





## US Strike

US President Donald Trump's decision to join Israel's war against Iran on Sunday morning - with the bombing of three major nuclear facilities at Fordow, Isfahan, and Natanz - could either force the Iranian regime to surrender or move decisively towards a wider war in the region. Although President Trump has claimed that the attacks have been successful, it will be a while before the full impact of the bombing of the nuclear sites in Iran will be known. Ground-level information will provide key inputs into understanding the extent of damage done to Iran's nuclear programme. Even more important is the nature of the political impact of the American bombing. Israel's war against Iran that began on June 13 had already done considerable damage to the regime and its structures, including the armed forces, intelligence establishment, and the nuclear scientific community. But the Iranian regime has managed to survive and has succeeded in hitting back against Israel. It remains to be seen if the American attacks mark a death blow to the regime or rally Iranian nationalism in favour of the Islamic Republic. Trump's attacks have come well before the end of the two-week pause he had announced to explore, ostensibly, a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Iran and Israel. Cynics say the talk of a two-week time-out was a political feint. Since the announcement, the US has steadily mobilised a massive military force in the Gulf - including two aircraft carriers and several B-2 bombers that can deliver the bunker-buster munition to destroy the Fordow nuclear facility built deep inside a mountain. In a short statement on the bombing decision, Trump said the strikes are limited to destroying Iran's nuclear weapons capability and that the ball is now in Iran's court. If Iran sues for peace, there can be serious diplomacy for peace, he said. But if Iran seeks to widen the war by attacking the US or allied targets, Trump warned that more attacks will follow. All eyes will now be on Tehran's response. It is no secret that Israel's goal has not been limited to a rollback of the Iranian nuclear programme, that it seeks a regime change in Tehran. Tel Aviv has long sought to bring the US into the war and leverage Washington's full weight to induce political change in Iran. Although Trump did not explicitly support the regime change objective, he made it clear that he seeks a change in the behaviour of the Islamic Republic. He seems to have left the Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei with no option but to surrender and survive on Trump's terms. Within the US, the right-wing opponents of the war in Trump's political base are bound to be disappointed with the President's decision. They had mounted a serious campaign against the traditional temptation in Washington to intervene on Israel's side. They questioned the claim that Iran has built or is about to build nuclear weapons. They wanted the White House not to forget that previous efforts at regime change in Iraq and Libya had ended in disaster and cost the US much blood and treasure.

Trump, however, appears to have calculated that total victory over Tehran is possible with a short and swift bombing campaign and that there would be no need for sending ground troops into Iran. It will not be long before the world sees either a familiar tragedy unfold in the Middle East or internal change in Iran that moves the region in a new direction.

25th June

## National Day of Joy



Celebrate National Day of Joy on the last Wednesday of June, which falls on June 25 this year. We want to observe it by finding happiness outside the norms that society calls for. The search for joy is often attributed to material possessions but neglects family. National Day of Joy started when caregivers realized how important it is for senior people to be joyful. Enjoying everyday moments improves general well-being. It is not based on outward circumstances. This includes wealth and prestige. It is an ability to rejoice at all times and over the small things.

National Day of Joy started in 2019. It was the brainchild of caregivers for seniors, Comfort Keepers. The day sprouted from the firm's observation of the magic that joyful moments have on their clients. To capitalize on that, it decided to create a day dedicated for people to search out of the box for things that make them happy. Over the years, the day's celebration has increased the mental well-being of those who participate in its celebration. Comfort Keepers recognizes the value of stopping to smell the roses. Admire your family members. Enjoy your surroundings and the moment. That is what the Day of Joy is for.

The dictionary defines joy as «a feeling of great pleasure and happiness». Religions all espouse pathways to joy. Some even consider the religion itself to be a path of joy. Often joy can be found even in hard times. If one is inclined to see the good in a day, it will find you. Smiling and a joyful attitude create more joy. Laughing out loud spreads it even further. Music and singing are a great source of joy to the human spirit. A great way to find joy is to stop comparing yourself to other people. Start talking to those around you - that is a great joy igniter. Being kind to others brings great joy. Enjoying the small things and the beautiful moments of each day is the best way to fire up joy again. «Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day,» said Henri Nouwen.

The mental pursuit of happiness begins with the great sages from ancient China, India, and Greece. Unhappiness becomes an issue to be avoided as opposed to previous misconceptions. A British journalist is surprised at the good humor of Americans. Harvey Ball creates the popular smiley face.

# Defence Industry and Global Peace



Subash Ch. Mishra

## Economic Diary

When the India made Barhmos missiles were pounding on the airbases of Pakistan, market for India's defence equipments was gaining momentum by every minute. It is reported that 17 countries have made enquiry and expressed interest to buy Brahmos from India. Experts believe that India gained around Rs 50000 crore by way of potential defence orders from other countries after the four day war with Pakistan. Today's war fields are market place for global armaments. Although global leaders profess for peace, in their heart of heart they want some sort of conflict between nations to demonstrate the fire power of their war machines and keep their defence industry running to improve their employment and GDP numbers. Though there has been no world war after 1945, some countries are at war somewhere or other and some are in perpetual potential state of war and building up arsenal for a future war. There are internal civil war in many countries and over and above there are terrorist organizations which also require weapons for their activity and existence. Some of the terrorist organizations in the middle east get financial support of states and are able buy weapons including missiles and helicopters. These activities keep the defence industry running across the globe.

The global arms industry includes weapons, weapon platforms, communication systems and other electronics equipments. The industry also provides war related services and logistical support. The London based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) estimated global defence expenditure at \$2.46 trillion in 2024 representing 2% of the global GDP. Countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and middle east had the biggest expenditure in 2024. Though US president has been asking NATO members to increase their defence budget to 2% of the GDP and then scale up to 5%, the members are yet to catch up with that. But their defence budgets will go up significantly in future as the European nations have to fend for themselves due to unwillingness of USA to come to their rescue in a war with Russia. In terms of budget, USA had the largest defence budget (\$ 968 bn) followed by Germany (\$86 bn), UK (\$81 bn) and France (\$64 bn). Since Russia is in a war with Ukraine, its defence expenditure in 2024 was estimated to be \$146 bn equivalent to 6.7% of its GDP. In terms of PPP, Russia's defence expenditure in 2024 was \$462 bn. China's defence budget in the last few years has been growing at more than 7% per annum to modernize its defence equipments and to prepare itself for a war with Taiwan. India and Pakistan are already increasing their defence expenditure to be ever ready for a conflict. The war in Gaza and regional instability caused by Houthi, Hizbullah and Hamas have already raised defence budget of countries in the middle east. The downfall of Syrian regime opened up opportunities for Turkiye and Israel who are engaged in some sort of conflict there to occupy Syrian territories. Additionally, the intense ongoing war between Israel and Iran has also stretched the defence expenditure of these two countries significantly.

Defence export is one of the lucrative business for countries in the present days. Though there



are many exporters of defence equipments, the top five exporters have been USA, Russia, China, France and Germany. USA is the largest exporter of arms with a share of 39% of the total market. Next in line are Russia with a market share of 19%, France 11%, China 4.6% and Germany 4.5%. In Europe and USA, the arms manufacturers are mostly in the private sector. Among the top importers are India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Ukraine, Qatar and Japan. India is a big importer of defence equipments from Russia and France, but in the recent years it has joined the defence export club and has a market share of less than 1%. India's exports are mainly to Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Armenia. In 2023-24, India's export touched Rs.21000 crore. But with the performance of home made weapons in the recent Indo Pak war, India's weapons are in demand as these are relative inexpensive and good performers. Hopefully, India's export will pick up in the near future. Middlemen, commission and kickbacks also thrive in the business of marketing of defence equipments globally.

With change in technology, the nature of warfare has undergone change and so also the arms and ammunitions. While traditionally the ground operation was the mainstay of any warfare, the modern warfare is sky oriented. The Russia- Ukraine war has showed that the drone warfare has

outpaced the war by use of fighter jets. Even the drone technology has undergone change and has become a cheaper option to inflict much damage to the enemy property with very low investment in drones. Neutralizing drones has become an expensive affair for the defending country as the cost of a drone is a fraction of that of a missile that is used in destroying the drone. Air defence is a major item in the modern warfare today. A single S-400 system which includes multiple launchers, radars, and command posts is estimated to cost around \$1.25 billion. Hand held equipments have become popular in modern warfare for their ease of use. Hand held anti tank missiles were used in the Russia Ukraine war. Laser technology is another area which is being used in a limited way to bring down drones and aircrafts. In future, this technology will be perfected and used extensively. Russia and Ukraine used Robots in the war in a limited way in the recent war that is being fought. Satellites also play a major role in modern warfare as they give real time position of the enemy. Since most of the missiles depend heavily on GPS system and artificial intelligence, the satellite positioning of the enemy troops and equipments helps a lot in attacking the enemy positions. Finally, the more advanced countries like Russia and USA are

thinking in terms of satellite war by which one predator satellite can kill the communication satellites of the enemy country making the enemy vulnerable to attack. It is also reported that Russia is capable of initiating nuclear attacks from space, if required. The future of defence industry will shift from traditional machine makers to software engineers. As more and more instruments are using chips and programmes to make pin point attack, with the help of GPS provided by satellites, more and more programmers are also engaged in making software and wavelength to jam the GPS system to make the attack effective. In future, there will be more unmanned aerial vehicles like drones and robots on the ground to fight battles. Globally, war budgets are on a rising trend and with advancement of technology, warfare will be more technology driven and more devastating. Though the super powers profess for peace, in the interest of supporting their defence industry, they will have an underlying need to prolong the conflict situation while carrying on with the talk of peace superficially. In such a situation the warring nations will have to decide what they want.

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

## The Magnificent Sun Temple Konark: A Marvel of Ancient Odisha and DHARMAPADA.....

Trilochan Sahu

Nestled on the enchanting eastern coastline of India, the Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha, stands as a breathtaking testament to human ingenuity and devotion. Built in the 13th century, this magnificent temple is dedicated to Surya, the Hindu sun god. It is a pinnacle of Orissan architecture, showcasing an extraordinary array of sculptural innovations and intricate carvings.

Legend has it that Narasimha I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty commissioned this architectural wonder in 1250, after a momentous military victory over Muslim forces in Bengal. He intended this grand structure not just as a temple, but as a symbol of his divine right to rule—a physical celebration of his triumph, meant to amplify his legitimacy through the blessings of the gods. Also affectionately known as Surya Deula or Surya Deul, the temple's design is awe-inspiring. It features a remarkable layout consisting of three distinct sections: a grand main shrine connected to an entrance and prayer hall, and, standing apart, a captivating pillared dance hall. The exterior of the joined shrine and entrance hall is adorned with twelve pairs of majestic wheels, together depicting a celestial chariot that once carried the sun. Legend tells of seven galloping horses once beautifully carved into stone, a dynamic display that allowed Surya's chariot to traverse the heavens. Today, a single horse still stands in stunning detail, while vibrant friezes depicting amorous couples, dancing girls, and celestial



nymphs dance along the temple's lower reliefs, illuminating the artistry of its creators. The temple's creation story is steeped in valour and sacrifice. Enter Dharmapada, the son of a brilliant architect named Bishu Maharana. Faced with an impending deadline and the grim threat of execution hanging over 1,200 craftsmen from King Langula Narasingha Deva I, Dharmapada made a heart-wrenching decision. To save his father and the other craftsmen, he launched a daring plan to complete the temple's crowning glory in a single night.

As the fateful hour approached, Dharmapada's determination shone bright. However, fear gripped the craftsmen as they deliberated the consequences of a child successfully finishing the monumental task. In a tragic twist, Dharmapada chose to leap from the newly completed crown, sacrificing his life to ensure the safety of his father and all the masons. While lacking in historical documentation, this poignant tale has captured the imagination of

countless generations. The legend of Dharmapada gained momentum in the 19th century through the powerful poetry of Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das. His remarkable work «Dharmapadara Atmalipi,» part of the larger collection «Bandira Atmakatha,» delves into themes of duty, sacrifice, and the unrecognized brilliance of heroes. In this profound poem, Dharmapada emerges not just as a character in a tale but as a symbol of dedication and selflessness, embodying Gopabandhu's own ideals of patriotism and devotion. Today, the Sun Temple of Konark continues to rise majestically against the horizon, whispering the stories of its legendary past and inspiring all who visit to honour the spirit of creativity and sacrifice. This architectural masterpiece not only celebrates the divine but also embodies the rich tapestry of human resilience and aspiration, ensuring that the legacy of Bishu Maharana and his brave son Dharmapada endures eternally.

BARGARH

## Forgetting The Past & Creating A Good Future

Dr. Suresh Kumar Nayak

Generally we all want to do these two things badly. We need to forget our past and simultaneously also create a good future. Forgetting the past seems a rather arduous task to accomplish. Creating a bright future is the only motive in our life for which we all work so hard throughout our life but still fall short of achieving the same. Few of us treat the future as a basic component of destiny and hence never make any attempt to improve that. Is there any practically effective way which can make us forget the past and build a good future with relative ease?

