



# DUMANI MAIL

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English Daily



## Iran vows response to US strikes, hits back at Israel



**New Delhi (HS) :** Iran continues to promise retaliation for United States strikes on critical nuclear facilities, as it launched a new wave of missiles and drones against Israel. Abdolrahim Mousavi, the new chief of staff of Iranian armed forces, said in a short statement on Monday morning that the US violated Iran's sovereignty when it attacked the Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan nuclear sites on Sunday and had "entered the war clearly and directly".

"The criminal US must know that in addition to punishing its illegitimate and aggressive offspring, the hands of Islam's fighters within the armed forces have been freed to take any action against its interests and military, and we will never back down in this regard," he said, in reference to Israel. Ebrahim Zolfaghari, who is acting as the spokesman of Iran's retaliatory strikes against Israel, said in his latest televised statement on Monday that the US's attacks were meant to

"revive the dying Zionist regime" but will actually serve to "expand the scope of the legitimate and various targets of Iranian armed forces, and create the grounds for expanding war in the region". Referring to US President Donald Trump, Zolfaghari said in English: "Gambler Trump, you may start this war, but we will be the ones to finish it."

Iran's army announced on Monday it had fired dozens of one-way drones with anti-fortification explosive warheads

at Israel. It claimed the majority of the projectiles fired since the early hours of the day had successfully reached their targets. Sirens also began sounding across Israel before noon on Monday, with a large number of impacts recorded in several areas, including the Ashdod area in southern Israel and the Lachish area, south of Jerusalem. The attacks came after the X account of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei republished an excerpt of a televised speech he made last week from an unknown location, which said Israel "must be punished and it is being punished right now". The Israeli military continues to launch air attacks across Iran as well, saying in an announcement on Monday it hit at least six airports in western, eastern and central Iran, including the Mehrabad airport in the capital, Tehran. "The strikes damaged runways, underground bunkers, a refuelling plane and F-14, F-5, and AH-1 aircraft belonging to the Iranian regime," it said, adding that 15 of its air force jets also carried out attacks in Kermanshah to target launch and storage sites for Iranian

surface-to-surface missiles. Later on Monday, Iranian officials said the Fordow nuclear site was attacked again, without specifying who was behind the attack. Morteza Heydari, spokesman of Qom's crisis management organisation, said "no danger is posed to citizens" in the area. Massive Israeli air raids, meanwhile, targeted Tehran and nearby Karaj around noon local time, with large plumes of rising visible in areas across the capital.

The live feed of state television was cut for several minutes, and it was confirmed that a technical building supporting live broadcasts for several channels was hit. The entrance of the Evin Prison was also bombed, as was a building of the Red Crescent Society. The prestigious Shahid Beheshti University in northern Tehran was targeted, as well. According to the latest figures by Iran's Ministry of Health, as of Saturday, more than 400 people have been killed in the Israeli attacks, mostly civilians. At least 24 people have been killed in Israel by Iranian projectiles, according to Israeli authorities.

## India has sufficient energy supplies, Minister assures

**New Delhi (HS) :** India has no immediate worries even if Iran does close down the Strait of Hormuz, the government has assured. Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday evening that India has enough energy supplies to meet requirements for several weeks and continues to receive supplies from several routes. "The government is closely monitoring the evolving geopolitical situation in the Middle East since the past two weeks. Under the leadership of PM @narendramodiji, we have diversified our supplies in the past few years and a large volume of our supplies do not come through the Strait of Hormuz now," Puri posted on X.

Concerns were raised after the US bombed three nuclear sites in Iran on Sunday



morning, following which the Islamic republic threatened to close down the Strait of Hormuz. India is the world's third-largest importer of oil and fourth-biggest gas buyer, after all. While nearly 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil out of India's total import of 5.5 million bpd transits through the Strait of Hormuz, the country has diversified sources - from Russia to the US and Brazil. This can easily fill the void, officials have said. Oil from

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## CDPO & clerk in Vig net



**Bhubaneswar (DMC) :** Odisha Vigilance sleuths on Monday apprehended a Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and a clerk-cum-accountant for allegedly taking Rs one lakh bribe for appointment of an Anganwadi worker in Rayagada district. The accused have been identified as Sushila Sabar, CDPO at Bisamcuttack and Rama Chandra

Patra, clerk-cum-accountant. The two were caught by Vigilance while accepting bribe of Rs 80,000 as second and final instalment of overall demand of Rs one lakh for appointment of a woman from Dongariya Kandha who was recently selected for the post of Anganwadi worker her Gram Panchayat area.

A Vigilance statement said that the woman had applied for

the post of Anganwadi worker in her village about a month ago. When she enquired about the status of the appointment in the office of CDPO on June 20, a demand of Rs one lakh bribe was made for issue of the appointment letter. On the same day, clerk Rama Chandra Patra took Rs 20,000 as first instalment on behalf of CDPO via UPI transaction from the complainant. The complainant was further instructed to pay the rest amount of Rs 80,000 by June 23 to get the appointment letter. Faced with such huge bribe demand, the poor tribal woman reported the matter to vigilance authorities. Based on this, the Vigilance team nabbed both the accused persons at Kumbhara Dhamuni Chowk while taking the bribe money of Rs

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## CM launches Rs 550 cr projects in Ganjam

**Bhubaneswar (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday laid foundation stones for various projects worth Rs 550 crore in Ganjam district and announced that a revised DPR would be prepared for the development of Tara Tarini temple. The Chief Minister, who attended a state-level youth convention at Aska in Ganjam, gave instruction to the officials to prepare a fresh detailed project report (DPR) for the development infrastructure at Tara Tarini shrine in Purushottampur block of the district.

Majhi laid foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 550 crore, including five irrigation initiatives, a high-level bridge, and a major road expansion plan. He also announced plans to establish a



world-class skill training institute in Polasara. Stating that Odisha will be a land of numerous possibilities for the youth in the coming days, he said the state is witnessing a golden era and there will be plenty of opportunities in different sectors of the economy. Stressing that the state government has set a target to make Odisha a \$ 500 billion economy by 2036, the centenary year of its formation, Majhi said the aim is to make the state \$ 1.5 trillion economy by 2047, the centenary year of India's independence. The youths of Odisha will play a significant role in achieving this target, the CM said. Noting that over 1.7 crore people in Odisha are in the age group of 15 to 35, the Chief Minister said the state government is preparing the

Continued P-4

## Youth in soup for eating wild boar meat

**Bhubaneswar (DMC) :** A man from Odisha is in trouble for eating wild boar meat and posting the same video on social media with wildlife experts demanding stringent action against him. A complaint has been sent to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life) & Chief Wildlife Warden of Odisha against the man, identified as Bikram Nayak, accusing him of violating the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLP).A).

In his complaint, Subhendu Mallik, former honorary Wildlife Warden of Khurda district, termed the action of Nayak as gross violation of WLP. He pointed out that Nayak had posted two videos in an Instagram account claiming the meat to be of wild boar. Stating that wild boar or Indian wild pig is protected under Schedule - II of the WLP, Subhendu said Nayak can be seen commenting on mass eating of wild boar meat in one video. He can be seen cooking the same in another video. Subhendu, who is also the convener of Snake Helpline, said he has attached the screen-recording of the two videos as evidence. "I have also attached the URL of the two Instagram videos for your information," he said. "Such an act cannot be excused as the videos are going viral in social media. These videos will certainly encourage others to go for hunting of wild animals," he said.

"Therefore, I request your good office to take strictest action as per the law of land against Bikram Nayak. I also request you to ask the DFOs to take Suomoto cognizance of wildlife handling (including snakes, monkeys, etc.) done by any person of Odisha taking account of the videos available on different social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.," Subhendu added.

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## ଡାଇରିଆ ନିରାକରଣ ପାଇଁ କେତୋଟି ସାଧାରଣ ସତର୍କତା

୧. ଅଧ ଘଣ୍ଟାଏ ପୁଟାଯାଇ ଥଣ୍ଡା କରାଯାଇଥିବା ପାଣି କିମ୍ବା ୧ ଲିଟର ପାଣିରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ହାଲୋଜେନ୍ ବଟିକା ପକାଇ ଅଧ ଘଣ୍ଟା ପରେ ପିଇବା ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ।

୨. ଖାଦ୍ୟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ପୂର୍ବରୁ, ଖାଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଓ ଶୌଚ ହେବା ପରେ ସାବୁନରେ ଭଲଭାବେ ହାତ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

୩. କାହାର ଝାଡ଼ା / ବାନ୍ତି ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଖାଦେଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍. ଦ୍ରବଣ ପିଆନ୍ତୁ ଓ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା ନିଅନ୍ତୁ । ବିଳମ୍ବ କଲେ ବିପଦ ଅଛି ।



ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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## Pakistani Danger

In 2018, in his first term, US President Donald Trump had spelt out, in his typically blunt style, the sense that Rawalpindi and Islamabad had taken advantage of Washington: "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools... they give safe haven to terrorists". This week, he said: "I love Pakistan". It would be simplistic to view the unprecedented lunch meeting at the White House between Trump and General Asim Munir - the first time a military leader who is not head of state in Pakistan has been accorded the honour - as a major u-turn. Indeed, India-US ties have been steadily deepening over the last three decades, based on a convergence of economic and strategic interests and shared values, even as the US-Pakistan relationship has grown more volatile. That said, the current moment in international relations is one of flux and Delhi must tread carefully. The Pahalgam attack underscored the grave national security threat that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism continues to present for India. With Operation Sindoor, Delhi has made it clear to both Rawalpindi and the world that it will pierce the shield of "proxies" and not give in to Pakistan's nuclear blackmail. India has raised the costs of terror in order to ensure that such attacks on its soil are not carried out with impunity. Communicating the new normal it has etched with Pakistan after Pahalgam to its friends abroad is Delhi's challenge. To be sure, Delhi cannot control who Trump chooses to engage, and for what reasons. Pakistan's geography - it shares a 900-km border with Iran - may make it an attractive tactical partner for the US in the current Israel-Iran war. There is speculation that Pakistan's rolling out the red carpet for the privately-owned US cryptocurrency firm, World Liberty Financial (WLF), may have helped ingratiate Munir to the White House - Donald Trump Jr has close ties with WLF. A White House spokesperson has claimed that Munir has proposed Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his self-proclaimed role - firmly denied by India - in the post Op Sindoor cessation of hostilities. For India, though, the question is less why the Munir-Trump meeting, and more about how to ensure that the red lines it has laid down are respected, including by the US. Just a fortnight before terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam after confirming their religion, Munir had reiterated some of the nastiest tropes of the two-nation theory. He called Kashmir Pakistan's "jugular vein", and reduced the complex and layered identities of the Subcontinent's people to their religion.

It is now for Delhi - diplomatically, through the appropriate channels - to remind Washington that Pakistan's Field Marshal is a fundamentalist with an army at his disposal. Delhi has done well so far in standing its ground and making it clear that it will not compromise on its national interest: Even if belatedly, it issued a clear denial of President Trump's claims about mediating the ceasefire. Now, it must underline for Washington the danger that Munir's vision of Pakistan poses for stability in the region and for global order - and why Delhi has drawn some hard red lines.

24th June

## Fairy Day



International Fairy Day is celebrated every year on June 24. The idea behind the day is to appreciate and uplift the celebration of mythical creatures such as fairies and to use their tales to teach valuable lessons to the children. The concept of having a utopia where there are fairies and mythical creatures and that anything can happen drives the children to aim for the things that are considered impossible by the current systems, with the confidence that they can do it. So in demonstrating the belief that fairies exist, we celebrate International Fairy Day.

Fairies are mythical creatures that are said to possess magical powers. Generally considered to be female, fairies have been a significant part of the Renaissance period in Europe. Having different origin stories from different parts of the world, there are different versions hailing from different places to describe the existence of fairies. Some call them the children of Eve, some call them fallen angels, and some consider them to be the sisters of elves (the devil has always been in the details). For us, fairies are magical beings known for their playful and mischievous nature. As far as the story of Peter Pan goes, legend has it that the first laugh of a baby broke into several pieces and became the source of the existence of fairies and demons. The joy and youth of a child is a matter of envy for the adults in whom every second person we notice has the desire to go back to his youth. Since fairies are a symbol of youth and joy, the desire to be a child again, to delve into the fairyland and fly casually with Peter Pan is a fantasy cherished by many.

Today, when the majority of the folklore and fantasy storyline has been discarded by the ever-evolving technology and gadgets, our realist society still has close associations with fairies and demons. Baba Yaga may be forgotten, but the adventures of Peter Pan and Tinker Bell are still fresh in the minds of adults and children alike. To give these believers a day to remember, International Fairy Day has been kept alive since its beginning and is celebrated every year on June 24. The first-ever laugh of a baby opens the void from where the fairies and demons come to the land of humans.

# Inflation is an intricate part of the economic fabric



Dr. Seela Subba Rao

According to an American economist Gardner Ackley, inflation is a persistent and appreciable rise in general level or average prices. It is not high prices but rising price level that constitutes inflation. It is thus, an overall increase in prices level and it can be viewed as devaluing of the worth of money. In other words, inflation reduces the purchasing power of money and a unit of money now buys less. While measuring inflation, a large number of goods and services used by the people of a country is considered. A small rise in prices or a sudden rise in prices is not inflation since they may reflect the short-term working of the market. It is measured through the "Price Index" and is usually measured as a rate. The "Price Index" reflects average change in prices over time for a basket of goods & services and is expressed with reference to a particular period called the "Base Year." The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India compiles the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-industrial workers based on retail prices collected from 317 markets in 88 industrially important centres across the country regularly. The All-India CPI-combined index for industrial workers for April 2025 had been worked out by the Labour Bureau at 143.5 whereas the same was estimated at 139.4 for April 2024 using the base year of 2016=100. Thus, the year-to-year inflation rate for April 2025 worked out to 2.94 per cent the lowest it has been in last five years.

