

# Dumani Mail

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## Japanese Short Story Collection Translated into Odia Unveiled at Utkal University

Bhubaneswar, June 10: A book-launching ceremony was held at the Syndicate Hall of Utkal University on Wednesday, where Budhianira Suta o Anyanya Japani Kahani, a collection of Japanese short stories translated directly from Japanese into Odia, was formally released.

The book brings to Odia readers selected stories of the renowned Japanese writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa (1892-1927), widely regarded as the father of the modern Japanese short story. One of Japan's most influential literary figures, Akutagawa's works are known for their psychological depth, humanism, and artistic craftsmanship. Japan's prestigious Akutagawa Prize, one of the country's highest literary honours, has been named after him. Several of his stories have also inspired



internationally acclaimed films.

The Odia translation has been undertaken by Prof. Nabin Kumar Panda, a distinguished scholar of Japanese Studies and former Professor of the University of Delhi. Prof. Panda has made significant contributions to Japanese language education in India through textbooks, research publications, and translations, and has played a pioneering role in promoting cultural and literary exchanges between India and Japan.

The translation is expected to introduce Odia readers to the richness of Japanese literary traditions while fostering greater cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of world literature.

The programme was organised by the Japanese Language Pilot Project of Utkal University. Presiding over the function, Prof. Chandni Prasad Nand, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, highlighted the importance of literary translations in strengthening international cultural and academic engagement. Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak, eminent literary critic and former Professor of English, Utkal University, spoke on the enduring literary significance of Akutagawa's short stories and their relevance to contemporary readers.

Prof. Basant Kumar Panda, former Director of Odia Sahitya Akademi, appreciated the quality of the translation and underscored the need for greater access to world classics in Odia. Shri Rajendra Kumar Jena, Publisher and Printer of The Samaja, congratulated the translator and noted the role of such publications in enriching Odisha's literary landscape.

Scholars, students, and literature enthusiasts attended the programme and interacted with the translator on the challenges and prospects of translating Japanese literature into Odia.

## Union Cabinet passes resolution applauding PM Modi on becoming longest-serving elected Prime Minister

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet today passes a resolution applauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister for consecutive terms.

Briefing media in New Delhi after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the resolution discusses this historic milestone of the Prime Minister's continuous service to the nation as an elected Prime Minister and outlines several commitments and resolutions.

Mr Vaishnav said the Cabinet today approved extension of Ahmedabad Metro (Phase - 2A) with an outlay of two thousand 169 crore rupees. He said, it comprises a six kilometres long metro corridor with five stations. The Minister said, upon operationalisation of Phase 2A, the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar will have over 77 kilometres of active Metro Rail Network.

He said, the Cabinet also approved Central Government Office Complex and Central Government Residential Complex in Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh.

## PM Modi to chair 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog in New Delhi tomorrow

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog tomorrow at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi. In line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Team India' for a Viksit Bharat, this year's theme, 'Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047', focuses on the well-being and development of every Indian, regardless of age, region, gender, or socio-economic background.

The Governing Council Meeting will deliberate on the approach to realise this vision and translate it into concrete, measurable outcomes for every citizen across the country. This Governing Council Meeting will bring together Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors to discuss the Inclusive Human Development Framework, anchored around four core pillars, Foundational Human Capital and Future-Ready Skills; Productive Employment, Entrepreneurship and Decentralised Growth; Health, Nutrition and



Wellbeing; and Equity and Dignity for All. Measures for promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing skilling, and creating sustainable employment opportunities across the country will also be deliberated upon in the meeting.

The discussions will further focus on collectively charting an Implementation Roadmap that leverages key enablers, including Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure, Convergence, Partnerships, and Data-driven Systems, alongside a structured mechanism to track short, medium, and long-term outcomes, ensuring accountability and measurable impact. A key thrust will be on aligning State Visions with the National Vision on Inclusive Human Development, reinforcing a unified and collaborative approach toward equitable and sustainable growth. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog will also focus on the recommendations of the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries held from 26th to 28th December last year.

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi sets record as India's longest serving elected Prime Minister

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India today. Mr Modi took the oath of office on 26th May 2014. He has surpassed the record of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who first took the oath as an elected Prime Minister on 13th May 1952 and served until 27th May 1964. Pandit Nehru's tenure as an elected Prime Minister amounted to four thousand 398 days. From 26th May 2014 to today, 10th June 2026, Prime Minister Modi's continuous tenure is now four thousand 399 days, making him the longest-serving

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elected Prime Minister in India's history. The achievement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is particularly noteworthy given the scale and complexity of governance in India, a nation of over 1.4 billion people characterised by extraordinary diversity in language, culture, religion and geography.

At a time when many countries

have witnessed political churn, frequent changes in government and policy uncertainty, India has experienced continuity in leadership and governance. It reflects sustained public trust across three consecutive national mandates in the world's largest democracy. Independent global surveys have consistently ranked Prime Minister Modi among

the world's most popular democratic leaders. He has also been conferred with the highest civilian honours of more than 30 countries.

Prime Minister Modi's rise from a humble socio-economic background to the highest elected office without the support of a political dynasty is widely seen as an illustration of the opportunities and social mobility offered by India's democratic system.

During Prime Minister Modi's tenure, nearly 250 million Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty, and people saw rapid

expansion of digital public infrastructure, large-scale infrastructure development, improvements in welfare delivery, and broad-based socio-economic progress.

During this period, India has strengthened its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, concluded major trade agreements with leading economies, and emerged as a more influential voice on global issues, including development, technology, climate action and the priorities of the Global South.

## 12 years under PM Modi witness major push in women empowerment through financial inclusion and entrepreneurship

New Delhi: India has undergone a remarkable transformation, driven by the principles of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 12 years.

Women empowerment in India has witnessed a transformative shift, driven by sustained government efforts to enhance access to healthcare, education, livelihood opportunities, financial inclusion, and leadership roles. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, launched in 2015, has enabled millions of women to access collateral-free loans to start and expand their businesses. Under the scheme, loans worth more than 40 lakh crore rupees had been disbursed to beneficiaries by March this year, of them, around 17 lakh crore rupees were given to women.

The flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, and the Womaniya

initiative have collectively strengthened women's access to banking, savings, and entrepreneurial platforms. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, a total of over 58 crore accounts have been opened till date and out of these, around 33 crore Jan-Dhan accounts belong to women. Talking to Akashvani News, a resident of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh Saroj Bala, said that after opening the Jan Dhan account, the full benefits of government schemes are now directly credited to her bank account.

Another key initiative is the Lakhpati Didi programme, which focuses on helping women to achieve sustainable annual incomes of at least one lakh rupees. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme has contributed to improving the national Sex Ratio at Birth from 918 in 2014-15 to 929 in 2024-25. With sustained policy support and innovative programmes, women are playing a pivotal role in shaping a self-reliant and inclusive economy.

## Italian PM Giorgia Meloni congratulates PM Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister

New Delhi: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister, describing the achievement as a historic milestone and reaffirming the growing partnership between the two countries.

In a post on X, Meloni said, "Congratulations to Narendra Modi who today becomes the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the history of India. It has been a pleasure to meet again in Rome in recent weeks and to launch together a Special Strategic Partnership that looks to the future to create new opportunities for our

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Nations and our peoples."

PM Modi was on an official visit to Italy in May, during which the two leaders agreed to elevate the India-Italy Strategic Partnership to a Special Strategic Partnership, marking a significant step forward in bilateral relations.

During official talks held in Rome on May 20, PM Modi and Prime Minister Meloni reviewed the progress achieved under the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029 and

discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors.

The two leaders welcomed the strong momentum in high-level exchanges and the growing diversification of bilateral cooperation. They agreed to institutionalise annual meetings between the two Prime Ministers, including on the sidelines of major multilateral events, while also enhancing ministerial and institutional-level engagements.

The discussions covered a broad range of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space cooperation, energy, artificial intelligence, critical technologies, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

## Delhi HC seeks response on Tahir Hussain's bail plea in UAPA case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court sought a response on the appeal of Tahir Hussain against the denial of bail by the trial court in the larger conspiracy of the Delhi riots case.

Tahir Hussain is an accused in the larger Conspiracy of the Delhi riots case under UAPA. He is seeking regular bail. His earlier bail plea was rejected by the trial court.

A division bench of justices Neena Bansal, Krishna, and Madhu Jain issued notice to Delhi Police and sought a response within 4 weeks.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju alongwith Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Madhukar

Pandey, appeared for the Delhi police.

ASG Raju submitted that there is a delay of 187 days in filing the appeal against the order of the trial court.

Advocate Rajiv Mohan alongwith Sonal Sardar, appeared for Tahir Hussain and submitted that the issue regarding the delay is pending before the Supreme Court.

The bench also sought a response on the application seeking condonation of the delay. The High Court has listed the matter for hearing on July 16.

On June 1, the Delhi High Court judge Justice Amit Sharma had recused from hearing the bail plea of Tahir Hussain.

Advocate Tara Narula has



filed the bail application on behalf of Tahir Hussain. It is stated that the trial court had wrongly rejected the bail plea. It is also stated that Tahir Hussain has been in custody for more than 6 years.

On January 29, Delhi's Karkardooma Court had rejected regular bail pleas of Tahir Hussain, Athar Khan and Saleem Malik alias Munna

who has been granted bail by the High Court.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sameer Bajpai had rejected, saying that there is no merit in the applications in view of the legal provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The Supreme Court, on January 5, granted bail to five accused in the case. The bail

pleas of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam were rejected by the apex court.

"Now, despite the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding co-accused persons, when this Court has once formed the opinion that prima facie a case is made out against the applicant, no other different opinion can be formed now by reviewing the earlier order," ASJ Bajpai said in the order passed on January 29.

While dismissing the bail plea of Tahir Hussain, the court said, "Accordingly, the Court doesn't find merits in the application, and the same is hereby dismissed."

The court had earlier also dismissed the bail application of Tahir Hussain on March 30,

2024 and had said the Allegations against the Accused are prima facie true.

"In the earlier order, this Court also observed that a prima facie case was there against the applicant and the bar under section 43D(5) OF UAPA was there, and therefore, the case of the applicant was not a fit case for bail," the court said in the order.

In this case, Tahir Hussain, Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Ishrat Jahan, Safoora Zargar and others are accused in this case. They are charge-sheeted under the IPC and the UAPA. The matter is at the stage of arguments on charges.

# Jamadarparali Airstrip Set for Revival, Promising New Flight Path for Sambalpur's Growth

(By Ramakanta Biswal)

Sambalpur - The proposed revival and expansion of the historic Jamadarparali Airstrip has generated fresh optimism for the future of Sambalpur and the wider western Odisha region. The initiative is expected to strengthen air connectivity, boost industrial investment, promote tourism, and accelerate regional economic development.

Established in 1950, the Jamadarparali Airstrip has largely remained underutilized over the decades, serving mainly for VIP movements and occasional official operations. Despite Sambalpur's emergence as a major industrial,

educational, and commercial hub of western Odisha, the region has long lacked adequate air connectivity.

Recognizing the growing importance of the region, the Central and State governments have initiated steps to upgrade the airstrip under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity across India. Officials have already conducted surveys, and plans are underway to upgrade the facility to a Category 2B airstrip capable of handling small commercial aircraft.

According to official plans, approximately 66.7 acres of land



will be transferred in the first phase, while an additional 100 acres may be acquired for future expansion. The proposed development includes runway

enhancement, construction of terminal infrastructure, improved security systems, and modern navigation facilities.

Once operational, the airstrip is expected to connect Sambalpur with major cities such as Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar destinations. Improved connectivity is likely to benefit business travelers, students, and phile reducing travel time significantly.

