

# Navy set to commission anti-submarine warfare ship *Arnala* on June 18

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is all set to commission its Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) *Arnala* at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on June 18.

The event will mark the formal induction of the first of 16 ASW-SWC-class ships into the Navy. Designed and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under a public-private partnership with L&T Shipbuilders, *Arnala* was a “testament to the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative in defence manufacturing”, a release said.

The commissioning ce-



**Mission ready:** Indian Navy personnel and officials during the handover ceremony of *Arnala* in May. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

emony will be presided over by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan.

The warship incorporates more than 80% indigenous content. *Arnala* is equipped to conduct sub-surface surveillance, search and rescue missions, and low-intensity maritime operations. The

77-metre-long warship, with a gross tonnage of over 1,490 tonnes, is the largest Indian naval warship to be propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet combination.

“The commissioning of *Arnala* will mark a transformative moment in India’s naval capabilities,” the release said.

# Over last decade, India's extreme poverty rate falls to 5.3% from 27.1% as World Bank raises the bar

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

WITH THE WORLD Bank raising its threshold poverty line to \$3 a day (daily consumption of less than \$3) from the earlier \$2.15 a day, the extreme poverty rate for India declines sharply to 5.3 per cent in 2022-23 from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12. In absolute terms, people living in extreme poverty fell from 344.47 million to just 75.24 million, latest data from the World Bank shows.

At \$2.15 daily consumption — the earlier poverty line based on 2017 prices — the share of Indians living in extreme poverty is 2.3 per cent, which is significantly lower than 16.2 per cent in 2011-

12, according to the World Bank's estimates. The number of people living below the \$2.15-per-day poverty line is recorded at 33.66 million in 2022, down from 205.93 million in 2011.

Despite the World Bank revising its extreme poverty line to adjust for global inflation in 2021 prices, India seems to have fared

well, with the poverty numbers holding good. At \$3 a day threshold, India's extreme poverty rate for 2022-23 rises from 2.3 per cent (at a poverty line of \$2.15 a day) to 5.3 per cent, the World Bank estimates.

Adjusting the earlier \$2.15-per-day line for domestic inflation

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## THE NEW POVERTY LINE AT \$3 A DAY

	Poverty line (2021 prices)		Poverty line (2017 prices)	
	Extreme (\$3/day)	LMIC* (\$4.2/day)	Extreme (\$2.15/day)	LMIC* (\$3.65/day)
2011-12	27.10%	57.70%	16.20%	61.80%
2022-23	5.30%	23.90%	2.30%	28.10%

\*Lower-middle-income category; Source: The World Bank



# ● India's extreme poverty rate falls to 5.3% from 27.1%

from 2017 to 2021, according to sources, brings the threshold poverty line to roughly \$2.60 — still lower in real terms than the new \$3 a day benchmark.

The share of Indians living below the revised lower-middle-income category (LMIC) poverty line of \$4.20 per day (from \$3.65 in 2017 prices) also fell from 57.7 per cent in 2011-12 to 23.9 per cent in 2022-23. In absolute numbers, people living under the revised LMIC poverty line dips from 732.48 million to 342.32 million in a period of 11 years.

The World Bank estimates India's population at 1438.07 million in 2023, using its World Development Indicators database and the official Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

Based on the earlier LMIC line of \$3.65/day, India's poverty rate falls from 61.8 per cent to 28.1 per cent, with around 401 million Indians living below the \$3.65/day line in 2022.

Using the revised LMIC poverty line of \$4.20 per day in 2021 prices, India's poverty rate

drops to 23.9 per cent from 28.1 per cent in 2022-23. This may seem counter-intuitive, but sources said this is because the new threshold is about 5 per cent lower for India than the inflation-adjusted equivalent of the earlier \$3.65 benchmark.

When adjusted for domestic inflation between 2017 and 2021, the previous \$3.65 line would be roughly \$4.40 in 2021 prices, making the revised \$4.20 line effectively a lower bar for India.

Poverty rates for 2023-24 will be released in October under its Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP). Sources in the government said these numbers have not been arrived at internally too.

Under the \$3.65-per-day LMIC line (in 2017 prices), rural poverty fell from 69 per cent in 2011-12 to 32.5 per cent in 2022-23, while urban poverty dropped from 43.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent. The gap by education level was even starker—35.1 per cent of Indians over 16 without any schooling lived below the poverty line in 2022-23,

compared to just 14.9 per cent among those with a post-secondary education.

According to the World Bank's multidimensional poverty index (MPI), non-monetary poverty in India declined from 53.8 percent in 2005-06 to 15.5 per cent in 2022-23. The index comprises six indicators, namely consumption or income, educational attainment, educational enrolment, drinking water, sanitation, and electricity. The NITI Aayog has estimated that India's population living in multidimensional poverty fell to 11.28 per cent in 2022-23 from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14.

