpiceJet asked to pay ₹25K to senior citizen for issuing wrong ticket

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 22:** The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Mumbai (Suburban) has directed budget airline SpiceJet to pay ₹25,000 to a senior citizen for issuing incorrect flight tickets, causing him mental stress and financial loss.

The incident took place in December 2020, when the senior citizen from Ghatkopar had booked a round-trip ticket from Mumbai to Darbhanga with SpiceJet.

While his onward journey went as planned, the return flight was cancelled due to bad weather. Acknowledging the urgency of the passenger's situation -- he had to attend a PhD online exam in Mumbai December 8 -- the airline arranged an alternate route via Patna and Kolkata.

However, the replacement booking turned out to be flawed. The connecting flight from Kolkata to Mumbai was scheduled to depart before the passenger would even arrive in Kolkata from Patna. This mistake left him stranded in Patna, forcing him to purchase a new ticket for the next day using his own money. As a result, he also missed his important online examination.



The senior citizen later approached the consumer forum, accusing the airline of negligence and deficiency in service.

He demanded a refund of ₹14,577 along with ₹2 lakh for mental agony and ₹25,000 for legal expenses.

SpiceJet responded by stating that the flight was cancelled due to bad weather, which was beyond their control, and that they had refunded the ticket fare through the booking agent.

They also said they had issued the alternate flight ticket free of cost. While the consumer commission accepted that the flight cancellation was not the airline's fault, it pointed out that the issuance of an incorrect ticket was a clear act of negligence.

Although the airline later reimbursed the complainant, the commission said this did not excuse the initial error.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal performs yoga with others during 'Yoga by the Beach' organised a day after the 11th International Day of Yoga, at Dana Pani Beach in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

# DU calls UG admission form error 'unintentional'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** The Delhi University has termed the controversial omission of "Urdu" and the inclusion of "Muslim" as a mother tongue in its undergraduate admission form as an "inadvertent error", but several professors have alleged communal bias and demanded immediate correction, accountability and a public apology.

"The University of Delhi sincerely regrets the inadvertent error in its admission form. We acknowledge your concerns and are committed to addressing them," the Delhi University (DU) said in a statement on X.

"However, attributing ulterior motives to this entirely unintentional oversight is unwarranted. We request all not to vitiate the university's diverse and harmonious environment," the statement added.

The academics from the DU, however, criticised the language used in the form, arguing it reflects a communal mindset and undermines the Constitution. "Under 'Mother Tongue', the form omits Urdu



entirely while listing 'Muslim' as a mother tongue. Is it beyond the DU's understanding that Muslims speak the same languages as others from their regions? This cannot be anything but Islamophobic," Abha Dev Habib, a professor at Miranda House, wrote in a Facebook post.

The professor said the omission is particularly concerning given that Urdu is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. "The controversy further escalated over the form's requirement for applicants under reserved categories to mention sub-castes like "mocha" and "dhobi" The faculty members described the move as insensitive and casteist

stitution. Echoing similar concerns, Rudrashish Chakraborty, Associate Professor at Kirori Mal College and DUTA executive member, said the error is not a clerical one but part of a larger pattern. "By removing Urdu and replacing it with 'Muslim' as a mother tongue, the administration has effectively targeted a language and a culture. It's a serious viola-

tion of academic standards and constitutional values," he said, calling it a "brazen attempt to create an 'other' out of the largest minority community in the country". He also took issue with the use of the term "mother tongue" in the form, arguing that "native language" would have been more academically appropriate. "The DU administration should take a refresher course in academic English before prescribing it for students," he wrote on Facebook. The controversy further escalated over the form's requirement for applicants under reserved categories to mention sub-castes like "mocha" and "dhobi". The faculty members described the move as insensitive and casteist. While the university has acknowledged the issue, it has not yet clarified how the error occurred or what changes are being made. The professors and rights groups are calling for transparency, a formal apology and safeguards to prevent such lapses in future.

## Speed limit hike considered for heavy vehicles on Bhore Ghat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 22:** Heavy vehicles descending the Bhore Ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway might soon move down the slope a bit faster, with authorities considering an increase in the existing speed limits, officials and transporters have said.

Deliberations are underway to raise the speed limit for heavy vehicles like trucks and buses from the current 40 kmph to 45-50 kmph on the downward incline of the Pune-Mumbai arm, also known as the Khandala Ghat. A decision is likely to be taken soon, they said. The current speed limit of 60 kmph for cars in the 10-km ghat section is unlikely to be changed. On other stretches of the country's first access-controlled expressway, the speed limit is 100 kmph for smaller vehicles and 80 kmph for heavy vehicles.



The current limit on the ghat section, located between Lonavala in Pune district and Khalapur in Raigad district, results in frequent e-challans as it is challenging for heavy vehicles to move slowly on a sharp

downward incline, slows down traffic and causes accidents, they claimed.

After follow-ups and discussions, the authorities have given a positive signal for an upward revision of the speed limit,

it, transporters said. According to transporters, particularly bus owners, e-challans have increased on the ghat section following the introduction of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), which comprises several speed-monitoring cameras and other equipment, on the 95-km carriageway. A vehicle is fined ₹2,000 for the first speed violation, and the amount increases for subsequent infractions.

Teams from the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), highway police, the state transport department and transporters conducted a joint survey of the ghat section last month to assess the ground reality. The transporters and a few officials called the current speed limit of 40 kmph for heavy vehicles on Bhore Ghat "unscientific", "unrealistic" and "unfair".

## More than 5,000 cyclists join Fit India Sundays Pandharpur edition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pandharpur, June 22:** The Fit India Sundays on Cycle's Pandharpur edition to mark the 4th Akhil Maharashtra Pandharpur Cycle Wari Sammelan recorded the largest-ever cycling gathering in India with more than 5,000 enthusiasts coming together here.

Cyclists from more than 90 clubs from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh covered distances of up to 450 kilometres to make it to the event here, embarking on their arduous yet memorable journeys four to five days ago.

The event was jointly organised by the Mumbai Regional Centre of the Sports Authority of India and the Pandharpur Cycle Wari Sangh.

The cyclists "took part in the spiritually significant



Nagar Pradakshina and the energetic Ringan Sohala, showcasing exemplary determination, devotion, and endurance," the organisers informed in a release.

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse and JB Gore, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Govt of Maharashtra, were among the guests at the event. MP Dhairya Sheel Mohite Patil, MLA Prashant Paricharak, MLC Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil and SAI Mumbai RC director Pandurang Chate were also present.

