

Dumani Mail

Published simultaneously from Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha) and New Delhi.



PM Modi Chairs Economic Advisory Council Meeting On Growth Strategy Amid West Asia Conflict

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), discussing measures to sustain India's growth momentum, strengthen economic resilience and navigate emerging global challenges amid the West Asia conflict, officials said on Saturday. The meeting focused on strategies to further accelerate economic growth, at a time when major economies across the world continue to face geopolitical uncertainties, supply chain disruptions and weakening demand. PM Modi and members of the advisory council exchanged views on policy

measures aimed at maintaining India's growth trajectory while ensuring macroeconomic stability amid a challenging global environment, according to officials. In addition, discussions covered reforms aimed at improving ease of living and ease of doing business, with deliberations focusing on enhancing governance efficiency, reducing compliance burdens and creating a more conducive environment for investment and entrepreneurship. Moreover, a part of the deliberations centred on the implications of the conflict in West Asia, with members discussing its potential impact on India and the global economy. The discussions examined



concerns related to energy markets, trade routes and broader economic stability as prolonged tensions in the region continue to raise uncertainty across global markets.

The key meeting comes at a time when India continues to remain among the fastest-growing major economies despite growing global uncertainties and geopolitical

tensions. India's GDP growth was estimated at a robust 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter (Q4) of 2025-26, and the growth rate for the full

financial year worked out to be 7.7 per cent, on the back of a strong performance of the agriculture, construction and services sectors. India—which imports a large share of its energy requirements—has been closely monitoring developments in the region amid concerns that sustained instability could influence crude oil prices and international trade flows. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister comprises economists and policy experts who provide independent inputs on economic and developmental issues and advise the government on long-term growth priorities and emerging economic trends.

Nominations for Padma Awards 2027 open till July 31

New Delhi: Nominations for the Padma Awards 2027 will remain open till 31st of July. The Ministry of Home Affairs has said that the nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards, which started on 15th of March, will only be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal. The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are among the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The Award is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in all fields and disciplines, such as Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service and Trade and Industry. The Ministry said that the Government is committed to transform Padma Awards into People's Padma. The Ministry has requested the citizens to make nominations and recommendations, including self-nomination.

CBSE extends last date for submission of applications for Verification of Marks & Re-evaluation

New Delhi: Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE, has extended the last date for submission of applications for Verification of Marks and Re-evaluation till the 7th of June. In a social media post, the Board said, students can now submit their applications till Sunday midnight. CBSE said that the decision has been taken in the interest of students to provide them with additional time to complete the application process. The earlier deadline for submission of applications was 6th of this month. CBSE has advised all eligible students to take note of the extended deadline and complete the application process within the stipulated time.

Ayushman Bharat helped families save Rs 2.25 lakh crore in medical costs: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the Ayushman Bharat programme had transformed healthcare access in India, extending health insurance protection to more than 60 per cent of families and reducing financial burdens on poor and middle-class households. Speaking at a public gathering in Daman after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for

multiple projects worth Rs 2,970 crore, PM Modi described healthcare as one of the Union government's highest priorities. "In the BJP government and in our NDA government, the first benchmark of development is change in the lives of the poor, the deprived, tribal communities and the middle class," he said. The Prime Minister highlighted the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which

provides eligible beneficiaries with health coverage of up to Rs five lakh. "Today, even the poorest citizen has access to an Ayushman Card and the assurance of free treatment worth up to Rs five lakh," he said. PM Modi added that the Union government had complemented the scheme with Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and digital health initiatives. According to the

Prime Minister, Ayushman Cards and Jan Aushadhi Kendras had helped poor and middle-class families save nearly Rs 2.25 lakh crore in medical expenses. Prime Minister Modi also cited improvements in health indicators, noting that hospital deliveries now account for more than 90 per cent of births and that child immunisation coverage had increased from around 60 per cent before 2014 to nearly 90 per cent.

"There has also been a major change in health security. Before 2014, less than 30 per cent of families were covered by health insurance schemes. Today, Ayushman Bharat has transformed those figures," he said. PM Modi added that healthcare infrastructure in Daman and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had expanded significantly in recent years, with the establishment of a medical

college, postgraduate courses and NAMO hospitals in Silvassa and Daman. "People of this region will now benefit from even better healthcare services," he said. The Prime Minister added that women had been among the greatest beneficiaries of healthcare reforms, particularly through improvements in maternal care, institutional deliveries and health coverage.

Three Himanshu gang-linked sharpshooters arrested in Delhi

New Delhi: Three alleged sharpshooters linked to the Himanshu Bhau gang, including a juvenile, were apprehended with two sophisticated illegal pistols and 27 live cartridges here, police said on Saturday. According to police, the arrests occurred on the evening of June 5

after a patrol team noticed three men riding a motorcycle suspiciously near the main road at Bengali Market in Pooth Khurd. Officers intercepted them as they were allegedly en route to execute a targeted attack in outer north Delhi's Bawana area.

Sambalpur Football Academy to Get 15-Crore FIFA-Standard Infrastructure Upgrade

Sambalpur-06/06 (DMS) Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced a major expansion and modernization plan for the Sambalpur Football Academy, with an investment of ₹15 crore aimed at transforming the institution into a world-class football training centre. "During his visit to the academy, the Chief Minister reviewed the existing facilities and praised its contribution to Odisha's sporting landscape. He

announced that the academy campus will be developed with three FIFA-standard full-size football grounds and two state-of-the-art futsal courts, significantly enhancing training infrastructure for young footballers. "Addressing the gathering, Majhi said the academy, which began in 2007 as a wing of Samaleswari Sporting Club, has emerged as one of Odisha's most successful football development centres. Over the past 19 years, it has produced

hundreds of talented players who have represented Odisha in national-level competitions across different age groups. "The Chief Minister also announced a new responsibility for the academy under the state government's grassroots football development programme. Beginning this year, 30 talented footballers under the age of 14, selected through the annual CM Cup Football Tournament, will receive free residential coaching, advanced football training and quality education



at the academy. The government will make complete arrangements for their schooling at nearby educational institutions while they undergo professional training. The CM Trophy initiative was launched to identify and nurture grassroots football talent across Odisha. "Majhi expressed confidence that the upgraded infrastructure and structured training programme would help the academy produce more national-level players and bring greater sporting glory

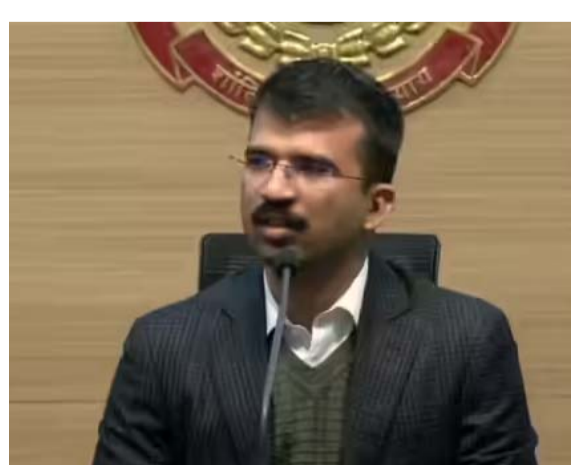
to Odisha. "Among those present during the visit were Panchayat Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra, Rajya Sabha MP Manmohan Samal, former Rengali MLA Nauri Naik, IG Himanshu Lal and Sambalpur Collector Siddheshwar Balaram Bondar. "The initiative is expected to strengthen Sambalpur's position as a major football training hub in western Odisha and contribute significantly to the state's long-term sports development strategy.

Delhi Police cracks Shalimar Bagh murder case within hours; two accused arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police achieved a swift breakthrough in an alleged murder case on Saturday after arresting two individuals in connection with a fatal stabbing incident that occurred in Shalimar Bagh. The investigation was launched immediately after a victim was brought to Fortis Hospital with severe injuries following an altercation near BC Block, leading to the registration of an FIR.

with stab injuries sustained during a quarrel near BC Block, Shalimar Bagh. Acting swiftly, police registered an FIR under relevant sections of the BNS and launched an intensive investigation. Through technical surveillance, CCTV footage analysis and secret information, the police team successfully apprehended both accused, identified as Saurabh, also known as Tola and Sachin, also known as Chiddi, while they were attempting to flee, the press note stated. According to the press note, at their instance, the weapon of offence (knife)

and the clothes worn during the commission of the crime were recovered. Both accused were found to have previous criminal involvement. Further investigation is in progress, officials have said. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, on June 4, an Assistant Professor from Delhi University's Shivaji College, identified as Devosmita Paul, was found dead inside an apartment in Vasundhara Enclave in the national capital, with police on Friday stating that investigators are now examining CCTV footage and collecting details of



persons who may have visited the flat in the days preceding the incident. According to police, a PCR call was received at New Ashok Nagar Police

Station at around 2:35 pm on June 4. The victim's sister, Devarati Paul (49), informed officials that her sister had been murdered and her body was lying inside a

flat at Satyam Apartment. She added that she was residing alone in the flat that had been locked from the outside since the morning of June 4. She further said the deceased was not responding to repeated phone calls, raising suspicion. On growing concern, Devarati broke open the lock and discovered her sister lying dead inside the apartment. A crime team was immediately called to the spot, and a detailed inspection of the scene was conducted. Officials said forensic samples were collected and crucial exhibits were seized after

photography and videography of the site. According to the police, the deceased had been living alone in the flat for the past four to five years and mostly ordered essential items through online delivery services. Investigators scanned the CCTV footage from the apartment complex and nearby areas to ascertain who visited the flat during the last two to three days before the incident. Police gathered the details of online delivery agents and other potential visitors as part of the probe. Sources further said that the professor had last

spoken to her mother over the phone. Thereafter, when her sister attempted to contact her, the phone remained switched off. Growing suspicious after repeated unsuccessful attempts to reach her, the sister visited the flat and discovered her dead. The body was shifted to Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hospital for post-mortem examination. A case was registered under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at New Ashok Nagar Police Station. Police said multiple teams were informed to trace and apprehend the offender.

Rayagada Municipality Launches Green Initiatives and Inaugurates Key Civic Projects on World Environment Day 2026

Rayagada, June 5: Marking World Environment Day 2026, the Rayagada Municipality organized a large-scale tree plantation programme and inaugurated several innovative projects aimed at promoting environmental sustainability, cleanliness, and effective waste management in the town.

The event was attended by Rayagada District Collector Shri Ashutosh Kulkarni as the Chief Guest. On the occasion, the main entrance gate of Parimal Udyan was inaugurated, along with the launch of "Mo Bagicha" (My Garden), the "Waste to Wonder Park," and the "Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Centre."

The programme commenced with the inauguration of the newly constructed entrance gate of Parimal Udyan. Subsequently, district-level officials and municipal councillors participated in a tree plantation drive within the premises of Mo



Bagicha, reaffirming their commitment to environmental conservation.

In the next phase, the Waste to Wonder Park and the Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Centre were formally inaugurated. The District Collector and other senior officials visited the project sites and highly

appreciated these innovative initiatives undertaken by the Rayagada Municipality. They also discussed measures to further strengthen and improve the efficiency of the town's waste management system and offered valuable suggestions in this regard.

