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## WINDOWS

### Devotees throng Puri for Debasnana Purnima

**Puri:** Devotees have started arriving in Odisha's pilgrim town of Puri, which is readying for Debasnana Purnima of the Lords of Shree Jagannath Temple on Wednesday. The ceremonial 'Pahandi' ritual of the sibling deities will begin at around 5 am. Debasnana Purnima is a key festival in the run-up to Rath Yatra. On this day, Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra along with the idol of Lord Sudarshan are escorted from the sanctum sanctorum of the 12th-century shrine to Snana Mandap (bathing altar) in a 'Pahandi' (procession).

### IAS officer Dhiman Chakma suspended

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government on Tuesday suspended Dharamgarh Sub-Collector Dhiman Chakma, a 2021-batch IAS officer, following his arrest on bribery charges. "Governor of Odisha in exercise of powers conferred under sub-rule 3 of rule 3 of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969 hereby places the said Shri Dhiman Chakma, IAS (RR-2021) under suspension with immediate effect," the notification issued by the General Administration Department said.

### King Cobras near Mt Everest!

**Kathmandu:** Climate experts have set alarm bells ringing after the recent capture of venomous snakes - including King Cobras - close to Mt Everest in Nepal. The experts say that the discovery of these snakes at such a cold and dry location, could mean that temperatures are rising at a much higher rate than anticipated. Over the last month, ten venomous snakes - including nine King Cobras - were found in and around Kathmandu in Nepal. The other snake caught was a Monocled Cobra. All were later released in remote, densely forested areas.

## One Year of BJP Govt: CM Majhi presents report card

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** As the Odisha government completes its first year in office, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday shared a detailed report card outlining the state's achievements over the past 12 months. Addressing the media in Bhubaneswar, the Chief Minister emphasized that his government has focused on fulfilling the promises made in the Sankalp Patra (election manifesto), working steadfastly under the guidance and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We have not just governed, we have fulfilled the hopes of the people. Whatever we promised, we have delivered," said the CM.

CM Majhi also expressed deep gratitude towards the Prime Minister, stating that PM Modi's affection for Odisha continues to energize and motivate the state government. The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit Odisha again on June 20, further strengthening the Centre-State coordination, he said. The Chief Minister recalled that on June 12 last year, the state cabinet had taken four landmark decisions, setting the tone for people-centric governance. These



are opening all four gates of the Puri Jagannath Temple, restoring traditional access for devotees; launching the Subhadra Yojana for women's empowerment; establishing a Rs 500 crore corpus fund for the development of the Jagannath Temples; and announcing and fulfilling a Rs 800 bonus per quintal for paddy farmers. Highlighting agricultural reforms, CM Mohan Majhi noted that the Odisha government has made a record allocation of Rs 37,800 crore under the

Samruddha Krushi Yojana, making it the largest agriculture budget in the state's history. This has directly benefited lakhs of farmers across Odisha. Moreover, nearly 17 lakh "Lakhpati Didis" have been empowered through targeted women-centric schemes, fulfilling the government's vision of self-reliant rural households, the CM said. The Chief Minister stressed that education has been a major focus area of the BJP government in Odisha. "In the previous

government, there were no proper infrastructure and education was neglected. In the name of 5T transformation, schools were only painted. But there was no feeder school and I personally had highlighted this when in opposition. The previous government had not listened to this. But when the government changed and when I got a chance, I focused on primary education. We started initiative to started Godavarish Mishra

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### Transformative growth under PM Modi's leadership: CM

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** As the Narendra Modi-led central government completes 11 years in office, it marks the milestone with a renewed focus on governance and national development, said Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Tuesday.

Addressing the media in Bhubaneswar ahead of the completion of one year of BJP government in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi acknowledged this moment as historic for India, noting how May 26, 2014 - the day Narendra Modi first took oath as Prime Minister - has now become a milestone etched in the golden letters in Indian political history. This year also marks the first anniversary of the Modi government's third term, a 'moment of reflection and renewed commitment'. In his address, the Odisha Chief Minister praised the Modi government for taking several path-breaking decisions over

the past 11 years, which have 'led to revolutionary changes across the country'. Among the landmark moves, the abrogation of Article 370 was highlighted by the CM as a defining moment in national integration, effectively making Jammu and Kashmir an inseparable part of India in both legal and administrative terms.

Calling it a decade of decisive governance, the Odisha CM stated that the Modi government has set new standards in welfare delivery, infrastructure development, digital transformation, and foreign policy. "These achievements reflect the government's commitment to building a strong, united, and self-reliant India," he said. The press meet concluded with a forward-looking note, emphasising that the next phase of governance will focus on deepening reforms, empowering the poor, and

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### 10 dead in Austria school shooting



**Vienna, (HS) :** Ten people have been shot dead at a school in Austria's Graz on Tuesday. The shooter also died by suicide during the attack, city mayor Elke Kahr said. She described the events as a "terrible tragedy", in which both students and staff were killed. The mass shooting incident happened at the BORG Dreierschützengasse high school and the perpetrator, also a student, has reportedly died by suicide during the attack. The body of the shooter was reportedly found in the school washroom. The name and other details of the shooter are not known yet, but police believe the assailant acted alone.

Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said he is on his way to Graz. The police said they rushed to the location after receiving a phone call reporting multiple gunshots being heard at the high school. "Special forces are among those sent to the high school after a call was received at 10 am (local time). Authorities

are working to get an overview of what has happened," police spokesperson Sabri Yorgun said, adding that an investigation has begun. At 11:30 am (local time), the Graz police wrote on social media platform X that the school have been evacuated and both students and staff have been moved to a secure location.

They also confirmed that there is no further danger at the site, declaring the area "secure". It also gave the details of the fatalities, saying nine students and one faculty member had been shot dead in the incident. At least ten others were injured during the incident, and have been taken to a hospital in the neighbourhood. European Union spokesperson Paula Pinho said that "we would like to offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and the entire city of Graz in Austria. And we stand together in mourning while we seek clarity in the wake of this horrible event in a school."

### Odia IPS Officer appointed RPSC Chairman

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Senior IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahoo has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC). The official notification was issued by Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde on Monday. With Sahoo's appointment, the post of Director General of Police (DGP) in Rajasthan has fallen vacant. A new police chief is expected to be named shortly. A 1988-batch IPS officer from Chendipada in Odisha's Angul district, Sahoo is widely regarded for his integrity and clean administrative record. He assumed charge as Rajasthan's DGP on February 11, 2024, and now moves to his new role as the head of the state's top recruiting body. The RPSC had been functioning without a full-time chairman since August 1, 2024, following the completion of Sanjay Shrotriya's tenure. In the interim, commission member Kailashchand Meena had been serving as acting chairman. Sahoo's appointment ends a 10-month-long vacancy at the helm of the RPSC. As per regulations, the chairman can serve until the age of 62. Born on June 20, 1964, Sahoo is currently 61 and is expected to serve until June 2026.

### New DCP office inaugurated in city

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the newly constructed office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Bhubaneswar Urban Police today, marking a significant step toward strengthening the city's law enforcement infrastructure.

Spanning 2,272 square meters, the four-storey building, constructed at Rs 7.8 crore, is equipped with modern facilities to enhance public service delivery. The state-of-the-art office features ramps for differently-abled individuals, a cyber-cell, CCTNS room, integrated control room, legal cell, passport section, conference hall, and training hall. Speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Minister emphasised that the new facility will enable the police to provide efficient and timely services to the public. "This modern building will empower our police force to serve the people with greater effectiveness, ensuring a robust law enforcement system," he said. In a parallel initiative to bolster police mobility, Chief Minister Majhi distributed 425 two-wheelers to investigating officers



under the Commissionerate Police, covering various police stations in Bhubaneswar.

He announced that additional four-wheelers have also been arranged for police stations across the state to enhance operational efficiency. "The use of technology in criminal investigations will be supported to ensure swift and accurate outcomes," he added. Reflecting on recent achievements, the Chief Minister noted that 14 new police stations were inaugurated across Odisha in March at Rs 42 crore. He commended the Odisha Police for maintaining law and order impartially, stating that the state's law and order situation has been satisfactory over the past

year, earning praise from the Central Government.

The event was attended by Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, Bhubaneswar North MLA Susant Kumar Rout, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Chief Minister's Advisor Prakash Mishra, Director General of Police Y.B. Khurania, Police Commissioner Dr. Suresh DevDatta Singh, Additional Police Commissioner Narasingha Bhol, DCP Bhubaneswar Jagmohan Meena, and other senior police officials. He emphasized that the new building will enhance the efficiency of police administration, ensuring timely services to the public.

### Terror chose dharma, we saw their karma: Rajnath

**Dehradun, (HS) :** While the terrorists chose to verify the 'Dharm', or religion, of people before shooting them dead, India hit them back for their 'Karm', or deeds, defence minister Rajnath Singh said at an event in Dehradun on Tuesday. "Terrorists killed people in Pahalgam after verifying their religion; we didn't ask about their 'Dharm', but hit back because of their 'Karm'," Singh said in what was a strong message against those who want to propagate the theory that India's fight against terrorism is related to religion. His statement was in reference to the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22 that led to the death of 26



persons, mostly tourists from across the country. Survivors recounted how the terrorists actually verified religious identities before shooting non-Muslims men in the head from close range. Footage from the scene of the massacre also showed several victims lying dead with the trousers pulled down. It came to light that the terrorists forced their victims to undress to check if they were circumcised, before killing them. This behaviour led to massive outrage. India reacted to the terror strike after a fortnight, by carrying out precision strikes against nine established terror facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) on May 7.

### OJEE-2025 results announced

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The results of the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE-2025) were officially announced today by Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Skill Development and Technical Education. During a special event at the SCTEVT conference hall, Minister Swain unveiled the results booklet and congratulated successful candidates, urging them to "continue their hard work and dedication" to achieve future success and become exemplary citizens who enhance Odisha's reputation globally.

The examination, conducted for admission to 17 technical and professional courses for the 2025-26 academic year, was



administered via Computer-Based Test (CBT) across all 30 districts of Odisha and three external centers (Kolkata, Patna, and Ranchi). A total of 70 test centers facilitated the process. Out of 92,488 registered

candidates, 80,324 (86.84%) appeared for the exam. Ranks were awarded to 55,362 candidates in non-nursing courses. Courses covered included B.CAT, LE-BTech

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## Poverty Data

Poverty and inequality estimation in India have been subjects of considerable debate, especially in recent years with the economy experiencing several shocks. The great India poverty debate has, in fact, been marked by significant differences of opinion on the household survey data which forms the basis of estimation, the construction of the poverty lines, and on the trends over the decades. The debate has been particularly heated in the absence of data - the government did not release the consumption expenditure survey data for 2017-18 due to "data quality issues". This led to several studies trying to estimate poverty levels in India by drawing on alternate data sources such as the Periodic Labour Force Surveys and the CMIE data. Recently, the government has attempted to fill the data gap by conducting two rounds of household consumption expenditure surveys for 2022-23 and 2023-24. These surveys now allow for an examination of the trends in poverty over the past decade or so. The decline has been significant. Extreme poverty in India is estimated to have declined from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to 5.3 per cent in 2022-23 as per the latest World Bank data reported in this paper. This steep decline has occurred even as the Bank has raised the threshold for measuring extreme poverty to \$3 a day from \$2.15 earlier. To put these figures in perspective - the number of people living in extreme poverty in India fell from 344.47 million to 75.24 million over this period. While there has been some concern over the comparability of the consumption expenditure surveys carried out in 2011-12 and 2022-23 due to changes in the manner in which the recent survey was carried out and its sampling design, this is a steep decline. Moreover, even considering the poverty line for lower-middle income countries of \$4.2 per day (revised upwards from \$3.65), the poverty ratio in India fell from 57.7 per cent in 2011-12 to 23.9 per cent in 2022-23. The decline appears to have continued in the year thereafter. Earlier, Niti Aayog had estimated that multidimensional poverty in India had also registered a steep decline - falling from 55.34 per cent in 2005-06 to 24.85 per cent in 2015-16 to 14.96 per cent in 2019-21. This estimate of poverty was based on 12 indicators and drew on data from the National Family Health Surveys.

Alongside these poverty estimates, the World Bank has also estimated that inequality in India, based on measures such as the Gini and Theil indices, did fall between 2011 and 2022. However, these estimates of inequality are based on the household consumption expenditure data, which typically tends to be lower than estimates based on household income. This is not just an academic exercise. The data from the latest rounds of the consumption expenditure surveys as well as the labour force surveys must serve as a valuable input for policy, informing the choices of policymakers.

11th June

## Sant Guru Kabir Jayanti



Sant Kabir Jayanti is celebrated in India at the full moon in the Hindu month of Jyeshtha, between May and June, on the Gregorian Calendar. This year, it falls on June 11. Jayanti means birth anniversary, and Sant Kabir Das was an Indian mystic poet and religious figure who lived in the 15th century. Sant Kabir Jayanti is a special day dedicated to honoring him, his works, and his enduring legacy.

Kabir Sahab was born in 1398 in the city of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on the day of the full moon in the Hindu month Jyeshthah. Raised by a family of weavers, he lived on to become a great mystic poet, persecuted for his work by Muslims and Hindus, who tried to claim him as their own upon his death. Unlike other Gurus and Saints of the time, Kabir lived simply as a weaver. He got married and had children. Kabir's poems are mainly recorded in Hindi. They reveal different aspects of life and call for devotion to God. Kabir was often critical of certain religious practices, causing controversy during his lifetime. In 1495, Sant Kabir was forced into exile when Emperor Sikandar Lodi charged him with the possession of divine powers. He died in Maghar near Gorakhpur in 1518.

