

NEET RE-EXAM IS OVER NOW!

IF YOU WANT TO STUDY **IN ABROAD**

ADMISSION PROCESS
INTAKE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026
IS ALREADY STARTED!

THERE IS NO TIME!
Secure your seat for September 2026 intake
before it's too late.

WHATSAPP US YOUR QUERIES - 9674309492

Vol-XIII Issue 630, News Mania RNI No. - WBENG/2013/50163, Weekly, Dt. 26-06-2026 to 02-07-2026/16 Pages News Mania / Rs.6.00/- Kolkata

NEWS MANIA

WEEKLY

Different Voice of Analysis

GROWTH • DEVELOPMENT • WELFARE • EMPLOYMENT

WEST BENGAL BUDGET 2026

A Vision for a Stronger, Prosperous Bengal

NEW
BEGINNING
BIGGER
BENGAL



1 LAKH
GOVERNMENT JOBS
MORE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUTH



₹36,000 CRORE
FOR WOMEN WELFARE
ANNA PURNA YOJANA &
SOCIAL SUPPORT



₹5,000 CRORE
INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVES
INVESTMENT • STARTUPS •
EASE OF DOING BUSINESS



₹40,000 CRORE
INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH
ROADS • AIRPORT • TOURISM •
LOGISTICS HUBS



20% DA HIKE
FOR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2026



SWAPAN DASGUPTA

FINANCE MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

SUVENDU ADHIKARI

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

JOBS • INVESTMENT • INFRASTRUCTURE • WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

West Bengal Budget 2026-27: A New Blueprint for Growth, Jobs and Social Security



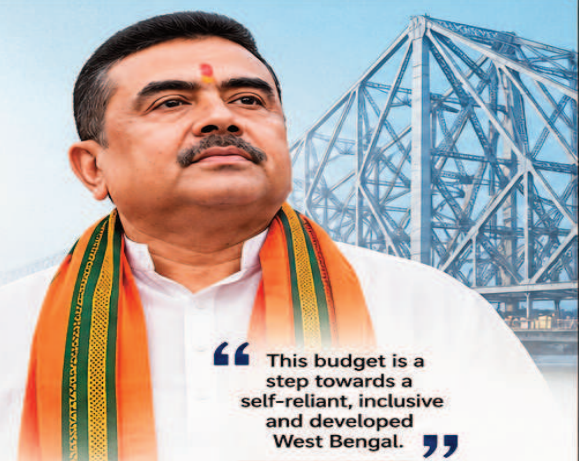
COVER STORY

WEST BENGAL

BUDGET 2026-27

A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR GROWTH, JOBS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

A record outlay. Bold reforms. People-centric initiatives.
Building a stronger, inclusive and prosperous West Bengal.



TOTAL BUDGET SIZE

₹4.38

LAKH CRORE

STATE DEBT BURDEN OVER

₹8 LAKH CRORE

Along with substantial annual interest liabilities

ECONOMIC REVIVAL

- INDUSTRIAL PUSH**
₹5,000 crore allocated for industry incentives and cluster-based development.
- EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**
Investment proposals exceeding ₹100 crore exempt from local-level NOCs to avoid delays.
- FOCUS ON INVESTMENT, JOBS & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

WOMEN'S WELFARE

- ANNAPURNA YOJANA**
₹36,000 crore earmarked. ₹3,000 per month direct cash transfer to eligible women.
- PINK CARD**
Free bus travel for women across the state. Initial allocation of ₹550 crore.

EMPLOYMENT & EMPLOYEES

- JOB CREATION**
1 lakh government vacancies to be filled this financial year.
- DA HIKE**
20% increase in Dearness Allowance (total DA 38%), effective October 1, 2026.
- BHORSA KARMASATHI SCHEME**
₹3,000 per month allowance for eligible unemployed youth.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

- AVIATION EXPANSION**
Greenfield airport near Kalyani. 1,000-1,500 acres of land to be identified. Regional airport proposals in Purulia, Balurghat & Malda.
- HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**
FOUR NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES
To be established in Alipurduar, Kalimpong, Dakshin Dinajpur & Paschim Bardhaman.

A BALANCED BUDGET FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

BOOSTING ECONOMY

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

ENSURING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

West Bengal Budget 2026-27 – Growth. Opportunity. Progress for All.

By Ms. Bornali Biswas- Editor in Chief

The West Bengal Government has unveiled its Budget for the financial year 2026-27, presenting what it describes as a transformative roadmap aimed at accelerating industrial growth, creating employment opportunities, strengthening social welfare, and improving infrastructure. With a total outlay exceeding ₹4.38 lakh crore, the budget signals an ambitious attempt to reshape the state's economic future while addressing longstanding challenges.

A Budget Focused on Economic Revival

At the heart of the budget lies a renewed commitment to industrial development. The government has earmarked ₹5,000 crore to revive industrial incentives and promote a cluster-based industrial ecosystem across the state. The objective is to attract new investments, strengthen manufacturing capabilities, and create sustainable employment opportunities.

In a significant move to improve the business climate, investment proposals worth more than ₹100 crore will no longer require local-level No-Ob-

jection Certificates (NOCs). This reform is expected to reduce bureaucratic hurdles, speed up project approvals, and make West Bengal a more attractive destination for domestic and international investors. However, the government's growth ambitions come against the backdrop of a substantial financial challenge. The state continues to grapple with an inherited debt burden exceeding ₹8 lakh crore, coupled with significant annual interest liabilities. Managing this debt while sustaining development spending will remain one of the administration's toughest tests.

Empowering Women Through Direct Support

Women's welfare occupies a central place in the budget. The flagship Annapurna Yojana has received a massive allocation of ₹36,000 crore, making it one of the largest social welfare commitments in the state's history. Under the scheme, eligible women will receive ₹3,000 per month through direct cash transfers, enhancing financial independence and household security. Complementing this initiative is the introduction of the Pink Card, a scheme that will provide women with

free bus travel across the state. An initial allocation of ₹550 crore has been made to launch and operationalize the programme. Together, these measures aim to reduce financial burdens and improve mobility and economic participation among women.

Employment Generation Takes Centre Stage

Recognizing the importance of employment in driving economic progress, the government has announced plans to fill one lakh government vacancies during the current financial year. The recruitment drive is expected to provide opportunities across multiple departments while strengthening public service delivery. For the state's unemployed youth, the BhorsaKarmasathi Scheme offers a monthly allowance of ₹3,000, providing financial support as they pursue employment opportunities or skill development.

State government employees have also received a significant boost. The budget proposes a 20% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA), taking the total DA to 38%, effective from October 1, 2026. The move is expected to improve the purchasing power of

thousands of employees and stimulate consumer spending.

Building the Infrastructure for Tomorrow

Infrastructure development remains a major pillar of the government's long-term strategy. One of the most ambitious proposals is the establishment of a greenfield airport near Kalyani, for which 1,000 to 1,500 acres of land are being identified. The project is expected to strengthen regional connectivity, attract investment, and support industrial expansion in the surrounding areas. In addition, regional airport projects have been proposed for Purulia, Balurghat, and Malda, reflecting the government's focus on balanced regional development and improved transportation networks.

Expanding Healthcare Access

Healthcare infrastructure has received a substantial boost through the announcement of four new medical colleges. These institutions will be established in Alipurduar, Kalimpong, Dakshin Dinajpur, and Paschim Bardhaman, expanding access to quality medical education and healthcare services in underserved regions. The initiative is expected not only to

improve healthcare delivery but also to address the growing demand for trained medical professionals across the state.

The Road Ahead

The West Bengal Budget 2026-27 combines welfare-oriented programmes with economic reforms and infrastructure investments, reflecting a dual strategy of social protection and growth. From empowering women and supporting unemployed youth to attracting industry and expanding healthcare, the budget seeks to lay the foundation for a more inclusive and prosperous state.

The success of this ambitious roadmap, however, will depend on effective implementation, sustained investment inflows, and prudent management of the state's considerable debt burden. If executed successfully, the budget could mark a significant turning point in West Bengal's journey toward economic renewal and social progress.

With a record outlay, bold reforms, and people-centric initiatives, the 2026-27 Budget presents itself as more than a financial statement—it is a vision document for a new era of development in West Bengal.

TMC Forms 30-Member National Working Committee, Arup Roy Elected Chairperson

Ajay Chowdhury: The All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) has constituted its National Working Committee (NWC) during a special party session held in Kolkata. Addressing the media, West Bengal Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee said that delegates unanimously elected the new committee, with Arup Roy chosen as Chairperson.

The 30-member NWC includes senior leaders such as Firhad Hakim, Arup Biswas, Rathin Ghosh, Sabina Yasmin, Ritabrata Banerjee, Javed Khan and Sandipan Saha. Firhad Hakim, Arup Biswas, Rathin Ghosh and Sabina Yasmin have been ap-



pointed as Vice Presidents. Banerjee also announced that district presidents and district committees will be constituted soon. Reiterating the party's position on Mamata Banerjee, he said members want her to continue as a mentor and guide for the organization.