# Delhi Police to use smart sensors, cameras to curb shootings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** With several cases of gun violence in the national capital, Delhi Police is stepping up its response with a new tech-driven initiative involving advanced sensors and high-resolution cameras. These systems will instantly alert officers, help identify assailants and track getaway vehicles used to flee crime scenes.

Currently in its implementation stage, the project aims to enhance surveillance and rapid response across the city.

Sensors capable of detecting gunfire within a 500-metre to

one-kilometre radius are being installed at strategic locations. Once a firing sound is detected, the sensors will trigger an alert to nearby PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras, prompting them to rotate and focus precisely on the direction of the sound. "These sensors will send an alert to the nearest PTZ camera, which will then swivel toward the suspected firing location. This will allow us to capture footage of the incident, the accused and the vehicle they use to escape," a senior police officer told PTI.

The system will integrate Facial Recognition System (FRS) cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)



cameras. While the FRS-enabled cameras will assist in identifying suspects in real time, the ANPR cameras will record vehicle number plates, aiding in tracing escape routes

and identifying those involved.

Additionally, the entire network will be linked to the Integrated Command, Control, Communication and Computer Centre (C4I) at Delhi Police

Currently in its implementation stage, the project aims to enhance surveillance and rapid response across the city. Sensors capable of detecting gunfire within a 500-metre to one-kilometre radius are being installed at strategic locations

Headquarters. Alerts will also be sent to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) offices and local police stations.

Once a firing is detected, the operator at C4I will quickly assess the authenticity of the alert. If verified, an imme-

diately alert will be sent to the nearest PCR unit to respond to the scene without delay. "This system will not only help us respond faster but will also act as a strong deterrent. Knowing they are under surveillance, criminals may think twice before opening fire in public," the officer said.

The technology has already undergone successful trials at the Police Training College in Jharoda Kalan a few months ago. Following the pilot's success, it is now being expanded across key locations in the city as part of a broader strategy to counter rising incidents of gun violence.

## Another battle of Pawars unfolding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, June 22:** Election was being held Sunday to Baramati's Malegaon Cooperative Sugar Mill where Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is contesting for the chairperson's post, while the rival NCP (SP) led by Sharad Pawar has also entered the fray.

Ajit Pawar is among the 90 candidates, contesting the poll under the banner of different panels and not on party tickets, for the 21-member board of directors of the sugar mill located in Baramati. Only members of the mill are eligible to vote.

The Nilkantheshwar panel headed by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar, who is contesting a cooperative sugar mill election after more than four decades, currently holds power in the mill.

Results will be declared June 24. Besides the Nilkantheshwar panel and the Ranjan Tawre-led Sahakar Bachav, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) has entered the fray after floating the 'Baliraja Sahakar Bachav' panel, making the contest triangular. Sharad Pawar is not directly in the fray.

Ajit Pawar cast his vote Sunday morning in Pune's Baramati and expressed hope that the people will vote for development. "This is an election conducted through a democratic process. Voters have the right to choose their representative. It is the voters who will decide who will bring development. I am a candidate for the chairman's post. I have been working here for 35 years," Ajit Pawar told reporters after casting his vote.



of the day  
**Quote**

I am informing you today that BRS or Congress Party, KCR (former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao) or Rahul Gandhi totally failed in fulfilling the aspirations of four crore people of Telangana

G KISHAN REDDY | UNION MINISTER

It is important that the election data is stored and remains safe. Only then can action be taken if there is any complaint ever. I feel that the Election Commission is taking such a decision under pressure from the BJP

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Arunachal is rising on the digital highway – connecting people, empowering communities, and creating opportunities across every corner!

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

**SHORT TAKES**

**Man commits suicide in police custody**

**Shimla:** A 36-year-old man from Haryana, who was arrested on charges of theft, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself inside the lock-up at the Kala Amb police station in Sirmaur district Sunday, police said. Ajay Kumar was arrested Saturday, after which a local court remanded him to police custody. He was found hanging inside the lock-up at 3:50 pm Sunday, police said. The chief judicial magistrate reached the spot and initiated an inquiry after informing the state human rights body, they said.

**Gram panchayat polls conclude in Gujarat**

**Ahmedabad:** Voting in 3,894 gram panchayats in Gujarat concluded at 6pm Sunday in a largely peaceful manner, though stray incidents of violence were reported from some districts, officials said. Around 81 lakh persons were eligible to exercise their franchise to elect 3,656 sarpanchs and 16,224 panchayat members. The State Election Commission (SEC) is yet to announce the voter turnout.

**Scrap collector held for raping minor**

**Thane:** A scrap collector was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in Navi Mumbai, a police official said Sunday. Accused Mohammad Ajmer alias Irfan Mustafa Shaikh (19) befriended the girl while both would go about picking up scrap in the area and had promised to marry her, the APMC police station official said.

**Police lathicharge farmers**

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:** Police lathi-charged a group of farmers at a sugarcane farm in Tandulwadi area of Dharashiv district, an official said Sunday amid criticism by the Opposition. A police official confirmed the "mild" lathicharge, claiming some farmers were carrying inflammable substances with them.

**Cops rescue woman, 2 minor daughters**

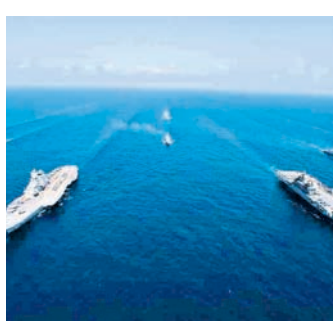
**Chhatrapur (MP):** Police rescued a woman and her two minor daughters Sunday, a day after they were abducted by more than a dozen armed men after opening fire and injuring her husband in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district and arrested seven persons over two days.

There is a faint signal of hope in the update in that the rate of increase in carbon dioxide emissions over the last decade has slowed compared to the 2000s. But global mean sea-level rise continues to accelerate

JAIRAM RAMESH | SENIOR CONG LEADER

**STEALTH FRIGATE INS TAMAL TO BE COMMISSIONED INTO NAVY JULY 1**

Indian Navy's Russian-manufactured guided missile frigate INS Tamal that carries an array of missiles and surveillance systems will be commissioned into the force at Russia's coastal city of Kaliningrad July 1. The ship has 26 per cent indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land, officials said



# India for peace, humanity: PM to Iran President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

The phone conversation initiated by Pezeshkian came hours after the US bombed three major nuclear sites -- Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan -- in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict.

In a social media post, Modi said he expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diploma-

cy is the way forward for the early restoration of regional peace. "We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said.

"Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," the Prime Minister added. President Pezeshkian, briefed PM Modi in detail and shared his perspective on the current situation in the region, especially the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. The US attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities has triggered fears of a wider regional

conflict, with many leading countries and blocs calling for restraint. The PMO said Modi conveyed to the Iranian president that India was on the side of peace and humanity.

"In this context, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward. He reiterated India's support for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," it said in a statement. Modi thanked Pezeshkian for the continued support being extended for the safe return and repatriation of the Indian community, it said.

The two leaders reiterated the shared commitment to continue to work for strength-

ening bilateral cooperation in different areas including trade and economic cooperation, science and technology and people-to-people ties, the PMO said.

The two leaders agreed to remain in touch. Soon after American B-2 bombers struck the Iranian installations with "bunker buster" bombs, US President Donald Trump said the Iranian nuclear facilities were "completely and totally obliterated" and warned of more attacks if Iran does not agree on peace.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the US has committed a "grave violation" of the UN Charter, international law and the nuclear

non-proliferation treaty by attacking Iran's "peaceful nuclear installations".

The Iranian foreign minister said he is travelling to Moscow to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The events this morning are outrageous and will have everlasting consequences. Each and every member of the UN must be alarmed over this extremely dangerous, lawless and criminal behaviour," he said. Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, he said in a statement. On its part, Russia strongly condemned the "irresponsible" US strikes on the Iranian nuclear facilities and said it "grossly" violated international law, the

UN Charter and UNSC resolutions.

China too strongly condemned the US bombing of the nuclear facilities, saying the actions "seriously" violated the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and have "exacerbated tensions" in the Middle-East.

The 27-nation European Union urged all sides to step back and return to the negotiating table.

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said. The EU foreign ministers are discussing the situation Monday.

## OPERATION SINDHU

## Over 1400 evacuated from Iran

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 22:** India Sunday evacuated more than 300 Indian nationals from Iran amid the escalating tensions between the Persian Gulf nation and Israel following the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said 311 Indians landed in Delhi on a special flight from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

With the fresh batch of evacuees, the total number of those brought back from Iran now stands at 1,428. Three-hundred eleven Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 1630 hours June 22, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He said a total of 1,428 Indian nationals have been evacuated from Iran so far. India launched Operation Sindhu last week to bring back Indians from Iran and Israel in view of increasing hostilities between the two nations.

Israel and Iran have fired hundreds of missiles and



drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began over a week back. The tensions escalated sig-

nificantly following the US bombing of three major Iranian nuclear sites Sunday morning.

India has evacuated its na-

tionals on chartered flights operated from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat since Wednesday.

Iran lifted airspace restrictions Friday to facilitate three chartered flights from Mashhad. The first flight landed in New Delhi late Friday with 290 Indians, and the second one landed in the national capital Saturday afternoon with 310 Indians.

Another flight arrived from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan Thursday. A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat landed in New Delhi early Saturday morning.

## Left parties condemn US strikes on Iran

**New Delhi:** Left parties Sunday strongly condemned the US strikes on nuclear sites in Iran and said the move was a grave violation of Iranian sovereignty and the UN Charter. In a statement issued here, the Left parties said the US action will inflame global tensions, destabilise West Asia and have severe economic repercussions. "The undersigned five Left parties strongly condemn the United States' bombing of Iran. This is a grave violation of Iranian sovereignty and the UN Charter, and it will inflame global tensions, destabilise West Asia and have severe economic repercussions," they said in the statement. The statement was jointly issued by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, Revolutionary Socialist Party and Forward Bloc. The five Left parties said the US and Israel are justifying their attacks by claiming that Iran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon, however, it is important to note that the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, said June 19 that they did not have any proof of a systematic effort on Iran's part to develop a nuclear weapon.

## Army personnel, associate arrested

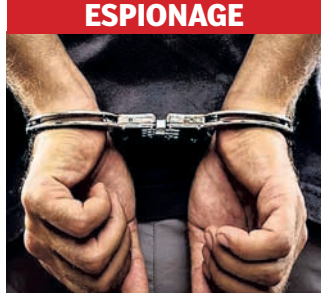
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, June 22:** An army personnel posted in Jammu and his aide have been arrested for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), a top Punjab Police officer Sunday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said one of the accused has been identified as Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Dhariwal in Amritsar serving in the Indian Army in Jammu. His associate has been identified as Sahil Masih who also belongs to Dhariwal, the police chief said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Singh was in direct contact with operatives of the ISI and is suspected of sharing sensitive and confidential information via pen drives, he said.

In an intelligence-led operation, police arrested Gurpreet and Masih, while they were attempting another handover of



sensitive data, the DGP said, adding that the key ISI handler involved in the case has been identified as Rana Javed.

The DGP said two mobile phones containing virtual numbers, used to communicate with ISI operatives, have been recovered from both the accused. Further investigations are underway to dismantle the broader espionage-terror network and identify all collaborators in this case, Yadav added.

Sharing more details, Senior Superintendent of Police (Amritsar Rural) Maninder Singh claimed that Gurpreet, who was recruited by the Army in

2016, systematically exploited his official position to collect, store and transmit classified military information via pen drives and discs.

The espionage network was facilitated by an acquaintance identified as Arjan, a Dubai-based drug trafficker from Dhariwal, who introduced Gurpreet to ISI operatives five months ago, he alleged.

Since then, Gurpreet has actively engaged in the unauthorised collection and relay of sensitive military data to the ISI using pre-decided drop locations, the DGP said.

In lieu of this espionage activity, Gurpreet was receiving monetary compensation through a complex financial network involving intermediary bank accounts of friends, relatives, and foreign associates to evade detection, he informed reporters.

A case under the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered at the Lopoke police station in Amritsar.

## 6th All India GRP chiefs' conference concludes



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 22:** The 6th All India Conference of Government Railway Police (GRP) Chiefs, organised under the aegis of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), concluded in New Delhi, with a strong focus on enhancing railway passenger safety and tackling crime on the vast Indian Railways network. The conference, presided over by RPF Director General Shri Manoj Yadava, saw participation from DGPs, ADGPs, senior GRP officials from states and UTs, and representatives from the Ministry of Railways.

Key discussions centered on improving inter-agency coordination, intelligence-sharing, and joint operational strategies to combat the evolving methods used by criminal elements. Special emphasis was placed on intensifying passenger awareness campaigns about theft and fraud, and converting complaints lodged via the Rail Madad portal into formal FIRs to improve crime detection.

Efforts to dismantle organised inter-state criminal networks also featured prominently, with suggestions to use proactive surveillance, state-wide coordination, and technologies

like facial recognition systems. Strengthening GRP collaboration across states was stressed to close jurisdictional gaps exploited by offenders.

