

Dumani Mail

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Govt mandates QR codes for vaccines, antimicrobials, cancer drugs to curb counterfeit medicines

New Delhi: The government has expanded its QR code-based drug tracking system to cover vaccines, antimicrobials, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic substances in a move aimed at strengthening the safety, quality and integrity of India's pharmaceutical supply chain, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has notified amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, bringing these categories under Schedule H2 and widening the scope of the existing track-and-trace

framework.

Under the revised rules, all vaccines, antimicrobials, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic drugs covered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, will be required to carry a barcode or Quick Response (QR) code on their packaging.

Manufacturers will be required to print or affix the QR code on the primary packaging label of the product. Where space constraints exist, the code may be placed on the secondary packaging label.



According to the government, the QR code will store key information that can be accessed through software

applications for authentication and verification throughout the supply chain.

The encoded information will include a unique product identification code, generic and brand names, manufacturer details, batch number, manufacturing and expiry dates, manufacturing licence number, and information on excipients, wherever applicable.

The QR code-based identification requirement was previously limited to the country's top 300 pharmaceutical brands. The latest amendment significantly

expands its coverage across critical drug categories.

The government said the enhanced traceability mechanism will facilitate authentication and verification of medicines at multiple stages of the supply chain, improving the ability to track and monitor drug products.

The move is also expected to strengthen efforts to curb the circulation of spurious medicines and support the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by helping authorities identify counterfeit and substandard antimicrobial products.

To allow adequate time for implementation, the government has introduced phased compliance timelines. The provisions relating to vaccines, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic drugs will come into effect from July 1, 2027, while the requirements for antimicrobials will be implemented from July 1, 2028.

According to the government, the measure is intended to enhance regulatory oversight and promote greater transparency, safety and accountability across the pharmaceutical supply chain.

PM Modi says Seva Parv and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav reinforce constitutional values

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today emphasised that the government's initiatives like Seva Parv and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav reinforce constitutional values by fostering historical awareness, preserving cultural memory and deepening a sense of national belonging.

The Prime Minister said this in a social media post while sharing an article written by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. In his article, Mr Shekhawat reflected on the Emergency and how it affected the freedoms and aspirations of the people. The Minister said that the Emergency of 1975-77 remains one of the most significant tests faced by independent India. He said that the Emergency demonstrated how democratic institutions can come under strain when constitutional safeguards are weakened and public freedoms are curtailed.

VP Radhakrishnan administers oath to ten newly elected, re-elected Rajya Sabha members

New Delhi: Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan today administered oath to ten newly elected and re-elected members of Rajya Sabha at the Parliament House. The members include Sana Satish Babu, Vijay Chintakayala and Bashyam Ramakrishna of Telugu Desam Party, and Lingamaneni Ramesh of Jana Sena Party, all from Andhra Pradesh.

The Rajya Sabha Chairman also administered oath to Tai Tagak of BJP from Arunachal Pradesh, Debashish Samantaray of BJP from Odisha, Praveen Chakravarty of Congress from Tamil Nadu, and Rajesh Parmanand Shukla of BJP from Gujarat. Baidyanath Ram of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Independent member Parimal Nathwani, both elected from Jharkhand, also took the oath.

Delhi govt to spend Rs 265 crore on infrastructure upgrade of 75 CM Shri schools

New Delhi: The Delhi government will spend Rs 265 crore to upgrade infrastructure at 75 CM Shri schools, including sports facilities, auditoriums and CCTV surveillance systems, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Thursday.

The Expenditure Finance Committee, headed by the chief minister, approved the proposal at its meeting on Wednesday, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office. Gupta said the government is taking a major step towards equipping government schools in the national capital with modern infrastructure, enhanced safety features and improved facilities.



EAM Dr S Jaishankar highlights importance of strengthening India-South Korea ties amid global challenges

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar today highlighted the importance of deepening India-South Korea ties amid a challenging global environment, saying that countries with shared values and mutual trust need to work together more closely.

In his opening remarks during the meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun in Seoul, he stressed

that the current international situation makes cooperation among trusted partners more important than ever.

In a social media post, the External Affairs Minister said that they reviewed cooperation across political, shipbuilding, trade, investments, defence, technology, clean energy, culture and person-to-person domains between the nations, as well as opportunities in startups, fintech and

multilateral fora. They also exchanged views on development between the two nations' respective regions and around the world. The External Affairs Minister also appreciated his South Korean counterpart's personal commitment to advancing bilateral ties. Dr Jaishankar said India values this commitment and looks forward to productive discussions aimed at deepening cooperation between the two countries.



Aditya Aluminium Organizes Pratibha Samman Programme to Honour Meritorious Students

Sambalpur-25/06(DMS): As part of its flagship CSR initiative, Project Adhyayan, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, organized the Pratibha Samman (Merit Recognition) Programme to felicitate meritorious students from Odia-medium schools who secured 70% and above marks in the Class 10 and Class 12 Board Examinations.

A total of 59 students were selected for the recognition programme and were awarded Samsung tablets to support their higher education and promote digital learning.

The programme was held at the Aditya Aluminium Club House. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Mr. Laxman Bhoi, District Education Officer, Sambalpur, congratulated the students on their achievements and emphasized the importance of education in shaping successful and meaningful lives. He encouraged the students to remain focused on their goals and continue striving for excellence.

The event was attended by



Mr. Ashish Kumar Sahu, Tahsildar, Rengali; Smt. Saptashree Mahapatra, Block Education Officer; Mr. Mahendra Bag, Additional Education Officer; headmasters and teachers from eight high schools; former Rengali MLA Mr. Duryodhan Gardia; Block Chairman Mr. Satyanarayan Agrawal; Samiti Member Mr. Kiran Behera; President of Sambalpur Senior Citizens Association Mr. Antaryami Pani; Sarpanches from six Gram

Panchayats; and Mr. Rahul Raj, representative of Virat Coaching.

Addressing the students, Dr. Krishna Padhi, Cluster Head - Human Resources, Hindalco, encouraged them to pursue their dreams with determination and perseverance. Mr. Jagannath Prasad Nayak, Unit Head, Aditya Aluminium, highlighted the importance of strengthening educational infrastructure and ensuring access to quality education for local communities.

Speaking on the occasion,

Mr. Ravi Niwash, Head - Community Development, advised students to focus on building strong careers and make the best use of the opportunities available to them. He also encouraged parents to continue supporting and guiding their children in achieving their academic and professional aspirations.

Senior officials including Mr. Vinoda Nand Thakur, Head - Human Resources; Mr. Bighneswar Panda; Mr. Gulshan

Tiwari; Mr. Rajat Majumdar; Captain Anirban Banerjee; Mr. Manoj Sharma; Mr. Subhendu Biswas; and Mr. Hemaranjan Pattnaik were also present and congratulated the students on their outstanding academic achievements.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and special recognition of parents for their invaluable support and encouragement. Organized by the CSR Department of Aditya Aluminium, the initiative received widespread appreciation from educators, community leaders, and local residents.

The event was successfully coordinated and managed by Mr. Manoranjan Behera and the CSR team, reaffirming Aditya Aluminium's commitment to promoting quality education, digital empowerment, and academic excellence among students in the region. This version is newspaper-ready and suitable for CSR reports, media releases, and corporate communications.

Stale Food Sold Openly in Khordha; Health Concerns Rise Ahead of Monsoon

Khordha: Serious concerns have emerged over the alleged sale of stale and substandard food items in various parts of Khordha town, raising fears about public health as the monsoon season approaches. Residents have alleged that food quality, hygiene standards, and safety measures are being ignored at several roadside eateries and fast-food stalls operating across the town, while the administration remains largely silent on the issue. According to local sources, several busy locations including Court Chhak, Veterinary Hospital Chhak, New Bus Stand, Block Chhak, and other crowded areas witness the daily sale of popular food items such as aloo dum, dahi bara, gupchup, chat, biryani, chowmein, and various snacks. These food stalls attract a large number of customers

throughout the day, including students, office-goers, daily wage earners, and travelers. However, allegations regarding poor hygiene and the sale of stale food have become increasingly common.

Residents claim that in some establishments, food prepared on one day is reheated and sold again the following day. In many cases, cooked food remains exposed for hours, making it vulnerable to contamination by dust, flies, and insects. Despite these concerns, customers continue to patronize such outlets due to their affordability and easy availability.

One of the major concerns raised by citizens relates to the quality of water used in preparing food items. Questions are being asked about the source and safety of water used for preparing pani



puri, dahi bara, beverages, and other food products. Locals suspect that in some cases untreated or unsafe water may be used instead of clean drinking water, increasing the risk of food-borne illnesses. Health experts warn that the consumption of stale food and contaminated

water during the monsoon season can lead to diseases such as diarrhea, vomiting, typhoid, jaundice, food poisoning, and other gastrointestinal infections. With humidity and moisture levels increasing during the rainy season, food spoilage occurs more rapidly, making proper

storage and hygiene practices essential.

There are also allegations that several food vendors in the town are operating without valid food safety licenses or mandatory registrations. As per food safety regulations, all food business operators are required

to obtain registration and adhere to prescribed standards of cleanliness and food handling. However, residents allege that compliance with these norms is often lacking. Citizens further claim that despite being aware of the situation, the concerned authorities have not conducted regular inspections, food sample testing, or enforcement drives. As a result, some vendors are allegedly continuing to sell stale and low-quality food without fear of action. The lack of visible enforcement has led to growing public dissatisfaction and demands for immediate intervention. With the monsoon season at the doorstep, residents and public health advocates have urged the Health Department, Food Safety Department, and

municipal authorities to launch a joint inspection drive across the town. They have called for rigorous testing of food samples, verification of water quality, inspection of hygiene standards, and strict action against vendors operating without proper licenses. Unless timely measures are taken, the unchecked sale of stale and unhygienic food could pose a serious threat to public health. In a rapidly growing town like Khordha, ensuring food safety is not only a regulatory responsibility but also a crucial step toward protecting the well-being of thousands of residents. Public awareness, regular monitoring, and strict enforcement of food safety norms are now being seen as essential to prevent a potential health crisis during the monsoon season.

First Mock Drill Held for Rath Yatra in Puri Ahead of Mega Festival

Puri, June 25: In preparation for the upcoming Rath Yatra, the first inter-departmental mock drill was conducted on Wednesday at the Town Police Station premises in Puri to ensure the smooth, safe and coordinated management of the annual festival.

Chairing the exercise, Puri Collector Divya Jyoti Parida said a significantly larger turnout of devotees is expected during this year's Rath Yatra, necessitating extensive arrangements for crowd management, pilgrim convenience and orderly darshan.

"We can successfully handle any situation through effective coordination and cooperation among all departments. The combined efforts of the police, NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Services, Health Department, volunteer organisations and Civil Defence teams will strengthen our service delivery during the festival," the Collector said.

Parida noted that mock drills help assess the preparedness and



efficiency of various agencies in responding to emergencies. "Such exercises enable us to identify gaps, improve response mechanisms and ensure quicker and more effective action during real-life situations," he said, adding that another mock drill is scheduled to be held on July 10.

Puri SP Prateek Singh said the exercise provided an opportunity to evaluate how swiftly and accurately agencies can respond

to incidents during the festival. "The mock drill enhances our capabilities and helps us gain valuable operational experience for managing large-scale events," he said.

OSDMA General Manager Sunil Kumar Sahu briefed participants on the objectives of the exercise and supervised the proceedings. Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Sarat Kumar Behera welcomed

the participants, while Deputy Collector Anushrava Gantayat proposed the vote of thanks.

Senior officials present included Additional District Magistrate (Protocol) Nilamadhab Bhoi, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Dr Akshaya Kumar Satapathy, PKDA Secretary Dillip Kumar Maharana, Sub-Collector Raj Kishore Jena, Jagannath Temple Security

Officer Hemant Kumar Padhi, Additional SPs Soumya Ranjan Mallik, Sachin Patil, Sushil Kumar Mishra, Devi Prasad Pratap, and NDRF Deputy Commandant Praveen Chauhan, among others.