Bengal's Cultural Heritage Takes Centre Stage in West Bengal-Andhra Pradesh Meeting



Buddhadeb Misra: Kolkata, June 18: Bengal's rich artistic traditions were showcased during a high-profile meeting between West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh in Kolkata, where two iconic cultural gifts symbolized the deep historical and spiritual ties between the two states. The Chief Minister presented a spe-

cially commissioned Shad-bhujamurti Patachitra scroll and a hand-crafted Sholapith boat. The Patachitra, created by acclaimed folk artist Swarna Lata Chitrakar, depicts Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's six-armed divine form, integrating representations of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, reflecting India's inclusive spiritual traditions. The Sholapith boat, crafted from the eco-friendly shola plant and representing West Bengal's GI-tagged Sholapith art, symbolized the historic maritime trade links between Tamluk in Bengal and Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The presentation highlighted Bengal's artistic heritage while reinforcing cultural diplomacy and strengthening the historic bond between the two states.

West Bengal to Introduce Tough Anti-Corruption Law: CM

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced that the state government is preparing to introduce a stringent anti-corruption law aimed at strengthening accountability and transparency in public administration. Under the proposed legislation, authorities will be



BJP President Nitin Nabin Sends Indian Mango Hampers to Diplomats from 82 Nations

Ajay Chowdhury: BJP National President Nitin Nabin has launched a unique cultural outreach initiative by sending specially curated hampers of premium Indian mangoes to diplomats from 82 countries stationed in New Delhi. The gift boxes featured four renowned mango varieties—GirKesar from Gujarat, Banganapalle from Andhra Pradesh, and Dussehri and Benarasi Langra from Uttar Pradesh—showcasing India's rich agricultural diversity and horticultural heritage.

Accompanied by a personal note, the hampers conveyed greetings and highlighted the mango's significance as a symbol of hospitality, friendship and India's cultural legacy. The initiative is being viewed as an innova-



tive form of cultural diplomacy aimed at strengthening engagement with the diplomatic community. As one of the world's largest mango producers, India continues to promote its globally admired fruit as an ambassador of the country's rich traditions and agricultural excellence.

Two Arrested, Four Detained in Kolkata Godown Collapse Case



Ajay Chowdhury: Police have registered a suomotu FIR in connection with the collapse of the under-construction godown in Kolkata's Taratala area that claimed multiple lives and left several others injured. As part of the ongoing investigation, two persons have been arrested while four others have been detained for questioning.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Kamal Samanta, a structural engineer associated with

the project, and Syed Md Gulzar, son of Abdul Hamid and a resident of Bhu Kailash Road, Kolkata. Investigators are examining possible lapses in construction practices, structural design and regulatory compliance. Police officials said the probe is progressing on multiple fronts, and further action will be taken based on evidence gathered during the investigation. Authorities have assured strict accountability for those found responsible for the tragedy.

public resources are protected. He asserted that individuals found guilty of amassing assets through illegal means would face strict action under the new framework. The proposed law is expected to serve as a strong deterrent against corruption and reinforce public confidence in governance and administrative integrity across the state.

SNIPPETS

NIA Arrests Malda Political Leader in Violence Probe

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested local political leader Sayem Chowdhary from Malda in connection with its ongoing investigation into pre-poll SIR-related violence. Officials said the arrest is part of a broader effort to identify and prosecute those allegedly involved in the disturbances.

Former Kolkata Deputy Mayor Booked in ₹4-Crore Real Estate Fraud Case

Former Kolkata Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh and his daughter have been booked in an alleged ₹4-crore property-grabbing and real estate fraud case. Investigators are examining claims related to land transactions and alleged financial irregularities.

Over 10,000 Illegal Infiltrators Pushed Back, Says Government

The West Bengal government has reported a major crack-down on illegal infiltration, stating that more than 10,000 infiltrators have been pushed back across the border. Authorities added that around 1,800 more individuals are currently awaiting formal deportation procedures.

Gold Worth Over ₹4 Crore Seized in Anti-Corruption Raid

In a significant anti-corruption operation, authorities raided the residence of Tina Bhowmik Saha, an associate of arrested politician Sabyasachi Dutta. During the search, officials recovered approximately three kilograms of gold jewellery valued at more than ₹4 crore.

NIA Arrests Two Key Accused in Amta Bomb Blast Case

The NIA has arrested two key accused in connection with the Amta bomb blast case in West Bengal. The arrests are expected to provide crucial leads as investigators continue to probe the conspiracy and execution of the explosion.

A Generation Lost—or a Society in Transition?



Ms. Bornali Biswas –Editor in Chief

The shocking murder of 26-year-old Ketan Agarwal near Pune's Lohagad Fort has reignited a familiar debate: What is wrong with today's generation? The arrest of a young woman and her boyfriend for allegedly plotting the death of her fiancé—after multiple failed attempts and a calculated cover-up—has horrified the nation. Such incidents often lead many to conclude that moral values are collapsing and that society is witnessing an unprecedented decline in ethics.

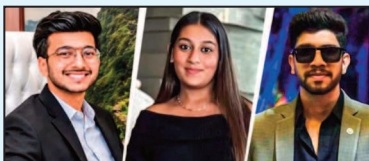
Yet the reality may be more complex. Sociologists argue that humanity is not experiencing the disappearance of morality but rather a transformation of moral frameworks. Today's younger generations—particularly Millennials and Gen Z—have grown up in a world vastly different from that of their parents and grandparents. The internet has exposed them to diverse cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. Traditional institutions such as religion, government, and even family structures no longer hold the unquestioned authority they once did.

As a result, younger generations increasingly define morality through values such as social justice, equality, environmental responsibility, mental well-being, and authenticity. They are often more accepting of diversity, more vocal about human rights, and more conscious of global issues than previous generations.

However, this transformation has also created challenges.

The rise of hyper-individualism has encouraged personal freedom and self-expression, but it has sometimes weakened the sense of duty, sacrifice, and accountability that traditional moral systems emphasized. In a culture that prioritizes individual desires, emotional impulses can occasionally overpower ethical responsibility. Digital connectivity, while expanding knowledge, has also fostered instant gratification, reduced attention spans, and weakened real-world social bonds.

The Pune tragedy should not be viewed as evidence that an entire generation has lost its moral compass. Crimes of passion, betrayal, and greed have existed throughout human history. What makes such cases alarming today is the apparent willingness of some individuals to treat human relationships as disposable obstacles rather than sacred commitments.



Ketan Agarwal, Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary.

The real question is not whether values are disappearing, but whether society is successfully balancing old virtues with new ideals. Progress requires both freedom and responsibility, both rights and duties, both self-expression and self-restraint. Humanity is undoubtedly passing through a period of profound social change. The challenge before us is ensuring that as traditional values evolve, the fundamental principles of honesty, compassion, accountability, and respect for human life remain non-negotiable. A changing world does not require fewer values—it requires stronger ones.

Please contact me with your valuable comments in —editor.newsmania@gmail.com

NORTH EAST BEATS

Assam Eyes New Opportunities Under India-UK FTA

Assam is set to explore fresh economic opportunities under the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) following a high-level meeting between the state's Chief Secretary and the UK Deputy High Commissioner. The discussion focused on the localized impact of the landmark trade pact on Assam's key sectors, including tea, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and skill de-



velopment. Both sides emphasized strengthening bilateral cooperation, attracting investment, and enhancing

trade linkages that could benefit local businesses and entrepreneurs. The meeting also explored avenues for knowledge exchange, innovation, and sustainable development. Officials expressed optimism that the FTA would boost exports, create employment opportunities, and contribute to Assam's long-term economic growth and global competitiveness.

Mizoram Unveils Reforms to Boost Investment and Employment

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has announced a series of regulatory reforms aimed at attracting greater local investment and generating new employment opportunities across the state. Highlighting the importance of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), the Chief Minister said these initiatives would play a crucial role in strengthening infrastructure, improving public services, and accelerating economic growth. The reforms are designed to simplify procedures, encourage private sector participation, and create a more business-friendly environment. Officials believe the measures will enhance investor confidence, support entrepreneurship, and expand job prospects for the youth. The



government reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development and inclusive growth through strategic investments and effective implementation of development projects.

Northeast Battled by Heavy Rains as Floods, Landslides Disrupt Life



Relentless rainfall has triggered severe flash floods and landslides across parts of Northeast India, causing widespread disruption and damage. In Arunachal Pradesh, heavy rains in KeyiPanyor district led to flash floods and landslides, leaving several people missing and damaging sections of the KeyiPanyor Hydro-electric Project (HEP) dam reservoir. Search and rescue teams have been deployed, with authorities closely monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, in Sikkim, landslides have blocked a crucial stretch of the Gyalshing-Legship route, severing connectivity to the West Sikkim district headquarters. The road closure has disrupted transportation and affected the movement of residents and essential supplies. Officials are working to clear debris and restore connectivity as weather conditions remain challenging.