Forgiveness deals with past issues very effectively. Past memories primarily consist of all bad events which created intense grief and anger. These emotions were generated as many life situations actually went against you or you perceived it so. Such life situations mostly would involve one or more living beings connected with you in some way. Grief and anger keep striking you each time this memory is recalled or you move into the past. Forgiveness is not for forgetting this past event or validating the past event. It has to be practiced just to erase the very powerful ill effects which keep springing back in your present riding over thoughts of the past. Forgiveness is not to make some one or some characters involved in a past event happy or pacify them. It is simply for you and your self growth. Forgiveness only works for you not for anyone else. You need to get unburdened of the ill effects of past memory which create lot

of negative energy in you. Once this process of forgiving begins, slowly layers of past start getting erased. Forgiveness doesn't necessarily require the person whom you are forgiving. If the person is present to receive your forgiveness, the magical effect of forgiving can be felt on his being also which in turn can make the process of forgiving further effective. Gratitude is nothing but thanksgiving or expressing your appreciation for what you received in your extremely precious life. It can be for a favor received in the form of some object or some help. Gratitude can also be expressed for nothing received in particular. 'No damage caused' is definitely a positive moment in your life. Gratitude can be expressed any number of times in a day for anything which has even a little positive significance on your life.

Gratitude can bring your attention to good things or things which you appreciate rather than the things which hurt or which you lack. This phenomenon of shifting of attention from 'lack' to 'abundance' injects enormous positive power in you as per the simple universal principle of 'Like Attracts Like'. It can fill your present moments with love, satisfaction, peace and bliss. Balanced present can lead to balanced actions and favorable life situations which can eventually lead to a balanced and bright future. Never wait for positive events to take place so that you can thank, treat all 'non negative' events as a series of miracles and start thanking for each miracle, in no time positive events will fill your life completely.

*Principal, Ashelles Public School, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack*



# Bhubaneswar is now among India's least affordable cities

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Amid steep rise in property costs across the city, Bhubaneswar is now considered one of the least affordable cities in the country among homebuyers. Findings of a new study show that even top earners in the state capital would require over five decades of savings to be able to own a decent home.

The top 5 per cent of urban families in the state would need over 50 years of savings to afford a mid-sized house. The new information emerged through a countrywide comparative analysis made by the National

Housing Board (NHB) and The Times of India, using 2025 house price data and income statistics. The calculations in the study have been made on the basis of the annual savings potential of the top five per cent urban earners in each state, using the national average savings-to-GDP ratio of 30.2 per cent.

In case of Odisha, these households have higher monthly per capita expenditure compared to national averages, while housing prices in Bhubaneswar far outstrip their savings capacity. Odisha food Of the 21 state capitals for which carpet



area price data was available from NHB, in 10 it would take more than 30 years of savings to buy a house. Chandigarh is the most affordable, as 15 years of savings

will be enough to buy a 1,184 square feet house. Jaipur is the only other city where less than 20 years of savings would suffice. A standard 1,184 sq ft

house in Bhubaneswar, considered the median size by NHB, remains out of reach even for the affluent, replicating trends observed in other high-

cost urban centres like Mumbai and Gurgaon. Bhubaneswar joins the list of 10 Indian capital cities where it takes over 30 years of savings to afford a home.

While Mumbai tops the list at 109 years and Gurgaon follows at 63, Odisha's capital too demands more than five decades of disciplined savings from its wealthiest urban dwellers. By contrast, cities like Chandigarh and Jaipur present a far more optimistic picture, with home ownership theoretically achievable in 15 to 20 years, respectively. The findings underscore a growing affordability

gap in India's urban housing market. With property prices continuing to rise and wages unable to keep pace, home ownership is increasingly becoming a distant dream, even for those at the top of the income spectrum.

Considered an affordable and liveable urban centre only a few years ago, Bhubaneswar is now facing a severe housing crisis. With property prices in the state capital regularly breaching the Rs one crore mark, buying a house has become extremely tough for middle-class and low-income families.

## Govt issues clarification on de-empanelment of 3 banks

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Odisha government on Tuesday issued a clarification regarding removal of three major private sector banks - HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank- from its empanelled list for handling the State funds over poor performance.

The notification issued by the Finance Department stated that this directive is not applicable in case of SNA bank accounts, payment aggregator/payment gateway bank accounts, agency bank accounts (for collection of state government dues) and NPS/Pension trustee bank accounts currently maintained in these banks. "While the above-mentioned bank accounts of state government organisations shall continue in these three banks, new accounts for these purposes shall not be opened in these three banks till further order," it added. On Saturday, the three leading private banks were



removed from the empanelled list due to continued poor performance in some flagship government schemes and unsatisfactory general banking parameters over the last two financial years.

All state government departments, directorates, heads of departments (HoDs), agencies, public sector undertakings (PSUs), societies, and universities were asked to immediately close all savings, current or other running accounts

maintained with these banks and transfer the balances to accounts in other empanelled banks without delay. However, fixed or term deposits in these banks were to be left untouched and shifted with accrued interest to other empanelled banks upon maturity. They have been instructed to transfer the balances to accounts in other empanelled banks without delay.

The letter, however, clarified that existing fixed or term deposits in these banks need not be closed prematurely, as doing so could lead to a loss of interest. Instead, these deposits should be shifted to other empanelled banks upon maturity, along with accrued interest, it stated. The departments were warned that any non-compliance will be viewed seriously. The Finance department has also asked all administrative departments to ensure wide circulation of the directive among all state government-supported entities under their control and compliance.

## Logile launches innovation centre in city



**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** In a major push to Odisha's aspirations of becoming a leading tech hub, Logile- a global leader in workforce management and operational optimisation- unveiled its world-class innovation centre in the city. Gracing the inaugural ceremony, Minister of Electronics & IT Mukesh Mahaling congratulated Logile Founder and CEO Purna Mishra and his team for choosing Bhubaneswar as their India base. "

This inauguration is not just the launch of a facility; it is the beginning of a long-term partnership between innovation and opportunity," he said, highlighting the city's growing

reputation as an investment destination driven by proactive governance and a supportive ecosystem. Mishra also spoke about Logile's global mission and his personal journey. Emphasising the importance of human capital, he said, "We do not need buildings or software. We need people who will stay with us for a long time. Hence, Bhubaneswar is the city." He noted that the city's talent pool and strategic location made it an ideal choice for long-term growth and innovation.

Principal Secretary of E& IT Department Vishal Kumar Dev welcomed Logile to Odisha and termed its entry a major boost to the state's tech ecosystem. He shared the government's progressive policies in infrastructure, talent development and R&D, adding, "Only policy won't help as it will stay on paper. Hence, Odisha is coming up with operational guidelines to ensure effective implementation." The facility will focus on advanced research, product development and strategic collaborations. Subhashish Pattnaik, India Head of Logile, extended the vote of thanks, stating, Manas Ranjan Panda, Special Secretary, E&IT, was also present in the ceremony.

## 'ECoR Yatra' app for Car Festival in Puri

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** With an aim to offer real-time, reliable, and accessible railway services to lakhs of pilgrims attending the grand Rath Yatra in Puri, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a dedicated mobile application named 'ECoR Yatra'. This Android-based mobile app is now available on the Google Play Store and provides a comprehensive digital guide to all rail-related services and passenger amenities during the festival.

The app is specially designed to provide comprehensive and real-time information for pilgrims and rail users traveling during Rath Yatra 2025. The ECoR Yatra App is a one-stop digital solution for passengers to plan their journey, access transport services, and get updates related to railway facilities-without the need to wait in station counters. With intuitive navigation and multilingual support, the app caters to users from across the country.

A complete list of Special Trains running exclusively for Rath Yatra 2025 (from 25th June to 7th July 2025) is available, including train numbers, timings, and halts. Pilgrims can use this to plan their trip well in advance. Users can browse through the updated timetable of all regular trains operating to and from Puri, including long-distance and intercity services. They can also get real-time train running status, arrival/departure

times, and platform allocations at Puri Station, reducing the dependency on manual announcements. The special features of the app include integration with IRCTC provides information about available Retiring Rooms, Tourist Huts, and temporary mela accommodations, helping devotees find rest. Details about special ticket counters at Puri and other important stations have been added.

Booking options include both reserved and unreserved ticketing, along with UTS on Mobile support. It is also linked with NTES and PNR status, the app allows for smooth fare enquiry, seat availability checks, and helps navigate a journey better. Short, informative videos on using Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) and booking via UTS Mobile App are included for digital literacy.

Notifications for emergencies will also be pushed in real time to alert passengers instantly. ECoR has invited all pilgrims to make the best use of the ECoR Yatra App. "This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to provide digital services and early, accessible services to all citizens. All passengers and pilgrims attending the festival are strongly advised to download the ECoR Yatra App from the Google Play Store to access vital information and avoid unnecessary delays," an official said.

### Pradhan appeals for plastic-free Rath Yatra

As preparations for the iconic Rath Yatra enter their final phase, Union Education Minister Dhamendra Pradhan has appealed to devotees and visitors to avoid using single-use plastics during the festival. In a video message on Tuesday, Pradhan highlighted the spiritual significance of the Rath Yatra, which will begin in three days, symbolizing Lord Jagannath's benevolence and accessibility to devotees worldwide. The Odisha government and district administration are working tirelessly to ensure a smooth and grand celebration. The deities-Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, and Sudarshana-will leave the 'Ratna Singhasana' and proceed to the 'Bada Danda,' where thousands of devotees from across the globe are expected to gather and take part in the chariot-pulling ceremony.

However, the Minister expressed concern about the environmental impact of single-use plastics commonly used during the festival. He stressed that such plastics pollute the 'Bada Danda,' harm local wildlife, and contaminate nearby water bodies, including the sea and canals. Reiterating Odisha's commitment to the "Swachh Odisha, Khushi Odisha" mission, Pradhan urged everyone to refrain from using single-use plastics in Puri from the start of Rath Yatra until the Bahuda Yatra on July 5. This effort is aimed at protecting the environment and ensuring a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come.

## Shri B. Srikrishna Rajkumar assume charge as the Additional General Manager of ECoR

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Shri B. Srikrishna Rajkumar has assumed charge as the Additional General Manager (AGM) of East Coast Railway (ECoR) today. He is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), 1989 batch, Shri Rajkumar has over three decades of rich and diverse experience in railway engineering and infrastructure development. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Principal Chief Engineer

of East Coast Railway, playing a key role in navigation of important infrastructure projects in the zone. An alumnus of Andhra University, where he completed his degree in Civil Engineering, Shri Rajkumar further did Industrial Engineering (Management) from the Indian Institute of Management - Mumbai. Throughout his illustrious career, Shri Rajkumar has held several senior management positions, including

Chief Engineer, North Eastern Railway, Chief Project Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). He has successfully led the execution of large-scale railway infrastructure projects, overseeing end-to-end responsibilities including planning, design, land acquisition, tendering, and project delivery. Shri B. Srikrishna Rajkumar's vast experience and leadership in project execution and management are expected to significantly contribute to the ongoing development and operational efficiency of East Coast Railway.

### Special Trains for RATH YATRA

**Dedicated Service by EAST COAST RAILWAY**

01. SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI FOR GUNDICHA YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	DATE OF ARRIVAL.	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08443	GUNUPUR-PURI	26.06.25	1830	27.06.25	0215
08533	DASPALLA-PURI	27.06.25	0015	27.06.25	0415
08503	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	27.06.25	0245	27.06.25	0450
08413	PARADEEP-PURI	27.06.25	0230	27.06.25	0815
08415	TALCHER-PURI	27.06.25	0345	27.06.25	1030
08317	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	27.06.25	0930	27.06.25	1135
08307	CUTTACK-PURI	27.06.25	0700	27.06.25	1150
08521	DASPALLA-PURI	27.06.25	0945	27.06.25	1305
08437	BRAHMAPUR-PURI	27.06.25	0615	27.06.25	1320
08425	DHENKANAL-PURI	27.06.25	0900	27.06.25	1345
08275	CUTTACK-PURI	27.06.25	1015	27.06.25	1415
08421	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	27.06.25	0730	27.06.25	1430

02. SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI FOR GUNDICHA YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP. FROM PURI	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	DATE OF ARR. AT DSTN. STN.	ARR. TIME AT DSTN. STN.
08318	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	27.06.25	1635	27.06.25	1815
08276	PURI-CUTTACK	27.06.25	1650	27.06.25	2030
08306	PURI-CUTTACK	27.06.25	1845	28.06.25	0015
08414	PURI-PARADEEP	27.06.25	1925	28.06.25	0130
08438	PURI-BRAHMAPUR	27.06.25	1940	28.06.25	0045
08522	PURI-DASPALLA	27.06.25	2005	28.06.25	0030
08416	PURI-TALCHER	27.06.25	2100	28.06.25	0245
08422	PURI-KENDUJHARGARH	27.06.25	2115	28.06.25	0200
08504	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	27.06.25	2130	27.06.25	2255
08424	PURI-DHENKANAL	27.06.25	2215	28.06.25	0140
08534	PURI-DASPALLA	28.06.25	0020	28.06.25	0415
08428	PURI-GUNUPUR	28.06.25	0245	28.06.25	1230

03. SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI FOR BAHUDA YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	DATE OF ARRIVAL.	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08443	GUNUPUR-PURI	04.07.25	1830	05.07.25	0215
08533	DASPALLA-PURI	05.07.25	0015	05.07.25	0415
08503	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	05.07.25	0245	05.07.25	0450
08413	PARADEEP-PURI	05.07.25	0230	05.07.25	0815
08415	TALCHER-PURI	05.07.25	0345	05.07.25	1030
08317	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	05.07.25	0930	05.07.25	1135
08307	CUTTACK-PURI	05.07.25	0700	05.07.25	1150
08521	DASPALLA-PURI	05.07.25	0945	05.07.25	1305
08437	BRAHMAPUR-PURI	05.07.25	0615	05.07.25	1320
08425	DHENKANAL-PURI	05.07.25	0900	05.07.25	1345
08275	CUTTACK-PURI	05.07.25	1015	05.07.25	1415
08421	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	05.07.25	0730	05.07.25	1430

04. SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI FOR BAHUDA YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP. FROM PURI	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	DATE OF ARR. AT DSTN. STN.	ARR. TIME AT DSTN. STN.
08318	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	05.07.25	1635	05.07.25	1815
08276	PURI-CUTTACK	05.07.25	1650	05.07.25	2030
08306	PURI-CUTTACK	05.07.25	1845	06.07.25	0015
08414	PURI-PARADEEP	05.07.25	1925	06.07.25	0130
08438	PURI-BRAHMAPUR	05.07.25	1940	06.07.25	0045
08522	PURI-DASPALLA	05.07.25	2005	06.07.25	0030
08416	PURI-TALCHER	05.07.25	2100	06.07.25	0245
08422	PURI-KENDUJHARGARH	05.07.25	2115	06.07.25	0200
08504	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	05.07.25	2130	05.07.25	2255
08424	PURI-DHENKANAL	05.07.25	2215	06.07.25	0140
08534	PURI-DASPALLA	06.07.25	0020	06.07.25	0415
08428	PURI-GUNUPUR	06.07.25	0245	06.07.25	1230

05. SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI FOR SUNA VESHA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	DATE OF ARRIVAL.	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08443	GUNUPUR-PURI	05.07.25	1830	06.07.25	0215
08533	DASPALLA-PURI	06.07.25	0015	06.07.25	0415
08503	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	06.07.25	0245	06.07.25	0450
08413	PARADEEP-PURI	06.07.25	0230	06.07.25	0815
08415	TALCHER-PURI	06.07.25	0345	06.07.25	1030
08317	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	06.07.25	0930	06.07.25	1135
08307	CUTTACK-PURI	06.07.25	0700	06.07.25	1150
08521	DASPALLA-PURI	06.07.25	0945	06.07.25	1305
08437	BRAHMAPUR-PURI	06.07.25	0615	06.07.25	1320
08425	DHENKANAL-PURI	06.07.25	0900	06.07.25	1345
08275	CUTTACK-PURI	06.07.25	1015	06.07.25	1415
08421	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	06.07.25	0730	06.07.25	1430

06. SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI FOR SUNA VESHA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP. FROM PURI	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	DATE OF ARR. AT DSTN. STN.	ARR. TIME AT DSTN. STN.
08318	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	06.07.25	1635	06.07.25	1815
08276	PURI-CUTTACK	06.07.25	1650	06.07.25	2030
08306	PURI-CUTTACK	06.07.25	1845	07.07.25	0015
08414	PURI-PARADEEP	06.07.25	1925	07.07.25	0130
08438	PURI-BRAHMAPUR	06.07.25	1940	07.07.25	0045
08522	PURI-DASPALLA	06.07.25	2005	07.07.25	0030
08416	PURI-TALCHER	06.07.25	2100	07.07.25	0245
08422	PURI-KENDUJHARGARH	06.07.25	2115	07.07.25	0200
08504	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	06.07.25	2130	06.07.25	2255
08424	PURI-DHENKANAL	06.07.25	2215	07.07.25	0140
08534	PURI-DASPALLA	07.07.25	0020	07.07.25	0415
08428	PURI-GUNUPUR	07.07.25	0245	07.07.25	1230

07. SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI DURING RATH YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	DAYS OF ARRIVAL	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08407	ANGUL-PURI	26.06.2025 to 07.07.2025	2100	Next Day	0145
08411	PARADEEP-PURI	26.06.2025 to 07.07.2025	2100	Next Day	0245
08403	BHADRAK-PURI	26.06.2025 to 07.07.2025	2000	Next Day	0310
08427	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	26.06.2025 to 07.07.2025	2030	Next Day	0345
08429	PALASA-PURI	26.06.2025 to 07.07.2025	2130	Next Day	0630
08431	DASPALLA-PURI	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	0200	Same Day	0605
08405	BHADRAK-PURI	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	0210	Same Day	0855
08409	ANGUL-PURI	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	0345	Same Day	0935
08263	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	0600	Same Day	0740

08. SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI DURING RATH YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP. FROM PURI	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	DAYS OF ARRIVAL	ARR. TIME AT DSTN. STN.
08432	PURI-DASPALLA	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	0700	Same Day	1045
08404	PURI-BHADRAK	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1415	Same Day	2200
08430	PURI-PALASA	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1430	Same Day	2115
08408	PURI-ANGUL	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1505	Same Day	2000
08412	PURI-PARADEEP	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1530	Same Day	2145
08426	PURI-KENDUJHARGARH	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1600	Same Day	2345
08406	PURI-BHADRAK	27.06.2025 to 08.07.2025	1745	Next Day	0030
08410	PURI-ANGUL	28.06.2025 to 09.07.2025	0005	Same Day	0510
08264	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	28.06.2025 to 09.07.2025	0330	Same Day	0500

09. OTHER SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI DURING RATH YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	DAYS OF ARRIVAL	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08385	ROURKELA-PURI	25.06.25 & 04.07.25	1020	Same Day	2315
08037	SANTRAGACHI JN - PURI	25.06.25 & 03.07.25	1640	Next Day	0500
08379	BADAMPANAR-PURI	25.06.25 & 04.07.25	0600	Same Day	2115
08376	BIRAMITRAPUR-PURI	25.06.25 & 04.07.25	1800	Next Day	0945
08389	BARBIL-PURI	25.06.25 & 04.07.25	1700	Next Day	0415
08441	JUNAGARH ROAD - PURI	25.06.25 & 04.07.25	0920	Same Day	2215
08461	BOUDH-PURI	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	1215	Next Day	0030
08445	JAGDALPUR-PURI	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	0900	Next Day	0115
08453	SAMBALPUR-PURI	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	2350	Next Day	0955
08381	BANGRIPOSI-PURI	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	0835	Same Day	1830
08387	BALESWAR-PURI	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	1825	Next Day	0130
08313	VISAKHAPATNAM-PURI	26.06.25 & 05.07.25	0045	Same Day	1200
*08593	RAYAGADA - KHURDA ROAD	26.06.25 & 04.07.25	1100	Same Day	2355
*08893	GONDIA-KHURDA ROAD	26, 28 & 30.06.25	1330	Next Day	0845
		02 & 05.07.25			
* Train No. 08893 & 08593 will run up to Khurda Road					

10. OTHER SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI DURING RATH YATRA					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	DATE OF DEP. FROM PURI	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	DAYS OF ARRIVAL	ARR. TIME AT DSTN. STN.
08380	PURI-BADAMPANAR	27.06.25 & 06.07.25	2340	Next Day	1500
08377	PURI-BIRAMITRAPUR	27.06.25 & 06.07.25	2225	Next Day	1230
08390	PURI-BARBIL	27.06.25 & 06.07.25	2140		



# Odisha to experience intense spell of rain from today

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The intensity of rain is likely to increase in Odisha from Wednesday with the cyclonic circulation over westcentral and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Coastal Andhra Pradesh & South Odisha coast merging with cyclonic circulation over south Jharkhand & neighbourhood.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange warning for Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Keonjhar districts in the state on June 25-26. Odisha food On June 24, yellow warning of thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph and heavy rain has been issued for one or two places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur, Rayagada, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada,

Cuttack and Gajapati districts. Thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is also likely at one or two places in Koraput, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Ganjam.

Thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph and heavy to very heavy rain may occur at one or two places in Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Keonjhar on May 25; and Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar on May 26. On May 25, thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph and heavy rain may also occur at one or two places in Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal. Thunderstorm/



lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely at one or two places in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. On May 26, thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph and heavy rain may also occur at one or two places in Dhenkanal, Angul,

Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, and Deogarh. Thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. Heavy rain may continue at one or two places in

Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada and Gajapati districts on May 27; and Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Koraput and Malkangiri on May 28. There is no further warning thereafter, though light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at a few places in the day during the subsequent days.

## Subarnarekha's fury drowns farmers' hopes in Balasore

**Balasore:** What began as a promising season for farmers in Balasore's Baliapal block has ended in heartbreak. The Subarnarekha river, swollen by incessant rain, overflowed and inundated vast stretches of farmland in Badapal village, leaving a trail of devastation. For four consecutive days, floodwaters submerged crops, destroying livelihoods and submerging dreams of people and farmers as well. The flood has wreaked havoc on both traditional and seasonal crops. Tender saplings, vegetables, and flowering plants all have been washed away. Even resilient varieties such as dhanatali and nalita could not withstand the prolonged submersion. Now, as the waters begin to recede, the fields lie covered in silt and decay, rendering them unfit for immediate cultivation.

Local farmers are now urging the administration to step in. "We've lost everything," said a distressed farmer from Badapal adding that they need compensation and urgent support to start again. Despite these appeals, there has been little response or clarity from district officials regarding relief measures. Though the water level has decreased, the damage is done. The region, once full of green promise, now faces an uncertain future. The silence from the authorities is deepening the distress. As the soil dries and skies clear, what these farmers need is more than sympathy, they need action. Timely compensation and strong administrative support could help them plant hope once again in the muddy ground left behind.

## Tora village in the Bargarh Assembly experienced a significant political upheaval



**Bargarh, (DMC) :** Tora village, located within the Bargarh Assembly, witnessed a notable political development. Just one day before a scheduled vote on a no-confidence motion against the Sarpanch of Tora Gram Panchayat, all 16 ward members, along with active village members, officially joined the BJP. Motivated by the slogan "Bikashita Grama Bikashita Bargarh" and their community's aspirations, they visited the residence of Honourable MLA Ashwani Kumar Sarangi to express their commitment to this new alignment. The ward members received a warm welcome, highlighted by bouquets that underscored their dedication to fostering well-organised and sustained development within the village panchayat. MLA Ashwani Kumar Sadangi commented that this newfound unity signifies the beginning of a promising chapter in the progress and transformation of Tora Gram Panchayat of Bargarh District.

## Administration sealed Bansal Agro Rice Mill

**NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC):** Bansal Agro Rice Mill situated at Lakhimpur Dumerbahal under Nuapada Block in the district was raided and sealed following allegations of irregularities. The raid was part of a larger crackdown on rice mills in the district, where several others were also targeted for similar issues. Specifically, Bansal Agro was accused of procuring paddy from farmers at prices below the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The raid, conducted by the Food and Civil Supplies Department, resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of paddy from the mill. The exact amount seized is not mentioned in the provided information, but it was described as a large quantity. The mill owners allegedly failed to provide proper documentation for the paddy, which led to the sealing of the mill. The raids and sealing of rice mills in Nuapada were initiated after the District Collector received information about widespread irregularities in paddy procurement practices. This action is part of a larger effort by the Odisha government to ensure fair prices for farmers and to prevent illegal storage and sale of paddy.

## The Lord of Anbasar has already been stolen for a ten-rooted modak

**Puri, (DMC):** The Lord of Puri's nonbasar has already been stolen for a ten-rooted modak. Modak stole from his house. Allegations of theft of dasamool modak deposited in Srimandir Garada. Of the total 313 amuniya modaks given by Rajvaidya, 70 were found to be less. On the ekadashi of Anbasa i.e. on the night of 21st, there was a ritual of applying dasamool modak after the lord's sarvanga, but 70 were found to be less. However, Balabhadra's badagrahi Haladhar Das Mohapatra wrote a letter to the chief administrator of the temple to take action for the crime of how the deadly modak was dedicated to the Lord.

## District-Level Agriculture Strategy Committee Meeting (Kharif) Held

**Khordha, (DMC):** The District-Level Agriculture Strategy Committee Kharif -2025 meeting was held at the conference hall of collectorate, Khordha. The meeting was chaired by Collector, Chanchala Rana, included key officials & focussed on various agricultural strategies & initiatives for the district about the Kharif crop this year. Chief District Agriculture Officer, Khordha Rabi Narayan Senapati said in his speech that Kharif crop will be cultivated on about 103054 hectares of land this year.

