

Global digital archive to deal with disasters beneficial for the whole world: Prime Minister

New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need for resilience in disaster management and development, saying that a global digital archive of learnings and best practices to recover from disasters would be beneficial for the whole world. He called for building such infrastructure that stands firm against time and tide. The Prime Minister addressed the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025 held in France through a video message on the second and final day. In his address, the Prime Minister urged global efforts to build a strong and disaster-resistant future for the world. He said that global cooperation and partnership is needed to reduce the effects of disasters and ensure development. To build a disaster-resistant future, we have to work together to reduce the effects of disasters and ensure development. The



global digital archive can play an important role in dealing with disasters and promoting resilience in development. Referring to the theme of the conference 'Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions', he said that coastal areas and islands are very vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Modi gave examples of recent disasters such as Cyclone Rambel in India and Bangladesh, Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, Typhoon Yagi in South-East Asia, Hurricane Helene in the United States, Typhoon Usagi in the Philippines and Cyclone Chido in

parts of Africa. He stressed that such disasters caused loss of life and property. The Prime Minister recalled the pain of devastating disasters including the 1999 super-cyclone and the 2004 tsunami in India and said that India adapted and rebuilt with resilience in mind. Cyclone shelters were built in vulnerable areas and also helped create tsunami warning systems for 29 countries. The Prime Minister said that the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is working with 25 small island developing states. Disaster resilient homes, hospitals, schools, energy, water security and early warning systems are being built. Modi appreciated the presence of representatives from the Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean regions and welcomed the participation of the African Union in the coalition. The Prime Minister drew attention to key global priorities and outlined 5 key themes. First, the importance of integrating disaster

resilience courses, modules and skill development programmes in higher education to build a skilled workforce to tackle future challenges. Second, he emphasized the need for a global digital repository to document best practices and learnings from countries that have faced disasters and rebuilt resiliently. Third, Modi highlighted the need for innovative financing for disaster resilience and called for actionable programmes to ensure developing countries have access to the necessary funds. Fourth, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to recognizing small island developing States as large ocean countries and stressed the need to pay special attention to their vulnerabilities. Referring to the fifth priority, Modi highlighted the need to strengthen early warning systems and coordination, underlining their crucial role in facilitating timely decision-making and effective last-mile communication.

French Open: Sinner reaches final after defeating Novak Djokovic, will face Alcaraz

Paris, Tennis player Jannik Sinner has made it to his first Grand Slam final by defeating Novak Djokovic in the French Open semi-finals. He will face defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the final. Alcaraz made it to the final by defeating Lorenzo Musetti in another semi-final. World number 1 player Sinner defeated Djokovic 6-4, 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) on Court Philippe Chatrier to play his first French Open final. 23-year-old Sinner said after the match, "He is the greatest player in the history of our game, it is a great experience to play against him here. There is a little tension before stepping on the court, but



I tried not to pay attention to it." Djokovic's three set points went in vain. 38-year-old Djokovic showed fighting spirit as usual and fought hard in the match that lasted three hours and 16 minutes, but after losing three set points in the third set, his hopes of comeback were dashed. Now Djokovic will try to win

his 25th Grand Slam at Wimbledon next month. Sinner-Alcaraz clash On the other hand, Sinner has not lost a single set in the tournament so far and he would like to take revenge for the five-set defeat he suffered in the semi-finals last year from Alcaraz. Alcaraz has won four consecutive matches against Sinner, including

the Italian Open final in May. This will be the first time when two players who were born after 2000 will face each other in a Grand Slam final. The special thing is that both Sinner and Alcaraz have not suffered defeat in any Grand Slam final till date. Final between top seeds in both categories for the first time since 2013. This is the first time since the 2013 US Open that the top two seeded players will face each other in the finals of both men's and women's categories in a Grand Slam. In the women's final, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff will clash for the 'Coupe Suzanne Lenglen' trophy on Saturday.

