





# Stage set for Rath Yatra

THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES HAVE STARTED THRONING PILGRIM TOWN PURI TO WITNESS THE NINE-DAY LONG RATH YATRA BEGINNING TODAY



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** The Odisha government has made elaborate arrangements for smooth and timely conduct of the famous annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings in Puri, Tuesday.

All roads lead to the pilgrim town. Thousands of devotees have started thronging pilgrim town Puri to witness the nine-day long Rath Yatra beginning Tuesday.

Lord Jagannath and his two siblings - elder brother

Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra - are all set to give darshan to the public in Rath and visit Gundicha Temple.

The three majestic chariots are ready and will be brought to the Singha Dwar and parked facing East towards Gundicha temple. The chariots will be pulled by lakhs of devotees Tuesday.

A large number of devotees visited the temple Monday on the occasion of Nabajouban darshan after the deities recovered from 14-day long illness.

The Parimanika darshan of the Lords was started early at

7.20am due to early completion of rituals and this was followed by the Sahana Mela darshan from 8.05am in which the devotees witnessed the Nabajoubana Beshha (attire) of the Lords from the Bhitara Katha inside the Jagmohan, said Odisha Chief Secretary PK Jena, who was in Puri Monday.

Praying for a chill weather tomorrow, Jena said all arrangements have been made keeping heat wave condition in view. Sufficient drinking water facilities including distribution of water bottles have been made for the devotees, he said.

Water sprinkling will be done by the fire service personnel and ORS will also be given to the devotees, Jena stated.

Till now, all the rituals are being conducted smoothly and little ahead. We will have another round of discussion with the senior servitors this evening for timely completion of the rituals during Ghosa Yatra, he added.

Tight security arrangements have been made in and around Puri town for the festival. The pilgrim town has been divided into 14 zones and 29 sectors.

# Major fire breaks out at 4-storeyed building

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** A major fire broke out at a four-storeyed building near BMC Bhawani Mall under Saheed Nagar police limits here Monday. Though no casualties were reported, properties worth over lakhs were gutted in the fire mishap.

"We found during initial investigation that an electric short circuit at an electric panel caused the fire. Soon a thick smoke engulfed the whole building including a bar on the ground floor. Four employees of a private travel and tourism firm operating on the fourth floor of the building were trapped in the smoke. Our first priority was to rescue the entrapped staffers unhurt which we managed to do successfully," told Abani Kumar Swain, the Deputy Fire Officer, Bhubaneswar.

Informed, the fire department officials reached the spot along with two fire tenders, advanced equipment like concrete cutter and 25 firemen at 11.45am. The fire was completely doused after around a two and half an hour grueling effort by the fire personnel.

We faced a lot off problem to bring the fire under control and rescue the four persons as the building has no emergency exit door. It has only one door for both entry and exit purposes, no ventilation system in place for smooth release of smoke. We found serious fire safety lapse in the building. We are going to issue notice against the owner for the absence of required fire safety measures in the multiplex building as per the rules," said Swain.

# Monsoon likely to hit Odisha in 2 to 3 days: IMD

After due consideration of the weather prediction, School & Mass Education department decided to reopen all schools June 21

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** The southwest monsoon is likely to hit Odisha within the next 2 to 3 days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday.

It said the southwest monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh, westcentral and north-west Bay of Bengal, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, some more parts of Bihar and remaining parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim Monday.

"Conditions are favorable for further advance of southwest monsoon over some more parts of south peninsular India, some parts of Odisha, some more parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh during the next 2-3 days," the IMD said.

The Met department further predicted that heatwave conditions



over east India and adjoining areas are likely to abate gradually from Tuesday onwards.

The maximum temperature (day temperature) is very likely to fall gradually by 4 to 6 degree Celsius

during the next 3 days and no large change thereafter at many places over the districts of Odisha.