Data in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24 also indicates a rise in monthly consumption in India. In 2011-12 prices, rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased to Rs 2,079 in 2023-24 from Rs 1,430 in 2011-12, a rise of 45.4 per cent. Urban average monthly consumption expenditure increased by 38 per cent to Rs 3,632 per person from Rs 2,630.

# Modi accepts Canadian PM Carney's invite to G-7

PM's visit to Canada comes after a decade marred by tensions over Khalistan issue and expulsion of diplomats; Modi thanks Carney for the invite, says their meeting will give ties a 'renewed vigour'

**Suhasini Haidar**

NEW DELHI

**P**riime Minister Narendra Modi will represent India at the G-7 summit in Canada next week after he was invited by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during a telephone call. Mr. Modi confirmed the development on Friday.

The visit to Canada, Mr. Modi's first since 2015, could mark a reset in ties after years of tensions over Khalistani separatists targeting Indian diplomats and the killing of Canadian and Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, for which the previous Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, had blamed Indian government agents.

The invitation for India as a guest invitee for the G-7 summit to be held in Kananaskis, Alberta province of Canada, could also herald the restoration of India and Canada's diplomatic presence in each other's capitals, where both sides expelled High Commissioners, stopped visas temporarily, and cut staff strength drastically in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Italy last year. PTI

2023 and 2024. In October 2024, India and Canada also expelled each other's Deputy High commissioners, over further charges in the Nijjar case, and spying, respectively. This month also marks two anniversaries – 40 years since the bombing of the Air India “Kanishka” flight on June 23, 1985 by Khalistani separatists in Canada, and two years since the killing of Nijjar on June 18, 2023 near Toronto, and both governments would have to work around each other's sensitivities during the visit.

In a statement, Mr. Car-

ney said he and Mr. Modi had discussed the bilateral relationship, including people-to-people and commercial ties, making an oblique reference to the Nijjar case and Khalistan issue. “Importantly, there was agreement to continued law enforcement dialogue and discussions addressing security concern,” he said.

Announcing the visit, Mr. Modi said his meeting with Mr. Carney would give ties “renewed vigour”.

“As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Ca-

nada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit,” said Mr. Modi in a social media post, adding that he had thanked Mr. Carney for the invitation to the G-7 and congratulated him on his recent victory in Canadian elections.

Mr. Modi's attendance at the G-7 summit, where he has been to every year as a special invitee since 2019, will also give him the opportunity to meet leaders from France, U.S., U.K., Italy, Japan, and Germany, for the first time since Operation Sindoor. In particular, Mr. Modi will meet U.S. President Donald Trump, after a strain in ties over Mr. Trump's assertions that he mediated to end the four-day conflict between India and Pakistan.

The invitation comes after some speculation that Canada would not invite the Indian leader given the relationship at present, and the very short notice, with just over a week to go for the summit, added to the surprise of the announcement.



# Bangladesh to hold polls in April 2026, says Yunus

**Kallol Kanti Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh will have elections during the first half of April 2026, Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus announced on Friday.

In a nationally televised speech ahead of the Id holidays, Mr. Yunus said Bangladesh is in a “state of war”, and accused the “domestic and international supporters of the defeated fascist government” of attempting to destabilise the interim government.

“The next national election will be held in the first half of next year’s April.

We want such an election which will attract the largest number of political parties and political leaders. A large number of young people will get a chance to participate in this election,” said Mr. Yunus, in a speech that came days after the Chief of Ar-



Muhammad Yunus

my Staff, Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman, and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party expressed unhappiness over the delay in announcing election, and demanded that the polls be held by December this year.

## ‘Stuck to poll promise’

Mr. Yunus, in his speech, did not name Sheikh Hasina but referred to the deposed Prime Minister and her government as the “defeated fascist government” and said he has stuck to his previous promise of holding election between De-

cember 2025 and June 2026.

Referring to the prevailing uncertain circumstances, Mr. Yunus said Bangladesh is in a “state of war” and urged the country to be united. “The deposed fascist government and its domestic and international supporters are trying to derail the efforts to establish a new Bangladesh that has come up after the July uprising. They will try to re-establish their control over Bangladesh. The defeated power and their supporters are waiting to strike at us again. We are in a state of war and therefore we have to remain united,” said Mr. Yunus.

“Under no circumstances, we will allow them to succeed,” he said.

