

Dumani Mail

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President Murmu, PM Modi, Amit Shah extend greetings on Telangana Statehood Day

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday extended their greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Telangana Statehood Day, lauding the state's rich cultural heritage, entrepreneurial spirit, and contributions to the nation's development.

In a post on X, President Murmu said, "Warm greetings to the people of Telangana on Statehood Day! Telangana is blessed with a rich cultural heritage and hardworking people. The State has made significant strides in innovation and development

over the years. I wish the people of Telangana continued progress and well-being."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed his wishes to the people of the state, highlighting Telangana's legacy of courage, determination, and innovation.

"Greetings to the people of Telangana on the special occasion of Telangana Statehood Day. The people of Telangana are known for their spirit of innovation and enterprise. The State is known for its glorious culture and history – one of courage and determination," PM Modi

said in a post on X.

Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the state's progress, he added, "The Central Government is committed to supporting Telangana's growth trajectory in realising our dream of a Viksit Bharat. Praying for the good health and success of the people of the State."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also greeted the people of Telangana and lauded the state's vibrant culture and enterprising citizens.

"Greetings to our sisters and brothers of Telangana on their statehood day. May the state, distinguished with the



vibrant culture and entrepreneurial spirit of its people, achieve heights of progress and prosperity, enhancing India's pride," HM Shah said in a post on X.

Telangana, which was carved out of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and became India's 29th state on June 2, 2014, celebrated its Statehood Day with various official functions and cultural events across the state.

The occasion marks the culmination of a long-standing movement for separate statehood and serves as a celebration of Telangana's unique identity, cultural heritage, and developmental achievements.

Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the state's progress, he added, "The Central Government is committed to supporting Telangana's growth trajectory in realising our dream of a Viksit Bharat. Praying for the good health and success of the people of the State." Union Home Minister Amit Shah also greeted the people of Telangana and lauded the state's vibrant culture and enterprising citizens.

Governor Appoints IPS Ananya Awasthi as First Woman ADC

Bhubaneswar, May 31: Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati has appointed IPS officer Ananya Awasthi as the Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor, making her the first woman to serve in the prestigious position. A formal induction ceremony was held at Lok Bhavan on Sunday, where Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati welcomed Awasthi to her new assignment as the Police ADC. Senior officials of the Governor's Secretariat were present on the occasion. Prior to her appointment, Awasthi was serving as Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), UPD, Cuttack. As the first woman to serve as ADC to the Governor of Odisha, her appointment marks a significant milestone for women in public service. She succeeds IPS officer Kuldeep Meena, who previously served as the Police

ADC to the Governor. The Governor of Odisha is assisted by two Aides-de-Camp—one from the Indian Navy and the other from the Odisha Police. While Ananya Awasthi will serve as the Police ADC, Lieutenant Harshit Deo of the Indian Navy will continue as the Naval ADC to the Governor. The ADC plays an important role in assisting the Governor during official engagements, ceremonial functions, and other protocol-related duties.



SSB launches initiative for educational support, holistic development of personnel's wards

New Delhi: The Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide educational support and holistic development opportunities to the children of its personnel, particularly martyrs and serving staff, an official statement said.

The SSB, one of the five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under the Union home ministry, is responsible for guarding India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan, spanning about 2,400 km.

The initiative seeks to facilitate access to quality and affordable education while creating avenues for skill development, innovation, research, internships, entrepreneurship support, career counselling and placement assistance for the wards of force personnel.

CDS General N S Raja Subramani meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

New Delhi: Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhavan on Tuesday, days after assuming charge of the country's highest military post.

In a post on X, the Raksha Mantri Office (RMO) said, "Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani called on Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhavan."

The meeting followed General Subramani's visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday, where he, along with his wife Mahalakshmi

Subramani, called on President Droupadi Murmu.

"Chief of Defence Staff General N S Raja Subramani, along with his wife Smt. Mahalakshmi Subramani, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President's Office said in a post on X.

Earlier, General Subramani was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns in the national capital after taking over as CDS.

Speaking on assuming office, General Subramani said he was honoured to take charge of the position and expressed gratitude for the

trust reposed in the armed forces. "We are committed to implementing the vision of our Prime Minister — JAI (Jointness, Atma Nirbharta and Innovation). Transformation of the armed forces and organisational reforms to enhance jointness, synergy and integration will be the primary focus," he said.

Highlighting the importance of self-reliance in defence, he said Atma Nirbharta remains a key pillar of national security and that efforts would be accelerated to develop, induct and integrate indigenous weapon systems into the armed forces.

The government

appointed General Subramani as the next Chief of Defence Staff on May 9. In addition to serving as CDS, he will function as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Military Affairs. A highly decorated officer, General Subramani has held several key appointments during his career, including Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat, Vice Chief of the Army Staff and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command.

He was commissioned into the 8th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles on December 14, 1985.

IMD issues orange alert for thundersquall in Rajasthan, Gujarat and other states

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for thundersquall conditions over Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the day. The weather agency has predicted heavy rainfall over Interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal till tomorrow.

The IMD has forecast thundersqualls accompanied by lightning and gusty winds over Haryana, Chandigarh,



Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Konkan and Goa,

Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Rayalaseema, Saurashtra and Kutch, Telangana, and

West Uttar Pradesh for the next two to three days. Similar conditions are likely to prevail over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Coastal Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and South Interior Karnataka tomorrow.

The Met department has also predicted hot and humid weather conditions over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim for today.

House collapses in LPG blast in Delhi's Mukundpur; 1 critical

New Delhi: The injury count has risen to 10 after a single-storey house collapsed in North Delhi's Mukundpur area following a LPG cylinder explosion on Tuesday.

According to the Delhi Fire Service, "A total of 10 persons sustained injuries in the incident and were shifted to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital and Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital for medical treatment. Search and rescue operations are still in progress."

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team, along with its dog

squad, arrived at the spot in the Mukundpur area to assist in the search and rescue operation.

Earlier in the day, six people were found injured after a single-storey house collapsed due an LPG cylinder blast in North Delhi's Mukundpur, officials said.

According to the Delhi Police, "Their current condition cannot be ascertained at this moment and will become clear following a medical examination by doctors. According to the police, the building where the accident occurred was used for

polishing utensils."

Station House Officer Giriraj said, "Due to LPG Cylinder blast a single storey house of area approx 250 sq yards has collapsed...search and rescue operation continue... Fire Department Receives Call Regarding Blast in a House in Delhi's Mukundpur."

Meanwhile, the Delhi fire service said that "We received information that a single-storey house in the Mukundpur area has collapsed following an LPG cylinder explosion. Search and rescue operations are underway."

Meanwhile, in a separate

incident earlier, at least four people were injured after a cylinder blast in the Ajit Nagar area of Shahdara in East Delhi.

Shahdara Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rajendra Prasad Meena said the incident took place at around 1:30 pm.

He said Head Constable Rahul and Constable Kuldeep received information about a fire at the location and immediately rushed to the spot. The police personnel rescued a woman, children and a man, and shifted them safely to the hospital, where treatment is ongoing.

Govt launches NHPC OFS at Rs 71/share; 3% base offer, 3% greenshoe option

New Delhi: After successful offer for sale in Coal India and Central Bank, Government of India launches the offer-for-sale (OFS) in NHPC with a base offer of 3 per cent of its equity. The floor price is fixed at Rs 71/- per share. The OFS opens for non-retail investors on June 2, and for retail investors on June 3.

"Government of India announces OFS in NHPC Ltd with a base offer of 3 per cent of its equity and an

additional 3 per cent Green Shoe Option in case of over subscription," the DIPAM Secretary, Arunish Chawla said on X. "Floor price fixed at Rs 71/- per share. OFS opens for non-retail investors on 2nd June 2026 and for retail investors on 3rd June 2026," the Secretary added.

A stock exchange filing by the company noted that the government proposes to sell 3.00 per cent of the paid-up equity, equivalent to 30,13,51,044 equity shares,

held in the company having a face value of Rs 10/- each as the base offer size.

The filing stated that the government has an option to additionally sell up to 30,13,51,044 equity shares under the oversubscription option.

If the oversubscription option is fully exercised, the equity shares forming part of the base offer size and the oversubscription option will represent 6.00 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital of the company



as on March 31, 2026, collectively representing 60,27,02,088 equity shares. Additionally, up to 45,20,265 equity shares

may be offered to the eligible employees of the company. Eligible employees may apply for equity shares up to Rs 500,000, though any

bids by eligible employees will be considered for allocation, in the first instance, for an amount up to Rs 200,000 only.

This equity sale follows the successful completion of similar stake divestments in other state-owned enterprises earlier this year. The government recently completed an OFS for Coal India Limited, which received significant institutional interest.

"Offer for Sale in Coal India Limited received

enthusiastic response from investors and was over subscribed 8.14 times on the first day. Allocation will be on price priority basis. Government has decided to exercise the entire green shoe option," the DIPAM Secretary said in a separate post on X.

The government also executed a stake sale in the Central Bank of India.

"Offer for Sale in Central Bank of India received enthusiastic response from investors and was over

subscribed 2.35 times on the first day," the DIPAM Secretary posted on X regarding the banking divestment.

While the NHPC transaction is underway, other major public sector divestment proposals remain on the horizon. The planned stake sales for Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and IDBI Bank are still in the pipeline. The government put a Rs 47,000 crore divestment target for the 2025-26 budget.

Afforestation Key to Ecological Balance, Say Speakers at Puri Environment Week Seminar



Puri: A seminar on "Afforestation and Ecological Balance" was organised at a private educational institution in Brahmagiri on the third day of World Environment Protection Week...

He stressed that extensive tree plantation initiatives are essential to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and protect the ecosystem. Senior educationist Krishna Mahapatra, the chief guest, expressed concern over the rapid deterioration of environmental conditions across the globe...

called upon citizens to adopt measures such as afforestation, water conservation and reducing plastic use to safeguard the environment for future generations. Among those present were Kashinath Nayak, educationists Baral and Ramesh Prusti, along with several social activists and environmental enthusiasts...

Deliberations on Preparations for Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra at Chhatisa Nijog and Niti Sub-Committee Meeting



Puri: With a focus on ensuring a safe, smooth and well-organized Rath Yatra this year, a meeting of the Chhatisa Nijog and the Niti Sub-Committee was held on Sunday. Detailed discussions were held on the conduct of rituals from Snana Yatra to Niladri Bije, and the proposed schedule and procedures received approval from the members.

management this year. After the meeting, Shri Jagannath Temple Chief Administrator, Dr. Aravind Padhee, said extensive discussions were held to ensure that no disorder or mishap occurs during the Rath Yatra. He emphasized that smooth execution of temple rituals and disciplined darshan arrangements for devotees have been given top priority.

Dwarapitha ritual and Mangala Alati early in the morning this year to help maintain the schedule of subsequent rituals. Members of the Niti Sub-Committee stressed the importance of timely and disciplined performance of all religious ceremonies. Dr. Padhee expressed confidence that the servitors engaged in temple services would extend full cooperation in implementing the proposed arrangements...

BJD Condemns Bomb Attack on Paradip Municipality Chairperson's Residence; Police Detain Six for questioning

Paradip, (DMC) :- The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has strongly condemned the bomb attack on the residence of Paradip Municipality Chairperson Basanta Biswal, which occurred on Saturday evening.



Addressing a press conference at the Biju Patnaik Memorial Trust premises in Nuabazar, Paradip, on Sunday, former MLA Sambit Routray denounced the incident and urged the police to identify the culprits and ensure exemplary punishment. He expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state and alleged that "anti-social elements" were behind the attack.

was attended by Municipality Chairperson Basanta Biswal, BJD City President Kumarbar Nayak, Women's BJD Vice-President Sabita Mahapatra, District General Secretary Arun Kumar Behera, former Councillor Shankar Prasad Routray, Youth BJD President Alok Kumar Mahapatra, Panchayat Samiti Member Satyaban Muduli, Bichitrnanda Pradhan, former MLA's representative Rashmiranjan Parida, District General Secretary Chinmaya

Ranjan Parida, municipal councillors, and several other party leaders. All participants strongly condemned the attack. Meanwhile, Jagatsinghpur Superintendent of Police Ankit Verma visited the spot along with a scientific team to assess the situation and review the evidence. Following the investigation, Paradip Police reportedly detained six persons for questioning in connection with the incident. Further investigation into the case is underway.