Later, a special council

meeting was held at the mini-conference hall located within the plant premises under the chairmanship of the District Collector. The meeting focused on various developmental activities undertaken by the municipality, sanitation management, and strategies for improving waste processing and disposal systems.

Among those present at the event were Superintendent of Police Shri Raj Prasad, Divisional Forest Officer Shri Sachin Anasaheb Ohol, Chief Development Officer Shri Akshaya Kumar Khemundu, Rayagada Municipality Chairman Shri P. Mahesh Patnaik, ward councillors, Swachha Sathis, Swachha Supervisors, Junior Sanitary Inspectors, and other municipal officials.

The programme was efficiently coordinated by Rayagada Municipality Executive Officer Shri Kuldeep Kumar, who also proposed the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the event.

JSW Paradip Terminals Observe World Environment Day 2026



Paradip - JSW Paradip Terminals observed World Environment Day 2026 with a series of activities aimed at raising awareness about environmental protection and promoting sustainable practices. This year's theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," along with the message #NowForClimate, emphasizes urgent climate action, nature-based solutions, and the preservation of global ecosystems.

On this occasion, Capt. Siddharth Shukla, Unit Head of JSW Paradip Terminals,

along with the Heads of Departments and colleagues across various teams, actively participated in a Sea Beach Cleaning Drive at Nehru Bangla Sea Beach. The initiative also witnessed participation from staff of operational partners including Chennai Radha Engineering Works, Phoenix Solutions and SIS Security.

The activities were followed by a tree plantation program held at the East Quay Coal Terminal site of JSW Paradip Port, and a quiz competition on environmental

protection reinforcing the organization's commitment to ecological sustainability.

Unit Head Capt. Siddharth Shukla emphasizes the World Environment Day is serving as a platform to raise awareness, mobilize collective action, and promote environmental sustainability. Through these initiatives, he encouraged all colleagues and peoples participated in the initiatives to become more environmentally conscious, fostering a sense of responsibility towards protecting nature and addressing environmental challenges for a sustainable future.

JK Paper Mills Marks World Environment Day with Large-Scale Plantation Drive

Rayagada, June 5: JK Paper Mills celebrated World Environment Day with enthusiasm at its mill premises on Thursday, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action.

The programme was graced by Shri Biswajit Dwivedi, Vice President (Commercial), as the Chief Guest. The celebration commenced with a tree plantation drive, during which employees of the mill planted nearly 1,500 saplings across the premises.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Dwivedi highlighted this year's theme, "Climate Action – Every Step Counts for a Sustainable Future." He emphasized that climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges and called for collective efforts to address the issue through tree plantation, energy conservation, reduction in plastic usage, and protection of natural resources. He stated that small but meaningful actions taken by

individuals and organizations can collectively contribute to building a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future. He further stressed the need for active participation from all sections of society in safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Among those present on the occasion were Shri Ashok Bhoi, Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada; Shri Prabhudev Behera, Assistant

Engineer, State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada; Shri M.R.K. Ray, Senior General Manager (Mechanical); and other senior officials of the mill.

Shri Satyajit Mohanty, General Manager (Environment, Safety & Health), delivered the welcome address and coordinated the programme. Officials of the Environment Control and Safety Department extended their support in successfully organizing and managing the event.

Joint Tree Plantation Drive Organised by Paribesha Foundation and Armed Forces at Chandipur DRDO Campus on World Environment Day

Balasure, June 5 (Krishna Kumar Mohanty): On the occasion of World Environment Day, a large-scale tree plantation and environmental awareness programme was jointly organised by the DRDO Station Headquarters, Chandipur, and the social organisation Paribesha Foundation.

Held within the DRDO campus at Chandipur, the programme aimed to promote environmental protection and restore ecological greenery through public awareness and

collective action. Following an extensive plantation drive, all participants took a pledge to safeguard the environment, build a plastic-free Chandipur, and nurture nature for future generations.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Santosh Kumar Panda, Commandant of the Station Headquarters, stated that protecting the nation and preserving the environment are equally important responsibilities. He observed that such green initiatives within a strategic

defence establishment like DRDO would contribute significantly to maintaining ecological balance in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Gobinda Ballabh Dalai, head of Paribesha Foundation, highlighted the growing threats posed by global warming and climate change. He urged everyone to embrace the message, "Plant a Tree, Save a Life," and stressed the importance of nurturing saplings until they mature into full-grown trees.

The campaign witnessed active

participation from defence officers, soldiers, environmentalists, retired military personnel, and volunteers of Youth Development and Paribesha Foundation. The plantation drive was supported by tree plantation expert Satya Narayan Das, along with Asit Dalai, Subas Khuntia, and others.

The initiative has been widely appreciated by the intellectual and civic community of Balasure, who hailed it as a commendable step towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

IMFA Observes World Environment Day with a Week-Long Sustainability Drive

(IMFA) celebrated World Environment Day 2026 with a week-long environmental awareness and conservation activities under the theme "Inspired by Nature, for Climate and Our Future."

The programme was conducted under the guidance of G. V. Rakesh, Site Head, IMFA, and graced by Shri Ripu Kumar Sahu, Deputy Environment Engineer, SPCB, Rayagada, as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sahu praised IMFA for its strong

environmental compliance and sustainable practices. He appreciated the company's 250 KLD STP, zero water wastage initiatives, and conservation efforts, noting that no adverse environmental observations had been reported during his visits over the past two years. He also encouraged the adoption of rainwater harvesting, water and energy conservation, and reduced fuel consumption.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri G. V. Rakesh highlighted IMFA's commitment to climate action

through its recently launched 135 MW renewable energy project, which will significantly reduce dependence on coal-based power. He also emphasized the importance of plantation drives and community participation in environmental conservation.

As part of the week-long celebrations, IMFA organized plantation drives, fruit-bearing sapling distribution, awareness rallies in Gopabandhu Nagar Colony and market areas, an environmental quiz competition, and an oath-taking ceremony

promoting eco-friendly practices.

The programme was coordinated by Ms. Sonia Purohit, Senior Officer – Environment & QC, and Mr. Devasis Mishra, Officer – Quality Control. The vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Kshitish Chandra Mohapatra, Deputy General Manager – HR & Admin. The event also featured an environmental awareness skit and concluded with a plantation drive, reaffirming IMFA's commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.

World Environment Day Celebrated in Boipariguda

Boipariguda (Bikrant Kumar Bebor): Tree plantation is essential to keep the environment healthy and beautiful and to protect wildlife from the heat. On this occasion, World Environment Day was celebrated at the renowned Maa Birkhamba Pitha complex in Boipariguda Block. In a program organized by the Bapairiguda Forest Department, IIC DAMBARU DHARA BATHIA, S I Dharendra Barik, Forest Officers Sandeep Kumar Panigrahi and forestro Lalita

Harijan, Forest Guard Manorama Devi, and Ramesh Pandi, along with Forest Department support staff, participated and initiated a tree plantation drive. Every year on June 5th, such tree plantation programs are organized at various locations in Boipariguda. Various types of trees—such as Mango, Kadamba, Anga, Amla, and Barda—were planted near the complex. This initiative was undertaken with the aim of protecting the environment and improving livelihoods.



Patients Sleep on Floors While Hospital Beds Rot in the Open: Who Is Responsible?

Rayagada: While patients in several government hospitals across Rayagada district reportedly struggle with a shortage of beds and are often forced to receive treatment on floors, a shocking scene at the office premises of the District Medical Officer (DMO) in Barijhola has raised serious questions about the management of public resources. Hospital beds, mattresses, and other essential medical supplies worth lakhs of rupees, procured with public funds for patient care, have allegedly been lying unattended in the open for a long period. Exposed to scorching heat, heavy rains, and dust, these materials are gradually deteriorating instead of being utilized in hospitals where they are urgently needed.

The situation has sparked public outrage and raised concerns about administrative negligence within the district health system. Citizens are questioning why such valuable equipment remains unused when many healthcare facilities continue to face shortages

of basic patient amenities.

If these beds and mattresses were purchased for hospitals, why have they not been distributed? Who is responsible for ensuring their proper storage and utilization? How much public money has been spent on procuring these items? Most importantly, who will be held accountable for the loss caused by their deterioration?

Serious Questions Demand Answers

Since when have these beds, mattresses, and medical supplies been lying in the open?

What is the total value of the materials exposed to weather conditions?

Why were these items not supplied to hospitals facing shortages?

Was there any monitoring mechanism to prevent damage to government property?

Who is responsible for the apparent negligence?

Will the district administration initiate an inquiry into the matter? How can the health

department justify such wastage when patients continue to suffer from inadequate facilities?

Local intellectuals and social activists have described the incident as a glaring example of administrative apathy and misuse of public resources. They argue that taxpayers' money is meant to improve healthcare services, not to be wasted through poor planning and negligence.

The incident has also raised broader concerns about transparency and accountability in the district's healthcare administration. Citizens are demanding an immediate investigation, identification of those responsible, and urgent steps to ensure that the available equipment is put to use for the benefit of patients.

The public now awaits a response from the District Medical Officer and the district administration regarding why essential healthcare resources are being allowed to deteriorate while patients continue to struggle for basic facilities in government hospitals.

War against Drugs & illegal trafficking

Jagatsinghpur, Just to observe International day of Drug abuse on 26th June by "Banidhara" Charitable trust started a special movement against abuse of Drugs and illegal trafficking. The organisation started consciousness programme by displaying Poster, Wall painting, Street play, Cycle rally, different programme at School and Collage level. To

day special poster of Drugs abuse and illicit trafficking inaugurated by Collector J. Sonal at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskruti Bhawan, Jagatsinghpur. In this occasion Collector said that, Drugs spoils the future of youths and the only way to prevent drug through consciousness programme. Jagatsinghpur S P, Ankit Burma joined as

guest and said about effective step by Police to stop Drugs transaction. Convener Gati Krushna Mishra said about special programme of their organisation for International day of Drugs abuse. Educationist Hitesh Mohanty and ex-Chairman of Jagatsinghpur Municipality Madhusudan Sahoo also address the gathering.

Baleswar Station's West Side Entry to Remain Closed for Two Months

Balasure, June 4 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): In a major step towards enhancing passenger amenities, safety, and station connectivity, South Eastern Railway has undertaken the construction of new Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at Baleswar Railway Station. As part of the project, the launching of a new Foot Over Bridge towards the Bhadrak end of the station is tentatively scheduled to commence from June 14. To facilitate the work and ensure passenger safety, the Second Entry of Baleswar Railway Station on the west side will remain closed for passenger

movement for approximately two months, or until the new Foot Over Bridge is commissioned. During this period, passengers and rail users will not be allowed to enter or exit the station through the west-side entry.

Railway authorities have informed that the Unreserved Ticket Booking Counter located at the Second Entry will remain closed throughout the restriction period.