Types of inflation - As the nature of inflation is not uniform in an economy for all the time, it is important to distinguish between types of inflation. The analysis of different types of inflation is very much useful to study the distributional and other effects of inflation. It is also useful in formulating anti-inflationary policies for the country in times of need. The different types of inflation are as follow. i) Commercial banks being profit oriented institutions sanction more loans and advances to the customers what the economy needs. Such credit expansion by the banks leads to rise in price level in the country. This is known as credit inflation. ii) The Budget of the government reflects a deficit when the total expenditure exceeds the total revenue. The government may ask Central Bank to print additional currency notes to meet the gap. Since pumping of additional money is required to meet the Budget deficit, any price rise resulted therein, may be called the deficit-induced inflation. iii) An increase in aggregate demand over the available output leads to raise the price level. Such inflation is known as demand-pull inflation. (DPI). Some experts opined that if the supply of money in an economy exceeds the total value of the available goods and services, DPI appears. iv) Inflation in an economy may rise from the overall increase in the cost of production. This type of inflation is known as Cost-push inflation (CPI). Cost of production in a country may rise due to an increase in the prices of raw materials, fuels, other inputs, wages and etc.

Effects of inflation - Effects of inflation are multi-faceted on economy of the country. Inflation leads to redistribution of income and wealth from one hand to another. It results into loss to some group of people and gains to another group of people. In case of consumer and producers' relationship, the purchasing power of money held by the consumers falls. As a result, they have to pay more money to producers for the same amount of goods and services. Thus, the producer is the gainer



and consumer is the loser. Moreover, flexible income groups such as sellers, self-employed people and etc, whose salary is adjusted according to inflation do not get affected due to inflation. However, the fixed-income groups such as daily wage earners lose as the purchasing power of their fixed income falls. In an economy, there are some people who live on interest income earned on their deposits. bond-holders earn fixed interest income. These people suffer on reduction in real income when prices rise whereas bond-issuers gain. This is because fixed rate paid for the bonds is not enough to compensate for inflation. In case of equity holders, income depends on the profit of the company. High price of commodities reduces exports and increases imports from other countries where goods are available at a cheaper rate. Hence, it results in an unfavourable Balance of Payments (BoP) position. A high import and low export mean high demand for foreign currencies vis-à-vis domestic currency. This results in depreciation of domestic currency. A rise in price leads to a fall in demand for goods and services. As a result, it may force a cut down in the production. It may also lead to a shift in investment from other sectors to those in which price rise has taken place as investors intend to make a higher profit.

Managing inflation - Inflation is an intricate part of the economic fabric influencing financial decisions and economic policies

in the country. Its effective management requires a careful balance of monetary policy, fiscal policy, and administrative measures. Monetary policy is formulated and reviewed by the RBI on quarterly basis. The RBI uses monetary tools to reduce the money supply in the market. It leads to a reduction in demand and hence the prices across the country. In some extreme situations, the measure of demonetisation is carried out. A currency of a particular denomination is declared as invalid. It results in reduction of money supply in the market and hence demand for goods and services. Monetary tools adopted by the RBI include adjusting interest rates (repo rate, reverse repo rate), managing liquidity through open market operations (OMP) and setting cash reserve ratio (CSR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR). In addition to this, the RBI can also implement qualitative controls such as raising margins on loans for speculative commodities from time to time. Union government formulates fiscal policy and resorts to reduction in government expenditure. This helps reduce demand and hence brings down the price level of commodities and essential items. When government resorts to increasing direct taxes such as Income Tax, it reduces the disposable income available to the people. It results in low demand and hence lower prices. When government passes a surplus budget, it means there is less expenditure than the receipts. This reduces money

supply and hence demand for goods and services. Fiscal policies set by Union government involve adjustments to spending, taxation, supply side policies, trade policies to influence aggregate demand & supply and etc. Administrative measures by government involve wage policy, price controls, subsidy programmes and etc.

Way forward - It is pertinent to mention that food and fuel are the key factors that influence the overall inflation in country. The outlook for inflation in India suggests a gradual alignment with targets of RBI of 4 per cent with a +/- 2 per cent tolerance band for next two years. Projections indicate a potential CPI inflation in the range of 4.0 to 4.2 per cent in 2025-26. Core inflation which excludes volatile items such as food and fuel is also expected to remain within the 4.2 to 4.4 per cent range. The RBI is anticipated to implement successive rate cuts starting from April 2025 to manage inflation and support economic growth in the country. The monsoon and the global factors will play a crucial role in shaping the actual inflation trajectory. Some experts are of opinion that the RBI through its monetary policies, can only control demand and pull inflation to some extent. It is difficult for the RBI alone to control inflation. For controlling cost push inflation and structural inflation, the role of Union government and State Governments is more important as compared to the RBI. Hence the combined efforts of all three arms i.e. the RBI, Union government and State governments are essential to control inflation in the country. The GDP outlook of the RBI for 2025-26 stands at 6.5 percent and this may stand revised upwards as the rate cuts further deepen in the coming months despite the uncertain global economy and looming geopolitical risks. By employing combination of appropriate monetary and fiscal policies along with the supply-side intervention such as improving infrastructure and promoting competition, India can effectively manage and control inflation.

AGM (retd) NABARD

## The Rise of Green Investing in Emerging Markets

Dr. Debidutta Pattnaik

Emerging markets encounter unique challenges in their pursuit of sustainable development. Rapid industrialization, urbanization, and population growth exert increased pressure on natural resources, leading to environmental degradation and pollution. Additionally, these countries often lack the necessary infrastructure and regulatory frameworks to manage these challenges effectively. Green investing offers a promising solution to these challenges by directing capital towards companies that prioritize sustainable practices and products.

**Green Investing Market Size:** Green investing, also known as sustainable or responsible investing, represents a rapidly growing trend that focuses on investing in companies prioritizing environmentally-friendly practices and products. The growth of sustainable investment seems unstoppable. According to the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (GSIA), sustainable investment's value in major financial markets globally reached \$35.3 trillion at the beginning of 2020, accounting for 36 per cent of all professionally managed assets across the US, Canada, Japan, Australasia, and Europe. Recently, green investing has gained significant traction in emerging economies like India, as investors and governments recognize the importance of sustainable development and the potential for green investments to drive economic growth.

**Green Finance in India:** The analysis of green finance in India examines the flow of finances into crucial sectors of the real economy like clean energy, clean transport, and

energy efficiency. It is approximated that India needs around INR 162.5 lakh crores (USD 2.5 trillion) between 2015 and 2030 to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as per the Paris Agreement, equating to about INR 11 lakh crores (USD 170 billion) in investments annually. Additionally, in 2021, India expressed heightened ambitions regarding climate action and unveiled the Panchamrit targets, which aim to add 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity and fulfil 50% of its energy needs through non-renewable sources. This increased ambition necessitates the acceleration of green finance, prompting green investment from the public, private, and household sectors.

**Green Investing and Sustainable Development:** Green investing can play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development in emerging economies by encouraging companies to adopt environmentally-friendly practices and products. Investors, by investing in companies prioritizing sustainability, can create market demand for green products and services, thereby driving innovation and developing new green technologies. This process can lead to the creation of new green industries and jobs, contributing to economic growth and development. Additionally, green investing can help address some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing emerging economies like India. For instance, investments in renewable energy can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change, while investments in clean water and sanitation can improve public health and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases.

Green Investing and Economic

**Growth:** Green investing can also contribute to economic growth and development in emerging economies by attracting foreign investment and fostering innovation. As investors increasingly seek sustainable investment opportunities, companies prioritizing sustainability may become more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased foreign direct investments (FDI). Additionally, green investments can help create new green industries and jobs, contributing to economic growth and development. Furthermore, green investing can help address some of the most pressing economic challenges facing emerging economies. For instance, investments in energy efficiency can help reduce energy costs and increase energy security, while investments in sustainable agriculture can help improve food security and reduce the risk of food price shocks.

**Conclusion:** Green investing holds significant promise for promoting sustainable development and economic growth in emerging markets. By directing capital towards companies that prioritize sustainability, investors can help to create market demand for green products and services, drive innovation, and create new green industries and jobs. Moreover, green investing can help to address some of the most pressing environmental and economic challenges facing these countries. As such, it is essential for policymakers and investors in emerging economies to recognize the importance of green investing and work together to promote its growth and development.

Assistant Professor and Area Chair (Finance and Economics), IMI Bhubaneswar

## Making the child too ambitious is dangerous

Badal Bhuyan

This is perhaps one question that starts from when we were children, and will continue even after we become aged. Did we create name and fame for ourselves in the world? We are witnessing a new trend where even aged people are not spared; they are advised to continue working so as to fulfil their yet-unfulfilled ambitions. Several websites and counselling centres have sprung up, to train professionals towards fulfilling their life's ambitions and desires.

Each child is nurtured by the goal of ambition through parents and society – the message is dinned into their heads that they need to become 'something' or 'someone' important and useful. The child has to prove that he has some worth, by bringing in gold medals, whether it is in sports, music, dancing or debates. There is no respite, for this fire of ambition is lit and stoked even well into adulthood, middle age and now even in old age. The Atmopanisad says that our internal self is the victim of 'ambition' and we become vulnerable to baser elements like anger, jealousy, greed, frustration and suicidal feelings. Ambition is a poison that is far more dangerous than any kind of alcohol or drugs, because ambition destroys our whole life and makes us move in a false direction. "Each parent is saying to the child, 'prove that you have some worth'. Just being is not enough, some doing is needed. Whole of society depends on creating ambition in you. Ambition means a conflict; ambition means that whatsoever you are, you are wrong; you have to be somewhere else." Instead of making the child ambitious about reaching the top, parents and society need to recognise the child's talents, qualities and potential, and nourish these in an atmosphere that encourages individuality. Children are new editions of consciousness and fresh entries of divinity into life. "All that the child needs from parents and society is a deepening of innocence and if a child grows with his centre blossoming, you will have, for the first time, a society of the buddhas, the awakened ones, a society of culture."

Existence is not making a child ambitious; it is our misplaced social conditionings. Every child is unique. There is nothing to become, nothing to achieve. Let individuality in the child grow. Acknowledge the potential within the child and help it to blossom to its full potential.

Founder Editor 'The Singhbhum', 4G Pratap Apartment, 7 Extension Road, Old Sonari, Jamshepur



# Tourism Minister assures safety amid US travel fiat

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** In response to the recent US State Department advisory urging its citizens to "exercise increased caution" while traveling to India-including parts of Odisha-Tourism Minister Pravati Parida on Monday sought to reassure visitors of the state's safety and hospitality."As the Tourism Minister, I have reviewed the data from the past three days regarding the arrival of US tourists in Odisha.

The number is currently negligible," Parida stated. "While the advisory cites concerns over crime and terrorism in specific regions, I believe such statements may be influenced by India's rapid pace of development, which could be perceived as a challenge by some countries," she said. The minister



emphasized that Odisha remains a safe destination for international travelers."There is no alarming situation in Odisha or other Indian states. Tourists from the US are welcome here. However, their government sets guidelines which their citizens are expected to follow," she said. Parida also expressed confidence in the state

government's efforts to maintain law and order. "The 'Mohan' government in Odisha is functioning effectively and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India remains a safe and secure nation," she added.The US State Department recently issued a Level 2 travel advisory for India, specifically

highlighting concerns in southwestern Odisha and other regions, citing rising incidents of crime and terrorism. The advisory urges American travelers to exercise increased caution while visiting the country. The advisory issued on June 16 further adds that the U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to its citizens in rural areas, which stretch from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal.

The advisory also tells U.S. citizens not to travel to parts of Central and East India "due to terrorism." "Maoist extremist groups, or 'Naxalites,' are active in a large area of India that spans from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal," the advisory said.

# Diarrhoea situation under control: Mukesh Mahaling

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):**The Diarrhoea situation is under control in the state. The state government is taking the diarrhoea situation in Odisha seriously, and the number of new cases has decreased, informed Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling. According to the Health Minister, the Chief Minister has reviewed the situation with four departments to ensure effective management.

Stop diarrhoea awareness campaigns have been conducted to control the spread of diarrhoea in every district. Collectors have been instructed to monitor the situation. The situation is improving thanks to rigorous steps being implemented by the government.Mahaling has also urged the public to remain vigilant and cautious to prevent further spread of the



disease.About measures to control diarrhoea during Rath Yatra, Mahaling stated that as many as 387 doctors and paramedical staff will be deployed, and 69 first-aid centres will be opened, particularly in Puri, to prevent the spread of diarrhoea during the Rath Yatra. Besides, 79

ambulances will be arranged to provide immediate medical assistance.A special review meeting was conducted by the Chief Minister to ensure that necessary measures are in place to manage the situation during the Rath Yatra in Puri. Steps will also be taken to provide safe drinking water to the people during the carnival.

## SNIPPETS

### Oriental Insurance plans new scheme



**Bhubaneswar:** The Oriental Insurance has prepared a new scheme for providing early compensation to the deceased and injured in motor vehicle accidents. One committee has been formed in each State under the scheme called common mechanism for compromised settlement of TP Cases (CMCSTPC). Retired Justice Debabrata Das, orthopedic specialist Dr. Professor Basant Kumar Behera and Retired Deputy General Manager of Oriental Insurance, Pitamber Jena inaugurated the first session. General Manager of the Company Rajiv Gupta played an important role in organizing the session. Deputy General Manager of Oriental Insurance Company Jadunath Sethi settled 16 motor vehicle accident cases in the first session.

### BTech student fakes kidnapping

**Cuttack:** A BTech student had planned his own kidnapping in the Chauliaganj area. Cuttack DCP Rishikesh Khilari informed that the student who went missing had planned his own abduction. The Deputy Commissioner of Police stated that police found that the after incurring losses in crypto currency, the student had planned to extort money for his family members. The student along with some of his friends asked a ransom amount of Rs 50,000 from his family members. Panicking the family members informed the police and his sister registered a complaint with the Chauliaganj police on June 20. Police tracked his phone and after investigation found him out and the matter was disclosed. The officials gave a statement that he had planned his own kidnapping to get money from his family members after losing Rs 50,000.

