



# Over 240 Killed

- o Air India flight crashes in Ahmedabad minutes after takeoff
- o 230 passengers and 12 crew members on the flight
- o Of 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and 1 Canadian



**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** A London-bound Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed in a crowded residential area minutes after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport on June 12. Many people were feared

killed. More than 200 people have died after the plane crashed, Kanan Desai, a top city police officer, told Reuters. Ahmedabad's city police commissioner told AP that there do not appear to have been any

survivors from the plane that crashed, and that there are likely also casualties from the area of the city where it went down.

The pilot of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner issued a "Mayday" distress call, denoting a full emergency, soon after takeoff, the Air Traffic Control at Ahmedabad said. In a video recorded by a resident, the twin-engine wide-bodied aircraft could be seen losing altitude rapidly and crashing in a ball of fire that sent plumes of thick black smoke spiralling up in the air. Former Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP leader Vijay Rupani was reported to be among the 230 passengers and 12 crew members on the doomed flight from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick airport. According to Air India, of the 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The aircraft crashed near the residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff of the City Civil Hospital and B.J. Medical College in Meghaninagar near the city's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. "The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST (0809 UTC) from Runway 23. It gave a MAYDAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," according to a statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Following the crash, aviation attorney Robert A. Clifford publicly said: "Review of available video and eyewitness information indicate some form of power or flight control loss. The Indian government investigators should have flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder information within a couple of days that will provide vital information to try to get to the bottom of this deadly tragedy." Visuals from the wreckage area showed charred bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city's civil hospital close by. This is India's biggest air disaster since 2020, when an Air India Express flight skidded off a wet runway while

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## PM Modi grieves

"The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X. "In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he added. Modi also spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, asking them to go to Ahmedabad and ensure all possible assistance to those affected in the tragedy, sources said.

## AAIB to probe

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will probe the plane crash, according to an official. AAIB Director General and Director of Investigation at the agency, among others, will be leaving for Ahmedabad, the official said. Under the Civil Aviation Ministry, the AAIB is responsible for classifying safety occurrences involving aircraft operating in Indian airspace as either accidents or serious incidents. It carries out detailed investigations into accidents and also suggests measures to improve safety.

## Civil Aviation Minister

### expresses shock

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu expressed shock at the plane crash and said he was personally monitoring the situation. "We are on highest alert. I am personally monitoring the situation and have directed all aviation and emergency response agencies to take swift and coordinated action. Rescue teams have been mobilised and all efforts are being made to ensure medical aid and relief support are being rushed to the site," he said in a post on X in the afternoon.

### One survivor found, under treatment

A survivor has been traced from the wreckage of the Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Among the devastation, Biswas Kumar Ramesh, 38, who was seated in 11A was found conscious and responsive by rescue teams and rushed to a hospital. A now-viral video shows him limping away from the rubble, covered in soot, clutching his side as medics assisted him. Authorities

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## World's worst air crashes

### 2025: UNITED STATES

More than 60 people were killed when an American Airlines regional passenger jet collided with a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter on January 29 and crashed into the frigid Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

### 2024: SOUTH KOREA

Jeju Air international flight 7C2216 crashed at Muan International Airport on Dec. 29, 2024, killing all 175 passengers and four of the six crew in the deadliest air disaster on South Korean soil.

### 2024: KAZAKHSTAN

Azerbaijan Airlines international flight J2-8243, an Embraer E190, crashed on December 25 after being diverted from Russia to Kazakhstan, killing 38 people. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in December that the plane had been damaged by accidental shooting from the ground in Russia. Moscow has not confirmed this.

### 2024: JAPAN

A Japan Airlines (JAL) plane collided with a smaller Coast Guard aircraft on the runway of Tokyo's Haneda airport on January 2. All 379 people aboard the JAL plane, an Airbus A350-941 flight, escaped the burning airliner. Five of six crew on the smaller aircraft were killed.

### 2022: CHINA

A China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 crashed into a mountainous region in the southwestern Guangxi region on March 21, 2022, killing all 132 people on board, in China's deadliest aviation disaster in 28 years.

### 2020: IRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down a Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) Boeing 737-800 on Jan. 8, 2020, shortly after it took off from Tehran Airport, killing all 176 people on board. Iran's civil aviation body blamed a misaligned radar and an error by an air defence operator.

### 2019: ETHIOPIA

A Boeing 737-MAX 8 Ethiopian Airlines jet crashed on March 19, 2019, minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa for Nairobi, killing all 157 people on board.

### 2018: INDONESIA

A Boeing 737 MAX Lion Air plane crashed into the Java Sea soon after taking off from Jakarta on October 29, 2018, killing all 189 people on board.

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## Mohan, Naveen call tragedy heartbreaking



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said he was saddened by a plane crash near Ahmedabad airport and prayed for the families affected in the tragedy. "I am deeply saddened by the tragic incident involving the Air India Ahmedabad-London flight. My thoughts and prayers are with all the passengers, crew members, and their families during this difficult time. I earnestly pray to Lord Shri Jagannath for the safety and swift recovery of everyone affected," the Chief Minister said. Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Odisha Assembly and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik also expressed grief over the plane crash. Taking to X, Patnaik said, "Deeply anguished to learn about the disastrous crash of #Ahmedabad- London Air India flight with hundreds of people onboard. My thoughts and prayers are with the families deeply affected in the tragic #planecrash."

## What is a 'Mayday' call?

**New Delhi, (HS) :** A Mayday call is an internationally recognised distress signal used primarily in aviation and maritime communication to indicate a life-threatening emergency. The term comes from the French phrase "m'aider", which means "help me". It was first introduced in the 1920s and is now a standard protocol globally. The call is always said three times in a row, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday", to ensure it is clearly understood, especially over noisy or poor-quality radio transmissions. The Mayday call is issued by the person in command of a vehicle or vessel, usually a pilot or a ship's captain when they are facing a severe emergency. This can include situations like engine failure, onboard fire, loss of control, or any scenario that threatens the safety of the aircraft or ship and everyone on board. In aviation, the pilot communicates the Mayday call to Air Traffic Control (ATC) over the radio. In rare cases, a Mayday can also be relayed by another nearby aircraft or ship if the original caller has lost communication. Once a Mayday is declared, all radio traffic on that frequency is cleared. The person in distress shares their location, nature of emergency, and other key details. ATC or emergency services then take over with rescue coordination.



## No chance to save anyone, says Amit Shah



**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** Union Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that the temperature in the Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad was so high due to burning fuel that there was no chance to save anyone. "There was 1.25 lakh litre of fuel inside the plane and it caught heat so it was impossible to save anyone," Shah told reporters. The entire nation is in deep shock following the tragedy, he told reporters.

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## Western Railway runs special trains

**Mumbai, (HS) :** Western Railway said it would run two trips each of two special superfast trains for the convenience of people in connection with Thursday's plane crash in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city. As per Western Railway's release, 09494/09493 Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Superfast Special will depart from Ahmedabad at 11.55 pm on Thursday and reach Mumbai Central at 08:10 am on Friday.



The train will depart from Mumbai Central on Friday at 11.10 am and reach Ahmedabad on the same day at 7.30 pm. This special train comprises AC 3-tier and AC chair car class coaches, and it will halt at Anand, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Vapi, and Borivali stations in both directions, the release added. "The 09497 / 09498 Ahmedabad-Delhi Junction will depart from Ahmedabad at 11:45 pm on

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## Manipur Crisis

Manipur has a long and complex history of insurgency rooted in issues of ethnic identity. Historical grievances have led to the formation of militant groups within both the Meitei and the Kuki communities, like the United National Liberation Front, the People's Liberation Army, the Kuki National Army and the Zomi Revolutionary Army. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland has a significant presence in northern Manipur. When ethnic violence erupted in May 2023, these networks of militancy were reactivated. The failure of the Centre and the state government to bring the situation under control has, in many areas, entrenched the hold of these groups. This was evident in the recent protests in Imphal over the arrest of a top leader of the Arambai Tenggol (AT) by the CBI. Asem Kanan Singh, the self-styled "army chief" of the AT, was picked up by security forces along with four other members of the outfit for involvement in "various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023". Originally framed as a "socio-religious" body - founded by BJP MP and titular king of Manipur Leishemba Sanajaoba - the AT now operates as an armed militia. Its proclivity for violence, extortion and intimidation is well documented. In what was a chilling demonstration of its power, the AT infamously "summoned" all the elected Meitei legislators in the state, including ministers, to a meeting at the Kangla Fort in January 2024. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had alleged back then that the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president, K Meghachandra, was assaulted in this meeting. The state government, led by N Biren Singh, was either unable or unwilling to crack down on this group. Manipur's descent into militia-fuelled politics underscores the urgent need for the state to reassert its authority. It must reclaim its role as the mediator between Meiteis and Kukis - a task that demands political leadership with credibility across ethnic lines.

Following Singh's resignation and the imposition of President's Rule in February, the Centre has attempted to stabilise the situation, even as some MLAs (none of them Kuki) push to restore a popular government. It must do more. The Centre must send an unequivocal message: Unlawful activities by groups like the AT will face zero tolerance. The threat is not one-sided. Around the same time as Asem Kanan Singh's arrest, the NIA arrested three Kuki insurgents accused of attacking a police post and killing two commandos in Moreh in January 2024. The state must convince all communities that peace and prosperity cannot be sacrificed at the altar of ethnic rivalry.

13th June

## World Softball Day



World Softball Day is celebrated each year on June 13 in cities across The United States. However, the day is not just about promoting softball, it is about promoting physical activity for good health. World Softball Day also nurtures the spirit of sportsmanship and social integration. The day inspires future generations of girls and boys to seek excellence and inspire empowerment from sports. This is a great day to go back to sports and encourage those around us, especially children, to pursue sports seriously. Softball has been a favorite among Americans and we hope it will continue to be so for many years to come.

World Softball Day has been celebrated every year on June 13 since its inception in 2005. The day celebrates softball, a sport that is played by approximately 30 million people around the world. Many suspect that softball is an easier version of baseball, one that is primarily enjoyed by children and women - that is not true. Softball was invented so that more people could enjoy a version of baseball indoors. This misconception along with the idea that softball is any easier than baseball is the two common misunderstandings that trouble the popular game.

The softball field is usually made of dirt or brick dust. However, the field may also be made of solid and dry surfaces such as artificial turf or asphalt. There are four bases on the infield - first base, second base, third base, and home plate. The bases are arranged in a square and are usually 60 feet apart. Near the center of this square is the pitcher's mound, and within the circle is a small flat rectangular piece of rubber that is kept no more than 50 feet from home plate, depending on the league the game is being played in. The object of the game is to score more runs than the opposing team by hitting the ball and running around the bases, touching each one in succession.

A game of softball usually has seven innings. Each inning is divided into a top half, in which the visiting team bats and tries to score runs, while the home team tries to record three outs. In the bottom half, the teams' roles are reversed. Some leagues may even play within a time limit instead of innings.

It is played in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day. The first game of softball outside the United States is played in Toronto, Canada. Softball begins to be played on a fastpitch. The game makes its debut at the Summer Olympics. Softball is a popular game in America. Games are organized on World Softball Day and you can attend one nearest to you. Cheer your favorite team and enjoy the festivities of the day.

## Odisha's Transformative Leap: A Year of "People's Governance"



Prabin Kumar Padhy

As Odisha marks its first anniversary under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, widely celebrated as the "People's CM," the state is undergoing a significant transformation, moving towards a future envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Purvoday" agenda. This past year has seen the BJP government, lay down a robust framework for a 'Viksit Odisha' that will serve as a crucial pillar of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The journey began swiftly on June 12, 2024, with the Majhi government's inaugural cabinet meeting. This session set a clear precedent for people-centric governance by approving four pivotal decisions: the 'Subhadra Yojana' for women's financial assistance, an additional ₹800 input subsidy on paddy, the opening of all four gates of the Puri Jagannath Temple, and the creation of a ₹500 crore corpus fund for the shrine's development. These immediate actions underscored a deep commitment to the welfare of farmers and women, alongside a profound respect for Odisha's cultural and spiritual heritage.

**Driving Force:** Union Synergy and Ground-Level Leadership: The rapid pace of development and reform is a testament not only to the state government's resolve but also to the synergistic efforts of its key leaders like Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan

and Dy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo among others including the single women Minister Dy CM Pravati Parida as the drivers of the Double Engine Govt in Odisha. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been a constant champion for Odisha's development on the national stage. His profound understanding of both central policies and the unique aspirations of Odisha has been instrumental in aligning the state's growth trajectory with the broader 'Viksit Bharat' mission. Pradhan has consistently advocated for increased central investment in Odisha under PM Modi's "Purvoday" vision. His focus on creating a future-ready workforce through initiatives like "Project ODISERV" and New Education Policy (NEP) are directly contributing to empowering Odisha's youth and enhancing their employability, his recent appreciation of the Odisha government's decision to provide 11.25% reservation for SEBC students further highlights his commitment to social justice and inclusive growth in the state. Complementing this, Deputy Chief Minister K.V. Singh Deo has been a hands-on leader, driving critical reforms and ensuring efficient governance at the state level well supporting the CM Majhi. Holding the crucial portfolios of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Energy, he has directly overseen initiatives aimed at uplifting the rural economy and promoting sustainable energy. His push for the speedy completion of irrigation projects like Upper Lanth and Lower Indra directly addresses the needs of the agricultural community, while his leadership in the energy sector, including targets for renewable energy and electric vehicle adoption, reflects the government's commitment to a greener, more self-reliant Odisha.