Out of which paddy will be cultivated on 92660 hectares of land & non-vegetable crops like moong, biri, mandia, vegetables etc. will be cultivated on 10394 hectares of land. The farmland will be irrigated through various irrigation projects & a target has been set to provide high quality seeds & fertilizers through various societies on time. Soil health cards will be provided to the farmers after soil testing & application of



fertilizers in the approved quantity will be emphasized. Discussions were held on promoting agricultural entrepreneurs through the Chief Minister's Agricultural Enterprise Scheme, organic farming, agricultural mechanization, Odisha Millet Mission, integrated agriculture & collecting data on various crops cultivated in the land through digital crop survey.

Agristock is a major scheme of the Government of India where complete registration of farmers is being done. By creating an accurate database of farmers and their land, it will be possible to provide them with various assistance in a timely manner &

this information will help in taking policy decisions at the government level. In this meeting, among others, Digambara Biswal, Project Director Water She'd Mission, Khordha, presented details information on various schemes for farmers.

Assistant Director of Horticulture, Khordha, Mrs. Smita Mohanty, Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBSR, Debasish Mishra discussed the horticulture to be done in 2025. District Agriculture Officer, Tangi, Bhubaneswar, all block level Agriculture Officers, Water Resources Department Officers, Assistant Director Soil Laboratory, Bhubaneswar were prominent participants.

## Public humiliation of 2 youths in Dharakote triggers condemnation

**Berhampur, (DMC):** A horrifying incident from Dharakote in Ganjam district, Odisha, has triggered nationwide condemnation, raising serious questions about the erosion of humanity, the misuse of mob justice, and the rise of Taliban-style punishments in parts of rural India. The incident, which has gone viral on social media, shows two men being publicly humiliated and tortured on mere suspicion of cattle smuggling. According to initial reports, the victims were partially tonsured, tied with ropes, paraded through the village on knees for two kilometers, and even forced to drink dirty drain water-acts that have drawn comparisons to barbaric medieval punishments. The victims, hailing from Haripur village, were reportedly transporting three cows to Singipur for a wedding as dowry when they were stopped by a group near Kharigumma. The mob accused them of illegal cow smuggling and allegedly demanded money in

exchange for letting them go. When the victims refused to pay, they were beaten up, dragged to a nearby salon, had half their heads shaved, and were then publicly paraded on their knees for about two kilometers through the village streets. The brutality didn't end there. In an act of utter dehumanization, the victims were allegedly forced to drink wastewater from a nearby drain, in full view of villagers while some filmed the incident on mobile phones. The entire nation is now reacting with shock and anger, with human rights activists, civil society members, and citizens questioning the growing lawlessness and moral breakdown of society. "This is not justice, this is torture. This incident is nothing short of Taliban-style punishment, completely against constitutional and human rights," said a social activist. Another social activist said, "Such an incident is inhuman. People in society still think that they are above the law and go to such an extent to punish people. In the name of cow

protection, such barbaric acts are being conducted. Only nine persons are not involved; there are others." "We condemn such an incident. We are hearing that nine people have been detained. No civil society or person has the right to punish anyone. It is a complete case of human rights violation," said another local resident. Several legal experts have also pointed out that even if cow trafficking was suspected, law enforcement, not mobs, must handle such matters. The action taken by the mob amounts to serious criminal offences, including unlawful confinement, assault, public humiliation, and torture. While police have initiated an investigation, there is growing pressure on the administration to ensure swift arrests and prevent such vigilante acts in the name of moral or religious policing. The Ganjam district administration has remained tight-lipped, but sources suggest action is being taken based on the videos and complaints filed.

From Page- 1

## Modi graces...

ethos championed by Guru and Gandhi. "India sees Narayana in every being. We are a civilisation built on unity in diversity, and this legacy continues to guide us," he said. With the government now developing the Sivagiri Circuit to honour sites associated with Sree Narayana Guru, Modi concluded with a call to "carry this torch of harmony, reform, and spiritual empowerment through Amrit Kaal."

## Crime Branch...

was a scam and lodged an FIR. The case is currently under investigation. The Crime Branch Team after analysing the transaction details and working upon other digital evidences had crack down at Bengaluru. They arrested one person, identified as Ganesh K Setty (48) from Chandra Layout in Bengaluru. He was brought to Cuttack on transit remand and forwarded to the Court. He was booked under Sections 419/ 420/ 465/ 467/ 468/ 471/ 120(B)/ 34 IPC r/w Section 66-C/66-D of IT Act-2000. Similarly, another complaint was lodged by a citizen that he was defrauded by unknown cyber fraudsters on pretext of higher return and investing in IPO and OTC trading. They persuaded him to trade in IPO and OTC, leading him to transfer Rs. 6,04,53,000/-. Despite initial losses, he was convinced to invest more, but when attempting to withdraw, they demanded additional money and refused to release his funds. He realized it was a scam and lodged an FIR. The case is currently under investigation.

The Crime Branch Team after analyzing the transaction details and working upon other digital evidences had crack down at Mumbai and Pune. Two persons, identified as Swapnil Goraksha Dhokale (Pune) and Azaz Shafiq Shaikh (34) (Mumbai), were arrested and brought to Cuttack on transit remand. The two have been booked U/S 318(4)/319(2)/ 336(2)/ 336(3)/ 338/ 340(2)/ 61(2)/ 3(5) BNS r/w 66-C/ 66-D IT Act 2000. Previously, three accused persons have already been arrested in this case from West Bengal.

## Cancer-stricken...

abandonment, an issue often buried beneath India's deeply held beliefs of familial care and respect for elders. That a woman battling cancer was left to die in garbage by her own blood, paints a grim picture of emotional and moral breakdown in parts of the modern society. As Mumbai Police dig deeper, the question remains: What drives someone to forsake a loved one so cruelly?

## Ten thousand police personnel for security measures during the Rath Yatra

### Nsg snipers will be in charge; DGP Y B khurania



**Puri, (DMC):** The police briefing concluded under the chairmanship of the state DGP Y B khurania. More police arrangements will be made this year as compared to last year. All preparations have been completed by the police and the police have divided the security and discipline system into eight parts, arrangements have been made for traffic, temple inner, inner cordon, crowd control. Newly equipped command and control room has been arranged. There are 275 AI enabled CCTV cameras at the shrine. From Uttara to Puri, from Puri to Konark CCTV will be covered. Will be controlled by looking at live feed. It will also be controlled from the sub-control room. There will be a special plan for traffic movement.

Anti drone, Anti sabotage, Dog squad And about 200 platoons have been deployed. There will be 8 company forces including BSF, CRPF, RAF, Marine, Coast guard, Navy will jointly patrol for Sea side protection. There will be a close survey and close monitoring will be kept from the skyline. The Traffic Advisory has also been issued today. The DG has requested all tourists or travellers coming to visit Puri to follow it. Chatbot app has been arranged for Real Time Parking, Root Map. Elaborate arrangements have been made by the police for the Safe and Secure Rath Yatra. 10,000 police, capf, home guards will be deployed in larger assessment and for the first time, Nsg snipers will be deployed. Hon'ble DGP Odisha conducted an extensive briefing at Town Hall, Puri, with the presence of all senior officers and police personnel to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra.

AMBITIOUS VISION

# Govt plans new cities for greater economic corridor

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a bold step to reshape the urban and economic landscape of coastal Odisha, the state government has unveiled plans to form an integrated development blueprint for the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip Economic Region (BCPPER).

According to a TOI report, this ambitious corridor aims to turn the capital region into a USD 500 billion economic powerhouse by 2047, positioning it as a national and global growth hub. The multi-city transformation strategy envisions Bhubaneswar,



Cuttack, Puri, and Paradip not merely as connected urban nodes but as parts of a unified regional economy driven by smart infrastructure, global investment, and strategic planning.

Reports added that the initiative will be steered by a Regional Economic Development Board led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and supported by expert advisors,

planners, and top bureaucrats. The cornerstone of the BCPPER plan is the creation of multiple new urban zones and industrial clusters.

Among the most high-profile projects is a new city near Chandaka, along with 'New Cuttack', a 426-acre smart city along the Mahanadi riverfront, which will integrate research centres, recreational zones, and

tourism infrastructure. Meanwhile, Puri will host a 2,500-acre Aerotropolis, setting the stage for aviation-linked growth, and Cuttack is slated to get a 200-acre medi-city with 5,000 hospital beds to attract medical tourists.

A 5,000-acre industrial area between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack has also been proposed to boost non-farm employment and draw in private investment. In fact, the government plans to establish a dedicated task force to mobilise capital for these mega-projects. The move comes after the government hinted at plans for a Greater Bhubaneswar,

as the existing capital city and cities adjoining it are currently grappling with housing shortages and surging property prices, and are set to undergo territorial expansion and planning reforms. The state's vision also includes a 65 km inner ring road within Bhubaneswar, a 148 km outer ring road, and a 432 km regional ring road.

Notably, similar urban-industrial agglomerations are being planned for western Odisha through the Bargarh-Jharsuguda-Sambalpur corridor, with Berhampur-Gopalpur and Koraput-Jeypore regions identified for long-term expansion after 2029.



# Iran's Message as US, Israel Hunt for 400kg of Near-Weapons Grade Uranium



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Iran still has stocks of enriched uranium - which is used to make nuclear weapons - and 'the game is not over', sources close to the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told news agency AFP Tuesday. The location of a stockpile of 400kg of the material - enough to make up to 10 nuclear weapons - is unknown after the United States' weekend bombing of three Iranian facilities.

The 'missing' uranium is 60 per cent enriched. At 90, it can be used in nuclear weapons. Satellite photos and sources indicate that Iran most likely moved the uranium, and possibly some equipment to continue enrichment, to a secret location days before American B-2

'Spirit' bombers dropped 'bunker busters' on Fordrow, Natanz, and Isfahan, causing significant damage and destruction. Shortly after the attack, red flags were raised about the location of the uranium, with US Vice President JD Vance and senior officials privately admitting they do not know, at this time, where it is.

Israeli and US intel believes the material - packed in special crates, each small enough to fit in the boot of a car - was loaded on to trucks and taken to another underground site, possibly near Isfahan. Two Israeli officials, who asked not to be named, admitted this was likely what happened. However, Vance, speaking to Fox News, said he thought the uranium had never left

Fordrow and now lies buried under thousands of feet of rubble and debris after the bombing. Earlier, after Israel's first wave of missile attacks (and before the US 'bunker buster' strike), Iran had threatened to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty and insisted it would not be bullied into abandoning a nuclear programme that it has repeatedly said is for civilian use only. After the US strike, Iran said it had taken "necessary measures" to ensure the programme continues. "We have taken necessary measures and are taking stock of the damage caused by the strikes," Mohd Eslami, chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said in a statement aired on state television. "Plans for restarting (the facilities) have been prepared in advance," he said, underlining Tehran's determination to continue despite US threats, "... our strategy is to ensure production is not disrupted." Does Iran actually have nuclear weapons, or weapons-grade nuclear material? Officially, no. Tehran has insisted its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only. But Israel disagrees and so does US President Donald Trump, who contradicted Tulsi Gabbard, his Director of National Intelligence, in insisting Iran is, in fact, building a nuclear weapon.

## India ramps up evacuation, flies back 292 from Iran, 366 from Israel

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India on Tuesday evacuated 292 citizens from Iran and 366 nationals from Israel amid escalating tensions between the two countries following the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites. With the fresh batch of evacuees from Iran, India has brought back 2,295 national brought back from the Persian Gulf nation so far.

India brought back 161 Indians in a chartered flight from Amman that landed at 8:20 am. The Indians were moved from Israel to Jordan through land border crossings. Another group of 165 Indians were flown back to New Delhi from Amman in a C-17 military transport aircraft. They were received at the airport by Union Minister L Murugan. Two-hundred-ninety-two Indian nationals were evacuated from Iran on a special flight that arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad at 3:30 am, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Sharing details about India's evacuation mission Operation Sindhu that was launched following fresh wave of hostilities between Iran and Israel, he said, "2,295 Indian nationals have now been brought home from Iran." Two-hundred-ninety Indian nationals and one Sri Lankan were evacuated from Iranian city Mashhad on a special flight last night. India launched Operation Sindhu last week to bring back Indians from Iran and Israel in view of increasing hostilities between the two nations. Israel and Iran have fired hundreds of missiles and drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began over a week back. The tensions escalated significantly following the US bombing of three major Iranian nuclear sites on Sunday morning. India has evacuated its nationals on chartered flights operated from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat since Wednesday. Iran lifted airspace restrictions on Friday to facilitate three chartered flights from Mashhad.

The first flight landed in New Delhi late on Friday with 290 Indians, and the second one landed in the national capital on Saturday afternoon with 310 Indians. Another flight arrived from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan on Thursday. A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat landed in New Delhi on Saturday morning.

## India seeks pause in Kishanganga, Ratle dispute proceeding



**New Delhi, (HS) :** India has formally requested a pause in proceedings related to disputes over the Kishanganga and Ratle hydropower projects, as it seeks to take control over its western river systems under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), officials on Tuesday said. The government has in a letter addressed to World Bank-appointed neutral expert Michel Lino called for the suspension of the agreed work programme that outlines Pakistan's written submissions by August and joint discussions scheduled for November. India put the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack.