The integrated mock drill involved coordinated participation from the NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Services, Medical teams, Police, Transport Department, Ambulance Services, Municipal Administration and Information Department. The exercise was monitored and managed through the Integrated Control Room.

Officials demonstrated emergency response strategies and coordinated action plans to deal with potential incidents and accidents during Rath Yatra, highlighting the importance of rapid response, communication and inter-agency coordination to ensure the safety of lakhs of devotees expected to attend the festival.

67 Faculty Members from NIT Rourkela Featured in SciRank Global's World's Top 5% Scientists List

Bhubaneswar : SciRank evaluated around 10 million researchers and nearly 50 million scholarly publications globally

This recognition highlights the institute's strong research ecosystem across engineering, sciences, and humanities

Rourkela : Achieving a major global recognition, 67 faculty members of National Institute of Technology Rourkela (NIT Rourkela) have been featured in the prestigious SciRank Global World's Top 5% Scientists List.

Published annually by the Global Institute of Scientometrics, this Top 5% Scientists List recognises researchers from around the globe who have created outstanding scientific impact with their work. The latest edition of this list has covered more than 10 million active researcher profiles and assessed 50 million (approx.) scholarly publications worldwide.

Congratulating NIT Rourkela community on this achievement, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, said, "This recognition is a matter of immense pride for the entire NIT Rourkela community. Having 67 of our faculty

members featured among the world's top scientists is a testament to their unwavering commitment to research excellence, innovation, and the pursuit of knowledge. It reflects the strength of our research ecosystem, the interdisciplinary collaborations fostered at the institute, and our collective efforts to address real-world challenges through science and technology. I congratulate all the faculty members on this remarkable achievement and am confident that their contributions will continue to advance knowledge and create meaningful societal impact in the years to come." A unique factor of this evaluation is that it is not based on surveys or editorial panels. Rather, researchers are verified through field-normalised bibliometric data sourced from OpenAlex, the world's largest open research database. This makes the evaluation transparent and away from any institutional biases. From NIT Rourkela, researchers from the Department of Chemistry accounted for the highest number of entries in the list. This is followed by researchers from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Life Science.

Puri set for world-class makeover; convention hall with 1,000-plus capacity planned

Puri: Odisha's Housing and Urban Development Department on Thursday launched the State-Level Urban Public Relations and Citizen Engagement Programme 2026 at the Puri Municipal Corporation. Organised under the theme "Vikas Ki Dhara, Odisha Sara", the event showcased major development initiatives and citizen-centric schemes implemented across urban areas of the state over the past two years.

Addressing the gathering, Housing and Urban Development Minister Dr Krishna Chandra Mahapatra said the state government is committed to building clean, smart, inclusive and resilient cities. He said substantial investments are being made in urban infrastructure, housing, transportation, drinking water supply, sanitation and digital governance.

The minister announced that the inclusion of Puri in the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip Economic Region (BCPPER) would accelerate the city's development. He said a modern convention hall with a seating capacity of more than 1,000 people would be constructed in Puri. He also announced that 50 urban centres across the state would be brought



under the Chief Minister's Smart City Scheme.

Mahapatra said extensive efforts would be undertaken to transform the Puri Municipal Corporation into a world-class urban centre. Given its cultural and religious significance, Puri is expected to emerge as a major hub for tourism, hospitality and coastal infrastructure development, further strengthening Odisha's economy, he added.

Puri MLA Sunil Kumar Mohanty was also present at the programme. Videos highlighting key government initiatives, including the Mukhyamantri Urban Development Scheme, PM SVANidhi, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), drinking water projects, Mission Shakti's Jalasathi programme, CRUT, Ama Bus,

Odisha Yatri, street lighting, solid waste management, Garima and Sahayog schemes, were screened during the event.

Beneficiaries of various schemes shared their experiences and spoke about the positive changes brought about by government support. Outstanding Jalasathi and Swachha Sathi workers were felicitated for their contributions.

Additional Chief Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department Usha Padhee said Odisha's urban transformation is being driven by a citizen-centric approach, placing people at the heart of the development process. She stressed the importance of technology-driven services and greater public participation in governance. A major highlight of

the event was the release of the department's Two-Year Achievement Review Report (2024-2026). The department also launched a state-level QR code-based grievance, suggestion and feedback platform, enabling citizens to directly register complaints and share suggestions.

The programme concluded with the screening of a short film titled "Future Urban Odisha: Vision 2036 and 2047", outlining the state's long-term urban development roadmap.

Director of Municipal Administration Arindam Daku delivered the vote of thanks. Puri Municipal Commissioner Sneha Arugula, Special Secretary Vinay Kumar Das, Mission Shakti members, beneficiaries of various schemes and a large number of citizens attended the event.

Puri SP Holds Meeting With Alarnath Temple Servitors Ahead of Anasara Darshan Rush



Puri: Anticipating a large influx of devotees during the upcoming Anasara period, Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Prateek Singh on Wednesday held a meeting with representatives of Alarnath Temple servitors at his office to discuss crowd management, security arrangements and maintenance of law and order at Brahmagiri.

During the meeting, the SP reviewed preparations for ensuring the safety of devotees, traffic regulation, darshan management and overall security in and around the temple premises.

Every year, during the Anasara period when the deities of the Jagannath Temple remain unavailable for public darshan, thousands of devotees from across Odisha and other states

visit the Alarnath Temple at Brahmagiri to offer prayers. The period witnesses a significant surge in footfall, leading to heavy crowding in and around the temple.

Keeping this in view, Puri Police has decided to strengthen crowd-control measures and security arrangements. Servitor representatives shared their suggestions regarding devotee movement, entry and exit management, parking facilities, traffic regulation, crowd handling and other essential arrangements.

SP Prateek Singh assured the servitors that all necessary measures would be taken by the police to facilitate smooth and safe darshan for devotees.

According to police officials, adequate police personnel will be

deployed in and around the temple. Special arrangements for traffic management, designated parking zones, barricading, CCTV surveillance and public address systems will also be put in place to assist devotees and streamline movement.

"The safety and convenience of devotees remain our top priority. Police, temple administration and servitors will work in close coordination to ensure peaceful and orderly darshan during the Anasara period," the SP said.

Puri Police has appealed to devotees and the general public to cooperate with authorities and adhere to all guidelines issued by the police and administration during their visit to the Alarnath Temple.

Preparations on for Ratha Yatra at Delhi's Hauz Khas Temple

New Delhi, Dt: 25.06.: Hectic preparations are underway for celebrating the Annual Ratha Yatra Festival at Lord Jagannath Temple in Hauz Khas of New Delhi. Around one and half lakhs devotees are expected to take part in 48th edition of this Grand social, religious, spiritual and cultural fiesta. Several Odia and Non Odia dignitaries of New Delhi and National Capital Region are scheduled to congregate at the ceremony venue to witness and worship Lord of the Universe and His Siblings and seek their blessings. Being hosted by the Temple Management Committee Sree Neelachala Seva Sangha (SNSS), elaborate and upto date arrangements have been done to conduct the Ratha Yatra in a smooth and seamless manner, informed Secretary of SNSS Ravinder Nath Pradhan. The entire Temple complex is being renovated with the painting of attractive colours to wear a new and fresh look befitting to the auspicious occasion.

The festive session will commence from the hosting of Deba Snan Purnima on 29th June of this month. This will follow by Netrotsava and Nabajaubana Darshan on 14th July and Ratha



Yatra on 16th July 2026. Other related festivities like Bahuda Yatra on 24th, Suna Beshna on 25th and Niladri Bije on 27th July 2026 are going to be held as per vedic norms and religious practices, Shri Pradhan disclosed. The building of 18 feet height chariot having 10 wheels is being carried on rapidly, he added. The whole executive members team of Shree Neelachala Seva Sangha and around 700 volunteers have been assigned to oversee the maintenance of peace and discipline during the Car Festival, Shri Pradhan announced. Bhagirath Jha and Laxmi Narayan Beborita will present the Live proceedings of the Ratha Yatra.

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Taranjit Singh Sandhu will grace the Festival this year as Chief Guest and shall perform the ritual of Chhera

Pahanra. The special attraction of this year's Ratha Yatra will be presentation of nine days long colourful cultural extravaganza entitled Ratha Yatra Mahotsava by SNSS. The discriminating art lovers will witness the recitals of dance and music, staging of Palas and dance dramas at Temple premises each evening starting from the day of Rathayatra till Bahuda Yatra and Sunabeshna. Nationally and Internationally acclaimed artists like famous bollywood music director Prem Anand, noted singer Susmita Das and celebrated dance exponent Saswat Joshi are expected to enthrall the audiences by their creative excellence and artistic acumen during this Festival. Ace anchor Swamaprava Pati will be comping the cultural programme of the Mega Event.

Progress of Matiapada ROB reviewed Principal Secretary Directs for Expeditious Completion

Bhubaneswar, June 25, 2026: "As the famous Rath Yatra is approaching, a significant influx of pilgrims and tourists from within and outside the State is expected to visit Puri. In view of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister, Works Department have laid special emphasis on strengthening the road infrastructure and ensuring seamless connectivity to Puri town. In view of this, the Principal Secretary of Works Department, Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, visited the construction site of the Matiapada Road Over Bridge (ROB) on NH-316 and reviewed the progress of the ongoing works. "During the inspection, he reviewed the progress of the Bow String Girder works and assessed the balance works required for completion of the project. He also directed the officials of the National Highways Wing and the work executing agency to expedite all remaining works, including the launching of the remaining two Bow String Girder spans immediately after the scheduled inspection by the Research Designs and Standards

Organisation (RDSO) on June 26, 2026, so as to facilitate early completion of the project. "He further instructed that all related works including casting of crash barriers, laying of bituminous and concrete pavement on both approach roads, installation of expansion joints, and other ancillary works, should be taken up simultaneously and completed in a time-bound manner. "The Works Department closely monitors the progress of this strategically important infrastructure project and is committed to ensuring its completion within the stipulated timeline for the interest of public. The Principal Secretary also directed the concerned officials to ensure that the service roads on both sides of the ROB are fully completed and made traffic-worthy before Rath Yatra, thereby facilitating smooth and hassle-free movement of pilgrims and other road users during the festival. "The Chief Engineer (National Highways), Superintending Engineer (National Highways) and representatives of the executing agency were present on the occasion.

KIIT Climbs to 4th Position in India in Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026

Bhubaneswar, 24th June: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Deemed-To-Be-University (KIIT-DU) has securing an impressive 4th position in India among both government and private institutes in the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, up from the 5th position last year. On a global scale, the University has been placed within the prestigious 101-200 cohort.

In this edition, KIIT was ranked across all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, the university clinched the 1st position in India for three distinct goals: SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Furthermore, KIIT secured the 2nd position nationally for SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), while maintaining top-10 positions national ranking across all remaining SDGs.

KIIT's impressive performance, driven by its visionary leadership Dr Achyuta Samanta, underscores the underlying commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This achievement highlights the institution's dedication to moving beyond policy to ensure the tangible implementation, measurable advancement, and real-world impact of the SDGs.

"We are delighted that KIIT has once again performed strongly in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. We have consistently maintained our standing while improving our performance year after year, reflecting our sustained commitment to excellence and sustainable development," said Dr Samanta. We are delighted that KIIT has once again performed strongly in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. We have consistently maintained our standing while improving our performance year after year, reflecting our sustained commitment to excellence and sustainable development," said Dr Samanta.

Times Higher Education publishes rankings based on societal impact in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in addition to the World University Rankings.

After Lucknow blaze, dozens of coaching centres sealed in Noida, Ghaziabad over fire safety norms

Noida: Around 60 establishments, a majority of them coaching centres, were sealed in Noida and Ghaziabad on Tuesday for flouting fire safety norms, as authorities across Delhi-NCR started inspections a day after a massive blaze at a coaching institute in Purnia of Aliganj in Lucknow left 15 people dead.

Officials said that while two illegal coaching centres were shut in Noida, 56 establishments, ranging from play schools to dispensaries, were sealed in Ghaziabad for failing to comply with fire safety norms. Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) officials said the specific number will have to be compiled from across eight zones.

GDA officials said they have compiled a list of 206 such establishments that lack fire no-objection certificates (NOCs). "During Tuesday's drive, 56 violating establishments were sealed because they could not produce a fire NOC. Furthermore, we are sending communication to the fire department to initiate action as per fire safety norms. We are only checking only fire NOCs," Rudresh Shukla, media coordinator of GDA, told to Media.

In Noida, while the Om Education coaching centre in Sector 149 was found operating without a registration or fire safety certificate, another establishment in Sector 49 was found operating without a valid licence. They were both sealed and issued notice to appear before the district inspector of schools (DIOS) with relevant records and documents within two days.

"If the records are not submitted within the stipulated period or the required statutory formalities are not found to be complete, sealing action will also be taken as per rules," an official statement from Gautam Budh Nagar administration said.

The management of Om Education centre was defiant, even after the sealing. When contacted, an official who answered the call, refusing to share his name or designation, said, "How many commercial buildings in Noida actually have a fire NOC? If you check markets such as Atta Market, you will find many establishments operating without one. Large brands, banks and other businesses are functioning from such premises. Why are only coaching institutes being targeted?"

Gautam Budh Nagar DIOS Chandra Shekhar said in a statement, "The campaign against coaching institutes operating without valid registration or mandatory safety standards will continue in the district."

Ghaziabad officials said the district administration will be recommended to initiate its action in case the coaching centres are found lacking in fire safety. In May, the fire department had initiated a drive to check violations in residential high-rises after a major fire at the Gaur Green Avenue high-rise in Indirapuram on April 29.

"Of the estimated 450 high-rise (over 15 metres in height) residential buildings, we have checked about 250 so far, and a total of 82 cases have been filed against violators in court. Checks at the high-rises will continue," Ghaziabad chief fire officer (CFO) Rahul Pal.

Ghaziabad officials said that sealing and enforcement were taken up in Raj Nagar, Raj Nagar District Centre, Rajendra Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Satyam Enclave, Ambekar Road, among others, under the provisions of the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973.

Drinking Water project defunct at bus stop, affect Passengers

Naresh Chandra Pattanayak Keonjhar : Four bus stops have now become makeshift stands, due to the lack of a private bus stand in mineral rich Keonjhar district headquarter Town. They are Karanjia, Telkoi, Cuttack and Badabil bus stops. Passengers face many problems due to the lack of basic facilities at all these bus stops. Passengers are dissatisfied due to the lack of facilities like electricity, light, drinking water, toilets, rest rooms etc.

Among them, in the Karanjia bus stop several problems caused the passengers difficult. A pure drinking water project was launched to provide cold water to the passengers during the scorching heat and at other



times. Passengers also fill their own bottles with cold drinking water from it and take them away while travelling. But due to defunct of the project for over 10 days passengers faced

extreme hardship securing drinking water in the scorching heat. Bus employees complain that no one listens to them even after they report the issue. Sources said that hundreds of

buses ply to various cities and villages from this bus stop every day. Thousands of passengers wait for and board the bus there. However, since this project has stalled, people

have been wandering around the hotel looking for water. Many times, if they do not get water, they are forced to buy water at great expense, said Dilip Naik, a passenger. It is questionable why steps are not being taken to fix it even though there is a 'Swachha Sathi' shop there. Similarly, small shopkeepers and bus staff at the said bus stop are also being harassed for drinking water. Similarly, since there is no toilet here, people are forced to move around and defecate outside. Apart from this, people face many problems for hygiene, let alone bathing. As a result, the environment is polluted and disputes often arise. Sumati Naik, a woman passenger, asks why no arrangements are

being made for women to rest, especially when they are facing untold hardships. Apart from this, since buses ply at night, no security arrangements have been made for the passengers. As a result, the passengers feel unsafe at night. Similarly, there is a demand for bright lighting and security guards. Since the bus stop is on the roadside, many buses often stop in the road. As a result, the city residents who travel on the said road feel unsafe and there is a demand for action as accidents and deaths often occur. In this regard, Executive Officer Lalit Kumar Naik said that no one has complained about the water project being stalled. In that case, it will be arranged immediately. Similarly, a proposal will be made for a toilet.

Speech & Painting Competition Observed at Bethany school on International Day Against Drug Abuse

Paradip, (DMS) :- Bethany Convent School, Paradip, observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with great enthusiasm and social commitment by organizing an Inter-Class Speech and Painting Competition for students of Classes VIII, IX, and X in association with team WADA (War Against Drug Abuse), Paradip. The theme for both competitions was "Responsibility of a Student Against Drug Abuse."

The programme aimed to



create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to become responsible citizens in building a drug-free society. Students participated

enthusiastically and showcased their creativity, awareness, and public-speaking skills through thought-provoking speeches and impactful paintings.

The event was graced by

Captain Premananda Rout, Advisor, WADA, and Mr. Ambika Prasad Mohapatra, Convenor, WADA, Paradip, as distinguished guests. Rev. Fr. Sunil Lakra, Principal, warmly

welcomed the guests and congratulated the participants for their active involvement and commendable performances. Addressing the gathering, Captain Rout highlighted the alarming consequences of substance abuse among youth and urged students to remain vigilant and make informed life choices. Mr. Mohapatra emphasized the vital role of students as ambassadors of change in spreading awareness against drug abuse in society.

The participants eloquently expressed their views on the

responsibilities of students in preventing drug addiction, while the paintings reflected powerful messages promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. The judges appreciated the confidence, originality, and awareness displayed by the young participants. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks. The event successfully sensitized students to the growing menace of drug abuse and reinforced the importance of collective action in safeguarding the future generation.

WASSAN and IIT Bhubaneswar Host Dialogue to Mainstream Agroecological Food Systems in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Leading academicians, policymakers, and food systems experts gathered today at the Lalitgiri Hall of Learning, IIT Bhubaneswar, for a transformative dialogue titled "Enabling Agroecological Transformation: Role of Academia in Mainstreaming Food Systems in Odisha". Organised by Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) in collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar under the Green Evolution (GE) initiative, supported by Welthungerhilfe, the event aimed to define the critical role of higher education in building sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems.

The inaugural session featured a welcome address by MV Ramachandraudu, Director of WASSAN, followed by a virtual presentation on the evidence for agroecology by Dr. N. Ravisankar. Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, provided opening remarks, setting the stage for keynote addresses by distinguished experts including Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, an internationally recognised soil biologist and Member of the

Tamilnadu Planning Commission, and Prof. Srijit Mishra from the University of Hyderabad. Dr. Aurobindo Behera (IAS Retd.), former Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Odisha, delivered an address emphasising the strategic alignment of academia with state agricultural goals.

The first thematic roundtable, moderated by Ms. Nivedita Varshneya, Country Director for Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India, focused on integrating agroecology into higher education and extension systems. Experts including Prof. Gurmeet Singh (TDU Bangalore), Anshuman Das (WHH), and Prof. Niranjana Mishra (OUAT) discussed emerging models and shared institutional experiences to embed agroecological principles into university curricula. This was followed by a second roundtable chaired by Prof. Srijit Mishra, which addressed policy priorities and enabling mechanisms. This session featured insights from Dr. Sitakanta Panda (IIT Bhubaneswar), Ms. Neha Niharika (Indian School of Business), and Dr. Praveen Jhakar (ICAR-CIWA) on creating the institutional frameworks

necessary for a widespread transition.

The final roundtable of the day explored innovation, entrepreneurship, and incubation for food system transformation, moderated by Ratnakar Panigrahi, CEO, SDRS Consulting and Millet Entrepreneur. Mr. Panigrahi and Satyabrata Muni, Founder and CEO, MUNICCO, highlighted the role of startups and local entrepreneurs in scaling agroecological solutions.

This event is a key component of the broader Green Evolution programme, which operates across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh to support national strategies for sustainable food systems. By blending local knowledge with scientific innovation and influencing policy through multi-stakeholder cooperation, the initiative seeks to create food systems that are productive, environmentally friendly, and socially fair. The recommendations generated from today's discussions are expected to significantly strengthen the contribution of Odisha's academic institutions to the state's agroecological transition.

NSIC holds Awareness program on MSME TEAM

Paradip, (DMS):- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), under the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, in association with World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar, is organizing an Awareness Programme on MSME Trade Enablement And Marketing (TEAM) Initiative on International MSME Day, i.e. on 27th June 2026, at IFFCO Community Hall in Paradip from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.

In this regard, a press

meet was held at Hotel Empire on Thursday evening, to brief on the objectives, significance, and expected outcomes of this important initiative of the Government of India.

The MSME TEAM initiative, introduced under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme, aims to strengthen the digital and technological capabilities of MSMEs by enabling them to

effectively access trade and marketing opportunities

through e-commerce platforms, including Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The programme focuses on empowering MSMEs with digital tools, capacity building, and strategic guidance to expand their market reach, enhance competitiveness, and build a strong digital presence. The press meet was briefed by A. Rajyalaxmi,

Regional Director, World Trade Centre, Bhubaneswar and S.K. Shaha, Dy. General Manager, NSIC, Bhubaneswar.

IMFA Launches 'Sakhi Seed' Initiative to Unlock India's Invisible Women Entrepreneurs

Bhubaneswar : The Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd. (IMFA), through its CSR arm, Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), announced the launch of the Sakhi Seed Initiative—an innovative programme designed to support rural and nano women entrepreneurs who are often excluded from traditional sources of finance despite possessing viable business ideas and strong entrepreneurial potential.

Under the initiative, ten women entrepreneurs will each receive a grant of ₹5 lakh, along with structured business mentorship from XIM Bhubaneswar, enabling them to strengthen and scale sustainable enterprises. The

programme is built on the principle of catalytic capital—patient, risk-tolerant funding that empowers entrepreneurs at the earliest and most vulnerable stage of their journey.

Unlike conventional financing, the Sakhi Seed Initiative recognises that many promising women entrepreneurs operate outside the formal financial system. They often lack collateral, documented credit histories, formal registrations, or extensive paperwork, making them ineligible for institutional credit despite running resilient businesses that support their families and communities.

Shaifalika Panda, Founder & CEO, Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation, said: "The programme seeks to build evidence that women who do not currently qualify for formal credit can establish sustainable, growth-oriented businesses when provided with the right combination of capital, mentorship and ecosystem support. Sakhi Seed Initiative has a broader ambition — to create a proof of concept that can influence entrepreneurial finance in India to look beyond collateral and extensive credit history."

The initiative is guided by an accomplished Advisory Board comprising Ajaita Shah,

Founder and CEO of Frontier Markets and President of Frontier Innovations Foundation; Chetna Gala Sinha, Founder of Mann Deshi Foundation; Shaifalika Panda, Founder and CEO of BIPF; Neha Juneja, Co-founder and CEO of IndiaP2P; and Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC TV18.

Applications for the inaugural cohort are now open and will remain open until 20 July. Women entrepreneurs interested in applying can submit their applications at: <https://imfasakhiseed.accubate.app/ext/form/23777/1/apply>.