**Pillars of Progress:** Welfare, Accountability, and



**Long-Term Vision:** One of the most defining features of this initial year has been the aggressive drive against corruption. Chief Minister Majhi's unwavering stance, asserting that "none of the corrupt officials, from the level of a peon to an IAS officer, are safe," has significantly bolstered public confidence. This emphasis on transparency has demystified governance, with the "Third Floor" of power now perceived as directly engaging with citizens through the Chief Minister's extensive tours to all 30 districts, fostering a direct connection between the people and their government. In the agricultural sector, the government's commitment is evident in the record allocation of 37,838 crore under the "Samruddha Krushak Yojana." This historic investment, coupled with improved paddy procurement, is set to significantly boost farmer incomes. Empowering women has been another cornerstone, with Odisha proudly becoming the first state to create 1.7 million "Lakshpatididis," fostering financial independence and strengthening rural economies - a testament to the BJP's "Nari Shakti" ethos. Education has also received a much-needed push. The establishment of "Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamik Vidyalaya" in every panchayat,

alongside the implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) and the introduction of "Shishu Vatika" for early childhood education, are foundational steps towards revitalizing government schools and ensuring quality education for all children. Looking ahead, the Majhi government has set clear, ambitious goals. By 2026, it aims to provide piped drinking water to 90% of the state's population and housing to five lakh people under the "Antyodaya Gruha Yojana." The focus on employment generation is equally strong, with 28,000 government jobs already provided and a target of another 40,000 this year, demonstrating a commitment to addressing the aspirations of Odisha's youth.

**Forging a 'Viksit Odisha' for a 'Viksit Bharat':** These strides are not isolated but are deeply intertwined with Prime Minister Modi's "Purvoday" vision to transform Eastern India into a national growth engine. Odisha, with its strategic geographic location and rich natural resources, is poised to be a key player. The state government's "Mission 2036" aims to elevate Odisha into a \$500 billion economy and one of India's top five states by 2036. Further, "Mission 2047" envisions Odisha making a substantial contribution

to the grand dream of a "Viksit Bharat," showcasing the government's long-term foresight and unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, technological advancement, and environmental sustainability. As the new Government is getting ready for its first anniversary, CM Mohan Majhi has directed his ministerial team to visit two different districts apart from their own and oversee the progress of projects, resolve any issues with the help of local MP, MLAs and officials including department-wise reviews for speedy remedial and smooth coordination. While CM Mohan Majhi himself has reviewed the Kendrapara District activities, DyCM Singh Deo has completed the same in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur. All the ministers of Odisha have been assigned to hold press conferences at district level to highlight the achievements of the state government in 1 year and the 11 years of the Narendra Modi government at Centre.

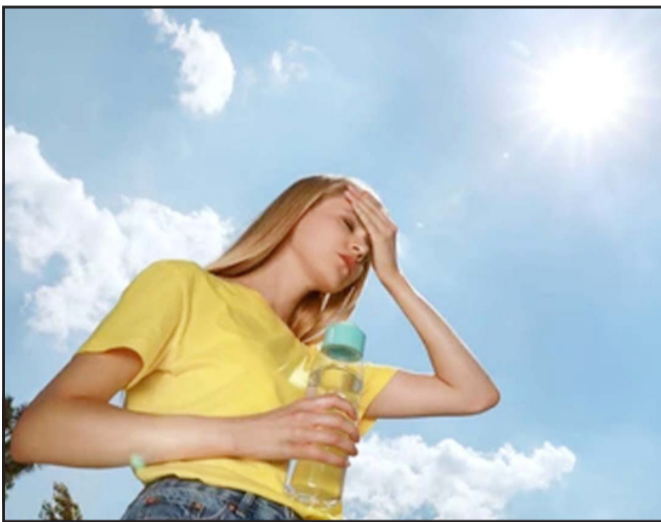
**Challenges and Aspirations: The Journey Ahead:** While challenges persist, including tackling residual issues of illegal mining and addressing concerns raised by the opposition regarding the pace of development in certain sectors, the initial year of the Mohan Majhi government in Odisha has undeniably demonstrated a strong will to deliver. With a focus on good governance, transparency, and people-centric policies, the "People's CM" and his team are actively shaping a "Viksit Odisha" that will indeed be a vibrant and integral part of a "Viksit Bharat." The momentum generated in this first year indicates a promising trajectory for the state, where aspirations are steadily transforming into tangible realities.

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## To Avoid Heat

Vijay Garg

At a time when mercury is bouncing from high heat in many parts of India, an unexpected increase in power demand is natural to avoid tapish. From the common man to the special man, it uses a lot of heat from cooler to AC to escape from heat heat. The use of AC in recent times to homes, offices, hotels and malls has wildly increased. Due to which power consumption reaches peak in summer peak season. At such times, the central government has identified air conditioners i.e. AC as a villain responsible for increasing power consumption. The central government is planning to standardize the cooling range of this device used between twenty degrees to twenty-eight degrees Celsius in homes, hotels and offices. AC manufacturers will be barred from creating ACs providing cooling at a temperature less than twenty degrees after new guidelines apply. This initiative of the Central Government is part of efforts to save power and meet India's growing energy needs, according to Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Not two opinions that people run their AC at a very low temperature to avoid the summer heat. The power of this trend increases the pressure on the grid very high. Surely the chances of power cut also increase very high due to this. But the lone main solution to this crisis is not to be driven AC at extremely low temperatures. Also have other factors. It is also a reality that AC is used indiscriminately for quite a long time in government and private



offices. Here also need to take steps towards its use. Undoubtedly, the Energy Regulatory Bureau of the Ministry of Energy, promotes the use of power consumption-reducing devices. But when the heat record breaking is increasing, the power consumption starts to rise essentially when the temperature rises. But the only reason for this is not the increasing use of AC. We need to ask ourselves questions why are our cities getting so hot? Why are we not able to relieve citizens from this rising temperature. The construction work happening in an indiscriminate-unscientific manner is also not less guilty in it. We made concrete forests all around but the scope of greenery in cities is constantly being reduced, thereby disrupting the natural flow of air as well. In the name of development which hundreds of year old trees are cut, it is not compensated by planting new trees. We are not adopting building technology that keeps houses cool naturally. People can also get relief from low power consumption if the

heat-resistant building material is promoted. Our lifestyle is constantly increasing power consumption. If the public transport system is promoted in our country, the use of private vehicles on the roads can reduce the heat-raising emissions of vehicles. We should promote the use of technology keeping roofs cool in building construction. Such materials or systems should be used that can reflect heat-boosting sunlight than conventional ceilings. With these measures we can also try to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. Also by increasing the greenery in urban areas and reviving traditional water bodies we can also try to reduce the temperature. The shared responsibility of the government and society can become a carrier of a major change. Local bodies, private sector entities and NGOs can play a decisive role.

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## The Key to Success

Badal Bhuyan

We look at successful people and marvel at their talents. We watch all-star basketball players win championship titles and talk about how gifted they are. People see great golfers win one tournament after another and think they were born with a special gift. We notice how artists turn out one masterpiece after another and wish we were born with such luck. When billionaires top the "richest person in the world" list we wonder at their gift at business. Little do we realize that anyone who has attained anything in life has put in a tremendous amount of effort to get where he or she is. Success is not a gift one is born with. Success lies in determination.

Few people see that the basketball player who wins all the championships is practicing on the court many hours daily, day after day, while others have to be forced by the coach just to show up on time for practice. Few see how a championship golfer practices hitting thousands of balls and does tedious drills day after day, year after year, to get to where he or she is. Few see how many hours the artist puts in to perfect his or her art. If we wish to attain our goal in the spiritual field, we must never give up. We have a long way to go from where we are now to attain divine knowledge. Although spiritual gifts are within us, closer to us than the veins in our body, we have to perfect the technique of finding them. Spiritual realization is so close yet so far due to our inability to still our mind, quiet our thoughts, and stay focused long enough to go within. We are hindered by millions of distractions that keep pulling



our attention outside instead of letting us go within. Meditation provides a way to perfect our ability to stay focused so we can find the inner treasures. Through meditation, we perfect our ability to increase our concentration. We learn patience and perseverance. These two qualities help us progress spiritually within and will also help us achieve success in the outer world. It takes practice. We will not achieve our goal if we give up. We must never give up. Each day, we can be one day closer to achieving our goal. We should not let any failure cause us to give up. If we do not succeed in meditation one day, we should not quit and stop meditating altogether. We should sit again the following time. If we do not succeed, we should sit again. Day by day, we will find that we will begin to improve, until finally we will achieve success.

In meditation, improvement is measured by the ability to keep our body and mind stilled and to keep our gaze focused in the field of darkness or light lying in front of us. We must continue to keep our attention focused without any distractions. Keep trying again and again. We should never give up. Then we will find that one day our goal will be achieved.

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BJP Govt's 1st Anniversary

Vikas Vahan campaign launched



**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched a state-wide awareness and outreach drive in the form of 'Vikas Vahan' on Thursday marking the completion of one year of his government. The Chief Minister flagged off the 'Vikas Vahans', the specially designed campaign vehicles, at Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Bhubaneswar.

Officials said these vans will travel across all 314 blocks, 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and 5 municipal corporations in the state conveying the success stories of the development schemes of the government. The primary objective of the initiative is to disseminate information about various government welfare schemes directly to the people, particularly those in remote and

unreached areas, sources said. According to sources, the Vikas Vahan will showcase the state government's achievements over the past year and raise public awareness about its various welfare programmes. Designed to move from panchayat to panchayat, the campaign vans aim to bridge the information gap and ensure grassroots-level engagement.

Each van will serve as a mobile awareness unit, equipped with audio-visual materials and personnel to interact with the public. Officials said the programme is part of the government's larger goal to promote transparency and citizen participation while celebrating the milestones achieved during the first year of the BJP-led administration

in Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted some of the major achievements and initiatives of the government, including Subhadra Yojana, 'Viksit Gaon Viksit Odisha', Antyodaya Gruha Yojana and several other schemes for the welfare of people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

The Vikas Vahan Yatra is a 10-day program that will run from June 12 to June 21, covering all 6,794 Gram Panchayat headquarters and urban local bodies across 314 blocks in Odisha. The campaign aims to reach out to eligible citizens who have yet to benefit from various welfare schemes, raise awareness about flagship programs, and gather feedback by engaging directly with beneficiaries.

Govt issues strict biometric attendance for employees

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Odisha government on Thursday issued a new order to ensure punctuality as the cornerstone of good governance, mandating timely attendance for all its employees, from junior staff to senior officials. The directive, issued by the General Administration & Public Grievance Department, aims to curb late arrivals and ensure accountability in government offices by introducing biometric systems. To enforce punctuality, the government has instructed all departments to install biometric attendance systems where not already in place and ensure their functionality.

These systems will be linked to the Biometric Attendance System Portal developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), with data analyzed fortnightly by a designated officer. As per the new office memorandum, the employees must record both "Office In" and "Office Out" times using biometric devices. Failure to record "Office Out" may be treated as absence for the day, the memorandum stated. Employees must arrive by the stipulated office hours, with specific timings outlined for roster-based staff by the respective Head of Office. A maximum delay of 30 minutes is allowed, condonable for up to three days in a month. Beyond this, every three days of late attendance will result in the



deduction of one day's Casual Leave. Employees working late hours or on public holidays for official duties may be exempted from penalties with approval from the appropriate authority. Employees are required to be present for at least 7.5 hours per working day, except on days with notified morning-hour schedules, it added. No penalties will apply for non-recording of attendance due to official tours or work outside the office, as approved by the competent authority. The staff in the Secretariat of the Governor, and offices of the Chief Minister and Ministers are exempt from these rules, the memorandum stated.

3 child labourers rescued

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a coordinated rescue operation carried out on Thursday afternoon, three child labourers were rescued from two separate locations in Bhubaneswar by a joint team comprising members of the Ruchika Social Welfare Organization's Access to Justice project, Childline, and Commissionerate Police.

According to officials, a 16-year-old boy was rescued from a garage in the Mancheswar area, while two minors, aged 15 and 16, were found working at Sonali Mishtanna Bhandar in the Saheed Nagar locality. Preliminary investigation revealed that the child rescued from Mancheswar hails from Mayurbhanj district, while the other two are from Nayagarh district. All three minors were produced before the Additional Child Welfare Committee in Bhubaneswar.

Following the committee's directives, the children have been shifted to the Ruchika Open Shelter for further care and rehabilitation. The rescue operation involved key participation from Ruchika representatives Harapriya Pati, Ghanshyam Bhoi,

and Ajay Kumar Maharana, along with Childline officials Deepak Kumar Pradhan and Tapaswini. Highlighting the illegality of trafficking children from other districts for labour,

Ruchika's Chief Executive Officer Dr. Benudhar Senapati confirmed that the organization will lodge separate FIRs at Mancheswar and Saheed Nagar police stations on Friday. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to taking strict action against those involved in child labour and trafficking, terming such acts as serious criminal offenses.

