

# Dumani Mail

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## Kangana Ranaut & Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi Honour Healthcare Heroes at Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata Screening in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Ahead of its theatrical release on June 12, Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata team is travelling across the country to honour the real heroes who quietly hold India together in moments of crisis.

As part of a nationwide initiative, the makers have begun hosting special screenings across cities, inviting often-overlooked frontline workers — nurses, ward boys, hospital watchmen, cleaners, security staff, and support personnel — whose tireless service rarely make headlines, yet whose contribution keeps the nation functioning.

The campaign arrives in Bhubaneswar for a special screening dedicated to healthcare professionals, attended by Kangana Ranaut and Odisha Chief Minister Honourable Mohan Charan Majhi. In a heartfelt and symbolic gesture, select healthcare workers at the event were felicitated with Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata badges, personally

presented by Kangana Ranaut and the Chief Minister, recognising them as the true “Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata” — the architects of the nation’s destiny.

Kangana said, “Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata captures the essence of the Indian spirit – celebrating the selflessness, patriotism, and diligence of our people. The film’s core theme is deeply inspired by our Honourable Prime Minister, who aptly coined the phrase ‘Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata’ to describe these everyday citizens.

While we look forward to discussing the film with you after the screening, I must first express my deepest gratitude to the Honourable Chief Minister for gracing us with his presence despite his incredibly demanding schedule. To make this occasion truly memorable, our team has identified several ‘silent heroes’ from the local community. I humbly request the Honourable Chief Minister



to kindly felicitate these individuals and honour their invaluable service before the screening begins.”

On this occasion, Odisha’s Honourable Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi shared, “Hearing the words ‘Bharat Bhagya

Vidhaata’ naturally evokes an eternal and profound sense of nationalism in every Indian. It is a matter of immense pride for Odisha to welcome the entire creative team behind this project. Kangana Ranaut’s powerful performance anchors this

narrative, proving that she is the true hero of this film.

Through deeply moving and emotional sequences, the film beautifully captures how a dedicated nurse and her colleagues selflessly executed their duties in the wake of a catastrophic crisis.

Hosting this event today holds profound significance; as we celebrate World Environment Day, we are simultaneously honouring the real-life heroes who protect our society. Our Honourable Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, has

consistently championed such unsung individuals through his Mann Ki Baat address. Bharat Bhagya Vidhaata serves as an excellent platform to recognize and felicitate these remarkable talents, inspiring them to continue serving the public with unwavering commitment.”

Following Bhubaneswar, the film’s tribute tour will continue to Raipur before heading to Jodhpur, Delhi, and Jaipur, carrying forward its message of gratitude, recognition, and remembrance.

Set largely within the confines of a hospital, Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata presents a stirring contrast between chaos unfolding outside and courage holding firm within. As fear grips the city, it is the hospital staff nurses, ward boys, cleaners, security personnel, lift operators, and administrators — who refuse to abandon their posts. Inspired by real-life incidents, the film reinforces a powerful truth: without

these invisible pillars, the system would collapse in a single day.

Kangana Ranaut essays the role of a staff nurse, an ordinary woman whose commitment often goes unnoticed. At home, she is overlooked; at work, frequently underestimated. But when terror strikes, it is her courage, resilience, and moral clarity that become a lifeline for hundreds.

Alongside Kangana Ranaut, Bharat Bhhagya Vidhaata features an ensemble cast including Girija Oak, Smita Tambe, Amrutha Namdev, Esha Dey, Priya Berde, Asha Shelar, Suhita Thatte, Rasika Agashe, Aditya Mishra, and Zahid Khan. Presented by Dr. Jayantilal Gada (PEN Studios), the film is produced by PEN Studios, Manikarnika Films, and Paramhans Creations, in association with Eunoia Films LLP and Floating Rocks Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., and will be distributed by Pen Marudhar on June 12, 2026.

## Fourth Edition of Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival Concludes on a High Note, Strengthening India–Nepal Cultural Ties

*The festival also showcased several important discussions on Nepali literature and culture, including sessions such as “The Global Voice of Nepali Poetry” and “Challenges of Literary Festivals.” Addressing the inaugural session, Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Festival Founder of Kathmandu KLF, emphasized the transformative power of literature in connecting people across borders. “Literature is not confined to words and books; it is a celebration of ideas, culture, memory, emotions, and human potential. This festival is not merely a literary gathering but a shared platform that nurtures understanding and intimacy among people. Literature transcends geographical boundaries and builds invisible bridges between human beings,” she said.*

Kathmandu: The fourth edition of the Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) concluded successfully after two days of vibrant literary, cultural, and intellectual engagement at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, Nepal. Bringing together acclaimed authors, artists, scholars, thinkers, and cultural practitioners from across South Asia, the festival reaffirmed its position as a significant platform for fostering dialogue, creativity, and cross-border cultural understanding.

Held under the theme “Beyond Borders – South Asian Literature in a Changing World: Towards the Imagination of a Shared Future,” the festival was inaugurated by former Chief Justice of Nepal Sushila Karki. The event celebrated the rich

literary and cultural heritage of South Asia while exploring contemporary challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation and shared cultural imagination. One of the major highlights of the opening day was an engaging conversation with renowned Indian actor, writer, poet, and musician Piyush Mishra. During the session titled “Tumhari Aukaat Kya Hai Piyush Mishra,” moderated by Yunus Khan, Mishra reflected on his childhood, artistic journey, passion for theatre, struggles, and his autobiography. His candid insights resonated deeply with the audience.

Another widely appreciated session featured celebrated singer, actress, and theatre personality Ila Arun, who shared anecdotes from her life and discussed her autobiography “Choli Ke

Peeche” during the session “Pardey Ke Peeche.”

Geographic Reference  
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geographical boundaries and builds invisible bridges between human beings,” she said. The second day continued with a series of thought-provoking discussions covering literature, cinema, music, satire, society, and cultural transformation. Sessions such as “Songs: To Listen or to Watch?”, “Cinema: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” “A Discourse Suggestion to Rajendra Khadgi,” “Mantha: Karnali Rising,” “Living Civilizations: Society, Culture and Change,” and “Humor and Satire: Old Laughter, New Jokes” attracted enthusiastic participation from audiences.

A special session titled “Words that Sing: Raj Shekhar on Poetry, Cinema, and the Lyricist’s Craft” featured noted lyricist Raj Shekhar in conversation with Sampada Malla.

## Odisha SHG Sends 7.5 Quintals of Amrapali Mangoes to London, Showcasing Odisha’s Global Agri Reach



Bhubaneswar – In a significant stride towards women empowerment and grassroots progress, A Self-Help Group (SHG) from Angul district – Maa Kalijai SHG has successfully exported 7.5 quintals of Amrapali mangoes to London, marking yet another milestone in Odisha’s inclusive agricultural growth journey. This achievement not only strengthens the state’s export narrative but also reflects the growing confidence, capability, and economic participation of rural women in global markets.

The success of Maa

Kalijai SHG has been enabled through the support of the Directorate of Horticulture under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment (DA&FE) under the PSFPO project. The marketing facilitation for this export has been comprehensively supported by Palladium Consulting, which is also the implementation partner for the PSFPO project. Mission Shakti and Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) have been instrumental in the overall strengthening of the SHG, contributing to its sustained development and enhanced capabilities, enabling SHGs

**A Self-Help Group (SHG) from Angul district – Maa Kalijai SHG has successfully exported 7.5 quintals of Amrapali mangoes to London, marking yet another milestone in Odisha’s inclusive agricultural growth journey**

today to reach new heights and connect their products to global markets.

As the implementation partner, Palladium supports the export ecosystem through awareness and sensitization workshops, field-level demonstrations, and exporter meets. It also facilitates procurement, coordination with farmers and FPOs, and provides continuous handholding support, playing a key role in strengthening producer institutions and driving agri-exports from Odisha.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are small, community-based collectives, often comprising rural women, with limited scale compared to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Exports and large-scale agri-marketing have traditionally been led by FPOs due to their stronger capacity and market linkages, while SHGs have had limited exposure to export ecosystems.

This milestone by Maa Kalijai SHG, however, marks a notable shift.

## World Skill Center and World Trade Center Bhubaneswar Sign Strategic MoU to Enhance Global Opportunities for Skilled Youth

Bhubaneswar: Reinforcing its commitment to creating globally competitive talent, the World Skill Center (WSC), Bhubaneswar, today entered into a strategic partnership with the World Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the WSC campus.

The MoU was formalized during a

ceremony held at the World Skill Center in the presence of senior leadership from both organizations, industry representatives, and distinguished guests. The agreement marks a significant step towards integrating skill development with global trade ecosystems and expanding international opportunities for Odisha’s youth.

Through this

collaboration, WSC and WTC Bhubaneswar will work together to strengthen international industry engagement, facilitate global internships and apprenticeships, promote skill exchange programmes, and provide exposure to international trade and business ecosystems. The partnership will also focus on developing globally relevant training modules,

supporting industry interactions, and enhancing the employability of skilled professionals in international markets.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, emphasized the growing importance of skilled human capital in an increasingly interconnected global

economy and highlighted the role of the partnership in creating pathways for international exposure and career advancement.

The World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, an accredited member of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), New York, plays a key role in promoting international trade, investment, and global business linkages through its

extensive worldwide network.

The World Skill Center, established under the Department of Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, is recognized as one of India’s leading institutions for advanced skill development. With world-class infrastructure, industry-aligned training, and a strong focus on

employability, WSC continues to empower youth with the skills required to succeed in a rapidly evolving global economy.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Dr. Subhanga Kishore Das, Principal, World Skill Center and Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Shri

Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, CEO, World Skill Center, and senior leadership teams from both organizations.

This partnership reflects WSC’s continued efforts to build meaningful collaborations that connect skilled talent with global opportunities while positioning Odisha as a destination for world-class skill development and workforce excellence.

Gundicha Temple Works Reviewed by Chief Administrator Dr. Arvind Padhee Ahead of Rath Yatra



Puri: In view of the upcoming Rath Yatra, Chief Administrator of the Shri Jagannath Temple Administration, Dr. Arvind Padhee, inspected the ongoing repair and beautification works at Gundicha Temple. During his visit, he directed officials to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeline.

The temple administration has been closely monitoring the development and restoration works at the temple, giving priority to their completion before the annual Rath Yatra festival. As part of this effort, Dr. Padhee conducted an on-site review of various projects and assessed their progress.

Repair and renovation activities are currently being carried out at an accelerated pace. The administration aims to complete all essential works before Rath Yatra so that devotees can enjoy improved facilities during their visit.

Once the restoration work is completed, the general public will be able to visit the Gundicha Temple and experience the spiritual significance associated with Lord Jagannath's sacred abode. According to the administration, the upgraded facilities will also provide devotees with a better opportunity to appreciate the temple's historical and religious importance.

Defunct Street Lights Plunge Khordha into Darkness; Accidents and Safety Concerns on the Rise



Khordha - 11/6 - The malfunctioning of street lights across several major roads, intersections, and market areas in Khordha town has become a matter of growing concern for residents, roads that are expected to remain illuminated at night are now shrouded in darkness due to the prolonged failure of numerous street lights, causing inconvenience and raising serious safety concerns for commuters.