Sant Kabir's legacy has done more than survive, it has thrived. Following in his footsteps is the Path of Kabir, a religious community that acclaims him its founder and one of its sages. Known as Panthis, membership of the group burgeoned to about 9.6 million people over the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His work was included in a spiritual book entitled "Kabir Bijak" in the 17th century, written down for the first time after being verbally composed. Some of Kabir's verses and teachings were incorporated into religious scriptures. In 1915, Kabir's poetry was translated into English by the famous Bengali polymath, Rabindranath Tagore, reaching a wider audience. Currently, there are two temples dedicated to Kabir located in Benares. One of them is preserved by Hindus, while the other by Muslims.

Kabir is born in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The "Kabir Bijak" spiritual book is released. The religious community, Path of Kabir expands and gains new members all over India. Bengali polymath translates Kabir's poetry into English.



Subash Ch. Mishra

## Economic Diary

As the news of attack on various airfields of Pakistan was trickling in, people to their surprise, found on their TV screen in the afternoon of May 10, 2025 that a ceasefire has been agreed between India and Pakistan. Later it was revealed that Pakistan begged for a ceasefire as there was severe damage to its airfields. Analysts in Pakistan had warned it that its precarious financial conditions would not allow the state to hold on to a prolonged war with India.

Pakistan became independent along with India in 1947. Pakistan has a nominal GDP of about USD 374 bn in 2024 with a per capita GDP of USD 1572. The GDP growth rate has been low and in 2019-20 and 2022-23 it had negative growth rates. It had been running high fiscal deficit for several years mainly due to high spending on defence which is growing at a rate of 12% per annum. The foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan remains at a very low level of USD 9-10 billion which is just enough for 1.5 months of imports and its external debt is quite high at USD 122 bn which is equal to three times the annual exports. Their annual external debt servicing liability in 2024 remained at USD 17-18 bn which is more than their forex reserve balance. This means they have to borrow

## Recipe for a Failed State

to repay and service the external debt. It has been borrowing from several Islamic countries in addition to IMF and World Bank to meet its debt payment obligations. The inflation rate in 2023 was about 30% which came down slightly in 2024, but went up to 30% again in 2025 after Operation Sindoor. Pakistan Rupee has experienced significant depreciation against the US dollar, making imports more expensive and contributing to inflationary pressures. Pak Rupee has depreciated from a level of 180 to 280 per dollar in three years. It is reported in the media that most of the beggars in Gulf countries are from Pakistan.

Pakistan's rulers have taken an anti India stance right from the beginning which made it to spend higher amounts on defence and keep the border tension alive to divert attention of people from its real issues like poverty and inflation. It was under military rule from 1958 to 1971 which made the defence establishments an important part of Pakistan's politics. Over time, though the country has been switching on and off between military rule and democracy (Ayub Khan Military rule from 1958 to 1969, Yahya Khan military rule from 1969-71, Zia Ul Haq from 1978-88 and Pervez Musarruf 1999-2008), the military heads have the upper hand in decision making and democratically elected rulers have been subservient to the military as they feel that they owe their chair to the military. That also is apparently correct as five prime ministers of Pakistan have faced imprisonment after their term in office; one prime minister was hanged and another was killed during an election campaign. In 1980s its economy fared well with good agricultural output, workers remittances and US support. But 1990s are considered a lost decade



due to frequent political changes and lack of continuity in policies. Corruption remained rampant and in 1996 Pakistan was adjudged the second most corrupt nation in the world. It was extracting grant from USA to support terrorist outfits to counter Russia in Afghanistan but using a large part of that money to fund terrorism and create trouble in India. These terrorist organisations continued to thrive even after Russia left Afghanistan with support from the Pakistan government. The influence of terrorists on government is so much that in the recently conducted Operation Sindoor, after several terror headquarters and camps were destroyed by India, Pakistani Government officials were seen attending the funeral ceremonies of terrorists. Further, the Government also announced monetary grant to rebuild the terrorist infrastructure and payment of compensation to the families of the terrorists. The literacy rate is low at 58 % which is one of the lowest in Asia. Even out of its literate people, the predominant madrassa style of education prepares their students to work in religious institutions. These people are unskilled and not suitable for working in normal economic establishments. A

number of people work in gulf areas in low pay menial jobs which keeps workers remittance at a relatively low level. Lack of skilled manpower affected its productivity. Employment in Government was hardly merit based. Low literacy rate, low skills combined with their unemployment made the youth vulnerable to joining terrorist outfits. It has been heavily relying on diesel/gas for power generation and has been facing power shortage for a long time. This was unfavourable for industrial activity which was one of the reasons for lower FDI inflow, high unemployment rate, lower tax collection and as per recent World Bank report about 45% of population live below poverty line earning less than \$3 per month. Low savings rate of 15% resulting in low domestic capital formation forces it to rely on foreign capital for investment in the country. The uncertain political situation, high security concern and a poor legal system has kept foreign investors away. It has a low tax base and its poor regulatory regime and enforcement of tax laws have added to the woes. The overall national debt of Pakistan has been doubling every five years since 1999. The debt has been growing

at a rate of 15% while the GDP is growing at 3-4% making the debt unsustainable.

In the recent days, Pakistan is heavily reliant on China for all its needs. China built a number of roads, a port and an airport at Gwador. But these are hardly used due to the uprising in Balochistan. But Pakistan has to service the loans taken from china for building these unproductive infrastructure. China has a track record of taking over ports and airports if the debtor country fails to repay its debt to China. Now that Pakistan is in deep debt and Gwador port is under the risk of being taken over by Balochistan Liberation Army, China is keeping a tight hand on further loan grant to Pakistan. Within the country, there is political instability. The Baochistan Liberation Army has been fighting for independence and since Balochistan region is a mineral rich country, Pakistan will be much poorer without Balochistan. Media reports indicate that Pakistan Government has no control over almost 75 -80% of Balochistan. The situation is so bad that China is proposing to negotiate with the Balochistan Liberation Army to protect its interest in the area. Another region called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also partially out of control due to heavy presence of TTP, an arm of Taliban in Pakistan which is attacking Government establishments and army. The POK area is also in turmoil as they are protesting against step motherly treatment by the Pakistan Government. Without Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan's landmass will be reduced to 50% of its present size and it will be deprived of its natural resources and production of dry fruits. But a failed state with nuclear arms in one hand and lack of control on its territory is always a big risk to its neighbours.

*The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.*

## On Ananda or Bliss

Kishore Kumar Jena

We have heard the word "Ananda" several times and in fact use it on many occasions. We are so familiar with this word that we fail to realize its true significance! We take the word and its meaning very casually. What is the meaning of this word "Ananda"? Does it mean enjoyment? Does it signify happiness or does it point to pleasure that we very often feel? The enjoyment, happiness and pleasure that we have is transitory, momentary, and ephemeral! They remain for the time being and vanish after the experience is over. They are material pleasures and hence they cannot continue for ever. "Ananda or Bliss" is entirely different! It has nothing to do with the ordinary day to day experiences. It is a kind of indescribable divine elation beyond the comprehension of the common mortal. It cannot be narrated or explained in normal words. One has to experience to realize it. We mistake the usual pleasures and happiness as "Ananda". Is it possible for the ordinary mortal to experience this rare kind of divine experience? It is surely not Impossible but requires spiritual practices and a concerted effort on the part of the aspirant. Any thing, good and great cannot be obtained just like that!

"Ananda" or bliss is an inner treasure, won by detachment and discipline" remarks Bhagawan Sri Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Vedas and the Upanishads call this as Brahmananda- the Ananda of the Brahman! The tapas or penance and the discipline required for the attainment of Ananda is wonderfully brought out in the Bhrigu Valli of the Taittiriya Upanishad. The renowned sage Bhrugu approached his father Varuna with a desire for the knowledge of the Brahman. Pleased with his approach, Varuna instructs him on the six

main gateways to the knowledge of the Brahman. They are food, Prana or soul, eyes, ears, Manas or mind, and speech. He explains to Bhrugu that Brahman is that object by which all the created beings live and thrive on and finally merge into IT during the deluge. Varuna asked his son to "obtain this Brahman through these six gateways. Accordingly, Bhrugu performed tapas and found Annam or food as the Brahman since all living beings grow and thrive on annam alone and merge into the same Annam. But he did not accept it as Brahman as Annam is created by the Brahman and it is ephemeral whereas the Brahman is 'nitya' permanent and everlasting! "annam brahmeti vyajanath". "Prano brahmeti vyajanath".....Asked by his father to perform penance again, Bhrugu found Prana as the Brahman since as creation, protection and destruction of the universe are dictated by it. But Prana is 'jada'- inert, without awareness while the Brahmin is full of awareness or chaitanya. Hence Prana cannot be equated with the Brahman! Varuna sent him back to do tapas once again and Bhrugu now found that Manas is the very Brahman as through its sankalpa all creation, protection and destruction take place. Once again doubt cropped in him and he could not equate Manas with the Brahman! Rigorous tapas he did again and thought vijanam or knowledge is the Brahman since everything is done through vijanam! His doubt did not leave him and he rejected it as the Brahma. Through Vijanam bodies can be created but not elements like the sky or akasa. So Vijnana cannot be the Brahman! "Vijnanam brahmeti vyajanath".

"Anando brahmeti vyajanath".....In this manner sage Bhrugu, the pure souled, performed penance and found that Anna, Prana, Manas, and Vijnana do not fully qualify

themselves to be called the Brahman. At length, through his penance, he recognized the all inherent Ananda or Bliss as the real Brahman! One who performs tapas similarly and rejects Anna, Prana, Manas and Vijnana as Brahman is fixed in the Brahman! He becomes the Brahman himself! "Brahmavid brahmaiva bhavathi". This Ananda is thus the inner treasure and a serious attempt has to be made to attain that stage of Divine bliss! Jnanis and great yogis who meditate on the Supreme Reality always and forget everything in the world are those who are entitled to Ananda! There are three dolls made of salt, cloth, and stone respectively. When they are immersed in water, the first, of salt, dissolves completely and loses its form; the second, of cloth, absorbs a large quantity of water but retains its form and the third, of stone, is impervious to water! The first doll represents the man who merges his Self in the universal and all pervading Self and becomes one with it after losing his identity! He is the liberated man! The second doll stands for the Bhaktha or devotee full of true love of God and knowledge! The third doll, of stone, is an example of the worldly man who will not admit even a true particle of true knowledge! Like the ant that tastes the sugar candy and loses itself in enjoying the sweetness, the aspirant loses and merges himself into the Divine! The Jiva merges into the Deva and becomes Deva himself! This rarest of the rare states where every mundane thing and all attachments are totally forgotten in the wonderful union with the Absolute Brahman is called "Ananda" and "Brahmananda"! Where is the comparison between our mortal enjoyments and pleasures and Ananda which is eternal Bliss!

*Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack*

## Nuclear power plant on the moon

Vijay Garg

China and Russia are together planning to set up an automatic nuclear power plant on the moon by 2035. A cooperation agreement has been signed between Russia's space agency Roscosmos and China's National Space Administration (CNSA) recently for this ambitious project. It is likely that the project will not only add a new chapter to the field of scientific research, but also give a new direction to global competition in space exploration. It will be an integral part of the proposed nuclear plant International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). ILRS is a long-term space project being developed in partnership with China and Russia, aimed at building infrastructure necessary to operate continuous scientific activities on the Moon. Since solar energy on the lunar surface is available in limited quantities- especially in polar and dark regions, there is nuclear energy being seen as a reliable and permanent energy source. The establishment of nuclear power plant will enable various scientific experiments, data analysis, communication networks and robotic missions permanent energy on the moon. This will not only make the road to future human missions easier but also take concrete steps towards converting the Moon into a long-term scientific centre. The ILRS project is being seen as a direct rival to the US-led Artemis program. Space agencies of 55 countries, including NASA, European Space Agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)



under the Artemis Program, are working on a plan to set up a space station called 'Gateway' in Chand's orbit by 2027. This station will act as a base for human missions and scientific research on the lunar surface. However, China and Russia will have to face a number of technical challenges to establish a nuclear power plant on the Moon. The harsh environmental conditions of the moon, such as extreme temperatures, vacuum and radiation make this project complicated. Moreover, the safe use of nuclear energy and the process of its transportation into space is also a major challenge. Though space agencies of China and Russia have iron out their technical capabilities in recent years. In such a situation, it is hoped that the project will define the next stage of space exploration over permanent human presence on the moon and the use of its resources.

*Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab*



# Odisha ready for Vision 2036

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a forward-looking move aimed at shaping a progressive and resilient Odisha, the State government has initiated structured action plans under Mission 2036 and Mission 2047, aligning with key historical milestones and national goals. These missions are not only symbolic but also strategic, marking Odisha's resolve to emerge as a model state in the coming decades, said Chief Minister Mohan Majhi. The year



**A Future-Ready Odisha**  
The announcements signal the state government's proactive approach in reshaping the future of Odisha through transparent governance, employment generation, and robust economic planning. With ambitious goals and decisive steps already underway, the state government aims to transform Odisha into a model state of prosperity, opportunity, and inclusive growth.

## Zero tolerance for corruption

**Bhubaneswar:** Reaffirming its commitment to clean and transparent governance, the Odisha government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, claimed to have intensified efforts to root out corruption and deliver efficient public service. On the first anniversary of the newly formed BJP government in Odisha, the Chief Minister declared that a new era of "susasan" (good governance) has begun in the state. "Our fight against corruption has started with full force. We are committed to ensuring that every government programme is free from irregularities and reaches the common man," the Chief Minister stated in his address.

## Recruitment Mission

The Chief Minister announced a comprehensive roadmap to fill vacant government posts and attract large-scale investments into Odisha. This comes as part of the government's commitment to good governance and rapid development during its first year in office. In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted the government's resolve to address long-pending vacancies in various departments. "We have set a target to fill 1.5 lakh government vacancies over the next five years," he said. Outlining the progress made so far, he informed that within just one year, 28,000 posts have already been filled through a transparent recruitment process, demonstrating the government's efficiency and commitment to merit-based hiring.