## Five men die from suspected Carbon Monoxide poisoning



**BHOPAL, (HS) :** Five men, aged between 25 and 30, tragically died believed to be due to carbon monoxide poisoning after entering a private well to rescue a cow's calf in Dhamawada village of Madhya Pradesh's Guna district on Tuesday. The incident occurred in a private well, approximately 12 feet deep and partially filled with water, located on the agricultural farm of Anil 'Bunty' Bhadoriya, a reportedly retired government official.

According to eyewitnesses, the men had been plucking mangoes when a calf suddenly fell into the well. In a desperate attempt to save the animal, five individuals descended into the well one after another but failed to return. A sixth man, who also went inside, managed to come out shortly afterwards. "It was the local residents who initiated the rescue efforts, later joined by the local administration and police rescue teams," said eyewitness Radha Mohan. Guna district collector Kishore Kanyal stated, "The deaths occurred prima facie due to carbon monoxide poisoning. It is under investigation how the calf came to fall into the well, ultimately leading to the deaths of the five men. Appropriate compensation will be provided to the bereaved families."

Rescue operations were carried out by teams from the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF), alongside personnel from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) deployed at the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) units in Guna. Despite their efforts, the five lives could not be saved. The deceased have been identified as Shivdayal Sahu and Gurdayal Okha (both Gau Sevaks), and Mannu Kushwah, Siddharth Saharia, and Sonu Kushwah all between 25 and 30 years of age.

## 241 on Board, 34 on Ground: Official Tally of Deaths in Air India Crash



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Air India Boeing Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad has cost 275 lives -- of them 241 were onboard the plane and 34 on the ground, the Gujarat Health Depart said today, giving for the first time an official figure. Since the flight to London crashed on June 12, there had been no official announcement about the total number of deaths. The authorities had said a figure could be arrived at only after the

DNA matching took place. Officials of the health department said all the bodies have now been recovered and so far, 260 bodies have been identified through DNA matching and six by facial recognition.

Among those who died were 120 men, 124 women, and 16 children -- 256 bodies have been handed over to families so far. The DNA identification of the remaining bodies is still in progress. The Boeing Dreamliner bound for London had started losing height and crashed seconds after the take-off, landing on residential campus of BJ Medical College in Meghani Nagar, located just outside the airport perimeter. Only one passenger out of the 242 on board -- a British-Indian man seated in 11A -- had survived. It is not yet known what caused the crash. The black box of the aircraft is being examined.

Asked about media reports suggesting the black box is damaged and could be sent abroad for data extraction, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu called it "speculation". "The black box is very much in India, and it is currently being investigated by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau or AAIB," he said. Air India has responded to the crash with a slew of safety and prevention measures that includes cutting down on the use of its wide-body planes for international flights by 15 per cent. The cuts will be implemented between now and 20 June and will continue thereafter until at least mid-July.

## Suspend operation of Air India Boeing fleet pending safety audit: Plea in SC

**New Delhi, (HS) :** A plea in the Supreme Court has sought suspending Air India Boeing aircraft operations pending a safety audit within two weeks in wake of the recent Ahmedabad air tragedy that claimed lives of 241 passengers and crew on board. The London-bound Air India flight, Boeing Dreamliner 787-8, with 242 passengers and crew on board, crashed moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on the afternoon of June 12. The plea sought directions to the authorities, particularly the DGCA, to conduct unannounced audits of entire fleet of Air India and other air carriers operating in India, with public disclosure of findings and imposition of immediate corrective measures or

penalties for non-compliance. The plea filed by petitioner and advocate Ajay Bansal has made the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Air India Limited and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) as parties. It also sought directions for stringent security and scientific checks of all planes operating in India and immediate grounding of all aircraft found not fully functional or without prescribed facilities for international passenger service until all defects were rectified and airworthiness recertified. In the interim, the plea sought to "suspend operation of Boeing aircraft of Air India, pending a safety audit within two weeks, in view of the recent crash and reported maintenance backlogs".

## Won't let Maoists rest even during monsoon: Shah

**Raipur, (HS) :** There will be no respite for Maoists even during the monsoon season, Union home minister Amit Shah said in Chhattisgarh after his meeting with top police officials of Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-hit states. Maoists normally get a respite during the rains when operations are called off by security forces. Shah, however, said that counter-insurgency operations will continue during the monsoon months this year in a move towards eradicating LWE from the country by March 31, 2026.

The home minister, in his address, after laying the foundation stones for the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) campus and a Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, ruled out any talks with Maoists and urged them to surrender and join the national mainstream. «This time, we will not let Maoists rest during the monsoon. We are moving forward towards our target of eliminating Maoist by March 31, 2026,» Shah said. He said that over 400 Maoists have been killed since



January last year in Chhattisgarh alone, including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, general secretary of the banned CPI (Maoist). He appealed to Maoists to lay down arms and join the mainstream. «There is no need for dialogue. Lay down your arms and join the path of development. Those who have surrendered will get all promised support from the Centre and the state government,» the minister said. Shah also spoke on how the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam would make India's legal system faster, more scientific, and evidence-based.

## 'Vote theft in Maharashtra polls': Rahul demands machine-readable digital voter rolls

**Mumbai, (HS) :** Flagging alleged irregularities in the Maharashtra assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that there weren't isolated glitches but "vote theft" and demanded the immediate release of machine-readable digital voter rolls as well as CCTV footage. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha shared on X a media report which claimed that in just six months between the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the Maharashtra assembly polls, Nagpur South West -- the seat held by BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis -- added 29,219 new voters.

"In Maharashtra CM's own constituency, the voter list grew by 8% in just 5 months. Some booths saw a 20-50% surge. BLOs reported unknown individuals casting votes," Gandhi said in his post. "Media uncovered thousands of voters with no verified address. And the EC? Silent -- or complicit. These aren't isolated glitches. This is vote theft. The cover-up is the confession," he said. "That's why we demand the immediate release of machine-readable digital voter rolls and



CCTV footage," Gandhi added. Responding to Gandhi's allegations, Fadnavis asking the Congress leader to first speak to his party's elected MLAs before "shooting arrows blindly". In a post on X, Fadnavis used a Hindi proverb to mock Gandhi's claims and cited specific constituencies to counter the charge of discrepancies in the voter list.

## Fire breaks out at exhibition in Ram Leela Maidan



**Budaun, (HS) :** In a horrifying incident, a massive fire broke out at an exhibition at Ram Leela Maidan in Budaun, Uttar Pradesh. According to the sources fire fighting operations are underway. No casualties have been reported so far. As per the reports given by several media houses, ADM Arun Kumar has already reached at the spot to investigate about the cause of the fire. He said, «Fire broke out due to unidentified reasons, perhaps due to short-circuit. Around 20-25 hops were burnt. The fire is almost doused off, the operation is in last phase. There is no casualty. The loss due to fire is being assessed.» He further assured that the situation is in under control. Police, fire fighters have reached the spot and investigation has been launched to find the cause behind the fire mishap. As per the preliminary investigation, fire broke out in Ram Leela Maidan due to short circuit, the main reason is yet to be ascertained. SP city Vijendra Dwivedi has reported that no loss of life has been reported in the fire accident and the situation is totally under control.

## Minor girl killed in bomb blast during TMC rally



was allegedly hurled towards a CPM worker's house, leading to the explosion that tragically claimed the child's life. Police have arrested one person, identified as Aftab Sheikh, in connection with the incident. However, the investigation is still in its early stages. As the news of the child's death triggered outrage across political lines, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her anguish on social media. «I am shocked and deeply

saddened at the death of a young girl in an explosion at Barochandgar in Krishnagar police district. My prayers and thoughts are with the family in their hour of grief. Police shall take strong and decisive legal action against the culprits at the earliest,» she posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Meanwhile, Opposition leaders launched a scathing attack on the ruling party. Amit Malviya, BJP's IT cell chief,

squarely blamed Mamata Banerjee's leadership for fostering a culture of «violent, vote-bank driven politics.» «This is not governance. This is criminal neglect... There is no law and order in West Bengal anymore,» he charged. BJP state secretary Jagannath Chattopadhyay also questioned the presence of live crude bombs during a political celebration, demanding accountability for what he described as a preventable tragedy. The Election Commission of India has taken serious note of the incident and has reportedly sought a detailed report on the explosion and the security situation in Kaliganj. The by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed. But what began as a routine democratic exercise ended in grief for a family who never imagined that their daughter would become an unwitting victim of post-poll violence.



## Israel's Opposition Leader Condoles Death of Civilians In Beersheba

**Tel Aviv, (H.S):** Israel's Leader of Opposition, Yair Lapid, on Tuesday expressed grief over the death of civilians when an Iranian missile struck an apartment complex in Beersheba. Four people died, and several others were injured when Iran launched a series of missile strikes on Israel hours after US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire between the two. "A difficult and painful morning with the murder of civilians in Beersheba in the missile barrage from Iran.

My heart goes out to the families. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured and strengthening the rescue and recovery forces. Heroes who save lives," said Yair Lapid in a post on X. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed that defensive systems were activated in response to the fresh attack and that a ballistic missile struck a building in Beersheba. The ongoing war, now in its 12th day, erupted after Israel launched "Operation Rising Lion," targeting Iranian military and nuclear assets. In retaliation, Iran has



fired multiple waves of ballistic missiles at Israeli territory. Later in the day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that Israel has accepted a ceasefire proposal with Iran, marking the end of 12 days of intense hostilities between the two regional rivals.

In an official statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu declared that Israel had met all strategic goals of its military campaign, dubbed Operation Rising Lion, and even exceeded expectations. "Israel had achieved all the objectives of

Operation Rising Lion and even far beyond that. Israel has removed a dual immediate existential threat - both in the nuclear domain and in the ballistic missile domain," the statement read.

According to the statement, the IDF had "achieved complete air superiority over Tehran's skies, struck a severe blow to the military leadership, and destroyed dozens of central regime targets in Iran." "In the past 24 hours, the IDF has struck hard at targets of the regime in the heart of Tehran, eliminated hundreds of Basij

operatives - the oppression mechanism of the terror regime and eliminated another senior nuclear scientist," Netanyahu's office said. Netanyahu expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump and the United States for their role in supporting Israel's operations and for "participation in eliminating the Iranian nuclear threat." "In light of achieving the operation's objectives, and in full coordination with President Trump, Israel has agreed to the President's proposal for a bilateral ceasefire," he added.

However, just before the ceasefire came into effect, Iran launched a final barrage of ballistic missiles toward Israel. One of the missiles struck a residential building in Beersheba, resulting in the deaths of four civilians. Iranian state media later clarified that the missiles were launched prior to the formal implementation of the ceasefire. Netanyahu's office also warned of serious consequences in case of any future violations of the ceasefire, stating, "Israel will respond forcefully to any violation of the ceasefire."

## Operation Sindhu: IAF Brings Home 268 Indian Nationals From Israel

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Tuesday brought back 286 Indian nationals, who were residing in Israel, from Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, bringing the total number of citizens coming home from Israel to 594. Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs L. Murugan welcomed the Indian nationals upon their arrival in New Delhi. This is the second IAF flight bringing back the Indians from Israel.

Earlier in the day, an IAF flight carrying 165 Indians had arrived in the National Capital. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) took to X and posted, "268 Indian nationals who returned in the third flight from Israel were received by MoS L. Murugan. The IAF C-17 flight from Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, landed in Delhi at 1100 hrs on June 24. 594 Indians have returned so far from Israel as part of Operation Sindhu." The IAF joined in the operations with its C-17 aircraft to evacuate the



Indian nationals and the citizens of friendly nations, including Nepal and Sri Lanka, from war-hit Israel and bring them back home to safety.

Earlier in the day, before the IAF aircraft landed in India, the MEA announced that the Israel leg of Operation Sindhu started on Monday, June 23, via Jordan, marking its first successful repatriation flight, with 161 citizens landing in New Delhi from Amman on Tuesday morning. "We are closely monitoring the situation and are

committed to providing all possible and necessary assistance to our citizens in Iran and Israel. Under Operation Sindhu, all the nationals are arriving safely," the MoS added. Meanwhile, a similar evacuation process continued in Iran, and so far, according to the MEA, 2295 Indian nationals have been brought back home.

The Government of India has launched Operation Sindhu, a strategic evacuation initiative to repatriate Indian nationals stranded in both countries.

## 3 Killed, Several Wounded as Iranian Missile hits Apartment Complex in Israel

**Tel Aviv, (H.S):** Three people were killed and several others injured after an Iranian ballistic missile struck an apartment complex in Beersheba, as Iran launched eight missiles targeting central and southern Israel on Tuesday.

The building in Beersheba was reduced to rubble following the direct impact. Additionally, emergency responders from Magen David Adom confirmed three fatalities. Several others wounded in the blast were transported to nearby hospitals and care centres for treatment, though no official tally of the injured has been released. Shortly after the strike, additional missile sirens sounded across central Israel and parts of the south, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said,



indicating yet another wave of incoming projectiles. The latest round of strikes came shortly after Iran declared a unilateral halt to military operations against Israel, effective 4 a.m. local time. However, Iranian authorities stressed that this ceasefire was conditional - hinging entirely on

Israel halting its own offensive actions. The contradiction became evident when Trump claimed that both sides had agreed to a ceasefire, a claim Tehran quickly denied. However, Iran's Foreign Ministry swiftly denied receiving any formal ceasefire proposal from Washington.