BJP gears up for grand celebration on June 20

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Odisha Government will deploy 60 Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers for smooth conduct of the grand state-level function, marking the first anniversary of the BJP dispensation in the state, at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. The event, which was initially scheduled for June 12 when Mohan Mjahi was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Odisha, had to be reworked following confirmation from the PMO about availability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 20.

We had requested the prime minister to visit Odisha on June 12. He, however, gave time for June 20, so the change in schedule," Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari had earlier told the media. The event is being planned at the same scale as the launch of Subhadra Yojana on September 17 last year, according to sources. During a recent trip to New Delhi, CM had personally invited PM Modi, Union Home Minister



Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, BJP National President JP Nadda, and other Union ministers and senior party leaders to the anniversary celebrations.

Ahead of the first anniversary, the Chief Minister has despatched his cabinet colleagues to the districts to undertake a comprehensive stock-taking exercise on implementation of programmes and delivery of services to the people. Each of the 15 ministers,

completed the same in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts. The objective of conducting the review is to get first-hand information on the status and progress of projects sanctioned for that particular district, and set targets for the second year. Apart from developmental works, departmentwise review is also being conducted on implementation of planned programmes and welfare schemes of state and central governments," Singh Deo said.

These review meetings provide an opportunity to interact with district officials and elected representatives who bring public issues to the table, he said and added, instructions were issued to departments concerned to take immediate action to resolve them. The deputy CM also said all ministers have been assigned the job of holding press-conferences at district level to highlight the achievements of the state government in one year and 11 years of Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

IDBI Bank celebrates silver jubilee



**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** IDBI Bank on Wednesday celebrated its silver jubilee on its Janpath branch office here. Chief General Manager of the Bank Sujit Kumar presided over the programme. He said IDBI Bank has been providing excellent customer service and such service will also continue in the future. Debadata Dash, Former Chief General Manager cum first Branch head of Janpath branch, Nihar Ranjan Samal, General Manager, Manoj Kumar Senapati, General Manager, Kishore Chakraborty, Branch head were present on this occasion. Around 50 valuable customers were present and Bank felicitated all of them.

Abhay Kumar assumes charge as Nalco Director

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Shri Abhay Kumar Behuria has today assumed charge as Director (Finance) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, Shri Behuria brings with him extensive experience in financial management, strategic planning, and digital transformation.

He holds a First-Class B. Com (Hons.) degree from Utkal University and is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI). His financial acumen is further reinforced by an Executive Diploma in Business Valuation from the Board of Advanced Studies & Research, ICAI. Prior to joining NALCO, Shri Behuria served as Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), a unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited, where he played a



pivotal role in driving operational excellence and financial growth. Under his leadership, RSP achieved record-high EBITDA and PBT, even amid challenging market conditions.

His strategic initiatives—including the closure of non-viable units, optimization of resources, and focus on cost awareness—resulted in significant savings and enhanced profitability. Shri Behuria also spearheaded several digital transformation initiatives at RSP, such as the implementation of

SAP in Mines, automated invoicing systems, and vendor information management. He was instrumental in merging two Provident Fund Trusts to improve compliance and streamline operations. His proactive approach helped resolve long-standing legal and financial issues, leading to substantial recoveries and settlements.

Congratulating Shri Abhay Kumar Behuria on assuming charge as Director (Finance), Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, CMD, NALCO, expressed confidence that his extensive experience in financial management, strategic planning, and digital transformation will strengthen NALCO's initiatives. He highlighted Shri Behuria's proven track record of driving growth at SAIL is now poised to bring the same level of excellence and innovation to NALCO. With his joining as Director (Finance), NALCO's leadership team has been further strengthened, he said.

Women drug peddler arrested in Khordha



**Khordha (DMC):** Based on a credible information as per the direction of SP, Khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nath, under the direct supervision of SDPO, Khordha, Nihar Ranjan Pradhan & I/C, IIC, Industrial Estate Police Station, Khordha, Basudev Jayasingh a special team was formed &

conduct a raid in front of KunjaBihari, Temple, near GodaKhordha & apprehended one women drug peddler identified as Monarama Nayak (40) Vill-Swapeneswar Sahi, Khordha for illegally selling brown sugar.

During the investigation, police seized -35.25 grams of brown sugar, approximate market value worth Rs3.5 lakhs above & cash Rs7,500 from their possession. During interrogation, the accused confessed that she had been involved the brown sugar trade since long. The IEPs has registered a case vide no-142/ 2025 u/s-21(b)/29 NDPS Act. The accused were forwarded the Judicial Court of Khordha & detailed investigation is underway to uncover further links in the drug supply network, said the police officials.

Two tiger cubs shifted to nursery in Nandankanan

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Two newborn tiger cubs were separated from their mother named 'Mausumi' at Nandankanan Zoo after she failed to feed them properly. The white tigress had given birth to one white cub and one normal-colored cub last Saturday, marking her second delivery. Initially, Mausumi was seen nursing both cubs, but later CCTV footage revealed a decline in their health. Concerned about inadequate nursing and the cubs' condition, the zoo authorities decided to shift them away for better care.

Both cubs were moved to the zoo's neonatal care unit under the supervision of veterinarians. One of the cubs, a white tigress, was found to be weak and has been placed in an incubator, weighing around 650 grams, while the other is reported to be healthy. It's worth mentioning that Mausumi had earlier given birth to three cubs on July 30, 2024, but all of them died due to improper care. With the recent births, the tiger population at Nandankanan rose to 29, and the zoo authorities are now closely monitoring the new cubs for their survival.



Zoo to remain open for Raja festival



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In what can be considered as a good news for the tourists, the Nandankanan Zoological Park authorities have decided to keep the zoo open this Monday in view of Raja Festival. The Nandankanan Zoological Park remains closed on every Monday as weekly holiday.

However, the zoo authorities decided to keep the zoo open with the aim to capitalise on the anticipated large number of visitors during the three-day Raja Festival, which begins from Saturday and ends on Monday. The officials of the zoo also have decided to keep it closed on the following day i.e June 17 (Tuesday). The decision is also applicable for the State Botanical Garden, which is situated in the sylvan settings of the moist deciduous forest of the sprawling green Nandankanan sanctuary hemmed between two wetlands.

Odisha rolls out drive to enroll senior citizens under AVVY

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a bid to ensure universal health coverage for its elderly population, the Odisha government on Thursday rolled out an intensive 10-day enrolment drive for the Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana (AVVY). The campaign, which will continue until June 21, aims to bring every citizen aged 70 years and above under the ambit of the scheme, which offers Rs 5 lakh annual health coverage irrespective of income, caste, or prior scheme inclusion.

Despite the launch of AVVY earlier this year, enrolment figures have remained significantly low. Of

the 23 lakh eligible senior citizens in the state, only 3.45 lakh have been enrolled so far.

The Health and Family Welfare Department now aims for 100% saturation through this focused



outreach programme. To ensure smooth execution, Health Department Secretary Aswathy S has instructed all Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs) to prepare micro-level, gram panchayat-wise action plans.

The strategy involves mobilising a wide network of Common Service Centres (CSCs), village-level workers, ASHAs, and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) to facilitate on-the-ground awareness and registration. As part of the campaign, health workers will notify eligible beneficiaries in advance, guiding them to gather at pre-designated points on fixed dates and times. On those

days, Bikash Vahans—mobile registration vans—will visit the areas, accompanied by CSC personnel to complete digital enrolments on the spot. The AVVY scheme was launched in April as a part of a larger healthcare rollout led by Union Health Minister JP Nadda, alongside Ayushman Bharat – PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and Odisha's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana.

What makes AVVY distinct is its inclusive design, offering non-discriminatory coverage to all senior citizens over 70 years, regardless of income, caste, or existing scheme enrolments.

## Important meeting for attractive illumination of The Temple DPR will be prepared with the technical support of ASI



**Puri, (DMC):** Steps will be taken with the help of ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) for the beautiful illumination of the side temples at The Temple and Vedha. An important meeting in this regard was held under the chairmanship of the Dr Arvinda

Padhi Chief Administrator of The Temple at the Office of the Temple today. Senior Engineers of The Temple Administration, ASI Puri Circle Authority and representatives of its Accredited Consulting Institute, Delhi, Shilpi Bhardwaj were present.

Presentations were made about the illumination work done for various heritage projects by the concerned institute. Similarly, some specific suggestions were also made by the Temple Administration for the proposed illumination. It was discussed in the meeting to prepare a detailed outline in the technical advice and guidance of ASI and present it for approval at a later stage. The work has been decided to be executed after obtaining necessary permissions in this regard.

## Inauguration of Child Labour Awareness Chariot



**Bargarh, (DMC):** Today marks a significant step in our fight against child labour: launching an awareness chariot, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the District Labour Office and the District Administration. Shri Manabhanjan, the Prabhagiya Labour Officer, officially flagged off the chariot in the presence of key stakeholders, including the District Social Welfare Officer, Smt. Sandhyarani Nepak, members of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), the Child Development Project Officer, the DIPRO and the Executive Officer of the Bargarh Municipal Council, alongside dedicated staff from the District Labour Office. This awareness chariot will traverse every block of the Bargarh district from today until June 26, 2025, with a clear mission: to educate the community on the urgent necessity of eliminating child labour. We are committed to driving this vital message home and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

## Villagers, administration's negligence exposed when they built their own roads



**Boipariguda, (DMC):** While the central government has implemented various public welfare schemes, due to lack of willpower of the officials at the lower level, a phenomenon has now come to the fore that the schemes are not being implemented in the villages properly! Although the government has dreamed of

connecting tribal-dominated villages with the main road, due to the negligence of the administration, even a good paved road has not been constructed in some villages till date! The administration has been hearing that the villagers are building roads at their own expense. The incident of the tribal-dominated Baligaon in Boipariguda block. They have

built a total of about 6 kilometers of roads from Baligaon to Kadamguda 3 kilometers and from Baligaon to Manishguda 3 kilometers. After repeatedly demanding the administration to build the road due to the long-standing problem, the panchayat had constructed an earthen road two months ago under the Manishguda scheme, but the road was completely destroyed due to rain.

Therefore, today, the villagers of Kadamguda, Bareiguda, Manishguda, and Khaparaput of the panchayat were forced to build the road at their own expense. Now, the demand for a paved road has been raised. It is seen that the government officials have not opened their mouths on this issue.

## Four arrested in Ganja smuggling

**Keonjhar, (DMC):** Keonjhar police arrested four accused including two receivers from Suakati under Sadar police station allegedly smuggling Ganja on Thursday. They are identified as Rajesh Barik (35) of Rugudi village, Sanjay Kumar Sahoo (35) of Suakati village and Bapi Sahoo (40) of Padmapur and Sunil Tudu (29) of Suakati village. "They were arrested while raiding in Suakati area under NDPS act . 25 kg 700 gram Ganja seized from their possession. Further investigation is going on " said Amit Kumar Bhuyan, IIC Sadar police station. Police after receiving information a team including Sub Inspector Surya Narayan Routray and Sub Inspector Suri Narayan Patra of Sadar PS caught them while illegal transaction going on.



## Model PS Detect One Brown Sugar Case & Nabbed 3 Drug Peddlers



**Khordha, (DMC):** In the continuous efforts to work against the nexus of narcotics trade in district khordha police made a major break through in the past couple of days in which 3 drug peddlers were apprehended by khordha model PS.

The Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) led by Add. SP, Khordha, Amrit Pal Singh (IPS) in close co-ordination with jurisdiction police & SDPO, Khordha led to the major apprehension in which 3 accused persons including 1 female were apprehended with conscious & exclusive possession of narcotics substances (Brown Sugar). On receipt of credible information as per the direction of SP, Khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nsth (IPS) under the supervision of SDPO,

accused persons & seized 20 grams of brown sugar, cash 3400.3 nos of mobile phone, 4nos of motorcycle from their possession. All the accused are identified as Satya Narayan Sahu (39) vill-Bhaliabadi, Khordha, Nibasini Sahu (36) vill-Bhaliabadi, Khordha & Karim Khan (29) vill-Taratua, Khordha, under Khordha Model PS.

The worth of the seized brown sugar is ₹2 lakhs. In this connection, Khordha Model Police registered a case vide PS, Case no-238/2025, u/s-21(b)/29 NDPS Act & forwarded all the accused to the Judicial Court of Khordha. Their interrogation revealed that they were jointly operating the brown sugar trade in the locality of Khordha. The police officials said, "Investigation is on to crack the network of drug peddlers".

