



MODI-FIED BHUBANESWAR!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an impressive roadshow and inaugurated several projects worth over Rs 18,600 crore marking the completion of one year of BJP government in Odisha

'Year of Good Governance'

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded Chief Minister Mohan Majhi and his team for their impressive performance since assuming office, calling it a year of good governance in Odisha. The PM said the BJP government in Odisha entirely focused on public service and earning people's trust in the first year.

"Today, 20th June, is a very special day. Today, the first BJP government in Odisha has successfully completed one year. This anniversary is not just of the government; it is the anniversary of the establishment of good governance. This one year was dedicated to public service and public trust. I heartily congratulate the people of Odisha. I also congratulate Chief Minister Mohan Majhi and his entire team," he said while presiding over the state-level commemorative function. He also emphasised on how the double engine government has been fulfilling all the guarantees given during elections. "When the BJP government in Odisha is completing its first year, all of you are busy preparing for Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath. Mahaprabhu is our idol and inspiration and with the blessings of Mahaprabhu, the issues related to the Srimandir have also been resolved. I congratulate Mohan ji and his government for respecting the requests of crores of devotees. As soon as the government was formed here, all the four doors of the Srimandir were opened. Ratna Bhandar has also been opened and this is not a matter of political victory or defeat. This has been done to respect the faith of crores of devotees," he said.

Modi slams Congress & BJD

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Prime Minister strongly criticized the Congress and BJD-led governance of the past, accusing them of fostering corruption and underdevelopment. He asserted that the "Congress model" had, for decades after Independence, halted development across the country, with corruption as its key feature. Drawing parallels, the PM said, "The situation in Assam was once marked by violence, and Tripura, too, had faced unrest. But today, under

the BJP, these states have become models of peace and progress."

Highlighting Odisha's previous struggles, Modi said, "Under the past government, Odisha suffered from poverty and corruption. Farmers were left helpless. But now, the double-engine government-BJP at the Centre and in the State will bring double the benefits to the people." Modi also acknowledged the large Odia diaspora in Surat, Gujarat, and said they, too, would benefit from

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Modi hai toh desh safe hai: CM

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, marking the first anniversary of the BJP-led government in Odisha, delivered a spirited address in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thanking him for his unwavering support to the state and the people of India. Addressing the public, CM Majhi recalled, "Exactly a year ago, we formed our government in Odisha in the presence of PM Modi. Today, the Prime Minister is once again here with us—this reflects his affection and dedication towards Odisha."

The Chief Minister praised PM Modi's leadership, stating that under his guidance, India has



become the fourth-largest economy in the world and is fast moving toward the \$5 trillion milestone. "You have rightly proved the motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'," he said. Referring to the recent success of Operation Sindoor, CM Majhi hailed it not only as a decisive strike against terrorism but also as a symbol of hope and empowerment for women and the youth. "People used to say, 'Modi hai toh desh safe hai,'" he noted. In a special mention, CM Majhi also extended birthday greetings to President Droupadi Murmu, calling it a matter of pride that the state was celebrating its development journey on her birthday.



PM holds massive roadshow

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held an impressive roadshow and greeted people in Bhubaneswar soon after his arrival in the city to attend a grand event marking the completion of one year of BJP government in Odisha. Thousands of enthusiastic supporters lined up on both sides of the road as PM Modi's motorcade proceeded from Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) to the Janata Maidan. On his arrival at the airport, the Prime Minister was accorded a rousing welcome. He was received among others by Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, MP Sangeeta Singh Deo and a number of senior BJP leaders.

Enthusiastic fans waved flags and chanted slogans as the PM's motorcade passed through amid tight security. The celebratory atmosphere underscored the growing support for the BJP in Odisha, a state where the party recently secured a historic mandate. Several cultural troupes from across the state also performed on the occasion as Modi was greeted with a traditional welcome in Odia style. The route featured vibrant Odia folk music and dance performances, showcasing the state's cultural heritage. Modi travelled through Capital Hospital Square, AG Square, Raj Bhawan Chowk, Power House Square, 120 Battalion Square, Jaydev Vihar Square and Nalco Square to reach Janata Maidan.

Concluding his roadshow, the Prime Minister reaches Janata Maidan accompanied by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and BJP state president Manmohan Samal. Elaborate security arrangements were made for the PM's visit. A total of 135 police platoons, 16 DCP-rank officers, 33 additional DCPs, 93 ACPs, 100 inspectors, and 450 SIs and ASIs have been deployed in the city to maintain order during Modi's visit. The city has been declared a 'No-Drone, No-Fly' zone from the airport to the event venue to ensure safety.

Year of Achievements

Highlighting the achievements of his government over the past year, CM Majhi said he has actively connected with the people by visiting every corner of Odisha. "I have shared their joys and sorrows, and we have worked to bring meaningful change to their lives," he said. Among the key welfare initiatives listed were input assistance of Rs 800 per quintal for farmers, expansion of PM-KISAN and CM-KISAN schemes, launch of Subhadra Yojana, empowering 17 lakh 'Lakhipati Didi's' and healthcare support through Ayushman Bharat and Gopabandhu Yojana.

"Under your (PM Modi) leadership, the entire nation is reaching new heights of development. Over the past 11 years, India has witnessed consistent progress. Today, India has become the world's fourth-largest economy, and we are rapidly moving towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy. India's extreme poverty rate has decreased to 5.3% from 27.1%. This is proof of how

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Declined Trump invite to visit Land of Mahaprabhu: PM

The PM also mentioned about his recent visit to Canada to attend the G7 Summit. "During my visit, US President Donald Trump called me. He said, 'Since you're already in Canada, why not come to Washington too? Let's have a meal and talk.' He extended a warm invitation. I respectfully told the President of the United States, 'Thank you for your kind invitation, but it is essential for me to go to the sacred land of Mahaprabhu'. And so, I humbly declined his offer, because your love and the devotion to Mahaprabhu drew me irresistibly to this holy land," he said.



Panchayats, redefining access to quality education in rural areas.

Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya

Bhubaneswar: In a landmark move to transform grassroots education in Odisha, the ambitious Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya scheme of the state government was launched at the mega event held at Janata Maidan. The initiative aims to establish one model primary school in each of the state's 6,794 Gram

Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana

Modi also launched 'Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana,' an initiative for transforming birthplaces of the state's notable figures into cultural hubs with museums, interpretation centres, statues, libraries, and public spaces to preserve heritage and boost tourism. "Odisha is not just a state, it is a shining star in India's rich heritage. For centuries, Odisha has enriched Indian civilization and culture. That is why, today, as the mantra of 'development and heritage' becomes the foundation of India's progress, Odisha's role has grown even more significant. Over the past year, Odisha has truly embraced and embodied this mantra of both development and heritage," Modi said.

Lakhipati Didi felicitated

Modi also felicitated some women achievers from across the state, who included some "Lakhipati Didi's". 'Lakhipati Didi' is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development focused on empowering women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The goal is to help them achieve an annual household income exceeding Rs one lakh by adopting sustainable livelihood practices. The state tops the list of creating 16.60 lakh 'Lakhipati Didi's' in the country.

100 electric buses

PM Modi also flagged off 100 electric buses under the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) system, promoting eco-friendly urban mobility.



Odisha's Vision Document unveiled

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Prime Minister also unveiled Odisha's Vision Document, focusing on 2036, marking Odisha's centenary as India's first linguistic state, and 2047, India's independence centenary, at a state-level event, celebrating one year of the first BJP government in the state, at Janata Maidan here. The vision aims to transform Odisha into a Dollar 500 billion economy by 2036 and a Dollar 1.5 trillion economy by 2047. PM Modi noted that the Odisha government has successfully completed one year, laying the foundation for a brighter and more accountable future for the state.



Motorcade makes way for ambulance



Bhubaneswar (DMC): The motorcade of Prime Minister gave way to an ambulance during his roadshow on Friday. A video showed the convoy slowing down to allow the ambulance to overtake as people lined up on both sides of the road to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister. Modi was proceeding to Janata Maidan in the city to attend the first anniversary celebration of the BJP government in Odisha in a roadshow from the airport amid tight security.

105 projects worth Rs 18,600 cr inaugurated



Bhubaneswar (DMC): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched 105 development projects valued at over Rs 18,600 crores. The projects included drinking water and irrigation, health infrastructure, rural roads and bridges, national highways and railway infrastructure. Railway projects such as the third and fourth rail lines between Sarla-Sason and the fourth rail line between Jharsuguda-Janga were also launched.

Boudh gets rail connectivity for the first time as PM flags off train

Bhubaneswar (DMC): A new chapter was added to Odisha's railway development with the inclusion of Boudh district in India's railway map. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Sonepur-Purunakatak section of Khordha Road-Bolangir railway line, built with Rs 1,376 crore.

This 44-kilometre stretch marks the first-ever railway line to reach Boudh district, fulfilling a long-standing aspiration of its residents. The Sonepur-Purunakatak line is part of the larger 301-kilometre-long Khordha Road-Bolangir railway corridor, and the launch of this section will enable rail movement between Sonepur



and Purunakatak for the first time. Following the inauguration, two weekly express trains will begin their operations from Boudh. The Boudh-Bhubaneswar New-Boudh Weekly Express will depart from Boudh every Monday at 7:00 AM and reach Bhubaneswar New via Bolangir, Sambalpur, Angul, and Naraj by 6:15 PM. It will

return from Bhubaneswar (New) at 11:00 PM the same night and arrive in Boudh at 10:30 AM on Tuesday. The Sambalpur-Boudh-Sambalpur Weekly Express will leave Sambalpur on Sundays at 7:25 PM and reach Boudh at 11:55 PM on the same day.

Additionally, the Bhubaneswar-Sonepur-Bhubaneswar Inter City

Express and two pairs of Bolangir-Sonepur shuttle passenger trains will begin operations up to Purunakatak. Alongside this, the Prime Minister also laid foundation stones and inaugurated various other railway projects across the State worth more than Rs 2,750 crore, all dedicated to improving connectivity and infrastructure in Odisha.

G7 Summit

When US President Donald Trump announced a «ceasefire» between India and Pakistan in May - claiming he had used trade to nudge both sides - New Delhi issued a sharply worded rebuttal. It also released a chronological account of the diplomatic exchanges in that fraught period to say that there had been no US mediation. One month on, in a phone call with Trump - who left the G7 summit in Canada early, ostensibly due to America's involvement in the Iran-Israel conflict - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has surely and firmly set the record straight. Washington played no role in the suspension of hostilities with Pakistan, he said. No discussions had taken place at any level regarding trade, and Operation Sindoor is still ongoing. According to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, PM Modi underlined that «India has not accepted any mediation in the past, doesn't accept it at present and will not accept it in the future». Historically, India has refused to accept third-party mediation and successive Indian governments have worked to ensure that Islamabad's attempts to internationalise Kashmir find no traction. Today, with far greater national power and a stronger presence on the global stage, India charts its own course in navigating the unpredictability of the Trump era, and other challenges. PM Modi rightly kept terrorism centre stage during his G7 Outreach Session address, calling on all countries to take firm action.

Apart from being his first foreign tour after Operation Sindoor, and other than his call with Trump, PM Modi's presence at the G7 summit in Kananaskis was significant for another reason. It came amid a detente in India-Canada relations, which had been severely strained during the final 15 months of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's tenure. The breakthrough with Canada is a welcome development. Under Trudeau, who had publicly accused India of involvement in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil, diplomatic ties hit rock bottom. The de-escalation process with Canada began with the election of Mark Carney in March. At the G7, both sides agreed to restore their high commissioners and resume trade talks that could pave the path towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement. Negotiations are also underway to establish a joint working group on transnational crime. That said, Carney's government would need to do much more to address New Delhi's concerns about Ottawa's attitude towards Khalistani separatists. Separating domestic politics from diplomacy - something Carney's predecessor failed to do - could expedite the process of repairing ties. This G7 summit was held in anxious times, amid the escalating Iran-Israel hostilities. It is a moment when global powers, including India, need to come forward to push Tel Aviv and Tehran towards a ceasefire. By not stepping up to that imperative - the joint statement urges «de-escalation» but stops short of calling for a ceasefire - the G7 missed an opportunity and showed how limited its leverage may be.

21st June

Yoga Day



Celebrated on June 21, International Yoga Day celebrates the physical and spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world stage. While it is an important source of exercise and healthy activity millions join in and practice on a daily basis. For many, these routines are a way to connect the body, mind and soul in a way that has existed for centuries.