Nagaland Launches 'Nagabazaar' to Empower Farmers and Strengthen Digital Economy

In a significant step toward promoting digital commerce and supporting local agriculture, Nagaland has officially launched 'Nagabazaar', an online grocery and delivery platform designed to connect local farmers directly with urban consumers. The initiative aims to eliminate middlemen, ensure fair prices for producers, and provide fresh farm products to customers through a convenient digital marketplace. State officials said the platform will boost rural incomes, encourage entrepreneurship, and strengthen the agricultural value chain. By leveraging



technology, Nagabazaar is expected to enhance market access for farmers, improve supply efficiency, and contribute to the growth of Nagaland's digital economy while promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development across the state.

Manipur Sees Renewed Push for Peace as Community Leaders Join Dialogue Efforts

Community representatives from various groups are actively visiting Imphal to participate in ongoing peace and stability talks aimed at addressing lingering regional tensions in Manipur. State leaders have confirmed that the discussions are focused on fostering mutual understanding, rebuilding trust, and creating a roadmap for lasting peace. The dialogue process brings together key stakeholders to address concerns related to security, rehabilitation, and social harmony. Officials expressed optimism that continued engagement and co-



operation among communities will help ease tensions and strengthen reconciliation efforts. The state government has reiterated its commitment to supporting inclusive discussions and ensuring that all voices are heard in the pursuit of sustainable peace and development across Manipur.

PM Modi Offers India's Support After Deadly Venezuela Earthquakes

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed condolences over the loss of lives caused by two powerful back-to-back earthquakes that struck Venezuela, the strongest registering a magnitude of 7.5.

In a message of solidarity, the Prime Minister conveyed India's sympathies to the victims and their families and offered all possible humanitarian assistance, including search-and-rescue support, to help the affected nation cope with the disaster.

The earthquakes caused significant damage and triggered emergency

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE: PM MODI ASSURES AID



response efforts across impacted regions. India's offer of assistance underscores its commitment to supporting countries affected by natural disasters and strengthening international humanitarian cooperation during times of crisis.

MEA Clarifies Passport Is Not Conclusive Proof of Citizenship

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has clarified that an Indian passport serves primarily as a travel document and should not be regarded as absolute legal proof of Indian citizenship. The clarification has sparked widespread discussion on the distinction between identity, nationality, and citizenship documentation.

Officials explained that while a passport is issued to Indian citizens for international travel, questions of citizenship are determined under the provisions of the Citizenship Act and related legal frameworks. Various government documents and verification processes may be required in

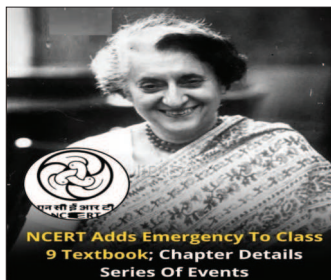


specific legal or administrative cases to establish citizenship status. The statement has generated debate among legal experts and political observers, with many emphasizing the need for greater public awareness regarding the different purposes and legal standing of official identity and citizenship documents.

NCERT Adds Emergency Chapter to Class 9 Textbooks, Acts Against Fake Versions

New Delhi: The National Council of Educational Research and Training has introduced a new section on the 1975-77 Emergency in its Class 9 Social Science textbooks, aiming to provide students with a deeper understanding of one of the most significant periods in India's political history.

The newly added content examines the events, policies, and impact of the Emergency era, offering historical context for learners. At the same time, NCERT has raised concerns over the circulation of unauthorized and altered digital versions of the chapter on various online platforms.



Officials said the council is monitoring the issue closely and pursuing legal action against those responsible for distributing fake or misleading copies. NCERT has advised students, teachers, and parents to rely only on official textbook versions and authenticated educational resources.

Rahul Gandhi Expresses Regret in Defamation Case Linked to Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Son

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has expressed formal regret in a defamation case filed by the son of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The case stemmed from remarks that were challenged as defamatory, prompting legal proceedings. During the course of the matter,

RAHUL GANDHI EXPRESSES REGRET IN DEFAMATION CASE



Gandhi conveyed his regret before

the court, a move that could help bring the dispute to a resolution. The development marks a significant turn in the legal proceedings and has drawn attention from political circles. Further action in the case will depend on the court's consideration of the submission and the response of the complainant.

Central Secretariat Set to Become Delhi Metro's Triple-Interchange Hub

New Delhi: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has announced a major upgrade to the Central Secretariat Metro station, which is set to become a triple-interchange hub as part of the capital's expanding transit network.

The transformation will integrate the upcoming underground Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor of the Delhi Metro Magenta Line, enhancing connectivity



across key parts of the city. Once completed, commuters will be able to interchange seamlessly between

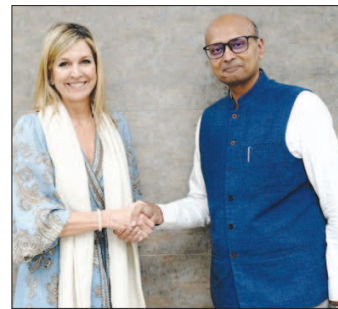
three metro corridors at Central Secretariat.

Officials said the upgrade will improve passenger convenience, reduce travel times, and strengthen network efficiency. The project forms part of Delhi Metro's broader expansion strategy aimed at accommodating growing ridership and providing faster, more integrated public transportation across the National Capital Region.

Queen Máxima Visits India to Strengthen Financial Inclusion Cooperation

New Delhi: Queen Máxima received a warm welcome during her visit to India in her capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health.

The visit underscores the shared commitment of India and the Netherlands to advancing financial inclusion and improving access to financial services for all. Discussions are expected to focus on India's successful use of Digital



Public Infrastructure (DPI), including digital identity, payments, and financial services platforms, to

drive inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Queen Máxima's engagement highlights growing international recognition of India's digital transformation model and its role in expanding financial access, empowering citizens, and supporting economic participation at scale. The visit is also expected to strengthen cooperation on global financial inclusion initiatives and digital innovation.

Centre Extends Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's Tenure by Three Years

New Delhi: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved a three-year extension for Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India, ensuring continuity in the Union Government's top legal representation. Mehta, who has represented the Centre in several high-profile constitutional, administrative, and public interest cases before the Supreme Court and various High Courts, will continue to serve as the government's second-highest law officer. The extension reflects the Centre's



confidence in his legal expertise and leadership in handling complex litigation and policy-related legal matters. Officials said the decision will

help maintain consistency in the government's legal strategy and representation in key judicial proceedings over the coming years.

International Day of Yoga 2026 Becomes Global Movement Under 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' Theme

INDIA



UNITED STATES



SINGAPORE



MALAYSIA



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



TURKEY



SWITZERLAND - GENEVA



NEPAL



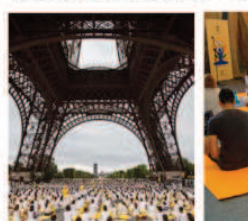
UNITED KINGDOM



SERBIA - BELGRADE



ROMANIA - BUCHAREST



SLOVENIA - LJUBLJANA



CROATIA - ZAGREB



The 12th International Day of Yoga, celebrated on June 21, 2026, witnessed unprecedented global participation, emerging as a powerful movement promoting health, wellness and longevity. Observed under the United Nations theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," the event brought together millions of people across nearly 2,500 locations in more than 180 countries.

India-Mass yoga sessions, wellness workshops and community events highlighted yoga's role in fostering physical fitness, mental well-being and healthy ageing. The worldwide celebrations reflected the growing acceptance of India's ancient practice as a holistic approach to lifelong health. Leaders, institutions and citizens across continents participated in the initiative, reinforcing yoga's universal appeal and its contribution to building healthier, more resilient societies in an increasingly fast-paced world.

International Yoga Day 2026 witnessed remarkable participation across the globe, highlighting yoga's growing role as a bridge between cultures and a pathway to holistic well-being.

United States-Thousands gathered at iconic venues, including large open-air sessions at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and Central Park in New York City, celebrating the spirit of yoga and wellness.

Malaysia-The High Commission of India organized large-scale Yoga Day events at SSU KelabAman in Kuala Lumpur and the world-famous Batu Caves, drawing enthusiastic participation.

Turkey-Serene morning yoga sessions were held along the picturesque Bosphorus in Istanbul, combining mindfulness with breathtaking views.

Nepal-Thousands of yoga enthusiasts took part in mass morning sessions in Kathmandu, embracing the practice amid the majestic Himalayan backdrop.

United Kingdom-High-profile Yoga Day sessions were held across London, including a major gathering at Trafalgar Square. Special indoor sessions were also organized at BAPS Shri Swami-

narayan Mandir, with a focus on elderly wellness and healthy ageing.

Singapore-The High Commission of India coordinated Yoga Day activities across 15 community hubs throughout Singapore. The events brought together local fitness groups, community organizations, and senior citizens, reflecting the spirit of the 2026 theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing."

United Arab Emirates-Massive indoor Yoga Day events were organized in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, where thousands of expatriates and local residents participated in specially curated sessions focused on workplace well-being, stress management, physical fitness, and long-term health.

The air-conditioned venues provided an ideal setting for participants of all ages to experience the benefits of yoga and embrace healthier lifestyles.

Serbia - Belgrade-Yoga enthusiasts gathered in Belgrade to mark the occasion, with active participation supported by the Embassy of India, Belgrade.

