

Dumani Mail

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



PM Modi congratulates Major Barak on being conferred UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended wishes to Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.

Indian woman peacekeeper Major Abhilasha Barak, who is also the country's first woman combat helicopter pilot, has been awarded the prestigious 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate Award.

Barak, who is serving with the UN Peacekeeping in Lebanon, received the award from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in

a ceremony on Friday in New York.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Congratulations to Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. Major Barak is serving as an Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). This honour is a recognition of her exemplary service and also of India's longstanding contribution to United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Her achievement is also an inspiration to

countless young Indians, especially our daughters, who aspire to serve the nation and humanity."

Union Minister of Commerce, Piyush Goyal, also congratulated Major Barak, saying that her achievement is a true testament to Nari Shakti and a reflection of India's continued contributions to UN peacekeeping efforts.

In a post on X, Goyal said, "Many congratulations to Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. Having received this honour for her exemplary service as an



Engagement Team Commander & Gender Focal Point within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), she has brought immense pride to the nation. Her achievement is a true testament to Nari Shakti and a reflection of India's continued contributions to UN peacekeeping efforts. May her journey inspire countless young girls to pursue their aspirations with confidence and courage."

The UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award is presented annually since 2016 to a military peacekeeper - male or female

- who has shown outstanding commitment and leadership in promoting the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The resolution calls on to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of peacekeeping and peacebuilding and to ensure women's participation in peace and political processes. The Resolution also calls for the protection from, and prevention of, conflict-related sexual violence and for an expansion of the role and contribution of women in UN operations, including uniformed women peacekeepers.

BJP will work for development of Jharkhand: Nitin Nabin

New Delhi: BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Sunday recalled the movement spearheaded by the Bharatiya Janata Party for the creation of Jharkhand, and said the party will "now work" to help in the development of the State.

The BJP chief said that the party workers are fully determined to re-establish the 'Lotus' on the "soil of Jharkhand".

After participating in a plantation drive at Kuchu, Nabin told reporters, "I firmly believe that just as the Bharatiya Janata Party struggled to create Jharkhand, it will now work to shape and develop it. A renewed sense of enthusiasm and zeal is emerging among our party workers; they are fully resolved to firmly re-establish the BJP's 'Lotus' on the soil of Jharkhand".

BJP leader Arjun Munda told ANI that the visit of Nabin is instilling the



young party workers with inspiration and organisation.

"Our young national president is visiting Jharkhand. His visit is providing great inspiration to the organisation and our workers - especially the young ones. The workers are very enthusiastic."

The BJP chief is on a two-day visit to Jharkhand to participate in a series of meetings and interactions aimed at strengthening the party's organisational structure and expanding

public outreach across the state.

According to the party, he will chair various organisational meetings and engage extensively with public representatives, senior officials, intellectuals, and grassroots party workers during his two-day engagement, which started on Saturday.

On June 2, the Bharatiya Janata Party convened an important meeting of all State Presidents to discuss organisational priorities and

upcoming political initiatives.

The meeting was chaired by Nitin Nabin and attended by National General Secretaries, including the organisation's General Secretary BL Santhosh.

A major focus of the meeting was the preparation of a comprehensive outreach and public engagement campaign to mark the completion of 12 years of the NDA government at the Centre.

Detailed plans were discussed to effectively communicate the government's achievements and developmental initiatives to the people.

The meeting also reviewed organisational activities across states, assessed the party's grassroots performance, and deliberated on strategies for upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Discussions emphasised strengthening the party structure at every level, particularly at the booth level.

Amit Shah reviews Tripura border security, calls for foolproof territorial defence grid

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting in Tripura to review issues related to border areas and called for the creation of a foolproof territorial security grid involving local administration, advanced technology and the Border Security Force (BSF) to strengthen border management.

The meeting, held in Salbagan, was attended by Tripura Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, senior state officials, and District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police from all eight border districts. Discussions focused on enhancing border security through greater coordination between Central and state agencies.

Emphasising that border security is not solely the responsibility of security forces, Shah said it should be treated as a territorial responsibility involving District Magistrates,



Superintendents of Police, Patwaris, village representatives, modern technologies and the BSF. He stressed that fencing alone would not ensure security and called for a comprehensive territorial defence framework integrating local administration and smart surveillance systems.

The Home Minister directed authorities to organise awareness and training camps for residents living along border areas to help them tackle threats posed by narcotics and arms trafficking. He said local police personnel, Patwaris and BSF officials should actively participate in such

importance of financial vigilance in border districts, Shah said state governments must ensure financial discipline and strengthen monitoring of suspicious transactions. He directed that Collectors and GST officials be trained for this purpose and asked the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to conduct a survey related to fake currency circulation.

The Home Minister also called for close monitoring of large-scale construction activities, financial transactions and property sales in border areas. He instructed authorities to examine land records from the past five years to identify any irregularities.

Shah reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strengthening border security remains a top priority for the government. He said close coordination between Central and state agencies is essential to ensure the security, development and stability of border regions.

Rahul Gandhi lauds 18-year-old Sarthak for 'exposing' CBSE-OSM discrepancies, calls it 'victory of youth over government'

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi praised 18-year-old Sarthak Sidhant and his partner Nisarga for exposing alleged collusion between the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the service provider COEMPT, calling their efforts a victory of youth and a "defeat" for the government.

Sarthak, who raised concerns over discrepancies in the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system used in CBSE Class 12 examinations, managed to bring issues to light that, according to Gandhi, major media houses and investigative journalists failed to uncover.

In a post shared on X, Gandhi wrote, "Sarthak is 18 years old - but in thought, courage, and principles, second to none. He and his partner Nisarga did what the country's big media houses and investigative journalists couldn't - they exposed the collusion between CBSE and COEMPT to the nation."

The Congress leader asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi prefers the

Digvijaya Singh, Chairman of the Parliamentary panel, said all members were unanimous in seeking improvements to the examination system, including issues related to NEET and CBSE exams. Singh asserted that the Prime Minister himself had intervened to ensure a resolution, adding that Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should "either tender his resignation or be dismissed" over lapses in handling the matter.

youth to focus on "making reels" and avoid asking questions, but these students challenged the system and found the answers.

"Mr. Modi wants our youth to keep making reels, keep frying pakoras, not ask questions, not open their eyes. But these kids asked questions. And they found the answers too. The country's 18-year-old kid outpaced the CBI - this

victory of the youth is truly the government's defeat. This is India's real youth power - curious, aware, informed. And remember, the country's future won't fall for any deception," the post further read.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports heard Sarthak's presentation on Monday, examining the issues students faced with the OSM system during the Class 12 exams. CBSE officials responded to queries raised, assuring that re-evaluation portal issues have been addressed and students have adequate time to apply.

Hours after the committee meeting, the Centre formed a one-member inquiry committee, headed by S Radha Chauhan, Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission, to examine procurement-related matters concerning CBSE's OSM system. The committee has been tasked with submitting its report within a month.

Delhi Malviya Nagar fire: Arrested hotel cook brought to incident site

New Delhi: The Delhi police on Sunday brought Keshav Negi, who has been arrested in connection with the Malviya Nagar fire case, to the incident site as part of the ongoing investigation.

Negi was employed as a cook at the Malviya Nagar bed and breakfast, where a deadly fire killed 21 people, including 13 foreign nationals.

Police officials conducted the site visit as they continued to reconstruct the sequence of events surrounding the tragedy. The fire, which occurred on June 3, resulted in one of the deadliest incidents in the area, leaving 21 people dead.

Earlier on Saturday, officials informed that the Delhi Police had arrested a hotel cook in the Malviya Nagar fire incident.

The police said that the investigation has revealed that the cook's negligence led to the fire. The police have also detained several other individuals in relation to the fire.

During the investigation, authorities allegedly discovered multiple safety violations and serious deficiencies in the building's fire safety infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the Saket court on Saturday remanded hotel cook Keshav Negi for two days of police custody. He has been arrested in connection with the Malviya Nagar Fire tragedy. Lovkesh Bajaj, owner of Flourish Stays Hotel in Malviya Nagar, has been in police custody in connection with the fire tragedy that claimed 21 lives and left 28 others injured, including foreign nationals.

Keshav Negi was produced before Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Bhanu Pratap Singh after his arrest by the Delhi Police. After hearing the application seeking custodial remand, the court granted two days of police custody.

While seeking Keshav Negi's custodial remand, the Delhi police said that his custodial remand is required to investigate the case. The police also said that the fire broke out due to the leakage of Cooking gas.

Delhi University professor murder: Couple arrested in West Bengal, taken to Delhi

New Delhi: A couple has been apprehended in West Bengal in connection with the murder of Delhi University Assistant Professor Debosmita Paul, who was found dead in her flat at Satyam Apartments in Vasundhara Enclave on June 4. The accused are being brought to Delhi for further investigation, officials said on Sunday.

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 have been

scanning 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 are also gathering 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 earlier said that multiple teams have been formed to trace and apprehend the offenders.

Fire Breaks Out in Sanctuary on World Environment Day, Raising Concerns Over Forest Protection

Puri: Ironically, on World Environment Day, a fire broke out in the Talabania Bhoodan forest area under the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary near Puri, highlighting growing concerns over forest protection and wildlife safety.

The incident occurred on Thursday night when various organizations across the district were observing World Environment Day. According to reports, the fire erupted in the forest area near the Gramya Nyayalaya (Rural Court). Local residents and volunteers alleged that forest department officials failed to reach the spot in time, forcing firefighters and volunteers to take immediate action to prevent the blaze from spreading.

The fire was first noticed at around 9:10 pm by social activist

Saroj Kumar Jena, who was returning to Puri after attending a World Environment Day programme at Nalihana in Puri Sadar block. On noticing flames rising from the forest on the opposite side of the road, Jena attempted to control the fire and contacted senior forest officials, including the ranger and assistant conservator of forests (ACF). However, he reportedly received no immediate response.

Unable to tackle the blaze alone, he alerted the fire services. Firefighters arrived shortly afterwards and managed to bring the situation under control, averting what could have turned into a major forest fire. Despite the timely intervention, several trees spread across more than 1,000 square feet of forest land were damaged.



Notably, a similar fire had been reported in the Talabania casuarina forest area earlier this week, raising questions about recurring fire incidents inside the sanctuary. Environmentalists and local residents have expressed concern over the frequent outbreaks. They attribute many such incidents to careless disposal of partially extinguished cigarettes and bidis, as well as picnic gatherings inside forest areas where campfires are often left unattended.

Repeated forest fires not only destroy valuable vegetation but also pose a serious threat to wildlife inhabiting the sanctuary. Residents have further alleged that while forest officials conduct regular patrols in government vehicles, effective measures to prevent unauthorized picnics and human interference inside forest

zones remain inadequate.