Addressing crimes against women passengers was another major focus. Proposals included increased patrolling, CCTV installations at stations and in coaches, and the deployment of "Meri Saheli" teams to ensure women's safety. The misuse of railway premises by drug traffickers and smugglers was also addressed, with strategies for real-time intelligence and intensive checking.

A critical presentation by the Intelligence Bureau highlighted the risk of terrorist threats to railway infrastructure, urging vulnerability assessments and fortified protocols. Child safety and anti-trafficking efforts were also discussed, emphasising early intervention and rehabilitation mechanisms.

DG RPF Shri Manoj Yadava emphasised the need for collective responsibility and coordination among security agencies. He reaffirmed the commitment of RPF and GRP to make Indian Railways a zero-tolerance zone for crime and ensure safe travel for all.

## Oppn slams AAP for replacing CM as devpt bodies' chairman

**Chandigarh:** Lambasting the Punjab government over its decision to replace the chief minister as the chairman of the urban development authorities with the chief secretary, the opposition parties on Sunday accused Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme Arvind Kejriwal of "maneuvering to consolidate his control" over the state. Punjab Cabinet minister Harbhajan Singh hit back at the opposition parties, accusing them of making "baseless" and "misleading" statements to confuse the public for political gains. The Punjab Cabinet on Saturday decided to delegate the chairmanship of all the urban development authorities to the chief secretary, saying this "bold reform" is aimed at strengthening decentralised governance, speeding up decision-making and empowering the administrative setup to act swiftly on ground-level issues.

# Bihar polls: EC plans door-to-door voter verification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 22:** Seeking to ensure greater accuracy in electoral rolls in Bihar where assembly polls are due later this year, the Election Commission is mulling intensive house-to-house verification during the revision of the voter list in the state.

Officials pointed out Sunday that concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and others persistently over the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral rolls. Several parties, including the Congress, have accused the poll authority

of fudging data to help the BJP. Officials lamented that despite following a detailed protocol, insinuations and allegations are often made against the EC of arbitrarily inflating the electoral roll, even though the exercise is conducted with com-



plete transparency and under constant scrutiny of political parties. To make the system

robust and free of any kind of errors, the poll panel is contemplating an intensive house-to-

house verification during the upcoming electoral roll revision before Bihar assembly polls to "purify" the electoral rolls, sources said.

Such intensive and rigorous revision of the electoral rolls has been done in the past as well with the last such exercise undertaken in 2004, they pointed out. The regular exercise of revision of electoral rolls is undertaken annually throughout the country by the EC and also before the holding of elections or bypolls.

The provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualification are clearly laid down in Article 326

of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 respectively, they said.

The voter list is revised regularly due to deaths and inclusion of new voters. Inter-state and intra-state movement of voters is another key reason why rolls need updation. For instance, during 2024, according to the forms received by the EC, 46.26 lakh people shifted their residence, 2.32 crore applied for corrections and 33.16 lakh requested for replacement.

Thus, in a single year, nearly 3.15 crore changes were required to be made across the country.







Leaders alarmed

Every member of the international community has a moral responsibility: to stop the tragedy of war before it becomes an irreparable abyss. No armed victory can compensate for the pain of mothers, the fear of children, the stolen future. Let diplomacy silence the weapons, let nations chart their future with peace efforts, not with violence and bloody conflicts

POPE LEO

The irresponsible decision to subject the territory of a sovereign state to missile and bomb strikes, no matter what arguments are used, grossly violates international law, the UN Charter, and the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which previously unequivocally qualified such actions as unacceptable. It is especially alarming that the strikes were carried out by a country that is a permanent member of the UN Security Council

Russian Foreign Ministry

Iran must never acquire the bomb. With tensions in the Middle East at a new peak, stability must be the priority. And respect for international law is critical. Now is the moment for Iran to engage in a credible diplomatic solution. The negotiating table is the only place to end this crisis

Ursula Von Der Leyen | President, European Commission

This is a dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge – and a direct threat to international peace and security. There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control – with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world. I call on Member States to de-escalate and to uphold their obligations under the UN Charter and other rules of international law

Antonio Guterres | Secretary-General, UN

Pakistan condemns the US attacks on the nuclear facilities of Iran, which follow the series of attacks by Israel. We are gravely concerned at the possible further escalation of tensions in the region

Foreign Office of Pakistan

Trump abandons anti-war crusade

Once the loudest voice against America's "forever wars," US president Trump is now at the centre of a high-stakes military escalation, one year in the making, and fuelled in part by his own decisions

REUTERS

Washington, June 22: A day after blasting the Nobel Committee for ignoring his anti-war legacy, US President Donald Trump ordered "spectacular" airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, shattering his long-crafted image as a peacemaker.

With his unprecedented decision to bomb Iran's nuclear sites, directly joining Israel's air attack on its regional arch foe, US President Donald Trump has done something he had long vowed to avoid - intervene militarily in a major foreign war.

The dramatic US strike, including the targeting of Iran's most heavily fortified nuclear installation deep underground, marks the biggest foreign policy gamble of Trump's two presidencies and one fraught with risks and unknowns.

The US president, who insisted Saturday that Iran must now make peace or face further attacks, could provoke Tehran into retaliating by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil artery, attacking US military bases and allies in the Middle East, stepping up its missile barrage on Israel and activating proxy groups against American and Israeli interests worldwide, analysts said.



Trump is back in the war business. I am not sure anyone in Moscow, Tehran or Beijing ever believed his spiel that he is a peacemaker. It always looked more like a campaign phrase than a strategy

RICHARD GOWAN | UN DIRECTOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Such moves could escalate into a broader, more protracted conflict than Trump had envisioned, evoking echoes of the "forever wars" that America fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, which he had derided as "stupid" and promised never to be dragged into.

"The Iranians are seriously weakened and degraded in their military capabilities," said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East negotiator for Democratic and Republican administrations. "But they have all sorts of asymmetric ways that they can respond... This is not going to end quick."

In the lead-up to the bombing that he announced late Saturday, Trump had vacillated between threats of military action and appeals for renewed negotiation to persuade Iran to reach a deal to dismantle its nuclear program.

A senior White House official said that once Trump was convinced that Tehran had no interest in reaching a nuclear agreement, he decided the strikes were "the right thing to do."

while Iran's nuclear program may have been set back for many years, the threat may be far from over.

Iran denies seeking a nuclear weapon, saying its program is for purely peaceful purposes.