Slovenia - Ljubljana-Residents joined community yoga sessions in Ljubljana, celebrating the timeless benefits of yoga and mindful living.

Bulgaria - Sofia-Participants came together for Yoga Day activities promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and healthy ageing.

Croatia - Zagreb-Special yoga events in Zagreb highlighted the growing popularity of yoga and India's cultural outreach across Europe.

Romania - Bucharest-Yoga practitioners gathered in Bucharest to celebrate harmony, balance, and holistic wellness.

Switzerland - Geneva-Geneva became a vibrant stage for International Yoga Day celebrations, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds in the spirit of health and global unity. From bustling cities to historic landmarks, people across continents came together to celebrate India's timeless gift to the world and promote the message of health, harmony, and inner balance.

□ One Earth. One Health. One Humanity.

Various Press Brief

After the Fall: Mamata Banerjee, TMC and the Battle for Political Survival

Binay Gupta —New Delhi

For over a decade and a half, Mamata Banerjee dominated West Bengal politics. Her historic victory in 2011 ended the 34-year rule of the Left Front and transformed the Trinamool Congress (TMC) from a regional challenger into one of India's most powerful state-based political parties. However, if the post-2026 political scenario unfolds as projected, both Mamata Banerjee and the TMC could be entering the most turbulent phase of their political journey.

The End of an Era?

Political parties built around charismatic leaders often face existential challenges when electoral setbacks weaken the authority of the central figure. The reported defeat of the TMC in the 2026 Assembly elections would represent more than a loss of government—it would mark the end of an era that shaped Bengal's political landscape for fifteen years.

Historically, West Bengal politics has witnessed dramatic political transitions. The Congress was replaced by the Left Front in 1977, while the Left's dominance ended in 2011 with Mamata Banerjee's rise. A BJP victory in 2026 has therefore represented another major political realignment in the state's history.

The Challenge of Internal Rebellion

The greatest threat to the TMC may not come from its political opponents but from within. Reports of a large faction of legislators challenging Mamata Banerjee's leadership indicate a struggle over the future direction of the party.

Political history suggests that internal divisions often become more dangerous after electoral defeats. Similar crises have occurred in regional parties across India where leadership succession became contentious after the founding leader's authority weakened.

The emergence of rival groups claiming legitimacy over the party organization and symbol would create uncertainty among party workers, elected representatives and supporters. If prolonged, such a conflict could weaken the TMC's organizational structure across dis-



tricts and municipalities.

The Abhishek Factor

For several years, political observers have viewed Abhishek Banerjee as the natural successor to Mamata Banerjee. However, succession planning in political parties rarely proceeds without resistance.

Veteran leaders who played significant roles in building the TMC may be reluctant to accept a centralized succession model. The challenge for Abhishek Banerjee would be to demonstrate both organizational capability and the ability to unite competing factions.

The future of the party may depend on whether a consensus leadership model emerges or whether the suc-

cession issue deepens existing divisions.

The Symbol War and Legal Implications

One of the most significant consequences of a split would be the battle for control of the party's identity. In Indian politics, election symbols carry enormous emotional and electoral value.

Recent precedents involving major regional parties have shown how disputes over symbols and party names can dramatically alter political fortunes. A prolonged legal battle over the "JoraPhool" symbol could confuse voters, weaken grassroots mobilization and create parallel organizational structures.

The Election Commission's eventual

decision would likely have far-reaching implications for the future of both factions.

Mamata's National Ambitions

Despite challenges within West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee remains one of India's most recognizable opposition leaders. Her political career has been defined by resilience, grassroots mobilization and the ability to reinvent herself during periods of adversity.

A shift toward national politics could therefore represent a strategic recalibration rather than a political retirement. By positioning herself as a senior opposition figure, she could seek to influence coalition-building efforts ahead of future parliamentary contests.

Any closer engagement with the Congress leadership would be politically significant. Mamata Banerjee began her political career in the Congress before founding the TMC in 1998. A renewed partnership would symbolize a remarkable full-circle moment in Indian politics.

Political history shows that regional parties can recover from setbacks if they maintain organizational unity and strong grassroots connections. However, prolonged factional conflict often accelerates decline.

Mamata Banerjee's political career, while celebrated for her historic rise as a grassroots "street fighter" to topple the 34-year Left rule, is widely criticized for the suppression of dissent, rampant corruption scandals, and a reliance on political violence.

Key Criticisms and Controversies

• **Political Violence & Intimidation:** Her administration has faced heavy

scrutiny for allegedly adopting the violent cadre tactics of her predecessors and using law enforcement and party enforcers to suppress opposition.

• **Systemic Corruption:** The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been mired in numerous high-profile financial scandals, most notably the Sarada chit-fund scam and subsequent unearthing of various government recruitment and bribery scams.

• **Authoritarianism & High-Handedness:** Critics argue that her style of governance became highly centralized and dictatorial, often leading to hostile and disrespectful run-ins with central constitutional figures.

• **Misogyny and Law & Order Failures:** Despite initially relying heavily on the support of women voters, her administration's handling of severe crimes against women and instances of open misogyny by party leaders caused a significant erosion of her moral authority.

• **Demographic Politics:** Her attempts to balance specific religious vote banks and appease radical factions alienated large portions of the Hindu majority, which ultimately fueled opposition momentum.

Public & Political Perspectives

• **Loss of Moral Authority:** Many observers and political analysts point out that the fiery, anti-establishment rebel eventually became the very kind of establishment figure she initially fought against.

• **Public and Online Sentiment:** Public perception remains fiercely polarized. While supporters view her as the "poorest CM" and a fiercely dedicated regional leader, critics—including various citizen discussions and opposition movements—frequently highlight the severe lack of industry, rising poverty, and state-sponsored terror under her 15-year rule.

Recent Political Decline

The culmination of these controversies led to a severe political downfall. Following a devastating electoral defeat in the recent West Bengal assembly elections, she lost her legislative seat and her 15-year tenure as Chief Minister came to an end. This defeat triggered a massive wave of internal rebellion, leading to the breakaway of numerous MLAs and forcing her to dissolve all organizational committees within her party.

'Welcome to the Jungle' Set for Grand Big-Screen Arrival

The much-awaited comedy entertainer *Welcome to the Jungle*, featuring Akshay Kumar and an ensemble cast, is gearing up for its theatrical release. As the latest installment in the popular *Welcome* franchise, the film has generated significant excitement among fans with its promise of humor, action, and star-studded performances. Industry experts expect the multi-starrer to draw strong audiences upon release, particularly among family viewers and comedy lovers. With high expectations and wide-



spread buzz, *Welcome to the Jungle* is poised to be one of the season's major Bollywood attractions.



'Obsession' Nears \$350 Million Worldwide in Remarkable Box Office Run

The independent thriller *Obsession* continues its extraordinary journey from indie sensation to global blockbuster, edging closer to the \$350 million mark at the worldwide box office. The film has exceeded industry expectations, drawing strong audience support across multiple international markets. Its sustained performance

has made it one of the year's most surprising success stories, proving that smaller productions can compete with major studio releases. Analysts credit the film's compelling storytelling, positive word-of-mouth, and growing international appeal for its historic theatrical run, which shows little sign of slowing down.

'Toy Story 5' Faces Bollywood Showdown in Indian Theatres

Pixar's highly anticipated *Toy Story 5* has officially arrived in Indian cinemas, setting up a direct box-office clash with several major Bollywood releases. The latest installment of the beloved animated franchise is expected to attract families and longtime fans, while domestic productions compete for the same audience base. Industry observers are closely watching the contest, as both Hollywood and Bollywood titles vie for screen space and ticket sales during a crucial theatrical window. The outcome could provide valuable insights into audience preferences and the growing competition



between international and Indian film releases.

Indra Kumar Teases 'Dhamaal 4' as a Grand Treasure-Hunt Adventure



Filmmaker Indra Kumar has revealed fresh details about the

much-anticipated *Dhamaal 4*, describing it as a "larger-than-life ad-

venture packed with treasure hunts." The director said the upcoming installment will retain the franchise's trademark comedy while expanding its scale with bigger action sequences, exotic locations, and an adventurous storyline. Fans of the popular comedy series can expect a mix of humor, chaos, and high-stakes treasure-hunting escapades. The announcement has heightened excitement around the film, which aims to take the beloved *Dhamaal* franchise to a new level of entertainment.

GLITZ MANIA

Steven Spielberg's 'Disclosure Day' Moves Into Summer Release Window



Acclaimed filmmaker Steven Spielberg has returned to the big screen with his highly secretive sci-fi event film, *Disclosure Day*, which has now shifted into a prime summer theatrical release slot. The project has generated significant buzz due to its tightly guarded plot and Spielberg's reputation for de-

livering landmark science-fiction cinema. Industry analysts view the summer positioning as a sign of confidence in the film's box-office potential. Fans worldwide are eagerly awaiting further details as the movie prepares to compete among the season's biggest cinematic releases.