The project is also expected to provide a major boost to industrial growth in Sambalpur, Rengali, Burla, and nearby industrial belts. Better air connectivity could attract new investments in sectors such as steel, aluminum, power, and mining.

It is home to several prominent attractions, including the Hirakud Dam, Maa Samaleswari Temple, and Debrigarh Wildlife

Sanctuary. Improved air access could significantly increase tourist arrivals, benefiting local hotels, transport operators, handicraft businesses, and other service sectors.

The airstrip's revival follows previous attempts to launch commercial air services in 2016 and 2022 under the UDAN scheme. While those services were eventually discontinued due to operational and commercial challenges, authorities believe that a more comprehensive infrastructure upgrade could ensure long-term sustainability this time.

Beyond Sambalpur, the

project is expected to benefit residents of Bargarh, Sonepur, Deogarh, Balangir, Jharsuguda, and Sundargarh districts, strengthening western Odisha's integration with national markets and transportation networks.

The redevelopment of Jamadarparali Airstrip is being viewed not merely as a transportation project but as a strategic investment in the region's future. If successfully implemented, it could mark the beginning of a new chapter in western Odisha's economic, in part into a symbol of progress and connectivity.

## PM Modi's Historic Milestone Marked with Special Prayers at Puri Jagannath Temple



Puri: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a historic milestone by becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. His 4,399-day tenure is being viewed as a reflection of the trust, support and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. The achievement has sparked celebrations among BJP leaders and supporters across the country.

To mark the occasion, special prayers were offered on Wednesday at the Shri Jagannath Temple in Puri. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Puri MP Sambit Patra and Asit Pattanaik, MLA Pipili visited the temple, offered prayers to Lord Jagannath and sought divine blessings. The leaders also performed Deep Daan (lamp offering) within the temple premises.

During the visit, prayers were offered for the nation's peace, prosperity and continued progress. The leaders expressed hope that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership,

India would continue to achieve new milestones in development, good governance, self-reliance and global recognition, while further strengthening its position on the world stage.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Sambit Patra said that India had witnessed several landmark achievements under Modi's leadership over the past decade. He credited the Prime Minister's vision and decisive governance for enhancing the country's global standing and described the milestone as a testament to the faith reposed in him by the people of India.

Devotees, BJP workers and local residents present at the temple also welcomed the occasion and extended their best wishes to the Prime Minister. Prayers were offered to Lord Jagannath for the nation's continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

## Beneficiaries deprived of old age pension for over three months, public discontent mounts



Khordha: - Thousands of beneficiaries under various social security schemes have allegedly not received their monthly pensions for more than three months, pushing many into severe financial hardship. Beneficiaries of old-age pensions, widow pensions, disability pensions, and other welfare schemes are facing difficulties in meeting their daily needs due to the prolonged delay in disbursement.

Forman elderly, widowed, and disabled persons, the pension serves as their primary source of income. They depend on the assistance to purchase medicines, food, and other essential items. However, with pension payments remaining pending for over three months, many beneficiaries have

reportedly been forced to borrow money to sustain themselves. Several elderly and vulnerable individuals are also struggling to afford medical treatment and essential medicines, leading to further health complications.

According to beneficiaries, despite repeatedly approaching Panchayat offices, Block offices, and municipal authorities, they have not received any clear information regarding the delay in pension payments. While officials have reportedly assured them that the issue will be resolved soon, no visible progress has been made so far. As a result, dissatisfaction among the public is steadily increasing. Beneficiaries expressed concern that although the government has introduced

various welfare schemes for the poor, elderly, widows, and disabled persons, the failure to ensure timely implementation defeats the very purpose of such initiatives. They emphasized that regular pension disbursement is essential for the success of these social security programs.

Several social organizations have also voiced concern over the situation and demanded the immediate release of all pending pension dues. They have urged the administration to put in place a permanent mechanism to prevent such delays in the future and to provide a clear explanation regarding the reasons behind the prolonged non-payment.

Meanwhile, beneficiaries have warned that if pension payments are not released at the earliest, they may be compelled to launch a collective protest. Public attention is now focused on the administration's next course of action, as thousands of beneficiaries continue to wait for their long-overdue financial assistance. While some offline pension modes remain unaffected, thousands of beneficiaries linked to online and bank transfer systems are experiencing severe fund disruptions.

## Mass lamp lighting and prayer held for Prime Minister's long and healthy life



Khordha: - A grand mass lamp-lighting and prayer ceremony was organized in Khordha town to pray for the long, healthy, and prosperous life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event was organized by the BJP, Khordha assembly constituency, at the shrine of Shri Shri Lokeshwar Dev under the Khordha municipality. Hundreds of women, youth, intellectuals, and party workers participated in the programme and offered prayers for the Prime Minister's good health and longevity, as well as for the continued progress and prosperity of the nation. Devotees lit hundreds of lamps and sought divine blessings for peace, harmony, and development across the country. Speaking on the occasion, participants recalled Prime Minister Modi's leadership in advancing national development, welfare of the poor, the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat and enhancing India's global stature. They said that his commitment to public service, welfare-oriented governance, women's empowerment, farmers' welfare, youth development, and infrastructure growth has earned

him immense respect and trust among the people. The gathering also prayed that the Prime Minister continues to enjoy good health and remains capable of carrying forward his responsibilities toward nation-building in the years ahead. The entire atmosphere was filled with devotion, patriotism, and spiritual fervour. Among those present were MLA & Khordha district planning committee chairman, Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, women leader Basanti Mahapatra, BJP, State Executive Committee Member Nikunj Kishore Pattnaik, BJP, Khordha district Vice-President Dillip Hota, along with several prominent personalities, members of the BJP Mahila Morcha and Yuva Morcha, and local intellectuals. The programme concluded with a collective prayer for the unity, integrity, and prosperity of the nation. Participants expressed their dedication to the country and extended their heartfelt wishes for Prime Minister Modi's continued good health, success, and long life. The event ended on a note of devotion, patriotism, and public service.

## Administration Removes Encroachments from Main Road

Boipariguda (Bikrant Kumar Beborata): Shops had been illegally constructed by encroaching upon the walls of the Block Office, the Forest Department, and the RI Office, as well as onto the National Highway (NH-326) in Boipariguda; however, the administration has now quietly removed these encroachments. The volume of traffic on the National Highway is increasing daily as devotees travel to 'Baba Gupteswar temple', a renowned Shaivite shrine in Southern Odisha. The administration took this action to address issues such as large trucks and long buses getting stuck on the main road. It is reported that the move follows persistent complaints received by the District Collector during public grievance camps regarding traffic jams caused by vehicles parked on the road. Additionally,



the administration acted because roadside vendors were causing congestion even after the road had been widened. Officials present during the eviction drive included Boipariguda Tahasildar Snigdha Choudhary, BDO Subrat sahu, AE

Khiroda Chandra Behera, Social Security Officer Kartika Padhy along with staff from the Revenue Department, Fire Department, Forest Department, and the Police.

## Long Pending Anganwadi Centre Opens in Remote Areas



RAYAGADA :- long delayed Anganwadi Centre in Ghutuna village under Raskola Gram Panchayat of Rayagada district's Bissamcuttack block has finally been completed and inaugurated, bringing much needed childcare and nutrition services to a remote tribal region.

The centre, sanctioned during the 2021-22 financial year at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh, had remained incomplete for several years. Its completion comes amid a district wide drive to expedite unfinished Anganwadi infrastructure projects.

After assuming charge, Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni had directed officials to identify and complete stalled Anganwadi projects across the district. Chief Development Officer Akshaya Khemundu subsequently reviewed the progress of such projects and instructed field level officials to ensure their timely completion.

The newly completed centre was inaugurated in the presence of Bissamcuttack Block Development Officer Shiv Patnaik, Child Development Project Officer Sagarika Sahu, Additional Assistant Engineer Ramesh Sahu, Junior Engineer Sagar Gouda, Sarpanch Rita Bredeka and other local representatives.

Located in one of the most inaccessible pockets of the block,

Raskola Gram Panchayat borders Gudari and Chandrapur blocks and is marked by difficult terrain and connectivity challenges. Local representatives said the completion of the project would significantly strengthen child welfare services in the area.

According to Panchayat representatives, the Anganwadi Centre is expected to benefit more than 61 children below the age of six, besides pregnant and lactating mothers from Ghutuna and nearby habitations.

Residents welcomed the commissioning of the facility, describing it as a long awaited development for the region. They expressed hope that the centre would improve access to supplementary nutrition, preschool education and maternal healthcare services for beneficiaries.

Officials said the completion of the project reflects the administration's efforts to accelerate infrastructure development and improve service delivery in remote and tribal areas of the district.

While JE Sagar Gouda has been hailed for his efforts, residents too have appreciated the determination and administrative commitment shown by the BDO in bringing the long delayed project to completion.

## Swachh Bharat cleanliness drive held at Puri Sea Beach



Puri: A Swachh Bharat cleanliness drive was organised at Puri Sea Beach on Wednesday morning, drawing participation from Union Minister of State for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, Puri MP Sambit Patra, Pipili MLA Ashrit Pattanayak, Puri Municipal Corporation (PMC) Commissioner Sneha Arugula, PMC officials, students and local residents.

The drive highlighted the collective commitment of public representatives, civic authorities and citizens towards maintaining the cleanliness of the iconic coastline. Participants joined hands to clean

the beach and spread awareness about environmental conservation and responsible waste disposal.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders emphasised the importance of public participation in achieving the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission and preserving the natural beauty of Puri's renowned beach.

The campaign also reinforced the message of environmental stewardship and community involvement, underlining the shared responsibility of keeping public spaces clean and promoting a cleaner, greener and more sustainable India.

## Certificate of Appreciation to BLO



Jajpur :- BLO booth no 84, of 51 Dharmasala AC, Sri Smruti Ranjan Sahani has received certificate of appreciation on appreciation from BDO, Dharmasala issued by ERO-cum-ADM(GEN), Jajpur for his exemplary work on (100% EF digitised) SIR drive.

## Urban Public Relations Program begins at Khariar Road NAC



NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, June 10 (T.Dewangan) : The Notified Area Council (NAC), Khariar Road has launched an urban public relations and citizen participation program at Banka Ward No.-01, Khariar Road in Nuapada District on Tuesday.

The event was organized with the aim of ensuring active participation of citizens in the urban development process and increasing awareness about government schemes.

NAC Chairperson Dr. Sonia Jain, Vice President Nishant Daga, Executive Officer Kamalasan Rath, MP Representative Goldy Agrawal, Ranjan Joshi from PHD, employees from various departments and local residents were present on the occasion.

Direct discussions were held with the public to collect their

problems, complaints, opinions, and development-related suggestions.

The program will create awareness about various welfare schemes of the Central and State Governments, urban development programmes, cleanliness and sanitation, environmental protection, civic services and major flagship schemes of the Government.

Similarly, discussions were held on citizen grievance redressal, public awareness campaigns, community-based activities, and increasing public participation in urban development.

It is to be noted that such urban public relations and citizen participation programs will be organized periodically from June 9 to June 21, 2026 in various wards of the Khariar Road NAC area.

## Health team went to village to investigate death due to expired medicine, Expert suspected it Malaria

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Keonjhar : A team of doctors went to Talabaruda village in Banspal block, Keonjhar district, on Wednesday to investigate the alleged death of an 11 years old girl who consumed expired medicine. The girl was identified as Hiramani Naik (11), daughter of ASHA worker Sridevi Naik. It was revealed that the boy and girl had a fever, and Sridevi had collected medicine from the nearby ANM center. After consuming the medicine, the two fell ill and were first taken to Banspal Community Health Center and then to the district headquarters hospital. Later, it was found that the medicine had expired. The girl died there. Therefore, the girl's family alleged that the death resulted from expired medicine. In this regard, CDMO Dr. Dhaneshwar Sethi said that a medical team has been ordered to investigate the incident. The real reason will be known after the team visits the village, conducts a detailed investigation and submits a report.

After the complaint the CDMO Keonjhar conducted an investigation. A team led by

Banspal Community Health Center Officer Dr. Biswajit Naik visited the village today and conducted a detailed investigation into the incident.

The family members and villagers were interviewed, and the investigation was conducted at the Singpur ANM Center. The report will be submitted to the CDMO today, said Dr. Biswajit Nayak.

The deceased girl was malaria positive. Therefore, she had taken malaria medicine. However, the cause of death will be known after a detailed investigation, Dr. Naik added.

Mother of the deceased girl, Sridevi Naik, said, "When her daughter suffered a fever, she took her to the ANM center where malaria was detected. She gave pills. I feed the tablets after lunch at home. Since the fever was high during the day, when I verified the tablets, I found that they had expired. Then I contacted the ANM and she gave a different medicine. When the fever could not recede, I took both children to Banspal CHC, they gave her injections and sent her to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital. The girl died there. Then, the girl had a problem like fainting while



being moved to medical. Therefore, it was suspected that she had cerebral malaria. However, since she was suffering from malaria, the cause of death is said to be malaria fever. In this regard, former CDMO and former District Malaria Officer Dr. Udayanath Barik said that since the girl's blood tested positive for malaria and she was taking medicine, there is a high possibility that the death was due to cerebral (brain) malaria. There is no such problem with taking expired medicine because the effects of the medicine last for a few days. However, if it is cerebral malaria fever, it is more dangerous and causes loss of life. Therefore, immediate steps must be taken to detect and treat malaria in the village.

Health

Department had been reporting that no one had died of malaria in Kendujhar district for the past few years. However, many social workers did not accept this. Often, deaths due to malaria were allegedly attributed to other causes. Once, the death of hundreds of people in a year due to malaria in Kendujhar district in a single year once became the center of discussion across the country. Later, a large amount of money was received in the district for malaria prevention and free treatment was provided along with free mosquito nets, regular blood sample collection, etc.

While the health department claims zero death of due to Malaria

in the district for some years, this child's death is now a concern for the Health Department. Doctors suspect that the girl's death was due to cerebral malaria. However, they are not saying anything clearly. Everyone is watching what information the CDMO gives after receiving the report. Although the number of malaria patients is high in the tribal-dominated areas of Kendujhar district, many times it is not detected in remote areas or people do not come to Lochan if they die. On the other hand, the health department is also not properly investigating such deaths and is giving other reasons, so the situation will become alarming if the government does not take steps in this regard.

## No development work at GP level - All PRI members meet Collector

Jagatsinghpur, All the PRI members under eight Block of district, all Zilla Parishad Members including Block Chairman, Vi- Chairman, President and Vi- President of Zilla parishad with MLA , Balikuda- Erasama meet Collector regarding development work at GP level. They alleged that all development work at Gram Panchayat level held up since two years. Though Raghunath pur Block PRI members including Chairman, Vi- charman and Zilla Parishad members started movement on 19/5/26 and BDO with Zilla parishad Executive Officer cum



Development Officer assured to solve the problem within three days but no action taken till to day. Similarly all BDO are reluctant to start development work due to political pressure. As Bikashita Gram Bikashita Odisha yojana is not clear till to- day ,

development work hampered. So, all PRI members, Block Chairman, Vi- Chairman , Zilla parishad President demanded before Collector to start development work at GP level before commencement of Panchayat Election .

## BJP Marks PM Modi's Record 12-Year Tenure With Pujas, Aartis across Paradip

Paradip, (DMS) : - Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi a long and healthy life for his long tenure as the Prime Minister, State Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Sampada Chandra Swain along with Paradip BJP mandal workers lit lamps at the local Hanuman temple on Wednesday and prayed to Lord Hanuman.

Modi has created a new chapter in the country's democratic history by surpassing the all-time record of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and achieving a historic feat of 4,399 consecutive days in office. This extraordinary achievement reflects the unwavering faith of the people of India in his visionary leadership, tireless hard work,

service spirit and strong commitment to nation building. In the last 12 years, Modi's capable leadership has brought many epoch-making reforms in the country and has given a new shape to India's development journey. From farmers to entrepreneurs, from women to MSMEs and youth to the middle class, the benefits of every major welfare scheme of the Modi government have reached the grassroots level and empowered crores of the country's people. Under his strong leadership, India today has achieved remarkable success in economic growth, expansion of infrastructure, self-reliance in the defense sector, social empowerment and technological advancement. Along with increasing India's pride in the world, the revival of the country's

cultural and civilizational consciousness has also been possible. As he completes 12 years as Prime Minister, his inspiring leadership continues to inspire crores of Indians and guide the country's transformational journey towards a 'Developed India' by 2047. On behalf of the people of Jagatsinghpur and the entire state of Odisha, Minister Shri Swain conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the Prime Minister for his continuous service to Mother India and prayed to Lord Jagannath for his healthy, peaceful and long life and success in the days ahead. The program was successfully organized by BJP Paradip Mandal President Subrat Pradhan and Minister's local representative Sarbeshwar Baliarsingh, and hundreds of BJP workers and activists participated in it.

## JSW Utkal Steel holds Plantation Drive & Environmental Awareness initiatives



Paradip:- JSW Utkal Steel Limited, Paradeep, commemorated World Environment Day 2026 with great enthusiasm at its Greenfield Integrated Steel Plant Project site. The event was organized in line with this year's global theme, "Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Future," and witnessed active participation from senior management, employees, business associates, and local stakeholders.

As part of the celebration, a large-scale plantation drive was undertaken under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative and the nationwide campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam." Participants

planted saplings across the project area, reaffirming their commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The programme was graced by Mrs. Bibechna Sarangi, In-Charge Regional Officer, Paradeep, who attended as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, she emphasized the collective responsibility of every citizen towards protecting the environment and highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable lifestyle practices to ensure a cleaner, healthier, and greener future. She appreciated the proactive environmental measures undertaken by JSW Utkal Steel during the project development phase and

expressed satisfaction with the company's commitment to environmental stewardship.

To mark the occasion, various employee engagement activities, including Essay Writing, Poster Making, and Group Discussion Competitions, were organized to promote environmental awareness. The Chief Guest distributed prizes to the winners and commended their efforts in spreading the message of environmental sustainability. Further strengthening the green initiative, indoor plants were distributed among employees to encourage the creation of greener and healthier workplaces. The celebration reflected JSW Utkal Steel's unwavering commitment to environmental protection, climate action, and sustainable industrial development, reinforcing its vision of building a greener future for generations to come.

## District level Devarshi Narad Jayanti celebrated at Paradip



Paradip: - The birth anniversary of the world's first journalist Maharshi Narada was organized in the premises of Paradip Saraswati Sishu Vidyamandir on Wednesday afternoon. The program was organized by Viswa Sambad Kendra. On the occasion, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Regional Head Sumant Kumar Panda participated and discussed in detail about the role of Narad and his noble teachings about

journalism. He said that the Sangh is not an organization but an organization of society. Senior journalist Shukdev Jena, Sasanka Shekhar Acharya and Sudarshan Biswal were felicitated in the program. Finally, Sasanka Acharya was nominated as the Paradip city Media Relations Head. The program was managed by District Publicity Head Tapas Kumar Dash while Advocate Ravindra Kumar Jena coordinated the event.

## Coal Ministry to Organise Hyderabad Roadshow on Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects

New Delhi: The Ministry of Coal will organise a roadshow on Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects in Hyderabad on June 11, as part of its efforts to promote investment, technology adoption and stakeholder participation in the emerging coal gasification sector.

The event follows a similar roadshow held in New Delhi, which witnessed strong participation from industry stakeholders and generated significant interest in coal gasification projects across the country.

Coal gasification is a technology that converts coal into synthesis gas, or syngas, which can be used to produce a range of value-added products, including methanol, ammonium nitrate, synthetic natural gas and industrial chemicals.

The Government has identified coal gasification as a key component of its strategy to enhance energy security, reduce dependence on imports and diversify the



use of domestic coal resources. In recent years, several policy measures and incentives have been introduced to encourage investments in the sector.

According to the Ministry, the Hyderabad roadshow will provide a platform for discussions on policy support, technological advancements, investment opportunities and project implementation strategies. The event is expected to facilitate interaction among policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers and investors, helping identify collaborative

approaches to accelerate coal and lignite gasification projects.

The Ministry said the initiative is aimed at strengthening stakeholder engagement and fostering strategic partnerships to build a robust coal gasification ecosystem in the country.

The roadshow is part of the Government's broader efforts to promote innovation, support industrial growth and advance the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat through enhanced energy security and efficient utilisation of domestic resources.

## JSW JFE Steel Marks World Environment Day with Plantation Drive and Sustainability Initiatives



Sambalpur :- JSW JFE Steel Limited successfully celebrated World Environment Day 2026 with a series of awareness and sustainability initiatives, reaffirming its commitment to environmental conservation and responsible industrial growth.

The week-long celebrations, held from 1st June to 5th June across the plant, township, and surrounding communities, witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees, students, and local residents. Various

competitions, including quiz contests, drawing, slogan writing, and poster-making, were organized to promote environmental awareness and encourage community engagement in sustainability efforts.

A large-scale plantation drive was conducted under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", highlighting the importance of increasing green cover and preserving ecological balance. The initiative received active participation from employees and community

members alike.

The celebration was graced by Dr. S. N. Nanda, Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Sambalpur, who attended the closing ceremony as the distinguished guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the need for collective action and sustainable practices to safeguard the environment for future generations. As part of the celebrations, a technical workshop on "Utilization of Industrial By-products in Sustainable

Agricultural Applications" was organized on June 4. The session was led by Dr. Rubina Khanam, Scientist, Crop Production Department, ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI), Cuttack, while Dr. Pratap Bhattacharya, Principal Scientist, joined virtually. The experts highlighted innovative approaches for the productive utilization of industrial by-products in agriculture, supporting sustainable farming practices and resource efficiency.

The initiative aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by contributing to Reduced fertilizer imports, Conservation of foreign exchange, Promotion of circular economy principles and Enhancement of environmental sustainability. Senior leadership of JSW JFE Steel Limited, including Mr. Umesh Rai, Whole-time Director & CEO, Mr. Prakash Sappa, COO, Mr. Hidenari Suzuki, Vice

President - Sales & Marketing and Mr. Manoj Patwari, Vice President & Zonal Head - CPP, Utility, Environment & CPT, along with other zonal heads, IIM members, department heads, and employees, participated in the program.

During the felicitation ceremony on World Environment Day, speakers reflected on this year's theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." They encouraged collective responsibility to act locally while thinking globally to address environmental & climate challenges.

The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment from JSW JFE Steel Limited to develop innovative, scalable and sustainable solutions through collaboration among industry, academia, and regulatory authorities, while continuing its journey towards a greener future, environmentally conscious Responsible Steel production

## CBI arrests Delhi Police inspector in Rs 3 cr bribery case; DGCA official's role under scanner

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a Delhi Police Crime Branch Inspector for allegedly demanding Rs 3 crore to "influence" the agency's ongoing investigation against a Pudukcherry-based businessman in a fake drug manufacturing case, officials said on Wednesday.

The role of a senior public servant, understood to be a "regional director of the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)", is also under scanner, they said.

Crime Branch Inspector Pradeep Singh and a middleman, Rajkumar, were caught after the CBI laid a trap on Monday evening. Cash worth Rs 24.70 lakh was recovered from them, officials said.



