

# Dumani Mail

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



Vikash ki Lahar,  
Gaon se Sahar



Inauguration and Laying of Foundation Stone for  
various developmental projects worth

**₹47,600 Crore**

Chief Guest

**Smt. Droupadi Murmu**

Hon'ble President of India

in august presence of

**Shri Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister

**Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati**

Governor, Odisha

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**

Chief Minister, Odisha

**Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo**

Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

**Smt. Pravati Parida**

Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Ministers of State Government

Members of Parliament

Members of Odisha Legislative Assembly

## Inauguration

₹811 Crore

Road & Bridge Projects

₹530 Crore

Strengthening of Transport  
Infrastructure

A step towards safer roads, smarter transport,  
and better public services.

Other Projects worth ₹3,218 Crore

## Laying of Foundation Stone

₹25,000 Crore

BCGCL Coal Gasification Project

₹17,117 Crore

Advanced Power Infrastructure  
Projects

Increase in Direct and Indirect Employment.  
Strengthening of State's Electricity Infrastructure.

Other Projects worth ₹927 Crore

## Dedication of Railway Projects

• Hindol - Meramandali multi-tracking project • Jakhapura - Jajpur Keonjhar Road - Baitarani Road multi-tracking project

Strengthening of regional connectivity and boosting of economic development

20 June 2026 | 12:15 PM | Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj

CAPTION: 15001/75/2627

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha

## Public Outrage Erupts Over Proposed Country Liquor Shop in Khordha.

## Residents Approach Collector, Term Proposal "Against Public Interest"

Khordha: Strong public opposition has surfaced over a proposal to establish a country liquor shop in Ward No-20 (Talasahi) under the Khordha Municipality. The move has sparked widespread concern among local residents, who fear that the liquor outlet could disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of the area and negatively impact nearby educational institutions, religious places, and residential neighborhoods. In protest against the proposed establishment, a large number of residents submitted a memorandum to the Collector of Khordha, urging the administration to immediately

cancel the proposal. The residents alleged that the decision is contrary to public interest and could have far-reaching social consequences for the community.

According to available information, administrative procedures have reportedly been initiated to set up a country liquor shop on plots bearing Nos. 457/5831/6175, 457/5831 and khata no-648/3005,648/2063, plot no-457/5079,457/5316. However, local residents have strongly objected to the proposed location, pointing out that it is surrounded by densely populated residential areas and lies in close proximity to

schools, an anganwadi centre, temples, and other public institutions. Residents argue that Talasahi has long been known for its peaceful and family-friendly environment. Every day, students, women, senior citizens, and working professionals use the roads in the locality for their daily activities. They fear that opening a liquor shop in such an area would attract large gatherings of drinkers, leading to an increase in public nuisance, anti-social activities, disputes, and law-and-order concerns.

In their memorandum, the residents emphasized that the

provisions of the Odisha Excise Act, 2008 require authorities to consider public welfare, the presence of educational and religious institutions, and the safety of residential areas before approving liquor outlets. They argued that revenue generation should not come at the cost of public safety and social well-being. Women from the locality have expressed particular concern over the proposal. They stated that experiences from several other areas indicate that the presence of liquor shops often contributes to domestic violence, family disputes, and various social problems. They

warned that the establishment of the outlet could adversely affect the safety and security of women and children in the area. Parents have also voiced their apprehensions, stating that the proximity of a liquor shop to schools and educational institutions could have a negative influence on students and the overall academic environment. They further pointed out that increased movement of intoxicated individuals could create road safety hazards and expose children to undesirable influences. The memorandum also alleges that local residents

were not adequately consulted before the proposal was processed. According to the protesters, no meaningful public discussion or consultation was conducted despite the significant impact such a decision could have on the community. They have urged the administration to respect democratic values by giving due consideration to public opinion and objections.

The issue has now become a major topic of discussion across the locality. Residents have made it clear that if their concerns are ignored, they will intensify their protest through lawful and democratic means.

They have warned that they are prepared to organize mass demonstrations, public sit-ins, and seek intervention from higher authorities if necessary. As the controversy continues to grow, all eyes are now on the district administration's response. Whether the authorities choose to proceed with the proposal or reconsider it in light of public opposition remains to be seen. For now, the residents remain united in their demand: the proposed country liquor shop should be scrapped in order to protect the peace, safety, and future of the community.

## Odisha Government Marks Two Years in Office; MSME Parks Planned in Delanga and Nimapada

Puri: Highlighting the achievements of the state government over the past two years, Odisha's Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain addressed a press conference at the Circuit House in Puri on Friday as part of the statewide "Bikashara Dhara Odisha Sara" campaign.

The event, jointly organised by the district administration and the Information & Public Relations Department, focused on the government's development initiatives and welfare measures implemented across Puri district.

Addressing media representatives, the minister said the government has prioritised public grievance redressal. Of the 14,651 complaints received during the last two years, 13,897 have been resolved, achieving a disposal rate of nearly 95%. Financial assistance worth ₹73.8 lakh was also provided

to 86 beneficiaries through grievance hearing programmes.

In the food security sector, the minister said 12.88 lakh beneficiaries in Puri district are receiving 10 kg of rice per person from May and June, replacing the earlier allocation of 5 kg under national and state food security schemes.

On agricultural procurement, he informed that during the 2024-25 Kharif season, 20.53 lakh quintals of paddy were procured from 47,103 farmers, while 6 lakh quintals were purchased from 25,321 farmers during the Rabi season. In the current Kharif season, procurement has already crossed 20.36 lakh quintals from 58,005 farmers.

The minister said that under the Subhadra Yojana, financial assistance amounting to ₹853.58 crore has been disbursed to over 4.2 lakh beneficiaries in the district. He also noted that 17,613



women have emerged as "Lakshmi Didis" through self-help group initiatives.

In the healthcare sector, 7.17 lakh people have been issued Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana cards in the district, benefiting around 58,000 individuals. Medical treatment worth more than ₹303.63 crore has been availed under the scheme. Additionally, 38,670 cards have been distributed under the Vaya Vandana scheme.

The minister further stated that nearly ₹80 crore in pre-matric

beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Gruha Yojana. Announcing new industrial initiatives, Swain said two MSME parks will be established in Delanga and Nimapada blocks of Puri district. He also revealed that Odisha is set to host two semiconductor projects and a defence ancillary manufacturing project, strengthening the state's industrial ecosystem. Among those present at the programme were Ashrit Pattanayak, Puri Collector Divya Jyoti Parida and Chief Development Officer Sneha Arugula. Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi welcomed the participants. Media representatives interacted with the minister and submitted suggestions on various developmental issues.

and post-matric scholarships has been provided to 1.14 lakh tribal students. Under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, 31 villages have received ₹40 lakh each for development activities. Under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana, 5,436 beneficiaries were covered during 2024-25, while 5,859 beneficiaries are being assisted in 2025-26. Housing support has also been extended to 6,463 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and 3,498

## SC refuses to accord urgent hearing on pleas related to NEET-UG 2026

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to accord urgent hearing on two separate pleas related to the NEET-UG 2026 re-test which is scheduled for June 21.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana said these petitions would be heard by a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha in July when the apex court will resume normal functioning after the partial court working days. "All NEET matters will go before Justice Narasimha's bench," the CJ said when one of the lawyers mentioned the matter for urgent listing.

## Delhi Police busts cyber fraud syndicate, arrests four from Rajasthan

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted an alleged cyber fraud and money laundering syndicate operating from Rajasthan and arrested four people for routing and concealing proceeds through multiple bank accounts, officials said on Friday.

The arrests were made in connection with a cyber fraud case in which a woman was allegedly cheated of Rs 2 lakh through unauthorised transactions from her bank account, they said. According to the police, the case was registered on November 4, last year. The fraud came to light after her son, who lives in the United States, noticed suspicious transactions from her account and travelled to India to lodge a complaint.

## Train Services to Be Affected for 20 Days Due to Balasore Yard Remodeling: 15 Trains Cancelled, 5 Diverted, 2 Partially Cancelled

Balasore: Train services under the Kharagpur Division will be significantly affected for 20 days, from July 29 to August 17, due to non-interlocking work associated with the remodeling of the Balasore railway station yard under the Narayangarh-Bhadrak Third Line Project, South Eastern Railway has announced.

According to the railway notification, six MEMU services operating on the Kharagpur-Bhadrak, Balasore-Bhadrak, Balasore-Bhubaneswar, and Balasore-Gopinathpur routes will remain completely cancelled from July 29 to August 11. The Kharagpur-Balasore MEMU service will remain cancelled until August 12.

Among the long-distance trains, the Falaknuma Express will remain cancelled from July 28 to August 8, the Howrah-Puri Express from July 29 to August 9, and the Howrah-Bhubaneswar Express on August 5.

In addition, five trains, including the Anand Vihar-Puri Express and the New Delhi-

Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express, will be diverted via the Chandil-Kandra-Sini-Rajkharasawan-Nayagarh-Jakhapura route.

Similarly, the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will be diverted via the Gomoh-Bokaro-Purulia route during the affected period.

The Baripada-Balasore MEMU service will terminate at Rupsa station from July 28 to August 10, while the Balasore-Baripada MEMU service will originate from Rupsa station from July 29 to August 11. Consequently, train services between Rupsa and Balasore will remain temporarily suspended during this period.

The non-interlocking work is being undertaken to expedite the modernization of Balasore railway station and the implementation of the Third Line Project. Railway authorities have advised passengers to check the status of their trains before commencing their journeys and to plan their travel according to the revised schedule.

## Postal Department Services Reach Village Doorsteps; Dak Mela Organized in Kurujang, Kakatpur

Puri: In a bid to take postal services and welfare schemes directly to rural communities instead of confining them to offices and paperwork, the Puri Postal Sub-Division organized a grand Dak Mela at the Kurujang Panchayat Office premises in Kakatpur Block. The event emerged as a center of awareness, information, and trust for villagers.

The fair was inaugurated by Jagadish Das, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Puri Division. Among those present were Kurujang Sarpanch Rupali, Postal Inspector Ramakanta Bhoi, and several other dignitaries. Speakers highlighted the evolving role of the Postal Department and its new-age services in the digital era.

Various stalls at the mela provided information about the department's savings and investment schemes. Villagers

were informed about the benefits of schemes such as the Kisan Vikas Patra, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, savings accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance, and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. Officials also explained the interest rates and long-term benefits of investment options such as the National Savings Certificate (NSC) and the Public Provident Fund (PPF).

Participants received detailed guidance on India Post Payments Bank services, mobile banking, Aadhaar-related facilities, passport services, and pension schemes. Officials addressed queries from visitors and facilitated access to several services on the spot.

The mela was organized under the guidance of Postal Superintendent Santosh Kumar Das, Akshaya Kumar Gajendra, Kurujang Postmaster Madhusmita Malik, Balidokan Postmaster Parameswar Nayak, and



Bhagyasree Sethi. The event went beyond merely disseminating information, serving as a strong bridge of trust between rural residents and the Postal Department.

Women showed keen interest in opening Sukanya Samridhi accounts, senior citizens sought

information on pension schemes, while youths benefited from Aadhaar and digital services. The central theme of the event was, "From Post Office to Digital Home."