Maa Inti Bangaaram' Nears ₹60 Crore Worldwide Milestone

Maa Inti Bangaaram, the latest release starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu, is closing in on the ₹60 crore mark at the global box office. The film has witnessed a strong response from audiences, performing steadily across domestic and international markets. Trade analysts attribute its success to Samantha's star power, positive audience feedback, and growing word-of-mouth support. As collections continue to rise, the movie is strengthening its position among



the notable commercial successes of the season, further reinforcing Samantha Ruth Prabhu's status as one of Indian cinema's leading stars.

Angelina Jolie Reflects on Decade Without Dating After Brad Pitt Divorce

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie has opened up about her personal life, revealing why she has not dated in the nearly ten years since her separation from Brad Pitt. Speaking candidly, Jolie said that "life has broken me,"



reflecting on the emotional challenges she faced following the highly publicized split. Jolie and Pitt, who were together for nearly a decade before marrying in 2014,

filed for divorce in 2016, with proceedings taking years to conclude. Her remarks offer a rare glimpse into her journey of healing and self-discovery.

GLITZ MANIA

Supergirl Takes Flight as Theatrical Release Begins Worldwide



DC Studios' highly anticipated superhero film Supergirl, starring Milly Alcock in the title role, has officially begun its theatrical run in cinemas. The movie marks Alcock's debut as the iconic Kryptonian heroine and is expected to play a key role in DC's evolving cinematic universe. Fans and critics alike have expressed strong anticipation for the film, which promises a fresh interpretation of Supergirl's story. The release is being closely watched by industry observers as DC seeks to strengthen its lineup of superhero blockbusters and attract audiences worldwide.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' Continues Strong Box Office Run



Director David Dhawan's latest comedy Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, starring Varun Dhawan, continues to attract audiences and maintain impressive footfalls in cinemas. The film's blend of humor, family entertainment, and commercial appeal has resonated with moviegoers, helping it sustain momentum after

its release. Trade analysts credit positive word-of-mouth and the popularity of its lead star for the movie's strong performance. As collections remain steady, the comedy is emerging as another successful addition to David Dhawan's long-running track record of crowd-pleasing entertainers.

Sugar' Returns: Colin Farrell Back for Season 2 on Apple TV+



The acclaimed detective thriller Sugar has returned for a second season on Apple TV+, with Colin Farrell reprising his role as private investigator John Sugar. The series, praised for its noir-inspired storytelling and compelling performances, continues to explore complex mysteries and personal challenges faced by its lead character. Fans and critics alike have welcomed the show's return, anticipating new twists and deeper character development. With its strong reputation and loyal audience, Sugar is expected to remain one of the standout thriller offerings on the streaming platform.

'Practical Magic 2' Trailer Unveiled as Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman Reunite

The first trailer for Practical Magic 2 has been released, marking the long-awaited return of the beloved fantasy drama nearly three decades after the original film. Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman reprise their iconic roles, bringing back the enchanting blend of magic, family bonds, and sisterhood that captivated audiences worldwide. The sequel promises a fresh chapter while honoring the charm of the original story. Fans have responded enthusiastically to the reunion, making the film one



of the most anticipated releases in the fantasy genre.

Tamil Crime Thriller 'Lingam' Makes OTT Debut on JioHotstar



The Tamil crime thriller series Lingam has officially premiered on JioHotstar, expanding the plat-

form's lineup of regional-language content. The series delves into a gripping world of crime, investigation, and suspense, offering viewers a fast-paced narrative filled with unexpected twists. Early buzz suggests strong interest among fans of the thriller genre, particularly within Tamil-speaking audiences. With its OTT debut, Lingam aims to attract a wider audience across India and beyond, reflecting the growing popularity of regional web series on digital streaming platforms.

House of the Dragon' Season 3 Premieres, Targaryen Civil War Intensifies

The highly anticipated third season of House of the Dragon has officially debuted on JioHotstar, bringing viewers back to the epic struggle for the Iron Throne. The new season continues the escalating Targaryen civil war, promising larger battles, political intrigue, and dramatic twists.



Fans of the fantasy saga have eagerly awaited the return of the acclaimed series, which serves as a prequel to Game of Thrones. Industry observers expect the latest season to attract strong viewership and dominate streaming conversations in the weeks ahead.

12 Students Killed in Devastating Building Fire in Lucknow



Ajay Chowdhury: At least 12 students lost their lives after a massive fire engulfed a three-storey commercial building in Lucknow's Aliganj area on Monday afternoon.

The building housed an animation training centre and a pet clinic. Eyewitnesses reported scenes of panic as several people attempted to escape, with some

jumping from the building while others became trapped inside. Fourteen fire tenders, including a hydraulic platform vehicle, were deployed to combat the blaze. Rescue teams created openings through an adjoining building to reach those trapped. Senior state officials, including police and administrative authorities, supervised the operation. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak confirmed multiple fatalities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh for the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath returned to Lucknow to monitor the situation.

Nursing Reforms Key to Strengthening Healthcare System: N.S. Nigam at CII Nursing Conclave 2026

Buddhadeb Misra: Speaking at the 10th edition of the CII Nursing Conclave 2026 in Kolkata, Principal Secretary of Health & Family Welfare, West Bengal, N S Nigam emphasized the need for reforms in nursing education, working conditions and regulation to strengthen healthcare delivery. He highlighted nursing as a critical pillar of the healthcare system and called for greater specialization, improved workplace conditions and stronger



regulatory mechanisms. The conclave also featured insights

from T Dileep Kumar, who noted India's progress in building its nursing workforce and praised West Bengal's nursing digitalisation model. More than 450 delegates, including healthcare leaders, academicians and nursing professionals, attended the event. A whitepaper titled "Empowered Nursing Results in Clinical Excellence" was unveiled, focusing on innovation, patient outcomes and the future of nursing care in India.

Orissa Metaliks Pvt. Ltd and Rashmi Group Units Celebrate 12th International Yoga Day with Enthusiastic Participation

Ajay Chowdhury: Orissa Metaliks Pvt. Ltd., Unit-I and Rashmi Metalurgical Industry Pvt. Ltd., both part of the Rashmi Group, celebrated the 12th International Yoga Day 2026 with great enthusiasm at their Guest House premises. More than 300 employees participated in the event, which began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and a welcome address by CSR Coordinator Natabara Biswal. Renowned yoga instructor Ms. Sulochana Das and her team conducted sessions on yoga asanas and pranayama, encouraging employees to adopt yoga as a daily practice. The programme was attended by senior officials, including Bhaskar Chaudhuri, Executive



Director, Rashmi Group. Addressing the gathering, Chaudhuri urged employees to dedicate at least 45 minutes daily to yoga for physical fitness, mental well-

being and stress management. The celebration concluded with a patriotic dance performance, a collective pledge to embrace yoga, and the National Anthem.

Kenya Offers India Gateway to African Market, Bilateral Trade Crosses \$4.3 Billion

MCCI-Kenya will provide Indian businesses access to the wider African market and serve as a key trade corridor for Indian exports, Kenya's High Commissioner to India, Peter Munyiri, said at a special session organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) in Kolkata. Highlighting Kenya's investor-friendly policies, the envoy said the country offers stable governance, rule of law, harmonised regional tariffs, improved road connectivity and strategic maritime access through its ports. He assured that the Kenyan Investment Authority would facilitate Indian investments. With bilateral trade exceeding USD 4.3



billion in 2025-26, both countries are exploring cooperation in manufacturing, agriculture, digital infrastructure, logistics, energy and investment promotion. MCCI officials noted that Kenya can serve as India's gateway to Africa, while West Bengal can emerge as India's eastern gateway to the continent.

ASSOCHAM Hosts Inaugural Family Business Conclave, Honours Industry Leaders in Kolkata

Buddhadeb Misra: The Eastern Region of ASSOCHAM successfully organized the first edition of the Growth Driven Family Business Conclave – Honouring Legacy & Empowering NextGen Leadership, along with the ASSOCHAM Excellence Awards 2026, at Taj Vivanta Kolkata on June 24. The conclave brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers and industry experts to discuss succession planning, governance, innovation and sustainable growth in family-run enterprises. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta and Padma Shri awardee Narayan Chakraborty. A major highlight was the ASSOCHAM



Excellence Awards 2026, recognizing outstanding achievements in leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship. Panel discussions focused on leadership transition, governance and the growing role of women in shaping the future of family businesses. Organizers said the conclave created a valuable platform for networking, knowledge sharing and strengthening India's family business ecosystem.

International Yoga Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm and Wellness Activities

Buddhadeb Misra: The International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, bringing together nearly 200 participants for a day dedicated to health, wellness and spiritual growth. The event was graced by distinguished guests including Mrs. Alka-Jalan, Mr. Gaurav Swaroop, His Grace Radha Pada Prabhu, H.G. Ishwar Vishambhar Prabhu and Mr. K.K. Bansal. Participants took part in a group yoga session, face yoga exercises, meditation and spiritual interaction programs. The event promoted physical fitness, mental well-being and



inner peace. A healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch were provided by Centre Point Wellness Clinic. Attendees appreciated the well-organized program and left inspired, refreshed and happy after the successful celebration.