Tehran reiterated that it had temporarily paused its military operations, contingent upon Israel ceasing its own strikes. As of now, Israel has not officially responded to Trump's ceasefire declaration.

The ongoing war, now in its 12th day, erupted after Israel launched "Operation Rising Lion," targeting Iranian military and nuclear assets. In retaliation, Iran has fired multiple waves of ballistic missiles at Israeli territory. According to estimates, nearly 400 people have been killed in Iran and around 24 in Israel. The conflict widened significantly when the United States entered the fray with direct military strikes on Iran's key nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan.

## Natural Resources Should Be Shared Based Treaties: UN Spokesperson on IWT

**United Nations, (H.S):** Natural resources should be shared based on treaties, the UN spokesperson said in the context of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). A reporter asked Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric at his daily briefing on Monday about the reported statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the Indus Water Treaty will "never be restored".

Dujarric said that while he had not seen the quote by Shah, "It is critical that natural resources be shared, based on mutually accepted treaties". Prime Minister Narendra Modi put the water-sharing arrangement under the treaty in abeyance as a punitive measure against Islamabad after the Pahalgam terrorist attack



launched in April by The Resistance Front, an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tayiba, an internationally sanctioned terrorist organisation. In an interview with The Times of India over the weekend, Shah said, "We will take water that was flowing to Pakistan to Rajasthan

by constructing a canal". Pakistan will be starved of water that it has been getting unjustifiably", he added. PM Modi said last month that the treaty had been badly negotiated and did not allow for demographic and other changes.

The treaty to share the river's waters was facilitated by the World Bank and signed in 1960 by then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's dictator Ayub Khan. Without being specific about what he envisaged, PM Modi said, "India's water earlier used to go outside; it will now be used for India's interests and will be utilised for the country". Pakistan has said that it would consider withholding the Indus River water "an act of war".

## Qatar Summons Iranian Ambassador, Severely Condemns IRGC Strikes

**Doha, (H.S):** Qatar on Tuesday summoned Iranian Ambassador in the country, conveying Doha's strong condemnation of the attack on Al Udeid Air Base by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Monday night while insisting that it is a flagrant violation of its sovereignty and airspace, as well as of international law and the United Nations Charter.

Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also affirmed to Iranian Ambassador Ali Saleh Abadi that it reserves the right to respond to this flagrant violation in accordance with international law. "His Excellency Sultan bin

Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, emphasized to the Iranian Ambassador that this violation is completely inconsistent with the principle of good neighbourliness and the close relations between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially since Qatar has always been an advocate of dialogue with Iran and has exerted tireless diplomatic efforts in this regard," read a statement issued by Qatar's Foreign Ministry.

His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also stressed the need to immediately return to dialogue and diplomatic



channels to resolve disputes and outstanding issues, avoid escalation, and halt military operations in an effort to enhance regional and international stability," it added. Soon after the summoning of its Ambassador in Doha, the Iranian Foreign

Ministry on Tuesday termed the strikes on American military base Al Udeid as an "act of self-defence" and that "it had nothing to do" with friendly neighbour Qatar as Tehran remains fully committed to its good-neighbourliness policy. Iran

reportedly fired six missiles towards American military bases in Iraq and Qatar on Monday night, escalating the ongoing conflict in the region. As per media reports, the operation was named "Annunciation of Victory".

However, there were reportedly no major impacts of the missile attack on the US bases in Qatar as American Patriot missile defence systems intercepted Iranian missiles. However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tuesday afternoon that the military action was in response to US and Israeli

"criminal aggressions" and will not affect the "deeply rooted" relationships. "Iran's military strikes on American military base 'Al-Udeid' was in exercise of our self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter in response to the United States' unprovoked aggression against Iran's territorial integrity and national sovereignty that took place on 22 June 2025.

This act of self-defence had nothing to do with our friendly neighbour Qatar as we enjoy excellent and deeply rooted relationships," Baghaei posted on X. "Iran remains fully committed to its good-neighbourliness policy with respect to the State of Qatar

and other neighbouring countries. We resolve not to let US/Israeli criminal aggressions and malign policies against Iran create division between us and the brotherly countries of the region," he added.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that the Israeli defence forces have achieved "all of the objectives of Operation Rising Lion, and much more", thus agreeing to US President Donald Trump's proposal for a bilateral ceasefire. "Israel has removed from over it a double existential threat - on both the nuclear issue and regarding ballistic missiles.

## Nations Worldwide Condemns Iran's Attack on US Bases in Qatar

**Paris:** Several countries including France, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan on Tuesday strongly condemned Iran's attack on the US bases in Qatar. Iran has reportedly fired six missiles towards American military bases in Iraq and Qatar on Monday, furthering the conflict with Israel and the US. As per media reports, the operation was named "Annunciation of Victory". However, there have been no major impacts of the missile attack on the US bases in Qatar as American Patriot missile defence systems intercepted Iranian missiles.

Condemning the Iranian strikes on Qatar, French President Emmanuel Macron held a conversation with Sheikh Tamim, Emir of Qatar expressing solidarity with Qatar. "I spoke with my friend Sheikh Tamim, Emir of Qatar. I conveyed to him my full solidarity and my condemnation of the Iranian strikes that targeted his country. France stands alongside Qatar and each of its partners in the Gulf," said Macron in a post on X on Tuesday. "I express France's solidarity with Qatar, struck by Iran on its own soil. I am in close contact with the country's authorities and our partners in the



region. I call on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, to de-escalate, and to return to the negotiating table. The spiral of chaos must end," the French leader said in another post. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong took to her social media condemning the attack and urged for de-escalation.

Australia condemns Iran's strikes on US bases in Qatar and Iraq. We do not want to see further escalation. A full-scale war in the Middle East would be devastating for the people of the region and the world. Australia continues to call for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy," Wong said in a post on X. Meanwhile, Kuwait also expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the attacks targeting Al Udeid

Air Base in Qatar by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. "This attack constitutes a flagrant violation of Qatari sovereignty and airspace, as well as of international law and the United Nations Charter.

It constitutes a dangerous escalation that threatens peace, security, and stability in the region. Kuwait affirms its full support for the brothers in the sisterly State of Qatar, its leadership, government and people, and its full support for all measures taken to preserve its sovereignty, security and stability, including its right to respond directly in a manner commensurate with the magnitude of this blatant aggression," read a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Kuwait. Condemning the aggression launched by Iran against Qatar, Saudi Arabia described it as "a flagrant violation of international law and the principles of good neighbourliness, and an entirely unacceptable act that cannot be justified under any circumstances." "The Kingdom affirms its full solidarity with and unwavering support for the State of Qatar and places all its capabilities at Qatar's disposal in support of any measures it may take," said the Foreign Ministry of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemned the attack affirming the Kingdom's absolute solidarity with Qatar in confronting all threats to its security and stability and its support for any steps it takes to protect its security, sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens. "The Ministry's official spokesperson, Ambassador Sufian Qudah, stressed the need to end the escalation in the region and warned of the repercussions of its continuation and expansion on regional security and stability, as well as on international peace and security," read a statement issued by Foreign Ministry of Jordan.

**Tel Aviv, (H.S):** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday confirmed that Israel has accepted a ceasefire proposal with Iran, marking the end of 12 days of intense hostilities between the two regional rivals. In an official statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu declared that Israel had met all strategic goals of its military campaign, dubbed Operation Rising Lion, and even exceeded expectations. "Israel had achieved all the objectives of Operation Rising Lion, and even far beyond that.

Israel has removed a dual immediate existential threat - both in the nuclear domain and in the ballistic missile domain," the statement read. According to the statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had "achieved complete air superiority over Tehran's skies, struck a severe blow to the military leadership, and destroyed dozens of central regime targets in Iran." "In the past 24 hours, the IDF has struck hard at targets of the regime in the heart of Tehran, eliminated hundreds of Basij operatives - the oppression mechanism of the terror regime - and eliminated another senior nuclear scientist," Netanyahu's office said. Netanyahu expressed



gratitude to US President Donald Trump and the United States for their role in supporting Israel's operations and for "participation in eliminating the Iranian nuclear threat." "In light of achieving the operation's objectives, and in full coordination with President Trump, Israel has agreed to the President's proposal for a bilateral ceasefire," he added.

However, just before the ceasefire came into effect, Iran launched a final barrage of ballistic missiles toward Israel. One of the missiles struck a residential building in Beersheba, resulting in the deaths of four civilians. Iranian state media later clarified that the missiles were launched prior to the formal implementation of the ceasefire. Netanyahu's office also warned of serious consequences in case of any future violations of the

ceasefire, stating, "Israel will respond forcefully to any violation of the ceasefire." US President Donald Trump confirmed the ceasefire on his social media platform, Truth Social, announcing that the truce between Iran and Israel was now in effect.

He urged both nations to adhere strictly to the ceasefire terms and avoid further escalation. The ceasefire comes after nearly two weeks of escalating violence that began with Israel's Operation Rising Lion, which targeted key Iranian military and nuclear assets. In retaliation, Iran launched missile attacks on Israeli cities and, later, on US military bases in Qatar and Iraq. Tehran's move followed American strikes on its nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan.



## India's Exports Outpaced Global Growth to Touch Record High in FY25: Sitharaman

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday lauded the resilience of Indian exporters for successfully "swimming against the tide" to reach a record high turnover of \$825 billion in total exports despite the global slowdown." India's total exports reached a record high of \$825 billion, achieving 6 per cent growth over the previous year and significantly, \$466 billion over 2013-14. While global exports grew by only 4 per cent.

India's exporters managed to fast-track and cross 6.3 per cent," she said, in her address at the Exim Bank Trade Conclave 2025 here. "In the last few years, global trade and growth have suffered; global growth has not seen an uptick, according to the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank's annual estimates. It doesn't seem the world is in the mood to go along with exports-even after this, Indian exporters have shown resilience and grown



despite the setbacks in global exports," the Finance Minister pointed out. She also praised the exporters for the tech-infused high-tech products that are being exported, which was not the case before and finding newer markets in a world where consumption is coming down in various countries such as those in Europe.

Sitharaman highlighted that despite recession-like conditions in Europe, "our exporters have creatively

rerouted and found newer markets". "India is not just exporting bulk commodities but well-engineered, high-standard products," she underlined. About the ongoing talks to finalise free trade agreements, Sitharaman said, these pacts will change the dynamics of the country's exports in the future."

Intense trade negotiations are going on with the US and the European Union and should come to a conclusion soon. Emphasis is being made on

getting more free trade agreements getting signed," she said. She assured the exporters of the steadfast support of the Indian government. In the context, she highlighted five key measures undertaken by the government to boost exports. These include upgradation of transport and logistics infrastructure, targeted support to MSMEs and technological assistance extended to research institutions, including IITs and IIMs.

Besides, the government launched the International Trade Finance Services platform at GIFT City and rolled out Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, which have led to a jump in the production of electronic products, including smartphones. The Finance Minister also refuted global criticism on India charging high tariffs on its imports by pointing out that as many as 7 tariff rates were removed in this year's budget.

## India's Exports of Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Jewellery To US Likely To Go Up After Bilateral Trade Pact

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Although the US is India's largest export partner, there is scope to increase exports further in areas such as smartphones, certain pharma products and labour-intensive exports such as textiles and gems and jewellery under the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between the two countries that is expected to be signed by the fall (September-October) of this year, according to a Crisil report released on Monday.

To begin with, India should be prepared to see more imports from the US under the BTA. This is because India's tariffs are much higher than those of the US, and bringing these down would be advantageous to exporters in the US, the report points out. It highlights that the imminent bilateral trade agreement will likely lead to a reduction in India's goods trade surplus with the US. India would be able to import



more energy products, defence equipment and certain agricultural products, among others, from the US after the agreement is signed. The report further states that India accounts for only a small part of the USA's imports. India's exports, however, are unlikely to see a major spike because the focus of the Donald Trump administration is to reduce its trade deficit with India, and most of India's top exports to the US are already duty-free (i.e. before the application of baseline 10 per cent, which is applicable since April 10). Besides, the export potential would also depend eventually on the amount of tariff India faces when compared with

other competing nations, it added. According to the report, there is some potential to improve. The US is not only the world's largest economy, but also the world's largest importer. In 2024, its goods imports stood at \$3.36 trillion (in contrast, China and Germany, the second- and third-largest importing nations, recorded \$2.59 trillion and \$1.43 trillion worth of goods imports, respectively), according to ITC Trade Map.

But India's share in the US's global imports was just 2.7 per cent. Thus, there is some scope for India to increase its exports to the US. The report said that "to understand the areas where India can potentially increase exports to the US, we assess the following two matrices". "Among the top 25 items India exports to the US, products such as diamonds, marine products and bed linen already have a high penetration there.

## Sensex Surges Over 1,000 Points As Investors Cheer Easing of Tensions In Middle East

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The Indian stock market witnessed a sharp surge on Tuesday, with the Sensex soaring more than 1,000 points in early trade, while the Nifty reclaimed the 25,250 mark. A sudden easing of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and a steep drop in crude oil prices sparked a wave of buying across sectors, lifting overall market sentiment.