According to local residents, many street lights in key parts of the town have remained non-functional for several months. As a result, large stretches of roads are left in darkness after sunset, forcing pedestrians as well as two-wheeler and four-wheeler drivers to travel under risky conditions. The lack of adequate lighting has reportedly led to an increase in minor road accidents. Potholes, damaged road surfaces,

and other obstructions become difficult to spot in the dark, often causing motorists to lose control of their vehicles. Residents claim that several accidents have occurred in recent weeks due to poor visibility on the roads. Senior citizens are among the worst affected. A local resident stated that travelling at night was much safer when the street lights were functioning properly. However, with many roads now remaining

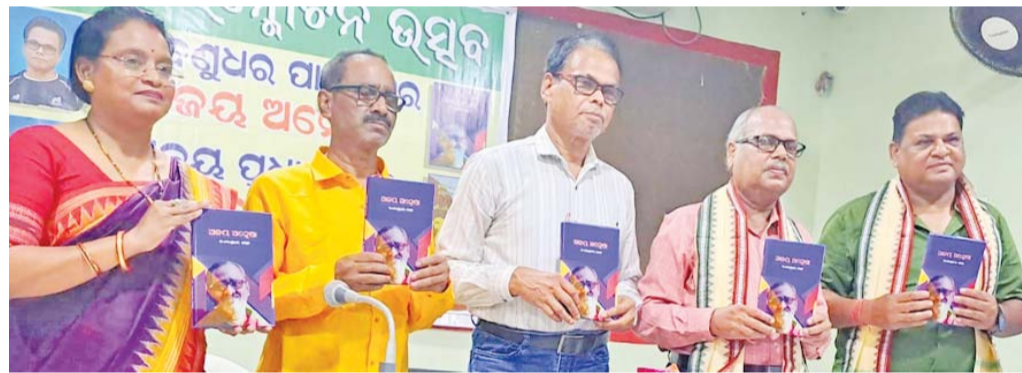
dark, elderly people feel hesitant to step out after sunset, particularly when they need to visit hospitals or pharmacies during emergencies.

Women and students have also expressed concerns over their safety. Those returning home from workplaces, coaching centres, or tuition classes after dark often feel insecure while travelling through poorly lit roads. Residents fear that the prevailing darkness may encourage anti-social activities and compromise public safety. Locals further alleged that despite repeated complaints to the municipal authorities, the issue has not been resolved. In some places, the light poles remain intact but the bulbs are not functioning, while in other areas electrical faults have reportedly caused entire stretches of street lighting systems to remain out of service. The situation has also raised questions about the maintenance of basic civic infrastructure. Residents argue that while substantial funds are being spent on urban development and beautification projects,

essential services such as street lighting are being neglected. The dark and poorly maintained roads, they say, create a negative impression among visitors entering the town. With the onset of the monsoon season, the problem is expected to worsen. Waterlogging on roads combined with poor visibility increases the risk of accidents significantly. The lack of lighting may also hamper the movement of emergency vehicles, including ambulances and fire services, during night hours. In view of the growing concerns, residents have urged the Khordha municipal council authority to immediately repair the non-functional street lights and establish a regular maintenance mechanism to ensure uninterrupted lighting across the town. Citizens and members of the intelligentsia have stressed that prompt action is essential to ensure public safety, improve urban infrastructure, and maintain the town's overall image. They have warned that continued negligence may lead to stronger public resentment in the days ahead.

'Ajaya Anwasha' and 'Kabitara Mahabhasha' Released in Puri

Balasure, June 11 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): Two books, Kabitara Mahabhasha: Asmitara Ithasa, a critical work by senior writer Ajaya Pradhan, and Ajaya Anwasha, a study of Ajaya Pradhan's complete literary oeuvre authored by Dr. Benudhar Padhi, were released at a literary function held in two sessions at the Youth Hostel Auditorium, Puri.



In the first session, chaired by Dr. Baijayanti Nayak, Ajaya Anwasha was formally released.

Prof. Dr. Mathuranath Hota attended as the chief guest, while Dr. Benudhar Padhi delivered the keynote address and Dr. Dillip Kumar Swain participated as the

guest speaker. The speakers highlighted the background of Ajaya Pradhan's literary journey and discussed the distinctive features of his writings.

The second session was

presided over by Chinmaya Bibek. Dr. Benudhar Padhi attended as the chief guest, Dr. Bhagaban Jaisingh as the keynote speaker, and Dr. Pabitra Mohan Das as the guest

speaker. On this occasion, Ajaya Pradhan's critical volume 'Kabitara Mahabhasha: Asmitara Ithasa' was released, and the speakers shared their observations on the book and

its significance. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp before the idol of Lord Jagannath. Poet Ajaya Pradhan welcomed the guests to the dais, while Kamadeva Maharana proposed the vote of thanks. Among those present were Dr. Kailash Chandra Tikayat Ray, Sharat Mishra, Minati Mishra, Dr. Sasmita Mishra, Dr. Ashok Mohanty, Krushnachandra Rath, Dr. Suchitra Rath, Bichitra Das, Jogeswar Paraharaj, Bipin Bihari Dalai, Shatrughna Sahu, and several friends, well-wishers, and family members of Ajaya Pradhan.

EAST COAST RAILWAY OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL LEVEL CROSSING AWARENESS DAY 2026



"Someone is Waiting for You" – ECoR Reinforces Safety Message at Railway Level Crossings

Bhubaneswar, June 10, 2026: East Coast Railway (ECoR) observed International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) on 9th June 2026 across its jurisdiction with a series of awareness programmes aimed at promoting safe behaviour at railway level crossings and preventing accidents caused by unsafe road user practices. The observance was held in line with the global ILCAD campaign slogan "Alert Today, Safe Tomorrow", emphasizing the importance of vigilance, patience and responsible conduct at railway crossings.

As part of the observance, extensive safety awareness campaigns were conducted at level crossing gates, railway stations, educational institutions and nearby habitations across the zone. Railway officials, safety counsellors, Civil Defence volunteers and field staff interacted with motorists, pedestrians, students and local residents to spread awareness about safe practices while crossing railway tracks and level crossings.

Through public announcements, distribution of safety pamphlets, display of posters, counselling

sessions, awareness rallies and street plays, road users were educated on the need to obey warning signals and gate barriers, stop before crossing railway tracks, avoid trespassing and refrain from using mobile phones or earphones while approaching railway crossings.

The campaign prominently carried the message "Someone is Waiting for You", reminding road users that a few moments of patience at a railway crossing can save lives and ensure a safe return to their loved ones. The initiative highlighted that trains cannot stop instantly and that strict adherence to safety rules is essential for preventing accidents and safeguarding lives.

The observance reflects East Coast Railway's unwavering commitment to enhancing railway safety through public awareness, community participation and continuous safety initiatives. It also served as a reminder that safety at level crossings is a collective responsibility and that every responsible action contributes to safer journeys for all.

East Coast Railway appeals to all road users to remain alert, follow safety regulations at railway level crossings and join hands in making railway operations safer and accident free.

Alert Today, Safe Tomorrow. Someone is Waiting for You.

SBI, The Bell Organise Blood Donation Camp in Puri; 80 Units Collected

Puri: Marking the 71st Foundation Day of the State Bank and in view of the upcoming Rath Yatra, the State Bank's Regional Business Office, Puri, in association with voluntary organisation The Bell, organised a blood donation camp at the SBI Holiday Home here on Thursday.

The camp was inaugurated by Additional District Magistrate (Administration), Puri, Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, who attended as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of voluntary blood donation, stating that "a single drop of blood can save a precious life" and urged people to overcome their apprehensions and come forward to donate blood.

Regional Manager of SBI, Bharat Charan Sahu, attended as the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, Siddhartha Ray, president of The Bell, said that SBI has not only excelled



in customer service but has also set significant milestones in social responsibility initiatives over the past 71 years.

Among those present were SBI Puri Branch Chief Manager Hemanta Kumar Pradhan, Human Resources Manager of the Regional Office Jitendra Nayak, Additional Branch Manager Rajesh Kumar Sahu, and Additional Regional Human Resources Officer

Pratap Kumar Jena. The dignitaries distributed gifts and certificates to the blood donors in recognition of their contribution.

Senior SBI officials and volunteers of The Bell jointly coordinated the camp. The organisation's vice-president, Sukanta Kumar Panda, proposed the vote of thanks.

A total of 80 units of blood were collected during the camp.

Two arrested illegal human trafficking

Keonjhar: Keonjhar police arrested two persons allegedly have allured innocent adivasi adolescent boys and girls including 2 minor children of our area and trafficked & engaged them in Tamilnadu. This has confirmed by the police in a press release today.

Police arrested them after a complaint received from Herbal Nayak, state co ordinator, Bharatiya Human Right Council (BHRC), Odisha on June 1, 2026 in Anandpur police station of Keonjhar district. Police arrested them under different section including child labour act and juvenile justice act.

The accused are identified as Akhya Das (48) of Bhadrak and Sritam Jena (24) of Biridia village of Anandpur, Keonjhar.

According to the police it was alleged that both the acdd have allured innocent adivasi adolescent boys and girls including 2 minor children of our area and trafficked & engaged them in Tamilnadu, where neither they got healthy environment nor received promised salary amount. They were also harassed ,confined, and threatened. Instead of getting Rs 30,000 salary as they promised to pay they got only Rs3000 to 5000/-. The acdd persons also engaged a adivasi girl kuni Ho of Raipal in illegal ganja trading without her knowledge resulted her in Nayagah jail, police said. "As the offence is serious in nature, as per direction of SP ,Keonjhar, Anandpur Police has pro actively acted upon and able to arrest the accused successfully today" said Kamal Kumar Panda, SDPO Anandpur in a press release.

Chairperdon BHRC Purna Chandra Sahu said " after received information our team at tamilnadu track and rescue them. If police investigate the incident properly their involvement in many other similar cases will be come to know.

Paradip Port Conducts Multi-Agency Mock Drill with NDRF to Strengthen Disaster Response Preparedness

Paradip, (DMS)11/6 :- In a significant step towards strengthening disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities, Paradip Port Authority (PPA), in collaboration with the 3rd Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Mundali, conducted a Multi-Agency Coordination Mock Drill at the Main Fire Station, Paradip Port.



The exercise brought together emergency response teams from various government agencies, industrial units, and mutual aid partners operating in and around Paradip. The objective was to test preparedness levels, improve

coordination among stakeholders, and ensure a swift and effective response during emergencies such as cyclones, industrial accidents, fires, and other disaster situations.

The programme began with a

tabletop exercise, during which Ramakanta Dash, Team Commander, NDRF, highlighted the importance of resource mapping, coordinated planning, and timely decision-making during

emergencies. The session provided participants with an opportunity to review response procedures and discuss strategies for handling complex disaster scenarios.

The practical drill that followed simulated a range of emergency situations, including structural collapse and search-and-rescue operations, rope rescue techniques, road clearance following cyclone-related obstructions, industrial firefighting involving tank fire scenarios, and casualty management with medical evacuation. The exercise demonstrated how different agencies can work together

seamlessly to save lives, protect critical infrastructure, and restore normalcy during a crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanat Kumar Patel, Commandant, CISF, appreciated the efforts of all participating agencies and stressed the importance of regular drills in identifying gaps and enhancing preparedness. He noted that such exercises help build confidence and ensure that response teams remain ready to act effectively when real emergencies occur.

thanked all stakeholders for their active participation and emphasized that disaster management is most effective when institutions work together as a coordinated network. He

observed that for a major industrial and maritime hub like Paradip, strong partnerships and continuous preparedness are essential for minimizing risks and ensuring public safety.

The drill witnessed active participation from NDRF, CISF Fire Wing, Odisha State Fire Services, Odisha State Police, Indian Coast Guard, Intelligence Bureau, Dock Safety Department, and emergency response teams from key industrial establishments including IOCL, IFFCO, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, JSW Steel, Adani Wilmar, BPCL, HPCL, KICT, and PICT.

The exercise was coordinated on-site by Akash Jaiswal,

Assistant Commandant, CISF Fire Wing. The programme was aty Security Officer (DC & PFSO), Assistant Director (Dock Safety), senior officials of Paradip Port Authority, representatives of participating industries, and members of various emergency response agencies.

The successful conduct of the mock drill reflects Paradip Port Authority's continued commitment to safety, preparedness, and resilience. By regularly conducting such collaborative exercises, PPA aims to systems and ensure the safety of port personnel, industrial workers, and the surrounding community.

# One arrested, one detained in Murder case

Naresh Chandra Pattanayak Keonjhar : Keonjhar police arrested one and detained a minor in a mysterious and sensational murder incident today. In a press meet held in Barbil PS, police confirm this. Child in Conflict with Law (CICL) involved in the commission of the offence. According to police on 9 June at about 1:30 PM, police got information about a dead body of an unknown person was lying inside a trench near Munda Sahi, close to a gas plant, approximately 800 metres away from NH-520. Upon receipt of the information, the local police along with senior officials immediately rushed to the spot and recovered a multiple injured dead body. During preliminary inquiry, the

circumstances the police indicated that the death was homicidal in nature. After the incident, a case has been registered in Barbil police station and initiated investigation with the help of the Dog Squad and Scientific Team, said Ashok Nayak, IIC Barbil PS. After examining several witnesses, police collected technical as well as scientific evidence about the incident.