Meanwhile, after due consideration of the weather prediction, the School & Mass Education department decided to reopen all schools June 21.

However, Collectors of Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Angul, Subarnapur and Bolangir are authorised to shift to morning school or declare holidays if the situation so demands.

Monday, seven places witnessed a maximum temperature of above 40 degrees Celsius.

# Smart queue mgmt system at Puri RTO

**Bhubaneswar/Puri:** Smart queue management system was inaugurated at Regional Transport Office (RTO), Puri on the eve of Rath Yatra, Monday, in an attempt to ensure hassle-free transport services in the Pilgrim City. The system was inaugurated by Commerce & Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu. Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur was also present on the occasion.

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- ▶ 246 MCuM Overburden Removal ▶ Committed to Atmanirbhar Bharat



# Fly ash dumping: Tehsildar asks SPCB to cancel Hindalco's CTO

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Sambalpur, June 19:** Days after publication of a report on dumping of fly ash at Nildunguri area under Jujumora tehsil of Sambalpur district allegedly by Hindalco Industries, the local tehsildar asked the state pollution control board (SPCB) to cancel the 'consent to operate' (CTO) to the industrial firm, Monday. **Orissa POST** had published a report June 15 on dumping of fly ash by the same firm. Tehsildar Abhishek Sahu in his letter (No-1620) to the regional officer of SPCB has said that the pollution board had issued CTO vide letter No 1570, dated-10.05.2023 to M/s Hindalco Industries Ltd for dumping of fly ash in Nildunguri. The tehsildar in the letter has



informed that the tehsil office was not consulted for the no-objection certificate (NoC) before granting the CTO. Sahu in his letter has further said that as the land in Khata No-3 and Plot No-44 in Nildunguri mouza has been leased out to a government-run firm, immediate steps are to be taken for cancellation of the CTO and informing the same to his office. The report had stirred a controversy as public representatives visited the spot and stopped the dumping of ash at the site as it was being done illegally without fulfilling the necessary conditions. A complaint was even

lodged against 'Kalyani Transport' at the Sadar police station. The representatives even alleged the involvement of leaders of a particular political party in carrying out the dumping activities while violating government norms. The huge quantity of fly ash has created problems both for vehicles plying on National Highway-53 as well people residing near the dumping ground. Thick layers of fly ash can be found both outside and inside the buildings. The villagers have been opposing the dumping of ash and had lodged complaints with the district collector and the SPCB. However, their pleas fell on deaf years. The issue had gained prominence as the area is surrounded by a village, a training centre of the Agriculture department, National Highway-53, forests and farmlands of the residents.

# Mystery over Rourkela statue collapse deepens

STATUE OF ICONIC PLAYER DHYAN CHAND TO BE RE-ERECTED AGAIN, SAYS RMC OFFICIAL

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Rourkela, June 19:** The mystery surrounding the collapse of the statue depicting a hockey player here continues. The administration has said that the statue is of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand as it had been erected at a place known as Major Dhyan Chand Square. However, till now, no plausible clause has been offered as to why the statue came crashing down. The fact-finding team, which was supposed to complete investigation in a week, is yet to submit its report. On the 12th of this month, the 40 feet statue of Major Dhyan Chand collapsed as the first nor-wester of the season hit the city. It had been erected just

ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup held earlier in the year and had become a major tourist attraction. However, when it collapsed, this city lost one of its iconic structures. The administration has blamed miscreants for the collapse of the statue. Officials had said that a portion of the pole supporting the structure had been cut off. However there were no answers to questions like how could the statue collapse due to a storm or what was the guard doing when miscreants had allegedly tampered with the pole. The BJP has alleged a sinister plan behind the whole episode. BJP state spokesperson Dhiren Senapaty said, "This is a big scam. Why eight mm steel was