### Three railway employees felicitated



**Bhubaneswar:** Recognising outstanding dedication and vigilance on duty, East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal felicitated three railway employees for their exemplary service performance and alertness while on duty. They are Uttam Kumar, Station Manager at Lakshimpur; Podilapu Gowri Sankar, Senior Goods Train Manager at Simhachalam North and Manoj Kumar Hansdah, Track Maintainer-III at Rahama. They were applauded for their quick thinking and proactive actions that ensured the smooth and safe operation of trains under their watch. Their alert response during routine duties not only prevented potential operational disruptions but also reinforced the high standards of safety. Funkwal commended their commitment and the critical role played by railway personnel working in the field.

### Yoga Day at RITES project office



**Bhubaneswar:** Jites Kumar, ex-RITES employee, demonstrated various yoga asanas and pranayama practices. He explained the importance of yoga practice. All the RITES officials followed the practice. Anil Prakas, Group general manager, elucidated about how yoga and meditation affect our health and mind. "Each one should follow it as one of our daily routine life activities. Mahesh Kumar,GM and Satyendra, GM were also present in the yoga practice. (DMC)

## Naveen recovering well: Prem Patnaik

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Naveen Patnaik, the BJD supremo and Leader of Opposition in Odisha, is recovering well after undergoing a successful surgery, informed his elder brother Prem Patnaik on Monday.Prem further said that Naveen is now able to walk a few steps on his own to the bathroom. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to everyone who prayed for Naveen's speedy recovery. "Naveen had a procedure yesterday and he is doing very well. He is walking a little bit, a few steps to the bathroom. I just want to thank all of you and the people of Odisha for thinking about him and praying for him. I am sure that with all your good wishes, he will have a very speedy recovery," said Prem Patnaik.

The surgery, which lasted nearly four hours, was successfully performed yesterday. Dr. Ramakant Panda, who led the operation, confirmed that Naveen is in stable condition. He further stated that Naveen will remain under observation at the hospital for the next two days. Following this, he is expected to stay in the hospital for an additional 3 to 4 days before being discharged. Must Read: LoP Naveen Patnaik undergoes successful cervical arthritis surgery in Mumbai, remains under observationNaveen Patnaik had been suffering from cervical arthritis and he was admitted to the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai last Friday for treatment."With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, the operation was successful. A renowned spine surgeon from Coimbatore was brought in especially for the procedure," Dr Panda said.

## Gun-smuggling in trains raises alarm in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** In a worrying development, criminals are reportedly using trains as channels for illegal arms trade. Rising concerns over railway security prompted Odisha's Director General of Police (DGP) to hold an urgent high-level meeting on Monday to address how to curb these threats, especially before the world-famous Rath Yatra festivities.

According to sources, a spike in gun smuggling via train routes has set off security alarms across the State. Authorities are increasingly concerned that criminal elements are choosing railway tracks and premises as 'safe zones' to transport and trade illegal firearms, posing a significant challenge to law enforcement agencies.In response, DGP



Yogesh Bahadur Khurania chaired a key meeting at the DGP camp office. The discussion centred on strategies to disrupt and prevent such unlawful activities within railway premises. The meeting comes in light of repeated complaints and intelligence alerts about illegal arms movement on

trains.Key railway and security officials including DG Railway and Coast Guard Arun Bothra, East Coast Range IG Alok Bora, South East Range IG Sanjay Mishra, South East Central Railway (SECR) IG Manohar Khursid, senior Divisional Railway Managers (DRM),

Railway Superintendents, and senior officials from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) were present during the discussion.The officials also reviewed special security arrangements for the upcoming Rath Yatra, the 9-day annual sojourn of the Holy Trinity, during which there is an expected surge in passenger traffic.

Discussions emphasised coordinated patrolling, intelligence sharing, and deployment of additional personnel to safeguard passengers and prevent any criminal activity during the festival.The Odisha Police and Railway authorities are now working on a joint operational plan to ensure railways remain secure corridors and are not exploited by crime networks.

## Malayalam Telefilm actor arrested for cyber fraud

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** The Cyber Police in Bhubaneswar have arrested Malayalam telefilm producer-actor Prasad Balan (49) alias Kichu for orchestrating an inter-state cyber fraud scheme. Police sources said that Kichu, posing as a prominent film producer, lured people into fraudulent

investment schemes by promising high return through virtual gold bidding through fake trading apps - <https://www.perthmint-bid.com> and <https://www.perthmint-jewellery.com>. He also ran advertisements for part-time job offers to trap job seekers.Kichu was apprehended from Kerala

during a joint operation was carried out with the Kerala Police, on the basis of a complaint lodged by one Deepak Nayak of Bhubaneswar, defrauded of over Rs 54 lakh. several incriminating documents, including multiple bank passbooks, PAN cards, and passports, were seized from his possession.

## BRAINSTORMING

# PECTEA meet at IIT-BBS drives breakthroughs in power electronics

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** The international conference on Power Electronics Converters for Transportation and Energy Applications (PECTEA 2025), hosted by the School of Electrical and Computer Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar, successfully concluded on June 21.

Spanning four days, the conference served as a vibrant forum for academicians, researchers, and industry leaders to deliberate on the future of power electronics in transportation and energy systems.The conference was inaugurated on June 19 by Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, who underscored the importance of integrated, outcome-driven research. He noted that the event bridges power electronics, electrical engineering, and computing-disciplines with



increasingly thin boundaries-and highlighted the role of Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) in translating innovations into real-world applications.

He commended the organizers for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and promoting research with national relevance. In his address, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, reflected on

the evolving role of power electronics and the institute's vision. He remarked, "Power electronics is increasingly central to addressing global challenges in energy and transportation.

As disciplinary boundaries dissolve, it is crucial to engage students early and expose them to the societal value of engineering. Conferences like PECTEA not only spark critical dialogue but

also inspire the next generation of engineers to pursue meaningful, impact-driven research." Prof. C.N. Bhende, Dean (Continuing Education) In-Charge highlighted the role of the continuing education section of the institute in imparting lifelong learning.

Dr. Dipankar De, Organizing Chair of the Conference, delivered the welcome address and Dr. Chandrasekhar Perumalla,

Organizing Co-Chair proposed a vote of thanks in the inaugural session.The conference commenced with a day of high-level tutorials by distinguished faculty and industry professionals, followed by keynote addresses from global thought leaders, including Prof. Sanjib Kumar Panda (National University of Singapore), Prof. Rajeev Kumar Singh (IIT BHU), Prof. Pat Wheeler (University of Nottingham, UK) and Prof. John Hayes (UCC Ireland).

The Women in Engineering (WIE) event held on IEEE PELS Day, held on 20th June highlighted IEEE PELS initiatives promoting diversity and inclusion. Experts discussed trends and challenges in women's participation in engineering education and the workforce, focusing on

actionable strategies to boost representation. During PECTEA-2025, IIT Bhubaneswar hosted a live demonstration of the KAMMA Gear Flywheel Technology. This green, pollution-free solution acts as a mechanical battery and synchronous condenser, enhancing grid stability through high-inertia energy storage. The system combines input from a prime mover with optimized flywheel mass via gravity, aligning with energy conservation principles.

Scalable for large applications, the technology was fully demonstrated on campus through appropriate measurements. It may be noted that a national level steering committee will be formed to make this conference a biennial event with its 2nd version in 2027 at IIT Bhubaneswar.



## NTPC Kaniha Receives Two Prestigious Awards for Environmental Excellence



**Talcher, (DMC):** NTPC Kaniha secured two distinguished awards recognizing its exemplary commitment to environmental management and sustainability. The station proudly received the Kalinga Environment Excellence National Award - 2024 in the Five Star Category (the highest recognition) at the 10th National Conclave on Environment, Energy and Climate Change (EECC) 2025.

The event was held in Bhubaneswar on 21st June 2025 for its remarkable performance in the field of Environment Management and mitigation measures for pollution abatement. The award ceremony was sponsored by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (Government of Odisha), Odisha

State Productivity Council, and the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad. The award was received by Shri K. Narasimha Reddy, Executive Director & Head of Plant (NTPC Kaniha), in the presence of distinguished dignitaries including H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda;

Smt. Uma Nanduri, IFS, Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board & PCCF Kendu Leaf, Government of Odisha; and Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathy, IAS (Retd), President of Odisha State Productivity Council. NTPC Kaniha was also awarded the Platinum Award, the highest category - for outstanding achievement in the

"Sustainability" category by the Green Enviro Foundation. This prestigious recognition was presented during the Green Enviro Environment Award and Summit, held on 19th June 2025 in Lonavala. The ceremony was graced by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Union Minister and current Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA).

On behalf of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, this award was received by Rabi Shankar Verma, SR. Manager (EMG) and AL Mohammad Idris KS, SR. Manager (Ash Utilization) Shri K. N. Reddy, Executive Director, NTPC Talcher Kaniha, congratulated the entire Talcher Kaniha team on receiving these two prestigious awards. He praised the team's unwavering commitment to environmental excellence and sustainability, acknowledging that these honors reflect their dedication, hard work, and leadership in sustainable practices. He encouraged the team to continue setting high standards and contributing positively to environmental protection and sustainable development."

## Single use Plastic Free Awareness Programme Organised

**NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC):** A single use Plastic-free awareness program, including a rally was held in Parkod Gram Panchayat under Nuapada Block on Monday. The event aimed to educate the community about the harmful effects of single use plastic and promote alternatives.

The program involved raising awareness about the need to reduce plastic usage and promote sustainable practice. A rally was organised to visually demonstrate the community's commitment to reducing plastic consumption. The rally started from Panchayat office and moved whole village. Sarpanch of Parkod GP Devendra Dewangan, Panchayat Executive Officer Balak



Ram Majhi, HWF Lilabati Banjara, Health Worker Girdhari Dewangan, Ward members of Gram Panchayat, all the ASHA's, Anganwadi workers, Mahila Mandals and students of different schools were actively joined in this awareness rally. They also chanting slogans like Beti bachao, Beti padhao.

## 2006 Matric Batch Heartwarming Reunion

**Khordha, (DMC):** Loknath Dev Bidya Peetha, Kumarbasta-2006 Matric Batch Students' heartwarming reunion was held at Maa Barunei Temple, Khordha. The reunion program was co-ordinated by Ashish Ranjan Pradhan.

All the students of the 2006 Matric Batch gathered & were emotional while reminiscing about old memories. The students were worshipped & honored the M.E. School headmistress Bani



Bose, Bikhari Charan Behera, Biswa Ranjan Mishra, Bhagirathi Jena, Mamata Praharaj, Kshirabdhhi Sinha, Anusaya Sahu, Lakshmi Priya Jena, Manjubala Das, Krupasindhu Parida, Jhuanani Behera, Ashamani Dei & Sulchana Dei.

## Jt. Grievance Hearing Camp held in Bari



**Jajpur, (DMC):** Block Level joint Public Grievance hearing camp by Jajpur district administration was held in Bari block on this Monday. District Collector cum Magistrate Smt. P Anwesha Reddy, Superintendent of Police Sri Yash Pratap Simal attained the camp and heard different grievances from the public. Total 103 grievances have been registered, 31 were from individuals, 06 from Communal, 66 for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

67 grievances were disposed instantly and Three Divyanga Jan's have been provided Tri-Cycles for their daily smooth communication. Among others CDEO Ashok Kumar Behuria, Sub-Collector Tapas Ranjan Dehuri, Bari BDO Asit Kumar Mohanty, Bari Tahasildar, ABDO Maheswar Sethy and district level officers were attained the camp. Later the district collector along with CDMO Jajpur visited Bari CHC and reviewed the Diarrhea situation. She also talked with the patients and MOI Bari regarding the treatment facilities.

## Rayagada Vigilance Busts CDPO and Clerk for Bribery

**Rayagada, (DMC):** In a significant anti-corruption operation, the Rayagada Vigilance department apprehended CDPO Sushila Sabar and clerk Ramachandra Patra while they were accepting a bribe of ₹80,000. The bribe was allegedly taken for the selection of Anganwadi workers. The incident has raised concerns about corruption within the system. The Vigilance department is currently conducting an investigation, and both accused are undergoing interrogation at the Rayagada Vigilance office. Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses.

## Preparatory meeting held for health camp and Ratha Yatra



**NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC):** A preparatory meeting was held at Sarvajani Dharamshala Khariar Road on Sunday evening regarding the free health camp to be organized by Khariar Road Sewa Samiti (KSS) on June 24 and the Ratha Yatra festival to be celebrated in the city on June 27. The meeting was organized under the Chairmanship of KSS President Nishant Daga. Jonk Police Station IIC Pradeep Kumar Dharua, Patron of KSS Premchand Daga, President of Sri Ram Mandir Management Committee Ramesh Agrawal, Ashok Agrawal, Editor K3 TV Suresh Achari, BPM Chandan Hota, fire brigade and electricity department officials were present on the dais. It is to be noted that the committee will organize a free health camp on 24th June at Medi Plaza near FCI warehouse.

Experts doctors will provide their services in this camp. Registration for free treatment is going on. The camp will start from 10 am and will continue till 4 pm. Like every year, this time too the Ratha Yatra of Mahaprabhu Jagannath Ji will be taken out in the city with great pomp and show. KSS members will be present along with the police administration to manage the arrangements during the Ratha Yatra. Discussions were held on security arrangements, traffic management and crowd control to ensure peaceful conduct of the Rath Yatra. Rakesh Verma, Prakash Agrawal, Santosh Ahir, Vicky Joshi along with all the members from KSS were actively participated in the meeting.

## Bharatiya Jan Sangh Observes Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's Martyrdom Day in Rayagada

**Rayagada, (DMC):** The Bharatiya Jan Sangh, led by Rayagada Municipal Council Chairman Rajesh Kumar Panigrahi, observed Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's Martyrdom Day at Vidyanagar on June 23, 2025.