Through sustained efforts, police identified the deceased as Badal Singh (18), S/o Binod Singh of Village Hudisahi under Joda police station of Keonjhar District.

After completion of all legal formalities and post-mortem examination, the dead body was handed over to the family



members of the deceased. During

investigation police further revealed the involvement of

two persons in the crime out of which one is

found to be a Child in Conflict with Law (CICL).

Investigation disclosed that the motive behind the murder was a dispute regarding the distribution of stolen property. It came to light that the deceased and both accused persons were allegedly involved in illegal activities such as theft and robbery. During the interrogation police further revealed that the CICL had taken possession of the deceased's mobile phone and kept it with him for several days. On 08 June, all three met at the residence of the CICL at Joda, where the mobile phone was returned to the deceased. Thereafter, they proceeded to the place of occurrence during the evening and consumed liquor and ganja together.

When the deceased fell

asleep due to heavy intoxication, accused Sanjay Munda and the CICL allegedly took advantage of the situation and repeatedly assaulted him on the head with stones, resulting in his death. After committing the offence, they dragged the body into a nearby trench and removed the deceased's mobile phone from his pocket. "During interrogation, the accused confessed to his involvement in the crime and led the investigating team to the recovery of the weapon of offence, a blood-stained stone, as well as the mobile phone belonging to the deceased. The articles were seized" said SDPO Barbil Gangoli in a press meet.

## Five-Day Experiential Learning Programme Concludes at Keutdih Old Age Home.

Sambalpur/ Rengali-10/06(DMS)

A five-day experiential learning programme organized at the Keutdih Old Age Home concluded successfully today. The initiative was jointly conducted by Sahayata Ashram and Swadhina Ekata Sangathan, Rengali, with support from MY Bharat, Sambalpur. The programme had commenced on June 5.

Addressing the valedictory session, Amit Kumar Sahu delivered the welcome speech. Senior journalist Ramakanta Biswal spoke on the social responsibilities of youth and their crucial role in nation-building. He emphasized that young people are the strength, resource, and foundation of a nation's future. Highlighting their contribution to social, economic, political, and cultural development, he stated that with proper guidance, education, and opportunities, youth can



play a transformative role in building a prosperous, empowered, and progressive nation.

The concluding day featured interaction and experience-sharing sessions with the residents of the old age home, along with various social awareness activities aimed at fostering empathy and community engagement among participants.

The event also included cultural performances by Meenakshi Raut and Chandini Suna, which added vibrancy to the programme.

Among those present were Rajib Kumar Mishra, President of Swadhina Ekata Sangathan;

Shashibhusan Sahu, founder of the old age home; Lalit Kumar Sahu, Amit Kumar Sahu, Padmanabh Bhoi, Pradeep Kumar Majhi, Dubaraj Pradhan, Divya Kishore Saraf, Deepak Sharma, Ashish Sharma, Gagan Patra, Sanjeeb Seth, Bayanti Sahu, Samjukta Pradhan, and several other volunteers and members of the organization.

Participants observed that the five-day experiential learning programme helped instill a spirit of service, social responsibility, and humanitarian values among the youth, making it a meaningful and impactful initiative.

## Aditya Aluminium Lapanga Distributes Competitive Exam Preparation Books to Rural Aspirants.



Sambalpur-10/06(DMS) : Reinforcing its commitment to youth empowerment and education, Aditya Aluminium Lapanga organized a distribution programme of competitive examination preparation books for students enrolled in the Gyanarjan Project, an initiative aimed at providing free coaching support for government competitive examinations. The programme was conducted for students undergoing coaching at Rengali VSS IIT in collaboration with Virat Institute, Sambalpur. A total of 41 rural students from Rengali Block are currently receiving coaching under the programme. The students were provided with study materials covering key subjects such as Mathematics, English, Reasoning, and General Studies, enabling

them to strengthen their preparation for various government recruitment examinations. In addition, another batch of 30 students at Lapanga Higher Secondary School is also benefiting from the free coaching facilities being offered under the Gyanarjan Project. The initiative reflects Aditya Aluminium Lapanga's continued efforts to enhance educational opportunities, build employability skills, and support the aspirations of rural youth in securing meaningful career opportunities through government services. Through such interventions, Aditya Aluminium Lapanga remains committed to fostering inclusive growth and creating pathways for the socio-economic development of communities in its operational areas.

## In a major reform, Government announces measures to deepen G-Sec market and facilitate greater Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) in equity segment

**Bhubaneswar:** In line with the Government's commitment to strengthen India's position as a leading global investment destination and to deepen the capital market, the Ministry of Finance has taken a series of measures aimed at enhancing the ease of investment for individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs) and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), and to attract stable long-term foreign capital flows.

Building on the recent initiatives to enhance ease of doing business in capital markets, the Government has undertaken further reforms to make foreign investment in equities and G-Secs more accessible, efficient, and globally competitive.

Liberalisation of investment by individual Persons Resident Outside India under the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instrument) Rules, 2019

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs announced in the Union Budget FY2026-27 that individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROI) will be permitted to invest in equity instruments of listed Indian companies through the Portfolio Investment Scheme which was hitherto available only to NRIs/OCIs; and the investment limit will be increased for an individual PROI under this scheme from

5% to 10% in any company, with an overall investment limit for all individual PROIs to 24%, from the current 10%.

To implement the same, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) is notifying the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026.

This notification will facilitate a more proactive mobilisation of foreign portfolio capital by leveraging the existing onboarding systems already in place for NRI/OCI investors. Simplified onboarding and reduced compliance requirements would further enhance ease of doing business, while attracting a broader base of relatively stable individual foreign investors. This will also support greater and more stable foreign inflows into Indian equity markets.

Review of the regulatory framework for FPI investment in Government securities

With the view to enhance participation by FPIs in G-Sec, the Government has decided to expand the list of specified securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) to also include new issuances in Government securities in tenors of 15, 30 and 40 years as also Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in the tenors of FAR-eligible securities. Further, with respect to FPI investments under General Route, it has been decided to remove the three restrictions, viz. short-

term investment limit, concentration limit and the security-wise limit for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in Government securities, while retaining the overall quantitative investment limit of 6 per cent of the outstanding stock of the Central Government securities and 2 per cent of the State Government securities (SGSs). The sub-categories of investment limits, viz. 'general' and 'long-term' will also be merged into a single limit for investment in Government securities and SGSs, respectively.

These measures will help in development of a smooth yield curve, and attract stable systematic inflow of long-term, patient foreign capital, including long-term investors such as pension funds, insurance companies, and sovereign wealth funds. This is also expected to boost foreign exchange inflows for the country.

Exempt interest and capital gains on G-Secs from tax Recognising the importance of a competitive tax regime in attracting global capital, the Government has decided to rationalise the tax treatment applicable to investments by FPIs in Government Securities, by exempting such investments from income tax on any interest or capital gain. This step will align the taxation on G-Secs with many comparable jurisdictions.

## Vedanta Aluminium's Solar Interventions Bring Light and Water Stability to Rural Odisha

**Bhubaneswar:** In the remote belts of Odisha, evening arrives abruptly. As daylight fades, activity begins to wind down, not out of routine, but necessity. Children put away their books earlier than they would like. Women rush to complete daily chores. Roads fade into long, unlit stretches that are difficult, and often unsafe to navigate.

Electricity exists, but not always when it is needed. Supply is inconsistent; outages are frequent, and in scattered habitations, access itself remains uneven. What appears as coverage on paper often translates into uncertainty in practice.

If electricity shapes the evening, water determines the day.

Across the region, access to drinking water remains a persistent challenge. During peak summer months, sources often run dry, and for many households, water still comes from a distance. Multiple trips and unpredictable supply continue to define daily life.

The burden falls most heavily on women. Water collection is not a one-time chore but a repeated task, physically demanding, time-consuming, and often limiting what else can be done in a

day. This is where energy and water begin to intersect.

When Power Becomes Access

Where electricity is unreliable, even basic systems struggle. Water infrastructure depends on power. Pumps fail during outages, and supply becomes erratic. What exists does not always work.

That is what makes decentralized solutions essential in regions like these.

Solar energy, in this context, becomes about reliability. It works where the grid falters and delivers at the point where it is needed.

Across Kalahandi, Rayagada, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, and Koraput, Vedanta Aluminium has implemented decentralized solar interventions, installing over 700 solar-powered streetlights and more than 25 solar-powered borewells, together benefiting over 20,000 people by improving access to both reliable lighting and safe drinking water in remote habitations.

These interventions reflect a broader shift in how the company approaches sustainability, embedding clean energy within its operations and extending the same principles to

surrounding communities. In regions where conventional infrastructure struggles, this ensures solutions that are not just available, but dependable.

These are not large systems. They are local, visible fixes, lighting streets and public spaces, and ensuring water access without dependence on unstable power supply.

Shri Gunasingh Majhi, Sarpanch of Sunger Gram Panchayat, Rayagada district, said, "For years, our villages struggled with safe drinking water and basic lighting. Women had to walk long distances, and after sunset, movement became unsafe. Today, with solar borewells and streetlights, daily life has changed. Water is available closer to our homes, and the streets remain lit at night. It has improved safety and brought real relief to our community."

Lighting doesn't just illuminate, it changes how spaces are used. It extends the usable day and restores a basic sense of security.

Water, Without the Distance

If lighting changes how people move, water access changes how they live. In villages where supply is uncertain, the day is

structured around collection, early mornings, repeated trips, and physical strain. It is work that rarely gets counted, but defines the day, especially for women. Solar-powered borewells change that equation at the source. By removing dependence on erratic electricity, they ensure consistent access to safe drinking water within the village itself. Not a distant well, not a seasonal source, but water that is available when needed.

For women, this shift is immediate, and deeply personal.

Pushpanjali Nath from Sriapali Village explains, "We used to walk far to get water, sometimes several times a day. It would take hours. Now the water is here. That effort is gone, and we can use that time for other work."

Beyond time and distance, it is also about certainty, especially for children.

Another resident, adds, "Earlier, we were never sure if the water we brought was clean, and our children used to fall sick frequently. Now, with water available here, it feels safer for them. That tension has reduced."

The Changes That Stay

For children, the impact shows up in quieter ways. Nandini Bag, a student of Khairkuni Anchalik High School, Kudaloi Gram Panchayat, says, "I used to hurry back home before it got dark because the roads were dark and felt unsafe. Now with the lights, we can walk back without fear, and I can study at night also." It is a small change, but one that reshapes both learning and confidence.

What This Really Changes

These are not large, sweeping transformations. They are smaller shifts, repeated every day, where effort reduces, access improves, and routines become less uncertain.

Vedanta Aluminium's interventions across these regions reflect a sustained effort to address such gaps through clean energy and community-led infrastructure. By combining solar lighting and water access solutions, the company is contributing to long-term improvements in safety, health, and everyday quality of life, where development is measured by its reliability on the ground.

## Breaking Record

NARENDRA MODI has become India's longest continuously serving democratically elected Prime Minister. It's a creditable milestone. Twelve years at the helm have also seen the Bharatiya Janata Party exponentially expand its footprint across the length and breadth of the country. Three consecutive Lok Sabha victories exemplify a remarkable political consolidation, aided in no small measure by an uninspiring Opposition. West Bengal is just the latest in the BJP's long list of unlikely electoral domination in regions where it once had limited resonance. For the party, Prime Minister Modi is the mascot that seldom fails the EVM test, while Home Minister Amit Shah promises big and delivers. The winning formula is a combination of personal charisma and relentless vote bank micro-management.