used to support such a huge statue? Many more facts will emerge if the media is allowed to go near the statue." The Congress also has termed the entire episode as fishy. Congress leader Biren Senapaty said, "What are they (administration) trying to hide? This is nothing but pushing things under the rug and hiding facts from the public." Initially when the statue collapsed, a two-member team comprising a PWD engineer and a professor from NIT Rourkela was formed to investigate the matter. The team was then expanded with the joining of the sub-collector of Sundargarh district and two more engineers. However, till now facts have not emerged. Deputy Commissioner of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC), Sudhansu Bhoi termed the entire episode as 'sabotage'. "The team will soon present its report," Bhoi informed Monday. "We believe it was an act of sabotage the way the steel poles have been cut. Had the poles got broken on their own, the edges would have been rough," Bhoi added. He also informed that the statue will be re-erected once investigations are completed.

**Curtains down on Global Edu Expo**  
**Bhubaneswar:** The two-day ICC Global Education Expo and Conclave jointly organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce and Affairs at Swosti Premium here concluded Monday. Rajya Sabha MP, Amar Patnaik and educationist Badri Narayan Patnaik attended the valediction ceremony as guests. The programme aimed at providing a broad platform for educational institutions. There were 36 stalls in the expo. The major stalls were put up by NCC, Gati, Indian Company Secretaries and many foreign schools and educational institutions. ICC Odisha State Council chairman JB Pani, Council vice-chairman Rajib Sahu, deputy director and regional head of ICC Jyotiprakash Pal and convener ICC Education and Education Committee, Chidatmika Khatua participated in the discussions. Co-convener Sikata Das was the chief guest of the event.





Security personnel patrol the violence-hit area of Irengbam village of Bishnupur district in Manipur



A family rides a country boat after fishing in Kochi



Police officers talk to the Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg as they move activists from the organization 'Ta Tillbaka Framtiden' (Take back the future) who are blocking the entrance to the Oljehammen neighbourhood in Malmo



A woman and her child stand near their house submerged in flood waters at a village in Morigaon district of Assam



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales, left, and Britain's Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh hold their hats as they arrive at St George's Chapel to attend the Most Noble Order of the Garter Ceremony in Windsor Castle in Windsor, England



Volocopter CEO Dirk Hoke poses for a picture next to the Volocopter 2X, an electric vertical takeoff and landing multicopter, during the Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, north of Paris, France



Visitors enjoy at a water park on a hot day in Jalandhar

PTI PHOTOS





international



I will neither make a deal nor surrender even if they put me in jail. I will continue fighting for the rule of law and a better future for the people of my country

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

TALIBAN TO CELEBRATE US WITHDRAWAL

The Taliban has declared August 31 as a national holiday to celebrate the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan...



of the day quote

Carrying weapons is a scourge on our society. And anyone doing so is risking their own lives as well as the lives of those around them...

The Russian government has so far declined our request to access the areas under its temporary military control

Prime Minister Modi's visit marks an important point in the relationship between the United States and India

RARE TALKS China, US agree to mend ties

THE LACK OF REGULAR AND OPEN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TOP TWO ECONOMIES HAS SENT JITTERS AROUND THE WORLD, AND BEIJING'S RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN REGULAR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS WITH WASHINGTON HAS ALARMED CHINA'S NEIGHBOURS

Beijing, June 19: China and the United States agreed Monday to try and stabilise their intense rivalry to avoid veering into conflict...



The two countries have an obligation and responsibility to manage their relationship and that the United States was committed to doing that

FIRST SUCH MEETING SINCE 2018 AIMS TO MANAGE DISPUTES. XI SAYS SUPERPOWERS 'CAN OVERCOME VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES'

FOCUS ON TAIWAN Beijing's tone on Taiwan was particularly pointed throughout Blinken's visit...

BATTLEFIELD GAINS

Ukraine retakes eight villages from Russia

The reported capture of the villages reflects incremental gains for Ukraine that highlight the challenge of breaking through lines Moscow has spent months strengthening



Western allies to get weapons and ammunition supplies to them as soon as possible

SHORT TAKES

Gunbattle in Jenin

Jerusalem: Israeli troops killed three Palestinians, including a minor, and wounded at least 29 others during a massive gunbattle with militants in the streets of the occupied West Bank city of Jenin Monday...