Ensuring easy access to government schemes and strengthening the Postal

Department's role as an effective public service institution were among the key achievements of the initiative. Just as the Sun Temple of Konark narrates history through its magnificent architecture, the Dak Mela at Kurujang reflected a new story of public service, outreach, and community welfare.

Participants received detailed guidance on India Post Payments Bank services, mobile banking, Aadhaar-related facilities, passport services, and pension schemes. Officials addressed queries from visitors and facilitated access to several services on the spot.

## Sub-Registrar on Leave, Room Locked; In-Charge Sub-Register Forced to Work from Court Room, Questions Raised Over Administrative Lapses.

Khordha: An unusual situation has come to light at the Sub-Registrar Office in Khordha, raising serious questions about administrative management and the process of handing over official responsibilities. The incident has sparked discussion among the public and officials alike regarding the efficiency of administrative procedures in government offices.

According to sources, the Khordha Sub-Registrar has been on leave for the past two days. However, despite officially handing over charge to the Additional Tahasildar of Khordha before proceeding on leave, the Sub-Registrar allegedly took the key to his office chamber with him, leaving the room locked. As a result, the officer assigned to

oversee the Sub-Registrar's responsibilities has reportedly been unable to access the designated office and is instead carrying out official work from the court room. The development has raised concerns about whether proper protocols were followed during the transfer of charge. In government offices, it is generally expected that an officer proceeding on leave not only hands over official responsibilities but also ensures that all necessary files, records, office facilities, and access to the workplace are made available to the officer taking charge. In this case, however, the locked room has created an awkward situation, preventing the in-charge officer from functioning from the designated chamber. Observers point out that



the Sub-Registrar's office plays a crucial role in property registration and related public services, with a large number of citizens visiting the office every day for official work. Any

disruption in administrative functioning can potentially affect service delivery and cause inconvenience to the public. When contacted regarding the matter, the head clerk of the office

reportedly stated, "I cannot comment on why the room remains locked while the officer is on leave. I have joined recently." The response has further fueled questions about internal

communication and accountability within the office. Critics argue that officials should be able to provide clear information regarding administrative arrangements, particularly in matters affecting public service.

The issue was also brought to the attention of the Additional District Magistrate (Revenue), Khordha. Responding to the concern, the ADM reportedly said, "I am looking into the matter." However, no official clarification has yet been issued regarding the circumstances under which the office chamber remained inaccessible despite the transfer of responsibility. The incident has triggered wider debate over administrative discipline and accountability in government office. Citizens have expressed

concern that such lapses, particularly in an office handling important public services like land and property registration, reflect weaknesses in administrative coordination and could adversely impact public trust in government functioning. Members of the public have called for an impartial inquiry into the matter. They have urged the administration to ascertain whether any procedural negligence or violation of established norms occurred during the handover process and, if so, to take appropriate action against those found responsible.

As the matter continues to attract attention across Khordha district, many are now awaiting a formal response from the administration and clarification on the steps that will be taken to prevent similar situations in the future.

## Paradip Port Authority Organizes Special Yoga Session with ICG Ahead of International Day of Yoga 2026

Paradip, (DMS) June 17, 2026:- In the run-up to the International Day of Yoga 2026 (IDY2026), Paradip Port Authority (PPA), in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Art of Living, Paradip Unit, organized a special yoga session aboard Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varad at Paradip.

The session was conducted by Yoga Guru Tapas Ranjan Pati of Art of Living, Paradip Unit, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and personnel from both organizations. P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, graced the occasion along with DIG Sanjay Negi, Commander of the Coast Guard District in Paradip.

Heads of Departments and senior officers of Paradip Port Authority, Coast Guard officials and yoga enthusiasts also participated in the programme, underscoring the shared commitment towards promoting holistic health, well-being and a culture of fitness.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Haranadh highlighted the importance of yoga in enhancing physical and mental well-being and emphasized that such

initiatives strengthen inter-agency cooperation while fostering a healthy and productive workforce. He noted that wellness-oriented activities contribute significantly to building stronger institutional relationships and promoting harmony among maritime stakeholders.

Similarly, DIG Sanjay Negi appreciated the collaborative initiative and stressed the role of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental resilience and operational readiness among personnel. He observed that such joint programmes further reinforce the spirit of camaraderie and cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard and Paradip Port Authority.

Organized as part of the nationwide celebrations leading up to International Day of Yoga 2026, the programme reflected the growing commitment of maritime organizations towards the theme of healthy living and collective well-being. The event concluded with a renewed pledge to integrate yoga into daily life and continue fostering a culture of wellness and cooperation across the maritime community.

## District level Outreach & Citizens Engagement Programme

Jagatsinghpur, District level Outreach & Citizens Engagement Programme was organised at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskruti Bhawan by PR & DW department at the eve of 2nd year Completion of State BJP Govt. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak bhardhan Singhdeo joined as Chief guest and address the gathering. Deputy Chief Minister described about various benevolent scheme of State Government. Specially SC/ST development, Subhadra yojana, Electronics Information & Technology, Steels & Mines, Education, Agriculture & Farmers empowerment, Sports & Youth service ,Food & Civil supply ,Rural development and about energy. He also directed



to Collector to include PM Awas beneficiary in PM Surya Ghar yojana. At the 2nd year of Govt. Special slogan "Bikash Dhara Odisha Sara" and different scheme was the topic of discussion.

In this programme local MLA cum District Planning committee chairman Amarendra

Das described about different special scheme by State Govt. for Jagatsinghpur constituency. The programme of Govt. Medical Collage, University, Modernisation of Stadium, Swimming pool and other scheme. MP, Bibhu Prasad Tarai said that, Indian Economy is at special rank in International

level due to the effort of Prime Minister Modi. MLA, Tirtol said that, due to shortage of employees problem arise to speedup the development programme. Municipality Chairman Archana Singh, Collector J. Sonal also address the gathering. SP, Ankit Burma, Development & Chief Executive Zilla parisad and all Govt. Officials were present. Smart phone, Motorised tri cycle provided to some beneficiary and spl award given for outstanding achievement. At last district level exhibition by different department and ORMS consisting of 20 stalls inaugurated by guest. But the programme of Press- Meet was cancelled.

## Local Labour Leader Influence Rise in Paradip : Over 200 Workers of Sarkhel Union emerged with Prakash Tripathy

Paradip, (DMS) :- In the port and industrial city of Paradip, workers have allegedly been subjected to exploitation and deception for many years. However, with the emergence of local labour leader Prakash Tripathy, the influence of leaders accused of exploiting workers has reportedly begun to decline.

Prakash Tripathy's dedicated efforts towards safeguarding workers' interests have benefited a large number of labourers. At the prohibited zone of Paradip Port, nearly 500 workers are employed

by Baman India, a contractor working under JSW. Of these, around 200 workers were already members of the Paradip Port Mazdoor Sangh, led by renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy, while the remaining workers belonged to the Paradip Erasama Industrial Labour Union, headed by so-called labour leader Bapi Sarkhel.

After Baman India operated the contract for four years, the work was reportedly taken over a few months ago by Chennai Radha Engineering Works.

However, workers' dues in the form of retrenchment compensation and gratuity accumulated over the four-year period remained pending from Baman India.

According to reports, workers alleged that Bapi Sarkhel attempted to prevent the payment of these dues through various means. Upon learning of this, more than 200 workers formally left Bapi's union and joined Prakash Tripathy's union on Tuesday.

It may be noted that several

workers had earlier also left Bapi Sarkhel's organization and joined Prakash Tripathy's union. Sources indicate that Prakash Tripathy's strong leadership, continuous struggle for workers' rights, and success in securing justice for labourers have made him a prominent figure among Paradip's working community. As a result, workers from various unions are increasingly choosing to join the organization led by Prakash Tripathy, reflecting his growing popularity and influence among the labour force in the region.

## Mahima Alekh Monk, brutally murdered—suspected Property dispute

Naresh Chandra Pattanayak

Keonjhar: Keonjhar police on Friday recovered the brutally bloody body of a 65-year-old Mahima Alekh Monk from near a pond of Amuni village under Sadar police station in Keonjhar district. He is identified as Shrikant Mahakud and his house is in Amuni village. Police found multiple injuries on his head. Family members suspected that miscreants have killed him with pelted with a stone. Upon receiving the information, the police went to the spot, recovered the body, and are investigating the incident. Police seized the dead body, collected samples from the spot and sent to the district head hospital for an autopsy. "The investigation into the incident is underway. After the investigation, the incident will be revealed and the accused will be caught soon" said Amit Kumar Bhuyan, IIC Sadar Police Station. "We have some clues and the accused will soon be arrested," he added. Police suspect a land dispute behind the murder, as there was a long property dispute. Police said the exact cause of the murder will be clear after investigating and arresting the accused. Sources said that this morning, when he went to the village pond to defecate, the incident took place. The family members have alleged that someone pelted him with a stone. Therefore, the police registered a murder case and started investigating the incident.

## Driver killed and another injured, on Jeep and Hyva collision

Keonjhar: Tension gripped the Sadar police station area on Friday afternoon, after a Hyva truck and a Jeep collided head-on near Danla village in Banspal block of Keonjhar district. A 35-year-old driver for Gandhamardan Loading Agency died instantly, and another sustained a severe injury when a Hyva struck his Bolero jeep near Danla village in Banspal block, Keonjhar district.



The driver was identified as Ramesh Mohanta from the Suakati area. Ramesh sustained severe head injuries, and his hand was completely destroyed. The injured Dipu Mohakud from Kasada village was rescued by local people and sent to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital for treatment. According to sources, the incident took place on Friday afternoon as Ramesh was returning from Dumuridih towards Suakati. The accident was so severe that the Hyva pushed the jeep for some distance before striking a tree. Sub Inspector Surya Narayan Routray of Suakati Outpost under Sadar police station, said, "The situation is under control. Both vehicles were seized, and the investigation is ongoing. After the post-mortem, the body was handed over to a family member".

