

STAMPEDE AT PURI RATH YATRA KILLS 3

Another 50 injured; Odisha CM tenders apology

PTI, PURI: Three persons, including two women, were killed and over 50 others injured in a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple in Odisha's Puri early Sunday during a ceremony related to the ongoing Rath Yatra festivities, officials said.

The incident took place around 4.20 am when thousands of devotees had gathered near the chariots parked in front of the temple, they said. The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital where the condition of six people is stated to be critical.

The Gundicha Temple, located around 3km from the more well known shrine, is the aunt's house of Lord Jagannath and his siblings Subhadra and Balabhadra.

During Rath Yatra, the deities visit their aunt's home, stay there for seven days, and then return to their main abode — the Jagannath Temple.

According to police, chaos ensued after two trucks carrying materials for rituals reportedly entered the crowded spot near the chariots of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities.

"Thousands of devotees



Family members of a victim mourn at a hospital after a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple, in Puri, Odisha, on Sunday

had assembled outside the temple since the early hours to catch a glimpse of the deities when the 'Pa-huda' (cloth) covering the front portion of the chariots was to be removed, as part of the rituals, the officials said.

The deceased were identified as Basanti Sahu (36) from Bolagarh, and Premakant Mohanty (80) and Pravat Das (42) from Balapatna.

Their bodies have been

handed over to family members.

Following the stampede, Chief Minister Mohan Ma-jhi ordered the transfer of District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain and SP Vineet Agrawal.

He also suspended two police officers, DCP Bishnu Pati and Commandant Ajay Padhi, an official release said.

The CM ordered an administrative inquiry into the matter to be carried

out under the supervision of the development commissioner.

In another order, senior bureaucrat Saswata Mishra was appointed principal secretary to the CM in addition to his current responsibilities. The 1996-batch IAS officer is presently posted as principal secretary in finance department with additional charge of chairman, IDCO.

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FROM PRAYAGRAJ TO PURI: DEADLY STAMPEDES CONTINUE TO HAUNT INDIA

STAMPEDES IN 2025

JANUARY 29 - Maha Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj, UP

Casualties: 30+ dead, 60+ injured

Cause: Overcrowding during the holy Mauni Amavasya dip

MAY 3 - Lairai Devi Jatra, Shirgao, Goa

Casualties: 6 dead, 50+ injured

Cause: Commotion during annual temple procession

JUNE 4 - RCB victory celebration, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Casualties: 11 dead

Cause: Sudden crowd surge outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium during IPL celebrations

JUNE 29 - Rath Yatra, Puri, Odisha

Casualties: 3 dead

Cause: Overcrowding at Gundicha Temple during early morning rituals

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Formalin check a mere formality in Fatorda fish market

Fears reignite over chemical-laced fish

Team Herald

MARGAO: Is the fish on your plate safe and formalin-free? Fish lovers and vendors at the wholesale fish market in Fatorda aren't so sure. Concerns are mounting over the lack of rigorous formalin checks — an issue that had once drawn widespread attention across Goa.

An officer from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has admitted that there is currently no permanent FDA team stationed at the wholesale market to test the incoming fish stock.

What was once a robust operation involving 8 to 10 FDA officials — equipped with formalin-testing kits and enforcing strict checks — has now dwindled to a skeletal presence. These days, only 3 to 4 officials are occasionally seen at the market, and according to sources, their role amounts to little more than a formality.

Speaking to O Herald, local fish vendor Remedios Fernandes voiced his frustration: "Earlier, we



Earlier, we used to see teams actively checking every consignment. Now, it's just for show. The buyers trust us, but the authorities need to ensure that the fish is tested and safe." — Remedios Fernandes, local fish vendor

There was a time when we felt confident about the fish we were eating because of the visible FDA checks. Now it's uncertain again. We want the full mechanism in place, not half measures — Cedrick Pereira, a regular buyer at the market

Currently, there are no FDA personnel conducting routine tests on fish at the wholesale market. We visit the site and conduct tests only when requested or in response to a complaint — Sanjyot Kudalkar, an FDA officer

used to see teams actively checking every consignment. Now, it's just for show. The buyers trust us, but the authorities need to ensure that the fish is tested and safe."

Adding to the concerns is a growing trend: fish-laden vehicles are increasingly avoiding the South Goa Planning and

Development Authority (SGPDA) market premises altogether. Instead, they sell directly to local vendors, bypassing quality checks. This practice not only undermines the formalin-testing process but also poses a potential risk to public health.