## 17th Barunei Raja Mahotsav from 15th June



**Khordha, (DMC):** Barunei Peetha, a historical tourist destination that carries the story of the Paika Rebellion, will be in full swing on the occasion of Raja Mahotsav this year. For three days from the 15th Raja Sankranti, the leading voluntary organization DISANTA will organize the 17th Barunei Raja Mahotsav like the previous years. 21 private cultural organizations and 7 government organizations from different districts of Odisha will participate in it. On this occasion, DISANTA media co-ordinator Sambit Pattnaik gave this information at a press conference today. The cultural troupe will include Sambalpur, Odissi, Paika Dance, Gutipua, Baghanacha, etc., as well as cultural organizations from Kolkata & renowned vocalists. While extensive preparations have been made by the organizers to organize the festival, they informed that many exhibition stands and household goods shops will be opened here. Similarly, Jhoti, Cheeta, Rajapitha, Pasakhela etc. competitions organized by DISANTA. In this press meet, members of DISANTA, organization Dinabandhu Baliarsingh, Prabhakar Majhi, Niranjana Bhoi, Sameer Sahu, Secretary, Dilip Parida were prominently present.

## Dispute at Drugs rehabilitation Center

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** Due to partnership dispute at "Decent Life Foundation" Drugs rehabilitation Center at Atamal Jagatsinghpur 13 Drugs addicts are in problem. Two partners namely Pritam priyadarshan Jena of College squire and Sabuja Kumar Sahoo, Kantapada the matter went to Jagatsinghpur police. Local police investigating the matter and by attack of one partner the assets of Drugs rehabilitation center shattered.



## IFFCO Paradeep conferred Greentech Environment Award for Excellence in Environment Protection



**Paradip:** IFFCO Paradeep Unit has become the winner of '24th Annual Greentech Environment Award 2025' for outstanding achievements in Environment Protection. The award was conferred on IFFCO, Paradeep, in the 24th Global Environment & Sustainability Summit 2025 at New Delhi on 12th June 2025.

D. Mohanty, Manager (EPC) received the award on behalf of P K Mahapatra, Unit Head, IFFCO, Paradeep from Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, former Governor of Assam. The award is a testimony to the fact that IFFCO Paradeep is always committed to the best environmental practices in all its activities so that adverse

environmental impact is minimised. Inspired and steered by the insightful guidance of P. K. Mahapatra, Unit Head and R.K. Swain, JGM (Environment & Safety) IFFCO Paradeep has successfully navigated numerous challenges & always remains committed to the cause of national food security. Recognition through such awards acts as a morale booster for entire IFFCO Paradeep family and its stakeholders. IFFCO, with visionary leadership by its Managing Director Dr. U. S. Awasthi, has been serving the nation for the last six decades and has become the largest cooperative society in the world.

## Armed Robbers looted Cash & Gold from Odisha Gramya Bank in Joda

**Keonjhar, (DMC):** A gang of five miscreants robbers with mask raided in the broad daylight in the Odisha Gramina Bank (OGB) at Joda Town under Joda police station of Keonjhar district looted cash of rupees 10 lakh and gold ornament amount yet to calculate on Thursday that rocked Keonjhar district. Some customers who came to the bank panicked after the incident. According to sources, the miscreants entered into the bank premises after it was opened at around 10 am with guns. They first nab the security personnel. They threatened the staff with frightening at the gun point. Later they looted the cash and ornaments at gun point from the cashier. Three among them were holding guns and the remaining



two carried sharp weapons. The robbers allegedly took away the hard disk of the CCTV camera at the bank to hide the evidence. Later they fled with the cash and gold on a bike. Sources said that they are interacting with each other in Hindi. Hence involvement of Jharkhand criminals behind this incident. Later the bank staff informed the police of Joda police station and

senior officials about the incident immediately. On being informed, Joda police reached the spot and started an investigation with the help of a scientific team. They also raided different areas by sealing all the escape routes by informing other police stations. Police are also examining the CCTV footage from nearby areas to find out their movement and to identify the culprits. As the

area is located close to the Jharkhand state border, hence they might have escaped across the border, sources said. Sources said that teams have been formed to trace the accused. "Efforts are on to gather all possible leads to capture the culprits. The accused will soon be arrested" said Sushanta Pradhan, IIC Joda police station. After getting information, Regional Manager of OGB

Satyabrata Nanda reached at the spot and assessed the incident. "The incident took place some time after the opening of the bank. Five miscreants with arms entered and frightened the cashier at gunpoint and looted rupees 10 lakh cash and some ornaments. The amount of gold ornaments is still in inventory" Nanda said. Locals alleged that in Joda and Barbil mining areas, criminals from Jharkhand, Bihar and other areas stayed in different rented houses and fled away after committed crime. Due to this many criminal incidents like loot, robbery, dacoity, mineral smuggling happening in this area. The border area is open due to lack of proper patrolling, CCTV arrangement, which help the criminal to escape easily.

### From Page- 1

## No chance to...

Shah also expressed condolences to relatives of those killed in the accident. "The number of those killed will be officially released by the authorities after DNA test and identification of the victims," Shah said. "The good news is that one person survived the crash and I am coming here after meeting him," he said. "The process of collecting DNA samples from bodies of those killed in the plane crash is over. Forensic Science Laboratory and National Forensic Sciences University in Gujarat will conduct DNA tests of the victims," he said. The London-bound Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed in a residential in Ahmedabad minutes after taking off from the city airport on Thursday afternoon.

## Western Railway...

Thursday and will reach Delhi Junction at 2:30 pm the next day. Similarly, the train will depart from Delhi Junction at 5:30 pm on Friday and arrive in Ahmedabad at 8:30 am on the next day," the WR release added. This train comprises AC 3-tier coaches, and it will halt at Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Marwar Jn., Ajmer, Jaipur, Alwar, Rewari, Gurgaon, and Delhi Cantt stations in both directions.

Earlier, officials said WR's disaster management team had been deployed for relief and rescue operations at the site of the plane crash. A medical team and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed to assist in the rescue efforts, said Vineet Abhishek, chief public relations officer, Western Railway. WR's 'Hospital Team' comprising six doctors, 20 staff and seven ambulances was also at the spot.

## Over 240...

landing at Kozhikode in Kerala and split into two. Of the 190 people on board, 21, including two pilots, lost their lives.

Eyewitnesses in Ahmedabad said the blaze was so intense that it led to at least one multi-storey building being burnt and trees being singed. Airport operations in the city were temporarily suspended. The ill-fated flight was under the command of Capt. Sumeet Sabharwal, along with First Officer Clive Kunder. While Sabharwal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kunder 1,100 hours, the DGCA said in a statement. Immediately after departure from Runway 23, the aircraft fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter, it said.

## World's...

### 2014: MALAYSIA

Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 departed from Amsterdam for Kuala Lumpur on July 17, 2014, and was shot down over eastern Ukraine as fighting raged between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces. All 298 passengers on board were killed.

### 2014: MALAYSIA

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. The remains of the Boeing 777 and the 239 people have not been found.

confirm he remains under close medical supervision.

## Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani dies

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died on Thursday after an Air India aircraft carrying him and 241 others crashed near Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad in the afternoon, Union minister C R Patil said. Rupani, 68, was the chief minister from 2016 till 2021, after winning the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections from Rajkot West seat.

### Tata Group to give Rs 1 cr to kin

Tata Group will provide Rs 1 crore to the family of each person who died in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday. "We are deeply anguished by the tragic event involving Air India Flight 171. "No words can adequately express the grief we feel at this moment. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones, and with those who have been injured," Tata Group and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. "Additionally, we will provide support in the building up of the BJ Medical's hostel. We remain steadfast in standing with the affected families and communities during this unimaginable time," he said.

### Putin offers condolences

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday offered "deepest condolences" to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the plane crash at Ahmedabad, the Kremlin said. "Please accept my deepest condolences over the tragic consequences of the plane crash at Ahmedabad Airport. Please convey my sympathy and support to the families of those killed and my wishes for a swift recovery to those injured in the crash," Putin said in his message.

### UK PM Starmer shares anguish

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday expressed his anguish following the crash involving a London-bound Air India flight with 53 British nationals among 242 on board. "The scenes emerging of a London-bound plane carrying many British nationals crashing in the Indian city of Ahmedabad are devastating," Starmer said in a statement. "I am being kept updated as the situation develops, and my thoughts are with the passengers and their families at this deeply distressing time," he said. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy took to social media to express his support to those affected.

### Ahmedabad airport resumes Ops

The Ahmedabad airport on Thursday resumed operations with limited flights after a brief halt following the crash of an Air India's UK-bound passenger aircraft. Flight operations at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, which were suspended earlier following the crash, have now commenced with limited flights, the private airport operator said. "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, is now operational with limited flights," a spokesperson of the airport said.

## Bold Action Against Tobacco: Joint Task Force Strikes in Bargarh!

**Bargarh, (DMC):** Excitement erupted today as a dynamic joint task force, spearheaded by the District Health Department, Police, and Excise Department, rolled into action in the Bargarh Block area! In a powerful display of commitment to public health, 54 violators caught selling tobacco products in public spaces were fined Rs. 10350, boldly defying the COTPA 2003 (Tobacco Control) regulations. The community rallied together as officials disseminated crucial information about the perils of tobacco consumption. They didn't keep highlighting the dangers of using harmful food colouring and serving food in newspapers, promoting a healthier lifestyle for all! An impressive team led this extraordinary effort, including District Customs Inspector Sunita Nag, District Food Safety Officer Shri Parameswar Naik, and District Consultant Smt. Swagatika Behera from the Excise Department.

# Intern doctors among dead as plane crashes into medical college hostel in Ahmedabad



**AHMEDABAD, (HS) :** A catastrophic tragedy struck Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon as an Air India plane, en route from Ahmedabad to London, crashed directly onto the hostel complex of intern doctors at BJ Medical College, reducing it to rubble and triggering scenes of chaos, death, and devastation.

The aircraft came down with explosive force onto the Atulya residential blocks-Atulya 1, 2, 3, and 4-- where 50 to 60 intern and resident doctors were reportedly resting. Eyewitnesses say the building erupted in flames upon impact, tearing through the concrete and instantly killing many inside. Ambulance crews arriving on the scene described horrific sights: bodies mutilated, some intern doctors charred and crushed under concrete debris, others found in pieces. Residents, in shock, told the media that the aircraft hit the very heart of the doctors' living quarters. "The plane fell directly on the building where young doctors were staying. The entire hostel has turned into a graveyard," one eyewitness recounted, standing near an ambulance that reached minutes after the crash. Dr Rohan Krishnan, Chief Patron of the FAIMA Doctors Association, confirmed that the plane crashed within the BJ Medical College campus, damaging both the MBBS students' hostel and the super-specialty doctors' residential block. "We have confirmation of injuries to around 50 people. Five bodies are unidentifiable. There is an urgent need for blood donations at the site," he said. "We are deeply shocked about the news of AI flight crashing in Ahmedabad! News has become more gruesome after finding out that flight had crashed in BJMC, Hostel

& many MBBS students have also been injured!!!! We are monitoring the situation closely & are ready for any help! (sic)" wrote the FAIMA Doctors Association.

"It's a black day for the Indian Medical fraternity. My hand trembles as I write this, knowing that the Air India flight crash on BJMC medical college UG hostel in Ahmedabad has cost us the lives of our Medical students, Doctors and other horrifying casualties," wrote Dr Dhruv Chauhan, National Spokesperson, Indian Medical Association JDN. "It was during the lunch hours and the medical students were in their mess while the tragedy happened. Prayers with all the lost souls and those who are undergoing treatment," he added. According to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Gujarat Health Department, the affected zone includes the students' hostel, staff quarters, and other residential buildings linked to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. "About 50 injured have already been rushed to the Civil Hospital," he confirmed, as medical teams scrambled to save lives in a race against time. The impact occurred just past noon, when many students were in the mess for lunch. Survivors say they heard a deafening blast from the sky. Plates were dropped mid-meal as students fled in panic. A massive aircraft had plummeted through the hostel's roof-- its wheels horrifyingly visible, wedged into the debris of the collapsed structure.

Some students managed to escape. Some are still missing. And many, tragically, did not survive. The Medical College campus, once a symbol of learning and service, is now shrouded in smoke, ash, and silence-- its young healers among the fallen.

## Bird hit most likely reason for Air India crash



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The horrendous Air India crash at Ahmedabad which resulted in 241 fatalities was most probably caused by a bird (kite) hit, which resulted in the rare failure of both the engines simultaneously, say experts who are also former pilots well versed with the operations of this wide-bodied plane. Captain C S Randhawa, who has flown a Boeing 777 for 15 years, and was the former Deputy Chief Flight Inspector, Operations, at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, said, "Three possible reasons could be behind the crash - a bird hit shutting down both the engines, the contamination of the fuel with water and a control jam issue. The most probable one appears to be the bird hit." Randhawa said the Dreamliner would have been fully stocked with 70,000 litres of aviation turbine fuel loaded onto it. "After take-off, the captain appears to have applied the gear up at 50 feet and at 250 feet, the autopilot was switched on which is as per procedure. However, at 500 to 600 feet, he announced a Mayday call (severe emergency) to the Air Traffic Control. While the reason is usually immediately spelt out, in this case there appears to have been no time for him to state it." An aircraft can be struck by a bird or a flock of birds suddenly, causing total damage to the engine, he said, adding, "Both Ahmedabad and Agra airports are full of birds. Incidents of aircraft being hit by birds keep happening on and off." Recalling a similar incident of twin engine failure which happened on January 15, 2009, to US Airways flight 1549, Randhawa said, "The Airbus A320, which took off from La Guardia airport, suffered a double engine failure after it struck a flock of birds. Fortunately, the captain was able to steer it into the Hudson Bay and all the 155 passengers on board survived." Another possibility is the presence of water inside the fuel when loaded which could have caused fuel contamination and the sudden seizure of engines, he added. Another theory is that

## 5 Dead at Medical Hostel Students

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Five medical students died and many suffered injuries after Air India flight crashed into the hostel of the BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This includes, four undergraduate students and a postgraduate resident. An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 people on board -- 230 passengers, 10 crew members and 2 pilots -- crashed immediately after take-off from Ahmedabad airport. The flight, headed to London, departed at 13:38 pm from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The failure to achieve lift happened at a very low altitude of 825 feet. In pictures from the ground, plates with food left uneaten and glasses can be seen lying on the tables in the hostel canteen, indicating medical students were having lunch at the time of the crash. The picture also shows with people standing near the damaged wall of the hostel mess. The pictures showed a part of the aircraft stuck inside the students' hostel of the BJ Medical College.