"In the long term, military action is likely to push Iran to determine nuclear weapons are necessary for deterrence and that Washington is not interested in diplomacy," the Arms Control Association, a non-partisan US-based organisation that advocates for arms control legislation, said in a statement.

"Military strikes alone cannot destroy Iran's extensive nuclear knowledge. The strikes will set Iran's program back, but at the cost of strengthening Tehran's resolve to reconstitute its sensitive nuclear activities," the group said.

Eric Lob, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, said Iran's next move remains an open question and suggested that among its forms of retaliation could be to hit "soft targets" of the US and Israel inside

and outside the region.

But he also said there was a possibility that Iran could return to the negotiating table – "though they would be doing so in an even weaker position" – or seek a diplomatic off-ramp.

In the immediate aftermath of the US strikes, however, Iran showed little appetite for concessions.

EVERY US CITIZEN IS TARGET

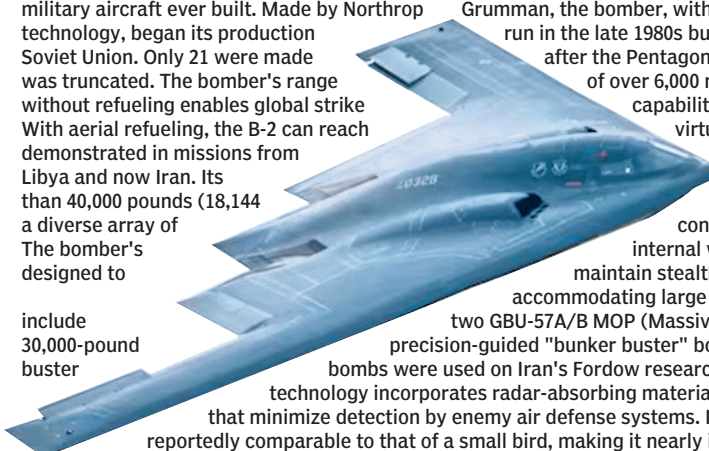
Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said it would not allow development of its "national industry" to be stopped, and an Iranian state television commentator said every US citizen or military member in the region would now be legitimate targets.

Early Sunday, Iran's foreign ministry issued a statement warning that Tehran "considers it its right to resist with all its might against US military aggression."

Karim Sadjadpour, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, posted on X: "Trump indicated this is now the time for peace. It's unclear and unlikely the Iranians will see it the same way. This is more

US B-2 BOMBERS, BUNKER-BUSTERS USED IN IRAN STRIKE

Washington: The US Air Force's B-2 Spirit stealth bombers were involved in strikes on Iran's nuclear sites Saturday. The B-2 is one of America's most advanced strategic weapons platforms, capable of entering sophisticated air defenses and delivering precision strikes against hardened targets such as Iran's buried network of nuclear research facilities. The US B-2 costs about \$2.1 billion each, making it the most expensive military aircraft ever built. Made by Northrop Grumman, the bomber, with its cutting-edge stealth technology, began its production run in the late 1980s but was curbed by the fall of the Soviet Union. Only 21 were made after the Pentagon's planned acquisition program was truncated. The bomber's range of over 6,000 nautical miles (11,112 km) without refueling enables global strike capabilities from continental US bases. With aerial refueling, the B-2 can reach virtually any target worldwide, as demonstrated in missions from Missouri to Afghanistan and Libya and now Iran. Its payload capacity of more than 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg) allows the aircraft to carry a diverse array of conventional and nuclear weapons. The bomber's internal weapons bays are specifically designed to maintain stealth characteristics while accommodating large ordnance loads which could include two GBU-57A/B MOP (Massive Ordnance Penetrator), a 30,000-pound bunker buster bomb. Reports said six bunker bombs were used on Iran's Fordow research site. The B-2's stealth technology incorporates radar-absorbing materials and angular design features that minimize detection by enemy air defense systems. Its radar cross-section is reportedly comparable to that of a small bird, making it nearly invisible to conventional radar.



No elevated radiation levels detected yet

Iran enriches uranium at two key sites, Natanz and Fordo. President Donald Trump said US forces struck both sites, along with a third site, Isfahan, early Sunday, and Iran confirmed the strikes.

The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said in a statement after the strikes that it "can confirm that no increase in off-site radiation levels has been reported as of this time".

The agency said it will "provide further assessments on (the) situation in Iran as more information becomes available".

Risk from uranium is minimal

Even if radiation did leak from one of the sites, experts said, the amount would be unlikely to pose a risk to people near the facilities or in the wider region.

"Very little uranium will be released in these kind of attacks," said David Albright, a physicist and nuclear weapons expert who founded the Institute for Science and In-

ternational Security, based in Washington, DC.

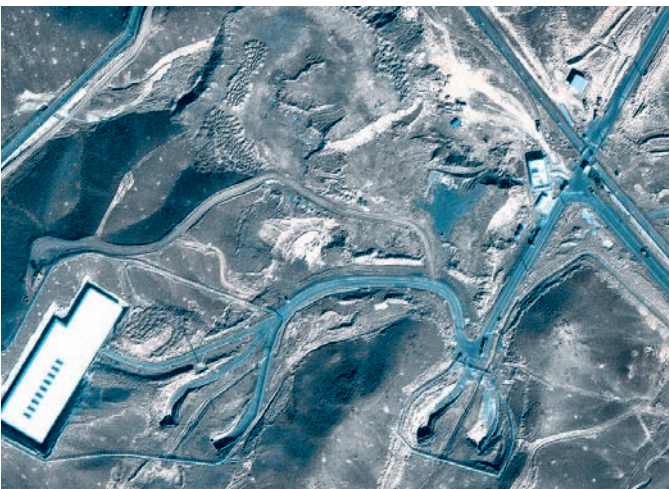
Uranium itself is not especially toxic, he said, and is common in parts of the environment. A person standing near an enrichment facility with a leak would probably be exposed to no more radiation than someone who took several trans-Atlantic flights, which receive slightly higher radiation because radiation doses are larger at high altitudes, he said.

In order to become sick, someone would have to ingest large quantities of uranium, Albright said, pointing out that the element can be found naturally in seawater and the earth's crust.

A chemical used in uranium enrichment could be a threat

Rather than radiation, experts said the greater risk from any attack on nuclear enrichment sites might be from fluorine gas.

Fluorine is mixed with a concentrated form of uranium to create uranium hexafluoride, which is then fed into centri-



fuges. Fluorine is extremely volatile, will quickly corrode and can burn the skin. It is especially deadly if inhaled.

