

# AI plane with 242 people on board, crashes near Ahmedabad airport immediately after take-off



Ahmedabad, June 12 (UNI) :An Air India flight bound for London with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon.

Details about casualties were not known and there was no official comment on any casualties. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was listed among the passengers of the ill-fated flight. Mr Rupani, 68, was the Chief Minister from 2016 till 2021. One person who

was sitting on seat no. 11 A, was admitted to hospital even as the kin of other passengers frantically looked for any survivors.

The aircraft lost contact within minutes of takeoff and went down in the Meghani Nagar area. Rescue operations were on. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams were brought in from Gandhinagar.

The Air India flight, a Boeing Dreamliner 787, crashed in a densely

populated area near the airport. Immediately after the crash, local residents rushed to the area to help with rescue efforts. There were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals on board. There were 12 crew members. Air India in a post on X, said "Flight AI171, operating Ahmedabad - London Gatwick, was involved in an incident 12 June 2025." It said Air India continues to



ascertain the details. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic crash. In a post on X, President Droupadi Murmu said she was "deeply distressed" to learn about the incident and called it a "heart-rending disaster." "I am deeply distressed to learn about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. It is a heart-rending disaster. My thoughts and prayers are

with the affected people. The nation stands with them in this hour of indescribable grief," the President said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while describing the tragedy as 'heartbreaking beyond words,' said 'the tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working

to assist those affected.'

The Prime Minister spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu and directed them to ensure that all necessary support is extended immediately and has asked to be kept regularly updated on the situation. The Civil Aviation Minister informed the Prime Minister that he was rushing to Ahmedabad to oversee rescue and relief operations on the ground.

## CM, DCMs, others express shock

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : A wave of grief and concern swept across the political spectrum in Maharashtra on Thursday, following the tragic crash of Air India flight AI-171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner bound for London, which went down shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad.

The aircraft was carrying 242 people, including 230 passengers and 12 crew members.

The incident has sent shockwaves across the country, prompting swift responses from political leaders.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, his deputies Ajit Pawar, Eknath Shinde and others expressed distress over the tragedy. In a post on X, CM Fadnavis said, "Pained and shocked to know about Air India passenger flight incident at Ahmedabad airport. Praying for everyone's safety." Eknath Shinde also responded with a heartfelt message on X. He wrote, "The horrific plane crash in

Ahmedabad is very shocking. I pay my respects to those who lost their lives in this accident. The Gujarat administration is carrying out a massive rescue operation and the surviving passengers of the plane are being safely evacuated. It is also expected that there will be a huge loss of life in this accident. I pray to God that the injured in this terrible accident recover at the earliest." "The news of the horrific Air India plane crash near Ahmedabad is absolutely devastating. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who are affected by this tragedy," said Ajit Pawar.

Nationalist Congress Party (AP) working president Parful Patel in his message said that deeply concerned by reports of the Air India flight incident at Ahmedabad airport today. "Our hearts go out to all passengers, crew members, and their families during this anxious time. Standing in solidarity with the people of Gujarat as we await further updates from authorities," he added. Meanwhile, Sunil Tatkare state president of NCP in post X stated 'Heartbroken to learn of the Air India flight situation in Ahmedabad today. In these anxious moments, our hearts go out to everyone on board and their loved ones. We stand united with our neighbours in Gujarat and pray for strength during this challenging hour.' Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday expressed shock and grief over the Air India plane crash tragedy in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. In a post on X, Pawar said that it was also sad to hear that there has been a huge loss of life in the accident.

"The incident of the crash of an Air India passenger plane in Ahmedabad, Gujarat is heartbreaking.

It is also very sad to hear that there has been a huge loss of life in this accident. I pray that the agencies treating the injured passengers and those working at the scene of the accident will be strengthened and that the injured will recover soon," the NCP-SP chief added.

## Fadnavis holds secret meeting with Raj Thackeray

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday held a secret meeting with MNS president Raj Thackeray in a hotel here ahead of upcoming local bodies elections.

Both the leaders spent about an hour at Taj Lands End Hotel in suburban Bandra.

It is believed that Fadnavis intends to give another blow to Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena through this secret meeting.

The meeting took place after the state government set in motion the process of holding the local body polls by issuing orders for ward delimitation for 29 municipal corporations, including Mumbai.

Though exact details of the meeting between Fadnavis and the MNS president have not been made known to media, their meeting has sparked discussions in political circles.

Reacting to this development, Shiv Sena (Shinde group) leader Sanjay Shirsat indicated that the Chief Minister once again presented an offer to Raj Thackeray.

The meeting between two leaders definitely has a political meaning, he said.

The details of their discussion will be made by the Chief Minister himself or Raj Thackeray himself very soon, Shirsat added.

## Official death toll only after DNA testing is completed: Amit Shah

Ahmedabad, June 12 (UNI) : Expressing deep sorrow on behalf of the nation, following the tragic Air India flight crash, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that the official death toll will be declared only after DNA testing is completed.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the crash site, Shah said, "Immediately after the incident, the Government of Gujarat activated all disaster response mechanisms. The Health Department, Fire Brigade, Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were swiftly mobilized. Rescue and relief operations began without delay." He confirmed that the retrieval of bodies is nearly complete and emphasized the importance of proper identification. "DNA sampling of the victims'

relatives who have reached the site will be completed within the next two to three hours. Families of those living abroad have already been informed," Shah stated. Moreover, the Home Minister said that approximately 1,000 DNA tests are expected to be conducted. The testing will be carried out jointly by Gujarat's Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).

"We are working to ensure the process is completed in the shortest time possible, after which the bodies will be respectfully handed over to their families," he informed.

Shah said that the high volume of fuel—approximately 1,25,000 litres—aboard the aircraft caused an intense fire, eliminating any chance of

survival for most passengers. "The temperature became so extreme that survival was nearly impossible," he said. However, he shared that one passenger had miraculously survived and that he met the injured individual at the hospital.

The Home Minister also informed that the Aviation Department has initiated an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the crash to determine its cause.

"This is a moment of great grief for the nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families affected by this tragedy," Shah added. Notably, a UK-bound Air India flight with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among those killed in the crash.

## TATA group to pay Rs 1 Cr to families of each victim

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : The Tata Group on Thursday announced to provide Rs one crore to the family of each person who lost their life in Air India plane crash near Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

The announcement was made by the company's chairman N Chandrasekaran, who said that the group will also cover the medical expenses of those injured

and ensure that they receive all necessary care and support. "Additionally, we will provide support in the building up of the B J Medical's hostel," he said.

"No words can adequately express the grief we feel at this moment. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones, and with those who have been injured." "We remain

steadfast in standing with the affected families and communities during the unimaginable time," he added. Notably, the Air India flight AI-171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner bound for London, went down shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad airport.

The aircraft was carrying 242 people, including 230 passengers and 12 crew members.



## Rajnath felicitates NCC team for scaling Mount Everest

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday felicitated the National Cadet Corps (NCC) mountaineering expedition team, that scaled Mount Everest on May 18. Honouring the raw courage, grit and patriotism of the team, led by Col Amit Bisht, Rajnath presented a cheque of Rs 10 lakh for achieving the feat in the harshest of conditions without any injury, a Defence Ministry statement said. The cadets, comprising five girls and five boys, shared their experiences of the expedition, detailing the rigorous training, meticulous planning and challenges encountered. The Defence Minister commended the team for passing the test of courage, discipline, resilience and composure with flying colours.

(See on page 2)

## 11 years of Modi Govt redefined contours of governance ....



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that the 11 years of the Narendra Modi Government have redefined the contours of Indian governance through a relentless focus on technology, transparency, and the empowerment of every citizen.

( See on page 3)

## German Defence minister arrives in Kiev to discuss continuing ...



German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius has arrived in Kiev to discuss the continuation of military aid to Ukraine, German news portal Tagesschau reported on Thursday. Pistorius has arrived in Kiev for political talks, he wants to examine the situation in Ukraine and discuss further military assistance to the country, Tagesschau reported.

(See on page 5)

## Steve Smith hails Australia recovery on thrilling first day



Steve Smith is ruing a missed opportunity with the bat but insists Australia have rebounded into a promising position after a late surge of wickets put South Africa on the ropes at Lord's. Smith hit a fluent 66 on the first day of the ICC World Test Championship Final 2025 but lost concentration when facing part-time spinner Aiden Markram and edged him to slip.

(See on page 7)





Congress workers stage a protest over the issue of unemployment, in Patna on Thursday.

# PM lauds youth-led digital progress in India in 11 years

New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that his government in the last 11 years has brought innumerable benefits for people by leveraging the power of technology with young innovators playing a crucial role in driving India's self-reliance in the

sector.

The prime minister said the use of technology has greatly boosted service delivery and transparency. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor, he added.

He also praised the Digital India initiative for

enabling youth to harness innovation and strengthen India's position as a global tech leader. "Over the past 11 years, Digital India has empowered the youth to harness innovation, reinforcing India's position as a global technology powerhouse," added Modi on X.

A thread of posts from a government handle and highlighted by the PM said India ensured transparency at scale through direct benefit transfer (DBT), noting that over Rs 44 lakh crore were credited to beneficiaries of over 322 schemes regulated by 56 ministries.

## UK PM describes scene at Ahmedabad plane crash as 'devastating'

New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) : British Prime Minister Keir Starmer described as 'devastating' the scenes emerging from the site near Ahmedabad airport where Air India Boeing with 242 people on board and bound for London, crashed on Thursday afternoon. According to Air India, there were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals on board. There were 12 crew members.

'The scenes emerging of a London-bound plane carrying many British nationals crashing in the Indian city of Ahmedabad are devastating,' the UK PM said.

He said he was being kept updated as the situation develops, and 'my thoughts are with the passengers and their families at this deeply distressing time.'

## Rajnath felicitates NCC team for scaling Mount Everest

New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday felicitated the National Cadet Corps (NCC) mountaineering expedition team, that scaled Mount Everest on May 18. Honouring the raw courage, grit and patriotism of the team, led by Col Amit Bisht, Rajnath presented a cheque of Rs 10 lakh for achieving the feat in the harshest of conditions without any injury, a Defence Ministry statement said. The cadets, comprising five girls and five boys, shared their experiences of the expedition, detailing the rigorous training, meticulous planning and challenges encountered. The Defence Minister commended the team for passing the test of courage, discipline, resilience and composure with flying colours.