Even his staunchest critics would admit that Prime Minister Modi exudes energy and passion that is difficult to match. Criticism is but an essential component of a vibrant democracy. The Modi government can rightly pat itself on the back for a whole range of schemes, initiatives and decisive actions. There is visible vibrancy in several sectors, but the possibilities are endless. Much more is within reach, and expected from a stable, strong government. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' remains the engine and the guiding principle to realise the Viskit Bharat dream, but only if it stays true to its name. Partisanship and majoritarianism are self-damaging. The country seems to be in a constant state of confrontation that continues to weaken social cohesion, the foundational cornerstone of economic growth. It is undesirable, pointless and bothersome.

As the West Asia conflict unravels, India, the world's fastest-growing major economy, is no longer so popular among global investors. The march ahead is tough. Like the Zojila project, that was once unthinkable, there is hopefully light at the end of the tunnel.

## Bhakra Reservoir

THE Bhakra Beas Management Board's (BBMB) advisory urging Punjab and Haryana to draw more water from the Bhakra reservoir should serve as a wake-up call on the growing complexities of water management in north India. Far from being a routine operational decision, it reflects the pressures of climate uncertainty, unsustainable agricultural practices and fragile inter-state cooperation. The reservoir level currently stands at 1,578.07 ft — more than 21 ft higher than at the same time last year. With only about 102 ft of vertical buffer remaining before the full reservoir level, the margin for error is narrowing as the monsoon approaches. Snowmelt from the Himalayas and extreme rainfall events could rapidly transform abundance into vulnerability.

***Ironically, this challenge coincides with Punjab's paddy transplantation season. Although the state advanced the paddy calendar to June 1 partly to optimise water use, large tracts continue to depend heavily on groundwater while canal networks remain underutilised.***

Ironically, this challenge coincides with Punjab's paddy transplantation season. Although the state advanced the paddy calendar to June 1 partly to optimise water use, large tracts continue to depend heavily on groundwater while canal networks remain underutilised. When available surface water is not efficiently distributed, reservoirs are forced to retain larger volumes, shrinking the flood cushion needed to absorb sudden inflows. The lessons of the devastating floods of 2023 should not be forgotten. Delayed releases and disputes over reservoir operations fuelled political acrimony and raised questions about preparedness. Dam management cannot focus solely on power generation. Flood moderation must be an equally important objective.

Irrigation departments must ensure timely delivery of canal water, particularly to tail-end farmers, allowing greater reliance on surface irrigation and reducing pressure on depleting aquifers. Partner states, meanwhile, must coordinate reservoir operations with foresight. Water abundance should strengthen resilience, not heighten risk. Clearing reservoir space today is the best insurance against tomorrow's climate uncertainties.

# Water, the Elixir of Life

Suresh Chandra Sarangi  
King Bhagirath was instrumental in bringing the Ganga to Earth to ensure that the holy water touches his ancestors and their souls attain moksha. But Mother Ganga flows from the Himalayas through the plains and, in the process, gives life to millions on its long, arduous journey. That is the story of water (H<sub>2</sub>O). Today, water is the most precious commodity. In other words, water is life. Planet Earth is 70% water. The human body consists of 70% water. The world's most populous country, India, has 18% of the world's population but only 4% of the world's available freshwater resources. Water has a great impact on human life, vegetation, energy, agriculture, and thus is all-pervasive. Water has strategic importance in our sustainability and is paramount. Today, water is a scarce commodity, and in future, it will be a water war for water-related equity and social justice.

Water shapes India's destiny profoundly. Water nourishes farms, sustains our population and cities, powers our industries, and is instrumental in triggering our economic activities. More of it means flood, less of it is drought. The thread that binds us together. But at the same time, our continuous vulnerabilities in the shape of agrarian distress, urban fragility, nutritional imbalance, and climate risk are integrally connected with water. Water for years has been facing an environmental concern. Water is a macroeconomic variable, increasing productivity and production, financial stability, public health, and overall our consummate resilience. What needs to be done is how we optimally use water, optimally, without a deepening ecological crisis. The Green Revolution was an historic achievement in water that raised India's food security. The cropping pattern and its impact on water use is a beautiful study in the utilisation of water resources. Being an integral part of Agriculture, it aids in improving soil health and moisture retention and ensures nutritional security for plant health.

As the first drop of water falls down, it irrigates the soil, ignites passions, and becomes a time for our celebration, with children dancing in the rain, musicians performing classical monsoon ragas. The best songs are an Ode to love like Kalidas' Meghdutam. The monsoon pours in 70 to 90 p% of water, as a result of the Southwest monsoon. The rainfall in 2025 was in



excess of the long-term average. But in the regions where the rainfall is more, it had, caused the breaking of the river embankment, floods, landslides, cloud bursts, producing 1 kg of rice requires an average of 2500 litres of water. The global average of 1 kg of boneless meat requires 15400 litres of water, chicken 4300 litres, 1kg of wheat requires 1800 litres of water, and 1kg rice requires 2500 litres of water.

The water crisis is compounding day by day. Water bodies are drying up. There is hardly any well in any village. You do not see a spring. Rivers are dead. Flora, fauna, and green vegetation are on the wane. Production and productivity are declining. The yields are miserable. All forms of traditional fishes other microorganisms are extinct as the water bodies no longer hold water. Biodiversity is at stake. The ecological disturbance does not augur well for the planet. The dry spell makes the situation worse and leads to an environmental disaster. As water is channelised for industrial production, Agriculture becomes the first casualty, and prices heat up, stoking an inflationary spiral.

The heat wave is intense, and this year, it is already an alarming situation, and with the entry of El Niño, water scarcity would be profound. Because of intense heat, dams are also drying up, and reservoirs are gasping. The water requirement, even for the human body, is not maintainable. It is going to be a potential hazard going ahead. The soaring temperature, the humid atmosphere make life miserable. Water contamination, because of the discharge of industrial waste. Potable water is also

not suitable for human consumption, because of the seepage of industrial waste.

Production of hydropower is a challenge. Centre for Science and Environment is very critical of the water situation. Since groundwater is declining due to excessive use for irrigation, water availability is a challenge. CSE says, "We have to reclaim our bond with nature. The water stress is real. A single cotton banyan requires the consumption of 2700 litres of water, and that speaks to the enormity of the problem. This is equivalent to one person's drinking water use for 2.5 years. We have to reduce conspicuous consumption to save water. It is incredibly true that people will go to war over the issue of water. This is going to happen as the water system is collapsing, under the pressure of the climate crisis and decades of mindless overuse and tapping of groundwater. Bangladesh's water has been a difficult commodity, and studies show that 82% of the region is under water stress.

Therefore, irrigation is more expensive and less reliable as ground water level is receding. The crisis has reached a turning point where water extraction has to be banned. Farmers are in disarray. The Rigveda says that water is revered as a divine, primeval source of all life energy. Disaster can strike anytime; we have to analyse the risk paradigm and model our public policy by tweaking water conservation policy, which is the need of the hour. As Himalayan glaciers melt, the river Ganga may go dry sooner or later. This is a clarion call for the future. Realising the

water crisis, investments are now growing for the extraction of water, water treatment, and water preservation is a more pressing challenge. But the integration of major rivers to harvest the excess water before it goes to Sea is lost in the dreary desert of bureaucratic meddling.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has gone for Jal Shakti Abhiyan, for rainwater harvesting, the Atal Bhujal Yojana for community led sustainable ground water management, and the Mission Amrit Sarovar to construct and rejuvenate 50000+ waterbodies, nationwide. The water productivity campaign, such as "more crop per drop" under the PMKSY, is skewed to irrigated crops. Crops like millets and pulses, signifying dryland farming, are better adapted to such agrochemical conditions. They provide greater nutritional returns per drop of water. Higher resilience to erratic rainfall. Green water-based agriculture provides tangible economic gains. Groundwater, which supplies 60% of irrigation needs, has to be prudently used in a water-stressed economy and natural ecosystem. However, water and its benefits and their undervalued remain unappreciated.

The UN report on the water challenge to weed out structural inequities made a survey in 138 developing countries and found that 84 countries comprising 2 billion people do not have access to better water. Therefore, the UN slogan is Water for all people, Equal rights and opportunities for all, without gender discrimination. Hence, the need for inclusive water governance. The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 have six indicators, such as drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, wastewater, water quality, water use efficiency, water stress, water management, ecosystems, institutional, and crosscutting. Let us realise that water could become

a catalyst for sustainable economic transformation. Water is nature's enduring GIFT. In an era where food security is paramount, water becomes more precious. In 2001, each Indian had the requirement of 1816 cubic metres of fresh water; this dropped to roughly 1486 cubic metres, which is far below the world average requirement of 1700 cubic metres. The levels will drop further to under 1200 cubic metres, veering close to water scarcity of 1000 cubic metres. That speaks the truth, and we have to prepare to fight it out. Water is the elixir of life.

## Think about it: What makes a good life?

Shyamsundar Samal

A great career, financial success, a nice family, loads of friends, an active social life and exciting holidays make a good life, right? Think again. Often, I have admired the cheerfulness and tranquillity of many of the security guards, cleaners and gardeners at our building. They arrive at work earlier than required, are always very willing to help and they do it with a smile. I have chatted with a couple of them at times and found their approach to life a reminder of what makes a good life.

Firstly, true quality of life is a reflection not of our standard of living but how we experience life within. Secondly, it is a measure of our level of freedom from our volatile emotional-mental states; how well we win over our frequent feelings of anxiety, fear and envy or craving for a different life. I have noticed three principles that contribute to such a good life.

Morality: We cannot be at peace or experience emotional freedom without a clear conscience. A high sense of moral integrity is important for a healthy inner life. Without strength of character, we can easily compromise on 'minor' infractions on integrity. We tell white lies, choose convenience over righteousness and assume that the end somehow justifies the means. It doesn't! The emotional residue of any wrongdoing stays and accumulates in our psyche and manifests itself in one negative emotion or other. For example, guilt results in anxiety, irritability and low self-esteem. Immoral conduct in business or personal life corrupts and weakens us. Choosing to do the right thing strengthens our inner being.

Inner compass: To experience emotional freedom, it's important to live life on our own terms. We feel free when we align our life to our

innate traits, core values and our life's calling. We carry enormous emotional baggage when we are trying to live a life that we believe others expect us to. One of the biggest reasons for stress in our lives is our constant propensity to compare ourselves with others. Living by our inner compass relies on feeling grateful for and at peace with who we are and our circumstances. We don't crave for a different life and choose not to compare ourselves, our life or our progress, with others.

Wisdom around control: One of the factors contributing to our inner suffering is our desire to control outcomes — from advancement at work and children's future to longevity and others' perception of us. Being focussed on goals and doing our best to reach them is healthy. However, with our high achievement-orientation, we routinely obsess about the outcomes. That significantly increases our emotional burden. Wise people know the delicate balance between willpower and letting go. They do their best on what's in their control and are wise enough to let go of the temptation to worry about what's not in their control. That's what can help us overcome our constant yearning for favourable outcomes and fully enjoy the present. It also helps us be compassionate towards ourselves, our colleagues and loved ones.

As you may notice, these principles, while not necessarily easy to live by, are great social equalisers. They are within the reach of almost anyone, irrespective of their financial or social status. That's how some of the staff in my building are happy and peaceful and lead a good inner life. I guess, you and I, can, too!

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## You can feel Vrindavan in your heart

Alekha Chandra Samal

Do some places radiate strong spiritual vibrations? Perhaps. For instance, Vrindavan became one such place around the beginning of the 16th century. It was then nothing but a dense forest that began throbbing with deep spiritual vibrations. These were sensed by seekers, who started flocking to Vrindavan. Vallabhacharya, a talented philosopher who introduced the pure non-dualism system, came from Andhra Pradesh. Meera came from Rajasthan, renouncing all royal riches to immerse in the divine longing for Krishna. Surdas, a blind poet, Haridas a renowned Dhrupad singer and many others also moved to Vrindavan, feeling a strong presence of Krishna. Then came Chaitanya, walking on foot from Orissa, in the year 1516. Until this time, Vrindavan had no temples or any other physical evidence of Krishna's association with Vrindavan.

When Chaitanya visited the forests near Mathura, his heart was intoxicated by the intensity of love. He, as if in a trance, could see Krishna performing numerous lilas — acts or pastimes of God — as he walked in the Vrindavan forests. He could identify specific places in Vrindavan associated with each of the lilas. Chaitanya identified three water bodies known as Shyama and Radha Kunda. Here, he could see Krishna performing water sports with his friends. So intense was Chaitanya's realisation, he was dancing with divine joy at all these places. He identified Govardhan hill and saw Krishna holding it on his fingertip to save his village folks from drowning in the lashing rains. At Chira Ghat, Chaitanya heard the divine flute sound played by Krishna under the tree called Vamshi Vat. He would see naughty Krishna sitting on a tree, while gopis were taking a bath in the pool. The gopis only later realised that Krishna had stolen their clothes. Chaitanya would hear the request from each of the gopis to Krishna for the return of their clothes. Chaitanya identified many other spots associated with Krishna.

Chaitanya considered himself lucky to feel Krishna in full glory. As a pure devotee, he wanted everyone including future generations to get drowned in the same feeling. So he noted the precise location of each of the experiences and instructed his disciples to build small temples at each of these places. Most of today's Vrindavan temples have grown from the little temples constructed by Chaitanya's team.

The feel is not limited to the followers of one religion. In 1570, Akbar felt deep spiritual vibrations while listening to the song sung by Swami Haridas — Tansen's guru — at the place called Nidhi Van at the heart of Vrindavan. Vrindavan today attracts seekers from all over who come here to soak in divine love. They owe gratitude to Chaitanya and his team for connecting them to their deeper selves.

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## NITI Aayog Meeting

## CM Bhajan Lal Sharma Sets \$350-Billion Economy Goal, Unveils 'Viksit Rajasthan-2047' Blueprint

NEWDELHI, 11/6: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Thursday presented the state's development vision, key achievements and future roadmap at the 11th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Reaffirming the state's commitment to the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat-2047', the Chief Minister outlined Rajasthan's comprehensive strategy for transforming the state into a leading economic powerhouse driven by youth, investment, agriculture, women's empowerment and good governance. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Sharma said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is achieving new milestones in self-reliance, innovation, good governance and inclusive growth. Rajasthan, he added, is fully aligned with the Prime Minister's vision and is determined to play a pivotal role in realising the dream of a developed India by 2047. The Chief Minister emphasised that the state government has placed the poor, youth, farmers and women at the centre of all policy initiatives. Highlighting



Rajasthan's demographic strength, Chief Minister Sharma noted that nearly 63 per cent of the state's population comprises youth, making them a key driver of future growth and development. The Chief Minister said that Rajasthan has introduced more than 35 new policies to create an investor-friendly ecosystem and accelerate industrial growth. The state has signed investment memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth more than Rs 35 lakh crore, while groundbreaking ceremonies have already been

completed for projects exceeding Rs 9 lakh crore. He also highlighted the establishment of a modern 9 MMTPA refinery, describing it as a "landmark step in Rajasthan's industrial transformation". The Chief Minister reiterated the state government's target of making Rajasthan a \$350-billion economy by 2029, supported by the state's current Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 10.24 per cent. Referring to Prime Minister Modi's 'My Bharat' initiative, Chief Minister Sharma said the campaign has emerged as

an effective platform for connecting young people with nation-building. Rajasthan currently ranks second in the country with 18 lakh registered youth participants. The state has implemented the Rajasthan Skill Policy, Rajasthan Youth Policy and Rajasthan Employment Policy in alignment with national initiatives such as Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Employment opportunities are also being generated through cooperative development, dairy expansion and

the One District-One Product programme. The Chief Minister added that the state government is committed to transforming farmers from 'Annadata' to 'Urjadata' and entrepreneurs. "Rajasthan ranks first in the country under both the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, with 2.19 crore insurance policies issued, and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM) Component-A, under which 496 solar projects with a combined capacity of 723 MW have been established." He said that the effective implementation of the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana has boosted cultivation and productivity of pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops in desert districts, resulting in higher farmer incomes and enhanced agricultural output. Highlighting the state government's commitment to women-led development, Chief Minister Sharma said initiatives such as Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi are helping women become economically self-reliant. Rajasthan has secured the top position in the country for two consecutive years under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Yojana and ranks second under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana

Yojana, he added. The Chief Minister said that Rajasthan has adopted innovative governance practices inspired by the Centre's Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform. Through the state's 'Raj Unnati' platform, 42 major projects worth more than Rs 2 lakh crore are being monitored and reviewed in real time, ensuring faster implementation. Reaffirming the state government's zero-tolerance policy against corruption, Chief Minister Sharma added that strict action is being taken against corrupt officials. "Through the Sampark Portal, the average grievance redressal period has been reduced from 28 days to 14 days, with more than 98 per cent of complaints being effectively resolved." The Chief Minister highlighted the success of Gram Vikas Chaupals, which facilitate direct interaction between government representatives and rural communities. He noted that Neemrana Block secured second position nationally in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme rankings for the third quarter of 2025-26, while Ramgarh Pachwara and Fatehgarh blocks also recorded impressive performances. To increase

awareness of government welfare schemes, Gram Vikas Rathes were deployed across Gram Panchayats, reaching nearly two crore people, including 51 lakh direct participants. Chief Minister Sharma said that under the Shekhawati Haveli Conservation Scheme, more than 660 heritage havelis in Jhunjhunu, Churu and Sikar districts are being developed as tourism units with financial assistance from the state government. On environmental conservation, the Chief Minister highlighted Rajasthan's commitment to the Prime Minister's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. "The state has set a target of planting 50 crore saplings over five years, of which nearly 20 crore have already been planted." Water conservation initiatives such as 'Catch the Rain', 'Jal Sanchay Janbhagidari' and 'Karmabhumi se Matrubhumi' are also yielding significant results across the state. The Chief Minister reiterated that Rajasthan's development roadmap is firmly anchored in inclusive growth, good governance and sustainable progress, positioning the state as a key contributor to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

## India Ready To Lead Next Wave Of Biopharma Innovation: Anupriya Patel

New Delhi, 11/6: India is rapidly emerging as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse and is well-positioned to lead the next wave of biopharmaceutical innovation, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers Anupriya Patel said on Thursday. While addressing ASSOCHAM's Pharma Summit & Awards 2026, she highlighted the government's efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing, promote innovation, and build a resilient healthcare ecosystem capable of driving the country's long-term growth in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. "India is rapidly strengthening its position as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse while preparing to lead the next wave of biopharmaceutical innovation," she stated. "India's journey towards becoming Atmanirbhar in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology is not only an economic objective but also a



strategic necessity," the minister mentioned. Highlighting the impact of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, she noted that India has significantly enhanced domestic manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and critical drugs, reducing dependence on imports across key pharmaceutical inputs. The minister described biopharmaceuticals as India's next strategic frontier and said the recently announced Rs

10,000 crore Biopharma Shakti Mission reflects the government's strong commitment to innovation-led healthcare. "The mission aims to facilitate the development of at least 100 biologics by 2047 and position India as a global hub for advanced therapies, novel biologics and next-generation healthcare solutions while strengthening its leadership in affordable generic medicines," Patel stated. "The future of pharma will belong to those who

innovate, collaborate and build for the world, and India is ready to lead," she added. She called for stronger collaboration among government agencies, industry, academia, startups, investors, regulators and healthcare institutions to enhance research capabilities, manufacturing strength, supply chain resilience and global quality standards. Addressing the gathering, Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, said the Indian pharmaceutical industry is entering a new phase of growth driven by innovation, quality, regulatory excellence and global competitiveness. ASSOCHAM Past President Anil K. Agarwal said the pharmaceutical sector is at a defining moment where innovation, regulatory excellence and collaborative partnerships can help establish India as a global leader in advanced healthcare solutions.

## AI Deepfakes Emerging As New Threat To Financial Systems, Warns Centre

New Delhi, 11/6: The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a fresh advisory warning about the growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by cybercriminals to create highly convincing deepfake videos and synthetic identities aimed at compromising financial and digital ecosystems. According to the advisory issued by the National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU) under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Home Ministry, cyber fraudsters are increasingly leveraging advanced AI tools to generate realistic digital impersonations capable of deceiving authentication systems. "These technologies may be exploited to bypass facial authentication, liveness verification, Video-KYC, account recovery, and unauthorised access to financial and digital services. Fraudsters may attempt to gain

unauthorised access to accounts by using facial recordings obtained through deceptive video calls, fake online job interviews or social engineering tactics," the advisory read. Elaborating on the pattern observed in such cybercrimes, the NCTAU outlined a multi-stage modus operandi employed by fraudsters. The process often begins with an initial approach through social media networks, messaging platforms, job portals, dating applications, or direct phone calls. Once communication is established, attackers move to the next phase by gathering facial data. The advisory noted that facial information may already be available through publicly accessible online content. In many cases, however, victims are persuaded to perform specific facial actions such as looking directly at a screen, turning their heads, blinking repeatedly, or

speaking on camera. The collected recordings are then processed using AI-powered deepfake technologies. Through these tools, cybercriminals can create highly realistic digital replicas that mimic a person's facial expressions, eye movements, gestures, and even their voice. The advisory warned that if systems lack adequate deepfake detection capabilities, these fabricated identities may be used to bypass facial authentication and liveness verification checks. Authorities further cautioned that the misuse of such AI-generated content could facilitate fraudulent Know Your Customer (KYC) verification processes. By successfully defeating identity verification safeguards adopted by financial institutions, fraudsters may be able to create, activate or operate financial accounts for illegal purposes.

## Akasa Air launches 'SkyCadet' programme to train next generation of pilots

New Delhi, 11/6: Akasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline, announced the launch of Akasa SkyCadet, a pilot training programme designed to develop future-ready commercial pilots through comprehensive aviation training aligned with DGCA regulations and the airline's global operational standards. According to an official release, this initiative underscores the airline's continued investment in talent development, operational excellence, and building a future-ready pipeline of commercial pilots in the fast-growing aviation industry. The programme has been developed in collaboration with approved Flight Training Organisations, namely: Skynex Aero and Dunes Aviation Academy. The programme is designed to nurture aspiring pilots by combining comprehensive aviation education, flight training, and a line-aligned preparedness. India's aviation sector continues to grow, with long-term growth expected to drive increasing demand for skilled aviation professionals and high-quality training infrastructure. The demand for skilled pilots is expected to rise significantly as Indian airlines continue to expand their fleets through some of the largest

aircraft orders in global aviation. Indian carriers currently have an order of approximately 1,700 aircraft, while the country's commercial fleet is projected to nearly triple by 2035. Industry estimates suggest that today India has approx 12,000 -15,000 commercial pilots in India, and by 2035 India will require around 35,000 pilots and approximately 45,000 new pilots across India and South Asia over the next two decades, creating substantial opportunities for aspiring aviation professionals.

Commenting on the launch, Belson Coutinho, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Akasa Air, said, "India's aviation industry is entering a phase of sustained long-term growth, and building a future-ready workforce will be critical to supporting this expansion responsibly. At Akasa Air, we have always believed that our people will be the cornerstone of our success. The Akasa SkyCadet Programme reflects our commitment to investing in talent from the grassroots level and creating structured pathways for aspiring pilots to build meaningful careers in aviation. Beyond technical capability, the programme is designed to instil a strong culture of safety,



operational excellence, discipline, and service orientation - the values that define Akasa Air. As we continue to scale our operations, we are focused on nurturing skilled professionals who can grow with us and contribute to the future of Indian aviation." The programme provides an integrated and progressive learning pathway through three distinct phases: Ground School: A comprehensive theoretical curriculum covering air regulations, navigation, meteorology, aircraft technical knowledge, and human

performance to prepare cadets for DGCA examinations and subsequent flight training. The second one is Commercial Pilot License (CPL) Flight Training: Structured dual and solo flying training focused on building operational proficiency through navigation, instrument, and cross-country flying in accordance with DGCA and ICAO standards. According to the release, the third distinct phase was Type Rating on Boeing 737 MAX: Advanced simulator and aircraft systems training designed to prepare cadets for commercial

jet operations on the Boeing 737 MAX fleet. The programme reflects Akasa Air's people-first philosophy and commitment to fostering a progressive and inclusive workplace culture, offering aspiring pilots the opportunity to build careers with one of the world's fastest-growing airlines. While the Akasa SkyCadet Pilot Programme, focusing on freshers, will strengthen the long-term pilot pipeline in India, the airline will continue to hire CPL holders and B737 type-rated pilots to meet its growing talent requirements as it rapidly expands its fleet and operations.

## Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurates 20 KW Akashvani FM Transmitter at Jaisalmer's Ramgarh

New Delhi, 11/6: Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav, on Thursday virtually inaugurated a 20 KW Akashvani FM Transmitter at Ramgarh in Jaisalmer from the Akashvani Jaipur premises. With this addition, the number of FM transmitters in Rajasthan has increased to 39. The Ramgarh transmitter will ensure radio coverage within an 80-kilometre radius in the border region, covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres of Jaisalmer district and enabling people to access a variety of information, educational and entertainment programmes, according to the release. Addressing the gathering, Vaishnav called for a transformation in the functioning and outlook of Prasar Bharati. He emphasised that in the era of rapid technological advancement, radio broadcasting must adopt a 'Digital First' and 'Hyper-Local' approach to remain relevant and impactful. He directed officials to prepare a roadmap for this transformation and stressed the importance of integrating local artists and artisans into the broadcasting ecosystem. The Minister also referred to the upcoming AI Data Centre in Jaipur, describing it as a foundation for the future and a significant step towards technological advancement, the release stated. Chairman of Prasar Bharati, Prasoon Joshi, addressed the gathering and highlighted the enduring importance of institutions such as Akashvani and Doordarshan. He said that these organisations are deeply connected to the roots of society and play a vital role in disseminating information and reflecting ground realities to a wider audience. The transmitter is aimed at strengthening the reach of All India Radio and Doordarshan in border areas. It will serve not only Jaisalmer but also the surrounding regions, marking a major step in border communication infrastructure. The initiative aligns with the vision of dedicated broadcast infrastructure "from Kashmir to Kutch", ensuring systematic expansion of broadcasting services across the entire frontier.

## Kuwait: Jahra Governor Appreciates Positive Contribution Of Indian Community

Kuwait City, 11/6: The Governor of Jahra Governorate in Kuwait, on Thursday, appreciated the positive contribution of the Indian community to Kuwait's development during a meeting with the Indian Ambassador. Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, Paramita Tripathi, met with the Governor of Jahra Governorate, Hamad Jassim Mohammad Al-Habshi, and discussed ways to further strengthen relations, especially economic cooperation.

"Ambassador Paramita Tripathi met HE Hamad Jassim Mohammad Al-Habshi, Governor of Jahra Governorate," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait wrote on X. "They discussed ways to further strengthen relations, especially economic cooperation. HE Governor appreciated the positive contribution of the Indian



community to Kuwait's development," it added. According to the Embassy, they also exchanged views on promoting community-led initiatives and enhancing people-to-people ties. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a phone call with Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and strongly condemned the latest attacks on Kuwait. "We had a detailed discussion on the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Strongly condemned attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Reiterated our support for dialogue and

diplomacy for restoration of peace and stability at the earliest." PM Modi posted on X. PM Modi also appreciated the Kuwaiti leadership's continued efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait. According to a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, during the call, the Amir of Kuwait renewed the friendly Republic of India's condemnation of the "reprehensible and brazen Iranian attacks" on Kuwaiti lands and airspace, and its recent targeting of civilians and the building of Kuwait International Airport in a heinous assault that resulted in the killing of one member of the Indian community, with others injured. Ambassador Tripathi on Monday visited the Indian nationals, who were injured during the attack.

## Iran Targets US Defence Facilities, Announces Closing Strait Of Hormuz

Tehran, 11/6: The Iranian army said it launched drone attacks against the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain on Thursday morning, adding that communications and radar facilities linked to the fleet's Patriot air-defence system were among the targets. The US Central Command said its forces conducted additional strikes against multiple Iranian targets earlier Thursday, describing the action as a response to Iran's "unwarranted and continued aggression." Amid the escalating confrontation, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz to all vessels, including oil tankers and commercial ships. Iranian authorities said the measure was necessary due to security risks posed by ongoing military tensions in the region, Xinhua

news agency reported. Iranian military officials warned that vessels attempting to transit the strategic waterway could be targeted. The latest exchange of attacks came despite reports that Tehran and Washington had recently explored possible peace proposals through Pakistani mediation in an effort to end the conflict. Iran also rejected US President Donald Trump's claim of having held a phone conversation with Iranian officials, calling it a "cover" to escape war. Meanwhile, Jordanian air defence systems and Royal Air Force fighter jets intercepted and shot down 20 missiles fired from Iran early Thursday morning, according to a Jordan Armed Forces statement on Thursday. The missiles were intercepted over the Azraq region in eastern Zarqa Governorate,

the statement said. It confirmed that the interception caused debris to fall, and no casualties or material damage were reported. Specialised military engineering teams have been deployed to handle unexploded ordnance. The Jordanian Armed Forces said it is closely monitoring ongoing regional developments and maintains the highest levels of combat readiness. The military added that it remains committed to protecting the Kingdom's airspace and defending its national sovereignty, vowing that it will not permit any violation of Jordanian airspace by any party. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Thursday that it struck the US al-Azraq base in Jordan with ballistic missiles in response to US attacks on Iran.

## UAE And Saudi Arabia Condemn Iran's Attack On Bahrain, Kuwait And Jordan

Abu Dhabi, 11/6: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia on Thursday condemned the latest Iranian attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. "The United Arab Emirates has condemned in the strongest terms the renewed hostile missile and drone attacks by Iran that targeted the Kingdom of Bahrain, the state of Kuwait and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," stated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the UAE.

Reaffirming the UAE's solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan and its support for safeguarding their security and stability, the statement added that these hostile attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the "three brotherly nations" and a threat to their security and stability. Calling for de-escalation and avoidance of any further escalation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia stated: "The Foreign Ministry expresses the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's strongest condemnation of the repeated



Iranian attacks targeting the brotherly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the brotherly Kingdom of Bahrain, and the brotherly State of Kuwait, and of the continued violations of the sovereignty of these brotherly states, which further escalate tensions in the region." Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said Thursday that it had launched missile attacks on the US military bases in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain in retaliation to the US strikes. According to statements

carried by the IRGC's official outlet, Sepah News, Iran's aerospace force targeted facilities at the US al-Azraq Air Base in Jordan, including hangars housing fighter aircraft and command-and-control centres. The IRGC claimed the strike inflicted significant damage on the targeted sites. The force also said it struck US military facilities at Ali Al Salem and Ahmad al-Jaber air bases in Kuwait, as well as Sheikh Isa airbase in Bahrain, in two waves of attacks.

## Indian Embassy Coordinating With Omani Navy To Evacuate MT Jalveer Crew

Muscat, 11/6: The Indian Embassy in Muscat on Thursday confirmed that efforts are underway to evacuate Indian nationals from MT Jalveer to Shinas Port with the support of the Royal Navy of Oman. "Evacuation of crew from MT Jalveer to Shinas port is being coordinated with assistance from Royal Navy of Oman, and shall soon be complete," the Indian mission posted on X. Addressing a press briefing on Thursday, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mukesh Mangal said that all 20 Indian seafarers on board MT Jalveer are safe after the vessel came under attack off the Shinas port in Oman. He said that India remains concerned over repeated disruptions to commercial shipping, while reiterating the importance of secure and uninterrupted navigation through international waters in line with international law. "Today, we also learned that the commercial vessel MT Jalveer, a Guinea-Bissau-



flagged vessel, came under attack off Shinas port in Oman. The vessel has twenty Indian crew members on board, and all are reportedly safe. Our mission in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Omani authorities for the safe evacuation of the Indian crew," Mangal said. "The continuing incidents affecting commercial shipping in the region are deeply concerning. We reiterate the importance of ensuring the safety

and security of seafarers and of maintaining free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through international waterways in accordance with international law," he added. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that New Delhi places the highest priority on the safety of Indian seafarers and voiced concern over the repeated attacks on shipping in West Asia. Stressing that incidents are linked

to ongoing conflict in the region, he reiterated India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace and stability at the earliest. "We have seen several incidents involving Indian seafarers in West Asia over the last few days. We attach the highest importance to the welfare and well-being of our seafaring community, and there is no need to re-emphasize this point. Yesterday, we condemned the attack on a ship off the coast of Oman in which, unfortunately, three Indian nationals lost their lives. We had summoned the US Chargé d'Affaires to register a strong protest," Jaiswal said, speaking at the press briefing. "The continuing attacks on shipping in the region are deeply worrisome and are a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict there. These attacks must cease, and we also call for dialogue and diplomacy to ensure an early return to peace and stability in the region," he added.

## World Leaders Extend Wishes To PM Modi On Becoming India's Longest-Serving Prime Minister

Abu Dhabi, 11/6: Leaders from across the world continue to extend wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, congratulating him on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Thursday congratulated PM Modi on being India's longest serving elected PM and wished him success in leading India and its people towards further civilisational achievements. He expressed confidence that the ties between India and UAE will further strengthen under the comprehensive strategic partnership. "I congratulate my friend Narendra Modi on the occasion of recording the longest continuous term as an elected head of government in the history of modern India, and I wish him success in leading his country and people towards further civilizational achievements. The UAE-Indian relations have witnessed a qualitative transformation in recent years thanks to joint efforts for the growth and prosperity of our two peoples, and through working together, I am confident that these relations will witness further development in the upcoming phase under the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries," Sheikh Mohamed



bin Zayed Al Nahyan posted on X. Extending wishes to PM Modi, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon stated that it has been a great pleasure for him to work with PM Modi to deliver the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA). "Congratulations Narendra on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. It has been a great pleasure to work with you to deliver the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement, and I look

forward to all our two countries can do together in the years ahead," Luxon posted on X. Taiwan President Lai Ching-te congratulated PM Modi and stated that this milestone depicts the confidence of the Indian people in PM Modi's leadership. In a statement on X, Lai Ching-te wrote, "Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving democratically elected Prime Minister in India's history. This

milestone reflects the confidence of the Indian people in your leadership. Taiwan will continue to strengthen our partnership with India." Former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also congratulated PM Modi on exceeding 4,000 days in office as India's PM and wished him greater success in the future. In a post on X, Kishida stated, "His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Congratulations on exceeding 4,000 days in office as Prime Minister.

## 47 Killed, Over 346,000 Affected After Strong Quake In Philippines

Manila, 11/6: At least 47 people were killed, 31 missing, and 688 injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off the southern coast of Mindanao, the Philippines, on Monday, said the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Thursday. The NDRRMC said the quake has affected more than 75,300 households, or over 346,000 people, and more than 45,000 affected residents have been displaced, with over 12,600 houses sustaining damage. The quake also triggered 45 related incidents, mainly landslides, reports Xinhua news agency. The council added that the earthquake affected the operation of 45 road sections, eight bridge sections, one airport, and two seaports, as well as the agriculture, husbandry and fishery industries. Power services were affected across 48 cities and municipalities. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the tectonic earthquake occurred at 7:37 a.m. local time at a depth of 33 km, with the epicentre 32 km southwest of the coast of Maasin town in Sarangani province on Mindanao Island. Earlier, Junie Castillo, spokesperson for the



Philippines' Office of Civil Defence, said 10 victims were reported in South Cotabato's General Santos, a port city with a population of over 700,000, and at least 12 people remain missing so far. The deaths were caused by falling debris, building collapse and landslides. The Philippine National Police earlier said that no fewer than 134 people were injured. A two-story school building in General Santos collapsed with students trapped inside, and authorities said they are verifying details of the incident. Online videos show university and restaurant buildings collapsed in disaster-hit areas. Some commercial facilities sustained

structural damage, with signs falling and window panes shattered. Local residents rushed outdoors to seek safety. The powerful earthquake hit shortly after schools across the Philippines started reopening following the summer break. Surveillance footage from several schools captured violent shaking during the quake. Teachers and students either evacuated urgently or took shelter under desks. The number of schools affected by the earthquake has risen to 8,642 across 43 divisions in six regions, local media reported, citing figures from the Department of Education.

## India's Pharma Market Likely To Reach \$120-130 Bn By 2030: Report

New Delhi, 11/6: India's pharmaceutical market is expected to grow to \$120-130 billion by 2030 from an estimated \$55 billion in 2025, and pharmaceutical exports have crossed \$30 billion in FY25, a report said on Thursday. The report from ASSOCHAM said India supplies around 20 per cent of the world's generic medicines by volume and contributes over half of UNICEF's vaccine procurement requirements, underlining the country's role in global healthcare supply chains. The next phase of growth will be driven by innovation, advanced therapies, artificial intelligence led drug discovery, biosimilars and regulatory excellence, according to ASSOCHAM Secretary General Saurabh Sanyal. Sanyal said that India has built a strong reputation as a global supplier of affordable medicines and vaccines, due to its strong manufacturing capabilities, scientific talent and policy ecosystem. He also emphasised the need for higher investment in research and development, stronger industry-academia collaboration, future-ready talent and globally aligned regulatory standards. The industry chamber expects future growth to be driven



by a global patent cliff on biologics, accelerating demand for affordable advanced therapies, advances in artificial intelligence-driven drug discovery, and geopolitical realignment of pharmaceutical supply chains. The report highlighted that biologics generating over \$40 billion in annual revenues are expected to lose exclusivity between 2025 and 2029, creating significant opportunities for biosimilar manufacturers. The global biosimilars market, valued

at \$39.6 billion in 2025, is projected to reach \$151.6 billion by 2033. India's bioeconomy has exceeded \$150 billion and is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030, with biologics and biopharma expected to be key growth drivers. Government initiatives such as Biopharma SHAKTI, Bio-RIDE and the BioE3 Policy are helping create an integrated ecosystem linking research, manufacturing and commercialisation, the report noted. The report outlined five

strategic priorities for India Pharma 2030—global regulatory alignment and quality leadership; translational science and innovation financing; biologics and cell and gene therapy manufacturing leadership; pharma talent and research capability development; and domestic access, innovation adoption and Global South leadership. India's pharmaceutical exports will expand to \$75-80 billion by 2030 if these priority areas are focused, the industry body noted.

## Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Rising West Asia Tensions; IT Stocks Drag Indices Down

Mumbai, 11/6: Indian equity benchmark indices ended a volatile trading session lower on Thursday as investor sentiment weakened amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia following fresh military action by the United States against Iran. The Nifty closed 53.35 points, or 0.23 per cent, lower at 23,161.60, while the Sensex declined 150.63 points, or 0.20 per cent, to settle at 73,832.55. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 23,300-23,400 zone now acts as an important immediate resistance area. "A sustained move above this range would be required to improve sentiment and support a recovery toward the 23,550 region," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the index is currently hovering near the crucial 23,100 support zone. Holding above this level will be important to prevent further weakness," a market expert mentioned. Market participants remained cautious after reports emerged that the United States had intensified its military offensive against Iran. US President Donald Trump said Tehran had ample time to negotiate a deal with Washington but failed to do so. He warned that Iran would now have to face the



consequences, adding that the US would strike the country "very hard". Further adding to concerns, Iran announced the closure of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz following the US military strikes. The development raised fears of potential disruptions to global oil supplies and heightened uncertainty across financial markets. Among the Nifty constituents, Infosys and Eternal emerged as the top laggards, weighing on the benchmark index. The weakness in technology stocks also dragged the broader IT sector lower. Broader markets witnessed sharper selling pressure, with the Nifty MidCap index ending 0.81 per cent lower and the Nifty

SmallCap index declining 0.67 per cent. On the sectoral front, the Nifty IT, Nifty Consumer Durable and Nifty Chemical indices recorded the steepest losses. In contrast, the Nifty Media, Nifty Private Bank and Nifty Pharma indices outperformed the broader market and managed to limit the overall decline. Analysts said investors are closely monitoring developments in West Asia, as any further escalation could impact global crude oil prices and risk sentiment across equity markets. After two days of gains, the Indian Rupee depreciated due to fresh dollar demand driven by forward maturities and a recovery in the dollar index amid safe-haven flows.

## Gold, Silver Prices Fall Up To 2 Pc Amid West Asia Tensions

Mumbai, 11/6: Gold and silver prices traded lower on Thursday, with precious metals falling by up to 2 per cent amid escalating tensions in the West Asia conflict. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August) declined as much as 1 per cent or Rs 1,573 to hit an intraday low of Rs 1,46,444 as of around 12 pm. The yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,47,860, down 0.11 per cent or Rs 157. It touched an intraday high of Rs 1,48,089, up 0.04 per cent or Rs 72 from the previous close. On the other hand, silver futures (July) were trading at Rs 2,34,500, down Rs 1,005 or 0.43 per cent. The white metal touched an intraday low of Rs 2,30,493, declining 2.12 per cent during the session so far. It recorded an intraday high of Rs 2,35,402, down 0.04 per cent or Rs 103 from the previous close. Earlier in the day, gold and silver opened at Rs 1,46,518 and Rs 2,31,671, respectively, on the MCX. In international markets, precious metals also remained under pressure. COMEX silver was trading at \$63.90, down over 1.29 per cent, while COMEX gold was trading 0.68 per cent lower



at \$4,105.30 per ounce. According to commodity analysts, precious metals remained under pressure as investors assessed the latest developments in the West Asia conflict. Gold stabilised near multi-month lows after the US military confirmed the completion of its latest strikes on Iran, raising expectations that diplomatic negotiations could resume. They said easing safe-haven demand, coupled with expectations that US interest rates could remain higher for longer, weighed on bullion prices. Higher interest

rates reduce the appeal of non-yielding assets such as gold and silver. Market participants also continued to monitor inflationary pressures stemming from rising energy prices and their potential impact on the US Federal Reserve's policy path. Meanwhile, crude oil prices surged sharply, with Brent crude rising over 2 per cent to trade near \$95 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude climbed 4 per cent to \$93.64 per barrel.

## BMI Pegs India's Growth At 6.6 Pc In FY27 Despite Global Challenges

New Delhi, 11/6: India's GDP growth is pegged at 6.6 per cent for the financial year 2026-27, which is above the country's decadal growth average, and will enable the country to retain its tag as the world's fastest-growing economy amid the adverse impact triggered by the West Asia crisis, according to a forecast by Fitch Group company BMI. BMI's projection is in line with RBI's 6.6 per cent growth estimates for 2026-27. India clocked a robust growth rate of 7.7 per cent in 2025-26 despite the global challenges. "Looking ahead, we continue to expect 6.6 per cent GDP growth in FY 2026-27. Our projection represents a visible slowdown from FY2025-26's 7.7 per cent pace but exceeds India's average 6.1 per cent per annum growth rate over the last decade," it said. BMI attributed the slow growth rate this fiscal to three factors. First, the impact of last year's GST reforms on domestic consumption is likely to wane. The GST reforms implemented in September 2025 caused a consumption boom in the December quarter of FY26. Thereafter, consumption growth



fell by 1.1 percentage points to 7.1 per cent year-on-year in the March quarter of FY26. The report also expects higher inflation, which is expected to touch 5.3 per cent in FY27, to dampen consumption growth amid supply chain disruptions due to the choking of the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 per cent of the world's energy exports transit during normal times.

Thirdly, BMI expects investment growth to slow during the financial year. "This slowdown is not due to our new forecast of an accumulative 50 basis points (bps) rate hike by the RBI in FY 2026-27, since the effect on growth will primarily be felt during FY2027-28." BMI said the currently low level of short-term interest rates following the RBI's 125 bps rate cut during 2025 will support the

economy through the ongoing energy crisis. The exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar is expected to hover in the range of 95.1 during the current calendar year. The rupee's depreciation from its average level of 87 against the greenback in 2025 will support export competitiveness, offsetting the drag on GDP from the Iran conflict's terms-of-trade shock, the report added.

## West Asia Conflict Could Push Crude Oil Prices To \$150 Per Barrel

New Delhi, 11/6: Global crude oil prices could surge to as high as \$150 per barrel if hostilities between the US and Iran resume in earnest, according to a report. According to analysis by Oslo-headquartered energy research and intelligence firm Rystad Energy, which said the latest escalation between the US and Iran has pushed the April ceasefire to its most difficult moment so far, triggering a rise in oil prices and a decline in financial markets, including US equities. According to the report, as much as 11.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil production remains shut in across six Gulf producers, making the conflict the most significant supply disruption seen in modern energy markets. "At this stage, it is too early to say whether the current escalation marks a full resumption of hostilities or a dangerous but



still containable episode," said Jorge Leon, Senior Vice President and Head of Geopolitical Analysis at Rystad Energy. He noted that uncertainty surrounding the conflict was reflected in oil price movements, with Brent front-month crude rising sharply to around \$94.5 per barrel before easing back towards \$93 per

barrel. Leon said the immediate impact of the disruption could be moderated by record releases from strategic petroleum reserves, lower crude imports by China and the continued movement of around 5 million bpd of crude through Saudi Arabia's Yanbu export route, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

"The direction of travel is now more uncertain, and the next few days will be critical in determining whether diplomacy can reassert itself or whether the conflict moves into a more sustained escalation cycle," Leon said. In addition, the report stated that probability of a near-term diplomatic agreement has diminished from Rystad Energy's earlier assessment of around 40 per cent a few weeks ago. As a result, oil price volatility is expected to remain elevated until there is clearer evidence that the ceasefire can hold or that diplomatic efforts regain momentum. According to the report, the West Asia conflict has already erased around 1 billion barrels of cumulative crude supply from global markets in the three months since the first shots were fired.

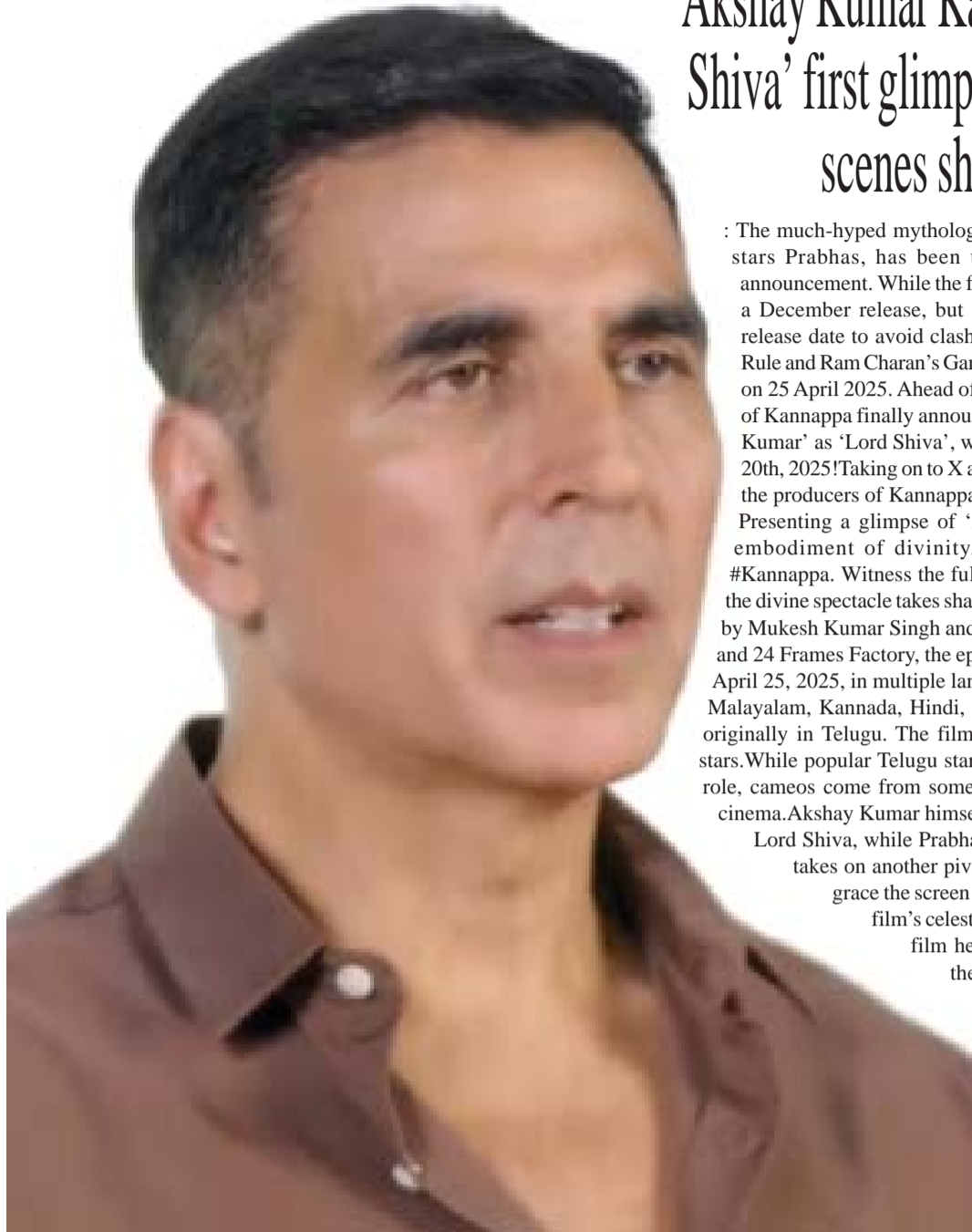
## Centre Removes Excise Duty On Petrol With Up To 30 Pc Ethanol Blending

New Delhi, 11/6: The government has exempted petrol blended with higher levels of ethanol from excise duty, including fuel variants containing 22 per cent, 25 per cent, 27 per cent and 30 per cent ethanol, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on Thursday. As per the notification, excise duty has been set at nil for ethanol-blended motor spirit conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards specifications, covering blends where ethanol content ranges from 22 per cent to 30 per cent by volume. The exemption has been granted under Section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944, it said. The revised structure includes E22, E25, E27 and E30 petrol, defined as mixtures of motor spirit (petrol) and ethanol in specified proportions, with applicable central, state, Union



Territory or integrated taxes on ethanol and duty-paid petrol components. The amendment follows India's push to expand ethanol blending in petrol as part of its broader biofuel policy aimed at reducing crude oil imports and promoting domestic renewable fuel usage. The government has

steadily increased ethanol blending levels in petrol in recent years, supported by policy changes under the National Policy on Biofuels and corresponding targets advanced to 2025-26. In a separate development, the government recently launched E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles.



## Akshay Kumar Kannappa's 'Lord Shiva' first glimpse on Jan 20, film scenes shot in Paris!

The much-hyped mythological flick Kannappa, which also stars Prabhas, has been the talk of the town since its announcement. While the film was previously scheduled for a December release, but the makers have postponed the release date to avoid clash with Allu arjun's Pushpa 2 The Rule and Ram Charan's Game Changer in Ja, will be releasing on 25 April 2025. Ahead of its theatrical release, the makers of Kannappa finally announced the first glimpse of 'Akshay Kumar' as 'Lord Shiva', which is all set to drop on January 20th, 2025! Taking on to X and Instagram, 24 Frames Factory, the producers of Kannappa, wrote: "A Glimpse of Divinity! Presenting a glimpse of 'Akshay Kumar' as a powerful embodiment of divinity, strength, and tranquility in #Kannappa. Witness the full look reveal on 20th January as the divine spectacle takes shape! #HarHarMahadev?." Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Ava Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory, the epic tale will release worldwide on April 25, 2025, in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, and English. Kannappa was shot originally in Telugu. The film boasts an impressive lineup of stars. While popular Telugu star Vishnu Manchu is in the titular role, cameos come from some of the biggest names in Indian cinema. Akshay Kumar himself will appear in a special role as Lord Shiva, while Prabhas portrays Nandi, and Mohanlal takes on another pivotal cameo. Kajal Aggarwal will grace the screen as Goddess Parvati, adding to the film's celestial appeal. A mythological fantasy film helmed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, the film is based on the tale of a staunch devotee of Lord Shiva. It needs mentioning here that Akshay Kumar has previously essayed the role of Lord Shiva in OMG 2 - 2023 film starring Yami Gautam, Pankaj Tripathi, and Aarush Varma - and was the sequel to OMG that was released in 2012. In the poster released, Akshay Kumar as Lord Shiva looks good. But only the glimpse on Jan 20 will tell how far the top actor has justified with the persona of Lord Shiva. As per the buzz, despite being a mythological flick, a special portion of Kannappa had been shot in Paris.

Lord Shiva looks good. But only the glimpse on Jan 20 will tell how far the top actor has justified with the persona of Lord Shiva. As per the buzz, despite being a mythological flick, a special portion of Kannappa had been shot in Paris.

## Anupam Kher's "Vijay 69" Disappoints on OTT

Anupam Kher, a veteran actor known for his versatility and charisma, takes center stage in Netflix's latest offering, "Vijay 69." The film, directed by Akshay Roy, attempts to explore the challenges and triumphs of aging, with Kher portraying a 69-year-old man who decides to compete in a triathlon. While the premise holds promise, the execution falters, leaving the audience with a lackluster and predictable film that fails to fully utilize Kher's immense talent. "Vijay 69" begins with a promising first half-hour, introducing us to the vibrant world of Vijay Mathews (Kher) and his desire to leave a lasting legacy. However, the narrative quickly loses its momentum, descending into a predictable and melodramatic spiral that undermines the film's potential. Weak plot development: The plot, riddled with improbable twists and turns, feels contrived and fails to engage the audience emotionally. The sudden shift from Vijay's personal quest to a competition against a young boy aiming to be the youngest triathlon finisher feels forced and disrupts the narrative flow. Overreliance on Bollywood tropes: The film relies heavily on familiar Bollywood tropes, particularly a forced romantic subplot, to carry the narrative, instead of exploring the complexities of aging and self-discovery in a more nuanced manner. Unconvincing performances: While Anupam Kher delivers a spirited performance, even his talent cannot salvage the film's shortcomings. The supporting cast, including Chunky Panday as Vijay's best friend, falls into stereotypical portrayals, further diminishing the film's authenticity. Lackluster direction and editing: The direction lacks finesse, and the editing is jarring, contributing to a disjointed viewing experience. The film struggles to maintain a consistent tone, oscillating between lighthearted moments and heavy-handed melodrama. Missed opportunities: The film touches upon the challenges faced by older individuals in a society that often dictates how they should live their lives. However, it fails to delve deeper into these themes, opting for superficial portrayals instead of exploring the nuances of aging and societal expectations.



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## SPORTS

### Badminton: Sindhu, Tanvi Race Into Australian Open Quarterfinals

Sydney, 11/6: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and teenager Tanvi Sharma sailed into the quarterfinals of the women's singles event at the Australian Badminton Open tournament here on Thursday. World No. 10 Sindhu got the better of her younger compatriot and world No. 39 Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-12 in 42 minutes. She will face Chinese Taipei's Chen Su-yu in the quarter-finals for a place in her second semi-final of the year after the Malaysia Open. The third-seeded Indian survived a challenge from Isharani in a tie-break opening game before dominating the second to book her spot in the quarter-finals. Elsewhere, Tanvi Sharma registered a convincing 21-13, 21-15 win over senior compatriot Malvika Bansod in another all-Indian contest. The win propelled the 17-year-old Tanvi into her second quarterfinal of the year. She will face three-time world champion and top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in a daunting quarter-final match. In



another action, Tanya Hemanth's campaign came to an end after a 12-21, 15-21 loss to the second seed and world No. 8 Pompaewee Chochuwong of Thailand. In the men's doubles, MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan stayed alive with a comfortable 21-17, 21-7 win against Michael Owen and Dylan Soedjasa of New Zealand. Arjun and Hariharan are the only Indians remaining in the men's doubles discipline after Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana suffered an exit after losing 21-15, 21-15 to the local pair of Kanki Igawa and Ooi Ye Hern in the opening round. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, India's top-ranked doubles team, skipped the BWF Super 500 meet on account of the shoulder injury Satwik suffered last week in Indonesia. India's mixed doubles challenge at the Australian Badminton Open ended after Dhruv Rawat and Manisha Keer lost 21-19, 21-18 to Japan's Akira Koga and Natsu Saito.

### Spanish Winger Lamine Yamal Takes On Global UNICEF Humanitarian Role Before World Cup 2026

NEWDELHI, 11/6: Barcelona and Spain winger Lamine Yamal has been officialised as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, assuming this global position just before his debut appearance at the FIFA World Cup 2026. This announcement coincided with the International Day of Play. The 18-year-old forward released a video message emphasising that recreation is a fundamental right under Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, rather than a luxury. UNICEF released data showing that 90 million children



under five globally lack basic playthings, highlighting the urgency of this initiative. This appointment places the Spanish

teenager alongside legendary football figures like Lionel Messi and David Beckham, who previously served in the same humanitarian capacity. Interestingly, this mirrors a famous 2007 charity calendar photoshoot where an infant Yamal was photographed alongside Messi, creating a poetic connection to his new global role. His ascension on the world stage follows a historic campaign where he secured the European Championship trophy for his nation and became the youngest goalscorer in that tournament's history.

### Chandrika Tandon Wins Grammy for 'Triveni' at 67th Annual Awards

Indian-American musical virtuoso Chandrika Tandon has added another jewel to her crown, securing a prestigious Grammy Award at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards. The 71-year-old artist claimed victory in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category with her groundbreaking album 'Triveni,' marking a significant milestone in her remarkable musical journey. Join the Whatsapp Channel to Get News updates in english Perhaps best known in business circles as the elder sister of former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi, Tandon has carved her own distinct path in the world of music. Her victory showcases not just personal triumph but represents a beautiful confluence of Eastern and Western musical traditions. Born in Chennai, Tandon's musical repertoire spans an impressive range of traditions - Hindustani, Carnatic, and Western. This diverse training has enabled her to create a unique musical signature that transcends conventional boundaries. Her latest album, 'Triveni,' exemplifies this fusion, bringing together ancient chants with contemporary world music elements. The award-winning 'Triveni' is a seven-track meditation on inner healing, created in collaboration with South African flautist



Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto. This international collaboration perfectly embodies Tandon's ability to bridge different musical traditions and cultures. Her musical journey began with her debut album 'Soul Call' (2009), which earned a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary World Music Album in 2011. This initial success was followed by a string of acclaimed albums: 'Soul March' (2013), 'Soul Mantra' (2014), 'Shivoham - The Quest' (2017), and 'Ammu's Treasures' (2023), leading up to her Grammy-winning 'Triveni.' Beyond her musical achievements, Tandon has garnered numerous accolades for her leadership and integrity, including the prestigious Gallatin Medal, Walter Nichols Medal, and Polytechnic Medal. In 2018, she was honored with the BCA Leadership Award by Americans for the Arts, recognizing her contributions to both the business and artistic communities. In this year's Grammy race, Tandon competed alongside notable artists including producer Ricky Kej, sitar maestro Anoushka Shankar, and British-Indian artist Radhika Vekaria. Her victory was marked by gracious acknowledgment of her fellow artists and collaborators. In a heartfelt social media post, she expressed gratitude to the musical community, saying, "We wouldn't be here except for the incredible support of so many! There are such spectacular fellow musicians I met along the way -- many nominees and many not -- and I want to tell you ALL how much joy you created for me and the world with your artistry."

### Diljit Dosanjh Shines at Met Gala 2025 in Maharaja Look

"Punjabi aa gaye oye!" cheered excited fans as Diljit Dosanjh made a striking debut at the 2025 Met Gala, showcasing a powerful blend of tradition and modernity. On Monday, the beloved singer and actor ascended the iconic steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, exuding regal elegance in a custom ensemble by designer Prabal Gurung. Join the Whatsapp Channel to Get News updates in english Draped in traditional

Punjabi attire, Diljit embodied the essence of a modern-day Maharaja. He proudly wore a turban—a symbol of Sikh identity—paired with a kurta and tehmat, and elevated the look with a dramatic cape inscribed with the Punjabi alphabet. Adding to the grandeur, he carried a ceremonial sword and adorned himself with exquisite jewellery believed to be from the legendary Cartier collection of Maharaja Bhopinder Singh of Patiala.