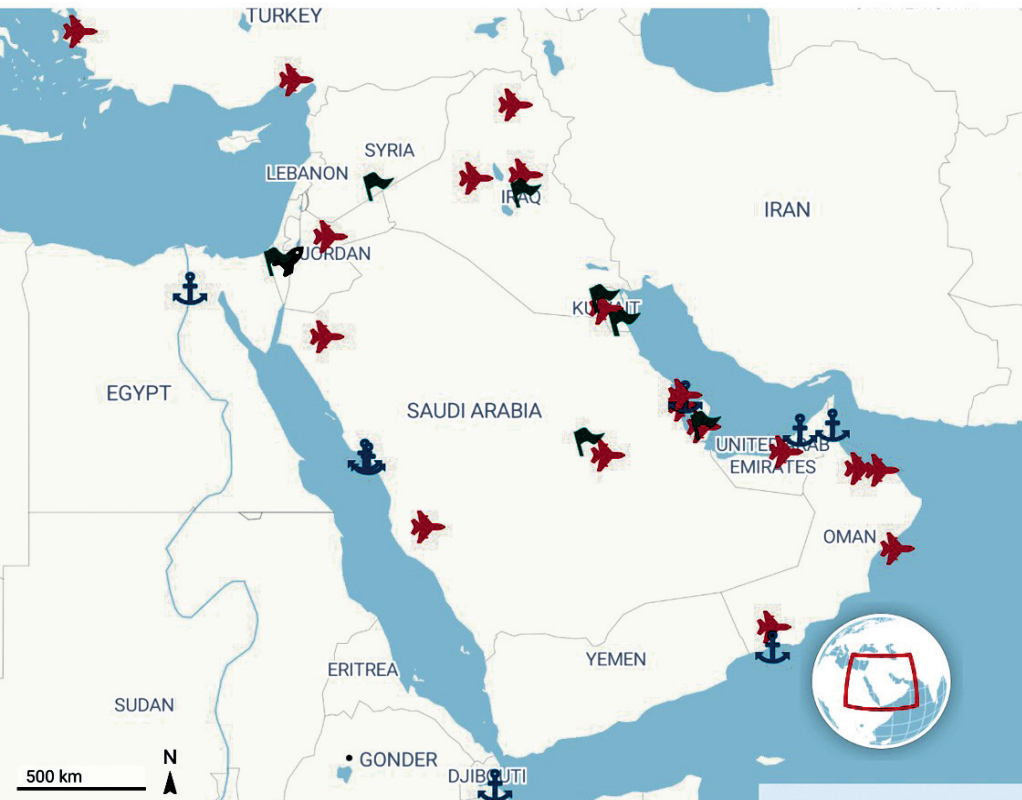
A far greater concern to the public would be if Israel were to attack Iran's only commercial nuclear power plant, said Fabian Hinz of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

In a nuclear power plant, the reactor core and the spent

nuclear fuel are the most radioactive components. Some of it remains dangerous for thousands of years.

The Bushehr power plant is 750 kilometres south of Tehran. But "it seems very unlikely that the Israelis are going to strike" Bushehr, Hinz said, because it isn't considered to be part of the Iranian nuclear programme geared toward developing weapons.

US MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST



REUTERS GRAPHICS

How Iran could retaliate after US strikes on its N-programme

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, June 22: Iran has spent decades building multi-tiered military capabilities at home and across the region that were at least partly aimed at deterring the United States from attacking it. By entering Israel's war, the US may have removed the last rationale for holding them in reserve.

That could mean a wave of attacks on US forces in the Middle East, an attempt to close a key bottleneck for global oil supplies or a dash to develop a nuclear weapon with what remains of Iran's disputed programme after American strikes on three key sites.

A decision to retaliate against the US and its regional allies would give Iran a far larger target bank and one that is much closer than Israel, al-

lowing it to potentially use its missiles and drones to greater effect. The US and Israel have far superior capabilities, but those haven't always proven decisive in America's recent history of military interventions in the region.

Ever since Israel started the war with a surprise bombardment of Iran's military and nuclear sites June 13, Iranian officials from the supreme leader on down have warned the US to stay out, saying it would have dire consequences for the entire region.

It should soon be clear whether those were empty threats or a grim forecast. Below is a look at what Iran's next move might be.

TARGETING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, through which some 20%

of all oil traded globally passes, and at its narrowest point it is just 33 kilometers (21 miles) wide. Any disruption there could send oil prices soaring worldwide and hit American pocketbooks.

Iran boasts a fleet of fast-attack boats and thousands of naval mines that could potentially make the strait impassable, at least for a time. It could also fire missiles from its long Persian Gulf shore, as its allies, Yemen's Houthi rebels, have done in the Red Sea.

The US, with its 5th Fleet stationed in nearby Bahrain, has long pledged to uphold freedom of navigation in the strait and would respond with far superior forces. But even a relatively brief firefight could paralyze shipping traffic and spook investors, causing oil prices to spike and generating interna-



tional pressure for a ceasefire.

ATTACKING US BASES AND ALLIES IN THE REGION

The US has tens of thousands of troops stationed in the region, including at permanent bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Ar-

ab Gulf countries just across the Persian Gulf from Iran — and much closer than Israel.

Those bases boast the same kinds of sophisticated air defenses as Israel, but would have much less warning time before waves of missiles or swarms of armed drones. And even Israel,

which is several hundred kilometers (miles) further away, has been unable to stop all of the incoming fire.

Iran could also choose to attack key oil and gas facilities in those countries with the goal of exacting a higher price for US involvement in the war. A drone attack on two major oil sites in Saudi Arabia in 2019 — claimed by the Houthis but widely blamed on Iran — briefly cut the kingdom's oil production in half.

ACTIVATING REGIONAL ALLIES

Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance — a network of militant groups across the Middle East, is a shadow of what it was before the war ignited by Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel out of the Gaza Strip — but it still has some formidable capabilities.

Israel's 20-month war in

Gaza has severely diminished the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, and Israel mauled Lebanon's Hezbollah last fall, killing most of its top leadership and devastating much of southern Lebanon, making its involvement unlikely.

But Iran could still call on the Houthis, who had threatened to resume their attacks in the Red Sea if the US entered the war, and allied militias in Iraq. Both have drone and missile capabilities that would allow them to target the United States and its allies.

Iran could also seek to respond through militant attacks further afield, as it is widely accused of doing in the 1990s with an attack on a Jewish community center in Argentina that was blamed on Iran and Hezbollah.