## Good Governance

In a clear departure from the past, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi emphasized the dismantling of long-standing bureaucratic barriers that prevented people from accessing the highest offices. "Now, there are no restrictions for people to meet the Chief Minister or ministers. I have travelled to 30 districts and interacted directly with citizens," he said. CM Majhi added that he has personally stepped out of Bhubaneswar to hear the grievances of the people and take swift action. "It doesn't take 24 years; if there is a strong will, change can happen in 24 minutes," the CM remarked, alluding to the sluggish pace of governance in the past.

### Key Segments

- The poor
- Farmers (Annadata)
- Youth
- Women

## Public Welfare Targets

By 2026, 90% of households in Odisha will have access to piped drinking water, significantly improving public health and living standards. The Odisha government has committed to providing Antyodaya homes to five lakh poor families, ensuring safe shelter for the most disadvantaged sections of society. "If we are determined, no one can stop us," he declared, urging the people of Odisha to join hands in building a transparent, inclusive, and empowered Odisha. With this renewed push for accountability and development, the Odisha government aims to redefine governance, where service replaces power, and people come before politics.

2036 will mark 100 years since the formation of the state of Odisha, a landmark moment in the state's history. In view of this, the government has launched preparations under a dedicated programme to commemorate the centenary year with substantial developmental achievements. "A separate, visionary programme has been launched to celebrate 100 years of Odisha's statehood in 2036," the CM said. As part of this, the Odisha government will soon unveil 36 distinct development programmes under the umbrella of Mission 2036. These initiatives are expected to span sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, women's empowerment and sustainable environment, laying the groundwork for a stronger and more inclusive Odisha, the CM said. In tandem with national objectives, the Odisha government is also actively working towards Mission 2047, which coincides with the centenary celebration of India's Independence. This long-

term vision aims to position Odisha as a key contributor to India's growth story, with emphasis on innovation, digital governance, green development, and economic leadership, CM Majhi said. "Both Mission 2036 and Mission 2047 are crucial milestones for us. Our development

strategies are being designed with a futuristic approach to ensure Odisha becomes a model for the rest of the country," the CM noted. To ensure timely execution, the Odisha government is prioritising these missions with sector-specific roadmaps and inter-departmental coordination. The Chief Minister has directed departments to adopt measurable goals, citizen-focused reforms, and scalable innovations while preparing for the upcoming announcements under the 36 flagship programmes. The programmes under Mission 2036 are expected to be announced in phases in the coming days, with community involvement and expert consultation playing a key role in planning and delivery.

## Youth Empowerment

The Chief Minister emphasized that the twin strategy of recruitment and industrial investment is designed to empower Odisha's youth by offering both government and private sector job opportunities. "Employment is the backbone of development. Our government is committed to creating dignified livelihoods for our young citizens," he said.

## Investment Push

Alongside recruitment, the government is also focusing on turning Odisha into a major industrial and economic hub. Under the flagship 'Utkarsh Odisha' initiative, the state has witnessed encouraging interest from domestic and international investors. "In just one year, we have received investment intents worth Rs 17 lakh crore," the Chief Minister announced. Of this, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 13 lakh crore have already been signed, paving the way for large-scale industrial development, job creation, and infrastructure expansion. These investments are expected to span across sectors such as steel, aluminum, green energy, IT, food processing, and textiles, ushering in a new era of economic transformation for Odisha.

## Sonepur-Purunakatak railway section inspected



**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** In a significant boost to one of Odisha's most vital rail infrastructure projects, Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR), conducted a detailed inspection of the under-construction Sonepur-Purunakatak railway section, part of the Khurda Road-Balangir new line project. Senior officers from ECoR headquarters, construction officials and officials from Sambalpur Railway Division accompanied the GM during the inspection. The visit focused on reviewing the progress of the

project and ensuring adherence to the targeted timelines. Funkwal emphasized timely execution and urged officials to expedite the pending works, maintaining quality and safety standards. He also reviewed critical infrastructure components and advised necessary steps for on-time completion. The Sonepur-Purunakatak section has already been completed. This will improve regional connectivity and economic growth prospects for western Odisha. This flagship project, closely monitored by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is a lifeline for interior

regions of the state. Out of the total 301 km planned length, 226 km has already been commissioned. That includes Khurda Road to Daspatha - 106 kms & Balangir to Purunakatak - 120 kms. The remaining 75 km stretch between Daspatha and Purunakatak is under active construction and is expected to be completed by December 2026.

This stretch is particularly challenging, passing through reserve forests, wildlife sanctuaries and hilly terrains. To protect the region's ecological integrity, ECoR is constructing: 7 tunnels (totaling 12.7 km) including the longest at 4.18 kms. Wildlife passages and viaducts for safe animal movement. An environment-sensitive design aimed at minimizing deforestation and saving nearly 2 lakh trees. A major engineering highlight of the project is a 4.77 km long viaduct, being constructed near proposed Bhurutang Irrigation Project reservoir. Upon completion, it will become the second longest railway bridge in India, after the Bogibeel Bridge in Assam.

## Vatsalya Mela organised in Khordha

**Khordha, (H.S):** In collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development & the District Child Protection Unit, a district level Vatsalya Mela-2025 was held at Jayee Rajguru Town Hall here. District Magistrate and Collector Chanchala Rana attended the mela as the chief guest. In his address, he said girls of all castes & religions are given priority.

Therefore, in Khordha district, girls who study well or have secured more than 60 percent marks are included in the Mission Vatsalya Mela on priority basis & the officials have directed to work responsibly for their health, education & overall development & make such an innovative scheme



of the government a reality. During the Covid-19, those who lost their parents or the earning members of the family, at that time the Central Government launched the scheme through which orphan students can join the mainstream of society through their intelligence & smart power & turn their dreams into reality to build a better future. He said that the success of the mela can be achieved by coordinating with

## BJD counters Govt's achievements

## Long speeches & PR but no real progress: Naveen



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday slammed the BJP government in Odisha, accusing it of focusing only on long speeches and advertisements rather than real development. Addressing party workers during the launch of "Jana Jagaran Abhiyan" at Sankha Bhawan here, Naveen questioned various achievements being claimed by CM Mohan Majhi-led BJP government in Odisha. "They call it a people's government. But where are the people? Long speeches and big advertisements alone cannot bring development," the BJD supremo remarked. Naveen stated that during BJD's tenure, 90% of Odisha's population benefited from Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. "The current Ayushman Bharat scheme fails to provide medicines or free hospital treatment. Thousands, including mothers, the elderly, cancer patients, and children, face harassment," he said.

He further alleged that the health system has collapsed. "Chief District Medical Officer posts are lying vacant in 19 of 30 districts. This is the so-called success of the current government," he said. Naveen further claimed that seventy lakh women were empowered through Mission Shakti under the BJD regime. "Mission Shakti brought glory to the state across India. The present government has weakened this movement within one year. Mission Shakti mothers are being harassed in banks, and they are not getting work in government offices," he said, terming it as the biggest mistake of the current administration.

The mothers will never forgive this," he asserted. Naveen, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly, said the BJD in 2000 inherited a state with a loan burden of Rs.18,000 crore, and the government was running on overdrafts. "By 2024, BJD left a treasury surplus of Rs 45,000 crore. The current government is now running on record loans. But now, the government is again running on record amounts of loans," he alleged. Naveen also claimed that there was visible improvement in all development indicators, including IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) and MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate), during the BJD government's tenure. He further stated that promises to end exploitation in paddy procurement and ensure MSP for farmers remain unfulfilled. "Farmers face exploitation by millers, lack government support, and struggle to access agricultural loans.

themselves in this scheme. Dipali Das, Pinki Singh, Subhalakshmi Dalai, Maheswar Giri, who have scored more than 60 percent marks in the +2 examination & Jamuna Nayak, Sibani Nayak, Sriman Barindra, Rashmita Hembram, Barsha Priyadarshini, N. Ganesh, Sabitri Mallick, Soumya R. Mohanty, who have scored more than 60% marks in the HSC/CBSE exams, were given Rs.4,000 each to strengthen this scheme.

Among others, District Child Protection Officer Ms. Banishree Pattnaik, President of Child Welfare Committee Ranjita Panda, District Social Security Officer Dilip Kumar Hial, Additional District Social Welfare Officer Susama Mohanty, UNICEF Advisor Ghasirama Panda also spoke on mission Vatsalya Yojana.

## UCO Bank holds MSME & agriculture carnival

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** UCO Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar celebrated its Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival on Monday at Hotel Pramod, Cuttack. The event was attended by MSME, Agriculture, Resources customers, SHG members and Bank Mitras. The occasion was graced by Gautam Patra, Chief

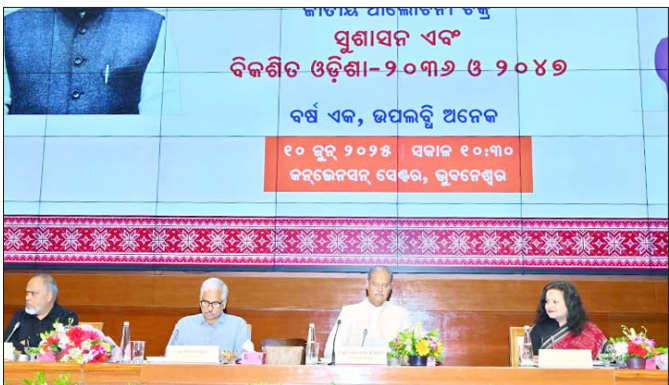
General Manager, Business Development (Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana State) & Convenor SLBC, Odisha, Ankit Rana, General Manager, Recovery & Law Department, UCO Bank, Head Office, Kolkata, P.K. Gupta, Joint Director & Head of Office, MSME DFO, Ministry of Micro, Small &

Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India and Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, Deputy General Manager & Zonal Head Bhubaneswar. Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni welcomed all the dignitaries and guests at the event. He emphasized the role of SHGs and told that SHGs create a sense of community, offering emotional and practical support.

## National conference on Good Governance inaugurated

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday inaugurated a national symposium on "Good Governance and Developed Odisha-2036 and 2047" at the Convention Center in LokSeva Bhawan here on the occasion of the first anniversary of the BJP Government in the State.

The event, attended by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, featured discussions on key governance and policy strategies essential for Odisha's long-term transformation. The conference convened top officials,



policymakers and academicians, including Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, and Additional Chief Secretary Surendra Kumar, to assess existing governance frameworks

and introduce innovative approaches for state-wide improvements. Experts emphasised the role of technology-driven governance, infrastructure expansion, and agricultural advancements in

shaping Odisha's vision for 2036 and 2047. Addressing the attendees, Deputy Chief Minister Singh Deo underscored the necessity of policy cohesion, institutional strengthening, and active citizen participation in ensuring sustainable development.

The event also saw panel discussions led by Principal Secretaries and Commissioners, focusing on economic progress, public welfare schemes, and future governance models. As Odisha sets its sights on a more prosperous future, the conference serves as a blueprint for structured policymaking, paving the way for an inclusive and progressive state.

## Man held for Rs 1.08 cr luxury car scam

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** A 32-year-old man was arrested by the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police on Tuesday for allegedly duping a businessman of over Rs 1.08 crore on the false promise of facilitating the purchase of a luxury car at a discounted price.

The accused has been identified as Sambit Panda, a resident of Sailashree Vihar under Chandrasekharpur Police Station limits, is the son of retired police officer Bidyut Chandra Panda. At the time of arrest, he was working as a showroom manager at NEXA in Cuttack. According to an official press release, the complainant, Rohit Roshan Mohanty, came into contact with Panda on March 19, 2023. Introducing himself as a freelance

car broker and former Audi Bhubaneswar manager, Panda allegedly convinced Mohanty of his credibility and promised delivery of a high-end car within a month. Trusting his assurances, Mohanty transferred a total of Rs 1,08,50,000 through multiple bank transactions.

However, after receiving the amount, Panda failed to deliver the vehicle and started avoiding communication. When approached for updates, he allegedly resorted to verbal abuse and issued threats. Following a complaint filed through the JMFC, COG-II Court in Bhubaneswar, a case was registered at Infocity Police Station on September 7, 2024 (Case No. 440), under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita (BNS), including charges of cheating, criminal intimidation, and forgery. The police further stated that Panda used forged documents during the transaction and may have defrauded other persons in a similar manner. His arrest was made on June 10 from the NEXA showroom under Cantonment Police Station limits in Cuttack.

During interrogation, Panda confessed to the crime and reportedly named two accomplices, whose identities are being withheld pending further investigation. Police said the accused caused significant financial and psychological harm to the victim. An investigation is underway to trace the involvement of others and determine whether more victims were targeted by the group.



# Two lady engineers in Vigilance net

**Bargarh/Jeypore, (DMC):** In a significant anti-corruption operation, Odisha Vigilance has nabbed two government engineers in bribery charges. While Susmita Oram, a Junior Engineer (JE) posted at Gaisilet Block in Bargarh district was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000, Assistant Engineer (AE) of Lamtaput Block in Koraput district Suchismita Parija was nabbed for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 8,000.

Oram had joined the government service under DRDA, Bargarh on January 10, 2024, and is working as a JE at Gaisilet Block since January 29, 2024. This was her first posting. Oram was demanding Rs 32,000 from a contractor (complainant) for measurement and clearing of

pending bills related to road improvement work under MGNREGS. "The estimated cost of the work was Rs 9,50,000, out of which bills worth Rs 3.15 lakh had already been paid. The JE was demanding a bribe of 10% of the paid bill amount.