However, the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter at the same location will continue to function and remain accessible to passengers. Passengers have been advised to use the Main

Entry of Baleswar Railway Station for access to station premises, platforms, and railway services during the execution of the developmental work.

According to Kharagpur Division, the project is being undertaken in the larger interest of passenger safety, convenience, and improved station infrastructure. While expressing regret for the temporary inconvenience, railway authorities have sought the cooperation and understanding of passengers and the general public during the implementation of this important development initiative.

New Delhi, Paradip - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of a new coastal highway connecting Rameshwar and Paradip in Odisha at an estimated cost of 8,300.79 crore.

The project will be implemented under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) and developed in two packages covering a total length of 160.18 kilometres. The highway is expected to significantly improve passenger and freight movement along Odisha's coastal corridor. According to the government, the new highway will reduce travel time between Rameshwar and Paradeep by approximately two and a half hours while providing safer, faster and uninterrupted connectivity.

The project is also expected to generate economic and environmental benefits through lower fuel consumption, reduced carbon emissions and decreased vehicle operating costs. The proposed corridor forms part of a strategic transport network linked to the Golden Quadrilateral. While the existing highway network passes through major urban centres such as Khordha, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, sections of the current route face capacity and design limitations.

The existing NH-316 corridor connecting Bhubaneswar, Puri, Satapada and Konark is characterised by poor road geometry, extensive ribbon development and heavy local traffic movement, making it less efficient for long-distance transportation. To address these challenges, the project will develop a four-lane highway from Rameshwar to Konark under Package-I and a two-lane highway with paved shoulders from Konark to Paradeep under Package-II. The corridor is

being designed for a speed of 100 km per hour to improve travel efficiency and safety.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar
Email Address: cemoch.ecwr.od@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/MDL-01/2026-27

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM/MDL- 01/2026-27
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 39,77,826.00
- Period of Completion : 02 (Two) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt.10.05.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.22.06.2025 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal : dt.22.06.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Technical Bid : dt.23.06.2026 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)
- Date and Place of opening of Financial Bid : To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid.
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

32001-342-2627

Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O/o-Engineer-In-Chief,
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Trailer hit a passenger bus on a railway underbridge, 30 passenger escape



Keonjhar : At least 30 passengers miraculously escaped with minor injuries when a trailer hit a passenger bus on National Highway No. 520 on railway underbridge close to Lahanda village under the Joda police station area of Keonjhar district.

According to sources, the passenger bus named Bilasini traveling from the Joda area to Turumunga was hit from behind by a trailer loaded with minerals. As a result, the passengers boarding the bus felt a jerk. The bus jerked and stopped on the road. As the Sona River flows near the road, the bus narrowly avoided falling into the river from the roadside.

The driver controlled the bus, stopping it on the road before it fell into the river

and avoiding a major accident. Due to the horrific accident, more than 30 bus passengers in the bus have escape. After the accident, the National Highway was completely blocked for hours. As such accidents are happening frequently on this blind curved road, locals showed strong resentment. After receiving the information police rushed to the spot, rescued the passengers and cleared the traffic.

Sources alleged that the Drivers are driving recklessly and at high speed, causing frequent accidents. "Although the four-lane road work is complete and tolls have been collected, but this portion of the highway Kalaphada to Lahanda is yet to widening. A construction

of an overbridge is not being carried out at the said place, and accidents have occurred there at various times and causing traffic jam. Due to which there is dissatisfaction among the residents of the area. The local administration is demanding special attention to this" said Gulab Muktar Rayen. IIC Joda Prasanta Kumar Samal said, "No one sustained injury. After mutual discussion both vehicles went their separate ways. Because the portion is narrow and curved, with a hill on one side and the Sona River flowing on the other, traffic problems often arise".

Locals demanded that the railway department and NHA take remedial steps with proper planning to resolve the many-years-long problem.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar
Email Address: cemoch.ecwr.od@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/MDL-01/2026-27

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM/MDL- 01/2026-27
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 39,77,826.00
- Period of Completion : 02 (Two) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt.10.05.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.22.06.2025 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal : dt.22.06.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Technical Bid : dt.23.06.2026 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)
- Date and Place of opening of Financial Bid : To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid.
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

32001-342-2627

Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O/o-Engineer-In-Chief,
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Bhubaneswar (R&B) DIVISION NO II
Bhubaneswar
sech2_bhub@vsnl.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGHOUT e-Procurement
Bid Identification No.- C.C. (R&B) - 02
e-Procurement Notice No. 02 of 2026-27

The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for Two Number Electrical works to be received in online bidding. Single cover system as detailed in <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 08.06.2026 to 5.00 P.M. of 07.06.2026. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. of 18.06.2026 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](https://tendersodisha.gov.in). Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

34001-303-2627

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
BBSR (R&B) Division No. II, BBSR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK-II
se_rwb2@vsnl.com
e-Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification Number Tender -4/RWD/RDK-II /2026-27 dt.02.06.2026

- Name of the Work : Road Works as per Annexure
- Total Number of Works : 74 Nos
- Approximate Estimated Cost : Rs. 1.69 lakhs - 42.37 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : As Per Annexure
- Period of Completion : As Per Annexure
- Type of Tender : Single Cover
- Other details : The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of sealing tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of the Bid
		From	To		
Executive Engineer R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	4	08.06.2026	16.06.2026	15.06.2026	17.06.2026 at 11.00 AM
		At 11.00 A.M.	up to 5.00 P.M.	up to 03.00 P.M.	

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Any other changes / Corrigendum may be seen only www.tendersodisha.gov.in

25001-344-2627

Executive Engineer
R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar
Email Address: cemoch.ecwr.od@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/MDL-01/2026-27

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM/MDL- 01/2026-27
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 39,77,826.00
- Period of Completion : 02 (Two) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt.10.05.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.22.06.2025 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal : dt.22.06.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Technical Bid : dt.23.06.2026 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)
- Date and Place of opening of Financial Bid : To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid.
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

32001-342-2627

Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O/o-Engineer-In-Chief,
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura Directs Disposal of Pending Pension Cases of Govt. Employees Within 15 Days.

Khordha -6/6: Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Pratap Chandra Beura has directed all concerned departments to resolve pending pension cases of government employees within the next 15 days. He issued the instruction while chairing the District-Level Pension Adalat held at the Conference Hall of Collectorate, Khordha on Friday. During the meeting, 222 pension cases from 86 district-level government offices were reviewed. Addressing the officials, the ADM, Mr. Beura emphasized that regularization of service records and timely processing of pension documents for employees nearing retirement is the responsibility of the respective departmental authorities. He stated that pension papers of every employee must be finalized at



least two months before the date of retirement and forwarded to the pension-sanctioning authority as well as the Office of the Accountant General. He urged all departments to remain vigilant and accountable in ensuring timely completion of these formalities. ADM also directed officials to examine the status of pension cases involving disciplinary proceedings or vigilance cases and submit detailed reports to the district administration at the earliest. Reviewing pension

matters relating to Tahasils, Blocks, Block Education Offices, R&B, Forest, Health, Drinking Water, Education, Agriculture, Transport and Excise departments, Mr. Beura stressed the need to provide provisional pension to employees on the day of retirement and to complete all necessary procedures for the sanction of regular pension without delay. Officials from various departments and senior revenue assistants attended the meeting.

National Campaign "My 500-Meter City" Launched from Sambalpur on World Environment Day

Keonjhar: The pan-India, volunteer-driven Youth4Water-India campaign launched its new national initiative, "My 500-Meter City," on the occasion of World Environment Day. While the national launch took place on the banks of the Mahanadi River near the historic Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur, campaign volunteers simultaneously organised local gatherings and individual outreach activities in more than 20 cities across the country.

Announcing the launch, Ranjan Panda, Founder-Mentor of Youth4Water-India and popularly known as the Water Man of Odisha, said the initiative aims to encourage citizens to reclaim and reimagine their neighbourhoods through sustainable mobility and climate-conscious lifestyles. More than 100 youth and citizens participated in the Sambalpur launch event, where the campaign logo was collectively unveiled by the participants. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Baboo,

President of the Samaleswari Temple Trust Board and co-organiser of the event, described the initiative as "a timely and much-needed campaign" that can contribute to local climate adaptation efforts and promote more liveable cities.

Senior journalists Priya Ranjan Sahu and Siba Nanda, along with other prominent citizens, addressed the gathering and urged participants to actively adopt the principles of the campaign while taking broader actions to conserve water, biodiversity, and the urban environment.

The concept behind My 500-Meter City is simple yet transformative: every citizen is encouraged to identify a 500-meter radius around their home, workplace, or institution and reduce the use of fossil-fuel-based transport within that zone as much as possible. According to Masud Alam, a Core Volunteer of Youth4Water-



India who coordinated the Sambalpur event, the initiative can help reduce pollution, lower carbon emissions, strengthen community interactions, and improve both physical and mental well-being.

Youth participant Suhani Patra shared that she already uses a bicycle for her daily commute and

believes the campaign will encourage more people to choose cycling and walking while advocating for safer and more inclusive public spaces. Another Core Volunteer, Rashmi Ranjan Panigrahi, informed participants that the campaign would gradually expand through a series of citizen-led activities in

different cities.

A key highlight of the programme was the collective pledge taken by all participants, committing themselves to building greener, cleaner, and water-secure cities. "The pledge reflects our shared responsibility towards creating healthier urban environments and stronger

community connections," said youth volunteer Suprit Bhatia.

Reflecting on the initiative's future, Panda said that after the success of the Plastic-Free Picnic Challenge, which achieved significant national and international outreach, Youth4Water-India now aims to expand the My 500-Meter City movement across India and eventually to other countries.

"This is a purely volunteer-driven and collaboratively facilitated campaign. We invite government agencies, civil society organisations, corporate institutions, academic bodies, media organisations, youth groups, resident welfare associations, and citizens from all walks of life to join and strengthen this movement," Panda added.

Winners of four competitions held on the theme "Liveable Cities: My Idea of a City That Lives in Harmony with Nature" received prizes and certificates during the programme.

TMC's Future

A month from the May 4 election debacle that ended her 15-year hegemony in West Bengal at the hands of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mamata Banerjee's legislative fortress is crumbling. The 71-year-old three-time Chief Minister is facing a rebellion that threatens to push her out of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) calculus itself. Claiming to be the real TMC legislature party, at least 58 of the 80 party MLAs have elected Ritabrata Banerjee as their leader, securing recognition from the Assembly Speaker. The rebellion — akin to Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena model that the BJP astutely managed in Maharashtra — poses an unusual situation for Mamata. Since she quit the Congress and floated the TMC 28 years ago, she has quelled dissension with an iron hand. Not this time. The Raghav Chadha model of weaning away Trinamool's MPs may well be next.

Till the day of the result, the TMC and its undisputed suprema exhibited an image of invincibility. To that effect, the swift dismantling of the party and the no-going-back defiance by sections of the rank and file come as a surprise. True to her nature, the feisty Mamata is not expected to give up without a fight on who the real Trinamool is. Under these circumstances, any possibility of self-introspection over the electoral defeat is unlikely. When survival is at stake, there is little chance of an objective overview of criticism regarding her style of governance, or nephew Abhishek's highhandedness and the importance given to him. That may not augur well for Mamata.