India has taken 27 crore people out of extreme poverty line in 11 years: World Bank

New Delhi, According to the latest report of the World Bank, India has achieved remarkable achievement in the direction of eradicating extreme poverty. In India, 269 million (about 27 crore) people have come out of the extreme poverty line in 11 years. According to the latest report of the World Bank, the rate of extreme poverty in the country was 27.1 percent in 2011-12, which has come down to only 5.3 percent by 2022-23. During the same period, 344.47 million (34.4 crore) people were living in extreme poverty in the country, while by 2022-23 this number has come down to 75.24 million (7.5 crore). This means that during this period about 269

million (26.9 crore) Indians have been taken out of the extreme poverty line. These five states have a decisive role in reducing poverty Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh - 65 percent of the country's extremely poor lived in these five states in 2011-12. Now these five states have contributed more than two-thirds in poverty elimination by 2022-23. Extreme poverty in cities came down from 10.7 percent to 1.1 percent. According to the report, the World Bank has assessed poverty on the basis of the international poverty line of \$ 3.00 per day (at 2021 prices). This shows a sharp decline in poverty in both rural and urban areas. During the same period, extreme poverty in rural areas

has come down from 18.4 percent to 2.8 percent, while extreme poverty in urban areas has come down from 10.7 percent to 1.1 percent. At the same time, based on the previous poverty line of \$ 2.15 per day (at 2017 prices), the rate of extreme poverty in India has come down from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to just 2.3 percent in 2022. The number of Indians living below this limit has come down from 205.93 million (20.59 crores) in 2011 to 33.66 million (3.36 crores) in 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described this achievement as the result of schemes like PM Awas Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana and Ayushman Bharat run

by the government for the poor. He said that in the last 11 years, the Center has launched many schemes focusing on infrastructure, inclusion and transparency, which directly benefited the poor. These initiatives have expanded people's access to housing, clean cooking fuel, banking services and healthcare. Apart from this, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), digital services and rural development related works have also empowered the poor economically. The Prime Minister said that due to all these efforts, more than 25 crore people have been able to come out of poverty. This achievement is a big step towards making India a poverty free nation.

booths and not providing CCTV records. In response, the Commission said that more than 6.4 crore voters voted from 7 am to 6 pm. On an average, 58 lakh votes were cast every hour. 65 lakh votes cast in the last two hours is less than the normal average. The Election Commission clarified that agents appointed by political parties were present at every booth. No one raised any doubts before the Returning Officer the next day. According to the Commission, the process of

preparing the voter list is done under the Representation of the People Act 1950 and the Electoral Rules 1960. The final voter list was given to all parties. Only 89 complaints were received against it, none of which were made by the Congress. The Commission said that 97 thousand booth level officers and 1.03 lakh booth agents appointed by all parties were deployed at more than 1 lakh booths. Congress had also appointed more than 27 thousand agents. The Commission said that elections are held transparently under the law and any kind of incorrect information is not only an insult to the law but also lowers the morale of lakhs of people associated with the election process. The Commission said that all these facts were sent to the Congress on 24 December 2024. Despite this, repeatedly making such allegations is completely inappropriate.



Five women who returned from India found corona infected, health alert issued in border areas

Kathmandu, Five women who returned from India were found infected with corona on Saturday. Since then, a health alert has been issued in the border area. This is the second consecutive day when symptoms of corona infection have been seen in Nepali citizens who returned from India. On Friday, two people were confirmed to be infected with corona. Since then, corona tests are being conducted on people entering Nepal from India. Five women from Sudur Paschim Province who returned home from India through the Gauriphanta check point in Nepal were found infected with the corona virus. People from India who returned from India at the checkpoint through this check point



were found to be suffering from corona virus in the antigen test on Friday. Of the five people, three are from Kailali district and two are from Achham district. Hemraj Joshi, information officer of the Health Emergency Operation Center of Sudur Paschim Province, said that antigen tests were conducted on 30 suspected people who returned from India at the checkpoint. All the corona infected

Gukesh reminds me of my era of 2008-09: Magnus Carlsen

New Delhi, After winning the Norway Chess 2025 title, five-time world champion of chess Magnus Carlsen has praised Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh. Carlsen said that Gukesh's current style reminds him of his own early chess journey, especially the era of 2008-09. Carlsen said, "Gukesh's game reminds me of the time when I was emerging in chess. I too used to lose control many times but would get results. The same thing happened in the Linares tournament of 2008 when Anand was comfortably in first place and I was playing in a very chaotic manner and getting some results that perhaps did not match my pure skill." Carlsen admitted that the young players are moving in the right

direction, but they still need to learn a lot. He said, "Players like Gukesh and Arjun (Erigasi) are still behind experienced players like me, Fabiano (Caruana) and Hikaru (Nakamura) in many parts of the game, but this is natural, because we are the best players in the world and it would be hasty to expect them to be at par in every aspect." Gukesh showed his strength in Norway Chess. In this tournament, D. Gukesh created history by defeating Magnus Carlsen for the first time in the classical format and remained in the race for the title till the last round. However, after losing to Fabiano Caruana in the last round, he finished third. Praising Gukesh's performance, Carlsen said, "It is very inspiring that Gukesh stays in the competition even in such a bad position and challenges for the title. This is part of the same process that every young player goes through." The future of young players is bright. Carlsen believes that young talented players like D. Gukesh and Arjun have the potential to become world champions in the future, provided they constantly improve in every aspect of the game. It is worth noting that Gukesh has recently become the world champion and now he is moving towards establishing himself at the top level in classical chess as well.