The event began with a floral tribute to Dr. Mukherjee's statue, followed by the lighting of lamps. The chief speaker, Shyam Kumar Das, Western Zone Secretary of Odisha Saksham, highlighted Dr. Mukherjee's life and achievements. Dr. Mukherjee



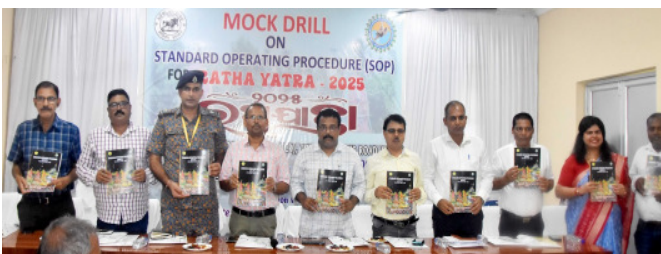
was born on July 6, 1901, in West Bengal and was a distinguished scholar, holding degrees including BA, MA, LLB, and a doctorate in literature. He served as Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and was a

member of the Indian Constitution Assembly. The event was attended by several, Manjula Miniaka, Ajay Chulet, and other party officials. The program was managed by Ajay Chulet, General Secretary of the Rayagada BJP.

## Mock drills were held for the rath yatra

**Puri, (DMC):** A mock drill of coordination between various departments was held today at the Integrated Command and Control Centre in the town police station premises for the orderly and safe conduct of the upcoming Rath Yatra. Presiding over the meeting, ADM Sarat Chandra Behera directed the Chief Minister to make the ongoing Rath Yatra accident-free. More crowds are expected this year as compared to previous years. So we need to make elaborate arrangements for passenger amenities and disciplined darshan," he said.

All the work is being handled properly by various departments. Today's mock drill is planned to look into a realistic system of the same. This was done earlier as well. With this mock drill, we will be empowered and will gain the experience of managing the work very well," said Behera, additional collector. This mock drill will be very helpful for all the departments to understand their responsibilities



and work in coordination with other departments. ADM Protocol that the devotees should come to the shrine and return with a pleasant experience said. Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi welcomed everyone with initial information.

Among others, ADM Protocol Nilamadhav Bhoi, Municipal Executive Officer Abhimanyu Behera, Sub-Collector Raj Kishore Jena, DIB Additional SP Devi Prasad Pratap, Additional SP Soumya Ranjan Mallik, NDRF Assistant Commandant Gaurav Gengate, ADMO Dr Vinod Rath, Administrative Officer of The Main Hospital Anjali Tarai, Traffic DSP Raj Kumar Parida were present.

Personnel of NDRF 3rd Battalion, Odraf, Fire Brigade, Health Departments and other NGOs conducted the mock drill. In case of an incident during the bathing journey, the technique of how to deal with it successfully in case of an accident was demonstrated and made aware of it expeditiously.

District Emergency Department DPO Sukanta Kumar Das, Aditya Kumar Baral, Ramkrishna Badajena, Ranjan Kumar Behera, Ashok Kumar Mallik, Rupshree Panda, Ms. Sangita Mohapatra, Mamta Barik, Sanjay Mohapatra, Suman Mohapatra, Biswa Bhusan Das and Prabhakar Behera assisted in the management of the work.

## Sola Flowers Enhance Elegance of Puri Ratha Yatra



& the puri temple administration. As a result he will not be able to put up more colorful Sola Flowers. Raj Kishore who had high hope has been facing financial constraints. Not only Raj Kishore but all his family members are involved in the preparation of Sola Flowers. Raj Kishore all family members has completely stopped eating Non-

veg until the Sola Flowers is installed on the chariot. Raj Kishore has been providing Sola Flowers during Ratha Yatra since -2000 but since -2004 he has been legally granted permission by the Puri Temple Administration. According to Raj Kishore his father & grand father were express in making Sola Flowers. As a result people used to look

From Page- 1

## India has sufficient...

Russia moves through the Suez Canal, Cape of Good Hope, or Pacific Ocean. Supplies from the US, Brazil and West African countries are costlier, but can make up for any deficit during an emergency. "Our Oil Marketing Companies have supplies for several weeks and continue to receive energy supplies from several routes. We will take all necessary steps to ensure stability of supplies of fuel to our citizens," Puri added. India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its natural gas requirement. More than 40 per cent of the oil imports and half of gas imports come from the Middle East. Russia is India's largest supplier of crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries.

Qatar is India's biggest supplier of natural gas, which is used to make fertilisers, generate electricity, and turned into CNG to run automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. Global oil prices are at their highest since January after the Iran-Israel conflict started. Rates of the benchmark Brent crude were up more than 10 per cent to \$77 a barrel.

## CM launches...

roadmap for the future keeping this in mind. Majhi also stressed that the state government has decided to provide 11.25 per cent reservation for the students of SEBC in higher education. While 28,346 youths have been provided with government jobs during one year, industrial projects worth over Rs 1.8 lakh crore were launched during this period which are set to create around 1.1 lakh new jobs, the CM said.

## CDPO & clerk...

80000 from the complainant. The entire tainted bribe money has been recovered and seized. Following the trap, simultaneous searches have been launched on the residential house of Sabar and Patra at Tumbiguda of Rayagada town. Both the accused persons have been arrested and will be forwarded to the court. A case has been registered and further details are awaited.

Accused Patra was earlier involved in another corruption for misappropriation of government funds by using forged documents while posted as Nazir in the office of Tehsildar, Rayagada. The case is sub-judice in the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance at Jeypore, the Vigilance statement added.

## Bargarh Congress seeks accountability from BJP Govt

**Bargarh, (DMC):** The District Congress Committee has demanded accountability from the BJP Government in Odisha on completion of its one year in office. At a press conference held at Hotel Maharaja here, the committee members have expressed frustration over unfulfilled promises, stating that the last year was marked more by deception than accomplishments. Despite the Modi-Mohan administration's 23 commitments during the campaign, none has been realised. Recent findings exposing significant corruption among officials have undermined the assurance of a zero-tolerance stance on corruption. The promise to refund chit fund investments within 18 months has vanished, leaving many uncertain, they alleged. "Farmers, expecting improvements in paddy purchasing processes, face a loss of 8 to 10 kilograms per quintal. Additionally, the Subhadra Yojana, which promised Rs 50,000 to every woman in the state, has seen only Rs 5,000 disbursed through complicated processes, they said. The people of Odisha deserve better than empty promises.

Corruption has reached alarming levels in the state, shaking the foundations of governance. The recent arrest of the Chief Engineer of the Rural Development Department by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has unveiled a troubling web of deceit, seemingly tied to the ruling BJP, the committee said. "The government's promises remain unfulfilled, including returning depositor funds within 18 months and establishing medical and nursing colleges in every district. Instead of receiving the promised free electricity, residents face skyrocketing bills. The ambitious Rs 3,000 crore plan for agricultural storage facilities and other commitments to support underappreciated crops and an agrarian university in Sambalpur have faded from memory, they said. "Despite pledges to conduct a census and boost the weaving and textile industries in Western Odisha, progress has stalled, they added.

for the three chariots. Finally, Mahaprabhu heard what he has been thinking for. While, returning on the way he suddenly felt a supernatural power & had a dream in which he was put on Sola Flowers in the three chariots. But since that day Raj Kishore has not looked back.

No matter how many obstacles the Sola Flowers every years & decorates them in three chariots. For the Ratha Yatra Raj Kishore entire family is busy preparing the Sola Flowers of "Kadamba, Sebati & other colourful Sola Flowers. The work of preparing the Sola Flowers has almost reached the final stage. They have been decorated using different colored threads, jambura, chumuki & bamboo shoot etc. Raj Kishore said that even if he does not get any remuneration for preparing the Sola Flowers, he gets joy from doing the work of Mahaprabhu Jagannath.

for him during Dola Melana & Weeding Ceremony etc. held in the local area. He learned Sola Flowers work under their inspiration. Many years ago Raj Kishore went to Puri with some of his friends to watch the Ratha Yatra. But after seeing the three chariots he decided that with the blessing of Mahaprabhu he would definitely provide Sola Flowers



## "Hate Speech Won't...": Top Court on Man Arrested over Social Media Posts

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court on Monday took a strong exception to communal tweets by Wajahat Khan, the complainant in Sharmistha Panoli's case, who is now himself under arrest over social media posts. The top court said that hate speech won't take us anywhere. In a relief to Mr Khan, the top court today said that barring the current proceedings in which he is under police custody in West Bengal in two FIRs, no coercive action should be taken against him in FIRs filed in other states.Mr Khan had recently filed a complaint against social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli over her communal videos on social media on Operation Sindoor. However, he was arrested by Kolkata police after his past communal tweets surfaced.



He approached the Supreme Court seeking quashing or clubbing of FIRs registered against him across 6 states, including Assam, Bengal, Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi. The top court issued notice to 6 states returnable by July 14. These FIRs in other states have been stayed till the next hearing. The bench also ordered that no coercive action be taken against him on any FIR that may be registered in future over the same allegations. Senior Advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu appeared for the Khan in the top court today. At the outset of the hearing, the bench questioned the counsel over his tweets. "You have not annexed the tweets? The bench of Justice KV Vishwanathan and NK Singh at the outset questioned the counsel appearing for Wajahat Khan."My tweets are deleted and I have posted an apology", his counsel told the court.Termining these posts as "hate tweets", the top court expressed concern and also quoted a Tamil proverb which roughly translates to "wounds inflicted by fire may heal, but not the wounds inflicted by tongue." Mr Naidu, appearing for Mr Khan, told the court that FIRs are registered across multiple states; he can't be expected to go to those states. The counsel also read out the apology tweet written by him to "Hindu brothers".

## Couple Dies, Bridge Washed Away as Heavy Rains Batter Jharkhand

**Ranchi, (HS) :** Continuous torrential rains have severely affected normal life across several districts of Jharkhand. Urban areas such as Ranchi, Ramgarh, Latehar, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Bokaro, and Giridih are facing the brunt due to waterlogging, with floodwaters entering homes in low-lying areas. The relentless rainfall has led to multiple incidents of house collapses and people drowning in rivers, reservoirs, and waterfalls. In Hazaribagh's Rasoi Dhamna Baratola village under the Barhi police station area, the roof of a dilapidated house collapsed amid heavy rain late Sunday night. A couple -- Habib Ansari and his wife Jumera Khatoon, both around 50 years old -- died after being buried under the debris. Their bodies were recovered by villagers on Monday morning.

In Palamu district, two children were swept away while bathing in rain-swollen rivers. Twelve-year-old Rakesh Kumar Amanat, a resident of Uksu village under Panki police station, was found dead on Monday. Fourteen-year-old Sameer Ansari from Basaria village of the same area also drowned in the Amanat River. His body is yet to be recovered. On Saturday evening, two more children drowned in Barka Bandh in Palamu town.

## Man Beats Daughter to Death for Low Marks

**Sangli, Maharashtra, (HS) :** She scored 92.60 per cent - marks many students aspire to get - in her Class 10 board exams. More than a year later, she was killed by her father for scoring low marks in a mock test. Sadhna Bhonsle - from Maharashtra's Sangli - was preparing for pre-medical test, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test or NEET, and was taking mock tests for it. She scored low marks in her practice tests, which angered her father, Dhondiram Bhonsle, a school teacher. In his anger, he thrashed the 17-year-old repeatedly with a stick. The Class 12 student was seriously injured due to the beating, and she died in a hospital on Friday. The father, who has reportedly confessed to beating her daughter, has been arrested.

## Four BJP MLAs suspended from West Bengal Assembly

**KOLKATA, (HS):** Four BJP MLAs were suspended from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for the current monsoon session for protesting the decision of Speaker Biman Banerjee to expunge BJP MLA from Balurghat Ashok Lahiri's speech from the records. The BJP MLAs--Chief Opposition Whip Sankar Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Sankar Oraon and Dilip Burman--staged a walkout from the House and held demonstrations outside the Assembly gate. The four were suspended for their alleged disrespect to the chair and unruly behaviour in the House.

On Monday morning, the uproar began in the House after BJP MLAs objected to the expunging of remarks made by Ashok Lahiri, an economist and a BJP MLA from Balurghat, during discussions on a bill on Thursday in the Assembly. During the Mention Hour, Lahiri requested the Speaker, citing rules, that his speech should not be expunged from the records of the House proceedings. Then Chief Opposition Whip Ghosh raised to

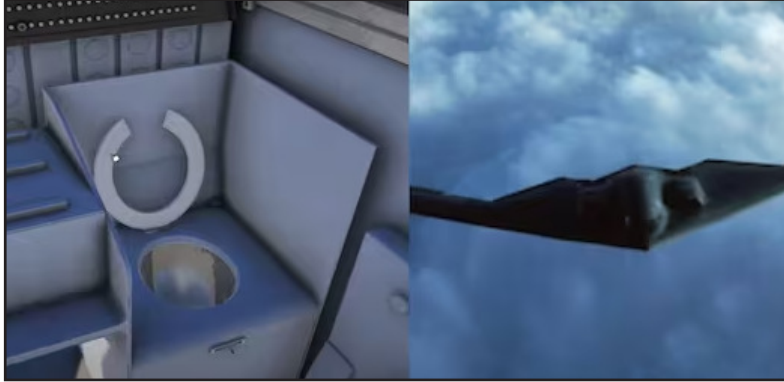


speak on the issue, but was not allowed. In protest, BJP MLAs tore papers and threw them into the air. The Trinamool Congress MLAs present in the House started shouting in response. The Speaker warned the protesting BJP MLAs, but they did not relent. Later, the Speaker suspended four BJP MLAs after a privilege motion moved by West Bengal Parliamentary Affairs Minister

## Bed, Toilet, Microwave Oven: B-2 Bomber Is Flying Hotel Armed with Bombs

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The B-2 bomber, the epitome of American air supremacy, was once again in action to destroy Iranian nuclear sites. They flew from the Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri, United States, refuelled several times mid-air, flying continuously and struck targets undetected.

Operation Midnight Hammer marked the B-2 Spirit's largest operational strike ever, and the second-longest B-2 operation ever flown since 2001. It was airborne for 37 hours, but flying for long durations without a stopover may seem like a challenge, but the stealth bomber is like a flying hotel armed with bombs. The B-2 Spirit is a fifth-generation stealth bomber that first flew in 1989 and was operationally deployed for the first time in 1999 during the Kosovo War. It follows the legacy of aircraft that are tasked to fly long-range missions for reconnaissance and strategic bombing. B-2 is different from its predecessors, like the B-1 Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, F-117 Nighthawks, etc. The B-2 Spirit has bunks, microwave ovens, and a storage rack full of snacks. Food on board includes candy bars, cereal, sandwiches,



milk and beverages, and toilets for the crew to rest during their long-range mission. The B-2 usually has a crew of two pilots who fly the aircraft. During Operation Midnight Hammer, the two pilots were fed, had all the amenities to conduct a mission that lasted for 37 hours. Sometimes there's a third pilot on standby on the aircraft who rotates with one of the pilots. The B-2 bomber will be replaced by the B-21 Raider (image below), the world's first true sixth-generation aircraft manufactured by Northrop Grumman. In 2001, after the 9/11 attacks, the B-2 bombers took off from Whiteman Air Force base, the home of the 'Spirit', for a mission in

Afghanistan that lasted for 44 hours, the longest in its history. The main strike package for the mission had seven B-2 Spirit bombers, each with two crew members. They took off from Missouri and proceeded quietly to the east with minimal communications. Throughout the 18-hour flight into the target area, the aircraft completed multiple in-flight refuelling with KC-135 or KC-46 tankers already present at checkpoints. They linked up with the support package at the US Central Command (CENTCOM). The tightly timed manoeuvre required exact synchronisation across multiple platforms in a narrow piece of airspace,

all done with minimal communications. Just before the strike package entered Iran, a US submarine in the central command area of responsibility launched more than two dozen Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles against key surface infrastructure targets. As the 'Operation Midnight Hammer' strike package entered Iranian airspace, the US employed several deception tactics, including decoys, as fourth- and fifth-generation aircraft pushed out in front of the strike package at high altitude and high speed, sweeping in front of the package for enemy fighters and surface-to-air missile threats.

At approximately 6.40 pm Eastern Standard Time, 2.10 am Iran time, the lead B-2 dropped two GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) weapons on the first of several aim points at Fordow. The remaining bombers then hit their targets as well, with a total of 14 MOPs dropped against two nuclear target areas. All three Iranian nuclear infrastructure targets were struck between 6.40 pm and 7.05 pm Eastern Time. This was the first time the GBU-57 MOP was used in combat, a heavy bunker-buster bomb that could be fitted only on the B-2 bomber.

## Pakistan extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft by another month



**ISLAMABAD, (HS) :** Pakistan authorities on Monday announced to extend the airspace ban on Indian aircraft for another month. The ban was initially imposed on April 23 for one month in the wake of tension between the two countries following the Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed at least 26 people. Later, it was extended for another month on May 23, when ties had deteriorated due to the four day conflict as India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and destroyed terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. According to a NOTAM, or Notice to Airmen, issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority, the ban has been extended from June 23 to July 23. "Pakistan airspace not available for Indian registered aircraft and aircraft operated/owned or leased by Indian airlines/operators including military flights," it said. India's strikes as part of Operation Sindoor triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with the cessation of on-ground hostilities after an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

everything was very confusing. The minute the Iraqis crossed the border, the country became one. They were able to hold their own. You could find parallels in the Iraq experience of 1980 to 1988. Look at the damage that the Iraqis suffered, day after day, week after week, and month after month. The entire international community supported Iraq. They allowed them to use chemical weapons. And yet the Iranian did not surrender. It is only right at the end that they agreed to a truce, which he called a bitter challenge. You cannot destroy a regime based on war. What you are going to do is not a regime change. It is the destruction of Iran that is an end in itself. It would be similar to what Americans did in Iraq. Americans sent them back to the old stone age, literally. Iraq took 20 years to recover.

But do remember that the assault upon Iraq gave birth to Zarqawi and the Islamic State. And that was a scourge. Look at how the American occupation was undermined by the very forces that emerged because of the occupation. The Iraqis have an Islamic Republic. But it is not monochromatic. It has a wide variety of people who have been at its head. They have had people such as Rafsanjani, Khatami, Rouhani and Pezeshkian. I think the current President Pezeshkian was truly committed to changing the scenario at home and having a new diplomatic initiative abroad. Israel thrives on Iran-US conflict and is a major instigator of it. Indeed, I would say that the Israelis were terrified that Pezeshkian might actually do an outreach to the Americans and just possibly come to an arrangement.

## Bangladesh envoy proposes joint geo-biodiversity survey with West Bengal



**KOLKATA, (HS) :**West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday met Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Md. Riaz Hamidullah, at Nabanna, the state's administrative headquarters. The meeting, which lasted around 45 minutes, was described by officials as warm and cordial, though no formal briefing was held by either party immediately afterwards. According to highly placed sources at Nabanna, the High Commissioner proposed a joint survey on geo-diversity and biodiversity, citing the ecological and environmental similarities between West Bengal and Bangladesh. The meeting came in the backdrop of a recent incident of vandalism at the historic Kachari House in Sirajganj, Bangladesh a site closely associated with Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Chief Minister Banerjee had earlier written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh to ensure a thorough investigation, highlighting the matter as one of international and cultural significance. Sources indicated that during Monday's discussions, High Commissioner Hamidullah assured the Chief Minister that the incident was a local law and order issue, with no political or religious motives behind it. Later in the evening, the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata issued an official press release confirming the meeting. It stated that Chief Minister Banerjee expressed her strong hope for strengthening the traditional relationship between the people of West Bengal and Bangladesh."In the courtesy call held in a very warm and cordial atmosphere, the Chief Minister requested the High Commissioner to convey her greetings to Bangladesh's Chief Advisor, Professor Dr Yunus, and the people of Bangladesh," the release noted. It also highlighted that this was the first courtesy call by the newly appointed High Commissioner of Bangladesh to an Indian Chief Minister.

During the meeting, Banerjee emphasised the deep linguistic, cultural, and spiritual bonds shared by West Bengal and Bangladesh, which she said transcend economic and commercial ties. She reiterated her intent to continue engaging with Bangladesh in the future. As a gesture of goodwill, the High Commissioner presented the Chief Minister with a traditional sari and Bengali sweets. The meeting was also attended by Shikder Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman, Acting Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata, and West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant. High Commissioner Hamidullah arrived in Kolkata on Monday morning for a three-day visit.



the Israelis deliberately initiated the conflict so that the sixth round would not take place because they feared a deal. This is more or less now consensual. More and more people are saying this. What did Trump do? Instead of expressing doubts about the preemptive attack, Trump called it excellent. He gets a charge from the idea of war. He wants to do business. He's a dealmaker. But somehow, war, destruction, killing, and assassinations seem to bring out the Julius Caesar inside him. Trump loves to strut as a general. You saw that he took the parade and stood there feeling good about himself. He later stated that he had a big plan,



and it was not just a ceasefire. He said he wanted the unconditional surrender of a country (Iran) with which his country was not at war. This is farcical. Now, there is another load of absolute rubbish, and that is that the Iranian people are hostile to their regime. Now, whether anyone is hostile or not, in any country, you have a wide variety of opinions. But the minute you threaten that country, they all come together. If you remember when the Iraqis attacked Iran in 1980, they were under the impression it was a broken country. The armed forces were broken. The regime had barely taken charge. Their institutions were not in place, and

## Vote counting begins for Assembly Bye-Elections in five constituencies across four states

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Counting of votes has begun in the high-stakes assembly by-elections in five constituencies across Nilambur seat in Kerala, Ludhiana West seat in Punjab, Kaliganj seat in West Bengal, and Visavadar and Kadi seats in Gujarat. The results of each constituency will be declared today as the counting started at 8 AM. In Ludhiana security has been tightened outside the counting centre in Ludhiana's Khalsa College for Women as the counting of votes began at 8 am. The bypoll was necessitated after AAP MLA Gurpreet Gogi died of a self-inflicted bullet injury in January this year.

AAP has fielded Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora from the seat. The BJP fielded its leader, Jiwan Gupta, and the Congress fielded former state minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu. Speaking to ANI, Superintendent of Police DK Chaudhary said, "The counting of votes will begin at 8 am. Security was deployed from 5 am. There is a three-tier security system. Only authorised persons will be able to enter the counting centre.

Around 450 policemen have been deployed. Adequate arrangements have been made." Meanwhile, in Gujarat's Kadi, Postal ballots are being counted first as the counting began at 8 AM. The Kadi bye-election was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki in February this year. On Kadi seat, the BJP has fielded Rajendra Chavda. Congress has fielded Ramesh Chavda, a former MLA who won the seat in 2012, while AAP has chosen Jagdish Chavda. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has fielded M Swaraj, the United Democratic Front (UDF) has fielded Aryadan Shoukath, while the BJP has fielded Adv. Mohan George is a candidate for the Nilambur Assembly constituency. The bypoll was necessitated after the resignation of Left Democratic Front independent legislator PV Anvar, who later joined the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) after his acrimonious break-up with the ruling alliance.

present in the House. Immediately after the chaos, he entered the House and began protesting in front of the Speaker's chair."This is not the place to do drama. Leave the House," Speaker Banerjee told him. However, Adhikari remained there and continued his protest. Adhikari later claimed that several BJP MLAs got injured in the scuffle inside the House. On the other hand, the Speaker said that a microphone and a table were damaged during the commotion. He also warned Adhikari that further action would be taken against the BJP legislators. Later, Adhikari alleged that various belongings of the BJP MLAs were broken in the scuffle. He also accused the Marshal of using force against the BJP MLAs. "We will continue our protest demonstration on Tuesday, the last day of the current Assembly session," he added. National Convenor of BJP's IT cell Amit Malviya termed today's incident in the West Bengal Assembly as "West Bengal government's authoritarian panic".

Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay. The Speaker subsequently ordered the Marshal to remove the protesting MLAs from the House. During scuffle with the security persons in the House Ghosh fell on the floor. The BJP alleged that his spectacles were broken. BJP MLA Mihir Goswami was removed forcefully from the House by the security persons.

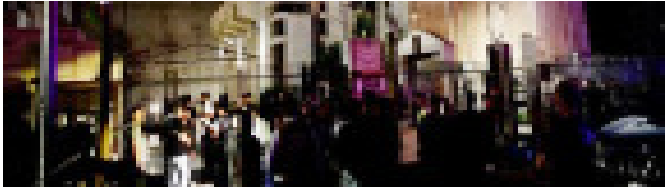
During this uproar, Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari was not



## Death Toll in Damascus Church Suicide Bombing Climbs To 22

**Damascus, (H.S):** A suicide bombing at a Damascus church killed at least 22 people and wounded 63 others, marking the deadliest and first attack of its kind on a Christian place of worship in the Syrian capital in several years, officials said. According to Syrian authorities, two attackers stormed Mar Elias (St. Elias) Orthodox Church in the predominantly Christian Dweilaa neighbourhood during Sunday evening Mass, opened fire on worshippers, and detonated explosive belts near the entrance.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the death toll and reported that women and children were among the victims."This was a condemned terrorist act. We first heard gunfire in the courtyard, then two men entered, fired on the congregation, and blew themselves up. Such a crime violates every religion and every shred of humanity," said parish priest Melatios Shtah."They were yelling sectarian slogans while shooting. Then everything



went dark after the explosion," Worshipper Lawrence Maamari told Xinhua news agency about the panic inside the church. Authorities sealed off the area and urged residents to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles while hospitals issued urgent calls for blood donations.

The observatory called the bombing a "dangerous escalation," noting that previous attacks on Christian sites in Syria during the civil war were largely acts of looting or sabotage, especially in areas once controlled by the Islamic State (IS).This assault marks a shift in tactics aimed at destabilising civil peace and inflaming sectarian tensions, it added. Interior officials said early evidence points to Islamic State sleeper cells, although no group has claimed responsibility.

Political analyst Mohammad Nader Al-Omari said the attack may have been timed to exploit regional instability following a recent US strike on Iran. Information chief Hamzah al-Mustafa condemned the bombing as a "cowardly act meant to undermine national cohesion" and pledged that those responsible would be brought to justice.

Damascus has been largely free of major attacks since government forces reclaimed surrounding areas in 2018. Sunday's bombing shattered that calm and renewed concerns over the resurgence of IS in southern and eastern Syria." The state will not allow criminals to destabilise society," Mazhar al-Wais, the country's justice affairs chief, said on X, vowing swift and fair trials for those behind the attack.

## Indo-French military exercise gathers momentum in Southern France

**Paris, (H.S):** Having focused on nautical infiltration training and a shooting campaign over the past week, soldiers from India and France will now be deployed to the Agde region as the eighth edition of the Indo-French joint military exercise Shakti gathers further momentum in Southern France.

At Camp Larzac in La Cavalerie, the Indian Army contingent - comprising an all-arms team led by a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles - focused on sharing experience, operational cooperation and interoperability with the French Army's 13th Foreign Legion Demi-Brigade while undertaking a wide array of mission-focused drills aimed at sub-conventional operations. Boosting Franco-Indian military cooperation, key components of the exercise - being held from June 18 to July 1 - include combat shooting in semi-developed terrain, obstacle crossings, joint planning exercises and advanced obstacle course



training, simulating realistic battlefield conditions." The combat shooting component has showcased the latest generation of small arms from both nations. The Indian Army demonstrated the reliability, modularity, and precision of its new-generation indigenous inventory, suitable for a variety of tactical environments", said an Indian Army spokesperson."The French contingent employed frontline weapon systems

renowned for their accuracy, versatility, and ruggedness. The synergy during live firing and tactical manoeuvres reflected the high standards of operational readiness and combat proficiency of both forces", he added.In a nod to evolving combat scenarios, the exercise also includes Electronic Warfare (EW) modules, where both sides are collaborating to improve electromagnetic spectrum operations and secure communications in the field. As

the threat of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) rises globally, Indian and French forces are jointly training on Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS), including hands-on use of advanced anti-drone technologies. Another highlight of Shakti-VIII is the joint participation in the Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP), aimed at improving mission planning, coordination, and command response capabilities.