Cuttack Development Authority		
Arunodaya Bhawan, Link Road, Cuttack-12 Fax No - 0671-2312299 email - cda.cuttack@nic.in		
Bid Identification No. 2026_CDACU_132268		
<b>Notice for Inviting RFP for "Integrated Development of Mahanadi Waterfront at Cuttack, Odisha on EPC Contract with Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance for Five Years".</b>		
Vice Chairman, Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), Cuttack, Government of Odisha invites technical and financial proposals from reputed Agency/Firms for "Integrated Development of Mahanadi Waterfront at Cuttack, Odisha on EPC Contract with Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance for Five Years." The interested and eligible Agency/Firms, as specified in Request For Proposal, may apply for the same in ON-LINE mode. (For details visit <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> )		
Sl. No.	Event Description	Date
1	Invitation of RFP (NIT)	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
2	Last date for receiving queries (To the official mail ID- cda.cuttack@nic.in)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 up to 11:00 AM
3	Pre-Bid Meeting (in the conference hall of CDA)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 3:30 PM
4	Authority response to queries latest by	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 5:00 PM
5	Last date of Request for BID Document	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2026, up to 5:00 PM
6	BID Due Date (online)	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2026, up to 5:00 PM
7	Physical Submission of Bid Security/POA etc.	Up to 11:00 AM on 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug-2026
8	Opening of Technical BIDs	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 after 11:00 AM
9	Declaration of eligible/qualified Bidders	To be Intimated Later
10	Opening of Financial BID	To be Intimated Later
11	Letter of Acceptance (LOA)	To be Intimated Later
12	Return of signed duplicate copy of LOA	To be Intimated Later
13	Validity of BID	120 days from 04 August 2026
14	Submission of Performance Security (PS) & APS, if any	Within 30 days of receipt of LOA. (The Bidder has the option to provide 50% of the PS and APS, if any within 30 days of receipt of LOA and the remaining PS & APS, if any to be provided within 30 days of signing of agreement.
15	Signing of Agreement	Within 10 Days from the receipt of 50% of performance Security and 50% of Additional Performance Security, if any
The complete bidding documents, fee details, descriptions of items and key dates can be viewed/downloaded from the website: <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> Please note that CDA reserves the right to accept or reject the Bid process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
13001/920/2627		Sd/- Vice Chairman, Cuttack Development Authority

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

Email Address: [semecircle104@gmail.com](mailto:semecircle104@gmail.com)

e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- ACEM/MDB-09/2026-27

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : ACEM/MDB-09/2026-27
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 11,98,752/-
- Period of Completion : 20 Calendar Days.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt.22.06.2026(10.00 AM) to dt.03.07.2026(5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal : dt.03.07.2026(up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Bid : dt.04.07.2026(11.00 AM onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

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

32001/418/2627

Addl. Chief Engineer,  
Mechanical Circle Bhubaneswar

# Swachh Bharat Activities Kick-started at NLCIL Talabira OCP II & III Project

Sambalpur-18/06 (DMS) : As part of the ongoing Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachhta Pakhwada 2026 cleanliness activities were kick-started at NLC India Limited (NLCIL), Talabira OCP II & III Project with enthusiastic participation from employees and officials across all departments at Sarlakhani on 17.06.2026

The programme commenced with the administration of the Swachhata Pledge, wherein employees reaffirmed their commitment towards maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and a healthy

work environment. Following the pledge, employees actively participated in cleaning their desks, workstations, office premises, and surrounding areas, ensuring neat and tidy surroundings.

Further extending the initiative beyond the workplace, a Mass Cleaning Campaign was organized at Sarkani Chowk, near the Project Head Office. Employees and officials joined hands in cleaning public spaces and spreading awareness among local residents on the importance of



cleanliness, sanitation, and environmental responsibility.

The campaign was

conducted under the guidance of Shri Jagadish Chandra Mazumdar,

Executive Director & Project Head, Talabira OCP II & III Project, and

Shri Raghunath Behera, CGM (Land). The programme witnessed active participation from Shri Thamil Selvam.P GM/ Mines, Shri Ravi Shankar.V GM /E&M, Shri Subrata Kumar Biswal, (HoHR), other senior officials, executives, and employees of the project.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jagadish Chandra Mazumdar, Executive Director & Project Head, emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is not merely a duty assigned to a few but a shared

responsibility of every individual. He stated that while performing one's professional duties is important, actively participating in initiatives such as Swachh Bharat reflects our collective commitment towards society, the environment, and future generations. He urged all employees to adopt cleanliness as a way of life and contribute towards building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable India.

All participants reiterated their commitment to the vision

of a clean and healthy nation and pledged to continue supporting cleanliness and environmental awareness initiatives. The Swachh Bharat activities will continue in the coming days through various awareness programmes, cleanliness drives, and community engagement activities across the project area, reinforcing NLCIL's commitment towards social responsibility, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.

## Telegram Ban

The Centre's short-term ban on Telegram, a popular messaging app, betrays an overcautious approach in the run-up to Sunday's NEET re-exam. The controversy comes at a time when the government is struggling to protect the integrity of national exams.

The Centre has defended its action by arguing that the cloud-based platform's bot infrastructure enables mass dissemination of leaked material. Considering the chaos and embarrassment caused by the question paper leak in May, the government does not want to take any chances. With the fate of more than 20 lakh aspirants at stake, rebuilding public trust in NEET and the National Testing Agency (NTA) is undeniably a matter of national importance.

However, the temporary blocking of an entire platform used by crores of Indians raises serious concerns about proportionality and due process. Making legitimate users suffer because criminal networks misuse an app can set a disturbing precedent. If Telegram can be suspended before a major exam, similar actions could potentially be justified in other situations where the government perceives a threat to public order. The Delhi High Court has rightly asked the obvious question: how can the rights of 150 million users be curtailed?

The Centre's stand also reveals a systemic failure. Paper leaks occur when unscrupulous insiders join hands with cheating rackets. Even cybersecurity experts have pointed out that blocking Telegram does not eliminate the problem, since users can easily migrate to VPNs (virtual private networks) or alternative applications. Technology may facilitate malpractice, but it is rarely the root cause. Moreover, deploying the Indian Air Force to ensure safe delivery of question papers across the country is an attention-grabbing drastic step rather a durable solution. Eventually, the onus is on the government to reform the entire exam system in the best interests of students. At the same time, emergency powers must be exercised transparently and sparingly — with adequate safeguards against overreach.

## Diesel Price

The Centre's decision to regulate diesel sales amid concerns over supply disruptions may have been driven by prudence, but its unintended consequences in Himachal Pradesh highlight the pitfalls of one-size-fits-all policymaking. Farmers, orchardists and small traders in the hill state are finding themselves caught in a web of restrictions that fail to account for local realities.

Unlike in urban areas or the plains, agricultural activity in Himachal is spread across difficult terrain. Orchards and farms are often located far from roads and fuel stations, making it impractical to bring machinery directly to petrol pumps. Diesel is routinely carried in containers to power spray pumps, tillers, generators and other equipment essential for farm operations. Restricting such access may curb hoarding, but it also hampers legitimate economic activity.

The timing could hardly be worse. Apple growers are in the midst of crucial crop-management operations. Any delay in spraying or field work can affect yields and incomes. Small businesses, too, depend on diesel-powered machinery and backup generators to keep operations running. A policy intended to ensure fuel security should not end up undermining livelihoods. Governments must prepare for supply uncertainties, especially during periods of global instability. However, effective policy requires flexibility. Measures designed for metropolitan centres cannot be mechanically imposed on rural and mountainous regions.

Any act that causes harm to an elderly person is considered abuse. In Indian conditions, older people are often neglected by those for whom they have sacrificed and given everything at their prime. The degradation of traditional, social, joint family structures, the impact of modernization on society, and the lack of value-added education at the family

**However, the temporary blocking of an entire platform used by crores of Indians raises serious concerns about proportionality and due process. Making legitimate users suffer because criminal networks misuse an app can set a disturbing precedent. If Telegram can be suspended before a major exam, similar actions could potentially be justified in other situations where the government perceives a threat to public order. The Delhi High Court has rightly asked the obvious question: how can the rights of 150 million users be curtailed?**

# Defence : Transformational Changes under Modi

Prof. Satya Narayan Misra

PM Narendra Modi, by common consent, is a decisive leader, as seen in the way he conducted the surgical strikes against Pakistan. Under his watch, the Military-Industrial Complex is witnessing a sea change: the private sector is being encouraged to be part of defence production, contributing nearly 60% of defence exports, which have witnessed significant growth. By positioning General Bipin Rawat as India's first CDS in December 2019, he has also freed the services from the grip of civilian mandarins in key military matters.

The overall refrain of Mr Modi is not only decisiveness but also to achieve self-reliance in defence production and make India a global hub in military manufacturing, given India's dubious reputation of being the second-largest importer of conventional arms as per SIPRI Year Book Report of 2025. His marquee Make in India slogan in 2014 has a special space for defence aerospace.

The value of Indigenous defence production has surged from Rs. 46,429 cr in 2014-15 to Rs 1.27 lakh crores in 2023-24, an impressive increase of 174 percent. Sixty-five percent of defence equipment is now being manufactured domestically as against 30% earlier. The wave of liberalisation first swept defence manufacturing in 2001, by allowing 100% participation to the private sector and 26% inflow of FDI#\_ftn2. Under Mr Modi's watch, the FDI limit has been upped to 74% in the automatic route. There has been a surge in private sector participation, with 462 private companies given a license since then. They account for 23% of total defence production.

Defence exports present an exciting trend, with their turnover increasing from Rs 686 cr in 2013-14 to Rs 21083cr in 2023-24, a thirty-fold increase. Hearteningly, the share of the private sector in defence exports has surged from 13% in 201-14 to 59% now. The export portfolio now includes items like bulletproof jackets, Dornier aircraft, Chetak helicopters, fast interceptor boats, and lightweight torpedoes. The government aims to achieve a target of Rs 50000 cr by 2029. There is growing

**Between 2016-17 and 2024-25, India's defence production increased from 74,054 crore to ?1,54,071 crore. During the same period, the share of the private sector in defence production rose from 19 per cent to 23 per cent. Defence exports witnessed a much sharper increase, growing from ?1,522 crore in 2016-17 to ?23,622 crore in 2024-25. The private sector's contribution to defence exports also expanded significantly, rising from 13 per cent to 59 per cent. (Source: Laxman Behera, 2026, pp. 85-97).**

demand for the Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles from countries like the Philippines, Vietnam & Indonesia plumping for it.

The dominance of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in India's defence manufacturing sector is evident from their scale and market presence. In 2024-25, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recorded the highest turnover at ?301.05 billion, followed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) at ?230.2 billion and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) at ?114.3 billion. Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) and BEML Limited reported turnovers of ?82.1 billion, ?49.8 billion and ?40.2 billion, respectively. HAL and BEL also led in research and development spending, allocating 8 per cent and 6 per cent of their turnover to R&D, compared to 1 per cent or less for the other DPSUs. These figures highlight the continued dominance of DPSUs, particularly in aerospace, electronics, and shipbuilding.

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While Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) continue to dominate overall defence production, the private sector has emerged as an important player in defence exports, successfully reaching markets in more than 100 countries. It would be seen from the above that barring HAL & BEL,

neither the ship building factories, nor the erstwhile Ordnance factories (OFs) which have now become DPSUs hardly spend money on in-house research, in the absence of which they fail to bring up the upgrades. In the case of HAL, very little contribution is made to bringing up upgrades to subsystems in fighter aircraft like the Su-30.

Make in India is predicated on how to improve our gross value addition, which is achieved either by availing better technology from abroad & productionising them or producing from an indigenous design. The DRDO has this onerous mandate of designing and developing key technologies and then transferring them to the Defence PSUs for production. While they have been successful in the area of small arms and ammunition, missiles like Prithvi and Akash, MBRL system, MBT & LCA, their record in terms of Gas Turbine Engines to power fighter aircraft & tanks, providing AESA radars, Focal Plane Arrays, Passive seekers, air to air missiles, stealth technology is rather unedifying. A committee under Dr Kalam had mapped out in 1993 these serious gaps in key niche technology of weapons, propulsion, and seekers. They had assessed our Self-Reliance Index as 30%, which the Committee thought can be improved to 70% in a decade's time through a suitable increase in R & D investment, creation of test facilities, and engaging in Joint Ventures with well-known OEMs and Design & Development Collaboration with reputed global design houses, given our acute deficiency in designing critical subsystems.

While under Mr Modi's 12-year dispensation, there has been significant contribution of the private sector players in the rising defence exports, this is not the case in defence production. There is, therefore, a greater need for private sector players to contribute to defence

production. For instance, TASL has been collaborating with foreign companies for the production of C295 aircraft and S92 helicopters. Similarly, L & T is playing a major role in Naval manufacturing & Heavy Engineering Naval systems, and OPVs to the Coast Guard at a much lower price than GSL, a DPSU. Adani Defence & Aerospace is into the production of loitering munitions and surveillance, small arms, and ammunition.

There is a strong case for progressive privatisation of many of the aerospace products being produced by HAL, like ALH, LUH, and trainers. Avionics, AD radars, EW suites being produced by BEL, and surveillance vessels like OPV & IPV being produced by GSL can be easily outsourced to the private sector. A firm political will alone can trim the flab of Defence PSUs like HAL, BEL, and Defence Shipyards. Besides, most of the small arms and ammunition, boots and clothing for services, earth moving vehicles, and Tatra trucks can be outsourced to the private sector, thereby harnessing considerable economy in cost, speed in procurements, and maintaining requisite quality.

As Mr Modi completes 12 years, he is perceived to be the most stable and decisive leader globally. Given his political clout, he must set the tone for making India a real manufacturing powerhouse in defence globally through progressive privatisation, viable collaboration with reputed OEMs and design houses, and unflinching strategic partnership with reliable partner countries like Russia, Israel, & France.

The very fact that even with 74% FDI, only \$11.6 million came to defence manufacturing is a signal that we need to ramp up our global footprint and make India a preferred place for investment. As against a net \$40 billion FDI that India used to receive earlier, it has come down to \$6 billion in 2025-26. These signals point to a need to create a more congenial environment so that OEMs would transfer key technologies to India and make India into a manufacturing and export hub. The time to eschew hype and embrace pragmatism has come for India to realise the overarching goal of Viksit Bharat. (Formerly JS, Ministry of Defence)

## ELDERLY ABUSE: A GROWING CONCERN

CHITTARANJAN DAS

It is often said that a house without an elderly person around is like a tree standing without leaves, barren and incomplete. But how many of us truly believe in this saying?

To obtain data on how the aging population is treated, two prominent global organizations, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (IN-PEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched a survey in 2010. The findings indicated an increase in the number of elderly individuals, and shockingly, they often face abuse from society. This data was presented to several agencies established by the United Nations.

Due to improved nutrition, sanitation, advanced medical facilities, healthcare and economic well-being, the elderly today enjoy a remarkably increased life span, according to the survey. However, there has also been a rise in cases of elder abuse. These two organizations strongly advocated that the elderly, being a reservoir of accumulated knowledge and experiences, are precious assets to the nation; there is a need to offer them a graceful aging experience and space to lead dignified lives.

Consequently, all nations and the United Nations Organization felt that the elderly population needs to be protected against all sorts of abuse - civil, social, or by Government Agencies. The UNO viewed the subject as a matter of importance and declared in 2011 that June 15th of every year be observed as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day."

Any act that causes harm to an elderly person is considered abuse. In Indian conditions, older people are often neglected by those for whom they have sacrificed and given everything at their prime. The degradation of traditional, social, joint family structures, the impact of modernization on society, and the lack of value-added education at the family

level are also responsible for such incidents.

The mistreatment of elderly people can be categorized into physical abuse, where there are assaults; emotional abuse, where there is neglect by their own people and society, and they are abandoned to live alone; and financial abuse, where they are left helpless. These neglects lead to a severe negative psychological impact on older people, resulting in the highest order of abuse. The society at large becomes a silent spectator. In India, the rural population is affected more due to the lack of financial stability for themselves and their children. Their urban counterparts may have a more comfortable life due to financial stability, but they suffer from other forms of abuse, which are no less painful.

Coming to some statistics, the elderly population in 2024 was 1.44 billion worldwide, expected to reach 2.0 I billion by 2030 and 4.26 billion by 2050. India had an elderly population of 150 million in 2024, which was 8.6% of the total population of India. It is expected to rise to 12% to 13% by 2030 and reach 190 million. The year 2050 may see a rise to 20%, and the elderly population may reach 340 million.

In Odisha, the elderly population was about 3.88 million in 2011 (9.5%) and reached about 6.269 million by 2023 (13.8%), and may reach 8 million by 2036. While several laws have been formulated globally to address this issue, India passed an Act named "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens" in 2007. Different State Governments also framed Rules and policies. In Odisha, the Rule was framed in 2009, a policy in 2016, and thereafter a project ABADAN was formulated for the implementation of the aims and objects of the relevant Act/Rule/Policy to render services to elders and protect them from abuse and give them an aging with dignity.

So, what is the way forward for this older population?

The foremost remedy for such ill-treatment is that people should plan for their own comfortable living in their old age. Senior citizens must take an active part in organizational and social activities. They must remain aware of the facilities provided by the Government as per the relevant Act/Rule/Policy/Projects and avail themselves of them, and if not provided, should strongly demand the facilities. Senior citizens must also work on sensitizing the younger generation to this issue. A sensible Younger Generation creates a better society. Mahatma Gandhi remarked, "The measure of a society is how well it treats elders, and a wise, sensible society forms a strong nation."

India, as a welfare state, is duty-bound to take care of this vast aging population. The Government has a vision, as mandated in laws and projects, for establishing a coherent, comprehensive, and sustainable social framework for the welfare of senior citizens. This includes designing, developing and promoting participatory processes, critical service delivery, and empathetic initiatives for senior citizens.

Providing social security, healthcare, food and shelter to the economically poor is the primary function of the Government. There is also a need to remove barriers to access public places, ensure unrestricted access to financial and other resources, and support organizations working for the welfare of senior citizens.

The main objective of the Government should be to ensure and promote the concept of "Aging in Peace" and "Aging with Dignity" by creating a conducive, safe and secure environment in homes and communities. Educating future generations within J families and society to ensure that senior citizens are cared for, respected and valued is

an important task not only for the Government but also for senior citizens' organizations and social activists.

Every state has a separate department, and Odisha has the "Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities" Department, which takes care of implementing the Government's policy projects to provide comfortable lives for senior citizens. The programs include the establishment of old age homes, day care centers, geriatric centers, health on wheels senior citizens service, help lines, and counseling, as well as strengthening organizations working for senior citizens.

For the redressal of grievances and abuse, sub-divisional/district-level Tribunals have been constituted under the relevant Act / Rule. The duties of all categories of officers in the Police and Administrative Departments at all levels, from panchayat to district and state, have been codified in the Act/ Rules.

The Government has projected much in policy, but its implementation depends on the active participation of relevant officials at all levels from State to block. The role of senior citizens is also important for educating the younger generation, planning for old age, and keeping themselves involved in organizational and social activities. Creating awareness against the abuse of older people is a comprehensive package, and its success lies in the active participation of all stakeholders. The Government is the biggest stakeholder and should be careful not to be blamed as the "Biggest Abuser" for not implementing projects/ programs.

To conclude, Elder Abuse will no longer go unnoticed. Accountability from every stakeholder is now demanded.

(Advisor, Federation of Senior Citizen Associations of Odisha)

# NCW Asks States, UTs To Ensure Mandatory POSH Audits, Robust Workplace Safety Mechanisms

New Delhi, 19/6: In a significant step towards strengthening workplace safety and safeguarding the dignity of women, the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Friday issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories, calling for the immediate and effective implementation of comprehensive measures under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act). The advisory aims to ensure that every workplace whether in the government, private, organised, or unorganised sector strictly complies with the provisions of the POSH Act and fosters a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive working environment for women. The communication has been sent to the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all states and Union Territories. To strengthen grassroots-level enforcement and accountability, the Commission has also circulated the advisory to District Magistrates, Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), and Commissioners of Police across the country. On the initiative, NCW Chairperson



Vijaya Rahatkar said: "A woman should never have to choose between her dignity and her livelihood. Every workplace must be a space of safety, respect and equal opportunity. Effective implementation of the POSH Act is not merely a legal obligation but a collective responsibility towards ensuring women's empowerment and participation in nation-building." The Commission has recommended a

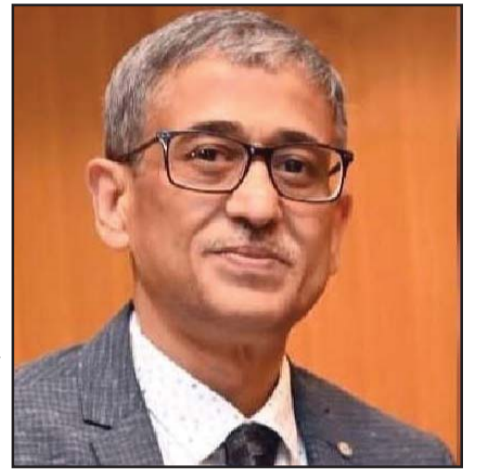
series of measures for immediate implementation by state governments and district administrations. Among the key recommendations is the establishment of dedicated state-level POSH Monitoring Cells or digital compliance dashboards to track the implementation of the law. States have also been urged to conduct periodic reviews at the senior administrative levels, facilitate capacity-building

initiatives, issue necessary guidance to establishments and district authorities, and ensure compliance with statutory obligations and judicial directions. The advisory further recommends mandatory annual POSH audits for all establishments employing ten or more persons. These audits would assess legal compliance, the functioning of Internal Committees (ICs), complaint-handling mechanisms, confidentiality safeguards, workplace safety infrastructure, awareness programmes, mandatory disclosures, and utilisation of the SHe-Box platform. Audit reports are to be submitted to district authorities and concerned departments, with failure to conduct audits being treated as non-compliance. To strengthen district-level accountability, states and UTs have been advised to notify District Officers under the POSH Act in every district. These officers will serve as nodal authorities responsible for implementation, monitoring, awareness generation, and grievance redressal. The Commission has also directed all government departments, public

sector undertakings, boards, corporations, educational institutions, hospitals, local bodies, statutory authorities, and establishments employing ten or more persons to constitute Internal Committees in every office, branch, and unit. It emphasised that all ICs must be constituted strictly in accordance with the law, including the appointment of a woman Presiding Officer, qualified members, an external expert, and at least 50 per cent women representation. Recognising the vulnerabilities of women in the informal sector, the NCW has stressed the need for effective constitution and functioning of Local Committees in every district. These committees are expected to address complaints from women employed in establishments with fewer than ten employees, domestic workers, and other workers in the unorganised sector. The advisory also calls for the appointment of Nodal Officers at block, tehsil, taluka, ward, and municipality levels to facilitate complaint registration and ensure timely referral of cases to Local Committees.

# Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty Appointed As Acting CJ Of Calcutta HC

New Delhi, 19/6: The Centre on Friday issued a notification appointing Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court following the retirement of incumbent Chief Justice Sujoy Paul. "In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty, Judge of the Calcutta High Court, to perform the duties of office of the Chief Justice of that High Court consequent upon retirement of Shri Justice Sujoy Paul on 20.06.2026," said a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. Article 223 of the Constitution empowers the President to appoint a judge of a High Court to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice when the post falls vacant or when the Chief Justice is unable to discharge the functions of the office. Justice Chakraborty was born on November 27, 1966, into a family of lawyers. He was enrolled as an advocate on January 29, 1991, and practised before the Calcutta High Court for over two decades. He primarily handled civil and constitutional matters relating to service and education laws and specialised in constitutional law. Justice Chakraborty was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Calcutta High Court on October 30, 2013, and was appointed a permanent judge on March 14, 2016. The notification comes a day before incumbent Chief Justice Paul demits office upon attaining the age of superannuation.



# Delhi L-G Inaugurates First Women Police Station With All-Female Staff

New Delhi, 19/6: Delhi Lieutenant Governor T.S. Sandhu on Friday inaugurated a dedicated Women Police Station with all-female staff in North District's Subzi Mandi area, expressing confidence that the institution will provide women a secure environment to report grievances. Addressing the gathering, L-G Sandhu said that a safe and empowered woman is the foundation of a progressive society. "Together, we will continue working towards building a secure, inclusive, and empowered," he said in a message on X. The Lieutenant Governor said on social media, "Guided by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji that Nari Shakti is the cornerstone of nation-building, this vital institution will provide women with a supportive and secure environment to report grievances, seek justice, and access assistance without fear." The new Police Station is staffed entirely by

women, marking a big step towards creating a more gender-sensitive policing system with special focus on crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking. Later, he also reviewed key women's safety initiatives of the Delhi Police, including Pink Booths and the 'Sashakti' drive. He also directed the force to establish more such stations across the capital, setting a new benchmark for women-friendly policing and responsive law enforcement. Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the keynote address at the National Seminar on 'AI for Good Governance' at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre. In a message on X, Sandhu said, "Artificial Intelligence presents unprecedented opportunities to transform governance from being merely platform-driven to intelligence-driven. For these systems to deliver meaningful outcomes, however, they must reflect



India's linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity rather than reduce it to simplified models." "Guided by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, building sovereign AI capabilities that are aligned with India's unique requirements and anchored in transparency, data privacy, and public trust remains a national priority," he said. "The collective responsibility of policymakers, academicians, researchers, and industry leaders is to ensure that these transformative technologies strengthen accountability, enhance service delivery, empower citizens, and accelerate our journey towards a #ViksitBharat and a future-ready #ViksitDilli," said Sandhu.

# Modern Training Tech Needed To Skill Station Masters: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, 19/6: Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw — in a review meeting — discussed upgrading training methodologies through the use of Virtual Reality, simulators and other modern training technologies to upskill station masters, an official statement said on Friday. The minister emphasised that modern skill development and capacity building are necessary to better prepare station masters for handling increasingly complex railway operations and emergency situations. The review meeting also discussed introducing mobile app-based paperless working systems for station masters and an integrated station management system to improve coordination between departments and for faster passenger-related issue resolution. The meeting also discussed proposals relating to enhanced administrative and



operational powers for station masters, improved career progression avenues and greater opportunities to rise to higher levels of management. These measures could help station masters take quicker decisions, improve passenger service delivery and effectively oversee station infrastructure, staff offices, colonies and other

associated facilities, the statement from the Ministry of Railways said. In addition, the minister discussed issues and challenges faced by station masters who play a critical role in ensuring safe train operations, coordinating with multiple departments, managing passenger facilities and maintaining the smooth functioning of railway

stations. Discussions focused on creating a more motivating and growth-orientated work environment for employees serving in this critical operational category. He reviewed provision of additional station masters in multi-track and high-density sections where traffic levels and operational complexity have increased significantly. The need for expeditious filling of vacancies in the cadre was also reviewed, with emphasis on treating these vacancies as a priority. To enable quicker resolution of local issues and improve passenger convenience, proposals relating to enhancement of financial powers of station masters were reviewed. Discussions also focused on providing improved safety equipment and user-friendly tools at stations, keeping in view the increasing participation of women in the cadre, the ministry said.

# Delhi HC Adjourns Salman Khan's Plea Against Release Of 'Kala Hiran' Till July 1

New Delhi, 19/6: The Delhi High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on Bollywood actor Salman Khan's plea seeking to restrain the release of the proposed film "Kala Hiran", without granting any interim relief at this stage. A vacation Bench of Justice Madhu Jain directed that a complete copy of the plaint and accompanying documents be supplied to the respondent filmmaker and listed the matter for hearing on July 1. During the hearing, Salman Khan's counsel, advocate Nizam Pasha, submitted that the film is purportedly based on the actor's life and has been produced without his consent. While pressing for interim relief, Pasha also informed the high court that the poster and trailer of the film had already been released, though the release date of the movie is yet to be announced. Opposing the plea for urgent relief, counsel appearing for the filmmakers submitted that they had not been served the complete set of documents in the case. "On Wednesday, they served me only a copy of the application, not the plaint," the counsel



argued, adding that the filmmakers were receiving death threats over the project and that an FIR had already been lodged. After hearing the parties, the Delhi High Court directed Salman Khan to furnish the complete set of documents, including the plaint, to the respondent and fixed the matter for arguments on July 1. Shortly thereafter, the actor's counsel mentioned the matter again and contended that the filmmakers had already been served, seeking

an earlier hearing date. However, Justice Jain observed that the matter had already been listed in July and declined to advance the hearing. The dispute reached the Delhi High Court days after Salman Khan's legal team issued a notice to the makers of "Kala Hiran: The Battle for Legacy", asking them to halt the release of the film and remove all promotional material, including posters and publicity content. Directed by Bharat S. Shrinet and

produced by Amit Jani, the film is inspired by the blackbuck poaching case involving Salman Khan and also portrays his alleged rivalry with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. The makers have described it as a blend of courtroom drama and crime thriller mounted on an international scale. The controversy surrounding the film has intensified in recent days, with producer Jani alleging that he has been receiving death threats ahead of the movie's release. On June 18, Jani claimed that a Pakistani terrorist had threatened him with a drone and grenade attack over the film and said that he had informed the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Rajasthan Police, and CRPF officials. Subsequently, Jani alleged that he received a second death threat within 24 hours. In a complaint lodged with police in Jodhpur, he claimed that an unidentified caller, identifying himself as a Salman Khan fan, threatened to kill him within three days. The producer urged authorities to immediately register a case and arrest the accused.

# Pilots' Body Claims Electric Failure Led To Air India Boeing Crash In Ahmedabad

New Delhi, 19/6: The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has challenged the official narrative related to the tragic crash of Air India Boeing Flight AI 171, just seconds after take-off from Ahmedabad airport on June 12, 2025, claiming that new simulator data points to a massive systemic electrical failure that caused the plane crash rather than pilot suicide. Addressing a press conference, FIP President Captain C.S. Randhawa claimed that investigators ignored crucial technical evidence and intentionally sidelined India's foremost aviation experts to protect a predetermined conclusion. The official interim report into the disaster claimed that the flight crew deliberately cut off fuel supplies to the engines in a coordinated suicide pact. According to government investigators, the manual shutdown caused the aircraft's ram air turbine — a backup power system that deploys automatically during total power loss — to drop just four seconds later. However, Randhawa said that the FIP recently conducted

exhaustive simulator tests replicating the exact weight, balance and weather conditions of the flight in question. The results, he stated, completely dismantle the official timeline. "Our simulator tests prove that a manual fuel cut-off takes a full 18 seconds to drop that backup turbine. The official timeline of four seconds is physically and technically impossible under a manual shutdown scenario," he observed. The FIP argues that the backup turbine was deployed so rapidly because a catastrophic electrical failure crippled the aircraft before the engines stopped. This systemic glitch, the federation claims, is what actually tripped the engine switches and ultimately brought down the plane. FIP also said that the lone survivor of Flight 171 reported seeing the cabin lights flicker and dim right before the aircraft began its terminal descent — a detail that perfectly aligns with the FIP's theory of a sudden, massive power failure. The pilots' federation further stated that the aircraft involved in the crash reportedly had a documented history of unresolved electrical

problems leading up to the fatal flight. The FIP alleged that government investigators intentionally sidelined Captain R.S. Sandhu, widely regarded as India's top Boeing 787 expert, from the actual investigative testing. "They are ignoring the input of our most experienced pilot because his knowledge would completely disprove their 'pilot suicide' theory. It is easier to blame dead pilots who cannot defend themselves than to confront a major mechanical or software flaw," Randhawa alleged. The FIP confirmed it has formally submitted its simulator data and findings to both Boeing and government aviation authorities. The federation is demanding an immediate halt to the publication of the final accident report until the mathematical and technical discrepancies regarding the turbine deployment are fully investigated. FIP has also demanded the immediate reinstatement of Captain Sandhu to the official investigation team to ensure a transparent and unbiased review of the data.

# PM Modi Gifts Traditional Crafts, Ayurvedic Texts, And Regional Delicacies To Slovak Leaders

Bratislava/New Delhi,19/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted traditional artefacts, ancient texts, and regional delicacies to Slovak leaders during his historic visit to Slovakia, underscoring India's rich cultural heritage and centuries-old traditions. The gift presented by PM Modi to Slovak President Peter Pellegrini included handcrafted Thewa motif cufflinks, a Himroo silk tie, a pocket square and a brass Dokra antelope set. The handcrafted Thewa motif cufflinks showcase the traditional jewellery craft of Pratapgarh. Made using the rare Thewa technique, they feature finely engraved gold sheets fused onto coloured glass, creating intricate and elegant designs inspired by nature and symbolism. This centuries-old craft, preserved by artisan families, reflects exceptional skill and cultural heritage. Recognised with GI status and included in the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, Thewa remains a unique and prestigious art form representing Rajasthan's rich craftsmanship. The Himroo silk tie and pocket square set



represents the traditional weaving craft of Aurangabad. Made from a silk-cotton blend, Himroo is known for its reversible weave, soft texture, and subtle sheen, featuring intricate floral and paisley patterns woven directly into the fabric. Originating under Deccan court patronage, it evolved into a refined luxury textile valued for its elegance and durability. Recognised with Geographical Indication (GI) status and included in the ODOP initiative for the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, Himroo weaving remains an important

cultural and economic heritage craft. The Brass Dokra Antelope Set is a handcrafted artwork that showcases India's ancient Dokra metal-casting tradition, practised for centuries by tribal artisans in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. Created using the traditional lost-wax casting technique, each piece is unique and reflects themes of nature, folklore, and rural life. The antelope figures symbolise gentleness, agility, and harmony with nature, drawing a cultural connection to the Tatra chamois of Slovakia, with both animals representing resilience

and a deep bond with their natural environments.

PM Modi also gifted a Kashmiri silk carpet to Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, showcasing India's skilled craftsmanship and intricate handwoven artistry. The Kashmiri silk carpet is a prestigious hand-knotted craft from the Kashmir Valley, especially the Srinagar region. Crafted from high-quality natural silk, it is known for its intricate floral, paisley, vine, and medallion designs inspired by local artistic traditions and natural beauty. Handwoven by skilled artisans, each carpet requires months or even years to complete due to its high knot density and detailed craftsmanship. Combining elegance, durability, and artistic excellence, Kashmiri silk carpets are valued worldwide as both luxurious furnishings and works of art. Among the gifts presented to Slovakia's speaker of the National Council, Richard Rasi, were the traditional delicacy Thekua and ancient Ayurvedic texts, Susruta Samhita and Charak Samhita. Thekua is a traditional

sweet snack from the Indian states of Bihar and Jharkhand, made using wheat flour, jaggery or sugar, fennel seeds, and ghee. It is especially prepared during festivals, most notably Chhath Puja. Known for its simple ingredients, long shelf life, and homemade taste, Thekua reflects cultural tradition, festive celebration, and regional culinary heritage. Also, the Susruta Sa'hitā is a foundational ancient Ayurvedic text attributed to the physician Susruta and is considered one of the earliest and most important works on surgery. It describes advanced surgical techniques, instruments, anatomy, and medical treatments, including pioneering reconstructive procedures like rhinoplasty. Beyond surgery, it also covers broader aspects of healthcare such as internal medicine, toxicology, paediatrics, nutrition, and preventive care, presenting a holistic view of well-being. The text reflects India's early scientific and medical advancements and remains a significant contribution to global medical history.