# Delayed Justice

**C**INEMA does not create stereotypes, it amplifies lived experience. In the case of the judiciary, images and dialogue continue to lend familiarity to the systemic anomalies. The delay in the delivery of justice is now so normalised that only very unusual instances garner attention — minus the revulsion such absurdity should ideally trigger. In Bihar,



it took over 30 years to sentence an 85-year-old man to three years in jail in an attempt-to-murder case. He remembers little about the incident. In UP, after a 27-year trial for criminal intimidation, a wobbly 80-year-old was told to stand in court for a day as punishment. He faithfully attended the hearings. Confession and an appeal for mercy led to the verdict. In Mumbai, an 80-year-old will go to prison for a crime committed 13 years ago.

By 2025, the National Judicial Data Grid reported more than 5.1 crore pending cases, nearly 4.5 crore of these in subordinate courts. A speedy trial is a fundamental right, yet remains symbolic for most undertrials. They comprise over 70% of the prison population. Many have spent more years in jail than the punishment prescribed for their alleged crimes. Delay seems to be the default option of criminal procedure. Hurdles can be expected at every stage - from the FIR to investigations, filing of the chargesheet, framing of charges, the trial, and the appeal. The fix is known. Courts with the sanctioned strength, police reforms, technology integration, strong anti-corruption measures, hybrid courts, strengthening legal aid and more lok adalats are all doable. The sluggish clean-up adds to the crisis of credibility. A loss of trust in procedures opens a window for corruption.

The apex court has time and again expressed its dismay over the state of affairs. Institutional efficiency needs a more direct and determined intervention.

## SC Observation

**R**ecent observations by the Supreme Court that consensual premarital relationships cannot be treated as a "blot on character" mark an important moment in India's evolving understanding of personal liberty. The court's message is simple yet profound: private choices made by consenting adults should not become grounds for social condemnation or institutional discrimination. The case before the court illustrates this principle vividly. The dispute arose from the cancellation of the candidature of a police constable aspirant who had disclosed, while applying for the post, that a criminal case had been registered against him by a woman with whom he had allegedly been in a relationship for nearly four years. The woman claimed that the appellant had promised to marry her but eventually married another woman. The authorities treated the mere existence of the relationship as evidence of questionable character. The SC rightly rejected this approach, observing that consensual premarital relationships cannot automatically amount to moral turpitude.

For far too long, the idea of "character" in India has been shaped by rigid moral codes, often applied unevenly and disproportionately to women. Employment opportunities and social acceptance have frequently been influenced by judgments about an individual's private life rather than professional competence or adherence to the law. By separating legality from morality, the court has reaffirmed a constitutional principle: the State cannot police the intimate choices of adults.

At the same time, the judiciary has emphasised the need to distinguish between consensual relationships and genuine cases of coercion or deception. Not every failed relationship warrants criminal prosecution. Laws meant to protect women must remain robust, but they should not become instruments for adjudicating private morality. A mature society safeguards dignity not through stigma and silence, but through respect for autonomy, informed dialogue and commitment to consent.

# The Rising Voice of Gen Z

Tejeswar Patnaik

India's demographic dividend is one of its greatest strengths. However, repeated institutional failures in education and employment-related systems are generating growing frustration among the country's youth, particularly Generation Z.

In recent weeks, incidents such as the NEET paper leak, discrepancies in the evaluation of CBSE Class XII answer sheets, and technical failures in the CUET examination have triggered strong resentment and anguish among lakhs of students, popularly referred to as Generation Z (Gen Z).

Incidents of student suicides in the aftermath of the NEET paper leaks have intensified public concern and discontent. Repeated examination irregularities have raised serious questions regarding the credibility and integrity of India's examination system. Moreover, Thousands of parents spend substantial portions of their savings on coaching and preparation for competitive examinations.

These developments have prompted millions of students to follow a social media platform called the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), created by Shri Avijit Dipke. A controversial remark against India's unemployed youth by a judge of the Supreme Court triggered massive reactions from lakhs of India's Gen Z students on social media. What initially began as an online meme campaign has now evolved into a protest movement, culminating in a demonstration at Jantar Mantar on the 6th of this month and demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister. Frequent paper leaks and examination fraud over the past decade across different states have eroded public confidence in the system. The Cockroach Movement has put up before the Government a five-point manifesto comprising educational reforms, judicial accountability, electoral



integrity, a fifty per cent reservation for women in Parliament and Cabinet positions, a twenty-year election ban on MLAs and MPs who defect from one party to another, and the cancellation of broadcast licences of large corporate groups owning media entities.

The CJP has reportedly given a seven-day ultimatum seeking the resignation of the Union Education Minister, holding him morally responsible for the recurring paper leaks. There is an urgent need for a leakage-proof and transparent system in all examination boards and testing agencies which conduct entrance examinations, professional tests, and government recruitment examinations. Failure to address these issues may adversely affect the credibility of Indian academic credentials abroad, tarnishing our country's image. The concerns of the youth must therefore be addressed with sincerity and commitment before their anger becomes more widespread and disruptive.

Generally, those born between 1997 and 2012 are categorized as Gen Z. (Source: The Pew Research Centre.) They generally fall within the age group of approximately 15 to 29 years. Gen Z is a smart, forward-looking,

and digitally savvy generation. It remains highly sensitive to flaws in systems and corruption in institutions while strongly believing in transparency, merit, and accountability.

India is currently leveraging its demographic dividend, with a median age of around 29 years for its population. This young workforce will be a pillar of strength for the country's agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors over the next two decades and is likely to reshape India's economic and cultural landscape.

Gen Z holds immense significance in India's growth trajectory. According to a BCG report, India has the largest Gen Z population in the world, accounting for nearly 30 to 40 per cent of the country's total population while constituting about 25 per cent of the workforce. Furthermore, this generation contributes nearly 43 per cent of the country's household consumption, and its collective income is estimated at around \$200 billion.

Given its demographic strength and economic significance, Gen Z will play a seminal role in the next two decades. The Government should pay attention to Quality education in government schools, colleges, and vocational

institutions so that the vast majority of students can access meaningful learning opportunities. A substantial allocation in public expenditure on education, research, and development deserves serious consideration by both the Central and State Governments.

The country also faces the formidable challenge of creating adequate employment opportunities for millions entering the workforce every year. The recent Economic Survey has projected that India's working-age population will be around 98 crores by 2030. Therefore, creation of jobs for the youth is of paramount importance, as this large working-age population is both a national asset and a key driver of economic growth. According to CMIE estimates, the country's unemployment rate stood at around 6.85 per cent in May 2026, while youth unemployment remained significantly higher.

Political parties, irrespective of their ideological differences, must rise above partisan politics and address the concerns of Gen Z, which constitutes a substantial segment of the electorate. The movement has gained momentum within a very short period and succeeded in drawing national attention to the issues affecting students and unemployed youth. Viksit Bharat @2047 vision document seeks to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, with youth empowerment identified as one of its key pillars.

India's youth must therefore be empowered through quality education, skill development, institutional transparency, and employment-generation opportunities. The political leadership of the country must address the concerns of Gen Z and undertake meaningful reforms to restore their faith in public institutions. The growing anger among young Indians should be viewed not merely as a protest but as a call for accountability, fairness, and systemic reform.

## The Delusion of a Particle-Only Universe

Dr Vijay Garg

For centuries, science has sought to understand the fundamental nature of reality. From the ancient Greek concept of indivisible atoms to modern particle physics, humanity has often assumed that everything in the universe can be explained by smaller and smaller particles. This view has been enormously successful, leading to remarkable discoveries and technological advancements. Yet, an increasing number of scientists and philosophers argue that the idea of a purely particle-based universe may itself be an illusion.

The particle-centric worldview suggests that all matter, energy, life, and consciousness emerge from tiny building blocks interacting according to physical laws. The Standard Model of particle physics, one of the most successful theories ever developed, identifies fundamental particles such as quarks, electrons, and neutrinos as the constituents of matter. Discoveries like the Higgs boson have reinforced confidence in this framework.

However, modern physics has also revealed profound limitations to this perspective.

One challenge arises from quantum mechanics. At the quantum level, particles do not behave like miniature billiard balls. Instead, they often exist as probabilities rather than definite objects. Experiments show that particles can display wave-like properties, appear to be in multiple states simultaneously, and become entangled across vast distances. In many interpretations of quantum theory, the distinction between particles and waves becomes blurred, suggesting that particles may not be the ultimate reality but rather manifestations of deeper underlying phenomena.

The concept of quantum fields further complicates the particle-only picture. According to quantum field theory, fields—not particles—are the fundamental entities. Particles are merely excitations or vibrations within these fields. An electron, for example, is not a tiny solid object but a localized excitation of the electron field. In this view, the universe resembles a vast ocean of interacting fields, with particles appearing like temporary ripples on the surface.

Another challenge comes from the study of complex systems. Life, ecosystems, economies, and even the human brain exhibit properties that cannot be easily understood by examining individual particles alone. Emergent phenomena arise when simple components interact in large numbers, creating behaviors and structures that are absent at the microscopic level. A single water molecule is not "wet," yet billions of molecules together produce the familiar property of wetness. Similarly, consciousness may not be fully explained by reducing the brain to atoms and particles.

The mystery deepens when we consider information. Increasingly, physicists are recognizing information as a fundamental ingredient of reality. Some theories suggest that information may be more basic than matter itself. The famous phrase "It from Bit," proposed by physicist John Archibald Wheeler,

encapsulates the idea that physical reality may emerge from informational processes rather than from particles alone.

Cosmology also challenges reductionist assumptions. Ordinary matter—the particles we know and understand—accounts for only about five percent of the universe. The remainder consists of dark matter and dark energy, mysterious entities whose nature remains largely unknown. If most of the cosmos is composed of something beyond familiar particles, then our current understanding captures only a small fraction of reality.

Some cutting-edge theories push these ideas even further. Certain approaches to quantum gravity suggest that space and time themselves may not be fundamental. Instead, they could emerge from deeper structures involving information, geometry, or quantum entanglement. If space and time are emergent, then particles existing within space may also be secondary features rather than the universe's ultimate building blocks.

The particle-only worldview also influences how we think about ourselves. If humans are merely collections of particles, then concepts such as meaning, purpose, creativity, and consciousness may appear to be nothing more than accidental byproducts of matter. Yet human experience seems richer than such reductionist descriptions suggest. While science continues to investigate consciousness, many researchers acknowledge that understanding subjective experience remains one of the greatest unsolved problems.

This does not mean that particles are unimportant. They remain indispensable tools for explaining countless physical phenomena. The mistake lies not in studying particles but in assuming that particles alone provide a complete description of reality. History repeatedly shows that scientific understanding evolves when deeper layers of explanation are discovered beneath accepted models.

The universe may be composed not merely of particles but of fields, information, relationships, and emergent structures. Reality could be far more interconnected and dynamic than the particle-only perspective allows. As science advances, we are learning that reductionism, while powerful, has limits. The deepest truths of existence may lie not only in the smallest components of nature but also in the patterns, connections, and principles that bind them together.

The delusion of a particle-only universe is not that particles do not exist. Rather, it is the belief that they are the whole story. The unfolding journey of modern science suggests that reality is richer, stranger, and more profound than a collection of tiny objects moving through empty space. Understanding that complexity may be one of the greatest intellectual adventures of the twenty-first century.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal? Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

## Everything begins with your thoughts

Utkalananda Ajaya Kumar Behera

Among all species on the planet, the human being is considered to be the most superior only because of his ability to think and discriminate. It is said that even after death, thoughts remain indelible — such is the power of thought. Among the many factors that influence and change a person's life, the foremost factor is thought. We say that a certain person changed due to this or that circumstance or incident. The truth, however, is that the changes come from his thoughts, and not only because of any external happening. A lot depends on how you think about a situation and the attitude with which you deal with it.

It has been proven that people under similar circumstances behave and respond very differently because of differences in their thinking; one may make himself miserable while the other may still remain joyous. Indeed, all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows in an individual's life begin with his thoughts. Thoughts are the kind of fire that can burn, as well as illumine. They can, like a needle and thread, bring diverse people together. Thoughts can divide, too. Even though man does not possess sharp claws or canine teeth, he is considered to be the most dangerous and violent being on the planet today because of his thoughts. He thinks up rules which he uses for his own aggrandisement and engages in destructive activity. On the other hand, he could well live a life of peace, non-violence, compassion and service on the basis of his thoughts.

All great sages and spiritual people have identified thought as the most potent strength of a human being. Just as fire heats up the environs, so too thoughts that have the power to transform the personality of the person who comes into contact with them. Thoughts transformed Arjun to face life's challenges. Thoughts turned the robber Ratnakar into Valmiki. Very subtle waves are emitted by thoughts. These waves set apart one person from another. Those who are obsessed with the body find that their thought waves are weak. Thought waves become strong and powerful when they are centred around intense ideas that are engaged in the quest for truth and moral rectitude. Such thinkers are able to influence innumerable people over time. That is why we need to cultivate the art of positive thinking rather than get entangled in negativities.

It is only because of revolutionary thinking that changes have been brought about in the field of religion, tradition, politics and society. If wisdom and clarity are not present in thoughts, then major problems get created. Misunderstanding and distrust are born. In one minute, all relationships change character. Misunderstandings can run so deep that they get carried over from one generation to the next. Not only that, the tight knot of hatred and anger that can never be unravelled, gets formed. So think wisely. Thoughts make words meaningful; in fact all human actions are made meaningful.

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## Delhi HC Seeks Police Response On Tahir Hussain's Bail Plea In Larger Delhi Riots Conspiracy Case

New Delhi, 10/6: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Delhi Police on a bail plea filed by former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain in the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 riots. A division bench of Justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Madhu Jain also sought a reply to his request for condonation of the 67 day delay in filing an appeal against the order of a Karkardooma court dismissing his bail plea in the case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Posting the matter before the roster bench on July 16, the Delhi High Court recorded that Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing on behalf of the Delhi Police, had appeared on advance notice and sought time to respond to both the appeal and



the application for condonation of delay. In its January 29 order, the Karkardooma court observed that Hussain's earlier bail plea had already been rejected in March 2024 after recording a prima facie finding against him. Rejecting his fresh plea, Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai said that while the Supreme Court had granted bail to five co-accused, it had simultaneously declined relief to alleged key conspirators Umar

Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. The judge further observed that once a court had formed the opinion that a prima facie case existed and that the bar under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA applied, "no other different opinion can be formed now by reviewing the earlier order". The trial court had also accepted the prosecution's contention that there was no material change in circumstances since the rejection of Hussain's

previous bail application and that the prosecution had already demonstrated a prima facie case against him through the charge sheet and other material placed on record. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court dismissed the bail pleas of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, holding that the prosecution material disclosed prima facie grounds attracting the statutory embargo on the grant of bail under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA. At the same time, the apex court granted bail to five other accused in the case — Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohd Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmed. More recently, the Supreme Court granted six months' interim bail to Tasleem Ahmed and Khalid Saifi while referring to a larger Bench the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can justify the grant of bail despite the restrictions contained in Section 43D(5) of the UAPA.

## PM Modi To Chair NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting On Thursday

New Delhi, 10/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre here on Thursday with this year's theme of 'Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047', focusing on the well-being and development of every Indian, regardless of age, region, gender, or socio-economic background, according to an official statement. The Governing Council Meeting will deliberate on the approach to realise this vision and translate it into concrete, measurable outcomes for every citizen across the country, the statement said. This meeting will bring together Chief Ministers and Lt Governors to discuss the Inclusive Human Development Framework, anchored around four core pillars of foundational human capital and future-ready skills; productive employment, entrepreneurship and decentralised growth; health, nutrition and wellbeing; and equity and dignity for all. Measures for promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing skilling, and creating sustainable employment opportunities across the country will also be deliberated upon in the meeting, it said. The discussions will



further focus on collectively charting an implementation roadmap that leverages key enablers, including governance, digital public infrastructure (DPI), convergence, partnerships, and data-driven systems, alongside a structured mechanism to track short, medium, and long-term outcomes, ensuring accountability and measurable impact. A key thrust will be on aligning state visions with the National Vision on Inclusive Human Development, reinforcing a unified and collaborative approach toward equitable and sustainable growth. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog will also focus on the recommendations of the 5th

National Conference of Chief Secretaries held from December 26 to 28, 2025. Recommendations were made during the conference on five key themes, which include: Early Childhood Education; Laying the Foundation; Schooling; Building Blocks; Skilling; Future-Ready Workforce; Higher Education; Knowledge Economy; and Sports & Extracurricular: Beyond Classrooms. The 11th Governing Council Meeting will be attended by Chief Ministers of states and UTs, Lt Governors/ Administrators of Union Territories, Union Ministers as Ex-officio Members and Special Invitees, and the Vice Chairman, Members and the CEO of NITI Aayog.

## Meenakshi Natarajan's Media Bill Attempt, Now RS Nomination Highlights Uneasy Balance Between Loyalty And Perception

New Delhi, 10/6: Meenakshi Natarajan, currently in news over the rejection of her nomination as Congress candidate for Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh scheduled for June 18, has earlier, too, made headlines, though she prefers to remain in the background as an aide to party leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Political temperatures rose on Tuesday after her nomination was rejected during scrutiny, with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav alleging Congress having fielded a candidate with a concealed criminal record and lacked support from its own MLAs, according to reports. Critics recall Natarajan's 2012 Private Member Bill proposing strict media regulation, which was widely condemned as an attempt to curb press freedom. A controversy erupted, and the Congress leadership distanced itself from the Bill. Now, the nomination raises questions, highlighting the uneasy balance between political loyalty and public perception. Natarajan, then among Rahul Gandhi's innermost circle, had drafted the Bill in Lok Sabha that sought sweeping powers to regulate India's print and electronic media. Then referred as the Print and Electronic Media Standards and Regulation Bill, the proposal immediately ignited a storm of criticism, with many viewing it as an attempt to gag press freedom. Some recall the draft legislation as having suggested the creation of a three-member media regulatory authority, appointed by the government. It was supposed to wield powers to ban or suspend coverage of events deemed a threat to national security, suspend operations of media organisations for nearly a year, and even cancel licences of repeat offenders. Perhaps most controversially, the authority was to be exempted from the Right to Information Act (RTI), as reported then, thus effectively shielding its decisions from public scrutiny. The provisions reportedly raised eyebrows even within the Congress, and given Natarajan's proximity to Rahul Gandhi, speculation swirled over whether the proposal was an idea floated at his behest to test waters. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded that Rahul Gandhi himself clarify his position. Facing mounting criticism, the Congress quickly distanced itself, with senior party leaders declaring that the bill did not reflect Rahul Gandhi's views. Congress members and Ministers in Parliament stressed that it was Natarajan's personal initiative as a private member, and not a government-backed proposal.

## India Proud Of Stable Leadership Under PM Modi In Challenging Times: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, 10/6: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years of leadership, saying India takes pride in having strong and stable leadership during challenging times and difficult global circumstances. It is a matter of pride for every Indian that the Prime Minister has completed a milestone as the longest-serving democratically elected Prime Minister of the country, Vaishnaw told reporters. He further said that PM Modi has consistently guided the nation in a strong and effective manner, ensuring stability and progress even in difficult situations. The minister expressed hope that the Prime Minister will continue to serve the country with the same dedication and commitment in the future as well. Referring to PM Modi's vision of building a Viksit Bharat, Vaishnaw said the goal has united 140 crore Indians behind a shared national aspiration. He also prayed for the Prime Minister's good health, long life, and continued service to the



country. Earlier in the day, other Union ministers also lauded PM Modi on social media platform X, marking the occasion of his milestone tenure. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal called it a historic day and said PM Modi's leadership over the last 12 years has ushered in transformative reforms that have reshaped India's growth trajectory. He said that from farmers to entrepreneurs, women to MSMEs, and youth to the middle class, the benefits of major government initiatives have reached the grassroots level, empowering crores across the

nation. Earlier in the day, other Union ministers also lauded PM Modi on social media platform X, marking the occasion of his milestone tenure. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal called it a historic day and said PM Modi's leadership over the last 12 years has ushered in transformative reforms that have reshaped India's growth trajectory. He said that from farmers to entrepreneurs, women to MSMEs, and youth to the middle class, the benefits of major government initiatives have reached the grassroots level, empowering crores across the

## Defence Ministry Inks Rs 449 Crore Deal To Buy Hi-Tech Satellite System Jammers For Navy

New Delhi, 10/7: The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday signed a contract with Accord Software and Systems Private Limited (ASSPL), Bengaluru, for the procurement of 20 enhanced capability global navigation satellite system (ECGNSS) jammers for the Indian Navy at a total cost of Rs 449 crore, with the product will have a minimum 75 per cent indigenous content, an official statement said. The system's capabilities include degrading the satellite signal acquisition and tracking performance of the adversary GNSS receiver and signal spoofing or deceptive jamming. The induction would pave the way for safe operations by the ships of the Indian Navy in a multi-threat environment, as per the ministry statement. The contract, under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and

Manufactured) category, was inked here in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. "The contract reinforces the government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India while bolstering the maritime security architecture of the country. It marks a critical milestone in the ongoing efforts to bolster defence capabilities and indigenise advanced military technology," the statement said. During the last decade, India has transitioned from being a major importer of defence equipment to an emerging exporter, with defence production recording a 174 per cent leap to Rs 1.54 lakh crore while exports grew 34 times to Rs 23,622 crore. A substantial contribution of around Rs 15,000 crore to total exports came from the private sector, reflecting a major shift towards collaborative defence manufacturing. Addressing

the North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj last month, Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, said India has entered a decisive phase in its defence journey, where technology, indigenous innovation and private sector participation are shaping a new global identity for the country. Warfare is no longer defined by physical strength alone but is increasingly driven by advanced technologies, real-time data systems and automated platforms, he noted. Referring to India's expanding technological base, the minister said sectors such as space, atomic energy, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies are now integral to defence preparedness. India has already achieved rapid progress in quantum-secure communication capabilities, which will play a critical role in future warfare systems, he added.