Concerns have also been raised over the welfare of wildlife in the Balukhand-Konark Sanctuary. Locals claim that insufficient availability of food and drinking water inside the forest is forcing large numbers of deer and other animals to move towards urban areas and roads in search of sustenance, increasing the risk of accidents and human-wildlife conflict.

With wildlife habitats facing mounting pressure from fires, habitat degradation and human activities, conservationists and members of civil society have urged the Odisha government to take immediate steps to strengthen protection measures in the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary and ensure the safety of its flora and fauna.

Gajapati Maharaja Objects to ISKCON's 'Off-Schedule' Rath Yatras; Srimandir Administration to Approach President, PM

Puri: The administration of the Shree Jagannath Temple and the temple's managing committee have strongly objected to the conduct of Rath Yatras and Snana Yatras by International Society for Krishna Consciousness on dates different from those prescribed by tradition. The committee has decided to take up the matter with Droupadi Murmu and Narendra Modi.

During a meeting of the temple management committee held on Friday, members, including Divyasingha Deb, expressed strong displeasure over ISKCON's continued observance of what they described as "off-schedule" Rath Yatras, particularly those organised outside India. The committee also discussed measures to prevent such events from being conducted in deviation from the traditional calendar.

Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Aravind Padhee, said a delegation of the management committee would meet the President and the Prime



Minister after the conclusion of the upcoming Rath Yatra and Niladri Bije. The delegation plans to submit a memorandum seeking intervention to stop Rath Yatras being organised on dates other than those traditionally prescribed.

Padhee stated that if information is received about any organisation conducting such

"off-schedule" Rath Yatras within India, administrative measures would be taken to prevent them. He added that the temple administration had recently succeeded in stopping a few such events, a development welcomed by the committee.

According to the SJTA, despite repeated consultations and advisories, ISKCON has not

fully aligned its observances with the traditions followed at the Puri temple. The administration maintains that both Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra should be celebrated strictly on the dates prescribed by religious scriptures and long-standing customs.

Officials argued that as the Puri Jagannath Temple is regarded as the principal seat of Lord

Jagannath's traditions, other temples and organisations should follow the ritual calendar observed there. The administration further claimed that several rounds of discussions had been held with ISKCON representatives on the issue.

While an understanding was reportedly reached regarding the discontinuation of off-schedule Snana Yatras and Rath Yatras in India, the practice is said to continue in some overseas locations. The temple administration alleged that several communications sent by the Gajapati Maharaja and temple authorities in this regard had not been fully complied with.

The management committee asserted that preserving the sanctity of Jagannath culture and traditions requires adherence to the practices of the original seat at Puri. It also expressed concern that deviations from established traditions could hurt the religious sentiments of millions of Lord Jagannath devotees across the world.

Ramagiri Forest Department Raids and Seizes Stolen Timber



Boipariguda (Bikrant Kumar Beborta): The Forest Department seized two bicycles loaded with Sal timber worth lakhs of rupees in the Ramagiri section of the Gupteswar forest area (Jeypore sub-division) while timber traders were attempting to smuggle the wood at night. Acting on a tip-off received during a night patrol, a team led by Forest Officer Ranger Chhabindra Randhari intercepted the bicycles and confiscated the timber. Upon spotting the forest officials from a distance, the traders abandoned the bicycles and fled. The Gupteswar Range Officer stated that they have been

keeping a close watch on the timber mafia since assuming charge. Consequently, 12 Sal logs and two bicycles were seized; a case has been registered, and the department is conducting further investigations. Personnel present during the raid included Ranger Chhabindra Randhari, Foresters Ravindra Hantall and Forest guard Sipra Das, Soumya Ranjan Subundhu, and support staff members Kartik Dandasena, Ramesh Pujari, Padmanabh Jani, Bhuvan Bagdaria, Mohan Odia, Rahlatri Pradhani, Bhaskar Daloi, Ramchandra Dalpati, and other forest department employees.

Chief Minister Encourages Players at 'Sambalpur Cup' Kabaddi Tournament.

Kabaddi Is Part of Our Culture; Sambalpur Will Emerge as Odisha's Major Sports Hub: Chief Minister.

Sambalpur:(DMS) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the All-India Kabaddi Tournament, Sambalpur Cup, as the chief guest and encouraged the participating players. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that kabaddi is not merely a sport but a symbol of India's cultural heritage that originated in rural communities and has now earned international recognition. To strengthen Sambalpur's sports infrastructure, the Chief Minister announced several major development projects. He stated that the tender process has begun



for the redevelopment of the VSS Stadium at a cost of ₹25 crore. Construction of a FIFA-standard football stadium at Mandalia Playground is also underway with an investment of ₹15 crore. The government has further decided to establish a 100-bed sports hostel for young athletes, a multipurpose stadium, and block-level stadiums in all nine blocks of Sambalpur district. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are being prepared for the modernization of the indoor stadiums at Burla and Hirakud. Efforts are also underway to develop the Government Sports College at Kulundi into a premier sports training centre for western Odisha. Recalling the journey of kabaddi in Sambalpur—from matches played on the sandy banks of the Mahanadi River to competitions in modern stadiums—the Chief Minister praised the district's sporting legacy and international athletes. He highlighted the achievements of Bhima Barad, who won gold at the 2004 South Asian Games, and Priyanka Pradhan, who secured a gold medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games. He described their success as an inspiration for the younger generation. The Chief Minister noted that victory and defeat are two sides of the same coin and commended all participating teams for their sportsmanship. He also thanked Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra and the tournament organizers for successfully hosting the event.

Among those present on the occasion were Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra, former Rengali MLA Nauri Naik, and Sambalpur Collector Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar.

JSpur district achieved medals in National Junior Kickboxing Competition

Paradip/Jagatsinghpur,(DMC) : National Junior Kickboxing Competition was held at KT Global School, Khurda, Odisha from May 30 to June 3, 2026. More than 800 competitors from 29 states and 8 union territories of the country participated in this competition. Out of them, 3

players from Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha participated under the leadership of national coach Amar Jyoti Rout and won 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. Subhasree Pradhan won the silver, Arun Sethi and Santosh Patnaik won the bronze medals.

The chief guest of this national competition was the

Minister of State for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Sampada Chandra Swain, along with Khurda MLA Prashant Jagdeb, who congratulated all the competitors. The successful competitors will participate in the global competition being held in Italy.



Women and Children Lead Green Movement in Banspal

Naresh Chandra Pattanyak Keonjhar: As the first signs of monsoon approach the hills and forests of Banspal, an inspiring grassroots movement is taking shape across the tribal-dominated Banspal block of Keonjhar district.

Women, children, youth groups, and community institutions from all 21 Gram Panchayats have joined their hands in a massive seed collection and seed ball campaign aimed at rejuvenating degraded forests and restoring native biodiversity.

Community members, especially women and children, collected, sorted, and prepared thousands of seed balls from native forest species. These seed balls that will soon be dispersed across forest landscapes when the rains arrive, said a member. The campaign has already mobilized communities from all 21

Panchayats, resulting in the collection of more than 30 varieties of indigenous tree and forest species.

Among the seeds collected are Neem, Karanja, Mango, Bhalia, Siali, Harida, Bahada, Sal, Arjun, Kusum, Jamun, Char, Amla, and several other locally important species. Special emphasis is being given to vulnerable and declining native species to support their regeneration in natural habitats.

At village-level collection centres, groups of women sit together mixing seeds with soil and cow dung to create seed balls—a low-cost and effective ecological restoration technique. These seed balls protect the seeds from birds and harsh environmental conditions until the monsoon rains trigger germination. Children enthusiastically participate in the process, learning about forest



ecology, biodiversity, and the importance of conserving indigenous species.

According to community leaders Juang Pidha Sardar Laxmidhar Juanga of Upper Baitarani, the campaign is not merely about planting trees but about restoring ecological balance and strengthening the relationship between local communities and their forests. The initiative seeks

to increase forest cover, improve wildlife habitat, enhance soil and water conservation, and secure the availability of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) that supports local livelihoods.

Community members have also identified forest patches, hill slopes, and degraded lands where the seed balls will be dispersed during the monsoon. The effort reflects a growing recognition that

forest conservation is most successful when local people take ownership of restoration activities, said Sulochana Juanga of Jantari.

Local women participating in the campaign expressed pride in contributing to the future of their forests. "These forests provide us with food, medicine, fuel, and livelihoods. By collecting seeds today, we are preparing a greener future for our children," said Barana Dehury, Kadakala one participant while preparing seed balls with fellow villagers.

As monsoon clouds gather over Banspal, thousands of seed balls carrying the promise of future forests are ready to be scattered across the landscape. What makes this initiative remarkable is the leadership shown by women and the active participation of children, transforming environmental conservation into a community celebration said Ramesh Munda, Adalavillage.

IFFCO, Paradip Celebrates WED with massive plantation drive & Community competition

Paradip,(DMC) : - IFFCO Paradip celebrated World Environment Day (WED) 2026 by hosting a series of comprehensive environmental awareness programs and community engagement initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and ecological conservation with a broader perspective of this year's theme "Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future".

The celebrations commenced with a massive green plantation program inside the campus. Regional Officer of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) Paradip, Senior

management and employees of the industry actively planted native saplings to boost the local green cover. This hands-on initiative reinforced the organisation's core commitment to environmental stewardship and a carbon-neutral future.

To foster a culture of sustainability, the organisation hosted various interactive competitions throughout the week. Employees demonstrated their creativity and commitment to the planet in a competitive Slogan Writing Competition. The spirit of awareness extended to the younger generation through



a vibrant Drawing Competition organised for school children, who expressed their visions of a cleaner, greener earth through art.

Reflecting the organisation's inclusive community values, an engaging Environmental Quiz

Competition was organized, drawing enthusiastic participation from both employees and their spouses. The trivia challenge focused on global warming, biodiversity, and sustainable daily living practices.

The week-long campaign culminated in a grand Prize

Distribution Ceremony-Concluding Ceremony. Winners of the various competitions were honoured with eco-friendly prizes.

Addressing the gathering, the leadership team thanked all participants and urged everyone to adopt sustainable habits,

emphasizing that collective small actions lead to significant global environmental changes.

At IFFCO Paradip, sustainability is not just a corporate responsibility but a core operational philosophy," said the Plant Head Mr. P.K.Mahapatra.

"By engaging our employees, their families, and school children today, we are fostering a collective mindset focused on ecological preservation. This massive plantation drive is a tangible step toward shrinking our carbon footprint and securing a cleaner ecosystem for future generations."

"I commend IFFCO for driving such impactful grassroots environmental initiatives," stated the Regional Officer Ms Bibechita Sarangi of the State Pollution Control Board, Paradip, who

attended as the Chief Guest. "Combating pollution and climate change requires active partnership between industry and civil society. Initiatives like these create vital public awareness, which is essential for enforcing environmental compliance and building sustainable smart communities."