Terming the cadets as a source of inspiration to the younger generation, Rajnath stated that, with the expedition, the brave cadets have sent a message that even the world's highest peak is no limit for the youth of the country. He exuded confidence that the cadets would overcome future challenges with the same courage and determination they displayed while scaling Mount Everest.

He acknowledged the efforts of NCC towards instilling the feeling of national pride among the cadets while ensuring their holistic growth by making them physically, mentally and emotionally strong and developing their social skills. He also appreciated the family members of the cadets who supported them in this endeavour. DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh was among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The feat marked the third successful Everest expedition by the NCC, following similar accomplishments in 2013 and 2016. The expedition team comprised 10 cadets, a contingent of officers, junior commissioned officers, instructors and non-commissioned officers. The team consisted of Subedar Major Balkar Singh, the first Subedar Major of the Indian Army to summit Mount Everest. The young cadet of the team was just 16 years old.

## Row over Chandigarh admin's advisory panel names

Chandigarh, June 12 (UNI): A political controversy has erupted after the Chandigarh administration released a supplementary list of its 'Advisory Committee', which prominently features the names of several senior BJP leaders. The development has led to sharp criticism from opposition parties, especially the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Raising serious concerns, AAP's Chandigarh chief Vijaypal Singh questioned whether the city administration was being operated from the official secretariat or from Kamalam — the BJP's party office.

"It seems the administration is no longer functioning independently. The inclusion of select BJP leaders in the supplementary list of the advisory committee reflects blatant political favoritism. It raises doubts about the autonomy of the bureaucracy and suggests that administrative decisions are being heavily influenced, if not dictated, by BJP's political agenda," said Vijaypal. He said the advisory committee is meant to reflect a broad-based and balanced representation of civil society and stakeholders, and not serve as a political extension of the ruling party. The AAP has demanded transparency in the formation of such committees and called for immediate clarification from the Chandigarh administration about the selection process. This development has added to the ongoing debate over political interference in bureaucratic functioning in the Union Territory, which serves as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

## Fire broke out in bike showroom, 100 bikes destroyed

Mumbai June 12 (UNI) A major fire broke out at a motorcycle showroom at Ambernath in neighbouring Kalyan city, destroying around 100 motorcycles with no casualties reported, officials said here on Thursday.

The fire broke out at 3 AM at the Suzuki showroom located on the Kalyan-Ambarnath Road. Fortunately, the premises were unoccupied at the time, and no injuries were reported. Three fire engines from Kalyan and MIDC were deployed to the scene, and the fire was brought under control by 5 AM, after which a cooling operation was launched to prevent any further flare-ups. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. However, authorities have confirmed significant property damage due to the incident.

## Mumbai hospital keeps beds ready

Mumbai June 12 (UNI) The National Burns Centre, a specialised facility for the treatment of burn-related injuries in neighbouring new Mumbai city has kept beds ready in view of the crash of an Air India plane in Ahmedabad, a senior official said.

While talking to UNI Dr Sunil Keswani, medical director of the hospital said "Considering the seriousness of the Ahmedabad-London flight crash incident, we have kept 20 beds ready on our own".

He said so far no one has contacted the hospital, but during a disaster it is their routine practice .

## CM Fadnavis meets MNS president Raj Thackeray in a Mumbai hotel

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : Amid strong speculation over a possible political rapprochement between long estranged cousins Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, a surprise meeting between the MNS supremo and state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis here on Thursday

added a new twist to the unfolding political narrative. The meeting between the two leaders took place at Taj Lands End in Bandra and lasted over an hour. The meeting was neither pre-announced nor part of either leader's official schedule.

According to reports, Raj Thackeray was spotted entering the Taj Lands End hotel in Bandra in the city

suburb, later, Fadnavis also arrived at the same location, despite the hotel not being part of his officially scheduled itinerary.

This unplanned rendezvous raised eyebrows across the political spectrum, sparking speculation that Fadnavis may have intentionally met Raj Thackeray to disrupt the brewing alliance with Uddhav Thackeray.

## Pune court to hear defamation case against Rahul on July 3

Pune, June 12 (UNI) : The special MP-MLA court here on Thursday adjourned the hearing of defamation case filed against Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi till July three, after his lawyer sought more time to submit the material referred by his client in his speech during the next hearing.

Judge Amol Shiram Shinde is hearing the case against Rahul Gandhi for allegedly making defamatory statements against Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his London speech. Gandhi's

lawyer Advocate Milind Pawar said today that during the proceedings, the complainant requested the court that the defence be ordered to submit the said book referred by Rahul Gandhi in his London speech.

Following which, Adv Pawar filed an application seeking additional time to present next round of arguments, which was granted by the court. Adv Pawar added that the court granted him time to file the defence's reply and fixed next hearing of the case on July three.

## High Court stays govt's circular for admission to non-minority seats in FYJC

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) ; The Bombay High Court on Thursday stayed the Maharashtra government's circular to apply SC/ST/OBC reservation on their non-minority seats in First Year Junior College admissions, which until last year were filled only on merit as open seats.

The bench stayed the operation of the circular after the state

government refused to withdraw it.

The court granted the interim relief to colleges run by minority trusts and their associations after finding substance in their submissions.

"Accordingly, as far as admission to Class 11 is concerned, the mandate of social reservation shall not be made applicable to any minority educational institutions," the court

held and directed the state government to take steps in that regard.

The state will have to update the online admission portal in accordance with court order.

The order was passed during the hearing of a bunch of petitions filed by the Maharashtra Association of Minority Educational Institutions, challenging the state government's decision.

**Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories**  
Home Department, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.  
Vidyanagari, Hans Bhugra Marg, Santacruz (East)  
Tel. No. 022-26670755/58

e-Tender Notice (1<sup>st</sup> Extension)

e-Tenders in two bid system are invited from the manufacturers and authorized agents/suppliers for supply of the items to this department.


Sr. No.	Department Bid No.	Description	Extended Period of Tender
1	DFSL/MUM/DNAKits/01/2025-26, dt.29.05.2025	DNA Kits (13 items)	12.06.2025 to 18.06.2025

1. e-Tender along with detail information of the above tender & other necessary terms and conditions will be available on website [mahatenders.gov.in](https://mahatenders.gov.in) from 10.00 am. dt.12/06/2025 to dt.18/06/2025 up to 17.00 pm. All necessary procedures will be done online.


2. Detail information will be available on [mahatenders.gov.in](https://mahatenders.gov.in) website.

-sd-  
Director  
Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories,  
Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

DGIPR/2025-26/1129



**महाराष्ट्र शासन**  
**आयुक्त**  
**वैद्यकीय शिक्षण व आयुष, महाराष्ट्र राज्य**  
अथवा मजल्ला, शासकीय दंत महाविद्यालय व रुग्णालय इमारत, दंत कॉलेज रुग्णालय भवन, पोस्ट, मुंबई - ४०० ००१  
दुरध्वनी - (०२२) - २२६२०३६३-६५



No.:DMER/PROC-2 /Tender Notice3491 /2025  
**E-Tender Notice**

Directorate of Medical Education & Research, Mumbai, hereby invites the tender in two part systems from the Only Manufacturers/ importers/Manufacturer Authorized bidder are eligible to participate in the tender. Following Project for **Various Govt. Medical Colleges & Hospitals**. The details are as follows

**Schedule**  
All bid related activities (process) like Tender Document Download, Bid Submission and Submission of EMD and other documents will be governed by the time schedule given under Key Dates below:

Date of Tender Publish	12.06.2025 - 10.00 hrs.
Date Of commencement of sale of Tender document/ download	12.06.2025 -10.00 hrs to 09.07.2025 - 05.00 hrs.
Pre Bid Meeting	17.06.2025 at 11.30 am
Last Date and Time for the Sale & Submission of tenders	09.06.2025 - 05.00 pm...
Date and Time of Opening of Envelope No. 1	10.06.2025, 02.00 PM. onwards
Address for communication Director of Medical Education and Research Mumbai Govt Dental College Build 4th floor St Georges Hospital Compound Mumbai 400 001	Directorate of Medical Education Research, Mumbai Govt. Dental College Build. 4th floor St. Georges Hospital Compound, Mumbai 400 001.


**Details of Equipment**

Sr. No.	E- Tender No.	Name of Item	Name of the Consignee	EMD Amount	Tender Fees
1	E-01 (2025-26)	Caridology Consumables Stent, Balloon etc.	Various Govt. Medical Colleges & Hospitals	Rs.40,00,000/-	Rs.30,000/-

1. The interested bidders will have to pay non-refundable tender fee will be paid Online on or before dt.17.06.2025. 11.00 hrs.

2. The details regarding schedule, Terms & conditions are available on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

3. The Director of Medical Education & Research, Mumbai reserves the right to increase or to decrease the quantity of tendered Item & reserves the right to reject the tender without any reason there to.  
Website: - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, mail: - [dmer.procurement@maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:dmer.procurement@maharashtra.gov.in)  
Contact No.: 91-022-22620361-65 (Extn. 334), 022-22626838

  
Director,  
Medical Education, Research, Mumbai

DGIPR/2025-26/1137



# NSE receives SEBI approval to launch monthly electricity futures

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) said that it has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch monthly electricity futures contracts.

This marks a significant milestone in deepening India's power markets and supporting long-term structural reforms initiated under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The launch of monthly electricity futures by NSE aims to provide market participants with effective hedging tools against electricity price volatility, enable more accurate price signals in the power sector and encourage capital investments across the electricity value chain—generation, transmission, distribution, and retail.

Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE, said, “This approval is only the beginning of NSE’s vision for a broader electricity derivatives ecosystem. Plans are underway to gradually introduce contracts for difference (CFDs) and other long-duration electricity derivatives such as quarterly and annual contracts subject to regulatory approvals.”

# Residential building security guard arrested for molesting 3 minor girls

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) A security guard posted at the Mumbai residential tower in the Parel area of south Mumbai was arrested by the police for allegedly molesting three minor girls, officials said here on Thursday.

The incidents took place on June 11, when the security guard of the building reportedly molested the 11-year-old girls in the society.

Later it came to be known that the accused is a habitual offender and he had molested three more minor girls in the past.

A complaint in this regard was made at the Bhoiwada police, which arrested the accused this morning. An official investigation is currently in progress to gather more details and evidence surrounding the case. The police have registered the matter under various legal provisions, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and several relevant sections.