The Sensex opened at 82,534.61, higher than its previous close of 81,896.79, and rallied over 1 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 82,937. The Nifty, too, opened strong at 25,179.90, up from 24,971.90, and touched a high of 25,287.65. Broader markets joined the rally, with the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices

climbing over 1 per cent. The upbeat mood was reflected in market capitalisation as well, with the total value of BSE-listed companies rising by nearly Rs 5 lakh crore in the first few minutes of trading - from Rs 448 lakh crore to almost Rs 453 lakh crore. By around 12:35 P.M., the Sensex was trading 850.02 points higher at 82,746, up 1.04 per cent, while the Nifty was up 262 points, or 1.05 per cent, at 25,233.9.

Market experts attributed the sudden rally to the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. US President Donald Trump shared on his Truth Social platform that both nations had agreed to a complete halt in hostilities after 12 days of conflict. His announcement boosted investor confidence

across global markets. The ceasefire also triggered a sharp fall in crude oil prices - Brent Crude, which hovered near \$80 per barrel in the previous session, crashed nearly 3 per cent to trade below \$70. This decline came as a relief to Indian investors, since lower crude prices help reduce inflationary pressures and support growth in an oil-import-dependent economy like India.

With tensions easing, global investors moved away from safe-haven assets such as gold and the US dollar and shifted back to equities. In India, this shift helped the stock market recover from recent losses and led to broad-based buying across sectors. MCX Gold prices fell over 1 per cent in morning trade, and the dollar index also declined by nearly half a per cent.

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The house purchase affordability of homebuyers has improved in the first half of 2025 as the RBI slashed the repo rate by 100 basis points during this period, according to real estate advisory firm Knight Frank India.

According to the Knight Frank Affordability Index, Ahmedabad is the most affordable housing market among the top eight cities, with a ratio of 18 per cent, followed by Pune at 22 per cent and Kolkata at 23 per cent. Mumbai was the least affordable city with a ratio of 48 per cent. However, the city's affordability index level improved by over 2 percentage points, moving from 50 per cent in 2024 to 48 per cent in H1 2025. "This is the first time in the history of the index that Mumbai has come below the threshold of the 50 per



cent mark, which is considered the outer point of affordability. Mumbai's market, which has always been above the threshold, has now become more affordable due to the reduced home loan rates," the report said. Affordability levels have marginally worsened in the National Capital Region during the same period, with households now needing to pay 28 per cent of their income for acquiring an average property in the city instead of 27 per cent in 2023. This can be attributed to the steep

increase in residential prices, which have eclipsed the impact of the interest rate cuts in the NCR, according to the report. Knight Frank India's Affordability Index is based on the EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) to income ratio for an average household. Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "As incomes grow and the economy gains strength, financial confidence among end-users improves, motivating them to commit to long-term investments

such as home ownership. Given the RBI's healthy 6.5 per cent GDP growth estimate for FY 2026 and a favourable interest rate scenario, affordability levels are expected to be supportive of homebuyer demand in 2025."

While the Indian economy is not insulated from the volatile geopolitical and economic environment, it continues to enjoy a relatively favourable economic growth and inflation environment. This has supported income growth and enabled lower interest rates, which have in turn helped improve affordability despite the increase in residential prices. Incidentally, affordability levels are now at their best since the pandemic and are significantly better than the levels seen at the end of 2024, just before the first rate cut announced in February 2025, the report added.

## India Projected To See GDP Growth Of 6.5 Pc In FY26: S&P Global Ratings

**New Delhi:** India is likely to see a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in current fiscal (FY26) due to robust domestic demand, a normal monsoon and monetary easing, a report by S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday. Domestic demand resilience is particularly relevant in limiting the economic slowdown in economies less exposed to goods exports such as India."

We see India's GDP growth holding up at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026 (year ending March 31, 2026). That forecast assumes a normal monsoon, lower crude oil prices, income-tax concessions and monetary easing," said the report covering Asia-Pacific economies. In India, falling food inflation also helps contain headline inflation. The country's annual rate of inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) eased further to a 14-month low of 0.39 per cent in May from



0.85 per cent in April and 2.05 per cent in March. Meanwhile, the country's inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has declined to 2.82 per cent in May this year compared to the same month of the previous year.

This is the lowest level of retail inflation since February 2019, figures released last week showed. Food inflation declined to 0.99 per cent during May, which is the lowest since October 2021. This is the seventh month in a row that food inflation has registered a decline as the

agricultural output has been on the rise. The RBI has also revised its inflation outlook for 2025-26 downwards from the earlier forecast of 4 per cent to 3.7 per cent, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday.

The sharp decline in inflation has enabled the RBI to go in for a 50 basis points cut in the repo rate from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent to spur growth in the economy, in the monetary policy review. According to S&P Global Ratings, many regional economies had a good start to 2025 on robust domestic demand. Several got a

temporary fillip from a front-loading of exports to the U.S. ahead of anticipated tariffs. In India, growth picked up after a soft patch. The report now expects 4.3 per cent GDP growth in China in 2025 and 4.0 per cent in 2026." While this is significantly lower than the government's target for this year, it would be a solid result given the external strains.

Chinese imports will be subdued this year and next, but not as weak as exports," it mentioned. Asia-Pacific economies face sizable external pressure, notably from uncertain US tariff policy and soft imports in China. "We expect domestic demand to broadly remain healthy, in part because of policy easing. But what this means for the resilience of regional economies varies sharply, with export-dependent ones less well placed," the report mentioned.

## Oil Prices Fall To Two-Week Low as Israel, Iran Agree To Ceasefire

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Oil prices fell by over 5 per cent to a two-week low in the international market on Tuesday after Israel announced that it has agreed to US President Donald Trump's proposal for a ceasefire with Iran. The price of the benchmark Brent crude declined by nearly \$4 to \$67.7 a barrel while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude turned cheaper by \$3.75 at \$64.76 per barrel as concerns abated over disruption in oil supplies due to the tensions in the Middle East.

Israel has agreed to President Trump's proposal for a ceasefire with Iran after it achieved its goal of "eliminating" Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile threat, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on Tuesday. President Donald Trump announced that a ceasefire between Israel and Iran is now in effect, after 12 days of deadly air attacks that triggered fears of a wider conflict engulfing the Middle East region

which is a major oil exporter. Iran produces around 3.3 million barrels per day of crude oil which is 3 per cent of global supplies and exports around 1.5 mbpd with China being the main importer (80 per cent), followed by Turkey. Iran had also warned of blocking the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 per cent of the world's oil is shipped out from countries such as Saudi Arabia and UAE.

With the ceasefire coming into effect fears over this disruption have subsided. India imports around 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement and a surge in oil prices leads to an increase in its oil import bill and pushes up the rate of inflation which hurts economic growth. The larger outflow of foreign exchange also leads to a weakening of the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday had said that the government was closely monitoring the evolving

geopolitical situation in the Middle East as he allayed fears over the supply of petroleum products getting hit due to the Israel-Iran conflict. He pointed out that India's oil marketing companies (Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum) 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," the minister had assured. India has diversified its oil sources by increasing imports from Russia as well as the US and building resilience through strategic reserves. The minister highlighted the government's initiative in setting up storage facilities for strategic petroleum reserves, on which the country can fall back in times of emergency and which assume importance during times of geopolitical uncertainty.

## "TDB supports BatX Energies for Commercialisation of Indigenous Battery Recycling Technology"

**New Delhi, (PIB):** The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has extended financial support to M/s BatX Energies Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram, for the project titled "Technologies for generation of battery grade materials and value addition through closed loop."

The project focuses on the commercialisation of an indigenous, sustainable battery recycling process to extract battery-grade lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese from end-of-life lithium-ion batteries. BatX Energies has developed a proprietary low-temperature, low-pressure hydrometallurgical process that is agnostic to lithium-ion battery chemistries. Its dual-mode (wet and dry) black mass recovery technology ensures high separation efficiency and recovery rates of up to 97-99%. The end-to-end



process, including collection, shredding, metal leaching, and downstream purification, is indigenously developed and patented, significantly reducing reliance on imported recycling equipment.

Also, this seeks to minimize import of critical minerals by recycling already available one within the country. The proposed facility will scale up from an existing pilot unit to a full-fledged commercial operation, establishing India's capability to process multiple battery chemistries and generate high-purity materials for reuse. This aligns with India's goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, promoting

circular economy models, and reducing dependence on imported critical raw materials used in energy storage systems. Speaking about the project, Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, said: "The shift toward electric mobility and renewable energy must be matched by equally robust recycling infrastructure.

Supporting indigenous technologies like that of BatX Energies strengthens our clean energy supply chain, enhances strategic mineral independence, and positions India to lead in sustainable industrial innovation." Mr. Utkarsh Singh, Co-Founder & CEO of BatX Energies, remarked.

## India Opens Doors to Global EV Giants with Portal Launch under SPMEPCI

**New Delhi, (PIB):** The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is pleased to announce the portal launch of the application process under the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI).

The scheme was notified vide notification dated 15th March 2024, and the detailed Scheme Guidelines were subsequently issued through Notification No. S.O. 2450(E) dated 02.06.2025. Both the Notification and the Guidelines are available on the Ministry's official website: <https://heavyindustries.gov.in/scheme-promote-manufacturing-electric-passenger-cars-india-0>. In this context, Applications are invited from eligible applicants under the scheme and applicants can apply through the application module at [spmepci.heavyindustries.gov.in](https://spmepci.heavyindustries.gov.in). The application portal would be open for applications from 24th June 2025 10.30 a.m. and will remain open until 21st October 2025 till 6:00

p.m. The Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs). It is designed to firmly establish India as a premier global destination for automotive manufacturing and innovation. During the launch of the portal, Union Minister Shri H.D.

Kumaraswamy said: "Guided by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this initiative marks a defining moment in India's journey towards clean, self-reliant, and future-ready mobility. The launch of this portal under the SPMEPCI scheme opens new avenues for global electric vehicle manufacturers to invest in India's rapidly evolving automotive landscape. This scheme not only supports our national commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2070, but also reinforces

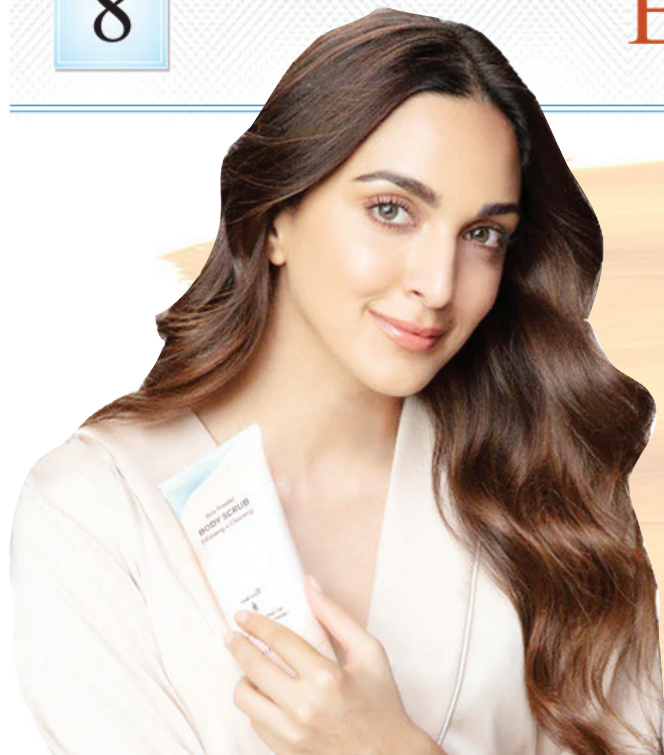
our resolve to build a sustainable, innovation-driven economy. It strengthens the pillars of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', and positions India as a trusted global hub for next-generation automotive manufacturing and technology leadership." The Scheme shall help to attract investments from global EV manufacturers and promote India as a manufacturing destination for e-vehicles.

The Scheme will also help put India on the global map for manufacturing of EVs, generate employment and achieve the goal of "Make in India". To encourage the global manufacturers to invest under the Scheme, the approved applicants will be allowed to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of e-4W with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15% for a period of 5 years from the Application Approval Date. Approved applicants would be required to make minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crores in

line with the provisions of the scheme. The scheme is strategically crafted to position India as a global hub for electric vehicle manufacturing. With a minimum investment threshold of ₹4,150 crore, it provides an enabling policy environment for leading global and domestic players to establish long-term manufacturing footprints in the country.

Through calibrated customs duty concessions and clearly defined domestic value addition (DVA) milestones, the scheme strikes a balance between introducing cutting-edge EV technologies and nurturing indigenous capabilities. By mandating domestic value addition targets, the scheme will further boost the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, while empowering both global and domestic companies to become active partners in India's green mobility revolution.





## Kiara for Meena Kumari biopic; Makers set record straight

Rumours have been swirling about Kiara Advani being considered for the role of Meena Kumari in her biopic, with reports suggesting she is also impressed with the script. However, filmmaker Siddharth P Malhotra, who owns the rights to Meena Kumari's life story, has stepped in to quell the speculation, urging fans to await the official announcement and refrain from jumping to conclusions.