Mr. D.L.Mohapatra, Environmental Engineer, SPCB was present on the occasion. Mr R K Swain, Head of Environment Department of IFFCO managed all the week long program with his team.

Man commits suicide by jumping 40 feet off bridge



Naresh Chandra Pattanyak Keonjhar: A 55-year-old man died after jumping 40 feet off the Baitarani River Bridge in Patna Police Station, Keonjhar District. The incident took place at about 2 pm on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Biswanath Nayak of Shivrinarayanpur village, Bada Patna Panchayat,

Patna Block. Though there is no clear information about the circumstances under which he went up the bridge and took such an extreme step. However, it is not clear whether he jumped from the bridge himself or fell.

After receiving information Patna Police along with Fire Brigade reached the

spot and rescued the body and sent it to Patna Community Health Center for post-mortem. After post mortem and investigation the cause of death could be confirm, said G Gardis, ASI of Patna police station while visiting the place. Police investigating the incident from all angle whether it a mishap, suicide or other.

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.

AM/NS India inaugurates Learning & Development Centre at Paradip

Paradip,(DMS) :- In a strategic initiative to build capability of its employees and associates, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has inaugurated Learning and Development Centre (L&D Centre) at the Paradip Pellet Plant complex. The centre will serve as a catalyst for capability building and professional growth of its employees who can contribute more meaningfully to AM/NS India's ongoing growth story.

The centre is designed to encourage continuous learning, with a seating capacity for 120 participants. It is equipped with high-quality audio-visual systems and a digitized podium for seamless delivery of training sessions. The centre also houses exclusive workstations for the L&D team. Lounge and library facility are also being planned to be added soon, which will further enhance the learning environment.

The centre was jointly



inaugurated by AM/NS India leadership, including Amit Harlalka, Director & Vice President (Finance) and Ashutosh Telang, Director & Vice President, Human Resources & Administration in the presence of Alok Kumar Mehta, Director-Mining and Strategic Projects, K.A. Chowdary, Chief-Projects (East), Dr. Debabrata Dash, Head-HR (East), U.S.R. Raju, Head-Odisha Operations, Ghanashyam Parida, Head-Odisha Projects, and Laxman

Shekhawat, Chief- Mining Operations & Development. All departmental HODs, along with employees from various departments, also participated in the event.

The inauguration was followed by a rewards and recognition ceremony, where employees were honoured for their contributions to workplace excellence by the AM/NS India leadership team. Awards were given in various categories such as Commitment to Safety Leadership, Safety Culture

Building, Process and Project Improvements, Innovation, High Performance and Value Creation, Engagement and Cross-Functional Collaboration, Problem Diffusion, Conflict Resolution, and Adaptable Problem Solving. The leadership took this opportunity to also emphasize that safety is at the heart of AM/NS India's values, and everyone should take collective responsibility in raising standards and safeguarding each other by

being interdependently safe.

Shri Ashutosh Telang said, "Learning, collaboration, and excellence are the drivers of growth. While the company provides the platform for learning, the responsibility rests with each individual. The Learning & Development Centre represents AM/NS India's commitment to investing in employee development and continuous improvement."

Dr. Debabrata Dash said, "Learning is the foundation of progress. We have identified training needs, strengthened leadership engagements, held synergy meets, and developed subject matter experts within the organisation through train-the-trainer programmes. With consecutive awards in learning, the Odisha Asset stands as a benchmark of collaborative learning and organisational advancement."

By fostering continuous development and capability building, AM/NS India is dedicated to empowering its employees and partners, enabling future growth, sustainability, and excellence.

Forest Department Khariar Road Range Celebrates World Environment Day

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, June 6 (T.Dewangan) : On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026, Khariar Road Range organized a Cyclothon and a series of environmental awareness programmes to promote environmental conservation, climate action, and sustainable living. The global theme of World Environment Day 2026 was "Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future", with a strong focus on climate action and community participation. The Cyclothon witnessed enthusiastic participation from Forest Department officials, Range Officer Jaydev Majhi, Forester Binod Bihari Nayak, Trivikram Kumar Nayak, Sanjukta Barik, NCC and NSS volunteers, students from different schools, youth organizations, environmental groups and other dignitaries. The rally aimed to encourage eco-friendly transportation, reduce carbon emissions, and spread awareness about the importance of protecting natural resources. During the programme, participants took a pledge to Protect forests and wildlife, Reduce plastic consumption, Conserve water and energy, Promote tree plantation and biodiversity conservation, Adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles.

Puri Police Conduct Behavioural Training Workshop Ahead of Rath Yatra 2026

Puri: In preparation for the world-famous Rath Yatra 2026, Puri Police organised a special behavioural training workshop at the Police Line Conference Hall in Puri. The initiative aimed to equip police officers and personnel deployed for Rath Yatra duty with skills to interact with devotees and the public in a more sensitive, service-oriented and citizen-friendly manner, while ensuring effective management of large crowds.

The workshop was conducted under the leadership of Prateek Singh. Senior police officials, including Tapas Ranjan Das,

retired senior police officer and former SP Gyanaranjan Mahapatra, SSMSB Deputy Commandant Kaushik Nayak, along with other senior officers associated with temple security arrangements, attended the programme.

Renowned experts from Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital, namely Dr Amrit Pattajoshi and Dr Jyoti Prakash Acharya, participated as resource persons. They delivered sessions on crowd psychology, the role of police in high-pressure situations, effective public communication, positive



behavioural practices and maintaining mental balance during demanding assignments.

The experts highlighted

strategies for managing large religious gatherings such as Rath Yatra through patience, empathy and disciplined conduct. Practical guidance

was also provided on crowd control, emergency response, assisting lost persons, and ensuring sensitive treatment of elderly devotees, women

and persons with disabilities.

Addressing the gathering, SP Prateek Singh said that lakhs of devotees visit Puri during Rath Yatra

and that the conduct of police personnel plays a crucial role in shaping the public image of Puri Police. He stressed the need for every officer to adopt a people-friendly policing approach, understand the concerns of devotees, extend timely assistance and uphold respectful behaviour at all times.

Retired officer Gyanaranjan Mahapatra shared insights from his extensive administrative experience and underscored the importance of courteous and humane conduct during large-scale religious events. He noted that positive

behaviour strengthens trust and cooperation between the police and the public.

Police personnel and officers from Puri Police and SSMSB actively participated in the workshop and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring professional crowd management, exemplary conduct and improved public service during the festival.

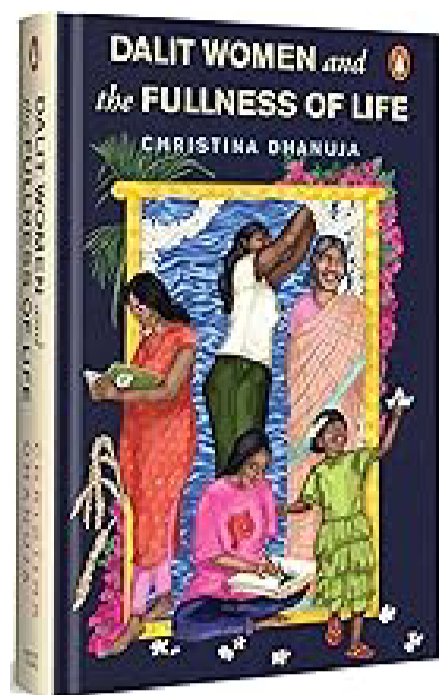
Puri Police stated that it remains fully committed to making Rath Yatra 2026 safe, peaceful, well-organised and a memorable experience for devotees from across the country and abroad.

Memoir and Social Critique

BhaskarParichha
Dalit Women and the Fullness of Life is a powerful and deeply reflective work that challenges the limitations of conventional narratives surrounding Dalit women. In this compelling blend of memoir and social critique, Christina Dhanuja moves beyond familiar portrayals of suffering and survival to present a richer, more nuanced understanding of Dalit womanhood—one rooted in dignity, complexity, and the right to a full human life.

At the heart of the book lies a simple yet transformative question: What happens when Dalit women are seen not merely through the lens of oppression but as complete individuals with desires, dreams, contradictions, and aspirations? Dhanuja argues that dominant representations often reduce Dalit women to symbols, stripping them of interiority and agency. By interrogating these narratives, she opens up space for a more expansive and humane understanding of identity.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its seamless weaving of personal experience with broader social analysis. Dhanuja's memoir-like reflections lend emotional depth and authenticity to her arguments, while her examination of caste, gender, religion, and social structures provides a



rigorous intellectual framework. This interplay between the personal and the political makes the book both accessible and thought-provoking.

The author writes with remarkable candour and moral clarity. Her critique of

institutions, media representations, and social attitudes is incisive without becoming polemical. Instead, she invites readers to reconsider deeply embedded assumptions and to imagine new ways of seeing and relating. In doing so, she challenges not only societal prejudices but also the limitations of well-meaning discourses that inadvertently confine Dalit women within narrow categories of victimhood or resilience.

The book is particularly significant is its emphasis on "fullness" as a political and ethical aspiration. Joy, intimacy, vulnerability, ambition, and self-expression are presented not as luxuries but as essential dimensions of human existence. This insistence on wholeness gives the work its distinctive emotional and intellectual force.

Insightful, courageous, and profoundly humane, Dalit Women and the Fullness of Life is an important contribution to contemporary discussions on caste, gender, and social justice. It is a book that challenges, enlightens, and ultimately expands the reader's understanding of what it means to live—and be seen—in fullness.

Dalit Women and the Fullness of Life
Christina Dhanuja
Penguin Random House
Gurugram

Documenting the Crisis of Development

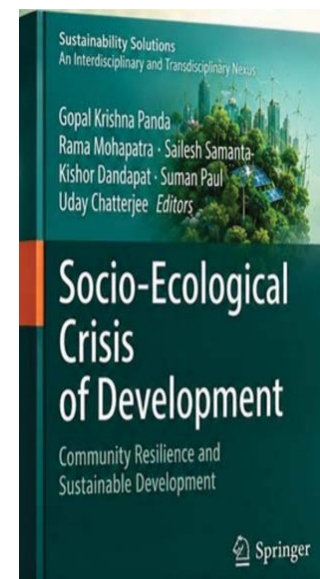
Bibhuti Barik

Development has always been seen as a pathway to human progress. While the world has witnessed unprecedented economic growth, technological innovation, and urban expansion, these processes have also deepened ecological degradation, social inequalities, and cultural disruptions.

The same growth that has meant to uplift us has often come at the cost of the natural systems that sustain life, straining the very ecological foundations. The result is a growing socio-ecological crisis where environmental degradation.

This book, "Socio-Ecological Crisis of Development: Community Resilience and Sustainable Development", presents a comprehensive exploration of empirical case studies from across the countries of India, Indonesia and Vietnam with the application of advanced geostatistical and geospatial modelling as well as machine learning and artificial intelligence focusing on the complex social and ecological crisis of development and innovative solutions toward achieving community resilience and sustainable solutions.