## Cabinet Resolution Applauds PM Modi On Becoming Longest Serving Prime Minister, Ministers Give Standing Ovation

New Delhi, 10/6: The Union Cabinet passed a resolution on Wednesday, marking June 10, 2026, as an historic milestone in the journey of Indian democracy and applauded PM Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of the country. The cabinet members thumped desks and clapped at length to celebrate the historic milestone, the scale and range of achievements under his government, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi gracefully accepted the honour, with folded hands. A video of cabinet ministers honouring the Prime Minister on the special occasion was shared by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). As the video landed on the social media, it went viral, eliciting multiple likes and reactions. In the video, the Prime Minister could be seen flanked by Cabinet Ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Roads and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and more. PM Modi achieved the distinction of longest-serving elected Prime Minister for three consecutive terms, by establishing a record of 4,399 days of



continuous service as the Prime Minister, and surpassing previous record held by Jawaharlal Nehru, who served for 4,398 continuous days from 1952 to 1964. The cabinet resolution extended heartfelt congratulations to the Prime Minister, stating, "This occasion stands as a symbol of India's democratic consciousness, public trust, and the power of public participation, reflecting the unprecedented support bestowed by the people upon a leader guided by the 'Nation First'

resolve." It also noted that the Prime Minister is approaching the historic mark of 25 years of continuous service as Head of Government. Taking pride in a leadership characterised by sensitivity, restraint, intent, and decisiveness, the official text emphasised that it is after six decades that the country has given a mandate to the NDA government for a third consecutive term. The resolution outlined the Prime Minister's life as a "symbol of continuous

dedication to service and nation-building" and recalled his 2014 declaration as the "Pradhan Sevak" committed to the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. It acknowledged that welfare of the poor has been placed at the centre of governance, and detailed the "unprecedented scale" of amenities delivered, including pucca houses, electricity, clean water, and direct benefit transfers, alongside free rations for over 80 crore citizens and free medical treatment for over 60 crore poor

individuals. The resolution recorded that these efforts collectively boost national self-confidence and enabled over 25 crore people to defeat poverty. "The resolution further maps the empowerment of key demographics. It recognises the focus on youth power that propelled India into becoming the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and a scientific power through Mission Chandrayaan. A new chapter of 'Women-Led Development' is detailed through comprehensive policies ranging from smoke-free kitchens and the Lakhpati Didi campaign to the historic 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies," an official statement read. It affirmed farmers as a core pillar of a 'Viksit Bharat' and lauded initiatives like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and the provision of Kisan Credit Cards to pastoralists and fishermen, which have helped propel agricultural exports past the Rs 5 lakh crore mark. It further praised the government's 'Nation First' approach in enacting decades-pending reforms, such as the abrogation of Article 370, the implementation of GST and OROP, the CAA law, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and the

consolidation of labour codes. The document strongly emphasised the elevation of national security, evidenced by strict actions against terrorism like surgical and cross-border air strikes, 'Operation Sindoor', and the suspension of the unjust Indus Water Treaty. "Commendable strides are also noted in the eradication of Naxalism, the signing of permanent peace accords in the North-East, and the resolution of the border dispute with Bangladesh," the statement read. The resolution attributed the advancement of India's manufacturing capabilities in sectors from defence to AI to the momentum gained by the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaigns. Simultaneously, it highlighted India's strengthened global role through the successful G-20 presidency, International Yoga Day, and initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and Mission LiFE. By taking development and heritage ('Vikas' and 'Virasat') together, the text noted a cultural renaissance symbolised by the new Parliament building and Kartavya Path, driven by a spirit of public participation that successfully navigated global crises like the Covid pandemic.

# Italian PM Meloni Congratulates PM Modi On Becoming India's Longest-Serving Elected PM

Rome: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday congratulated her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on becoming his country's longest-serving elected PM and expressed readiness to work with him in creating new opportunities for the people of the two nations. PM Modi on Wednesday became India's longest-serving Prime Minister, marking 12 years at the helm of the Central government. He crossed former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record with 4,399 days in office as an elected Prime Minister. Extending wishes to PM Modi, Meloni, in a post on X, wrote, "Congratulations to Narendra Modi who today becomes the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the history of India. It has been a pleasure to meet again in Rome in recent weeks and to launch together a Special Strategic Partnership that looks to the future to create new opportunities for our Nations and our peoples." Earlier in May, PM Modi made a two-day official visit to Italy, where he held talks with both Meloni and President Sergio Mattarella. During their meeting, PM Modi and Meloni decided



to elevate bilateral ties to the level of a Special Strategic Partnership. The two leaders welcomed the "strong momentum" of high-level exchanges and agreed to hold annual meetings of leaders, including on the sidelines of multilateral events, as well as regular ministerial and institutional-level meetings. Both leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions covering the entire gamut of the India-Italy partnership, according to the statement

released by the Prime Minister's Office. They also reviewed the progress made in bilateral cooperation across all domains of the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, agreeing to further expand collaboration in trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space, energy, AI and critical technologies, education, culture and people-to-people ties. PMs Modi and Meloni also expressed satisfaction with deepening

defence cooperation through ministerial and official interactions, exchange of port visits, and regular engagement of defence forces. They welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent, and an Industrial Roadmap for collaboration in co-design, co-development and co-production of defence products. PM Modi also attended a dinner hosted by Meloni and the two leaders also visited the iconic Colosseum in Rome. PM Modi presented a light-hearted and unique gift —

a "Melody" toffee packet — to Meloni, bringing back the widely popular "#Melodi" moment that has often gone viral on social media. The informal exchange, marked by laughter between the two leaders, was later shared by the Italian PM on Instagram, where she also spoke about the gesture and the gift received from the Indian Prime Minister. Sharing the video of the moment, Meloni said, "Prime Minister Modi brought us a gift — a very, very good toffee — Melody". "Thank you for the gift." The "Melodi" phenomenon — a portmanteau combining the names of Prime Ministers Modi and Meloni — has become a recurring viral trend online, reflecting the visible personal rapport and friendly exchanges between the two leaders during various international engagements. The term has frequently been used by social media users to highlight their light-hearted interactions at global platforms, often turning into viral moments that generate memes, discussions and widespread online engagement, while also symbolising a perceived strengthening of India-Italy relations.

# Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai Slams Pakistan Over Deadly Airstrikes In Afghanistan

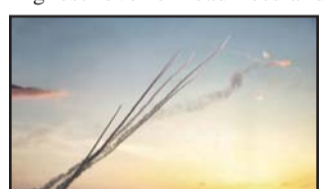
Kabul, 10/6: Former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday strongly condemned Pakistan for violating Afghanistan's airspace and carrying out airstrikes that killed several civilians, including women and children, in the provinces of Kunar, Khost and Paktika. He stated that Islamabad must acknowledge its hostile actions in the region and abandon its policy of "war and destruction". The remarks came after a Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that as many as 13 civilians, mostly children, were killed in Pakistani military airstrikes in Kunar, Khost, and Paktika. Expressing grief and solidarity with the affected families, Karzai took to the social media platform X and posted: "Pakistan is grappling with the consequences of its ill-considered policies and hostile actions in the region, and it must realize that it will not achieve its goals by persisting with and pursuing those policies. Pakistan's best interest lies in abandoning its policy of war and destruction toward Afghanistan and instead choosing good neighborliness and civilized relations." Meanwhile, condemning the actions by Pakistani forces, Mujahid said that the attack targeting civilian homes took place on Tuesday night, killing 11 children, one woman, and an elderly man, while 14 other women and children were injured. The Taliban spokespersons said in a post on X: "Last night, the Pakistani military once again violated Afghanistan's airspace and bombed civilian homes in the provinces of Kunar, Khost, and Paktika." As a result of these attacks, 11 children, one woman, and one elderly man were killed, while 14 other women and children were injured. We strongly condemn this humanitarian crime and act of aggression. "This latest incident comes amid escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the past few months, with repeated exchanges of fire and growing concerns over civilian casualties. The two nations have accused each other of contributing to instability, while diplomatic and local mediation efforts have remained futile to stop further escalation. Last month, three people were killed and 14 others injured during the Pakistan army's strikes on the Dangam district in Afghanistan's Kunar province, according to the Taliban regime.

# US Launches New Strikes On Iran After Helicopter Downing

Washington, 10/6: US forces launched strikes against Iran after the downing of a US Army Apache helicopter a day earlier, the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said. The US strikes were "very strong, very powerful," US President Donald Trump told ABC News after the operation began. The strikes started at 5 p.m. US Eastern Time (2100 GMT) at the president's direction, CENTCOM wrote on X. Following the US announcement several explosions were heard early Wednesday and air defence were activated in the port city of Bandar Abbas, Qeshm Island, Sirik County and Jask County in southern Iran. Xinhua news agency reported quoting Iranian media. The semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that six explosions were heard in Sirik, Qeshm Island and the southern

city of Minab, adding that areas in the three regions were attacked by US fighter jets. Earlier Tuesday, Trump accused Iran of shooting down a US Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz and vowed to respond. "I have just been informed ... that last night the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache helicopters while (it was) patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz," he said in a post on Truth Social. Two pilots onboard the aircraft "are safe and uninjured," Trump said, adding "Nevertheless, the United States must, of necessity, respond to this attack." The aircraft crashed, and the two crew members were rescued. The balance is extremely precarious, as confirmed by Israeli army commander Eyal Zamir during a visit to a military exercise in the north of the country. He said the recent

wave of attacks against Iran was "just a preparation for a much more significant and powerful blow. The IDF are prepared to act again and inflict another harsh and far-reaching blow against Iran," adding that the Israeli armed forces "continue to maintain the highest level of readiness and



preparation to resume operations in Iran." The US strikes came as Israel renewed attacks in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, following days of tit-for-tat strikes between Israel and Iran and adding to already heightened tensions across the region.

# Testament To Years Of Dedicated Public Service: Malaysian PM Ibrahim On PM Modi's Historic Tenure

Kuala Lumpur, 10/6: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday extended heartfelt greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India, calling the achievement a "testament to years of dedicated public service". PM Modi on Wednesday became India's longest-serving Prime Minister, marking 12 years at the helm of the Central government. In a post on X, Malaysian PM Ibrahim said, "Heartiest congratulations to PM Modi on this historic milestone of becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. This achievement stands as a testament to his years of dedicated public service and leadership in advancing India's development, prosperity and standing on the global stage." Stressing the strong



bilateral relationship, the Malaysian PM said, "Malaysia values its close and longstanding friendship with India, and I look forward to continuing our cooperation in strengthening bilateral ties and expanding opportunities for our peoples." "I wish PM Modi continued success and the people of India continued

peace, progress and prosperity," he added. PM Modi crossed former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record with 4,399 days in office as an elected Prime Minister. Nehru's tenure from 1952 onwards is considered for this comparison, as he headed an interim government between 1947 and 1952 before the

country's first general elections were held. While former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi served for more than 14 years in office, her tenure was not continuous, making Modi the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister in the country's history. He has served from his first swearing-in ceremony in 2014 to securing successive mandates in 2019 and a historic third consecutive term in 2024. The PM Modi-led government's era has also been marked by a series of high-profile infrastructure and nation-building projects, including the new Parliament building, Central Vista redevelopment, Kartavya Path, Vande Bharat trains, the Statue of Unity, INS Vikrant, the Kashmir rail link, Noida International Airport, Namoo Bharat RRTS and the Ganga Expressway.

# US Urges World To Do More On Ebola

Washington, 10/7: The United States on Tuesday urged countries around the world to step up efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, saying Washington has already mobilised extensive resources and that broader international action is needed to prevent further spread of the virus. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed US-European coordination on the outbreak during a call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, according to the State Department. "Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to discuss US and European coordination and response efforts to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda," State Department Spokesperson Thomas Pigott said. "The Department's highest priority and focus remains protecting the health of the American people and preventing this Ebola outbreak from reaching our shores," Pigott said. The call came as the Trump administration highlighted what it described as an aggressive response to the outbreak and appealed for greater international participation. "President Trump has taken unprecedented steps to address the Ebola outbreak. We



responded within 24 hours of the first confirmed case, mobilizing a wide range of medical, humanitarian, operational and consular resources to rapidly respond," a State Department official said. "The United States continues to be the largest financial contributor to the Ebola response," the official added. The administration said it is also using travel-related measures to protect public health and national security. "Furthermore, the Trump Administration is protecting our nation and our citizens by upholding the highest standards of national security and public health through travel restrictions on and screening of

individuals who have recently travelled to countries affected by the Ebola virus outbreak," the official said. At the same time, Washington called on other nations to increase their contributions and adopt similar preventive measures. "The United States has stepped up. Now the world must do more to step up as well. Other countries must do their part to ensure this outbreak does not spread further. Action is required now," the official said. "That includes financial contributions and implementing commonsense restrictions on travel from the affected area," the official added. The State Department said the United States is engaging

governments across the world to coordinate a common approach to the outbreak. "We are engaging diplomatically with countries around the world to coordinate our approach to protect our citizens, including the millions of visitors, fans, athletes and tourists expected during the FIFA World Cup," the official said. Ebola is a severe viral disease that can spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids and has caused multiple outbreaks in Africa over the past several decades. Public health authorities typically rely on surveillance, contact tracing, treatment centres and vaccination campaigns to contain outbreaks.

# US: H-1B Fight Heads To Congress After Ruling

Washington: A Republican congressman is pushing legislation to permanently impose a \$100,000 H-1B visa requirement after a federal judge struck down President Donald Trump's attempt to implement the measure through executive action. Rep. Mike Kennedy of Utah said Tuesday that Congress should now enact the administration's H-1B reforms through legislation, following a court ruling that such a major change must come from lawmakers rather than the White House. "An activist judge stepped in to strike down the President's critical H-1B immigration reforms. The judge claims only Congress can do this? Fine," Kennedy said. "I already introduced the PROTECT Act, which will codify the President's H-1B reforms and make it the law of the land. We need to pass the PROTECT Act and put American workers first." The proposal could have significant implications for Indian technology professionals, who receive the vast majority of H-1B visas issued each year. Kennedy's legislation, known as the Prioritising Resources for Our Citizens and Talent Act, or PROTECT Act of 2026, seeks to reshape the H-1B programme, which allows U.S. employers to hire foreign workers in speciality occupations. The bill would require employers to pay

H-1B workers at least \$100,000 annually, adjusted for inflation, or the wage paid to a comparable U.S. worker, whichever is higher. It would also prioritise visa petitions offering higher salaries and tighten restrictions on workers placed at third-party worksites. Kennedy said the legislation is intended to reduce employers' incentives to hire foreign workers rather than Americans. "Hard-working Americans deserve more than just an opportunity at American jobs; they deserve to be the priority," he said. "Americans want to work, they want to provide for their families and better their communities. The PROTECT Act of 2026 will make sure they are first in line." The congressman argued that the programme has strayed from its original purpose. "The H-1B visa program was designed to fill genuine, documented gaps in the American workforce. Instead, it has served as a tool to replace qualified American workers with cheaper foreign labor," Kennedy said in background materials released with the proposal. He also said the programme is "creating disincentives for future American workers to choose STEM careers, which threatens our national

security." The legislation contains exemptions for certain healthcare professionals, including physicians, registered nurses, pharmacists, therapists and other direct patient-care workers, if employers can demonstrate unsuccessful efforts to recruit qualified American workers. The H-1B programme was established by Congress in 1990 to help U.S. employers fill specialised positions requiring advanced skills. Technology companies, research institutions and healthcare providers are among the largest users of the programme. Indian nationals consistently account for the overwhelming majority of H-1B recipients. As a result, proposed changes to eligibility, wages and employer requirements are closely watched by India's technology sector, outsourcing companies and thousands of professionals seeking employment opportunities in the United States.



# Data Center Electricity Demand To Grow Nearly 26 PC Globally In 2026

New Delhi, 10/6: Global electricity demand for data centres is pegged to jump 26.4 per cent in 2026, with consumption rising to 565 terawatt hours, up from 447TWh in 2025, a report said on Wednesday. The estimated surge in consumption was attributed to compute intensive artificial intelligence workloads pushing power needs to unprecedented levels, the report from a business and technology insights company. Gartner, Inc. said. The report said that data centre power demand will reach 132 gigawatts in 2026, up from 104 gigawatts in 2025, with projections of 290 gigawatts by 2030, which reflects the unprecedented scale and pace of GenAI boosting demand. "AI capacity is now constrained by power availability, making data centre power security the new



battleground for scaling and protecting margins in the global AI race," said Linglan Wang, director analyst at Gartner. AI-optimised servers continue to fuel the increase in data centre power consumption. The report estimated AI-optimised server

adoption to account for 31% of data center power consumption in 2026 and that by 2027 their power consumption will surpass that of conventional servers. With data center power electricity consumption estimated to reach over 1,200TWh by 2030, grid

supply will be insufficient to meet the demands of future data center construction, affecting all data center users. "Infrastructure and operations (I&O) leaders must prioritise efficiency upgrades and secure grid access. They also need to invest in high-efficiency cooling systems and edge computing to mitigate power constraints and ensure sustainable, scalable growth," said Wang. Cooling and other infrastructure needs are also rising sharply at 22.6 per cent in 2026, and 24.6 per cent in 2027. A recent report said that data centres consumed as much electricity as Saudi Arabia last year and that, if electricity use doubles by 2030, the associated carbon footprint would require 6.7 billion trees grown over ten years to offset the demand.

# Gold, Silver Trade Lower On Fed Rate Hike Concerns

New Delhi, 10/6: Gold and silver prices opened sharply lower on Wednesday over concerns of US Federal Reserve rate-hike fears. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August) dipped 1.51 per cent to Rs 1,50,140 per 10 grams at 12.15 pm on an intraday basis. On the other hand, silver futures (July) lost almost 1 per cent to Rs 2,36,239 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,48,429 on Wednesday, down from Rs 1,52,519 of the previous day's market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Internationally too, spot gold fell 1.8 per cent to \$4,187.59 an ounce, touching an 11-week low level, while US gold futures for August delivery dropped to \$4,213.40. A firmer dollar and rising crude oil on renewed Middle East hostilities stoked inflation concerns and cemented expectations that the Federal Reserve could keep rates



higher for longer, analysts said. As the dollar rose, greenback-priced bullion became more expensive for holders of other currencies. The CME FedWatch tool showed traders pricing in over 70 per cent odds of a US Fed rate hike by December. For MCX gold, immediate resistance is placed at Rs 1,52,000, and a sustained move above this zone is required to strengthen momentum and extend the recovery toward Rs 1,54,000-Rs 1,55,000, analysts said. "Overall, the near-term bias remains cautious to negative, with

geopolitical uncertainties and broader market volatility continuing to influence price direction," a market participant said. MCX silver is currently holding above the key Rs 2,34,000 to Rs 2,32,000 support zone, reflecting cautious price action amid ongoing volatility. On the upside, immediate resistance is placed at Rs 2,38,000 to Rs 2,40,000, they said. On the downside, a decisive break below the Rs 2,32,000 support level could intensify selling pressure, market observers added.

# RBI Compounds FEMA Violations In Joinmay, Universal Biofuels Cases

Mumbai, 10/6: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued compounding orders under Section 15 of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), in the separate cases of Joinmay Electronic Private Limited and Universal Biofuels Private Limited, which has resulted in the termination of investigation against the two companies for contraventions of provisions of the act, according to a press statement issued by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). The order in each case has been passed by the RBI after issuance of "No Objection" by the ED, the statement said. Section 15 provides a mechanism for individuals or companies to voluntarily admit to a violation of FEMA regulations, pay a penalty, and regularise the contravention without undergoing lengthy litigation or legal proceedings. In the Joinmay Electronic Private Limited case, the ED took up the investigation based on credible

information received on the delay in reporting of receipt of foreign inward remittance towards subscription of equity instruments covering a total amount of Rs 10 crore. The company, later on, filed an application before the RBI for compounding of the said contraventions under the FEMA as per the provisions of Section 15. On reference from the RBI, the ED issued no objection for the compounding in line with the true spirit of the act. Accordingly, the RBI, based on the ED's response, has compounded the said contraventions with a one-time payment of Rs 26,750. This has resulted in the termination of further investigation under the provisions of FEMA against the company with regard to the contravention. In the case of Universal Biofuels Private Limited, an investigation was taken up by the ED based on the credible information received under the provisions of FEMA. After completion of

the investigation, the ED filed a complaint before the Adjudicating Authority regarding the company failing to undertake exports within one year from the date of receipt of advance payment in contravention of regulations. The total value involved in the breach of regulations amounted to Rs 39.07 crore. The company, later on, filed an application before the RBI for compounding of the said contravention under FEMA as per the provisions of Section 15. On reference from RBI, the ED issued no objection to such compounding, and accordingly, the RBI compounded the contravention with a one-time payment of Rs 29.81 lakh. This has resulted in the termination of adjudication proceedings under the provisions of FEMA against the company with regard to the aforementioned contravention, as well as further litigation, the statement added.

# Indian Markets Trade Higher Despite West Asia Tensions

Mumbai, 10/6: Domestic equity markets traded higher on Wednesday in the morning session despite elevated geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices. Sensex gained as much as 0.59 per cent or over 400 points to touch an intraday high of 74,356 in early trade, while the Nifty rose 0.46 per cent or about 100 points to 23,351. Sectoral performance was largely positive, with FMCG stocks leading the gains. Nifty FMCG rose 1.5 per cent, followed by Nifty Chemicals (0.67 per cent), Nifty Oil & Gas (0.60 per cent) and Nifty Private Bank (0.50 per cent). On the downside, metal stocks remained under pressure, with Nifty Metal declining more than 1 per cent. Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom fell 0.62 per cent, while Auto, Media and PSU Bank indices traded marginally lower. Among the Nifty 50 constituents, Hindalco Industries emerged as the top loser, shedding nearly 3 per cent. Eternal, Adani Enterprises, NTPC and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) were among the other



major laggards. "While weak global cues and geopolitical tensions could keep markets volatile in the near term, technical indicators suggest signs of stabilisation after recent selling pressure. Nifty has strong support around 23,000-23,100, while 23,500-23,600 remains the immediate resistance zone. A decisive breakout on either side is likely to determine the market's next directional

move," analysts said. Investors and traders' sentiment remained cautious amid escalating tensions in West Asia after the United States launched strikes on Iran, raising concerns about a broader regional conflict and its potential impact on global energy supplies. On the commodities front, international benchmark Brent crude rose 0.75 per cent to around \$93 per barrel, while US

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 0.88 per cent to nearly \$90 per barrel. In Asia, markets traded largely in the red. Japan's Nikkei and Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined more than 1 per cent each, while South Korea's KOSPI plunged nearly 4 per cent. Overnight, Wall Street ended lower, with the S&P 500 slipping 0.26 per cent and the Nasdaq Composite declining 0.97 per cent.

# Govt Extends Credit Guarantee Scheme For Microfinance Institutions

New Delhi, 10/6: The Central Government has extended the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) up to August 31, 2026, or till guarantees for an amount of Rs 20,000 crore are issued, whichever is earlier. The Government has also approved an increase in the maximum loan amount cap for large-sized NBFC-MFIs/MFIs from Rs 300 crore to Rs 1,000 crore under the overall ceiling of 20 per cent of Assets Under Management (AUM), according to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry on Wednesday. The extension of the scheme's validity and the increase in the maximum loan amount cap for large-sized NBFC-MFIs/MFIs are expected to result in better utilisation of the scheme and facilitate increased credit flow to the microfinance institutions



sector. The Central Government introduced the CGSMFI-2.0 scheme on March 20, 2026. The scheme aims to provide guarantee cover to banks and financial institutions through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) against expected losses on

financial assistance extended by them to Non-Banking Financial Company - Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) and MFIs on on-lending to small borrowers. As of date, loans totalling Rs 770 crore have been sanctioned under the scheme. Those eligible for loans

under the scheme include existing and new small borrowers within the regulatory definition of microfinance as prescribed by the RBI from time to time. The guarantee coverage extends to 80 per cent of the amount in default for small NBFC-MFIs/MFIs, 75 per cent for medium NBFC-MFIs/MFIs and 70 per cent for large NBFC-MFIs/MFIs. The guarantee fee under the scheme is 0.50 per cent per annum on the sanctioned amount for the first year and on the outstanding amount thereafter. The interest rate has been capped at EBLR or MCLR plus 2 per cent per annum on loans by MLIs to NBFC-MFIs or MFIs. While on-lending to small borrowers, these MFIs/NBFC-MFIs have to cap the interest rate at 1 per cent below the average lending rate during the previous six months, the Finance Ministry statement added.