US-Iran Peace Deal Faces Early Turbulence Despite Diplomatic Breakthrough

Conflicting Narratives, Nuclear Inspections, and Strait of Hormuz Tensions Threaten Fragile Understanding

A tentative peace agreement aimed at reducing tensions between the United States and Iran is facing significant complications even before its full implementation. The deal, reportedly brokered through diplomatic efforts in Islamabad, was initially hailed as a potential breakthrough in easing regional instability. However, conflicting statements from both sides have exposed deep mistrust and highlighted the challenges that lie ahead. Senior Iranian negotiators have publicly characterized the agreement as a "declaration of American defeat," framing the outcome as evidence of Tehran's resilience in the face of sustained economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure. The remarks have sparked concerns in Washington, where officials continue to present the arrangement as a strategic step toward regional stability rather than a concession.

Adding to the friction, US President Donald Trump has strongly rejected claims that Iran could impose tolls or restrictions on international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway remains one of the world's most strategically important maritime routes, with approximately one-fifth of global oil consumption passing through it. Any disruption in the strait has the potential to trigger significant volatility in global energy markets and international trade.

The issue has gained renewed attention following reports suggesting that Iran could seek greater control over commercial transit in the region. US officials maintain that freedom of navigation in the Gulf remains non-negotiable and that international shipping lanes must remain open under international law.

Meanwhile, another major point of contention concerns Iran's nuclear programme. The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog has announced plans for inspectors to visit Iranian nuclear facilities as part of efforts to verify compliance with any future agreement. Such inspections are considered crucial for building international confidence and preventing



the escalation of nuclear-related tensions.

However, Iranian authorities have responded cautiously, insisting that comprehensive access to nuclear sites will only be granted after a final and fully negotiated agreement is reached. Tehran argues that premature inspections without clear guarantees could compromise national security and weaken its negotiating position.

The dispute reflects a longstanding challenge in US-Iran relations. Since the collapse of previous nuclear arrangements and the reimposition of sanctions, trust between the two sides has remained exceptionally low. Both governments continue to face domestic political pressures that limit their flexibility at the negotiating table.

Regional stakeholders are closely monitoring developments. Gulf nations, European powers, and interna-

tional organizations have welcomed diplomatic engagement but remain concerned that inflammatory rhetoric or disagreements over implementation could derail the process. Analysts note that while the Islamabad initiative represents an important opening, lasting peace will depend on concrete commitments, transparent verification mechanisms, and sustained diplomatic dialogue.

For now, the agreement remains more a framework for future negotiations than a finalized settlement. The coming weeks will be critical in determining whether both sides can bridge their differences or whether competing narratives and unresolved disputes will once again push the region toward confrontation.

As diplomacy advances, the challenge is no longer reaching an agreement—it is ensuring that both sides can successfully implement and sustain it.

Global Flashpoints: Conflict, Climate Crisis and Political Upheaval Shape World Headlines

Middle East Tensions Persist

Lebanon Ceasefire Violations: Air strikes in southern Lebanon have reportedly killed multiple people despite ongoing diplomatic negotiations in Washington. Israel continues to insist on maintaining troops within a southern security zone, raising concerns over the durability of the ceasefire process.

Russia Issues Nuclear Warning

Following the formal expiration of the New START arms control treaty with the United States, Moscow declared that its nuclear arsenal remains the "only guarantee" against a global war, signaling growing uncertainty in international strategic stability.

US Housing Reform Advances:

The US House of Representatives has passed a major affordable housing bill and forwarded it for presidential approval. However, political disagreements continue, with President Donald Trump reportedly linking support for similar measures to voter identification reforms.

China Expands Ethnic Unity Oversight:

Beijing has approved a sweeping "Transnational Ethnic Unity Law," granting authorities broader powers to monitor and influence ethnic minority communities beyond China's borders.

Colombia Shifts Right:

Colombia's political landscape witnessed a significant change as left-wing leader Ivan Cepeda conceded defeat, confirming a victory for the na-

tion's right-wing coalition in the general election.

Deadly European Heatwave:

A record-breaking "Omega" heatwave has swept across Europe, with France recording its highest temperature since records began in 1947. The extreme weather triggered major power outages affecting thousands of households. Authorities also reported at least 40 drowning deaths over five days as people sought relief from the intense heat.

Ebola Alert in Africa and Europe:

The Africa CDC has warned that the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo could become the country's most severe on record. Meanwhile, France has confirmed a case involving a traveler returning from the affected region, raising concerns about international monitoring and containment. Bill Gates Testifies Before Congress: During a closed-door hearing of the US House Oversight Committee, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates reportedly acknowledged having had multiple extramarital affairs and stated that Jeffrey Epstein later attempted to use that information for blackmail.

Global Outlook

From escalating geopolitical tensions and nuclear warnings to extreme climate events and emerging health threats, the international community faces a rapidly evolving landscape demanding coordinated diplomatic, humanitarian and policy responses.

Healing Arts Ukraine Launches to Address War Trauma Through Creative Health Interventions

Lviv, Ukraine, June 24, 2026: As Ukraine continues to grapple with the devastating psychological impact of war, a major international initiative aimed at addressing the country's growing mental health crisis has been launched in Lviv. Titled "Healing Arts Ukraine 2026," the programme seeks to integrate arts-based therapies into healthcare and psychosocial support systems, positioning creative health as a critical component of national recovery.

The initiative is being led by Art Therapy Force in collaboration with the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, and King's College London.

According to organizers, nearly 93 percent of

Ukrainians report symptoms associated with stress or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), while only one in four people seeking mental health support can currently access care. Against this backdrop, Healing Arts Ukraine aims to bridge the treatment gap through evidence-based creative interventions.

The week-long programme includes a practitioner training school, an Arts and Health Congress, and twenty free public events across Lviv. Participants include artists, psychologists, healthcare professionals, policymakers, educators, military representatives, and international organizations.

Founder of Art Therapy Force, Veronika Skliarova, said arts-based practices are increasingly helping individuals process trauma, rebuild social connections, and strengthen psychological resilience. Experts involved in the initiative emphasized that creative therapies are not merely supplementary activities but vital tools for recovery, particularly in conflict zones where healthcare infrastructure remains under severe strain.

The programme also seeks to advance policy discussions on integrating arts into formal healthcare systems through models such as "Arts on Prescription." Organizers hope the initiative will help transform existing grassroots arts-and-health efforts into recognized components of Ukraine's national recovery strategy.

As war continues to affect millions of civilians and soldiers, Healing Arts Ukraine underscores the growing recognition that cultural and creative interventions can play a significant role in healing communities, restoring hope, and building long-term resilience.



LEONARDO DA VINCI
LADY WITH AN ERMINE
1490
OIL ON WOOD

Black Pepper Parmesan Shortbread

Ingredients

- 1 cup (225g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1½ cups (190g) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (100g) finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar (optional, for balance)

Method

1. In a large bowl, beat the softened butter until smooth and creamy.
2. Add the grated Parmesan, black pepper, salt, and sugar (if using). Mix well.
3. Gradually add the flour and combine until a soft dough forms.
4. Shape the dough into a log

about 2 inches in diameter. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour until firm.

5. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) and line a baking tray with parchment paper.

6. Slice the chilled dough into ¼-inch thick rounds and arrange them on the tray, leaving a little space between each cookie.

7. Bake for 15–18 minutes, or until the edges turn lightly golden.

8. Allow the shortbread to cool on the tray for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

Serving Suggestion:

Serve these crisp, buttery savory cookies with tea, coffee, soup, or a cheese platter. Their rich Parmesan flavor and gentle peppery kick make them an elegant appetizer or snack.



UN High-Level HIV/AIDS Summit Seeks Renewed Global Commitment to End Epidemic

New York, June 24, 2026: World leaders, health experts and civil society organizations have convened at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, a landmark gathering held once every five years to shape the global response to the HIV epidemic. The summit is expected to establish priorities and commitments that will guide international HIV and AIDS policies through 2031.

The meeting comes at a crucial time as governments and advocacy groups seek to sustain progress made over recent decades while addressing emerging political, social and financial challenges. Among the organiza-



tions participating is Aidsfonds, which is calling for stronger political commitments, rights-based policies and increased investment in HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

Advocates have highlighted con-

cerns over a changing global political environment since the previous high-level meeting in 2021. At that time, countries endorsed commitments aimed at supporting populations disproportionately affected by HIV, including LGBTQ+

communities, sex workers and women facing gender-based inequalities. However, campaigners warn that growing anti-rights movements and declining funding in some regions now threaten progress achieved in the global fight against the disease.

A key outcome of the summit will be a new political declaration that is expected to influence national HIV strategies and provide civil society groups with a framework for monitoring government accountability and implementation of commitments.

The 2026 meeting also carries historic significance as it could be the last major global HIV summit coordinated under the current

structure of UNAIDS. The UN agency responsible for leading the international AIDS response is expected to undergo substantial restructuring, with its functions being distributed among several United Nations bodies.