This volume aims to contribute to ongoing academic and policy discourses on



sustainable development, resilience thinking, and environmental governance. The chapters in this book explore how development can be reimagined—how we can move from exploitation and degradation to restoration, from dependency to self-reliance, and from crisis to creativity. It is believed that true progress cannot exist without harmony between people and ecology of the planet.

It examines the interconnectedness of environment, development, and social crises and provides a framework for understanding environment-development-social well-being intersections,

contributes to the global conversation on sustainable development and community resilience.

The book comprises of three distinct parts. Part I is focusing on the eternal conflict of development versus environment and society. It provides an in-depth understanding on indigenous responses to socio-ecological crises of developmental initiatives integrating community resilience and sustainable solutions.

Second part of the book seeks to understand how development reshapes ecosystem, livelihood, and social fabric, and how communities adapt, innovate, and build resilience amid these transformations. It also explores critical intersections between ecology, economy, and equity, drawing insights from real-world experiences, policy frameworks, and indigenous knowledge systems.

Third part of the book is focusing on socio-ecological crisis of development and sustainable solutions. Drawing from research, case studies, and grounded experiences from Indonesia, Vietnam and India.

Socio-Ecological Crisis of Development
Gopal Krishna Panda and Others Ed.
Springer

Collection of Medical Anecdotes

Dharma Raj
The Great Indian Medico Masala is a delightful and refreshingly original collection of stories that peels back the curtain on the often-misunderstood world of Indian healthcare. Written by doctor-turned-writer and social activist Dr Kumar Nirbhay, the book combines humour, humanity, and sharp observation to create a reading experience that is both entertaining and insightful. At the heart of the book is DrArun, a physician whose daily encounters reveal that medicine is as much about understanding people as it is about diagnosing diseases. Through a series of anecdotes inspired by real-life incidents,

readers are introduced to a cast of unforgettable characters—patients, families, and colleagues whose actions frequently challenge logic, science, and common sense. Yet it is precisely these eccentricities that make the stories so engaging.

What sets this collection apart is its ability to find laughter in situations that might otherwise seem stressful or overwhelming. Whether it is a miraculous cure hidden inside a green coconut, a mysterious virus that appears only on certain days of the week, or the whimsical invention of a "chakkarometre" to measure dizziness, the stories celebrate the absurdities that doctors

encounter behind hospital walls. The humour is never cruel or dismissive; instead, it emerges from a deep understanding of human nature.

Beyond the comedy, the book offers touching glimpses into the emotional side of medical practice. DrNirbhay reminds readers that hospitals are places where hope, fear, resilience, and compassion coexist. The stories capture the unique bond between doctors and patients, highlighting moments of kindness, vulnerability, and unexpected wisdom.

The author's conversational style makes the book accessible to both medical professionals and general readers. His ability

to blend satire with empathy ensures that the narrative remains engaging while conveying deeper truths about society and healthcare.

Warm, witty, and deeply human, the book is more than a collection of medical anecdotes—it is a celebration of the extraordinary stories hidden within ordinary hospital corridors. Readers will finish the book with a smile, a renewed appreciation for healthcare workers, and the comforting realization that laughter truly can be the best medicine.

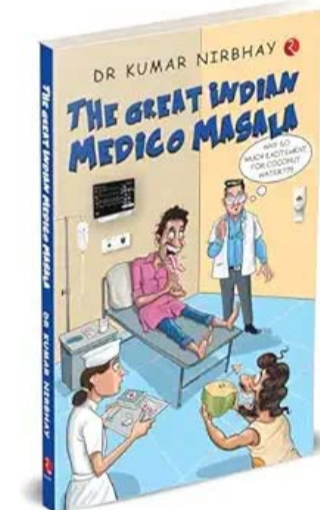
The Great Indian Medico Masala
Dr Kumar Nirbhay
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Thoughtful, Inspiring, and Well-researched

BhaskarParichha
Historical fiction succeeds when it illuminates the past while speaking to contemporary concerns, and The Mapmaker accomplishes this with remarkable skill. Based on the life of William Smith, the pioneering geologist who created the world's first geological map, the novel transforms a significant chapter of scientific history into a compelling human drama.

At its core, the book is the story of an outsider challenging established authority. William Smith emerges not merely as a scientist but as a determined individual whose curiosity and perseverance enable him to see what others overlook. As he painstakingly maps England's geological formations, readers witness the birth of a revolutionary way of understanding the Earth. The novel captures both the excitement of discovery and the immense personal sacrifices that often accompany groundbreaking work.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its portrayal of the tension between scientific inquiry and entrenched belief systems. Set during a period when new ideas frequently collided with religious



information. The period setting is rendered with authenticity, bringing to life the landscapes, social customs, and intellectual atmosphere of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England.

Equally impressive is the novel's exploration of themes that remain relevant today: recognition and ownership of knowledge, the value of independent thinking, and the often-unseen costs of innovation. These broader questions elevate the story beyond a conventional historical biography.

The English translation by Chandana Dutta deserves special mention for preserving the richness and emotional depth of the original Bengali work. The prose flows smoothly, allowing the narrative's power and historical significance to shine through.

Thoughtful, inspiring, and meticulously researched, The Mapmaker is a rewarding read that celebrates the triumph of curiosity, perseverance, and intellectual courage against formidable odds.

The Mapmaker
Maitry Roy Moulik/
Chandana Dutta
Niyogi Books
New Delhi

Vibrant Assortment of Tales

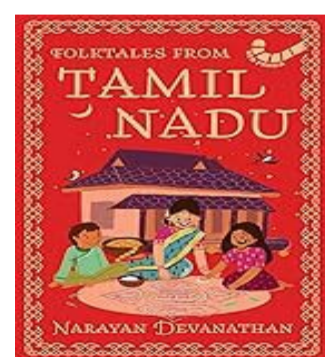
Arun Mishra
Folktales from Tamil Nadu is a delightful celebration of one of India's richest storytelling traditions. In this beautifully illustrated collection, Narayan Devanathan brings together a vibrant assortment of tales that have travelled across generations, carrying with them the humour, wisdom, imagination and cultural memory of Tamil Nadu.

The book opens a door into a world where the extraordinary emerges from the ordinary. A forgetful fly searching for its lost name, a clever trickster who turns adversity into opportunity, a tiny creature outsmarting powerful figures, and a magical peppercorn embarking on an adventure—all reveal the playful ingenuity that characterises traditional folk

storytelling. These stories are simple on the surface, yet they carry deeper insights about human nature, resilience, intelligence and community.

One of the collection's greatest strengths is its accessibility. Devanathan preserves the oral charm of the original tales while presenting them in a language that feels fresh and engaging for contemporary readers. The narratives flow effortlessly, making the book equally appealing to children discovering these stories for the first time and adults revisiting the treasures of their cultural heritage.

The author's affection for storytelling shines through every page. Rather than merely recording folktales, he recreates the atmosphere in which they were traditionally shared—around



family gatherings, village courtyards and quiet evenings filled with wonder. This sense of intimacy gives the collection a warmth that extends beyond the stories themselves.

The book's visual presentation further enhances its appeal. Rich illustrations and thoughtful design make it an inviting volume, transforming the reading experience into a

feast for both the imagination and the eye. The artwork complements the narratives beautifully, helping bring their magical worlds to life.

More than a collection of entertaining tales, Folktales from Tamil Nadu is a reminder of the enduring power of oral traditions. It demonstrates how stories preserve cultural values, spark imagination and connect generations across time.

Charming, humorous and deeply rooted in tradition, this book is a valuable addition to any family library. It invites readers of all ages to listen closely to the voices of the past and rediscover the timeless joy of storytelling.

Folktales from Tamil Nadu
Narayan Devanathan
Red Panda/Westland
Chennai

Historical Inquiry of Kashmir Dispute

BhaskarParichha
The Origins of a Dispute: Kashmir 1947 is a timely and meticulously researched examination of one of the most consequential and contested episodes in modern South Asian history. In this compelling work, Prem Shankar Jha revisits the tumultuous months surrounding the Partition of India to explore how Kashmir became the focal point of a conflict that continues to shape regional politics nearly eight decades later.

Drawing extensively on newly declassified archival sources, including the Mountbatten papers

and British government records, Jha reconstructs the dramatic events that unfolded in 1947 with remarkable clarity and precision. His account moves beyond simplistic national narratives to present a nuanced understanding of the political, military, and diplomatic forces that converged during Kashmir's accession to India.

The book's strengths lies in its commitment to historical inquiry rather than political polemic. Jha carefully examines the motivations and actions of the principal actors—the Maharaja of Kashmir, Sheikh

Abdullah, the Indian leadership, the Pakistani-backed tribal raiders, and British officials navigating the final days of empire. By placing these figures within the broader context of Partition, he reveals the complexity of decisions that were often made under immense pressure and uncertainty.

The narrative unfolds with the pace of a political thriller while maintaining the rigour of serious scholarship. Jha's ability to synthesize archival evidence, historical interpretation, and geopolitical analysis makes the book accessible to general readers

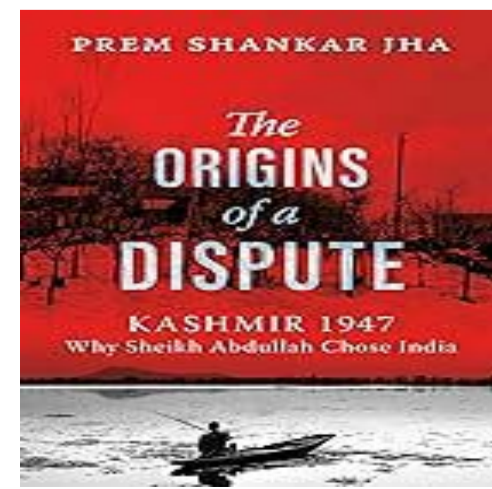
without sacrificing intellectual depth. The result is a work that not only revisits familiar events but also challenges long-held assumptions about the origins of the dispute.

Particularly noteworthy is the author's exploration of Britain's strategic calculations and their influence on developments in Kashmir. These insights add an important international dimension to a story that is frequently viewed solely through the prism of India-Pakistan relations.