Floods kill 6 in Nepal

Kathmandu: Rain-triggered floods and landslides have killed at least six people and injured as many across Nepal, police said Monday...

NK says botched satellite launch was 'gravest failure'



Seoul, June 19: An unusually candid North Korea has said the botched launch of a military satellite last month was the "gravest failure" but it vowed it would soon succeed in its quest, state media reported Monday...

Navalny on trial again

Melekhovo: Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny went on trial Monday on new charges of extremism that could keep him behind bars for decades...

SECRET DOCUS PROBE

Trump lawyers ordered not to release evidence

Washington, June 19: A US judge in Florida Monday ordered defense lawyers for former President Donald Trump not to release evidence in the classified documents case to the media or the public...

Europe likely to singe under more deadly heatwaves

The continent, which has been warming twice the global average since the 1980s, saw its warmest summer on record last year, with countries including France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom experiencing their warmest year on record



Temperatures across the continent rose 1.5C in 30 years, from 1991 to 2021, according to the report, the State of the Climate in Europe 2022. Severe heat left more than 16,000 people dead last year...

Paris, June 19: Europe should brace for more deadly heatwaves driven by climate change...

Paris, June 19: Europe should brace for more deadly heatwaves driven by climate change, said a sweeping report Monday, noting the world's fastest-warming continent was some 2.3 degrees Celsius hotter last year than in pre-industrial times...

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221. E-Open Tender Notice No.: SIRWPIE/2023-24 Dated: 17.06.2023...

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI. Recruitment of Faculty Positions at the level of Assistant Professor (Grade-I) and Professor

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Tender No. 09-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24. Name of Work: TRIMMING OF TREE BRANCHES IN THE ELECTRIFIED SECTIONS...

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SUNDARGARH IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Tender No. ELOP-T-05-2023. Name of Work: MAINTENANCE OF CREW LOBBY AND RUNNING ROOM AT BHUBANESWAR (BBS) INCLUDING PROVISION OF SUBSIDIZED MEALS...

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KORAPUT e-Procurement for Building Works

# business



**The fusion of technology and digitisation has transformed the automotive customer experience**  
BHUVAN LODHA | CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER (AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR), MAHINDRA GROUP

## of the day quote

India's e-commerce business has great growth potential. But the highly fragmented market and supply chain complexity are hurdles to many businesses' growth

**VIKASH AGARWAL** | MD (SOUTH ASIA), MAERSK

We are looking a four-fold growth in the revenue to Rs 1,000 crore by the end of FY28. Last financial year 2023, the company has closed the revenue at Rs 251 crore

**SATISH KUMAR AGARWAL** | CMD, KAMDHENU PAINTS

Airbnb's global reach will provide enhanced visibility to India's unique and varied accommodation offerings and enable travellers an opportunity to experience the country's rich heritage first-hand

**G KISHAN REDDY** | UNION TOURISM MINISTER

## HISTORIC MILESTONE

# Indigo orders 500 jets

IndiGo aircraft order comes months after a rejuvenated Air India under Tata Group placed an order for 470 aircraft with the world's two top aircraft makers -- Boeing and Airbus



**This is just the beginning, there's more going forward. With the growth of India (and) the growth of the Indian aviation market ... this is the right time for us to place this order**

PIETER ELBERS | CEO, INDIGO

REUTERS

**Paris, June 19:** Airbus announced a record 500-plane deal with Indian airline IndiGo on day one of the Paris Airshow Monday, as strong demand for jets and missiles vied for attention with the industry's supply chain problems.

The multibillion-dollar deal for single-aisle planes confirmed a Reuters report earlier this month, and eclipsed Air India's provisional purchase of 470 Airbus and Boeing jets earlier this year.

