

Dumani Mail

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PM Modi marks 12 years in office, reiterates commitment to Viksit Bharat

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the past 12 years of the BJP-led government have been dedicated to public welfare, inclusive development and empowering citizens, adding that these efforts have helped India establish a new identity on the global stage.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said the government has worked with the spirit of "Nation First" and focused on the welfare of youth, women, farmers and the poor.

"The past 12 years of our government have been dedicated to trust, development and public welfare. With the blessings of 1.4 billion fellow citizens and the spirit of nation first, we have spared no effort in empowering our youth, women and our farmer brothers and sisters," PM Modi said.

He added that initiatives ranging from

infrastructure development to the digital revolution have strengthened India's standing globally.

"It is the result of these tireless efforts that today, from infrastructure to the digital revolution, the country has gained a new identity on the global stage. To realise the resolve of a Viksit Bharat, we will continue to move forward relentlessly on this path of service, good governance and prosperity," the Prime Minister said.

June 10 marks 12 years since Narendra Modi first assumed office as Prime Minister in 2014. Since then, he has secured successive mandates in 2019 and 2024, becoming the first Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to lead a government for three consecutive terms.

According to official records, Prime Minister Modi is set to surpass Jawaharlal Nehru as India's longest-serving

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continuously elected Prime Minister. His tenure as Prime Minister now exceeds 4,399 days, adding to nearly 13 years of service as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The Modi government's tenure has been marked by several major infrastructure and development initiatives,

including the new Parliament building, the Central Vista redevelopment project, Kartavya Path, Vande Bharat trains, the Statue of Unity, INS Vikrant, the Kashmir rail link, Noida International Airport, Namu Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and the

Ganga Expressway.

Union ministers also highlighted the government's achievements over the past 12 years and reiterated their support for the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Prime Minister Modi's third consecutive swearing-in on June 9, 2024,

marked a new chapter in India's political history.

He said the journey of "#12YearsOfSeva" has been guided by the principle of "Service Before Self" and has witnessed progress in poverty alleviation, national security, infrastructure development, governance reforms and digital

innovation.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government had established new benchmarks in public welfare and development. He highlighted initiatives such as free foodgrain distribution to over 81 crore beneficiaries, housing support under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, women's financial inclusion through Jan Dhan accounts and the growth of self-help groups.

Goyal also pointed to the expansion of metro rail networks, the increasing number of airports, the rollout of Vande Bharat trains and the growth of India's startup ecosystem.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the guiding principle of the government has been "Jan Seva Se Jan Shakti", with a focus on inclusion, innovation and opportunity. She highlighted the

success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, under which more than 58 crore bank accounts have been opened, and the PM SVANidhi scheme, which has extended financial assistance to street vendors across the country.

Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia said the government's focus on public welfare and good governance had brought positive changes to millions of lives, while Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri described Prime Minister Modi's leadership as being rooted in service, discipline and commitment to nation-building.

As the government completes 12 years in office, leaders across the Union Cabinet said the focus remains on accelerating development, strengthening governance and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Delhi: Home Ministry Approves Renaming Of MCD Zones

New Delhi: A major change is set to take place in the administrative structure of the national capital, Delhi. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the process of renaming various zones of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The Ministry has issued official instructions to the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government in this regard. This exercise aims to align municipal corporation zones with the district reorganisation carried out recently in Delhi.

Preparations for Gazette Notification

The official letter issued by the MHA clarifies that the Fourteenth Schedule of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, will be amended. The Ministry has directed the Delhi government to notify this amendment in the Delhi Gazette with immediate effect to make it operational. A copy of the gazette notification is to be provided to the Ministry of Home



Affairs.

According to available information, this decision is based on proposals submitted by the Urban Development Department of the Delhi government. The move references letters dated April 20 and February 23, 2026. These letters cite proposals approved by the Delhi Cabinet, which recommended renaming the municipal zones to ensure alignment with the reorganised districts.

Enhanced Administrative Efficiency

From an administrative standpoint, the lack of uniformity between names of districts and municipal zones, often leads to confusion. Discrepancies between district names and their corresponding zones also make it difficult for citizens to access services provided by local bodies. It is expected that this renaming initiative will make the corporation's functioning more transparent and streamlined. The new naming structure will be primarily based on the geographical location of the areas and the new configuration of administrative districts. While the specific zones to be renamed have not yet been disclosed, the changes are likely to be extensive.

In accordance with the directives, the MHA has clarified that this process was initiated following approval from the competent authority. Now, the Delhi Secretariat and the MCD headquarters must act quickly to implement this. The name change will come into effect as soon as the notification is published in the official gazette.

In the coming days, the new names of these zones will appear on the MCD's website and in other official documents. For now, Delhi residents will have to await the official notification for details regarding their wards and zones. This move is being viewed as another significant milestone in the administrative reforms of Delhi.

India slams Pakistan at UN Over 'Fitna al Hindustan' narrative

New Delhi: India has strongly criticised Pakistan at the United Nations, accusing it of spreading state-sponsored "misinformation and disinformation" by referring to militant groups operating within its territory as "Fitna al Hindustan".

Addressing a United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said Pakistan was attempting to shift responsibility for its internal security challenges onto India.

Islamabad has in recent months issued official notifications directing government agencies to describe several militant groups as "Fitna al Hindustan," alleging that they



are backed by India. However, Pakistan has not presented evidence to support these claims.

Responding to the allegations, Harish said the terminology was part of a deliberate disinformation campaign aimed at misleading both domestic and international audiences.

"Pakistan coming up with official notifications, directing its government agencies to start referring to groups inside its own borders

as 'Fitna al Hindustan', is nothing but officially sponsored misinformation and disinformation dressed in religious terminology," he said.

The Indian envoy argued that the narrative was designed to perpetuate hostility towards India and divert attention from Pakistan's internal political and economic challenges.

Describing the campaign as "an organised factory of hate", Harish said it sought

to distract the Pakistani public by creating external enemies instead of addressing domestic issues.

He also criticised Pakistan's political structure and the growing influence of its military establishment, pointing to recent constitutional amendments as evidence of increasing military dominance over civilian institutions.

Turning to regional security concerns, Harish condemned Pakistan's

military actions across the Afghanistan border and accused Islamabad of causing civilian casualties through its airstrikes.

"Let me reiterate. Dressing up a massacre as a military operation does not absolve the perpetrator. Killing, maiming and orphaning civilians is not counter-terrorism," he said.

He further remarked, "Espousing high principles of international law and Islamic solidarity while mercilessly carrying out air strikes during the holy month of Ramadan is the perfect example of hypocrisy."

Harish maintained that Pakistan has a long-standing pattern of blaming neighbouring countries for its internal difficulties.

The sharp exchange

comes amid heightened tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Earlier this year, UN records indicated that Pakistani airstrikes inside Afghanistan killed at least 13 civilians, including women and children, sparking one of the most serious border confrontations between the two countries in recent years.

By March, the UN had documented that the cross-border strikes and subsequent military actions had left at least 42 civilians dead and 104 injured, while displacing more than 100,000 people.

Although a brief pause in hostilities helped avert a wider conflict, sporadic clashes continue along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Delhi Malviya Nagar Fire: MCD Cracks Down On Illegal Constructions

Demolishes 123 Properties, Seals 170

New Delhi: Following the Malviya Nagar fire tragedy, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched an extensive crackdown on illegal constructions and violations of building regulations across the national capital.

Acting on directions from Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the civic body has demolished 123 properties and sealed 170 others since June 1.

On June 8 only, MCD teams carried out demolition drives at 26 properties and sealed 42 others across different parts of the city.

The civic body said its "zero-tolerance" policy against unauthorised constructions and misuse of properties will continue.

Also, in this period, over 200 notices were issued to property owners across various zones for violations of building and land-use regulations.

across several South Delhi localities, with authorities conducting nine major operations in Adchini, Saidulajab, Freedom Fighter Colony, Savitri Nagar, Khidki Extension and Chhatrapur Pahari. These actions targeted illegal constructions and unauthorised commercial activities in areas where officials reported widespread violations of building and land-use regulations.

Since June 1, the MCD has demolished or sealed 56 properties in South Delhi, including Saidulajab, Hauz Rani, Khidki Extension, Savitri Nagar, Begumpur, Chhatrapur, Sainik Farm, Khanpur and Gautam Nagar.

Also, in this period, over 200 notices were issued to property owners across various zones for violations of building and land-use regulations.

As per the officials, residents were also informed of the rules governing construction activities and property use during the enforcement drive. Citizens were warned that properties involved in unauthorised construction or illegal commercial use could face sealing or demolition. The civic body

advised residents to comply with the provisions of the Master Plan-2021, the Unified Building Bye-Laws-2016 and the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

MCD further stated that a special survey is being conducted across all zones to identify unauthorised residential and commercial properties. Officials said the campaign would be intensified in the coming days, with dedicated teams formed to carry out enforcement measures.

The corporation has urged residents to familiarise themselves with applicable regulations before undertaking any construction work or commercial activity and to contact their local MCD office whenever necessary.

ED conducts searches in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi NCR in Hampton Sky Realty money laundering case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting search operations at six premises across Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi NCR, in connection with a money laundering case involving Hampton Sky Realty Limited. The locations include Ludhiana and Jalandhar in Punjab, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, and the Delhi-Noida region. According to ED officials, the premises being

ED had said that fake GST purchases of mobile phones worth over 100 crore rupees were used, followed by exports to allegedly round-trip illegitimate funds from Dubai to India.

covered include both residences and business offices connected with the persons and entities linked to Hampton Sky Realty Limited. Further details are awaited.

The case is linked to Aam Aadmi Party leader and Punjab

Minister Sanjeev Arora. According to the probe agency, it uncovered a large-scale money laundering operation allegedly carried out through entities linked to Mr Arora. ED had said that fake GST purchases of mobile phones worth over 100

crore rupees were used, followed by exports to allegedly round-trip illegitimate funds from Dubai to India. ED said that multiple fake GST purchase bills were obtained from non-existing firms in Delhi to fraudulently claim input tax credit, GST refunds on exports and duty drawbacks, causing losses to the exchequer and resulting in wrongful gains to the accused.

PM Modi pays tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his martyrdom day

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tribute to freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his martyrdom day. In a social media post, Mr Modi said that Birsa Munda fought against foreign rule with indomitable courage to protect water, forests, and land. The Prime Minister said Bhagwan Birsa Munda's entire life was dedicated to safeguarding the self-respect, culture, and rights of the tribal community. Mr Modi said the saga of his supreme sacrifice for the motherland will continue to inspire a spirit of patriotism in every generation of the country.



100th Swachhata Hi Seva Programme Held at Paradip Beach

Paradip,(DMC)June 7:- The 100th "Swachhata Hi Seva" Programme was successfully organized at Paradip Beach by the Paradip College NCC Alumni Association. This landmark event witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC cadets, alumni members, and local citizens committed to environmental conservation and public cleanliness.

The programme was graced by Basanta Biswal, Chairman of Paradip Municipality, as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Krishnakant Choubey, Commandant (JG), Indian Coast Guard, Ajit Sadangi, Councillor of Ward No. 8, and Lieutenant Commander Akshaya Chandra Mishra, Advisor to the NCC Alumni Association.

Among those present were Ambika Prasad Mohapatra, President of the NCC Alumni



Association, Vice Presidents Vivekananda Mohapatra and Bikram Singh Maharana, Secretary Padmanava Das, Joint Secretaries Nilima Priyadarshini, Anadi Senapati, and Hridananda Nath Sharma. Executive members Somanath Mohapatra, Lipuna Barik, Santosh Mohapatra, Subhashis Tripathy, Deepak Ojha, Jitendra Barik, Pikun

Senapati, Arunima Nayak, Sucharita Rout, Tejaswini, along with numerous NCC cadets and alumni members, actively participated in the beach cleaning drive.

On this occasion, awareness was created among the public regarding the harmful effects of polythene and single-use plastics, proper waste segregation, and the

importance of protecting the environment to keep Paradip clean and green.

Guided by the motto "Nation First," the Paradip College NCC Alumni Association has been continuously serving society and the environment. The association has successfully conducted beach cleaning drives for 100 consecutive Sundays, organized

annual blood donation camps collecting more than 110 units of blood, carried out anti-drug awareness campaigns, distributed buttermilk during summer to help people cope with heat waves, installed water and food pots for birds, and conducted road safety and traffic awareness programmes.

The association has earned widespread appreciation from the public for its dedicated efforts in promoting cleanliness, environmental protection, and social welfare across various areas of Paradip.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ambika Prasad Mohapatra reaffirmed that the association will continue to undertake such public welfare and environmental conservation initiatives in the future.

MLA Bari lays foundation stone for Road



Foundation stone for Road under Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY) laid by Bari MLA Biswa Ranjan Mallick in Kimbhiriapal Panchayat under Bari block on Monday. It is a 2.5 KM Long road under the Rural Development Department, projected cost at 2.5 crore will be constructed from MDR 14 Sankarigada to

Kimbhiriapal. Speaking on occasion Sri Mallick said this people in this local will benefit during flood once the work completed. Local Sarapanch Harapriya Sahoo, Vice Chairperson Bari Archana Mallik, ZP member Ashok Samal, Santosh Samal, Dillip Mohanty and others were accompanied.

Villagers demand for installation of new tube wells alleviate drinking water shortage.

Khordha --8/6-While there has been a problem of drinking water in Bangida,GP, Ward No-7 under khordha Panchayat Samiti for a long time. Due to the intense heat wave in the area, the residents of the locality are facing the problem of not having adequate drinking water. The problem was brought to the notice of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation(RWSS) Department engineer in this regard, but no results were obtained. The tube well in Ward No.-7 has been defunct for a long

time. After many complaints, the engineer of RWSS recently declared the tube well inoperative. No departmental step has been taken to install a new tube well for the residents of the locality who depend on that tube well. The drinking water supplied by the department through pipes line for only 15 to 20 minutes, that cannot meet the demand of the local residents and keeping in mind the problem of drinking water residents of Ward No.-7 submitted a grievance petition



address to the Collector khordha today during the joint public hearing camp in Bangida GP. The villagers have appealed to the

district administration and the RWSS department to take immediate steps for the installation of a new tubewell. They emphasized that access to clean drinking water is a basic necessities and requested the authorities to prioritize the issue. The villagers expressed hope that the district administration would respond promptly and ensure the installation of a tube well to provide safe and adequate drinking water to all households in ward no -7 of Bangida GP.

Heat Wave Awareness Camp held



Bhubaneswar :A Heat Wave Awareness Camp was held under ward no-14 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation at Worker Facilitation Centre (WFC), Bhubaneswar, to create awareness among workers and slum residents on heatwave safety and prevention measures organised by Action Aid. During the camp, heatwave awareness leaflets, curd drinks (dahi pani), ORS, and glucose beverages were distributed to workers, children, and

community members. More than 200 people attended the camp, received information on heatwave preparedness and hydration practices, and appreciated ActionAid's timely initiative to support vulnerable communities during the summer season. The camp was coordinated by Saraswati, Shiba, Bhaskar, Gitanjali, Swarnapriya, intern students Akankhya and Sonali, along with slum-level HRDs Golap, Pravasini, and Kousalya.

Six Utkal University Professors Featured in World's Top 5% Scientists List

Bhubaneswar: (DMS): In a major academic milestone, six professors from Utkal University have been featured among the world's top 5% scientists in the prestigious 2025 'Science-Rank Global Registry', released based on research output and scientific contributions.

The distinguished faculty members who made it to the global list are Prof. Shreerup Goswami from the Department of Geology, Prof. Nigamananda Das (Emeritus Professor) from the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Joydev Dinda (Director, Research & Development), Prof. Anath Bandhu Das (Emeritus Scientist) from the Department of Botany, Dr. Himanshu Sekhar Rout from the Department of Analytical & Applied Economics, and Prof. Gagan Bihari Nityananda Chayeni (Retired Professor & Former HOD, Department of

Biotechnology & Zoology). The pioneering research conducted by these professors in cutting-edge fields—including cancer therapeutics, green energy, plant genome mapping, oxidative stress, antioxidant defense, redox biology, and economic analysis—has received widespread acclaim and citations globally. Congratulating the professors on their stellar achievement, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chandni Prasad Nanda said, "This success is a reflection of Utkal University's deep commitment to excellence and innovation in the field of research." He wished them continued success in their future research and academic endeavors. This extraordinary accomplishment has not only elevated the stature of the university but has also brought immense pride to the entire state of Odisha.

Forest department confirm man killed by Leopard attack

Keonjhar : Hundreds of villagers of nearby areas protest in front of Duhiani forest range office today demanding confirm report about the man killed by suspected wild animals about a week back and compensation. Divisional Forest Officer , Karanjia division said " the man killed by leopard is confirmed. Compensation will be paid as per the government provision. Immediatly one lakh will be paid. Rest nine lakh will be paid after receiving other related documents".

In other hand Regional Chief Conservator of forest, Baripada cum Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve Prakash Chand Gogineni confirmed in a letter that the man whose partial mortal remains found in the forest near Kumudabadi village under Karanjia division of Mayurbhanj district was killed by leopard.

On 1st June the partial mortal remains of Sri Sadhu Naik, of Basantpur Village, were found by villagers suspecting kill by wild animal. Over this the local people staged protest at that time

Villagers protest for compensation



demanding protection and compensation. The forest department along with police had conducted thorough search in the adjacent forest area but failed to traced out the remaining body parts. As it was a case suspected killing by wild animal, the forest department in its preliminary observations could not give any conclusive reason for cause of

death. Later they send the samples and other evidentiary materials for analysis in the laboratory for scientific evidence. According to the forest department sources , the lab

Illegal Crusher Units & stone quarries destroying wildlife in Nuapada

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, June 8 : Illegal stone crushers and quarries in Nuapada District are causing severe destruction to wildlife, habitats and local ecosystems through rampant illegal operations. These activities, often conducted without mandatory approvals or near protected, eco-sensitive areas, are causing habitat fragmentation, severe pollution and increased human-animal conflict. Stone crushers legally require active Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) licenses from the State Pollution Control Board, but in Nuapada some of the crusher units are operating without valid CTE & CTO. As per the information by the mining department, there are only 4 stone quarries and Crusher Units in the district. However, ground reports suggest that more crusher units are operating, a stark contrast to the official figures provided by the mining official. The situation has prompted calls for immediate intervention by the concern department to ensure compliance with regulatory norms and safeguard public interest.

Meeting Held to Review Arrangements for Debasnana Purnima and Alarnath Darshan

Puri: Preparations for the annual Debasnana Purnima and the subsequent Alarnath Darshan were reviewed at a high-level meeting held at Sadbhavana Sabhagruha here on Monday. This year, Debasnana Purnima will be observed on June 29. Following the ceremonial bathing festival of Lord Jagannath, devotees are expected to throng the Alarnath Temple at Brahmagiri during the Anasara period, when the deities remain out of public view at the Jagannath Temple. Chairing the meeting, Puri

Collector Divya Jyoti Parida said a large influx of pilgrims is anticipated for both the Snana Yatra and Alarnath Darshan. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure smooth, disciplined and hassle-free conduct of the events. The Collector said instructions had already been issued to various departments for the efficient management of the Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra. Special emphasis was laid on crowd management, security, ritual arrangements, and pilgrim convenience at the Alarnath

Temple during the Anasara period. Based on suggestions from temple servitors and members of the temple management committee, it was decided that the Sub-Collector would assess on-ground requirements at the Alarnath Temple and oversee necessary measures to improve facilities for devotees. Parida directed all concerned departments to expedite their preparations and work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of the festivals. He also underscored the



importance of carrying out assigned responsibilities with dedication and a spirit of service. The meeting discussed in detail arrangements related to

management, law and order, information and publicity, cultural programmes, disaster management, deployment of volunteers, fire safety measures, water sprinkling facilities and telecommunications. Officials were informed that all rituals and religious observances would be conducted strictly in accordance with approved temple traditions, while the temple administration would take necessary steps to ensure smooth execution. Among those present were SP Prateek Singh, Puri

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sneha Arugula, temple administration officials, members of the Shree Jagannath Temple Management Committee, Deputy Collector Priyadarshini Mallick, Sub-Collector Raj Kishore Jena, Commandant Tapas Das, and senior officers from various district-level departments. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Dr Sarat Chandra Mohapatra.

Puri Rath Yatra Preparations Gather Pace: First-Tier Structure Mounted on Four Nahakas, 14 Nahakas to Be Raised Tomorrow

Puri: Preparations for the annual Rath Yatra are progressing steadily as construction work on the three chariots entered another crucial phase on Tuesday. Following the completion of the first-tier floor frame of all three chariots, artisans completed the numbering of various frame components and finished fitting the remaining yokes.

In a significant development, the first-tier chhakathi (cross-beam framework) was mounted on the four nahakas of all three chariots. After the first-floor frame was opened, Maharana carpenters, assisted by Bhoi servitors, installed the structural framework that will support the next stage

of construction.

The first-tier structure includes four pillars connected to the chhakathi, which will eventually support 24 side panels (pakhudas), 16 cross-members, and 24 floor pillars around the four sides of each chariot. Preparatory work for these installations has already begun.

14 Nahakas to Be Raised on Wednesday

The next major milestone is scheduled for Wednesday, when the 14 nahakas of the three chariots will be raised. Following this, the remaining components of the first-tier platform will be assembled.

Maharana servitors will be supplied with four-foot-long coconut-wood beams



(khadi ora). After shaping and levelling the beams, they will be fitted onto the chariot framework with the assistance of Bhoi servitors. Once the binding and alignment work is completed, the side panels will be attached to the first-tier structure.

Four-Nahaka Bracing Work Completed

Under the supervision of Bhoi Sardar Ravi Bhoi, servitors completed the jhanka salakha bracing work on the four nahakas of the three chariots. The work involved securing and stabilising the four upright supports connected to the main axle framework, ensuring structural alignment for subsequent construction

stages.

Construction of Second-Tier Frame Begins

Work has also commenced on the middle or second-tier floor frame of the three chariots. The construction is being carried out by chief Maharana artisans along with their assistants and Bhoi servitors at the Rath Khala workshop. Sculptural and Decorative Work Underway

Rupakar servitors continued carving decorative motifs on eight natagods of each chariot, including intricate Kandarpa figures. They also began engraving artistic designs on the four side panels of the chariots.

Meanwhile, at the temporary blacksmith

workshop near Dolabedi, Ojha Kamar servitors completed the manufacture of nails required for the first-tier flooring and chanak kanta fittings. Work on potal kanta and second-tier nails is currently underway.

At Dolabedi, Pahi Maharana servitors are continuing to prepare wooden implements and ritual accessories required for the upcoming Anasara period and Rath Yatra ceremonies.

With each passing day, the iconic chariots are taking shape, bringing the sacred festival of Rath Yatra a step closer and drawing growing anticipation among devotees and visitors alike.

Bus and trailer collide, 30 injured, 5 seriously



Keonjhar: Today, a passenger bus named Sai Nageshwar, going from Keonjhar to Ukhunda, collided with a trailer coming from Ukhunda near Bhanpur in Baunsuli - Ukhunda road, in which more than 30 passengers were injured, while narrowly escaped from a big mishap.

Sujata Mahanta, a passenger, said that she had taken her daughter to Keonjhar Medical College hospital for treatment. On her way back, the accident occurred and two of us were injured and hospitalised.

Sumitra Mahanta,

another passenger, said that she had come to Baansuli Panchayat Office for a meeting. On her way back, the accident occurred from the east of our house. Five people were seriously injured in the accident, while a total of around thirty people were injured. On receiving the information, the police reached the spot and took the injured to the local hospital with the help of an ambulance for treatment, while the seriously injured were sent to the Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital.

Admin demolished the homes of three criminals



Keonjhar: In line with its commitment to curb and take action against the increasing criminal activity in Barbil and surrounding areas, the houses of three individuals living on government land in Wards 1, 8, and 9 of Barbil Municipality in Keonjhar district were demolished using a JCB machine on Tuesday. Following the service of notices by Barbil Municipality at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, under the leadership of Barbil Tehsildar cum Executive Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Panda, along with a large police force, including Barbil Police Station in-charge Ashok Kumar Nayak, the house of Mohammad Rohit, a resident of Hirakud Mouza, Plot No. 67, in Barbil Mouza, Ward No. 1, Nalda-2, under Barbil Municipality, was demolished with the help of a JCB. The police administration stated that six different criminal cases were registered against Rohit at the Barbil Police Station between 2022 and 2025. In the same

sequence, the house of 33-year-old Mohammad Shakir Hussain, resident of Ward No. 9, Azad Basti, in Barbil Mouza, under the Barbil Police Station, was demolished. A case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act has been registered against Shakir Hussain in Case No. 129, dated 01/05/23, at the Barbil Police Station. Later that afternoon, the house of 22-year-old Mohammad Taufiq, resident of Ward No. 8, Barkatnagar, Plot No. 129/960, Account No. 42, Badbil Mouza, under the Barbil Police Station, was demolished. According to the police administration, a total of four different criminal cases are registered against Mohammad Taufiq at the Barbil Police Station from 2023 to 2026. Meanwhile, Barbil Executive Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Panda stated that in the coming days, the houses of three other people involved in criminal activities will also be demolished.

Forest Department Raid: 10 Pieces of Teak Wood and a Motorcycle Seized

Boipariguda (Bikrant Kumar Beborla): Timber smugglers were attempting to transport wood under the cover of darkness when a raid in the Ramagiri forest range resulted in the seizure of wood worth lakhs of rupees; the incident has sparked speculation among locals about whether the timber traders are finally facing a reckoning. The Forest Department conducted the raid after staff from the Pansput section of the Ramagiri range, who were out on night patrol, intercepted the smuggling



attempt. During the patrol Environment Department, the smugglers abandoned

the wood and the motorcycle and fled the scene. Ten pieces of teak wood found on a motorcycle in the dense forest were seized. While the vehicle's driver and the associated timber smugglers managed to escape, the motorcycle and the consignment of wood were confiscated. The raiding team included Gupteswar Ranger Chhabindra Randhari, Forester Lalita Bidika, Forest Guards Sasmita Maiti and Satyabrata Pradhan, along with support staff.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL CROSSING AWARENESS DAY OBSERVED BY KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

As part of the observance of International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) 2026, Khurda Road Division conducted a Special Safety Awareness Campaign from 03.06.2026 to 09.06.2026 at various level crossing gates under its jurisdiction, including LC Nos. KP-9, KP-11, KP-14, KP-27, 202, 255, 263, 118, 119, 120, 142, 147, 289, 292, 185 and 219. The campaign culminated with the observance of International Level Crossing Awareness Day on 09.06.2026. International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) is a global initiative aimed at enhancing public awareness regarding safety at railway level crossings. The theme for ILCAD 2026 is "Alert



Today, Safe Tomorrow."

To mark the occasion, an awareness programme was organized at Level Crossing Gate No. 185 between MCS and BRAG stations under Khurda Road Division. Various awareness activities such as mass counselling, distribution of leaflets, display of banners and posters, and dissemination of safety messages were undertaken to

educate road users and the general public on safe practices at railway level crossings.

A Nukkad Natak was presented by the Scouts & Guides to convey important safety messages. The performance highlighted the need for patience and caution while crossing railway tracks and emphasized that no attempt should be made to cross a level crossing when

the gate is closed. Members of the Khurda Road Civil Defence Organisation also sensitized the public about the dangers of trespassing on railway tracks, taking selfies, making reels, and engaging in other unsafe activities within railway premises.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Subodha Choudhary, PCSO, Shri P. K. Behera, ADRM (OP), Khurda Road, Shri A. P. Barik, Dy. CSO/Electrical, and other Branch Officers stressed the importance of adhering to safety regulations at level crossings and railway premises. They urged all road users and pedestrians to remain vigilant and follow prescribed safety practices, reiterating that every life is precious.

Former Associate Rakesh Pattnaik Levels Serious Allegations Against Bapi Sarkhel, Seeks Fresh Investigation



Paradip, (DMC) :- A fresh controversy has emerged in Paradip following allegations made by local businessman and trade union leader Rakesh Pattnaik against so-called leader Bapi Sarkhel during a press conference held on Tuesday. The development comes in the aftermath of the recent bomb attack on the residence of Paradip Municipality Chairperson Basanta Biswal. Following the incident, several political parties and social organizations had reportedly submitted separate memorandums to the Additional Superintendent of Police,

demanding the arrest of the main accused and seeking an investigation into the alleged role of Bapi Sarkhel. A day earlier, Sarkhel had addressed a press conference, claiming that attempts were being made to falsely implicate him in the incident. He also alleged the involvement of Rakesh Pattnaik, describing him as a criminal. Responding to these allegations, Pattnaik strongly denied the charges and accused Sarkhel of orchestrating efforts to tarnish his image. Addressing the media, Pattnaik stated that he had worked as a manager in Sarkhel's company, Shark Group Marketing Limited, after moving to Paradip from Kakatpur in 2007. He alleged that during his tenure, large sums of money were received by the company from contractors working in and around the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) project area. According to Pattnaik, these

funds were collected in the name of "protection money," although he did not provide documentary evidence during the press conference. Pattnaik further alleged that through an organization named Paradip-Ersama Industrial Development Council, hundreds of local youths were enrolled and used to exert pressure on companies operating in the region. He claimed that employment opportunities were often linked to these alleged activities, he distanced himself from Sarkhel in 2016. Pattnaik further alleged that following their separation, he became the target of multiple criminal cases and attacks. He claimed that his vehicle was fired upon in January 2016 and that several cases were lodged against him at Abhayachandpur Police Station. The labour leader also alleged that incidents, including

a firing case at a guest house associated with a company working at the NRL project site in 2023, were staged to falsely implicate him. He claimed that numerous cases had been filed against him through individuals allegedly associated with Sarkhel.

Pattnaik has demanded a detailed investigation into the alleged financial transactions of Shark Group Marketing Limited, including funds amounting to over ₹500 crore, and has sought a reinvestigation of criminal cases registered in his name.

No official response from Bapi Sarkhel was immediately available regarding the latest allegations. The claims made by Rakesh Pattnaik are allegations and have not been independently verified. Authorities have not yet announced any fresh investigation into the matter.

IEPS seize 500 Grams of brown sugar, arrest three drug peddlers including two women.



Khordha-9/6-In a major breakthrough on the ongoing "Nasha Mukta Abhiyan", the Industrial Estate Police (IEPS) seized 500 grams of brown sugar near Mo Khordha Restaurant and arrested three drug peddlers, including two women, during a special anti-drug operation. Addressing a press conference at the District Police Office (DPO) SP, Khordha, Parmar Smit Parshottamdas (IPS) informed media persons that the district police have achieved significant success in their intensified drive against narcotics trafficking. Acting on reliable intelligence, industrial estate police team conducted a raid near Mo Khordha Restaurant and intercepted the accused while they were allegedly engaged in illegal drug trade activities. During the operation police recovered 500 grams of brown sugar, the market value of which is estimated to be ₹50 lakhs of rupees. The contraband and 5 mobile phone one Royal Enfield

Classic 350 motorcycle was seized and the accused were taken into custody for further investigation. The accused have been identified as Saumya Ranjan Swain (19) vill- UparSahi, Khordha, Krushna Priya Swain (50) vill- Kakudia, Pipili and Ipsita Panigrahi (21) vill- Panabaraj, Khordha. The SP stated that the crackdown is part of the district police's sustained campaign under 'Nasha Mukta Abhiyan', aimed at eliminating drug trafficking and protecting the youth from the menace of substance abuse. He reiterated that strict action would continue against drug smugglers and peddlers operating in the district. As relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and distribution network of the seized contraband. The police have appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by sharing information related to drug trafficking and illegal narcotics activities.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NAYAGARH (R&B) DIVISION, NAYAGARH
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
E-mail: pswdoffng34@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. S.E-Nayagarh (R&B) Division-Online 05/2026-27

The Superintending Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work	: Electrical Works.
2. No of Work	: 6 Nos
3. Tender Cost & EMD	: To be remitted online through as mentioned in DTC.
4. Class of Contractor	: As mentioned in DTCN
5. Availability of Bid Document in the Website	: From DL:22.06.2026 11:00 AM to DL:22.06.2026 Up to 5.00 pm.
6. Date of opening of Bid	: DL:23.06.2026 at 11:00 AM
7. The have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

34001/324/2627
Superintending Engineer,
Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-I
A.T.P.O. - PARHULANPADA, BALASORE
CONTACT NO. :- 9678262845
E-Mail ID :- se_baler@yaho.com.in

BID INVITATION NO. SE (R and B) BLS-Div-I-03 / 2026-27
Letter No: 6272 Date: 08.06.2026

1	The Superintending Engineer, Balasore (R & B) Division-I, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids to be received in ONLINE MODE only for Electrical and Building works
2	No. of Work : 1 No
3	Nature of Work : Electrical work of Balasore (R&B) Division-I
4	Class of Contractor : "H1" Class Contractor
5	Approx. value of work : Rs. 45.71 Lakh
6	Tender Cost. : Rs. 6000/-
7	Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From 16:00 Hours of dt. 11.06.2026 to 16:00 hours of dt. 20.06.2026
8	Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 22.06.2026 at 10:00 Hours
9	Other details can be seen in the Bidding documents from the website : https://tenderodisha.gov.in .

34001/321/2627
Superintending Engineer,
Balasore (R&B) Division-I

INDIA Bloc

THE Monday meeting of the INDIA bloc was intended to project Opposition unity. Instead, it highlighted the challenges of holding together a coalition of parties with competing regional interests and political ambitions. The alliance faces the tough task of proving that it can offer a credible alternative to the BJP-led NDA. The meeting's decisions - including holding consultations more frequently, jointly raising concerns over the SIR of electoral rolls, seeking Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over examination controversies and coordinating parliamentary strategy - reflect an effort to remain politically relevant. However, these issues alone cannot sustain a national coalition.

The bloc's central weakness is that it remains united largely by opposition to the BJP rather than by a shared governing vision. While criticism of the ruling party can bring diverse groups together, voters eventually seek answers on employment, inflation, agricultural distress, economic growth and federal relations. On these issues, the alliance has yet to articulate a coherent common programme. Its internal contradictions are equally apparent. In West Bengal, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress are rivals. In Punjab, the Congress and the AAP compete fiercely. In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF and the CPI(M)-led LDF are political adversaries. Such state-level contests inevitably complicate national cooperation.

While the presence of Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav lent weight to the gathering, the absence of the DMK and AAP underscored the difficulties of maintaining cohesion in a coalition of diverse interests. Yet the coalition should not be written off. It played a significant role in preventing a BJP landslide in 2024 and remains an important platform for opposition coordination. If it hopes to endure, it must move beyond symbolism and develop a clear policy agenda. Without greater cohesion and a shared vision, the alliance risks being taken seriously by the electorate.

Border Smuggling

THE arrest of 54 minors over the past 14 months for their involvement in cross-border drug and arms smuggling in Punjab is acutely worrying. It calls for a multi-pronged intervention aimed at addressing the entire gamut of issues plaguing the border districts. The blueprint of piecemeal measures and lopsided development denotes a lack of seriousness in catering to the needs of an area that is literally the first line of defence. A sense of urgency in effecting a transformative change in the lives of border residents has been missing. The consequences have been alarming. Just recently, two minors were caught by the Amritsar police with Pakistan-origin pistols and heroin. Villages near the border in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka districts have emerged as prime targets for recruitment. Families battling poverty and unemployment are being systematically exploited.

Intelligence inputs have consistently warned of Pakistani traffickers instructing Indian accomplices to recruit teenagers for drug and arms smuggling. One, because they have no criminal record and are thus off the radar of security agencies. Two, they cannot be punished harshly under the Juvenile Justice Act. Scores of youngsters have fallen in the trap. Many have been taken in by social media images glorifying weapons. Several operate as pickup agents for consignments dropped by drones.

Ramping up vigilance alone is not the solution. The Central and state governments must be seen as actively working to erase the border residents' perception that they have been left out of the India story.

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Subash Chandra Misra

When my friend was sick, he visited a doctor and started taking the medicines prescribed by the doctor. He also took a course of Ayurvedic herbal medicines as a back up on the advice of his neighbour. In our country every neighbor or friend is eager to give free medical advice and people are willing to listen. Therefore all the form of medicines like Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani along with Allopathy get a fair trial during ailments of people. India has an ancient history of Ayurvedic medicines being practised by the Rishis and vaidyas. Even ancient Indian physicians like Charaka and Sushruta were known to be doing surgery in those days to cure ailments. Today in addition to allopathic medicines which came to India with the advent of western science, other forms of medicine like Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Unani and Naturopathy are practiced in parallel.

The global pharmaceuticals market is quite large with a size of \$ 1.7-2.0 trillion and a growth rate of 6-8% per annum due to rising percentage of ageing population, growth in prevalence of chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer and cardiac problems, sedentary lifestyle, urbanization and changing dietary pattern and consequent demand for weight loss medicines. The Indian pharmaceutical market is of the size of \$ 50-60 billion and growing at an annual rate of 10%. Slightly less than 50% of the medicines produced in India are consumed domestically and the rest are exported. Side by side the alternate medicine market is also growing equally well due to rising disposable income, increased awareness, and government initiatives supporting alternative

The global Unani medicine market was valued at approximately USD 1.5 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach USD 3.1 billion by 2028, growing at a rate of around 10%. The market is driven by rising interest in traditional, holistic health, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East, with increased demand for immunity-boosting products.

medicines.

The homoeopathy as a stream of alternate medicine was brought to India in the beginning of the nineteenth century by German missionaries or travellers and it gained popularity after Dr. John Martin Honigberger, a disciple of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann treated Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839. This stream of medicines has a market size of Rs.10,000 crore in India (\$ 1.2 bn) and it is growing fast at a rate of about 20% per annum. The global market size of homoeopathy is about \$ 15 bn. Ayurvedic medicines have captured a market of Rs.3.6 lakh crore (about \$ 43 bn) with a growth rate of 15-20% and a huge domestic consumption base. Some of the large Ayurvedic medicine producers are Patanjali, Dabur, Zandu Care and Himalaya Wellness. Dabur has a legacy of more than 100 years and it is reported to be making about 1000 products while Patanjali which is relatively new makes about 3000 products. Himalaya wellness is reported to be exporting its products to 100 countries across the globe. Some of the other specialized brands in Ayurvedic products are Sri Sri Tattwa, Hamdard, Vicco Laboratories. Since India has been the land of yoga and yogis for thousands of years who practiced ayurveda for their well being, people have strong faith on these medicines and therefore the domestic market is thriving and growing. Most top Ayurveda players now adhere to WHO-GMP, ISO, and

Ayush certifications to ensure international safety and standard.

Unani is a recognized, state-supported traditional medical system in India, fully integrated into the national healthcare system under the Ministry of Ayush. Derived from ancient Greek and Greco-Arab traditions, it focuses on holistic healing through diet, lifestyle, and natural drugs. India is a global leader in Unani, with over 57 medical colleges, thousands of practitioners and research led by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine. The global Unani medicine market was valued at approximately USD 1.5 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach USD 3.1 billion by 2028, growing at a rate of around 10%. The market is driven by rising interest in traditional, holistic health, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East, with increased demand for immunity-boosting products.

The alternate medicines are recognised and promoted by the Government of India. The Government has been making effort for developing education, research and propagation of semi-scientific traditional medicine and alternative medicine in India. In 1995, the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was first established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This was renamed as

the Department of Ayush and made into an official ministry by the Central government in 2014. In order to persuade the Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers to upgrade to global standards, the ministry has introduced two financial assistance schemes- one for the domestic quality and the other for international markets. For the 2026-27 fiscal year, the Government of India has provided funding for the Ayurvedic and other alternate medicines by allocating ₹4,408.93 crore to support infrastructure, research, and global market expansion. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences allocated ₹524.05 crore to drive clinical validation and drug standardization. The All India Institute of Ayurveda provides advanced education and clinical research and the National Medicinal Plants Board supports cultivation and supply chain of raw materials. The government also runs some schemes for capacity building, research & Innovation in Ayurveda. Proposal for creation of three new research institutes modeled after AIIMS, funding to upgrade the WHO Global Traditional Medicine centre at Jamnagar and insurance for Ayurvedic treatment are some of the steps taken by the government to support alternate medicines.

The global alternative medicine market is rapidly expanding, with estimates for 2025 around \$ 220 billion, and it is growing at a CAGR of 20-25% driven by rising demand for holistic health. The market includes herbal medicine, acupuncture, and traditional therapies, with Europe holding the largest market share of 30%.

The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.

Opportunities for a 'Ready to Rise' Generation

Madhusudan Mishra

As India marches confidently toward its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, one question deserves urgent national attention: What is the greatest obstacle standing between India and its aspirations? Contrary to popular perception, the answer is not a shortage of talent. India possesses one of the largest reservoirs of human potential in the world. The real challenge is the shortage of opportunities that can transform talent into achievement and aspiration into accomplishment.

Every year, millions of young Indians dream of becoming doctors, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers, administrators, and innovators. They spend years preparing for competitive examinations, often sacrificing comfort, leisure, and financial security in pursuit of their goals. Yet, for many of these hardworking and capable students, success is determined not by merit alone but by the limited availability of educational opportunities. The number of aspirants continues to grow exponentially, while the capacity of quality institutions struggles to keep pace with this unprecedented demand.

This mismatch between aspiration and access has become one of the defining challenges of modern India. The nation celebrates its demographic dividend, but a demographic burden if young people are denied pathways to education, skills, and meaningful employment. The future of India will depend not merely on identifying talent but on nurturing it at scale.

The prevailing narrative often revolves around competition. Higher cut-offs, tougher examinations, and lower acceptance rates are frequently viewed as indicators of excellence. However, excessive competition should not be mistaken for educational success.

The answer, therefore, lies not in making opportunities scarcer but in making them more abundant. India requires a massive expansion of educational capacity across all levels. More schools, more colleges, more universities, more medical institutions, more research centres, and more skill-development academies are essential if the country is to meet the aspirations of its young population. The objective should not simply be to produce degree holders but to create knowledgeable, skilled, innovative, and socially responsible citizens.

The National Education Policy 2020 has already provided a visionary framework for educational transformation. Its emphasis

A particularly important aspect of this transformation is the encouragement of educational entrepreneurship. Throughout history, visionary individuals and organizations have played a crucial role in establishing institutions that have shaped societies and advanced knowledge. India should actively encourage responsible and quality-driven educational entrepreneurs who can establish institutions capable of delivering excellence at scale. Regulatory frameworks must ensure accountability and academic standards while also promoting innovation and growth. Excessive restrictions often discourage investment and experimentation, whereas a balanced approach can stimulate educational development without compromising quality.

on multidisciplinary learning, flexibility, innovation, and increased enrolment reflects an understanding of the challenges ahead. Yet, policies alone cannot achieve results. They must be supported by sustained investment, institutional reforms, and a collective commitment to educational expansion. The scale of India's ambitions demands an equally ambitious expansion of its educational ecosystem.

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Technology offers another powerful avenue for expanding educational access. Digital learning platforms, virtual

classrooms, artificial intelligence, online laboratories, and blended learning models have the potential to democratize education on an unprecedented scale. Students living in remote villages can today access educational content that was once available only in major urban centres. Technology can bridge geographical barriers, reduce

costs, and provide flexible learning opportunities. However, technology should be viewed as an enabler rather than a substitute for quality institutions. Human mentorship, practical exposure, research opportunities, and campus experiences remain indispensable components of holistic education.

The challenge of educational access is particularly acute in rural and underserved regions. If India seeks inclusive growth, educational opportunities must reach every district, every town, and every village. Excellence cannot remain concentrated in a handful of metropolitan centres. True national development requires the democratization of quality education.

Equally important is the alignment of education with employability and innovation. The rapidly evolving global economy demands new skills and competencies. Universities and colleges must move beyond traditional teaching models and actively engage with industry,

research organizations, and emerging technologies. Curricula should be regularly updated to reflect changing realities. Students must be equipped not only with academic knowledge but also with critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, entrepreneurial mindsets, and digital literacy. Education should prepare individuals for jobs that exist today while empowering them to create opportunities for tomorrow.

Research and innovation must also become central pillars of India's educational strategy. Nations that lead the world in technology, science, and economic growth are invariably those that invest heavily in research ecosystems. Universities should be encouraged to become centres of discovery, experimentation, and knowledge creation. Greater collaboration between academia, industry, and government can accelerate innovation and contribute to national development. A knowledge economy cannot flourish without strong institutions that generate original ideas and solutions.

The economic argument for educational expansion is equally compelling. Every investment in education generates long-term social and economic returns. Educated citizens contribute to productivity, innovation, healthcare, governance, and social stability. They create enterprises, generate employment, and strengthen democratic institutions. Education is not merely a social sector expenditure; it is one of the most strategic investments a nation can make in its future.

As India looks ahead to 2047, the centenary year of its independence, the country must adopt a broader vision of educational success. The measure of progress should not be how many students are turned away from institutions but how many are empowered to learn, grow, and contribute. A developed India will not emerge from a system that celebrates scarcity. It will emerge from a society that creates opportunities on an unprecedented scale.

The nation's greatest strength lies in its people. Their dreams, aspirations, and talents constitute India's most valuable resource. By expanding educational opportunities, encouraging innovation, strengthening institutions, and investing boldly in human development, India can unlock the full potential of its youth. The future of the nation depends not on how many doors remain closed, but on how many new doors are opened for the generations waiting to enter. That is the true pathway to a prosperous, inclusive, and developed India.

(The author is a retired IAS)

Great Nicobar Project Will Expand India's Military Capability: Major General Dhruv Katoch

New Delhi, 9/6: Major General Dhruv Katoch (retired) asserted that the Great Nicobar Project will give India "leverage by having its military presence" in the Six Degree Channel on the south of the Great Nicobar, from where 90 per cent of the world's containers will pass in the future. Also, following the breakthrough of the country's longest Zojila Tunnel on Tuesday, Dhruv Katoch said that besides serving as a strategic importance for the Indian Army, Ladakh and Kargil will now be connected with Srinagar throughout the year. During an interaction with IANS, the former Army Major said that the Great Nicobar Project is being planned as both, an expansion of the country's military capability and as a trans-shipment port. He noted: "The Andaman and Nicobar Islands connect Myanmar in the north and Indonesia in the south. But importantly the Ten Degree Channel goes between the

Andaman and Nicobar Island." He highlighted that through the south of the Great Nicobar runs a Six Degree Channel, which is the main shipping lane from the Indian Ocean onto the South China Sea, connecting to the Pacific Ocean. "Therefore, 90 per cent of the world's container traffic will pass through the Six Degree Channel. This gives India leverage by having a strong military presence there," Katoch said. He added: "We can ensure based on our own policies, a free and open Indo-Pacific. We can ensure that the shipping lanes remain free because that is also India's vital interest." Referring to the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz during the West Asia conflict, Katoch said: "We saw how India was severely impacted. That is why the Six Degree channel is important which we have to ensure remains open because that passes through the Strait of Malacca." Mentioning the importance of the trans-shipment port of the Great



Nicobar Project, he said: "We have depth in the Great Nicobar. It is a natural harbour." He added that the trans-shipment port will reduce India's dependence on Sri Lanka and Singapore. The former Army Major said that the environmental concerns will be taken into account while taking on the development. "We are preserving the environment and still doing the development," he asserted. Responding to questions

over the Zojila Tunnel, Major General Katoch (retired) called the completion of the tunnel as a major milestone for the country. "Besides the strategic significance, now Ladakh and Kargil are connected throughout the year with Srinagar. Earlier, the Army had to do winter stocking because the roads would be blocked for six months in a year. That problem is over." He underlined that now the military

logistics supply can take place throughout the year. "It is significant for the Army troops because now if anything is required at any time of the year, it can be supplied," he said. Major General Katoch said the tunnel is very important for Ladakh, since it was cut off from the rest of the country by road for many months during a year because Zojila used to be filled with snow and the route was hazardous. "Now with the tunnel, it will take 15-20 minutes compared to the earlier 2-3 hours. So, it is going to reduce cost and maintenance capability," he added. Commenting on the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, Dhruv Katoch said, "The SIPRI report has claimed that we (India) are the world's fifth largest defence expenditure but we must also remember that we are the largest population in the world. In that case, our defence expenditure is commensurate with our operational requirements."

Four Including A Child Killed In Firecracker Factory Blaze In Jaipur

Jaipur, 9/6: At least four people, including a child, were killed and four others sustained severe burn injuries after a fire broke out at a firecracker factory in Jaipur's Khoh Nagorian area on Tuesday morning, officials said. The blaze erupted around 11 a.m. at a unit located near ITI College in the Ayesha Nagar Talai area. Fire and rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched an operation to control the flames and evacuate those trapped inside. One of the deceased has been identified as Abdul Wahid, while the identities of the other three victims are yet to be confirmed. The injured have been identified as Nasir Khan (23), Samir Khan (30), Bilal (30), and Aadib (25). All four have been admitted to SMS Hospital, where doctors described their condition as critical. According to Dr R.K. Jain, Plastic Surgeon at SMS Hospital, Samir and Nasir have suffered approximately 95 per cent burns. Bilal sustained 75 per cent burns, while Aadib suffered 65 per cent burns. Jaipur Collector Sandesh Nayak said the fire appears to have been triggered by highly inflammable material stored inside the factory. A large quantity of firecrackers, reportedly intended for wedding celebrations, was reduced to ashes in the blaze. Investigators found burnt packaging bearing the name "Kohinoor" among the debris. An LPG cylinder stored inside the premises was also removed during the rescue operation, preventing a potentially larger disaster. Officials estimate that eight to ten people were present inside the factory when the fire broke out. Hashim Ansari, a local resident who joined the rescue efforts, described the horrifying scene. "I received a call about the fire and rushed to the spot. A water tanker was brought in, and I entered with the hosepipe. I managed to pull out three or four people and they were taken to the hospital in ambulances," he said. "Others were still trapped inside. The fire became so intense that they could not be saved. While trying to rescue them, our clothes caught fire and I suffered burns on my leg," Ansari added. The incident sparked sharp political reactions, with Kishanpole MLA Amin Kagzi questioning how a firecracker and gunpowder unit could allegedly operate in a residential area.

From Uri To Op Sindoor: The Security Doctrine Behind PM Modi's Record-Breaking Tenure

New Delhi, 9/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who first took oath of office on May 26, 2014, will complete 4,399 consecutive days in office, surpassing India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 days and becoming the country's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. Some of the toughest decisions among several changes in terms of policy taken by the Modi government were in the realm of national security. Under its watch, home-grown terror groups such as the Indian Mujahideen were dismantled. With the threat from homegrown terror largely eliminated, the focus shifted to Jammu and Kashmir. During the initial days in office, PM Modi held a series of meetings with top national security officials and emphasised giving security forces operational freedom. The initial focus was on separatists and the Jammu and Kashmir-based terror group Hizbul Mujahideen. As part of the crackdown on separatists in

J&K, the agencies traced financial networks and found that funds had been flowing for years through Pakistan-backed channels. Investigators found that while 20 to 30 per cent of the money was used to fuel violence in Kashmir, the rest of the amount had allegedly gone into their pockets. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) exposed financial networks that revealed a significant portion of the funds was being used to support the separatists' lavish lifestyles. The probe proved crucial and, as funding channels dried up, separatism in J&K died a gradual death. At the same time, Indian security forces drew up lists of top terrorist commanders. Burhan Wani had emerged as a poster boy for terrorism, and under his influence, the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) stepped up recruitment. His death in an encounter triggered a series of operations that led to the elimination of several top terrorist

commanders, leaving the outfit largely dysfunctional. While going on the offensive against terrorists and separatists, the Modi government also undertook several programmes to reach out to the people. Another key milestone was the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, which brought Jammu and Kashmir fully under the ambit of the Indian Constitution. Following the move, central laws, including criminal laws applicable across the rest of India, were extended to the Union Territory. While the decision initially triggered protests, the gradual weakening of terror networks helped improve the security situation over time. This, in turn, boosted tourism and provided much-needed economic relief to the people, who had long borne the brunt of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. On September 18, 2016, four heavily armed terrorists attacked an Army brigade headquarters in J&K's Uri, killing 19 soldiers.

Delhi Court Defers Decision On Framing Charges Against Lalu Yadav In Money Laundering Case

New Delhi, 9/6: A Delhi court on Tuesday deferred, till July 16, the pronouncement of its decision on framing of charges against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members and others accused in the alleged money laundering case linked to the IRCTC hotel scam being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Rouse Avenue Court, which was scheduled to deliver the order on Tuesday, deferred the pronouncement till July 16. The ED has filed a prosecution complaint against 16 accused persons, including Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, and their son and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav. The ED case relates to the alleged laundering of proceeds of crime arising out of the IRCTC hotel scam registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The agency has alleged that



irregularities were committed in the awarding of contracts for the operation of IRCTC hotels during Lalu Prasad Yadav's tenure as the Railway Minister between 2004 and 2009. According to the prosecution, the hotel maintenance contracts were allegedly awarded without following prescribed norms to a private company linked to close

associates of the RJD supremo. It has further been alleged that, in return, three acres of prime land were acquired through a benami company allegedly linked to the family members and associates of Lalu Prasad Yadav. The accused in the case include Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav, daughters Misa Bharti and

Hema Yadav, besides others. Earlier, the special court judge had reserved the order on framing of charges after hearing detailed arguments advanced by counsel appearing for the accused persons and the ED. The Delhi High Court is also seized of criminal revision petitions filed by Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav challenging the trial court order directing the framing of charges against them in the corruption case linked to the same alleged scam. In October last year, the Rouse Avenue Court framed charges against the accused persons for offences related to cheating, criminal conspiracy and corruption under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act after they pleaded not guilty. Lalu Prasad Yadav has consistently denied the allegations and maintained that the tenders for the IRCTC hotels were awarded in a fair and transparent manner.

India, Venezuela Poised For Stronger Economic Ties: Report

New Delhi, 9/6: The visit of Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez to India from June 3-6 has opened up an opportunities for bilateral cooperation in energy, critical minerals as well as the automotive and pharma sectors between the two countries, according to a new report. Venezuela has among the world's largest oil reserves and with India importing as much as 88 per cent of its oil requirements and looking to new sources, it is eyeing Venezuelan oil. According to an article in The Diplomat, in 2012, India raced ahead of China to emerge as the largest Asian importer of Venezuelan crude oil. The US sanctions on the Venezuelan economy, first imposed in 2005, forced India to cut its purchase of Venezuelan crude in 2019-2020, and then again, in 2025, under pressure from the first and current Trump administrations. Following the removal of Nicolas Maduro from power as Venezuelan president, the Trump administration's taking control of Venezuela's oil industry and the lifting of economic sanctions, the Latin American country has opened up for



business. Until last year, India's major suppliers were Russia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. However, Delhi's purchase of discounted crude from Russia ran into opposition from the US and western countries. While India did reduce its oil purchases from Russia to step up oil imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, this supply chain was disrupted due to the Iran war leading to the choking of the Strait of Hormuz crisis, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports transited. After a gap of five years,

India and Venezuela are looking to rebuild ties, and crude oil are top-most on their agenda. Even before Rodriguez arrived in Delhi, India's purchase of Venezuelan crude surged. In fact, in May, Venezuela had already emerged as India's third largest supplier of crude oil. During her time in India, Rodriguez visited the privately run Jamnagar refinery in Gujarat that refines crude imported from Venezuela. The idea is to expand cooperation into exploration, production and refining, the article states. India is also looking for partners in the

critical minerals sector as it seeks to reduce dependence on China, which exercises a monopoly in the mining and refining of these metals that are required as inputs in hi-tech electronics, electrical vehicles and defence hardware. The issue of Venezuela paying up money owed to Indian oil and pharma companies also came up during the talks. The overseas arm of Indian oil giant ONGC is yet to receive over \$500 million from its Venezuelan investments, while outstanding dues to Indian pharmaceutical companies are estimated at \$700-\$800 million. ONGC Videsh operated the San Cristobal onshore oilfield in partnership with Venezuela's national oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA), since 2008. Though the fields hold commercially attractive reserves, production collapsed as sanctions cut off access to drilling rigs, spare parts, services and financing. Rodriguez also toured a pharmaceutical unit and an auto-components manufacturing facility, pointing to potential areas where India would like to make forays into Venezuela, The Diplomat pointed out.

Delhi Court Rejects Bail Plea Of NEET-UG Paper Leak Accused Manisha Waghmare

New Delhi, 9/6: A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of Manisha Waghmare, an accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The order was passed by the Rouse Avenue Court after hearing arguments from both sides. During the hearing, Waghmare's counsel argued that she is a certified education counsellor and receives regular income through counselling services. The defence contended that the CBI's allegation regarding a financial transaction was misconceived, claiming that around Rs 3.5 lakh credited to her account had come from the execution of a gift deed relating to ancestral property. It was also argued that the CBI had conducted searches at her residence on two occasions but had not recovered any cash or material linking her to the alleged offence. Opposing the plea, the CBI argued that Waghmare was

not merely an education consultant but also ran a beauty parlour and played an active role in circulating leaked examination questions. The probe agency claimed that Waghmare was involved in leaking examination questions to students in exchange for money and relied upon statements of candidates who allegedly stated that they had paid her for access to the leaked questions. The Rouse Avenue Court, after considering the rival submissions, rejected the bail application. The case pertains to the alleged leak of the NEET-UG 2026 examination paper, following which the CBI registered an FIR on May 12 on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Department of Higher Education under the Union Ministry of Education. According to the CBI, Waghmare was among the intermediaries involved in mobilising students who allegedly paid lakhs of rupees to attend special coaching sessions where questions that later appeared

in the NEET-UG 2026 examination were dictated and discussed. The agency has claimed that Pune-based consultant Waghmare facilitated prospective candidates for special coaching classes conducted by NTA-appointed senior Botany teacher Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, who is suspected to be the co-mastermind behind the Biology paper leak. The CBI has identified Chemistry professor P.V. Kulkarni as the alleged "kingpin" of the paper leak network. The National Testing Agency (NTA) is scheduled to conduct the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination on June 21, with admit cards expected to be issued by June 14. The original examination was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of a paper leak. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court declined to direct the NTA to conduct the re-examination in a computer-based test (CBT) mode.

NDA Defies Doom Predictions, Stays United As Modi 3.0 Turns Two

New Delhi: When the 2024 Lok Sabha election results were announced in June, naysayers rubbed their hands in glee; not because the mandate returned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the

single largest party in the Lower House of Parliament, but that it ran short of an absolute majority by a few seats. When the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners, including Nitish Kumar's

Janata Dal (United) and the Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party (TDP), again extended their support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the total strength of the Treasury benches rose to 293

eats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. Though the alliance comprised some 44 member-parties, the naysayers still dismissed the new government as "short-lived". Two years later, the nation is celebrating the anniversary

of Modi 3.0 at the Centre; the NDA remains a cohesive front, while the Opposition bloc crumbles. The 75-year-old veteran JD(U) leader has since moved to the Centre as a Rajya Sabha member, voluntarily vacating

his position with blessings for his successor, Bihar's new BJP Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and another ally, former Prime Minister and

Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Deve Gowda, penned paeans on Modi's leadership while celebrating an uninterrupted three-term governance, now completing 12 years.

Munir Must Introspect Adverse Impact Of His Actions On Pakistan: Report

Islamabad,9/6: Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir must introspect the adverse impact of his actions on Pakistan instead of celebrating the statistics and issuing threats, a report has stated. After becoming Pakistan's Army Chief, General Munir showed his true colours by manipulating the General Elections in 2024 to put in place the government of his choice, allowing him to further strengthen his own position. He also promoted himself to the rank of Field Marshal by subverting the constitution through an amendment that made him the most powerful person in Pakistan, a report in Eurasia Review detailed. "Thanks to the 27th constitutional amendment, Pakistan's self-promoted Field Marshal has by the virtue of being nominated as the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) become the de facto overall commander of Pakistan's armed forces. This amendment also provides him lifelong immunity against legal prosecution which is something unheard of in a democracy since it confers unfettered authority on the CDF sans any accountability," retired Indian Army Officer Nilesh Kunwar wrote in Eurasia Review. Providing immunity against legal prosecution for life to an individual is against the



principle of equality before law. This situation is dangerous as sweeping powers and lack of accountability encourages brash behaviour and Munir's decision to cross swords with Afghanistan is one such example. "Even if Islamabad's claim that Kabul is providing sanctuary to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan [TTP] terrorists is true, being a very senior army officer, CDF Munir would definitely be aware that airstrikes

against alleged TTP sanctuaries inside Afghanistan would materially achieve precious little in military terms. He also must have known very well that such attacks would only bring Kabul and TTP closer, compounding problems along the Durand Line," Nilesh Kanwar wrote in a report in Eurasia Review. According to Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan reported 71 per

cent of terrorism-related incidents that took place in Pakistan in 2025. The armed struggle in Balochistan has intensified significantly and Munir's more than a year-old "we will beat the hell out of these terrorists (Baloch fighters) very soon" statement has turned out to be a damp squib. Munir has launched a reign of terror against Baloch people by kidnapping and extrajudicially killing them. Under Munir's leadership, the already severely restricted space for freedom of expression in Pakistan has been further curtailed in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) due to which unrest is once again brewing in the region. "Therefore, rather than celebrating statistics and issuing threats right, left and center, it would do Field Marshal Munir a lot of good if he took some time off to dispassionately introspect on the adverse impact of his actions on Pakistan. While concealing the Pakistan army's abysmal failure to wipe out terrorism by blaming India and Afghanistan for the same may serve as a temporary diversion, Field Marshal Munir may like to reflect on Abraham Lincoln's seminal observation-'you can't fool all the people all the time'," Kunwar mentioned.

India Defends UN, Afghanistan Against Pakistan Attacks At UNSC

United Nations: India came to the defence of Afghanistan and the UN from attacks by Pakistan and condemned Islamabad's "unconscionable" violence against its neighbour. "Pakistan in its statement earlier today questioned the intent of UNAMA (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) and the veracity of UNSG's (Secretary-General Antonio Guterres') report", India's Permanent Representative P Harish said on Monday at the Security Council. "We would like to stress that support for multilateralism and the United Nations is not an ala carte menu", he said at a discussion on the situation in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan's air strikes on Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan, while "espousing high principles of international law and Islamic solidarity", is the "perfect example of hypocrisy". "We reiterate the Secretary-General's deep concern at civilian casualties caused by airstrikes, cross-border firing and targeted killings as detailed in UNAMA reports", he said. "We support the Secretary-General's call urging compliance with obligations under international law,

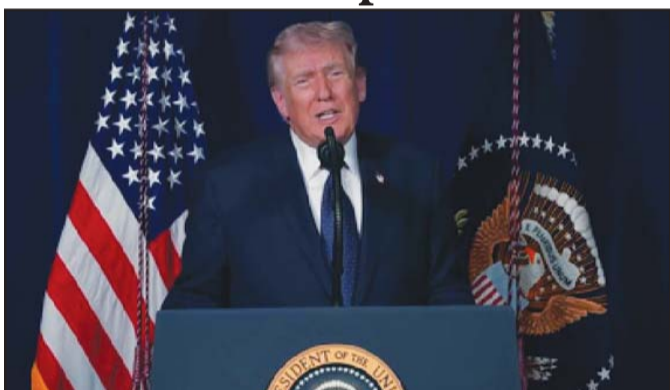


including international humanitarian law and ensuring protection of civilians", he said. "We also support UNAMA's earlier calls for investigation to ensure accountability, prevent recurrence and uphold victims' rights," he added. The secretary-general's report recorded that 372 Afghans were killed and 392 injured between January 26 and March 31, and most civilian casualties were from air strikes, with some from cross-border firing. One of the air strikes was against the Omid Drug

Rehabilitation Hospital in Kabul on March 16, which killed at least 269 people and injured 122, mostly patients, the report said. Pakistan's Permanent Representative Asim Iftikhar Ahmed alleged the secretary-general's report externalised responsibility for Afghanistan, while there were "serious questions on the credibility of UNAMA's reporting from Afghanistan and the nature of their engagement with the Taliban". He made out the Pakistan attacks to be counter-terrorism action. Harish said, "Dressing up a massacre as a military operation does not absolve the perpetrator".

US Judge Strikes Down Trump's H-1B Fee

Washington,9/6: A federal judge struck down President Donald Trump's controversial \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions, ruling that the administration exceeded its authority and imposed what amounted to an unlawful tax without approval from Congress. In a major setback for the administration's immigration agenda, US District Judge Leo T. Sorokin of Massachusetts sided with a coalition of 20 states challenging the policy and vacated it nationwide. "The Court finds that the Policy imposes a tax on H-1B petitions without the requisite delegation by Congress," Sorokin wrote. "There are no statutory powers authorizing Defendants to implement a \$100,000 tax on H-1B petitions." The ruling overturns a September 2025 presidential proclamation that required employers filing new H-1B petitions to make an additional \$100,000 payment. The administration had argued that the H-1B programme was being exploited to replace American workers and suppress wages in key sectors, particularly science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.



The states contended that the measure would make it significantly more difficult for public schools, universities and healthcare systems to recruit skilled foreign professionals, worsening existing staffing shortages. The court agreed that the policy threatened to impede hiring in education, academic research and healthcare. Sorokin rejected the administration's argument that broad presidential powers under immigration law allowed the fee to be imposed as a condition of entry into the United States. "While the Executive has broad discretion over the admission and exclusion of aliens, . . . that discretion is not boundless," the judge wrote. He added that such discretion "may

not transgress constitutional limitations" or "the statutory authority conferred by Congress." At the centre of the case was whether the fee was a legitimate immigration restriction or an unauthorised tax. Sorokin concluded it was the latter. "Taxes are not 'restrictions,'" he wrote while rejecting the government's interpretation of presidential powers under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The judge said Congress had never delegated its taxing authority to the President through the immigration statutes cited by the administration. "These considerations preclude reading INA §§ 212(f) and 215(a) as delegating Congress's exclusive power to tax," Sorokin wrote.

Ebola Cases Rise To 550 In Congo As Outbreak Trend Remains Upward

Kinshasa,9/6: The number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has risen to 550, including 101 deaths, with health authorities warning that the outbreak continues to trend upward. According to an update released Monday, 35 new confirmed cases, including 10 deaths, were recorded on Sunday in the eastern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu. Seven additional patients recovered, bringing the total to 19. The outbreak was still on an upward weekly trend and the recent slight decline shown in the epidemic curve may reflect delayed laboratory updates, not a real slowdown in transmission, it said. As of Sunday, 309 people were in isolation or hospitalised, including 116 confirmed cases and 193 suspected cases. The contact follow-up rate in the three affected provinces rose to 64.4 per cent, with 5,418 contacts under follow-up and 3,489 seen. The rate remained well below the target of 95 per cent. Laboratory capacity remained under pressure



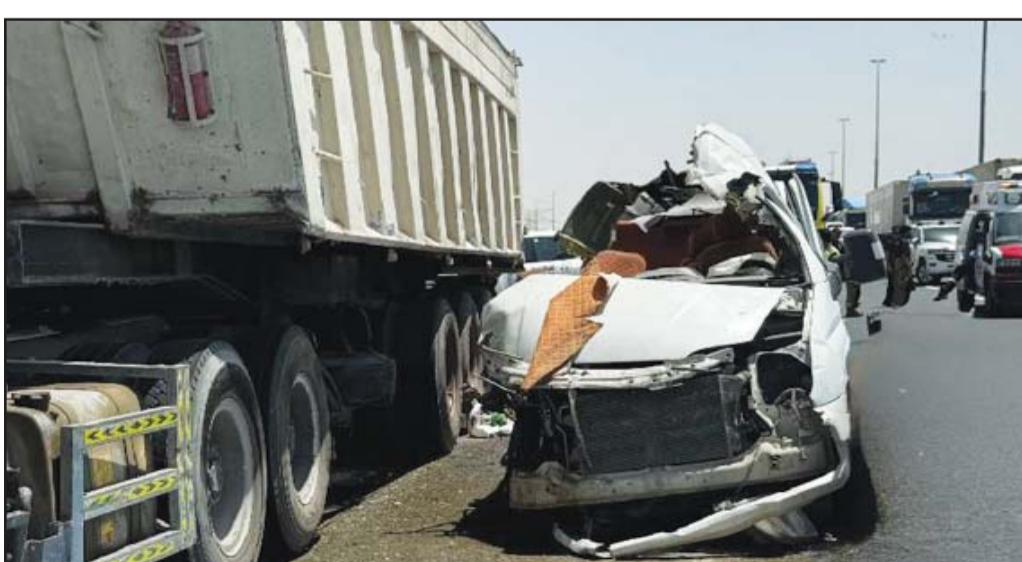
in North Kivu, with 183 test results pending due to a shortage of reagents. The current outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, was officially declared by the DRC Health Ministry on May 15. The affected provinces, namely Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, have a combined population of nearly 15 million people and face massive

internal displacement and cross-border movements toward neighboring countries. Xinhua news agency reported. Ebola disease (EBOD) is a severe disease caused by orthoebolaviruses, members of the filoviridae family, which occurs in humans and other primates. The disease was identified in 1976, in almost simultaneous outbreaks in Zaire

(DRC) and Sudan (now South Sudan). The current outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, was officially declared on 15 May. While the Bundibugyo variant is less common than the Zaire strain responsible for several previous outbreaks, it can still cause severe illness and death.

7 Indians Killed, 9 Injured In Dubai Road Accident

Dubai,9/6: Several Indian nationals died in a road accident in Dubai, the Consulate General of India, Dubai, informed on Monday. "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Dubai that claimed the lives of several Indian workers," the Consulate General wrote on X. Consulate officials visited the hospital and met the injured Indians. They are working closely with local authorities to provide all possible assistance and support. "Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with the grieving families during this difficult time," the consul added. According to Dubai Police, seven people were killed and nine others injured when a minibus collided with a truck that had stopped in the middle of the road. Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Director of the General Department of Traffic, stated that preliminary investigations indicate the truck had stopped suddenly in the middle of the road



due to a technical malfunction. He explained that the bus driver, reportedly failing to pay attention and maintain a safe distance, collided with the truck from behind. The accident resulted in seven fatalities and nine injuries, including five serious and four moderate injuries. All injured were

transported to the hospital for treatment. He also noted that experts from the Traffic Accident Investigation Section were dispatched to the scene to inspect and gather precise evidence to determine the exact causes of the crash. "Traffic patrols regulated traffic flow, secured the site, and facilitated

the access of rescue vehicles. Work teams also removed the damaged truck and bus to restore normal traffic flow," he said. The police department issued a warning after the incident, reminding drivers of the serious dangers of stopping in the middle of the road due to a vehicle breakdown, running out of fuel, or a tyre failure.

Netanyahu Says Israel Halting Iran Strikes For Now, Warns Against Renewed Attacks

Jerusalem,9/6: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that the attack against Iran is currently "on hold," but warned that Israel will respond forcefully if Iran resumes its attacks. "At the moment, the fire is on hold because after . . . it (Iran) stopped attacking us," Netanyahu said in his first televised statement more than 20 hours after Iran first launched missiles at Israel on Sunday night. If Iran "makes the mistake of attacking us again, we will respond with force," he added. Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to strike military and economic targets across Iran on Monday. Xinhua news agency reported. Following Netanyahu's statement, Israel's Home Front Command said it will lift most civil defence restrictions across the country on Tuesday morning. The current restrictions would remain in place until 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, the Home Front Command said. From then, most



of the country will return to full activity, while restrictions will remain in place in several northern communities near the Lebanese border. Earlier in the day, Iran's main military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, announced the cessation of the Iranian armed forces' operations against Israel, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. In a statement, the headquarters warned that any further Israeli "aggression and malicious acts," including in southern Lebanon, would trigger a much more "severe and crushing"

response. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday said that they have neither abandoned the field nor the negotiating table. "Our priority is national security and the peace of our people. We will defend the rights of the nation with authority and will not retreat in the face of any threat. Diplomacy and defence are the two wings of national power; we have neither abandoned the field nor the negotiating table. God willing, with unity and rationality, Iran will emerge triumphant from this trial as well," Pezeshkian wrote on X.

India Cushioning Itself With Trade Deals Amid Global Shock: HSBC's Pranjul Bhandari

New Delhi, 9/7: As the world economies begin to diversify in the challenging environment as part of their China+1 strategy, India, which has seen an average GDP growth between six and six-and-a-half per cent in the last 12 years, is cushioning itself by signing several trade deals with advanced economies, HSBC's Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari said on Tuesday. Talking to IANS from Singapore, she said that India's potential growth, at this point in time, lies in its ability to grow in a way that is sustainable. "Once we have signed several trade deals with advanced economies, we may start seeing a lot more FDI coming into India. And, on the back of that, we manufacture more and export more. I think it's a great opportunity for us in a world of China +1, where the world is trying to diversify, looking for new partners of trade, looking for new places where production can happen," Bhandari contended. On economic growth this year, the HSBC economist said this is a year of supply shock, energy shock, and it's not just limited to



just that. "In a few months, we will be hearing about the El Nino shock as well, which is likely to set in in the next couple of months. So, if you're going to have a double shock, energy shock and also El Nino climate shock, then it's very hard in a year like this to grow at a very rapid pace. And that's not just for India. I think it's about all the countries around

the world," Bhandari told IANS, adding that all countries will have to pay the price of being in the midst of two supply shocks. "Overall, for FY27, our India growth forecast is 6 per cent because it's two shocks coming together. We haven't yet started to see the growth shock in the data because it takes some time to show up. But my sense is starting

September quarter, for about two to three quarters, growth could see, you know, a fair amount of moderation, because of the energy and food shock that we are in the midst of," the economist noted. She said India has signed several trade deals in the last couple of months, which "gives me a sign that we are focused on it and we are taking it seriously".

Indian Equity Markets Trade Higher As Iran-Israel Tensions Ease

Mumbai, 9/6: Indian equities traded higher on Tuesday in the morning trade, supported by improving sentiment after signs of a pause in hostilities between Iran and Israel. Sensex rose as much as 0.7 per cent or over 500 points to hit an intraday high of 74,035.41 in early trade, while Nifty gained 0.6 per cent or more than 100 points to touch 23,259.45. On the sectoral front, Nifty MidSmall Financial Services emerged as the top gainer, rising over 1 per cent, followed by Nifty Realty, which also advanced more than 1 per cent. Nifty Auto climbed 0.9 per cent. Banking stocks traded higher as well, with the PSU Bank and Private Bank indices gaining up to 0.8 per cent. Category-wise, microcap, midcap and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks. Nifty Microcap 250 rose more than 1 per cent, while Nifty Midcap 50, Midcap 100 and Midcap 150 gained up to nearly 1 per cent. Market volatility eased, with India VIX declining more than 4 per cent to around 16. According to market experts, the decline in Brent crude prices to below \$94 per barrel is positive



for Indian equities. They, however, cautioned that there is no certainty that the fragile peace between Iran and Israel will hold. A US federal judge striking down President Donald Trump's H-1B visa fee hike is also a mild positive for Indian IT stocks, experts said. "The bulls are too weak to stage a strong comeback, while the bears remain strong enough to press selling on rallies. The sustained selling by FIIs shows no sign of fatigue. Large-cap valuations are fair and, in segments like banking, attractive, largely due to FII selling," analysts said. However, elevated volatility and

lingering global uncertainty are expected to keep traders cautious in the near term, they added. Meanwhile, Iran and Israel said they had paused military strikes against each other following an appeal by U.S. President Donald Trump for an immediate de-escalation. However, Tehran warned that it would resume attacks if Israel continued targeting Hezbollah positions in Lebanon. Crude oil prices traded lower, with international benchmark Brent crude declining about 1 per cent to \$93 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell around 1 per cent to \$90 per barrel.

Global LNG Prices May Rise On Improving Demand, Europe Inventory Rebuild: Report

New Delhi, 9/6: Global liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices are expected to climb to their highest levels in more than three years, driven by rising demand in Asia and the need for Europe to replenish depleted inventories ahead of winter, according to a report. A report by Morgan Stanley forecasted the Asian LNG benchmark price to rise to \$25 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) during the third and fourth quarters of the year, an increase of more than 30 per cent from current forward market levels. If realised, the price would be the highest since early 2023, when European countries aggressively sourced LNG to compensate for reduced pipeline gas supplies from Russia. The global brokerage said LNG prices are likely to remain elevated even if tensions in the Middle East ease in the near term. The ongoing disruption around the Strait of Hormuz has significantly impacted global LNG flows, as the route is critical for exports from major producers such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, it added. The report further noted that natural gas



consumption has begun recovering in key Asian markets, including India and China, while Europe faces growing pressure to rebuild inventories before the onset of winter. According to the brokerage's analysts, weaker global LNG imports during March and April had helped offset supply disruptions. However, demand has started to rebound with the arrival of summer and increasing urgency among countries to strengthen storage

levels. Despite supply challenges in the Persian Gulf region, global LNG availability has been supported by higher production from facilities in other regions and the addition of new export capacity in North America. As a result, global LNG supply in May was only around one million tonnes lower than the level recorded during the same month last year, according to the report. Moreover, Morgan Stanley pointed to weather forecasts

indicating above-normal temperatures across parts of Asia in June and July, a factor expected to further support LNG consumption for cooling demand. In Europe, gas demand weakened last month, but inventories remain significantly below historical levels. While storage levels are estimated to be 17 per cent lower than a year ago and roughly 25 per cent below the 10-year average, underscoring the need for additional purchases in the months ahead.

EV, FinTech, healthcare sectors likely to lead salary hikes in FY27: Report

New Delhi, 9/6: Salary increments across industries are projected to remain stable in FY 2026-27, with growth expected to range between 8.6 per cent and 10.2 per cent, driven by demand for skilled and execution-focused talent, according to TeamLease Services' latest report, Jobs and Salaries Primer FY 2026-27. The report, based on insights from 1,268 businesses across 23 industries and 20 cities, said sectors such as EV and EV Infrastructure, FinTech, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, and Power and Energy are expected to register the highest salary increases, ranging from 9.6 per cent to 10.2 per cent. Among specific roles, electrical engineers are projected to receive salary increments of 11.2 per cent, followed by Quality Control Inspectors at 10.9 per cent, IT Support Executives at 10.3 per cent, and Quality Assurance Engineers and Site Engineers at 10.2 per cent each. Industries categorised under



sustainable growth, including Automotive, Retail, Insurance and BPO, are expected to record salary hikes between 8.9 per cent and 9.5 per cent. Within these sectors, Project Engineers are projected to receive increments of 10.7 per cent, while EHS Officers, IT Support Executives and Relationship Executives are expected to see salary growth of 10.1 per cent. The report noted that Banking, Construction and Real Estate, Telecommunications and Textiles are expected to witness

relatively moderate salary growth between 8.6 per cent and 8.8 per cent. However, certain roles such as Site Engineers, Telecallers and Financial Reconciliation Analysts are projected to receive higher-than-average increments. Across functions, Sales and Marketing, Engineering and Information Technology are expected to remain key drivers of compensation growth. Relationship Executives in NBFCs are projected to receive salary hikes of 10.1 per cent, while

Marketing Executives, Showroom Sales professionals and Area Sales Managers are expected to record salary growth of around 10 per cent. The report also highlighted steady salary growth in the blue-collar segment. EV Charger Installation Technicians are projected to register salary growth of 10.3 per cent, while Field Service Technicians and Logistics Loaders or Unloaders are expected to receive increments of 9.6 per cent and 9.5 per cent, respectively. Commenting on the findings, Balasubramanian A, Senior Vice President, TeamLease Services, said, "India's salary landscape in FY 2026-27 is becoming more differentiated and execution-led. Increment trends are increasingly being shaped by sector-specific growth and specialised skills." He added, "At the same time, compensation growth is no longer concentrated only in traditional metro markets. Emerging cities are steadily

strengthening their position in the talent economy, supported by industrial expansion, enterprise investments, and evolving business ecosystems. The overall trend points towards a more balanced and distributed employment market across industries and regions." At the city level, Chennai is projected to lead salary growth with increments of 9.7 per cent, followed by Pune and Hyderabad at 9.6 per cent each and Ahmedabad at 9.5 per cent. Emerging cities such as Visakhapatnam and Nagpur are also expected to witness strong salary growth, supported by manufacturing expansion and industrial corridor development. The report further noted that top-paying roles across industries include Associate Software Developers, Dealer Sales Managers, Safety Engineers and Mechanical Design Engineers, reflecting continued demand for specialised technical and performance-driven talent.

Coal Exchange Rules notified to enable transparent coal trading

New Delhi, 9/6: The Ministry of Coal has notified the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, paving the way for the establishment of Coal Exchanges in the country as part of efforts to modernise India's coal supply chain and create a more transparent and efficient coal market. The rules were published in the Official Gazette, following the enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2025, which introduced the concept of a Mineral Exchange and empowered the Central Government to promote transparent and efficient trading of minerals, including coal and its processed forms. To facilitate the initiative, the Ministry of Coal had already designated the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) in December 2025 as the authority responsible for registering and regulating Coal Exchanges. Under the framework, eligible entities will be authorised by the CCO to establish and operate Coal Exchanges, frame market rules and bye-laws, and facilitate coal trading. Registrations for operating Coal Exchanges will be granted for a period of 25 years. According to the Ministry, the introduction of Coal Exchanges marks a shift in coal marketing from the traditional "one-to-many" sales model to a competitive "many-to-many" trading platform. The Ministry said the new system "will enable transparent and market-driven price discovery, improve efficiency, and provide coal producers, including commercial and captive miners, with easier access to a wider pool of buyers." It added that "Public Sector coal companies can also leverage the platform to enhance market participation." The government said the Coal Exchange initiative reflects its commitment to "enhancing ease of doing business, promoting transparency, and building a modern, self-reliant energy ecosystem." According to the Ministry, by creating a more competitive and efficient coal market, the reform is expected to strengthen energy security, support industrial growth and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat through sustainable economic development and a future-ready energy sector.