As is the wont of Indian politics, TMC's shrinking fortunes is party-hopping time. Loyalty is a fickle commodity. Power is the presiding deity. A real concern is an Opposition that forgets its primary role and chooses to play along with the Suvendu Adhikari government.

Fire Tragedy

A game zone in Rajkot, a nightclub in Goa, and now a bed-and-breakfast facility in New Delhi — three major fire mishaps in two years have snuffed out around 80 lives. In each case, it was a tragedy waiting to happen as regulatory apathy and criminal negligence went hand in hand. The blatant disregard for fire safety laws has shamed the nation. Twenty-one people, including 12 foreigners, died in a Delhi building that had permission for only six rooms but was allegedly operating around 25, including some in the basement. Moreover, the exit to the roof was blocked and cooking heaters were being used in several guest rooms. It's unpardonable that the national capital, which has repeatedly witnessed destructive fires, still allows illegal guest houses, restaurants and commercial units to flourish in congested neighbourhoods.

According to officials, the owners of the establishment did not bother to obtain a no-objection certificate from the Delhi Fire Services. Every revelation emerging from the investigation points not only to individual wrongdoing but also to dereliction of duty. Additional floors were reportedly constructed despite planning violations. The authorities have now decided to seal illegal bed-and-breakfast units. Were they in deep slumber all this while? The pattern is painfully familiar; the script rarely changes. Safety norms are ignored, licences manipulated, inspections diluted and warnings forgotten — until another inferno sparks a public outrage. Then come arrests, probes and demolitions, along with promises of reform — which never see the light of day.

Most damning is the revelation that the Delhi High Court had directed the authorities five months ago to formulate an action plan on fire safety in hospitality establishments. Nothing meaningful followed. The consequences are now visible in the lives lost and the families ruined. The Delhi incident cannot remain another headline-grabbing disaster followed by symbolic crackdowns. Accountability must extend beyond hotel owners and managers to the officials who ignored violations, approved dubious licences or failed to act on warnings. Fire safety cannot remain on the back burner.

True to her nature, the feisty Mamata is not expected to give up without a fight on who the real Trinamool is. Under these circumstances, any possibility of self-introspection over the electoral defeat is unlikely. When survival is at stake, there is little chance of an objective overview of criticism regarding her style of governance, or nephew Abhishek's highhandedness and the importance given to him. That may not augur well for Mamata.

Reform under Fire: Why India Must Stay the Course

Rajesh Kumar Tripathy
Nations are not defined by the absence of challenges. They are defined by their response to them. As India advances towards its aspiration of becoming a developed nation, it is undertaking a transformation of unprecedented scale across governance, technology, infrastructure, public services and human capital. Such transformations are rarely smooth. They expose long-standing weaknesses, challenge entrenched interests and invite intense scrutiny. Yet they are also indispensable for progress.

Nowhere is this reality more evident than in the education sector. Over the past few years, India's educational ecosystem has found itself at the centre of repeated controversies. Question-paper leaks, examination-related disputes, cyberattacks on digital platforms, debates surrounding institutional governance, concerns raised by students in premier institutions, and relentless social-media scrutiny have combined to create an impression of a sector under constant stress.

To many observers, these developments appear disconnected. In reality, they are linked by a common thread: the growing pains of a system undergoing profound transformation. The Ministry of Education today is tasked with an extraordinary responsibility. It is not merely managing one of the world's largest education systems; it is attempting to modernize it. The implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, reforms in school education, modernization of examinations, expansion of digital learning infrastructure, strengthening of skill development pathways, promotion of multidisciplinary education and efforts to align Indian education with future economic realities represent a structural shift rather than incremental change.

Such change inevitably generates friction. For decades, India's education ecosystem evolved through layers of complexity. Examination systems, admissions processes, certification mechanisms and institutional governance

This is where reform becomes essential. Digitized processes, encrypted transmission systems, stronger monitoring mechanisms, technological safeguards, institutional accountability and data-driven governance are not administrative luxuries. They are necessities in an era where millions of students depend upon the credibility of examination systems.

structures developed in a different era. While these systems served millions of students, they also accumulated vulnerabilities, inefficiencies and opportunities for exploitation.

The issue of question-paper leaks is a case in point.

For students and parents, few events are more distressing. Years of preparation can appear compromised in an instant. Public anger in such situations is entirely understandable. Educational institutions must be held to the highest standards of integrity. Yet it is equally important to recognize that question-paper leaks are not a phenomenon created by any one government, ministry or institution. They are manifestations of structural weaknesses that have persisted across decades and across jurisdictions. The challenge before policymakers is not merely to respond to individual incidents but to redesign systems in ways that make such breaches increasingly difficult.

This is where reform becomes essential. Digitized processes, encrypted transmission systems, stronger monitoring mechanisms, technological safeguards, institutional accountability and data-driven governance are not administrative luxuries. They are necessities in an era where millions of students depend upon the credibility of examination systems.

The same principle applies to the growing digitization of educational services. The recent cyberattacks reported against the CBSE re-evaluation portal provide a telling example. While thousands of students successfully accessed services and completed their submissions, malicious attempts reportedly sought to disrupt the platform through denial-of-service attacks and unauthorized access attempts.

The challenge is compounded by the realities of the digital age. Social media has transformed how information travels. Legitimate concerns, rumours, partial facts, political narratives and emotional reactions often circulate simultaneously. A technical glitch can become a national controversy within hours. An isolated incident can be portrayed as systemic collapse. Just see how Union Education Minister got personally attacked with false narratives of overseas property that reported later as completely baseless. Then news come fire caught on Education Ministry office, which again found to be not correct. But context is frequently the first casualty. This environment places extraordinary pressure on institutions. The Ministry of Education, national educational bodies, examination agencies and academic institutions are increasingly expected to function under conditions of constant scrutiny. While such scrutiny is healthy in a democracy, it can become counterproductive when every challenge is interpreted as proof that reform itself has failed.

This distinction matters.

A leak detected and investigated is preferable to a leak concealed. A cyberattack reported and countered is preferable to one unnoticed. A controversy debated openly is preferable to a grievance suppressed. Transparency may create uncomfortable headlines, but opacity creates deeper problems.

This is why the current moment should not be viewed through the lens of crisis alone. It should also be viewed through the lens of institutional evolution.

India's aspiration to become a knowledge economy depends fundamentally upon the quality and credibility of its educational

ecosystem. That task is not made easier by the emergence of new forms of disruption.

Across the world, governments increasingly confront ecosystems that thrive on amplification rather than analysis. Political movements, digital influencers, advocacy groups, ideological networks and online campaigns all compete for public attention. Such participation is a legitimate feature of democratic life. However, democracies must remain vigilant against the temptation to substitute outrage for evidence and disruption for constructive engagement.

India's Generation Z is particularly affected by this environment. Young citizens consume information through platforms where speed often triumphs over accuracy and emotion frequently overshadows nuance. The challenge before policymakers is therefore not only administrative but informational: protecting the integrity of public discourse itself.

The Government of India's educational reform agenda should therefore be judged not by whether challenges arise, but by whether it demonstrates the willingness and capacity to address them. No reform of this magnitude will be flawless. No transformation affecting hundreds of millions of citizens will proceed without controversy. What matters is the direction of travel.

For the future of the Republic depends not upon preserving outdated structures, but upon building institutions capable of serving the aspirations of a new India.

That journey is difficult. It is also indispensable. This version is more balanced, credible, and likely to resonate with policy thinkers, academics, civil servants, and mainstream newspaper readers because it acknowledges genuine problems while making a strong case for continuing reform.

Textile Hub: Odisha's New Growth Story

Dr. Sulagna Saha & Dr. Goutam Saha
For decades, Odisha has been known as a major source of workers for India's textile centres such as Tirupur in Tamil Nadu and Surat in Gujarat. Thousands of young men and women from the state travelled to these cities in search of jobs. Today, however, Odisha is writing a new chapter. Instead of only supplying labour, the state is rapidly emerging as a major destination for textile and apparel manufacturing. However, Odisha needs to follow an environment-friendly path of industrial growth, a steady departure from the present Indian textile sector's growth story of Surat and Tirupur. That would be the best gift for the people of Odisha on the eve of World Environment Day.

More than ₹20,000 crore worth of investment proposals have been announced, and over 60 manufacturing units have received approvals. Several leading companies, including Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Ltd (ABLBL), Shahi Exports, Epic Group, SAPL and Jockey, have already started operations, while many more are preparing to enter the state. To strengthen the sector, the Odisha government is developing six industrial parks dedicated to textiles, apparel and footwear in Balangir, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Cuttack. These projects are expected to generate thousands of jobs, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. The state aims to create one lakh jobs in the sector by 2030. To understand why Odisha is attracting major investments, we spoke with industry leaders, including Amit Kumar Singh of Epic Group, Dharmendra Kumar of SAPL, Rahul Jindal of ABLBL and Surya Narayan Patnaik of the Odisha government.

Industry leaders agree that Odisha's biggest strength is its young and educated workforce. Unlike many established textile hubs, companies here can recruit workers locally, reducing the need to bring employees from distant places. The state government has also offered strong support through incentives and subsidies for employment. Odisha has invested in

Unlike some older textile hubs that struggled with pollution, many of Odisha's new factories are trying to grow responsibly. Epic Group has established what it describes as India's first garment factory with net-zero carbon emissions and net-zero water consumption, powered entirely by renewable energy. ABLBL's Bhubaneswar facility has earned recognition for generating minimal waste and has significantly reduced its water use through rainwater harvesting and community water projects. SAPL has also focused on creating greener workplaces by maintaining large open spaces and promoting clean energy use. Beyond business, companies are investing in nearby communities by supporting village development, providing digital training, installing solar facilities and creating better employment opportunities for local people.



building a complete textile ecosystem, from cotton and yarn production to training institutions such as NIFT, ATDC, CET, and the Odisha Silk Research Institute. These institutions help provide skilled workers and supervisors to the industry. One example often cited is ABLBL's manufacturing unit in Odisha, which has successfully operated for eight years and has reportedly performed better in cost efficiency than a similar unit in Bangladesh. Such success stories have helped attract more investors to the state.

Unlike some older textile hubs that struggled with pollution, many of Odisha's new factories are trying to grow responsibly. Epic Group has established what it describes as India's first garment factory with net-zero carbon emissions and net-zero water consumption, powered entirely by renewable energy. ABLBL's Bhubaneswar facility has earned recognition for generating minimal waste and has significantly reduced its water use through rainwater harvesting and community water projects. SAPL has also focused on creating greener workplaces by maintaining large open

spaces and promoting clean energy use. Beyond business, companies are investing in nearby communities by supporting village development, providing digital training, installing solar facilities and creating better employment opportunities for local people.