# Army's Southern Command mobilises troops for rescue operations

Pune, June 12 (UNI) In the immediate aftermath of the air crash near Ahmedabad on Thursday, troops of the Indian Army from Ahmedabad Cantonment, under the aegis of Southern Command, were mobilised within minutes to respond to the emergency.

Demonstrating urgency and commitment, the troops effected a breach in a section of the cantonment boundary wall to facilitate swift ingress to the crash site.

Rescue operations were promptly launched in close coordination with the civil administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and other first responders.

All ranks operated shoulder to shoulder, showcasing exemplary jointmanship, unyielding resolve, and a steadfast mission-first ethos that defines the spirit of the Indian Army.

The Indian Army reaffirms its commitment to extending all possible assistance during national emergencies and calamities, said Southern Command Pune in a press statement.

Notably, the Air India flight AI-171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner bound for London, crashed tragically shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad airport.



Rescue workers at the site of an airplane that crashed in India's northwestern city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat state.

# NCP (SP) MLA Pawar support to Bachchu Kadu's agitation

Nagpur, June 12 (UNI) : NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Thursday extended his support to Bachchu Kadu's fast agitation, undertaken to press for his demands for a farm loan waiver and to address issues concerning differently-abled individuals.

Talking to reporters here, he said that he has come to support Bachchu Kadu's stand and informed that NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar also spoke to him. If the government does not take cognisance of Bachchu Kadu's agitation, it will cost the government dearly, said Rohit Pawar.

He further said that all three parties of Mahayuti had mentioned loan waiver in their respective manifestos before the assembly elections but after gaining power, they forgot everything, he alleged. Taking aim at the BJP alliance government in Maharashtra, the NCP (SP)

MLA said that there is money to build roads worth Rs 80,000 crores, there is money to make contractors richer, there is money to take ministers abroad, but there is no money for farmers, he noted.

The government should not forget that there is now an atmosphere against the Mahayuti government in the minds of people, cautioned Rohit Pawar. Soon after NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar extended his support to Bachchu Kadu's fast agitation, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar today expressed his readiness to discuss the matter with him.

Talking to reporters at Akola, he said that the government is ready to discuss issues concerning farmers, such as loan waiver, with Bachchu Kadu.

Pawar also said that the government will take a decision on loan waiver to farmers at the right time.

# MP Tatkare's family member among crew members of crashed AI plane

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : A family member of Maharashtra NCP (AP) president and MP, Sunil Tatkare, was among the crew members of the Air India plane that crashed at Ahmedabad airport in Gujarat on Thursday.

More than 100 bodies of passengers have been recovered so far from the crash site, including of former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani.

Among them is the body of the wife of the nephew of Sunil Tatkare, who was also one of the crew on ill-fated Air India flight.

She has been identified as Aparna Mahadik, niece of Sunil Tatkare.

The names of other deceased crew members have been identified as Clive Kunder-First Officer, Sumit Sabharwal, Shraddha Dhawan-Cabin Executive 1, Deepak Pathak-Cabin Executive 2, Irfan Sheikh, Nanthem Singen, Maithili Patil. Aparna's husband Amol is a pilot in Air India. He landed in Delhi two hours ago and is currently heading to Ahmedabad, the Mahadik family said.

# Bollywood celebrities express their condolences over incident

Mumbai, June 12 (UND) : Hours after the tragic crash of Air India aircraft near Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport during takeoff on Thursday, Bollywood personalities and celebrities shared their shock over the incident on their respective social media handles.

"Shaken by the news of the Air India flight crash that took place shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad. The weight of such tragedies is impossible to put into words. Praying deeply for the passengers, the crew, and every family waiting for answers tonight," wrote actor Janhvi Kapoor in her Instagram story.

Bollywood actor Sunny Deol said in a post on X, “Devastated by the news of the plane crash in Ahmedabad. Praying with all my heart for survivors — may they be found and receive the care they need. May those who lost their lives rest in peace, and may their families find strength in this unimaginable time.”

Randeep Hooda said, “Heartbreaking to hear about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected. Hoping for survivors and strength for the rescue teams. May the departed rest in peace, and may their families find the strength to endure this immense loss.”

Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt, Parineeti Chopra and other celebs have also responded to the tragic accident, praying for strength for the families of the passengers.

# ED questions actor Dino Morea in Mumbai Mithi River scam

Mumbai, June 12 (UNI) : The officials of Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday questioned actor Dino Morea in connection with the alleged multi-crore Mithi river desilting scam.

Morea, a close friend of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, appeared in the agency office this morning along with his brother and was questioned for nearly three hours. According to sources, ED questioned him regarding various records and documents related to the financial transactions, which were seized during a raid at his residence last week.

ED is probing the alleged financial irregularities and corruption related to the river's cleanup project.

He was also questioned by a special investigation team (SIT) of the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) for his possible links with the firm linked to the Mithi river desilting project and close links with arrested accused Ketan Kadam of Vodar India Ltd.

The EOW's SIT has registered a case against 13 persons, including contractors and civic officials, in connection with the scam and are probing the matter.

One of the arrested accused, Jay Joshi of Virgo Specialties Pvt Ltd, was on Thursday granted bail by the sessions court here after his bail plea was rejected by the local court.

(PAPER PUBLICATION)

**IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BIDAR.**

**MVC NO. 681/2024**

1. Smt. Bilqees Begum, W/o Syed Aleem Miya @ Mohammed Aleem, aged 41 years occupation Nil (Physically handicapped), R/o H.No. 14-1-22, opp. Basava Chowk, Halladkeri tq. Bidar.

2. Mohammed Aleem @ Syed Aleem Miya S/o late Sadaq Miya, aged about 50 years, occupation labour, R/o H.No.14-1-22, opp. Basava Chowk, Halladkeri tq. Bidar.

3. Syed Tajuddin S/o Syed Aleemuddin @ Mohammed Aleem, aged 21 years occupation student, R/o H.No. 14-1-22, opp. Basava Chowk, Halladkeri tq. Bidar.

**.....Claimants**

**-Versus-**

1. Kaushik Logistics Packers & Movers, Plot No.41, Saujanya Colony, New Bowenpally, Secundrabad Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, Telangana, Rep. By its Proprietor (Registered owner of offended Truck bearing No. TG 08 T 3198)

2. M/s IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company Ltd., 2nd floor, Stellar Ma11a, CTS No.12B/1B/1A, Vidyannagar, Hubballi - 580 021.

Rep. By its Authorized Signatory (vide policy No. 1-3HPNIR2L-P400 Policy # MZ817295, valid from 08-07-2024 to 07-07-2025) .

**.....Respondents.**

**Sub:- CLAIM PETITION UNDER SECTION 166 OF THE M.V. ACT**

To  
**Respondent-1.**  
Kaushik Logistics Packers & Movers, Plot No.41, Saujanya Colony, New Bowenpally, Secundrabad Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, Telangana, Rep. By its Proprietor (Registered owner of offended Truck bearing No. TG 08 T 3198)

Whereas the above named Petitioner have filed the present Claim petition U/sec. 166 of MV Act. 1988. for claim the compensation for accident injuries.

Therefore if you have got any right or interest or objection in the said Claim petition is hereby directed to appear before this court on **14-07-2025 at about 11.00 AM** either in person or through pleader duly instructed to give answer for such claim and/or to claim any rights with documentary proof, failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence as per law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this the **10th** June 2025 at Bidar.

**// BY ORDER OF THE COURT //**

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Administrative Officer,**  
**Prl. District & Sessions court, Bidar.**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender No.: WAT\_CLASSA\_MFEARTH

Name of the Work : PROVISION OF 'A' CLASS SURGE PROTECTION IN DIFFERENT STATIONS FOR TELECOM EQUIPMENTS OVER WALT AIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value : ₹ 18,56,140/-, EMD: ₹ 37,100/-, Period of Completion: 06 Months.

Bidding start date: 13.06.2025, Tender closing date & time: at 1730 hrs. of 27.06.2025.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-219/Q/25-26 | Waltair

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Notice No.WDS/29/Unit Injector/2025-26

Name of the Work: OVERHAULING/ REHABILITATION OF UNIT INJECTORS SET OF HHP DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES (ONE SET CONSISTS OF 16 NOS. UNIT INJECTORS) FOR A QUANTITY OF 39 SETS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

Approx cost of works ₹ 1,67,68,202.88, EMD: ₹ 2,33,900/-, Cost of tender document: ₹ 5,900/-.

Notice No.WDS/29/Repair & Rehabilitation/2025-26

Name of the Work: REPAIR/REHABILITATION AND REWINDING OF AUXILIARY MOTORS OF 03 PHASE LOCOS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

Approx cost of work: ₹ 30,94,704/-, EMD: ₹ 61,900/-.

Completion Period of the work: 12 months (01 Year) (for both tenders).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 07.07.2025 (for both tenders).

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Electrical Engineer (DJ) PR-217/Q/25-26 | Visakhapatnam

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

(1) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-20-2025, Dt. 05.06.2025

Name of Work: JAGDALPUR-PROVISION OF QUICK WATERING SYSTEM FOR COACH WATERING AT JAGDALPUR (JOB) STATION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A S I S T A N T D I V I S I O N A L ENGINEER/JAGDALPUR ON KK-II LINE OF WALT AIR DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 2,84,13,658.26, EMD: ₹ 2,92,100/-.

(2) Notice No. eT-West-WAT-21-2025, Dt. 06.06.2025

Name of Work: CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN SILAKJHORI (IN) TO KIRANDUL (IN) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.06.2026 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/KIRANDUL.

Advertised Value: ₹ 1,35,18,899.96, EMD: ₹ 2,17,600/-.

Completion Period of the work: 08 Months (for Sl. No.1) & Period ending 30.06.2026 (for Sl.No.2).