She had earlier accepted Rs 24,000 and was caught while taking the remaining Rs 8,000. Finding no other option, the complainant approached the Vigilance authorities, alleging harassment by the JE. Following this, a trap was laid, and Oram was caught while taking the remaining bribe amount. The entire sum was recovered from her exclusive possession and seized. Following the trap, simultaneous searches are underway at two locations linked to Oram from the Disproportionate Assets (DA)



angle. Sambalpur Vigilance Police Station registered Case No. 11 dated June 9, 2025, under Section 7 of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018. Further investigation is in progress. "Similarly, Parija was

reportedly demanding a total of Rs 15,000 from a local villager to facilitate the release of a payment under the MGNREG scheme. According to Vigilance officials, Parija had previously received Rs

5,000 from the complainant and was pressuring the individual to pay the remaining Rs 10,000. The accused was caught red-handed accepting the final installment of Rs 8,000 at her government residence in Lamtaput. The entire bribe amount was recovered from Smt. Parija's possession and has been seized.

Following the arrest, simultaneous searches are being conducted at three locations linked to her to investigate potential disproportionate assets. A case under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, has been registered at the Koraput Vigilance Police Station (Case No. 22/2025). The investigation is ongoing, and further details are awaited.

## IOCL Paradip Refinery conducted Level-II Onsite Disaster Drill



**Paradip, (DMC):** Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) Paradip Refinery conducted a Level-II Onsite Disaster Mock Drill on 10th June 2025 with an aim to check the effectiveness of the emergency response and preparedness of the Refinery. The drill was executed in line with the approved Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) of Paradip Refinery. Members of Mutual Aid Industries also participated in the exercise.

The scenario envisaged for the drill was leakage of propylene from pump discharge line which led to vapour cloud formation followed by explosion. Response & control measures taken as per the protocols of Emergency Response & Disaster Management Plan was well coordinated and it was appreciated by all the authorities. Mr Kausik Basu, Executive Director & Head of Paradip Refinery chaired the debriefing session of the exercise.

## Tick infestation leaves villagers distressed

**Angul, (DMC):** A sudden and severe tick infestation has left the residents of Srirampur village under Batusuan panchayat in Pallahara block deeply troubled. For over six days now, ticks have overrun the village, causing fear and disruption in the daily lives of its inhabitants.

Locals report that ticks are visible in large numbers across

doorsteps, floors, walls, and even along the village roads, making it nearly impossible to move about without concern. Following repeated complaints, the local administration visited the village and sprayed pesticides to control the tick population. However, villagers allege that the situation worsened after the spraying, claiming the number of ticks has

instead doubled. Despite the gravity of the issue, residents state that no official response or clarification has yet been received from the authorities regarding the apparent failure of the insecticide treatment. As per reports, the villagers are fed up with the rising number of ticks and their continued presence even after measures were taken.

## Joint Public Hearing Camp of Collector & SP Held at Sri Loknath Dev Mansingh Bidyapitha Premises

**Khordha, (DMC):** A joint public hearing camp of Collector, Khordha, Mr. Chanchal Rana & SP, Khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nath was held at Sri Loknath Dev Mansingh Bidyapitha premises of Biribadi, GP, under Chilika Block, Khordha. In this public hearing camp, Zilla Parishad Chief Executive & Development Officer Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector, Kishore Kumar Panda, Chairman, Chilika Panchayat Samiti, Jyotsnarani Behera, Bidibadi GP, Sarpancha, Bishnu Priya Sen, BDO, Purna Mohapatra, Tahasildar Kanhu Charan Dalai, Deputy Collector, Emergency, Sritapa Mishra, Assistant Collector, Grievance, Bhubaneswari Kanhar were present. A total of 166 grievances were received in this public grievances hearing camp, out of

which 155 grievances were individual & 15 grievances were collective problems. Collector, immediately resolved 05 grievances on the spot & provided financial assistance of ₹15,000 to Manoj Kumar Gumsingh of Biribadi, ₹15,000 to Hakim Dalai of Haripur, Chilika, ₹10,000 to Megh Nad Tarai of Kuhudi from Chief Minister Relief Fund & ₹20,000 to Ranjita Barik of Sorona Chilika from the District Red Cross Fund for their health treatment. Later, Collector, Mr. Rana visited the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mission Shakti & Odisha Livelihood Mission Stall, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Urban, Government schemes & the awareness stalls set up by the Ministry of Rural Development (Sahajoga Stalls) Swachha Survey Stall, Primary

Health Care Camp, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department Swachhta Stall, Chief Minister Fisheries & Livestock Scheme Stall, Adwika Stall & Integrated Child Project Scheme etc. SE, R&B, Division, Siba Lal Sahu, CDM & PHO, District Social Welfare Officer Kusum Kumari Praharaj, District Social Security Officer Dilip Kumar Hial, DI & PRO, Laxman Kumar Behera, District Panchayat Officer, Shyamendu Nayak, Chief District Agriculture Officer Rabi Narayan Senapati, CSO, Suguda Murmu, DEO, Sonamika Roy, Assistant Director, Horticulture, Smita Mohanty, along with district level officers of various departments & senior engineers & officers of the Line department were present.



recommendations for future event efficiency, contributing directly to the planning of large-

scale public systems. The internship will be facilitated by Chaaipani, an agency appointed

to manage brand activations and brand integration to enhance public facilities at this year's Rath Yatra. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young minds to witness how India runs at its most complex and spiritual intersection.

This is a rare opportunity for students to learn how logistics, culture, systems and human behaviour in India operate at an unprecedented scale," Shruti Chaturvedi, founder of Chaaipani, said. The Rath Yatra 2025 is scheduled to begin on June 27 and conclude on July 5.

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## Transformative...

securing India's global stature. As the Modi government embarks on the second year of its third term, it promises to continue its journey with "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas, and SabkaPrayas" as its guiding mantra, said Majhi. "The country has made tremendous progress. The World Bank report also says that there has been poverty reduction. Many welfare schemes, including Ayushman Bharat and others for farmers, have been successful. The poor were earlier deprived of roti, kapda and makan. Hence, the Modi government undertook several measures in PM Awas, National Education Policy, Jan DhanYojana and others, which helped people and brought a positive change," said CM Majhi.

## One Year...

AdarshVidyalya in each panchayats. The NEP was also implemented by our government along with adopting SishuVatika," informed CM Mohan Majhi, adding that adequate budgetary provision has been made by the new government. The Chief Minister believed that people will now opt for government schools instead of private schools. He said that ShishuVatika (early childhood education) has been rolled out, and the state plans to develop AdarshaVidyalayas (model schools) to offer quality education. Implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) is underway, promising revolutionary changes in teaching and learning. "We are committed to bringing children back to government schools and we will ensure that these schools become centers of excellence," the CM said.

## OJEE-2025...

(Diploma/B.Sc), B.Pharm, MBA, MCA, Integrated MBA, LE-Pharm, M.Pharm, M.Arch, M.Plan, M.Tech, and nursing programs. The State Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) will publish nursing results separately. Top performers across courses were recognized, including JatinMeher (B.Pharm), Gourab Swain (LE-Tech Dip), SakshiKumari (LE-Tech B.Sc), Anurag Mishra (MBA), S Siseendri (MCA/M.Sc Comp Sc), and ManmathaBehera (Overall M.Tech Topper). Candidates can download rank cards from the official website: www.ojee.nic.in. The event was attended by key officials including Samarth Varma Director, Technical Education, Sukant Kumar Pradhan Additional Secretary, Deb PrakashShatapathy, OJEE Chairman, and Ranjan Kumar Jena OJEE Secretary.

## Regional Transport Department fined 2.95 lakh for checking vehicle motor

**Puri, (DMC):** Puri District Regional Transport Department conducted a motor checking of vehicles and imposed a fine of Rs. 2.95 lakh. On Monday night, the District Regional Transport Department officer Robin Pattanaik inspected the vehicle motor at Old Sadar Police Station Square and Market Square. Driving in an inebriated state,



overloading, proper documents of the vehicle, driving license, etc. The traffic inspector inspected the motor of the main vehicle.

## Illegally Dumped Sand Seized at Maidipur

**Jajpur, (DMC):** Illegally Sand dumped at Maidipur village under Jajpur Tahasil on Monday evening seized. Approximately 2617 Cum sands has been marked with Red Flag. During raids JMOs, Addl. Tahasildar, Revenue Inspector along Police Personnel were present and seized the illegall sands.



## Two dead as speeding car crashes into tree

**Jajpur, (DMC):** Two youth lost their lives and one sustained critical injuries in a tragic road accident. The incident occurred late on Monday night near Mahulakhal under Kaliapani police station limits in Odisha's Jajpur district. The mishap took place when five youths from the local area were returning home in a car. As per reports, the vehicle lost balance while taking a turn at high speed and rammed into a roadside tree. The impact of the



collision was severe, causing the immediate death of two of the occupants. One of the youths was admitted to a nearby hospital in critical condition, while the other two sustained minor injuries. The deceased have been identified as

## Berhampur's Power Capacity Gets a Major Boost

**Berhampur, (DMC):** Berhampur, June: In a focused move to upgrade the power infrastructure of Berhampur and its adjoining areas, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has completed the upgradation of the Kanisi Primary Substation (PSS).

This development is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted and reliable power supply to one of the town's most vital commercial belts, while addressing rising demand and reinforcing operational safety. As part of the upgradation, the transformer capacity of one of the three Power Transformers (PTRs) catering to Haladiapadar has been increased



from 3.15 MVA to 8 MVA. With this, the total substation capacity has now risen to 16.15 MVA. This increased capacity will significantly reduce the risk of overloading and support the growing electricity demand of nearly 7,000 consumers spread across Haladiapadar, Autonagar, Kanisi village, and surrounding areas. The remaining two PTRs, serving Tulu and Randha regions, continue to operate at 5 MVA and 3.15 MVA respectively. So, the

total capacity of all three cumulatively has touched 16.15 MVA. To ensure safety and system resilience, several infrastructure improvements have also been carried out.

These include replacing 11kV overhead lines in the PSS premises with underground cables to eliminate the hazards of exposed conductors, construction of cable trenches, installation of chain-link fencing around the switchyard, refurbishment of the substation, replacement of traditional walls with detachable-type grills, and creation of a separate access road for smooth and safe movement of both staff and consumers.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL, said, "This upgradation is part of our moto to build a robust and future-ready power infrastructure in Southern Odisha.

With the enhanced capacity at Kanisi PSS, residents and businesses in Berhampur can expect more reliable, safe, and efficient electricity service, which is essential for sustained economic and social growth." The initiative reflects TPSODL's commitment to improve the quality of life and powering the progress of Berhampur by ensuring that electricity remains stable, secure, and scalable.

## 155 Kendu logs seized by forest officials in Bolangir : one held



**Bolangir, (DMC):** Acting on a tip off a team of officials of Bolangir forest range, on Tuesday morning, sized a Truck (OR 15N 2287) loaded with Kendu logs in College chowk Bolangir. According to reports, a total of 155 Kendu logs were seized and one person was arrested. The accused was identified as Ajay Singh. Further investigation is underway in this case.

## Rath Yatra: IIT, IIM students to work with Puri admin

**Puri, (DMC):** Top students from India's premier institutions, including the IITs, IIMs and leading policy and management schools, will converge in Puri to join hands with the district administration for the annual Rath Yatra 2025.

Under a Public Systems and Infrastructure internship initiated by the Puri District administration, these students will work at ground zero to study critical aspects of the Yatra, including crowd behaviour, public infrastructure, event planning, and inter-agency

coordination. "Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra is an exercise in scale, devotion, and coordination. It is time India's brightest minds saw what nation-building looks like in the field.

Over a 10–15 day period, selected interns will be assigned live projects around sanitation infrastructure, emergency response systems, seva stall operations, and digital citizen engagement," Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said on Tuesday. He further noted that their work will culminate in real-time reports and



# Sonam Offered Rs 20 Lakh for Murder, Helped Push Body into Gorge

**LUCKNOW, (HS) :** Sonam Raghuvanshi had offered Rs 4 lakh to hired killers for the murder of her husband Raja Raghuvanshi, sources said, adding she later raised the amount to Rs 20 lakh. According to top police sources, Sonam helped the other accused in pushing Raghuvanshi's body into a gorge in Meghalaya.

Raja Raghuvanshi's body was found in a gorge near a waterfall in Sohra area (also known as Cherrapunji) of East Khasi Hills district on June 2, days after he reached Meghalaya with his wife Sonam for their honeymoon. The hitmen hired by Sonam first met with the newlywed couple in Bengaluru, from where they took their connecting flight to the northeast, the sources said, adding that since the victim and the accused were from the same city, they got talking. Sonam had allegedly hired killers to get rid of her husband as she reportedly wanted to be with her lover. As per sources, Sonam Raghuvanshi planned the murder with her alleged lover Raj Kushwaha just a few days after her May 11 wedding in Indore. The plan of a one-way ticket to Meghalaya for the honeymoon was her plan, they said. Even though Kushwaha did not travel to Meghalaya, but Shillong Police sources suggest he did the planning behind the scenes and was in touch with Sonam.

The accused first followed the



newlyweds to Guwahati on May 21 where they stayed close to their hotel and then to Shillong on May 22. They killed Raja the next day, the sources said. On May 23, Sonam and Raja Raghuvanshi went on a trek to a steep peak to see a waterfall, with the hitmen following their trail. At one point, Sonam pretended to be tired and started walking much behind her husband and the killers, the sources said. When they reached a deserted place, Sonam allegedly asked the men to kill her husband. The killers, however, refused to kill him, saying they were tired, as per the sources. Sonam Raghuvanshi then allegedly raised her offer to 20 lakh, they said. According to sources, Sonam also helped the accused in throwing Raja's body into the ditch. As per the

preliminary autopsy report, Raja Raghuvanshi was hit twice, once each on the back and front of his head.