These sessions are helping both sides refine tactical procedures and enhance mission execution. The exercise continues to act as a powerful medium for exchanging best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). Exercise Shakti, held biennially, underscores the growing strategic partnership between India and France. It reinforces shared goals of maintaining regional stability, expanding defence technology cooperation, and bolstering collective security.

## Anti-War Protests Hit Major US Cities After Strikes on Iranian Nuclear Sites



**Washington, (H.S):** Protests rage across several major US cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington and Los Angeles against the airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities. The demonstrations on Sunday came after US President Donald Trump announced that America had bombed three nuclear sites in Iran and warned Tehran of further military action unless it ended its confrontation with Israel.The targeted locations reportedly include the highly fortified Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan nuclear facilities.Over 200 protestors, including some

war veterans, gathered outside the gates of the White House in Washington, holding banners that read "No War with Iran" against the Trump administration's air strikes. Reports suggest that in New York, hundreds of protestors marched from Times Square to Columbus Circle waving flags and carrying placards which read, "Stop the war in Iran," "Hands off Iran," and " No new war in the Middle East." Condemning the bombing, the protestors termed it an "act of war" and not diplomacy.They raised concern, stating that such a move "would undermine the

chances of an international treaty" to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, according to local media reports."I am afraid that we will see a World War III that could be nuclear in its outcome. This is not just Trump throwing a couple of bombs at Iran. Iran is a massive nation," American media outlet CBS News quoted one of the protestors, Yvette Felarca, representing By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), as saying."

I think it's really dangerous. Trump is such a weak idiot that the only policy he has is war, so this is super dangerous," she further said."If you notice with the Democrats, the party that told us that they were so much different from Trump, they're not saying 'Trump, end this war'. They are concerned about him dotting his I's and crossing his T's," said Sean Blackmon, organiser of the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

## Khamenei Warns Israel; Will Punish The 'Enemy'

**Tehran, (H.S):** Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday, in his first reaction following the US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, said that the punishment for Israel, referred to as the "Zionist enemy," will continue.Calling the attacks "a big crime," Khamenei warned of retaliation.Talking to X, he stated, "The punishment continues.

The Zionist enemy has made a big mistake, committed a big crime; it must be punished, and it is being punished; it is being punished right now."The US strikes followed Israeli attacks launched on June 13 on various targets in Iran, including nuclear and military sites, killing several senior commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, Xinhua news agency reported.Iran has retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel. As of Saturday, more than 400 people have been killed and over 3,500 wounded in



Iran, according to the Iranian Health Ministry. In Israel, authorities reported 24 fatalities. Late on Sunday, in the central Isfahan province, an Israeli drone strike killed three people in an ambulance, Iran's ISNA news agency reported.

The governor of Najafabad county, Hamidreza Mohammadi Fesharaki, was quoted by the agency as saying the vehicle was transporting a patient when it was

hit.He reportedly added that all occupants, including the driver, patient, and companion, were killed.Earlier on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu affirmed that Israel would press ahead with its operations.

"Israel will continue to operate at full tilt in both Iran and Gaza," he said, vowing not to be "dragged into a war of attrition." "We will not stop this

historic operation before we achieve our goals," Netanyahu stated.Meanwhile, the Iranian Parliament has voted in support of closing the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints, a day after US strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, according to media reports.Any final decision on retaliation, however, will rest with the country's Supreme National Security Council, Khamenei.The parliament vote merely advises him of the option to pursue.

The US strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites - dubbed "Operation Midnight Hammer"-in Isfahan, Fordow, and Natanz mark the first direct involvement of America in the escalating crises between Iran and Israel.The action has received backlash, with many citing the lack of Congressional approval for the military move.

## Another Awami League Leader Arrested in Bangladesh on Murder Charges

**Dhaka, (H.S):** Former Awami League MP Sabina Akter Tuhin was arrested on Monday in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, over multiple cases linked to the July 2024 protests, as the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government intensified its campaign of targeting former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party. The Joint Commissioner (South) of the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Nasirul Islam, confirming the development, stated that Tuhin, former MP for the

Dhaka-14 constituency, was taken into custody in the early hours on Monday, local media reported."Tuhin, the former lawmaker for the Mirpur area, is accused in multiple cases, including one involving a murder during the July Uprising last year," leading Bangladeshi daily, The Business Standard, quoted the police officer as saying.In a separate development, police arrested former Managing Director (MD) of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) Mohammad Monirul Moula on Sunday



late at night from Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area in connection with a corruption case.Moula was appointed as the MD of the Islami Bank in January 2021, during the tenure of the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Confirming the arrest, Nasirul Islam, Joint Commissioner (South) of the DB branch of DMP, stated that the police personnel detained Moula and took him to the DB office on Minto Road.He said that Monirul was arrested on charges over a case filed by the Anti-Corruption

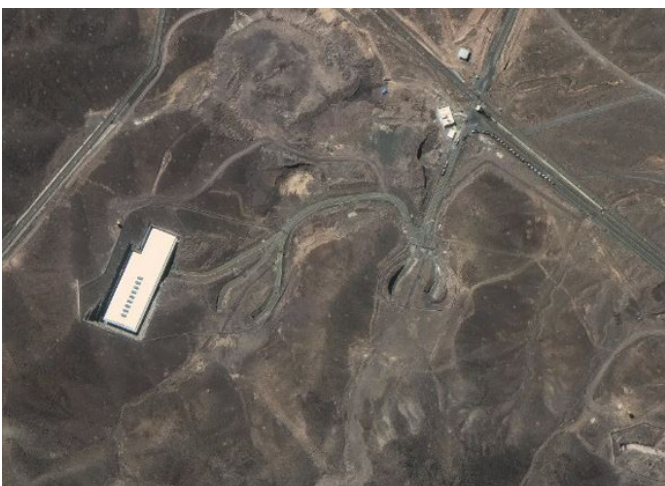
Commission (ACC).Local media reported that the ACC, in December last year, filed a graft case against 58 people, including former IBBL MD Moula, and the bank's former Chairman Ahsanul Alam, on charges of alleged embezzlement of Bangladeshi Taka 1,092 crore through loan fraud.After the fall of the Awami League government, the central bank restructured Islami Bank's board of directors, and in April, Moula was sent on a three-month forced leave over alleged involvement with loan

irregularities. In a continuing crackdown on the Awami League, last week, several other leaders of the party were placed under police remand for interrogation by the Yunus regime.The Yunus-led administration has issued several arrest warrants against former Prime Minister Hasina, her family members, and Awami League supporters.The interim government has also received massive criticism for providing shelter to radical and extremist Islamic outfits.

## US, Iran Clash at UN Over Nuclear Site Strikes As Tensions Escalate

**United Nations, (H.S):** The US and Iran exchanged sharp accusations at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Monday (Indian time), following US military strikes on three of Iran's major nuclear facilities, an operation that has drawn global attention and concern over the potential for broader conflict. Addressing the Council a day after US President Donald Trump confirmed American forces struck the Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan nuclear sites, acting US Ambassador to the UN, Dorothy Camille Shea, said that the strikes were aimed at dismantling Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity and ending the nuclear threat posed by what she called the "world's foremost state sponsor of terror".

"This operation sought to eliminate a longstanding but rapidly escalating source of global insecurity and to aid our ally Israel in our inherent right of collective self-defence consistent with the UN Charter," she added.Shea accused Iran of long obstructing transparency in its nuclear activities, saying it has "stonewalled good-faith efforts" in recent negotiations."For 40 years, the Iranian government has called for 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel' and posed a



constant menace to the peace and security of its neighbours, the US, and the entire world," she added.Shea warned Tehran against further escalation, saying, "As President Trump said, any Iranian attack - direct or indirect - against Americans or American bases will be met with devastating retaliation."Meanwhile, Iran's UN envoy Amir Saeid Iravani announced the strikes as a "blatant crime" and accused the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of dragging Trump into a conflict that began on June 13 with an Israeli assault on Iranian nuclear sites and scientists."The US decided to destroy diplomacy," Iravani said, adding that Iran's armed forces would determine the "timing,

nature and scale" of a proportionate response.Blaming the Israeli Prime Minister directly, he said, "The internationally wanted war criminal Netanyahu succeeded in hijacking US foreign policy, dragging the US into yet another costly, baseless war."He called the strikes "profoundly heartbreaking," stating, "Today, another stain was recorded in the political history of the US."He reminded the Council that the US, a founding member of the UN and signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), had once again resorted to the use of force despite being the only country to have used nuclear weapons in conflict.Iravani also targeted Israel, calling it "an

outlaw nuclear-armed regime that refused to join the NPT" and has for decades promoted a "false narrative" about Iran's nuclear intentions without providing "a shred of evidence"."This is a historic test for this Council, for the United Nations as a whole. If this Council fails to act and condemn this blatant aggression, the stain of complicity will forever remain on its conscience, as it does with Gaza," he warned.Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, defended the US actions, saying "history changed" with the strikes."The US, the leader of the free world, removed the greatest existential threat facing the free world.

Just like our Operation Rising Lion, this was not a war of choice. This action was a necessity. It was a righteous act for the United States, for Israel, for the Middle East, and for the world," he said.Danon praised American leadership during the crisis: "Let the record show that when the world stood at the edge of a nuclear disaster, America stepped forward. When time ran out, America showed courage. And when the moment came to confront the forces of extinction, America led."He accused Tehran of using the negotiating table as a cover while advancing its missile and uranium enrichment

programs."Make no mistake, the cost of inaction would have been catastrophic. A nuclear Iran would have been a death sentence just as much for you as it would have for us," he said.Danon also said that Iran's influence extended well beyond its borders, arming militias in Iraq, funding the Houthis in Yemen, plotting murder in Europe, and threatening Western capitals with its growing ballistic missile arsenal.UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed grave concern over the developments, warning that the US bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities marks a "perilous turn" for a region already under immense strain."

We must act immediately and decisively to halt the fighting and return to serious, sustained negotiations on the Iran nuclear program. We need a credible, comprehensive and verifiable solution, one that restores trust," Guterres said.He emphasised the crossroads facing the international community: "We face a stark choice amid the escalation in the Middle East. One way leads to wider war, deeper suffering and serious damage to the international order. The other leads to de-escalation, diplomacy and dialogue. We know which way is right."

## Multiple Injured Mass Shootings in Two US States

**Washington, (H.S):** Several people sustained injuries in two separate mass shooting incidents reported from the US states of Pennsylvania and Indiana, local authorities confirmed on Monday. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, gunfire erupted late Sunday night near North Saint Clair Street and Broad Street in East Liberty.The Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety stated that Zone 5 police officers were dispatched just after 11:45 p.m. following two separate ShotSpotter alerts indicating a total of fourteen gunshots.While officers were en route, multiple emergency calls reported several victims with gunshot wounds." Pittsburgh Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transported three victims to area hospitals.

One individual with a gunshot wound was transported in critical condition. A second, with a gunshot wound was transported in serious condition and was later downgraded to critical condition at the hospital. And a third victim was transported in stable condition with a graze wound," the statement said. Shortly afterwards, two additional victims arrived at Children's Hospital via private vehicle, both with gunshot wounds and both in stable condition.In addition, EMS personnel treated



approximately ten individuals at the scene for graze wounds or minor injuries sustained from falls. These individuals did not require hospitalisation.The Mobile Crime Unit was deployed to recover shell casings and collect video evidence from the crime scene. Detectives from the Violent Crime Unit are leading the investigation.

As of now, no arrests have been made, and the investigation remains ongoing.In a separate incident in Indianapolis, Indiana, three people were shot near Monument Circle early Monday morning.The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) reported that officers responded to the shooting at the intersection of South Meridian and West Washington Streets, according to local media reports.Upon arrival, police found three individuals with gunshot wounds. All three victims were reported to be in stable condition at this time.



## Saudi Arabia, Russia Offer Oil Supply Continuity For India Amid Iran's Hormuz Uncertainty

**New Delhi, (H.S):** For India, which reportedly holds crude reserves for 90 days, Saudi Arabia's ability to reroute crude exports via the Red Sea offers a layer of supply continuity amid the Strait of Hormuz uncertainty, according to a report on Monday. While India sources 18-20 per cent of its crude from Saudi Arabia, the Petroline-Yanbu corridor ensures that a significant portion of these volumes could still reach Indian refiners even if the Hormuz route is disrupted."

Although some logistical constraints and higher freight costs may persist, Saudi's diversified export infrastructure, combined with India's flexible sourcing strategy, reduces the likelihood of a sharp supply shortfall from this key partner," said the report from Yes Securities. With Iran's Parliament approving a potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz following US strikes on its nuclear sites, energy markets face rising disruption risk at the world's most critical oil artery. For India, which sources more than 35 per cent of



crude and 42 per cent of LNG through the strait, the near-term threat lies in supply delays and freight escalation." However, India's evolving import mix provides a strong cushion - Russian inflows (2.2 million barrels of oil per day,

or mb/d, in June) now exceed combined Middle East supplies and additions from the US, West Africa, and Latin America bypass Hormuz entirely," the report contended. India imports 5.5 mb/d of crude, with 2mb/d (over 35 per cent) from the Middle East transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Despite this logistical

exposure, India's crude sourcing strategy has materially evolved since 2022. "Russian imports now exceed those from all Middle Eastern suppliers combined. Additions from the US (0.44mb/d), Brazil, West Africa, and even Latin America offer alternate routes bypassing Hormuz via the Suez, Cape of Good Hope, and Pacific Ocean.

India could ensure that supplies increase from Russia, the US and others," the report mentioned. While fears of a total closure have resurfaced, historical precedent suggests that Iran is unlikely to fully blockade

Hormuz. Doing so would hurt its own crude exports (96 per cent routed via Kharg Island), alienate key partners like China (its largest buyer), and provoke coordinated military retaliation." Experts peg the probability of a full closure as 'very low', with likely scenarios involving short-lived disruptions (24-72 hours).

However, these disruptions could still inject significant volatility, tighten tanker availability (already visible in the drop in Middle East and Gulf (MEG) bound empty tankers), and induce risk premiums in oil and product markets," the report said.