## Swiss diplomatic collapse looms as unexpected military strikes shatter US Iran peace talks

NEWDELHI;19/6 Diplomatic discussions scheduled in Switzerland dissolved on Friday after persistent Israeli strikes on Lebanon prompted Tehran to pull out of the peace process. Iranian state media confirmed that negotiations intended to solidify a recent bilateral memorandum of understanding are frozen until a verified ceasefire is established across the Lebanese border. This sudden diplomatic freeze follows the high-profile cancellation of US Vice President JD Vance's planned visit to Geneva, throwing international mediation into immediate chaos. Tehran insists that compliance with the fourteen-point accord signed by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian depends entirely on regional stability. Western powers previously abandoned a similar landmark atomic framework in 2018, creating a deep-seated legacy of geopolitical distrust that complicates current modern mediation efforts. Top Iranian negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf explicitly declared that any perceived violation of the agreed terms would trigger an immediate, forceful response from their military command. While Washington and

Tehran sought economic compromise, Tel Aviv maintained heavy bombardments targeting Hezbollah strongholds, killing at least fifteen people on Friday. This persistent friction induced open disapproval from Trump, who faces severe internal political backlash for offering significant financial incentives to secure the temporary truce. The signed bilateral framework promises substantial relief from long-standing economic blockades, unfreezes billions in sovereign assets, and grants immediate energy export exemptions to stabilize local markets. Control over the vital Strait of Hormuz remains a central leverage point for Iranian authorities as negotiations stall. Tehran intends to implement unprecedented maritime service fees on commercial shipping lines once the current sixty-day window expires. Meanwhile, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei publicly suggested that American leadership accepted the deal out of economic vulnerability, warning that upcoming technical debates regarding their domestic nuclear infrastructure will face stringent resistance if Western demands prove excessive.

## Taiwan's Coast Guard Warns Off Chinese Research Vessel From Its Restricted Waters

Taipei: Taiwan's Coast Guard has warned off a Chinese oceanographic research vessel, the Xiang Yang Hong 22, from its restricted waters, the Coast Guard Administration (CGA) said on Friday. The vessel entered Taiwan's restricted waters off the coast of Su'ao in Yilan County on Thursday at 11:35 pm (local time), according to the statement released by the CGA. The Coast Guard sent the 600-tonne-class Lanyu patrol vessel and the 100-tonne-class patrol boat PP-10077 to shadow the Chinese ship and issue radio warnings ordering it to depart. Central News Agency (CNA) reported. The crew of the Lanyu radioed Xiang Yang Hong 22 and said China has no sovereignty over waters off Taiwan's east coast and told the vessel to leave immediately. The two Taiwanese vessels then flanked the Chinese research ship and conducted maneuvers designed to generate waves and disrupt its operations, according to the statement. According to the

agency, Xiang Yang Hong 22 left Taiwan's restricted waters at 4:20 am (local time). A few hours earlier, the Lanyu detected Xiang Yang Hong 22 41 nautical miles east of Hualien and issued similar warnings to leave the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), according to the statement released by agency earlier, CNA reported. The CGA accused China of using government and research vessels to navigate in Taiwan's EEZ "as a pretext to engage in hegemonic expansion." The CGA said that Taiwan has sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its eastern exclusive economic zone and China's attempts to harass Taiwan through maritime navigation or scientific research "cannot change this indisputable fact." On Thursday, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te urged China to stop its military expansion in the South and East China Seas, the Taiwan Strait, and any use of force against the island. During a reception for foreign correspondents in Taipei

on Thursday, Lai Ching-te expressed Taiwan's willingness to engage in exchanges and cooperation based on equality and dignity, in pursuit of peaceful and mutually beneficial development. He noted that 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of Taiwan's first direct presidential election, Taiwan-based Taipei Times reported. Lai Ching-te said Taiwan held its elections 30 years back despite missile threats from China, sending a message to the international community that sovereignty rests with the people and that only 23 million people of Taiwan can decide its future. He stated that China and Taiwan are subordinate to each other and Taiwan is not part of China, Taipei Times reported. He also expressed gratitude to the G7 leaders, at their summit in France's Evian, for reiterating their opposition to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion.

## G7 Summit: PM Modi Gifts Nagauri Ashwagandha, Ramban Honey And Banarsi Silk Stoles To World Leaders

Paris/New Delhi,19/6: Continuing with his efforts to highlight India's growing leadership in advancing traditional medicine as an evidence-based, integrated and people-centred component of global health systems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Nagauri Ashwagandha to world leaders during the recently-concluded G7 Summit in France. Nagauri Ashwagandha is a high-quality variety of Ashwagandha grown in Rajasthan, especially the Nagaur district, known for its rich withanolide content due to its arid climate and sandy soil. Recognised with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, it holds a strong cultural and agricultural significance. In Ayurveda, Ashwagandha is valued as a Rasayana herb that supports vitality, mental clarity, immunity, and overall well-being. Derived mainly from its roots, it is widely studied today for its adaptogenic and health-supporting



properties. Nagauri Ashwagandha also supports rural livelihoods and represents the integration of traditional Ayurvedic knowledge with modern scientific research and global wellness trends. PM Modi's other gifts to the global leaders attending the G7 Summit at Evian also included Ramban honey and Banarsi silk stoles. Ramban honey is a natural honey produced in the Chenab Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, an area rich in Himalayan

flora and wildflowers that give it a distinctive taste and nutritional profile. Valued in Ayurveda and traditional wellness systems, it is known for its natural antioxidants, enzymes, and bioactive compounds. Produced by local beekeepers using traditional, environmentally sensitive practices, Ramban Honey reflects the region's biodiversity, cultural heritage, and long-standing beekeeping traditions rooted in

harmony with nature. Banarasi silk stole is a traditional handwoven textile from Varanasi, crafted from fine silk and decorated with intricate zari work. Known for its elegant texture and detailed motifs inspired by nature, it reflects centuries of refined weaving techniques passed down through generations. Also recognised with a GI tag, Banarasi silk represents one of India's most prestigious textile traditions. It also supports the livelihoods of weaving communities and stands as a symbol of India's rich cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and artistic continuity. India was invited as a partner country to the 52nd G7 Summit where Prime Minister Modi engaged with world leaders on issues of importance to India as well as to the Global South. This was India's 13th participation at the G7 Summit and Prime Minister Modi's seventh consecutive participation at the summit.

## Afghanistan Claims Airstrikes On ISIS Sites In Pakistan

Kabul,19/6: Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence on Friday claimed that it conducted airstrikes against alleged ISIS-linked targets in Pakistan, local media reported. In a statement issued on Friday, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence said that its forces carried out overnight airstrikes against what it said were ISIS-linked facilities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, Afghanistan-based news agency Khaama Press reported. The ministry said that the places that were targeted were allegedly being used to plan and coordinate attacks against Afghanistan. According to Afghan officials, some of the deadliest attacks that occurred in Afghanistan in recent years were connected to networks operating in these areas. The ministry said "important and designated targets" were successfully hit during these airstrikes, Khaama Press reported. It warned that Afghanistan would act decisively against groups that it considers a danger to the country. "They have been successfully targeted. It is worth remembering that Afghanistan, henceforth, will not tolerate any threat against its



security and stability, and by utilizing all its capabilities and capacities, will neutralize and eliminate any threat in its infancy," Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence posted on X. This latest incident comes amid escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the past few months, with repeated exchanges of fire and growing concerns over civilian casualties. Earlier, on June 11,

Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires in Kabul to lodge a strong protest over the violation of Afghanistan's airspace and Pakistani airstrikes on residential homes that killed 13 civilians. This move came after Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that an attack in Afghanistan's Kunar, Khost, and Paktika provinces on the night of June 9 killed 11 children, one

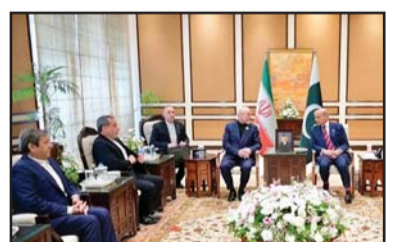
woman and an elderly man, while 14 other women and children were injured. In a statement shared on the social media platform X, the Afghan Ministry said, "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and presented him with its strong and resolute protest regarding the violation of Afghanistan's airspace and the bombing of the homes of innocent civilians." The Afghan Ministry condemned the attack, describing it as a violation of international principles and laws, while emphasizing that defending its territory and ensuring the security of its people are its legitimate responsibilities. It warned that instead of implementing proxy policies, Pakistanis must find solutions to their internal problems, questioning, "How is it possible that the killing of children and women in one region means the establishment of security in another region?" "We once again explicitly remind you that the responsibility for all the consequences of these repeated violations and crimes will lie with the Pakistan Army," the Afghan Ministry stated.

## US-Iran Talks In Switzerland Postponed, Says Swiss Foreign Ministry

Bern19/6: The planned talks between the US, Iran, Qatar and Pakistan have been postponed, Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs announced on Friday, while expressing readiness to facilitate these talks. In a statement, Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs stated, "The Planned talks between the US, Iran, Qatar and Pakistan have been postponed. Switzerland remains ready to facilitate these talks. The relevant preparatory work at Burgenstock is continuing. No further information can be provided at present." The talks between the US and Iran were planned to move from a political framework agreement to detailed negotiations on implementation, verification and compliance. On Thursday night, the White House announced that US Vice President JD Vance's planned departure for technical negotiations with Iran has been postponed. However, it said preparations for the talks continue and both sides remain focused on launching the next phase of discussions aimed at implementing the recently signed memorandum of understanding. "As the Vice President said at his

press conference, the plans for the upcoming technical talks have not been finalised, and the US delegation has been prepared to depart at the first available opportunity," a White House spokesperson said late Thursday night. "But the logistics of these negotiations have never been simple or predictable." The spokesperson added: "As of now the Vice President is not departing tonight." The White House did not announce a new departure schedule, but said officials remained committed to beginning negotiations soon. "We will let you know as soon as we have a concrete update about next steps," the spokesperson said. "We look forward to beginning technical talks as soon as possible." Earlier on Thursday, Vance said technical discussions were still expected to begin within days and would likely be held in Switzerland. "We think these technical negotiations are going to start sometime this weekend," he told reporters during a White House briefing. The vice president acknowledged that coordinating the talks has proved challenging. "Our plan is to go to

Switzerland, I don't know exactly

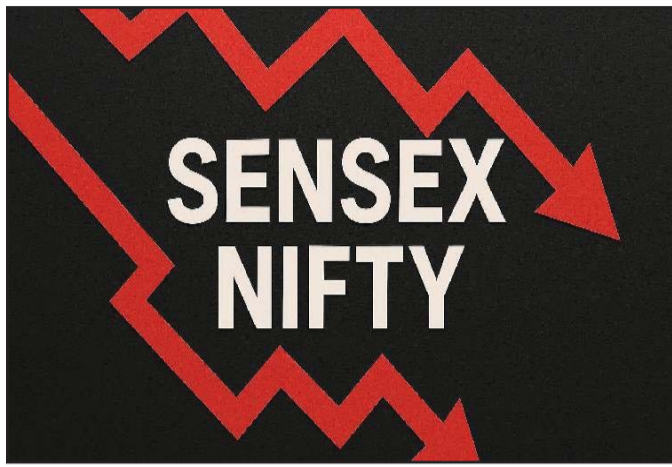


when," Vance said adding, "That could change because it's not an easy country, Iran, to get out of and so we're trying to figure out exactly when that's going to happen." Asked whether he would travel immediately, Vance said: "I may, it just depends on exactly when the Iranians can get there." "We're trying to figure that out as we speak." Vance said he expects to lead the American delegation during the negotiations. "I'm certainly planning to lead the US negotiating team," he said. The Trump administration has repeatedly argued that implementation will be the true test of the agreement. "We don't trust words. We trust action and we trust conduct," Vance said, describing the approach Washington intends to take during the next phase of negotiations.

# Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Massive IT Sell-Off

# Indian markets tumble heavily as IT sector sell-off drags Sensex down

Mumbai, 19/6: Both the Indian indices ended lower in Friday's session as IT shares dropped sharply following dismal sales and top-line outlook from their global peer Accenture. At the closing bell, the 50-share index Nifty was at 24,013.10, down by 155 points or 0.64 per cent. The Sensex followed suit and fell 0.78 per cent or 608 points to 76,802.90. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,100-24,200 region continues to act as the immediate resistance zone. "A sustained breakout above this band would strengthen bullish momentum and could pave the way for an advance towards the 24,400 region, which remains the next significant resistance area," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the 23,900 level remains a crucial immediate support. Holding



above this zone will be essential to preserve the broader recovery structure and maintain the positive undertone," the analyst mentioned. Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Mahindra were among the top losers in the Nifty index. Infosys led the losers' pack

on Sensex, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, HFC Bank and Mahindra and Mahindra. However, broader markets blocked the trend and ended higher as the Nifty MidCap and the Nifty SmallCap indices settled 0.22 per cent and 0.42 per cent higher, respectively

Sectorally, the Nifty IT tanked the most. The Nifty Realty, the Nifty Auto, and the Nifty Oil & Gas also underperformed. The Nifty Pharma rose the most. "Going forward, investors will closely monitor FII flows, monsoon progress, crude oil prices and management commentary from key corporates, particularly Reliance Industries' AGM, for further market direction," the analyst noted. Meanwhile, Rupee traded marginally stronger with gains of around 7 paise near 94.31, as recent weakness in crude oil prices continued to support the domestic currency. "Technically, the rupee is expected to trade within a range of 93.90-94.65, with the current positive trend keeping the possibility open for a test of the 94.00 level in the near term," the analyst mentioned.

MUMBAI, 19/6: Indian equity indices Sensex and Nifty plunged significantly on Friday morning, ending a solid five-day winning streak. Heavy offloading hit information technology stocks hard after global industry leader Accenture slashed its annual revenue growth forecast. Benchmark Sensex dropped more than 700 points to trade near the 76,700 mark. Broader Nifty declined by nearly 200 points to hover just below 24,000 as early trading progressed. Domestic IT firms heavily depend on global tech giants for client direction, and historically, cautious guidance from international leaders sparks immediate local market corrections. Investors tracking technology portfolios, particularly professionals operating in emerging digital corridors like Bhubaneswar in



Odisha, are carefully monitoring these shifting demand patterns. Sectoral performance displayed widespread losses, led primarily by the Nifty IT index crashing by six percent. Every single stock within the technology gauge traded in negative territory. Market experts at Goldman Sachs explained that Accenture's subdued results signal poor demand visibility for domestic

technology service providers. While broader midcap and smallcap segments experienced minor dips of less than one percent, pharmaceutical stocks managed to hold their ground and stay positive. Weak international indicators significantly worsened the domestic selling pressure. Futures for major United States indices traded lower, driven by Nasdaq futures dropping noticeably.

# RBI Extends Keki Mistry's Tenure As HDFC Bank Chairman By 3 Months

Mumbai, 19/6: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the extension of Keki Mistry as interim part-time chairman of HDFC Bank for a further period of three months, it was announced on Thursday. In an exchange filing, HDFC Bank said the RBI, through a communication dated June 18, 2026, approved the extension of Mistry's tenure until September 18, 2026, or until the appointment of a regular part-time chairman, whichever is earlier. "The RBI has granted approval for the extension of tenure of Keki Mistry as an interim Part-time Chairman of the Bank for a further period of 3 (three) months until September 18, 2026 or till appointment of a regular Part-time Chairman, whichever is earlier," HDFC Bank said in its filing. Separately, HDFC Bank's board of directors also approved convening the bank's 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on August 5, 2026. The meeting will be held



through two-way video conferencing and is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. IST. The bank further informed exchanges that the dividend payment date for shareholders will be on or after August 6, 2026, subject to shareholder approval at the AGM. HDFC Bank has recommended a dividend of Rs 13 per equity share of Re 1 each for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. "We wish to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Bank, at its meeting held today i.e. on June

18, approved convening of the 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank on Wednesday, August 5, 2026," the private lender said. "Accordingly, the dividend payment date will be on or after Thursday (August 6, 2026). The same will be subject to approval of the shareholders at the said AGM, for payment of dividend of Rs 13 per equity share of Re 1 each of the Bank for the year ended March 31, 2026," HDFC Bank added.

# Net Direct Tax Collections Surges 14.6 PC To Rs 5.21 Lakh Crore

New Delhi, 19/6: India's net direct tax collections surged 14.64 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 5.21 lakh crore in the April 1-June 17 period this fiscal (FY27), according to data released by the Income Tax Department on Thursday. Net direct tax collections stood at Rs 5.21 lakh crore as on June 17, compared with Rs 4.5 trillion collected during the corresponding period of FY26. In the meantime, gross direct tax collections increased 12.46 per cent to Rs 6.1 lakh crore from Rs 5.4 lakh crore from the year-ago period. Also, the I-T Department data showed that refunds issued during the period reached Rs 89,025.71 crore — up 1.19 per cent from Rs 87,979.39 crore in the same period last year. Advance tax collections also clocked double-digit growth during the period. Total advance tax collections stood at Rs 1.78 lakh crore, up 15.30 per cent from Rs 1.54 trillion in the corresponding period of the



previous fiscal. Advance corporate tax collections went up 16.01 per cent to Rs 1.40 lakh crore. Also, advance non-corporate tax collections increased 12.73 per cent to Rs 37,620.32 crore. Corporate tax collections, on a net basis, rose to Rs 2.08 lakh crore from Rs 1.7 lakh crore a year

ago. Meanwhile, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 3.2 per cent year-on-year to around Rs 2 lakh crore in May, despite geopolitical tensions in West Asia, according to government data. As per data, gross GST revenue stood at Rs 1,94,184 crore in May, compared

to Rs 1,88,172 crore in the same month last year. Meanwhile, net GST collections reached Rs 1,66,904 crore, a growth of 3.3 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Total refunds during the month increased 2.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 27,281 crore.

# NSE's Co-Location And Dark Fibre Disputes Remain Unresolved; Rs 1,491 Crore Settlement Proposed, Shows DRHP

Mumbai, 19/6: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has disclosed in its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) that two long-running regulatory cases linked to its co-location and dark fibre facilities remain unresolved, with the exchange proposing to pay Rs 1,491.21 crore to settle the matters with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The disclosures, made as part of the material litigation section of the IPO papers, relate to proceedings pending before the Supreme Court, SEBI and other judicial forums. In the dark fibre matter, regulators had raised concerns that certain trading members were provided preferential point-to-point connectivity through an unauthorised service provider, allegedly giving them a latency advantage over other market participants. A SEBI Whole-Time Member (WTM) in April 2019 directed NSE to disgorge Rs 62.58 crore along with interest and ordered periodic audits of the exchange's network architecture. Subsequently, SEBI imposed a penalty of Rs



7 crore in June 2022 through a separate adjudication proceeding. However, both orders were later set aside by the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), prompting SEBI to challenge the rulings before the Supreme Court. While the appeals remain pending, NSE submitted a settlement proposal of Rs 222.66 crore in June 2025, which was

revised to Rs 267.65 crore in March 2026. The settlement application is yet to receive final approval. The second case pertains to allegations of preferential access and early connectivity granted to certain trading members through NSE's co-location facility operating under its tick-by-tick architecture. In April 2019, SEBI ordered the exchange to

disgorge Rs 624.89 crore along with interest and issued certain non-monetary directions. At the same time, the regulator held that NSE had not violated the SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations. SAT, in January 2023, overturned the disgorgement order and ruled that NSE had not breached key provisions of the Stock Exchanges and Clearing

Corporations Regulations. However, it directed the exchange to deposit Rs 100 crore into the Investor Education and Protection Fund. In a separate ruling, SAT also quashed a Rs 1 crore penalty imposed by SEBI. SEBI subsequently challenged both SAT orders before the Supreme Court. To resolve the dispute, NSE proposed a settlement amount of Rs 1,164.73 crore in June 2025, later increasing the offer to Rs 1,223.56 crore in March 2026. According to the DRHP, both the Supreme Court appeals and the settlement applications in the co-location-related matters remain pending. Together, the revised settlement proposals in the co-location and dark fibre cases amount to Rs 1,491.21 crore. The actual additional cash outflow for NSE may be lower, as the exchange has already deposited substantial sums with SEBI. As per its financial disclosures published in August 2024, deposits with the market regulator stood at around Rs 1,107 crore.

# Kia India to raise vehicle prices by up to 2% from July 1



New Delhi, June 18: Kia India on Thursday announced that it will increase prices across its vehicle portfolio by up to 2 per cent from July 1, 2026, citing rising input costs and higher operational expenses. In a press note, the automaker said the price revision will be applicable across its model range and is aimed at addressing the impact of increasing costs. "Kia India... has announced a price revision of up to 2% across its model range, effective 1st July 2026," the company said. The company attributed the move to cost pressures being faced by the industry. "The revision is necessitated by rising input costs and an overall increase in operational expenditure," Kia India said. The automaker said it has tried to limit the burden on customers by absorbing a substantial portion of the increased costs. "Kia India remains committed to offering its customers the best-in-class products and ownership experience and has endeavoured to keep the price increase to a minimum by absorbing a significant portion of the cost escalation internally," the company said. According to the company, the increase will differ across products and variants. "The extent of the price increase will vary across models and variants, ensuring that the overall value proposition of each offering is maintained," the press note added. The announcement comes at a time when several automakers are adjusting prices to offset rising production expenses. Earlier on Thursday, Tata Motors announced that it will increase prices across its commercial vehicle portfolio by up to 2.5 per cent with effect from July 1, 2026, citing rising commodity prices and higher input costs. The parallel announcements by Kia India and Tata Motors indicate that automakers continue to face cost pressures from raw materials and operations, prompting companies to revise vehicle prices while attempting to absorb part of the increase internally.

# Adah Sharma To Make Marathi Debut With 'Gajra'

Bollywood actress Adah Sharma is all set to step into the world of Marathi cinema with the upcoming film titled Gajra, which is based on true events. Adah shared a poster of her upcoming film on the photo-sharing website Instagram. The poster featured a close up image of a woman in a bridal avatar. Her face is smeared with blood streaks and splatters, suggesting violence and trauma. Adah wrote in the caption section: "GAJRA – my debut in Marathi ... need all your love and blessings! Adah Sharma in and as Gajra The Film by : Shreyas Jadhav @shreyash\_theekingid. Produced by : Amol Borkar @amol.ziggapro A Devdutta Manisha Bajji Musical @devduttabajimusic Inspired by true events Coming soon... 2027." The upcoming film is directed by Shreyas Jadhav will hit the screens next year in 2027. Her latest "Governor: The Silent Saviour," which stars the National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee in the lead. The film is inspired by the events surrounding the 1990 Indian economic crisis featuring the institutional framework between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government of India (GoI). Produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah under the banner Sunshine Pictures, "Governor" hit the screens on June 12. Adah is best known for her work in the Vidyut Jammwal-starrer "Commando" franchise. However, she shot to fame with her work in the blockbuster "The Kerala Story." "The Kerala Story" told the story of Shalini, a former nursing student



from Kerala, who later becomes the wife of a terrorist, testifying to her life story and her journey from being a naive girl to another victim of terrorism. Adah had made her acting debut with the 2008 Hindi horror film, 1920. She was then seen in films such as Hasee Toh Phasee, Heart Attack, S/O Satyamurthy and Kshanam.



# Allu Arjun Summoned by Court in Pushpa 2 Fan Death Case

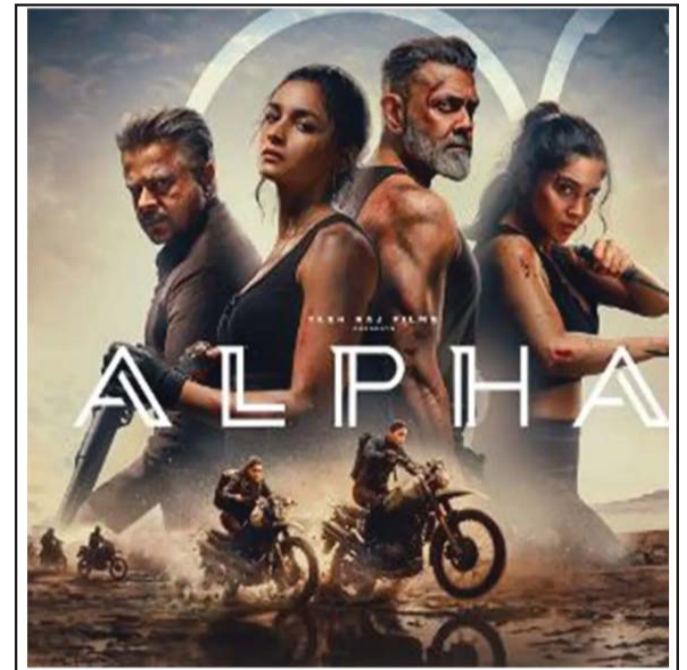
Telugu superstar Allu Arjun has received a summons from the Nampally Court in Hyderabad in connection with the Pushpa 2 fan death case. The court directed him to appear in person on June 22 for a hearing related to the Sandhya Theatre stampede that claimed one life and injured several others. Chikkadpally police named Allu Arjun as Accused No. 11 (A11) in the case, while the management of Sandhya Theatre has been listed as Accused Nos. 1 to 10 (A1-A10). The court also issued a summons to 19 other accused linked to the incident. The tragedy occurred on December 4, 2024, during the premiere of Pushpa 2: The Rule at Sandhya Theatre. Thousands of fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the actor, leading to overcrowding and chaos. Amid the rush, a 35-year-old woman named Revathi died of suffocation, and her son sustained serious injuries. Police alleged that neither the theatre management nor the actor's team informed authorities about his visit in advance. Hyderabad Police registered a case under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), citing negligence and inadequate crowd control. Allu Arjun was arrested on December 13, 2024, but secured interim bail



the same day. He later expressed grief over Revathi's death and announced financial assistance for her family. The actor, now named in the chargesheet, faces renewed scrutiny as the case moves forward.

# 'Alpha' trailer out: Alia Bhatt, Sharvari go up against Bobby Deol, Hrithik Roshan surprise at the end?

Actors Alia Bhatt and Sharvari have raised excitement around 'Alpha' after the makers finally unveiled the official trailer of the upcoming action thriller, offering a deeper look into the film's story and introducing fans to the journey of a young assassin in the YRF Spy Universe. The two-minute-and-thirty-four-second film opens with Bobby Deol's character naming Alia Bhatt's character Sita after her mother, Janaki. Through Sita's voiceover, the narrative draws on the tale of a princess who was abducted by a demon, only to rewrite her own destiny by fighting back instead of waiting to be rescued. As the trailer progresses, it shifts into high-octane action with Alia leading several combat sequences and chase scenes.



Sharvari makes a striking entry as a woman Sita initially struggles to trust, but the two gradually join forces as they take on a dangerous mission. The preview hints at a growing partnership between the characters as they confront a powerful enemy. Anil Kapoor also appears in a major role, adding another layer to the story, while Bobby Deol is seen as the film's chief antagonist. The trailer builds towards what appears to be a grim climax before ending on a cliffhanger with the

reveal of a mysterious man whose identity has been deliberately kept under wraps. Fans speculate that the character may be portrayed by Hrithik Roshan. However, the trailer offers only a fleeting glimpse of the enigmatic figure, revealing nothing more than his striking green eyes in the final shot. The movie has been made under the direction of Shiv Rawail, who is best known for his work in 'The Railway Men' series. The intense action-packed drama, 'Alpha,' is set to release worldwide in theatres on July 3, 2026. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film marks the first female-led instalment in the YRF Spy Universe, which includes blockbuster titles such as 'Ek Tha Tiger,' 'Tiger Zinda Hai,' 'War,' 'Pathaan,' 'Tiger 3' and 'War 2.' The film has witnessed multiple release date changes during production. Initially planned for a 2025 release, 'Alpha' was later shifted to April before Yash Raj Films announced July 10 as its release date.

# SPORTS

## India Go Down Fighting Against Germany In FIH Pro League Clash

Rotterdam: The Indian men's hockey team put up a strong fight against reigning world champions Germany but narrowly went down 1-2 in their third match of the FIH Pro League 2025-26 Rotterdam leg on Friday (IST). Jugraj Singh (38') marked his 100th international appearance with a goal, before late strikes from Justus Weigand (56') and Jakob Brilla (60') turned the game in Germany's favour. India started the game on the front foot, controlling possession and building early momentum to keep Germany under pressure. With a compact defensive structure, India denied the World Champions space and restricted them from creating clear-cut chances. The Indian side raised the intensity in the second quarter with an aggressive high press, forcing errors from Germany. Abhishek created India's best chance of the first half after a well-worked build-up, but the opportunity went unfinished. In a tightly contested match where chances were limited, India continued to dominate possession and were



rewarded in the third quarter. After earning their first penalty corner of the game, India took the lead through Jugraj Singh, who marked his milestone 100th appearance with a powerful drag-flick in the 38th minute. Germany earned a couple of penalty corners towards the end of the third quarter, but goalkeeper

Mohith HS stood firm to ensure India carried their one-goal advantage into the final period. India had opportunities to extend their lead in the final quarter, with penalty corners and an open-play chance for Shilanand Lakra. However, Germany fought back and found the equaliser in the 56th minute through Justus

Weigand, who converted a penalty corner to make it 1-1. With just seconds remaining on the clock, Germany earned another penalty corner and Jakob Brilla found the winning goal in the 60th minute to seal a 2-1 victory for the world champions. India will take on the Netherlands in their next match on Sunday.

## 2026 FIFA WC: Mokoena's Late Equaliser Helps South Africa Hold Czechia

Atlanta: South Africa fought back from a goal deficit to hold Czechia to a 1-1 draw in a Group A clash at Atlanta Stadium on Thursday, scoring their first point of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Teboho Mokoena's 83rd-minute penalty cancelled out Michal Sadilek's early opener as South Africa and Czechia shared the points at the Atlanta Stadium, the result leaving both sides on one point from two matches. Czechia coach Miroslav Koubek had called

for a "fast start" from his side after they lost their opener to South Korea, and his men responded and scored the opener with the match in the sixth minute of the match. Adam Hlozek crossed from the right, and Alexandr Sojka's canny, first-time touch released Sadilek, who lashed it past Ronwen Williams. Sadilek's goal was the fastest in this World Cup after five minutes and eight seconds. Felix Nmecha took eight seconds longer to net for Germany against Curaçao. The two sides created many

chances but could not find another goal as they went for the breather with Czechia leading 1-0. South Africa manager Hugo Broos introduced Relebohile Mofokeng for the second half and, though the 21-year-old duly flickered his genius, a Czechia backline bossed by the impressive Ladislav Krejci appeared set to hold out for victory. That was until Pavel Sulc was penalised for handball, and Mokoena sent Matej Kovar the wrong way from the spot to make it 1-1. Mexico and the Republic of Korea are

leading the table in Group A with three points each, with the Mexicans ahead on goal difference. "I'm very proud of my team. This is Bafana Bafana – we love good football, we are aggressive, we create chances. Yes, we made mistakes, but I'm very proud of the performance today. Czechia are powerful and very tall. We did very well. It's a little bit of a pity that it's only 1-1, but we have to win the game against the Republic, which will be very difficult too. If we play with the same mentality, it will be possible," said South Africa coach Hugo Broos after the match.

## Grammy-winning duo The Chainsmokers to return to India for three-city tour this December

Grammy Award-winning electronic music duo The Chainsmokers are set to return to India this December with a three-city tour spanning Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, marking a major live entertainment moment for fans across the country. The tour will kick off in Mumbai on December 18, followed by Delhi on December 19, and conclude in Bengaluru on December 20. The Mumbai leg will also see the duo headline Sunburn Festival 2026 at the iconic Mahalaxmi Racecourse, marking a significant expansion for the festival into the heart of the city. As

part of the India tour, The Chainsmokers will headline Sunburn Festival 2026 in Mumbai, with the event scheduled at Mahalaxmi Racecourse. The announcement positions the performance as a landmark moment for the festival's evolving format and urban expansion. Ticket access for the Mumbai and Bengaluru shows is already live on the ticketing platform BookMyShow. For Delhi, organisers have urged fans to register early to secure access ahead of further announcements. The tour comes as the duo's global

hit Closer completes 10 years, a milestone that has renewed nostalgia among fans across millennial and Gen Z audiences in India. The release further highlights the cultural imprint of the duo's music in India, stating, "There are some songs that become bigger than music. They become memories. They become timelines. They become entire phases of life." It adds that their tracks, including 'Don't Let Me Down', 'Paris', and 'Something Just Like This', became widely associated with college festivals, parties, late-night drives and global festival culture.