Health experts caution that strong international coordination remains essential to preserving decades of gains in HIV prevention and treatment. As negotiations continue, governments are being urged to adopt ambitious, inclusive and adequately funded commitments that can accelerate efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat while ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities are not left behind.

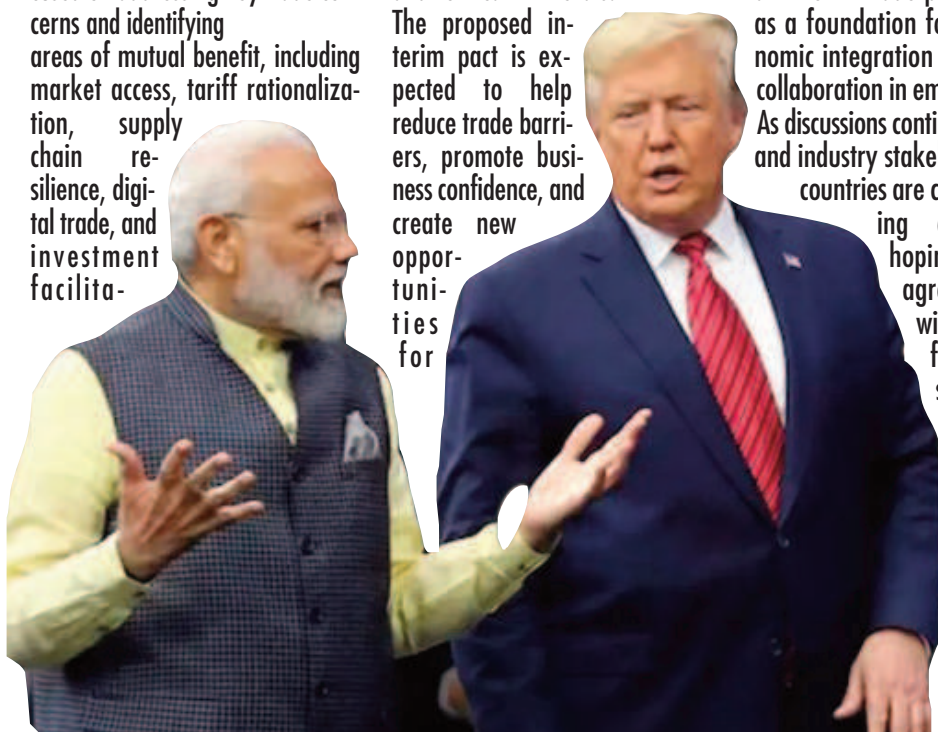
India, US Conclude Ministerial Trade Talks; Interim Pact Moves Closer Amid Timeline Uncertainty



New Delhi/Washington: India and the United States have successfully concluded ministerial-level discussions on a proposed interim trade agreement, marking a significant step forward in strengthening economic ties between the two strategic partners. While both sides expressed optimism and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening trade and investment cooperation, a definitive timeline for finalizing the pact remains uncertain. The latest round of negotiations focused on addressing key trade concerns and identifying areas of mutual benefit, including market access, tariff rationalization, supply chain resilience, digital trade, and investment facilitation.

Officials from both countries described the discussions as constructive and forward-looking, indicating substantial progress toward an interim arrangement that could pave the way for a broader comprehensive trade agreement in the future. India and the United States have witnessed steadily growing bilateral trade in recent years, with both governments seeking to expand cooperation across sectors such as manufacturing, technology, energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals. The proposed interim pact is expected to help reduce trade barriers, promote business confidence, and create new opportunities for

exporters and investors on both sides. Despite the positive outcome of the ministerial talks, negotiators have not announced a deadline for concluding the agreement. Officials indicated that certain issues require further technical consultations before a final framework can be agreed upon. Trade experts view the progress as an important signal of the growing strategic partnership between the world's largest and fifth-largest economies. They believe an interim trade pact could serve as a foundation for deeper economic integration and enhanced collaboration in emerging sectors. As discussions continue, businesses and industry stakeholders in both countries are closely monitoring developments, hoping for an agreement that will boost trade flows, strengthen supply chains, and further solidify India-US economic relations in an increasingly complex global trade environment.



India Emerges as Global Scrap Trade Powerhouse Amid Rising Demand for Green Steel

New Delhi: India has emerged as the world's largest scrap importer, spending more than \$12.7 billion annually on ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap to fuel its rapidly expanding steel, manufacturing and recycling industries. The country's growing focus on sustainable industrialization and green steel production has transformed scrap metal into a strategic resource for economic growth. **Rising Import Demand** Driven by the expansion of Electric Arc Furnaces (EAFs) and low-carbon steel manufacturing, India is estimated to require up to 30 million tonnes of scrap annually. To meet this demand, the country imports substantial quantities of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap from major suppliers including

new challenges for Indian importers. **Expanding Export Opportunities** Although India remains a net importer, its scrap export sector is steadily gaining momentum. The country exports scrap iron and other recyclable metals to markets such as Sweden, Vietnam, China and Germany. India's globally recognized ship recycling industry, particularly at Alang, plays a crucial role in generating high-quality steel scrap. The dismantling sector supplies valuable recycled metal for domestic consumption and exports to countries including Russia, South Korea and the United States. **High-Value Scrap Segments** Industry experts identify steel as



the United States, Netherlands, the European Union, and the United Arab Emirates. India has also surpassed China to become the world's largest importer of aluminum scrap, reflecting the increasing demand from sectors such as automotive manufacturing, construction and packaging. However, securing scrap supplies is becoming increasingly challenging as several developed economies introduce export restrictions to retain recyclable materials for their domestic circular economies. These measures are intensifying competition for global scrap resources and creat-

the dominant segment, accounting for nearly 80 percent of revenue generated by successful scrap operations. Meanwhile, copper and aluminum scrap continue to offer strong profit potential due to their high resale value and sustained international demand. As global industries increasingly embrace recycling and sustainability, India's position at the center of the international scrap trade is expected to strengthen further. Experts note that success in the sector will depend on efficient supply chain management, regulatory compliance and the ability to navigate evolving international market dynamics.

Navy Chief Hails Tri-Commissioning of Three Warships as Symbol of India's Maritime Transformation

Kolkata, June 21: Chief of the Naval Staff Dinesh K Tripathi hailed the commissioning of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray as a landmark achievement reflecting India's growing self-reliance, technological advancement and shipbuilding prowess. Speaking at the tri-commissioning ceremony in Kolkata, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Admiral Tripathi said the event underscored the rapid transformation of India's maritime sector and defence manufacturing ecosystem. He described the Prime Minister's presence as a testament to the



government's commitment to strengthening India's maritime power and strategic capabilities. The Navy Chief noted that this was

the second tri-commissioning ceremony within just 17 months, following Independent India's first such event in Mumbai, highlight-

ing the increasing pace of indigenous warship construction. Among the newly commissioned vessels, INS Dunagiri, the fifth frigate under Project 17A, features advanced combat systems and was completed around 33 per cent faster than ships built under the previous frigate programme. INS Sanshodhak, the fourth hydrographic survey vessel of the Sandhayak class, was commissioned on World Hydrography Day and will support navigation safety, maritime development and Blue Economy initiatives under India's MAHASAGAR Vision. INS Agray,

the fourth Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of the Arana class, showcases successful public-private partnership in defence production. Admiral Tripathi congratulated Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), industry partners, MSMEs and naval teams for their contributions. He expressed confidence that the three platforms would significantly enhance the Indian Navy's operational capabilities and strengthen maritime security, adding that they would write new chapters in the Navy's illustrious history.

India, UAE Strengthen Defence Ties Under Strategic Partnership Framework



India and the United Arab Emirates held high-level talks in New Delhi to advance defence cooperation under the Strategic Defence Partnership Framework. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), and Brigadier Staff Jamal Ebrahim Mohamed Ebrahim Almar-Zooqi of the UAE. Discussions focused on expanding collaboration in the defence industry, promoting innovation, leveraging emerging

and niche technologies, and strengthening maritime security. Both sides reviewed ongoing initiatives and explored new avenues for cooperation to address evolving regional and global security challenges. The dialogue reaffirmed the commitment of India and the UAE to deepening strategic ties and enhancing defence capabilities through closer coordination, technology partnerships, and joint efforts in security and capacity building.

Rajnath Singh Celebrates International Day of Yoga with Armed Forces in Shillong

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh joined nearly 1,000 personnel of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force at the Eastern Command IAF station in Shillong to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026. Addressing the gathering, he described Yoga as a holistic science and a way of life that promotes mental clarity, emotional resilience, physical well-being, and



inner strength. Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of Yoga in enhancing discipline and stress management, particularly among defence personnel. He also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elevating Yoga into a global movement, highlighting India's enduring contribution to humanity's health and well-being through this ancient practice.