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 01.07.2025 (for both tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-224/Q/25-26 | Waltair

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI**

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**P.M.M. Malviya Shatabdi Mun. Gen. Hospital, Govandi (E)**

**e-Tender Notice**

Tender Document No	2025_MCGM_1189081
Subject	Work of providing and installation of FRD for electric cabin with supply of various electrical material for day to day maintenance at Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Shatabdi Hospital, Govandi (E).
Scrutiny fee of Tender	<b>Rs 1452/-</b> + (9% CGST & 9% SGST)
Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost)	Item Rate Tender
Date of issue and sale of tender	13-06-2025 from 11.00 Hours
Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit Submission of Packet A, B & Packet C (Online)	19-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hours
Address for communication	Office of the : - Chief Medical Officer P.M.M. Malviya Shatabdi Hospital, Waman Tukaram Patil Marg Govandi (E), Mumbai - 400088.
Website	<a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app">https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app</a>
<b>PRO/650/ADV/2025-26</b>	<b>Sd/-</b> <b>Chief Medical Officer</b> <b>P.M.M. Malviya Shatabdi Hospital, Govandi East.</b> <b>11-06-2025</b>
<b>Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.</b>	



STANDARD POST

Rising trend of women committing murders: Experts blame emotional dysfunctions, poor coping skills

Increasing emotional dysfunctions and poor coping skills may be behind the rising trend in cases of women committing or fostering the murder of their husbands, said mental health experts.

There is a rise in cases of intimate partner violence, especially those involving the female partner. From a planned honeymoon killing in Meghalaya to a dismembered body found sealed in a cement drum in Meerut, the wave of husband murders has sparked a fierce debate on the mental status of the women committing these ghastly murders.

“These crimes are not to be viewed as aggressor being men or women rather these are to be viewed as human tragedies resulting from emotional dysfunctions, unhealthy coping skills and impaired cognitions and judgement,” Dr Shiv Prasad, Professor, and Head, Dept of Psychiatry at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, told.

From Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash committing suicide last December and blaming his wife in a 1.5-hour-long video posted online to the recent case of Raja Raghuvanshi, who was murdered by his wife during their honeymoon trip in Meghalaya -- the cases have attracted huge public attention. These have also triggered misogynistic backlash and are posing a threat to the idea of gender equality.

“It becomes important to address here that these events are not acts by empowered women but by a woman suffering from immense psychological dysfunction. These two concepts can't be compared, and narrating empowered women as dangerous and emotionally unstable on one end jeopardises the long fight of gender equality, but on the other hand, it ignores the real underlying cause -- psychological dysfunctions,” the psychiatrist said.

He added that these cases reflect the social and psychological shift with women being exposed to various economic, social, emotional, and even existential stressors. There is often a tug-of-war between partners for competence and power.

“These adverse events of violence result when personal vulnerabilities in the form of unresolved/untreated past trauma, personality traits like fear of abandonment, emotional dysregulation, reduced emotional tolerance, unrealistic expectations collide with factors like the feeling of betrayal or rejection, overwhelming family dynamics/responsibilities and perception of not living the ideal hypothesised life,” Prasad said.

With the changing landscape of the country, the concept of relationships is also changing, said experts.

“From joint family to nuclear family system, the thought process is also changing from we to me, which means initially we used to think about we, that is the society as large, but now it's about me, that is I, me, and myself. So, there is a sense of selfishness and entitlement that I should get whatever I need,” Dr Rajiv Mehta, Vice Chairperson of Psychiatry, from a leading hospital in the national capital, told .

He noted that the patience level of couples is decreasing, and added to that is a strong belief that we are clever enough and we are powerful enough that we can evade the law.

The experts noted that the crimes also highlight the fragility of modern relationships, which are over-influenced by digital glamourisation, look hyperconnected but deep down lack emotional connectivity, and are based on unrealistic expectations that usually don't fit in the deep-rooted cultural and family dynamics, leading to instability in relationships. “Nowadays, relationships are based on individualism rather than interdependence, reflections of a deficit in understanding the basic concept that relationship/marriage doesn't just work with partners being the only role players rather it demands fitting in the complex family dynamics,” Prasad said.

Robotic Spine Surgery: Advanced Technology for Better Outcomes

**(Standard Post Bureau)**

Chronic back pain and spine problems can make daily life difficult, affecting mobility and overall well-being. For those requiring surgery, robotic-assisted spine surgery is a game-changing advancement, offering greater precision, safety, and a faster recovery.

How Robotic Spine Surgery Works

According to Dr. Puneet Girdhar, Principal Director & Head - Ortho Spine, MIS & Robotic Spine Surgery, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi, unlike traditional spine surgery, robotic technology assists the surgeon in performing procedures with extreme accuracy. A detailed 3D scan of the spine is taken before surgery, helping doctors plan the procedure down to the finest detail. During the operation, the robotic system provides real-time guidance, ensuring implants or screws are placed with pinpoint precision, minimising damage to nearby tissues.

Why Choose Robotic Spine Surgery?

Higher Precision: Reduces the chances of errors, ensuring correct implant placement and alignment.

Minimally Invasive Approach: Smaller incisions lead to less pain, minimal blood loss, and faster healing.

Quicker Recovery: Most patients experience less discomfort and a shorter hospital stay.

Lower Risk of Complications: Accurate surgery lowers the chances of nerve damage and implant failure.

Personalised Treatment: Advanced imaging helps doctors tailor the procedure to each patient's unique condition.

Who Can Benefit from Robotic Spine Surgery?

People with chronic back pain who have not found relief through medicines or therapy.

Patients with spine conditions like scoliosis, stenosis, or degenerative disc disease.

Individuals requiring spinal fusion or implants, where precise placement is crucial for stability.

Those with spinal fractures, who require minimally invasive stabilisation.

A New Path to Pain-Free Living

Robotic spine surgery is redefining spinal care, making procedures safer, more accurate, and easier to recover from. Patients can return to their normal activities sooner, with less pain and improved mobility.

If back problems are affecting your quality of life, consult a spine surgeon to see if robotic spine surgery is the right option for you.



Brain Surgery is Only the First Step, Recovery Shapes the Future



Dr Sumit Goyal, Director, Neurosurgery and Group Director Neurointervention, Yatharth Hospital

**(Standard Post Bureau)**

Brain surgery is among the most complex procedures in medicine, requiring precision, expertise, and advanced technology. Thanks to medical advancements, outcomes have improved significantly, but recovery after brain surgery remains a gradual journey. It involves physical healing, emotional adjustment, and consistent medical follow-up to restore the best possible quality of life.

Hospital Care and Rehabilitation

After brain surgery, patients are shifted to a neuro-intensive care unit for close monitoring. The first few days are critical as the brain adjusts after the procedure. Vital signs, brain pressure, and neurological responses are checked regularly. Patients may initially experience confusion, weakness, speech difficulties, or vision problems, depending on the area of the brain operated upon. Early mobilization, such as sitting up and moving with assistance, often begins within a few days to prevent complications like blood clots or pneumonia.

Rehabilitation is a cornerstone of recovery. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and cognitive rehabilitation often start soon after surgery. Physiotherapy helps rebuild strength and balance, while occupational therapy focuses on regaining independence in daily activities. Speech and swallowing therapy can assist those who face communication difficulties. Cognitive rehabilitation addresses memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

Emotional Changes and The Role of Caregivers

The emotional impact of brain surgery is often underestimated. Many patients experience anxiety, mood swings, fear of recurrence, or depression during recovery. This emotional strain is common, particularly when surgery affects parts of the brain related to mood and behavior. Counseling, psychological therapy, and support groups can make a significant difference.

Family support is a major factor in recovery after brain surgery. Caregivers help with physical needs, emotional reassurance, and encouragement during rehabilitation. Training caregivers on how to assist with exercises, medication management, and recognizing warning signs like seizures or sudden confusion can empower families and improve patient outcomes.

Return to Normal Life

Returning to work or school depends on the nature of the surgery, the patient's occupation, and the pace of recovery. Many individuals can gradually resume normal activities within a few days, while for some it may take several weeks or even a few months, requiring job modifications or additional therapy. Employers are becoming more sensitive toward the rehabilitation needs of patients recovering from neurological illnesses, but awareness still needs to grow. Activities such as driving, traveling, and sports are usually reintroduced cautiously after clearance from the neurosurgical team.

Patients must also continue regular follow-ups, take medications as prescribed, and maintain a healthy lifestyle to prevent complications.

Long-Term Health and Monitoring

Long-term follow-up care is crucial after brain surgery. Regular consultations, imaging tests and neurological evaluations help monitor healing and detect any early signs of complications. Some patients may require long-term medications to control seizures, manage swelling, or prevent recurrence in cases like brain tumors.

Life after brain surgery is a testament to human resilience. With early rehabilitation, emotional support, family involvement, and regular medical care, many patients are able to regain independence and lead fulfilling lives. Advances in neurosurgical techniques, combined with a multidisciplinary approach to recovery, are giving patients across India new hope after even the most complex brain surgeries.

The journey may be challenging, but with the right care and information, life after brain surgery can be rich with possibilities and renewed strength.

Elected govt must be respected, not undermined: J&K Deputy CM

Srinagar, June 12 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Thursday voiced serious concerns over what he termed as repeated undermining of the elected government by the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

He asserted that the government in J&K is one “made from the hearts of the people” and not a nominated or appointed one.

Referring to recent administrative decisions and transfers, the Deputy CM warned that such actions damage the spirit of Indian democracy.

“We hoped that LG sahib would accept the mandate of the people and will understand and according to that work will be done. But it seems that some things are not getting right and when such an action happens, whether it is in the form of a transfer or in any form, then do not think that someone should celebrate that I have done a lot of bravery,” Choudhary told reporters in Srinagar.

Drawing parallels with the freedom struggle, he invoked the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, questioning whether ignoring the democratic mandate amounted to reverting to colonial-era practices.

“If elected representatives are not allowed to take decisions, what difference remains between us and the British?” he asked.

The deputy CM said that when the government is elected by the people, then the elected government should get the full right to make those decisions in the interest of the people.

Highlighting the accessibility of elected leaders compared to bureaucratic officers, the Deputy CM said people feel free to speak with their representatives, unlike during high-security visits by senior officers or the LG.

“When the LG visits, roads are sealed and forces are deployed. But we go among our people without fear, because we serve them,” he said.

He also praised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, describing him as “a polished and down-to-earth leader” whose leadership could greatly benefit J&K in the current term.

“Even if someone tries to crush the people's mandate, they will fail. We are protected by the people and by God,” he added.

The deputy CM warned that continued interference with the elected government's functioning could force representatives to take to the streets in protest.

“We are not afraid ... We are here to face challenges, and if necessary, we will fight for our people by taking to the streets. Right now, we are quiet because we are in the government.