While technology is becoming increasingly important in manufacturing, Odisha presents a unique situation. Labour costs remain competitive, making it less attractive for companies to replace workers with expensive automation. Even so, firms are adopting modern technologies to improve efficiency. Artificial intelligence is being used in areas such as warehousing, quality checks and product design. Companies are also experimenting with innovative manufacturing methods that reduce water use and waste.

Experts believe Odisha can benefit greatly by linking factories with local educational institutions like NIFT, ATDC, CET and the Odisha Silk Research Institute. A recent example comes from National Institute of Fashion Technology, Bhubaneswar, where four students developed a system to track the

life of sewing machine needles during an internship with Epic Group. The innovation was successfully adopted by the company, and the students later received job offers. Industry leaders believe similar collaborations can help drive innovation across the state's growing textile sector.

Despite the positive growth, companies have highlighted areas that need attention. They have called for faster development of Paradip Port and the creation of an export processing zone to reduce transport costs. They also want a common waste management system for textile units and support for small businesses that can recycle textile waste into useful products. Another important concern is worker safety. Since a large share of factory employees are women, companies stress the need for safe and reliable transport, especially during night shifts and for last-mile travel.

The experience of Tirupur and Surat offers important lessons. While both cities became major textile hubs and contributed significantly to exports, rapid industrial growth also created environmental problems. Water pollution, waste disposal issues and concerns about workers' health remain challenges in some areas. China faced similar issues years ago but addressed them through stricter regulations, common treatment facilities for industrial waste, better monitoring and government support for cleaner technologies.

Odisha now stands at a crucial moment. The state has the opportunity to combine economic growth with environmental responsibility. By learning from the experiences of other textile hubs and ensuring strong implementation of sustainability measures, Odisha can create a model that balances jobs, industry and environmental protection. If the state's textile boom succeeds without causing serious environmental damage, Odisha could become a benchmark for sustainable industrial development in India. Alert civic society of Odisha for industrial growth and protecting the environment can be a major game-changer.

Malviya Nagar Inferno: 5 Weaned Off Ventilator Support

New Delhi, 6/6: Five of the patients who have been undergoing treatment at a hospital after getting injured in the devastating fire at the multi-storied Flourish Stay B&B in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area, which left 21 dead, have been weaned off ventilators, a statement said. According to a statement issued by Max Hospital, Saket, a total of 15 patients are currently admitted at the healthcare facility in south Delhi. Of these, 13 are foreign nationals. It said that out of the six patients who were earlier put on ventilator support, five have been weaned off. However, one patient still remains on life support. Authorities said that all the patients are currently stable and showing signs of continued improvement. It also added that



overall 14 patients are currently receiving care in the ICU and wards, and the condition of all admitted patients remains stable. "All patients are recovering well and continue to receive comprehensive medical care, close monitoring, and multidisciplinary support to ensure the best

possible outcomes," the hospital said. Earlier, authorities said that 47 people were rescued from the building, with those injured currently undergoing treatment. Meanwhile, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi had also received several injured persons,

including police personnel, who were among the first responders to enter the burning building. Following the tragedy on Wednesday, the property's owner, Lavkesh Bajaj, has been sent to four days of police custody, officials said on Thursday. Police said that Bajaj was arrested last year as well for assisting Bangladeshi nationals — a woman, her daughter, and her minor grandson in facilitating their overstay in the country by helping them make forged documents. In addition to this, Delhi Police on Saturday arrested another accused in connection with the Malviya Nagar fire tragedy. According to officials, the hotel's cook has been arrested after the investigation revealed that the fire was allegedly caused by his negligence.

PM Modi Chairs Economic Advisory Council Meeting Amid West Asia Crisis



NEW DELHI, 6/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting with members of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PM-EAC) on Saturday to review India's economic outlook and assess the impact of the ongoing West Asia crisis. PM Modi and the Council members discussed strategies to sustain growth and strengthen India's resilience amid global uncertainty. The meeting focused on reforms to enhance ease of living and ease of doing business,

while addressing challenges posed by geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions. The Council presented its assessment of the West Asia conflict's economic implications, including potential risks to trade, fuel prices, and financial markets. PM Modi emphasised the need for self-reliance and proactive measures to safeguard India's growth momentum. The Prime Minister reiterated his call for citizens to support economic resilience by reducing dependence on imported

fuel and adopting sustainable practices. He urged people to use public transport, carpool, and electric vehicles to curb fuel consumption, and to prioritise Swadeshi products and natural farming. Officials said the meeting reflected the government's commitment to maintaining stability and advancing reforms that protect India's economy from external shocks. The discussion also reinforced India's long-term vision for inclusive and sustainable growth.

FIR Against Khan Sir: NDA Calls For Action Against 'Coaching Mafia'; Oppn Alleges Educator Being Targeted

New Delhi, 6/6: Following an FIR against YouTuber and educator Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan sir, NDA leaders said that the law is equal for all while demanding strict action against "coaching mafias". However, MP Pappu Yadav alleged that the teacher was being "targeted". FIR has also been registered against Khan's two arrested security guards and other unidentified persons in connection with the June 2 disturbance at a coaching institute in Patna's Kadamkuan area. Police sources have stated that during questioning, the two arrested bodyguards allegedly told investigators that they fired their .315-bore rifles on the instructions of Faisal Khan. Talking to IANS, Bihar BJP President Sanjay Saraogi said: "Whoever breaks the law will face the consequences. Chief Minister (Samrat Choudhary) has made it clear that the police have been given a free hand to act." "No matter how powerful or ordinary a person may be, the law is the



same for everyone, and anyone who violates it will be held accountable," he emphasised. Echoing similar views, JD-U chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar also underlined that the law is the same for everyone. He warned that anyone attempting to strain the mental health of students will have to face legal action. BJP leader TR Srinivas alleged: "This is a very big coaching mafia, which is spread not only in Bihar but in

Rajasthan, Delhi and everywhere." "I am requesting the Education Minister, the Union Government, and the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Rajasthan and other states, to form an SIT in order to launch an investigation against such institutes," he told IANS. Further, Srinivas accused the coaching institutes of using the educational facilities as a "shield" for delivering influential speeches against the government. "These institutes

should be stopped now itself, otherwise they will use students for negative campaigns," he asserted. Meanwhile, Purna MP Pappu Yadav said: "Around 30 per cent of coaching institutions in Bihar are more respected than those based in Kota and elsewhere. I agree that nearly 60-70 per cent of coaching centres are functioning improperly, and they are the ones indulging in conspiracies." "Some YouTubers and content creators are spreading misinformation. I appeal to students not to get involved in such matters or spread false content on social media platforms like Instagram," he told reporters. However, Yadav admitted that "mistakes can happen by anyone, including Khan sir's bodyguards". Moreover, he claimed that Khan is being "personally targeted". "Mistake happened by his bodyguards, then why is Khan being involved in all this?" the MP asked.

Nadda Slams Kharge, Cites Major Health Gains In NFHS-6 Under Modi Govt

New Delhi, 6/6: Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday strongly countered Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's criticism of the Narendra Modi government over healthcare and nutrition indicators, asserting that the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) data demonstrates significant improvements in India's public health landscape over the past decade. In a series of posts on X, Nadda accused the Congress leader of presenting a selective interpretation of the survey findings and said that public health should not be reduced to political rhetoric. "Shri Kharge ji's half-knowledge is dangerous. Public health is too important to be reduced to political rhetoric. Selective reading may serve politics, but facts serve the nation," Nadda said. The Union Minister argued that NFHS-6 data highlights substantial progress in maternal healthcare under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Comparing the latest survey with NFHS-3 conducted in 2005-06, Nadda pointed to a rise in first-trimester antenatal registration from 43.9 per cent to 76.2 per cent, institutional deliveries from 38.7 per cent to 90.6 per cent, and births attended by skilled health personnel from 46.6 per cent to 91.3 per cent. "These are not mere statistics. They

represent millions of mothers receiving timely care, safer deliveries and better health outcomes. The real story of India's healthcare journey is one of progress, not pessimism," he said. Nadda also highlighted improvements in several other health indicators. According to him, full immunisation coverage has increased to 87.1 per cent, health insurance coverage has risen from 4.9 per cent to 60.2 per cent, and the use of hygienic menstrual protection has reached 79.2 per cent. He further noted that child stunting has declined from 48 per cent to 29.3 per cent compared to the NFHS-3 period. The Minister said these gains reflected sustained investments in healthcare, nutrition, sanitation, financial inclusion and last-mile service delivery. He contrasted the latest figures with what he described as poor outcomes during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance years, alleging that decades of policy failures had left India with weak healthcare access and poor health indicators. Nadda's remarks came in response to Kharge's post on X on Thursday, in which the Congress president accused the BJP-led government of concealing crucial health data and failing women and children.

Double Whammy: Eight Of Family Travelling For Last Rites To Beas Die In Road Accident In Punjab

Chandigarh, 6/6: At least eight people, comprising women and children, were killed and 11 suffered grievous injuries on Saturday in a head-on collision between an overcrowded pick-up (a commercial vehicle usually used for transporting people) and a heavy-duty truck in Punjab's Ferozepur district, police said. Nearly 25 people, all belonging to a close-knit family from Jalabad village, were travelling to a religious place Beas in Amritsar district to perform the last rites of a family member. The accident occurred on the Ferozepur-Fazilka road at around 5.40 A.M. The collision between the pick-up vehicle and the truck was so massive that the former was dragged and damaged massively. The police, passersby and local residents had to tear down mangled remains to take out several occupants who were trapped inside the vehicle. Four occupants of the pick-up vehicle were killed on the spot, while four succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police Rajinder Singh told the media that the victims were travelling to Beas to immerse the ashes of a deceased relative in the Beas River. He said most of the victims belonged to a close-knit family. "The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained," he said, adding the injured were transported to the Civil Hospital in Ferozepur by ambulance. Dr Nikhil Gupta, Senior Medical Officer at the Civil Hospital, said that several critically injured people were referred to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital in Faridkot for further treatment. Eyewitnesses said the truck driver lost control over the vehicle and rammed into the pick-up vehicle and dragged it several metres. The postmortem of the deceased is underway. Upon receiving news of the accident, a Road Safety Force team and half a dozen ambulances arrived at the scene to rush the injured to the hospital. The occupants of the pick up were traveling from Jalalabad West to Dera Beas when the accident took place close to Jaganwala morh. Elsewhere, at least eight people were injured when a bus, on its way from Delhi to Manali, met with an accident on the national highway in Haryana's Karnal district, police said on Saturday.

Surat Collectively Reaffirmed Its Commitment To Making India Strong, Self-Reliant: PM Modi

New Delhi, 6/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said it was wonderful being among the people of Surat and added that the vibrant city had collectively reaffirmed its commitment to making India strong and self-reliant. Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi said, "It was wonderful being among the people of Surat yesterday. From this vibrant city, we collectively reiterated our commitment to making India strong and self-reliant." The Prime Minister also shared a two-minute video in which people were heard chanting "Modi, Modi." In the video, PM Modi said, "I believe that Surat is not only a city but also a spirit. Our resolution is to make 'Viksit Surat' as well as 'Viksit Bharat'." He highlighted the importance of energy self-reliance in the context of the ongoing global crisis and said the concept of Aatmanirbhar Bharat becomes clearer when seen in industrial hubs like Hazira. "In the way there is a global crisis going on, it shows that in the



matter of energy, Aatmanirbharta is important. The meaning of Aatmanirbhar Bharat becomes clear when you go into Hazira. It is not only an industrial region but has become an ecosystem where energy, steel, defence production, and global trade are integrated. Hazira is being developed as the biggest maritime hub. It is becoming a centre of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said. The Prime Minister also said that despite

pessimistic voices, India continues to move forward with confidence and optimism. "In this country, there are some pessimistic people who mock the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign. India is far from negativity. This country is a land full of hope. The people of India are full of dreams and determination. When the people of the country are determined, all dreams and goals can be achieved. That is the

strength of this nation," he added. Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Modi praised Surat's residents for their continued efforts to improve cleanliness and civic participation after inaugurating and launching major infrastructure and development projects worth around Rs 18,800 crore in the city. In a post on social media platform X following his visit, PM Modi described Surat

as "more than a city" and said its character was reflected in the energy and determination of its people. "It is a delight to have been in Surat and to inaugurate key development works. I have always believed that Surat is more than a city... it is a spirit. This spirit is seen in the dynamism of the people here," the Prime Minister said. Referring to the city's transformation over the years, PM Modi noted that Surat, once associated with a devastating plague outbreak, had become known nationally for its cleanliness standards. "A city that was once known for a massive plague is now known for cleanliness," he said. The Prime Minister said local efforts to improve sanitation had continued despite the city's achievements in the field. "What is noteworthy is that the recent strides in cleanliness have not made the people of Surat complacent. On the contrary, they are working even harder to boost Swachhata," he wrote.

Govt Calls Claims Of NEET-UG Re-Exam Paper Printing By Finmin 'Fake'

New Delhi, 6/6: The government on Saturday dismissed media reports claiming that the Ministry of Finance's secured printing press may be used to print question papers for the NEET-UG re-examination, calling the claims fake. In a post on social media platform X, PIB

Fact Check said reports circulating in sections of the media linking the Finance Ministry to printing of NEET-UG re-examination papers were incorrect. "Several sections of the media are claiming that the NEET-UG re-examination question paper may be printed in

the secured printing press of the Ministry of Finance," PIB Fact Check said. Labelling the claim as fake, the government clarified that the Finance Ministry is not involved in printing question papers for the NEET-UG re-examination. "Ministry of Finance is not printing the

NEET-UG re-examination question papers," the fact-check unit said. In addition, PIB Fact Check urged people to rely only on official sources for verified information and cautioned against sharing unverified claims. It further asked people to report suspicious content related

to the central government to PIB Fact Check through its official channels. The clarification comes amid the circulation of claims regarding arrangements related to the conduct of the NEET-UG re-examination. Separately, the government flagged a digitally manipulated video being

circulated by Pakistani propaganda accounts claiming that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar admitted Pakistan's retaliation during Operation Sindoor had caught India by surprise. Calling the video fake, the PIB Fact Check unit said the clip had been digitally

manipulated using artificial intelligence and clarified that Jaishankar had made no such statement. The unit also shared the original unedited version of the video while urging citizens to report misleading content related to the government through official fact-check channels.

Munir's Shortsightedness Leaves Pakistan Struggling On Many Fronts: Report

Islamabad/New Delhi, 6/6: Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir's shortsightedness has failed the country on both domestic and international fronts despite all the diplomatic theatrics. At the domestic level, Pakistan is grappling with energy and economic challenges, with inflation soaring to 300 per cent, while the country's energy sector is facing almost a "complete shutdown". Globally, Pakistan's limited diplomatic leverage during the Iran-US mediation has left peace talks in a "fragile position," further complicated by Washington's diplomatic push calling Arab and Muslim-majority countries to join the Abraham Accords, a report has highlighted. "After months of mediation drama and so-called shuttle diplomacy by Field Marshal Asim Munir, there was a desperate attempt to secure some depth in the Middle East and rebuild ties with the US. However, Pakistan did nothing at the diplomatic stage except act as a messenger, a role deliberately used for propaganda to attract the diplomatic spotlight," a report in 'India Narrative' detailed. It argued that, alongside a series of



glaring failures, signs of mounting frustration are emerging against the Pakistani military establishment. The report stressed that "Pakistan's military is flanked at its western border by the Balochistan problem, radical elements, and its own backed terror outfits, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is now issuing assassination threats

against Asim Munir if Munir decides to recognise Israel through the Abraham Accords." With pressures intensifying at home and abroad, the report noted that Munir finds himself in a "desperate situation," with all fronts apparently "on the brink of collapse." It added that his hardline, radical approach may

necessitate a shift in strategy to manage both external and internal challenges. Highlighting the wider implications, the report said the first sign of Munir's strategic diversion became evident last year, when Pakistan was facing mounting internal instability at its western frontier and the military establishment's reputation had reached the

lowest point. Pakistan-backed terrorist group The Resistance Front (TRF) carried out the horrific Pahalgam terror attacks last year. In response, it was followed by a short war of 88 hours between India and Pakistan, during which the "will of Pakistan's military establishment was severely crushed and humiliated," the India Narrative report noted. "Now Munir again appears to be on the brink of polycrisis on both the internal and external fronts, putting Munir's leadership in Pakistan's Army in serious question, along with the mediation drama that ended in more humiliation than in serious diplomatic work," it stated. The report suggested that Munir may adopt a strategy reminiscent of former Pakistani army chief Pervez Musharraf, pursuing a second round of strategic deflection through "low-intensity attacks to stay below the war threshold," including gradually opening up the front against India to divert attention and amplifying propaganda efforts to sustain the diplomatic spotlight, especially Pakistan's ties with the US.

Iran Says Targeted US Bases In Kuwait, Bahrain

Tehran, 6/6: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Saturday that it attacked US military bases in Kuwait and Bahrain earlier in the day in retaliation for US attacks on Qeshm Island and Sirik County in southern Iran. In a statement on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC identified the targeted US bases as the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait and the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain. At 1:30 a.m. local time on Saturday (2200 GMT Friday), four oil tankers, guided by the US army, sought to "illegally exit the Strait of Hormuz without coordination and paying attention to the IRGC Navy's frequent warnings," it said. After the warnings, one of the oil tankers was targeted, and the rest of the "violating" vessels turned back, it said, adding that following the confrontation, US drones attacked communications towers on Qeshm Island and in Sirik County at 2:30 a.m. local time (2300 GMT Friday). In response, IRGC's aerospace division immediately fired ballistic missiles at the Ali Al Salem Air Base and the remaining important facilities in the US Fifth Fleet headquarters, it said. The US Central Command said in a post on the social platform X that US

forces struck some of Iran's radar sites on Friday, reports Xinhua news agency. The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces said that Kuwaiti air defence systems on Saturday intercepted missile and drone attacks. Any explosions heard in different areas were the result of air defence systems intercepting "hostile targets," the General Staff said in a statement on X. It urged the public to follow safety and security instructions issued by the relevant authorities. The latest escalation came days after Kuwait accused Iran of launching 13 ballistic missiles and 17 drones toward the Gulf state. On Wednesday, Kuwaiti authorities said one person was killed and 63 others injured in the attacks, which damaged facilities at Kuwait International Airport and temporarily disrupted air traffic. Iran tightened its grip on the strait since February 28, when it barred safe passage of vessels belonging to or affiliated with Israel and the United States following joint strikes on Iranian territory. The United States has also imposed a naval blockade on the strait, preventing ships travelling to and from Iranian ports from transiting the waterway.

India, US Hold Army-To-Army Talks In Hawaii, Discuss Ways To Strengthen Defence Cooperation

Washington, 6/6: India and the United States held the 29th edition of Army-to-Army Staff Talks in Hawaii, discussing ways to deepen bilateral defence cooperation while reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. According to the Indian Army, the talks were co-chaired by Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Strategy), and Lieutenant General Joel Vowell, Deputy Commanding General of US Army Pacific. Sharing the details of the meeting on the social media platform X on Saturday, the Indian Army said, "The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, enhancing interoperability, expanding professional exchanges, and deepening military collaboration in support of shared security interests. Both sides appreciated the growing scope of Army-to-Army engagements and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-US strategic partnership." Last week, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh held a meeting with House Armed Services Committee Member Pat Harrigan, who led a



bipartisan US Congressional Delegation (CODEL), in Singapore, with discussions centred on regional security, expanding defence cooperation, and advancing shared strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific. In a post on social media platform X, the Ministry of Defence said, "The interaction reaffirmed the strength of the India-US defence partnership, with exchanges on regional security, expanding defence cooperation, and advancing shared strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific," it added. Earlier on May 24, US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio held a meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in New Delhi, with talks focused

on defence, security and strategic technology-related cooperation, including the TRUST initiative. "US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio met NSA Shri Ajit Doval today. The discussions focused on defence, security and strategic technology-related cooperation, including the TRUST initiative," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a post on X following the meeting. "The two NSAs reiterated the high priority accorded to the bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues," it added.

Moscow, 6/6: St. Petersburg came under a massive Ukrainian drone attack on Saturday, St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov said on his Max channel. "On the morning of June 6, St. Petersburg came under a large-scale attack by military unmanned aerial vehicles. Air defence systems are operating. In accordance with the recommendations of the Operational Command, I ask St. Petersburg residents to remain in their homes and not to go outside," the governor said. Residents of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region have been reporting hearing powerful sonic impacts resembling explosions since early Saturday morning, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the governor of the Leningrad region, which surrounds St. Petersburg, 86 UAVs had been shot down by Saturday morning. No casualties or damage to infrastructure have been reported. The attack marks the second major drone assault on St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region since the start of this year's St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which concludes on Saturday. Earlier on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's invitation to a meeting to end the war in Ukraine did not convince Russian President Vladimir Putin, who, at least for the moment, ruled out



the possibility of a face-to-face meeting with the Kyiv leader. Before the audience of the plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, the Russian President indeed declared that he "still sees no reason" to meet the Ukrainian President, as hoped by the latter in a recent open letter, the Adnkronos news agency reported. "I don't see the point of a meeting. It would only be of interest to the Ukrainian side to stop the advance of our armed forces," Putin said, adding that it is necessary to "let specialists work, develop solutions, and then we can meet", thus arguing that a meeting with Zelensky would be "useless" until a peace agreement

is reached. "The Russian President said that he had 'a quick look' at Zelensky's letter. 'Spokesman Peskov showed me this letter yesterday. But we had a working meeting, a working dinner with the President of Uzbekistan (Shavkat Mirziyoyev). Frankly, I didn't have time to look at it. This morning, Peskov passed it to me again. I gave it a quick look, but I read it nonetheless," Putin added, according to the Russian news agency. According to the Russian leader, the letter "effectively contains elements of rudeness. Is it a way to create conditions for a meeting and negotiations, or to create a context in which any meeting becomes

impossible? I believe it is the second option." "Military actions will end sooner or later, we are convinced of that. Without a doubt, they will end once the objectives we have set for ourselves are achieved," Putin said. "Ukraine proposes ending this war through direct engagement between us — and you. I am proposing a meeting," Zelensky said in his open letter. "It would be wrong to simply wait until the war in Europe returns to the centre of its attention," he added. He proposed that Switzerland, Turkey and countries of the Arab World host the meetings and resolve issues.