Tikira-Kashibeda road in a deplorable condition

Keonjhar : Most used Tikira Mandir Chack to Kashibeda road under Dhenkikot Panchayat, Ghatgaon Block of Keonjhar District has become an example of government's negligence towards rural areas. This became an example how the slogan of development by the government nothing but an eye wash.



This road, which starts from Tikira Mandir Chhach on National Highway No. 20, is a major communication route connecting Kapashpada of Dhenkikot Panchayat, Kashibeda of Khantghar Panchayat and Muktapur Panchayat. But due to neglect for many years, the road has now turned into a pothole and a source of misery for the people. According to the locals, not even a handful of soil has been laid on this road for about five years. Let alone repairs, even the minimum maintenance of the road is not

being done. As a result, the condition of the road is getting worse day by day. During rainy days, the potholes on the road fill up with water, creating a dangerous situation, while during hot days, the layer of dust makes life difficult for people. Many villagers depend on this road for daily transportation. School and college students, farmers, traders, workers and patients

travel on this road every day. Locals say that due to the bad road, traffic has become difficult and accidents often occur. Especially during times of emergency, it is a serious problem to take patients to the hospital. Importantly, there has been a demand from the previous government to bring this road under the Rural Development Department of the Odisha Government and construct a

paved road. Even after the change of government, this demand has not been fulfilled. It is alleged that despite complaints and demands being made to public representatives and administrative officials at various times, no effective action has been taken.

Roads are the main means for rural development. But the people of this area are still waiting for a good road. Therefore, the local residents have strongly demanded that this road be repaired as soon as possible and a permanent paved road be built by bringing it under the Rural Development Department. Now it remains to be seen whether the administration and the government will pay attention to this road, which has been neglected for a long time, and when will the plight of the people come to an end.

Construction work Completed before opening of R & B tender- Congress Protest

Jagatsinghpur : Jagatsinghpur District Congress Committee protest the irregularities of Jagatsinghpur R & B division in a Press- Meet at District Congress Office. District Congress President Deba Prasad Nayak exhibit the documents of irregularities by R & B in construction work. As per documents R&B tender no. SE JSR(R&B)-2/2026-27 tender called for two no. works. Date of publication of tender was 26/5/2026 and tender will be closed on 1/6/2026 and tender opening date on 2/6/2026. But before opening of tender the construction work completed.



The first work was decorative entry gate to maa Sarala Temple at Sanra chhak under Tirtol block for the year 2026-27 and the second one was welcome gate on Cuttack - Paradip State

Highway at Kantuar. But the decorative temple model gate at Sanra Chhak was completed and tender process simply a drama to regularise under political pressure. But the second wel

come gate at half way mark before opening of tender.

Block Congress President of Tirtol, Raghunathpur and Jagatsinghpur made allegation before SE, (R & B.) Jagatsinghpur but SE (R & B) avoid them. District Congress President demand high level enquiry about these irregularities. Similarly Congress demanded special enquiry upon quality of work upon excess less of 25 to 50 percentage in negative binding highest by different Engineering department. Unless Congress will go on protest. Nagar Congress President Prasant Mohapatra coordinate the Press meet.

277.5 gm Brown sugar seized, five arrested including lady paddler

Jagatsinghpur, To-day Jagatsinghpur Police arrested five brown sugar paddler with 277.5 gm of Brown sugar from Jasobanta pur under Jagatsinghpur Police station. Police seized one Maruti car no. OD- 33 AR- 2052, five no of mobile phone. As per Police information the team led by 33 year lady of Laxmisagar area named Tara Sharma. The car driver cum owner Tapas Dalai under Gopa under Puri district, Bikash Das from Laxmisagar area, Saroj Nayak from Boudh district, Nitin Behera from Jhadspada area. This team doing busyness combinly and share profit equally. They use to collect brown sugar from Jaleswar and supply in poly pack in different areas.

98 th Birth ceremony of Natya shree



Jagatsinghpur, The 98 th Birth Anniversary of Natyakar Acharya Arta bandhu Routray inaugurated by Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das. The programme organised by Arta bandhu Routray Smriti Committee at Samanga in a open field. Suresh Chandra Routray presided over the programme and wel come the guest. Tribute paid to demise great soul for one minute. MLA Amarendra Das in his address tell about the sacrifice and enchanting acting of great and veteran artist Arta bandhu Routray. He also

committed to do some thing for the veteran artist those who have sacrificed their life for development of Odiya Drama & Theater. Chairman of Jagatsinghpur Kanak Pravarak Lenka, President Zilla Parisad Manoj Kumar Bhoi , ex- Deputy Director of I& PR department Surya Ranjan Mohanty also address the gathering. Eminent artist of contemporary theater were awarded by guests. Tapan Kumar Routray presented Annual report. Cultural programme followed till late in the night.

Jail warder arrested after Ganja seized from him inside jail

Keonjhar : Keonjhar Town police arrested Alok Dhada, a Jail warder at Keonjhar Jail, for 'Ganja' trade inside the Jail and forwarded him to court on Monday. According to the police, the jail warder was arrested after Jail Superintendent Upendra Jena filed a complaint at the Town police station.



Sources said that on the night of 22nd May, 2026, during a surprise check, the Superintendent was seized about 62 grams of Ganja from the bag of Alok Dhada, a warder at Keonjhar jail. After the ganja was seized, the superintendent issued a show-cause notice to the warder, but allegedly did not give any complaint with the police immediately.

Later on Sunday, Jail superintendent Upendra Jena filed a written complaint at the town police station. The town police registered a case under the NDPS Act (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances Act). IIC Town police investigated the incident and arrested the warder. IIC Town police station Srikant Sahu said, "After finding prima facie evidence, the warder was

forwarded to court today. Further investigation is on going".

However, after 10 days of the incident, complaint lodged in police station by the Jail authority has raised suspicion. It also alleged that actually more quantity 'Ganja' has been seized, but shown only 62 grams. Hence it should be inquired with checking CCTV footage and statements from other staff. It proves Ganja and other like alcohol, cannabis, bidis, cigarettes, guthka, drugs is rampant in the Keonjhar district jail are being smuggled in to the jail from outside due to por security and management", said Ashok Das, a senior advocate.

Body parts of Missing Man Found In Odisha's Similipal, Villagers Blame Royal Bengal Tiger

Keonjhar: Panic and anger spread in the Dudhani forest range of the Karanjia forest division on Monday after the mutilated body parts of a 71-year-old missing man, suspected to have been killed by a Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) were recovered in the boarding area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve forest in Mayurbhanj district.

The deceased has been identified as Sadhu Nayak, a resident of the nearby Basantpur village. According to sources, Sadhu went to the nearby Similipal forest area to graze cattle on Sunday and went missing. When he did not return home by evening, family members and villagers started searching in the nearby forest area. Because the village is near the Similipal Tiger reserve, and the tiger population is rising in the forest, locals alleged that tigers area moving in that area killed the man.

On Monday, mutilated body parts were found in the forest, which spread panic among the villagers and created tension in the area. After getting the information, forest officials along with police from the Jashipur police station went to the spot and recovered the body parts.

Sources said that the skeletal remains and two severed limbs have been found scattered in the forest. Family members identified the victim by his clothing. As in the past few days, there have been complaints of cattle hunting in that area. Locals blame the RBT for this incident and demand the safety of the villagers and the immediate relocation of the roaming, bloodthirsty tiger.

Local people staged a protest after this incident demanding compensation and the safety of villagers. They

also demanded that the animal be located and that they be moved to other areas, or agitation would intensify.

Senior officials from Baripada and Similipal Tiger Reserve Forest along with the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Karanjia, rushed to the spot with staff to defuse the tension.

Newly joined Divisional Forest Officer of the Karanjia Division Ajay Kumar Sahu, said, "So far not clear if it was a wild animal hunting on other cause. The Similipal Tiger Reserve official took the body parts for a post-mortem. After the post mortem the exact cause will be confirmed after the post-mortem. Forest team tracking the area and monitoring any movement of wild animals there.

Regional Chief Conservation of Forest, Baripada Prakash Chand



Gogineni said, "So far we could not get any clue regarding wild animal attack. Only two leg parts have been recovered and no other body parts have been found despite several searches. Since we couldn't reach a conclusion, it's difficult to say more about this incident. Some samples have been collected for testing.

Further investigation is on going with the Forensic team".

Minister Forest, Environment and Climate change Ganesh Ram Khuntia said, "I already told the forest and police departments to inquire about the incident in detail. It is not yet clear whether wild animals killed the man. Because the body was crushed to pieces, the police and

forest department suspected death by a wild animal. But after inquiry it will be clear".

On the other hand Suwendu Mallick, a wildlife expert from Bhubaneswar, said, "If it was caused by a human hunting the tiger, then the tiger should be caught and put in a zoo before facing any revenge from local people".

Collector hears 85 grievances in district level joint public hearing camp



Khordha -1/5- A joint public hearing camp was held at the conference hall of zilla parishad khordha by collector Amrit Rutaraj and SP, Khordha, Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura, Zilla Parishad Chief Development and Executive Officer Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector, khordha Sankalp Swastik Sahu, Assistant Collector, Grievances, Bhubaneswari Kanhar, Deputy Collector,

Emergency, Shritapa Mishra, CDM & PHO, khordha, Dr. Sanjaya Chandra Ray were present in this joint public hearing camp. 85 grievances were received out of which 73 were individual and 12 grievances were related to collective problems. Collector, Mr. Rutaraj resolved 14 grievance on the spot. Collector provide financial assistance 15000 to Manju Behera of Kumandola GP of Banpur Block, for

cancer treatment and 15000 rupees to Chhabi Das of Gurjanga village of Khordha block for self-employment from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. All other grievances were forwarded to the concerned departmental officers to take immediate action as per law. In this camp all district level officers of various departments, all BDOs of the district, Tehsildars and media representatives were present the camp.

Engineer crushed to death in MGM company container

Khordha : A mobile container deployed for the expansion work of MGM company Dhenkanal located at Nimidha in Odapada block broke and fell on Satabdi Rajmohan, a young engineer from Gurujanga village, Khordha, who was supervising the work. The engineer, who was crushed under the container and rescued by the staffs and admitted to the local hospital then Sum Hospital, then to Shri Hospital on Cuttack Puri Road. As his condition became serious, he was admitted to Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar. However, Satabdi died during treatment on Saturday night. Various questions have been raised regarding the death of the said young engineer. Despite his critical condition, why he was taken from Bhubaneswar instead of admitted in SCB Medical College Cuttack. After spending 24 hours there without any treatment, the family members rushed him to Apollo Hospital, where Satabdi died. Some employees working in the company have given tragic information about this. The company ambulance in which the young engineer was taken in critical condition did not have oxygen or AC facilities. Since the condition was



getting serious, the employees asked to be admitted to a better hospital in Cuttack, but the company authorities reprimanded them and asked them to take him to Sri Hospital as per the instructions of Bimal babu. He also warned him not to open his mouth to anyone about the incident. Why was the family or relatives not informed despite the condition being so serious? On the other hand, why was the deceased engineer assigned to the mechanical department that day when he was working in the electrical division? On the other hand, the fact that no senior official of the company came after such a major accident has also raised questions. Two

employees of the company who came with him, on condition of anonymity, said that there has been a feud between two groups in the company for the past three to four months. Er.Satabdi inform the company owner about their mistakes, as a result of which the employee who was manipulating became his enemy. Due to the enmity, an employee's leg was completely amputated four months ago. There is no security system for employees or workers in the company. In this regard, company security officer Pramod Srivastava said that an investigation is underway of the incident. On the other hand, when the company HR Prasanta Rath, who came to the hospital at the last moment the relatives asked him about the incident related to the deceased engineer, he ran away without giving any satisfactory answer. Even when he was called, he did not pick up the phone. Who is Bimal Babu? Such questions are becoming even more mysterious. Meanwhile, the family and relatives have said that the incident should be properly investigated and the culprit should be identified.