IMFA Sakhi Seed is

also being implemented in partnership with Future. Female. Forward (FFF) platform, bringing national visibility to women entrepreneurs and contributing to a broader conversation on inclusive entrepreneurship and gender-responsive finance. As the programme's knowledge and business school partner, XIM University will provide business coaching, and capacity-building support to enhance participants' capabilities in enterprise planning, financial management, marketing, and market linkages, while facilitating access to industry experts and business networks.

e-Procurement Notice for Roads Works Identification No. 03/ SERW/JLS/2026-27

1. Procurement Officer	:- Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Jaleswar
2. Name of the Work	:- Roads
3. Total No. of Works	:- 58 Nos
4. Estimated Cost	:- Approx. Estimated Cost ₹.5.93 Lakh to ₹.38.14 Lakh
5. Class of Contractor	:- D, C & B Class
6. Time of Completion	:- Two, Three & Four Calendar months (As per annexure)
7. Availability of tender On-line for bidding	:- From 30.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M. to 14.07.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.
8. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	:- 13.07.2026 upto 05.00 P.M
9. Date & Time of Opening of tender in the office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Jaleswar	:- Date & Time Opening of Technical & Financial bid -15.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site- www.tendersodisha.gov.in

25001/523/2627

Superintending Engineer
R.W.Division, Jaleswar



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHUBANESWAR (R & B) DIVISION NO. I, BHUBANESWAR
Email: - eebbsr1@yahoo.co.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

No-4758 Date-22.06.2026

Bid Identification No- C.C. (R&B) - 01 e - Procurement Notice No. 08 of 2026-27

1 Name of the Work	E.I Work
2 Total No of Work	1 No Work
3 Estimated Cost	₹Rs.1931139.00(Excluding GST)
4 Class of Contractor	Manufacturer/Authorised Dealer having MOU with MV /HT Electrical Contractor or MV/HT Electrical Contractor having Authorisation (MAKE-OTIS/Schindler/Johnson/TKE)
5 Period of Completion	4(Four) Calendar Months
6 Type of Tender	Single Cover System (Online)
7 Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 17.00 Hours of 30.06.2026 to 17.00 Hours of 09.07.2026
8 Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids in the portal	09.07.2026 up to 17.00 hrs
9 Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.I, Bhubaneswar

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

N.B: Subsequent Corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.

34001/392/2627

Sd/- Er. Prabhudatta Pradhan
Superintending Engineer
Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.I, BBSR

Weak Monsoon

A weak southwest monsoon has exposed the fragility of India's agriculture sector, particularly in rainfed regions. With rainfall deficit hovering around 40-46 per cent and the Meteorological Department forecasting subdued monsoon activity till July 2, concerns over the kharif season are intensifying. The Centre's identification of 111 highly vulnerable districts across 12 states reflects the seriousness of the crisis. Agriculture remains heavily dependent on monsoon rains despite years of policy emphasis on irrigation expansion and climate resilience. A delayed or deficient monsoon directly impacts sowing activity, crop productivity, rural incomes and food inflation.



If below-normal rainfall persists during the crucial July-August period, the consequences could be severe.

The government has drawn up state-wise and district-level contingency plans. It is also promoting drought-resistant crops and water conservation, besides making efforts to ensure an adequate supply of seeds and fertilisers. The focus on pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals makes sense in view of their lower water requirements. The activation of the El Nino Monitoring Cell and real-time advisories through Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also positive steps. Preparedness is half the battle won, but it should go hand in hand with reform. India's recurring monsoon anxieties underline the urgent need to reduce dependence on rainfed agriculture. Expanding micro-irrigation, rejuvenating water bodies, improving groundwater management and incentivising climate-smart farming must become long-term national priorities rather than seasonal responses.

The urgency of protecting farmers from economic distress cannot be overemphasised. Crop insurance coverage remains uneven, and awareness of contingency measures is often limited at the grassroots level. India's food security may not face immediate danger due to healthy grain stocks and reservoir buffers, yet the livelihoods of millions of farmers remain at risk. Climate variability is no longer an occasional disruption but a recurring reality. The challenge for policymakers is to build a more climate-resilient agricultural system capable of withstanding future uncertainties.

Bonded Labour

THE rescue of 28 Soliga tribals, including children, from a brick-kiln in Mysuru is grim evidence that bonded labour remains a reality in India despite being outlawed nearly five decades ago. Families were trapped by small advances, years of underpaid labour and a cycle of debt that effectively robbed them of their freedom. What makes the episode particularly troubling is that it involved a vulnerable tribal community. Poverty, illiteracy, landlessness and lack of access to formal credit often leave such groups at the mercy of labour contractors. A modest advance meant to tide a family over difficult times can quickly become an instrument of coercion.

The Mysuru case is not isolated. Similar rescues have been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other states in recent months. Brick-kilns, construction sites and small factories rely on informal



labour arrangements that frequently evade scrutiny. The persistence of such practices exposes a serious gap between legal protections and their implementation on the ground. India has a robust legal framework to combat bonded labour. Rescue operations are essential. But the deeper challenge lies in ensuring rehabilitation, livelihood support and access to social security so that vulnerable families are not forced back into the same conditions.

Equally important is stricter monitoring of high-risk industries and swift prosecution of offenders. Unless employers who profit from bonded labour face meaningful consequences, the practice will continue in new forms. The freedom of rescued workers must not end with their release. For a nation committed to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and aspiring to become Viksit Bharat, the continued existence of debt bondage is a stark contradiction. Inclusive development must be judged by how effectively the most vulnerable citizens are protected from exploitation.

The New International Economic Order

Suresh Chandra Sarangi

While reflecting on the concept of the New International Economic Order, one ruminates on the progress made in attaining development equality and whether the dreams of establishing a just, equitable International Economic Order have been realised. The recent developments in the world horizon make a mockery of the whole thing. With developments such as Russia invading Ukraine, consequent American sanctions, disruption of the supply chain due to Trump's illegal tariffs, a pandemic of globe-trotting proportions, unfair trade practices, derailment of the supply chain, and finally, the US-Israel war against Iran are some of the blistering attacks against a just global order, based on equity and justice. Notwithstanding the structural barriers and a stepmotherly attitude toward the global South and emerging weaker economies, global equitable development is in a fix. In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a declaration and program of action in the aftermath of the worst oil crisis that broke the backbone of the world economy.

The unfolding situations become more precarious because of sanctions and counter-sanctions, the emergence of regional trading blocks, supply chain disruptions, and the timid role of the World Trade Organisation, sometimes becoming a silent spectator, brings to mind that the emerging New International Economic Order is a blow to free trade. The rise of China, the securitization of the economy, and the adverse effect of climate change have disrupted the social rebalancing in matters of trade and development. Just after the 2nd world war, the USA was numero uno in the world market and took the lead in establishing the rule-based order, till it was marred by the Cold War. The same was a blatant exposition of America's economic might, scientific achievement that wrote the rule book of the World Trade flourished till China's emergence on the horizon as the factory of the world. Acceptance of the US dollar as the global reserve currency, and in the aftermath of the oil crisis, when all trade in oil was to be settled in what is known as the petrodollar, the dollar ruled the world. But after China became an economic magnet, it slowly displaced the USA with 15% of world trade. With economic modernisation and higher double-digit GDP, the New International Economic Order was undergoing a profound change.

The 2020s could become a lost decade, as declared by the World

The IMF is opposed to any structural reforms and instead champions a neoliberal, market-driven economic framework and often sanctions loans with strict conditionalities or imposes austerity measures that bring growth to a halt in the poor nations. IMF even created an opportunity for participation by the emerging nations, by "joining the table" and participating in public policy. The global financial crisis of 2008 and its devastating impact had broken the world economic order. The New International Economic Order is fashioned by the revenge of geography. The exploitation of the resources of third-world countries by the rich industrialised countries is a roadblock against equity and justice. For example, when the entire world suffered, economies were under strain, and the epicentre was the Strait of Hormuz, because of an unjust war thrust upon humanity.

Bank, due to sluggish growth, record debt, and stalled investment. The income gap is widening; half of the developing world has failed to close income gaps since 2019, with some poorer than before the pandemic. So, it is difficult to say and understand whether it is cooperation or confrontation between the global South and North. In the face of the continuing economic gaps between the industrialised nations and the third world, the disparity grew in matters of world trade. Globalisation was a factor to be reckoned with that drove the participation of all the nations.

Therefore, the objectives of the New International Economic Order are to resolve issues in the world economy, to grow free trade relations, to balance the economic policies, and to resolve the crises through the topsy turvy of global hegemony, neo-liberalism, and a world beset with choke points, such as war. The new instruments are dollar weaponisation by America, gas and oil by Russia, exports and machinery and technology by China, disturbs growth mechanisms and stall progress. The rise of the European Union and the common Euro as a new means of exchange was a threat to the preponderance of the American dollar. Similarly, technology is shaping a new International economic order. The formation of BRICS and the proposal of having a common BRICS currency for trade and settlement, if it happens at all, is a disturbing development for American leadership. Terms of trade, instead of becoming fairer, are becoming more stringent. Amidst all these, the contemporary debates regarding global equality, sovereign debt restructuring, and reform of international institutions are burning problems. America's withdrawal or a threat to reduce financial commitment to the world organisations is a direct threat to the efficiency of these

organisations.

The developing world faces problems regarding sovereignty over natural resources, fair trade, transfer of technology, affecting the developing nations' having a larger say in institutional reforms and finance are more likely to perpetuate arbitrary economic opportunism. The global institutions remain the instruments in the hands of the rich and powerful, who hold the leverage of power. In a sense, the establishment of the New International Economic Order primarily arose to reduce the influence of neo-colonialism. But aid is now the new weapon to perpetuate neo-colonialism. China, too, is using this tactic to keep the African and other poor countries indebted. This is not being used as a source to ensure growth in the subject countries, but rather to keep them indebted, and Dambisa Moyo, the international economist, therefore, coined the word "Dead Aid". The energy indebtedness of the world has increased by leaps and bounds, so much so that the total debt today is over 235 percent of global GDP.

No doubt, it is at an elevated level. Global public debt has surpassed 102 trillion dollars in 2024. Developing countries are facing the heat of alarmingly rising public debt, as it happened in the case of Sri Lanka. How indebted nations service this huge debt is a matter of concern. But total global debt, which includes public, private, household, and corporate debt worldwide, is estimated to be more than 300 trillion US dollars. Even the US, with all the power of the dollar, has 37 trillion dollars in debt, much above its GDP.

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economic framework and often sanctions loans with strict conditionalities or imposes austerity measures that bring growth to a halt in the poor nations. IMF even created an opportunity for participation by the emerging nations, by "joining the table" and participating in public policy. The global financial crisis of 2008 and its devastating impact had broken the world economic order. The New International Economic Order is fashioned by the revenge of geography. The exploitation of the resources of third-world countries by the rich industrialised countries is a roadblock against equity and justice. For example, when the entire world suffered, economies were under strain, and the epicentre was the Strait of Hormuz, because of an unjust war thrust upon humanity.

The UN General Assembly could not stop the war, and it has also failed in the case of the Russia-Ukraine war. China monopolises rare earth, other critical minerals, and processing and refining, with exorbitant prices and monopoly in distribution, just stoking discrimination. Taiwan's superconductor industry is an automatic example. Power politics threatened the much-desired economic balance. There are many choke points. Sanctions are a powerful instrument of discrimination and exploitation. The US will detect who can purchase Russian oil; otherwise, it will impose and inflict tariffs and sanctions against that country. The world had had enough of it till the American Supreme Court interfered and nullified the Trump tariff. This is purely discriminatory. War and the arms race are a stumbling block to economic cooperation.

India, by pursuing its policy of "strategic autonomy," because of its newfound status as the fastest-growing economy in the world, is trying to represent the voice of the global South. The world has moved forward beyond small poxes and cold wars and stepped into the age of Artificial intelligence. But the internecine cold war still continues. The philosophy of the New International Economic Order was brought just after the 1973 oil crisis, and in the meantime, 50 years have elapsed. The whole theme was based on the principles of cooperation and reasonable opportunity in the economic governance of the world, and by the emerging economies. But 50 years later, it seems to be more of a confrontation. The global South still feels discriminated against. A brave New World has to pursue a policy of international cooperation amongst the comity of nations and based on justice and equity, so that the New International Economic Order becomes a reality

Gold Positioning For India

Surajit Patnaik

India is estimated to hold nearly 32,000 tonnes of gold in the form of household jewellery and holdings of religious institutions. At current market prices, the value of these holdings may exceed USD 2 trillion. By this measure, Indian households and religious institutions together may constitute one of the largest repositories of privately held gold in the world.

Yet this enormous stock of wealth is largely absent from conventional measures of national prosperity and economic well-being. In some ways, the situation resembles that of mineral-rich regions whose natural wealth remains underutilised for broader economic development. The asset exists, but its economic potential remains only partially realised.

The methodology of GDP calculation does not fully capture the value of this accumulated gold stock. When gold is purchased and stored for future generations, its value is treated largely as private consumption or savings rather than productive capital. Only the value added through refining, manufacturing, and jewellery making contributes directly to GDP. In that sense, gold lying idle in household lockers is economically comparable to minerals lying unextracted in the ground.

Gold held by religious institutions occupies an even more unique position. Such holdings are rarely monetised, pledged, or liquidated to meet financial requirements. While some institutions have deposited a portion of their gold with banks under various schemes, the overwhelming majority remains outside the formal financial system.

The purchase of gold is often viewed as consumption and is therefore subject to taxation. However, for most Indian households, the primary motivation

behind purchasing gold is not consumption but savings. It represents deferred expenditure and financial discipline—a conscious decision to forgo immediate consumption in favour of preserving wealth. Critics may describe this behaviour as conservative or old-fashioned, yet history shows that gold holdings have often protected families during periods of economic distress.

This cultural preference for asset-backed savings also helps explain certain characteristics of Indian household finance. A large proportion of Indian households remain relatively less dependent on formal borrowing compared with households in many advanced economies. Consequently, credit scores and debt-based measures of financial standing often carry less significance for the average Indian family. This mindset may be distinctive, but it is neither irrational nor something for which Indians need to apologise.

This is not an attempt to glorify household gold accumulation. From a national perspective, large-scale gold imports impose a significant burden on foreign exchange reserves and the current account balance. Nevertheless, changing global circumstances—including geopolitical tensions, commodity price volatility, tariff uncertainties, and fluctuations in capital flows—have altered the strategic role of gold. At the same time, the Reserve Bank of India has steadily increased the share of gold in its reserve assets, reflecting its own assessment of global financial risks.

The result is a paradox. Gold accumulation by households and gold accumulation by the central bank are driven by different motivations, yet both contribute to significant, sustained demand. While the RBI's actions are guided by reserve management considerations, household demand is often influenced by expectations of rising prices, cultural traditions, and long-term wealth preservation. In recent years,

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narratives predicting substantially higher gold prices have further reinforced this trend.

Given the economic implications of persistent gold imports, it may be worthwhile to explore innovative mechanisms for integrating a portion of India's existing gold stock into the formal financial system. The following suggestions are offered in that spirit.

A national mint, partially backed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), could undertake refining, minting, vaulting, digitalisation, and gold-backed lending. RBI involvement would ensure international accreditation, enhance credibility, and foster public trust. Collaboration with bullion exchanges, major financial institutions, and willing religious trusts could stabilise the domestic gold market and position India as a global bullion hub. Local jewellers would benefit from assured quality raw material, while this mint could deter smuggling and counterfeit trade.

Marriage gifts could be channelled into one-gram Devasthanam jewellery, priced at 25-carat gold but redeemable in 24-carat

metal form upon surrender of the original jewellery and the security card (issued at the time of sale). This model combines cultural tradition with financial innovation, offering households savings without hedging or vaulting costs. A robust administrative framework would be essential to ensure transparency and secure redemption.

Drawing on the precedent of commercial banks' currency chests accounting, gold held in standardised form by willing religious institutions could be recognised as RBI reserves, with interest payments at rates below hedging costs of FCNR deposits by the RBI. This arrangement mobilises idle gold without physical transfer, avoiding public opposition. Participation would be voluntary, with strict auditing and reinforced vault standards. Importantly, the model could extend beyond Hindu temples to institutions of other faiths meeting threshold holdings.

The strategic implications of monetising and better integrating gold into the economy are significant. It can improve economic efficiency by reducing reliance on imports and strengthening the current account balance. It also enhances financial resilience through better reserve management by the RBI and income generation for institutions holding gold assets. At the global level, it can help establish India as a credible participant in international bullion markets. Equally important, such measures align with India's cultural affinity for gold while integrating the precious metal into modern financial and economic structures.

India's vast gold holdings represent untapped economic potential. By combining institutional credibility, cultural sensitivity, and financial innovation, these proposals offer a pathway to transform idle wealth into a strategic national asset. Careful execution and transparent governance will be critical to ensure public confidence and long-term success.

(The writer was with the RBI)

PM Modi To Visit Seychelles To Attend Golden Jubilee Celebrations Of National Day

New Delhi, 25/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Seychelles on a State visit from June 27-29 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the country's National Day as the Guest of Honour. PM Modi will be travelling to Seychelles at the invitation of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie. During the visit, PM Modi will hold talks with President Herminie to review the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). PM Modi is scheduled to address the Seychelles National Assembly and interact with members of the Indian diaspora. "India and Seychelles share a longstanding partnership rooted in shared historical, cultural and people-to-people ties. As a key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean



region, Seychelles holds a special place in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) and our commitment to the Global South," the MEA statement said. PM Modi's visit to Seychelles will reaffirm the strong and enduring friendship between two

nations and reinforce the shared commitment of both countries to enhance the bilateral relationship across all sectors, it added. In April, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Seychelles counterpart Barry Faure on the sidelines of the 9th Indian Ocean Conference in Mauritius and expressed New Delhi's commitment to supporting

Victoria in meeting current economic challenges. "Great meeting FM Barry Faure of Seychelles on the sidelines of 9th Indian Ocean Conference. India is committed to supporting Seychelles in meeting current economic challenges. Welcomed the steps in implementing the Special Economic Package," Jaishankar posted on X. In February, the Seychelles President was on a six-day State visit to India. During the visit, President Herminie and PM Modi held discussions covering the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and agreed to also work closely in digital transformation. Noting the need for Seychelles to digitise governance for the benefit of its people, India agreed to make efforts on the buildout of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including digital payments, as per the needs and requirements of Seychelles. According to the

'Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages' (SESEL) adopted by both countries, PM Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to remaining a reliable partner in the national development agenda of Seychelles, with a focus on sustainability, defence, maritime security, capacity building, resilience and inclusive growth. "Reaffirming their commitment to work closely to expand and intensify the people-centric development partnership between the two countries, India announced a 'Special Economic Package' of USD 175 million, which will include a blended financial assistance of USD 125 million in Rupee-denominated Line of Credit and USD 50 million in Grant assistance for development cooperation projects, capacity building for civilians and defence officials, maritime security, etc," the statement said.

Govt Extends Rare Earth Scheme's Global Tender Timelines

New Delhi, 25/6: The Ministry of Heavy Industries has extended timelines for a global tender under the scheme to promote manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) to facilitate wider participation and provide additional time for stakeholders in bidding process, an official statement said on Thursday. The bid due date has been moved from June 29, 2026 to July 29, 2026 and the opening of technical bids has been rescheduled from June 30, 2026 to July 30, 2026, due to demand for timeline extension by stakeholders, the statement from ministry said. The global tender was invited by the Ministry on March 20, 2026 for selection of manufacturers as beneficiaries under the REPM scheme to establish integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing facilities in India. In this bidding process, prospective applicants can submit their bids to establish integrated sintered NdFeB REPM manufacturing facilities in India and can be eligible for availing capital subsidy as well as sales-linked incentives under the Scheme. The bidding will be conducted online through a transparent Least Cost System (LCS) comprising two-stages (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) through Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal. The Addendum has been published on the Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal for information of all stakeholders. The Union Cabinet, in November 2025, approved the scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 7,280 crore. REPM is a first-of-its-kind scheme, aims to establish a total capacity of 6,000 Metric Tons Per Annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet manufacturing facilities in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market. Rare Earth Permanent Magnets are among the most powerful magnets in the world and are widely used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, high-end electronics, aerospace and defence systems. By building a complete value chain from 'NdPr oxide' to finished magnets in India, the scheme is expected to significantly reduce import dependence in this sector.

India Expanding Long-Range Strike Capabilities With Focus On China: Report

New Delhi, 25/6: India's military modernisation is increasingly focused on developing long-range capabilities that can reach targets across China, while continuing to account for security challenges posed by Pakistan, a report has said. Citing the latest assessment by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Nikkei Asia reported that defence planning is placing greater emphasis on longer-range weapon systems amid China's military rise and its deepening strategic ties with Pakistan. The report further estimated that India's military expenditure rose 7.5 per cent to \$92 billion in 2025, making it the world's fifth-largest military spender. It is also estimated that India possessed around 190 nuclear warheads as of January 2026. According to the report, India's strategic planning has increasingly shifted towards



capabilities aimed at deterring China. While India previously deployed nuclear-capable systems with ranges of up to 2,000 km, it has gradually inducted missiles capable of striking targets 3,000 km away and beyond. According to the report, India possessed 24 Agni-V nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles as of January this year. The missile has a claimed range of up to 5,000 km.

Nikkei Asia's analysis noted that India's military modernisation reflects concerns over China's growing military capabilities and its close defence partnership with Pakistan. It highlighted the growing role of drones, cyber operations and precision-strike weapons in modern warfare. The report further said that India is accelerating efforts to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and advanced military technologies.

10 Newly Elected Rajya Sabha MPs Sworn-In, V-P Radhakrishnan Administers Oath

New Delhi, 25/6: Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath and secrecy to ten newly elected members of the Upper House on Thursday. The newly elected MPs, who took the oath as Rajya Sabha members, included four from Andhra Pradesh — three of whom came from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and one from Jana Sena Party (JSP), both constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). From Andhra Pradesh, Sana Satish Babu, Vijay Chintakayala and Bhashyam Rama Krishna were elected unopposed from the TDP while JSP's Lingamaneni Ramesh was elected opposed during the recent Rajya Sabha elections for 24 seats, spared across 10 states. Among the other lawmakers who took oath in the Upper House included Tai Tagak



(Bharatiya Janata Party) from Arunachal Pradesh, Rajesh Parmanand Shukla (Bharatiya Janata Party) from Gujarat, Baidyanath Ram (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) from Jharkhand, Debashish Samantaryay (Bharatiya Janata Party) from Odisha and Praveen Chakravarty (Congress) from Tamil Nadu. Parimal Nathwani, who

won as Independent from Jharkhand, was also administered oath of office by Vice-President Radhakrishnan. With the completion of swearing-in, these members formally assume their Rajya Sabha membership and are now eligible to participate in the proceedings of the House. A notable feature of the oath ceremony was the country's

linguistic diversity at display — five of the ten members took the oath in Hindi, one in English, one in Tamil, and three in Telugu. Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody, several members of the House, and senior officials of Rajya Sabha Secretariat attended the ceremony. The elections for 26 Rajya Sabha seats spanning across 10 states, were held on June 18. Elections were held in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat (four seats each), Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (three each), Jharkhand (two seats), Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal and Mizoram (one each). Out of all these, BJP-led NDA grabbed the lion's share by winning 19 seats while the INDIA bloc had secured victory on six seats.