"We are deeply shocked about the news of AI plane crashing in Ahmedabad. News have become more gruesome after finding out that flight had crashed in BJMC, Hostel & many MBBS students have also been injured!!!! We are monitoring the situation closely & are ready for any help!" the FAIMA Doctors association said in a statement on X (formerly Twitter).



## "Anything We Can Do, We Will Do": Trump On Ahmedabad Plane Crash

**Washington DC, (HS) :** US President Donald Trump spoke about the tragic plane crash in India on Thursday, offering any support the United States can provide as investigations are under way to ascertain what the reasons were that led to the incident. "It was a horrible accident. Anything we can do, we will do," President Trump said at a press conference in Washington DC. An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 people crashed immediately after take-off from Ahmedabad airport this afternoon, in one of the worst-ever aviation tragedies in history. There were 232



passengers and 10 crew on the flight which was headed to London. "The plane crash was terrible. I've already told them that anything we can do, we will do (to help). India is a big country, a strong country, and they will handle it, I'm sure, but I let them know that anything the US can do, we'll be over immediately," President Trump said.

"It was a horrific crash, and it looks like most are gone. We're hearing that there may be a couple of survivors. The crash was horrible and nobody knows what exactly happened. I gave them a couple of pointers, saying, 'maybe you'd want to look at this'. We saw the plane - it looked like it was flying pretty well...it didn't look that there was any explosion (on board). Just looked like the engines maybe lost power, but boy, that was a terrible crash - looks like the worst in aviation history," he added.

## Ahmedabad plane crash: Pilots onboard Air India flight had 9,300 hours of flying experience

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The flight AI-171, flying from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, crashed five minutes after take-off from Runway 23 of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that crashed in Ahmedabad during takeoff was carrying 242 persons aboard, of which 232 were passengers and 12 crew members. The flight AI-171, flying from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, crashed about five

minutes after take-off from Runway 23 of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. While an investigation has been initiated, no confirmation has been given on the cause of the crash. According to PTI, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will launch a probe into the accident, an official said. The official added that AAIB's Director General and Director of Investigation will leave for Ahmedabad.

## Developers Not Liable For Loan Interest Of Home Buyers, Clarifies SC



**New Delhi, (HS) :** In a major judgement, the Supreme Court said that developers shall not be liable for the loan interest of the home buyers. This ruling shall play a major part in the existing home buyers. According to reports, the rights of homebuyer, real estate developers was clearly discussed by the Supreme Court in the case of Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) v. Anupam Garg & Ors bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Prasanna B. Varale The Apex Court in hearing has clarified that in case of the aggrieved home buyers, developers must refund the principal amount with interest. This shall be applicable only in case of delay or non-delivery of promised house.

It is here that the Court also clarified that the developers shall not liable for paying interest on the personal loans taken by buyers to finance their homes. In the case Anupam Garg and others had booked flats in GMADA's project by paying 10% of the total cost as earnest money. The flats were to be handed over within 36 months from the issuance of the Letter of Intent, but when Garg visited the site in May 2015, he found that construction was incomplete and that possession was unlikely for another 2-3 years. He sought a refund and later filed a consumer complaint. The Supreme Court held that the refund with 8% annual interest and compensation for mental harassment but set aside the direction requiring GMADA to pay interest on the buyer's housing loan.

## Southwest monsoon active in Karnataka, rains to lash till June 17: IMD

**Bengaluru, (HS) :** The southwest monsoon has become active again after a brief halt of nearly two weeks, with rains lashing out in several parts of Karnataka in the early hours on Thursday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a seven-day warning for Karnataka, predicting "widespread" rainfall in nearly all districts until June 17. The Hubballi area in the Dharwad district of Karnataka witnessed torrential rainfall early on Thursday, which caused massive waterlogging in several parts of the district, especially in Hanashi village. According to the weather department, rainfall will remain widespread in coastal and north interior Karnataka until June 17. Meanwhile, rainfall will be "fairly widespread" in the districts of south interior Karnataka until June 14 before turning "widespread" for the next three days. In coastal Karnataka districts, the IMD has forecast "heavy to very heavy rain with sustained wind at 30 to 40

### 3 killed, 3 injured as car collides with bus in accident in Rangareddy district

**Rangareddy, (HS) :** At least three people were killed after a car and a bus collided in Telangana's Rangareddy district, police said on Wednesday. Three people also sustained injuries in the incident, which occurred near the Mall village on the border of Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts in Telangana. "This incident happened last night around 1 am. Three people died, and three others were injured in a collision between a car and a bus near the mall," said the Inspector of Yacharam Police Station. "The deceased bodies have been shifted to the mortuary for post-mortem examination (PME), and the injured have been admitted to the hospital. The deceased and injured were all occupants of the car," he added.

kilometre per hour (kmph), which likely to occur at a few places and extremely heavy rain likely to occur at one or two places over Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts." In north interior Karnataka, "Heavy to very heavy rain with sustained wind at 50 to 60 kmph likely to occur at a few places and extremely heavy rain with sustained wind likely to occur at one or two places over Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag districts."

"Heavy rain with sustained wind at 40 to 50 kmph likely to occur at one or two places over Koppal, Haveri, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Kalburgi and Raichur districts. Moderate rain with sustained wind at 40-50 kmph is likely to occur at most places over Bidar and Yadgiri districts," IMD said in its report. In south interior Karnataka,

the weather department has predicted heavy to very heavy rain with sustained wind at 50-60 kmph, which are likely to occur at a few places and extremely heavy rain with sustained wind at the same speed is likely to occur at one or two places over Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagur districts. "Heavy rain with sustained wind (40-50 kmph) likely to occur at one or two places over Ballari, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chikkaballapura, Mandya, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Davangere, Hassan and Vijayanagar districts. Moderate rain with sustained wind (40-50 kmph) likely to occur at most places over Chamarajanagar, Chitradurga and Kolar districts," IMD said. These weather predictions are likely to remain relevant till June 17.

## ACs can't go below 20°C, Centre to bring new norms for air conditioning usage

**New Delhi, (HS) :** In a landmark initiative to regulate and optimise air conditioning usage, the Government of India is set to introduce mandatory temperature limits for air conditioners across sectors. Informing about the development, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Tuesday said that ACs will soon be restricted to operate between 20 degree Celsius to 28 degree Celsius temperature range.

Terming it as a pilot measure, Khattar said that the move is designed to bring uniformity to temperature settings and improve energy efficiency. "Regarding air conditioning standards, a new provision is being implemented soon. The temperature standardization for ACs will be set between 20°C to 28°C, meaning we won't be able to cool below 20°C or warm above 28°C. This



is a first-of-its-kind experiment, aiming to standardise temperature settings," said Khattar. "It is a unique step towards controlling unnecessary power consumption caused by extremely low cooling temperatures," he said. The regulation will be applicable not just in homes and office spaces but also in air-conditioned vehicles. The ministry

hopes that limiting temperature settings will reduce electricity bills, ease peak load pressures on the power grid, and contribute to environmental sustainability. Currently, most AC units allow users to set temperatures from as low as 16 degree Celsius to as high as 30 degree Celsius. The new rules will override those settings. Once these changes are implemented, air conditioners across India will have a limited operating range. ACs that currently cool to as low as 16°C or 18°C will not happen. The minimum cooling setting will be set up at 20°C, and heating will be fixed at 28°C. This is likely to influence the use of air conditioners in both households and commercial settings, with authorities planning to oversee its execution and assess its impact. According to reports, the government emphasises the need to

lower the burden on the national power grid and urges responsible energy use. The new rule looks to resolve the power consumption led by ACs low temperatures below 20°C.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) states raising the air conditioner temperature by just a few degrees can lead to significant energy savings. While most ACs in India are typically set between 20-21°C, the recommended comfort range is 24° for all star-labelled rooms and car ACs, whereas for commercial buildings it is between 24 degrees celsius and 25 degrees celsius, the 2020 mandate says. It notes that increasing the temperature setting from 20°C to 24°C can reduce electricity usage by up to 24%. In fact, each 1°C increase can lower power consumption by approximately 6%.



## Shocking! Body of Ludhiana-based social media influencer Kanchan Kumari found in car

**Ludhiana, (HS) :** In a shocking incident, the body of a Ludhiana-based social media influencer, Kanchan Kumari, alias Kamal Kaur, found in her own car, in Bathinda. The SP Bathinda, Narinder Singh told ANI, "Yesterday evening, we received a call that a car was parked in Adesh Hospital and some foul smell was coming out of it (car). " A police team reached there and found the body of a girl in the back seat of that car. In the preliminary investigation, the girl was identified as Kanchan Kumari, alias Kamal Kaur of Ludhiana. The SP added, "She left her home on June 9 by telling her mother that she would attend a promotional event... The investigation is on. Our priority is to know how her body reached there, and who is responsible for her death, and soon, action will be taken against those responsible." Revealing more details on the incident, the SP informed, "It is not the death spot, her body was dumped in the car after death. The car belongs to the girl, in which she left her home." Further investigation is under in this matter. Detailed reports awaited in this regard.

## US High Alert Over Possible Israeli Strike on Iran

**Washington, (H.S):** The United States has reportedly gone on high alert amid growing concerns of a potential Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, local media reported. The Trump administration is fearing that Israel may act unilaterally without Washington's consent if negotiations between the US and Iran collapse, according to the Washington Post.

President Donald Trump, addressing the situation on Wednesday, stated that US personnel are being moved out of certain Middle Eastern regions, particularly Iran, due to the escalating risk of conflict. "They (US personnel) are being moved out because it could be a dangerous place, and we will see what happens. We have given notice to move out," Trump told reporters. The US State Department has also permitted some diplomatic staff to leave Iraq, while the Pentagon has authorised military families to voluntarily depart from American bases throughout the region. This uptick in security measures comes as hopes for a



nuclear agreement between Washington and Tehran continue to fade, raising the spectre of another military confrontation in the Middle East following the recent Israel-Hamas conflict. Trump reiterated his uncompromising stance on Iran's nuclear ambitions, asserting,

"They can't have a nuclear weapon. Very simple. They can't have a nuclear weapon. We're not going to allow that," when asked whether diplomatic solutions were still possible. Last month, Axios reported that Israel was preparing for a rapid strike on Iran if the US-Iran talks failed. Trump has previously threatened military action against

Iran should nuclear negotiations stall, and in an interview with the New York Post earlier on Wednesday, admitted he was becoming "less confident" that Tehran would agree to halt uranium enrichment, one of the key conditions demanded by the US.

Recent months have seen rising concerns among US intelligence officials that Tel Aviv might move ahead with a strike on Iran's nuclear infrastructure without notifying Washington. In response, Iran has warned that any Israeli strike, given the US' role as Israel's key military and political backer, would have direct consequences for the

United States. In a post on X on Thursday, the Iranian government declared, "We are Ready." Iranian Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh issued a stern warning on Wednesday, stating that any attack on Iran would be met with retaliatory strikes on US bases stationed in the Middle East. In anticipation of potential fallout, Washington has ordered US embassies located within Iran's strike range - including those in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and North Africa - to activate emergency action committees.

These missions have been instructed to report back on security measures to mitigate potential risks. The State Department has reportedly also authorised voluntary departures from missions in Bahrain and Kuwait. This precautionary approach led Secretary of State Marco Rubio to update the global travel advisory on Wednesday, stating, "On June 11, the Department of State ordered the departure of non-emergency US government personnel due to heightened regional tensions."

## Indian-Origin Man Sentenced In \$2M Call Centre Fraud Targeting US Senior Citizens

**New York, (H.S):** An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to over six years in prison for his involvement in a nearly \$2 million scheme to defraud senior citizens by using call centres abroad. Giving him the 75-month sentence on Wednesday, Federal Judge William Jung also ordered Pranav Patel to forfeit \$1.79 million that was collected from seniors in Florida and elsewhere.