Pension delay leaves the beneficiaries struggling in Nuapada

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, June 2 (T.Dewangan) : Beneficiaries across 31 gram panchayats under Nuapada block in the district have not received their pension amounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for the last two months (April and May) triggering widespread resentment among the poor beneficiaries dependent on the assistance. The beneficiaries have been making repeated visits to bank and gram panchayat offices but have returned disappointed, as the funds are yet to be credited.

As per a letter issued by Odisha government's Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, beneficiaries under the

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) were informed about the issue. The Centre has reportedly revised DBT process from April this financial year, due to which NSAP pension payments for April were withheld. The state government later informed beneficiaries through a notification that pension amounts for April and May would be released together. However, locals alleged that during previous BJD government, pension amounts were regularly credited to bank accounts by the 6th of every month. They claimed that since the BJP government came to power, pension disbursement has become irregular, causing hardship for beneficiaries who rely on the

money for their monthly expenses.

Interestingly, beneficiaries who collect pension directly through panchayat offices are reportedly receiving payments regularly, while those dependent on DBT transfers continue to face uncertainty and distress. Amid temperatures touching nearly 43 degrees Celsius, elderly beneficiaries have been repeatedly visiting bank, CSP Centres and gram panchayat offices, only to return disappointed. When contacted to BDO Nuapada Rohita Bhoi said, the delays are primarily caused by changes in beneficiaries' bank account details. The government has made certain changes and the issue will be resolved soon.

Aditya Aluminium Lapanga inaugurates Jal Chatra at Bomaloi

Sambalpur-02/06(DMS) : Aditya Aluminium Lapanga inaugurates Jal Chatra at Bomaloi under Women Empowerment Initiative Bomaloi, Odisha - Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited, successfully organized the inauguration of a jal chatra at Bomaloi village, reinforcing its commitment to community welfare and sustainable development.

The programme was inaugurated by Sarpanch Mrs. Saraswati Padhan, alongside Ex-Sarpanch Mr. Sesa Dev Padhan, samiti member Mrs. Anjali. The event also witnessed the presence of Deputy Manager CSR Mr. Manoranjan Behera, and representatives from Aditya Aluminium, Ms. Jyoti Muduli and Ms. Samiya Mahanty.

The newly established jal chatra will be operated by a Self-Help Group (SHG) from Naikpada village, under Aditya Aluminium's women empowerment and livelihood initiative. This model ensures that the project is community-driven, empowering women to take leadership roles in managing local resources. Around 50 SHG members from Bomaloi village actively participated



in the event, reflecting strong community engagement and enthusiasm. The initiative is expected to provide safe drinking water facilities during this heat summer while simultaneously promoting livelihood opportunities for women in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, CSR representatives emphasized that Aditya Aluminium remains committed to fostering inclusive growth by supporting grassroots initiatives that enhance quality of life and empower local communities.

About Aditya Aluminium Lapanga Aditya Aluminium Lapanga, part of Hindalco Industries Limited, is dedicated to sustainable industrial practices and community development. Through its CSR programmes, the company continues to invest in education, healthcare, women empowerment, and livelihood initiatives across Odisha.

Plus 3 Exam Results Released : Anjali Sahu topper with 9.33 CGPA

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, June 1 (T.Dewangan) : Maa Manikeshwari University's Plus 3 exam results have been released. Girls students have secured top positions in all disciplines in these exams. This time, girl students from various colleges in Nuapada district have emerged as the best.

According to the published exam results, Anjali Sahu, a student of Mahamaya Degree College Nuapada, has secured the highest rank in the entire university in the department of Zoology (Science) with 9.33 CGPA Marks.

Similarly, in Anthropology department (Arts) Truptimayee Dandana from Model Degree College Nuapada (Khariar) has secured the highest rank with 9.11 CGPA marks. In Accountancy (Commerce), Astha Jahanabadi from Mahamaya Degree College Nuapada has secured the highest rank with 8.32 CGPA marks. In Library Science, December Sagaria from Model Degree College Nuapada (Khariar) has secured the highest rank with 6.19 CGPA marks. The Chairman of Mahamaya Degree College Nuapada, Tankadhar Sahu congratulated Principal, the teaching faculty, students and parents for this remarkable achievement.

Reunion Program of Veteran BJP party Workers held in Paradip



Paradip, (DMC) :- The first reunion program of "BJP Diamond," an organization established by veteran BJP workers of Paradip, was held on Monday at the premises of Mausi Maa Temple in Madhuban, Paradip. The event was presided over by senior women leader Nirmala Dwibedi. Veteran BJP office-bearers and workers including Sasanka Acharya, Ram Chandra Swain, Rajendra Parida, Sanatan Nayak, Sunakar Senapati, Kailash Mallik, Subash Beura, Bibhu Prasad Nayak, Harekrushna Mall, Kailash Swain, Aditya Routray, N. Swain, Ashok Das, Naba Jena, Nityananda Ojha, Parmananda Sethi, and Mahendra Nayak participated in the gathering. They exchanged views and took part in discussions on various issues. The participants expressed satisfaction that the party, which they had served with dedication and commitment in the past, has now grown into a strong and influential organization. Discussions were also held on bringing other senior party workers from the region into this initiative. It was unanimously decided that a regular reunion program for veteran party workers would be organized on the first Sunday of every month.

Inauguration of Project NEER Safe Drinking Water Facility at Tehsil Office, Rengali



Sambalpur-02/06(DMS) : A significant step towards ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water was marked with the inauguration of Project NEER - Safe Drinking Water Facility at the Tehsil Office, Rengali. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Ashish Kumar Sahu, Tehsildar, Rengali, Shri. Kishore Kumar Sahu - Addl Tehsildar, Rengali, Shri. Rajesh Kumar Kisan, Sub-Registrar, Rengali, Shri. Jagannath Prasad Nayak, Unit Head, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga; Ranjit Kumar, Infra Head, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga; Hemranjan Pattanaik; and Madhusudan Jena, along with members of the Aditya Aluminium CSR team and other stakeholders. The initiative reflects Aditya Aluminium's commitment to community well-being and sustainable development by providing a reliable source of safe drinking water for visitors and staff at the Tehsil Office. Project NEER aims to enhance public health, improve convenience, and contribute to creating healthier community spaces through access to clean drinking water.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NAYAGARH

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-SEMIDN-2/2026-27
Letter No- 1822 Dated- 29 / 05 / 2026

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Double cover only in ONLINE mode for the Construction of works detailed in the table from "B" Class Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government (M.E.S.' Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name of the works | >> Construction of New Check Dam under MATY grant for the year 2026-27. |
| 2. Total No. of works. | >> 01 (One). |
| 3. Estimated Cost. | >> Rs. 64.25 lakhs Approximately. |
| 4. Class of Contractor. | >> Class "B" |
| 5. Period of completion. | >> 06 (Six) Calendar months |
| 6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal for online bidding. | >> From 05.06.2026 at 10 A.M. to 11.06.2026 up to 5 PM. |
| 7. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in ONLINE. | >> 11.06.2026 up to 5 PM. |
| 8. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid. | >> 12.06.2026 at 11.00 AM, at Office of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Nayagarh. |
| 9. Date/Time of Opening of Financial Technical Bid. | >> To be intimated through web site after evaluation of Technical Bid. |
| 10. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid. | >> Office of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Nayagarh, Tel No. (06753)291009, e-Mail ID: eemdivisionnayagarh@gmail.com |
| 11. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal | >> https://tenders.odisha.gov.in |

32001/317/2627

Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Nayagarh.

Exam Chaos

NEET, CBSE, CUET — the alphabet soup is becoming more unpalatable by the day. The disruption of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) has again exposed the fragility of India's digital exam infrastructure. A technical glitch delayed the start of the test, forcing more than 3,700 candidates to leave their centres. Left red-faced for the second time in a month, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced that these examinees would get a one-time opportunity to reappear. Even though about 95 per cent of the candidates eventually completed the exam, the distressing incident raises questions about preparedness during a high-stakes national test. It's obvious that over-reliance on complex outsourced digital systems without sufficient on-ground safeguards can be perilous.

The NTA is already under fire after a question paper leak led to the cancellation of the May 3 NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test). The matter is being probed by the CBI, while the NTA has decided to conduct the exam in the computer-based mode from next year. Ironically, the leak happened even though paper-setting took place in a "highly secure" premises where phones/laptops and other electronic devices were not supposed to be allowed and there was mandatory shredding of all notes. Even "trusted" insiders are under suspicion — this shows that the rot runs very deep.

Another national-level academic body, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), is in a spot over the on-screen marking system. An embarrassing mix-up of answer sheets has been flagged by several students. These back-to-back controversies indicate that transparency and accountability have taken a big hit in the education sector. As the clamour for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation gets louder, the Modi government faces the onerous task of restoring public confidence in India's exam ecosystem.

Solar Power

A major change in India's solar sector that mandates the use of only domestically manufactured cells from June 1 aims to cut the dependence on imports, particularly from China. From a long-term perspective, both for purposes of energy security and adoption of renewable energy, it's a commendable step. Developers are already required to use domestically manufactured modules. Now, the cells inside those panels must also come from government-approved Indian manufacturers for a wide range of projects. Given the global headwinds, there is little choice but to work towards building a complete domestic supply chain. The challenges are manifold, and any misstep can put the brakes on India's evolving engagement with the solar rooftop panel.

India has an annual solar module manufacturing capacity of nearly 200 GW, but its solar cell production is only around 30 GW. Handholding the industry to ramp up production while maintaining quality standards is one aspect. Narrowing the price difference with imported supplies is another. No less important is negotiating the supply-demand gap in the transition period. Installation of rooftop solar panels is bound to get costlier because of higher domestic production costs. The sudden shortfall of panels, too, can act as a deterrent to adopting clean energy. The Centre needs to be prepared for quick-fix strategies for its self-reliance roadmap.

The new rules will test the resolve of customers as well as developers and manufacturers, particularly smaller enterprises wary of monopolies. The critical role of enforcement and monitoring mechanisms cannot be overstated. As with solar panels, where imported supplies continue to be used because of lower costs, a similar situation could emerge with regard to imported solar cells. The lack of digital traceability and verification only leads to misuse and corruption. A compliant vendor losing out to readily available cheaper and dodgy alternatives made by circumventing the norms defeats the purpose of the exercise.

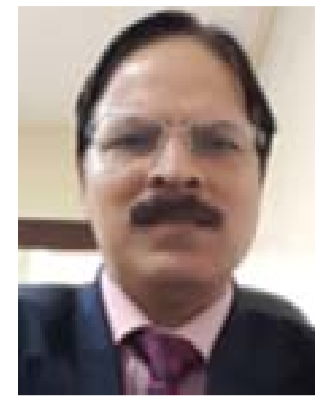
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The Least Miserable Country

Taiwan was ranked as the Least Miserable country in the world by the Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAM Index) for the year 2025. The HAM Index is calculated based on a few limited parameters like unemployment, inflation, bank lending rate and per capita GDP growth rate. Among the 178 economies ranked, Venezuela ranked as the most miserable economy followed by Sudan, Turkey and Iran while Taiwan emerged as the least miserable economy with Singapore ranking as the runners up and Thailand as second runners up. There are a several other misery indices published by organisations like Bloomberg, Statista, Bitcoin and one by economist Robert Barro, (Barro Misery Index) etc. There are also literary misery indices and region specific misery indices within a country. Thailand was the least miserable country as per 2024 HAM Index.