The Meghalaya Police knew on June 3, a day after they found the body of Raja Raghuvanshi in the gorge, that his wife was involved in the murder. The Meghalaya Police has claimed that all those involved in the conspiracy to kill the man from Indore - including Raj Kushwaha, Vishal Chauhan and Akash Rajput and Anand Kurmi - have been arrested in the operation that they codenamed 'Operation Honeymoon'. In a dramatic development late Sunday night, Sonam Raghuvanshi - who was missing since May 23 - surrendered before the Nandganj Police Station in Ghazipur district in Uttar Pradesh and was later placed under arrest, according

to the Meghalaya police. The sources said, right after the murder, Sonam Raghuvanshi left Meghalaya for Indore, where she met with his alleged lover Raj Kushwaha, the sources said. After staying in a rented room in Indore she travelled to UP with a hired driver, they said. The grieving family of Raja Raghuvanshi has demanded the harshest possible punishment for the accused, including his wife, and her alleged accomplice, saying that only capital punishment would deliver justice for the brutal crime. "Our only demand is that the government ensure all the accused, especially Sonam and those involved with her, are brought to justice and hanged. Sonam has already named those responsible, and action must be taken accordingly," said Raja's brother Vipin Raghuvanshi.

Sonam's father, meanwhile, has defended his daughter, claiming the Meghalaya Police were framing her to cover up their own investigative lapses. The family of Raj Kushwaha has also defended him, insisting he is innocent and has been falsely implicated. According to his family, Kushwaha, the sole breadwinner, had only a professional relationship with Sonam and was incapable of such a crime. Kushwaha's mother, speaking to reporters, said: "My son is innocent. The police are lying. He never had any relationship with Sonam beyond work."

# SC Pauses Delhi HC Order Ousting Medicine System Head

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed an order setting aside the appointment of the chairperson of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine holding him ineligible for office. A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan issued notice to National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and others on the appeal filed by Vaidya Jayant Yeshwant Deopujari.



Deopujari challenged the June 6 order of the Delhi High Court, which allowed two petitions against his appointment as the NCISM chairperson. The commission's counsel informed the high court that the process of selection and appointment of the chairperson had commenced following which it directed the expeditious completion of the process. The high court also asked for its observations to be taken into account during the selection process. The petitions in the high court were filed by Ved Prakash Tyagi, former president of the erstwhile Central Council for Indian Medicine, and Dr Raghunandan Sharma. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had issued a circular on June 9, 2021 appointing Deopujari as the commission's chairperson. The petitioners alleged that Deopujari could not be appointed as the chairperson of the commission as he does not hold a postgraduate degree, mandated under the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020 (NCISM Act). The high court held Deopujari possessed a PhD degree whereas the requisite degree was MD or any other equivalent master's degree in any discipline of Indian System of Medicine. The PhD degree which was awarded to him by Pune University did not presuppose acquisition of lower qualification (Master's Degree in Ayurveda), it said. "We have no hesitation to hold that the expression 'Post-Graduate Degree' occurring in Section 4(2) of the NCISM Act, 2020 in the context it has been used would mean a Master's Degree (MD) in any discipline of Indian System of Medicine which the respondent does not possess and, therefore, he lacks the requisite qualification for being appointed to the office in question," the high court said. Deopujari, the high court noted, was admitted to the PhD course without undergoing the master's degree course, soon after graduating in Ayurveda (BAMS).

# SC refuses to reduce lawyer's sentence for abusing woman judge

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court today rejected a petition by a lawyer convicted of abusing a woman judicial officer in a court in Delhi. The top court refused to reduce the imprisonment sentence to 6 months and said, "Today, the majority of our officers in Delhi are women. They will not be able to function if somebody can get away like this. Think of their state," the bench commented orally. The bench of Justice PK Mishra and Justice Manmohan was hearing a plea against the order of the Delhi High Court, which upheld the conviction of a lawyer who used abusive language towards a woman judge in a challan matter inside the trial court. The lawyer used abusive, vulgar expletives after the judge had adjourned the matter. While hearing the plea, Justice Manmohan verbally remarked, "Just see the inspection report, the language used, we cannot even say in the open court". Justice Manmohan further said that if a stern view is not taken against such behaviour, women judicial officers would not be ensured a safe work environment. "Today, the majority of our officers in Delhi are women. They will not be able to function like this- if somebody can get away like this. Think of their state," the bench said.

The lawyer, Sanjay Rathore, was convicted by the trial court and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for the offence under Section 509 (intending to outrage modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code, 3 months under Section 189 (injury to public servant), and an additional three months under Section 353 (assault or criminal force against public servant to deter them from their duty).

# Delhi's temperature 'feels like' almost 50°C

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Indian Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert over heatwave in Delhi for the next two days amid residents grappling with unbearably high temperatures in the city, with a 'feels-like' temperature reportedly close to 50 degrees Celsius. With all five weather stations recording a surge in temperature, the weather department was warned of a heatwave in Delhi. Based on the warning for Delhi, the IMD has issued an orange alert for June 10 and June 11. This warning comes after the weather department stated that heatwave conditions are expected to prevail over Northwest India for the next four to five days. Delhi recorded its highest maximum temperature of the season at 43.8 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. This reading is 3.6 notches above the season's average as per the IMD.

Despite the temperature nearing 44 degrees Celsius, the real-feel temperature - or heat index - stood at 47.1 degrees Celsius. As per the IMD, the temperature in Delhi is expected to breach the 45 degrees Celsius mark in the next few days.

# India to face twice as many heatwave days, 43% rise in extreme rainfall

**NEW DELHI, (HS) :** A new study reveals that climate change is expected to cause a 43% increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events throughout the country, along with a two-fold rise in heatwave days in major Indian cities. It recommends establishing a climate observatory to provide real-time early warnings about extreme weather events to help minimise damage. Conducted by IPE Global and Esri India, the study titled "Weathering the Storm: Managing Monsoons in a Warming Climate" analysed district-level spatial and temporal assessments to develop heat stress scenarios for the years 2030 and 2040. It aimed to establish a connection between climate change and the increased frequency and unpredictability of extreme rainfall and heatwave events. According to the study, major cities in India, including Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Patna, Surat, Bhubaneswar, and Thane, are likely to experience a twofold increase in heatwave days by 2030. These rising heatwave conditions are expected to lead to more erratic and intense rainfall. "Extended heat wave conditions are likely to trigger more frequent, incessant and erratic rainfall events," said Abinash Mohanty of IPE Global, a co-author of the paper. The paper underlines the grim situation of climate change's impact.

# NaMo App Survey on Modi Government's 11 Years Gets Over 5 Lakh Responses in a Day

**New Delhi, (HS) :** To commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11 years in office, the Narendra Modi App or NaMo App has launched the 'Jan Man Survey.' The survey quickly gained significant traction, with over 5 lakh responses from citizens across India in a single day. This unique survey is designed to engage people actively in the democratic process, empowering them to express their opinions on key national issues and government initiatives. Announced by Prime Minister Modi through X, the Jan Man Survey allows people to share their feedback and opinions with the government directly. By collecting responses from all corners of the country, the survey ensures that the people's voices are heard and considered in shaping future policies. The Jan Man Survey is a dynamic survey hosted on the NaMo App that allows Indian citizens to express their views on a wide range of topics, ranging from national security and governance to cultural pride and youth development. With over 500,000 responses already (in 26 hours since launch), the survey has emerged as a critical tool for directly and meaningfully engaging with the public and ensuring that their voices contribute to the nation's development. To participate in the survey, citizens can



easily access it through the NaMo App in two distinct ways. It can also be accessed through the NaMo App Homepage: A banner on the homepage directs users to the survey.

Positioned as the second banner on the NaMo App, it gives easy access to the survey as one of the many activities, communicating the Modi government's policies over the last 11 years. The Jan Man Survey on NaMo App has witnessed overwhelming participation from citizens nationwide, with Uttar

Pradesh leading in response volume. A remarkable 77 per cent of respondents have completed the full survey, demonstrating the high level of engagement and interest in contributing to this national dialogue. Here are some of the top-performing states and constituencies by response volume. The top performing states include Uttar Pradesh with 1,41,150 responses, Maharashtra with 65,775 responses, Tamil Nadu with 62,580 responses, Gujarat with 43,590 responses and Haryana with 29,985 responses. Earlier

# PM Meets Members Of All-Party Delegations For Anti-Terror Outreach Effort

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday evening met members of multi-party delegations who had travelled to world capitals to convey India's strong stand against Pakistan-linked terrorism following Operation Sindoor. Members shared their experience with the prime minister, with the central government having already praised the work of the seven delegations comprising over 50 persons, mostly current MPs.

Former parliamentarians and ex-diplomats were also part of these delegations that visited 33 foreign capitals and the European Union. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already met the delegations and lauded their efforts in conveying India's strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Four delegations were led by MPs of the ruling alliance, including two from the BJP, one from JD(U) and one from Shiv Sena, while three were led by opposition MPs, one each of the Congress, DMK and NCP(SP). BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad and Baijant Panda, Congress' Shashi Tharoor, JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, DMK's Kanimozhi, and NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule led their delegations to different parts of the world.. The government had sent the multi-party delegations to portray a message of national unity in the fight against terrorism, with the likes of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi joining the ruling alliance members in championing the Indian cause abroad. Prominent former parliamentarians in the delegations included ex-Union ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad and Salman Khurshid.

on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to participate in a survey on the NaMo App regarding India's growth journey over the past 11 years. In a social media post on X, PM Modi shared a link to the portal and encouraged people to share their views through the 'Jan Man Survey' available on

the app. "Your views matter the most! Take part in this survey on the NaMo App and let us know how you view India's growth journey over the last 11 years. #11YearsOfSeva," the post read. The PM Modi-led NDA government is marking the completion of 11 years in office this year.

# 6815 Covid positives in India, 3 deaths reported in last 24 hours

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Covid is spreading rapidly, the number of cases is increasing with each passing day. The active cases crossed the six thousand five mark. Active cases have reached 6815. In the last 24 hours, 783 new infections have been detected in the country. The maximum number of 2053 infections has been detected in Kerala. Gujarat has the second highest infection after Kerala. 1109 infections have been detected. More than 500 cases in Delhi and West Bengal. As Covid infection is increasing, it has been advised to wear masks in crowded places. The Union Health

Ministry has also advised all the states to deal with the situation. States have been directed to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators and necessary medicines. In view of the Corona situation, the Karnataka government has appealed to the

guardians of school children. Those with cold, cough, fever and other symptoms have been refused to come to school. The biggest problem with Covid cases in India is the JN.1 variant is that it spreads very quickly between people. It has an additional mutation that helps it enter cells and weaken the immune system. Many doctors have said that the JN.1 variant is not so dangerous and people do not need to panic. In view of the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Kerala, the state health department issued guidelines to hospitals and health workers.

# Beyond Blame: A Collective Collapse, Not a Lone Officer's Failure

Sabyasachi K.

**Bangaluru, (HS) :** The stampede at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium is one of the most tragic events I've witnessed in my career as a reporter. I was there at 2 pm, lost in the euphoria with crowds dancing, singing, and waving RCB flags. Though I'm not an IPL fan and didn't watch the final, the atmosphere felt like India had won the World Cup. The joy was infectious-young and old, all united.

But by 4 pm, as I walked toward Cubbon Park, the mood turned. The crowd kept swelling. Police presence was minimal and clearly overwhelmed. Traffic was a nightmare; even walking became impossible. People began climbing gates, jumping walls. The guard at Gate 21 told me later, "I ran for my life. If I had stayed, I would've died too." No one foresaw the horror that would follow-11 young lives lost, over 40 injured. I felt ashamed, even complicit, for encouraging the frenzy. Everyone must introspect: the state government, the police, RCB, KSCA, media houses, and yes, the cricketers too, who danced on stage that night, basking in glory they didn't earn. Now, questions are being asked. Was it worth it? Who's to blame?



This isn't India's first stampede, and, sadly, it may not be the last. Legal action has begun-cases filed, some officers suspended. But the political class has emerged unscathed, offering only clichéd "shock and sorrow" statements. The suspension of the Police Commissioner, along with two senior IPS officers and two policemen, has sparked widespread debate. Was it fair, especially when the formal inquiry report is still pending? There seems to be collective failure across the board, yet accountability has been selectively enforced.

Who authorised the celebration on

such short notice? What warnings did the police give? Who made the final call? Until those answers are placed on record, it's hard to isolate blame. Suspending top cops without this clarity sends a demoralising message to the force. One young officer told me, "If the Commissioner can't protect himself, why should we follow orders?" Suspensions and transfers are part of the job, but this scale of action, even after a tragedy, has shaken the ranks. Former officers have joined in the protest. Even ex-Commissioner Bhaskar Rao, now with the BJP, has called for

the suspension to be revoked. Officers are urging the Centre not to ratify the state's suspension order. After all, this move suggests an admission of failure by the government, while shielding its top political figures. The state government's justification-that this was a private event and the Commissioner failed to brief ministers-is inadequate. Full facts must be disclosed before guilt is assigned. If there's clear evidence of negligence, action must follow-regardless of rank. But punishing selectively, without proof, undermines the institution.

One young IPS officer put it bluntly: "Fine, suspend the Commissioner. But then the Chief Minister, Deputy CM, and Home Minister should also step aside until the report is out. Take moral responsibility." This wasn't one person's fault. It was a monumental failure across agencies and leadership. Yes, legal action is essential. But real accountability requires that all responsible parties-including political leaders-share in the consequences, not just the limelight. Until then, this will remain not just a tragedy, but also a disturbing case of scapegoating in the face of collective collapse.



## Russia Downs 102 Ukrainian Drones Overnight

**Moscow, (H.S):** Russia's air defence systems intercepted and destroyed 102 Ukrainian fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles overnight, the country's Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday via its official Telegram channel. According to the ministry, the drones were neutralised between 9:50 p.m. Moscow time on Monday and 5:50 a.m. on Tuesday, across several regions in western and central Russia.

Forty-six unmanned vehicles were downed over Bryansk Oblast, 20 over Belgorod Oblast, nine each over Voronezh Oblast and Crimea, four each over Kaluga Oblast and the Republic of Tatarstan, three over Moscow Oblast, two each over Leningrad, Oryol, and Kursk Oblasts and one over Smolensk Oblast, said the ministry. Xinhua news agency reported. Ukraine's overnight drone strikes have forced a temporary suspension of flights in all airports serving Moscow and the country's second-largest city, St. Petersburg, but caused no damage, Russian officials reported on Tuesday.