# Crude Oil Prices Surge Up To 1 Pc As US-Iran Tensions Escalate

New Delhi, 10/6: Global crude oil prices traded higher on Wednesday, increasing by up to 1 per cent after the United States launched strikes against Iranian military targets near the Strait of Hormuz, raising concerns over potential disruptions to energy supplies from the strategically important region. International benchmark Brent crude was up about 1 per cent at \$93.26 per barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 0.97 per cent to trade around \$90 per barrel. The latest gains came after the US military said it had carried out what it described as self-defence strikes on Iranian air defence, ground control and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz. According to the US Central Command, the operation was launched in response to the reported downing of a US Army Apache helicopter



in the region. However, Iran denied responsibility for the incident and said the helicopter crash was accidental. The development marks a fresh escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran at a time when markets had been anticipating a gradual easing of hostilities in West Asia. Investor

and trader sentiment also remained weak, leading to selling pressure in global equities. Reports claim that US crude oil inventories fell last week for an eighth consecutive week. If Israel persisted in attacking the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, Tehran threatened to reopen hostilities.

# Stock Market Highlights, Sensex Today: Markets Close On Muted Note Amid Fresh Escalation In US-Iran War

NEWDELHI, 10/6: Indian equity benchmarks opened and closed on a muted note on Wednesday amid fresh escalation in the US-Iran war. At the open, Sensex was up 160 points while Nifty gained 60 points. At the close, Sensex was up 64 points, while Nifty was down 27. On World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, Philip Morris India (PM India) reiterated the need for stronger enforcement and greater collaboration to combat the growing illicit tobacco trade.

According to the Tobacco Institute of India (TII), illicit cigarettes account for nearly one-fourth of India's domestic cigarette market, resulting in estimated annual revenue losses of Rs 23,000 crore. The challenge extends beyond cigarettes to include smuggled, banned, and unregulated products such as e-cigarettes and vapes that evade regulatory oversight. A report by the EU-ASEAN Business Council and Euromonitor



International estimated that the illicit tobacco market across ASEAN-6 generated US\$12.6 billion during 2024-25, with illicit cigarette sales rising 14% and illicit e-vape sales increasing 24% in the past year. Recent enforcement actions in India have highlighted the scale of the issue, including major seizures of prohibited vaping devices and illicit cigarettes across multiple cities. Commenting on the issue, Navaneel Kar, Managing Director,

PM India, said, "Addressing illicit tobacco trade requires sustained intelligence-led enforcement, stronger industry-government collaboration, and robust track-and-trace mechanisms to safeguard consumers, protect government revenues, and strengthen regulatory compliance. PM India reaffirmed its commitment to supporting authorities in curbing illicit trade and promoting a secure, transparent marketplace."



### Shahid Kapoor starred Deva teaser a hit, looks promising than blockbuster Kabir Singh

Shahid Kapoor starred Deva teaser out. The reflexes of Shahid Kapoor's actions in the action flick hints at the film getting good traction from the cinephiles. Within 6 hours, the YouTube views of the teaser have crossed 1.47 mn views. The teaser looks superb, as it showcases Shahid Kapoor dancing at a club with high energy and intensity. Simultaneously, he was seen performing some high-octane action sequences. The teaser starts with Shahid Kapoor tapping his foot and performing a scintillating dance at a club with pistol on his belt. A first look at the teaser shows he plays a police officer coming down brutally on the criminals. The scene wherein Shahid could be seen delivering brutal kicks on a man from inside a police car seems a standout one. The teaser ends with Shahid loading and posing with his gun against the backdrop of Amitabh Bachchan's iconic Angry Young Man poster from the film Deewar. Shahid Kapoor who had a very lean phase since 2019's blockbuster Kabir Singh, seems back in action hero avatar. His actions in Deva look more intense than Kabir Singh. Be it the frenzied expression or the slick action sequences, it seems Shahid has breathed life into the character. The action sequences definitely form another major highlight of the teaser. The teaser has not shed any light on the role of lead actress in the film – Pooja Hegde, though in his dance show at a club, the actor was seen dancing with a female actor. For action and mass film lovers, the teaser of Deva seems of perfect taste and tone, especially when the teaser ends with the track 'Deva Aala Re'. As per cine critics, the background score also adds to the drama. Cine critic Taran Adarsh calls the background score electrifying. The film will be releasing in cinemas on 31st January.

### JAAT from Pushpa 2 Makers roars on Action King Sunny Deol's Magic Dhai Kilo Ka Haath...: 4mn YT views in 4hrs

The much hyped movie of action king Sunny Deol's Jaat has been out Monday. The around 3 minutes trailer has all the elements of machismo Sunny Deol – the aggression, the muscular show et al. The magic is evident from the dialogue of Sunny Deol towards the fag end of the trailer – Yeh Dhai Kilo Ka Haath, Pur North India Dekh Chuka Hai; Ab South Dekhega – (The whole north has seen the intensity of this one-and-half kilo hand, now it's the time for south). This 'Dhai kilo ka Haath...' Shows the Sunny Deol magic – the magic of 90s when in the film Damini, Sunny had first delivered this dialogue on Amrish Puri – Yeh Dhai Kilo Ka Haath Jab Kisi par Padta.... Woh Pur Uth Jata hai... The retake of this dialogue in Jaat will have nostalgic impact on the huge fandom of Sunny Deol, and thus the Sunny magic will be the magnet on the silver screen, like that of Allu Arjun in Pushpa 2. The JAAT trailer has been greeted with roaring views. In the first four hours of the release, the trailer has garnered over 4mn views on YouTube. The mega action thriller will be hitting the cinema screens on April 10. The trailer shows JAAT has all the elements of Mass Action Thriller. When in the last moments of the trailer, Sunny Paaji makes a dashing entry into the Lanka of Ranatunga, and when his devastating moves had a shattering impact there ... then a dialogue in trailer grows louder ---- Ye normal item nahi hai, yeh ATOM BOMB hai... This Atom Bomb dialogue reminds of the Mythrii Movie makers – 'Wildfire' dialogue in Puspha 2. Like the 'wildfire' action of Allu Arjun in Pushpa that won the Box office crown for the Mythrii movie makers, in JAAT, the ATOM BOMB actions seems to be the winner shots for the movie makers. The trailer begins with a goosebump scene. A farmer while ploughing his field stumbles upon a hand of a corpse beneath the ground. The next scene then shows a tractor carrying number of bodies delivering a sense of mass murder. True to the typical south films, the next scene then zooms on the scared villagers who fear to take the name of mass murderer ( the antagonist) but for a boy who braved all to declare the name – RANATUNGA.



## SPORTS

### ICC Test batting rankings reward England star Harry Brook with ultimate cricket crown

NEWDELHI, 10/6: England's dynamic vice-captain Harry Brook secured the premier spot in the latest ICC Test batting rankings on Wednesday. This achievement follows a stellar half-century during the opening innings against New Zealand at Lord's, where England secured a commanding 115-run victory. The young Yorkshire batsman previously reached this career peak in late 2024, proving his consistent brilliance in the longest format of the game. Brook's rapid ascent since his international debut in 2022 reflects a historic shift in how modern Test matches are played globally. Former top batsman Joe Root dropped down to third place after registering low scores of one and eight in the same match. Australia's Travis Head capitalized on this slip to ascend into second place. Other international players also made significant strides in the updated list. Indian batsman Shubman Gill jumped up two places to eighth following a brilliant century against Afghanistan. England's opening batsman Ben Duckett advanced three positions to



secure the 15th spot, while wicketkeeper Jamie Smith moved up five places to 23rd. New Zealand's Glenn Phillips recorded a major leap, climbing 15 spots to sit at 40th. Fast bowlers saw major adjustments in their global standings this week. England pacer Gus Atkinson broke into the top ten by climbing seven spots, while also securing sixth place in the all-rounder category. Meanwhile, pacers Kyle Jamieson and Ollie Robinson marked their return to red-ball cricket by claiming the 22nd and 23rd positions respectively. New Zealand's Nathan Smith advanced 16 places to reach 43rd. White-ball cricket witnessed reshuffling after recent international fixtures. Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed climbed to second place in the ODI bowling list after taking six wickets against Australia. His fellow bowler Shaheen Afridi moved to ninth, while Australian bowler Nathan Ellis jumped to 31st. Bangladesh's young talent Nahid Rana rose 23 spots to land at 24th. Among limited-overs batsmen, Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis reached 12th place, with Janith Liyanage and Tanzid Hasan also improving their positions. These sweeping changes demonstrate how intensely competitive international cricket remains across every single format this season.

### Raducanu Storms Into Queen's Second Round With Dominant Win Over Blinkova

London, 10/6: Emma Raducanu made a triumphant return to winning ways as the British No. 1 swept past Anna Blinkova 6-0, 6-3 in the opening round at Queen's Club on Tuesday, earning her first victory in more than three months and boosting her Wimbledon preparations. Playing her first grass-court match of the season, Raducanu looked sharp from the start. She raced through the opening eight games without losing a point. She then comfortably finished the match against the Russian qualifier. The victory marked her first win since beating Anastasia Zakharova in the opening round at Indian Wells on March 6. The 23-year-old's campaign faced a setback due to a post-viral illness that kept her off the WTA Tour for over two months. Upon her return, she suffered first-round losses in Strasbourg and at the French Open. This made her strong performance in London

even more encouraging. Supported by a lively home crowd, Raducanu seemed relaxed and confident throughout the match. She showed little sign of the difficulties that had affected her recent season, reports Xinhua. "I'm so happy to have come through that match. To be back here playing at Queen's, I haven't won a match in a few months, and there isn't a place I would rather have done it," Raducanu said after the win. "I'm really grateful for all the support." The former US Open champion hopes this convincing victory will give her momentum heading into Wimbledon. The grass-court swing offers a chance for her to find her best form after a tough few months on tour. Raducanu later described the performance as an important step in her preparations for the year's third Grand Slam. She expressed hope that the result would be "a really good stepping stone" for the rest of the grass-court season.

### Unfazed by 2024 setback, Akshay Kumar shows sportsmanship spirit, readies for take-off with Sky Force in 2025

Akki is the real khiladi in Bollywood. Win or defeat, like a true sportsman, B-Town Khiladi believes in keep playing and enjoying the game. The 57-year old Bollywood superstar always keeps sportsmanship up on his sleeves. When King Khan faced back to back flops, took a 5-year sabbatical from the silver screen, only to return with a bang with two All Time Blockbusters like Pathaan and Jawan, Akshay Kumar aka Khiladi Kumar seems in no mood to take a break from the silver screen. The superstar has donned roles in myriads of genre films, but the crown of glory eluded him. Since the super hit **Soryaash** in 2021, Akki is starring at a string of flops



and disasters for the last three years. 2024 was a bad year for Akshay Kumar. His movie Khel Khel Mein bombed at the box office. Same has been the fate of Sarfira. But this never say die attitude actor seems to have taken everything in his stride. And displaying sportsmanship in waiting for the day to write glorious story again. During the event of release of Sky Force trailer in Mumbai, Akshay was fired with a volley of questions with regard to his poor show for the last three years, and about the counsels by many Bollywood biggies to concentrate on 1 or 2 good films. This never says die actor, known in Bollywood as the 'comeback star', pooh-poohed the critics and hit out at the barbs aimed at him. Akshay said, "I will not go by the advice of doing 1 or 2 films a year." He questioned, "why should I do?" and added "If I can do all these films in a year, why should I stop. I have built my career in the industry through this base... I will keep doing as many films as I can." Moreover, the superstar said, "Many counseled me of not doing content based films.. Why shouldn't I do... I will do such movies ... I love them doing... Though Sarfira didn't perform well at the box office... I consider it one of my best film..." The Akshay talk in Mumbai shows the superstar seems in a mood to pick up the thread again and witness a new dawn in 2025. The year is also lined up with back to back big banner Akshay Kumar movies. The details given below.