New Delhi, 9/6: Indian equity markets ended higher on Tuesday, supported by late buying in select sectors such as PSU banks, financial services, and automobiles, while improving global risk sentiment also aided investor confidence. The benchmark indices closed in the green, with the Nifty rising 119.10 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 23,242.10. The Sensex also gained momentum towards the fag end of the session and ended 394.50 points, or 0.54 per cent, higher at 73,918.76. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that a sustained move above 23,300 could pave the way for a recovery towards the 23,450-23,550 region, which remains the next significant resistance zone. "On the downside, the 23,100 region has emerged as an immediate intra-day support zone. However, a decisive break below 23,000 could trigger profit booking and drag the index towards the 22,800-22,700 support region," an analyst mentioned. Market sentiment improved after comments from US President Donald Trump indicated that peace talks are



underway with Iran, following a halt in hostilities between Iran and Israel. The easing geopolitical tensions boosted global risk appetite, which reflected in domestic markets as well. Buying interest was visible across broader markets as well, with the Nifty MidCap index rising 1.35 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index advancing 1.69 per cent. Among the major contributors to the gains, InterGlobe Aviation, Jio Financial Services, and Eicher Motors emerged as the top performers within the Nifty pack, driving index gains during the session. Sectorally,

PSU banking stocks led the rally, with the Nifty PSU Bank index surging over 3 per cent. The Nifty Realty, Nifty Auto, and Nifty Financial Services indices also ended the session with healthy gains, supported by buying interest in rate-sensitive and cyclical sectors. However, not all sectors participated in the uptrend. The Nifty IT and Nifty Media indices witnessed declines and emerged as the top laggards for the day. Experts said that the session remained positive, with late buying lifting benchmarks to a higher close despite mixed sectoral performance.



Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta-starrer 'Batwara 1947' first look unveiled

Sunny Deol has officially unveiled the title and first motion poster of his much-awaited period drama with filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi. Previously known by its tentative title 'Lahore 1947', the film will now release as 'Batwara 1947', with its theatrical debut scheduled for August 14, 2026. The actor shared the film's first look on Instagram, offering audiences a glimpse into the historical drama set during one of the most turbulent chapters in Indian history. Alongside the motion poster, Deol wrote, "In times of hatred and fear, he chose courage. Watch #Batwara1947 in theatres from 14th August 2026." Set against the backdrop of the 1947 Partition of India, 'Batwara 1947' explores themes of courage, displacement and survival amid communal unrest. The makers have not disclosed extensive plot details yet. Noted playwright Asghar Wajahat has contributed to the film's dialogues. He is best known for his acclaimed play 'Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya, O Janya E Nai'. The period drama features an ensemble cast led by Sunny Deol. Joining him are Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi, Ali Fazal, Karan Deol, Abhimanyu Singh, Khushi Hajare, Kanikka Kapur. The project also marks a significant reunion between Deol and director Rajkumar Santoshi, a duo known for delivering acclaimed films such as 'Ghayal', 'Damini' and 'Ghatak'.

'Batwara 1947' is produced by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions. Adding further weight to the project, the film features music by AR Rahman and lyrics penned by Javed Akhtar.



Dhamaal 4 character posters unveiled

Fans of the popular 'Dhamaal' franchise have a major reason to celebrate. Actor-producer Ajay Devgn has officially teased the next chapter of the comedy series, 'Dhamaal 4', by unveiling a set of new posters that offer a glimpse into the film's adventure-filled world. Taking to Instagram, Devgn shared a vibrant poster featuring himself alongside veteran actor Sanjay Mishra. Accompanying the image was the caption, "Inn dono ka hai ek hi goal, to get their hands on gold." The poster hints at a high-stakes treasure hunt and carries the tagline, "The Adventure Awaits!" The visual stays true to the franchise's trademark style, promising a fresh dose of chaos, comedy and adventure. Another newly released poster features Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaferi in a humorous beach setting, with their heads popping out of the sand. Between them, another character played by Sanjeeda Shaikh appears in a similar situation. Small crabs can be seen crawling around the beach, while a partially visible treasure map in the foreground hints at the film's chase-driven storyline. The poster prominently displays the tagline, "CHASE STARTS NOW!" A third poster raises the excitement further with an action-packed jungle sequence. It shows the central character played by Riteish Deshmukh suspended mid-air in a chaotic moment, dressed in a brown jacket, patterned shirt and red bandana. A monkey perched on a nearby branch and Anjali Anand's character surprised looking surprised, add to the visual drama, while tangled green vines wrapped around the character's legs suggest a wild adventure ahead. The poster carries the bold title "DHAMAAL 4" and the tagline, "HUNT BEGINS SOON!" Directed by Indra Kumar, 'Dhamaal 4' aims to bring back the madcap energy that made the franchise a favourite among audiences. The film stars Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Sanjay Mishra, Jaaved Jaferi, Esha Gupta, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Anjali Anand, Upendra Limaye, Vijay Patkar and Ravi Kishan. The project is produced by Ajay Devgn, Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Ashok Thakeria, Indra Kumar, Anand Pandit and Kumar Mangat Pathak. The posters have already generated significant buzz on social media. Fans flooded the comments section with enthusiastic reactions. One user wrote, "My Fav @ajaydevgn ia Back," while another commented, "Dhamaal boys are back wow."



SPORTS

India begins hunt for ultimate squad ahead of highly anticipated Pickleball World Cup 2026

NEWDELHI, 9/6: Indian athletes are gearing up for a major international push as the formal selection process begins to assemble the national squad for the upcoming Pickleball World Cup 2026. Scheduled to take place in Da Nang, Vietnam, from August 30 to September 6, this tournament represents a major step forward for the sport in India. The national governing body plans to field candidates across multiple divisions, including Open, 50+, 60+, and Junior categories. Performance at the official National Championships and the upcoming Pickleball Zonals will dictate who makes the final cut. This systematic approach follows India's breakout performance at the previous world tournament in the United States, where the country secured 25 medals and placed seventh overall. Notably, India was the sole Asian country to secure a spot in the top ten during that global



event. Suryaveer Singh Bhullar, President of the national association, emphasized that the selection strategy aims to elevate this established benchmark. To secure a spot, players must demonstrate top-tier global rankings alongside exceptional physical fitness. Shortlisted athletes must also sign formal performance agreements ensuring strict medical transparency and adherence to a strict code of

conduct. Younger athletes have a distinct path to the global stage. Dedicated junior selection trials will take place in Ahmedabad from June 12 to June 14 to lock in the youth division. This grassroots focus mirrors the rising popularity of racket sports across India, especially in states like Odisha, where community sports infrastructure has seen rapid development over few months. Financial backing for the

elite Open category has been secured through a strategic partnership with the Lucknow Leopards, a prominent franchise in the domestic professional league. This corporate alignment aims to bridge the gap between domestic tournament success and international podium finishes, ensuring players receive proper resources during their campaign in Vietnam.

Africa Best Referee Omar Artan Deported From US Ahead Of FIFA World Cup 2026

NEWDELHI, 9/6: Somali football official Omar Abdulkadir Artan has been turned away at Miami International Airport and deported to Turkey, striking a severe blow to the refereeing panel just days before the global tournament begins. Security officials enforced strict border protocols despite reports indicating that Africa's top-rated referee traveled with a diplomatic passport. This sudden removal forces the

highly respected match official completely out of the tournament lineup. United States Customs and Border Protection declined to issue an official explanation regarding the decision. Somalia remains subject to stringent immigration screening policies, creating a steep barrier for its citizens seeking entry. The Somali Embassy in Nairobi previously intervened to assist the official with documentation, yet border agents ultimately blocked entry. This disruption

echoes historical administrative hurdles seen during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics when strict visa processing caused similar friction for international delegates. Global football regulators now face intense scrutiny as travel restrictions begin impacting team personnel and media. The International Sports Press Association recently filed formal complaints after numerous African and Iranian sports journalists saw their visa applications rejected. Iran's

official team photographer was similarly blocked from entering the host country. Athletes face additional complications due to single-entry visas. Ivory Coast must navigate a fixture in Toronto sandwiched between two US appearances, while Tunisia faces immediate travel from Mexico to Kansas City. These complex transit routes mean teams face the risk of being barred from re-entry mid-tournament if border officials maintain this rigid stance.

Shraddha Kapoor to headline Dinesh Vijan, Laxman Utekar's new film 'Eetha', release date locked

: In a major development for cinephiles, producer Dinesh Vijan and director Laxman Utekar are set to reunite for their next film, 'Eetha', with Shraddha Kapoor leading the cast in a powerful author-backed role. The upcoming project marks the latest collaboration between Vijan and Utekar following the blockbuster success of 'Chhaava'. The film is already attracting attention as one of the most anticipated releases on the horizon. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the news on his X handle. "DINESH VIJAN - LAXMAN UTEKAR REUNITE: SHRADDHA KAPOOR STARS IN 'EETHA' - RELEASE DATE LOCKED..." Following the blockbuster success of #Chhaava, Dinesh Vijan and Laxman Utekar reunite for #Eetha - a bold and emotionally charged film that features #ShraddhaKapoor in a powerful, author-backed role. The release date has been locked: 28 Aug 2026 (#RakshaBandhan). The film also features #RandeepHooda and #MohdZeeshanAyyub in pivotal roles," he wrote. Joining Kapoor in the cast are Randeep Hooda and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, both of whom will play pivotal characters in the narrative. Produced under the Maddock Films banner, 'Eetha' represents a highly anticipated collaboration between Shraddha Kapoor and the successful filmmaker duo. The makers have also officially locked the film's release date. 'Eetha' is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on August 28, 2026, strategically timed to coincide with the Raksha Bandhan holiday weekend.



Raj Rao, Dinesh Vijan reunite for 'Prahaar- The Ujjwal Nikam Story', release date announced

Producer Dinesh Vijan and actor Rajkumar Rao have officially joined forces once again for their next film, 'Prahaar- The Ujjwal Nikam Story'. According to trade analyst Taran Adarsh, the film will arrive in theatres on August 7, 2026. Described as a gripping and hard-hitting narrative inspired by real-life events that left a significant impact on the nation, the upcoming project is expected to bring a powerful story to the big screen. The film will be directed by Avinash Arun and features a strong ensemble cast led by Rajkumar Rao. Joining him are Wamiqa Gabbi, Sikander Kher and Jaideep Ahlawat in key roles. Backed by Maddock Films, 'Prahaar- The Ujjwal Nikam Story' marks another ambitious venture for the production house. Sharing his experience preparing for the role, Rajkumar Rao revealed that he had to gain "9-10 kg" and was eating "two pizzas, lots of sweets, also parathas, and biryani" to achieve the required look. "My being is through my art. I have just finished shooting for my next biopic, #NIKAM, and yes, it demanded a physical transformation, which I love doing. I'm not

a believer in prosthetics as long as I can achieve the look through hard work, which I did for Nikam whether it was gaining weight, looking older to portray a certain age, or thinning my hair, something my hairstylist was strongly against. Everyone also advised me against going partially bald for BOSE, gaining that much weight, stopping eating, losing so much weight for TRAPPED, or behaving like a visually impaired person even when the cameras weren't rolling during SRIKANTH. For Nikam, I had to gain around 9-10 kg, and I was eating two pizzas, lots of sweets, and my favorite aloo parathas and biryani. I also avoided anything glamorous so that I could truly look the part. Hopefully, when you watch the film, which will be releasing soon, you'll be able to see all the hard work that went into it," he wrote in a post on his Instagram handle. Dinesh Vijan and Rajkumar Rao have previously collaborated on several projects, including the blockbuster hit 'Stree', 'Made in China', 'Hum Do Hamare Do', and 'Bhool Chuk Maaf'.