Indian Army Leads Intensive Rescue Effort After Taratala Building Collapse

The Indian Army has joined a large-scale search and rescue operation following the collapse of an under-construction godown in Kolkata's Taratala area, where several people are feared trapped beneath the debris. Acting on a request from the civil administration, the Army's Eastern Command deployed four rescue columns comprising combat engineers, specialized rescue personnel, and medical teams. Working alongside the NDRF, SDRF, and Kolkata Police, the teams are conducting intensive operations to locate and rescue survivors from the rubble. Engineering experts are assessing structural stability to ensure safe debris removal, while Army medical personnel remain on standby to provide emergency treatment. Senior



Army officers are overseeing the mission as authorities continue efforts to save lives and assess the extent of the tragedy.

Defence IT Committee Pushes for Self-Reliance and Advanced Technologies

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth chaired the 15th meeting of the Defence Information Technology Consultative Committee (DITCC) in New Delhi, emphasizing Aatma-Nirbharta in information technology and the timely adoption of cutting-edge technologies for na-



tional defence. Experts deliberated on the use of disruptive technologies in modern warfare, focusing on key areas such as indigenous advanced chip manufacturing, development of a sovereign operating system and database, and strategic placement of defence

data centres. The committee approved several projects expected to strengthen the capabilities of the Armed Forces while contributing to India's broader technological development goals under the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. Senior officials, scientists, industry leaders, and academic experts attended the meeting.

ART OF THE WEEK



Suparna Sen

SHOT OF THE WEEK



Beauty of Nature is far beyond human Exploitation

Diksha Varma -Shillong

MORAL & LIFE VALUE RIDDLES

11. I grow when you share me, but shrink when you hide me. What am I?
12. The more you practice me, the stronger I become. I help you wait calmly. What am I?
13. I cost nothing but can brighten someone's day. What am I?
14. I cannot be bought, but I can be earned. Once broken, I am hard to rebuild. What am I?
15. I follow every action you take and often return what you give. What am I?

The Echo in the Valley

— A Story on Karma —

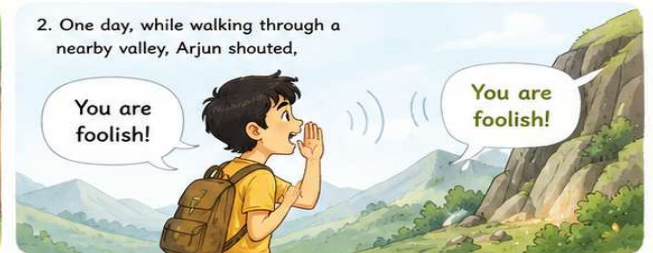
1. In a peaceful village there lived a young boy named Arjun. He was clever and hardworking, but he often mocked others and cared little about their feelings.



2. One day, while walking through a nearby valley, Arjun shouted,

You are foolish!

You are foolish!



3. Angry, he yelled,

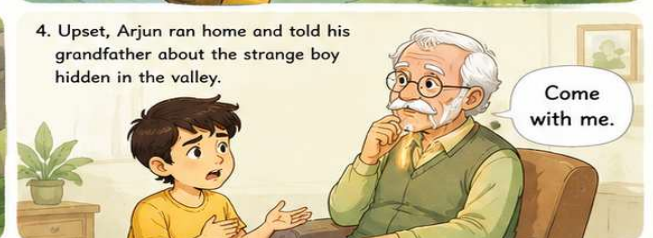
I hate you!

I hate you!



4. Upset, Arjun ran home and told his grandfather about the strange boy hidden in the valley.

Come with me.



5. The next morning, they returned to the valley. The old man called out,

You are wonderful!

You are wonderful!



6. Then he shouted,

I wish you happiness!

I wish you happiness!



7. Arjun looked at his grandfather in amazement.



8. "My child," the old man said, "there is no one in the valley. What you hear is your own echo. Life works the same way. What you give to the world eventually comes back to you. This is karma."

9. Arjun thought deeply about those words. From that day on, he treated people with kindness and respect. He helped neighbors, encouraged friends, and shared what he had with those in need.



10. Years later, when Arjun faced difficult times, the people he had helped came forward to support him. Standing among his friends, he remembered the valley and smiled.



He had finally understood the lesson:
Karma is the echo of our actions.

Whatever we send into the world—
kindness or cruelty—returns to us in time.



"Let the rain
kiss you.
Let the rain
beat upon your head
with silver
liquid drops.
Let the rain
sing you a lullaby."

— Langston Hughes

India Face Crucial T20 World Cup Clash as Charani and Sooryavanshi Shine



New Delhi: The Indian women's cricket team faces a must-win encounter against Bangladesh in the ICC Women's



T20 World Cup after suffering a setback against South Africa. A victory is essential to keep India's semifinal hopes alive

in the tournament. Meanwhile, young spinner SreeCharani has climbed to the No.1 spot in the ICC Women's T20I Bowler Rankings following a sensational run that saw her claim 10 wickets in just three matches. In men's cricket, teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi created history by recording the fastest half-century in List A cricket. Representing India A against Sri Lanka A, he raced to his fifty in just 11 deliveries, setting a new world record and drawing widespread attention across the cricketing world.

New Delhi: Indian athletics witnessed a remarkable day at the Inter-State Athletics National Championships as pole vaulter Dev Meena broke his own national record by clearing an impressive 5.46 metres. The record-breaking performance not only reaffirmed his status as India's leading pole vaulter but also secured his qualification for the 2026 Asian Games.

In another standout achievement, Anushka set a new national record in the women's hammer throw. Her record-breaking effort earned her a

Dev Meena and Anushka Rewrite National Records, Qualify for Asian Games



coveted qualification spot for the upcoming Asian Games, highlighting the growing strength of Indian field events on the international stage.



The twin milestones underline India's rising athletics standards and boost the country's medal hopes ahead of major continental competitions.

India Women Clinch FIH Nations Cup, Earn Return to Pro League

New Delhi: The Indian Women's Hockey Team produced a memorable performance to win the FIH Women's Nations Cup, defeating New Zealand 2-0 in the final. The victory marks a significant achievement for Indian hockey and secures the team's promotion back to the elite FIH Pro League. India displayed disciplined defending and clinical finishing to over-



come a strong New Zealand side in the title clash. The triumph reflects the steady progress of the women's team on the interna-

tional stage and highlights the growing depth of Indian hockey. By lifting the Nations Cup trophy, India has earned the opportunity to compete against the world's top-ranked teams in the Pro League, providing valuable exposure ahead of major global tournaments and strengthening the country's prospects in international hockey.

India Stuns South Korea to Win Recurve Mixed-Team Gold

Antalya: India achieved a major breakthrough in international archery as the duo of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Kumkum Mohod clinched the recurve mixed-team gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya. The Indian pair produced a superb performance to defeat reigning Olympic champions South Korea by a convincing 5-1 margin in the



final. Their victory against one of

the sport's most dominant nations is being hailed as one of India's most significant achievements in recurve archery. The gold medal highlights India's growing strength on the global archery stage and provides a major confidence boost ahead of upcoming international competitions, including the Asian Games and World Championships.

Ronaldo Creates History as Brazil and Canada Advance at FIFA World Cup 2026

North America: Football icon Cristiano Ronaldo etched his name into the record books by becoming the first player in history to score in six different FIFA World Cups, finding the net in Portugal's emphatic 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, Vinicius Junior starred for Brazil with a brilliant brace in a 3-0 win over Scotland, helping the five-time champions secure a place in the Round of 32. His performance also broke a 24-year-old Brazilian team record and boosted his chances in the Golden Boot race.

In another landmark achievement, co-hosts Canada qualified for the FIFA World Cup knockout stage for the first time in their history. De-

spite a 2-1 defeat to Switzerland in the group stage, Canada progressed, marking a memorable milestone for the host nation.



NURSING JOBS IN GERMANY

BUILD YOUR NURSING CAREER IN GERMANY



INTRODUCTION:

Germany is actively recruiting international nurses to fill over 200,000 vacancies, offering a stable, high-salary career (approx. €2,800-€5,000+ per month) with a clear path to permanent residency

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Educational Qualification:**
B.Sc. Nursing / GNM / PB B.Sc. Nursing / M.Sc. Nursing
- German Language Requirement:**
A1, A2, B1 & B2 levels (Goethe / TELC)
- Age Limit:**
Below 39 years
- Gender:**
Both male and female candidates are eligible
- Experience:**
Freshers can also apply

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

PHASE 1 PREPARATION



A1-B2

Enroll in German language training (A1 to B2)

Duration 4-6 months

Complete B1 & B2 certification (mandatory)

PHASE 2 DOCUMENTATION & REGISTRATION



Apply for nursing registration in Germany (3-6 months process)

Apostille of documents from Ministry of External Affairs

Translation of documents into German

PHASE 3 JOB PLACEMENT



Attend video interview with German hospital

Receive job offer/contract

PHASE 4 VISA & TRAVEL



Apply and complete Germany visa process

Travel to Germany

Airport pickup and accommodation support

PHASE 5 AFTER ARRIVAL



Join integration program

Start job as per contract

Receive first salary within 30 days



CLOSING STATEMENT:

We will support you throughout the entire process including training, documentation, job placement, visa, and settlement in Germany.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.



WHATSAPP US : 9674309492



NO REGISTRATION FEES



SAFE & LEGAL PROCESS



100% SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP



BRIGHT FUTURE IN GERMANY