But if someone wants to push us out, we will not back down,” he said.

He also referred to public discontent with previous governments, claiming the current government was voted in as a rejection of a decade of misrule.

“People elected us because they were disappointed with the last 10 years — whether under alliance (BJP-PDP) or another setup (LG rule).

That's why we were given this mandate,” he said, adding that they got the mandate against the LG government and the alliance.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for the urgent restoration of statehood, claiming that only then will governance truly reflect the will of the people and bring an end to what he termed as a "spoilt system" and "proxy rule

ecosystem were presented as indicators of how the government's policies have nurtured entrepreneurship.

He also highlighted the implementation of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) model in education, where access to research journals and academic content is being streamlined.

He referred to the New Education Policy as a structural reform that aligns with India's aspirations and the need to democratise knowledge.

Responding to a query on local relevance, Dr. Jitendra Singh said Jammu and Kashmir, too, has witnessed these changes firsthand.

From the development

of traditional crafts like Kishtwar's wool products to the inclusion of local artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, the government has ensured that remote and previously neglected areas are now active participants in national progress.

Dr. Singh said the Modi Government's 11-year journey has not just been about schemes or slogans, but about changing the lived experience of being a citizen in India.

“From trust-based governance to technology-driven delivery, and from fighting corruption to empowering the last person in the queue, this period has marked a foundational shift,” he said.

11 years of Modi Govt redefined contours of governance: Dr Jitendra

Jammu, June 12 (UNI) : Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that the 11 years of the Narendra Modi Government have redefined the contours of Indian governance through a relentless focus on technology, transparency, and the empowerment of every citizen.

Addressing a press conference here as part of the nationwide outreach programme marking the 11th anniversary of the government, Dr Singh said the achievements of this period stand on four pillars: pro-people schemes, reform-driven decisions, technology-based delivery, and inclusive implementation.

Dr. Singh noted that since 2014, the Modi Government has maintained a consistent trajectory of reform, performance, and delivery.

Highlighting the early decisions taken in the first few weeks of government formation, he referred to the abolition of the colonial-era practice of attestation of documents by gazetted officers. “This single decision reflected trust in our youth and marked a shift in the government's approach—from suspicion to facilitation,” he said.

The Minister also cited the elimination of interviews for non-gazetted government posts as another landmark reform that removed subjective bias and curbed corruption in recruitment.

These reforms, Dr

Singh pointed out, may appear administrative, but have a deep socio-economic impact by levelling the playing field for millions of aspirants across the country.

Touching upon women-centric reforms, the Minister said the government introduced rule changes to allow women officers to avail maternity and other benefits without bureaucratic hurdles.

Dr. Jitendra Singh devoted a substantial portion of his address to the use of technology as a governance tool. He said that digital initiatives have not only made processes simpler but have also restored dignity to citizens.

On the health front,

Dr Singh said that schemes like Ayushman Bharat have enabled lakhs of poor families to access healthcare services without financial hardship.

Complementing this, the rise of Jan Dhan accounts, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and UPI-based transactions has transformed how welfare is delivered and received.

“Today, our digital public infrastructure is being recognised globally as a model,” Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The Minister further pointed to the increasing recognition of Indian innovation globally.

India's leap in the Global Innovation Index and its emergence as the world's third-largest startup

ecosystem were presented as indicators of how the government's policies have nurtured entrepreneurship.

He also highlighted the implementation of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) model in education, where access to research journals and academic content is being streamlined.

He referred to the New Education Policy as a structural reform that aligns with India's aspirations and the need to democratise knowledge.

Responding to a query on local relevance, Dr. Jitendra Singh said Jammu and Kashmir, too, has witnessed these changes firsthand.

From the development



## NZ, Italy deepen ties to mark 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties

Wellington, June 12 (UNI) : New Zealand has reaffirmed its strong partnership with Italy as the two countries marked 75 years of diplomatic relations.

During talks between New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters and his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani in Rome, both sides agreed to intensify cooperation on strategic, trade, and economic issues, according to a New Zealand government statement released on Thursday.The ministers also highlighted ongoing collaboration in Antarctica, the statement said.A new agreement was signed to boost cooperation in arts, science, and sport, further strengthening bilateral ties, it said.

## Flash floods wreak havoc in Afghanistan’s province

Kabul, June 12 (UNI) : Severe flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall have wreaked havoc in northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, destroying homes, farmland, and livestock.

The country’s state media Bakhtar News Agency reported on Thursday that the floods struck several districts in the province, including Teshkan, Khash, and Tagab, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

At least 12 resident houses have so far been destroyed, said Mawlawi Mohammad Akram Akbari, director of the provincial disaster management authority, but the exact toll is yet to be accounted for.

In addition to structural damage, the natural disaster has devastated the region's agricultural sector, with more than 1,500 acres of farmland submerged or washed away.Livestock losses have been particularly severe, with an estimated 2,500 animals reportedly killed in the floods, said Akbari.The Afghanistan meteorological department has predicted further rainfall in the coming days, warning of potential flooding in several parts of the war-ravaged country.

In response to the disaster, a delegation has been dispatched to assess the situation on the ground. Akbari has also urged international aid, and global charitable organisations to provide immediate assistance to support the affected communities.

## Eight new members announced for U.S. CDC vaccine advisory panel

New York, June 12 (UNI) : U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Wednesday named eight doctors and researchers, including two prominent critics of federal scientists and the Joe Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine policies, to replace roughly half the members he fired from an expert panel that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).Kennedy made the announcement on social media platform X, two days after he fired all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

"The slate includes highly credentialed scientists, leading public-health experts, and some of America's most accomplished physicians," he wrote. Kennedy named Joseph R. Hibbeln, Martin Kulldorff, Retsef Levi, Robert W. Malone, Cody Meissner, James Pagano, Vicky Pebsworth and Michael A. Ross.

Meissner and Pebsworth have sat on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, and Meissner also previously served on ACIP.

Kulldorff is an architect of the Great Barrington Declaration, which called for a lighter public health response to COVID-19 in October 2020, and previously served on an ACIP vaccine safety subgroup.

"All of these individuals are committed to evidence-based medicine, gold-standard science, and common sense," Kennedy said on X.However, "the appointments of at least two of the new members -- Martin Kulldorff and Dr. Robert Malone -- are likely to draw an uproar from pro-vaccine groups. Both were highly critical of (former) President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s coronavirus vaccine policies during the pandemic," noted The New York Times about the development.

## Pak finalises budget in agreement with IMF demands, says finance secy

Islamabad, June 12 (UNI) : Pakistan has managed to finalise its budget in agreement with the demands of the IMF, said Secretary Finance Imdadullah Bosal on Tuesday.Addressing a post-budget press conference in Islamabad alongside the Finance Minister, Bosal revealed that the IMF has accepted Pakistan’s request not to impose taxes on the agriculture sector, a move he described as a "major achievement" for the government, reports Samaa TV.

“The tax on fertilisers and agrochemicals was originally scheduled for the last fiscal year (2024),” Bosal said.“But under the Prime Minister’s directive, we negotiated with the IMF to defer it. This year, we were committed to imposing the tax, yet we managed to secure another exemption.”

Bosal further emphasised that the benefits of the federal government's ongoing "right-sizing" efforts aimed at optimising public sector efficiency would become evident in the future.

The IMF had instructed Islamabad to impose stringent reform conditions for stabilising its debilitating economy, such as broadening its tax base and fiscal consolidation.The body further called for the taxation of its agricultural sector, which has historically been undertaxed. While a strong contributor to its treasury, the country’s farming has all but crumbled in recent years due to droughts, excessive prices on grains, and corruption.

## Australian police charge woman with trafficking students from Papua New Guinea

Brisbane, June 12 (UNI) : A woman has been arrested by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on charges of human trafficking after allegedly luring students from Papua New Guinea (PNG) to Australia with fake scholarships before exploiting them.

The AFP said that the 56-year-old woman, a dual citizen of Australia and Nigeria, was arrested on Wednesday upon arrival at Brisbane Airport on a flight from PNG

She has been charged with 31 offenses, including four counts of trafficking in persons, 14 counts of deceptive recruiting for labour or services and 13 counts of engaging in conduct that caused a person to enter into debt bondage.

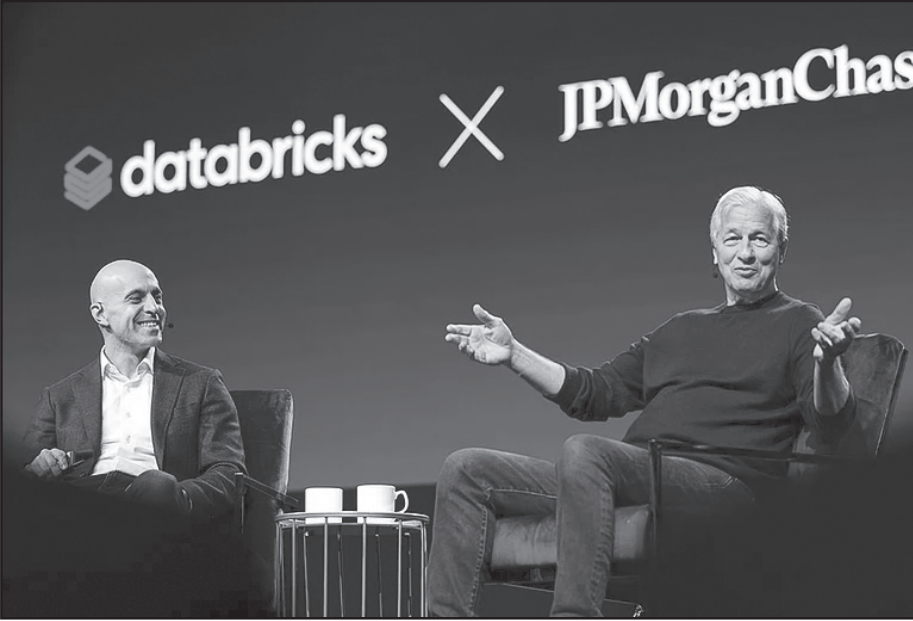
Australian federal authorities commenced an investigation in July 2022 when its human trafficking team received information from police in the state of Queensland about a group of PNG nationals who had moved to Australia to study but were instead being forced to work on farms.

The AFP alleged that between March 2021 and July 2023 the woman brought 15 PNG nationals to Australia on the promise of full educational scholarships.Shortly before, or after, their arrival in Australia, the students were forced to sign legal documents agreeing to pay the woman for costs associated with tuition, airfares, visas, insurance and legal fees, placing them in debt.The woman allegedly then forced the PNG nationals to work on farms across Queensland and withheld their wages to repay their debts. If convicted, she faces a maximum prison sentence of 12 years for each count of trafficking in persons, seven years for each charge of deceptive recruiting and four years for each charge of causing a person to enter debt bondage.

## German Defence minister arrives in Kiev to discuss continuing military aid: Reports

Kyiv, June 12 (UNI) : German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius has arrived in Kiev to discuss the continuation of military aid to Ukraine, German news portal Tagesschau reported on Thursday.

Pistorius has arrived in Kiev for political talks, he wants to examine the situation in Ukraine and discuss further military assistance to the country, Tagesschau reported. Russia believes that arms supplies to Ukraine hinder the settlement of the conflict and directly involve NATO countries in it. Lavrov noted that any cargo containing weapons for Ukraine would be a legitimate target for Russia. The Kremlin stated that the West pumping weapons into Ukraine does not contribute to negotiations and will have a negative effect.



In this image via Databricks, Databricks CEO Ali Ghodsi and JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon during the Databricks Data + AI Summit 2025, in San Francisco, USA.

# UN voices concern over sudden surge in displacement in Haiti

United Nations, June 12 (UNI) : UN humanitarian workers on Wednesday voiced concern over the alarming rise in internal displacement as a result of violence in Haiti.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said nearly 1.3 million people are now displaced across the country, citing figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).It represents an increase of 24 percent since December 2024. It also marks the highest figure ever recorded due to violence in Haiti.

While the capital city of Port-au-Prince remains the epicenter of violence among armed groups, its expansion into other regions, particularly the Centre and Artibonite departments, has triggered large-scale displacement, said OCHA.In the Centre

Department, the number of displaced people has more than doubled in just months, increasing from 68,000 in December 2024 to over 145,000 in June this year. In Artibonite, more than 90,000 people have fled their homes since December, and the Department of the North has seen an increase of nearly 80 percent in displacement. Displaced families are often forced to settle in informal sites or overcrowded host households with limited access to basic services, said the office.

Since December, the number of spontaneous displacement sites has risen sharply -- from 142 to 246 -- with the most significant increase observed in the Centre Department, which previously had none. Today, it hosts 85 active sites. Meanwhile, 83 percent of displaced people

are hosted by families, creating additional pressure on already fragile rural communities, it said.

The IOM has scaled up its operations in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince, reaching over 20,000 people with essential household items, delivering 3 million liters of clean water, and providing basic health care to 6,000 people. Mental health and psychosocial support have also been extended to more than 8,500 people, said OCHA.

It noted that this sharp rise in displacement comes at a time when humanitarian access is increasingly restricted, and funding remains critically low. Without urgent support to meet growing needs and address the structural drivers of displacement, the crisis will deepen further, placing even more pressure on already overstretched systems and communities.

# Australian govt launches five-year strategy to address falling vaccination rates

Canberra, June 12 (UNI) : The Australian government has launched a new five-year strategy to address declining vaccination rates.

Mark Butler, minister for health, on Thursday released the National Immunization Strategy for Australia 2025-2030, saying that it comes at a "critical time" when childhood vaccination rates in Australia are falling.He said in a speech to the Communicable Diseases and Immunization Conference that vaccination coverage among Australians younger than five has declined for 15 consecutive quarters.

"Even though our

childhood vaccination rates are still world-leading, they are trending in exactly the wrong direction and must be turned around," Butler told the conference in South Australia.

He said that childhood vaccination coverage against deadly diseases, including measles, polio and diphtheria, has fallen to 75 percent in some areas of Australia, below the government's target of 95 percent.Data released by the government-funded National Center for Immunization Research and Surveillance in May revealed that 91.6 percent of Australian children aged

12 months in 2024 were considered fully vaccinated, down from 94.8 percent in 2020.The new strategy aims to increase the immunization rate across Australia by reducing vaccine hesitancy and improving access, particularly for Indigenous children who have lower vaccination coverage than their non-Indigenous peers."Through this strategy, we're going to reduce the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases through high uptake of immunization that is safe, effective and equitable right across the community," Butler said.

# UNICEF in Cambodia calls for increased protection for migrant children

Phnom Penh, June 12 (UNI) In the celebration of the World Day Against Child Labor, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Cambodia on Thursday called for increased action to safeguard the rights of children affected by migration.

A recent study showed that children who migrate within Cambodia and to neighboring countries face risks of trafficking, abuse, exploitation, and child labor, among others, said a UNICEF press release.

"Child labor strips children of their right to a

safe and healthy childhood, keeps them out of school, and damages their physical and mental well-being," said Will Parks, UNICEF representative to Cambodia.

"Children who migrate, whether alone or with family, internally or across borders, are especially vulnerable to these risks," he said. "Without proper documentation, protection, or access to education, migrant children are at a higher risk of exploitative work."

Parks said UNICEF has been working closely with government authorities

and stakeholders to bolster cross-border child protection systems between Cambodia and neighboring countries to ensure access to essential services.

The press release said that over the last decade, Cambodia has taken major steps to protect its children from violence, exploitation, and abuse. Between 2010 and 2021, the proportion of working children dropped from 37 percent to 17 percent.

"Despite progress, this still represents one in five children in Cambodia who are economically active," the press release said.

# US Police encircle group of protesters in Los Angeles, warn arrests before letting go

Los Angeles, June 12 (UNI) : Police in Los Angeles have briefly encircled a group of protesters and started arresting some of them, before eventually letting all of them go and warning that they will be detained if they return, a RIA Novosti correspondent reported.

There were journalists in the area when the police were keeping the protesters encircled, which continued for about 20 minutes, RIA Novosti's correspondent reported.

As of 8:50 p.m. local time, a helicopter continued to hover over the no-go area where activists continue to rally despite the curfew. RIA Novosti's correspondent said acts of vandalism continued to occur.Earlier in the day, the police used rubber bullets against a group of hundreds of protesters outside the curfew area, the protesters retreated

afterward, yet did not scatter.

On June 7, the riots broke out after US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided downtown Los Angeles in a massive operation aimed at identifying undocumented migrants. The clashes with protesters erupted amid reports of possible federal funding cuts for the state. The next day, the White House announced that two thousand National Guard troops would enter the city.

Los Angeles District authorities said they had not requested the assistance of the National Guard, adding that the decision on its deployment had been made without consultation with local authorities. This became a public point of disagreement between the Republican White House and the state's Democratic leadership.

# South Korea sees marked rise in purchase of stocks by foreign investors in last 10 months

Seoul, June 12 (UNI) : Foreign investors bought South Korean stocks in 10 months due to expectations for the launch of a new government, financial watchdog data showed Thursday.

Foreigners purchased a net 2.01 trillion won (1.5 billion USD) worth of domestic listed stocks in May, turning into net buyers in 10 months, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS). Offshore investors shifted into net buyers both in the main bourse KOSPI and the smaller KOSDAQ market.

The foreign stock purchase came amid expectations for a stabilized political situation. President Lee Jae-myung took office on June 4 following a snap election, caused by the ouster of his predecessor from office over the botched martial law bid last December.

The central bank cut its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points in February and May each to 2.50% after lowering it by the same basis points in October and November last year.

Foreign holdings of local listed stocks amounted to a total 748.8 trillion won (551.8 billion USD) at the end of May, taking up 26.7% of the total market capitalisation.

Overseas investors purchased a net 16.66 trillion won (12.3 billion USD) worth of local listed bonds in May.

Given the maturing debts worth 5.32 trillion won (3.9 billion USD), the foreign net investment in the local bond market stood at 11.34 trillion won (8.4 billion USD) last month.The foreign ownership of domestic listed bonds amounted to 300.5 trillion won (221.4 billion USD) at the end of May, accounting for 11.2% of the total listed bonds.

The recent study found that migration is often driven by poverty and that children who migrate to neighboring Thailand face heightened risks of child labor, particularly when separated from their families, the press release said."Children who cross the border illegally are at constant risk of trafficking, abuse, exploitation, and being in conflict with the law," it said. "Many do not attend school as their families depend on their daily income and do not have access to essential services like healthcare."

Children engage in work in a variety of settings, including on construction sites and in restaurants, and children below the minimum age engage in child labor situations involving vending, domestic work, garment production, agriculture, seafood processing, fishing, and organized begging, the press release said.

"Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable, as they may be recruited for begging and do not have adequate access to essential services," it added.



Health



# Feeling tired? These could be the Reasons



If you feel tired all the day long, then take notice, you might be doing something wrong

Does it happen with you that you start feeling devoid of physical energy in the middle of the day? Or even worse, you don't feel energized even in the morning? Then there are chances you are doing something wrong for which your body feels devoid of energy. So here are the reasons behind your lack of energy:

**Lack of fluids**

**Lack of physical exercise**  
Everyone of us should be doing some form of exercise, in whatever form. And if you are not doing any kind of physical exercise, then your body will have low levels of energy hampering your daily life. And we can't emphasize the importance of daily exercise enough.

**Lack of proper sleep**

Not getting a good night sleep can be a big reason behind feeling jaded the day round. So make sure you are having a sound sleep. Have a proper daily routine, eat protein rich diet, end your day smartly and don't let stress pull you down and you will surely get a sound sleep.

**Too much caffeine**

Most of us drink coffee to energize ourselves. But apart from caffeine giving us an energy boost, it can also bring our energy levels down. So make sure you have 200-300 mgs of caffeine per day.

## Health benefits of blue-coloured foods

The fifth colour of Navratri is blue or purple. This colour denotes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven. So let us explore the health and nutritional benefits of blue coloured foods. Shilpa Mittal - Nutritionist, Diet Consultant and Founder of Nutrilife Health Management, Mumbai, shares with us, the health benefits of adding blue coloured foods to our meals.

**What they contain:**  
According to various studies, the colour blue is considered to be peaceful and calming. Food is blue in colour because of its richness in health-boosting phytochemicals known as anthocyanins and resveratrol.