Health Ministry Notifies Relaxed Norms For Regulation Of Hospitals, Clinics

New Delhi, 25/6: Reducing compliance burden, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified amendments to the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, replacing criminal penalties for procedural lapses with a fair administrative mechanism, an official said on Thursday. The reforms are aimed at promoting trust-based governance, improving ease of doing business, and ensuring proportionate regulatory enforcement, while continuing to safeguard patient safety and the quality of healthcare services across the country, the official said in a statement. The Union Ministry notified the amendments to the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, on June 22 in pursuance of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, which was published in the Official Gazette on April 8, 2026. The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act governs the registration and regulation of all clinical establishments in the country with a view to prescribe the minimum standards of facilities. The notification



implements the recommendations of the high-level committee on regulatory reforms and underscores the Union government's commitment to fostering a transparent, efficient and citizen-centric regulatory framework, the statement said. "By replacing criminal penalties for procedural lapses with a fair and balanced administrative mechanism, the reforms seek to improve the ease of doing business in the healthcare sector while preserving the highest standards of patient care, safety and accountability," it added. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, rationalises provisions across 79 Central

Acts administered by 23 Ministries and Departments. In the health sector, 35 provisions across five Acts under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been amended to decriminalise minor procedural non-compliances and strengthen citizen-centric regulatory practices, the statement said. The amendments notified under the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, form part of this broader reform initiative aimed at creating a more responsive and facilitative regulatory ecosystem. Under the amended framework, the term "fine" has been replaced with "penalty" in Sections 40, 43 and 46 of the Act, thereby shifting the enforcement

framework from criminal prosecution to administrative adjudication, the system said. Section 44 has been amended to introduce graded and proportionate penalties for contraventions committed by companies, ensuring that enforcement action is commensurate with the nature and severity of the violation, it added. The adjudicating authority mechanism under Section 41 has also been strengthened and its scope expanded to cover proceedings under Sections 40, 43 and 44, thereby facilitating transparent, efficient and accountable enforcement. "The amendments also provide for a structured adjudication process, including an opportunity of hearing before the imposition of penalties, mechanisms for recovery of penalties, and an appeal framework for aggrieved parties," the statement said. "These measures are expected to encourage voluntary compliance, reduce unnecessary litigation, and ensure proportionate action in cases of minor procedural non-compliances, while maintaining regulatory oversight over clinical establishments," it added.

Govt Integrates Pharma Jan Samadhan, Pharma Sahi Daam Portals For Quick Medicine Price Verification

New Delhi, 25/6: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has integrated Pharma Jan Samadhan and Pharma Sahi Daam into a single digital portal to give citizens unified access to medicine price information and grievance redressal, an official statement said on Thursday. It will help citizens to access both the services — medicine price information and grievance redressal services — seamlessly through the app and portal, the statement from Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers said. The integrated portal is operational with immediate effect and public can avail both the services through the unified Pharma Sahi Daam interface. The

new unified platform enhances transparency, accountability, public participation, and access to affordable medicines, the statement noted. The Pharma Sahi Daam platform was developed to provide consumers with instant access to the prices of scheduled and non-scheduled medicines, helping them verify that medicines are being sold within government-approved price limits. Pharma Jan Samadhan aims to facilitate the reporting and resolution of complaints related to medicine pricing, the ministry said. While both initiatives were already integrated at the mobile application level, these initiatives previously operated through separate web portals, the

statement said. The ministry said that users can now access both services seamlessly through the unified Pharma Sahi Daam web portal and mobile app, available on Google Play Store. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted through a Government of India Resolution in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers. As an independent regulator of pricing of drugs, NPPA holds the responsibility of fixing and revising drug prices as per the provisions of the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013, monitoring compliance and availability of drugs and rendering advice on pharmaceutical policies.

'Inspirational For Youth': IAF Chief AP Singh On Shubhanshu Shukla's Book

New Delhi, 25/6: Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh hoped on Thursday that there would be many more astronauts than just one Shubhanshu Shukla in the coming years and complemented the IAF Group Captain for recounting his 20-day space experience in a book to inspire youngsters. At the book launch ceremony of "The Second Orbit", written by IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the Air Chief

Marshal Singh said, "I hope we have more and more Shubhanshus coming out, and very soon he will fade into the background because there will be so many of us who have been there." "I just hope that happens. I know he (Shubhanshu Shukla) is not going to like it because there will be many people sharing his glory, but that is how it should happen. But you will still remain the first one after such a long gap," he added. The IAF Chief said that there were four

IAF officers, including Shukla, who got trained for the space mission. "But he (IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla) was the lucky one. He must have been the best and must have done better. I hope the others also get a chance someday." Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh also reached out to young minds to be ambitious and enjoy the life's journey by putting their best, giving up rigidity on the final destination they reach.

Death Toll In Venezuela's Back-To-Back Earthquakes Rises To 164

Caracas,25/6: At least 164 were killed and 971 injured in back-to-back powerful earthquakes in Venezuela, the country's acting President Delcy Rodriguez said Thursday. Rodriguez said the earthquake had triggered about 30 aftershocks, while stressing that the government is currently coordinating resources nationwide to strengthen rescue efforts in the hardest-hit areas and has called on the private sector to help procure rescue equipment and supplies. She expressed hope that improved visibility after daybreak would enable rescue workers to accelerate search-and-rescue operations, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier, she declared a national state of emergency and announced the closure of Maiquetia International Airport, the main airport serving Caracas. Rodriguez also ordered the suspension of classes and nonessential activities nationwide for the rest of the week, and called on medical personnel across the country to assist in treating the injured. Interior, Justice and Peace



Minister Diosdado Cabello said in a televised address on Wednesday night that the earthquakes affected several cities and caused multiple building collapses in eastern Caracas. The quakes were among the strongest to strike Venezuela in more than a century and could be felt throughout the region. Tremors

were significantly far-reaching, triggering building evacuations in Brazilian cities, roughly 1,700 kilometres away from Venezuela's capital, Caracas. The shaking began shortly after 6 p.m. (local time/2200 GMT) on Wednesday in Caracas. Within less than a minute, Venezuela was struck by two powerful

earthquakes, both above magnitude 7. The tremors were reportedly felt across much of the country. The quakes caused voltage fluctuations and a brief power outage in the residential area. Many residents soon gathered in open spaces, staying away from buildings as fears of aftershocks spread.

At Least 32 Dead, 700 Injured In Venezuelan Earthquakes: Acting President

Caracas,25/6: At least 32 people were killed and more than 700 injured after two powerful earthquakes jolted Venezuela, the country's acting President Delcy Rodriguez said in an official update on Thursday. Rodriguez said the coastal state of La Guaira in northern Venezuela was the hardest hit, describing it as a "disaster zone," where dozens of buildings had completely collapsed. "La Guaira state is a true tragedy," Rodriguez said on Venezuelan state television, Xinhua news agency reported. The preliminary toll of 32 deaths and 700 injuries did not include La Guaira state, as connectivity problems are currently affecting the area, she said. The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported a magnitude 7.1 quake at 2204 GMT on Wednesday evening, followed just one minute later by an even stronger magnitude 7.5 tremor. Both struck near the coastal town of Moron, about 160 km west of Caracas. The quakes were shallow with a depth of 10 km, which could intensify their destructive impact. Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez has announced a



State of Emergency after two powerful earthquakes struck the South American nation, causing widespread damage. "Following the strong earthquakes recorded this afternoon in the country, we have declared a State of Emergency throughout the national territory. We call on all citizens to remain alert, safe, and as calm as possible," Rodriguez said in a post on X. She also announced that the Maiquetia airport has been closed due to earthquake damage. She assured that the security bodies, medical services, and civil protection teams are deployed across the country to carry out rescue and relief operations. Venezuela's Interior, Justice and Peace

Minister Diosdado Cabello said the strong earthquakes have caused damage in cities across the country. Several buildings collapsed in the eastern part of the Caracas metropolitan area, Cabello said, giving no immediate details on casualties or injuries. Cabello urged Venezuelans to avoid staying inside buildings in the coming hours due to the risk of strong aftershocks that could cause further collapses, while calling on the public to remain calm and united as the country deals with the quake's aftermath. Meanwhile, Colombian media reported that the quake was also felt strongly in several cities in neighbouring Colombia. The USGS said the two quakes are likely to result in high casualties and extensive damage.

India, Saudi Arabia Discuss Ways To Strengthen Ties, Diaspora Issues

Riyadh,25/6: India and Saudi Arabia have discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, diaspora issues, and other matters of mutual interest. The discussions were held during a meeting between the Consul General of India in Jeddah, Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri and the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Madinah Branch Director General, Ibrahim bin Saeed Al-Subhi, on Wednesday. "Consul General of India in Jeddah, Shri Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, met H.E. Mr Ibrahim bin Saeed Al-Subhi, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Madinah Branch (24 June) and discussed, inter alia, ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, diaspora issues, and matters of mutual interest," Consulate General of India in Jeddah posted on X. On Wednesday, India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Ajaz Khan, held a meeting with the Saudi Ministry of Defence's General Executive Director, Eyad Abdulmalik Alalshaikh, to discuss ways to strengthen defence cooperation. "Ambassador Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan met with H.E. Eyad Abdulmalik Alalshaikh, General Executive Director, Saudi Ministry of Defence and

Iran's IRGC Navy Warns Against Uncoordinated Shipping Through Hormuz Strait

Tehran,25/6: Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy on Thursday stressed that the only authorised routes for vessels' passage through the Strait of Hormuz are the ones announced by Iranian authorities. It made the remarks in a statement published on the IRGC's official news outlet Sepah News while warning that ships' movement through other routes is dangerous and prohibited. The IRGC's Navy made the announcement after the Oman Maritime Security Centre released guidelines for outbound ships' passage through the strait under an arrangement with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Xinhua news agency reported. Everyone must know that the only routes for passage through the strait are those announced by Iran, and traffic outside those routes is very dangerous and prohibited, and must be strictly avoided, it added. Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on



June 18 with the United States to end the war, Iran has undertaken to arrange for the safe passage of commercial vessels through the strait, with no charge for 60 days. On Tuesday, Iran and Oman issued a joint statement saying that they have agreed to establish a "joint working group" to negotiate the future administration of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and reaffirming their commitment to ensuring vessels' safe passage through the waterway in accordance with international law. IMO also announced an

evacuation plan for more than 11,000 seafarers still stranded in the Strait of Hormuz. The IMO has secured the necessary safety guarantees and verified safe navigation conditions to support the evacuation operation, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said in a statement on Tuesday. The operation follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States (US) and will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, other countries in the region, and the maritime industry, Dominguez said.

Global Trade Relies On Maritime Workers Honoured During Day of The Seafarer 2026 Worldwide

USA,25/6: International Maritime Organization officials proudly mark June 25 every year to recognize global merchant mariners transporting critical goods worldwide. This crucial annual observance, Day of the Seafarer 2026, highlights maritime workers navigating high-risk zones under the meaningful current theme, "Carrying the world. Carrying the risks." Over 1.5 million trained professionals operate large commercial fleets, successfully moving roughly 90% of international freight across unpredictable, dangerous oceans. Maritime professionals form the foundation of modern global supply chains. They expertly ensure daily necessities, medical supplies, and fuel reach international markets safely and efficiently. Regional trade hubs like Odisha's Paradip Port rely heavily on these highly skilled crews to maintain continuous cargo movement and regional economic



stability. Without their relentless dedication and hard work, global commerce would face an immediate collapse and create severe product shortages worldwide. Working on commercial vessels demands immense personal sacrifice from every single crew member. These brave individuals endure consecutive months away from their families while facing severe weather systems and dangerous geopolitical conflicts. Mental health challenges frequently affect sailors during these extended, isolated voyages across vast oceans.

Advocacy groups continuously push shipping companies to improve onboard medical resources, guarantee regular communication with loved ones, and enforce far safer working environments. Industry leaders actively utilize digital platforms to amplify mariner voices and thank maritime workers everywhere. Social media campaigns encourage ordinary citizens to share supportive messages honoring these essential operators. Charitable organizations provide practical

assistance, legal guidance, and emotional counseling to protect sailor well-being at various international ports. Regular safety dialogues allow crews to share firsthand experiences, driving critical policy improvements across the entire shipping industry. Furthermore, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez consistently emphasizes that mariner welfare must remain a top international priority regardless of global circumstances.