The world's largest air show, which alternates with Farnborough in Britain, is at Le Bourget for the first time in four years after the 2021 edition fell victim to the pandemic. The order for 500 A320 Family

With this additional firm order of 500 aircraft for 2030-2035, IndiGo's order book has almost 1,000 aircraft yet to be delivered well into the next decade

aircraft sets the "record for the biggest single purchase agreement in the history of commercial aviation," Airbus said in a statement.

"The latest agreement takes the total number of Airbus aircraft on order by IndiGo to 1,330, establishing its position as the world's biggest A320 Family customer," added the statement from Airbus.

"This will provide IndiGo a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035. This 500 aircraft order is not only IndiGo's largest order but also the largest-ever single aircraft purchase by any airline with Airbus," a statement from IndiGo said.

"It is difficult to overstate the sig-

nificance of IndiGo's new historic order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. An order book now of almost 1000 aircraft well into the next decade, enables IndiGo to fulfill its mission to continue to boost economic growth, social cohesion and mobility in India," Airbus quoted IndiGo chief Pieter Elbers.

Industry executives say as many as 2,000 jet orders are up for grabs worldwide in a resurgent commercial jet market, on top of those provisionally announced already, as airlines try to fill a void left by sharp falls in activity during the pandemic.

IndiGo's deal highlights the growing importance of India, the world's fastest-growing aviation market, serving the largest population, to planemakers.

In February, after its acquisition by the Tata Group, Air India had signed a 470-aircraft deal with Boeing at a price of \$70 billion. At the time, its chief Campbell Wilson had said it was a move meant to "transform the fleet and power significant network and capacity expansion".

With its fleet of over 300 aircraft, IndiGo is currently operating over 1,800 flights a day and connects 78 domestic destinations and over 20 international destinations. It also has orders that are yet to be delivered, taking up the current strength of its fleet to 480.

## Markets retreat from new highs



Equities witness accelerated selling, particularly in the afternoon trade, dragging the key indices from record highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 19:** Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to close lower Monday as investors offloaded telecom, power and utility stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets and profit booking.

Besides, intense selling in Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Kotak Bank counters also hit investor sentiments, traders said. After hitting its lifetime high Friday,

the 30-share BSE index fell 216.28 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 63,168.30. During the day, it declined 336.75 points or 0.53 per cent to 63,047.83.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 70.55 points or 0.37 per cent to end at 18,755.45. The index registered its lifetime peak of 18,826 Friday.

"Indian equities shied away from closing at all-time high levels amid profit-booking, primarily driven by private banks. Global markets also took a breather after a strong rally last week as investors looked forward to China's rate decision and the Fed chair's testimony," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest loser from the Sensex pack, skidding 1.83 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank and Nestle.

In contrast, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Infosys, HDFC Bank, HDFC and ITC were the gainers.

BSE benchmark zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58 Friday. The Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its lifetime peak of 18,826.

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## SIP closures surge 7.4% MoM in May

The surge in SIP inflows amid higher cancellations shows that new investors continue to invest more money than the average ticket size

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 19:** The number of systematic investment plan (SIP) accounts being discontinued rose 7.4 per cent month-on-month (MoM) to 14.19 lakh in May, despite the stellar inflow into mutual funds through the route.

At the same time, the number of new SIP registration rose to 24.7 lakh last month from 19.56 lakh in April, implying fresh registration of over 5 lakh, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

Meanwhile, investors continued to park their money in mutual funds, with contributions in SIPs reaching a new high of Rs 14,749 crore last month, after a brief dip to Rs 13,728 crore in April. It was Rs 14,276 crore in March.

This robust inflow has led to assets under management of SIP rising by five per cent to Rs 7.53 lakh crore last month from Rs 7.17 lakh crore in April.

Going by the data, the number of SIP accounts discontinued or matured rose from 13.21 lakh in April to 14.19 lakh in May.