**Health Benefits:**

1. Anthocyanins  
This antioxidant possesses great anti-inflammatory and anti-carcinogenic property. It helps in lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases, obesity

and diabetes.  
2. Resveratrol  
This antioxidant has anti-ageing and disease preventing properties. It is very good for heart health, because it helps to reduce inflammation and bad cholesterol. Besides, it also helps to prevent cancer and Alzheimer's.  
Overall, blue colour foods help in boosting overall health, by preventing diseases and promoting longevity. They are also good memory boosting foods.

**Best Blue Foods:**  
Blueberries, blackberries, eggplant, figs, plums, raisins and purple cabbage.



## Mushrooms superior than Vitamin D

Vitamin D intake is crucial to the process of calcium absorption and maintaining healthy bones. Vitamin D helps the body in maintaining bone density thus reducing the risk of fracture, osteomalacia, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. The nutrient also plays an integral role in modulating the immune system to help fight infections like the flu and reduces the risk of many common diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, depression and diabetes.

For the study, researchers from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) studied the data obtained from 30 healthy adult participants who were asked to take vitamin D supplements or vitamin D2 mushroom powder. The participants were randomly selected to take either vitamin D2, vitamin D3 or the mushroom powder for 12 weeks. At the end of the study, there was no difference in the amount of vitamin D found among the



participants.  
"These results provide evidence that ingesting mushrooms which have been exposed to ultraviolet light and contain vitamin D2, are a good source of vitamin D that can improve the vitamin D status of healthy adults. Furthermore we found ingesting mushrooms containing vitamin D2 was as effective in raising

and maintaining a healthy adult's vitamin D status as ingesting a supplement that contained either vitamin D2 or vitamin D3," said Michael F. Holick, PhD, MD, the principal investigator of the abstract.

According to Holick and his coauthors, ingesting mushrooms containing vitamin D2 can be an effective strategy to enhance a persons' vitamin D status. "The observation that some mushrooms when exposed to UVB light also produce vitamin D3 and vitamin D4 can also provide the consumer with at least two additional vitamin Ds," he added.

In a second poster presentation, the researchers were able to determine how mushrooms make vitamin D2 and found that the process is similar to what occurs in human skin after sun exposure. They were also able to show that mushrooms not only produce vitamin D2, but can produce vitamin D3 and vitamin D4.

"Although it has been previously reported that some mushrooms have the ability to produce both vitamin D2 and vitamin D4, through our own research we were able to detect several types of vitamin Ds and provitamin Ds in mushroom samples including vitamin D3 which is also made in human skin," added Holick.

The study will be presented at the American Society for Biochemistry and Microbiology annual meeting in Boston.



## Health benefits of rice

Regular rice is much maligned and is fast being dropped in favour of its unpolished avatar. But are the charges valid? Sports nutritionist separates the grain from the husk

The Chinese eat rice with every meal, breakfast included, and the average Chinese on the street is thin, if not skinny. In our country, however, we are getting

skeptical about rice and yes, we are all getting fatter. We either give up rice or replace it with wheat or 'brown' rice. What is wrong with this approach?

Replacing rice with wheat is not a good idea since it means reducing your intake of amino acids (protein's building blocks) and Vitamin B. As for brown rice, it has the outer

layer (husk and bran) intact thereby making it high in fibre. Now of course we want fibre but if your rice has more fibre than you can digest, brown rice will only cause indigestion. On the other hand, rice that emits blinding whiteness may not be the best source of nutrients either.

Thus, to get the best of

both worlds, polish your rice to the extent that helps it retain its nutrients (proteins, Vitamin B and fibre) and looks brownish or reddish. Remove the outer bran but allow the rice grain to show off its brown/red strains. Don't worry, this won't compromise the taste and yes, you can eat basmati rice with the brown/red strains as well.

The protein in this rice (red-

rice or hand-polished rice) is absorbed much better by your body than in brown rice. It is also way easier to cook and digest as compared to brown rice. It is easy to digest, easy to absorb, easy to assimilate proteins from and easier on your excretory system too. This is exactly how the farming community of India eats its rice.

In fact, Ayurveda uses ricebased diets in treating various imbalances in the body. Dal-chawal is a nutritious meal, possessing the entire spectrum of amino acids, vitamins and minerals. It also accelerates fat burning. In fact, the

essential amino acid methionine found predominantly in rice helps mobilize fat from the liver. As India is dominantly vegetarian, getting proteins from rice, especially the essential amino acid methionine and the conditionally essential amino acid (becomes essential under conditions of stress) tyrosine is crucial for us. Diabetics should also eat rice since they need these proteins.

Know that rice is not a bad thing. The bad thing is when we mindlessly

decide if one thing is good for us and that if we do it a lot, it becomes only better. We do that with rice so often now. A humble dalchawal meal is so satiating that it makes you eat slower and improves your chances of eating the right amount (the cornerstones of fat loss or accelerated metabolism, good digestion and health itself).

Rice is auspicious in both China and India: the dead are offered rice to wish them good health for life outside their physical selves. It is sad then, that in India, even when we are still in our bodies, we make fads out of rice.





# Romania defeats Cyprus 2-0 in World Cup qualifier



Bucharest, June 12 (UNI) : Romania secured a 2-0 victory over Cyprus at the National Arena in Bucharest in Group H of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Goals from Florin Tanase and Dennis Man late in the first half were enough to hand Romania a comfortable win, keeping it in contention for a top spot in the group.

Tanase opened the scoring in the 43rd minute

## Grealish's Club World Cup exclusion opens door for Man City exit

London, June 12 (UNI) Jack Grealish looks to be on borrowed time at Manchester City after the club left him out of its squad for the forthcoming Club World Cup.

The 29-year-old player who joined for a British record 100 million pounds in the summer of 2021 from Aston Villa, has two years left on his contract, but after slipping down the pecking order with Pep Guardiola's team last season, making just 32 appearances in all competitions, with most of those as a substitute, it now seems clear he has no future at the club.City's four summer signings, goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli, left-back Rayan Ait-Nouri and midfielders Tijjani Reijnders and Rayan Cherki have all been named in the squad, along with Rodri Hernandez, although Mateo Kovacic misses out through injury and James McAtee has chosen to play for the England Under-21 side in the European Championships.

Kevin de Bruyne has also not been included, even though his contract with City doesn't expire until the end of June, when he will move to Napoli. Everton and Newcastle United are both reported to be interested in Grealish, although his high wages are a problem for any club looking to take him from the Etihad Stadium and a loan with City paying some of his wages is the most likely outcome.City kicks off its Club World Cup campaign against Moroccan side, Wydad AC on June 16, before facing Al Ain from the United Arab Emirates and Italian giant Juventus.

Full squad Goalkeepers: Marcus Bettinelli, Stefan Ortega Moreno, Ederson Defenders: Ruben Dias, John Stones, Nathan Ake, Rayan Ait-Nouri, Vitor Reis, Josko Gvardiol, Manuel Akanji, Abdulkodir Khusanov Midfielders: Nico O'Reilly, Tijjani Reijnders, Jeremy Doku, Nico Gonzalez, Rodri, Ilkay Gundogan, Bernardo Silva.

after a swift counterattack initiated by Man. Just before halftime, Man doubled the lead with a composed finish following a one-two with Denis Dragus.

Romania created early chances, including a close-range effort by Mihai Popescu and a long-range shot from Man, both saved by Cypriot goalkeeper Joel Mall. The match featured two VAR checks in the first half, both involving

# Kaur wins bronze in 50m rifle 3P at ISSF Munich

Munich, June 12 (UNI) : India's rifle shooter Sift Kaur Samra added another feather to her cap by clinching a bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 here on Thursday.

The 23-year-old, who had earlier scripted history with a world record at the 2022 Asian Games, exhibited nerves of steel during the final, scoring 453.1 to finish third in a high-pressure eight-woman contest.

Despite being in the middle of the leaderboard after the kneeling and prone rounds, Samra showed tremendous grit and consistency in the standing series. Her series of well-timed 10s propelled her up the rankings, eventually placing her just 0.9 points behind silver medallist Emely Jaeggli of Switzerland (464.8). The gold medal was won by Norway's two-time Olympian Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who finished with a commanding 466.9.

This marks Samra's second medal at a World Cup event this year. She had earlier struck gold in the same event in Buenos Aires, and finished with a bronze in Munich last year as well.Earlier in the qualification round, Samra

# Wimbledon prize pot increases to record £53.5m

London, June 12 (UNI) : Total prize money at this year's Wimbledon will increase by 7% to a record £53.5m.

The prize pot, worth £50m in 2024, is double the £27m on offer in 2015.

Carlos Alcaraz and Barbora Krejickova each took home £2.7m for winning the men's and women's singles titles respectively last year, according to a BBC news.

This year's winners will receive £3m, an increase of 11%.

Players knocked out in the first round will receive £66,000, an increase of 10%.

There will be a 4% increase for the men's and women's doubles winners, who will earn £680,000, and a 3% increase for the mixed doubles winners, to £135,000.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club also confirmed the full introduction of live electronic line calling.

The technology, trialled in part last year, will end Wimbledon's 147-year use of line judges.

More than 400 cameras have been installed across the courts.

Wimbledon runs from June 30 to July 13.

potential red card incidents.

However, Lithuanian referee Donatas Rumsas upheld his original decisions after reviewing the footage.

Despite some defensive lapses, Romania kept a clean sheet, with goalkeeper Stefan Moldovan making key saves to deny Cyprus. In the second half, Romania controlled the tempo but failed to extend its lead.

had placed second with a score of 592. Fellow Indians Ashi Chouksey (589) and Anjum Moudgil (586) ended 11th and 27th, respectively, failing to qualify for the final.

In the men's 10m air rifle, India had no representation in the final. Umamahesh Maddineni, competing for Ranking Points Only (RPO), placed seventh in qualification with 632.3. Ankush Jadhav narrowly missed the final after finishing 11th with 630.8, falling short by just 0.2 points. Olympian Arjun Babuta ended 43rd with 629.1.Samra's bronze was India's second medal at the ongoing Munich World Cup, following Elavenil Valarivan's bronze in the women's 10m air rifle on Tuesday.

The Munich leg is the third stage of the ISSF World Cup 2025 for rifle and pistol shooters. India has made a strong impression this season with a total of eight medals, including four golds in Buenos Aires and seven medals in Lima.

Nearly 700 shooters from 78 countries are competing in Munich. Individual gold medallists earn direct qualification for the ISSF World Cup Final to be held in Doha later this year.