Written in lucid prose and supported by extensive research, the volume is an important

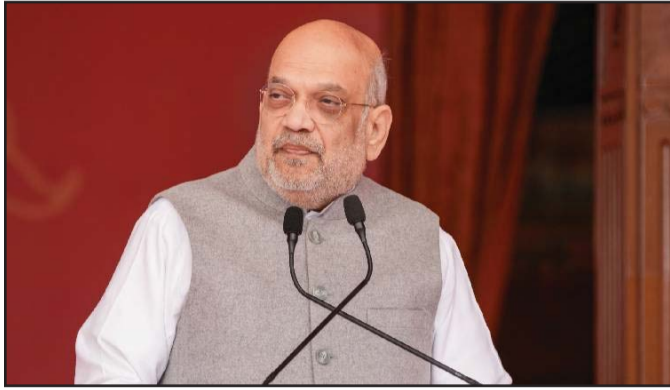
contribution to the literature on Partition and Kashmir. It offers readers a deeper understanding of how historical choices, political ambitions, and geopolitical interests combined to create a conflict whose repercussions continue to resonate across South Asia. Thoughtful, balanced, and authoritative, this is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the roots of the Kashmir question.

The Origins of a Dispute: Kashmir 1947
Prem Shankar Jha
Speaking Tiger
New Delhi



Home Minister Amit Shah To Launch Land Port Management System On June 9

New Delhi, 7/6: In a move to improve border and internal security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch a Land Port Management System (LPMS) on June 9, an official said on Sunday. "The LPMS is a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to integrate operations across land ports into a unified system. It enables secure, real-time exchange of logistics and regulatory information, bringing land ports at par with digital systems operational at airports and seaports," the official said in a statement. This initiative underscores the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government's commitment to smart border management, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and security in cross-border trade and passenger movement through technology-driven solutions, an official statement said. On this occasion, the Union Home Minister will also inaugurate the newly

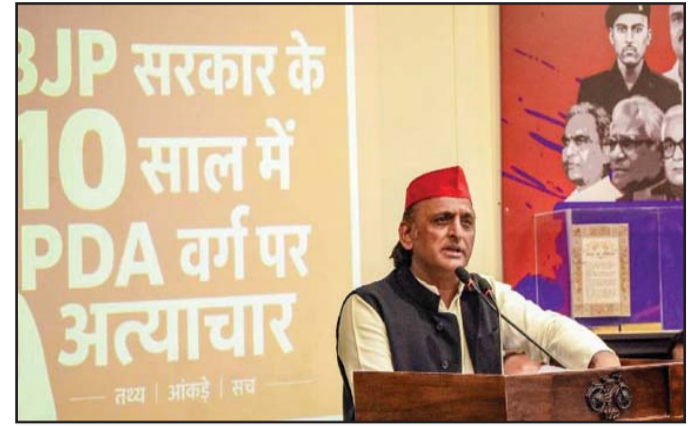


developed stakeholder accommodation facilities at the Dawki (Meghalaya) and Srimantapur (Tripura) Land Ports, further reinforcing infrastructure support for border security personnel and other valuable stakeholders. The launch of LPMS will be a landmark step in India's journey towards modern, technology-enabled smart border management system, reflecting the nation's strategic focus on strengthening trade facilitation, connectivity, and national security and 'Viksit Bharat by 2047.' "As a

Insurance Plan (ULIP), and the motor vehicle ecosystem, LPMS will enable interoperable, efficient, and transparent border management. "The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of Border Management, is responsible for developing and managing land ports to facilitate trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation," the statement said. At present, the LPAI operates 15 land ports across India's international borders: Attari (Punjab) and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab) along the India-Pakistan border; Rupaidiha (Uttar Pradesh), Raxaul (Bihar) and Joghani (Bihar) along the India-Nepal border; Darranga (Assam) along the India-Bhutan border; Petrapole (West Bengal), Dawki (Meghalaya), Sutarkandi, Golakganj and Mankachar (Assam), Agartala, Srimantapur and Sabroom (Tripura) along the India-Bangladesh border; and Moreh (Manipur) along the India-Myanmar border.

Akhilesh Yadav Alleges Crores Of Rupees Missing From Ram Temple Offerings; Urges Court To Take Suo-Motu Cognisance

New Delhi, 7/6: Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that crores of rupees have been found missing from the offerings made at the Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. He urged for judicial intervention in the matter. In a post on social media platform X, Yadav said: "This is an extremely sensitive piece of news for devotees of Lord Ram across the entire world: crores of rupees in offerings to the 'Ram Mandir' have been found missing." He called the incident "utterly shameful" for the temple trust. "No one is coming forward to offer any explanation," he added. Yadav urged the court to take suo motu cognisance, "as this is directly linked to the deep faith in Lord Ram held by the entire Sanatan society at a global level." "The government's silence is suspicious," he said. Previously, Ram Mandir Construction Committee Chairman Nripendra Mishra had said that the public donated more than Rs 3,000 crore for the construction of the Ram



Temple. The total cost of the temple project is estimated at around Rs 1,800 crore, he added. The idol of Ram Lalla was installed at the temple in January 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hoisted the ceremonial flag on the 'shikhara' of the Ram Temple in November 2025, which marked the traditional sacred day of Lord Ram's wedding. During an interaction with the media in March, Nripendra Mishra had said the committee's goal was to achieve compliance by the end of April. Moreover, Ram Mandir

Construction Committee Chairman had then mentioned that the construction of the Ram Temple has been completed. Speaking to reporters at that time, Mishra had said: "The current review focusses on whether vendor payments have been made and if all required building documents have been submitted to the trust. There are nearly 50 such issues under review. The goal is to ensure that all questions are properly answered and compliance is achieved by the end of April."

e-Jagriti Grievance Platform Wins Silver Award For E-Governance, Records 90.75 Pct Disposal Rate

New Delhi, 7/6: The e-Jagriti platform of the Department of Consumer Affairs has won the Silver Award under "Category I-Government Process Re-engineering by Use of Technology for Digital Transformation" at the prestigious National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026, presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. Launched on January 1, 2025, e-Jagriti has unified four legacy applications OCMS, e-Daakhil, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) CMS and CONFONET into a single AI-enabled, paperless platform. Since its launch, the platform has facilitated filing of more than 2.29 lakh consumer cases and disposal of over 2.07 lakh cases, achieving an overall disposal rate of 90.75 per cent while enabling

consumers to access justice from anywhere in India and abroad. The recognition for the award comes after a rigorous evaluation process involving 341 nominations from Union Ministries, Departments and state governments, reaffirming e-Jagriti's role in transforming consumer grievance redressal through technology-driven, citizen-centric service delivery, the statement said. During Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, consumer commissions registered significant improvements in performance with over 1.65 lakh cases and more than 1.52 lakh cases being disposed. The disposal rate increased to 92.3 per cent, compared to 89.47 per cent in FY 2024-25. Virtual hearing facilities witnessed substantial growth with cases handled through video conferencing increasing from 14,494 to 30,683. Other key improvements include daily

order uploads increasing by 17.3 per cent from 16,00,214 to 18,77,604. Even during the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26 (January-March 2026), consumer commissions maintained strong performance, disposing of 34,600 cases against 38,944 filings, achieving a disposal rate of 88.84 per cent, higher than the corresponding quarter of FY 2024-25, the statement said. Consumers can now file complaints online from anywhere in India or abroad, track case progress in real time and participate in virtual hearings without travelling to consumer commissions. The platform has enabled Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to access consumer justice without returning to India. The number of NRI users registered has gone up to 3,312. A total of 61 NRI cases have already been disposed of through the platform.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Goa CM Discuss NEP 2020 Outcomes

New Delhi, 7/6: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday met the Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and discussed implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, an official said. In a message on social media platform X, Pradhan said, "Pleased to meet Chief Minister of Goa, @PramodPSawantji. Had fruitful discussions on strengthening the implementation of #NEP2020 and expanding skilling opportunities for the youth of Goa." "Looking forward to our continued collaboration in advancing quality education and developing the human resources of the State effectively," the Union Education Minister added. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is India's overarching framework to overhaul the country's education system. Built on the five pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability,



it replaces the 1986 policy by introducing multidisciplinary learning, vocational integration, and structural academic flexibility. Earlier, Union Minister Pradhan held discussions with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to review, assess, and strategise the implementation of NEP 2020 since its inception. The Union Education's efforts were

aimed at consolidating and mapping the institutional progress of Central universities in promoting the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. Addressing the Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities, Union Minister Pradhan said in the last decade, India's higher education ecosystem has undergone a fundamental transformation

making it flexible, interdisciplinary, inclusive and innovation driven. "As a result, total student enrolment has touched 4.46 crore, a 30 per cent increase since 2014-15, female enrolment has grown by 38 per cent, and female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) now exceeded male GER," he added. Union Minister Pradhan said that Ph.D. enrolment has almost doubled, and female Ph.D. scholars have grown by 136 per cent, GER for Scheduled Tribes has increased by 10 percentage points, for Scheduled Castes by more than 8 percentage points. This indicated the Union government's commitment to inclusive education and social justice, he said, adding that as a result of positive policy initiatives 1,200-plus universities and more than 46,000 colleges have been established making India one of the largest systems globally.

Bumpy Ride For INDIA Bloc: DMK To Skip Meet, JMM And CPI-M Miffed With Cong Conduct

New Delhi, 7/6: The INDIA bloc meeting, scheduled for June 8 in the capital, seems to be heading into trouble even before its commencement. While Congress and the embattled Trinamool Congress (TMC) are more than willing to close ranks against the ruling BJP dispensation, particularly in light of imminent biennial elections for Rajya Sabha, many key allies of the alliance, including DMK, JMM and CPI (M), have either chosen to boycott it or vent ire over the grand old party's moves. DMK, a key ally of Congress in Tamil Nadu, has already announced to skip the Congress-convened meeting of the INDIA bloc after the latter ditched it post the Assembly election debacle and joined the newly formed TVK-led government. Speaking to IANS, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai said that his party has decided to boycott the INDIA bloc meeting because "we do not want to be in a place where the Congress is present." "The Congress are backstabbers. They stole our work and the sweat and toil of the workers of the DMK party and then switched camps. It is opportunism at its best. It would be an insult to all the DMK cadres if the party participates in, or is seen at, a place where the Congress is a part," he



said. However, he mentioned that DMK has made it very clear that it will listen to the voices of other parties. "We listen to their views on how to go forward and ensure that the common man in the country does not suffer," Annadurai added. A day ahead of the meeting, the cracks within the Opposition camp have begun to deepen with more allies expressing displeasure with the way of functioning and the "high-handedness" approach of the Congress party. JMM is upset with the Congress over the "unilateral" announcement of a candidate for one of two Rajya Sabha seats from Jharkhand,

while CPI(M) shot off a letter to party president Mallikarjun Kharge over the party's conduct, particularly during the Kerala polls. In Jharkhand, two Rajya Sabha seats are up for grabs. JMM wanted to field its own candidate in both seats, but Congress nixed its plans by fielding its own candidate. The Congress-JMM alliance, though, has the requisite numbers to win both seats. CPI(M) is furious with the Congress over the latter's style of canvassing during the Kerala elections. In his letter to Kharge, CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby has sought clarification from the Congress on claims made by

some of its leaders that the Left party had an "understanding" with the BJP. A Baby flagged this issue in a strongly worded letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Meanwhile, CPI-M leader Hannan Mollah stressed that as the largest party in the alliance, the Congress has a major responsibility. "Any biggest party in a coalition has a key role in holding the front together. But unfortunately, Congress leaders are not showing the required maturity," he told IANS. Attacking party leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, he said: "If you want to lead, you have to

carry everyone along. If you abuse your partners, who will remain with you? Rahul Gandhi criticises CPI-M in one place and DMK in another." "If you want to keep these parties together and lead the alliance, you have to represent everyone. Other leaders may say different things, but as the leader of the front, you cannot behave in a way that damages unity," he noted. Mollah said that the Congress should know how to build up a front for which one needs to be serious, have the capacity to take everyone along and speak sensibly. "One cannot be a leader without these," he emphasised. "The behaviour of Congress is damaging the alliance," he claimed. The INDIA bloc meeting is likely to be attended by about 15 Opposition parties, including Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (NC), TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, her nephew Abhishek Banerjee and others. NCP (SP) is unlikely to be physically represented at the meeting, and so is the Shiv Sena (UBT). Both may join the meeting virtually. However, the voices of differences and dissent within Congress's "overbearing" attitude are bound to create roadblocks as well as hindrances even before the Opposition bloc chalks out its strategy for further face-off with the ruling dispensation.