Overall, 1.43 crore SIPs were discontinued or matured in 2022-23, which was higher than 1.11 crore SIPs in 2021-22. Although, the number of SIP registration was higher during these periods too.

## Coal India OFS for employees to open June 21

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 92.44 lakh shares or 0.15 per cent stake in Coal India to its employees at a price of Rs 226.10 a share. "The employee OFS (Offer for Sale) shall remain open from June 21, 2023 to June 23, 2023," Coal India said. Under the share sale offer, 92,44,092 equity shares (representing 0.15 per cent of the total paid up equity share capital of the company) would be offered to eligible CIL employees at a price of Rs 226.10 per equity share. The share sale would fetch around Rs 20,000 crore to the government.

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Her Noble Journey  
Started on Rath Yatra 1918  
Ended on Rath Yatra 2008  
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**Late Smt. Annapurna Mohanty**  
Wife of Late Sri Mana Gobinda Mohanty  
In fond remembrance of our pillar of strength  
**Sri Rajib Lochan Mohanty (Eldest son)**  
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# SPAIN REIGN SUPREME Fencer Bhavani Devi creates history

La Roja claim Nations League title ending 11-year trophy drought as Unai Simon saves two penalties in shootout against Croatia in the final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 19:** Olympian CA Bhavani Devi Monday created history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian Fencing Championships – a bronze – after losing in the women's sabre semifinal at the continental event in Wuxi, China. Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in a hard-fought semifinals 14-15, but ensured India its maiden medal in the prestigious event. Bhavani had earlier stunned reigning World Champion Misaki Emura of Japan 15-10 in the quarterfinals to script history. Misaki had won the women's sabre gold medal at the 2022 World Fencing Championships held in Cairo. It was Bhavani's first win over Misaki as she had lost all her matches against the Japanese in the past. The 29-year-old Bhavani had



received a bye in the round of 64 before beating Dospay Karina of Kazakhstan in the next round. Bhavani then upset third seed Ozaki Seri 15-11 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Fencing Association of India secretary-general Rajeev Mehta congratulated Bhavani on her historic achievement.

"It is a very proud day for Indian fencing. Bhavani has achieved what no one could achieve before. She is the first Indian fencer to win a medal at the prestigious Asian Championships. On behalf of the entire fencing fraternity, I congratulate her," Mehta told this agency. "Although she lost in the semifinal, the contest was very close. It was a matter of just point. So it's a big improvement."

Bhavani Devi, who became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, exited in the round of 32 at the Tokyo Games.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rotterdam, June 19:** Spain's 11-year trophy drought is over. Croatia and its veteran captain Luka Modric are still waiting for their first international title. Goalkeeper Unai Simon saved two shots as Spain beat Croatia in a penalty shootout after their tense Nations League final had finished 0-0 Sunday.

The Bilbao goalkeeper used his feet to save a penalty by Lovro Majer when the shootout was level at 3-3 and then dived full-length to tip Bruno Petkovic's spot kick around the post. Dani Carvajal converted his penalty — with a 'Panenka' chip — to seal the victory.

Spain's other previous titles came in the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

Midfielder Rodri, who punched the air after scoring his penalty, has four titles this season after also winning a historic treble with his club, Manchester City. He was named the player of the Nations League tournament to cap his memorable year.

Spain did not manage a shot on target until the 84th minute of the match and when substitute Ansu Fati finally looked

like breaking the stalemate, Ivan Perisic was on the goal line to block his effort. It was Spain's only goal-bound attempt, compared to five by Croatia.

In the first period of extra time, Majer broke through and fell in the penalty area under a challenge by Nacho, but German referee Felix Zwayer ruled that the Spain defender had played the ball and waved off Croatia's appeals for a penalty.