# Bumrah does it again

The pace spearhead picks up 14th fifer but England draw parity with India by making 465

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Leeds, June 22:** KL Rahul drove his way to a sublime 47 after England negated India's advantage by totalling 465 in their first innings as the visitors had another ordinary day in the field on day three of the first Test here Sunday.

India dropped as many as five catches and barring Jasprit Bumrah, the effort from the pacers left a lot to be desired, allowing England to even out the game after the Shubman Gill-led side posted 471 in its first essay.

At stumps, India reached 90 for two with Rahul (47 batting off 75) and Shubman Gill (6 batting off 10).

Brydon Carse had Yashavi Jaiswal (4 off 11) caught behind with a ball that seamed away while Ben Stokes got rid of debutant Sai Sudharsan (30 off 48) for the second time in the game, the southpaw's flick falling into the hands of Zak Crawley at mid-wicket.

Rahul was a delight to watch as majority of his seven fours came via the cover and square drive off the fast bowlers. He did not look any discomfort whatsoever despite the ball doing a bit in overcast conditions.

Stumps were drawn when rain arrived at Headingley with India leading by 96 runs.

In an extended afternoon session, Harry Brook ran out of luck on 99 before Jasprit Bumrah completed a well deserved five-wicket haul to ensure a slender six-run first innings lead for India.



Before Bumrah castled Josh Tongue to end England innings, Chris Woakes (38 off 55) punished a predictable Indian pace attack to take his team close to India's 471.

Hosts continued to find the boundaries at will as they collected 138 runs in 23.4 overs in the afternoon session with the loss of five wickets.

Prasidh Krishna removed Jamie Smith (40 off 52) and Brook (99 off 112) with the short ball but leaked too many runs at the same time with his one di-

mensional tactic, conceding 128 runs in 20 overs.

Bowling all-rounder Shar-dul Thakur was under bowled again, raising questions over his selection. Bumrah, who has by far been the best Indian bowler on display, picked up his 14th fifer in the longest format ending with figures of 5/83 in 24.4 overs.

India's fielding have been their weakest link so far in the game and having been give two lives, Brook was dropped again, on 82, by Jaiswal off Bumrah.

The explosive England batter however could not use those chances to score a famous hundred and was dismissed on 99 in the 88th over. India had taken the new ball after 80 overs but were not able to make good use of it.

Captain Shubman Gill made questionable calls like introducing Ravindra Jadeja towards the end of the session and bringing back Bumrah for a late burst.

In the opening session, Brook went on the offensive against an inconsistent Indian pace attack, taking England to 327 for five at lunch.

Resuming at an overnight 209 for three, Brook ensured that England scored at a brisk pace, totalling 118 runs in 28 overs.

The visitors got two welcome wickets of overnight centurion Ollie Pope (106 off 137) and England captain Ben Stokes (20 off 52).

Like day two, the other Indian pacers could not match the accuracy of Bumrah.

Brook, dismissed off a Bumrah no ball at the stroke of stumps on day two, was dropped by wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant on 46 shortly before lunch. Jadeja, who was able to extract sharp turn from the rough, got one to turn away sharply but Pant could not hold on to the rising ball.

#### Brief Scores:

**India** 471 and 90 for 2 (KL Rahul batting 47, Sai Sudharsan 30)

**England** 465 (Ollie Pope 106, Harry Brook 99, Jasprit Bumrah 5/83)

## BEST-EVER PERFORMANCE

# Asian Para-Badminton C'ships: Shuttlers bag record 27 medals

AGENCIES

**Bangkok, June 22:** Team India won 27 medals at the Asian Para-Badminton Championship 2025 in Thailand, marking its best-ever performance at the event. This includes four gold medals, 10 silver medals and 13 bronze medals.

India delivered a commanding performance at the Asia Para Badminton Championships 2025, held in Thailand from 17-22 June, showcasing the nation's growing dominance in para-badminton across multiple classifications. With medals in almost every category, the Indian contingent underlined both its depth and consistency at the continental level.

One of the tournament's most thrilling encounters came in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 final, where Sukant Kadam and Nitesh Kumar battled past fellow Indians Jagadesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar in a gripping three-set match that ended 21-17 11-21 21-11. The bronze in the same category also went to India, with Mohammad Arwaz Ansari and Abhijeet Sakhuja stepping onto the podium, as per a press release.

Reflecting on the tournament, Sukant Kadam said, "It was one of those finals where you have to dig deep and trust your training. The competition is getting stronger each year, and this gold is a result of staying focused on the small things that make a difference."

In the mixed doubles SH6



event, Tokyo Paralympic gold medallist Krishna Nagar and his partner Nithya Sre gave it their all in a high-energy final against China's Lin Naili and Li Fengmei, narrowly missing the top spot and settling for silver after a 13-21, 21-19, 14-21 contest. Krishna also secured a bronze in men's singles SH6 and another in men's doubles SH6, where he partnered with Dhinakaran Pandurangan.

Krishna Nagar echoed the sentiment, adding, "These matches test you physically and mentally. Every medal counts, but more importantly, every match prepares us for the bigger goals ahead. We'll take the positives from here and keep building."

India's women athletes also made their mark. Nithya Sre was among the standout performers, winning silver in women's singles SH6 and another silver in women's doubles SH6 alongside Rachana

Shaileshkumar Patel. In the women's doubles SL3-SU5 category, Manasi Joshi and Thulasimathi Murgesan went down fighting in the final against China, while the bronze went to the pair of Mandeep Kaur and Manisha Ramdass.

India dominated the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 event, sweeping all three medals, with Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murgesan taking gold in a clinical straight-sets win over Ruthick Raghupathi and Manasi Joshi, while Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur earned bronze.

In men's singles SL4, Surya Kant Yadav earned a silver after a hard-fought final against Malaysia's Mohd Amin Burhanuddin, with Naveen Sivakumar taking bronze. Nitesh Kumar's golden run continued in men's singles SL3, where he defeated Indonesia's Muh Ai Imran in straight sets, with Umesh Vikram Kumar securing bronze.

## SHORT TAKES

### Strong start for India

**Beijing:** India made a strong statement on the opening day of the Para Powerlifting World Cup here by winning four medals, including a gold, silver, and two bronze. The tournament features top para powerlifters from over 40 countries and serves as a qualification event for the 2026 World Championships and the 2028 Paralympic Games. Gulfam Ahmed opened India's account with a bronze in the highly competitive men's elite 59kg category. He lifted 145kg in his opening attempt and followed it up with a best lift of 151kg in his second. His third attempt of 153kg was disallowed, but his earlier lifts were enough to secure India's first medal of the tournament. In the men's elite 72kg category, Ramubhai Bambhava added another bronze to India's tally with a successful lift of 151kg in his first attempt.