LPG Price Hike 2026: Centre Says Indian Cooking Gas Remains Affordable Despite Rs 29 Increase

NEW DELHI, 7/6: Following the latest increase of ₹29 in domestic LPG cylinder prices, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has defended the revision, stating that Indian households continue to receive cooking gas at prices significantly below international market rates. The revised rates came into effect on June 7, taking the price of a standard 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi to ₹942. According to the government, the recent hike is primarily linked to rising international LPG prices caused by ongoing geopolitical tensions and disruptions in West Asia. India imports nearly 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, making domestic prices sensitive to global market movements. The country's LPG import cost is linked to the Saudi Contract Price (Saudi CP), an international benchmark revised every month. Before the escalation of tensions in West Asia, Saudi CP stood at approximately USD 543 per tonne in February. However, following disruptions in the region and concerns over the Strait of Hormuz, prices surged significantly and reached around USD 790 per tonne by June. As a result, the cost of importing LPG into India has increased sharply over the past few months. The Petroleum Ministry stated that despite rising global costs, consumers are not bearing the full financial burden. According to official estimates, the actual cost of supplying a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder has now crossed ₹1,600. However, households in Delhi pay ₹942, meaning the government and oil companies continue to absorb a substantial portion of the cost. Officials said the effective under-recovery on every domestic cylinder is currently around ₹700. The government highlighted that beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) continue to receive additional support. Eligible households receive a direct benefit transfer (DBT) subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder on their first four refills annually. As a result, PMUY beneficiaries effectively pay around ₹642 per cylinder, substantially lower than the market price. The ministry argued that even after the latest revision, cooking gas remains more affordable in India compared to several neighbouring countries and developed economies. Officials noted that domestic LPG pricing continues to be moderated despite international volatility, ensuring that households remain protected from sudden global price shocks. Unlike domestic LPG cylinders, commercial cylinders used by restaurants, hotels and businesses are directly linked to international market prices and are revised every month. Currently, a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi costs ₹3,113.50.

South Korea, Japan Hold Joint Maritime Search Drills After Nine Years

Seoul, 7/6: South Korea and Japan on Sunday held a joint maritime search and rescue exercise (SAREX) for the first time in nine years, the South Korean Navy said. The drill was conducted by the South Korean Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force in international waters southeast of Jeju Island, according to the Navy. The exercise involved the South Korean Navy's 4,900-tonne ROKS Cheon Ja Bong landing ship, Japan's 7,250-tonne Aegis-equipped Kongo destroyer, and a Japanese maritime patrol helicopter. Yonhap news agency reported. Launched in 1999, the biennial SAREX exercise was designed to train procedures for coordinated responses between naval ships from both countries in the event of maritime incidents in waters near the Korean Peninsula. The drills had been suspended since the 10th round in 2017, as bilateral ties soured following a dispute over a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft making an unusually low-altitude flyby over a South Korean warship in December 2018. The two countries agreed to resume



the exercises in their Defence Ministers' talks in January and announced their schedule during another round of bilateral ministerial talks on the sidelines of the Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore last month. Ahead of their talks in Singapore, South Korea's Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back described the expanding exchanges at the

defence ministerial level as "ping-pong diplomacy", calling the development yet another milestone in their bilateral ties. Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, in turn, underscored that such meetings are not taking place just out of goodwill or friendship, but "necessity" given the current security challenges shared by both countries. "To promote

peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, it is important for Japan and South Korea to take a leading role, including through the US-Japan alliance, the US-ROK (Republic of Korea) alliance, and broader strategic cooperation to maintain and strengthen deterrence and response capabilities," he said through an interpreter.

Telangana Student Shot Dead During Pizza Delivery in US; Family Alleges Planned Trap

NEW DELHI, 7/6: A 28-year-old Indian student from Telangana was shot dead while delivering a pizza in Philadelphia, United States, in a tragic incident that has shocked both Indian and overseas communities. The victim, identified as Anshul Kuncha, had moved to the US for higher studies and was working part-time as a pizza delivery driver on weekends. His family has alleged that the attack was a premeditated trap and is demanding a thorough investigation and swift justice. According to local media reports, the incident occurred around midnight in North Philadelphia when Anshul was delivering a pizza order to an address inside the Raymond Rosen Homes housing complex. Investigators believe the delivery order may have been used to lure him to the location. Police officials said Anshul was found with multiple gunshot wounds and was rushed to Temple University Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Authorities have launched a

homicide investigation and are reviewing surveillance footage to identify the suspects involved. Reports indicate that surveillance cameras captured Anshul carrying the pizza order moments before the attack. The footage reportedly shows two individuals dressed in dark clothing following him through the housing complex before the shooting occurred. Investigators are examining the video and gathering additional evidence to determine the motive behind the crime. The Consulate General of India in New York expressed deep sorrow over Anshul's death and confirmed that officials are in contact with his family. In a statement, the Consulate said it is extending all possible assistance and coordinating efforts to support the family during this difficult period. Anshul Kuncha hailed from Telangana and pursued a Bachelor of Technology degree in Chemical Engineering from Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology in Hyderabad. He

later moved to the United States to pursue a Master's degree in Business Analytics and completed his studies in 2024. According to professional records, he worked as a Data Validation Analyst in Pennsylvania while also taking up weekend pizza delivery shifts to supplement his income. Friends and family described him as hardworking, ambitious and dedicated to building a successful future. Anshul's sister, Tanvi, claimed that the incident was not a random act of violence but a deliberate plot. According to her, the family was informed that Anshul had been shot multiple times and left on the road. Calling it a "trap," she questioned the motive behind the killing and urged authorities to identify and punish those responsible. The family has also appealed to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for assistance in bringing Anshul's mortal remains back to India as quickly as possible.

China Reshaping Tibetan Identity Through Education System: Report

New Delhi, 7/6: China's education policies in Tibet are increasingly becoming a battleground over identity, history and cultural preservation, according to a report. The Eurasia review, said in a report that educational reforms implemented under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are reshaping how Tibetan children understand their own heritage. In its report titled "Tibet Is Not Han China: Reject The Rewriting Of A Living Civilisation", it contends that the struggle for Tibet extends beyond politics and territory and has become "a battle over memory, identity, and the right of a people to tell their own story". According to the report, Tibetan students are increasingly being taught narratives that portray Tibet as an inseparable part of China while minimising or omitting Tibet's distinct political, religious and cultural history. It said that school curricula often emphasise the role of successive Chinese dynasties in Tibet while downplaying periods of Tibetan self-rule and the wider historical



influence of Tibetan civilisation across Central Asia and the Himalayan region. The report also added that educational content increasingly presents the Chinese Communist Party as the primary force behind Tibet's development, reducing Tibetan history to a prelude to what Beijing describes as the region's "liberation" in the 1950s. It also expresses concern over the declining presence of Tibetan Buddhism, literature, folklore, oral traditions and indigenous knowledge systems in educational materials. Particular

attention is drawn to language policies. Citing research by human rights organisations, the report claims that nearly one million Tibetan children have been placed in state-run boarding schools that primarily operate in Mandarin. It also notes that revisions to China's National Common Language Law in December 2025 made Mandarin the principal language of instruction across schools, replacing earlier provisions that allowed minority languages to serve as teaching mediums. The report said that these

developments risk producing generations of Tibetans increasingly disconnected from their linguistic and cultural heritage. It compares the policies to historical assimilation programmes once implemented in countries such as Canada, Australia and the United States, where indigenous children were placed in residential schools designed to suppress native languages and traditions. "Protecting Tibetan heritage requires more than preserving monuments or religious sites. A civilisation survives when its history, values, and language are passed from one generation to the next. Schools play a decisive role in that process. When educational materials fail to reflect Tibetan perspectives, students lose access to the intellectual and cultural foundations of their own society," the report said. Beijing maintains that Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times.

US Forces Down 2 Iranian Drones 'Threatening Traffic' In Strait Of Hormuz

Washington, 7/6: The US military said it shot down two Iranian drones after they allegedly threatened traffic in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday (Indian time). "Earlier today, US forces in the Middle East shot down two Iranian one-way attack drones that threatened international maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz," the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on X. CENTCOM said on Friday that US forces had intercepted multiple ballistic missiles and drones launched by Iran toward the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf neighbours. It was the latest clash between Washington and Tehran as tensions in the Middle East escalated anew. The two countries have been engaged in weeks of indirect talks on how to end the conflicts, reports Xinhua news agency. Earlier on Friday, the United States military announced that it shot down four Iranian attack drones headed towards the Strait of Hormuz and later carried out strikes on Iranian coastal radar installations, marking a fresh



escalation in tensions in one of the world's most critical maritime corridors. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces acted after detecting what it described as an immediate threat to shipping in the region. "Moments ago, CENTCOM forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that were launched

toward the Strait of Hormuz," CENTCOM said. The military said the drones "posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic". According to CENTCOM, US forces then launched retaliatory strikes against Iranian surveillance infrastructure along the country's southern coast. "US forces subsequently struck Iranian coastal surveillance

radar sites in Goruk and on Qeshm Island to defend against further attacks," the statement said. CENTCOM did not provide details on casualties, damage assessments or the type of aircraft and weapons used in the operation. The statement also did not indicate whether any commercial vessels were directly targeted by the drones.

South Korea: Lee Nominates SME Minister Han Seong-sook As New Prime Minister

Seoul, 7/6: President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook, the incumbent minister of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as the next prime minister, a senior presidential official said on Sunday.