Stretch your body and relax your mind like never before on International Yoga Day on June 21. For International Yoga Day, people around the world are all set to take out their yoga mats and start exercising, but they might not be aware that yoga goes back centuries. Yoga is considered to be an ancient practice that originated 5,000 years ago in India. Yoga was developed as a way to interconnect the mind, body and soul to step closer into enlightenment. As the practice became popular in the west, it became popularized as an exercise and relaxation method, with claims to help the body's general well-being, alleviate physical injuries and chronic pain. The idea of International Yoga Day was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2014, during his speech at the UN General Assembly, where a resolution to establish June 21 as International Yoga Day was introduced by India's Ambassador, Asoke Kumar Mukerji.

The date of June 21 was chosen as it is the Summer Solstice, the day where there is the most sun out of every other day of the year. Overall, it received support from 177 nations, the highest number of co-sponsors for any UN resolution, proclaiming June 21 as the International Yoga Day. On June 21, 2015, nearly 36,000 people, including Prime Minister Modi, and many other high-profile political figures from all around the world, performed 21 asanas (yoga postures) for 35 minutes in New Delhi in what was the first International Yoga Day, and the day has been celebrated around the globe ever since.

Yoga practices begin in the Indus valley civilization for spiritual and physical upliftment. Patanjali starts writing the yoga sutras, the foundation text of yoga. In his historical speech, Swami Vivekananda calls for an end to religious tolerance and fanaticism. Swami Vivekananda publishes the book «Raja Yoga;» his interpretation of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras in English. The world starts celebrating June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

From Alliance to Enmity: Israel-Iran Rivalry; Its Lessons for World & India



Dr. Debidutta Pattnaik

A Historic Bond: The relationship between the Jewish people and ancient Persia (modern-day Iran) dates to the 6th century BCE. When Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in about 537 BCE, he allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. The Book of Ezra honours Cyrus as a divinely appointed liberator, and some scholars regard him as an early Zionist. Subsequent Persian rulers, including Darius and Artaxerxes, continued to support the Jewish community. The story of Esther, which is commemorated during the Jewish festival of Purim, also reflects the close bond between Jews and Persians. For centuries, Jews lived peacefully in Persia, forming a sizable and respected community. They enjoyed religious and cultural freedom, especially under leaders like Nadir Shah, who held Jewish scholars in high regard and supported the translation of their sacred texts.

The Turning Point: 20th Century Shifts: This long-

standing alliance began to shift during the 20th century. Under the Pahlavi dynasty (1925-1979), Iran was one of the few Muslim-majority countries to establish ties with Israel. They cooperated in trade, oil, and security, with Israel's Mossad and Iran's SAVAK working together during the Shah's rule. However, this cooperation collapsed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when Ayatollah Khomeini transformed Iran into an Islamic Republic. He labelled Israel the «Little Satan» and the U.S. the «Great Satan.» Iran cut off relations with Israel, championed the Palestinian cause, and established the Quds Force under the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to support anti-Israel groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Khomeini also declared the last Friday of Ramadan as Quds Day, calling for solidarity with Palestinians. Since then, Israel and Iran have viewed each other as existential threats. Israel fears Iran's nuclear ambitions and influence over militant groups. Iran, on the other hand, considers Israel an illegitimate state. This has led to proxy wars and covert operations, with both countries targeting each other directly or through regional actors. The tension reached new heights in June 2025, when Israel conducted airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities following International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports of violations, and Iran responded with missile attacks. Why the Conflict Escalated? The conflict is rooted in both ideology and power politics. Iran's post-revolution regime sees Israel as a



foreign implant in the Muslim world, while Israel considers Iran's threats a continuation of centuries of Jewish persecution. Both countries are also striving for influence in the Middle East. Iran's «Axis of Resistance»-which includes Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis-aims to pressure Israel from multiple fronts. In response, Israel has strengthened ties with Gulf nations and the U.S. The 2024 collapse of Hezbollah weakened Iran's regional position, giving Israel the upper hand to act more openly. Israel's increasing concern about Iran's nuclear program, especially reports of uranium enrichment to weapons-grade levels, pushed it to strike pre-emptively. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, but Israel remains unconvinced. Historical memories also shape public opinion in both nations. For Iran, ancient Persian pride fuels nationalist sentiment in the face of foreign threats. For Israel, the fear of annihilation draws parallels with past traumas, including the Holocaust and biblical stories like that of Haman.

Lessons for the World: The Israel-Iran story shows how once-strong alliances can deteriorate

due to ideological shifts. The close Jewish-Persian ties that lasted for centuries were undone by the Islamic Revolution, showing how fragile international relationships can be. The 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), showed that diplomacy can ease tensions, even if temporarily. But recent events show how quickly things can escalate if talks break down. The rivalry also reminds the world of the dangers of proxy wars and regional arms races. Iran's backing of armed groups and Israel's covert operations have dragged other nations into their conflict. Moreover, the recent rise in oil prices due to tensions in the Strait of Hormuz-through which 20% of global oil passes-highlights the economic risks of instability in this region. This underlines the need for countries to diversify energy sources and reduce reliance on conflict-prone areas. Lessons for India: India has close ties with both Israel and Iran. Israel is a key partner in defence, innovation, and agriculture. Iran is vital for oil imports and access to Central Asia via the Chabahar port. India must carefully balance these

relationships, maintain neutrality while protect its economic and strategic interests. India should also strengthen its energy security by investing more in renewable energy and sourcing oil from multiple countries to reduce vulnerability to Middle East tensions. As a leader in the Global South with a legacy in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India could play a role in promoting dialogue in the region, much like its earlier efforts to find a solution to the Palestine issue in 1947. Finally, the breakdown of Jewish-Persian relations serves as a warning against internal divisions. India must safeguard its own diversity by promoting tolerance and rejecting extremism. Strong international ties are built not just on trade and security, but also on shared values and mutual respect.

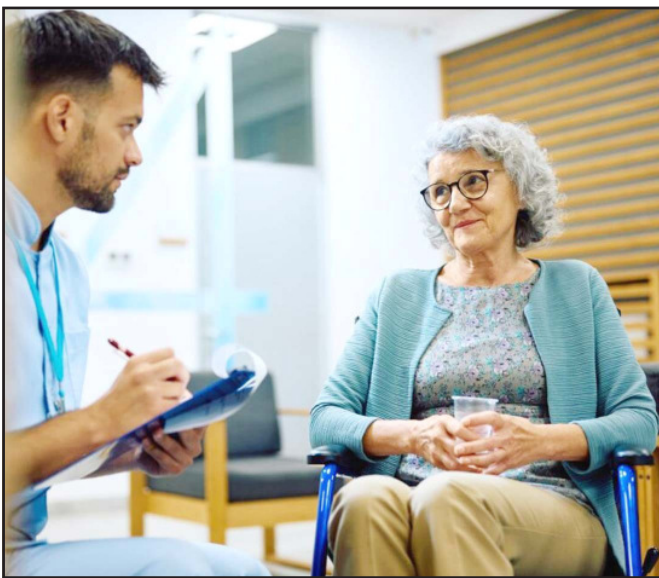
Conclusion: The Israel-Iran conflict, though rooted in a shared history of cooperation, has turned into one of the most dangerous rivalries in the world. It serves as a powerful reminder that alliances can crumble and tensions can spiral if diplomacy fails. For the world, the message is clear: peaceful engagement and energy diversification are critical. For India, the challenge is to maintain balanced diplomacy while positioning itself as a responsible global power committed to peace. As history shows, even the deepest divides can be bridged-but only with patience, dialogue, and a commitment to coexistence. Jai Hind!

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Bond of health will serve as bridge between social service

Vijay Garg

The fact is not hidden from anyone that Punjab's government hospitals are grazing with an increasing burden of patients. The ultimate refuge of the treatment of poor and lower middle-class patients of the society is the place of the government hospital. Ironically, government hospitals are struggling with the lack of doctors themselves. Talking about the data, half the post in approved posts for government hospitals is currently vacant. The new-generation doctors have been curbing the government hospitals from functioning because of the absence of patients' pressure and modern medical facilities. Undoubtedly, thick paycheck and facilities in the private sector attract them. Here, the fascination of foreign countries is also very tempting to them. That is why not only rural, there is a huge shortage of doctors in urban government hospitals. Expert practitioners lack more. To overcome this problem, the Punjab government has come up with a bond policy for the students of MBBS and BDS from this session. Of course, it was extremely important to take such an adventurous step to deal with the chronic shortage of doctors in the public health system. Under the new rules, doctors who graduate from medical colleges run by the state government have to mandatorily serve in government healthcare institutions for two years. The bond amount of twenty lakh rupees will have to be paid if they do not. At the same time, graduates under the All India quota have to mandatorily give one year of service to government healthcare institutions. However, this policy is binding, but it is a



responsible attempt to ensure that some benefit of investment in state medical education should also be received by the people of the state. It is logical that the state government also gives huge subsidy to government medical colleges. In other words, a contribution is given by taxpayers for the seats of medical colleges of the state. It would be appropriate that students must make some contribution to the society after graduation. It is also important that the state governments are heavily lacking in doctors in hospitals. In rural areas, then the situation is very dire as usually doctors are reluctant to work in rural areas. It is reported that there are fifty per cent of the vacancies in 3,847 posts of approved doctors in government hospitals in the state. Patients suffer as lack of medical facilities for lack of adequate physicians in government hospitals. They have to be obliged to take expensive treatment of private hospitals under compulsion. Over the years, it has been trending that doctors have been edging to public medical service in search of private practice or better opportunities abroad. Due to which a major difference has

arisen in the middle of urban-rural healthcare. Surely bond policy will strive towards removing this imbalance. Along with this, the opposition to the bond policy of the Katipya student groups also makes sense. But instead of eliminating the bond policy, their concern is meant to be better working conditions. Also issues of better career progression need to be addressed. Undoubtedly, a year or two-year mandatory tenure is a reasonable demand, especially when the move can strengthen the public health system. Well Punjab government's bond policy is not a new thing. Already many central institutions and other states have similar models working. Punjab will have to ensure that effective implementation of this policy. Have timely appointments and young graduates get adequate incentives. Undoubtedly, there cannot be more delays to improve health services. Undoubtedly, this bond bond will serve as a bridge between education and social service. The medical fraternity, called the second form of God, will also have to uphold this trust.

Retired Principal
educational columnist
Eminent Educationist street
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Punjab

Yoga: Deathless minds, ageless bodies

Dr. Arundhati Devi

Sage Patanjali has always been an icon of Indic tradition. “Hail to him who purified body, mind, and speech with texts on medicine, yoga and grammar,” proclaims King Bhojadeva, circa 10th century CE. A millennium later, the savant-saviour's name has morphed into a globally recognisable brand. The declaration of International Yoga Day by the United Nations topped that trend. After that huge endorsement, now comes flummery, which is but insincere flattery: Scientific American dubbed a well-known yogic technique of alternative nostril breathing simply as “cardiac coherence breathing”. There were protests, mainly from the Indian diaspora and yoga buffs, over what is allegedly a case of cultural misappropriation. One Twitter-user called it yet another instance of ‘turmeric latte’, referring to a popular flavour of coffee sold across America.

“The next thing we know,” she added, “it will be patented and will be sold back to us as a superior way of living!” These are not ill-founded fears. Patenting of Bikram Choudhury's ‘hot yoga’ is one precedent. Another is the rebranding of Transcendental Meditation. Originally christened TM by its ‘inventor’ Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the technique was shorn of its culture-specific halo by Herbert Benson at Harvard Medical School and given a more mundane moniker of ‘Relaxation Response’. Forget patent infringement, the million-dollar question now is: would yoga and its techniques remain “as sweet”, to paraphrase the Bard, “with any other name”? Renaming it in ‘just so’ scientific terms misses its essence, which goes beyond somatic technique into the psychic or ethereal realm even from the preparatory stage. Traditional texts advise neophytes to practise in ‘holy’ seclusion. The aim is not insular or asocial: the practitioner needs to be shielded from cynicism, doubt and lack of faith. For without shraddha, faith; utsaha, enthusiasm; and abhyasa



vairagya, sustained and detached practice, yoga is nothing.