Punjab National Bank cuts interest rate by 0.50 percent, new rates effective from June 9

New Delhi, After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the policy interest rates repo rate by 0.50 percent, public sector Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced a cut in interest rates by 50 basis points i.e. 0.50 percent. This move of the bank will help existing and new borrowers. The new rates will be effective from June 9, 2025. Punjab National Bank said in a post released on 'X', "Punjab National Bank has made the EMI of customers more affordable. After the RBI's 0.50 percent cut in the repo rate (from 6.00 percent to 5.50 percent), PNB has reduced its RLLR by 50 bps i.e. 0.50 percent, which will be effective from June 9, 2025." With the reduction in PNB's benchmark repo-linked benchmark lending rates (RBLR), the bank's home loan will start from 7.45 percent, while vehicle loans will start from 7.8 percent annum. It is noteworthy that a day



before this, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut the policy interest rates repo rate by 50 basis points i.e. 0.50 percent more than expected. Along with this, the central bank has unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to boost the economy and provide more money to banks for lending. In such a situation, people are expecting a similar announcement from other banks apart from PNB soon.

Election Commission called Rahul's allegations baseless, said - an attempt to defame on defeat

New Delhi, The Election Commission has given an official response to the article written in an English newspaper titled 'Match Fixing Maharashtra' by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. In the article, Rahul Gandhi had alleged large-scale rigging in the Maharashtra Assembly elections in November 2024. The Election Commission has described it as beyond facts and defamatory. The Election Commission said, "It is completely absurd to try to defame the Election Commission by saying (the match was fixed) after any adverse decision by the voters." Rahul had outlined the alleged electoral irregularities on five points in his article. These included issues like bias in the appointment of the Election Commissioner panel, adding names of fake voters, exaggerating the polling percentage, bogus voting at targeted

booths and not providing CCTV records. In response, the Commission said that more than 6.4 crore voters voted from 7 am to 6 pm. On an average, 58 lakh votes were cast every hour. 65 lakh votes cast in the last two hours is less than the normal average. The Election Commission clarified that agents appointed by political parties were present at every booth. No one raised any doubts before the Returning Officer the next day. According to the Commission, the process of

Eid-ul-Azha festival celebrated with full enthusiasm in the capital Delhi with the spirit of sacrifice

New Delhi, Eid-ul-Azha festival, a symbol of the spirit of sacrifice, is being celebrated with full devotion and respect in the capital Delhi. In the morning, Namaz-e-Dogha was offered in Eidgahs and mosques and after this, the memory of the incident of Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim sacrificing his son Prophet Hazrat Ismail in the path of Allah was crowned by offering animal sacrifice by Muslims. In Delhi's historic Shahjahan Jama Masjid, Shahi Imam Shaban Bukhari offered Eid al-Azha prayers for the first time after his turbaning. He got this opportunity due to the illness of his father, Bade Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari. A large number of Muslims offered Namaz of Eid ul Azha at Jama Masjid and after the Namaz, people hugged each other and congratulated each other. Similarly Imam Dr. Mufti Mukarram Ahmed

offered Namaz of Eid al-Azha at Shahi Masjid Fatchpuri. On this occasion, he prayed to Allah for prosperity, peace and tranquility in the country. Muslims also offered Namaz at Idgah situated on Rani Jhansi Road. Apart from this, Namaz of Eid ul Azha was also offered in mosques across Delhi. In view of the festival, swings have been installed for children at various places in Muslim dominated areas, where children were seen having a lot of fun after the Namaz. Crowds of children were also seen around those selling balloons and toys. The process of sacrificing animals by Muslims has been going on since morning and it will continue for the next two days. Special arrangements have been made by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and local Municipal Councilors to pick up the remains of the sacrificed animals. Special teams have been formed to clean the garbage in the streets and mohallas. Special cleanliness campaigns are being run in Muslim-dominated areas. Regional social organizations are also cooperating in this cleanliness campaign.