According to court documents, Patel worked as a "money mule" - collecting money or gold from victims - and was convicted of money laundering, which he admitted to, in December. "Preying on vulnerable, unsuspecting elderly victims to rob them of their hard-earned money is despicable," Secret Service Special Agent Robert Engel said after the sentencing in the federal court in Tampa, Florida. "Even worse, the defendant's co-conspirators posed as government agents to defraud victims of nearly \$2 million, threatening them with



arrest if they didn't follow their demands," he said. Patel was busted when he went to a house to collect what he thought was a box of gold. Law enforcement officials, who had him under surveillance, arrested him immediately after he picked up the package.

According to court papers, his co-conspirators operating from call centres abroad fraudulently identified themselves as officers from the Treasury Department or other agencies and told the victims that there were "warrants for their

arrest". They were told that they had to pay them to avoid arrest, the documents said. Sometimes, they also told victims that they had to give their money and gold to the "officers" for safekeeping, according to the documents.

Patel, 33, who lived in New Jersey, drove down to Florida and elsewhere on the East Coast to collect money and gold from seniors who had been threatened by people from the call centres. One of his victims told the court that because of the scam, he could not pay his mortgage and had to sell his house.

## EAM Jaishankar Meets Macron, Thanks French President For Backing India's Fight Against Terrorism



**Paris, (H.S):** External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Thursday called on French President Emmanuel Macron during his official visit to France, conveying greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressing gratitude for France's support in India's fight against terrorism. "Honoured to call on President Emmanuel Macron of France."

Conveyed greetings of PM Narendra Modi. Thanked him for France's strong message of support in the fight against terrorism. Our discussions reflected the trust, comfort and ambition of our Strategic Partnership," EAM posted on X. India and France have completed 25 years of strategic partnership and India's relations with France are rooted in deep trust and commitment. "Our two countries cooperate closely

across all domains of strategic and contemporary relevance besides sharing similar outlook on many regional and global issues. During this visit, EAM would travel to Paris and Marseille where he would be holding bilateral discussions with his counterpart Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Jean Noel Barrot.

He will also engage with the senior leadership of France, and interact with think tanks and media. EAM would also participate in the inaugural edition of the Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue which is being held in the city of Marseille," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) ahead of the EAM's visit. In April, after the heinous Pahalgam terror attack, Macron dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that France stands

firmly with India and its people in this hour of grief. Macron also said that France will stand together with its allies and would continue the fight against terrorism wherever necessary. "I have just spoken to my counterpart Narendra Modi about the cowardly terrorist attack on Tuesday, which resulted in the tragic death of dozens of innocent civilians."

France stands firmly with India and its people in this hour of grief. France, together with its allies, will continue the fight against terrorism wherever necessary," the French President posted on X. The External Affairs Minister is on an official visit to France, European Union and Belgium from June 8 to 14 to further deepen India's friendly relations and give renewed momentum to ongoing cooperation in diverse areas. On

Wednesday, India and the European Union signed an agreement on Trilateral Cooperation that focuses on joint priorities and supports pilot projects in third countries. The agreement driving forward India-EU engagement in connectivity, India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), green shipping and clean energy was signed in the presence of EAM Jaishankar and Jozef Sikela, the European Commissioner for International Partnership.

Both sides noted that the signing of the trilateral cooperation agreement will benefit the Global South. During his visit to Brussels from June 9-11, EAM Jaishankar also called on Belgium's King Philippe, Prime Minister Bart De Wever and held delegation level talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot.

## Pact To Clean Up, Restore 50 UNESCO World Heritage Marine Sites

**Nice (France), (H.S):** Plastic pollution is on the rise - and even the world's most protected marine ecosystems are not immune. On the occasion of the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, Plastic Odyssey and UNESCO announced a landmark collaboration to clean up and restore the 50 UNESCO World Heritage marine sites. This initiative also receives support from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France. The cooperation agreement between Plastic Odyssey and UNESCO aims to replicate the operation carried out on Henderson Island at other World Heritage marine sites, among the most inaccessible and fragile on the planet.

Each mission will focus on removing waste, collecting scientific data, developing educational programmes, and establishing sustainable, income-generating waste-management chains. In the Whale Hall at UNOC in Nice, Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO, opened her speech with a strong message of support for Plastic Odyssey, whose work she has followed for several years. "Plastic Odyssey and UNESCO will act together to reduce plastic pollution in World Heritage



marine sites. During these expeditions, we will also support the creation of recycling channels that benefit local and indigenous communities," said Azoulay. In 2024, Plastic Odyssey carried out an unprecedented cleanup on Henderson Island, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage marine site in the South Pacific, collecting 9.3 metric tons of waste for processing. That mission sparked the birth of this new partnership.

Other sites are under growing pressure, such as Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles, where the next on-the-ground mission is slated. In October, a Plastic Odyssey team, supported by UNESCO staff, will travel there for a scouting and test phase: precise mapping of waste deposits, trials of extraction methods, and development of scientific monitoring protocols.

This pilot campaign will lay the groundwork for larger-scale operations beginning in 2026. This marks a turning point in the fight against ocean plastic. "For the first time, we're teaming up with UNESCO to launch unprecedented cleanup missions in some of the most remote and fragile marine sanctuaries on earth."

These sites are ecological treasures - and plastic traps. It's time to bring global attention and resources to places the world can't afford to ignore," said Simon Bernard, co-founder and President, Plastic Odyssey. Plastic Odyssey is an NGO committed to combating plastic pollution. Since 2022, its namesake vessel has sailed the world's oceans, promoting local recycling solutions in coastal regions hardest hit by waste.

## Holding Onto Chair: The Many Tactics of Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus

**Dhaka, (H.S):** Muhammad Yunus's popularity is waning as the interim government faces a series of crisis, with Bangladesh's political landscape becoming increasingly complex. June marks the 10th month since Yunus assumed leadership of the country's state machinery as the Chief Advisor of the interim government - formed through the consensus of political parties, civil society, and the military following the ousting of Sheikh Hasina.

It was widely expected that the interim government would serve a brief term, similar to previous caretaker administrations, with its primary responsibilities being efficient management of state affairs and facilitation of free and fair elections. In practice, however, the Yunus administration has failed to achieve either objective and has instead undertaken the broader task of state reform through the creation of various reform commissions. Meanwhile, Yunus's policies and decisions have only exacerbated the challenges faced by the interim government amidst the chaotic conditions that have gripped the nation since August 5, last year. Despite this, Yunus appears to be navigating against the current

of the country's political will. This raises a pertinent question - why is Muhammad Yunus still holding onto office? Several key developments support this assertion. One such example is the enactment of unconstitutional amendments through the passing of ordinances such as the Cyber Protection Ordinance, amendments to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, the Anti-Terrorism Act, and the Enforced Law Ordinance. These ordinances were criticised for being passed unilaterally without any public consultation.

More critically, these legislative moves reflect Yunus's apparent political vendetta - namely, the marginalisation of the Awami League. Two significant developments further reinforce this view: firstly, the deteriorating state of press freedom in Bangladesh, and secondly, the imposed ban on the Awami League. The Cyber Protection Ordinance, which replaced the stringent Cyber Security Act, was introduced by the interim government with the stated aim of strengthening cyber security. This move followed a period during which press freedom in Bangladesh had been severely eroded under the previous deposed administration.



However, the new ordinance has demonstrated a similar tendency to suppress press freedom, as evidenced by the condemnation from rights groups over the revocation of press accreditation for journalists. The retaliatory targeting of journalists critical of Muhammad Yunus and the interim government, documented by the Rights and Risk Analysis Group (RRAG), presents an alarming picture - approximately 640 journalists have been targeted over the past eight months, with 91 reportedly harassed or assaulted in May alone. The charging of journalists with terrorism and other criminal offences - mainly in connection with the July uprising and their alleged ties to the former regime - has been widely criticised as a deliberate effort by the interim

government to stifle press freedom. Contrary to the expectations of restored free speech following the July uprising, press freedom remains a critical concern, as highlighted by the latest global ranking from international human rights group Article 19, which categorised Bangladesh as a 'crisis' country for freedom of expression. The amendment to the Anti-Terrorism Act, approved on May 11, introduced a provision enabling the prohibition of terrorism-related activities by individuals and 'entities'. Concerns had already emerged that this ordinance would empower the interim government with unchecked authority to suppress political activity, especially given its move to ban the 'activities' of the Awami

League under pressure from certain political parties. Merely a day after the ordinance's enactment, the Awami League was officially dissolved - another unilateral measure implemented without public consultation. Though welcomed by parties that had mobilised on the streets demanding this outcome, Yunus's decision provoked strong international criticism and deepened domestic political divisions, with many viewing it as a violation of democratic norms carried out without due process.

The politically driven violence targeting League supporters since Hasina's departure is well documented, and the ban is seen as a further escalation of such acts under a veil of impunity. These unconstitutional legal interventions have been justifiably identified as the interim government's erosion of the country's core human rights and freedoms. Muhammad Yunus's proposal in April to establish a humanitarian corridor connecting to Myanmar's Rakhine region marks the latest instance of his administration's misjudgment. What distinguishes this issue from previous ones is the rare, unified protest and criticism it drew from all political

parties - both established and emerging - arguably the first instance of such consensus since Hasina's removal. On one hand, concerns were raised about the geopolitical risks this corridor posed to Bangladesh's territorial integrity; on the other, questions were directed at the interim government's unilateral move to propose such an initiative - despite lacking the mandate - without consulting political parties. The proposal also fuelled suspicions that Yunus was favouring the interests of foreign powers at the expense of national sovereignty.

Not only political parties, but even the Bangladesh Army expressed disapproval, further highlighting widening tensions with the interim government. The Army Chief firmly rejected the idea of any such "bloody corridor" and instructed Yunus to hold elections by December, prompting the interim government to ultimately withdraw the proposal. The issue of elections has emerged as the most prominent point of contention against the Yunus administration. The intentional postponement of the national election has not only fuelled divisions among political parties but also hindered meaningful

progress in the state building process. Although the interim government initially announced national polls could be held by December 2025, the subsequent extension of the timeline to June 2026 has sparked suspicions and fears that Yunus is deliberately attempting to cling to power. The absence of a clear electoral roadmap - despite repeated requests from political parties - has intensified concerns that the interim government may further delay elections until the following winter.

The political impartiality of the interim administration is increasingly under scrutiny, with many viewing Yunus as favouring the newly formed National Citizen's Party (NCP), and suspecting that the postponement of the elections is a calculated strategy to give the NCP a strategic advantage in the forthcoming vote. However, the broad consensus among political parties on the urgency of holding early elections - despite their ideological differences - signals a notable shift in the political landscape: time appears to be running out for Muhammad Yunus. The current political climate stands in stark contrast to last August, when Yunus was invited to lead the interim government.

# Shri Piyush Goyal Advances India-Sweden Collaboration Through Comprehensive Government & Industry Dialogues

**Stockholm, (PIB):** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal held a series of substantive engagements with senior members of the Swedish government and industry leaders on day one of his two-day official visit to Stockholm. The visit aimed at further deepening the bilateral economic relationship, enhancing trade and investment flows, and exploring new avenues of cooperation in emerging sectors.

In his official interactions, Shri Goyal met with H.E. Mr. Benjamin Dousa, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, and H.E. Mr. Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade. Discussions focused on expanding the scope of India-Sweden trade and investment partnership, facilitating sustainable industrial collaboration and identifying key areas for technology and innovation-driven growth. The 21st session of the India-Sweden Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation was held during the



visit. The session was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Joint Secretary from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Shri Sanjiv and Joint Secretary from the Department of Commerce, Shri Saket Kumar,.

The agenda included strategic cooperation in innovation and research and a roundtable discussion on strengthening the India-Sweden economic partnership. The meeting witnessed participation from key Swedish institutions including LeadIT, Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency, the

Swedish National Space Agency, the National Board of Trade, the Swedish Export Credit Agency, Business Sweden, and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India. Both sides underscored their shared commitment to advancing joint projects in green transition, advanced technologies, and resilient supply chains.

Shri Goyal also addressed the India-Sweden Business Leaders' Roundtable, where he interacted with key members of Swedish industry. He invited companies to enhance their footprint in India by taking advantage of the country's enabling regulatory environment, growing consumer

base, skilled talent pool, and well-developed industrial infrastructure. The Roundtable served as a platform for strengthening private-sector collaboration in clean energy, smart manufacturing, mobility, life sciences, and digital technologies. The Minister participated in the India-Sweden High-Level Trade and Investment Policy Forum at the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

The Forum brought together business leaders and policy-makers from both sides to discuss the evolving trade architecture and opportunities under the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement. Presentations were made by CII and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. CEOs from leading companies shared their views on enhancing value-chain partnerships, technology transfers, and investment facilitation. A number of one-on-one meetings were held with Swedish companies from sectors such as automation, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, maritime technology,

and advanced materials. Several companies conveyed strong confidence in the Indian economy and expressed intent to scale their presence through new investments, capacity expansion, and deeper localisation. Areas of support discussed included facilitation in land access, skilling partnerships, and fast-track clearances. The Embassy of India and the Sweden-India Business Council co-hosted a Roundtable Reception in the evening with business stakeholders, thought leaders, and government representatives.

Shri Goyal reiterated India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing and innovation hub and called for sustained partnership with Sweden in critical sectors such as green technologies, innovation-led growth, and digital public infrastructure. The engagements in Stockholm reflect the continued momentum in the India-Sweden strategic partnership and reaffirm the shared ambition to collaborate on high-impact, future-oriented initiatives.