Siddharth P Malhotra, known for his work in Maharaj and Hichki, took to Instagram on Tuesday to clear the buzz around the film and shut down speculations around Kiara getting on board the project. «Would appreciate for the media to avoid conjectures on the casting of Kamal aur Meena the script has only gotten ready and as we have a cast and more, we will only be more than happy to officially announce it,»he wrote. The director added, «Until then request everyone to avoid conjectures until they hear officially from us.» Earlier in the day, it was reported that Kiara Advani is in talks to play Meena Kumari on the big screen in the biopic, and might be the first film she does after her pregnancy. Sources were

quoted as saying, «Kiara has been approached for the ambitious project and was given a narration some time back». It was stated that Kiara has 'loved the narration', but «the actor is yet to sign on the dotted line and give a final nod». The report also claimed that the film's team feels that «Kiara is the perfect choice for the role, given the blend of her appearance and acting skills». Last year, Saregama, along with Bilal Amrohi and its other partners, announced a biopic based on Meena Kumari's love

story with her producer-husband Kamal Amrohi in a joint Instagram post. At that time, it was shared that Kamal and Meena would chronicle their 20-year journey, starting from their first meeting when she was just 18 and he was 34, to the creation, filming and release of the classic Pakeezah. It is believed that AR Rahman, Irshad Kamil, Bhavani Iyer and Kausar Munir are attached to the project.

Meena Kumari, also known as Mahjabeen Bano, is regarded as one of the finest female stars in Hindi cinema history. She worked in hits such as Baiju Bawra (1952), Parineeta (1953), Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai (1960), Dil Ek Mandir (1963), Kaajal (1965), Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam (1962), Phool Aur Patthar (1966), Mere Apne (1971), and Pakeezah (1972). She died weeks before the release of Pakeezah, aged only 38. Meena got married to Kamal (Amrohi) in a secret ceremony on February 14, 1952. Kamal was an Indian filmmaker and screenwriter, known for films like Mahal. He established his own studio known as Kamal Amrohi Studios in 1958.

## Aamir hosts special screening of Sitaare Zameen Par for President

Aamir Khan hosted a special screening of his latest film Sitaare Zameen Par for President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. The film, considered a spiritual successor to Aamir's 2007 classic Taare Zameen Par, has received widespread acclaim for its emotional depth and strong social message.

The President's official X account (formerly Twitter) shared a picture with Aamir shortly after the screening, captioned, «Acclaimed filmmaker and actor Shri Aamir Khan called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.» A review by Hindustan Times read, «Aamir is good at comedy, and here too he's back to that genre. He's at ease with his co-stars here, and the comfort translates. The first half is bearable only because of Aamir, and then he takes things a notch higher in the second one. Genelia complements him wonderfully as the supportive wife, and the cause of friction between them is thankfully not stretched beyond a point. Dolly Ahluwalia and Brijendra Kala are adorable in their roles and justify their short screen time with solid performances.»

Backed by Aamir Khan Productions, the film introduces 10 newcomers: Aroush Datta, Gopi Krishna Varma, Samvit Desai, Vedant Sharma, Ayush Bhansali, Ashish Pendse, Rishi Shahani, Rishabh Jain, Naman Mishra, and Simran Mangeshkar, all of whom are specially-abled. Aamir Khan and Genelia Deshmukh headline the film alongside these rising stars. The film is an official remake of the Spanish



### Aamir's Sitaare Zameen Par crosses 100 cr. on day 4

Aamir Khan's much-anticipated film hit theatres on June 21. While it had a decent opening, the sports comedy-drama gained strong momentum over the weekend. As per Sacnilk, the film has now crossed the 100 crore mark in just four days.

According to the trade tracking site, Aamir's film has collected 66.65 crore net and 80 crore gross in India within four days of release. With an additional 30 crore from overseas markets, the film's total worldwide collection now stands at 110 crore. It is on track to surpass the lifetime collection of Sunny Deol's Jaat (118.36 crore). However, it still trails behind Salman Khan's recent release Sikandar, which earned 177 crore. The film has been earning praise from audiences, critics, and members of the film industry. Javed Akhtar took to X and, praising the film's box office performance, wrote, «So happy to learn about the record leap that Sitaare Zameen Par has taken at the box office on the second day. Who says good films have no takers in the audience. Congratulations to Aamir Khan and his team.» Mahesh Babu also heaped praise on the film, writing, «#SitaareZameenPar ... Shines so bright and how... It'll make you laugh, cry and clap!! Like all Aamir Khan's classics, you'll walk out with a big smile on your face... Love and Respect.»

The heartwarming sports drama also stars Genelia Deshmukh and ten newcomers, including Aroush Datta, Gopi Krishna Varma, Samvit Desai, Vedant Sharma, Ayush Bhansali, Ashish Pendse, Rishi Shahani, Rishabh Jain, Naman Mishra, and Simran Mangeshkar, all of whom are specially-abled.

movie Campeones. Directed by RS Prasanna, the film hit theatres on 21 June.

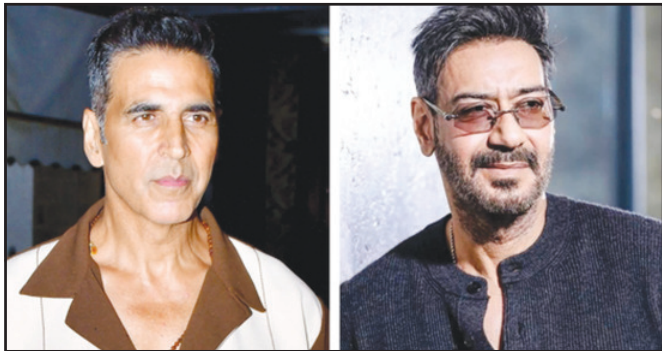
Sitaare Zameen Par faced the crucial Monday test at the

box office on June 23. The film, which is gaining tractions through strong word-of-mouth, has to retain its hold over numbers in the upcoming days.

## Akshay gives shoutout to Ajay ahead of Maa & Kannappa box office clash

In a heartwarming moment of camaraderie, Akshay Kumar took to social media to extend his best wishes to Ajay Devgn and Kajol ahead of the release of their upcoming mythological horror film Maa. In a sweet and good-humoured message, Akshay also prompted Ajay to ask his fans to give their blessings to his film Kannappa. Both, Maa and Kannappa will release on June 27. The message refers to both actors' films being released on the same day-Ajay's production Maa and Vishal Manchu's Kannappa, which stars Akshay as Lord Shiva. Akshay took to Instagram and gave a shoutout to Maa with a sweet message in his story. Akshay wrote a note which read, «Yaar, Ajay, hum dono ki picture aa rahi hai...iss friday. Tu apne fans ki good wishes Kanappa ko bhej de aur main mere Mahadev ki blessings Maa ko. Kya bolta hai? Good luck to Kajol and you Bhai. May the power be with you. (Dear friend, Ajay, both of our films are releasing this Friday. You send your fans' good wishes to Kannappa, while I will send Lord Shiva's blessings to Maa. What say? Good luck to Kajol and you, brother. May the power be with you).»

Kannappa Vs Maa: This



Friday, June 27, will see the release of Maa and Kannappa. Directed by Vishal Furia, Maa is a mythological horror film produced by Ajay Devgn, Jyoti Deshpande, and Kumar Mangat Pathak. Jio Studios is presenting it in collaboration with Devgn Films. The film tells the story of a mother who confronts dark, otherworldly forces in a desperate attempt to save her daughter from a deadly curse rooted in a haunted village. Blending elements of mythology and horror, Maa explores the unbreakable strength of maternal love and the divine fury of Goddess Kali. The film has an ensemble cast that includes Ronit Roy, Indraneil Sengupta, Gopal Singh, Jitin Gulati, Kherin Sharma, Surjyasikha Das, Yaaneea Bharadwaj, and Roopkatha Chakraborty. It is set to release in

Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Bengali. Meanwhile, the upcoming mythological fantasy thriller Kannappa brings to life the legendary tale of a devoted follower of Lord Shiva from Hindu mythology. Vishnu Manchu takes on the titular role, leading a stellar cast that includes Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, and Madhoo.

Adding to the film's grandeur are special appearances by major stars: Akshay Kumar portrays Lord Shiva, Mohanlal appears as Kirata, Prabhas embodies Rudra, and Kajal Aggarwal plays Goddess Parvati. Kannappa promises to be an epic cinematic experience steeped in devotion, divine drama, and star power. It will be released in multiple languages, namely Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.

## India sweat as Duckett century puts England on course for unlikely win

**Leeds, (HS) :** Ben Duckett's century placed England 102 runs from victory against India when tea was reached at 269-4 on the last day of the series-opening Headingley test on Tuesday. England is in pursuit of 371, its second-highest winning run chase. It will have 37.3 overs in an extended final session to get the runs it needs.

Duckett made 149 off 170 balls having hit 21 boundaries and an audacious reverse-swept six off spinner Ravindra Jadeja. Duckett and fellow opener Zak Crawley laid a brilliant platform of 188 - more than half of England's required chase - but were among the four wickets to fall in the afternoon that kept India hopeful. In the middle were Joe Root on 14 and captain Ben Stokes on 13. After a perfect morning for England, in which Duckett and Crawley took the score to 117-0, Duckett finally looked vulnerable after lunch,



which started in drizzle. He edged Mohammed Siraj on 82 through a vacant first slip, and was dropped on 97 by a diving Yashvi Jaiswal, angering Siraj. That was Jaiswal's third drop of the match. Soon after, Duckett reverse-swept Jadeja, his 14th boundary raising his hundred off 121 balls. He jumped and

punched the air to celebrate his sixth test hundred and second against India.

Then a 20-minute rain delay, with the score at 181-0, seemed to break the openers' concentration because Crawley was out five minutes later. Crawley was happy to let Duckett be the aggressor, and

scored his slowest test fifty. When Crawley was out for 65 off 126 balls, he and Duckett had achieved the fifth highest opening stand in the fourth innings in test history, and dropped the odds in England's favor. India pacer Prasidh Krishna, who had been going for six an over, was the unlikely wicket-taker. Then Krishna got a second 11 minutes later when he bowled Ollie Pope on 8 with a delivery that jagged back in. Scoring freely, Duckett became the England opener with the second highest score in the fourth innings after Mike Atherton in 1995, and crowned it with the six over cover point off Jadeja. India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant acknowledged it was audacious by tapping Duckett's arm. Then he was out, surprisingly to Shardul Thakur to a catch in the covers. Thakur then got two in two when Harry Brook tickled the first delivery he faced down leg straight to Pant.

## India & England Players Pay Tribute to Dilip Doshi



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Indian and England cricket teams observed silence and wore black armbands on Day 5 of the ongoing Test match at Headingley, paying tribute to former Indian cricketer Dilip Doshi, who died on Monday. The tribute took place before the start of play, with players from both sides lining up in silence for a minute to honour the memory of the left-arm spinner. In a post on X, BCCI said, «Both teams are wearing black armbands today in memory of former Indian cricketer Dilip Doshi, who passed away on Monday. The teams also observed a minute's silence before the start of Day 5.»

Doshi passed away due to heart issues in London, where he had lived for several decades. With a classical left-arm's action, Doshi scalped 114 Test wickets in 33 appearances, including six five-wicket hauls. Doshi left his mark in the ODIs and finished with 22 wickets in 15 ODIs while maintaining an economy of 3.96. Doshi represented Saurashtra, Bengal, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire in first-class cricket and picked up 898 wickets in 238 appearances at 26.58. Doshi followed in the footsteps of the famous spin quartet of the 1970s and made his debut at the age of 32. At Nottinghamshire, the West Indies legend Garfield Sobers heavily influenced the left-arm spinner. He made a silent exit from international cricket in the 1980s and gave a compelling account of his cricketing days in his autobiography Spin Punch. Among his accomplished feats, Doshi played an immaculate role with his five-wicket haul in the Melbourne Test of 1981, which helped India orchestrate a memorable victory.

## ICC Punishes Pant for Showing Dissent at Umpire's Decision

**Sabyasachi K.**

**Leeds, (HS) :** India's wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the Headingley Test. Pant, who had an exceptional outing with the bat during the Headingley Test with his two hundreds in the game, was reprimanded for his on-field conduct during England's first innings with the bat.

Pant was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to «showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match.» In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Pant's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first



offence in 24 months. In the 61st over of England's innings, when Harry Brook and Ben Stokes were batting, Pant was seen having a discussion with the umpires regarding the condition

of the ball. When the umpires refused to change the ball after checking it with the ball gauge, the wicket-keeper showed his dissent by throwing the ball on the ground in front of the

umpires. There was no disciplinary hearing as Pant admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees. The charges were brought in by the on-field umpires, Chris Gaffaney and Paul Reiffel, along with the third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and the fourth umpire, Mike Burns.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. The Leeds Test is evenly poised with the hosts needing 350 runs to win the contest on Day 5, with all 10 wickets intact.