Meanwhile, Russia launched a massive overnight drone and missile assault on Ukraine from Sunday night to early Monday, deploying 479 unmanned aerial vehicles in what Ukrainian officials called the largest drone attack since the war began over three years ago.

According to Ukraine's Air Force, the barrage - which also included 20 missiles of various types - primarily targeted central and western regions. The attack is part of an intensifying Russian summer offensive, as peace negotiations between the two sides remain deadlocked. Ukrainian air defence systems reportedly intercepted 277

drones and 19 missiles. Ten projectiles managed to hit their targets, injuring at least one civilian. However, these figures have not been independently verified. The aerial bombardment coincided with renewed Russian offensives along eastern and northeastern sectors of the roughly 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) front line.

Earlier, on June 8, Russia reported shooting down 131 Ukrainian drones within a 24-hour period, including 73 outside of its primary air defence coverage. The Russian Defence Ministry said the drones were intercepted over several regions, including Tula, Bryansk, Kaluga,

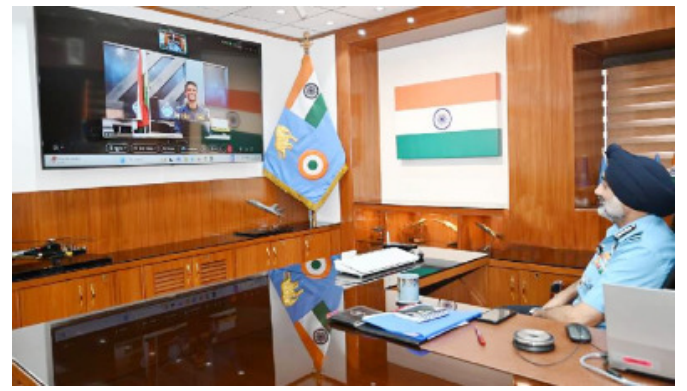
Oryol, Belgorod, Kursk, and Moscow, as well as over Crimea. Just days earlier, on June 6, Russian forces carried out another significant overnight attack on Ukraine, involving both drones and missiles. Ukrainian authorities said at least four people were killed and dozens more injured in that strike. All four fatalities occurred in Kyiv, where an additional 20 people were wounded, according to Mayor Vitali Klitschko. Ukraine's emergency services confirmed that three of the victims were first responders.

The National Police reported around 40 injuries nationwide, mainly in Kyiv, Lutsk in the northwest, and Ternopil in the west. They also noted that 38 facilities were damaged, including five apartment buildings and five private homes. Ukraine's Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said that during the June 6 attack, Russia launched 407 drones, 38 cruise missiles, and six ballistic missiles. Ukrainian forces managed to shoot down about 200 drones and around 30 missiles.

## 'All The Best', IAF Wishes Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla For Historic Axiom-4 Mission

**New Delhi, (H.S):** As Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla prepares for a journey into space aboard the Axiom-4 mission, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Tuesday extended heartfelt wishes to its officer and crew. The much-anticipated mission to the International Space Station (ISS), originally slated for June 10, has been postponed by a day due to unfavourable weather conditions. In a statement posted on X, the IAF wrote:

"As Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla prepares to embark on Axiom-4 space mission tomorrow, Chief of the Air Staff and all Air Warriors of IAF wish him and the entire crew of Axiom-4 all the best for a safe and successful trip to the International Space Station. This will add a new chapter to the Indian Space Odyssey. Touch the sky with glory!" Group Captain Shukla, a distinguished officer of the Indian Air Force, is set to become one of the few Indians to visit the ISS, joining an elite cadre of Indian astronauts following the



footsteps of Rakesh Sharma and others. His mission is being facilitated by Axiom Space, a US-based private space company, in collaboration with SpaceX and international space agencies. The four-member Axiom-4 crew, including Shukla, will lift off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The launch is now scheduled for June 11 at 8.00 a.m. ET (5.30 p.m. IST). The mission has faced multiple delays, having initially been scheduled for May 29. It was first rescheduled to June 8 and then to June 10 before being

pushed to June 11 due to persistent weather concerns. Dr V. Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO, confirmed the latest postponement via social media: "Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganyatri to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2025 to 11th June 2025," he posted.

The mission marks a significant step in India's expanding role in global space exploration, especially as the nation prepares for its own ambitious Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

## About 700 US Marines Being Mobilised in Response To Los Angeles Protests

**Los Angeles, (H.S):** About 700 US Marines have been mobilised to respond to the protests in Los Angeles, the second-largest city in the country. The Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, based at US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California, will join the thousands of National Guard troops who were activated by US President Donald Trump over the weekend without the consent of California's governor or Los Angeles mayor, according to the report.

The deployment of the full Marine battalion marks a significant escalation in Trump's use of the military as a show of force against protesters, Xinhua news agency reported quoting CNN. Like the National Guard troops, the Marines are prohibited from conducting law enforcement activity such as making arrests unless Trump invokes the Insurrection Act, which permits the president to use the military



to end an insurrection or rebellion of federal power, said the report. Twentynine Palms is around 220 kilometres east of downtown Los Angeles. The Marines mobilised in Los Angeles will be tasked with defending federal property and personnel, two US Department of Defence officials was quoted as saying by NBC News,

while ABC News reported that they're expected to arrive over the next 24 hours. Trump took extraordinary action on Saturday by calling up 2,000

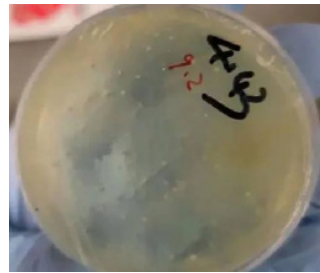
National Guard troops to quell immigration protests in the Los Angeles region, making rare use of federal powers and bypassing the authority of Governor of California Gavin Newsom. About 300 National Guard troops arrived early Sunday morning in downtown Los Angeles.

More than 1,000 protesters clashed and faced off with National Guard troops in the city on Sunday during the demonstrations against immigration raids that swept across California over the weekend.

## Another Chinese National Arrested For Smuggling 'Roundworms' into US University of Michigan

**Michigan, (H.S):** Another Chinese scientific researcher has been arrested and charged with smuggling biological materials into the United States for use in a University of Michigan laboratory, intensifying a growing agroterrorism investigation involving foreign nationals. Chengxuan Han, a Chinese national, has been accused of smuggling roundworms into the US and making false statements, according to an announcement from the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District.

Han is currently pursuing a PhD from the College of Life Science and Technology at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, China. The federal complaint states that in 2024 and 2025, Han shipped four packages from China to individuals affiliated with a laboratory at the University of Michigan. These packages contained concealed biological material. Authorities say Han arrived at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on June 8, 2025, on a J1 visa. During a customs inspection, Han allegedly lied about the nature of



the packages and denied having sent any biological materials to the United States. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers found that Han's electronic devices had been wiped clean three days before her arrival. After the inspection, Han was interviewed by FBI agents. She reportedly admitted to having sent the packages and confirmed that they contained biological materials related to roundworms. Han also acknowledged that she provided false information to CBP officers during the inspection. Han is scheduled to appear in federal court in Detroit on Monday afternoon. "The alleged smuggling of biological materials by this alien from a science and technology university in Wuhan, China - to be used at a University of Michigan

laboratory - is part of an alarming pattern that threatens our security," said US Attorney Jerome F. Gorgon, Jr. in a statement. "The American taxpayer should not be underwriting a PRC-based smuggling operation at one of our crucial public institutions," he added. The FBI, CBP, and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI) are jointly investigating the case. Officials have indicated that this incident is part of a broader inquiry into agroterrorism-linked smuggling by Chinese researchers at American institutions.

Previously, two Chinese nationals were charged in a separate but related case involving the smuggling of *Fusarium graminearum*, a biological pathogen considered a potential agroterrorism agent. The fungus is known to cause head blight in cereal crops, resulting in billions of dollars in agricultural losses. It also produces toxins that can affect both human and animal health by inducing vomiting, liver damage, and reproductive issues. According to an FBI criminal

complaint, 34-year-old Zunyong Liu brought the pathogen into the US in July 2024 during a visit to his girlfriend, 33-year-old Yunqing Jian. Liu later admitted to transporting the fungus to conduct research at the same University of Michigan laboratory where Jian worked. Federal authorities found electronic communications between the two that confirmed their collaboration, leading to charges of conspiracy, smuggling, false statements, and visa fraud.

Investigators also discovered that Jian had received Chinese government funding for research on the pathogen and that her devices contained evidence of her ties to the Chinese Communist Party. Cheyyorvea Gibson, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Detroit Field Office, emphasised the seriousness of the case, stating that the pair's actions posed "an imminent threat to public safety." As concerns mount over the implications of biological smuggling, US authorities continue to investigate potential threats to national security, agriculture, and public health.

## Greta Thunberg, Activists on 'Selfie Yacht' To Be Deported: Israel

**Tel Aviv, (H.S):** Twelve passengers, including climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, who were aboard a yacht bound for Gaza with humanitarian aid, have been brought to Ben Gurion Airport for deportation after the vessel was seized in the Israeli port of Ashdod. The deportation process follows their interception at sea by Israeli forces. Taking to X, the Israel Foreign

Ministry said, "The passengers of the 'Selfie Yacht' arrived at Ben Gurion Airport to depart from Israel and return to their home countries." "Those who refuse to sign deportation documents and leave Israel will be brought before a judicial authority," it added. The group of activists, part of a mission organised by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), had set out on a journey to

deliver critical aid to Gaza, including rice and baby formula. The boat, named Madleen, was reportedly intercepted about 185 kilometres west of the coast of Gaza. A video released by the group showed Israeli forces boarding the vessel as the activists stood with their hands raised, with one of them stating that nobody was injured during the operation. Following the seizure, Israeli

Defence Minister Israel Katz said the activists were taken for medical examinations on Monday evening and shown a "horror film documenting the October 7 massacre" committed by Hamas. "When they saw what it was about, they refused to continue watching," Gallant claimed, accusing Thunberg and the other activists of ignoring Hamas's atrocities and "closing their eyes to the truth."

## China Carefully Assembling Deep-Sea Mining Strategy

**China, (H.S):** In a world hungry for crucial resources, China may not be poised to start deep-sea mining but it is planting seeds for such operations in a meticulously planned economic and geopolitical strategy. The world's oceans, both international waters and those under national jurisdiction, are rich in minerals and metals, like cobalt, nickel and copper.

These are important for building electric car batteries, for instance, and other technologies as countries try to transition away from fossil fuels. China "is an energy-thirsty country. It will look for resources everywhere," including the deep sea, said Julia Xue of Shanghai Jiao Tong University. But she said China is not particularly anxious over the issue, although recent developments -- one company is itching to be the first to start mining the sea bed -- may put more pressure on Beijing. A Canadian firm, The Metals Company, has filed an application with the United States to begin undersea mining in international waters. Using its American subsidiary, it acted after President Donald Trump,



bypassing international negotiations, signed an executive order in April to speed up the permit-issuing process for such mining in US and international waters. Trump cited an obscure 1980 US law that says American citizens can explore for and recover deep sea minerals in areas beyond the country's jurisdiction. Environmental groups are outraged by Trump's order, arguing that a wild hunt for the potato-sized, metal-containing nodules could harm fragile undersea ecosystems. The Canadian company initially said it would submit its request to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a body which has jurisdiction over the ocean floor

in international waters. The Metals Company says it ignored this authority because of its slow pace in talks on adopting a mining code that establishes rules for exploiting seabed resources. The United States is not an ISA member. A long-time observer of those talks who spoke on condition of anonymity said China is not particularly worried about who starts mining first. "For them it's more about dominance, staying competitive in the game, and giving the impression that you can't mess with us," the observer said. With that goal in mind "they're definitely developing the technology and putting the strategic agreements in place,"

Alex Gilbert, a researcher at the Payne Institute for Public Policy at Colorado School of Mines, told AFP. For instance, China has reached an agreement with the Cook Islands to explore for minerals in that Pacific country's waters. Another tiny Pacific nation, Kiribati, also says it is exploring a deep-sea mining partnership with China. This approach is "more geopolitical than economic," said Emmanuel Hache of the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, noting Beijing is using undersea mining as a lure to cement greater diplomatic support as it exerts power.

China holds five contracts handed out by the ISA to look for resources in the Pacific and Indian Ocean sea beds and these contracts cover all types of undersea mineral resources. China's is the largest number of the 22 contracts the organization has granted. "From a research perspective, we have been continuously getting closer. And from a technical perspective, we have been continuously improving," said Chen Xuguang, a researcher at Ocean University of China. In 2024 a Chinese

prototype deep-sea mining vehicle called Pioneer II, developed by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, set a national record by operating at a depth of more than 4,000 meters (13,100 feet). State-owned Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation told AFP that later this year it plans a seabed nodule collection test. Still, China is not as advanced technologically as The Metals Company, experts say. "I would characterize China as being two to four years behind them in terms of their technology," said Gilbert in Colorado.

Hache, the French expert, put the gap at five years. But China has an advantage over firms like the Canadian one in recovering and processing nodules: its companies are supported by the state and China has infrastructure for processing metals. The observer of the international seabed talks said China does not need seabed mining for metal supply, "but maybe geopolitically, in the context of maintaining their control over the commodities market." China wants to keep its options open, this person said.

## Lee Promulgates Special Probes Into Ex-President Yoon, His Wife

**Seoul, (H.S):** South Korean President Lee Jae-myung on Tuesday promulgated bills mandating special counsel probes into a botched martial law bid by former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and corruption allegations against his wife, former first lady Kim Keon Hee. Lee signed off on three bills in his first legislation since taking office last week, which also calls for a special counsel probe into the drowning death of a Marine during a rescue operation for flood victims in 2023. The bills were approved at a Cabinet meeting earlier in the day. Lee expressed hope that the special counsel investigations will transparently uncover the truths behind the related allegations, according to the presidential office. "Lee's enactment of the three special counsel bills, the first since taking office, was intended to meet the public's expectations for addressing insurrection charges and restoring constitutional order, as reflected in the presidential election," presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung told reporters.