Croatia's fans — many wearing shirts with Modric's name and No.10 on the back — far outnumbered their Spanish counterparts at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam. But they were forced to leave disappointed as their nation and the 37-year-old Modric continued their wait for a first international title.

Spain went a step better than the last Nations League final in 2021, when they lost to France. Not bad for a team with a coach, Luis De La Fuente, who only took charge after the World Cup in Qatar and came in for criticism when his team lost 2-0 to Scotland in European Championship qualifying.

Both sides came close in the first half. Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic fumbled an innocuous shot by Fabian Ruiz

and the ball bounced off the post in the ninth minute, but Livakovic recovered quickly to block an attempt by Alvaro Morata, who was flagged off-side. Three minutes later, Gavi dragged a shot just wide.

But after weathering the early storm, Croatia — with Modric directing the action from midfield — then created the best chances. Twice, Modric curled crosses to find Perisic at the far post but both times Simon in the Spain goal saved. But he saved his two best saves for the penalty shootout.

### ITALY THIRD AGAIN

Federico Dimarco scored in the sixth minute and Davide Frattesi poked home a rebound to double the lead in the 20th to put Italy on course to beating the Netherlands 3-2 to secure third place in the Nations League for the second time in two attempts.

Steven Bergwijn put the Netherlands back in contention in the 68th minute only for Federico Chiesa to restore the Azzurri's two-goal lead four minutes later. Substitute Georginio Wijnaldum completed the scoring with one minute of regulation time to go as Italy held on.

## Max equals Senna in F1 wins; 100th victory for Red Bull

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Montreal, June 19:** When he won the pole in the pouring rain, Max Verstappen was quick to explain that it had been his father who would stand on the wet track during his early days of karting and point him to the correct driving lines.

So when Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix on Father's Day — a 41st victory that tied the Dutchman for fifth on the all-time Formula One wins list with the late Ayrton Senna and gave the Red Bull its 100th win as an organization — he was quick to salute the man who had molded him into the two-time reigning World Champion. Lewis Hamilton holds the all-time record with 103 wins.

Fernando Alonso, riding in an Aston Martin, finished second — 9.570 seconds behind Verstappen. Hamilton completed the podium in his Mercedes — 14.168s behind the winner.

## Srabani clinches gold in 200m at Nationals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 19:** Odisha sprinter Srabani Nanda claimed her second medal — a gold — on the concluding day of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium here, Monday.

Srabani won the women's 200m with a timing of 23.77 seconds. However, she missed out on the qualification for the Hangzhou Asian Games as the qualification mark has been set at 23.43s. The 32-year-old had won a silver medal in the women's 100m on the opening day of the competition.

Uttar Pradesh's Prachi bagged the silver medal clocking 24.12, while Kerala sprinter PD Anjali finished the podium with a timing of 24.25s.

### TOOR SHATTERS RECORD

Top shot putter Tajinder Pal Toor shattered his own Asian



record with a huge throw of 21.77m to qualify for the World Championships.

The 28-year-old from Punjab bettered his own Asian record of 21.49m, which he had set in 2021 in Patiala, with his third round throw of 21.77m. The World Championships qualifying mark is 21.40m. He also qualified for the Asian Games for which the qualifying mark is 19m.

## Bhagat secures silver, 2 bronze at Canada meet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 19:** India's ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat won a silver medal in Men's Singles, a bronze medal in Mixed Doubles and a bronze medal in men's doubles with Sukant Kadam at the recently-concluded Canada Para-Badminton International.

The Padma Shri Awardee went down fighting to England's Daniel Bethell 12-21, 13-21 in the finals to secure a silver medal.

The World No.1 pair of Bhagat and Kadam, who struck gold in the past few events, couldn't recreate their magic and secured a bronze medal. In the mixed doubles, Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass secured a bronze medal. The duo went down fighting to the Indonesian pair of Fredy Setiawan and Khalimatuz Sadiyah. The Odisha lad later said that he wasn't satisfied with his performance in the tourney.



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