Taiwan has a land mass less than one fourth that of Odisha and about 1% of the size of India. It has a population of 23 million, about half the population of Odisha, but it has a nominal GDP of \$ 900 billion and a per capita GDP of \$ 35000 as against \$ 2800 for India. In PPP terms, its per capita GDP is about \$77000. Taiwan was a part of Japan from 1895 to 1945 and after the second world war, Japan returned Taiwan to China. While President Chiang Kai-shek ruled china in 1945, the Maoist revolution was in action at that point of time and it was amidst a civil war situation. Chiang Kai-shek lost the civil war and retreated to Taiwan in 1950s and since then Taiwan has been considering itself as an independent nation. Then Taiwan converted itself from an agrarian economy to a manufacturing economy and filled the gap of the slowdown in Japan in electronics manufacturing. Establishment of science parks and export processing zones gave fillip to the manufacturing which now

But Taiwan has its own basket of woes. Taiwan's economy relies heavily on exports which in 2025 reached a record high of approximately \$640 billion with a growth rate of 35% over 2024, primarily driven by rising demand for artificial intelligence and semiconductor technologies. It has an export to GDP ratio of about 70% which makes it vulnerable to external factors. Having realized the importance of semiconductors in the economy and defence, China and India have been promoting projects to become self dependant on chips. Even one of the major reasons for China's insistence to take over Taiwan is to control the global semi conductor manufacturing capacity.



Subash Chandra Misra

constitutes 38% of the GDP. The industrial plans of Taiwan focus on high tech manufacturing with emphasis on semiconductor, artificial intelligence, cyber security, defence and communications. The semi conductor industry including design and manufacturing of IC are the mainstay of its IT industry as it makes about 60% of the global semiconductors and almost 90% of the advanced semiconductors and 80% of the mother boards. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is the largest manufacturer of advanced chips in the world. Most of the top Information and Communication Technology companies have set up procurement hubs in Taiwan to get the chips from the Taiwanese companies. It is reported that 75% of the electronics components of Tesla are supplied from Taiwan. 90% of the electronics items made in Taiwan are exported with semi conductors forming

40% of its exports. 38% of its GDP comes from industry, 61% from service and 1% from agriculture. Taiwan's real GDP grew by 8.68% in 2025 and expected to grow by 7.7% in 2026. It has a highly skilled work force, good infrastructure and a well developed financial sector. Its stock market is highly developed and ranks fifth in the world by market capitalisation. The government has a 30 year plan for development of infrastructure comprising major elements viz. railway, digital infrastructure, aquatic environment, food safety, green energy, urban and rural development, raising birth rates, childcare and nurturing the work force etc. With a low unemployment rate of 3% and inflation rate between 1-2%, debt to GDP ratio of 31% and a AA+ sovereign rating from S&P, Taiwan is a strong economy. It's high per capita GDP, a forward looking semiconductor sector makes the whole world depend on its products for manufacture of cars, smart phones, electronics and defence equipments. It has one of the best local urban transport system, a highly accredited education system and a well served healthcare system. It has therefore been adjudged as the least miserable economy.

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record high of approximately \$640 billion with a growth rate of 35% over 2024, primarily driven by rising demand for artificial intelligence and semiconductor technologies. It has an export to GDP ratio of about 70% which makes it vulnerable to external factors. Having realized the importance of semiconductors in the economy and defence, China and India have been promoting projects to become self dependant on chips. Even one of the major reasons for China's insistence to take over Taiwan is to control the global semi conductor manufacturing capacity.

Taiwan's manufacturing is highly dependant on oil linked electricity and with very little green energy generation, almost 90-95% of its energy requirement is imported unlike China where almost 50% of the installed capacity of electricity is from renewable source. Further, overdependence on technology sector without much diversification of economy and an ageing population could challenge its economy when competitors come up with similar products. On the political front, only 11-12 countries have recognized it as an independent country and the remaining are yet to recognize Taiwan as China claims it to be a part. Therefore, the fear of china running over Taiwan at any point of time always hangs like a sword of Damocles over its head. While the tech sector booms, traditional non-tech manufacturing and service sectors are stagnating resulting in a two speed economy where the wages of non tech sector workers stagnate and the tech workers get high payouts. Stagnant wage growth in non-tech areas, high cost of living and education, shortage of affordable house have resulted in a continuous brain drain from the country. Obesity has been recognized as a health issue in urban areas which they have to address. The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.

Don't Spend Long Screen Hours

Pradeep Pramanik

We are aware that like our body , a few hundred gms pink soft part under our skull is the super power house made of trillions of neurons and grey matter ,which are divided into three major parts Cerebrum , Cerebellum and Brain stem supported by other crucial glands like Pituitary gland, Thalamus, Hypothalamus & Medulla where each one of them have vital roles in controlling voluntary and involuntary body functions , sensory functions etc . The brain is just like our physical body system which can be made more powerful and strong if we keep on using it. Using Brain by putting it into its job of memorising things, acts of the past, critical maths , puzzles, Crossword quizzes, and remaining in cognitive functions where brain , not the calculator or machine supports our critical thinking processes etc improve brain functional abilities. When we immediately use mobile or calculator even for small calculations , with each act , we are going close to digital dementia..

What's Digital dementia ? It's a disorder of the brain ,often tagged with forgetfulness of small things within

minutes , not able to recall or recollect things just done or the names of persons ,places , currencies , events or occasions , important dates etc & the culprit is our smart phones on which we depend so much that we can't even live for a few hrs , has made us totally dependent on our smart phones which have eaten our critical thinking ability and finally made us slaves, only to suffer from Digital Dementia, ADHD like disorders.

Now in many countries usage of smart phones for children below 12 yrs have been regularised to keep it below 2hrs against 5-8 hrs at present . Their brain stops stretching / expanding to keep it's memory power strong , their critical thinking analytical abilities reduce to great extent , their other physical abilities reduce and body muscles and bones become weak and brittle due to lack of physical activities.

Many people especially young children use earbuds or earphones for more than 12-15 hrs a day ,lose their listening ability along with the memory power due to radiation and limitation of brain's thinking processes.

The scientists have compared mobile addiction with opium addiction and excessive mobile screen time is considered to be like a serious mental

disease affecting critical thinking processes, personal relationships within the family and friends.

Such people prefer to stay alone for days without having any interactions with other persons around .

The Gen Z are busy scrolling mobiles,laptops or consoles like any mad. This situation is becoming worsened with the advent and use of AI (Artificial intelligence) with ChatGPT or similar apps which are further damaging human interfaces even with machines . When ChatGPT can serve us like slave Right now , believe me, sooner or later,we humans will be their slaves without our mental strengths and critical /analytical thinking abilities.

It's a dangerous . And uncontrolled use of AI is gradually killing our brain power.

The diminishing memory power , forgetfulness , excessive use of mobile, laptop or consoles are leaving us virtually mentally handicapped.

It is still at the stage from where young generation who are using mobile for more than 4-5 hrs /day must stop to save their lives.

The excessive usage of mobile with screen time more than 5hrs directly

affects their personal , professional and social lives. Even the conjugal lives of couple are falling apart due to excessive mobile addiction with high screen time , many a times divorces or even killings of partners are reported.

What we need to do is to immediately restrict our screen time by avoiding on line social media apps rather ,meeting neighbours , relatives , socialisation , participation in social functions physically etc can definitely reduce our screen time.

The young children must participate in outdoor games, indoor games and other extracurricular activities without using mobile.

In many countries mobile usages by children have been restricted and they are made to stay without mobile for a day and then for days to engage them physical and mental activities to improve their cognitive abilities.

PI remember more we use our brain , more stronger they become.

The mobile as mentioned is at one hand very useful hand held device on the other hand,it can be device which destroys our lives.

The choice is ours what we prefer. An active healthy person who is indispensable for the society or the one who is as good as brain dead.

Zoonotic Infection : Leptospirosis

Prof. Dr. Subhashri Mishra
Leptospirosis is a worldwide zoonotic infection with a much greater incidence in tropical regions and has now been identified as one of the emerging infectious diseases. The epidemiology of leptospirosis has been modified by changes in animal husbandry, climate, and human behavior. Leptospirosis is an infectious disorder of animals and humans. It is the most common zoonotic infection in the world. It is easily transmitted from infected animals through their urine, either directly or through infected soil or water. It can cause a self-limiting influenza-like illness or a much more serious disease. It is known as Weil disease, and it can progress to multiorgan failure with the potential for death.

Leptospira can invade

nonintact skin and mucous membranes. The infection is acquired by coming into contact with infected animals or their infected urine or body tissues. Sometimes Leptospira can even be acquired after contact with contaminated soil and water. Historically, exposures were primarily from recreational water, but more recently the United States has seen an upswing in occupational exposures from agricultural workers.

When the organism is shed in the infected animal's urine, it can survive in freshwater for up to 16 days and in soil for almost 24 days. They can then enter the human host through open wounds, mucous membranes, or the lungs if infected water is inhaled. It can also be transmitted across the placenta if an infected human is pregnant, leading to a miscarriage in the

first two trimesters. If infected during the third trimester, pregnancy can result in stillbirth or intrauterine death. Once within the body, the bacteria goes into the lymphatics and then into the bloodstream. From the bloodstream, the infection can spread to the entire body but tends to settle in the liver and kidneys. It usually takes between 1 to 2 weeks for the infected person to begin to show symptoms, but could take up to a month.

The treatment of leptospirosis depends on the severity. Most experts suggest withholding antibiotics in mild cases. These individuals will benefit from fluids as well as pain and fever control. In outpatient cases, antibiotics that may be used include doxycycline, amoxicillin, or ampicillin. If the infection is severe, one may use

intravenous penicillin G, third-generation cephalosporins, or erythromycin. Patients with icteric leptospirosis usually need intensive care unit admission as multiple organs can be involved and decompensation can occur rapidly. In the presence of renal failure, corticosteroids may be helpful, but their use is controversial. Respiratory distress due to lung involvement may require mechanical ventilation. Additional therapies include the use of ophthalmic drops, diuretics, and inotropic agents including renal dosed dopamine. The mild form of leptospirosis is rarely fatal, but the severe form or Weil disease does carry a high mortality rate.

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Vaiko's MDMK At Crossroads As Calls Mount To Leave DMK Alliance, Back TVK

Chennai, 2/6: The MDMK, led by veteran politician Vaiko, appears to be heading towards a significant political decision amid growing calls within the party to reconsider its alliance with the DMK and extend support to the ruling Tamil Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) government headed by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. In the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the MDMK contested as part of the DMK-led alliance and was allotted four constituencies — Sirkazhi, Kadayanallur, Modakkurichi and Madurai South. The party fielded Senthil Selvan in Sirkazhi, Rajendran in Kadayanallur, Senthil Nathan in Modakkurichi and Bhoominathan in Madurai South, all of whom contested on the DMK's iconic Rising Sun symbol as part of the alliance arrangement. Of the four candidates, Senthil Selvan and Rajendran emerged victorious in



Sirkazhi and Kadayanallur respectively, giving the MDMK two seats in the state Assembly. However, with the political landscape in Tamil Nadu undergoing a major shift following the formation of the TVK government, several MDMK leaders and party executives are reportedly urging Vaiko to reassess the party's political future and break away from the

DMK alliance. Speculation about a possible realignment gained momentum on Monday when MDMK Principal Secretary and Tiruchirappalli MP Durai Vaiko personally received Chief Minister Vijay during his visit to the Tiruchi East Assembly constituency. Vijay had travelled to the constituency to thank voters after vacating the seat upon assuming office as Chief

Minister. Speaking to reporters later, Durai Vaiko made remarks that triggered fresh political discussions. "Unfortunately, we contested on the DMK symbol. We are a separate movement. Since we were contesting on the Rising Sun symbol, we could not support TVK," he said. His comments have fuelled reports that MDMK legislators Senthil Selvan and Rajendran could resign from the Assembly if the party decides to chart an independent course. Political observers are closely watching developments ahead of the MDMK General Council meeting scheduled to be held in Chennai on June 27. The meeting is expected to discuss the party's future political strategy, including the possibility of severing ties with the DMK alliance and extending support to the TVK government, a move that could reshape alliance equations in Tamil Nadu politics.

BJP Chief Nitin Nabin Meets Delegates Of Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party

New Delhi, 2/6: BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Tuesday interacted with a delegation of Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by Rabi Lamichhane, sharing an overview of the party's ideological foundations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model. As part of the 'Know BJP' initiative, Nabin welcomed the delegation and shared insights on the party's organisational structure and its approach to public engagement. He explained how the party functions from the national level down to the booth level, highlighting the crucial role played by BJP workers in maintaining continuous contact with citizens and addressing issues at the grassroots. Nabin emphasised the deep-rooted and historic ties between India and Nepal, describing the relationship as one built on shared civilizational heritage, cultural affinity and strong people-to-people connections. He said such interactions play an important role in strengthening democratic dialogue and fostering closer engagement between political parties in the two neighbouring countries. The RSP delegation expressed interest in understanding the BJP's membership process, candidate selection mechanism, and methods of identifying and nurturing grassroots leadership. Responding to their



queries, Nabin explained that the BJP's organisational strength stems from sustained public outreach, booth-level engagement, and active participation of ordinary citizens in the democratic process. The BJP president also highlighted the governance model under PM Modi, stating that development, public service, good governance, and effective welfare delivery remain central pillars of the party's political and governance philosophy. Nabin also discussed the growing influence of Generation Z in politics. Both sides exchanged views on the role of young people in shaping democratic participation, influencing public discourse, and emerging as future political leaders. The meeting was attended by several senior BJP leaders, including Arun Singh, Member of Parliament Sanjay Jaiswal, Member of Parliament

Bansuri Swaraj, and Vijay Chauthaiwale. As part of their visit, the Nepalese delegation toured the BJP Media Centre and the party's Central Library, gaining insights into the party's communication and knowledge-management systems. The interaction concluded with a lunch meeting attended by several prominent BJP leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Members of Parliament Manoj Tiwari, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Praveen Khandelwal and Union Minister of State and Delhi BJP chief Harsh Malhotra. The meeting is being viewed as part of the BJP's broader efforts to engage with political parties and democratic institutions across South Asia, while showcasing its organisational model and governance experience through the 'Know BJP' initiative.

Southwest Monsoon to Reach Kerala Around June 4

NEW DELHI, 2/6: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the southwest monsoon is expected to set in over Kerala around June 4, marking the official onset of India's rainy season. IMD reported favourable conditions over the southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep Islands, parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and sections of the Bay of Bengal. The department said the monsoon will advance into these regions by June 4. The monsoon typically reaches the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in May before moving toward the mainland. The official onset date for Kerala is June 1, but this year's arrival has been delayed. IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall at 90% of the Long Period Average, raising concerns about the impact of El Niño. Farmers welcomed the news of the monsoon's approach, as the rains are crucial for kharif crop sowing. India receives nearly 75-80% of its annual rainfall during the four-month southwest monsoon season, making it vital for agriculture and the economy. The kharif season, beginning in June, accounts for more than half of India's foodgrain output. Regional weather centres said Odisha usually receives the monsoon by mid-June, about two weeks after Kerala. This year, Odisha is also expected to see monsoon rains around that time.

Five New Judges Take Oath in Supreme Court, Strength Reaches Record 37



New Delhi, 2/6: The strength of the Supreme Court rose to a record 37 judges on Tuesday after five newly appointed judges were sworn in by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. The new appointees—Justices Sheel Nagu,

Shree Chandrashekar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli, and V. Mohana—took the oath of office as judges of the apex court during a ceremony held on the Supreme Court premises. With the induction of the five judges, the Supreme

Court has reached its highest-ever working strength of 37 judges, marking a significant addition to the country's highest judicial institution. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by judges, legal luminaries, and court officials.

India to introduce Producer Price Index framework

New Delhi, 2/6: India will launch the Producer Price Index (PPI) on June 15 and gradually phase out the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) over the next five years as part of a major overhaul of its inflation measurement framework, according to information shared by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry during a government briefing. Under the transition plan, WPI and PPI will be released simultaneously for five years, after which WPI will be discontinued. The ministry said the move is in line with global best practices and recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while giving users adequate time to shift from WPI to the new framework. Unlike WPI, which measures only goods, PPI will cover both goods and services, making it more aligned with the structure of India's national accounts and providing a broader picture of producer-level inflation. Officials

said the new framework is expected to reduce double-counting and improve the measurement of price movements across the economy. The PPI system will comprise three indices -- Output PPI, Input PPI and Service PPI. Output PPI will track prices received by producers for their products, while Input PPI will measure prices paid for inputs used in production. Service PPI will capture price movements in selected service sectors. According to the ministry, the availability of both Output and Input PPIs will help track how changes in input costs are passed on to final products, offering a better understanding of inflation at the producer level. The first set of indices will be released on June 15 at 12 noon. WPI, Output PPI and Trial Input PPI will be compiled monthly, while Service PPI will be released quarterly.

Newly appointed CDS General N S Raja Subramani calls on Defence Minister

New Delhi, 2/6: Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at 'Kartavya Bhavan' on Tuesday. In a post on X the Raksha Mantri Office (RMO), "Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani called on Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh at 'Kartavya Bhavan'. Earlier, on Monday, CDS General NS Raja Subramani, along with his wife Mahalakshmi Subramani, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Government appointed General NS Raja Subramani as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on May 9. He took charge on May 31 as the third CDS. He will also function as the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Military Affairs. He served as



Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat, as Vice Chief of the Army Staff and as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command. He was commissioned into the 8th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles on December 14, 1985. A highly decorated officer with over four decades of service,

General Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. His distinguished career includes a number of key Command and Staff appointments, including General Officer Commanding, 2 Corps, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command; and the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Mamata's Sit-In Against Attacks: Cong Calls It Her Right, BJP Terms It 'Reflection Of Public Anger'

New Delhi, 2/6: The Congress on Tuesday came out in support of Trinamool Congress (TMC) supreme Mamata Banerjee's sit-in demonstration against the alleged attacks on her party leaders and workers and the eviction of hawkers illegally encroaching railway lands, calling it her "constitutional right". However, the BJP asserted that such a protest won't have any impact on the people of West Bengal who have turned "resentful" against the Trinamool. Speaking to IANS, Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said: "In a democracy, if there is injustice anywhere, the Constitution of India gives the right to hold peaceful protests against it and Mamata Banerjee is doing the same." "Everyone has seen that Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee was brutally attacked. He is the official number two leader of the party and is an MP. If he is not safe under the BJP government, then I would say this is a well-planned attack by the BJP against him," he

alleged. Referring to the attack on another Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee, Tiwari said: "He is a senior leader of the party but his head got injured in the attack." "Dozens of Trinamool Congress offices were vandalised and set on fire," he added. The Congress MP further said: "Such things had not taken place so far in independent India. This is the authoritarian face of the Bharatiya Janata Party." He urged all opposition parties to come together and protest against the alleged "goondaism" of the BJP. BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal said that former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has "lost her peace of mind" after the defeat of the Trinamool Congress in the West Bengal Assembly polls. "She is disheartened, upset, and disappointed. Trinamool members, whether it is MP Kalyan Banerjee or MP Abhishek Banerjee, are engaged in political drama. The protest that Mamata Banerjee plans to stage today will have no impact. She should focus on managing her own party," he told.

India, Germany Explore Partnership In Quantum Communications, Photonics: Ministry

New Delhi, 2/6: Mario Voigt, Minister-President of Germany's Free State of Thuringia, on Tuesday met Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh, with both sides exploring cooperation in quantum communication, photonics, space technologies and deep-tech innovation. Recognising Thuringia's emergence as a major European hub for photonics, optics, quantum technologies and advanced manufacturing, both sides explored opportunities for long-term institutional partnerships in frontier technologies, an official statement said. The discussions focused on leveraging the complementary strengths of India and Germany and promoting deeper engagement among governments, scientific institutions, startups and industry to accelerate the translation of research into globally competitive technologies, products and innovation-driven enterprises. Discussions centred on cooperation in quantum technologies and photonics, including quantum communication, quantum satellite



communication, optical ground stations and quantum networks. Officials examined European initiatives such as the EuroOGS network to advance standardisation and interoperability in optical ground station technologies. Discussions also covered possibilities for scientific engagement, exchange of expertise and future collaboration involving research institutions,

technology organisations and innovation ecosystems from both sides. The meeting here brought together representatives from government, research institutions and industry from both sides to identify pathways for connecting innovation ecosystems and accelerating collaboration in frontier technologies. The discussions reflected the growing strategic importance to quantum technologies

and the increasing need for international collaboration in the field. Singh shared the progress achieved under India's National Quantum Mission, including advances in secure quantum communication and related technologies. The minister also highlighted India's expanding portfolio of mission-mode programmes in frontier technologies, including the National Quantum

Mission, IndiaAI Mission, National Green Hydrogen Mission and biotechnology initiatives. These programmes are creating new opportunities for collaborative research, innovation-led growth and technology partnerships. Strengthening cooperation in the space sector was discussed to build upon the long-standing partnership between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). The minister highlighted India's growing space capabilities, recent policy reforms encouraging private participation and international collaboration, and the increasing contribution of startups to the country's expanding space economy. India has successfully launched eleven German satellites through Indian launch vehicles and reiterated India's commitment to expanding international cooperation in space research, technology development and commercial applications. Officials discussed potential collaboration in satellite communications, optical communications, human spaceflight, microgravity research, Earth observation, drone technologies and future exploration missions.

South Korea, US Launch Security Talks On Nuclear-Powered Submarine

Seoul, 2/6: South Korea and the United States launched new high-profile talks Tuesday to discuss the implementation of security agreements reached by their leaders, including Seoul's push to acquire nuclear-powered conventionally armed submarines. The first day of the two-day inaugural talks focused on security-related provisions laid out in a bilateral joint fact sheet issued following a summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump in October, according to the South Korean foreign ministry. "The meeting carries significance in that long-delayed security consultations have finally begun and are back on track," foreign ministry spokesperson Park Il said at a press briefing, Yonhap news agency reported. "Cooperation and partnership between South Korea and the US in the nuclear sector will help deepen and broaden the bilateral alliance," he added, stressing the government's commitment to fully implementing the agreed-upon issues. On the first day of the talks, the two sides reportedly focused on issues related to Seoul's push to build



nuclear-powered submarines, which has been prohibited under a bilateral nuclear pact between Seoul and Washington. On Wednesday, they are expected to focus their discussions on other security issues, such as Seoul's uranium enrichment and spent nuclear fuel reprocessing capabilities, which are largely needed to supply fuel for its envisioned nuclear-powered submarines. Other agenda items for the new security talks include

the expansion of shipbuilding cooperation between South Korea and the US. The joint fact sheet, published in November, outlines a range of commitments by both sides, including cooperation in the nuclear sector and other security-related issues, as well as Seoul's pledge to invest USD 350 billion in the US in exchange for a reduced US tariff rate. First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo led the South Korean delegation, which included officials from the

presidential office, as well as the defence, science and industry ministries. The US delegation was led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker and included Ivan Kanapathy, senior director for Asia at the National Security Council (NSC), Matthew Napoli, deputy administrator for defence nuclear nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration, and other officials from the Department of Energy and related agencies.

Trusting Thief With Responsibility Of Eliminating Theft: Activist On EU-Pak Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Quetta, 2/6: Leading Baloch human rights defender Mir Yar Baloch has written to Kaja Kallas, the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, expressing grave concern over designating Pakistan as a partner in counter-terrorism despite longstanding allegations of Islamabad's links to proxy networks, support for militancy and extremist groups. His remarks follow the Joint Communiqué issued after the Eighth Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad on Monday. In his letter addressed to Kallas, the Baloch activist said that while the communiqué identified cooperation against terrorism as an important component of relations between Pakistan and the EU, this policy is "highly dangerous and detached from reality" given Islamabad's role in sheltering terror groups. "Designating a state as a partner against terrorism despite decades of undeniable evidence linking it to proxy policies, support for militancy, and connections with extremist networks across different regions is a contradiction that cannot be

ignored," Mir stated. He further said that Europe currently faces the threats of Islamic extremism and fundamentalism, adding that the historical origin of such threats can be traced to Pakistan. Accusing the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of nurturing, training, and supporting these religious extremists, Mir said, "Rather than conducting a serious examination of this reality, designating the very same centres of power as partners in counter-terrorism is a strategy that complicates the problem instead of resolving it. In short, it is akin to entrusting a thief with the responsibility of eliminating theft." He said that instead of relying solely on Islamabad's "false and one-sided narrative", the international community should recall that the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, was found living in Pakistan's Abbottabad. "This historical event exposed to the world the gap between Pakistan's official narrative and the realities on the ground," the Baloch activist noted. Mir highlighted that if the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+)

status granted to Pakistan by the EU is linked to respect for human rights, then an independent, impartial, and international investigation into the gross human rights situation by Pakistani forces in Balochistan should be initiated immediately. He called on the EU, the United Nations, human rights organisations, international media, and independent observers to visit Balochistan to assess the situation on the ground rather than relying solely on Pakistan's "official one-sided narrative". "Let them meet the affected Baloch families. Let them hear the voices of the victims of enforced disappearances. Let them visit the areas where local populations are engaged in a peaceful struggle to protect their resources, lands, and fundamental rights of independence," Mir stated. He stressed that if the EU is truly a champion of "human dignity, justice, freedom, and a rules-based international order", then it must apply the same principles to Balochistan as it does in other global conflicts.

Newlywed Delta Air Lines Pilot Dies In Georgia Helicopter Crash Hours after Wedding

NEW DELHI, 2/6: An Indian-origin Delta Air Lines commercial pilot lost his life alongside a charter operator when their Robinson R66 helicopter plunged into a dense forest in Dawson County, Georgia, just hours after his wedding reception. Dave Fiji, 25, died on Friday night during a ceremonial flight intended to transport him and his new bride, Jessni, to a downtown Atlanta hotel for their wedding night. The couple had earlier celebrated their marriage alongside hundreds of guests at an event venue near Dawsonville. Heavy rain and thick fog rolled into the region toward the end of the evening, severely restricting flight conditions. Relatives stated that Fiji, possessing extensive commercial aviation experience, raised immediate safety redoubts and openly argued against departing in near-zero visibility. Despite these direct warnings, the charter operator elected to proceed by climbing to a higher altitude, crashing into a remote mountainous terrain shortly after takeoff at



approximately 10:30 pm. Emergency responders faced steep, heavily vegetated terrain that required off-road vehicles and heavy cutting tools to clear a path toward the emergency locator transmitter signal. Jessni, a registered nurse whose family traces its lineage to Alappuzha, survived the impact but spent nearly five hours trapped underneath metal wreckage and fallen timber before emergency teams extracted her. She sustained

extensive lacerations and contusions but escaped without skeletal fractures. This tragic event adds to a deeply felt loss across the global non-resident Indian network. Fiji's parents had emigrated to the United States from Muvattupuzha in the Ernakulam district of Kerala, establishing deep connections within both the American-Malayali community and local ecclesiastical groups in the Southeastern United States.

USA, 2/6: Donald Trump demanded that Benjamin Netanyahu halt military operations in Lebanon during a highly volatile phone conversation, warning that Israeli actions risk collapsing diplomatic tracks with Iran. Reports indicate the American leader used sharp language to express anger over planned Israeli defense forces raids on Beirut. This sharp diplomatic friction materialized just as Washington attempts to finalize a wider regional truce. Tehran halted indirect diplomatic communications with American mediators earlier in the day to protest the intensity of Israeli actions in Lebanese territory. Following the blunt conversation, the American administration announced that Israeli leadership agreed to call off imminent incursions into the capital city. The White House also claimed that communication channels with representatives of the Lebanese armed group yielded



an agreement to halt rocket fire across the border. Tensions between Washington and Jerusalem stem from differing priorities regarding regional strategy. The American executive branch believes a temporary halt in fighting will facilitate a broader framework with Iranian negotiators within days. Conversely, Israeli defense officials remain determined to degrade hostile infrastructure in southern Lebanon to protect border communities. His dynamic

mirrors past geopolitical standoffs during the 1982 Lebanon war, when American administrations regularly intervened to limit the scope of Israeli campaigns in Beirut to safeguard wider Mediterranean diplomacy. Netanyahu later clarified via social channels that defensive operations in southern sectors would proceed as planned if cross-border provocations continue. Stabilizing this frontier remains critical for global markets. Fears of a wider regional escalation

prompted threats from regional actors to disrupt maritime traffic near the Strait of Hormuz, causing crude oil prices to jump past 94 dollars a barrel. The American president rejected concerns over energy inflation, projecting that energy prices will fall rapidly once the regional security arrangement secures final approval. Local diplomatic sources confirm that negotiations remain ongoing despite public disagreements between the allied nations.

EAM Jaishankar, Thuringia's Minister-President Discuss India-Germany Business Cooperation

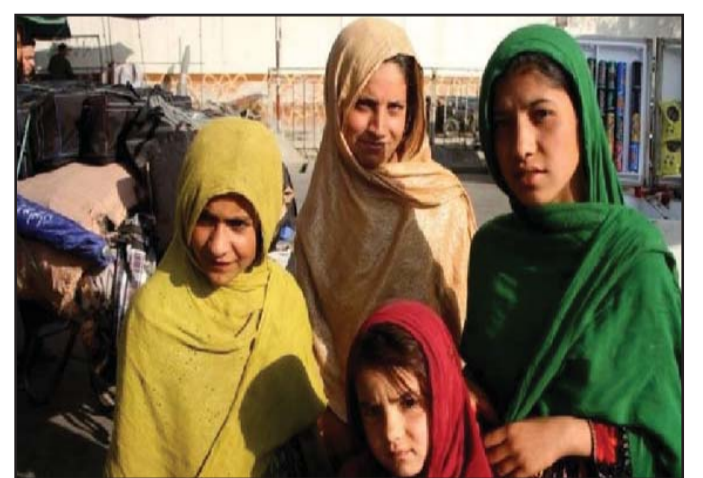
New Delhi, 2/6: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a meeting with Minister-President of the German state of Thuringia Mario Voigt in New Delhi on Tuesday, discussing business opportunities and technology partnerships. "Delighted to meet Minister-President Mario Voigt of Thuringia, Germany, and his delegation. His strong support for expanding India-Germany and India-European Union relationships is welcome. We had a good discussion on business opportunities and technology partnerships," EAM Jaishankar posted on X. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also held discussions with Mario Voigt and a high-level delegation at the Delhi Secretariat on Monday, focusing on expanding cooperation across key areas, including urban development, technology, governance and skill development. During the meeting, both sides explored opportunities for collaboration in smart urban development, sustainable infrastructure, digital governance and innovation-driven public services. The discussions also covered mobility solutions, water management, environmental technologies, education and skill development initiatives aimed at strengthening talent mobility between India and Germany. Sharing details of the meeting on X, CM Gupta stated, "Had a productive interaction with Mr Mario Voigt, Minister-President of the German State of Thuringia, and the accompanying

delegation. Discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation in: Smart urban development and sustainable infrastructure, Digital governance and innovation, Skill development and talent mobility, Mobility, water management and environmental technologies and Education and workforce development. "Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the India-Germany partnership continues to grow stronger across diverse sectors. Delhi is proud to contribute to this shared journey of innovation, sustainability and human development," she added. Earlier in April, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, in Berlin and discussed deepening defence cooperation and tackling emerging geopolitical challenges. The two ministers discussed bilateral security and defence issues, including priority areas for co-development and co-production of defence equipment, especially in the field of niche technologies. They also reaffirmed the commitment to enhance military-to-military cooperation as a key pillar of the Strategic Partnership, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Defence. India and Germany also signed the Defence Industrial Roadmap and Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping. "Delighted to meet Mr. Boris Pistorius, Federal Minister of Defence,

Germany in Berlin. Exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including deepening our defence cooperation and tackling emerging geopolitical challenges. Witnessed signing of the Defence Industrial Roadmap and Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping." Singh posted on X. Singh mentioned that the recent India-EU Security and Defence Partnership marks a significant step in deepening the collective engagement. The two ministers agreed to leverage this framework, bilaterally and in the wider European context for tangible outcomes that will strengthen regional stability, enhance joint capabilities, and reinforce the enduring Indo-German strategic alignment. "Raksha Mantri also underlined that in times of global uncertainties, India and Germany have provided much required stability and strength to the global economy. On the issue of terrorism, he stated that the menace in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned, unequivocally, without exception or justification," the Ministry of Defence stated. Pistorius appreciated the institutionalisation of service-level staff talks and future bilateral military exercises. Rajnath Singh said that India is looking forward to the German Air Force's participation in the next edition of Exercise "Tarang Shakti" which will be held in India later this year.

UN Rights Body Denounces Taliban Move Legitimising Child Marriage

Geneva, 2/6: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has strongly condemned a new Taliban decree in Afghanistan that legitimises child marriage and considers a girl's silence as consent to marriage, describing it as a "grave and systematic violation of international human rights law". "Child marriage, where at least one party is under 18, constitutes a harmful practice and is a form of forced marriage, given that children inherently lack the capacity to give full, free and informed consent to marriage," the Committee stated. The remarks came amid mounting global criticism over a May 14 law issued by Taliban authorities that legitimises marriage for girls upon reaching puberty and treats a girl's silence after puberty as consent to marriage. "Puberty cannot be considered a basis for adulthood or legal capacity to marry", the Committee said, describing the provision as wholly incompatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. "Child marriage constitutes not just a harmful practice but a fundamental violation of rights. It exposes girls



to heightened risks of violence, exploitation, early and forced pregnancy, interrupted education, and long-term physical and psychological harm," the Committee added. The Committee, composed of 18 independent child rights experts, warned that any legal framework that normalises or facilitates child marriage violates children's rights, undermines their "inherent dignity" and deprives them of their "autonomy and future opportunities". Expressing serious concern, the experts further said that the law forms part of a broader

pattern of discriminatory measures by the Taliban authorities, including a ban on girls' secondary and higher education in Afghanistan. "These measures have deprived millions of Afghan girls of their fundamental rights, weakened their future economic and social participation, and deepened poverty and inequality across the country," they added. The Committee called on the Taliban authorities to immediately repeal all measures that violate the rights of children and to unequivocally prohibit child marriage.

New WPI Inflation Series, Producer Price Indices To Be Launched On June 15

New Delhi, 2/6: The Government on Tuesday announced that it has approved the revision of the Base Year of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2022-23 and compilation of Producer Price Indices (PPIs). Accordingly the revised series of WPI inflation with base year 2022-23 will be released on June 15, which would replace the existing series of WPI with base year 2011-12, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In addition, the new series of Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services including Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom with base year 2022-23 will also be released, the statement said. Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of release of the revised series along with PPI



and will be discontinued thereafter. This would give sufficient time to users to switch from WPI to PPI, the statement explained. The transition from WPI to PPI is in alignment with the global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Availability of both the Output PPI and Input PPI gives a better understanding of the price

movements of output items vis-à-vis inputs items being used in an industry. It also explains how inflation experienced by producers on input items are passed through the output being produced, the statement said. The Service PPIs for seven services have been compiled in the first phase based on the availability of data from administrative sources/agencies. More services are planned to be added to the basket

of Service PPI in subsequent phase on the basis of availability of data. The WPI and Output PPI are being compiled on monthly basis and will be available for the month of May 2026 (Provisional) along with the back series from April 2023 to April 2026 (37 months) on June 15. The total number of items has been increased from 697 to 957 in the new WPI series. New sources of energy, such as Solar and Wind, have been added under 'Electricity' Group. In addition, Nuclear Electricity has been included in the basket. Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas has been shifted from the 'Primary Articles' to the 'Fuel and Power segment. This reorganization would lead to better alignment, as this group already houses other major fuels such as coal, electricity, and petroleum products, the statement said. Improved methodology for derivation of weights, improved computation methodology and improved Method for imputing missing price data are other features incorporated in the new WPI series, the statement added.

AI Boom Drives India's Data Centre Growth, Leasing Crosses 2 GW

New Delhi, 2/6: Artificial intelligence-led demand is emerging as a defining force in India's data centre sector, with cumulative colocation leasing reaching 2.06 GW in 2025, a report said on Tuesday. As per analysis by Knight Frank India, nearly 20 per cent of total leasing demand is now directly linked to AI-related workloads, as generative AI, machine learning applications and GPU-intensive computing reshape infrastructure requirements across industries. AI-related colocation leasing alone reached 348 MW in 2025, more than doubling compared with 2024, reflecting a sharp acceleration in demand following the global AI boom and increased enterprise adoption of high-performance computing, according to the report. In addition, India's data centre market continues to witness strong structural expansion, supported by hyperscale cloud growth, enterprise digitisation, regulatory-led data localisation and increasing demand for low-



latency digital infrastructure. The sector has transitioned from a fragmented infrastructure base into a strategic institutional asset class over the past decade, with sustained capital inflows and a rapidly expanding development pipeline, the report said. However, despite rapid capacity additions, vacancy levels across key markets remain tight, indicating continued strong absorption from hyperscalers and large enterprise

occupiers. India's live data centre capacity has expanded significantly, rising from around 296 MW in 2016 to over 1.6 GW in 2025, recording a multi-year compound annual growth rate of nearly 30 per cent. The report highlighted that committed and early-stage development pipelines have now crossed 8 GW across major markets, underscoring strong long-term visibility for supply growth.

Bengaluru start-up uses dogs and AI to detect cancer

Bengaluru, 2/6: In a unique blend of biology and artificial intelligence, a Bengaluru-based startup is using trained dogs and AI technology to help detect cancer at an early stage through human breath samples -- an innovation that could make cancer screening faster, cheaper and more accessible. The startup, Dognosis, is combining the extraordinary smelling ability of dogs with AI-powered analysis to identify chemical compounds linked to cancer. Doctors associated with the project say the technology has shown promising results in early trials. "I have been working with diagnosis for the past year now, and it's a very interesting concept because it allows for an early, easy and inexpensive way of detecting cancers," said oncologist Dr Swaratika Majumdar. "There is a 90 per cent sensitivity and specificity, which means that if someone has cancer, the dogs are able to identify it around 90 per cent of the time," she added. The process begins with collecting breath samples from participants using specially designed face masks.

These masks capture volatile organic compounds (VOCs) present in human breath, which can change in the presence of diseases such as cancer. The samples are then brought to the laboratory, where specially trained dogs examine them inside a controlled testing setup equipped with sensors and monitoring systems. According to Akash Kulgod, CEO of Dognosis, the dogs are trained to identify disease-related VOC signals through smell. "That mask contains volatile organic compounds or VOCs, which essentially carry signals indicating whether a person has a disease or not. The masks are brought to our lab, where a team of trained dogs evaluates them and identifies these compounds with high accuracy," he said. The dogs' reactions are captured through sensors and analysed using AI-based algorithms to create a more standardised and scientific detection process. Suba, Head of the Research and Development Department at Dognosis, explained that maintaining uniform testing conditions is key to ensuring accurate results. "Every sample presented

here is presented in exactly the same way so that when the dog responds to it, we can record the outputs precisely. This data is then processed through AI systems trained using algorithms to convert what is usually considered subjective behaviour into objective scientific analysis," she said. The company claims that its Phase-2 trials conducted over the past two years on nearly 1,500 participants showed an accuracy rate of around 90 per cent. "This is proof that cancer can be detected early just from breath. It is also proof that technology developed in India can contribute globally to early cancer detection," said Srishti, an office associate at Dognosis. The startup has also brought in international trainers to prepare the dogs used in the detection process. "I came to India because we are doing something very unique here. I think this is among the most special detection works being done with dogs anywhere in the world, and it is possible here in India," said Edo, a trainer associated with the project.

Nifty, Sensex End Higher As IT Shares Rally; Markets Eye India-US Trade Deal Talks

Mumbai, 2/6: Indian benchmark indices ended higher on Tuesday, supported by gains in information technology, metal, and consumer durable stocks, even as investors remained cautious ahead of key trade negotiations between India and the United States. The Nifty settled 100.95 points, or 0.43 per cent, higher at 23,483.55, while the Sensex advanced 382.50 points, or 0.52 per cent, to close at 74,649.84. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 23,500-23,550 region remains an important immediate resistance zone. "A sustained breakout above this range could improve market sentiment and pave the way for a recovery toward the 23,750-23,800 levels," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the 23,300-23,250 zone continues to serve as a crucial support area," as per the expert. Buying interest in heavyweight IT stocks lifted the market, with Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and HCL Technologies emerging as the top



gainers on the Nifty index. On Sensex pack, TCS led the gainers side followed by Infosys, HCL Tech, Adani Ports and Tech Mahindra. On the downside, NTPC was most laggards while Axis Bank, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv

were among top laggards. Broader markets also ended in positive territory. The Nifty MidCap index rose 0.18 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.40 per cent during the session. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty IT index led the

gains. The Nifty Consumer Durable, Nifty Auto, and Nifty FMCG indices also outperformed the broader market. However, defensive sectors remained under pressure, with the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices ending lower. Investor sentiment remained focused on the ongoing trade discussions between India and the United States. A US delegation led by Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch began a three-day round of talks with Indian officials in New Delhi on Tuesday to finalise the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement. Market participants are closely tracking developments from the negotiations, as expectations of progress in the trade pact continue to support sentiment. "With the earnings season largely concluded, investor focus has shifted to key macro factors including monsoon progress, inflation trends, RBI policy, and liquidity conditions," a market expert mentioned.

Indian travellers can now make UPI payments at over 4.5 mn merchant outlets in Cambodia: NPCI

New Delhi, 2/6: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in partnership with ACLEDA Bank Plc., has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance in Cambodia through KHQR, the country's national QR code system. The launch was formally announced at a ceremony in Phnom Penh attended by National Bank of Cambodia Governor Chea Serey and representatives from the Reserve Bank of India. The event marked the first phase of the cross-border QR payment linkage between India and Cambodia. With the rollout, Indian users can make QR-based payments using their UPI-enabled applications by scanning Bakong's KHQR codes at more than 4.5 million merchant outlets across Cambodia, including tourist attractions, restaurants, retail stores and other establishments. According to the announcement, the next phase will enable Cambodian visitors to make payments at millions of UPI QR-enabled merchant locations across India using their Cambodian banking and payment applications, creating a two-way interoperable payment corridor between the two countries. The initiative is expected to



facilitate real-time and interoperable digital transactions while improving payment efficiency between India and Cambodia. Ritesh Shukla, MD and CEO, NPCI International, said, "At NPCI International, our aim is to extend India's digital payment innovations to global markets through trusted partnerships. Enabling UPI acceptance in Cambodia marks a significant milestone in this journey." He added, "It ensures that Indian travellers enjoy a familiar, secure and seamless payment experience abroad, while Cambodian merchants gain access to millions of digital-first consumers. This collaboration not only strengthens real-time payment connectivity between our two ecosystems but also lays the

groundwork for deeper tourism and commercial engagement." The companies said merchants in Cambodia will benefit from access to a large Indian customer base, improved cash management and reduced dependence on physical currency. Commenting on the partnership, H Channy, President and Group Managing Director of ACLEDA Bank Plc., said, "ACLEDA Bank Plc. is proud to launch Phase 1 of our cross-border interoperability initiative, enabling Indian travellers to execute secure digital transactions via UPI-enabled applications across our extensive KHQR merchant network." He added that integrating

the payment systems of Cambodia and India would help remove transaction-related friction and foreign exchange volatility for travellers while providing local merchants access to a large digital consumer market. "Ultimately, this collaboration drives financial inclusion and strengthens the bilateral economic corridor through robust, scalable technology," he said. The partnership is expected to enhance convenience for travellers while supporting tourism and commercial engagement between India and Cambodia through trusted cross-border digital payment infrastructure.

India's Q4FY26 GDP growth seen at 7.3%; Utilities, Services to drive expansion: BoB Report

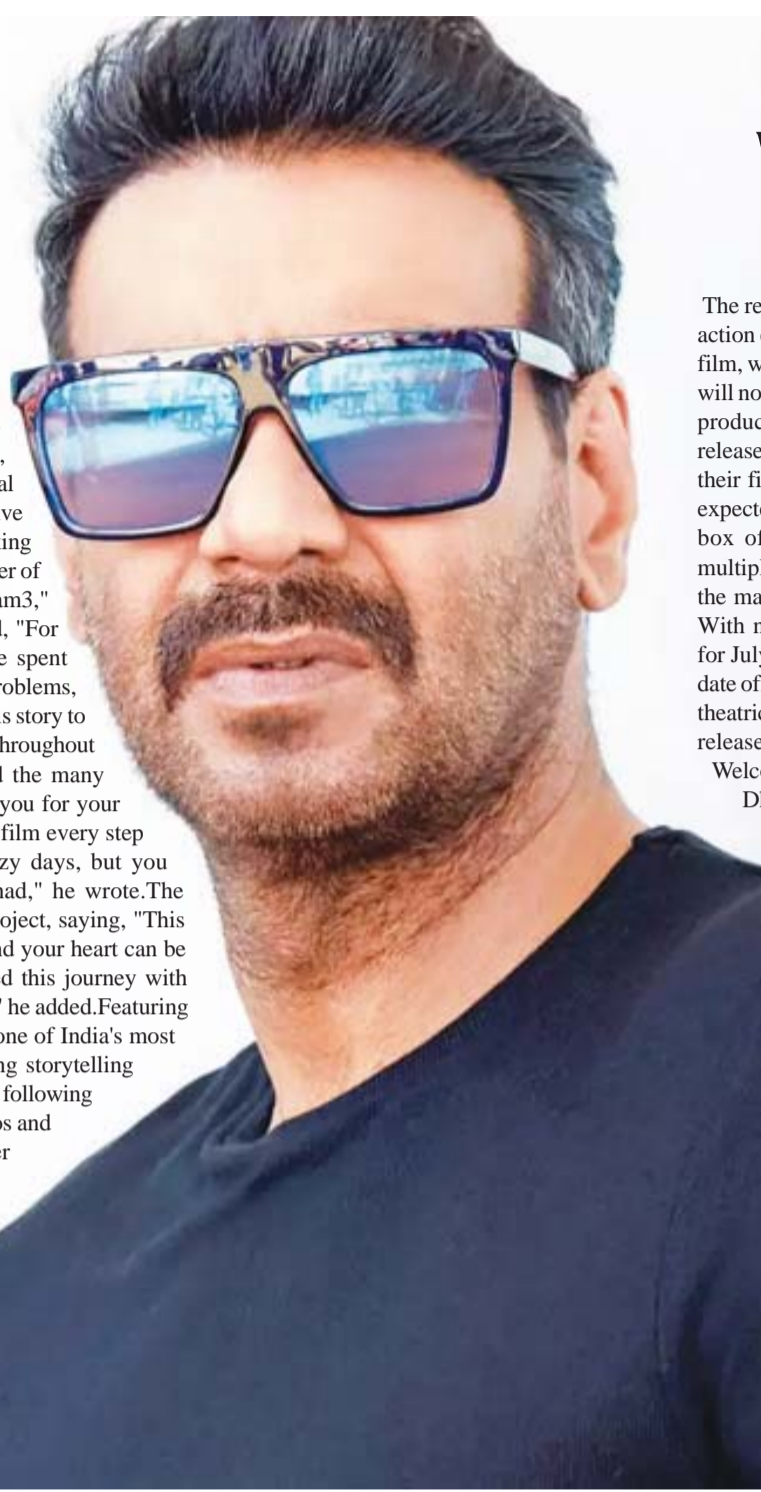
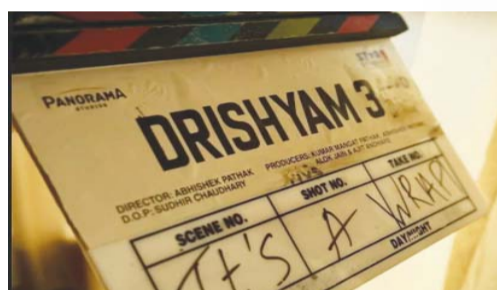
New Delhi, 2/6: India's real GDP growth is expected to come in at 7.3 per cent in Q4FY26, higher than 7.1 per cent in Q4FY25, supported by stronger growth in utilities and services, even as agriculture, mining, manufacturing and construction post slower growth, according to a research report by Bank of Baroda. The report noted that MoSPI will release provisional Q4FY26 numbers and revised FY26 growth figures later this week. "As per the implied growth calculations, it is clear that real GDP in Q4FY26 is expected to come in at 7.3 per cent, up from 7.1 per cent in Q4FY25. This will be helped by pickup in growth in utilities and services segments," the Bank of Baroda report said. It added that "for Q4FY26, the economy is projected to grow at 7.2-7.3 per cent" as the data will now incorporate March 2026 fiscal account numbers and corporate results. The key driver of the year-on-year uptick is utilities and construction. "In contrast, the sub-industry index of utilities and construction may get

revised upwards. As per the implied growth, electricity industry is projected to report 2.7 per cent rise in growth, up from 2.1 per cent in Q4FY25. Given the beginning of intense heatwave conditions in the country in Mar'26, this number could be revised upwards," the report stated. It also pointed to construction holding ground: "Infrastructure companies reported 11.1 per cent rise in net sales (4.3 per cent in Q4FY25) and 20 per cent rise in PAT (-0.9 per cent). Therefore, construction sector growth can be revised upwards from estimated growth of 7.6 per cent in Q4FY26. Services growth is also projected stronger in Q4FY26. "For services, overall growth is projected at 9.1 per cent (up from 6.8 per cent in Q4FY25), with growth across sub-segments estimated to rise," the report said. It flagged support from credit growth: "Bank credit growth in Jan-Mar'26 averaged at 14.3 per cent versus 11.2 per cent in Q4FY25 and deposit growth averaged at 11.7 per cent versus 10.4 per cent during the

same period last year." However, the report expects downward revisions in other segments due to the West Asia crisis that began in March 2026. "Agriculture, mining, manufacturing and trade, hotels, transport sectors may note some downward revisions," Bank of Baroda said. It highlighted cost pressures: "price of commercial LPG had increased by Rs 142.5/cylinder... price of bulk diesel rose by Rs 22/lt, and gas cuts were announced for almost all companies." Agriculture growth is projected to slow to 2.1 per cent from 3.8 per cent in Q4FY25, with mining falling to 1.7 per cent from 12.9 per cent and manufacturing moderating to 9.3 per cent from 11.8 per cent. Looking ahead, the report expects FY27 growth at 6.5-6.8 per cent. "Going ahead for FY27, growth will be slightly lower at 6.5-6.8 per cent, as bulk of the impact of the US-Iran war will be felt in Q1FY27," it said, citing higher LPG, CNG, petrol and diesel prices and risks to monsoon and heatwave conditions.

'Drishyam 3' shoot wrapped: Abhishek Pathak confirms film enters post-production

The filming of 'Drishyam 3' has officially been completed, with the highly anticipated thriller now moving into post-production ahead of its theatrical release on October 2, 2026. Director Abhishek Pathak announced the wrap-up on social media, marking the end of what he described as a long and intensive production journey. The filmmaker shared a heartfelt note thanking the cast, crew and everyone involved in bringing the next chapter of the franchise to life. "And that's a wrap on the shoot of #Drishyam3," Pathak wrote. Reflecting on the filmmaking process, he added, "For the past many months, this film has been our world. We've spent countless days and nights together, chasing scenes, solving problems, sharing laughs, overcoming challenges, and slowly bringing this story to life." Pathak expressed gratitude to the team for their dedication throughout the production schedule. "To everyone I've tagged here, and the many other incredible people behind the scenes, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your hard work, your patience, and for believing in this film every step of the way. There were good days, difficult days, and crazy days, but you showed up every single time and gave it everything you had," he wrote. The director further highlighted the collective effort behind the project, saying, "This film carries a piece of all of you. Your effort, your passion, and your heart can be found in every frame." "I'm incredibly grateful to have shared this journey with such amazing people. Thank you for helping me tell this story," he added. Featuring Ajay Devgn, Tabu and Shriya Saran, 'Drishyam 3' continues one of India's most successful suspense-thriller franchises. Known for its gripping storytelling and psychological depth, the Drishyam series has earned a strong following among audiences over the years. Produced by Panorama Studios and Viacom18, the film is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on October 2, 2026, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.



'Alpha' to hit theatres a week earlier, release advanced to July 3

The release of Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt's much-awaited action entertainer 'Alpha' has been advanced by a week. The film, which was originally scheduled to release on July 10, will now arrive in theatres on July 3. According to reports, producer Aditya Chopra decided to prepone the release after the makers of 'Dhamaal 4' shifted their film's release date to July 17. The move is expected to give 'Alpha' a wider window at the box office. The film has already witnessed multiple delays during production, prompting the makers to look for an ideal release slot. With no major Bollywood release lined up for July 3, the production house believes the date offers the perfect opportunity for a grand theatrical opening. Interestingly, 'Alpha' will release between two comedy entertainers—

Welcome to the Jungle, slated for June 26, and Dhamaal on July 17. The makers are optimistic that audiences will welcome a high-octane action thriller amid the comedy-dominated release calendar. Part of the Yash Raj Films Spy Universe, 'Alpha' stars Alia Bhatt in the lead role, alongside Bobby Deol in a pivotal character. The film is produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Shiv Rawail. Notably, 'Alpha' will be the first female-led film in the YRF Spy Universe, marking a significant milestone for the blockbuster franchise.



Raveena Tandon's Mother Jewellery Theft Case: Mumbai Police Arrests 48 Year-Old House Help

The Mumbai police has made an arrest with regards to the theft of gold jewellery worth INR 25 lacs at Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon's mother's house. The cops have arrested the 48-year-old Rashi Chabria, who was hired to take care of the actress' mother. As per the Mumbai police, the accused woman was in touch with the Tandon family since 2020 and used to frequent Raveena Tandon's mother's house. She used to cook food and help the actress take care of her 86-year-old mother. Over time, she had gradually won the family's trust. Investigators said the theft took place from the family's house, where the jewellery was allegedly kept in a locker. The accused had stolen jewellery and two mobile phones. The theft came to light after the family noticed the missing jewellery and watches following which, they questioned the house help, who, according to the police, initially denied any involvement in the theft. On being questioned again, she returned the expensive



watches and said that she had given the jewellery to a person named Jagdish and would return it soon. As per the case registered at the Juhu police station, between August 2025 and October 2025 the plaintiff's mother's old jewellery was kept in the safe in the closet of the plaintiff's room as renovation work was going on in the

plaintiff's house. On October 2, the jewellery was not found by the complainant. When they inquired, the accused, Rashi Chabria, admitted to stealing but did not return the gold of the complainant, so the said case was registered. Rashi was arrested and 15 grams of gold was recovered from her and further investigation is underway.

SPORTS

Linsey Smith Crowned New No. 1 Bowler Ahead Of Women's T20 WC

Dubai, 2/6: England's left-arm spinner Linsey Smith, who was fighting for a regular place in her side's T20I setup less than two years ago, has now climbed to the summit of the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings for the first time in her career on the eve of the Women's T20 World Cup. The 31-year-old England spinner moved ahead of Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal to become the world's top-ranked T20I bowler following a string of impressive performances against New Zealand and India. Smith's rise comes after a standout Player of the Series display against the White Ferns and another influential outing in England's recent victory over India in Bristol. The achievement caps a remarkable journey for Smith, who made her international debut in 2018 before spending several years on the fringes of the national side. Having re-established herself as a regular member of England's T20I squad only late last year, she now enters the World Cup as the highest-ranked bowler in the format. England's strong run has also been reflected elsewhere in the bowling charts. Fast bowler Lauren Bell climbed one place to



third, while stand-in captain Charlie Dean gained two spots to move into fifth position. India's emerging spinner Shree Charan was among the biggest movers in the latest update. Her three-wicket performance against England helped her leap seven places to fourth, underlining the increasingly competitive nature of the rankings. With only 39 rating points separating the top 10 bowlers, the race for supremacy remains wide open heading into the World Cup. In the batting rankings, Australia

opener Georgia Voll retained her position at the top, though several players outside the top 10 made significant gains. India's Jemimah Rodrigues rose four places to share the 11th spot after a productive run with the bat, while Ireland all-rounder Orla Prendergast surged 10 positions to joint 16th. Prendergast's rise follows her match-winning unbeaten 71 against the West Indies in Dublin, an innings that also helped propel Ireland to a historic victory. The Irish star

enjoyed further success in the all-rounders' rankings, moving up one place to sixth. Elsewhere, Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty continued her upward trajectory by climbing four places to 20th among batters, while Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali improved two spots to share 32nd position. With the Women's T20 World Cup set to begin on June 12, the latest rankings offer an indication of the form players are carrying into the tournament and suggest the battle for individual honours could be just as compelling as the race for the trophy itself.

French Open: Sabalenka Beats Osaka To Reach 14th Consecutive Major QF

Paris, 2/6: Aryna Sabalenka defeated Naomi Osaka in a thrilling fourth-round match at Roland Garros, securing a 7-5, 6-3 victory to advance to her 14th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal. Sabalenka is the only player left in the women's draw who's played in a major final. She will face No. 25 seed Diana Shnaider next, who booked her first career Grand Slam quarterfinal with a three-set win over No. 19 seed Madison Keys. Osaka won the first two games of the match as Sabalenka struggled to get going. Five unforced errors—including a double fault on break point—handed Osaka the early advantage. The top seed quickly shook that off. Two clean forehand winners helped pocket a break back, and she cruised on serve for the rest of the match. Not only did she not face a break point for the rest of the match, she was barely pushed past deuce, WTA reports.

The only game that went to deuce on Sabalenka's serve was the sixth game of set two, with Osaka ahead 3-2. A tight tussle in a six-minute game, which immediately followed a 2-2 hold by Osaka where Sabalenka failed to convert break point, sparked a four-game run for Sabalenka that ended the match. After falling just short of her first French Open title 12 months ago, Sabalenka is fully focused on finishing the job this year. "I'm not really overthinking, I was able to kind of, like, separate myself from what's going on this year at the Roland Garros," she said. "I have been around. Anything can happen. That's tennis. That's sport, you know? I'm just trying, once again, you know, to be focused on myself and make sure that when I'm there competing, I'm bringing my best level that I have, and I'm there, I'm fighting, and you know, I'm doing everything I can to get this trophy."

Fake Bikini Photos: K'taka Cops Book 29 Social Media Accounts For Circulating Actress Rukmini Vasanth's Images

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Cyber Crime Police on Tuesday registered an FIR against 29 social media accounts in connection with the circulation of fake bikini videos and photographs of actress Rukmini Vasanth, who had gained national attention for her role in the film 'Kantara Chapter-2'. The police have initiated stringent action against a total of 29 social media accounts. These include 9 Instagram accounts, 14 'X' accounts, and 6 Facebook pages. Cybercrime police have registered a case and launched an investigation under Sections 66C and 66D of the Information Technology Act, as well as Sections 75(3), 79, 336, 356, 351, 352, and 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). An FIR has been registered by the actress recently against the accounts involved at the Bengaluru Cyber Crime Police Station. The actress had

filed a complaint alleging that fake visuals were created using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfake technology by superimposing her face onto another person's body. In her complaint, she stated that the act had caused her severe embarrassment and was a deliberate attempt to tarnish her reputation and character. A case has been registered under provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act against miscreants who allegedly created and disseminated the fabricated visuals using AI and deepfake technology, and an investigation has been initiated. Earlier, Rukmini Vasanth reacting after AI-generated bikini photos and videos falsely claiming to feature her went viral on the social media. The actress clarified that the content is fake and urged people not to misuse AI for harmful activities. Taking to her

Instagram account, Rukmini Vasanth said that she and her team had come across manipulated images circulating online in her name. "My team and I have come across certain AI-generated images being circulated online claiming to be me. I want to state clearly that these images are entirely fake and fabricated. The creation and circulation of such manipulated content is deeply irresponsible and a serious violation of privacy," she added. The actress also said that legal and cybercrime action was being initiated against those responsible for creating and spreading the fake content. "We are taking this matter seriously and initiating the necessary legal and cybercrime action against those involved in creating and spreading these images. Requesting everyone to refrain from sharing or engaging with such content," she added.