## India's CPI Inflation Falls To 2.82 Pc In May, Lowest Since February 2019

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined to 2.82 per cent in May this year compared to the same month of the previous year. This is the lowest level of retail inflation since February 2019, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics on Thursday. Food Inflation declined to 0.99 per cent during May, which is the lowest since October 2021. This is the seventh month in a row that food inflation has registered a decline as the agricultural output has been on the rise. The significant decline in inflation during the month is mainly attributed to the decline in inflation of pulses, vegetables, fruits, cereals, household goods & services, sugar, and eggs, according to the official statement. Inflation also declined due to a moderation in fuel prices, with international prices of crude oil coming down during the month. The RBI has also revised its inflation outlook for 2025-26 downwards from the earlier forecast of 4 per cent to 3.7 per cent, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday. CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is now projected at 3.7 per cent, with Q1 at 2.9 per cent, Q2 at 3.4 per cent, Q3 at 3.9 per cent, and Q4 at 4.4 per cent. The RBI Governor pointed out that Inflation has softened significantly over the last six months from above the tolerance band in October 2024 to well below the target, with signs of a broad-based moderation.

The near-term and medium-term outlook now gives us the confidence of not only a durable alignment of headline inflation with the target of 4 per cent, as exuded in the last meeting, but also the belief that during the year, it is likely to undershoot the target at the margin. While food inflation outlook remains soft, core inflation is expected to remain benign with easing of international commodity prices in line with the anticipated global growth slowdown, Malhotra said. The sharp decline in inflation has enabled the RBI to go in for a 50 basis points cut in the repo rate from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent to spur growth in the economy in the monetary policy review last week. The RBI also announced a 100 basis point cut in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), from 4 per cent to 3 per cent, to be implemented in four tranches of 25 bps each. The step is expected to inject Rs 2.5 lakh crore into the banking system, boosting liquidity and supporting credit flow. This will enable the RBI to keep a close watch on the overall growth-inflation dynamics.

## Over 90 Times Rise In Direct Benefit Transfer In Just a Decade: FM Sitharaman



**New Delhi, (H.S):** There has been more than 90 times rise in direct benefit transfer (DBT) in just a decade under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. Moreover, India leads the world in real-time payments, with more than Rs 260 lakh crore worth of transactions processed in 2024-25, the Finance Minister informed on the X social media platform. "From Rs 7,368 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6.83 lakh crore in 2024-25, there has been a 90X+ rise in DBT transfer in just a decade under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, ensuring that every rupee reaches to every citizen," said FM Sitharaman.

She further stated that India leads the world in real-time payments as "Rs 260+ lakh crore worth of transactions processed in 2024-25 and approximately 18,600 crore transactions by volume handled annually". According to the Finance Minister, India's tech journey over the last 11 years is nothing short of revolutionary. "India has transformed into a hub of digital innovation, tech-led governance, and global trust. From manufacturing to space tech, from digital payments to rural connectivity - the change is visible, impactful, and lasting," she emphasised.

But this isn't just about devices and platforms - it's about seamless governance, citizen empowerment, and building a tech-first 'Viksit Bharat', said FM Sitharaman. A staggering 55.44 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in India, 56 per cent of which belong to women, and the total amount in these deposits has surpassed Rs 2.5 lakh crore as of May 21 this year, according to RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao. In FY 2024-25, digital payments surged 35 per cent Y-o-Y by volume to 60.81 crore transactions per day, with UPI accounting for 83.73 per cent of such transactions.

## India's PSUs & PSBs Turn Into Wealth Creators in Last 11 Years

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has strengthened India's public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the last 11 years, turning them into wealth creators and making them integral to the nation's growth, the data-focused X handle infoindata showed on Wednesday.

With focused reforms, strategic autonomy and capital support, PSU market cap surged across the energy, power, and infrastructure sectors. While NTPC saw its market cap reach Rs 3.27 lakh crore in 2025, from 0.99 lakh crore in 2014, Power Grid saw its market cap touch Rs 2.80 lakh crore in 2025, from 0.55 lakh crore in 2014 (till June 9), as per data sourced from the DIPAM and the Department of Public Enterprises. Other PSUs



like IOCL, Power Finance, BPCL, GAIL, NHPC, BHEL, etc, also saw a meteoric rise in their market caps in the last 11 years. On the other hand, the market cap of public sector banks (PSBs) also surged in the last 11 years. The SBI saw its market cap reach Rs 7.32 lakh crore in FY26, from Rs 1.51 lakh crore in FY16.

PNB saw its market cap touch Rs 1.29 lakh crore in FY26 from 0.06 lakh crore in FY16, while Bank of Baroda's market cap reached Rs 1.28 lakh crore from 0.34 lakh crore in the same time frame, as per the data. "In 11 years, the Modi government transformed public sector banks from the NPA crisis of the UPA

era to record market capitalisation through structural reforms such as asset quality review, bank mergers, targeted recapitalisation, and measures to resolve bad loans," said infoindata on X. Meanwhile, India's top public sector companies in the financial, power and energy sectors recorded a robust growth in profit during the January-March quarter of 2024-25, which is expected to further strengthen the government's fiscal position.

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), and insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) led the charge with a net profit of Rs 18,643 crore and Rs 19,013 crore, respectively. SBI's net profit for the financial year 2024-25 has now soared to Rs 70,901 crore, while LIC has recorded an

impressive net profit of Rs 48,151 crore for the year. In the energy sector, Coal India earned a net profit of Rs 9,604 crore during the fourth quarter, while Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) registered a net profit of Rs 7,265 crore, with upstream oil exploration giant ONGC registering a net profit of Rs 6,448 crore during the quarter.

In the power sector, the country's largest electricity producer, NTPC, recorded a net profit of Rs 7,897 crore, while Power Finance Corporation (PFC), which also comes under the Ministry of Power, earned a robust Rs 8,358 crore. Power Grid Corporation of India also registered a strong profit of Rs 4,143 crore during the January-March quarter.

## Sensex Drops 823 Points Amid Growing US-Iran Tensions

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp fall on Thursday after a volatile trading session, as weak global cues and rising tensions between the US and Iran weighed on investor sentiment. The Sensex dropped by 823.16 points, or 1 per cent, to close at 81,691.98 after slipping to an intra-day low of 81,523.16. The Nifty fell below the psychological 25,000 mark and ended at 24,888.20, down by 253.20 points or 1.01 per cent. Among the 30 Sensex stocks, Tata Motors, Titan, Power Grid, Tata Steel, L&T and Mahindra &

Mahindra were the top losers, each falling over 2 per cent. Only Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints and Tech Mahindra managed to stay in the green. Broader market indices also ended in the red. The Nifty Midcap100 declined by 1.73 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap100 fell by 1.90 per cent - indicating a broader market sell-off. All sectoral indices closed lower. The Nifty Realty index was the worst performer, dropping by 2.02 per cent. Shares of major real estate companies such as Phoenix, Godrej Properties, Anant Raj, DLF,



Prestige, Sobha, Brigade, and Macrotech Developers declined by up to 3 per cent. Other sectors including energy, consumer durables, oil and gas, auto, PSU banks, FMCG, metal, and financial services also fell

more than 1 per cent each. "Consolidation in domestic markets is evolving into a broad-based trend, now extending to large-cap stocks. Valuation concerns and rising oil prices - driven by Middle East tensions - are fuelling risk aversion among investors," said Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments Limited. "Adding to the uncertainty, the US is considering unilateral tariff hikes on several key trading partners, with a decision expected within the next one to two weeks, ahead of an early July deadline," Nair added.

## NTPC Raises USD 750 Million ECB Term Loan with Bank of Baroda as Mandated Lead Arranger and Underwriter

**India, (H.S):** NTPC Limited, India's largest power utility and a Maharatna PSU, signed a Facility Agreement to raise an unsecured USD 750 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) Syndicated Term Loan facility (Base issue of USD 500 million and Greenshoe option of USD 250 million) with Door-To-Door Tenor of 10 years and Average Maturity of 7 years.

Bank of Baroda (Bank) acted as the Mandated Lead Arranger and Underwriter of the transaction for USD 500 million, while HDFC Bank was the Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner for the Greenshoe portion of USD 250 million. The deal was executed through the IFSC Banking Units (IBU) of Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank in GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The proceeds of the facility will be utilised towards financing of NTPC's capital expenditure for existing or new capacity addition

programmes, including flue gas desulphurisation projects, renewable energy projects (including hydro-based projects) and refinancing of existing External Commercial Borrowing for capital expenditure purposes to the extent the same is in compliance with the end-use or other requirements, as permitted under the ECB Guidelines of Reserve Bank of India.

This landmark transaction reinforces Bank of Baroda's leadership in executing large-scale cross-border financing and reflects its continued commitment to supporting India's infrastructure and energy sectors with world-class financial solutions. Commenting on the occasion, Shri Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), NTPC Limited said, "NTPC is spearheading a transformative expansion of its energy portfolio, with a strategic vision to achieve 60 GW of renewable

capacity by 2032 and elevate its total installed capacity from 80 GW to 130 GW+. This ambitious trajectory underscores NTPC's leadership in sustainable energy and its dedication to a balanced, future-ready power ecosystem. We gratefully acknowledge Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank's steadfast collaboration as valued financial partners in this journey."

Shri Lalit Tyagi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "We are delighted to work with NTPC on this landmark ECB transaction and support their financing requirements. This deal demonstrates Bank of Baroda's capabilities in global infrastructure financing as well as highlights the key role played by our IFSC Banking Unit in facilitating strategic, cross-border funding through GIFT City." Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Senior Vice President & Regional Head - PSU, Corporate Banking at HDFC Bank said, "This ECB

transaction not only reinforces GIFT City's growing stature as a global financial hub but also marks a significant milestone in enabling strategic partnerships. Facilitating this deal with a Maharatna like NTPC enhances confidence in the ecosystem and unlocks new opportunities across the financial landscape."

The transaction underlines the growing importance of GIFT City as a global financial hub, enabling efficient and globally competitive offshore banking solutions from India. Bank of Baroda is one of the early entrants at GIFT City, commencing operations in 2017. The Bank's IFSC Banking Unit is the 3rd largest overseas branch of the Bank's International operations with strong capabilities in Syndicated Loans, Trade Finance, Treasury Operations, and Retail Banking, with total business from the IBU crossing USD 10 billion as of March 2025.

## NPCI, IDRB join hands to bolster security for digital payments

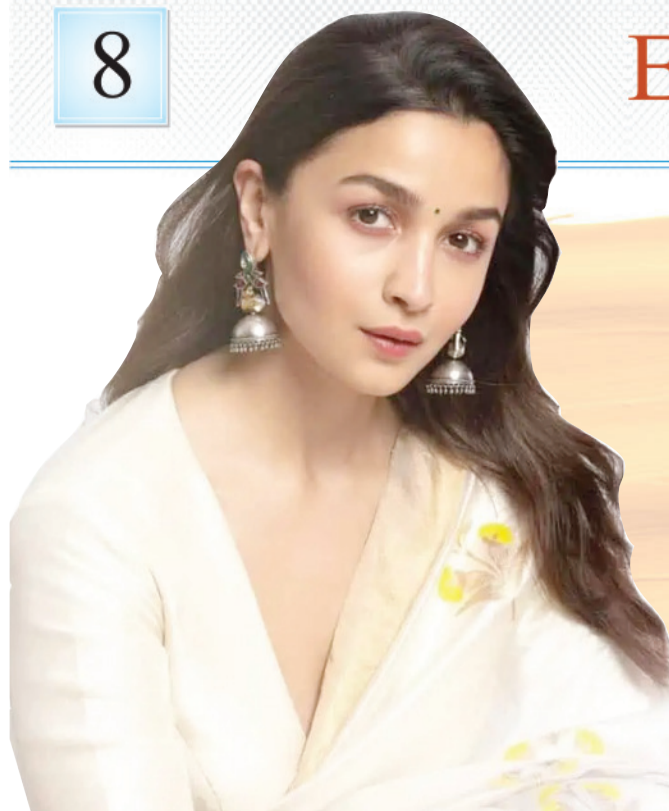
**New Delhi, (H.S):** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work together on strengthening cyber security and resilience in India's fast-growing digital payments ecosystem, including UPI. This partnership aims to improve the overall safety of digital transactions by focusing on training, awareness and proactive risk management.

Dilip Asbe, MD and CEO of NPCI, said that this collaboration with IDRBT is a step towards enhancing cyber resilience not just through technology, but also through people and preparedness. "Strengthening cyber resilience is not just about technology, but also about people and preparedness," Asbe stated. He emphasised that training, certifications, and shared intelligence will play a key role in raising security standards. Dr. Deepak Kumar, Director of IDRBT, said the institute has



always worked towards helping the banking and finance sector adopt technology. He added that this formal partnership will boost security awareness and build strong response systems within the digital payments ecosystem. Under the MoU, both organisations will jointly offer specialised training programmes for technology and cyber security professionals in the banking and digital payments sectors. These programmes will cover important areas such as cyber security, data privacy and system resiliency. One of the key outcomes of the partnership will be the launch of

a new NPCI-certified payment security certification programme. This certification will be tailored to meet the latest industry requirements and regulatory expectations, helping professionals stay updated with emerging threats and best practices. Additionally, IDRBT will extend its cyber threat intelligence service platform to NPCI and its partner organisations. This service will provide real-time, contextual threat intelligence to help prevent cyber-attacks and strengthen defence mechanisms across the digital payment network.