On June 16, the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka will take up the case of Ms. Hasina and her Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

# Trump and Musk's relationship melts down in blazing public row

The pair hurled insults at each other with Musk saying Trump was referenced in government documents on sex offender Jeffrey Epstein; the President threatened to cancel the 'crazy' entrepreneur's multibillion-dollar government contracts

**Agence France-Presse**

WASHINGTON

Americans considered the consequences on Friday of the spectacular split between Elon Musk and U.S. President Donald Trump, who threatened to strip the world's richest man of his huge government contracts.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk's unlikely political marriage exploded in a fiery public divorce on Thursday.

The President said in a televised Oval Office diatribe that he was "very disappointed" after his former aide and top donor criticised his "big, beautiful" spending Bill before Congress.



**Falling-out:** U.S. President Donald Trump speaks with Elon Musk before departing to the White House, in Florida. FILE PHOTO

The pair then hurled insults at each other on social media – with Mr. Musk even posting, without proof, that Mr. Trump was referenced in government documents on disgraced financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The row could have ma-

jor political and economic fallout, as shares in Mr. Musk's Tesla car company plunged and the South African-born tech tycoon vowed that he would end a critical U.S. spaceship programme.

But Mr. Trump played down the feud during an

interview with *Politico* on Thursday, saying: "Oh it's okay. It's going very well, never done better." A call with Mr. Musk has been scheduled by the White House on Friday in the hope of diffusing the situation, said the outlet.

"I'm very disappointed in Elon. I've helped Elon a lot," Mr. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "Elon and I had a great relationship. I don't know if we will any more."

## 'Trump's ingratitude'

Mr. Musk slammed the President for "ingratitude" and said the Republican would not have won the 2024 election without him.

As the spat got increasingly vindictive, Mr. Musk also posted that Mr. Trump

"is in the Epstein files," referring to U.S. government documents on the sex offender who killed himself while awaiting trial.

Mr. Trump finally suggested hitting the "crazy" entrepreneur where it hurts, threatening Mr. Musk's multibillion-dollar government contracts including for launching rockets and for the use of the Starlink satellite service.

Again Mr. Musk fired back, saying he would begin "decommissioning" his company's Dragon spacecraft which is vital for ferrying NASA astronauts to and from the International Space Station.

He later appeared to walk that back, replying to a user on X: "OK, we won't decommission Dragon."



## GENEVA

### UN rights chief demands the U.S. to withdraw sanctions on ICC judges



AP

▶ The United Nations human rights chief on Friday demanded that the United States lift sanctions it imposed on four International Criminal Court judges, saying they were contrary to the rule of law. "I call for the prompt reconsideration and withdrawal of these latest measures," Volker Turk said in a statement. AFP

## BUDAPEST

### Hungary's PM prohibits LGBTQ symbols on government buildings



AP

▶ Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban prohibited the display of symbols "referring to or promoting" sexual minorities on government buildings, hours before the 30th Budapest Pride festival formally opens on Friday. The nationalist leader has been rolling back LGBTQ rights in the name of "child protection". AFP

# Elon Musk's Starlink gets licence to start services in India

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country.

Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide satellite internet services in the country.

A fourth applicant, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals.

DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence and said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it.



Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat and Jio to get a licence from the govt.

Starlink will now have to comply with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services.

Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX, a firm founded by Mr. Musk. It provides high-speed broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology and is described as broadband beamed from the skies.



# RBI cuts rate by 50 bps, interest burden to ease

Central bank to reduce cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points; cuts to release ₹2.5 lakh crore of primary liquidity to banks by year-end; RBI maintains GDP growth forecast at 6.5% for 2025-26

**Lalatendu Mishra**

MUMBAI

In a bid to spur growth at a time when inflation has come under control, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday voted 5:1 to slash the policy repo rate by a bigger-than-expected 50 basis points to 5.50% with immediate effect. This is the RBI's third repo rate cut since February, and will further reduce the interest burden for borrowers, but will also cut the interest earned on savings by depositors.

Separately, the RBI also decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points (bps) over the course of this year, in an effort to provide sufficient and durable liquidity to the banking system. This

## A policy pivot

With the latest reduction, the RBI has cut rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with a quarter-point reduction in February and another similar-sized cut in April



means that the percentage of deposits that banks must keep in reserve with the central bank has been cut, leaving more money available for lending.

"The cut in CRR would release primary liquidity of about ₹2.5 lakh crore to the banking system by Decem-

ber 2025. Besides providing durable liquidity, it will reduce the cost of funding of the banks, thereby helping in monetary policy transmission to the credit market," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his statement.

The CRR will be reduced

to 3% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in a staggered manner, with four cuts of 25 bps, each taking effect from the fortnights beginning September 6, October 4, November 1, and November 29. One basis point is equal to 0.01%.

"This decision is in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/-2%, while supporting growth," the RBI said in the monetary policy statement (MPC).

Taking various factors into account, real GDP growth for 2025-26 has been maintained and projected at 6.5%.

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