## India's Herbal & Ayurvedic OTC Market Set to Outpace Global Growth

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's herbal and ayurvedic OTC (over the counter) market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6.5 per cent, from \$69 million in 2025 to \$118 million by the end of 2033, outpacing global trends, a report showed on Monday. However, challenges persist as 40 per cent of new launches in 2024 faced regulatory hurdles, only 20 per cent of products have clinical validation, and quality concerns affect up to 30 per cent of offerings, limiting their credibility and adoption for clinical illness, the report mentioned.

The herbal and ayurvedic OTC industry is reported to be growing at an unprecedented rate. According to latest research, it has made a robust entry in more than 70 per cent of Indian households. This insight comes from the latest industry analysis by MediQ, the Healthcare Intelligence research wing of 1Lattice, which highlights a fundamental shift in consumer behaviour, with a strong shift in preference for natural, chemical-free wellness products across all



age groups. The study reveals that the driving factor behind the rapid growth is due to the widespread consumption of popular categories, such as Chyawanprash, Ashwagandha supplements, Ayurvedic personal care, functional food, and youth-targeted products - like gummies and effervescent tablets.

The study also reveals that over 40 per cent of the new adopters are millennials and Gen Z, signalling a generational shift for traditional wellness, but in modern formats. According to the report, digital adoption is accelerating the market's expansion, with over 10 per cent

of urban OTC sales are now online, and 35 per cent of new products offer tech-driven personalisation. Meanwhile, nearly 60 per cent of urban consumers actively seek clean-label and organic-certified products, indicating growing awareness and scrutiny amongst the Indian consumers.

The sector is also seeing a strong wave of innovation, with R&D investments up by 45 per cent in 2023. Globally, the herbal and ayurvedic OTC market is forecasted to grow from \$145 billion in 2025 to \$230 billion by 2033, reflecting increased focus on preventive and holistic wellness.

## India's Economic Activity Surges To 14-Month High

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Indian economic activity has surged to a 14-month high in June as companies scaled up output in response to faster increases in total new business intakes and a record upturn in export orders, according to the HSBC flash PMI data released on Monday.

The HSBC Flash India Composite Output Index - a seasonally adjusted index that measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors, climbed to a 14-month high of 61.0 in June. Rising from 59.3 in May, the latest reading was consistent with a sharp rate of expansion that was well above the long-run series average. Manufacturers led the upturn in business activity, though growth also picked up pace in the service economy. Rates of increase were at two and ten-month highs, respectively. With pending workloads continuing to accumulate, firms



remained in hiring mode. Meanwhile, inflation softened as input costs rose at the slowest pace in ten months, the HSBC report states. According to panellists, output was boosted by favourable demand trends, efficiency gains and tech investment.

The HSBC Flash India Manufacturing PMI - a weighted average of the New Orders, Output, Employment, Suppliers' Delivery Times and Stocks of Purchases indices - rose from 57.6 in May to 58.4 in June, signalling the best improvement in operating conditions since April 2024. New business placed with goods producers and service providers increased at the end of the first fiscal quarter, with the

faster upturn among the former. At the composite level, the rate of expansion was the strongest seen since July 2024, the report states. When explaining June's rise, survey participants remarked on healthy demand conditions and successful marketing. Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said:

"India's flash PMI indicated strong growth in June. New export orders continued to fuel private sector business activity, especially in manufacturing." Meanwhile, the combination of robust global demand and rising backlogs prompted manufacturers to increase hiring." Employment growth is also healthy in the services sector despite slightly weakening on a sequential basis from May to June." Finally, input and output prices continued to rise for both manufacturing and services firms, but rates of increase showed signs of softening," Bhandari added.

**New Delhi, (H.S):** While geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, including the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, pose certain challenges to global trade dynamics, India's export sector remains resilient and adaptive, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said on Monday. The country's trade with both Iran and Israel, while important, constitutes a small share of the overall export-import basket."

The government and industry are jointly monitoring developments to ensure minimal disruption," FIEO President S.C. Ralhan said. "We do anticipate some short-term impact on demand and logistics, particularly in the Gulf region, which serves as a crucial hub for Indian exports. Increased shipping costs, longer transit times, and rising marine insurance premiums may add pressure, especially in price-



sensitive sectors," he said in a statement. A wider Middle East conflict is expected to have an impact on oil supplies from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the UAE, which would lead to a sharp spike in oil prices.

Shipping could also get hit as Yemen's Houthi rebels have already warned that they would resume their attacks on ships if the US attacked Iran. India imports around 85 per cent of

its crude oil requirement. However, Indian exporters have time and again demonstrated agility in re-routing shipments, diversifying markets, and managing financial exposures, the FIEO said.

The robust MSMEs and large-scale exporters, coupled with strong government support mechanisms, will help cushion any near-term shocks. Crude oil price volatility is being closely

watched, as it can influence both inflation and logistics costs. But India's diversified energy procurement strategy and the Reserve Bank's proactive stance help maintain liquidity and macroeconomic stability." Overall, while there are temporary headwinds, we see this as an opportunity for Indian exporters to explore alternate routes, strengthen regional partnerships and consolidate India's role as a reliable trade partner in uncertain times," Ralhan said.

The FIEO said it is committed to supporting exporters with timely guidance, market intelligence, and policy advocacy to ensure continued momentum in our global trade journey. Meanwhile, India's total exports of merchandise and services stood at \$71.12 billion in May, which represents a growth of 2.77 per cent over the same month of the previous year.

## Sensex Ends Lower in Volatile Session As Mideast Tensions Flare Up

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The Indian stock markets started the week on a weak note as tensions escalated in the Middle East, after the United States bombed three nuclear facilities in Iran, showing clear support for Israel in the ongoing conflict. The development made investors cautious, leading to a fall in benchmark indices on Monday. The Sensex dropped 511.38 points, or 0.62 per cent, to close at 81,896.79. During the intra-day, it moved between a high of 82,169.67 and a low of 81,476.76.

Similarly, the Nifty also ended in the red. It fell 140.50 points, or 0.56 per cent, to settle at 24,971.90. The index had touched an intra-high of 25,057 and a low of 24,824.85 during the session. Interestingly, broader markets performed better than the frontline indices. The Nifty Midcap100 closed with a gain of 0.36 per cent, while the Smallcap100 rose 0.70 per cent. Out of the 30 stocks in the Sensex, HCL Tech, Infosys, Larsen and Toubro, Mahindra and Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were the biggest losers, falling between 2.28 per cent and 1.21 per cent. On the other hand, Trent, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers, rising between 3.39 per cent and 0.58 per cent.

## Foreign Currency Deposits Rise For First Time In 4 Months In S. Korea

**Seoul, (H.S):** Foreign currency deposits in South Korea increased for the first time in four months in May, driven by increased deposits at securities firms and the temporary placement of corporate overseas investment funds, central bank data showed on Monday.

Outstanding foreign currency-denominated deposits held by residents stood at US\$101.36 billion as of end-May, up \$5.1 billion from a month earlier, according to data from the Bank of Korea (BOK). It marked the first on-month increase since January, reports Yonhap news agency. Residents include South Korean citizens, foreigners who have resided in the

country for more than six months and foreign companies. The data excludes interbank foreign currency deposits. Corporate foreign currency deposits rose by \$4.6 billion on-month to \$87.01 billion, while individual holdings increased by \$500 million to \$14.35 billion.

By currency, dollar-denominated deposits climbed by \$4.54 billion to \$85.54 billion, driven by a rise in investor deposits at securities firms and the temporary placement of overseas investment funds by some companies, the BOK said. Euro-denominated deposits remained nearly unchanged at \$5.09 billion. Japanese yen-denominated deposits increased



\$560 million to \$8.43 billion, while Chinese yuan-denominated deposits fell \$190 million to \$980 million, mainly due to payments for current transactions, according to the central bank. Meanwhile, South Korean companies' overall growth momentum weakened in the first quarter, though their profitability and financial

stability saw slight improvements, central bank data showed on Monday. Combined sales of 23,137 companies subject to an external audit rose 2.4 percent on-year in the January-March period, slowing from a 3.5 percent increase in the previous quarter, according to data from the Bank of Korea (BOK). Companies in the

manufacturing sector reported 2.8 percent sales growth in the first quarter, down from a 3.8 percent increase a year earlier, while sales growth in the non-manufacturing sector decelerated to 1.9 percent from 3.1 percent over the same period."

The slowdown was attributable to weakening export growth centred on memory chips and intensified competition from low-cost Chinese products," a BOK official said. "In the non-manufacturing sector, falling maritime freight rates and a decline in domestic housing construction led to slower sales growth in the transportation and construction industries," he added.

## A holistic Approach at Transforming Mining Sector

**New Delhi, (PIB):** Last month, India auctioned its first-ever potash block, with an aim to cut import dependence on agriculture fertilizers and, thereby, ensure our nation's food security. Such is the potential of our vast mineral wealth; it touches each and every nerve of a progressing nation. To realise the prospects available holistically, the past decade has witnessed an era of unprecedented reforms, marked by transparency, efficiency, and ambition.

The first step towards this goal was to rid the sector from outdated policies that hindered private enterprise. Today, since the introduction of the auction regime, over 500 mineral blocks have been auctioned to date and 119 have been auctioned just in the last year alone. The amendments carried out in the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDRA) between 2015 and 2023 have laid the foundation for

a dynamic and globally competitive mining sector. More changes are in the offing as the MMRDA drives our foray into critical minerals that aim to provide for the trinity of our national, energy, and food security. State capacity has been augmented with the risk taking capabilities and agility of the private sector as they have emerged as an equal partner in this journey.

Be it the uniform 50-year leases, removal of renewal bottlenecks, seamless transfer of clearances or the introduction of an exploration licence regime that has created space for the MSMEs and opportunities for the start-ups to scale, the past distrust with India's entrepreneurs has been replaced with an enabling environment for them to flourish. The unprecedented financial thrust through the National Mineral Exploration Trust, democratic access to more than 12,000 geological reports on

the National Geoscience Data Repository, drone surveys, Mining Tenement System, and faceless return filings, all have brought predictability and investor confidence to the sector. Now, with the launch of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) India is set to carve a space in the global critical minerals race.

A thriving circular economy around critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, etc., will prove to be the shot in the arm for almost every sector essential for Viksit Bharat. India's first ever entry into offshore mineral mining also positions us as a key player in global resource chain. With lithium mines acquired in Argentina and KABIL pursuing assets worldwide, we are expanding our strategic resource base and further strengthening our mission objectives. The success of the efforts squarely rests on greater collaboration with the

private sector who realise the hidden potential in the meteoric rise of India's mining sector. Another turning point in the last 11 years has been the strengthening of cooperative federalism in the mining sector, driven by reforms that have deepened Centre-State collaboration. Through the auction system, States have earned a revenue of around ₹4 lakh crore through auction premiums and royalty. Parallely, Centre-State collaboration is at its strongest ever with regular high-level dialogues, mining minister conclaves and initiatives like the State Mining Index and State Mineral Exploration Trust.

Similarly, the successful implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative, the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Trusts, relies heavily on close coordination with and proactive efforts by State administrations. First and foremost, we are

working on a mission mode to expedite operationalisation of mines by reducing the time taken at every stage right from mining lease to approvals to operationalisation. The Ministry of Mines is actively hand-holding industry partners throughout their journey. Another pressing priority is the development of a robust local ecosystem for technology advancement and research and development in the mining sector.

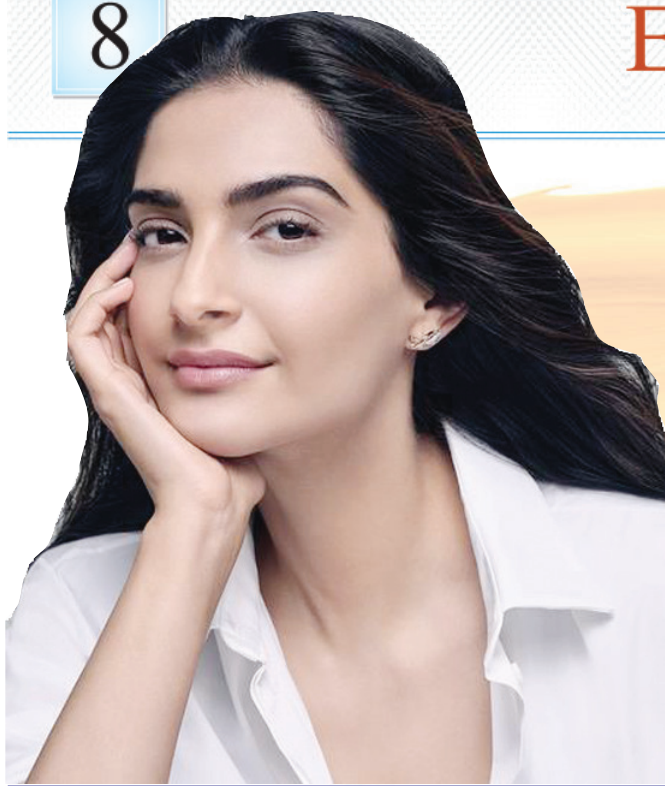
To this end, Centres of Excellence focused on research on critical minerals and recycling are being established. For the first time in the 62-year history of modern mining, start-ups have been funded for ensuring R&D in exploration and mineral processing. As we have become world's fourth largest economy and gearing to achieve the third spot, a modern, sustainable mining ecosystem will power the industries of the future and place India firmly on the global economic map.

## PE, VC Investments In India Reach \$2.4 Billion Across 97 Deals In May

**Mumbai, (H.S):** Private equity and venture capital (PE-VC) investments in India stood at \$2.4 billion across 97 deals in May, according to a report released on Monday. The EY-IVCA report said that startup investments were the highest deal type last month, followed by growth investments at \$0.7 billion. From a sector point of view, financial services was the top sector in May, recording \$758 million in investments, followed by real estate (\$380 million). "PE/VC activity continues to remain subdued, as reflected in the limited deal flow and reduction in large deals (deals above \$100 million). Heightened geopolitical tensions, US tariff policy and other external headwinds have dampened investor sentiment, resulting in a cautious and wait-and-watch approach," said Vivek Soni, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity Services, EY.

In terms of the number of deals, pure-play investments declined by 16 per cent, whereas the real estate and infrastructure asset classes declined by 64 per cent year-on-year. PE/VC exits stood at \$1 billion across 18 deals in May. Open market exits accounted for 77 per cent of the total exit value in May 2025 (\$797 million). According to Soni, the bid-ask spread between seller expectations and buyer valuations has not converged meaningfully as yet, dampening PE/VC investment activity. "Domestically, early signs of positive momentum are emerging through robust GST collections, strengthening of Indian Rupee from the lows seen in the beginning of the year and the recent rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India which is expected to improve liquidity and provide further impetus to deal-making," he mentioned. "We expect that these factors collectively are likely to drive a pickup in deal activity in the second half of the year if there is an easing of global uncertainties and geopolitical conflicts and convergence of the bid-ask spread between sellers and buyers valuation expectations.





## Sonam donates 12 inches of her hair to charity, gives shoutout to dad

Sonam Kapoor made a meaningful style statement by cutting 12 inches of her hair and donating it to charity. Actor Sonam Kapoor just made a heartwarming style statement. The actress recently chopped off 12 inches of her long locks - not for a makeover, but for a meaningful cause. Taking to Instagram, Sonam shared the transformation moment as she donated her hair to charity.

Sonam took to Instagram on Monday and shared the video, with a caption, "Decided to cut off 12 inches off my hair and give it away! @peteburkill thanks @anilskapoor for the genes" In the video, a smiling Sonam can be seen sitting in a salon chair. She says, "Hi everyone, so I decided to cut 12 inches of my hair," holding up the freshly cut strands. It doesn't seem like much on video, but it's literally a foot

of hair!" True to her playful spirit, she credits her luscious hair to her genes, specifically, her dad, Anil Kapoor. "My hair becomes really long because of my genetics... i.e. Anil Kapoor," she said with a laugh. Sonam revealed that this gesture had been on her mind for a while, and she finally felt it was the right time to part with some length and do something that could make a difference. Her longtime hairstylist, Pete Burkill,

handled the cut with care, giving Sonam a "fresh and happy" look for the summer.

On the work front, Sonam Kapoor is gearing up for her next big screen moment with Battle for Bittora. The upcoming film is based on Anuja Chauhan's 2010 bestseller Battle for Bittora, which tells the story of two young, idealistic politicians who are madly in love but run against each other in an election. The film is being produced by Anil Kapoor's

production house in collaboration with Communication Network. Sonam also got nostalgic recently about two of her songs that quite literally broke the internet — Prem Ratan Dhan Paayo and Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui Hai. Talking about the PRDP title track, Sonam told IANS, "I still remember when the Prem Ratan Dhan Payo title track was released—what a time it was! The Dubsmash videos were everywhere. It totally broke the internet."

## Salman has a brain aneurysm, trigeminal neuralgia



Salman Khan recently opened up about his health issues on The Great Indian Kapil Show, disclosing he's confronting some serious ailments. "I'm shattering my bones daily, doing work with trigeminal neuralgia, an aneurysm in my brain, and an AV malformation," he disclosed. In spite of all these issues, the 59-year-

old actor is resolved to continue. Salman said that trigeminal neuralgia, a nerve disorder that results in recurring face pain, isn't holding him back. Neither is the AV malformation, a misshapen tangle of blood vessels that interferes with normal blood flow in the brain or spine. And there's the brain aneurysm, a blood vessel wall weakness that can burst. "I'm working in spite of everything," he asserted. The actor talked about how difficult it would be to begin life all over at his age, much less after a breakup. "If my partner gets half of what I have, it would be difficult to bounce back," he said. Salman initially opened up regarding his struggles with trigeminal neuralgia way back in 2017, terming the pain as very severe and debilitating. Despite the health complications, Salman gave no indication of slowing.

## Canadian University to offer course on Diljit Dosanjh

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh just added another feather to his cap of achievements! The actor-singer will now be part of the curriculum coursework as prescribed by the Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). This course will be offered through The Creative School at TMU, and was announced at the Billboard Summit at NXNE in Toronto.

The Billboard report added that this course, which will highlight the 'cultural, musical and diasporic relevance' of the singer's work, will begin in the fall of 2026. Dr. Charlie Wall-Andrews, Assistant Professor at The Creative School at Toronto Metropolitan University, said, "Toronto Metropolitan University is excited to pioneer a course on Diljit Dosanjh, whose journey embodies the intersection of culture, identity and global music entrepreneurship. His rise illustrates the cultural influence and economic potential of Punjabi music on the world stage. By examining his impact, students will explore how regional sounds



shape global pop culture, mobilize diasporic communities and contribute to sustainable creative economies rooted in authenticity." Diljit began his career in 2002 and slowly rose up to fame in Punjabi music with his albums. With his 11th album G.O.A.T., Diljit entered the Billboard Social 50 chart. He attained further success as an actor in Bollywood films like Uda Punjab, Good Newzz and last year's Amar Singh Chamkila.

## Jana Nayagan Teaser: Vijay Wields Sword & Swag



Thalapathy Vijay turned a year older on Sunday (June 22). On the occasion of his 51st birthday, KVN Productions released The First Roar, a sneak peek of Jana Nayagan.

Directed by H Vinod, the film is set to be Vijay's final acting project before he transitions into full-time politics, with his party contesting the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The teaser opens with the words: A true leader rises not for the power, but

for the people. It then shows Vijay in a police uniform and dark sunglasses, holding a sword as he walks toward a group of men in a field, parts of which are ablaze. His fist is bleeding, and he adjusts his moustache using the sword. The glimpse ends with the message: «Let's rise together.» Jana Nayagan features music by Anirudh Ravichander and includes a cast of Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj, and Priyamani,

among others. It marks Bobby Deol's second Tamil film following his debut in Kanguva, where he played the chief antagonist opposite Suriya. Pooja Hegde reunites with Vijay after they previously starred together in Nelson Dilipkumar's Beast (2022). Speaking to PTI about Vijay's political journey, she said, «As a person who loves to watch him on screen, I'm very sad. But I also support his journey. I'm rooting for him. So, more power to him.» In February 2024, Vijay announced the formation of his political party, Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam, with plans to contest the 2026 elections. In his statement, he raised concerns about administrative deterioration, corruption, and divisive politics in the state.

Jana Nayagan is scheduled to release in theatres on January 9, 2026, ahead of Makar Sankranti and Pongal.

## India Crushes Mongolia 13-0 in AFC Women's Asian Cup

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Indian women's football team kicked off their AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualification campaign with a scintillating 13-0 victory over Mongolia on Monday, setting a bold tone for the tournament.

Star striker Pyari Xaxa dazzled with five goals, dominating proceedings at the 700th Anniversary Stadium in Chiang Mai. Sangita Basfore opened the scoring in the 8th minute, but it was Xaxa's clinical finishing and relentless attacking presence that truly dismantled the Mongolian defence. This triumph marks India's first win in over four months-their last success came during the Pink



Ladies Cup against Jordan. Since then, a rough patch against Russia, South Korea, and Uzbekistan had pushed the team to their lowest-ever FIFA ranking of 70. With Crispin Chhetri at the helm—who previously steered Odisha FC to domestic success—the Blue Tigresses appear revitalised. Chhetri's tactical approach and player management were evident as India maintained

aggressive momentum from kickoff to final whistle.

India's next opponent in Group E is Timor Leste, followed by fixtures against Iraq and host nation Thailand. Only the group winner will advance to the finals in Australia. If this performance is any indication, India is poised to roar louder than ever in their bid for continental glory.

## IND vs ENG Test: Pant makes history, India slowly take control

**Leeds, (HS) :** IND vs ENG Live Score, India vs England Test Series Day 4: KL Rahul brought up his century not too long ago, and now Rishabh Pant joins him with a century of two halves. The first Asian wicketkeeper to score two centuries in one match. India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant has departed after a fabulous century on Day 4 of the first Test against England at Headingley, Leeds. Pant became the first Asian wicket-keeper, and second overall, to score centuries in both innings of a Test match. India have reached 292/4 after 73 overs, taking their lead to 298. KL Rahul is still at the crease, having also completed a fine hundred. India took a slender lead



of 6 runs into their second innings.

KL Rahul, exquisite. Terrific timing, cut away for 4, just as England captain Ben Stokes comes into the attack. Onus now on Rahul and Karun Nair to take India well

past 300 and towards 400. Rahul looks excellent. OUT! Rishabh Pant's innings comes to an end! And comes to an end one of the best-ever performances by a wicket-keeper batter in a Test

match. Rishabh Pant goes for another slog, but finds Zak Crawley at long-on. Shoaib Bashir gets the wicket. Standing ovation from the Headingley crowd. 252 runs for Pant in this match. Rishabh Pant does not do the somersault like expected. He does English footballer Dele Alli's eye celebration. Sunil Gavaskar is all smiles from the sidelines, he asks Pant to do the somersault. Pant says he'll do it later! Joe Root into the attack, and Pant has gone absolutely berserk. First one, reverse sweep. Second one, back over the bowler's head. Third one, over extra cover for a maximum. And then slams it through mid-wicket for 4 more.

## Rohit Bids Silent Goodbye to ODIs on Debut Anniversary

**New Delhi, (HS) :** 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma on Monday shared a cryptic post, possibly hinting at retirement from ODIs. He shared an emotional Instagram post on his debut anniversary. On June 23, the same day he made his international debut back in 2007 in Belfast against Ireland.

Rohit, one of India's modern-day greats, posted a cryptic yet emotional Instagram story today and captioned it: "Forever grateful 23.06.07". With years of thrilling cricket, Rohit Sharma has millions of fans across the globe. His cryptic post soon went viral, with many considering it a hint at retirement from ODIs. While it is yet to be confirmed if Rohit Sharma is considering retirement from ODIs, here's a sneak peek into his ODI career, so far, spanning 18 years of outstanding cricket. Rohit Sharma's ODI career has been nothing short of extraordinary. Making his debut as a talented 20-year-old, he rose through the ranks to become one of India's most celebrated white-ball batters. Known for his effortless elegance, Rohit carved out a legacy defined by timing, temperament, and towering achievements. With three double centuries in ODIs, including a world-record 264 runs against Sri Lanka, Rohit redefined what was possible in the format. He captained India to multiple series wins, earned the title of "Hitman" for his explosive batting with over 10,000 runs in the format.

Rohit Sharma was recently seen in IPL 2025 for Mumbai Indians and looked in good touch and had a good season.



## India Tops Medal Table at National Day Boxing Tournament

**Mahe (Seychelles), (HS) :** Showcasing the growing depth and quality of India's boxing pipeline, all seven Indian boxers who participated in the Seychelles National Day Boxing



Tournament, held at the Paradise Arena in Mahe, returned with medals.

Comprising medal-winners from recent Elite Nationals and National Combined Championships, the Indian contingent secured three gold, three silver, and one bronze, topping the charts with one more gold than Mauritius. In the gold medal bouts, Himanshu Sharma (50kg) was awarded a walkover while Ashish Mudshaniya (55kg) claimed a well-earned 4:1 split decision. Gaurav Chauhan (90+kg) edged past his opponent in a tense final, sealing gold with a hard-earned 3:2 verdict. The silver medallists - Anmol (60kg), Aditya Yadav (65kg), and Neeraj (75kg) - all fought their finals valiantly before going down by identical 2:3 split decisions, underlining the competitive quality of their performances. Kartik Dalal (70kg) added to India's tally with a bronze. This campaign is part of a broader shift in India's boxing ecosystem, where international exposure is being extended beyond the top tier. Under the leadership of the BFI President-Chairman, Interim Committee, Ajay Singh, such invitational opportunities are being facilitated to ensure that even second and third-line boxers gain valuable global experience. This success follows India's recent medal-winning performances at the Thailand Open and the World Boxing Cup in Brazil, highlighting the expanding talent pool across weight categories.

## Bublik beats Daniil to win Halle Open again



**HALLE, (HS) :** Alexander Bublik finally defeated Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6 (4) on Sunday to win the Halle Open for the second time.

It was his first win in seven matches with Medvedev. "Daniil, I've been cursed to play you forever and never won a set in my life, but today I'm happy to get through, and I wish you - you're a great champion - I wish you a lot of success," Bublik told his opponent afterward. "I mean, to win, to beat you here, it's a privilege for me." The Kazakhstan player, who also won the grass-court tournament in 2023, is just the third player to claim the title more than once after three-time winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov and 10-time champion Roger Federer. Bublik made a strong start and put together a 12-point winning streak in the first set. The second was not quite as fluid with five double-faults, but Medvedev produced consecutive backhand errors in the tiebreaker and Bublik

seized his chance to wrap up the match in 81 minutes.

Bublik, who defeated top-ranked Jannik Sinner in the second round, dedicated the title to his wife and son, who were absent because of illness. "This is for you, I know you're watching," he said. Medvedev, who saw off home favorite Alexander Zverev in the semifinals, was playing his first final since losing to Carlos Alcaraz at Indian Wells in March 2024. "A better week, maybe, than we expected but not the best feeling in the end," Medvedev said. "We try to do better next time."

## Alexander Zverev Cruises Past Marcos Giron

**LONDON, (HS) :**

World number three Alexander Zverev moved into the last 16 at the Halle Open on Wednesday with a straight sets win over American Marcos Giron. The Tokyo Olympic gold medallist won 6-2, 6-1, breaking his 43rd-ranked opponent four times on the grass at the traditional Wimbledon warm-up event. A two-time finalist at the Halle Open, Zverev's march was only halted by an incident in the stands, when an advertising board fell on to a spectator. The German second seed was quick to react, handing an ice pack into the stands to help treat the injured

### Halle Opener



man, who was applauded as he left the stadium. Zverev, who was eliminated in four sets in the quarter-finals of the French Open earlier in June, will face Italian Lorenzo Sonego in the next round. On Tuesday, world number one Jannik Sinner rebounded from his epic French Open final loss to Carlos Alcaraz with a straight sets win over Yannick Hanfmann. The Italian will face 2023 Halle champion Alexander Bublik in the last 16 on Thursday.