# Bangladesh appoint Mehidy Hasan Miraz versatile all-rounder as ODI captain

Dhaka, June 12 (UNI) : The Bangladesh Cricket Board has named all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz as the new captain of the men's ODI team, with the 27-year-old set to lead the side for the next 12 months.

Miraz takes over the reins from Najmul Hossain Shanto and will officially begin his tenure during Bangladesh's upcoming three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka next month.

Speaking after being appointed captain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz felt elated at his appointment.

"Captaining the national team is a dream come true. I'm incredibly honoured by the trust the Board has placed in me. This is a proud moment for me and my family," Miraz said."I believe in this group — we have the skills and the mindset to play fearless cricket. I want us to express ourselves confidently, stay committed, and keep playing with heart for the country," he said.

The off-spinning all-rounder has previously captained Bangladesh in four ODIs in Shanto's absence. With 1617 runs and 110 wickets in 105 ODIs, Miraz is currently ranked No. 4 among ODI all-

rounders in the ICC rankings.

He is also part of an exclusive group of Bangladeshi cricketers, alongside Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan, to have completed the 1000 runs and 100 wickets double in the format.

Earlier, the all-rounder was named as the vice-captain in Bangaldesh's Test squad for their first assignment of the next World Test Championship cycle next month in Sri Lanka.BCB Cricket Operations Committee Chairman Nazmul Abedeen pointed to the all-rounder's consistency behind the decision to reward him.

"Miraz has consistently delivered with both bat and ball and brings a fighting spirit and infectious energy to the team. His performances, leadership qualities, and overall maturity make him a fitting choice to guide the team through this transitional phase in our ODI journey," he said."We're grateful for the positivity and character Shanto displayed during his captaincy stint. He remains an integral part of our leadership group and a key figure in the batting unit," Abedeen added.

# Smith hails Australia recovery on thrilling first day

London, June 12 (UNI) : Steve Smith is ruing a missed opportunity with the bat but insists Australia have rebounded into a promising position after a late surge of wickets put South Africa on the ropes at Lord's.

Smith hit a fluent 66 on the first day of the ICC World Test Championship Final 2025 but lost concentration when facing part-time spinner Aiden Markram and edged him to slip.Australia were then bowled out for 212, Beau Webster top-scoring with 72, after losing their final five wickets for just 20 runs after tea.

But the defending champions roared back in the final session.

Mitchell Starc set the

tone by clean bowling Markram in the first over before a run was on the board.He should have had a second wicket when Wiaan Mulder edged behind, only for Alex Carey to spill the chance, but did not have to wait long for it to arrive as Ryan Rickelton edged to Usman Khawaja.

Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood then joined the party, each snaring a late wicket to leave South Africa 43 for four – 169 runs in arrears - and the game finely poised."I think we are in a good spot, we had a few missed opportunities with the bat to try and get a bigger total," Smith said.

"The wicket offered something all day but we are in a pretty good position, 169 in front and

## Russian gymnasts to return to international games: Aports federation

Moscow, June 12 (UNI) : Russian gymnasts and judges will return to international competitions as neutral participants, local media reported, citing the Russian Gymnastics Federation.

The participation of Russian athletes and judges has been confirmed in a series of international gymnastics competitions, according to a statement by the federation cited by TASS news agency on Wednesday.

The federation noted that efforts are ongoing for Russian athletes to resume full-fledged participation in international sports.

In March 2022, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) suspended Russian and Belarusian gymnastics from its tournaments.

Later, the international federation eased the sanctions, allowing the two countries' athletes to compete as neutrals.

The Russian Gymnastics Federation said earlier in April that the country's athletes would not participate in the upcoming FIG competitions despite being granted neutral status, citing "numerous unfounded and biased refusals" to grant such status to athletes.

# Indian Men's Hockey Team handed narrow 3-4 defeat by Argentina in FIH Hockey Pro League

Amstelveen, June 12 (UNI) : The Indian Men's Hockey Team put on a very spirited display against Argentina, but went down narrowly with the scores at 3-4 in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Men's) game, at the Wagener Hockey Stadium here in Netherlands.

For India, Harmanpreet Singh (12', 33') netted twice whilst Abhishek (42') added a third. For Argentina, the goals came from Matias Rey (3'), Lucas Martinez (17'), Santiago Tarazona (34') and Lucio Mendez (46') on Wednesday night.

With all to play for, it was Argentina who came out of the blocks quicker than India. And the early pressure paid off as Matias Rey (3') was on hand to fire the Argentine side into the lead.

After that, the Indian Men's Hockey Team absorbed the pressure and started to build in attack, causing their opponents some moments of worry. India continued to push for the equaliser, and just before the break, it was Harmanpreet Singh (12') who smashed it home, to end the quarter at 1-1.The Indian Men's Hockey Team were looking to build momentum in the second quarter, but

Argentina had other plans. Lucas Martinez (17') scored an early goal to put India under some pressure.

However, the Indian Men's Hockey Team fought back as they went on the hunt for a second equaliser. But Argentina managed to hold on despite the waves of attack from India, and went into half-time with the lead.

Early in the third quarter, Mandeep Singh earned a penalty stroke for India, and Captain Harmanpreet Singh (33') stepped up and hammered it into the bottom corner. India were back on level terms with Argentina.

However, within a minute, Argentina responded with a third goal of their own as Santiago Tarazona (34') found the back of the net. From then on in, India started to up the ante, and pushed Argentina back into their own half. The continued pressure eventually paid off, as Abhishek (42') hit it into the roof of the net to make it 3-3, just before the end of the quarter.The final quarter also had a quick start, as Argentina found a way through India's defence and Lucio Mendez (46') finished it off from close range.

# Manchester City makes late Reijnders signing in time for Club World Cup

London, June 12 (UNI) : Manchester City completed the club's fourth signing of the summer with the announcement that Dutch international midfielder Tijjani Reijnders has joined from AC Milan.

Reijnders costs 46.5 million pounds (63 million U.S. dollars) and has agreed a five-year deal. The 26-year-old arrives soon after City completed the signing of Rayan Cherki from Olympique Lyon, and the club insists he will be able to play in the forthcoming FIFA Club World Cup, although the announcement of his arrival was made after the transfer window closed on Tuesday evening.

"I think the pitch will take more spin as we go on, it is quite dry and the seam might go down as the game goes on," Smith said.

Australia regrouped between innings and the former captain admits their sparkling finish is testament to the experience of the bowling group.

"With the ball, we just said the aim was to keep it simple," he added.

"Hit the top of the stumps and make them play. There was a bit on offer, a little bit of variable bounce and a bit of sideways movement so the message was to keep it simple and hit the top of the stumps," Smith said.

"Ideally we now finish them off and come out with a bit of a lead," he added.

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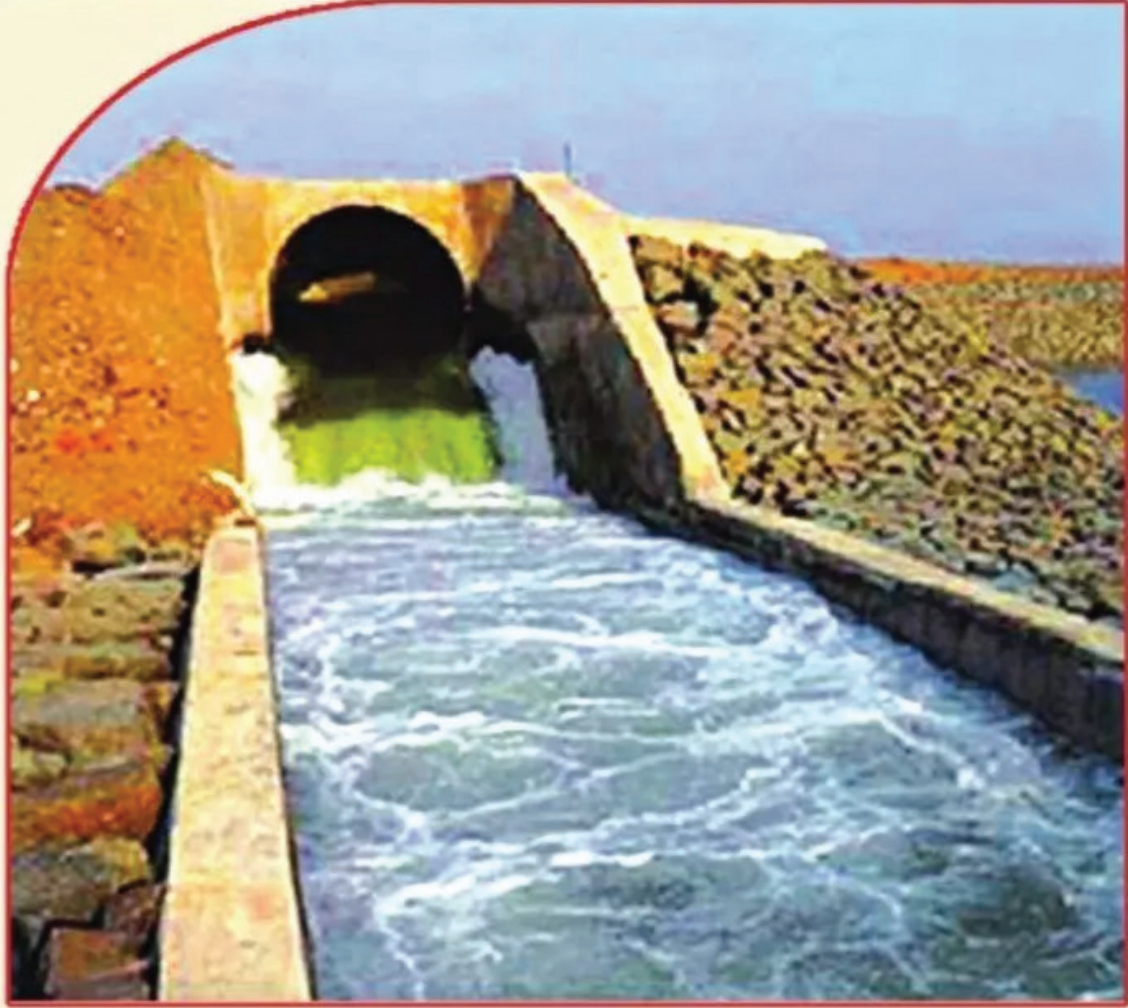
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