Europe's Outreach To Pakistan Undermines Stance On Cross-Border Terrorism: Report

Tel Aviv, 6/6: Europe increasingly views India as a strategic partner, yet continues to engage Pakistan through a familiar crisis-management approach it appears reluctant to abandon. While Europe emphasises security cooperation with New Delhi, it simultaneously reverts to the language of "balance", "engagement", and "restraint" in its outreach to Islamabad, a report has highlighted. By drawing parallels between Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ukraine in a recent joint statement following the 8th Pakistan-European Union Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad, the EU overlooks Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism and, in the pursuit of optics, undermines its own moral stance on terrorism, Sergio Restelli, an Italian political



advisor, author and geopolitical expert, wrote in the 'Times of Israel'. According to the expert, the recent visit of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Kaja Kallas to Islamabad risks reinforcing a damaging perception in New

Delhi: that Europe seeks India's market, geopolitical weight and role in balancing China but remains hesitant when it comes to addressing India's concerns on terrorism. He stated that Europe seeks India's partnership, an EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to offset potential losses

in Washington, but still instinctively reverts to the old Pakistan dossier whenever the dynamics in the subcontinent become strained. "Earlier this year, Kallas said the EU would proceed with a security and defence partnership with India, a significant step in Europe's Indo-Pacific posture. Yet on the subcontinent's most sensitive security question, the EU continues to behave as though India's counterterrorism concerns are merely one side of a bilateral quarrel. That is not strategic autonomy. It is strategic confusion. Europe is back again pacifying dictators like it once did. While verbally it tries to proclaim strategic autonomy, it panders to Asif Munir just because it must seem to have a seat at the Iran table," Restelli stated. "The issue is not that Kallas visited Pakistan.

Serious powers engage adversaries, rivals and difficult partners. The issue is that the visit came without any visible insistence on accountability. A serious European message would have been clear: Pakistan cannot claim partnership with Europe while the infrastructure of extremism, denial and proxy violence remains a recurring feature of South Asian instability. Instead, the public choreography gave Pakistan what it most craves: legitimacy without cost," he further mentioned. Restelli argued that a serious European policy would require a different sequencing: "condemn terrorism, demand accountability, call on Pakistan to dismantle terror networks, affirm India's right to protect its citizens within international law, and then urge de-escalation".

Marginal UNSC Reform Inadequate; Adding Permanent Members Essential: India

United Nations, 6/6: India has said that a "marginal reform" of the Security Council was inadequate to make it fit to face the contemporary challenges, and a meaningful reform requires adding permanent members. "The marginal reform in the 1960s that expanded only the non-permanent category has not changed the fundamental mode of functioning of the Security Council in any impactful manner", India's Permanent Representative P Harish told the General Assembly on Friday. "Expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories is central to implementing real and meaningful reform", he said during the discussion of the Security Council Annual Report to the General Assembly. The current structure of the Council reflects the realities of 1945, and it has hobbled its effective functioning, he said. "We all recognise the importance of reform of the Security Council to make it fit-for-purpose to handle contemporary and future challenges we face", he said. The 1965 reform, which expanded the number of non-permanent members of the Council from 11 to 15, but not the permanent members, left the 1945 power structure of the UN's highest decision-making body unchanged. "Expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories is central to implementing real and meaningful reform", he said. In 2026, the Council retains the structure devised in 1945 by the five main victors of World War II, who made themselves permanent members with veto powers. Meanwhile, as colonialism crumbled around the world, the UN's membership has nearly quadrupled from 51 in 1945 to 193 now, and the global power structure has also changed, with countries like India emerging as economic and geopolitical powers. Africa, where most of the Council-mandated peacekeeping operations are located, has been shut out of the chamber.

India's Space Sector Shifts To A 'State Startup Developmental Partnership' Model: Report

New Delhi, 6/6: India's space ambitions are increasingly being shaped by a new generation of private deep tech startups working in partnership with government institutions, a report has said. The report from Diplomat cited recent milestones by firms such as GalaxEye and Pixxel as evidence that India's traditionally state dominated space sector is evolving into a "state startup developmental partnership". "Indian startups are increasingly identifying technological gaps that global players have often overlooked and are attempting to provide localised and globally competitive solutions," the report said, citing the example of a startup, GalaxEye. GalaxEye, in May, announced the launch of the world's first OptoSAR satellite, combining optical and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging capabilities to deliver high quality earth observation in cloudy tropical conditions. Many global satellite systems are constrained in tackling the tropical weather and cloud-cover conditions common across South Asia, and GalaxEye precisely sought to solve these challenges. "Startups are becoming increasingly ambitious and willing to take on complex technological challenges



traditionally associated with major state institutions or global aerospace giants," the report said. Similarly, Bengaluru based startup Pixxel has developed hyperspectral imaging satellites capable of generating highly detailed earth observation data for agriculture, climate monitoring, mining, defence, and environmental analysis. In May, the company secured a contract linked to the US National Reconnaissance Office, "becoming one of the few Indian startups to establish such high-level international collaboration" in this sector, the report said. India's space

program was overwhelmingly dominated by the state for decades, when the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) handled research, launch missions, satellite development, and strategic space innovation. "While private companies participated in manufacturing and supply-chain activities, they remained largely disconnected from core innovation and mission development," the media house said. Global deep tech rivalry between the United States and China has pushed India to strengthen its indigenous capabilities. Since

2020, the government has liberalised the sector and created the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN SPACe) to facilitate private sector participation. It rolled out financial incentives and public private partnership mechanisms to accelerate satellite development and commercialisation. Currently, India accounts for roughly 2 per cent of the global space economy, valued at approximately \$8.4 billion, signifying huge room for expansion.

India data center buildout to hit 8GW by 2030, power access becomes key differentiator: Bernstein

New Delhi, 6/6: Bernstein expects India's data center capacity to surge to the higher end of 5-8GW by 2030 from 1.5GW today, driven by Middle East capacity constraints pushing demand here. The biggest "right to win" won't be compute hardware but access to land and substation power in the right locations. Navi Mumbai is already seeing a fight for land at prices higher than last transactions, and players with locked thermal equipment, grid connectivity and large land banks will dominate. Bernstein's industry checks show DC capex in India, ex-compute, is Rs 50 Cr/MW, lower than the US. Colocation landlords that build and lease infrastructure to hyperscalers/enterprises who

bring their own GPUs. Payback is 5 years and capex is \$8-15Mn per MW. Neoclouds/GPU hosts that own the GPUs and offer rentals of fully built clusters. They generate 8-10x higher revenue per IT MW than colocation but need ~\$45Mn capex, face shorter contracts and tech obsolescence risk. Bernstein expects Indian players to predominantly adopt the colocation model, letting hyperscalers take GPU balance-sheet risk. Bernstein notes PJM and ERCOT became data center hubs due to deregulated power markets, cheap land and faster interconnection. US wait times for interconnect now average 6 years, making dispatchable capacity critical. In the US, utilities with gas and nuclear in PJM/ERCOT

like Vistra, Constellation and NRG surged 4-8x in 4 years as PJM capacity prices jumped from \$29/MW-day to \$329/MW-day. Premiums went to clean dispatchable power and behind-the-meter colocation. For India, Bernstein says Adani Group's dominance is "unmatched" given it's the largest renewable, private thermal and transmission player, with large land parcels and grid connectivity. Reliance Industries also holds 0.5 Mn acres in Gujarat and 5K acres in Navi Mumbai. Even crypto miners with power off-take agreements are pivoting to DC colocation, underlining that electricity access trumps

everything.



Valuations for global DC operators like Equinix and Digital Realty sit at 22-23x EV/EBITDA, in line with Blackstone's AirTrunk deal at 21x. As India scales from 1.5GW to 5-8GW, asset owners with power + land will command similar premiums. The next 3-5 years will be about who can secure substation access and dispatchable power fastest, not just who can build shells.

India Could Return To Over 7 Pct Growth By FY28 If Global Conditions Stabilise: CEA Nageswaran

New Delhi, 6/6: India could return to a growth rate of over 7 per cent by FY28 if macroeconomic stability is maintained and supply-side reforms continue, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday. His statement comes at a time when global uncertainties continue to cloud the near-term economic outlook. The remarks were made



shortly after the Reserve Bank of India revised its GDP growth forecast for FY27 downward to 6.6 per cent, compared to 6.9 per cent projected in April. The central bank cited rising energy and commodity prices along with ongoing supply disruptions linked to the conflict in West Asia as key risks affecting growth. Addressing reporters in the national capital, Nageswaran said the government is not disputing the RBI's revised estimates, given the highly uncertain global environment. He noted that the current situation presents both

upside and downside risks to the growth outlook. "We have no reason to second-guess them (RBI forecast) at this point, because there are both possibilities on the upside and on the downside with respect to the numbers that they have presented," he said. He added that India's growth momentum could strengthen once external pressures ease, particularly if global conditions stabilise in the coming years. "The economy could return to a stronger growth path after temporary disruptions settle," he said. "So, even if the growth were to slip below 7 per cent as the RBI forecast

suggests... macro stability measures and supply assurances will bring us back to a 7 per cent plus growth track in FY28 or as soon as external conditions improve," Nageswaran added. Nageswaran also said this recovery scenario depends on a reversal of geopolitical and economic disruptions that have emerged since late February. He cautioned that the outlook remains conditional on how global developments unfold in the near term. "Now, if these conditions continue, then we will revisit the estimate for the next financial year," he added.

New Delhi, 6/6: Elon Musk's SpaceX said that Google's parent company Alphabet has agreed to pay it \$920 million a month for computing capacity under a cloud services contract that runs from October 2026 through June 2029. The total monthly fee amounts to roughly \$30 billion over the life of the agreement, according to an exchange filing in the US. The contract gives Google access to 110,000 Nvidia graphics processing units as well as central processing units, memory and related components, SpaceX said. Based on the capacity of Nvidia's H200 chips, the arrangement may account for over 100 megawatts of computing power equivalent to the capacity to energise 75,000 homes at any given moment. If SpaceX fails to deliver access to Nvidia chips by September 30, Google can lawfully terminate the contract, with a one-month grace period, the filing showed. Either party also has the right to end the agreement with 90 days' notice. A Google Cloud

Gold Dips 0.87 Pc This Week Over Stronger Dollar, Fed Rate Hike Expectations

New Delhi, 6/6: Gold prices dipped 0.87 per cent during the week as a stronger than expected US jobs report reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could keep interest rates higher for longer. On Friday, MCX gold August futures dipped 2.47 per cent while MCX silver July futures lost 6.27 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,55,600, while silver futures at Rs 2,48,201 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,54,238 on Friday, down from Rs 1,55,599 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Comex gold dipped as much as \$136 to a session low of \$4,369 per troy ounce, its weakest level since late March, leaving the metal down nearly 5 per cent for the week. Silver slumped \$5.34 to a low of \$68.63, marking a weekly decline of around 9 per cent and its fourth straight weekly loss. The dollar index rose to about 99.5 per cent due to stronger jobs print, and Treasury yields also rose higher,



denting the appeal of non yielding assets such as gold and silver. Market participants noted that inflation remains above the Fed's target, keeping the prospect of a 2026 rate hike alive and reinforcing the view that rates may stay high for longer than previously expected. Silver remained comparatively weaker to gold and faced sustained selling pressure, reflecting both profit booking and concerns surrounding industrial demand, analysts said. While gold has shown signs of resilience near key support

zones, silver continues to exhibit a relatively cautious undertone, they added. COMEX Gold is currently trading near the \$4,350 support zone, and immediate resistance is placed in the \$4,460-\$4,500 region, market participants said. Geopolitical developments in the Middle East, crude oil supply dynamics, US dollar movement, central-bank commentary, and key macroeconomic releases are likely to dictate short-term market direction, they added.

RBI Considering Plastic Currency Notes, No Decision Taken Yet: Governor Sanjay Malhotra

New Delhi, 6/6: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is examining a proposal to introduce polymer or plastic currency notes, although no final decision has been taken yet, Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said. Malhotra has said that the proposal remains under consideration and is still at a preliminary stage. He stated that as far as polymer notes are concerned, the proposal is under consideration, adding that as soon as any decision is taken on it, he will inform you. Malhotra acknowledged that recent reports regarding polymer notes contain some truth but clarified that the central bank has not reached any conclusion so far. "We are examining the pros and cons of it and whether it would be worthwhile to implement. It is still at a preliminary stage," he said. Moreover, the central bank is currently evaluating both the potential advantages and challenges associated with polymer currency before deciding



whether to proceed with its introduction. In addition, the RBI Governor assured that adequate currency is available in the banking system and said the central bank is prepared to respond quickly if localised shortages arise. "If there is a shortage, we will certainly ensure that the shortage is met," he said. Stressing that sufficient currency stock is available for ATMs and bank branches, Malhotra said the RBI would

ensure rapid replenishment wherever required. "Our full effort will be to ensure that wherever there is a shortage of currency in one or two places at ATMs, we will deliver currency there promptly and at a rapid pace," he added. The remarks come as the RBI reviews the feasibility of polymer notes while maintaining that adequate cash remains available for distribution across the banking system.

Google To Pay SpaceX \$30 Billion For Computing Power Till June 2029



spokesperson was quoted as saying in reports that the deal would help the company meet demand for its AI services. Alphabet said in its quarterly earnings report that Google Cloud's backlog — the measure of contracted work that hasn't been recorded as revenue yet — nearly doubled on a sequential basis to over \$460 billion. "This is a short-term, timely agreement to

ensure we have bridge capacity to meet surging customer demand for our agent platform, Gemini Enterprise, which has been even higher than we expected," the Google spokesperson said in a statement. SpaceX had earlier signed a similar agreement with Anthropic PBC. Analysts said even though xAI is lagging in terms of coding prowess, it believes

its edge lies in data centre infrastructure, which the three-year-old business has built in Memphis, Tennessee, and is now expanding in Mississippi. SpaceX disclosed earlier this year that Google owned a 6.11 per cent stake in the company at the end of 2025 and Google's holding stood at roughly 5 per cent following SpaceX's merger with Musk's xAI.

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Cheer for Team India Ahead of Women's T20 World Cup 2026

Bollywood actors Alia Bhatt and Sharvari have expressed their support for the Indian Women's Cricket Team ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The stars praised the squad's talent, determination, and achievements, referring to them as "Team India's 15 Alphas." The show of support comes just days before the prestigious global tournament begins in England and Wales on June 12. Alia shared a special video on social media featuring herself and her Alpha co-star Sharvari. In the clip, both actors applauded the Indian women cricketers and highlighted their growing influence in international cricket. When asked who inspires her the most, Alia immediately responded, "The Indian cricket team." She then praised several leading players, including Jemimah Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, and Harmanpreet Kaur. One moment from the video quickly attracted attention online. When the interviewer clarified whether she meant the women's cricket team, Alia responded confidently, saying, "That's what I said - the Indian cricket team." The statement was widely appreciated by fans for placing women's cricket on equal footing with men's cricket and recognizing the achievements of India's women players. The video was shared with a caption celebrating the national squad: "From 2 Alphas to Team India's 15 Alphas! The message is clear, loud and proud. Team same, toh jazba bhi same," the caption read. The promotional campaign also highlighted the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, which starts on June 12 and concludes with the final on July 5.



JioHotstar Faces Backlash for Livestreaming 'Dhurandhar The Revenge' OTT Premiere

JioHotstar is facing widespread criticism after choosing to livestream the digital premiere of *Dhurandhar The Revenge* instead of releasing it in the traditional on-demand OTT format. The highly anticipated action thriller starring Ranveer Singh made its digital debut on June 4. However, viewers expecting the flexibility of an OTT release were surprised to discover that the film was available only through a scheduled live stream. The decision quickly triggered backlash across social media platforms, with many subscribers expressing frustration over the viewing experience. Why Viewers Were Upset One of the biggest advantages of OTT platforms is the freedom to watch content anytime and pause, rewind, or resume at convenience. Many viewers argued that the livestream format removed these benefits and made the experience feel more like watching traditional television than a streaming service. Several users reported that if they joined the stream late, they could not restart the movie from the beginning. Others complained that pausing the film interrupted their viewing experience. The criticism intensified after some users found that the movie was unavailable immediately after the livestream ended.



SPORTS

India T20I Squad for England and Ireland Announced

NEWDELHI, 6/6: India announced its T20I squad for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England on Saturday, with Shreyas Iyer appointed captain and Suryakumar Yadav removed from the setup. The announcement came after a press conference at BCCI headquarters in Mumbai, where Selection Committee Chairperson Ajit Agarkar and Honorary Secretary Devrajit Saikia confirmed the squad. India will play two T20Is in Belfast against Ireland on June 26 and 28, followed by a five-match series against England starting July 1 in Durham. Shreyas Iyer's appointment marked a significant leadership change. He has built a reputation as a proven captain, guiding Delhi Capitals to the IPL 2020 final, Kolkata Knight Riders to the 2024 title, and Punjab Kings to the 2025 final. His IPL 2026 campaign further strengthened his case, scoring 498 runs at an average of 45.27 with five half-centuries and a century. The decision came at the



expense of Suryakumar Yadav, who led India to the 2026 T20 World Cup title but struggled with form and fitness. The BCCI informed him of his removal before the announcement. The other headline was the inclusion of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who earned his maiden senior call-up after a

record-breaking IPL 2026 season. He scored 776 runs, smashed 72 sixes, and maintained a strike rate above 237, winning the Orange Cap. His selection adds youthful firepower to India's batting lineup. The squad includes Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (vice-

captain), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Jasprit Bumrah has been excluded from these series but will feature in the Asian Games 2026 squad.

One-Off Test: KL Rahul, Gill Hit Tons As India End Day One At 368/3 Against Afghanistan

New Chandigarh, 6/6: Opener KL Rahul and captain Shubman Gill struck commanding centuries after B. Sai Sudharsan impressed with a fluent 81 as India ended the opening day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan in a dominant position at 368/3 in 85 overs on Friday. After opting to bat, India were tested early by Afghanistan's disciplined pace attack. Yashasvi Jaiswal looked positive in his 24 off 32 balls, hitting five boundaries, but fell

to Mohammad Saleem Safi after edging a leg-side delivery to wicketkeeper Afsar Zazai, leaving India at 41/1. Rahul, meanwhile, endured a difficult start and survived a major scare on 16 when Afghanistan declined to review a caught-behind appeal despite an edge. The experienced opener gradually settled alongside Sai Sudharsan, who looked assured from the outset, though he offered a chance that was spilt by Rahmanullah Gurbaz before lunch. India

reached 96/1 at the interval, with Rahul and Sai beginning to wrest control from the visitors. The second session belonged entirely to the pair. Rahul emerged with greater intent after lunch and brought up his 21st Test fifty, while Sai continued to impress with his composure against both pace and spin. The left-hander used the sweep effectively against the spinners and rotated the strike smartly as the partnership crossed three figures. Afghanistan's bowlers

worked hard without much reward, though Saleem Safi generated reverse swing and created opportunities. Sai survived another chance on 59 when an outside edge evaded the diving wicketkeeper, while Rahul escaped an lbw review thanks to a faint inside edge. The breakthrough finally arrived when Saleem Safi dismissed Sai for a well-crafted 81 off 104 balls, ending a superb 139-run second-wicket stand that had transformed India's position.

Peddi Roars at Box Office Ram Charan's Sports Drama Opens to Massive Response, Targets Rs 500 Crore Milestone

Ram Charan's highly anticipated sports drama *Peddi* has finally arrived in theatres, generating huge excitement among moviegoers across India and overseas. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film opened to strong occupancy rates, enthusiastic fan celebrations, and largely positive reviews on its first day. The film marks one of the biggest Telugu releases of 2026 and is already being projected as a major box office contender. Trade analysts estimate that *Peddi* could register a worldwide opening of around ₹100 crore, putting it among the strongest starts of the year. According to early trade estimates, *Peddi* collected nearly ₹11 crore net in India by late morning on its opening day. The Telugu version contributed the majority of earnings, reflecting the film's strong appeal among its core audience. Advance bookings were equally impressive. The film reportedly generated around ₹20 crore gross in India before release, while global pre-sales approached ₹35 crore. Industry trackers believe the film could comfortably cross ₹100 crore worldwide on Day 1 if the momentum continues through evening and night shows. Ram Charan's performance has emerged as one of the biggest highlights of the film. Fans and critics alike have praised his portrayal of *Peddi*, describing it as one of his most committed performances. Several social media users called the film a "complete package" that balances commercial entertainment with emotional storytelling. Many viewers also appreciated the film's unconventional climax and sports-driven narrative. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, after watching the film, offered a brief but positive verdict, calling it "good." Academy Award-winning composer AR Rahman's soundtrack has received widespread appreciation. Rahman himself revealed that he was initially curious about how Ram Charan would handle some emotionally demanding scenes but later praised the actor for delivering them naturally and convincingly. The background score and songs have been cited as major strengths that elevate the emotional depth of the film. Fans celebrated the release of *Peddi* with special screenings, houseful shows, and festivities across several cities. Videos shared online showed enthusiastic audiences cheering during key scenes. Ram Charan's wife, Upasana Konidela, also attended a screening and praised the film, calling it an amazing cinematic experience. Meanwhile, Janhvi Kapoor marked the release by visiting the Tirupati temple, where she reportedly climbed over 3,500 steps before offering prayers.