### Wrestlers dominate

**Vung Tau:** The Indian men's freestyle team produced its best ever show at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championship, winning six gold and a silver to clinch the team title. In an unprecedented success for India, both men's and women's teams won the team championships. The women team had won medal in each of the 10 categories. Jaspooran Singh won the silver in 125kg weight class. The Greco Roman team won three medals, including a gold, in the tournament.

# Odisha's swimmer Shristi wins gold on opening day

13 swimming pool complexes will be built in 13 districts, says sports minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 22:** The 78th Senior National Aquatic Championship (swimming competition) is being held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The competition, which started Sunday, will continue until June 26.

In the women's 100m butterfly, Odisha's Shristi Upadhaya and Railways' Astha Choudhary shared the top step of the podium, both clocking identical 1:03.50. Karnataka swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu (1:03.52) finished a close third.

Organised with the support of the Swimming Federation of India, Odisha State Swimming Association, and the Sports and Youth Services Department of the Government of Odisha, the event has attracted participation from over 400 athletes from across the country. From Odisha, a total of 14 athletes – 7 men and 7 women – are participating.

At opening ceremony held Sunday, Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attended as the chief guest. In his speech, he said that hosting the 78th Senior National Aquatic Cham-



pionship in Odisha is a matter of pride and honor for all of us. He expressed hope that all participants would achieve great success through their outstanding performances and wished them bright futures. He affirmed the Odisha Government's commitment to the overall development of sports and athletes. To strengthen the swimming infrastructure in the state, it has been decided that 13 swimming pool complexes will be constructed in 13 districts in the coming days. The minister stated that this will not only reinforce our sports infrastructure but also help nurture swimming talent.

# FIH Pro League: India finish eighth

Men's team ends Pro League campaign with 4-3 win vs Belgium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Antwerp, June 22:** The Indian men's hockey team showed character as they snatched a 4-3 win against hosts Belgium to end an otherwise forgettable campaign at the FIH Hockey Pro League on a positive note here Sunday.

It was goals by Sukhjeet Singh (21', 35'), Amit Rohidas (36') and Harmanpreet Singh (59') that ensured India's win, and ended their outing in the eighth place, 14 points ahead of Ireland.

For Belgium, Arthur de Sloover (8'), Thibaut Stockbroekx (34') and Hugo Labouchere (41') scored.

It was a memorable outing for Sukhjeet and Dilpreet Singh who completed their 100 international caps.

Belgium were quick to get off the blocks, pressing high and looking to catch Indian defenders off guard. Their tactics paid off early with Arthur de Sloover scoring a stunning goal to go one up in the match. He fired it into the top right corner of the post, leaving no room for the Indian goalie to defend. The goal certainly dislodged



India's momentum, who until then showed glimpses of attacking intent with quick bursts in their variation.

The visitors' first real opportunity came in the 20th minute when they earned the first penalty corner of the match and with skipper Harmanpreet back on the pitch, confidence was high in the Indian set-up.

It was a good injection from Hardik, but the powerful flick was well-blocked leading to a brisk counter attack by the Belgians. But Pathak, at the other end, prevented a potential 2-0 lead with a fine save.

# David 'Syd' Lawrence, England's first British-born Black cricketer, no more

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Gloucester (England), June 22:** David 'Syd' Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to play for England, has died. He was 61.

Lawrence's family made the announcement Sunday with a statement through Gloucestershire, where Lawrence was the club president.

He announced a year ago he had motor neurone disease.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Lawrence MBE following his brave battle with motor neurone disease," the family said. "'Syd' was an inspirational figure on and off the cricket field and no more so than to his family who were with him when he passed. A proud Gloucestershire man, Syd took on every challenge with everything he could and his final contest with MND was



no different. His willingness to encourage and think of others right up to the end was typical of the man he was."

He played five tests for England from 1988-92, taking 18 wickets. His international career prematurely ended at 28 when he broke his knee cap after falling awkwardly when running in to bowl against New

Zealand on the final day of a test in Wellington.

A strapping fast bowler who was renowned for being one of the quickest on the English county circuit, Lawrence was beginning to establish himself in tests and a five-for against the West Indies in 1991 helped England seal a series-levelling win at the Oval, with Viv Rich-

ards among his haul.

Lawrence also played a sole one-day international against the West Indies at Lord's in 1991, taking 4-67.

For Gloucestershire, he grabbed 625 wickets in 280 matches. The England and India teams gave Lawrence a moment's silence Sunday in Leeds before the third day's play in the first test.

After he detailed his experiences of racism during his playing career, Gloucestershire issued an unreserved apology in September 2021, and six months later he became the county's first Black president.

Only last week, Lawrence received an MBE in King Charles III's birthday honors for outstanding services to cricket. Lawrence was also recently named an honorary life vice president of the England and Wales Cricket Board, and chair Richard Thompson paid tribute.

# Black Tigers salvage impressive tie

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 22:** The Chennai Bulls are back at the top of the points table, and the Hyderabad Heroes' juggernaut was brought to a halt by the dynamic Bengaluru Bravehearts. And in the final game of the day, the Mumbai Dreamers, who had an impressive lead at one stage, squandered their position and had to share the spoils with the Kalinga Black Tigers, here in Mumbai, at the Shahaji Rajee Bhosale Sports Complex, Sunday evening, during Season 1 of the Rugby Premier League.

In the first game of the day, the Bengaluru Bravehearts brought the Hyderabad Heroes' winning streak to a halt, defeating them 26-21.

Game two saw the Chennai Bulls jump back to the top of the points table after a comprehensive 24-7 win against the Delhi Redz. The Delhi Redz, who have had a recent uptick in their fortunes, started off the game in solid fashion.

In the final game Sunday,



the Kalinga Black Tigers came from behind to clinch a 17-17 draw. The result gives the Mumbai Dreamers their first points of the season.

The Kalinga Black Tigers had the better of the early exchanges on the night, as Asis Sabar scored a try and put them in the lead. However, the Mumbai Dreamers, who were still looking for their first points in the season, first equalised through Elias Hancock's try, and then Waisea Nacuqu made the con-

version count. The two sides broke for half-time, with two points separating them.

Vuviawa Naduvalo and Henry Hutchison scored two brilliant tries for the Dreamers in the next quarter, which extended their lead to a 12-point one. The Tigers had their task cut out, and they responded with a try and conversion from Ethan Turner. In the final minutes, Perry Baker equalised with a try for the Tigers, who snatched a tie from the jaws of defeat.