Trump Orders Probe Into Fuel Prices

Washington,25/6: US President Donald Trump has said his administration was investigating major oil companies over suspected price gouging, arguing that falling crude oil prices had not translated into lower prices at American petrol stations. Speaking after his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at the White House on Wednesday (local time), Trump said the Department of Justice was examining whether energy companies were passing on lower costs to consumers. "We are not seeing anything at the pump by comparison to what it should be," Trump said. "We should be, in my opinion, at \$2.25 right now at the pump, and we're higher than that." The President named several of the world's largest energy companies, including ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell and BP. "It's ExxonMobil, it's Chevron, it's Shell, it's BP. It's a lot of them," he said. Trump said oil prices had fallen sharply, but retail fuel prices had not declined at the same pace. "The

gasoline prices should be much lower at the pump, and the oil companies are possibly gouging." He warned that companies found to be exploiting consumers would face consequences. "I hope they're not; otherwise, they're going to be in big trouble. They're going to be in big trouble; we're not going to play games." Asked whether he had personally spoken to oil executives, Trump replied: "I told them, 'Don't gouge our people.'" The President linked lower fuel prices to broader efforts to reduce the cost of living for Americans. "We are sending out, think of it, 19 million barrels came out yesterday. That is a flood, that's like a gusher," he said. "They're not reducing the prices commensurate with what's happening." Trump argued that lower energy prices would help improve affordability across the economy. "We're doing great," he said. "The Democrats gave us a tremendous affordability problem, and we're reducing prices a lot." The President also

returned to his long-standing call for lower interest rates, saying they remained the key to improving the US housing market. "I know housing better than anybody, maybe anywhere," Trump said. "It's all about the interest rate. Lower the interest rates, you can have all the housing you want." He said he remained concerned about protecting homeowners while making housing more affordable. "I don't want to hurt people that own houses, too." "What you want to do is what's good for everyone: get the interest rates down." Trump also reiterated that he would not sign the housing legislation currently before him, saying he wanted to focus instead on election-related legislation. "I said I'm not signing the housing bill," he said. The United States is one of the world's largest oil producers, and changes in American fuel prices are closely watched by global energy markets. Crude oil prices influence transport, manufacturing and inflation worldwide, making US energy policy significant well beyond its borders.



Vedanta Aluminium Launches Suryodhyam Initiative To Drive Holistic Rural Transformation In Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, 25/6(DMS): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, has closely coordinated with the district administration of Jharsuguda to launch Suryodhyam, a comprehensive rural development initiative aimed at transforming seven villages in the district into self-sustaining, community-centric ecosystems. The initiative is expected to benefit 8,000+ community members through focused interventions spanning infrastructure development, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and local governance. As part of the Suryodhyam model village initiative, a wide range of infrastructure interventions will be undertaken across the identified villages, including improving roads, drainage systems, street lighting, Primary Health Centers, anganwadis, schools, water bodies, and irrigation infrastructure. Alongside these efforts, the initiative will focus on enhancing access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities while strengthening



grassroots institutions such as youth clubs, Village Development Committees, Panchayat sub-committees and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to foster greater community participation in local governance and development planning. Formalizing this collaborative vision, Vedanta Aluminium signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of the Jharsuguda district administration reinforcing their continued collaboration towards sustainable rural

development. Uniquely, each of the seven villages will be 'adopted' by senior leaders from Vedanta Aluminium, Jharsuguda, who will be responsible for providing strategic oversight and active engagement to support the successful implementation. Speaking on the occasion, C. Chandru, CEO - Vedanta Aluminium, Jharsuguda, said, "Through Suryodhyam, we are investing in stronger, more resilient communities in the vicinity of our operations by strengthening rural infrastructure,

expanding livelihood generation avenues, and enabling community-led development. Through this effort, we aim to build community ownership of progress and create scalable models of village development that deliver lasting value for Jharsuguda district, while also supporting its long-term growth." Shri Kunal Motiram Chavan, IAS, District Collector and District Magistrate, Jharsuguda, said, "Vedanta's Suryodhyam initiative, which is being implemented in close

coordination with the Jharsuguda district administration, will complement our ongoing efforts to strengthen rural infrastructure, improve access to essential services, and enhance the quality of life in villages. We see this as an opportunity for enabling joint public-private efforts to drive coordinated, outcome-oriented development and achieve inclusive rural transformation." Suryodhyam aims to establish the seven villages as scalable and replicable models of integrated rural development. In FY26, Vedanta Aluminium's community development efforts in Jharsuguda positively impacted the lives of more than 7 lakh people across 61 villages, ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth through targeted interventions in education, healthcare, livelihoods, women's empowerment, rural infrastructure, and grassroots arts and sports, the company is working to improve the quality of life of local communities.

Piyush Goyal To Address India Global Forum, Lead G2B Engagements During UK Visit

New Delhi, 25/6: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will address the India Global Forum and lead a series of government-to-business engagements during his official visit to the United Kingdom from June 25-27, as India and the UK prepare to implement the landmark Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) next month, it was announced on Wednesday. The visit comes ahead of the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the accompanying Double Contribution Convention (DCC), both of which are scheduled to come into force on July 15, 2026. During the visit, Goyal is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Peter Kyle to review preparations for the implementation of the two agreements and discuss ways to deepen the economic partnership between the two countries. The discussions are expected to focus on regulatory coordination, customs facilitation and administrative mechanisms required for the smooth operationalisation of CETA and the DCC. The two sides will also review readiness for tariff liberalisation commitments under the trade pact, which is expected to provide improved market access opportunities for Indian exporters in the UK market. The ministers are also expected to discuss the implementation roadmap for the Double Contribution Convention, which seeks to address dual social security contribution requirements for eligible temporary workers and facilitate greater mobility for professionals and businesses. As part of the visit, Goyal will participate in several government-to-business engagements involving industry leaders, investors and corporate representatives from both countries. A key highlight of the visit will be the Minister's address at the opening plenary session of the India Global Forum, where he will speak on the theme, "Capital, Innovation and the UK-India Moment." The session is expected to focus on emerging business and investment opportunities arising from the implementation of the India-UK trade agreement. Goyal will also hold separate meetings with senior executives from major global companies, including HSBC Global Trade Solutions and Rolls-Royce, to discuss strategic investments, industrial collaboration and opportunities to expand manufacturing partnerships in India.

Sensex, Nifty End Marginally Higher As Late Selling Erodes Early Gains

Mumbai, 25/6: Indian benchmark indices ended with modest gains on Thursday after surrendering a significant portion of their intra-day advances amid weakness in information technology, metal, oil, and gas stocks. The Nifty closed 34.35 points, or 0.14 per cent, higher at 24,056, while the Sensex advanced 109.25 points, or 0.14 per cent, to settle at 77,100.47. The benchmarks had traded notably higher during the session before profit booking in select sectors trimmed gains toward the close. Selling pressure in heavyweight sectors such as IT, metals, and oil and gas weighed on market sentiment. Among the Nifty constituents, Oil and Natural Gas Corp, Power Grid Corporation of India, and Hindalco Industries emerged as the top laggards, dragging the indices lower in the latter half of the session. The broader market also witnessed weakness, with mid- and small-cap stocks underperforming the benchmark indices. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.55 per cent



lower, while the Nifty SmallCap index declined 0.47 per cent. On the sectoral front, the Nifty Metal index led the losses, followed by the Nifty IT and Nifty Oil and Gas indices, as investors booked profits in these segments. In contrast, defensive and consumption-oriented sectors provided support to the market. The Nifty Auto and Nifty FMCG indices outperformed their peers, helping the benchmark indices remain in positive territory. Analysts said that despite ending in the green, the sharp

erosion of intra-day gains reflected a cautious undertone in the market, with investors remaining selective amid sector-specific weakness and profit-taking in broader markets. "While a sharp decline in crude oil prices supported the rupee and provided some cushion, it was insufficient to sustain upward momentum," a market expert said. "In the near term, sentiment may be influenced by a muted Q1 earnings outlook and an uneven monsoon, which should be monitored going forward," an analyst mentioned.

Russia Eyes Gasoline Imports From India Amid Refinery Disruptions: Report

New Delhi, 25/6: Russia is working to launch large scale seaborne gasoline imports from India to address a widening domestic fuel shortfall caused by a wave of Ukrainian drone strikes on refinery infrastructure, a new report has said. The report from Ukraine-based Kyiv Post said draft amendments to Russia's Tax Code would extend an existing subsidy mechanism for companies undertaking gasoline imports from India. "Under the proposed rules, the subsidy would be calculated based on an indicative gasoline price on the Indian market and the cost of shipping fuel from Indian ports to Russia," the report said. The State Duma's budget and tax committee has backed the bill, the media house said, citing an RBC report. Russia's subsidy support for Indian refined crude follows a sharp deterioration in Russian refining capacity as attacks intensified in 2026. India became Russia's largest buyer of crude, purchasing 1.5 to 2 million



barrels following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. It reached a record of 2.66 million barrels per day in June 2026, a part of which is processed in Indian refineries and re-exported as petroleum products, including gasoline. India's total gasoline exports reached a record high of 4 lakh barrels per day in 2025, majorly imported by Asian

countries. Strikes on refineries have pushed Russia's crude processing to its lowest level in two decades, cutting gasoline output by roughly 25 per cent. Operating refineries are producing about 85,000 tonnes of gasoline per day against summer demand of around 1.11 lakh tonnes, leaving a structural daily shortfall of roughly 25,000

tonnes. The shortfall now amounts to about 20 per cent of domestic consumption and has pushed wholesale gasoline prices above 100 rubles, the report said. Russian light aircraft operators have begun substituting automobile gasoline for aviation fuel due to shortage and aviation fuel price surge, it noted.

Indian Markets Open Higher As Crude Oil Prices Hover Near \$70 Mark

Mumbai, 25/6: Indian stock markets opened higher on Thursday as crude oil prices eased towards the \$70-per-barrel mark, with tankers resuming their exit from the Strait of Hormuz following an initial peace deal between the US and Iran. Sensex started the session up 400 points or 0.52 per cent at 77,391.07, while Nifty opened at 24,125.85, gaining over 100 points or 0.43 per cent. Most sectoral indices traded in positive territory, led by Nifty Realty and Nifty Auto, gained up to 1 per cent. Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty IT, Nifty Pharma, Nifty Oil & Gas, Nifty FMCG and Nifty Private Bank indices also advanced. However, Nifty Metal was the lone major sectoral loser, declining 0.56 per cent. From the Nifty pack, Hindalco Industries, Eternal, Bharat Electronics, Power Grid Corporation, ONGC, Infosys, Titan, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, ITC, Asian Paints and Coal India were among the top losers in early trade. Category-wise, Nifty Microcap 250 gained 0.87 per cent, Nifty Midcap 100 rose



0.63 per cent, Nifty Midcap 50 advanced 0.61 per cent, and Nifty Smallcap 500 climbed 0.59 per cent. Meanwhile, India VIX — the market's fear gauge — slipped nearly 3 per cent to 13, indicating easing volatility. According to analysts, the technical undertone remains positive as long as the Nifty sustains above the 24,000 mark. Immediate support is placed at

23,900, followed by the 23,790-23,750 zone if profit-booking intensifies. "On the upside, the 24,090-24,150 zone remains the key resistance area, and a decisive breakout above this supply zone could trigger fresh short-covering, paving the way for a move towards 24,300," they said. Analysts further noted that supportive global cues and lower crude oil prices favour

further gains, although traders should remain watchful of expiry-related volatility and evolving global monetary policy expectations. Meanwhile, international benchmark Brent crude declined about 2 per cent to around \$72 a barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 1.83 per cent to trade below the \$70-per-barrel mark.

Rourkela Steel Plant Among SAIL Units Supplying Steel For 3 Navy Vessels

New Delhi, 25/6: State-run Maharatna steel giant SAIL on Wednesday said it supplied 5,700 tonnes of special steel for three recently commissioned Indian Navy vessels. The three naval platforms — stealth frigate INS Dunagiri, anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft INS Agray and survey vessel (large) INS Sanshodhak — were commissioned into the Indian Navy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a ceremony held at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata. According to the PSU firm, the steel supplied for the vessels comprised special quality DMR 249A grade hot-rolled sheets and plates manufactured at its Bokaro, Bhilai and Rourkela steel plants. The supply highlights its technological capabilities in producing specialised defence-grade steel required for critical maritime platforms, it added. SAIL said it has been expanding production of DMR-grade plates to meet the growing requirements of the defence sector, particularly at the Special Plate Plant of the



Rourkela Steel Plant. The company added that its efforts are aligned with the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, aimed at enhancing self-reliance in strategic sectors and reducing dependence on imports. The steelmaker has previously supplied specialised steel for several key indigenous naval projects, including aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and Project 17A stealth frigates INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri. Its defence-grade steel has also been used in vessels such as INS Ajay, INS Nistar and INS Anjdeep, among others. SAIL Chairman and

Managing Director Ashok Kumar Panda said the company remains committed to supporting India's self-reliance goals in the defence sector. "As a key partner in India's defence sector, SAIL remains deeply committed to national self-reliance. Delivering high-strength DMR 249A steel plates helps safeguard India's strategic independence while showcasing the company's technological capabilities," Panda said. The company said the induction of the three naval vessels marks another milestone in India's efforts to strengthen maritime capabilities through indigenous manufacturing and technology development.



'Raid 2': Amay Patnaik Returns, but the 'Jing' is Missing

Patnaik (Devgn) and Dada Bhai (Deshmukh) Fail to Ignite Raid Sequel Seven years after the original film, the "Raid" franchise returns with Ajay Devgn reprising his role as the upright IRS officer Amay Patnaik. The sequel pits him against a new powerful adversary, aiming to replicate the success of its predecessor. However, critical assessment suggests "Raid 2" struggles significantly under the weight of repetition, offering a familiar template that ultimately feels stale and lacking in genuine engagement or excitement. The narrative follows IRS Deputy Commissioner Amay Patnaik to the town of Bhoj, where he targets the seemingly benevolent local ruler, Dada Manohar Bhai (Riteish Deshmukh). Dada Bhai maintains a clean public image while commanding deep loyalty, presenting a familiar challenge for the incorruptible tax officer who suspects deep-seated corruption beneath the surface. This setup closely mirrors the structure of the first film, which was based on a real-life raid from the 1980s. A central criticism leveled against "Raid 2" is its overwhelming sense of predictability and "sameness." The review highlights recurring visual and narrative tropes: imposing fortresses guarded by henchmen, convoys of official vehicles traversing landscapes, overly dramatic dialogue delivery, and intrusive background music. This adherence to the established formula makes large portions of the film, particularly the first half dedicated to setting up the conflict, feel redundant and superfluous, especially given the audience's prior familiarity with the protagonist's methods and character. The direct confrontations between Patnaik (Devgn) and Dada Bhai (Deshmukh) are described as particularly uninspired, labeled as "eye-glaze scenes" that fail to generate compelling drama or interest. This lack of dynamism between the leads leaves the viewer searching for engagement elsewhere. While the central conflict underwhelms, moments of enjoyment reportedly come from the supporting cast. Returning actors Saurabh Shukla (as Tauji) and Amit Sial (as the morally ambiguous colleague Lallan Sudheer) are singled out for injecting energy and humour into the proceedings. Yashpal Sharma, in a new role as a principled lawyer, also earns praise.

Salman Khan's 'Battle of Galwan' to Tell the Story of a Battle Fought Without Bullets

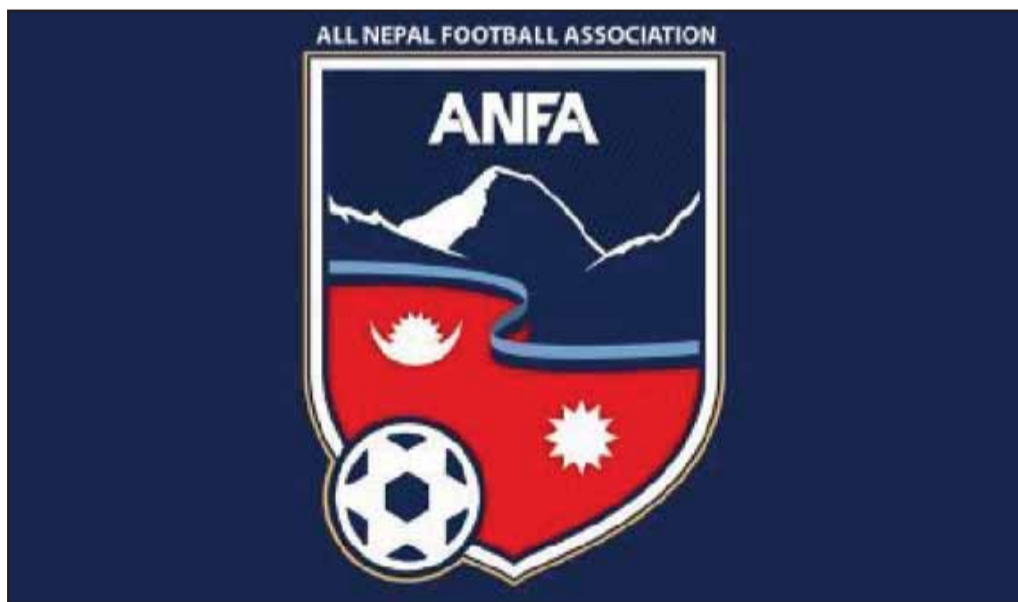
Salman Khan has revealed the first look for his new movie, 'Battle of Galwan', presenting a fierce and nationalistic new character that has instantly drawn widespread attention. The motion poster shows Khan in uniform, his face marked by bloodstains, wearing a proud mustache, and with a look of intense determination. The strong visuals set the stage for a film that will recount one of India's most brutal contemporary military battles. The film is based on the deadly Galwan Valley clash that occurred in June 2020. This violent confrontation between Indian and Chinese troops took place in a disputed border region in Ladakh, more than 15,000 feet above sea level. The conflict was unique and savage, as it was fought without a single bullet being fired due to longstanding protocols. Instead, soldiers engaged in fierce hand-to-hand combat, resulting in casualties on both sides and marking the first fatalities in the border conflict in nearly 45 years. This role marks a significant departure for Salman Khan, an actor more frequently associated with action-comedy blockbusters. He recently shared photos of a noticeably leaner and fitter physique, accompanied by cryptic captions about hard work, which now appear to be linked to his preparation for this demanding part. The first look suggests a deep commitment to portraying the gravity and intensity of the subject matter, a move that has generated considerable excitement. After his last film, 'Sikandar', did not perform as expected at the box office, 'Battle of Galwan' represents a pivotal project for the superstar. It is being positioned not just as an entertainer, but as a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Indian soldiers.



SPORTS

FIFA Suspends Nepal Football Association With Immediate Effect Over Third-Party Influence

Lausanne, 25/6: The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has suspended the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) with immediate effect due to violations of the FIFA Statutes linked to interference by a third party. The decision came after a prolonged dispute over the governance of Nepali football. Earlier, Nepal's National Sports Council had suspended ANFA for three months, although that decision was later revoked. "The Bureau of the Council also decided to suspend the All Nepal Football Association with immediate effect due to flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes linked to interference by a third party in accordance with article 14 paragraphs 1(i) and 3 of the FIFA Statutes," FIFA said in a statement. "Consequently, with effect from 24 June 2026, ANFA has lost all of its membership rights, as defined in article 13 of the FIFA Statutes, until further notice. ANFA representative and club teams are therefore no longer entitled to take part in international competitions until the suspension is lifted," it said



in a circular. The suspension means Nepal's national teams and clubs can no longer participate in competitions organised by FIFA or the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). ANFA, its member bodies and officials will also lose access to FIFA and AFC funding. "This also means that neither ANFA nor any of its members or officials may benefit from any development programmes, courses or training

from FIFA and/or the AFC. Moreover, we would remind you and your affiliates not to enter into any sporting contact with ANFA and/or its teams while ANFA is suspended. "Finally, the Bureau of the Council or the FIFA Council may lift this suspension at any time before the next FIFA Congress takes place. Should this occur, we will inform you accordingly," it added. As per FIFA Statutes' article 14, which

relates to member associations' obligations, any violation of the obligations may also lead to sanctions, even if the third-party influence was not the fault of the member association concerned. Each member association is responsible towards FIFA for any and all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such members.

FIFA WC: Bosnia Beat Qatar For First World Cup Win 12 Years

Seattle, 25/6: Bosnia and Herzegovina bagged their first FIFA World Cup match win in 12 years after beating Qatar 3-1 here at Seattle Stadium. They will have to wait before finding out whether or not it is enough to make the knockout stages. Sergej Barbarez's team finished third in Group B behind section winners Switzerland and Canada, with confirmation of the next stage to come at the end of Matchday three. Qatar, meanwhile, are heading home after finishing bottom of Group B with one point, although they did improve upon their showing as hosts in 2022, when they lost all three games. Bosnia and Herzegovina's only previous World Cup victory came against Iran at Brazil 2014. That match also came on Matchday 3, and also finished 3-1. It was a dominant start from the Bosnians with Qatar goalkeeper Mahmud Abunada called into action on several occasions

in the opening stages. The pressure paid off for the Dragons when 18-year-old Kerim Alajbegovic lit up Seattle with a solo goal fitting of a World Cup. The teenager, who is his nation's youngest-ever World Cup player, cut inside, beat two Qatar players and fired a right-footed shot into the top corner, reports FIFA. Bosnia then doubled their lead through an own goal from Abunada. Dzeko's half volley struck left-back Sultan Al-Brake on the thigh, with the ball subsequently spinning in off the helpless goalkeeper. But Qatar did strike to halve the scoreline before the break with Edmilson Junior pulling a ball back from the left for captain Hassan Al-Haydos to slam home from close range. Qatar pushed for an equaliser after the break with Julen Lopetegui introducing the country's all-time record scorer Almoez Ali into the fray midway through the half.

Sonakshi Sinha Wraps Up Action-Packed Schedule for Telugu Debut 'Jatadhara'

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is all set to make her debut in the Telugu film industry, has wrapped up the second schedule of her eagerly awaited film, Jatadhara. The actress has been working tirelessly on the film, which promises to showcase her in a completely new avatar. The latest shooting schedule concluded with high-energy action sequences and crucial scenes. On Thursday, Sonakshi took to Instagram to announce the completion of the second schedule and expressed her excitement for the next one. Sharing pictures of herself striking poses near her vanity van, she wrote, "Annnnd it's a WRAP for a power-packed second schedule of #Jatadhara!!! Can't wait for the third sched (sic)." In the photos, Sonakshi can be seen looking stylish and relaxed in a black co-ord set. Actress Richa Chadha responded to her post with red heart emojis, while Shilpa Shirodkar commented, "Hey, hey, hey." Jatadhara, which is being described as a supernatural fantasy thriller, marks Sonakshi's highly anticipated Telugu debut. The first look of the actress was revealed on Women's Day, March 8, where she was seen in an intense, powerful avatar. The poster was accompanied by the caption, "This Women's Day, a beacon of strength and power rises in #Jatadhara! Welcome aboard @aslisona (sic)." Directed by Venkat Kalyan, Jatadhara also stars Sudheer Babu and is produced by Zee Studios' Umesh KR Bansal, Prerna Arora, Aruna Agarwal, and Shivin Narang. The film kicked off with a grand muhurat ceremony in Hyderabad.