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Fadnavis govt blinks, scraps orders on 3-language policy in schools

PTI, MUMBAI: Facing mounting opposition to the introduction of Hindi language in Maharashtra schools from classes 1 to 5, the state cabinet on Sunday decided to withdraw two GRs (government orders) on the implementation of the three-language policy.

Immediately after the announcement, the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) said the protest march planned on July 5 against the GRs has been cancelled.

However, Uddhav Thackeray said that a programme will take place on July 5 to celebrate the "unity of the Marathi manooos".

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the GRs have been withdrawn, and announced the formation of a committee headed by educationist Narendra Jadhav to suggest the way forward on the language policy.

"Why was the government so adamant about the Hindi language and who exactly was pressuring the government for this remains a mystery," Raj Thackeray said on X.

"Do not create confusion with the (Jadhav) committee's report again, otherwise the government should note that this committee will not be allowed to function in Maharashtra," he said.

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EVERY DAY IS YOGA DAY



Gunjan Sharma, an expert in martial arts, mallakhamb and yoga, practises asanas at Miramar beach on Sunday morning. A native of Bhagalpur, Bihar, he is currently visiting Goa but is unsure how long he will stay in the State or where his journey will take him next

7 days on, Chorao ferry remains submerged

Daily transport disrupted; frustration mounts among locals

Team Herald

PANJIM: Seven days after the ferry named Betim, stationed at the Chorao Island ramp, partially submerged last Monday, it remains underwater. The incident has disrupted daily transportation for residents and commuters, fueling concerns over how long the vessel will stay submerged and what condition it will be in once salvaged.

Authorities have assured that normal ferry services will resume as soon as the vessel is removed and the route is cleared.

River Navigation Department (RND) Minister Subhash Phal Desai told reporters on Saturday, "One attempt was made to salvage the boat, but it was unsuccessful. Further efforts are underway to retrieve it from the water as soon as possible. The boat will be salvaged — it will not go to waste. It will be recovered intact."

Speaking to O Herald, Vikram-sinh N Raje Bhosale, Director of the River and Navigation Department,



The ill-fated ferry, Betim, still lies submerged at Chorao ramp

added, "Our efforts are underway to take the boat out of water. Today we tried but could not succeed. The boat could not be lifted. We have tied a pantoon to the ferry boat. We hope that by tomorrow it will be lifted."

In the aftermath, the opposition Congress party has sharply criticised the BJP-led State government, calling the incident a case of "criminal negligence". A party spokesperson demanded the immediate dismissal of the Captain of Ports and an independent judicial inquiry.

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KOLKATA GANGRAPE Got to know about the rape through media: College VP

AGENCY, KOLKATA: The Vice Principal of South Calcutta Law College, where the alleged gangrape happened on June 25, stated that the college administration first learned about the incident through media reports.

Nayana Chatterjee said that the police did not initially inform her or the staff about the case, merely stating they were on official duty.

According to Chatterjee, police requested permission to enter the college premises on Thursday, a day after a 24-year-old woman was allegedly raped by two senior students and an alumnus in the guard's room.

She added that officers described their visit as "confidential" and specifically instructed her not to alert the security guard.

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3 die in 32-hour Indore traffic jam

Gridlock persists even as officials scramble for solutions

AGENCY, INDORE: The massive traffic jam on the Indore-Dewas highway, which claimed three lives over a 32-hour period earlier this week, continued to cause misery for thousands of commuters on Saturday despite efforts by the administration and police to clear the gridlock.

The jam, initially stretching nearly eight kilometres between Dakachya and Arjun Baroda from Thursday evening, was caused by ongoing highway construction and severe water-logging following heavy rain. With traffic diverted onto narrow, muddy ser-

vice lanes, chaos ensued as more than 4,000 vehicles were stranded for hours.

Three people died during the jam: Sandeep Patel (32), who suffered a heart attack while being taken to hospital; Kamal Panchal (62), who collapsed after complaining of chest pain; and Balram Patel (55), a cancer patient being transported to Indore.

Following criticism from the opposition, District Collector Asheesh Singh held high-level meetings directing officials to coordinate and reduce congestion.

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A-I crash: Sabotage not ruled out, says minister

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is examining the black boxes of the ill-fated Air India Boeing 787-8 that crashed on June 12 from all angles, including 'sabotage', Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol.

Extraction and analysis of data from the black boxes is being carried out in the new state-of-the-art laboratory in Delhi, Mohol said. "It (the plane crash) was an unfortunate incident. The AAIB has begun a full investigation into it," he said.

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MAX. TEMP 32.0 °C
MIN. TEMP 29.5 °C

idharudhar



Mayday!... Even flights in my dreams aren't safe anymore!