Also, yoga's ultimate goal is kaivalya, state of Self-realisation. This is deemed unfeasible without anugraha, a competent guru's grace. Nearly half of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras deal with vibhuti pada, supernatural powers and kaivalya pada, the state of unitary bliss. All these, by definition, lie outside the ambit of the reductive, atheistic approach of science. Certainly, yoga deserves all the empirical scrutiny it can muster. That is also the fundamental challenge posed by Taoism to Western – read sceptical – science. Both paths promise immortality and freedom to the assiduous aspirant. Both are richly endowed with legends of siddhas, deathless adepts – masters not just of mind-body techniques but also of alchemy and magic. Nothing is impossible for these siddhas, who are supposedly able to read the mind of an ant or outrun a cosmic asteroid without batting an eye. Prying into their secrets does seem a little like breaking a butterfly upon a wheel.

Director & Secretary,
International Indecency
Prevention Movement, Cuttack

Diarrhoea situation under control: Minister



Bhubaneswar (DMC): Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, on Friday informed that the overall diarrhoea situation in Odisha is under control. Speaking after a review meeting via video conference with the Collectors of Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Cuttack,

Kendrapara and Bhadrak, the Minister informed that both the Central team and state government officials have confirmed that the disease is spreading through contaminated water. The Health Minister further said that water samples are being

tested in affected areas, and wherever poor water quality is detected, those sources and areas are being sealed. He added that the number of diarrhoea patients is gradually decreasing and the Odisha government is actively working to manage the situation while

also raising awareness among the public. Actions are being taken against the sale of stale food, with raids being conducted as well as fines being imposed and collected, the Health Minister stated. In a related development, Odisha Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj visited the Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital on Thursday to meet patients undergoing treatment.

He also held a review meeting with the Collector, Chief District Medical Officer, and other key health officials in the CDMO's conference hall. Currently, 158 individuals are receiving medical treatment in Jajpur district. Amid these developments, the Orissa High Court has expressed concern over the diarrhoea outbreak in Cuttack. The Odisha government continues to monitor the situation across affected districts, aiming to contain the disease and ensure the health and safety of residents through coordinated measures.



Odisha launches school safety week



and light fixtures. Under the School Safety Policy 2016, the campaign will involve active participation from School Management Committees, headmasters, teachers, and students.

Special emphasis will be placed on maintaining safe drinking water, functional toilets, and secure classroom environments. A structured five-day program will include repair of unsafe school roofs, securing of areas near ponds, and proper placement of school

signboards. Additional measures include cleaning of school gates and staircases, health check-ups for students, and ensuring the availability of sanitizers and thermometers.

Authorities aim to ensure that schools are not only centers of learning but also safe environments for all children. The initiative reflects the state's commitment to prioritizing student safety and institutional preparedness across Odisha.

Deadline for first round of UG admission extended

The Higher Education Department of Odisha government on Friday extended the deadline for the first round of admissions to undergraduate (UG) courses for the academic session 2025-26. As per an official notification, the extension aims to assist students who were selected in the first round of admission but were unable to pay the requisite admission fees or report to their allotted institutions on time. Eligible students can now complete their admission formalities until 3 pm on June 21.

They can exercise the Freeze/ Slide/ Float option, pay the admission fees, and report at their respective institutions by the extended deadline. The Department has urged all applicants to complete their admission formalities within the revised timeline to confirm their seats and avoid disqualification. The department has stated that eligible students can use this extended period to fulfil pending requirements without any penalty.

Man killed over property dispute, 3 held

Cuttack (DMC): In an incident at CDA Market Complex in Cuttack City's Buxi Bazaar locality, a man was allegedly killed by his brother, sister-in-law, and nephew over a property dispute. Police arrested the three accused in this murder case on Friday. Police have and launched a manhunt for another person 'involved in the crime'.

According to sources, in a shocking case of familial betrayal, a man was allegedly murdered by his younger brother, sister-in-law (elder brother's wife), and nephew over a family feud. The incident had occurred at CDA Market Complex in Cuttack's Buxi Bazaar. The deceased was identified as Ashok Barik. Two

days ago, his body was spotted inside the market complex. Following a probe, a team of the Commissionerate Police-Cuttack arrested three accused: Ashok's brother Umesh Barik, sister-in-law Saraswati Swain, and nephew Swayam Prabhu Sricharan. They will be forwarded to court later in the day.

Meanwhile, Cantonment Police are continuing their search for one more person suspected to be involved in the crime. Police sources have confirmed that the motive behind the murder was an attempt to seize Ashok's share of the ancestral property. The gruesome nature of the crime, coupled with the fact that it was orchestrated by close family members, has sent

shockwaves across the local community. "We have arrested three of four accused persons including the deceased's younger brother, elder brother's wife and nephew. One more person linked to the murder case is absconding now," Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo, said.

A property of the family was previously sold in Salepur locality. However, share of Ashok and his mother from the sales proceeds were kept by the victim man with him. They had disputes over another property of the family at Sankarpur in Cuttack. A conspiracy was hatched against Ashok and subsequently the man was killed," the DCP stated.

Naveen leaves for Mumbai for surgery

Bhubaneswar (DMC): BJD leaders gathered at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Friday to see off party president and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik as he departed for Mumbai for a scheduled cervical arthritis surgery on June 22 at a private hospital.

They wished him a successful operation and quick recovery. Cervical arthritis is a common, age-related condition that affects bones, discs, and joints of the neck. He revealed about his health-related complication and his scheduled visit to Mumbai for the treatment on his X handle two days ago. "Jai Jagannath. As per medical advice, I will undergo a



procedure for cervical arthritis on June 22 at Kokilaben Dhiru bhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai, coordinated by my doctor, Dr. Ramakant Panda. With Lord Jagannath's blessings and the good wishes of Odisha's people, I look forward to returning soon to serve you all," he wrote. Former minister Niranjan Pujari noted that the emotional bond Odisha's people share with Naveen was evident in the large airport gathering.

"He will undergo a procedure for cervical arthritis on June 22. His personal doctor, surgeon Dr. Ramakant Panda, will be in charge of the procedure. He sought the blessings of the people of the state and Maha Prabhupada Jagannath to come back and serve the people of

the state. I have received many messages wishing him well. It has been made clear by him that the party's political affairs committee will look into day to day working of the party," former MP Amar Patnaik told the media. In Naveen's absence, the BJD's day-to-day affairs will be handled by the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the party.

Debi Prasad Mishra, senior vice president of BJD (Head quarters), will coordinate activities and programmes between different wings of the party, according to the office order. "We pray to Lord Jagannath for his swift recovery so he can return to lead BJD, challenge the BJP, and restore our party as the state's top force," BJD leader Prafulla Samal added.

OMC's sickle cell anemia awareness drive kicks off

Bhubaneswar (DMC): On the occasion of World Sickle Cell Day, the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) launched a significant awareness campaign focused on the prevention of Sickle Cell Anemia.

This important initiative was carried out in rural areas located near OMC's mining operations, aiming to educate local communities about this critical health issue. The campaign was effectively delivered through OMC's flagship mobile health van program, known as "Arogyabahini." Special

awareness camps were organized in several key mining regions, including Jiling, Daitari, Laxmipur, Kaliapani, Shukati, and Sereda, which fall under the operational areas of Koraput, Keonjhar, Jajpur, and Barbil.

During these camps, healthcare professionals provided the public with vital information about Sickle Cell Anemia. They explained the causes of the disease, methods of prevention, and details about managing the condition, creating widespread public awareness. This campaign is part of OMC's broader

commitment to community health through its "Arogyabahini" initiative. This program currently operates with six mobile health units that actively serve 85 identified villages situated around OMC's mining sites.

The "Arogyabahini" vans go beyond providing basic medical services; they make quality healthcare more accessible and convenient for people in remote areas. Through this effort, OMC is bringing essential health services directly to the doorsteps of villagers. The program offers consultations with expert

doctors, primary healthcare, free medicines, and preventive screenings. It also provides specialized health support and education.

As a result of this sustained initiative, the "Arogyabahini" program has positively impacted the lives of more than 150,000 people, marking a major success in community healthcare. OMC's World Sickle Cell Day campaign, powered by the "Arogyabahini" program, shows a dedicated approach to addressing key health challenges in rural Odisha.

Nalco gears up for Yoga Day

Bhubaneswar (DMC): National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO), the Navaratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, is undertaking a series of initiatives for promoting Yoga, as a run-up to the celebration of the International Day of Yoga 2025, to be observed on 21st June. Reinforcing its commitment towards promoting health and well-being, NALCO is organising a Mega Yoga Camp at all its establishments on the International Day of Yoga.



As part of the month-long celebrations, a variety 'Yogabhyasas' sessions have been rolled out across different units and peripheral communities to incorporate yoga into the daily lives of employees, their families, and local residents. Yoga sessions have been conducted at various locations that includes Corporate Office, Mines & Refinery Complex, Damanjodi, Smelter Plant, Captive Power Plant (CPP), Coal Mines Division at Angul, and the Port Facilities at Visakhapatnam.

Employees, contractual workmen, and security personnel actively participated in these 'Yoga Break at Workplace' sessions, demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment towards adopting a healthy lifestyle. Special Yoga Break sessions were also organized exclusively for female employees and apprentices at the Mines & Refinery Complex, Damanjodi, encouraging greater participation of women in the wellness drive. NALCO's Regional offices across the Country also organized Yoga break session during the office hours for promoting employee's well-being and productivity.

Cong leaders stage day-long fast over crime against women

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Congress leaders and workers staged a nine-hour long fast in Bhubaneswar on Friday during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit accusing Odisha's BJP government of having failed in all spheres in last one year. Led by Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Bhakra Charan Das, the protesters focussed particularly on abnormal rise in crime against women in the state.

Within just one year of the BJP government, incidents of violence against women, rape, and gangrape have assumed

alarming proportions, they claimed. The Congress leaders also alleged collapse of healthcare system in the state in recent past. Senior leaders and workers of the party, including those from women, youth and student wings, took part in the hunger strike from 9 am to 6 pm.

Coming down heavily on the state government, the PCC President Bhakta Charan Das said, while an average of 7 cases of rape were reported daily during the previous government, this number has surged dangerously to 15 per day in last one year. Das said the horrific gangrape in Gopalpur has



shocked the entire nation, while in the Chief Minister's own district of Keonjhar, the rape and murder of a girl has caused deep

resentment and distrust among the public towards the government. Similarly, a woman was abducted from her home in

Baripada at night and raped, highlighting the complete collapse of law and order in the state, he alleged, adding that alleged rape of a yoga teacher in Kendrapada has left everyone ashamed. The state government, particularly the Home Department which is with the Chief Minister, utterly failed to check the soaring crime against the women, the PCC chief alleged.

These frequent incidents of crime against the women in the state expose the administrative incompetence and callousness of the Chief Minister and the BJP government. The safety of

women has become a question mark in the state," he alleged. The Congress leaders also lashed out at the Mohan Majhi government over the outbreak of diarrhoea and cholera in several parts of the state. Instead of focussing on addressing these burning issues, the BJP government remained busy in celebrating its one year in office with the Prime Minister as chief guest.

If the Prime Minister has the courage, he should visit the Gopalpur gangrape site along with the Chief Minister and assure the people of Odisha that such incidents will not occur furthermore," said Das.

Niranjan Rath passes away at 78



Cuttack (DMC): Renowned social worker and journalist Niranjan Rath passed away at a private hospital in Cuttack following a brief illness. He was 78. Rath, who was the national secretary of Lok Sevak Mandal, breathed his last on Thursday night while undergoing treatment at hospital, sources said. A multifaceted personality, Rath was known for his contributions as a writer and journalist. He had previously served as the editor, publisher, and printer of the esteemed Odia daily newspaper 'The Samaj'.

His dedication to social work and commitment to the field of journalism earned him respect and admiration from various quarters. Rath's demise has sent shockwaves through the literary and journalistic fraternity, with condolences pouring in from prominent figures. Expressing grief over his demise, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Rath was known for his simplicity and dedication to social service and journalism. "His demise has causes irreplaceable loss to journalism," the CM said in a post on X.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
e-Tender Notice No. ETCECON/IIIBS/2025024, Dated : 10.06.2025	
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF BALLAST LESS TRACK AT PURI STATION YARD FOR PLATFORM NO. 7 & 8 UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1007.61 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 6,53,800/-, Completion Period of the Work : 05 (Five) Months.	
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 11.07.2025.	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.	
Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/PR-44/CJ/25-26 Bhubaneswar	

A preparatory meeting held to finalise the Rath Yatra



Puri, (DMC): This year's Rath Yatra will be held on June 27. A final preparatory meeting for the orderly conduct of the Rath Yatra was held at the town hall today. Presiding over the meeting, District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain directed that all work be expedited before the special review meeting by the Chief Minister while the first and second coordination meetings of the Rath Yatra were over.