## Ahmedabad plane crash: Alia calls incident 'devastating', offers prayers for everyone on board

Alia Bhatt reacted to the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday. The plane had 242 passengers onboard. Air India plane crash: A London-bound Air India flight crashed near Ahmedabad airport shortly after takeoff on Thursday afternoon, with 242 people on board. Actor Alia Bhatt reacted to the incident and shared that it is 'devastating.'

Alia took to her Instagram Stories to share a report by Faye D'Souza on the Ahmedabad plane crash incident. In the caption, she wrote, "This is devastating. My heart aches for all the passengers and crew... thoughts and prayers for everyone on board and their loved ones... (broken heart and folded hands emoticons)." Several Bollywood celebrities, including Vicky Kaushal, Akshay Kumar, Sonu Sood, Ananya Panday, Janhvi Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut took to their social media accounts to

react to the incident. The Boeing aircraft, which could be seen losing altitude quickly, crashed in the Meghaninagar area near the Ahmedabad international airport around 2 pm. Air India said the plane was headed to Gatwick airport in the UK, while police officers said it crashed in a civilian area near the airport. The Indian aviation minister's office said Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had directed it to ensure all support is extended to the rescue efforts immediately. The authorities have confirmed that no flights will be allowed to arrive or depart from the airport "until further notice." The official statement from the SVPIA spokesperson read, "Flight AI 171 from Ahmedabad to London, Gatwick, earlier today, was involved in a crash shortly after take-off, outside the airport. As a result, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, is currently not operational. All flight operations are temporarily suspended until further notice."

Alia recently made a splash at the Cannes Film Festival, where she walked the red carpet as a global brand ambassador for L'Oréal Paris. She was last seen in Jigra. Fans will see her next in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War.

## "Heartbroken": From Akshay, Karan to Sunny, Bollywood all celebs express grief plane crash



The Air India flight AI171, departing from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, London, crashed in the Meghaninagar area near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday while carrying 242 passengers. Several Bollywood celebrities, including Akshay Kumar, Randeep Hooda, Sunny Deol, Janhvi Kapoor and others, have expressed grief over the Air India plane crash incident in Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

Taking to her Instagram stories, Janhvi wrote, "Shaken by the news of the Air India flight crash that took place shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad. The weight of such tragedies is impossible to put into words. Praying deeply for the passengers, the crew, and every family waiting for answers tonight." Sunny Deol wrote on X, "Devastated by the news of the plane crash in Ahmedabad. Praying with all my heart for survivors - may they be found and receive the care they need. May those who lost their lives rest in peace, and may their families find strength in this unimaginable time." "Can't imagine the pain of the family members of the ill fated Air India flight today. Praying for God to give them strength during this time," Parineeti Chopra wrote on X. Riteish Deshmukh was also shocked by the tragic incident and wrote on X, "Absolutely heartbroken and in shock after hearing about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My heart goes out to all the passengers, their families, and everyone affected on the ground. Holding them all in my thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time." Taking to X, Randeep Hooda wrote, "Heartbreaking to hear about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected. Hoping for survivors and strength for the rescue teams. May the departed rest in peace, and may their families find the strength to

endure this immense loss." "Prayers for Air India flight that crashed in Ahmedabad after take off to London," wrote Sonu Sood, adding, "I have a feeling we will have survivors. Om Sai Ram #airindiacrash"

Akshay Kumar expressed grief, saying, "Shocked and speechless at the Air India crash. Only prayers at this time" Karan Johar took to Instagram stories and wrote, "Devastating news about the ill fated AIR INDIA flight.... Information of lives lost and injured is still coming in...



am praying for all onboard... my thoughts and prayers for the families and loved ones of the passengers onboard...." "The news of the Ahmedabad plane crash is extremely sad and painful. I pray to God for everyone's safety, may God provide strength to all the affected families in this time of crisis," Kangana Ranaut wrote on X. Legendary actor Anupam Kher also expressed his grief on Air India plane crash wrote on X, "Disbelief... Shock..... Helplessness..... Sadness.. #PlaneCrash #AirIndia #Ahmedabad" According to an Air India statement, the Boeing 787-8 aircraft, operating as Flight AI-171, departed from Ahmedabad at 1:38 pm IST with 242 people on board, including crew. "The flight, which departed from Ahmedabad at 1338 hours, was carrying 242 passengers and crew members on board the Boeing 787-8 aircraft. Of these, 169 are Indian nationals, 53 are

British nationals, 1 Canadian national and 7 Portuguese nationals. The injured are being taken to the nearest hospitals. We have also set up a dedicated passenger hotline number 1800 5691 444 to provide more information," the airline said in a statement. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said that a team has been rushed to the spot for investigation. "On 12th Jun, 2025, Air India B787 Aircraft VT-ANB, while operating flight AI-171 from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, has crashed immediately after takeoff from Ahmedabad. There were 242 people on board the aircraft, consisting of 2 pilots and 10 cabin crew," said a senior DGCA official. The aircraft was under the command of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, an LTC with 8,200 hours of flying experience. He was assisted by First Officer Clive Kunder, who had 1,100 hours of flying experience, the

official said. As per Air Traffic Control (ATC), the aircraft departed from Runway 23 at 1339 IST (0809 UTC). It gave a mayday call to ATC, but thereafter, no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC."Aircraft immediately after departure from Runway 23, fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter. Heavy black smoke was seen coming from the accident site," the official added.

Meanwhile, expressing sadness over the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is "heartbreaking" beyond words. He said he is in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected. "The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Indian Supercross Racing League and Mr. Salman Khan stand by the Nation united in this tough time. All our condolences and prayers are with the affected families. Jointly, we have made a responsible decision to reschedule this event to a further date." The grand trailer launch of Telugu film Kannappa, which was set to be held tomorrow in Indore, has also been called off. The event was expected to host over 2,500 guests, with more than 100 media professionals flying into the Madhya Pradesh city from across India.

## Bizarre record ever in 145 years of test cricket at Au vs SA test

**London, (HS) :** The WTC Final Day 1 was also witness to a bizarre first in 145 years, i.e., since the format was first played in England (1880, England vs Australia, The Oval). The WTC Final was the first instance in 561 Tests in England that the No.1 batter (according to batting order) from both sides were dismissed for 0 in their first innings of the game. On Wednesday, Australia's Usman Khawaja and South Africa's Aiden Markram were the two men. Hence, it became the first such instance in 145 years.

Overall, it was the 10th time in Test history that such a thing has happened. Talking about the star of the day, Kagiso Rabada delivered a sensational performance, not only dismantling the opposition with a five-wicket haul but also etching his name deeper into South African cricket history. Rabada claimed figures of 5/51 in 15.4 overs, helping bowl Australia out for 112. His fiery spell was instrumental in shifting the momentum in South Africa's favour during a crucial phase of the match at Lord's. With this performance, Rabada surpassed legendary fast bowler Allan Donald in the list of South Africa's highest wicket-takers in Test cricket. The 30-year-old now has 332 wickets in 71 Tests, overtaking Donald's tally of 330 wickets in 72 matches. Rabada now sits fourth on the all-time list of South African Test wicket-takers. His five-wicket haul also earned him a rare spot in the record books.

Rabada became only the second bowler to take a five-for in a WTC final, following New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson, who achieved the feat against India in the 2021 final. Additionally,

## Summer McIntosh's World Record

**Victoria, (HS) :** Canadian teenage swimming sensation Summer McIntosh has once again proved her dominance in the sport, breaking her own world record in the 400m medley at the Canadian Swimming Trials in Victoria. Clocking an astonishing 4 minutes 23.65 seconds, McIntosh surpassed her previous mark of 4:24.38, set at the Canadian Olympic trials last year. McIntosh, an 18-year-old Olympic champion, showcased extraordinary skill and precision as she surged ahead from the very first butterfly stroke, maintaining world record pace throughout. By the midway point, she was more than a second ahead, and despite a brief slowdown during the breaststroke leg, she finished strong with a sensational freestyle sprint. "This has probably been the best meet of my career," McIntosh remarked after her historic swim. "World records are made to be broken, and I want to push the limits as far as I can before I leave this sport." This latest achievement comes just days after McIntosh set a new women's 400m freestyle world record and registered the third-fastest 800m freestyle time in history.



## Smith overtakes Bradman; beats Tendulkar but can't touch Kohli's record

**London, (HS) :** When bowlers of Australia and South Africa picked up 14 wickets on Day 1 of the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's, Steve Smith stood tall with the bat in hand. It was business as usual for the former Australia captain. The moving ball, the tumbling of wickets at the other end, didn't affect Smith as he put his head down to provide Australia bowlers with a score that they could defend. The 36-year-old scored 66 runs off 112 balls, which included 10 boundaries after coming in to bat at 16 for 2. In the process, Smith went past legends like Don Bradman, Garfield Sobers and Warren Bradley to set up a memorable record.

Rabada became just the second South African bowler after Jacques Kallis, who took 5/30 in the ICC Knockout Trophy final in 1998, to register a five-wicket haul in the final of a major ICC tournament. Rabada's



Continuing his love affair with the Lord's, Smith became the overseas batter with the most runs at the iconic venue. Smith now has 591 runs in the six matches in which he has featured in 10 innings at the Lord's. The right-hand batter has an average of 59.10 at Lord's with the help of three fifties and two hundreds. His highest score at Home of Cricket is 215. When Smith came

out to bat, he was fourth on the list of highest run-scorers at Lord's (among overseas batters). By the time he was dismissed, he rose to the top of the list, overtaking Australia's Warren Bardsley (575 runs in 5 matches), West Indies' Garfield Sobers (571 runs in 5 matches), and Australia's Don Bradman (551 runs in 4 matches).

This was Smith's seventh fifty-plus score in ICC event knockout matches, overtaking Tendulkar, who had six such scores in 15 matches, scoring 682 runs at an average of 48.71 with a century and five fifties. India's Virat Kohli remains the undisputed king of ICC knockout matches, being the only player to have made 1,000 runs in such matches.

overall record in knockout matches at ICC events continues to impress. He now has 11 wickets in five such matches, at an excellent average of 19.27. His five-for at Lord's on Wednesday is now his best performance in

an ICC knockout game, taking him to third on South Africa's all-time list of wicket-takers in ICC knockouts, behind Jacques Kallis (14), and tied with Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald (12 each).

## Karun Nair's Comeback; Fans Celebrate BCCI's

**New Delhi, (HS) :** In a touching tribute to perseverance and resilience, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) posted a video highlighting Karun Nair's comeback to the national side, featuring a heartfelt message from teammate KL Rahul. The video, captioned "A comeback story with Karun Nair. P.S. - A special message from KL Rahul," reflects not just Nair's return, but the emotional weight behind it. Rahul, Nair's longtime Karnataka teammate, expressed pride in his return after a long absence from international cricket. "I've known him for a very long time. The months he spent in the UK, how hard and lonely it was... for him



to come back to the Indian team is something very special for him, his family, and for friends like us who've seen his journey," Rahul said. He added that Nair's county cricket experience would be valuable in the upcoming Test series against England. Nair, who

made headlines in 2016 by scoring a stunning 303\* in just his third Test, had since faded from national contention. But he resurged with a stellar Ranji Trophy season, followed by a double century for India A earlier this month, and contributions of 40 and 15 in subsequent games. In a statement echoing quiet determination, Nair said, "Feels really special. Very grateful and very fortunate to get this opportunity again. I'm really looking forward to grabbing it with both hands." While his batting slot remains uncertain, some experts believe Nair could step into the No. 4 spot, vacated by Virat Kohli, who recently retired from Test cricket.

## Ahmedabad Plane Crash: Rohit Leads Tributes, Sports Fraternity 'Shocked'

**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** Members of the Indian cricket fraternity expressed deep sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families on Thursday after a London-bound Air India plane crashed shortly after takeoff in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. The Boeing 787-8 aircraft, carrying 242 people including 12 crew members, went down at 1:38 PM, near Ahmedabad airport. Indian Fast-bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who hails from Gujarat, shared his grief on Instagram Stories: "Prayers and strength for everyone affected by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad." All-rounder Hardik Pandya also offered his condolences: "Heartbreaking to hear about the crash in Ahmedabad. Prayers and strength to the families of

those affected." Ajinkya Rahane also posted: "Deeply saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Prayers for the victims and their families." Cheteshwar Pujara too expressed deep anguish: "Saddened and heartbroken to hear about the plane crash in Ahmedabad, praying for the families of everyone affected." The crash has cast a pall of grief across the country, with messages of support and sorrow pouring in from across the sporting world and beyond. The Air India plane with 242 people onboard, including 12 crew members, crashed into a doctors' hostel in the Meghani area shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon.