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BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹4



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Trump warns Iran as strikes escalate

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dubai

Israel appeared to be expanding its air campaign on Tehran five days after its surprise attack on Iran's military and nuclear programme, as US President Donald Trump posted an ominous message warning residents of the capital to evacuate.

"IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON," Trump wrote Monday night before returning to Washington early from a Group of Seven summit in Canada. "Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!" he added.

Trump later denied he had rushed back to work on a ceasefire, telling reporters on Air Force One during the flight back to Washington: "I'm not looking at a ceasefire. We're looking at better than a ceasefire." Asked why he had urged for the evacuation of Tehran, he said: "I just want people to be safe."

Earlier, the Israeli military had called for some 330,000 residents of a neighborhood in downtown Tehran to evacuate. Tehran is one of the largest cities in the Middle East, with around 10 million people,



Smoke rises from the building of Iran's State-run television after an Israeli strike in Tehran, Iran, Monday PTI

roughly equivalent to the entire population of Israel. People have been fleeing since the hostilities began.

Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile programme is necessary to prevent its long-time adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people in Iran

and wounded 1,277 since Friday.

Iran has retaliated by launching more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 wounded. The Israeli military said a new barrage of missiles was launched on Tuesday, and explosions could be heard in northern Israel.

Downtown Tehran appeared to be emptying out early

Tuesday, with many shops closed. The ancient Grand Bazaar was also closed, something that only happened in the past during anti-Government demonstrations or at the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the roads out of Tehran to the west, traffic stood bumper to bumper. Many appeared to be heading to the Caspian Sea area. Long lines also could be seen at gas stations in Tehran, with printed

ISRAEL WILL DEGRADE IRAN'S NUKE PROGRAMME

Israel will continue to do what is within its capabilities to "degrade" Iran's nuclear programme, the country's ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, said on Tuesday, amid escalating tensions between the two countries. He also said it would be better if a diplomatic solution could be achieved to halt the hostilities.

The envoy said Israel took military action to "severely degrade" Iran's nuclear programme and missile capabilities, claiming it posed a "threat" to his country during an interaction with media here.

"We'll continue to do what is in our capabilities to degrade Iran's nuclear programme," he told reporters when asked about the future course of the confrontation.

Asked about the expectations from the US, Azar said Washington and Israel are "completely in sync". He said he felt that the US would "support" Israel's action. Israel is grateful to the US for its military and political assistance, Azar asserted.

placards and boards calling for a "severe" response to Israel visible across the city.

Authorities cancelled leave for doctors and nurses as the attacks continue, but insisted everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for the public on what to do.

The Israeli military meanwhile claimed to have killed someone it described as Iran's top general in a strike on Tehran. Iran did not immediately comment on the reported killing of Gen.

Ali Shadmani, who had just been named as the head of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, part of the para-

military Iran has named other generals to replace the top leaders of the Guard and the regular armed forces after they were killed in earlier strikes.

Before leaving the summit in Canada, Trump joined the other leaders in a joint statement saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for a "de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza."

French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters that discussions were underway on a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, but Trump appeared to shoot that down in his comments on social media.

DGCA gives clean chit to 787 Dreamliner fleet

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Tuesday the recent inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet has not revealed any significant safety issues and Air India has cancelled 66 flights to be operated with Boeing 787 since the June 12 fatal Ahmedabad plane crash which involved an aircraft of the same model.

"The recent surveillance conducted on Air India's Boeing 787 fleet did not reveal any major safety concerns. The aircraft and associated maintenance systems were found to be compliant with existing safety standards," the DGCA said. It has advised Air India to strengthen internal coordination. DGCA also reviewed recent operational data for Air India's wide-body operations, with specific attention to the Boeing 787 fleet. Air India's Dreamliners came under intense scrutiny from aviation authorities after flight AI 171, bound for London, crashed shortly after takeoff

AI FLIGHTS DISRUPTED

Technical snags continued to dog Air India for the second consecutive days on Tuesday as seven international flights — all using the 787-8 Dreamliner - were cancelled while several others reported mid flight scares due to adverse weather conditions. The cancelled services are AI 915 (Delhi-Dubai), AI 153 (Delhi-Vienna), AI 143 (Delhi-Paris), AI 159 (Ahmedabad-London), AI 133 (Bengaluru-London) AI 170 (London-Amritsar) and AI179 - Mumbai to San Francisco.

from Ahmedabad at 1:38 pm on June 12, killing 241 of the 242 people on board. DGCA has completed a focused review of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet, amid rising concerns over recurring technical issues and increasing international flight volumes post Ahmedabad crash. In a meeting held with key executives from Air India and Air India Express, the DGCA reviewed the operational robustness of the carriers, with particular attention to the Boeing 787 aircraft, which form the backbone of Air India's long-haul network.

The ByStander



PIONEER IN SHORT

NCW takes note of Odisha gang rape, demands action

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged gang-rape of a 20-year-old student at Gopalpur beach in Odisha during the Raja festival. Terming the incident "shocking," NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar urged the State police to arrest all remaining accused and ensure a swift, time-bound probe. Police have apprehended 10 suspects, including four minors, as they attempted to flee the State. The NCW demanded free medical and psychological aid for the survivor, along with compensation under Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and has sought an Action Taken Report within three days.

Haryana opens largest multi-modal transport terminal

Haryana marked a major milestone with the inauguration of India's largest automobile Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant by CM Nayab Singh Saini and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav. Developed under PM Modi's Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the 211,709 crore terminal links Haryana's auto industry to 17 logistics hubs, 380 cities, and key ports like Pipavav and Mundra, boosting exports and integration into the global supply chain. CM Saini called it a symbol of 'Viksit Bharat' and Haryana's emergence as an automobile hub. Vaishnav highlighted Indian Railways' transformation, including a tenfold budget increase since 2014, 100% electrification of Haryana's rail network, and upgrades to 34 Amrit Bharat stations.

Diarrhoea outbreak turns epidemic in State

21 dead, 1,700 Infected; govt deploys expert teams

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

With the diarrhoea outbreak in Odisha spiralling into an epidemic, the government on Tuesday deployed four State-level expert teams to the worst-affected areas on the directive of Health and Family Welfare Secretary Aswathy S. The outbreak has claimed 21 lives and infected over 1,700 people across seven districts, triggering coordinated efforts by both State and Central

agencies.

Official sources confirmed that while nearly 1,300 patients have recovered, more than 240 active cases are under treatment. The situation remains particularly grim in Jajpur district, where a 14-member Central team has confirmed the presence of Vibrio cholerae bacteria, formally classifying the outbreak as an epidemic.

The State-level teams comprising senior officials, epidemiologists and public health advisors have been tasked with intensifying surveillance and response measures in Bhubaneswar,

Banki, Dharmasala, Badachana, and Bhandarpokhari.

The teams' focus areas include water source chlorination, early detection and treatment, door-to-door distribution of ORS and halogen tablets and public awareness campaigns on safe hygiene and food practices.

Authorities have ordered a two-week closure of all hotels, dhabas, fast food outlets and meat and fish shops in Dharmasala, Binjharpur and Bari tehsils.

Meanwhile, rapid response teams and health workers are conducting household sur-

veys, distributing essential medicines and educating residents on the importance of boiling water, avoiding raw or uncovered food and maintaining hand hygiene.

The outbreak, which began in Jajpur on June 9, has now spread to Rasulpur, Danagadi, Vyasnagar Municipality and Korei, among others.

Neighbouring districts have been placed on high alert, and the government has urged community participation in controlling the spread. Continuous monitoring is underway to ensure timely containment of the epidemic.

In State Revenue law overhauled; land categories reduced to 27

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Government has decided to streamline land classification and reform existing revenue laws. Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari on Tuesday announced that the number of land categories in the State would be reduced from over 7,000 to just 27 in an effort to simplify and modernise land records management. An official notification to this effect would be issued shortly.

The minister further stated that nearly 3,000 types of land

tenures (sattwas) would also be restructured and limited to double digits. "There is no need for such a large number of tenures in the present context. The obsolete and unnecessary ones will be abolished," Pujari said, adding that this change moves away from outdated practices inherited from the British era, which often led to confusion and disputes.

In another significant initiative aimed at bringing revenue services closer to the people, the state government will soon launch a programme

titled 'Mo Panchayat Mo Tahasil' (My Panchayat, My Tahasil). Under this scheme, Tehsildars and Additional Tehsildars will visit panchayats twice a month to provide on-the-spot resolution of land-related grievances.

Citizens will no longer need to visit tehsil offices for basic services. Instead, 18 key revenue services will now be available via mobile phones. "We are committed to making land services people-centric and accessible at the grassroots level," Pujari said.

BJD slams govt over Gopalpur gang-rape

Demands minister's resignation

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has strongly condemned the gang-rape of a college student at the Gopalpur beach and held the BJP-led Odisha Government responsible for the law-and-order failure.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, BJD leader Dr Lekhasri Samantsinghar and spokesperson Tumbanath Panda criticised the government for its insensitivity towards women's safety.

Dr Samantsinghar stated that the heinous incident at a prominent tourist destination like Gopalpur has shaken the conscience of the people. "While the government was busy celebrating the Raja fes-

tival with fanfare, a young woman faced a brutal crime. The rise in crimes against women is alarming, and Odisha now ranks 8th nationally in terms of criminal activities," she said.

Citing NCRB data, she highlighted that crimes against women have increased significantly with a 33% rise in criminal cases and 8% rise in rape incidents over the past year. She demanded immediate resignation of the Minister for Tourism, Women & Child Development on moral grounds.

Spokesperson Tumbanath Panda added, "The incident has tarnished Gopalpur's image and exposed the government's failure in maintaining law and order."

The BJD urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take stringent action and restore public confidence.

Probe ordered by Deputy CM

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

A shocking gangrape incident at the Gopalpur beach during the Raja festival has triggered widespread outrage and raised serious concerns over tourist safety in one of Odisha's most popular coastal destinations.

According to police sources, a college girl was gangraped by a group of youths in front of her male friend on Sunday evening. The girl, a student of a local government college and a resident of another district, had gone to the beach with her friend when the assault took place.

The accused arrived by three motorcycles, assaulted the male companion and detained him and took turns raping the girl in a secluded part of the beach. They allegedly forced the male friend to transfer money through PhonePe before fleeing.

The girl and her friend



lodged a complaint at the Gopalpur police station that night. Police detained seven suspects, all students of a local college, and launched a manhunt to trace the remaining three.

Brahmapur SP Saravana Vivek M visited the crime scene on Monday with a scientific team and ordered a thorough investigation led by a woman DSP.

This marks the third rape

incident in the Gopalpur coastal region within six months.

Reacting to the incident, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida expressed deep anguish and said, "The gangrape of a young girl at Gopalpur beach is deeply disturbing. I have spoken with the SP and directed a thorough investigation. Necessary steps will be taken to ensure such horrific incidents are not repeated in the future."

Crime Branch to probe Gopalpur gang-rape

Law to take its course, says CM

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

DGP YB Khurania on Tuesday ordered a Crime Branch inquiry into the recent gang-rape incident in the Gopalpur beach. He also informed that the case is being considered as a 'Red Flag' one.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday strongly condemned the recent gang-rape incident in the Gopalpur beach and directed police to take exemplary action against all accused involved in the heinous crime.

Terming the incident as "inhuman and utterly shameful", the Chief Minister said such acts are crimes against humanity and would not be tolerated under any circum-

stances. "No criminal will be spared. The strictest possible punishment under the law will be ensured," he asserted.

The CM further stated that any person directly or indirectly involved in the crime would be brought to book without delay.

"The government is committed to upholding the safety and dignity of every woman. We will ensure justice is delivered swiftly," Majhi stated, emphasising zero tolerance towards crimes against women.

Majhi also instructed police to expedite the investigation and take all necessary steps to prevent such incidents in the future. He reiterated his government's resolve to make Odisha a safe place for women through swift and effective law enforcement.

Kisan Shakti Samabha held in Balangir CM reiterates commitment to farmers' welfare

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Marking one year of the BJP-led government in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi addressed the Kisan Shakti Samabha in Balangir on Tuesday. He reaffirmed his government's commitment to empowering farmers through technology, irrigation and financial support.

"Our government promised to deliver fair value to lakhs of farmer brothers and sisters. Within a year, we have taken strong steps to fulfil that goal," Majhi said. With two ministers from Balangir in his cabinet, the CM remarked that a "triple-engine government" is accel-



erating development in the region.

Highlighting key achievements, the CM informed that by May 2025, over 78,000 agricultural machines were distributed with Rs 459.68 crore in subsidies through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The government aims to provide irrigation to 15 lakh hectares of previously un-irrigated land over the next five years.

Majhi also outlined several farmer-centric initiatives. The CM Kisan Yojana is providing Rs 4,000 assistance to over 50 lakh small and marginal farmers, including urban and PVTG farmers. These benefits are being integrated with the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. Under the Krishi Vidyanidhi

Yojana, scholarships are being offered to the children of farmers for higher education.

Organic farming is being encouraged through the Balabhadra Organic Farming Mission while the Amrit Anna Project promotes chemical-free, indigenous rice now used in the Kotha Bhog of Lord Jagannath. The Developed Agriculture Sankalp Abhiyan, recently conducted across the state, is expected to further boost agricultural income.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo announced plans to establish an agricultural college in Balangir and a fisheries college in Sonepur.

Successful farmers were facilitated at the event.

Amid tragic attack in Kendrapada Odisha celebrates 50 years of croc conservation



RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Government celebrated 50 years of its pioneering Crocodile Conservation Project on Tuesday, marking a significant milestone in India's biodiversity preservation journey. The golden jubilee event was organised by the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department at the OUAT here.

Launched in 1975 at the Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapada in collaboration with the Government of India, UNDP and FAO, the project has transformed Odisha into a global model for species recovery. From near extinction, the saltwater crocodile population has steadily risen, with the 2025 census recording 1,826 individuals, up from 1,811 in 2024.

Odisha is the only Indian State to host all three native

crocodile species gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodile. The day highlighted the ecological role of crocodiles in maintaining wetland health while also raising awareness on threats like habitat loss and poaching.

However, the celebrations were marred by a tragic crocodile attack in Tanladiha village of Kendrapada district. Kajal Mohanty (40) was feared dead after being dragged into the Kharasrota River by a crocodile while washing clothes on Monday. Her 13-year-old daughter, who witnessed the attack, alerted villagers. Despite a search by locals and fire personnel, her body remains untraced.

The incident has sparked panic in the region. Locals urged the Forest Department to deploy guards near crocodile zones and install warning signage.

Sixth State Finance Commission meets CM

New website launched

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Sixth State Finance Commission of Odisha called on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday and sought his suggestions to strengthen and empower local self-governments in the State.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched the official website of the Odisha State Finance Commission [https://sfc.odisha.gov.in] (https://sfc.odisha.gov.in). The platform has been developed to gather suggestions and feedback from elected representatives, Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Zilla Parishads, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Noti-



fied Area Councils, intellectuals, civil society groups, universities, research organisations, and individuals. It also hosts comprehensive information on past and present finance commissions, including reports and studies.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Chairman of the 6th State Finance Commis-

sion Dr Arun Kumar Panda, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Finance Principal Secretary Saswata Mishra, Electronics & IT Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, Commission Members Prof Asit Ranjan Mohanty, Prof Amarendra Samantaraya, Dr Bibhu Prasad Nayak and Member Secretary Dr Satya Priya Rath.

The 6th State Finance Commission was constituted by the Governor under Articles 243-I and 243-Y of the Constitution. It has been mandated to recommend the devolution of financial resources from the State Government to various tiers of local bodies for the five-year period starting April 1, 2026.

BJP govt committed to farmers' dev: CM

Promises revival of sugar mills of Deogaon, Badamba

SUDHIR MISHRA ■ Balangir

Agriculture and farmers' development would help realise the goal of Vikashit Odisha, said Chief Minister Mohan Majhi while addressing farmers, SHG members and common people at a State-level Kisan Samabesh here on Tuesday.

He described the national campaign 'Developed Agriculture Sankalp Abhiyan' started from Sakhi Gopal, Puri from



May 29 to June 12 as a ground breaking initiative of PM Narendra Modi.

"The earlier BJD government could not give Rs 100 bonus for paddy during their tenure. However, immediately after coming to power, we announced an input subsidy of Rs 800 per quintal of paddy. Moreover, we also gave assistance of Rs 10,000 to women members under the Subhadra scheme," he said further, add-

ing that the State Budget for the farming sector has increased this year and would continue to increase in coming years too. The CM also promised to revive the sugar mills at Deogaon and Badamba.

Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Health Minister Dr Mukesh Mahaling, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Naik and MP Sangeeta Singh Deo also spoke.

Balangir MLA Kalikesh Singh Deo, who was not invited to the meeting, expressed his anguish and in a letter shot off to the CM, demanded establishment of an agriculture university at Balangir, revival of Deogaon sugar mill, funds for comprehensive drainage development, renovation and restoration of all 17 urban tanks in Balangir Municipality, development of Tusura air strip, implementation of ISS and irrigation projects in the district. Meanwhile, police took some Congress activists into preventive custody while they were organising protests in Balangir.

High-level security planned for PM's visit

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Odisha on June 20, a high-level security review meeting was held at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday to finalise detailed arrangements.

Officials from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Commissionerate Police and the Fire Services Department participated in the meeting to ensure foolproof security and logistics coordination.

Later, senior officers conducted an on-ground inspection of Janata Maidan, the venue of the Prime Minister's public meeting. Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari also visited the site to

oversee preparations.

As per the official itinerary, Modi is expected to land at the airport here at 3:40 pm. He will then lead a roadshow from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm, moving from the airport to the Janata Maidan.

At the Janata Maidan, a large public gathering has been scheduled from 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm, where the Prime Minister will address the crowd as part of the BJP government's first-year celebrations in Odisha. Hhe will unveil the State's 'Vision Document' outlining the government's development roadmap. In view of the Prime Minister's visit, tight security arrangements have been put in place across the capital with Commissionerate Police deploying additional personnel along the roadshow route and at the venue.

Workshop to nurture innovation among students

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The State's Directorate of Higher Secondary Education kick-started a two-day workshop titled "Journey from Imagination to Innovation" here on Tuesday. The initiative seeks to build a strong culture of innovation and skill development in schools by making the School Innovation Council (SIC) functional across Odisha.

Organised in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the workshop is designed to equip students and teachers with the tools and knowledge

to turn ideas into impactful solutions.

Inaugurating the workshop, School and Mass Education Department Additional Secretary Subhashree Nanda said this effort would contribute meaningfully to the making of a "Viksit Odisha" by empowering students with innovation and entrepreneurial skills.

A total of 164 participants are attending, including 59 Principals from PM SHRI Schools, 60 Post-Graduate Teachers (PGTs) from Government Higher Secondary Schools, 30 PGTs from Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas and 15 students who earned distinction under the OdiAPreneur 1.0 and 2.0 initiatives.

2 die consuming spurious liquor in city

Shop sealed after locals' protest

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

Two persons died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in the Laxmisagar area of Bhubaneswar. The two deceased persons have been identified as Biswajit Beura and Apei, both residents of Laxmisagar and close friends.

Apei reportedly died four days ago while Biswajit succumbed on Tuesday while undergoing treatment.

According to reports, five friends had purchased liquor from a local Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) shop at Laxmisagar and consumed it during a feast. All five fell criti-

cally ill soon after, raising suspicions of adulterated alcohol. The deaths of two among them intensified concerns.

Following the incident, locals staged a protest outside the liquor shop, demanding action. Responding to the public outrage, the Excise Department sealed the liquor outlet and collected samples for laboratory testing.

Some locals questioned how spurious liquor is founding its way to liquor shops when the Odisha State Beverage Corporation (OSBC) is in charge of liquor distribution. Notably, in 2024, an IMFL shop was sealed in the Baramunda area after it was found it was selling adulterated liquor of very reputed brands.

Rally held; pledge taken against child labour

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

Participants including parents, guardians, youths, students and NGO representatives took a pledge to make Odisha child labour-free as a fortnight-long campaign was flagged off for elimination of child labour here on June 12.

They took out a rally with theme "Shrama Nahi Siksha" at Kargil Road, Pokhariput, raising slogans to make people, residents, shops and other commercial establishments aware about the menace of child labour.

Speaking on the occasion, district convener, Swarupa invited all to join hands to make Odisha child labour free and narrated the success stories of rescued children from child labour. To support her story, a student Ashik spoke about his journey from child labourer to a +2 student of



BJB College, Bhubaneswar.

Former State convener CACL Sudhir Sabat encouraged businesses to adopt ethical labour practices and ensure compliance with child labour laws. He stressed the importance of swift action in rescuing affected children and

integrating them into a safe and study environment.

Ranjan Mohanty of PECUC spoke about the need for continuous awareness campaign to educate communities on the dangers of child labour. Sudhansu Nayak of YMCA emphasized strict en-

forcement of child labour laws, while activist EK Patro empathized that all children should go to school and not land up as child labour. Secretary, CCWD Sadashiv Swain highlighted the role of law enforcement in bringing the offenders to book.

At Vikash Mela Subhadra Food Fest rekindles Odisha's forgotten flavours

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

As part of the ongoing Raja Parba celebrations, the Subhadra Shakti Food Festival at the Vikash Mela, IDCO Exhibition Ground here, has emerged as a major crowd-puller, offering a soulful revival of Odisha's forgotten flavours. Organised by women Self Help Groups (SHGs), the festival runs from June 11 to 18 and has already recorded sales of over Rs 10 lakh by June 14.

Inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, the festival features 26 SHG-run stalls showcasing traditional Odia dishes from the iconic Dahibara Aloodum and Chenapoda to lesser-known delights like Biri Chakuli, Sija Pittha, Pakhala and Machha Ambila. Live counters for pithas such as Chakuli and



Kheer Mohana add to the appeal.

What sets this festival apart is its strong focus on authenticity, nutrition, and women's empowerment. SHG members are not just home cooks, they are entrepreneurs and custodians of cultural heritage. Many are on track to become

'Lakhpati Didis', earning Rs 1 lakh or more annually, under the Centre's flagship initiative.

A special emphasis has been laid on climate-smart, nutritious ingredients like millets, jackfruit, turmeric and ginger. Millet-based cookies, fusion bakery products and herbal health drinks are drawing en-

thusiastic responses, especially from health-conscious visitors.

Traditional snacks like Magaji Ladoo, Piyaji, Sarsatia and Pakodi Karadi share space with ice creams, bakery fusion items and cold beverages offering something for every palate.

To Mark one year of governance CM approves Rs 1.5 lakh-crore projects

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired the 41st High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) meeting and approved eight mega industrial projects worth Rs 1,51,239.50 crore on Monday, marking a significant push towards industrialisation on the occasion of his government's first anniversary in Odisha. These investments are expected to generate over 60,200 employment opportunities across six districts Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Khurda and Sambalpur.

Vedanta Ltd will set up a 3 MTPA aluminium smelter and a 4,900 MW captive power plant in Dhenkanal with an investment of Rs 1.28 lakh crore, likely to create 30,000 jobs. In the chemicals sector, SRF Ltd will invest Rs 10,000 crore in Ganjam to establish a refrigerant manufacturing unit, generating 20,000 jobs. In the steel sector, Jindal India Steel Tech Ltd will invest Rs 3,600 crore in Dhenkanal, while Shyam Steel Manufacturing Ltd plans a Rs 2,490 crore project in Keonjhar. Linde India Ltd will set up an

air separation unit in Jajpur with a Rs 1,303.5-crore investment.

In the textile sector, Sportking India Ltd will invest Rs 2,055 crore in Khurda to establish a cotton and blended yarn manufacturing unit. Star Metal Works Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 2,291 crore in Sambalpur for a hot strip mill and colour coating facility.

The CM said that since assuming office, six HLCA meetings have been held, approving 62 projects worth Rs 5.67 lakh crore with employment potential for over 2.42 lakh people.

Death anniv observed 'Fakir Mohan stayed in Pallahara as Dewan'

PNS ■ Pallahara

The Sub-Divisional Retired Govt Employees Association celebrated the death anniversary of Byasakabi Fakir Mohan at the Sub-Collector office premises here. Association president Sarata Chandra Biswal presided.

The members of the association garlanded the statue of Fakir Mohan. Former Principal Basanta Mohanty and former HM Tankadhara Pradhan spoke about Fakir Mohan, his contribution to Odia literature, culture and language.

Notably, Fakir Mohan stayed in Pallahara as Dewan



of Pallahara State. His residence is the present Sub-Collector office.

While secretary of organisation Paulasti Biswal organised the programme, former president Sadshib

Behera, secretary Jhasaketan Pradhan, Shankara Dhehury, Bishnu Sahu, Janardan Sahu, Arundey Panigrahi, Dhruva Behera, Sushil Udabal and Chaitan Jit among others were present.

Cong slams BJP govts over corruption, health crisis



RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) on Monday launched a blistering attack on both the State and Central BJP governments, accusing them of neglecting people's concerns amid a rising death toll from health emergencies and governance failures.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said, "While 272 people have died in a tragic plane crash and over a dozen lives have been lost due to diarrhoea in Odisha, the State and the Centre are busy celebrating anniversaries and promoting misleading advertisements."

Das alleged that corruption in Odisha has peaked, citing the recent arrest of a multi-crore engineer in Bolangir. "From chief engineers to young IAS officers, corruption runs deep. Over Rs 2,000 crore has been embezzled in paddy procurement alone, leaving farmers in distress," he added.

He also criticised the State's flagship Subhadra Yojana, calling it a "mockery" of women's welfare. "Rs 5,000 every six months translates to Rs 27 a day, not enough to cover basic meals. Meanwhile,

crores are being spent on advertisements," he said.

Health services, he claimed, are in a shambles, especially in diarrhoea-hit districts like Jajpur, where hundreds of doctor and nurse positions remain vacant. He also flagged the failures of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, saying patients are being turned away from hospitals due to poor implementation.

Congress Legislature Party Leader Ramachandra Kadam condemned the BJP for suppressing opposition voices. "Congress MLAs are being suspended for raising people's issues. Tribal lands are being handed to corporate houses in Khorda, even as tribal families are displaced without proper Gram Sabha consent," he said.

Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka questioned the unfulfilled promises of the BJP government, including jobs, laptops for students and functional district-level bodies. "Even after five deaths due to a wrong injection in Koraput Medical College, the government has failed to offer any assistance," he added.

State in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu said. "Tribal rights are being trampled and distress migration continues in regions like Ganjam."

VOP observes Raja Utsav with host of events



PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

A splendid Raja Utsav was celebrated at the State Museum, organised by the Viswa Odia Parivar (VOP) in collaboration with the Odisha Language, Literature and Culture Department, vividly showcasing the essence of the three-day festival.

Speaker Surama Padhi, graced the event as chief guest, while BJP leader Sajjan Sharma, who is chairman, Viswa Odia Parivar, elaborated on the festivities.

The participants and guests revelled in the traditional 'Rajdoli' (a special swing for the occasion), indulged in 'Pitha' (sweet cakes), enjoyed 'Paan Ra Chita' (decorative betel leaves), and adorned themselves with 'Mehendi' (henna). A touching moment was Speaker Padhi's gesture of applying sandalwood to the feet and foreheads of children,

symbolizing blessings and reverence.

Odisha Olympic Association president and former BJP State president Sameer Mohanty shared insights into the history and art of Odisha, enriching the understanding of the State's cultural evolution.

A literary meeting, featuring Dr Iti Samanta, Editor of Kadambini, delved into the significant contribution of Raja Parba to Odisha's traditions. Odisha Sahitya Akademi secretary Chandrashekhara Hota provided further detailed accounts of the event's cultural significance. A poetry recitation programme, drawing competitions, traditional 'puchi' games, 'hulhuli' (a unique vocal sound made by women), and Raja slogan competitions added to the dynamism of the event.

At CIFA Genome editing for aqua species workshop held

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), in association with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), convened a Workshop-cum-Brainstorming Session on "Current Status and Development of a Roadmap on Genome Editing for Aquaculture Species in India" on June 14 here.

The event brought together leading national and international experts, researchers, and policymakers to discuss the current scenarios, emerging opportunities, and regulatory needs for implementing genome editing technologies in Indian aquaculture.

The session was inaugurated by Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) and (Agriculture Education), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr JK Jena, who highlighted the urgent need to integrate genome editing tools into aquaculture research and development to ensure food security.

Director, ICAR-CIFA, Dr PK Sahoo welcomed all digni-



taries, scientists, and participants, setting the tone for a forward-looking dialogue on the scope of genome editing in enhancing aquaculture productivity.

Former Director, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, and Executive Council member of AFSIB, Dr A Gopalakrishnan emphasized a roadmap for taking up the research in a networking mode to achieve the target.

Policy for the genome-edited fish was emphasized by

Director, ICAR-CIBA, Chennai Dr KK Lal.

Genesis of genome editing research in ICAR and present status in plant science was discussed by Joint Director (Research), IARI, New Delhi Dr C Viswanathan. Director, ICAR-NRCE, Hissar, Dr Tarun K Bhattacharya provided genome editing research in animal science. Director General of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Thailand Dr

Eduardo Leano emphasised on blue transformation for sustainable aquaculture production through genome editing tools.

Chief Executive of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, Dr BK Behera highlighted the crucial role of collaboration and diversification of species, including ornamental fish. The workshop featured presentations by eminent international experts.

Basta BJD MLA demands ROB, stoppage of trains

Writes to Rail Minister

PNS ■ Baleswar

Basta BJD MLA Subasini Jena has written a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urging him to look into a long-standing demand of the people of her constituency as well as of Moroda of neighbouring Mayurbhanj district, for construction of a rail over bridge (ROB) on south level crossing (LC) No. 61.

She mentioned that hundreds of people of these con-

stituencies have to cross the LC for a number of reasons and multiple times a day.

Due to lack of an ROB, the daily commuters of the localities, patients and movement of emergency service vehicles suffer a lot. At times, the waiting becomes unbearable especially in the cases of ferrying patients.

Further, the frequency of movement of local residents is more as on the other side of south LC -61 several important establishments including block office, veterinary dispensary, forest office, banks and schools are situated, she men-

tioned.

Jena also mentioned that concerning her demand in the Assembly, she was told that the project ROB 61 is jointly being taken up by the SE Railways and Odisha government. But sadly, survey work for the project is yet to be initiated, she lamented, highlighting the plights of residents.

Besides ROB, she also urged the Minister for restoration of stoppage of two trains, Puri-Haridwar Express and Howrah - Hyderabad Express at Basta railway station.

She mentioned that these two trains were having stop-

pages at Basta till the outbreak of Corona. It was discontinued since then. She said that as a result of not restoring the stoppages of the two trains, the people of her locality are deprived of boarding from and alighting at the station which causes a lot of inconveniences to them, besides wastage of time.

She further expressed her optimism towards her demands mentioning that Vaishnaw happened to be a popular and people-friendly district Collector of Baleswar and hence, would certainly fulfill the demands.

GMU gets B++ rank by NAAC

PNS ■ Sambalpur

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has given a B++ grade to Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur on Monday.

The Gangadhar Meher Autonomous College was upgraded to GMU in 2015-16. Earlier, the university had received 12(B) status from the University Grant Commission (UGC), which made it eligible for Central funding.

The B++ status for the university means it has achieved a grade point between 2.76 and 3, and the performance is good. The NAAC peer team visited the GMU in May this

year. They visited all departments and precisely assessed and evaluated the qualitative metrics outlined in the Self Study Report (SSR) submitted to NAAC by the university.

The major challenges the university has been facing are shortages of teaching and non-teaching staff, besides shortage of classrooms. As the university is yet to get its second campus at Basantpur, the same classrooms are also used by +2 students.

While the institution was established way back in 1944, at present, there are over 6,000 students in the university that offers 26 PG programmes, 28 UG programmes and 23 PhD courses, besides self-financing courses.

Irregularities in Post Office savings account

Staffer suspended in Sundargarh

PNS ■ Sundargarh

A resident of Sundargarh district has raised serious concerns after discovering a shocking discrepancy in their savings account at the Mahuldiha Post Office. Despite diligently depositing money over time for essential personal needs, the individual was dismayed to find a significantly reduced balance, sparking distress and a desperate search for answers.

As per the allegation, the amount that had been deposited does not match the balance shown in the account passbook. Suspecting irregularities, the depositor reported the matter to the Bonai Postal Inspector.

Following the complaint, the Postal Inspector initiated an inquiry. It has come to light that the employee involved in the matter has been suspended.

However, the official has clarified that the investigation is still in its preliminary stage, and no final conclusion can be drawn at this point.

Meanwhile, the Postal Superintendent has stated that he is not aware of the issue.

The case has raised concerns about the reliability of deposit records and internal oversight at the Mahuldiha branch, though further details are awaited pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation.

The incident has raised questions about transparency and internal monitoring mechanisms within rural postal branches.

World Clay Day held in Bhadrak



PNS ■ Bhadrak

The World Clay Day observed in Bhadrak by the members of the Radhakanta Tripathy Smruti Committee in memory of founder and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, who passed away on June 8, 2025.

Tripathy was organising the programme for the last few years. Tripathy had entered the Limca Book of Records and Guinness Book of World Records.

The committee members observed two minutes silence in the memory of Tripathy on

the banks of river Salandi. Later, they applied clay on their bodies to give the message to save the environment and prevent degradation of soil, water and air, which is a need for human life.

Jagannath Kar presided over the programme and members Sitakanta Tripathy, Niranjan Sethi, Manoj Panda, Saroj Pani, Rabi Sing, Kalandi Mallik, Satyaranjan Sethi, Sairanjan Sethi, Achutananda Kar, Debabrata Kar, Upasana Panigrahi, Prakash Kumar, Manas, Malaya, Sunanda were, among others, present.

In Kendrapada Ban lifted, buzz of activities starts at fishing jetties

RAJESH BEHERA ■ Kendrapada

A buzz of activities by marine fishermen started early on Monday at several fishing jetties of coastal Kendrapada district as after a gap of six and a half months they were gearing up to venture into the sea with the crews and vessels for catching fish.

Notably, the State Marine Fisheries Department had imposed a ban on fishing from November 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 in accordance with provisions of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982 and Orissa Marine Fishing Rules, 1983 to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles at Gahirmatha, 20km



off the sea coast during their breeding season. In addition, the department had extended the ban on fishing from April 15 to June 14 in view of pro-

tecting the breeder fish in the sea.

As the fishing season started on June 15, so the mechanized boat owners and

trawler owners worshipped their boats and sea god Baruna and later ventured into the sea for fishing by taking all their fish catching

equipment, said Tushar Sardar from Maa Ramchandi Boat Owner's Association, Kharanashi.

More than 25 to 30 fishing

vessels ventured into the sea on the first day. The Marine Fishery Department has issued guidelines to all the fishermen for catching fish and asked them to follow them. They include taking registration certificate and licence of mechanized boat or trawler, besides identity card (biometric identity card), etc. The trawler operators have been asked not to catch fish by trespassing into the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, as the Forest Department generally imposes a fishing ban within the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary round the year. Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary Ranger Kapilendra Pradhan said trespassing into Gahirmatha and catching fish would lead to arrest of the fishermen and seizure of their boats.

J and K: Tensions rise between Omar, LG’s office

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Tensions between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha have intensified, with Abdullah expressing frustration over the lack of clarity in the division of responsibilities between their offices.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi on Monday, Abdullah highlighted the issue, stating that the presence of “two Governments” in Jammu and Kashmir is undermining effective governance.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference escalated the matter on Tuesday by sharing Abdullah’s remarks on

Fact is, today there are two Governments in J and K, which should not be the case. It is the worst form of governance

social media.

“Fact is, today there are two Governments in J and K, which shouldn’t be the case. It is the worst form of governance,” Abdullah said, emphasising the need for a clear delineation of roles. He noted that while he is not inclined to issue threats, “everything comes with an expiry date,” signaling growing impatience within his Government.

Abdullah criticised the Lieutenant Governor for over-

stepping his stated role, which Sinha has publicly limited to law and order and security.

“The fact is, he does dabble in governance-related matters,” Abdullah said, pointing to Sinha’s involvement in laying foundations for factories in industrial estates and distributing job orders, both managed by the elected Government.

He urged Sinha to endorse the business rules framed by the Cabinet, which Abdullah said align with the J and K Reorganisation Act and do not encroach on the LG’s authority over security, law and order, or officer transfers.

The Chief Minister also referenced the recent Pahalgam attack, suggesting that Sinha’s

assertion of a limited role might be an acknowledgment of security lapses under his watch. “Pahalgam happened under his watch, and it seems that is his way of putting his hand down,” Abdullah remarked. He cautioned, however, that public anger over the attack should not be misconstrued as support for the events of August 5, 2019, when the region’s special status was revoked.

Abdullah stressed that the business rules proposed by his Government aim to eliminate confusion and ensure smooth governance.

“We just want to ensure that the distribution of responsibilities is clear cut and there is no confusion,” he said.

Raja Raghuwanshi murder was not solely result of love triangle: Meghalaya DGP

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The investigation into the sensational murder of Indore’s transporter Raja Raghuwanshi has taken a deeper turn, with Meghalaya Director General of Police Idashisha Nongrang on Tuesday stating that the crime was not solely the result of a love triangle.

The DGP, speaking during a scene recreation exercise conducted by the police at the crime site in Sohagpur, said that investigators have found multiple underlying motives behind the killing, beyond just a failed romantic relationship.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Mayank Awasthi echoed the same, stating that while a romantic angle is one aspect, the investigation has



Forensic team arrives for crime scene reconstruction in connection with the Raja Raghuwanshi murder case in Meghalaya

uncovered compelling evidence pointing to broader motivations. Authorities remain confident about the strength of evidence collected across all dimensions of the case.

Raja Raghuwanshi had

recently married Sonam Khushwanshi, but their relationship quickly soured. Police believe Sonam conspired with her brothers — Govind, Deepak, and Mohar — to kill Raja. On May 23, they alleged-

ly lured him to Sohagpur on false pretenses, strangled him with a mobile phone charger cable, and suffocated him by stuffing a ten-rupee note in his mouth. Forensic and crime scene investigation teams from Bhopal have assisted in collecting vital evidence from the scene. All four accused have been arrested and formal charges have been filed.

During interrogation, Raja’s brother Sachin revealed that Sonam had confessed to the murder, admitting her brothers helped execute the plan. One of the most disturbing revelations in the case came from Sachin’s testimony — Sonam reportedly manipulated Raja into believing that offering his life as a sacrifice would cure her ailing father. Shockingly, Raja is said to have agreed.

Amarnath yatra route declared No Flying Zone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has declared the routes of the annual Amarnath Yatra a ‘No Flying Zone’ from July 1 to August 10, 2025, as part of enhanced security measures for the pilgrimage.

The order, issued by the J and K Home Department on the directives of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, prohibits the operation of all aviation platforms and devices, including drones, UAVs, and balloons, along the traditional Pahalgam and shorter Baltal routes.

The Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3, 2025, attracts thousands of pilgrims annually to the holy cave shrine in the Himalayas.

The ‘No Flying Zone’ restriction aims to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage amid heightened security concerns.

The order follows discussions with stakeholders, who assessed the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory and proposed additional logistical measures.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also recommended declaring the entire yatra route a ‘No Flying Zone’ for the duration of the pilgrimage. However, exemptions will be permitted for medical evacuations, disaster management, and surveillance operations by security forces.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for these exceptions will be issued separately, the order stated.

AI plane crash: Grieving father, mourners bid tearful farewell to Captain Sumeet Sabharwal

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Captain Sumeet Sabharwal — who was commanding the Air India flight AI-171 Boeing 787 Dreamliner that crashed last week in Ahmedabad killing 241 passengers and several others — was cremated here on Tuesday, as his 88-year-old Pushkaraj Sabharwal led a large number of mourners in bidding a tearful farewell to his son.

Hours after his body was brought to his Powai home in Mumbai where he had lived most part of life, Sumeet’s mortal remains were consigned to the furnace at the nearby Chakala electric crematorium in north Mumbai.

Captain Sumeet (56), who



Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who was the pilot of the Air India plane which crashed in Ahmedabad last week

was single, was a resident of the F Block of JalVayu Vihar in the upscale Hiranandani Gardens area of Powai. Capt. Sabharwal is survived by father Pushkraj Sabharwal. Sumeet’s mother

had passed away two years ago.

Earlier, his octogenarian father Pushkraj, who was in tears but maintained a stoic silence, led the prayers held near a building temple, stand-

ing beside his son’s coffin with folded hands amid chants of ‘Om Namah Shivay Mantra Har Har Bhole Namah Shivaya’.

His family members, friends, neighbours, colleagues and people from different parts of Mumbai had turned out to bid a goodbye to Sumeet, who was among those killed in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday last.

Apart from Sr Sabharwal, Sumeet’s aunt and his two nephews, who too are pilots, were present at the prayer meeting. Sr Sabharwal placed flowers at the casket and stood in silence and then chanted prayers with others with family members and friends. He broke down while chanting ‘Om Namah Shivay Mantra Har Har Bhole Namah Shivay’ in front of the casket, which

had a photo of the late ace pilot in a Captain’s uniform. He was helped by close family members.

Hiranandani Group co-founder and Managing Director Niranjan Hiranandani and Shiv Sena MLA Dilip Mama Lande were among those who visited Sumeet’s house to have a last glimpse of him.

“Very sad, a young life was taken away (in the crash). This is a thoughtful moment, we need to study this thoroughly. We cannot afford to go like this again. The family is devastated. The only justice now is to ensure this moment leads to answers, to reforms. Safety and security must be a priority, not just in aviation, but in every sector,” Hiranandani said.

Assam Government announces ₹25,000 aid each to 350 families affected by blowout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

The Assam Government on Tuesday announced a financial aid of Rs 25,000 each to about 350 families affected by a blowout at an ONGC crude oil well in Sivasagar district, with the release of gases continuing for the sixth day.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while announcing the aid, said Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held a meeting with top officials in Delhi earlier in the day regarding the blowout, and both the state and central Governments were seized of the matter.

The blowout began on June 12 at well no. RDS 147 of rig no. SKP 135 of Rudrasagar oil field of ONGC at Barichuk of Bhatiapar. A private firm, SK Petro Services, was operating the well on behalf of the state-



CM Himanta inaugurating the newly built Lakhimpur Zila Parishad office. Dr Ranajo Pegu, Minister of Education and Tribal Affairs, Manab Deka MLA of Lakhimpur were also present at the event

run Maharatna company.

Sarma, who had on Monday evening visited the people affected by the incident, said, “There are about 350 families in the camp and they are anxious... Compensation will be worked out later. For immediate relief, we will be providing Rs 25,000 each to the families from the

Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.”

He said Puri held a meeting at his office to discuss the matter. “I will have a video conference with him once I reach Guwahati,” Sarma said.

Sarma said the state’s chief secretary spoke to the ONGC chairman in the morning regarding the matter and the top boss of the company will

be personally visiting Sivasagar.

“ONGC has said that they have already invited a specialist from the US and they are hopeful that the leakage will be stopped soon. Our chief secretary has spoken to the Union petroleum secretary as well and he has assured of taking all steps,” he added.

The chief minister said the details of compensation to the affected people will be worked out later, with stopping the leakage being the top priority now.

“If required, the state Government will provide more financial assistance and I will also visit the place again,” he added.

Meanwhile, members of regional organisation Bir Lachit Sena gheraoed the office of SK Petro Services in Sivasagar on Tuesday and demanded compensation for the affected people.

Sharad Pawar rules out two NCP factions’ merger

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Setting at rest intense speculation about the merger of the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday vehemently rules out the possibility of his party hands with the party led by his nephew Ajit Pawar whom he called an “opportunist”.

Addressing a rally at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune, Sr Pawar said: “We do not want to join hands with opportunists who went with the BJP for power. We will along with us those who share the thoughts of Gandhi, Nehru, Phule, Shahu, Ambedkar”.

“However, if someone is going with the BJP for the sake of power, then you cannot say that they practise the ideology of the Congress. One may align with anyone but joining

hands with the BJP is not in sync with the Congress ideology,” the NCP (SP) chief who played a key role in the formation of the Congress-led Opposition front INDIA bloc, said. Sr Pawar exhorted his supporters not to bother about those who left the party, but concentrate on the forthcoming local body elections.

“I have seen these kinds of developments on several occasions in my career. Please don’t worry or bother about those who deserted the party,” he said.

Responding to his uncle and NCP (SP) chief’s remarks, deputy chief minister of Sr Pawar’s nephew Ajit Pawar said: “Everyone has the right to present his or her view.”

The remarks by Sr Pawar and Ajit Pawar came a week after the two factions of the NCP held parallel 26th foundation day celebrations, in

which the both leaders had not spoken anything about the possible merger.

Speaking at the foundation day foundation day function, Sr Pawar had said: “A split took place in our party. We never thought that such a thing would happen in the party, but it happened. Some people went with other ideologies. If some people remained loyal to the party, it is because of our party’s ideology.”

On the other hand, Ajit Pawar responded to his uncle’s statement by saying: “Couple of years ago, we had to make a decision...we are not sadhusant being in politics. We took the decision (to split) to ensure that we address the issues of people.”

It was Sr. Pawar’s cryptic statement made in May this year that led to the speculation about the possible merger of the two NCP factions.

Plan to transform Aravalli region into hub of ecotourism announced

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

Haryana Environment, Forest, and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh has announced an ambitious plan to transform the Aravalli region into a hub of ecotourism through the proposed Jungle Safari Project and Aravalli Green

Wall Project.

These initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism, conserve biodiversity, and generate employment for local communities.

Speaking to the media, Minister Singh emphasised the ecological and economic significance of the initiative.

“The central Government has entrusted Haryana with

the responsibility of implementing the Aravalli Green Wall Project and Jungle Safari, which will be a milestone from an environmental perspective,” he said.

The Aravalli mountain range, considered the oldest in India, spans across Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, covering approximately 1.15 million hectares.

Adhikari pulls large crowd in Trinamool Congress den

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

In what could be considered a frightening scene for Mamata Banerjee a BJP delegation led by Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday managed to galvanise a large crowd --- at Khiderpore a veritable Trinamool Congress den adjacent to the Muslim dominated Kolkata Port area -- nearly twice as big as the one that came to hear out the Bengal Chief Minister for her

version of the devastating fire at Khiderpore locality that engulfed more than a thousand shops.

On Monday afternoon Banerjee came to inspect the extent of devastation caused by a mid-Sunday night fire at the colonial Orphananj market and allegedly had to digest some dissenting voices from the crowd that claimed the fire was a sabotage.

Adhikari received thunderous applause from the over-

whelming crowd that assembled in no time as he said that the “fire was man made because the interests of TMC politicians are involved here.”

He said “the TMC Government had decided to accommodate the rich who would open shopping malls here by setting ablaze the dreams and livelihood of the poor businessmen who have been running their shops for generations ... and all this for a meagre Rs 1 lakh,” when

many of the traders complained that they had lost not only lakhs but crores to the blaze.

The Chief Minister on Monday visited the area and said that “a place has already been earmarked for your rehabilitation with proper fire fighting system ... besides we will provide Rs 1 lakh to the affected shopkeepers,” leading to a furor among the local traders hitherto known for their unflinching allegiance towards

the Chief Minister.

“We are by your side ... the BJP will fight your cause both legally and otherwise and will not let their conspiracy materialise at the cost of your interest,” Adhikari on Tuesday said followed by loud cheers from the crowd that had gathered.

Incidentally it has been the same Khiderpore Garden Reach area that had been voting for the Chief Minister and her party for the past 15-16 years.

District coordination meeting of all departments held in Gurugram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gurugram

The first district coordination meeting of all departments in Gurugram was held under the chairmanship of DS Dhesi, Principal Advisor, Urban Development, Government of Haryana, on Tuesday.

In the meeting, various issues and matters requiring inter-departmental coordination and action were discussed. The meeting was attended by CEO GMDA Shyamal Misra,

Divisional Commissioner R.C. Bidhan, and Deputy Commissioner Gurugram Ajay Kumar.

The principal advisor took stock of various projects being undertaken in the city by the local authorities to enhance infrastructure development & uplift the civic amenities for the citizens.

In the meeting, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officials submitted that the plan of shifting the relocation of Gurugram’s Kherki Daula toll plaza from Delhi-

Jaipur National Highway (NH-48) to Panchgaon has been approved, and the toll will be shifted within three months’ time.

Meanwhile, works pertaining to the enhancement of road infrastructure were also discussed in the meeting, and GMDA officers submitted that 95 kilometers of master roads have been upgraded by the authority this year, while the MCG team said that 44 kilometers of internal roads have been repaired by the corporation.

Dhesi outlined that new

roadworks may be identified and estimates may be prepared timely in order to undertake repair of the next set of roads in the city.

Additionally, the flood protection measures being undertaken by GMDA, MCG, and MCM to ensure a safe monsoon in the city were also briefly discussed in the meeting.

GMDA officers said that the setting up of a flood control center is in progress, which will support on-the-ground requirements of labor, machinery, and pump sets during periods of

heavy rainfall. Mock drills have been carried out at all underpasses in the city, and the necessary remedial measures to be taken have been communicated to the concerned departments.

Additionally, desilting of drains is also being carried out by all local authorities in their respective areas. DS Dhesi further directed all departments to intensify their action plans in order to curb issues of waterlogging in the city during the monsoon season and ensure regular coordination between all

local authorities.

Moreover, to resolve water-logging issues at Narshinghpur, GMDA is constructing a kachcha naala, which will be connected to the Badhshahpur drain to channelise the storm water from the service road of Narshinghpur during monsoon season.

It was further directed to NHAI officials that the cleaning of the 3 culverts across the national highway and its connection with the Badshahpur drain must be completed on priority.



Assam Information and Public Relations Minister Pijush Hazarika distributed assistive devices like wheelchairs, hearing aids and smart canes to several beneficiaries at a programme organised by Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Assam

PIONEER PHOTO

Editor's TAKE

A turning point for India-Canada ties

Prime Minister Modi's Canada visit could mark a new chapter in India's diplomatic engagement with the West

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada for the G7 Summit has captured global attention — not merely for its diplomatic weight but for its potential to recalibrate several key international relationships. This visit, his first to Canada since 2015, marks a crucial inflection point in India's foreign policy, Canada's outreach under a new leadership, and possibly, even in the broader Indo-Pacific dynamics that include China. This visit assumes heightened significance as it comes on the heels of a major diplomatic fallout between India and Canada.

In 2023, ties hit rock bottom following the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, with then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau suggesting Indian involvement — a claim India flatly denied. The recent change in Canadian leadership, with Mark Carney taking office after Trudeau's exit, seems to signal a new willingness to repair and rebuild the ties. Carney's invitation to PM Modi to attend the G7 Summit in Alberta was more than just protocol — it was an overture of trust, diplomacy, and re-engagement. Modi's acceptance of the invitation, and his public emphasis on "mutual respect and shared interests," underscores India's readiness to reset the relationship. On the sidelines of the two-day summit PM Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings not only with PM Carney but also with several other world leaders. With India and Canada both being vibrant democracies with strong people-to-people ties — bolstered by a diaspora of over 1.6 million Indo-Canadians — the scope for strategic cooperation in areas like education, technology, climate change, and trade remains vast. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods stood at \$8.6 billion, nearly evenly split between exports and imports. Services trade was even more significant, at \$14.3 billion. Modi's visit could serve to unlock stalled trade discussions, revitalise strategic partnerships, and perhaps even set the stage for a long-pending Free Trade Agreement. Although India is not a formal member of the G7, Modi has been a regular invitee since 2019 — a testament to India's rising geopolitical and economic influence. This year's G7 deliberations are especially charged, focusing on intensifying global crises: the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, fresh conflict in West Asia following Iran-Israel strikes, and economic instability triggered by geopolitical realignments and trade tensions. India's position as a neutral but influential voice on many of these issues — particularly the Ukraine conflict — places it in a unique spot. Modi's presence offers the West a crucial bridge to the Global South, while allowing India to assert its values of multilateralism and peaceful diplomacy.

This visit may offer an indirect way to resolve tensions with China as well. With rising anti-China sentiment in several G7 countries and a growing Indo-Pacific strategy that seeks alternatives to Chinese hegemony, India's role becomes pivotal. A recalibrated India-Canada axis, especially under a more globally nuanced leader like Carney, could act as a soft diplomatic channel for India to manage its competitive yet critical relationship with Beijing. Modi's 23-hour tour may well be the catalyst for a series of long-overdue resets, not just with Canada, but with the world.

A Quiet Revolution in Indian Politics

The Modi Government's announcement of the 2027 Census date has set the stage for a transformative political shift: The implementation of the long-awaited 33 per cent reservation for women in 2029 elections

The Modi Government's recent announcement of the Census date as March 2027, before the implementation of a 33 per cent quota for women in Parliament and State legislatures in 2029 polls, has been welcomed by women. This is not just a step but a monumental leap for women's empowerment and gender justice — a cause that women have long championed.

The introduction of a women's quota in legislatures, preceded by a Census and delimitation, is a significant milestone that must come sooner than later. This process is closely tied to the concepts of delimitation and the Census. Delimitation will follow the Census, followed by the implementation of the one-third quota for women.

Why is this topic coming up now, considering that the 2029 elections are still some time away? It seems that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) aims to keep this issue in the spotlight to attract women voters in the interim.

All political parties are making efforts to court women voters in the upcoming elections, whether for the Lok Sabha or state assemblies. State assembly elections, such as those in Bihar, are scheduled for later this year, with more set to occur next year. The Congress party and other Opposition parties have been criticising the Modi government for the delay in conducting the national Census.

Two key issues need to be addressed before the Government can implement the women's quota: Census and delimitation. Both are sensitive issues. Once the data from the Census is available, Parliament will need to pass a Delimitation Act to establish a commission for overseeing the redrawing of constituency boundaries. Women's empowerment is a long-standing effort to provide one-third reservation for women. This goal has been on the agenda of previous Governments. However, the Modi Government successfully passed the law in 2023, with implementation scheduled for 2029. Historically, despite facing Opposition from parties such as the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the bill was passed in both houses of Parliament in 2023.

Many male representatives expressed concerns about possibly losing their seats due to the redistribution, which favoured women. Nevertheless, the Government pushed the bill through, and members adhered to the party whip. The nationwide Census, scheduled for March 2027, will include caste enumeration for the first time, and the results will significantly influence



the delimitation process. Delimitation is not just a technicality but a crucial process as it redraws the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies, particularly when the population has increased more than five times since Independence. The anticipation and uncertainty surrounding this process are palpable.

Most politicians are closely monitoring how these constituencies will be redrawn. Delimitation can create more constituencies based on the latest Census data. Media reports say that it could increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 888 and the number of Rajya Sabha seats from 250 to 384, according to a Government response to the Supreme Court. This increase could lead to a more representative and diverse Parliament. Envisaging this, the new

Parliament building has adequate seating capacity to accommodate the increased number of members. While central states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan could gain approximately 31 seats, southern states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala might lose around 26 seats.

Currently, the Lok Sabha's representation is based on population figures from the 1971 Census. The delimitation of seats was frozen in 1976 and again in 2001 to promote family planning, and this freeze will remain in effect until after the first Census post-2026.

Southern states are concerned that reliance solely on population figures may not accurately reflect their representation, as they have successfully controlled population growth. They worry about getting fewer seats compared to northern states. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin stated on X, "The Indian Constitution mandates delimitation after the first Census post-2026. The BJP's delay of the Census to 2027 reveals their intention to reduce Tamil Nadu's parliamentary representation.

We need clear answers from the Union Government." Home Minister Amit Shah has assured that southern states will not lose any seats on a pro-rata basis. These changes could not only alter the numbers but also shake the existing power base. Political dynasties, particularly in some northern states, which are deeply rooted, could lose their traditional seats of power. Political parties may need to reassess their strategies.

The women's quota may quietly usher in one of the most significant political realignments in decades — challenging not only regional balance but also entrenched power hierarchies. Ultimately, the women's quota could become a game changer if it parallels the earlier initiative that empowered women's sarpanches through a bill in 1992. That effort was so successful that today, there are 1.45 million women sarpanches. The success of the present initiative largely depends on women's commitment to entering politics.

(The writer is a popular columnist. Views are personal)

PICTALK



Tourists bathe at Kemptly Falls in Mussoorie to beat the scorching heat. PTI

Canada's Car-nama: Modi invite marks strategic shift

SECOND Opinion

The new Canadian Government has brought with it a summer of hope. The Indo-Canadian troubles of last year seem to be melting into the past.

Though not out of the woods yet, both camps are making the right noises. Carney's G7 invitation to India's PM Narendra Modi has brought about mixed reactions across Canada, with Poilievre accepting that India was a necessary invitee and the Khalistani supporters' meltdown.

This is the Canada's CAR-NAMA moment for Carney and Narendra Modi (Namo) which could help turn the page on Indo-Canadian relationships. Carnama in Hindi translates to miracle or brave act.

Mark Carney's Liberal Government has been eager to distance itself from Trudeau's image and policies, whilst silently working back channels with global players, like India.

Anita Anand and Dr S Jaishankar's phone diplomacy facilitated Modi's acceptance for the G-7 after other partners felt it imperative for India to be present.

India and Canada have moved a step further, with an intelligence-sharing understanding, to combat the rising threat of international crime and extremism. This

came out of the left field and has truly set the cat amongst the pigeons in Canada, in the wake of Justin Trudeau's allegations against India last year. Canada's headache has been the US tariffs against Canadian exports to the USA, making all things Canadian, more expensive. This in turn has driven prices up, affected jobs, and brought in higher inflation in Canada.

It is rumoured that a back-channel trade deal between India and Canada may not be far away, signalling Canada's return as an Indian frontline trading partner, not merely as America's 51st state, but as a proud nation rich in heritage and the world's largest natural resources.

India is an insatiable consumer of minerals, fuels, pulses, fertilisers, steel, pearls & precious stones, oil & gas, and nuclear fuel.

India's earliest nuclear reactors were built with Canada's help in the early 1970s and this could kickstart a new wave of mini-reactor technology across India.

There are also products like lumber, organic chemicals, plastics and foreign students across Canada.

According to the COMTRADE database on international trade, India's imports from Canada were US \$6.26 Billion during 2024, this was as against 7.5 billion in 2023 when the Trudeau allegations hit trade. Given the jump from US 2.7 billion in 2022 to US\$ 7.5 billion in 2023, there

is ample scope to increase that number to US\$10 billion in the coming years by 2026/2027.

As per an Agriculture Canada report, in 2022, India imported Can \$35.4 billion worth of processed food and beverages, with Canada supplying only Can \$20.9 million (0.1 per cent) of that total. There is a case for Canada to increase that by 10x within the next year or two. India's largest imports from the world were palm oil, soya bean oil, and sunflower oil, and Canada's share was negligible or non-existent.

Defence, Nuclear, automobile and housing are just a few of the sectors for Indo-Canadian cooperation, with India being one of the major QUAD players in the Pacific security region.

With the Nijjar case locked into the Canadian legal system, the gaze now moves to India's concerns about Khalistani terror within Canada, and their transnational terror and extortion plots in India.

Car-Nama will have to learn to hyphenate their relationships with the USA, as both nations India and Canada, learn to deal with the American tariffs and maintain their happy positions of strength in the relationship. This is a moment of reckoning for the Mark Carney Government to seize the initiative and he will find Modi's India a very willing ally.

(The writer is an Analyst, Lawyer, Author & commentator, who writes on International relations, Aviation and law. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Do not damage communal harmony

The statement made by Hemant Biswa Sarma is false and entirely fabricated. Muslims hold deep respect for Hindu temples, as instructed in the Holy Quran. Why would they desecrate a temple by throwing beef near it? This allegation is baseless and only reflects Sarma's longstanding anti-Muslim stance.

He has already ordered the demolition of 600 madrasas in Assam. Being a Brahmin by caste, it seems he is seeking undue political credit from the BJP by promoting violence and targeting Muslims through police actions, including reported firing orders. This is not governance — it is political overaction designed to boost his image as an anti-Muslim hardliner. Meanwhile, he turns a blind eye to more pressing tragedies, such as the plane crash in Ahmedabad; the helicopter crash that claimed 13 lives, and the drowning of five youths in Basar, Godavari.

I personally served as a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in Basar, bathed in the sacred Godavari River, and witnessed the harmony of the region. I also spent three months in Assam and saw firsthand the cordial relations between Hindus and Muslims, who make up 42 per cent of the population. Under Congress rule, a Muslim even rose to become the President of India. Sarma himself was once a part of Congress. When the BJP falls, he won't hesitate to return to Congress.

ABDUL HAMEED MAQDOOMI | HYDERABAD

India's maternal mortality rate improves

In India, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which signifies the number of maternal deaths per one lakh live births, has improved to 88 in 2020-22 from 93 in 2019-21.

However, six states saw an increase in maternal mortality ratio: Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. The Office of Registrar General, working under the Ministry of Home Affairs, released the data this month.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines maternal death as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of her pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of pregnancy. The maternal mortality ratio in India has consistently been declining over the past few years. It stood at 130 deaths per one lakh live births in 2014-16, whereas it stood at 88 in Unlike maternal mortality ratio, the maternal mortality rate is the maternal deaths in women aged 15-49 years (reproductive age) per lakh of women in that age group. The maternal mortality ratio is declining in India overall, but a few.

One factor that can increase the complications among pregnant women is anaemia. The National Family Health Survey-5 results showed that 52.2 per cent of pregnant women aged 15-49 years have anaemia.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

The first martyr of freedom: Rani Laxmi Bai

Remembering Rani Lakshmbai on her death anniversary is not a mere ritual; it is a moment of introspection. Are we truly the heirs of the freedom for which she gave her life? Her life teaches us that independence is not a gift but a right earned through sacrifice, struggle, and perseverance. She exemplified the power of Indian womanhood, a force that, when awakened, can reduce empires to ashes. Her sword's gleam still shines through the pages of history, her voice still calls to every soul that lives for pride. Rani Lakshmbai may have left this world, but she became immortal. Her saga is not just Jhansi's story; it is the saga of India's very consciousness.

Whenever Mother India calls, whenever pride faces peril, the name of Rani Lakshmi will resound like a battle cry. She was not just a queen; she was the soul of India — and she will remain so forever. Rani Lakshmbai's life is not merely a story of battles; it is a living lesson in leadership, resilience, and strategy. A young queen who blended political diplomacy, administrative skill, and military organisation with fearless decisions, she was not just a battlefield heroine but a pioneer of national awakening. Her indomitable spirit, therefore, transcends history, offering a timeless blueprint for courage and self-determination. It is a profound legacy that continues to inspire generations to uphold justice and national pride.

RITESH KUMAR JAIN | BARWANI

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY

This refers to the news 'Kommineni out' (17-6-25). It is said dictatorship begins with control over media and suppression of freedom of expression. This has been witnessed during the Emergency period in India. Newspapers used to have some blank space indicating that the news meant for the space had been censored by the Government.

Voice of dissent was dealt with too harshly. The present scenes resemble the same. Hundreds of dissenters and journalists are lodged in prison for a long time, even without framing charges. The very role of the media is to present the facts and expose the mistakes and misdeeds of the Government. Most in the monopolised media are seen singing in praise of the rulers in a subjugated tone. Articles glorifying the economy reaching fourth place and GDP growth are repeatedly appearing.

But very rarely do articles or editorials appear highlighting the growing disparity, growing unemployment, social issues,

efforts to prop up communal divide to cover up the failures, etc. Even courts convey their displeasure over such turns of events that suppress the freedom of expression but fail to sensitise the Government.

The latest one is the arrest of journalist Mr Kommineni, a well-known name in Andhra Pradesh; his release was ordered by the Court. But history is very clear with its message that such suppression cannot last for a long time and when the people understand the facts, they react accordingly to restore democracy and normalcy in a democratic manner.

This is also witnessed in India. Promoters of the Emergency were defeated and the massive movement for democracy won. Suppression of dissent is an expression of fear of getting exposed for deliberate misdeeds. Positive corrections will go a long way in strengthening democracy.

AG RAJMOHAN | JANANTAPUR

G7 Summit in Canada: Diplomacy Tested, Alliances Strained

Prime Minister Mark Carney’s invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi – despite ongoing tensions over Khalistani extremism and human rights concerns – signals a bid to recalibrate relations

FIRST
Column

From Ground Zero Alberta (Canada)

The leaders of the G7, comprising the world’s wealthiest democracies, convened in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15 to 17. The meeting served as a significant demonstration of the G7’s resolve to maintain unity during challenging circumstances. The most recent G7 meeting took place in Canada in 2018, during which President Donald Trump, in the early stages of his presidency, departed from the summit in a state of anger. He declined to endorse the concluding joint statement, issued threats regarding tariffs against his fellow leaders, and characterised the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, as “very dishonest and weak.”

However, on this occasion, Trump departs from the G7 summit prematurely to address the Israel-Iran conflict. It is now widely recognised that Trump’s second presidency is significantly more controversial than the first. The fractures within what can scarcely be referred to as the “Western family” have now been thoroughly exposed. In the interim, European initiatives have predominantly concentrated on preventing a severe rupture with the United States rather than attempting to mask the unease stemming from division. Given this new reality, a successful summit is characterised by the absence of melodrama or significant confrontation. Mitigating the damage has emerged as a goal in its own right.

While Mark Carney has found himself in the unusual position of hosting a US president who has repeatedly claimed that his country, Canada, should be the 51st US state, he has had to explain to him that his country is not for sale. For this year’s summit amid a perilous escalation in the Middle East and Mr. Trump’s reshaping of global alliances.

Also, as soon as Indian PM Narinder Modi lands at Calgary airport, some Sikhs and MPs oppose his G7 attendance, citing India’s human rights record. Despite this, the new information-sharing pact is a major step toward normalising relations and addressing internal security challenges in both nations.

While the advocacy group Sikhs for Justice held a day of protests Monday, Modi landed at the Calgary airport in the evening and then made his way to the summit in the nearby wilderness retreat of Kananaskis. Then on Tuesday, condemning Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he visits the G7 leaders’ summit.

The protest in downtown Calgary included posters of the leader handcuffed in a prison jumpsuit and another depicting him behind bars. The relationship between the two nations has worsened since Canada accused Indian Government agents



SURJIT SINGH FLORA



of assassinating Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old naturalised Canadian citizen and prominent advocate for a separate Sikh homeland in India. New Delhi calls the claims “absurd” and “preposterous.” Punjab is uneasy about India-Canada tensions over the Sikh slaughter. The controversy damaged India-Canada ties, prompting diplomatic expulsions in 2023 and 2024.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is open-minded and forward-thinking. He warmly invited Modi to attend the summit, despite India’s economic, commercial, market, and strategic importance. In this digital technology era, the G7+5, an informal alliance of major developing economies, has invited India, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa as guests in previous years. India, Brazil, South Africa, Russia, and China founded the BRICS alliance of developing countries, which some see as a mirror of the G7’s geopolitical and economic competition.

The G7 and invited parties reached a wide consensus on these invitations. The data shows India’s 50-year exit from the G7, while the invitations emphasise the guests’ economic might outside. With less than 1 per cent of the world’s GDP, Russia first visited the G7 in 1992. Meanwhile, the five original



WHILE MARK CARNEY HAS FOUND HIMSELF IN THE UNUSUAL POSITION OF HOSTING A US PRESIDENT WHO HAS REPEATEDLY CLAIMED THAT HIS COUNTRY, CANADA, SHOULD BE THE 51ST US STATE, HE HAS HAD TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT HIS COUNTRY IS NOT FOR SALE. FOR THIS YEAR’S SUMMIT AMID A PERILOUS ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND MR. TRUMP’S RESHAPING OF GLOBAL ALLIANCES

BRICS nations had less than 9 per cent of world GDP. The G7 accounted for 63 per cent of global GDP. The G7 currently accounts for 44 per cent of global GDP, whereas the original BRICS have quadrupled to 25 per cent. Since becoming the 47th President of the United States for the second time on January 21, 2025, Trump’s aggressive, capitalist, and expansionist policies have caused turmoil in the US and across the globe. Trump’s terror tariffs and immigration crackdowns have sparked violent demonstrations in several US states for the second time. On April 5, 2025, 1400 sites in 50 US states conducted the first anti-regime protests.

Now violent demonstrations against immigration deportation continue. Canada joined in 1976. The G-8 group included Russia, but it ejected it in 2014 for annexing Crimea. These gatherings often include other major nations. France hosted this organisation’s 2019 conference and welcomed India for the first time. Invitations have continued since.

The world’s fourth biggest economy is India. India has a greater economy than France, Italy, Canada, and Japan. Canada needs new trustworthy partners to address global peace, law, and order issues. After Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party beat Stephen Harper’s Conservatives in 2015, Canada was in high demand worldwide. Now things have changed. At the summit today (Tuesday), Prime Minister Modi will

address energy security, technology, and innovation, particularly the AI-Energy Alliance and quantum challenges, with G7 leaders, invited outreach nations, and international organisation leaders.

Canada spent \$300 million and \$600 million hosting the G-7 meetings in Huntsville, Ontario, in 2010 and Charlevoix, Quebec, in 2018. This meeting should deliver important outcomes.

The Indian Prime Minister may have a chance to address national interests, diplomatic, trade, economic, and military problems with G-7 and other leaders, as well as Pakistan’s role in worldwide terrorism.

While Indian political observers say Modi’s visit may allow Canada and India to rebalance ties. As Canada’s prime minister since March, Carney has raised hopes of a thaw. According to former Indian envoy to the US Meera Shankar, Modi’s trip will “hopefully mark the beginning of a reset in India’s relations with Canada, which have plummeted over the Canadian allegations regarding the Nijjar case and India’s belief that Canada indulges Sikh extremism directed against India.”

She said both sides gain “if the relationship is stabilised, particularly in a volatile world. With bilateral trade hitting \$9 billion in 2023 and Canadian pension funds investing \$55 billion in India, India and Canada have strong commercial and interpersonal ties. About 5 per cent of Canada’s population is Indian, with roughly 2 million living there. The US and North America are the top choices for Indian students pursuing higher education.

Outstanding issues and relationship implications

New Delhi and Ottawa are trying to repair their ties, but Nijjar’s murder remains unsolved. The group supports “Khalistan,” a fringe separatist movement seeking an independent Sikh state from India. New Delhi wants stricter steps against India’s banned Khalistan movement.

On the other hand, Senator Baltej Singh Dhillon, a former member of the Mounted Police, wrote in a public essay on Sunday that “inviting Prime Minister Modi currently represents a troubling departure from our principles.” He also stated that “prioritising short-term strategic calculations over long-term democratic values” “sends the message that trade and geopolitical interests matter more than sovereignty, justice, and public trust” and that “there are no real consequences for foreign interference in our democracy.” In the end, the meeting will test Canada’s global leadership and Carney’s diplomacy. Canada has a unique opportunity to establish a host. If this summit goes well, Canada might become a more vital Western partner amid high tensions and risks. Canada may lose credibility for years if it doesn’t.

(The writer is a senior journalist and a regular columnist with The Pioneer, based in Canada.)

Hydro-Politics in Boil: India Wields Water as Weapon After Pahalgam Massacre

Modi and Carney poised to bury the bilateral hatchet

When Ismail Serageldin, then Vice President of the World Bank, warned in 1995 that “the wars of the next century will be fought over water,” few took him seriously. Today, that foresight reverberates across the fault lines of Asia’s geopolitical map.

As glaciers shrink, river flows diminish, and populations swell, water is no longer a shared life source — it has become a potent geopolitical lever. Former UN Secretary — General Boutros Boutros — Ghali too had warned that water, especially in arid, densely populated regions, could spark future conflicts.

This warning is materialising in South Asia, where India, Pakistan, and China — three nuclear powers — are tangled in an uneasy hydrological balance. What was once theoretical is now dangerously real.

China’s infrastructural build-up along the Brahmaputra, India’s tougher stance on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) — especially after the Pahalgam carnage — and Pakistan’s worsening drought fears are all interwoven in a complex new theatre of hydro-politics. As diplomacy erodes and climate extremes escalate, Asia’s river systems may well become tomorrow’s battlegrounds.

The Pahalgam Massacre

The gruesome terror attack in Baisaran meadows near Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 — where 26 Indian tourists and one Nepali national were gunned down by Islamist extremists — has deeply unsettled India and shaken the very foundations of South Asia’s oldest water-sharing pact: the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.

India’s subsequent decision to suspend its operational commitments under the IWT marks a sharp departure from its long-held water diplomacy ethos — where rivers once symbolised cooperation, they now represent coercion.

Though framed as a temporary measure, India’s move is already yielding disruptive consequences across Pakistan’s farming belt, dependent as it is on the Indus system.

By halting hydrological data sharing and beginning regulatory moves to prioritise its water rights, India has pushed Pakistan toward an impending agricultural disaster and a humanitarian dilemma.

Pakistan’s Fields Are Run Dry

India’s withdrawal from routine data sharing and its upstream recalibrations have left Pakistan’s breadbasket provinces — Punjab and Sindh — grappling with acute water stress just as their Kharif sowing period begins.

Agrarian Distress

According to Pakistan’s Ministry of National Food Security, the Kharif cycle (April-July) contributes roughly 65 per cent of total crop yield annually, and over 85 per cent of it is irrigation — dependent via Indus canals. In Punjab, which supplies over 70 per cent of Pakistan’s wheat and half of its sugarcane, planting of water-intensive crops like rice and cotton is already lagging by nearly a month. In Sindh, where cotton, sugarcane, and paddy dominate, the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) estimates a 30 per cent drop in canal water flow. Remote sensing and NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) analysis from early May show a 14 per cent drop in vegetation density versus last year’s average.

Farmers from regions such as Okara, Multan, Bahawalpur, Jacobabad, and Larkana are holding street protests, citing failing crops, shrivelling seedlings, and vanishing groundwater tables as tube wells run dry without river seepage.

India’s Tactics

New Delhi hasn’t completely choked the river flows — an act that would violate the IWT and risk global condemnation. Instead, it is exercising its treaty — sanctioned rights with strategic precision.

Long-term Blueprint

The Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission are pursuing a multi-pronged plan: construction of seven mini hydropower projects (adding up to 1,800 MW) on the Chenab and Jhelum; expansion of irrigation in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab; real-time satellite surveillance to ensure no surplus flow enters Pakistan during low-flow months. A senior official confided, “Water is now a pillar of our national security calculus.”

Steps already taken | India has stopped sharing real-time river data and flood alerts — a move that has left Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) operating in the dark during monsoon months.

Historically, India’s telemetry inputs were responsible for nearly 90 per cent of Pakistan’s flood warnings.

Reservoir action

The pace of filling reservoirs like Tulbul (Jhelum), Baglihar, and Ratle (Chenab) has been accelerated, causing delays of 15-20 days in downstream flow.

Diverting flow | Projects like Shahpur-Kandi on the Ravi and the Ujh multipurpose project have seen renewed momentum. These aim to



KS TOMAR

store water previously flowing into Pakistan, allowing India to finally utilise its entitled 3.6 million acre-feet (MAF) that often went untapped.

A New Water Doctrine Emerges

India’s recalibration signals a break from its earlier posture of moral restraint. The new policy is predicated on conditional reciprocity: that continued cross-border terrorism will be met with escalating economic and ecological costs.

This is not without precedent. After the 2016 Uri attack, India considered revisiting the treaty. Following the 2019 Pulwama bombing, it initiated a water diversion on the Ravi. But the post-Pahalgam suspension of the IWT represents the most decisive stance yet — clearly articulating that terrorism and treaty sanctity cannot run on parallel tracks.

Collaboration to Confrontation

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered in 1960 with World Bank mediation, allocated 80 per cent of the total river waters (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum) to Pakistan and the remaining 20 per cent (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India.

India retained restricted, non-consumptive rights over the Western Rivers, mainly for hydropower, irrigation, and navigation. Traditionally, New Delhi chose under-utilisation to avoid regional escalation.

But patience has worn thin. Years of terror attacks traced to Pakistan-based outfits have forced a rethink.

The freeze in water cooperation — especially real-time data sharing and advance flood warnings — is not just administrative friction; it marks a structural shift. India’s approach has turned kinetic: the battle is no longer verbal, but hydraulic.

Water Wars on the Horizon?

Through a calculated manipulation of the Indus flow, India has touched Pakistan’s most vulnerable nerve — its water-reliant agrarian economy, already fragile under political and economic stress. This pressure tactic highlights not only Pakistan’s food and water insecurity but also the unsustainable costs of sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

If Islamabad does not reassess its approach to Kashmir and terrorism, its dream of uninterrupted Indus waters could be headed toward a terminal drought.

What began as a diplomatic freeze may evolve into a full-spectrum hydro-strategic doctrine. India has drawn a clear line: terrorism and treaty privileges cannot coexist in perpetuity.

(The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst. Views expressed are personal)

The long-drawn bitterness in New Delhi-Ottawa bilateral ties is beginning to show signs of a rapprochement with PM Narendra Modi expected to meet his new Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the upcoming G-7 Summit in picturesque Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta from June 15 to 17.

Both sides will need to ensure that a major irritant in the bilateral relationship — Khalistani extremism in Canada — is not allowed to derail efforts to normalise ties.

That India’s perennial bugbear Justin Trudeau is no longer the Canadian PM has contributed in no small measure to the initiation of efforts to end the chill in bilateral relations.

Modi swiftly accepted an invite from Carney to participate in the gathering of the world’s advanced economies — US, Canada, UK, France, Italy, Germany and Japan — even though it came just a few days ahead of the meet. As “vibrant democracies”, the two countries will “work together with renewed vigour guided by mutual respect and shared interests”, Modi affirmed.

It was Trudeau’s policy of appeasement of the Khalistani elements based on Canadian soil that saw bilateral relations nose-dive since he became PM in 2015.

The ties deteriorated even further in 2023-24 after the Trudeau Government’s accusations that the Indian Government was behind the killing of Khalistani separatist Kuldeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023.

Both sides are hoping to turn a new chapter under the new Canadian PM. It’s perhaps the reason why Carney invited Modi even though he’s facing domestic criticism, including within his party, in the backdrop of charges by Canadian security that Indian agents were behind Nijjar’s killing.

Carney, on his part, said India is the world’s most populous nation and with the fifth largest economy, besides being “central” to several supply chains.

For the economist turned politician who never held any political office till he became the PM, the outreach to India is driven by pragmatism and realpolitik.

Having succeeded Trudeau as the Liberal Party leader and PM, Carney not only has to deal with the challenges of a world in geopolitical and economic flux but also the harsh reality of his country no longer being treated as a valuable ally by its all-powerful neighbour, the US.

Instead, Donald Trump in his second term as US President has unleashed a trade war on Canada. Furthermore, in what is even more

galling for Ottawa, Trump has questioned Canada’s sovereignty by threatening to annex it.

As Carney negotiates a new path and shapes an economy wherein the US is no longer its largest trading partner, it has become imperative for his Government to look for new trading partners.

It’s in this backdrop that Carney is seeking to bury the hatchet with the two Asian giants, India and China — countries with whom Ottawa’s ties have been extremely fraught in recent years.

Carney has also reached out to Beijing with a recent phone call to Chinese premier Li Qiang, where they agreed to “reset” ties. Beijing, of course, has been engaged in its trade war with Washington, though the two sides have reached a delicate truce for now.

India, facing its share of troubles with Trump’s trade war, too is looking to closer economic ties with other partners. The normalisation of ties with Canada could, therefore, see the two sides revive discussions for a trade pact, talks on which were halted by Canada in September 2023 as tensions mounted after the Nijjar killing.

It’s noteworthy that trade ties have remained quite stable despite the turbulence in bilateral relations. In 2023, bilateral trade in goods between the two countries was 12.65 billion Canadian dollars, while in services it was 13.49 billion Canadian dollars.

Canada also sees India as a key partner in its efforts to enhance economic links with the Indo-Pacific in its strategy for the region.

The two also have shared interests in cooperating on security matters in the Indo-Pacific amid China’s expansionist muscle-flexing. Security will be one of the important items on the G-7’s agenda as well as energy. For India, Canada can be an important ally in its campaign against Pakistan on the issue of cross-border terrorism.

However, as India and Canada prepare to bury the hatchet, it will require some deft diplomatic manoeuvring from both to ensure the Nijjar killing as well as the broader issue of activities by Khalistan separatist elements is not allowed to bedevil ties.

Ottawa would do well to remember that it was these secessionist elements who were behind the deadly bombing of AI-182 ‘Kanishka’ in 1982 that exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, killing 329 passengers. As former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once warned Pakistan — you cannot keep snakes in your backyard and expect them only to bite your neighbours.

(The writer is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)



PARUL CHANDRA

Mehul Choksi takes kidnapping allegations against India to UK court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Mehul Choksi, the businessman wanted in India to face charges in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, is suing the Indian government and five individuals in the High Court in London as conspirators for his alleged kidnap, torture and attempted rendition.

The Indian authorities have denied the allegations and objected to the UK jurisdiction on the basis of state immunity and also sought permission for expert evidence on Indian law and the Indian Constitution to be taken into account.

During a case management hearing listed before Justice Freedman on Monday, the court was told that Choksi claims to have been tortured back in May 2021 as part of a kidnap attempt orchestrated



ed by the government of India.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these submissions is intended to waive or should be interpreted as waiving India's state immunity, the court was told this week by the Indian side.

Choksi was accused of making extremely serious

allegations against India, alleging it masterminded an international plot to kidnap and harm him.

It is India's position that the present claim is being pursued principally with the (misguided) intention of attempting to cause embarrassment to India and obtain leverage in the Claimant's

international attempts to avoid extradition, barrister Harish Salve argued on behalf of the Indian authorities.

Choksi's lawyers, led by barrister Edward Fitzgerald, allege that there was a collusion between five individuals in the attack on him in Antigua to be forcibly taken to Dominica in the Caribbean with the purpose of being rendered to India.

The Defendants thereby entered into an unlawful means conspiracy whereby the Defendants agreed to, and then did, inflict unlawful and injurious acts on the Claimant by means of assault, battery, false imprisonment, unlawful detention and/or unlawful restriction of liberty, Choksi's legal claim reads.

The businessman, meanwhile, remains in custody in Belgium, fighting against his extradition to India.

He is wanted in India along with his nephew, Nirav Modi,

who remains behind bars in London after repeated attempts at bail have been denied by the English courts.

There are three sets of criminal proceedings against Nirav in India — the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case of fraud on PNB, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the alleged laundering of the proceeds of that fraud and a third set of criminal proceedings involving alleged interference with evidence and witnesses in the CBI proceedings.

In April 2021, then UK home secretary Priti Patel had ordered his extradition to face these charges in the Indian courts after a prima facie case was established against him. But recent court hearings in London have alluded to a confidential impediment to his extradition, believed to be an asylum application.

Trump says all of Tehran should evacuate immediately

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

US President Donald Trump posted an ominous message on his social media site Monday calling for the immediate evacuation of Tehran but later denied reports he had rushed back to Washington to work on a ceasefire.

Israel's air campaign on the Iranian capital appeared to broaden on the fourth day of an intensifying conflict after it issued warnings on Monday for about 300,000 people in Tehran to evacuate ahead of airstrikes.

People were seen leaving the city Tuesday morning as shops and the historic Grand Bazaar were closed. Iranian authorities insist everything is under control and no guidance has been issued.

Here's the latest: People seen leaving Tehran

As the sun rose Tuesday on Iran, the downtown area of Tehran, the country's capital,

Authorities within Iran's Government continued to insist everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for public on what to do

appeared to be beginning to empty out.

Many shops in the capital stood closed. The city's ancient Grand Bazaar was closed, something that's rarely done, like during demonstrations or during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the roads out of Tehran to the west, traffic stood bumper to bumper. Many appeared to be heading to the Caspian Sea area, with local reports suggesting there were some diversions.

Long lines also could be seen at gas stations operating in Tehran. Iran's capital, Tehran, is home to some 10 million people. That's roughly the same population for the

entirety of Israel.

It remained unclear how the city could be evacuated.

Authorities within Iran's government continued to insist everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for the public on what to do. G7 leaders call for de-escalation but insist Iran must not get nukes

Leaders of the Group of Seven countries meeting in Canada signed a joint statement calling for de-escalation of fighting between Israel and Iran while reaffirming that Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear bomb.

The statement reads: We, the leaders of the G7, reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself.

We reiterate our support for the security of Israel. We also affirm the importance of the protection of civilians. Iran is the principal source of regional instability and terror.

Trump rejects intelligence assessment on Iran nukes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

US President Donald Trump insisted that Tehran was very close to building a nuclear weapon despite congressional testimony from his top intelligence adviser earlier this year.

Back in March, National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard told lawmakers that spy agencies have assessed that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and the country's supreme leader has not authorised the nuclear weapons program that he suspended in 2003.

Trump dismissed that when speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One during an overnight flight back to Washington after leaving the G7 summit early. I don't care what she said, Trump said. I think they were very close to having it.

Trump not in the 'mood to negotiate' Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, it's very simple, Trump told reporters on Air Force One during his overnight flight back to Washington.

He accused Iranian leaders of being unwilling to reach an agreement over their nuclear programme, and suggest-

ed he was now less interested in talking with them.

They should have done the deal. I told them, do the deal, Trump said. So I don't know. I'm not too much in the mood to negotiate.

The Republican president, who said he plans to meet with advisers in the Situation Room, appears to be gradually building the public case for a more

Iran cancels leave for medical personnel in Tehran on Tuesday, placards and boards calling for a severe response to Israel could be seen everywhere

direct American role in the conflict.

His shift in tone comes as the US has repositioned warships and military aircraft in the region to respond if the conflict between Israel and Iran further escalates. Iran cancels leave for medical personnel in Tehran on Tuesday, placards and boards calling for a severe response to Israel could be seen everywhere.

US Congress to mark Dalai Lama's 90th birthday as Day of Compassion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Two influential congressmen have introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US Congress to designate July 6 as A Day of Compassion in honour of the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's 90th birthday.

The resolution was introduced on Monday by Republican Michael McCaul and Democrat Jim McGovern.

McCaul, chairman emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced a resolution alongside McGovern designating July 6th, 2025, as 'A Day of Compassion' in honour of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, according to a press release issued by McCaul's office.

Despite having faced persecution, oppression, and unspeakable violence at the hands of the CCP (Chinese

Communist Party), His Holiness the Dalai Lama has maintained inner peace and continues to preach compassion - inspiring not only his own people, but the entire world, McCaul said.

Ahead of His Holiness's 90th birthday, I am proud to introduce this resolution calling for 'A Day of Compassion' and affirming Tibetans' fundamental human rights as we look forward to the day the Dalai Lama and his people can return to their homeland in peace, he said. The Dalai Lama has been living in India since 1959, after fleeing Tibet during the 1959 Tibetan uprising.

McGovern said the Dalai Lama is an inspiration to millions of people around the world.

His teachings on religious tolerance, non-violent responses to conflict and violent extremism, and peace-building are both timeless and urgent-

ly needed in the present circumstances.

He has been a passionate advocate for the freedom and dignity for the Tibetan people.

It is appropriate for Congress to honor the 14th Dalai Lama and his countless accomplishments on his 90th birthday.

May his next one be celebrated in Lhasa (Tibet), the Democratic leader said.

This resolution also recognises the Dalai Lama's lifelong commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights and the preservation of Tibetan culture.

It reaffirms bipartisan US support for the Tibetan people's right to self-determination, opposes Chinese government interference in Tibetan practices, and expresses deep respect for the Dalai Lama's moral leadership and humanitarian contributions to the international community, the press release said.

European leaders push for de-escalation



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot discussed the developing situation in the Middle East on Monday. PTI

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Paris

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday night and then in the ensuing hours with the Iranian, British and German foreign ministers about the situation in the Mideast.

The French, British and German ministers passed on joint messages to the Iranian foreign minister about the need for a de-escalation and a return to diplomacy, according to a French diplomatic official. They urged Iran to return to negotiations as soon as possible, without conditions, the official said.

They urged Iran to avoid any threats to Western interests, any extension of hostilities elsewhere in the region and any nuclear escalation including leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty, stopping cooperation with the IAEA or pursuing further enrichment, the official said.

The ministers also passed along messages to Israel on the need to not target Iranian authorities, infrastructure and the civilian population, the official said. The official was not authorised to be publicly named in accordance with Foreign Ministry policy. Italy's Meloni reiterates negotiations with Iran Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni reaffirmed the opportunity to reopen the

road of negotiations with Iran during a bilateral meeting with President Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Canada, her office said in a statement Tuesday. She also underlined the necessity in this moment of reaching a ceasefire in Gaza. More than 40 Palestinians killed while waiting for aid in Gaza. At least 45 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip while waiting for UN and commercial trucks to enter the territory with desperately needed food, according to Gaza's Health Ministry and a local hospital.

The circumstances of the killings were not immediately clear. Palestinians say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds trying to reach food distribution points run by a separate US and Israeli-backed aid group since the centres opened last month.

Local health officials say scores have been killed and hundreds wounded.

In those instances, the Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots at people it said had approached its forces in a suspicious manner. Egypt, Jordan and others call for a halt to the conflict. Twenty countries denounced in a joint statement the escalating tensions in the Middle East caused by what they term Israel's aggression against Iran and called for diplomacy and dialogue to restore stability in the region.

Czech coalition Government faces no-confidence vote over bitcoin scandal

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Prague

The Czech coalition government on Tuesday faced a parliamentary no-confidence vote over a bitcoin-related scandal.

The main opposition centrist ANO (YES) movement led by populist billionaire Andrej Babiš requested the vote after the Justice Ministry accepted a donation of bitcoins and sold them for almost 1 billion Czech koruna (\$47 million) earlier this year.

The three opposition parties, including ANO, the anti-migrant Freedom and Direct Democracy movement and the liberal Pirates party, are unlikely to oust the four-party coalition government led by conservative Prime Minister Petr

Fiala, which has a majority in the lower house of Parliament.

Justice Minister Pavel Blažek resigned from his post over the issue on May 30 and was replaced by Eva Decroix on June 10.

Blažek said he wasn't aware of any wrongdoing, but didn't want the coalition to be harmed by the scandal. Fiala said he appreciated his resignation and believed Blažek acted with goodwill.

Blažek was a close ally of Fiala in the government and also in his conservative Civic Democratic Party. The new minister is from the same party. Decroix said she will order an independent probe into the ministry's activities in the case. The scandal focuses on the fact that the bit-

coins were donated to the ministry by a person who was previously convicted of drug dealing and other crimes, while it was not clear why he did it.

The opposition has accused Blažek of possible money laundering, because it wasn't clear where the bitcoins originated, and demanded the resignation of the entire government. The issue has been investigated by the national police's organised crime unit. Czech lawmakers were debating the no-confidence motion, the fourth since the government took over after a 2021 election, with a vote expected late Tuesday or Wednesday.

The scandal comes just months before the Oct 3-4 parliamentary election.

Trump warns Iran, US may back Israel with military aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

President Donald Trump in about eight hours Monday went from suggesting a nuclear deal with Iran remained achievable to urging Tehran's 9.5 million residents to flee for their lives as he cut short his visit to an international summit to return to Washington for urgent talks with his national security team.

He was expected to arrive at the White House early Tuesday at a moment of choosing in his presidency. Israel, with five days of missile strikes, has done considerable damage to Iran and believes it can now deal a permanent blow to Tehran's nuclear programme - particularly if it gets a little more help from Trump.

But deepening American involvement, perhaps by providing the Israelis with bunker-busting bombs to penetrate Iranian nuclear sites built deep underground or offering other direct U.S. Military support, comes with enormous political risk for Trump.

Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, it's very simple, Trump told reporters on Air Force One during his overnight flight back to Washington.

He accused Iranian leaders of being unwilling to reach an agreement over their nuclear programme, and suggested he was now less interested in talking with them.

They should have done the deal. I told them, do the deal, Trump said. So I don't know. I'm not too much in the mood to negotiate.

The Republican president, who said he plans to meet with advisers in the Situation Room, appears to be gradually building the public case for a more direct American role in the conflict. His shift in tone comes as the US has repositioned warships and military aircraft in the region to respond if the conflict between Israel and Iran further escalates.

Trump made an early departure from G7

The White House announced Monday, while Trump was at the Group of Seven summit in the Canadian



Rockies, that the president would be cutting his trip short.

Simply stated, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON, he wrote on social media. I said it over and over again! Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!

Asked about his evacuation comments aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters that I just want people to be safe.

He also insisted French President Emmanuel Macron was wrong to say the US was working on a ceasefire.

We're looking at better than a ceasefire. We're not looking for a ceasefire, Trump said, adding that Macron is a nice guy but he doesn't get it right too often.

Trump said he wasn't ruling out a diplomatic option, and he could send Vice President JD Vance and special envoy Steve Witkoff to meet with the Iranians. It depends on what happens when I get back, he said.

He also dismissed congressional testimony from National

Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard, who told lawmakers in March that U.S. Spy agencies did not believe Iran was building a nuclear weapon.

I don't care what she said, Trump said. I think they were very close to having it.

Speculation grows that Trump may be tilting toward more direct involvement

The Israelis say their offensive has eviscerated Iran's air defences and they can now strike targets across the country at will. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the Israeli bombardment will continue until Iran's nuclear programme and ballistic missiles are destroyed.

So far, Israel has targeted multiple Iranian nuclear programme sites but has not been able to destroy Iran's Fordo uranium enrichment facility.

The site is buried deep underground - and to eliminate it, Israel may need the 30,000-pound GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, which uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to reach deeply buried targets and then explode. But

that could escalate in dangerous and uncontrollable ways. Israel launched an aerial bombardment campaign against Iran on Friday, and Iran has hit back with missiles and drones.

Trump left the summit in the Canadian Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis a day early late Monday, saying: "I have to be back, very important." It came as conflict between Israel and Iran intensifies and the US leader declared that Tehran should be evacuated "immediately" — while also expressing optimism about a deal to stop the violence.

Before leaving, Trump joined the other leaders in issuing a statement saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for a "de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza."

Israel does not have the munition or the bomber needed to deliver it - the penetrator is currently delivered by the B-2 stealth bomber. Israel's own defenses remain largely intact in the face of Iran's retaliatory strikes, but some of Tehran's missiles are getting through and having deadly impact.

The White House, soon after announcing Trump was returning to Washington, dispatched Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for a prime-time Fox News appearance as speculation grows about whether Trump could be tilting toward more direct U.S. involvement.

Hegseth told Fox News' Jesse Watters that of course Trump wanted to see a deal made to curb Iran's nuclear programme. His position has not changed, Hegseth said. What you're watching in real time is peace through strength and America first. Our job is to be strong. We are postured defensively in the region to be strong in pursuit of a peace deal. And we certainly hope that's what happens here.

China to commission third aircraft carrier 'Fujian' later this year: Official media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Beijing

China plans to operationalise its third aircraft carrier 'Fujian' this year as it has completed nearly three years of sea trials, setting the stage for the Chinese navy for the first time to operate three carrier groups, official media reported on Tuesday.

Fujian, stated to be China's most advanced aircraft carrier possessing the electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS) similar to that of the American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford, was launched in 2024 and since then completed multiple sea trials, accumulating more than 100 days of sea trials. The entry of the carrier with more than 80,000 tons carrying a wide variety of carrier-borne aircraft, including fighter jets, early warning aircraft, and drones

will enable China to enter a new era of three aircraft carriers, state-run CCTV reported. The official daily, Global Times, quoted Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military affairs commentator, as saying that Fujian has been making steady progress in sea trials, and is expected to be commissioned within this year.

China currently has two aircraft carriers in operation - the Liaoning, a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012, and Shandong, which is an indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned in 2019.

Ahead of its operationalisation, Fujian flexed muscles joining Shandong in conducting exercises north of the Philippines this month, while Liaoning has led exercises in the Pacific waters of Japan's exclusive economic zone drawing protests from Japan.

According to the official media, China plans to have four to five aircraft carriers, includ-

ing a nuclear-powered one, making them the frontline force of its navy as Beijing seeks to expand its global influence with deployments in the South China Sea, the Taiwan Strait and the Indian Ocean in future.

Fujian is the first fully domestically developed and constructed aircraft carrier with EMALS while the other two aircraft carriers are equipped with ski-jump take-off ramps. The Fujian features a flat-top flight deck.

Simultaneously, China is developing a new fighter aircraft that can operate from its carrier groups. Early this year, President Xi Jinping issued fresh orders revising rules to transform the country's military into world-class armed forces, focusing on combat readiness and war preparation amid growing rivalry with the US and tensions over Taiwan and neighbours. On Monday, Stockholm International Peace Research

Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2025 revealed that China, which has 600 nuclear weapons, is rapidly growing its nuclear stockpile adding 100 warheads a year in an apparent attempt to match with stockpiles of the US and Russia.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client (i.e. HFC Bank Ltd.) that M/s. V.R. Developers UP (earlier known as M/s. V.R. Developers Pvt. Ltd.) is claiming to be the owner of Property bearing Municipal No. 11/A, Area Measuring 2044.22 sq. yds., situated at Industrial Area, Najibabad Road, New Delhi vide different Sale Deeds dt. 05.04.2006, 23.10.2013, 17.01.2014, 03.06.2006, 27.12.2005, 16.10.2006 & 27.04.2017. It has been informed by the Owner that original documents i.e. Original A/Ts dated 24.04.1952 (Document No. 1017), Original Conveyance dt. 16.04.1956 (Doc. No.8077), Original Sale Deed dt. 09.09.1969 (Doc. No.7753), Original Partition Deed dt. 08.05.1976, Original Release/Assignment Deed dt. 02.12.2005 (Doc. No.2893), Original Partition Deed with stamp duty & additional tax each dated 06.02.2006, Original Release/Assignment Deed dt. 18.10.2005 (Doc. No.3470) in respect of said property are lost & not traceable. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned Owner wants to mortgage & intends to obtain a loan from our client (i.e. HFC Bank Ltd.) against the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner or the said property, its mortgage/transaction, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address situated at: 11/A, Area Measuring 2044.22 sq. yds., Najibabad Road, New Delhi-110007. For further details visit University Website: <http://www.gndu.ac.in>

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Advertisement No.05/2025
Online applications are invited for the post of Director for Sikh Studies Chair in the University. Online registration of application for this post will start w.e.f. 18-06-2025 and end on 27-06-2025. Last date for submitting hard copy of the Online submitted application is 30-06-2025. For further details visit University Website: <http://www.gndu.ac.in>
Amritsar Registrar
16-06-2025
2426/12/2025-26/255
Dated CHD - 17/06/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that Axis Bank Limited, having its branch at First Floor, Himalaya House K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001, is proposing to extend a loan facility in favour of Smt. Sobhagawati (Borrower) against a Freehold Built-up Property bearing Municipal No. 10/2, measuring approximately 105 square yards, situated at Kirti Nagar, near Ram Road, New Delhi-110017 (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). As per the available records, Smt. Kamla Rani, wife of Sh. Shori Lal, was the recorded owner of the Said Property by virtue of a Sale Deed dated 18.12.1965, registered under Document No. 15256, and the Said Property was subsequently sold to Mr. Kapil Kumar by way of a Sale Deed dated 25.05.2007, registered under Document No. 3654. The Said Property is now intended to be sold to Smt. Sobhagawati (Borrower) who has reported that the original Sale Deed(s) pertaining to the Said Property have been lost or misplaced vide NCR/LR No.29/9832/2025. Any person(s) who may be in possession of, or who may have found, the aforementioned original documents are requested to contact the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, Axis Bank Limited shall proceed with the proposed loan transaction and shall not be held responsible or liable for any claims, objections, or liabilities arising in respect thereof.
Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)
Contact No.: 011-41830049
E-mail address: ahojagmail@gmail.com

Israel strikes on Tehran issues ominous warning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Khan Dubai

Israel appeared to be expanding its air campaign on Tehran five days after its surprise attack on Iran's military and nuclear programme, as US President Donald Trump posted an ominous message warning residents of the capital to evacuate.

IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON, Trump wrote Monday night before returning to Washington early from a Group of Seven summit in Canada. Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran! he added.

Trump later denied he had rushed back to work on a ceasefire, telling reporters on Air Force One during the flight back to Washington: I'm not looking at a ceasefire. We're looking at better than a ceasefire.

Asked why he had urged for the evacuation of Tehran, he said: I just want people to be safe.

Earlier, the Israeli military had called for some 330,000 residents of a neighborhood in downtown Tehran to evacuate.

Tehran is one of the largest cities in the Middle East, with around 10 million people, roughly equivalent to the entire population of

Israel. People have been fleeing since the hostilities began. Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile programme is necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people in Iran and wounded 1,277 since Friday.

Iran has retaliated by launching more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 wounded. The Israeli military said a new barrage of missiles was launched on Tuesday, and explosions could be heard in northern Israel.

Shops closed, lines for gas in Iran's capital

Downtown Tehran appeared to be emptying out early Tuesday, with many shops closed.

The ancient Grand Bazaar was also closed, something that only happened in the past during anti-Government demonstrations or at the height of the corona virus pandemic.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My, Wife Smt. Stuti Nanolia, R/O. Hasanpur, Samtipur, Bihar-84820, had purchased flat no-07-1002, Project Eco Village - 3, in the housing scheme, named SUPERTECH ECO VILLAGE-3, situated at Plot No- GH-06, Sector -16B, Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, (U.P.)-201303. After her death, I requested to M/s. Supertech Limited to transfer the said flat to my name alone, if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact M/s. Supertech Limited office, SuperTech E-Square, Plot No C2, Sector-58, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India 201303 within 15 days of the Published notice. Ashish Kumar S/o. Sh. Arun Kumar Drolia, R/o. Hasanpur, Samtipur, Bihar-848205.
DIWAKAR JHA (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
My son Sh. Anurag Mishra S/o Sh. Poon Chandra Mishra, had purchased flat no-003, Lower B4, Project Eco Village-2, Situated at GH-01, Sector-16 B, Greater Noida-201301. After his death, I requested to M/s. Supertech Limited to transfer the said flat to my name alone, if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact M/s. Supertech Limited office at SuperTech E-Square, Plot No C2, Sector 96, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India 201303 within 15 days of the published notice. Sudha Mishra W/o. Sh. P. C. Mishra R/o. 127, God Shepherd Colony, Kolar Road Huzar, Kolar Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462049.
DIWAKAR JHA (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the following original documents belonging to my client Mrs. Meera Mahotra have been lost/misplaced: Sale Deed dated 27-4-2005 vide vaskia no. 1934 regd at Gurgaon for property bearing plot no. 939 advertisement 250yds situated at Saraswati Nagar, Village Wazirabad Tehsil Gurgaon. Any person or institution in possession of these documents or who has knowledge of their whereabouts is requested to immediately contact Adar. Avhijit Patro (No. D/204/2002), T301, BPTT PF-1, Sector 77 Faridabad or call on 8800903978 within 15 days from the date of this notice. Furthermore, any individual or entity dealing with these documents without the express permission of my Client will be deemed as at their own risk and peril.
Avhijit Patro (Advocates & Consultants)
D/204/2002, Office: T-301, BPTT PF-1, Sector-77, Faridabad, Haryana. Ph: 8800903978

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Rosemary Apartment C.G.H.S. Ltd. H.No. W-551/A, Top Floor, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi-34. In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that the following members of The Rosemary Apartment Co-Op G.H.S. Ltd. have resigned from their membership. The names of the resigned members are as follows: 1. Devendra Gupta (M. No.206) 2. Ms. Rajni Kumar (M. No.161) 3. Ms. Manjeet Kaur (M. No.204) 4. Sh. Aditya Aggarwal (M. No.218) 5. Ms. Shruti Rai Gupta (M. No.219) 6. Sh. Naman Rai Gupta (M. No.224) 7. Ananta Wali (M. No.230) 8. Sh. Pawan Kumar Sharma (M. No.123) and 9. Ms. Rupali Diwan (M. No.199). Any person having any objection to the resignation of the above mentioned members may file their objections in writing at the office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), Parliament Street, New Delhi or at the office of the society at H.No. W-551/A, Top Floor, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi-34 within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. sdi-
President-Rosemary Apartment CGHS Ltd.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location:- 30-Elect-10-T-2025-26-E3. Electrical work regarding provision of Centralized control and command center (C-4) at BRSD Railway Station.
Approx cost of the works in:- Rs. 8966875.00
Address of the office:- Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money:- Rs. 179300.00
Last Date & time of submission of tender:- 10.07.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:- 10.07.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board:- www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1802/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ravinder Kumar Mittal (Mob No.7206653409) s/o Mahabir Prasad Mittal r/o 1981-B, Sec-17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, had instructed me to give a legal Public Notice as under:- 1. That said Ravinder Kumar Mittal is having every legal interest in the Shri Balaji Educational & Charitable Trust (Registration No.3689 of 2007-2008) which is irrevocable Public Charitable Trust & Shri Balaji Polytechnic, which owned & possessed a building & land measuring 48Kanal 2 Marlas bearing Chukri No.379/354, 94/82, Khelauli No.430, 113, Khassa No. 107, 108, 110, 111, 114/1, 114/2, 115, HB No.45 situated at Rubia Road, Radour, Distt Yamuna Nagar(R/O) & other properties approx more than Eighty (80) Crore of Rupees. 2. That there are serious litigations pertaining to the said Trust, college & its properties pending in the courts at Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, bearing No.CS451/1/2012-2013 & CS46/2012-2013 filed for dated 02.08.2025 & one CR498/2021 is pending before the Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh & an FIR No.0144 dt. 14.06.2024, PS: Radour, District Yamuna Nagar under various sections of IPC is also lodged by the order of JMJC, Jagadhri which is under investigation. My client Ravinder Kumar Mittal has come to know that some persons with mala fide & dishonest intentions & by committing the acts of forgery, cheating etc. & by misrepresenting the facts & by adopting the illegal means are going to alienate & disposing off the movable & immovable properties as detailed above and they are illegaly doing the secret negotiations in this regard and through this Public Notice, I hereby intimate on behalf of my client Ravinder Kumar Mittal to the General Public that kindly not to do or participate in any such illegal dealings regarding the movable & immovable properties of the said trust in any manner whatsoever by amending & changing the trust deed & its constitution by adding oneself as a member of the said trust and not to indulge in purchasing, selling, gifting, lease, mortgage, by merger and amalgamation or transferring any manner whatsoever of the movable & immovable properties of the said trust & of any person, class of persons, any other trust or any other institutions do any illegal transactions of dealing regarding the said trust & college and its said properties nor he/she shall be liable & face the consequences. Civil & Criminal actions/directions as per law.
MAYANK BHARDWAJ, Advocate
District Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Shobhit S/o Satish Chandra Srivastava R/o H-707, Supertech Icon, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shobhit Srivastava for all future purposes.
PD(2270)A
I, Shikha W/o Shobhit Srivastava R/o H-707, Supertech Icon, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shikha Srivastava for all future purposes.
PD(2271)A
I, POOJA RAO alias KAVITA RAO, D/o Sh. Mafat Lal Rao residing at H.No. C-63/B, Near Durga Pur Mandir, Janta Garden, Pandav Nagar, Shamas Pur, Delhi-110091, have changed my name from POOJA RAO to KAVITA RAO and shall henceforth be known as KAVITA RAO for all purposes.
PD(2272)A
I, Manju W/o Mukteshwar K - 381 Jahangirpur, Delhi-110033, I have changed my name to Nankana urf Manju permanently. That Manju and Nankana urf manju is same Person.
PD(2273)A

REGD A/D/ DASTI/AFFIXATION/BEAT OF DRUM
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI,
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI - 110001
SALE PROCLAMATION
AXIS BANK VS. URMILA THAPLYAL
PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 38, 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT,1993.
CD1) URMILA THAPLYAL, 988, GALI NO. 2, NEAR RAJ MANSAR RAM SCHOOL, KAPASHERA, NEW DELHI - 110037, ALSO AT: ROYAL SUNDARAM ALLIANCE, RIDGE HOUSE, PLOT NO. 136, SEC - 44, GURUGRAM - 122008, HARYANA
(CD2) TARUN THAPLYAL, 508, GALI NO. 2, NEAR RAJ MANSAR RAM SCHOOL, KAPASHERA, NEW DELHI - 110037 ALSO AT: DIRECT DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, NEW DELHI, DIRECT DOORDARSHAN BHAWAN PERCINUS MARG, NEW DELHI - 110001
(CD3) COSMOS INFRA ENGINEERING (INDIA) LIMITED, RISHI APARTMENT, 4 BATTERY LANE, RAJPURO ROAD, CIVIL LINES, DELHI - 110054, ALSO AT: 314 & 316, ANSAL CHAMBERS - II, BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110066
1. Whereas Transfer Recovery Certificate No. 1/21/2023 in OA No. 691 of 2015 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 17,13,030.00, together with costs and future interest @ 12.00% p. a., from the date of filing of OA I-3.10.2015 till its realization and also to pay cost as per the Certificate debtors together with costs and charges as per recovery certificate.
2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the property mentioned in the Schedule before the sale certificate.
3. And whereas there will be due to the undersigned a sum of Rs. 17,13,030.00, together with costs and future interest @ 12.00% p. a., from the date of filing of OA I-3.10.2015 till its realization and also to pay cost. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the property/properties as under shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "On line Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> on 01/08/2025 between 12.00 pm and 01.00 pm with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 01.00 pm, if required.
4. The description of the property proposed to be e-auctioned is as follows:

S. No.	Description of property	Reserve Price	EMD
1.	PROPERTY BEARING FLAT NO. 306, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK NO. 23, PALM APARTMENT, COSMOS GREEN, BHIWADI, RAJASTHAN - 310019	Rs. 19,00 LAKHS	Rs. 1,90 LAKHS

5. The EMD shall be paid through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi- A/c T. R. C. No. 121/2023 along with self-attested copy of Identity V-card/Driving/License/passport which should contain the address for future communication and self-attested copy of PAN Card must reach to the Office of the Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi latest by 30/07/2025 before 5.00 PM. The EMD received thereafter shall not be considered. The said deposit be adjusted in the case of successful bidders. The unsuccessful bidder shall take return of the EMD directly from the Registry, DRT-I, Delhi after receipt of such report from e-auction service provider/bank/financial institution on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. The envelope containing EMD should be super-scribed "T. R. C. No. 121/2023" along with the details of the sender i.e. address, e-mail ID and Mobile Number etc.
7. Intending bidders shall hold a valid Login ID and Password to participate in the E-Auction email address and PAN Number. For details with regard to Login ID & Password, please contact M/s C 1 INDIA PVT. LTD Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Building No. 301, Gurugram, Haryana (India) Tel. 91 7291981124/25/26, 9948182222, E-MAIL : andhra@c1india.com, support@bankauctions.com, WEBSITE <https://www.bankauctions.com>.
8. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain user ID/password well in advance, which is mandatory for bidding in above e-auction, from M/s C 1 INDIA PVT. LTD
9. Details of concerned bank officers/Helpline numbers etc. are as under:-

Name & Designation	Email & Phone Nos.
Ms. POONA (DEPUTY MANAGER)	Email: poonm21@axisbank.com

10. What is proposed to be sold are the rights to which the certificate debtors are entitled in respect of the properties. The properties will be sold along with liabilities, if any. The extent of the properties shown in the proclamation is as per the Recovery Certificate schedule. Recovery Officer shall not be responsible for any variation in the extent due to any reason. The properties will be sold on 'as is where is' and 'as is what is condition'.
11. The property can be inspected by prospective bidder(s) before the date of sale for which the above named officer of the bank may be contacted
12. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.
13. EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be received by such bidders from the Registry of DRT-I, on identification/production of Identity proof viz., PAN Card, Passport, Voter's ID, Valid Driving License or Photo Identity Card issued by Govt. and PSUs. Unsuccessful bidders shall ensure return of their EMD and, if not received within a reasonable time, immediately contact the Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi for the Bank
14. The sale will be of the property of the above named CDs as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities & claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule attached each lot.
15. The property will be put up for the sale in the lots specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.
16. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.
17. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions: The particulars specified in Annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.
18. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be in multiple of Rs. 50,000 (Rs. Fifty Thousand only). In the event of any dispute arising as to amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
19. The Successful/Highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid by him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
20. Successful highest bidder shall have to prepare DD/Pay order for 25% of the sale proceeds favouring Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi, A/c T. R. C. No. 121/2023 within 24 hours after close of e-auction and after adjusting the earnest money (EMD) and sending/depositing the same in the office of the Recovery Officer so as to reach within 3 days from the close of e-auction failing which the earnest money (EMD) shall be forfeited.
21. The Successful/Highest Bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favouring Recovery Officer DRT-I, Delhi A/c T. R. C. 121/2023, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer, DRT-I on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-I Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer (as above).
22. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after deducting the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Lot No.	Description of the property to be sold with the names of the co-owners where the property belongs to the defaulter and any other person as co-owners.	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
1.	PROPERTY BEARING FLAT NO. 306, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK NO. 23, PALM APARTMENT, COSMOS GREEN, BHIWADI, RAJASTHAN - 310019		No Information received	

Given under my hand and seal on 03.06.2025.

NIRANJAN SHARMA
Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1, Delhi.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGER!

ADDITIONAL SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run Additional Summer Special Trains between Haridwar-Delhi Jn.-Haridwar and Haridwar-Lucknow-Haridwar as per schedule given below:-

04328/04327 Haridwar-Delhi Jn.-Haridwar						06
Summer Reserved Special Exp. Train (Daily)						Trips
Train No. 04328	STATIONS				Train No. 04327	
ARR.	DEP.	↓		↑	ARR.	DEP.
---	15:45	Haridwar			04:50	----
16:25	16:27	Roorkee			03:35	03:37
17:13	17:15	Tapri Jn.			02:50	02:52
17:55	17:57	Muzaffarnagar			02:00	02:02
18:35	18:37	Meerut City Jn.			01:15	01:17
18:52	18:54	Modinagar			00:30	00:32
19:50	19:52	Ghaziabad			00:02	00:04
20:14	20:16	Delhi Shahdara			23:15	23:17
20:45	---	Delhi Jn.			---	23:00

Days of Run : 04328 Ex. Haridwar and 04327 Ex. Delhi Jn. from 18.06.2025 to 20.06.2025 (Daily)
Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04330/04329 Haridwar-Lucknow-Haridwar						04
Summer Reserved Special Express Train						Trips
Train No. 04330	STATIONS				Train No. 04329	
ARR.	DEP.	↓		↑	ARR.	DEP.
---	22:45	Haridwar			20:20	---
23:18	23:20	Laksar Jn.			19:18	19:20
00:05	00:07	Najibabad Jn.			18:30	18:32
00:35	00:37	Nagina			18:05	18:07
01:05	01:07	Dhampur			17:43	17:45
01:28	01:30	Seohara			17:26	17:28
02:30	02:32	Kanth			17:10	17:12
03:32	03:40	Moradabad			16:30	16:40
04:06	04:08	Rampur			15:00	15:02
05:03	05:05	Bareilly			14:00	14:02
06:14	06:16	Shahjehanpur			13:00	13:02
07:14	07:16	Hardoi			12:55	12:57
07:46	07:48	Balamau Jn.			12:25	12:27
08:08	08:10	Sandila			12:00	12:02
09:25	---	Lucknow			---	11:30

Days of Run : 04330 Ex. Haridwar and 04329 Ex. Lucknow on 18.06.2025 & 20.06.2025 and 04329 Ex. Lucknow on 19.06.2025 & 21.06.2025
Accommodation : Sleeper & General

For any kind of information and detailed time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client (i.e. Ravinder Kumar Mittal) s/o Mahabir Prasad Mittal r/o 1981-B, Sec-17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, had instructed me to give a legal Public Notice as under:- 1. That said Ravinder Kumar Mittal is having every legal interest in the Shri Balaji Educational & Charitable Trust (Registration No.3689 of 2007-2008) which is irrevocable Public Charitable Trust & Shri Balaji Polytechnic, which owned & possessed a building & land measuring 48Kanal 2 Marlas bearing Chukri No.379/354, 94/82, Khelauli No.430, 113, Khassa No. 107, 108, 110, 111, 114/1, 114/2, 115, HB No.45 situated at Rubia Road, Radour, Distt Yamuna Nagar(R/O) & other properties approx more than Eighty (80) Crore of Rupees. 2. That there are serious litigations pertaining to the said Trust, college & its properties pending in the courts at Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, bearing No.CS451/1/2012-2013 & CS46/2012-2013 filed for dated 02.08.2025 & one CR498/2021 is pending before the Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh & an FIR No.0144 dt. 14.06.2024, PS: Radour, District Yamuna Nagar under various sections of IPC is also lodged by the order of JMJC, Jagadhri which is under investigation. My client Ravinder Kumar Mittal has come to know that some persons with mala fide & dishonest intentions & by committing the acts of forgery, cheating etc. & by misrepresenting the facts & by adopting the illegal means are going to alienate & disposing off the movable & immovable properties as detailed above and they are illegaly doing the secret negotiations in this regard and through this Public Notice, I hereby intimate on behalf of my client Ravinder Kumar Mittal to the General Public that kindly not to do or participate in any such illegal dealings regarding the movable & immovable properties of the said trust in any manner whatsoever by amending & changing the trust deed & its constitution by adding oneself as a member of the said trust and not to indulge in purchasing, selling, gifting, lease, mortgage, by merger and amalgamation or transferring any manner whatsoever of the movable & immovable properties of the said trust & of any person, class of persons, any other trust or any other institutions do any illegal transactions of dealing regarding the said trust & college and its said properties nor he/she shall be liable & face the consequences. Civil & Criminal actions/directions as per law.
MAYANK BHARDWAJ, Advocate
District Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my Client Shri Dhanraj Pal Dignyal son of Late Nopam Dignyal resident of B-580,

Despite Dushanbe being located 700 metres above sea level, the weather is hot at this time of the year, soaring to almost 40 degrees during the day.