If confirmed by the National Assembly, Han would become the Lee government's first female prime minister and South Korea's second female prime minister since Han Myeong-sook, who served in the post from 2006 to 2007. Current Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, who served as the Lee administration's first prime minister, is stepping down, reportedly to run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) at its convention in August or September, according to the Yonhap news agency. Han, a former chief executive of online portal giant Naver who spent most of her career in the internet industry, took up her current post upon the inauguration of the Lee administration. Announcing the



nomination, presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik described Han as someone capable of "flawlessly attaining the epochal transition to artificial intelligence and spearheading South Korea's growth for all" based on her experience. Referring to outgoing Prime Minister Kim, Kang expressed the presidential office's gratitude for his service in the post, saying the government's policy results could rightly be attributed to Kim's performance. The reshuffle comes as the Lee

administration marked its first year in office following the president's inauguration on June 4 last year. On Monday, Lee is scheduled to hold a press conference marking his first year in office and unveil his policy vision for the second year of his five-year term. Earlier reports said the Prime Minister's Office has formed a team in advance to help the prime minister nominee prepare for her parliamentary confirmation hearing.

Private Investment Announcements Jump To Rs 56 Lakh Crore In FY26: SBI Research

New Delhi, 7/6: Private sector investment activity witnessed a significant surge in FY26, with investment announcements rising to Rs 56 lakh crore from Rs 37 lakh crore in the previous financial year, according to a report by State Bank of India Research. The sharp increase comes amid ongoing debates over the pace of private capital expenditure and suggests growing confidence among businesses in the country's economic prospects. In its latest Ecowrap report, SBI Research noted that private investment announcements have recorded a substantial rise during the year, contributing to a broader uptrend in overall investment activity. Total investment announcements across sectors climbed to Rs 80 lakh crore in FY26, compared with Rs 17 lakh crore in FY19. The report highlighted that the manufacturing sector emerged as the largest contributor to fresh investment announcements during FY26, accounting for 28.9 per cent of the total. The power sector closely followed with a share of



28.7 per cent, while building infrastructure projects contributed 23.1 per cent to overall investment proposals. According to SBI Research, recent GDP data further reinforce the view that investment activity has gained considerable traction. The report said FY26 presents an important opportunity to assess investment

trends as official economic data point to strengthening capital formation, particularly during the final quarter of the fiscal year. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a key indicator used to measure investment in the economy, expanded by 10.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY26. The strong growth in GFCF indicates that

businesses have stepped up spending on assets such as machinery, equipment, infrastructure and other long-term investments. The report added that the sharp rise in investment announcements, coupled with stronger capital formation data, points to improving momentum in the investment cycle and could provide support to economic growth in the coming quarters.

India can grow over 8% despite oil shocks, crude impact overblown in narrative: Neelkanth Mishra

New Delhi, 7/6: India's growth momentum remains strong and fears that crude price shocks will derail it are a "narrative problem, not reality," said Neelkanth Mishra, India's newly appointed Executive Director at the World Bank. In an exclusive interview with ANI, Mishra spoke on Indian economy's outlook amid West Asia tensions, he argued that India is better placed than most energy importers to absorb higher oil prices without major damage to growth. Mishra is also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and is widely known for his work as an economist and market expert. On growth, Mishra pointed out India expanded 7.1% in FY25 despite monetary and fiscal headwinds, meaning credit growth was slowing and the government was tightening the fiscal deficit. "If our growth was 7.1% despite fiscal and monetary tightening, it means without that, growth would have been higher," he said. Now, with monetary tailwinds as credit growth accelerates and the budgeted deficit not lower than last year, he estimates the economy was growing at 8%+ till February-

March 2026. He cited ground indicators: 29% YoY car sales growth in May, strong mall footfalls and sales, and cement demand in high single digits. "You can't build inventory of cement... whatever is being bought is being consumed," he noted, making it hard to justify negative sentiment. On crude, Mishra explained why India's vulnerability is lower than headlines suggest. Because Indian oil marketing companies are also refiners, they benefit from refining margins when diesel cracks rise. If pre-war crude was USD 70/barrel with a USD 20 diesel crack, landed cost was USD 90. Today at USD 100 crude and USD 50 crack, other countries face USD 150, while India faces USD 120. With diesel cracks now cooling and oil around USD 94-95/barrel, "India does not need to raise any further fuel prices." The feared implicit subsidy of 220-30/litre is not needed; the 28/litre cushion is sufficient as oil prices have eased due to inventory releases by China and the US. He quantified the headwind: at USD



100/barrel, oil creates a 2% drag on growth -- like an aircraft slowing from 900 to 700 km/h due to headwinds. But fiscal support such as fertilizer price caps won't be needed by March 2027 as oil futures are at USD 80/barrel. At USD 80, the economy can re-accelerate. The only serious vulnerability he flagged is the currency, not growth. Mishra stressed India is fiscally more disciplined than in past oil shocks. While energy price shocks remain a risk, the current combination of strong domestic demand, fading fiscal/monetary headwinds, and India's refining surplus means growth can stay near 7.5-8% even with elevated crude. The bigger challenge, he said, is managing the narrative until data proves the resilience.

Sensex, Nifty Likely To Range-Bound, Technical Indicators Signal Cautious Bias: Experts

Mumbai, 7/6: Indian equity markets are expected to remain range-bound in the coming week, with experts pointing to a mixed technical setup for benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty, even as domestic policy support offers some cushion against weak global cues. According to market experts, the overall outlook for Nifty remains cautious, with momentum indicators showing weakening strength. "From a technical perspective, the RSI on the weekly timeframe is placed near 39.64, indicating weakening momentum and suggesting that the index remains in a neutral-to-bearish zone," an analyst stated. "On the upside, immediate resistance levels are placed at 23,900 and 24,100. On the downside, support is seen at 23,200 and 23,000. A decisive breakdown below the 23,000 mark could accelerate selling pressure and open the door for further weakness," the market expert mentioned. On the Sensex front, experts said Sensex is also showing a cautious technical setup. "Immediate resistance is placed near the 74,600-74,800



zone, while the broader 75,500-75,800 region continues to act as a major resistance band. A sustained move above these levels will be required to improve sentiment and revive bullish momentum," the market mentioned. For Nifty Bank, analysts said the index has managed to defend the crucial

53,000 level, leading to a rebound that indicates some improvement in sentiment. However, it continues to trade below its key medium-term averages, suggesting that the broader trend remains cautious. Experts added that the weekly RSI for Bank Nifty has started to edge higher to around 44, indicating gradual

improvement in momentum, though it remains below the neutral mark of 50. "Immediate support is placed in the 53,900-53,000 zone, while resistance is seen at 55,000 and 55,800. A decisive breakout above resistance levels could strengthen the recovery momentum in the coming weeks," an analyst noted.

Supply Cost Of Domestic LPG Cylinder Rises To Over Rs 1,600 Amid West Asia Crisis

New Delhi, 7/6: The cost of supplying a 14.2 kg cylinder has risen to over Rs 1,600 amid the West Asia crisis and the under-recovery now absorbed on each domestic cylinder is about Rs 700, the government said on Sunday, as domestic cooking gas prices were increased by Rs 29 per cylinder. According to Petroleum Ministry, the scale of this is visible in the fully market-priced commercial cylinder. The 19-kg cylinder used by hotels and restaurants sells in Delhi at Rs 3,113.50, about Rs 164 a kg, after five increases during the West Asia crisis. The domestic household, by contrast, pays about Rs 66 a kg after the revision. Commercial gas carries a higher rate of tax and larger margins, so it sits above the household's cost-reflective level; even so, the import-linked cost of a domestic cylinder works out to over Rs 1,600, the ministry informed. As the conflict tightened the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil and a large share of India's energy imports pass, most commercial traffic in the



waterway was brought to a near halt. About 54 per cent of India's LPG consumption was routed through the Strait, leaving the cooking-gas supply directly exposed to the disruption. India was among the few that kept its energy cargoes moving. Through sustained coordination, Indian-flagged tankers continued to transit the Strait and discharge at

Indian ports, carrying crude oil and successive consignments of LPG. There has been no shortage of any petroleum product, and bottling and distribution have continued normally across the network, said the ministry. A range of measures was taken to secure supply through the disruption. On the supply side, domestic LPG production was

raised by more than 60 per cent, from about 32 TMT to about 52 TMT, to offset the constrained imports. Sustained coordination ensured that LPG-laden vessels continued to move out of the Strait of Hormuz -- India brought out the largest number of such vessels of any country, and did so without paying any toll. "Sourcing was

simultaneously widened to suppliers across the world, including those that do not route through the Strait, such as the United States, Canada and Algeria, and available LPG was directed to households and to priority users such as hospitals and educational institutions," according to the official statement. On the demand side, consumers were encouraged to shift to piped natural gas (PNG) where available, easing the call on cylinders. To protect this scarce domestic supply, anti-diversion enforcement was tightened in coordination with state governments and industry associations: OTP-based delivery verification was raised to about 90 per cent, preventing the leakage of subsidised domestic LPG into the commercial market. By the end of the last financial year, the cumulative under-recovery on domestic LPG reached Rs 60,000 crore, up from Rs 41,338 crore the year before, and the Union Cabinet has approved compensation of Rs 30,000 crore to the marketing companies on this account.

NSE investor accounts cross 26 crore milestone as mobile trading and tier-2/3 cities drive participation

New Delhi, 7/6: The National Stock Exchange of India has crossed another landmark with unique trading accounts, or client codes, surpassing 26 crore or 260 million in June 2026. The pace of growth is accelerating, the most recent one crore accounts were added in just under four months, according to NSE. NSE said in a press release that over 4.3 crore accounts, nearly 17% of the total, have been added in the past year alone, reflecting sustained retail interest despite geopolitical uncertainty and market volatility. "NSE has significantly expanded its investor education initiatives in recent years," the exchange said, noting that the number of Investor Awareness Programs rose five-fold from 3,504 in FY20 to 17,902 in FY26, covering more than 9.4 lakh participants in FY26 alone. The exchange's Investor Protection Fund stood at Rs 2,890 crore as of April 30, 2026. Shri Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE, said: "Crossing the 26-crore investor accounts mark is a significant achievement for the exchange and reflects the continued deepening of investor participation in Indian capital markets. Despite prevailing geopolitical uncertainty, the addition of one crore accounts in just under four months underlines sustained investor confidence and the expanding reach of the market ecosystem." The growth is being driven by rapid digitisation and penetration beyond metros. Mobile trading platforms now account for more than a fifth of cash market turnover, while a simplified KYC framework has lowered entry barriers. Maharashtra leads with 4.4 crore accounts, 17% of the total, followed by Uttar Pradesh with ~3 crore, Gujarat with 2.2 crore, and West Bengal and Rajasthan with 1.5 crore each. The top five states account for 49% of accounts, but northeastern states are catching up fast -- Mizoram, Sikkim and Meghalaya saw 32.3%, 30% and 29.2% of their five-year additions happen in 2025 itself.