The probes would add legal pressure on Yoon, who was removed from office in April and is now on trial for charges of leading insurrection and abuse of power related to martial law. One of the bills targeting Yoon mandates a permanent special counsel to investigate 11 charges, including insurrection and military mutiny, over his failed martial law bid in December. The bill, previously vetoed and discarded twice, has been reintroduced with an expanded scope, increasing the number of charges from six to 11. Another bill against the former first lady is aimed at launching a special probe into allegations of stock price manipulation, her acceptance of a luxury bag and interference with the election nomination process. Yonhap news agency reported. The third bill proposes a special counsel probe into alleged interference by the presidential office and the Ministry of National Defence in the military's investigation into the death of a Marine during a search-and-rescue operation in July 2023. The number of prosecutors to be dispatched could reach up to 120 - the largest size ever - and the investigations could extend over a period of 170 days.





## RBI's Mammoth Rate Cut To Diligently Perform A New Troika: SBI Research

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The RBI monetary policy committee's (MPC) decision to go for a relatively mammoth cut, while changing the stance to neutral, should not be confused with a pause on future rate cuts trajectory in the medium term, but rather a semblance of adopting flexible manoeuvrability on part of a conscious regulator to diligently perform a new troika, a State Bank of India (SBI) Research report said on Tuesday.

The Central Bank aims to manage the yield curve and ensure adequate liquidity in the ecosystem, while renewing the pledge to keep growth sacrosanct, mindful of inflationary concerns and checkmating any bubbles formation, said Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, SBI."The current focus



of RBI is to support the momentum in capital formation for more durable growth," Dr Ghosh mentioned. The recent 50 bps cut in repo rate is the first such instance post 2020."

We have analysed the history of almost 25-year period of jumbo rate actions and found that jumbo reductions are more often than the jumbo rise. A jumbo action is mostly a reaction to a major key

event and aftermath (like global financial crisis (GFC), Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine conflict, etc)," the report noted.

The report found that whenever the liquidity situation is in deficit mode at the time of rate action (increase/decrease), it moved into surplus mode after 6 months. In the current rate easing cycle, RBI has already reduced repo rate by 100 bps and the

external linked benchmarked interest rates reduced automatically."If we consider that 80 per cent of the retail and MSME loans portfolio linked to EBLR (External Benchmark Lending Rate), then around Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 will be saved by the households," the report mentioned.

India's household debt is relatively low (42 per cent) compared to other emerging market economies (EMEs) (49.1 per cent). However, it has increased over the past three years."Interestingly, the increase is driven by a growing number of borrowers rather than an increase in average indebtedness," according to the report. Also, the poverty estimates by SBI and World Bank are remarkably similar. SBI estimates it at 4.6 per cent in 2024, down from 5.3 per cent in 2023 as estimated by World Bank.

## Digital payment revolution unfolding in India attracts global attention: Govt

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The digital payment revolution unfolding in India has attracted global attention, a government document said. India's digital payment system has been linked to various countries globally, a booklet, released on completion of 11 years of the NDA-ruled government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said.

"The digital payment revolution unfolding in India has attracted global attention. In March 2025, approx Rs 24.77 lakh crore worth of 1,830.151 crore UPI transactions were carried out on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI)," it said. The UPI system is now used by close to 460 million individuals and 65 million merchants, it said. Digital payments are being made for even the smallest of



transactions, with nearly 50 per cent classified as small or micropayments, it said. As regards Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), it said, the Modi government has effectively deployed technology and digital tools for ensuring transparency and plugging leakages in governance. For example, it said, the introduction of DBT and Aadhaar authentication in various welfare schemes have led to the

elimination of lakhs of ghost beneficiaries, enormous savings for the government, and timely delivery of benefits to citizens. Between 2015 and March 2023, the government saved more than Rs 3.48 lakh crore due to the distribution of benefits through DBT, it added. During the last 11 years, it said, crores of households got access to some of the most basic facilities including bank account, insurance.

## SIP Inflows Hit All-Time High of 26,688 Crore in May



**New Delhi, (H.S):** Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) inflows reached an all-time high of Rs 26,688 crore in May, from Rs 26,632 crore in April, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Tuesday. The highest-ever inflow of SIP shows that people are investing in mutual funds from a long-term perspective.

According to the AMFI data, the number of contributing SIP accounts increased to 8.56 crore in May, from 8.38 crore in the previous month. "Investor preferences are evolving. There's a clear lean toward equity and hybrid funds, driven by long-term growth outlooks and a

cautious stance on debt. Retail participation is also surging. The mutual fund revolution is becoming mainstream," said Narender Singh, smallcase Manager and Founder of Growth Investing. The total assets under management (AUM) under SIP rose from Rs 13.90 lakh crore in April to Rs 14.61 lakh crore.

SIP AUM was around 20.24 per cent of the total AUM of the mutual fund industry in May - from 19.9 per cent in April. According to the AMFI data, the SIP stoppage ratio weakened in May. About 59 lakh SIP accounts were closed in May, while SIPs were closed or matured for 43 lakh accounts. The total number of SIP accounts in May was 9.06 crore."

SIP numbers over Rs 26,000 crore is very encouraging, which implies that the fresh investment preferred route has been SIP than lumpsum," said Akhil Chaturvedi, Executive Director and Chief Business Officer, Motilal Oswal AMC. Meanwhile, Assets Under Management (AUM) for equity mutual funds rose to Rs 72.2 lakh crore in May, up 4.85 per cent from nearly Rs 70 lakh crore in April.

Investors are staying invested, but becoming selective. Equity flows are slowing, debt is stabilising and hybrid/passive categories are thriving. Market momentum and SIP discipline continue to support AUM growth, said analysts.

modest outflows in March as well. The renewed traction in May signals a gradual return of investor interest, likely driven by resilient gold prices and sustained global uncertainties that reinforce gold's appeal as a strategic hedge,"

said Nehal Meshram, Senior Analyst-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India. The uptick also shows that investors are regaining confidence in gold, as it continues to offer stability amid mixed signals from equity and bond markets. Furthermore, the

relative stability in gold prices through May have provided a more attractive entry point for investors looking to build or rebalance allocations toward safer assets.

The resurgence in flows also highlights the growing role of Gold ETFs in strategic asset allocation, especially as investors seek to manage risk in an increasingly uncertain investment environment." While inflows are yet to reach the levels seen earlier in the year, the trend suggests a gradual and measured return of interest in gold,

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The Railway Ministry has permanently closed its ambitious project for the conversion of the Mathura-Vrindavan railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge at an estimated cost of Rs 402 crore, terming it "uneconomical". The North Central Railway (NCR) zone, which has jurisdiction over the Mathura-Virmdavan section, had mooted a proposal a few months ago to terminate it permanently due to opposition from locals.

"The Proposal of North Central Railway regarding closure of the aforementioned uneconomical branch line of North Central Railway has been examined by the (Railway) Board. Accordingly, Competent Authority has approved permanent closure of Mathura Vrindavan section of Agra Division of North Central Railway," the Railway Ministry said in a letter dated June 6, addressed to the General Manager of the NCR zone. It further said the decision has been taken with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate of the Ministry of Railways and asked



the zone to initiate necessary action. Railway officials associated with the project said the work on the rail link between the two cities started about two years ago and a significant amount of time and money had been spent on laying of tracks from both sides, Mathura as well as Vrindavan. A section of experts also said the cancellation of the project posed a question mark on the Railways' foresight and planning and may cause a significant financial loss. The Railway Board had sanctioned the conversion of the metre gauge rail line between Mathura and Vrindavan to broad gauge in 2017-18 at an estimated cost of Rs 402 crore. A contract costing

Rs 191 crore was awarded to a company, ISC, in February 2023, following which dismantling of the existing track and the process of laying the new track was started on March 31, 2023. The contractor was supposed to finish the work in two years by March 30, 2025. Another contract costing Rs 38 crore for the construction of the station building at Krishna Janmabhoomi and Vrindavan, including platforms and foot-over bridges, was awarded to HOG Projects in May 2023. The metre gauge track, constructed by the Britishers more than 100 years ago, was in operation with a one-coach rail bus that operated twice a day till early 2023. The service

was stopped for the construction of the broad gauge. The gauge conversion work was started from Vrindavan but local residents raised objections when the work began from the Mathura side in June 2023.

The railway officials said the locals used to cross the track easily as the metre gauge was at the ground level and the speed of the rail bus was also slow. According to officials, the new track was supposed to be constructed on an embankment. The locals objected to it, saying they would find it inconvenient to cross the track easily as they used to do earlier. On September 1, 2023, a meeting was held between senior officials, including those from the NCR zone, Mathura district magistrate, municipal commissioner, protesting residents and their representatives among others. On September 1, 2023, a meeting was held between senior officials, including those from the NCR zone, Mathura district magistrate, municipal commissioner, protesting residents and their representatives among others.

## Gold ETFs Rebound In May, Record Net Inflow of 292 Crore

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) regained investor interest in May after two months of net withdrawals, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data showed on Tuesday.

Gold ETFs recorded a net inflow of Rs 291.91 crore in May 2025, marking an improvement from the marginal outflow of Rs 5.82 crore in April, according to the AMFI data." Flows into the category had remained muted over the past two months, following

underpinned by its long-term diversification benefits," said Meshram. According to Motilal Oswal Private Wealth's May Alpha Strategist Report, in Q1 2025, the gold market experienced a historic surge, with prices reaching record highs amid escalating geopolitical tensions, tariff wars, and a weakening US dollar.

Investment demand saw a dramatic 170 per cent on-year rise, driven by a strong rebound in gold ETF inflows, particularly in Europe, Asia and India.

## Union Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Engages with Swiss Industry to Deepen India-Switzerland Economic Partnership



**New Delhi, (PIB):** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, held extensive engagements with Swiss industry leaders on 9th June 2025 in Bern, Switzerland, aimed at deepening economic cooperation and exploring new avenues under the recently signed Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The Minister met with leadership from several premier Swiss companies across diverse sectors with discussions focused on enhancing synergies between Indian and Swiss enterprises, with a special emphasis on innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable manufacturing.

The Minister extended a warm invitation to Swiss companies to expand their footprint in India and take advantage of the country's dynamic and rapidly growing market. Shri Goyal assured the leadership of India's unwavering commitment to fostering a conducive business environment through transparent regulatory processes, a robust intellectual property regime, and pro-investment policy frameworks. He encouraged Swiss businesses to explore India not just as a market, but as a strategic hub for manufacturing, talent, and

innovation. Following these strategic discussions, the Minister chaired two focused roundtables with sectoral leaders from Swiss industry-covering Biotech & Pharma, Healthcare, and Precision Engineering, Defence, and Emerging Technologies. These sessions, hosted with the support of the Indian Embassy in Switzerland, highlighted India's scale, affordability, and rising innovation ecosystem. The Minister called on Swiss businesses to leverage the dedicated EFTA Desk at Invest India for handholding and facilitation support.

He reiterated India's willingness to work towards regulatory harmonization and mutual recognition agreements, highlighting India's proactive stance on building reciprocal bridges to encourage Swiss and Indian investments. In addition to industry interactions, the Minister also met with members of the Switzerland Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). He lauded the chapter for their contributions and for upholding the high standards and global reputation of the ICAI, while strengthening the India-Switzerland professional and business ecosystem. Swiss industry leaders across a diverse

range of sectors-including biotechnology, precision manufacturing, healthcare, automation, defence, cybersecurity and advanced materials-expressed strong confidence in India's trajectory as a global economic powerhouse and an innovation-led growth destination. Companies commended India's unique strengths: a vast and dynamic market, growing middle class, world-class engineering and scientific talent, and a policy environment that actively promotes ease of doing business, IP protection, and technology partnerships. For many, India is not only a promising market but also an ideal base for manufacturing, R&D, and co-creation of globally competitive solutions.

Several firms indicated active interest in forming joint ventures, scaling operations, and localizing production to serve both Indian and international markets. From cutting-edge cancer therapies and cell sciences to industrial automation, fibre optics, space technologies, and digital security, Swiss companies underscored their alignment with India's developmental priorities and sectoral growth plans. The sentiment was one of strategic alignment and long-term commitment.

## Vedanta Resources eyes investment grade rating, plans to cut debt to USD 3 bn by FY27

**New Delhi, (H.S):** London-based Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL) is targeting an investment grade credit rating on the back of its sustained deleveraging, the proposed demerger at its Indian subsidiary, Vedanta Ltd, and its robust growth, operational efficiencies and strong financial performance. VRL is committed to reducing its total debt from the current USD 5 billion to USD 3 billion by FY27 while strengthening its critical minerals, transition metals, energy and technology portfolio.

A person aware of the matter said that VRL, at a recently held investor conferences in Hong Kong and Singapore, shared that the company is looking for an immediate credit rating upgrade to BB levels by proactively refinancing and prepaying its high-interest cost USD 550 million private credit facility due in August 2026. In the medium term, the company plans to achieve an investment grade rating on the back of its improved debt profile, financial and operational performance. Vedanta highlighted its robust earnings, healthy free cash flows, ongoing growth projects, strengthened balance sheet, and future deleveraging



plans to the investors, the source said. An investment-grade credit rating signifies a company's strong capacity to meet its financial obligations and is considered a safe investment for institutional investors. It also allows a company to borrow money at lower interest rates, attracting a broader range of investors and gaining easier access to global debt markets. At present, VRL has a credit rating of B+ by S&P,

Fitch & Moody's, with S&P giving a 3-notch upgrade to the company in FY25. The investment grade rating is linked to VRL's debt reduction target (to USD 3 billion) by FY27, so they are looking for an investment grade in about two years from now. Sources indicate that VRL is currently working with banks to refinance and pre-pay a USD 550 million private credit facility that will expire in August 2026. It is likely to use a bank loan with single-digit interest rates to refinance the facility, with savings

of 800-900 basis points, resulting in interest cost savings of USD 47 million, said the person quoted above. The company expects to achieve an upgrade to BB levels right after the refinancing and will continue to work towards an Investment Grade credit rating of BBB-, in the medium term, which is considered the first rung of investment grade rated companies.

Vedanta Ltd (VEDL), through its Indian subsidiary, is in the final stages of its demerger process that will result in the creation of four new sector-focused, market-leading entities and will help unlock value for existing shareholders while offering investors an opportunity to invest in pure-play businesses. The company expects the demerger to be completed by September 2025. Over the past three years, the company has been on a path of sustained deleveraging and refinancing. Between March 2022 and March 2025, VRL reduced its net debt from USD 8.9 billion to

USD 5 billion, the lowest in a decade. Vedanta Group's net debt to EBITDA ratio has fallen from 3.3x in FY20 to 2x in FY25, and per VRL's subsidiary's earnings presentation, it is expected to fall further to 1x in the mid-term. In FY25, VRL also refinanced its entire USD 3.1 billion bond portfolio, resulting in a significant reduction in average coupon rate by 250 bps while extending the maturity up to FY34.

This will help in further improving the company's credit profile. In its recent earnings call, VEDL's management opined that a normalised dividend of about 6 per cent yield might contribute USD 800 million receipt at VRL. Together with brand fees, dividend (paid by Vedanta Ltd. to VRL) and operating free cash flows, VRL's overall target of reaching USD 3 billion debt in two years remains intact. In April, the subsidiary VEDL declared its FY25 results, achieving its highest ever annual revenue of USD 17.8 billion and the second highest annual EBITDA of USD 5.1 billion, with its key businesses, Zinc India and Aluminium, in the top quartile and top decile of the global cost curve.





## Wamiqa says she has 'seen enough in life to not be affected' by the release fiasco of Bhool Chuk Maaf

Bhool Chuk Maaf had intended to skip its theatrical release and stream directly on OTT. However, after a legal dispute, the film released in theatres on May 23.

Bhool Chuk Maaf, the Rajkumar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi-starrer time loop comedy, was ironically stuck in its own time loop of release. The makers had initially decided to skip its theatrical release and get a digital release. However, multiplex chain PVRINOX had moved the court challenging its producers' decision. Subsequently, the film was released in theatres on May 23. Now, in an interaction with Just Too Filmy, Wamiqa opened up about whether she learned anything about the entire issue of the film and the weight of holding on to such a film. Wamiqa said, "It did nothing to me. I have seen enough in life to not be affected by this! It was a very big moment for me. I could have been

crushed. I could have gone through multiple feelings. But I did not, because I have seen enough." She explained, "I have been rejected too many times. I have seen things being promised and then not happening. I have put all my faith into projects where I thought that this would just change my career or change my life, and it did not. I understood that it is not in my control. In all of that, my

growth was still happening. Slow and steady." It began when Maddock Films initially stated that the movie would skip its theatrical release on May 9 and get a digital release on Prime Video on May 16 due to the recent events and the heightened security drills across the nation following Operation Sindoor. The multiplex chain PVRINOX had moved the court challenging its producers' decision to release it on Prime Video directly. PVRINOX Limited (PVRINOX), Maddock Films Pvt. Ltd. (Maddock), and Amazon MGM Studios have reached an understanding and now the movie will be released in theatres on May 23.

Bhool Chuk Maaf revolved around a soon-to-be-married man who realises that he is stuck in a time loop and keeps reliving the day before his wedding. It is available to watch on Prime Video.

## Housefull 5 box office collection 100 cr. on day 4

Tarun Mansukhani's star-studded film Housefull 5, starring Akshay Kumar, Nargis Fakhri, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh and Soundarya Sharma, has been performing well at the box office. As per the latest update on Saclink.com, the film has now crossed the 100 crore mark. The report points out that Housefull 5 collected 13.50 crore as per early estimates on its fourth day of release. The drop in collections on Monday was expected since it is a weekday, but the film remained steady even then. On Sunday, Housefull 5 registered its highest single-day collection so far at 32.5 crore. The total collection now stands at 101 crore. On Monday, Housefull 5 had an overall 19.78% Hindi Occupancy. The film has now surpassed the India nett collections of Akshay's previous film, Kesari Chapter 2. It had made 92.53 crore. Will Housefull 5 beat the haul of Sky Force at 149 crore? The next few



days are crucial for the film to arrive at that answer.

Housefull 5 tells the story of three men called Jolly being suspects for the murder of a rich industrialist on a cruise ship. The film has two different endings with two different killers. "The first half is spent establishing the conflict and delivering the franchise's usual fare: mistaken identities, someone's girlfriend being someone's wife, and the expected private-part jokes and innuendos. Nothing is spared in the effort to make you laugh, but

most punchlines land only in instalments," read an excerpt from the Hindustan Times review of the film. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala's production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the comedy stars an ensemble cast that includes Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Fardeen Khan, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Ranjeet, Johnny Lever, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Chunky Panday, Dino Morea, Sonam Bajwa, and Soundarya Sharma.

## 'Farhan got 45 lakh, I earned just 45K': Varun's about quit TV



Screenwriter-director Varun Grover recently opened up about his journey in the entertainment industry. He may be known for writing films like Masaan, Superboys of Malegao and most recently Homebound, but his career began with writing for Indian television. While talking about his experience, Varun mentioned an incident that pushed him to quit working for the small screen.

Varun, has written for comedy shows like The Great Indian Comedy Show and Ranvir Vinay Aur Kaun. However, writing for Oye! It's Friday!, a celebrity talk show hosted by Farhan Akhtar, gave him second thoughts about his career in the TV industry. In an interview with Lallantop, Varun recalled that it was during Oye! It's Friday!, he realised that there was not much value added from the performer's

end to his written material. Also, he got to know about the wide earning gap between writers and performers. "That was also the first time I got to know how much actors make doing such shows. Even though I had an idea prior to that as well, I did not assume the gap to be so big. But once I learnt about it - maybe it's false information and somebody told me this only to provoke me; I can't say for sure - I realised the gap was huge. He was being paid 45 lakh for each episode, while I was earning just 45,000," Varun said.

He also spoke about the scale of production, revealing how lavish the set was. "The show was shot in Yash Raj Studio. It was a really good, expensive set. Had I stolen one of those twinkling balls hanging there each day, my daily 45,000 would've been sorted. That was the first time I saw such a dazzling set," Varun said in jest.

## CID fans react to Daya and Shreya's unexpected reunion

The cult crime show CID is back in limelight, and this time for an unexpected reunion between two characters. In Episode 49, Daya (Dayanand Shetty) meets Shreya (Janvi Chheda) after several years. Shreya's daughter, who was kidnapped soon after her birth, also made a return. Daya picked her up in his arms and was seen getting emotional. This clip surfaced on social media platforms after the episode aired, and ardent fans of the show reacted to this reunion.

In the scene, Daya is seen overwhelmed with emotion as he sees Shreya with her daughter. He picks up the little girl in his arms in front of all the other officers. In the episode, Shreya says she is happy to see them after such a long time. Fans posted clips and screengrabs of this scene on Instagram and Reddit, where several others joined in to admit that they were not expecting this emotional reunion. A user



on Reddit said, "I don't know whether Shreya is back full time or for a cameo, but they seriously need to get them married! I don't think Shreya is with her husband anymore." A second fan said, "I really want them to reunite. This looks like a wonderful family." "If she is back in CID full time, then good. But if it is a cameo, then a beautiful closure is needed," said another.

On an Instagram reel, which posted the clip from the show, a fan commented: "CID: Ek

Prem Katha!" Another said, "CID Daya ki adhuri kahani (Daya's unfinished love story)." A second fan wrote, "I cried." Will Shreya stay for a longer role? Or will she be present for a special appearance? Fans are eager to know what happens next and if the show will address more details from her storyline in the upcoming episodes. CID is created by BP Singh and produced by him and Pradeep Uppoor. The show airs on Sony TV and also streams on SonyLIV and Netflix.

## India win INR 12.32 cr despite not qualifying for WTC final

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Despite not qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 final, Team India will earn almost as much as the winners of the last two editions, New Zealand (2021) and Australia (2025).

This was possible due to ICC's decision to pump up the WTC purse to \$3.6 million. India, the runner-up of the last two editions, missed out on a hat-trick WTC final appearance at Lord's after finishing third in the WTC points table for the 2023-25 cycle. South Africa and Australia qualified for the final to be played on June 11 at Lord's after finishing No.1 and No.2 in the points table. Australia will be the first team to have a shot at defending the WTC title. They had beaten India in the final at the same venue two years ago to lay their hands on the maiden WTC title. The winners of the WTC Final, to be played between Australia and South Africa, will take home a purse of \$3.6 million, more than double of what New Zealand (2021) and



Australia (2023) earned after winning the previous two finals. The losing finalists, too, will earn more than the earlier top prize money, assured of more than \$2.1 million this time. The winners of the previous two editions (New Zealand and Australia) won \$1.6 million each, while the losing finalists (India) got \$800,000. "The increase in

prize money exhibits the ICC's efforts to prioritise Test cricket as it looks to build on the momentum of the first three cycles of the nine-team competition," the ICC said.

This time, India will get \$1,440,000, which is roughly around 12.32 crore, for finishing third. The third edition saw South Africa finish on a high with 2-0

home series wins over Sri Lanka and Pakistan, ending with 69.44 percentage points. Defending champions Australia finished with 67.54 points while India finished with 50.00 after leading the table for much of the time. A 0-3 defeat to New Zealand at home and a 3-1 loss in Australia hurt India's chances of advancing to their third consecutive WTC final.

## Nicholas Quits all of International Cricket



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Former West Indies T20I captain Nicholas Pooran has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29. Having debuted in 2016, Pooran became the team's most capped T20I batter and its highest run-scorer, leaving behind an exceptional legacy in the shortest format of the game. Pooran, who was actively involved in the IPL 2025 season with the Lucknow Super Giants, called the decision "difficult" and expressed gratitude toward fans, teammates, and his family. In an emotional Instagram post, he reminisced about his journey, highlighting the pride of wearing the West Indies maroon jersey and leading the team as captain. Over his career, Pooran amassed over 4000 international runs and led West Indies in multiple formats. His power-hitting abilities made him a force in T20 leagues worldwide. He remains a dominant presence in franchise cricket, ranking among the top T20 six-hitters globally.

## Siddharth's Rant against BCCI, IPL after RCB Video

**New Delhi, (HS) :** As the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 title, exactly a week ago on June 03, the entire cricketing world went gaga, singing praises of the franchise. Virat Kohli, the owners of the franchise, and the fans had to wait for 18 years before they could feel what it meant to be an IPL champion. Even Siddharth Mallya, son of RCB's former owner and a fugitive, Vijay Mallya, shared a video on Instagram celebrating the team's victory. However, the video was taken down by Instagram over copyright infringement.

In a video on Instagram, Siddharth revealed that he was suspended from posting anything on Instagram due to a copyright infringement issue. But on Monday, he decided to share his part of the story. Junior Mallya even claimed that he dug deep to find out it was the IPL



authorities who asked Instagram to take down his video "For some reason, Instagram decided to take the video down and proceeded to ban me from interacting on the app," he said in the video. He added: "The ban was lifted yesterday. It turns out that after I got to the bottom of this, the video was brought down because IPL complained and said that I have violated their copyright police, which is absolutely nuts to me. The video was less than a

minute long, and it was about me and my emotions. It's crazy that they took away my opportunity to celebrate and interact with fans. I am upset about it, and it's sad on the part of IPL. Such is life."

After RCB's title triumph, Mallya shared an emotional video of himself celebrating the team's victory against Punjab Kings in the final. The video also contained a TV screen in which the 'copyrighted content' from the broadcast could be seen.

## Madrid's new street circuit to debut in 2026



**LONDON, (HS) :** A new street circuit in Madrid will make its debut on the Formula 1 schedule in September of next year, replacing the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola. F1 announced its schedule for 2026 on Tuesday, setting the first Grand Prix at the new Madrid track in the Spanish capital for Sept. 13. Spain gets two races for 2026 as Barcelona stays

on the calendar for the final year of its contract. It faces an uncertain future after that. F1 has previously said Madrid's race will be known as the Spanish Grand Prix. The new schedule doesn't specify a new name for Barcelona's race, which has been known as the Spanish Grand Prix since 1991. Spain's second race means Italy drops back to having one Grand Prix as Imola leaves the schedule. The historic track, a favorite with drivers, returned to schedule in 2020 as a late addition amid the COVID-19 pandemic and has hosted five races since. Its contract was up this year. The 2026 F1 season will start March 6-8 in Melbourne with the Australian Grand Prix and concluded with the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix from Dec. 4-6. With a revamped racing calendar and groundbreaking regulatory shifts, the 2026 Formula 1 season is poised to deliver high-speed thrills and historic milestones.

## Deepika Launches Badminton School

**Mumbai, (HS) :** Deepika Padukone has announced the launch of the Padukone School of Badminton (PSB), an initiative aimed at promoting health, discipline, and inspiration through sport. The school is named

in honor of her father, Prakash Padukone, one of India's greatest badminton legends. Taking to Instagram on June 10, Deepika shared, "As someone who grew up playing badminton, I've experienced firsthand how

this sport can shape a person—physically, mentally, and emotionally. With PSB, we hope to bring the joy and discipline of badminton to people from all walks of life and inspire a healthier, more focused generation." Deepika

will serve as the founder of PSB, while her father will mentor and advise the institution. The initiative aims to make badminton more accessible and instill its values in young people across the country.