He therefore suggested that all departments complete their work on the basis of the findings of the previous two coordination meetings. The collector called for making the ongoing Rath Yatra a success with a concerted effort like last year. Health and sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity supply, transport system, repair and improvement

of roads, parking lots, maintaining peace and order, information and broadcasting arrangements, organizing cultural programmes, organizing pallishree fairs and exhibitions, identification, review and action of unsafe buildings, deployment of volunteers, fire fighting arrangements etc.

SP Vineet Agarwal advised them to work in close coordination with each other and provide all support to the devotees and passengers. At the outset, Deputy Director Santosh Kumar Sethi welcomed everyone and discussed as per the schedule and finally proposed a vote of thanks. Among others, ADM Administration Sarat Chandra Behera, ADM Revenue Dr. Sarat

Chandra Mohapatra, Niti Administrator Jitendra Kumar Sahu, ADM Protocol Nilamadhab Bhoi, Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Priyaranjan Prusty, Municipal Executive Officer Abhimanyu Behera, among others, were present on the occasion.

Development Administrator Debabrata Sahu, Deputy Collector Raj Kishore Jena, PKDA Secretary Dilip Kumar Maharana, Additional SPs Sushil Kumar Mishra, Tapan Kumar Das, Additional Deputy Collector Nilamadhab Majhi were present on the occasion. All the district level officers attended and briefed about the preparedness of their departments. Deputy collector Priyadarshini Mallik and others assisted in conducting the meeting.

Polution may cause Diarrhoea at Jagatsinghpur Municipality

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Due to negligency of Jagatsinghpur Municipality Polution has already become a common factor at Jagatsinghpur. Mainly Box type bridge upon Dus number canal causing more polution and main cause for increase of mosquito and flies. Neither Irrigation department nor Municipality authorities are concious about the fact. Usually Dus number canal flowing inside district head quarter remain dry from November to July. During these period bussiness men, house holds and Municipality sweepers throws garbage and west materials in to canal bed.

After arrival of canal water these waste flows away by water. Dus number canal treated as drain at the heart of town. Before some days planners prepared box type bridge upon Dus number canal for beautification of town and to enhance parking area. In some places prepared grill for convenience of canal water flow. Now these grills are used for dust and garbage waste yard by people, bussiness men and Municipality sweepers. Even the sanitary expert of Municipality and Irrigation department are silent about this problem. Now at the arrival of rainy season this canal causing bad smell and the best spot for flies and mosquitos to spread their family.

Thrilling Traffic and Road Safety Awareness Rally Lights Up Vikas Mela !

Bargarh, (DMC): On an electrifying final day of the district-level Vikas Mela, a vibrant road safety awareness rally took to the streets, kicking off from the bustling Gandhi Chowk and making its way to the Mini Stadium! This spirited event sought to ignite the community's passion for adhering to traffic rules, driving safely and being the first to lend a helping hand in times of need after accidents.

The rally was set into motion by the esteemed Chief Guest, Additional District Collector Shri Mahendra Mohapatra, who first paid homage by garlanding the statues of the legendary Mahatma Gandhi and Swabhav Kavi Gangadhar Meher before officially waving the flag to kick off the festivities. Distinguished guests, including Mayor Smt, graced the audience. Kalpana Majhi, District Information and Public Relations Officer, Shri Prahlad Khosla, Excise Officer,



Suban Kumar Nayak, a host of district officials, enthusiastic students from local schools and colleges, dedicated police personnel, and passionate workers from charitable organisations. Under the dynamic guidance of Regional Transport Officer Shri Sabya Majhi, participants dove into an engaging quiz competition focusing on road safety—the excitement was palpable! The quiz winners were promised e-certificates to acknowledge their mastery of safety knowledge. In a heartwarming display of community spirit, local heroes Shri Nityanand Behera and Shri

Vikas Agarwal were celebrated with a cash prize of Rs. 2,000, presented by the Chief Guest himself! This was their reward for their courageous and timely action in helping injured individuals to the hospital during a critical moment—additionally, Smt. Sanghamitra Patel, a beloved social worker known for her impactful contributions to the community, was also recognised for her unwavering dedication to social service.

The rally was not just an event but a vibrant celebration of unity, responsibility, and the vital role each community member plays in ensuring road safety!

Mineral Smuggling & illegal quarrying on the Rise in Rayagada



Rayagada, (DMC): Rayagada district is witnessing a surge in mineral smuggling and illegal quarrying, with many leaseholders and quarry operators defying government directives and regulations. Despite orders to install CCTV cameras at mineral sources, many are flouting the rules, leading to widespread illicit extraction and smuggling of sand, stone and other minerals. The authorities' failure to ensure compliance with government orders has enabled mineral smuggling and illegal quarrying to continue unchecked. Many leaseholders and quarry

operators haven't installed CCTV cameras or displayed required signage, making it hard to track mineral extraction. Moreover, several stone quarries are operating without Environmental Clearance (EC) and blasting permissions, posing a significant threat to the environment and public safety. Mineral smuggling and illegal quarrying are widespread, with smugglers and quarry operators operating freely in some areas. The lack of effective oversight has resulted in significant revenue losses for the government. The unchecked blasting and quarrying activities

are also causing environmental degradation and posing a risk to nearby communities. The situation demands urgent government attention. A special task force should be formed to oversee mineral extraction and prevent smuggling and illegal quarrying.

Authorities must take strict action against non-compliant leaseholders and quarry operators and ensure transparent, regulated mineral extraction. Additionally, the government should ensure that all stone quarries operate with valid EC and blasting permissions to prevent environmental damage and ensure public safety. The government is losing crores of rupees in revenue due to mineral smuggling and illegal quarrying. Immediate action is necessary to prevent further losses and ensure lawful mineral extraction.

Model Police Seized 20 Grams Brown Sugar & Arrest 5 Persons in Khordha

Khordha, (DMC): On receipt of credible information as per the direction of SP, Khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nath, under the supervision of SDPO, Khordha Nihar Ranjan Pradhan & IIC, Khordha Model PS, Insp. Sanjaya Nayak formed a team headed by Sasmita Behera & Model PS, staffs proceeded to the alleged location, Haveli Ground, Khordha & apprehended 5 persons & seized 20 grams of brown sugar, cash 1300, five nos of mobile phone & four nos of motorcycle from their possession.

The seized brown sugar worth around 2 lakhs. The arrested person's were identified as Ganesh Pradhan (35) Vill-Shree Vihar, Khordha, Bikash Behera (25) Village-Mendhasal, Nabaghana Jena (41) Village-Mukundaprasad, Khordha, Sarbeswar Pradhan (29) Village-Gada Khordha, Maharuddin Khan (45) village-Mukunda prasad, Khordha. The police official said that this operation is a testament to our relentless commitment to



eradicating drug networks. Our dedicated team has worked meticulously to intercept criminal activities & ensure that those involved face the full weight of the law. We will persist in protecting public safety & urge citizens to come forward with any information that may aid our investigation. The suspect's have been taken into the custody & registered a case vide Khordha Model PS, Case no-259/dtd.20.06.2025, U/s-21(b)/29 NDPS Act & forwarding to the judicial court of khordha.

PPA conducted cleanliness drive at the creek side of Mausī Ma Temple as part of HARIT YOGA

Paradip, (DMC): Build upto International Day of Yoga, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) conducted a cleanliness drive at the creek side of Mausī Ma Temple and a significant plantation drive at Golden Jubilee Park, as part of its ongoing "Harit Yoga" environmental initiative.

The events were conducted with enthusiastic participation from PPA employees, local community members, and volunteers. The cleanliness drive at the picturesque creek side of Mausī Ma Temple focused on removing accumulated waste and debris, aiming to restore the



natural beauty of the area and promote a healthier ecosystem. Paradip Port Authority is gearing up for a grand celebration of International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2025, at Gopabandhu

Stadium to encourage broader community participation. The success of today's unique practice session sets a positive tone for the upcoming main event, highlighting Paradip's dedication to fostering a healthy and harmonious community.

Paradip Saksharata Samiti, the social arm of PPA, in collaboration with Art of Living, successfully organized an enriching yoga session at the Officers' Club for local school students. Promoting wellness and mindfulness from a young age, we remain committed to holistic development for a stronger and healthier society.

JSW Foundation Inaugurates Renovated Goushala in Jharsuguda

Sambalpur, (DMC): In a meaningful stride towards animal welfare and rural upliftment, the JSW Foundation has inaugurated and officially handed over the renovated Shree Krishna Goushala in Jharsuguda.

The handover ceremony was graced by Shri Tankadhar Tripathy, Hon'ble MLA of Jharsuguda; Smt. Neelam Singh, President, Akanksha Ladies Club, JSW BPSL Sambalpur; Shri Mihir Mishra, HOD Civil, JSW BPSL; Shri Vishal Raj, Head of CSR, JSW Foundation, Sambalpur and Shri Sandip Awasthy, President of the Goushala, who formally assumed charge of the upgraded facility. The comprehensive renovation included the modernization of three cattle sheds and the construction of a new management center equipped with a granary. These enhancements aim to provide a safer and more efficient environment for the care of cattle. Speaking at the event, the dignitaries underscored the importance of preserving such facilities with care and reverence, highlighting their role in serving both the local community and the Gau Mata with respect. This initiative underscores JSW Foundation's enduring commitment to cultural preservation, compassion-driven projects, and inclusive rural development—aligning with its broader vision for sustainable community growth.



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Year of...

the country is witnessing positive changes under your leadership," Majhi said. "In January, PM Modi urged the investors to participate in the UtkarshOdisha 2025 conclave. We received proposals worth Rs 17 lakh crores in just two days, which is a record. This happened because the investors trusted you. We are working to make Odisha the industrial hub of eastern India," he added. This was followed by an audio video presentation of the Mohan Majhi government's achievement in the last one year. The Chief Minister also felicitated the PM with a painting during the celebration event.

Among others, Governor HariBabuKambhampati, Union Ministers DharmendraPradhan, JualOram and AshwiniVaishnaw, Deputy CMs PravatiParidaand KV Singh Deo, Kendrapada MP Baijayant Panda, BJP Odisha President ManmohanSamal, and other ministers were present on the dais.

Modi slams...

central schemes. "Over 33 lakh senior citizens in Odisha will now get Rs 5 lakh benefit from the PradhanMantriVayaVandanaYojana," he added. He stressed the government's success in reaching farmers, tribals, and marginalised communities. "Under our rule, both central and state schemes are reaching the farmers. The poor and deprived, including adivasis, are being uplifted," he said. Slamming the BJD, he alleged that tribal communities had long been used for political gains without any real development. "Before 2014, naxalism had engulfed adivasi areas in Odisha, making them red corridors. But today, peace and progress have returned. Ending naxalism is Modi's guarantee."

PM Modi announced a massive Rs 1.5 lakh crore investment push, stating Odisha would soon emerge as a petroleum and petrochemical hub. He also mentioned "Odisha Vision 2036", a developmental roadmap to mark the state's centenary in 2036, promising a bright future. The Prime Minister ended his speech with a heartfelt "Namaskar" and "Juhar" in Odia, concluding with "Jai Jagannath."

Adani Foundation presented an insightful report Illuminating their dedicated interventions over the past year



Bargarh, (DMC): The District Administration of Bargarh has warmly acknowledged the remarkable contributions of the Adani Foundation, recognising its unwavering commitment to various corporate social responsibility initiatives that have significantly uplifted the local community. Their impactful endeavours in education, healthcare, skill development, infrastructure enhancement, and environmental sustainability have woven a thread of hope and progress throughout Bargarh. During a ceremony, the Adani Foundation presented an insightful report illuminating their dedicated interventions over the past year.

This report thoughtfully addressed pressing local issues, particularly those surrounding the education and empowerment of women and children, highlighting the foundation's role in nurturing futures and fostering growth. District Collector Sri Aditya Goyal, IAS, expressed deep appreciation during the felicitation, celebrating the foundation's transformative role in the community. Dignitaries from various government departments also attended the event, all gathered to honour the profound impact of these initiatives. Aide Action and the district's child protection unit expressed their gratitude, emphasising the positive change cultivated across the region. Together, these collective efforts are planting seeds of hope that will flourish for future generations.

Sankalp Qualified UG-NEET

Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC): Sankalp Chandrakar (18) of Ward No-3, Khariar Road in Nuapada District, has been successful on All India UG-NEET entrance examination. He secured 5792 rank in National level. He scored 569 out of 720 marks. Now he can join in any government medical College. His glorious feat accoladed from all corners. He has also qualified for JE Advance and secured 2894 rank. He has made his parents and teachers proud by securing 96% marks in the CBSE Class 12 Examination in the Science stream. His father Gopal Chandrakar and mother Monika Chandrakar both are Primery School teacher in Nuapada District. Sankalp determined to serve for society as a doctor in future.

Above 150 PICT workers joined PPMS union

Paradip, (DMC): The majority workers working in Paradip International Cargo Terminal (PICT) are the members of Paradip Port Mazdoor Sangh (PPMS) led by renowned union leader Prakash Tripathy, and other workers are members of various labor organizations. In a process, more than 150 workers of PICT working as stitchers, filler operators and hoppers and were the members of Bapi Sarkhel led labor union were resigned after being deceived by Sarkhel and formally joined Prakash's labor union on Thursday.

The workers alleged that we had been with Sarkhel's union for more than five years and had faith and hope to get our fair demands. But instead of listening to us, Bapi Sarkhel remained in talks with the company and they kept



on making us various false promises time after time. When we realized that Sarkhel was trying to deceive us by taking huge sums of money from the company, we were decided to join the Paradip Port Mazdoor Sangh led by Prakash Tripathy. And we are sure that through the visionary and dynamic leadership of Shri Tripathy, our long pending problems will be resolved soon and we will get justice.

In this connection, a press meeting was organised at union office premises on Thursday. In the said meeting PPMS president Prakash Tripathy, working president Abhimanyu Behera, general secretary Paresh Murmu, vice president Subrata Pradhan, advisor Sarveshwar Baliarsingh were present.

President tears as visually impaired children sing for her on birthday



Dehradun, (HS) :President Droupadi Murmu was left overwhelmed with emotion on Friday, as students from the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) sang a special song to wish her on her 67th birthday.

President Murmu, currently on a three-day tour to Uttarakhand, visited the Institute, where the differently abled students sang a birthday tribute for her. The heart-warming gesture by students left President Murmu moved, so much, that her eyes welled up with tears and she struggled to hold it back. The pictures of the teary-eyed President also surfaced on social media, prompting many netizens to comment on the moving video.

"I could not hold back my tears. They sang from their heart and did it so beautifully," the President later told the gathering, expressing her gratitude for the touching tribute. President Murmu, on a visit to Uttarakhand from June 19-21, will inaugurate the Presidential Niketan and also participate in various cultural and educational programmes. She will also inaugurate various projects on its sprawling campus. The President will also release a book on the biodiversity of Presidential Niketan and participate in a state government programme on the International Day of Yoga on Saturday. Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and a host of leaders across the political spectrum greeted the President on her 67th birthday. "Warmest birthday wishes to Rashtrapati Ji. Her life and leadership continue to inspire crores of people across the country. Her unwavering commitment to public service, social justice and inclusive development is a beacon of hope and strength for everyone. She has always worked to empower the poor and downtrodden. May she be blessed with a long and healthy life in service of the people," PM Modi said, greeting President Murmu on her 67th birthday.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also extended birthday greetings to the President and wrote on X, "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Honourable President Droupadi Murmu ji on her birthday. I wish you a healthy and long life."

9 killed in tragic accident in Purulia as SUV rams against truck

Purulia, (HS) :In a tragic accident in Purulia, as many nine people died as the SUV they were travelling in rammed against a truck on the highway on Friday. According to reports, the deceased were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony. They hailed from Adabana village under Barabazar police station limits and were travelling to Jharkhand. It has been reported that, the Bolero SUV they were travelling in collided head-on with a speeding trailer truck coming from the opposite direction. It is suspected that both vehicle were at high speed because the accident was so severe. The police has reached the spot and investigation is underway. Detailed reports awaited.

Assam: 3 missing after boat casizes in Brahmaputra

New Delhi, (HS) : At least three people, including two students, went missing after a country-made passenger boat capsized in the Brahmaputra River near Mukalmua in Assam's Nalbari district on Thursday. The incident took place near Gorkhattari Ghat, leading to a search and rescue operation by disaster response teams. Supriya Das, Superintendent of Police of Nalbari district, confirmed the incident. "Three persons, including two students, are missing in the boat capsize incident. NDRF, SDRF teams, and district administration are engaged in a search and rescue operation," the SP told.

AAIB commences formal inquiry into the Air India flight crash incident



(DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) has been recovered from the crash site on 13 June 2025 and another set was found on 16 June. This model of aircraft has two Blackbox sets, added the statement. The AAIB investigation is progressing steadily with all necessary support from local authorities and agencies. Key recovery work, including site documentation and evidence collection, has been completed, and further analysis is now underway. The Ministry remains committed to full transparency relating to the ongoing investigation and will follow all mandated protocols and norms, in the larger interest of the highest standards of Passenger Safety and convenience. The Minister emphasised the importance of working together as a cohesive and responsive team to uphold passenger trust and bring operational stability, which has been the cornerstone of Indian aviation. Certain media outlets have reported that the CVR/DFDR from the ill-fated AII71 flight is being sent abroad for retrieval and analysis. The AAIB will decide the location for decoding the flight recorders after assessing all technical, safety, and security considerations, mentioned the official statement. The Ministry of Civil Aviation urged all stakeholders to refrain from speculation on such sensitive matters and to allow the investigative process to proceed with the seriousness and professionalism it warrants. The crash occurred on June 12, when a London-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed into a hostel complex of BJ Medical College in the Meghani Nagar area of Gujarat's Ahmedabad shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The tragedy claimed 241 lives out of 242 onboard, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

Iran eases airspace restrictions to aid evacuation of 1,000 Indians as war with Israel enters eighth day

New Delhi, (HS) : In a significant diplomatic move, Iran has eased its airspace restrictions to facilitate the evacuation of Indian nationals as tensions with Israel escalated into the eighth day on Friday. The decision, described as a special gesture by Iranian authorities, allows India to operate emergency evacuation flights to bring its citizens home safely.

Three special flights operated by Iran's Mahan Air will carry approximately 1,000 Indian nationals, including a large number of students,



from the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad to New Delhi, diplomatic

sources said. The first flight is scheduled to arrive in India late Friday night at 11:30 PM IST. The remaining two flights will land on Saturday - one at 10:00 AM IST and the other at 4:30 PM IST.

Iranian officials have confirmed that all Indian nationals in the country are currently safe. They also stated that more evacuation flights could

be arranged if necessary. This evacuation effort is part of Operation Sindhu, which successfully bro ght back 110 Indian students - mostly from Jammu and Kashmir - from Iran. The students were first moved to Armenia, then flown to Doha, and finally arrived in Delhi on Thursday morning. Iran's Deputy Chief of Mission to India, Mohammad Javad Hosseini on Friday reiterated Tehran's commitment to the safety of foreign nationals and highlighted the cooperation between the two countries in times of crisis.

40 China J-35 Jets For Pak, India's 5th Gen Decade Away

New Delhi, (HS) : China will reportedly supply 40 Shenyang J-35 fifth-generation stealth fighter jets to Pakistan. With the J-35 induction, Pakistan joins a small group of countries operating stealth technology. The Indian Air Force (IAF), which currently lacks any stealth fighters in operational service, is still at least a decade away from inducting its indigenous fifth-generation stealth aircraft - the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Official estimates place the AMCA's induction around 2035.

Senior IAF veterans for insight into the implications of this development and to assess India's operational preparedness to tackle fifth-generation



stealth fighters. Group Captain Ajay Ahlawat (Retd.), a former IAF fighter pilot and defence analyst, confirmed the developments with regard to Pakistani

pilot training in China. "Pakistan receiving these jets is not a surprise at all because their team of nominated fighter pilots have been in China for more

Row erupts after J&K CM opposes flow of Indus water to Punjab



river waters lies with the Centre and Omar Abdullah cannot take a unilateral decision on the matter. He emphasized that Punjab should also get a share of the Indus water. Garg pointed out that, like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab is also a border state.

Whenever war occurs, Punjab becomes the battleground, and when the country needs food grains, it becomes the granary of the nation. Now that there is water available, Punjab has a legitimate claim over it. "In the process of filling the

nation's granaries, we have been deprived of our own water. Now that the Indus Water Treaty has been annulled, Punjab has the primary right over this water because it will not only bring relief to our barren lands but also boost our agriculture. When farmers prosper, the nation prospers," he said. Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring also criticized Omar, saying it was unbecoming of the JK CM to make such remarks. He regretted that Omar was now trying to politicize the issue and score some brownie points. "Where will you send the water and where will you divert the canals?" he asked, pointing out that Punjab would be the natural course of flow for the canals. He noted that the statement smacks of partisan political rhetoric.

'Snake' Sighting in Delhi Metro Causes Scramble to 'Escape' 'Co-Passenger'

bringing the train to a halt for everyone to disembark at the Akshardham Metro station. The chaos lasted a few minutes after one of the commuters raised an alarm, claiming that she had spotted a 'snake's tail', said an official. Though none of the passengers could see the 'reptile', many women travellers were frightened and took evasive measures - like climbing the steel seats - to avoid contact with the 'snake'.

Head of Delhi Metro's communications department, Anuj Dayal, said, «A video is in wide circulation, where although the snake is

not visible in the video, it is being purportedly claimed that a 'snake' was spotted in a ladies-only coach. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) took immediate action upon receiving the alert from the passengers in the coach on Thursday evening.« «The train was vacated at the Akshardham Metro station and sent to the depot for thorough inspection. Despite a meticulous check of the train footage and coach at the depot by the concerned team, no snake was found. However, a baby lizard was spotted during the inspection,« he said.

J-K conducts flood mock drill in Pahalgam to bolster Amarnath Yatra preparedness



Pahalgam, (HS) : The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Department conducted a mock drill simulating a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) scenario in Pahalgam on Friday. The exercise was held in coordination with the Anantnag District Management Authority and saw participation from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army, and other emergency support and line departments.

The exercise aimed at enhancing preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra

will start on July 3. It tested response mechanisms for disasters like floods and accidents, critical for the safety of over 4.5 lakh pilgrims who visited the Amarnath cave shrine last year. The Deputy Secretary of the J-K Disaster Management Department, Snober Jameel, while speaking to, stated, "It is a very significant and important pilgrimage for us. So, before that, too, we must ensure people are already prepared. Given the extreme weather events we are witnessing nowadays-like cloudbursts and other types of events-we must be prepared in advance. We

Air India bookings drop 20 per cent, fares cut up to 15 per cent after Dreamliner crash

New Delhi, (HS) : Air India has seen a sharp decline in bookings, around 20 per cent on both domestic and international routes, following the tragic crash of a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft last week. Ravi Gosain, President of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), told PTI, "Following the unfortunate incident involving Air India, we have observed a temporary drop in bookings, particularly on international sectors. Our estimates suggest a decline of 18-22 per cent internationally and 10-12 per cent domestically." The crash occurred on June 12, when London-bound flight AI-171, carrying 242 passengers and crew, crashed in Ahmedabad shortly after takeoff. The aircraft went down in the Meghainagar area, hitting a medical complex. Only one person on board survived, and the disaster claimed at least 30 lives on the ground. While Air India has not issued an official statement in response to inquiries, industry voices have pointed to a mix of emotional reactions and market dynamics affecting booking trends and pricing.

Woman Naxalite killed in encounter

Kanker, (HS) : In a major success to the armed forces, a hardcore woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on Friday, said reports. According to reports, on a woman Naxalite killed in an encounter with security personnel, Kanker SP Indira Kalyan Elesela told ANI, "Within the jurisdiction of Chhotebethiya police station, an encounter broke out between the Naxalites and security personnel." "Joint teams of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Border Security Force (BSF) were also involved in the operation. We have recovered the body of a woman Naxalite. We have also recovered weapons from the spot," the Kanker SP said. Recently on March 30, the body of a female Naxal with a reward of Rs 25 lakh was recovered and a huge cache of arms was also recovered. The cache of arms recovered along contained an INSAS rifle, ammunition and other items of daily use was recovered from the encounter site at Dantewada, said official reports in this regard. The security forces under the DRG area had gone on an anti-Maoist operation in the areas of Geedam police station of the Dantewada district and Bhairamgarh police station of Bijapur border villages - Nelgodia, Akeli and Belnar. The woman Naxal has been identified as Renuka alias Banu alias Chaite alias Saraswati. She was a resident of Kadvendi district, Warangal.

Australia Suspends Embassy In Iran, Directs Officials To Leave

Canberra, (H.S): The Australian government, on Friday, suspended its embassy operations in Iran's capital and ordered officials to leave the country amid the escalating military conflict in the region. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong has said that the government has directed the departure of all Australian officials and their dependents from Iran and suspended operations at the embassy in Tehran based on advice about the "deteriorating" security environment. She said in a statement that Australia's Ambassador to Iran will remain in the region to support the government's response to the crisis and that Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) consular staff will be deployed to Azerbaijan to support Australians departing Iran. "We urge Australians who are able to leave Iran to do so now, if it is safe. Those who are unable to, or do not wish to leave, are advised to shelter in place," Wong added. As of Friday, more than 2,000 Australian citizens had registered with DFAT for assistance leaving Iran, Xinhua news agency reported.

However, Italy will maintain operations at its embassies in both Tehran and Tel Aviv amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, while organising charter flights to assist Italian nationals wishing to leave the two countries, Antonio Tajani, Minister of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces announced that it had carried out a series of overnight airstrikes in Tehran, targeting dozens of sites linked to Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programmes. Among the key targets were military industrial facilities used for missile production and the headquarters of Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research. US President Donald Trump will make a decision on whether he will order a strike against Iran in the next two weeks, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said at a briefing.

Russia Shot Down Over 61 Ukrainian Drones Overnight

Moscow, (H.S): The Russian Defence Ministry on Friday stated that its air defences shot down 61 Ukrainian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) over several Russian regions overnight. "On-duty air defences intercepted and destroyed 61 Ukrainian fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles between 8 pm and 7 am.



Moscow time, 22 over the Oryol Region, 14 over the Kursk Region, seven over the Belgorod Region, five over the Voronezh Region, three over the Volgograd Region, three over the Rostov Region, three over the Tula Region, three over the Bryansk Region and one over the Moscow Region," read the statement. The Voronezh Region Governor, Alexander Gusev mentioned on Telegram that the drones had been destroyed over the city of Voronezh and on the region's

border, adding that there were no casualties or damage as per the preliminary reports. Bryansk Region Governor Alexander Bogomaz stated that there were no casualties or damage in the region. "Response teams are working on the ground," Bogomaz wrote on Telegram. Meanwhile, in an interview with British media outlet Sky News, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russia has no plans to lose

its strategic advantage over Ukraine by agreeing to a ceasefire. "Now we have a strategic advantage. Why should we lose it? We are not going to lose it. We are going further. We're advancing and we'll continue to advance," he stated. Russia has repeatedly stated that it will only agree to a ceasefire if Kyiv stops receiving foreign military aid, as any pause in hostilities would allow Ukraine to rearm and regroup its

South Korea's Living Costs Significantly Above OECD Average

Seoul, (H.S): Essential living costs in South Korea are significantly higher than those in other major nations, hindering the recovery of consumer spending, the central bank said on Wednesday.

South Korea's price indices for food, clothing and housing stood at 151, 161 and 123, respectively, based on the average price level of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries set at 100, according to a report from the Bank of Korea (BOK), reports Yonhap news agency. The BOK

also cited 2023 data from the Britain-based economic analysis firm Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which showed that prices for fruits, vegetables and meat in South Korea were more than 1.5 times higher than the OECD average.

The cumulative increase in the prices of essential items from January 2021 through May 2025 stood at 19.1 percent, which is 3.2 percentage points higher than the country's overall consumer price increase at 15.9 percent. This growth was driven by high

inflationary pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, the Russia-Ukraine war and adverse weather conditions, among other factors, which contributed to significant rises in food and energy prices.

More recently, rising import costs for raw materials and a weaker Korean won have also been reflected in the prices of processed foods, the BOK said. "If rising living costs continue to increase households' perceived inflation levels, it could affect their inflation expectations.

Khalistanis Using Canada To Promote 'Anti-India' Activities : Canadian Intel Agency

Ottawa, (H.S): Canada's top intelligence agency - the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) - has officially made a public disclosure for the first time that Khalistani extremists continue to use Canadian soil as a base for promoting, fundraising and planning acts of violence primarily targeting India. The agency's latest report categorically states: "Khalistani extremists continue to use Canada as a base for the promotion, fundraising or planning of violence primarily in India."

This revelation, part of CSIS's latest annual report, has reignited concerns about foreign interference and extremist activity within Canada, particularly in the context of its sensitive diplomatic relationship with India. Since several years India has been raising concerns over Khalistani extremists operating from Canadian soil, but Canada had largely turned a blind eye towards this issue. However, now Canada's own intelligence security has confirmed what New Delhi has long maintained - Canada has become a safe haven for anti-India elements. Even more telling - this is the first time the term "extremism" has been officially used by Canada in relation to



Khalistanis. Since the mid-1980s, the politically motivated violent extremism (PMVE) threat in Canada has manifested primarily through Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKEs) seeking to use and support violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan, largely within Punjab in India.

PMVE encourages the use of violence to establish new political systems or new structures or norms within existing systems. PMVE actors engage in the planning, financing and facilitating of attacks, globally, in order to establish new political systems or entities. While there were no CBKE-related attacks in Canada in 2024, ongoing involvement in violent activities by CBKES continue to pose a national security threat to Canada

and Canadian interests. CSIS investigates activities that fall within the definition of threats to the security of Canada, as outlined in the CSIS Act. In a parallel revelation, the CSIS and the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) have raised alarms about Pakistan's involvement in foreign interference within Canada.

A May 2024 initial report by the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference (PIFI), and NSICOP's June 2024 Special Report, both identified Pakistan as a state actor that attempted to influence Canada's democratic institutions. There is a long history of India arguing that Canada is a haven for 'anti-India' activity, with the separatist Khalistan movement being a

Trump Shifts Away From Claims of Having 'Stopped' War Between India, Pakistan



Washington, (H.S): In a matter of hours, US President Donald Trump shifted from his claims of having "stopped" the war between India and Pakistan, and gave credit to "two very smart people, (who) decided not to keep going with that war that could have been a nuclear" one without claiming a mediatory role for himself. After a lunch with visiting Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir on Wednesday, Trump said he wanted to thank him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ending last month's conflict.

I'm so happy there was a deal that two smart people, plus people on their staff too" worked out an end to the war, Trump said without repeating the claims he had made earlier of "stopping the war" and crediting the two sides for the truce. "Two smart people, two very smart people, decided not to keep going with that war that could have been a nuclear" one, he said. "Well, those are two nuclear powers, big ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that"

to not continue with the fighting. That was around 3 p.m., while speaking to reporters at the Oval Office, where Trump was meeting with members of the Juventus Football Club team. Only about five hours earlier, he had asserted to reporters, "I stopped the war between Pakistan and India."

While watching with reporters a 30-metre-tall flagpole being erected on the White House lawn around 10 a.m., he said repeatedly, "I got it stopped." And he lamented that he did not get credit for his role in ending the war. India has

maintained that there was no US mediation as Trump has claimed. In a phone conversation with Trump on Tuesday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi bluntly told the US President so, pointing out that Pakistan had directly initiated the talks to end the fighting, according to an External Affairs Ministry readout of the call.

Due to India's firm action, Pakistan was compelled to request a cessation of military operations," PM Modi told Trump, according to the Ministry. He also told him that India would never agree to any

forces. Stressing that Russia would not take advantage of a potential ceasefire, Peskov said, "A ceasefire is a ceasefire, and you stop." Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that he was ready to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a "final phase" of negotiations, but again questioned his Ukrainian counterpart's legitimacy.

I am even ready to meet him (Zelensky) but only if it is some kind of final phase," he said at a press conference with foreign media in St. Petersburg. Russia wants to end the war in Ukraine "as soon as possible," preferably through peaceful means, and is ready to continue negotiations, provided that Kyiv and its Western allies are willing to engage, Putin added. He also added that he is ready to meet with Zelensky and "Russia does not care who represents Ukraine in negotiations,

but insists that any final agreement must bear the signature of legitimate authorities". Russian and Ukrainian negotiators are prepared to resume direct talks after June 22, Putin said. "I am ready to meet with anyone, including Zelensky," the Russian leader said. "That is not the issue. If Ukraine entrusts him to negotiate, let it be Zelensky. The real question is: who will sign any resulting documents?"

We are not dealing with propaganda here; when it comes to serious matters, what matters is not political messaging but legal legitimacy," he added. Putin also said that if no peaceful resolution is reached, Russia will pursue its objectives in Ukraine by military means. "Undoubtedly, if we fail to reach an agreement through peaceful negotiations, we will achieve our goals by military means," he added.

South Korea Urges North Korea, Russia To Stop Illegal Military Cooperation on 1st Anniversary of Treaty



them comes under armed attack." We express grave concern over continued violations of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, as North Korea and Russia attempt to justify their illegal cooperation, including the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia, based on their treaty," a

third party mediation in the matter with Pakistan, the readout said. After his lunch with Munir on Wednesday, Trump said, "Reason I had him here, I wanted to thank him for not going into the war, just ending the war" between India and Pakistan. "This man was extremely influential in stopping it from the Pakistan side, PM Modi from the India side, and others." In a ham-handed attempt at being evenhanded, Trump added, "And I want to thank, as you know, Prime Minister Narendra Modi," with whom he said he had spoken a little while ago.

And we're working a trade deal with India," he said. Trump said that with Munir, he discussed Iran about which he knew "better than most". Pakistan's Embassy in Washington represents Iran's interests in the US which does not have diplomatic relations with it (Switzerland handles US diplomatic relations in Tehran). Trump has served an opaque ultimatum to Iran to "surrender"

Award-Winning Economist Arrested in Bangladesh



Dhaka, (H.S): Bangladesh's former State Minister for Planning, Shamsul Alam, was arrested on Thursday by Dhaka Police as the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus continues its campaign of targeting Awami League leaders. Alam, an award-winning economist, was also the recipient of the second-highest civilian award of the country,

'Ekushey Padak' in 2020 for his contribution to economics. He served as a Professor at Bangladesh Agricultural University for 35 years, and also as Senior Secretary of the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission during the tenure of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Speaking to Bangladeshi daily Business Standard, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam confirmed Alam's arrest. Reports suggest that the police is yet to confirm the grounds on which he was arrested. "He is currently being held at the Detective Branch (DB) office on Minto Road.

There is a case filed against him, and he will be produced before the court," Islam said when asked about the case under which Shamsul Alam was arrested. In continuing crackdown on the Awami League, several leaders of the party were placed under police remand for interrogation by the Yunus-led interim government.

Israeli Military Announces Killing Hezbollah Commander in Lebanon



demolished the home of Samer Hussein, who carried out a shooting attack at the Gitti Avishar intersection in November 2024 in Ariel (West Bank). "Engineering forces from the Samaria Brigade operated last night in the village of Einabus to demolish the home of terrorist Samer Hussein, who carried out a shooting attack at the Gitti Avishar intersection in Ariel.

The attack injured 5 Israeli civilians and 4 soldiers," the IDF posted on X. The military reports that Samer Hussein was associated with Hamas. In November 2024, he opened fire on a bus and a bus stop where several soldiers were present.

The attack resulted in injuries to nine individuals: three suffered serious injuries, one was moderately injured, and five had minor injuries, including four soldiers.

"The security establishment, with the backing of legal authorities, decided to demolish the terrorists' home as part of the deterrence policy, according to which anyone who carries out an unusual terrorist attack, even if no one is killed, will have their home demolished. The IDF will continue to act to thwart terrorism in Judea and Samaria and to bring to justice terrorists who have acted to harm civilians or security forces," the post added.

Not Only Concrete And Steel, But Foundation of Economic Growth: Union Minister on Building 10,000 Km Highways in NE



Aizawl, (H.S): Minister of State for Road, Transport & Highways Harsh Malhotra said on Friday that Northeast India has undergone a remarkable infrastructure transformation over the past 11 years with the construction of nearly 10,000 km of National Highways, built at a cost of over Rs 1.07 lakh crore, vastly improving connectivity to remote and border areas. Addressing the 233rd Mid-Term Council Meeting of the Indian

Roads Congress (IRC) at Mizoram University Campus here, Malhotra highlighted that PM Modi is committed to the development of the Northeastern region, and infrastructure development would be the key driver towards the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047." Infrastructure is not just about concrete and steel, it is the foundation of economic growth, the pathway to prosperity, and

the symbol of the Prime Minister's vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047, which is rooted in building a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive nation," said the minister. Emphasising the socio-economic impact of infrastructure, he stated that a good and robust road network brings prosperity to the region. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, state Minister Vanlalhlana and Member of Parliament Richard Vanlalhmangaiha were also present during the meeting.

Malhotra said in the last 11 years, the length of National Highways in India has gone up by more than 60 per cent from 91,000 km in 2014 to about 1.47 lakh km now. He also emphasised the need to adopt the world's best proven technologies and the necessity to reduce the cost of construction without compromising quality. Malhotra further stated that the focus

should be on sustainable development practices, and the need of the hour is the adoption of eco-friendly methodologies and cutting-edge construction practices and technology for road construction. He praised the Indian Road Congress, which over the years has grown into a multi-dimensional organisation devoted to the cause of better roads in the country, comprising members from the Central and state governments, the Engineering Services of the Army, Border Roads Organisation.

The minister highlighted the role of the Indian Road Congress in the Construction works on National Highways, as the works are carried out as per the standards, including quality and safety standards specified by the Government for Road and Bridge Works and Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes, guidelines and special publications.

India's Economy Showing Strong Signs of Growth

Mumbai, (H.S): India's economic indicators are becoming more supportive of growth, according to the report released by Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW) on Friday. The report highlights that several positive trends are emerging on the domestic front, including higher GDP growth, easing inflation, and strong tax collections. India's GDP grew by 7.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY25, which is the highest reading in the last four quarters.

Inflation has remained below 4 per cent for four consecutive months, and GST collections have been rising steadily. These signs indicate strong demand and stable activity in the formal sector of the economy. The report also notes that India's policy environment is now moving in a unified direction. Fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies are all aimed at maintaining growth momentum. The increased tax exemption limits that came into effect from April 2025 are expected to improve disposable incomes and boost consumption. At the



same time, the government's capital expenditure continues to rise, supporting the investment cycle. On the global front, the environment remains mixed. In April and May, markets faced worries over tariffs and geopolitical tensions.

However, the situation improved with a delay in global tariff implementation and a ceasefire announcement between India and Pakistan. This improved global sentiment has helped global equity markets, with the MSCI World Index reaching record highs. Meanwhile, rising bond yields in Japan and China's shift towards gold show that global investors are moving away from US

Treasuries. This could become a concern as the US faces refinancing of \$9 trillion in debt this year. However, a weaker Dollar Index could help emerging markets like India by attracting more foreign investments.

In the Indian stock market, valuations have increased as earnings have not grown at the same pace. The Nifty-50's one-year forward valuation has risen above its long-term average, and mid and small-cap stocks continue to trade at a premium. This makes careful stock selection and active management more important for investors looking to generate higher returns, the report stated.

Chandrasekaran Misses TCS AGM Amid Air India Tragedy, Keki Mistry Chairs Meet



Bengaluru, (H.S): Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran was absent from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday. This marked his second straight absence from shareholder meetings of the Tata Group, as he also missed the AGM of Tata Consumer Products on Wednesday. TCS's Company Secretary Yashaswin Sheth informed shareholders that Chandrasekaran could not attend the meeting due to "some exigencies". While no official reason

was provided, reports suggest his absence is linked to the tragic crash involving an Air India flight, a Tata Group company, which was flying from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick last week. The accident resulted in the death of at least 270 people, including 241 passengers and crew members. Chandrasekaran, who became the Chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 after serving as the CEO of TCS for eight years, has been closely monitoring the situation since the crash. "In his absence, the company's board elected Independent Director Keki Mistry to chair the AGM," Sheth added.

Addressing the gathering, Mistry called it a difficult time for the Tata Group. He said the tragedy was beyond words and expressed deep sorrow over the lives lost. "This is a very difficult time for us at the Tata Group. We are all deeply saddened. This is an unimaginable tragedy that has resulted in so many losses of life. Words can be of no consolation right now," Mistry stated.

He added that the Tata Group stands in solidarity with the affected families during this painful time. "Our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of the people who have lost their lives. Tata Group stands in solidarity with the affected people in these challenging times," he added. Before the meeting began, the TCS board observed a minute's silence to honour the victims of the Air India crash.

RBI Eases Final Project Finance Rules, Lowers Provisioning Norms For Banks

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released the final guidelines for project finance, giving banks relief by significantly lowering the provisioning requirements compared to what was proposed earlier. These new norms will be applicable from October 1, 2025. Under the final rules, banks will now have to set aside a general provision of 1.25 per cent for loans to Commercial Real Estate (CRE) projects during the construction phase.

For Commercial Real Estate - Residential Housing (CRE-RH) projects, the provision has been set at 1 per cent. All other project loans during the construction phase will also require a provision of 1 per cent. Once the project becomes operational and starts repaying the loan, the provisioning requirements will reduce further. Banks will need to maintain only 1 per cent for CRE projects, 0.75 per cent for CRE-RH, and just 0.40 per cent for all



other project loans. These rates are significantly lower than the draft guidelines released earlier, which had proposed a provision of 5 per cent during the construction phase.

The draft had also suggested reducing it to 2.5 per cent when the project became operational, and finally to 1 per cent after the project started generating enough cash to repay lenders. The RBI had earlier indicated that the

implementation of the new rules may be delayed.

In February, then Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra had said that the final framework might not come into force before March 31, 2026. However, the central bank has now clarified that the new rules will be effective from October 2025. The guidelines also clarify that if the date of commencement of commercial

operations (DCCO) is delayed but still classified as a standard loan, additional provisions will be required. For infrastructure projects, banks must set aside 0.375 per cent more for each quarter of delay. For non-infrastructure projects, including CRE and CRE-RH, this additional provision will be 0.5625 per cent per quarter.

The RBI has also directed banks to closely monitor the progress of the project during the construction phase and identify any signs of stress early. If any credit issue arises, banks must start working on a resolution plan without delay. Such credit events must be reported promptly to the Central Repository of Information on Large Credit (CRILC) in both the weekly and main reports. In case of a credit event, the bank must also begin a preliminary review of the borrower's account within 30 days from the date of the issue, the RBI said.

Gold Prices Slip After US Fed Signals More Gradual Path For Rate Cuts

New Delhi, (H.S): Gold prices slipped after the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged and signalled a more gradual path for rate cuts, analysts said on Friday. US Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted the central bank expects an increase in inflation in the coming months amidst tariffs and other factors, reinforcing a cautious policy stance.

While markets initially responded with optimism, Powell tempered expectations by reiterating that with low and stable unemployment, the Fed is well-positioned to wait for more data before making any moves. Though he hinted that September could be a "live" meeting, however market participants have been discounting the same since sometime. Fed still anticipates rate cuts totaling 50 basis points in 2025, but now sees only 25 basis points of easing each in 2026 and 2027. "Powell emphasised that these forecasts



are highly data-dependent, especially on inflation trends. Meanwhile, geopolitical developments added to market uncertainty, as President Donald Trump floated the idea of meeting with Iran over the Iran-Israel conflict, and Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed readiness for substantive peace talks with Ukraine," said Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial services Ltd. There is still no resolution on the Israel and Iran and the war

like situation continues however expectations of an ease off is weighing on prices. "US weekly jobless claims also was reported lower than expectations giving a jerk to prices. Volatility could be lower today as US markets remain shut on the back of public holiday," he mentioned.

According to Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, gold and silver prices slid from recent highs, nearing one-week lows and heading for their first weekly decline in three weeks. Silver prices fell below

\$35.70 per ounce after a sharp rally earlier in the week. The decline came as investors liquidated positions in bullion to cover losses elsewhere amid rising geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran. "The Bank of England also held rates steady in its monetary policy meetings on Thursday which also limited gains of precious metals.

However, escalation of the Israel-Iran war and weaker dollar index are supporting safe-haven buying for precious metals. Weakness in the rupee is also supporting prices of gold and silver in the domestic markets," Kalantri explained. Gold has support at \$3340-3315 while resistance is at \$3380-3400. Silver has support at \$35.75-35.50 while resistance is at \$36.35-36.55. "In Indian rupee terms, gold has support at Rs 98,750-98,550 while resistance is at Rs 99,550-99,740. Silver has support at Rs 106,380-105,500 while resistance is at Rs 1,08,350-1,09,000," he noted.

Oil Prices Ease As Trump Pauses Decision On US Intervention in Israel-Iran Conflict



New Delhi, (H.S): Crude oil prices eased in the global market on Friday, with the benchmark Brent crude futures trading 2 per cent lower at \$77.24 a barrel, amid reports that President Donald Trump would take another two weeks to decide on whether the US will intervene in the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt cited President Trump as saying: "Based on the fact that there's a substantial chance of negotiations that may or may not take place with Iran in the near future, I will make my decision whether or not to go within the next two weeks."

The oil market has reacted to Trump mentioning that negotiations could be held to ease tensions in the Middle East, according to analysts. Iran has warned against US intervention in the present situation. Any such intervention would lead to further escalation of tensions in West Asia, the largest crude oil exporting region. A wider Middle East conflict with impact on Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and UAE oil supplies can lead to a sharp spike in oil prices. Israel's strikes have targeted Iran's nuclear sites

and missile bases, but the Islamic country's oil facilities have not been attacked. Oil prices in the international market had jumped by more than 9 per cent on June 13 after Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear facilities and missile production sites led to a further escalation in geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. The price of benchmark Brent crude surged by over \$6 to cross a five-month high of \$78 per barrel. The Israeli attack comes against the backdrop of talks on a nuclear deal between the US and Iran having soured, and Tehran stating that if it is attacked, it would retaliate against US bases in Iraq and adjoining countries.

Meanwhile, the US has moved another aircraft carrier to the region to beef up its military presence. According to a report by Emkay Global, Iran produces around 3.3 million barrels per day (mbpd) of crude oil (3 per cent of global) and exports around 1.5 mbpd, with China being the main importer (80 per cent), followed by Turkey. Iran is also on the northern side of the Strait of Hormuz/Persian Gulf through which 20mbpd+ of oil trade flows from countries such as

Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In the past, Iran has warned of blocking this route. However, with OPEC+ announcing another higher-than-expected production hike in July, fundamentally oil markets remain well supplied and further Iranian supply cuts can be accommodated, the Emkay report states. As far as the impact on the Indian economy is concerned, the report states: "As of now, we are not changing our forecasts and continue to see CPI inflation undershooting RBI's estimate of 3.7 per cent to average much lower 3.3-3.4 per cent in FY26. We note every \$10/bbl increase in oil leads to annualised gain of 35 bps in CPI inflation".

Emkay Global said it maintains FY26 CAD/GDP at 0.8 per cent, at Brent 70/bbl, with every 10\$/bbl leading to upside risk of 0.4-0.5 per cent, other things remaining equal. "Our Energy team maintains a positive view on India's oil market companies on the back of strong marketing margins and core GRMs (gross refining margins), also holding up to \$75/bbl Brent for the remaining part of the year. Our estimates don't see downside risks, the report added.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy Commences Two-Day Visit to Eastern Coalfields Limited

New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of India Shri G Kishan Reddy, began his two-day visit to Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) today. During his visit on 20th and 21st June, 2025 the Minister will review operations at the Jhanjra Underground Mine and Sonepur Bazari OCP, inaugurate the Eco Park at Jhanjra named as 'Sindoor Park' to commemorate the recent successful 'Operation Sindoor' and participate in the grand celebration of International Day of Yoga 2025 at the Eco Park. The Minister will also inaugurate the newly constructed Mahudanga Rehabilitation Site.

Additionally, extending support to local communities, Shri Reddy will distribute appointment letters to candidates under compassionate employment as per NCWA guidelines and provide tricycles to people with disabilities at RN Colony, Sonepur Bazari Area, ECL. As part of his engagement, Shri Reddy will hold interactive sessions with stakeholders across the mining ecosystem, including coal mine workers who have played a vital role in achieving the milestones for the organization. He will also visit Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) sites to meet Project Affected Peoples (PAPs) and felicitate employees for exceptional performance.





Priyanka reveals she lost part of her eyebrow during Heads of State shoot

Priyanka Chopra is currently awaiting the release of her Hollywood action film Heads of State. The actor plays an intelligence operative tasked with protecting two heads of state-the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the UK, played by John Cena and Idris Elba, respectively. The actor has performed some heavy-duty action in the film, but almost got injured doing a routine scene.

Priyanka appeared on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon, where she opened up about the experience of shooting Heads of State. While talking about the making of the film, Priyanka spoke about the pranks that were pulled on her, and how she attempted to break the ice between her co-stars Idris Elba and John Cena. But what drew fans' attention was how Priyanka managed to injure herself on set. Talking

about a particular scene, Priyanka said, «The camera has a matte box, and I was supposed to roll on the floor and fall, and it was raining. And the camera was supposed to come in close to me. So the camera operator came in a little bit closer-I came in a little bit closer, and it took out a chunk of my eyebrow. Could have been my eye, so I was very grateful that it wasn't. I just put surgical glue on there,

stuck it. Finished my day, because I did not want to come back and shoot in the rain again.»

Priyanka Chopra plays the role of Noel Bisset, an MI6 agent. She is joined by John Cena and Idris Elba's onscreen characters to wade past a high-stakes situation after their diplomatic mission faces a downfall. The action-comedy film will be directed by Ilya Naishuller. It also has Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid and Sarah Niles in key roles. Directed by Ilya Naishuller, the action-comedy film Heads of State stars Idris Elba, John Cena, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas in lead roles and also features Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid and Sarah Niles in pivotal roles. The much-awaited film is a thrilling ride full of action, humour, and surprises, which will premiere on Prime Video on July 2.

Movie Release

Aamir's Sitaare Zameen Par Has Heart in Right Place



Talent, teamwork and tenacity are attributes that, as a rule, occupy centrestage in a sports drama. These qualities come to the aid of a team of hoopsters that fights to beat the odds stacked against it. Add to the proceedings a dash of feel-good, high-spirited humour and periodic tugs at the heartstrings and you have Sitaare Zameen Par, somewhat inconsistent in pace but always entertaining.

The underdog story, scripted by Divy Nidhi Sharma and directed by R.S. Prasanna, pivots around ten neurodiverse basketball players placed under a reluctant coach, an angry not-so-young man in dire need of a course correction. The team does not get along with the coach. A judge assigns the job to the latter as punishment for ramming his car into a police vehicle in a drunk driving case. Although they find winning ways difficult to come by to begin with, each member of the outfit makes steady progress on and off the basketball court. There is nothing new in here in terms of story. Sitaare Zameen Par is an official remake of the 2018 Spanish film, Campeones (Champions), which, a few years later, saw a Hollywood iteration with Woody Harrelson in the lead.

The lack of originality does not however take anything away from the incredible performances of the ten first-time actors. In its celebration of diversity and inclusion, Sitaare Zameen Par goes further than any Indian movie ever has. The process that helps the protagonists develop focus and cohesion is expectedly exacting - no less so than the drill that must have gone into getting the actors ready for the movie camera - and it is around those challenges that the Aamir Khan starrer revolves. Sitaare Zameen Par blends comedy, emotions and the infectious vitality of a

physically tough sport to drive home the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity - physical, mental and societal. Sitaare Zameen Par is about redemption that dawns amid a haze of scepticism. Gulshan (Khan) is in a trough. His wife (Genelia D'Souza) and mother

youngsters in a manner that strikes an instant chord. It seeks to clear the cobwebs that cloud society's notions of what is normal and what is not. What Sitaare Zameen Par asserts, without having to go overboard with manipulative methods (which, of course, are inevitable in a movie with an avowed purpose) is that there is nothing unusual about being differently wired like the individuals Gulshan is directed to take under his wings even as he himself tries to fly away from his own ingrained biases. The innate potential of the theme - who does not like underdogs taking on obstacles in their path and marching ahead

Aamir's Sitaare Zameen Par box office opeing 8 cr on day 1

Expectations are high from Aamir Khan's big screen return with Sitaare Zameen Par, after the underperformance of Laal Singh Chadha. Will the RS Prasanna film manage to bring back Aamir Khan's mojo at the box office? As per the latest update on Saclink.com, the sports drama film has seen a slow start, less than 10 crore. The report states that Sitaare Zameen Par had an opening day haul of 8.87 crore (by 8 pm). The film had an overall 17.73% Hindi Occupancy on Friday. The occupancy for morning shows were at 16.74%, and stayed the same for afternoon shows as well, at 16.25%. The number increased slightly for the evening shows at 20.21%. Will the opening day haul of Sitaare Zameen Par manage to cross the numbers of Aamir's last release Laal Singh Chadha? The 2022 release had minted 11.7 crore on its first day of release. We will have to wait for a few more hours to see.

(Dolly Ahluwalia) struggle to keep him away from his questionable impulses. Nine boys and a girl, the short-tempered Golu Khan (Simran Mangeshkar), hold up multiple mirrors in which Gulshan can see the avoidable distortions he is in danger of embracing. And, of course, his family pitches in with sage, timely nudges when he needs it, which is well-nigh always. The broad arc of the story holds no real surprises, but thanks to the way the little deeds of a man navigating his mental blocks pan out, the tale isn't devoid of depth. Sitaare Zameen Par is an uplifting and heartwarming genre film that employs familiar tropes to good effect. Pretty much like its spiritual predecessor did, the film creates awareness about intellectual disabilities and showcases neuro-atypical

when nobody, least of all the man who is charged with working with them and showing them the way? - is undeniable. Sitaare Zameen Par makes the most of it.

Aamir Khan is the anchor around which the plot swivels but he isn't a ball hog. The film rests equally on the shoulders of his ten specially-abled co-actors. It is impossible to single out only a handful for special mentions. They are all equally good. The director lets the magnificent ten go with the flow. As a consequence, the sort of artifice that is often an intrinsic part of acting is refreshingly missing in these admirably organic performances.

Cast: Aamir Khan, Genelia Deshmukh, Brijendra Kala, Dolly Ahluwalia, Director: RS Prasanna

Suchitra Says Sorry for Calling Air India Crash Survivor «Liar»



Actor Suchitra Krishnamoorthi faced backlash on social media after she put out an X post claiming the sole Ahmedabad plane crash survivor Vishwas Kumar Ramesh's survival story as «fake». In an aftermath of the backlash, the Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa actor shared another post, issuing a public apology.

In a now-deleted X post, Suchitra wrote, «So

this #vishwaskumarramesh lied about being a passenger on the plane & the only survivor? This is seriously weird. Didn't his family in the UK corroborate his story? What about his brother's funeral that he was seen giving kandha to? Deserve not only some serious punishment but some mental asylum time if this is true uff.» Suchitra's post was «influenced» by social media rumors which claimed his version of escaping the tragedy as «false.» Hours later, after being slammed on social media, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi put up another X post and issued an apology. She wrote, «Took out my last tweet on the air India crash survivor. Seems to be false news circulated for God knows what reason. My apologies.» Took out my last tweet on the air india crash survivor. Seems to be false news circulated for God knows what reason. My apologies

Vishwash Kumar Ramesh is the lone survivor of the deadly Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, which claimed at least 260 lives. The 40-year-old is a British national.

India, England Stars Observed Silence of victims of plane crash

Leeds, (HS) : Players of both India and England teams' are wearing black armbands on day one of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy first Test at Headingley as a mark of respect for victims who lost their lives in the plane crash in Ahmedabad last week. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) also said a moment's silence was to be observed at the stadium before the national anthem begins. «Both teams will wear black armbands on Day 1 of the Test match as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the Air India plane crash last week in Ahmedabad.»

«A moment's silence will be observed prior to the respective national anthems. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the terrible events that took place in Ahmedabad last week,» said the ECB. On June 12, more than 240 people, majority of them being Indian and British citizens, were



died when an Air India plane bound for Gatwick Airport in London crashed just moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane crashed into the hostel of BJ Medical College located just outside the airport, with just one survivor found. India vice-captain Rishabh Pant had said in a pre-series press conference that the players will find a way to

make the country happy again after the mood became sad due to the tragic Ahmedabad plane crash.

«What happened in the aircraft (crash), I think the whole India was disheartened but at the same time the only thing from our side...we are going to be sticking with them, how we can make India happy again.» «Obviously, the emotion is going to be high because of what happened in the crash but at the

same time we are going to put our best foot forward for the country, how we can make them happy and that's an added responsibility always.» «You want to make India happy all the time but as a cricketer it's not possible all the time but what I can promise from our side is we are going to put our best foot forward and we are going to give our 200% and in that process we are going to make India a lot happier place,» he had said at that time.

Ind vs Eng 1st Test: Jaiswal scores glorious century, battles pain

Sai Sudharsan dropped from U19 team to India debut

New Delhi, (HS) : Sai Sudharsan was inconsolable after being dropped from the Tamil Nadu U19 team in December 2019. The reason? Poor physical shape. Jersey no.66. India's Test cap number 317. These belong to Sai Sudharsan now. The young Tamil Nadu cricketer could not stop his ear-to-ear grin a few minutes before the toss of the India vs England first Test at Headingley in Leeds on Friday. It started when Cheteshwar Pujara was asked to hand over the cap to him. Surely Sudharsan would have known at least a day before. But it's an unmatched feeling when it finally happens. Captain Shubman Gill, vice-captain Rishabh Pant, and pacer Mohammed Siraj took turns to congratulate Sudharsan and hug him.

Leeds, (HS) : Yashasvi Jaiswal reached a century while battling pain, leading India to a score of 215/2 at tea on the first day of the match. Shubman Gill remained unbeaten on 58*. This strong performance puts India in a commanding position. Jaiswal's century was particularly impressive as he battled through some discomfort. He opened the innings with Rohit Sharma, who also played well,

before being dismissed. Jaiswal continued his excellent form, reaching his century after a solid partnership with Shubman Gill.

Gill, who has been in good form recently, provided solid support for Jaiswal and ensured India maintained a strong position at tea. The partnership between the two young batsmen has been crucial for India's progress in the match. Jashasvi Jaiswal shows no



signs of stopping! After announcing himself with a century on his Australian debut in Perth, he's done it again, this time at Headingley, against the English. Despite struggling with cramping in his right forearm, the lefty showed urgency and class to register his fifth Test hundred. But with Rahul and debutant Sudharsan falling softly for 42 and zero respectively, India squandered their well-earned advantage, allowing England to go into the lunch break

with some happiness despite the hosts being made to toil hard for 90% of the time in the session. Though Jaiswal is unbeaten on 42 not out, he and new skipper Shubman Gill have a good resurrecting job to do.

England not attacking stumps much meant they didn't have the precision to stop Jaiswal and Rahul from playing the glorious straight and cover drives, though a few attempted drives did fly over the slip cordon.

Ashwin's Wife Posts Cryptic Message of India vs England Test



Leeds, (HS) : Former Indian cricket team spinner R Ashwin's wife Prithi Narayanan posted a cryptic message on social media ahead of Day 1 of the first Test encounter against England on Friday. This was the first time that India was playing a Test series without the illustrious trio of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ashwin. While Ashwin retired mid-way into the Test series against Australia, both Kohli and Rohit announced their retirement ahead of the five-match Test series against England. As a result, it was a somewhat new-look India side that took the pitch against England with Sai Sudharsan becoming the latest debutant. Prithi took to social media to post a message that echoed the emotion felt by many cricket fans as she wrote on her Instagram story - «Test match day for India, and I woke up with many mixed feelings. Have to find a different way to love it and unlearn the only way I knew to». India have handed B Sai Sudharsan his Test debut as England won the toss and elected to bowl in the first Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test at Headingley on Friday. The five-match series also marks the start of a new World Test Championship cycle for both India and England.

Senior men's and women's hockey players to get Rs 25,000

New Delhi, (HS) : The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved a Rs 25,000 per month as an Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) for the senior men's and women's hockey players. The decision was taken during the 156th Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting held. The MOC has sanctioned this financial support for 80 hockey players - 40 men and 40 women - who are part of the national camps under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). The total expenditure on this initiative will amount to Rs 20 lakh per month, sources in the ministry said.

It added that Hockey India will submit the list of players eligible for the allowance to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) every month. This step is being seen as a recognition of the Indian men's hockey team's performances in recent years, which include successive Olympic bronze medals at the Paris 2024 and Tokyo 2020, as well as their gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023. Both the men's and women's hockey teams were selected in the core group under the TOPS in 2023. However, due to the large pool of players, they will only get Rs 25,000 each month as offered to the development group athletes, the sources added. Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the government provides assistance to India's top athletes for their preparations for Olympic and Paralympic Games.