Tata Motors To Continue Investing In EV And Hydrogen Technologies For Commercial Vehicles: N Chandrasekaran

New Delhi, 7/6: Tata Motors Limited will continue investing in electric and hydrogen-based technologies for its commercial vehicle business as the shift towards cleaner mobility accelerates, Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said in his message to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2025-26.

Chandrasekaran said the transition to sustainable transportation cannot rely on a single technology and will require a mix of electric vehicles, hydrogen-powered solutions and cleaner internal combustion engine (ICE) technologies. He noted that while Tata Motors is expanding its portfolio of zero-emission electric commercial vehicles, it will also continue investing in hydrogen technologies, particularly for heavier-duty transport segments. The Tata Motors chairman highlighted that the global mobility landscape is undergoing rapid transformation driven by clean energy adoption, higher safety expectations and



changes in global supply chains. He added that advances in digital technologies and artificial intelligence are reshaping the way mobility products are designed, used and supported. According to Chandrasekaran, geopolitical uncertainties and uneven economic recovery across regions are adding to industry challenges, making agility and resilience critical for long-term competitiveness. Looking ahead, he said Tata Motors remains focused on profitable growth and

is well-positioned to capitalise on emerging mobility opportunities. The company plans to maintain disciplined capital allocation while investing in future technologies such as connected vehicle platforms, advanced driver assistance systems, data-driven fleet services, digital mobility solutions and next-generation powertrains. Chandrasekaran also highlighted the company's financial performance during FY26.

National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56

National Award winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar has passed away at the age of 56, marking the end of an extraordinary career that spanned more than three decades in Indian cinema. He was reportedly rushed to Amrita Hospital in Kochi on Saturday, where he later passed away. The Government of Kerala confirmed the actor's demise in an official communication expressing "profound grief" over the loss of the celebrated performer. In its statement, the government noted that Salim Kumar was a "renowned film actor" who won the National Film Award for Best Actor in 2010 for his performance in 'Adaminte Makan Abu'. He had also received the Kerala State Film Award for Second Best Actor for 'Achanurangatha Veedu' (2005). According to the government, the actor's mortal remains will be kept for public homage at Paravur Town Hall from 9 am to 1 pm on June 7. The funeral will be held at 3 pm on the same day at his residence in North Paravur, Ernakulam. The Kerala government has decided to bear the expenses connected with the funeral and related arrangements. As a mark of respect, the government has also ordered official honours during the funeral. The District Collector will place a wreath on the mortal remains on behalf of the Government of Kerala, while the District Police Chief will



arrange Police Honours with a bugle salute. One of Malayalam cinema's most versatile performers, Salim Kumar built a remarkable legacy across more than 300 films, primarily in Malayalam cinema, while also appearing in select Tamil and Odia productions. He first became a household name through his distinctive comic performances, celebrated for impeccable timing, expressive body language and memorable dialogues, before evolving into one of the industry's most respected character actors. His career was marked by several major honours. He won

the National Film Award for Best Actor and the Kerala State Film Award for Best Actor in 2010 for his acclaimed portrayal of Abu in 'Adaminte Makan Abu'. His other notable recognitions include the Kerala State Film Award for Second Best Actor for 'Achanurangatha Veedu' (2005), Best Comedian for 'Ayalum Njanum Thammil' (2013), and Best Story for his directorial venture 'Karutha Joothan' (2017). Salim Kumar is survived by his wife Sunitha and their two sons, Chandu Salim Kumar, who is also an actor, and Aaromal Salim Kumar.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai box office collection: Varun Dhawan starrer film collects Rs 8.65 crore on Day 1

Actor Varun Dhawan's latest release, 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai', has opened to a better-than-expected response at the box office on its first day in theatres. The romantic comedy, directed by David Dhawan, collected Rs 8.65 crore nett in India on Day 1, according to trade analyst Taran Adarsh. Sharing the film's opening day figures on X, Adarsh said that the movie benefitted significantly from the 50 per cent discount offer and performed better than pre-release expectations. "#HaiJawaniTohIshqHonaHai has opened to a better-than-expected response on Day 1, benefitting significantly from the 50% discount offer. Pre-release estimates had indicated an opening day collection in the vicinity of ₹7 cr to ₹7.5 cr range, but the film has comfortably surpassed those estimates," Adarsh wrote. The film stars Varun Dhawan in the lead role alongside Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde. The cast also includes Chunky Panday, Jimmy Shergill, Rakesh Bedi and Maniesh Paul in important roles. Actress Mouni Roy makes a special appearance in the film. Backed by producer Ramesh Taurani, 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' released in theatres on June 5 and marks another collaboration between Varun Dhawan and director David Dhawan.



SPORTS

IGU To Send Six-Member Team For 2026 Asian Games In Japan

New Delhi, 7/6: The Indian Golf Union (IGU), headed by Brijinder Singh and his team who are the National Sports Federation recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) and the International Golf Federation (IGF), will send a six-member Indian team to compete in the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The golf events for both men and women are scheduled from September 30 to October 3, 2026, at the Kasugai Country Club East Course. Yuvraj Sandhu, who is currently ranked 451st in the world, will be leading the Indian men's squad comprising of Veer Ahlawat (World No. 558) and Saptak Talwar (World No. 576) LPGA Tour regular and current World No. 135, Aditi Ashok, will be leading the women's squad also including Diksha Dagar (World No. 221) and Pranavi Urs (World No. 270). Aditi had won the individual silver at the 2023 Hangzhou Asiad. The entries were decided as per the IGU Selection policy for Asian Games which is published on the



federation's official website. Indian Golf Union president Brijinder Singh expressed confidence about the national team registering a memorable performance in Japan. "We have got a supremely talented and efficient squad which has someone like Yuvraj Sandhu, who won seven times on the PGTI circuit last year. Then there are likes of Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar who have won

multiple times on the Ladies European Tour (LET). The entries were decided purely through World Rankings. I am confident that the Indian team will finish on the podium this time," Brijinder Singh said. India has had an illustrious history in golf at the Asian Games, clinching three gold and three silver medals. The Indian quartet of Lakshman Singh, Rishi Narain, Amit Luthra and Rajeev Mohta won the team

gold back in 1982 Asiad. Lakshman Singh also captured an individual gold medal. Shiv Kapur won the individual gold at the 2002 Busan Asian Games. At the 2006 Doha Asian Games, Team India comprising of Anirban Lahiri, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Joseph Chakola clinched silver. In 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, the Indian team of Rashid Khan, Rahul Bajaj, Abhinav Lohan and Abhijit Singh Chadha won the silver medal.

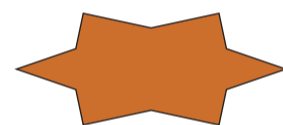
Indian Men's Hockey Team Departs For European Leg Of FIH Hockey Pro League 2025-26

Bengaluru: The Indian Men's Hockey Team departed from Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday night for the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2025-26, where they will take on some of the top hockey nations in a crucial phase of the tournament. The Indian contingent is travelling to Brussels, Belgium, via Abu Dhabi, as the team will undergo a preparatory training camp and play a friendly match between 7

and 9 June 2026 in Brussels. The short training block aims to help the squad acclimatise to European conditions ahead of a packed Pro League schedule. Following the camp in Belgium, the team will move to Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 10 June for the first phase of their European campaign. India will face Germany and hosts Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League from 14 to 21 June 2026 in Rotterdam. Thereafter, the squad will travel to London, England,

where they will take on Pakistan and England in the second phase of the European leg from 23 to 28 June 2026. India will play each of the four opponents twice during the tour. The eagerly-awaited matches against Pakistan will be played on June 23 and June 26. Speaking ahead of the departure, Indian Men's Hockey Team captain Harmanpreet Singh expressed confidence in the squad's preparations and excitement for the challenges ahead. "The European leg of the Pro League is

always a great test because you are up against some of the best teams in the world in their home conditions. We have prepared well during our training camp in Bengaluru, and the players are looking forward to competing at the highest level," said Harmanpreet, who returns to lead the side after missing the Australian leg of the FIH Pro League in Hobart due to personal reasons.



Taylor Swift, Travis Kelce planning Madison Square Garden wedding: Report

Washington: Pop superstar Taylor Swift and NFL star Travis Kelce are reportedly set to marry at New York City's iconic Madison Square Garden, according to multiple sources cited by Page Six. The venue, known as the home of the NBA's New York Knicks, the NHL's New York Rangers and some of the world's biggest concerts, is said to be the chosen location for the couple's high-profile wedding celebration. "Everyone's been sworn to secrecy," said one source, as per Page Six. Page Six had previously reported that Swift and Kelce, both 36, are planning to tie the knot in New York over the July 3 weekend. According to a source, "privacy was of number one importance to them both" when selecting a venue. The source added that guests could be transported to the venue on blacked-out buses, while Madison Square Garden's multiple entrances and secure infrastructure would help maintain privacy for the event. While the arena may appear to be an unconventional choice for a wedding ceremony, another source told the publication, "If you have billions you can transform the space into a wedding venue." Adding to speculation, Madison Square Garden reportedly has no scheduled events between June 29 and July 6, as per Page Six. Swift has a long history with Madison Square Garden, having performed there eight times. Her appearances include one show during the Fearless tour, two during the 'Speak Now' tour and four performances at the Z100 Jingle Ball concerts. Several celebrity names have reportedly received invitations to the wedding, including Karlie



Kloss, Zoe Kravitz, Ed Sheeran, the Haim sisters, Suki Waterhouse, Gigi Hadid and Selena Gomez. Meanwhile, Page Six recently reported that actor Miles Teller and his wife Keleigh Sperry were not included on the guest list following an apparent falling out. The couple were spotted multiple times in New York City last month, dining at restaurants including Or'esh and Via Carota. The sightings fuelled speculation that they were overseeing preparations for the wedding. Security is expected to be heightened across New York during the US Independence Day (July 4) holiday weekend. Speaking earlier this week, New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch discussed the extensive security arrangements required for several major events scheduled across the city. "And potentially Taylor Swift's wedding," she said, adding,

"I'm kidding," as quoted by Page Six. Swift's connection to New York City stretches back more than a decade. In 2014, she purchased adjacent penthouses in Tribeca and later expanded her property holdings in the neighbourhood. She also temporarily lived on Comelia Street during renovations, inspiring the song 'Comelia Street' from her 2019 album 'Lover'. The singer famously celebrated her affection for the city with the 2014 track 'Welcome to New York' and served as New York City's Global Welcome Ambassador from 2014 to 2015. Swift and Kelce, who got engaged in August 2025, would join a long list of celebrity couples who have married in New York City, including Beyonce and Jay-Z, Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, and Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas.