

## Giorgia Meloni's "Congratulations" Post On PM Modi's 12 Years In Office

Rome, 10 June : Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday extended wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he becomes the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India and expressed optimism on further deepening the ties between the two countries.

In a post on X she said, "Congratulations to @narendramodi who today becomes the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the history of India." PM Meloni joins the list of global leaders who have extended wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the historic milestone.

European Council Chief Antonio Costa also congratulated PM Modi and hailed how under his "visionary leadership", the relations between the EU and India are stronger than ever-recalling the historic summit earlier this year.

"I look forward to our continued cooperation, partnership and friendship", he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday achieved a historic milestone by becoming the country's longest continuously serving elected premier, completing 12 years at the helm of the Central Government. This momentous tenure has witnessed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) transforming into the national political hegemon, consistently expanding its footprint to newer regions and attracting widespread support from myriad communities.

By completing 4,399 days as Prime Minister on Wednesday, PM Modi officially became the longest continuously serving elected premier in India's history. While India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, originally assumed office in 1947 and won the country's first general election in 1951-52, he remained in office until his passing in 1964. Meanwhile, Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, served for a little less than 16 years, but her tenure was spread across two separate stints.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said the baby was critically wounded after being struck in the face by the same bullet that injured his mother. He later died of his injuries. His father, Fahd Abu Haikal, a lecturer at Bethlehem University, was shot in the hand. They were traveling from Bethlehem to visit family in Hebron when soldiers opened fire, the agency reported.

Israel's military has scaled up military operations in the West Bank since the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack that killed some 1,200 people and took 251 people hostage, which triggered the war in Gaza. Israel's retaliatory military campaign has so far killed more than 72,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, is generally seen as reliable by United Nations agencies and independent experts. The United Nations said last month that more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and east Jerusalem since the war began, at least 240 of them children.

The Israeli military said Friday an initial inquiry found that the injured were uninvolved civilians and said the situation is under review. It also said soldiers shot at a vehicle that was perceived to be accelerating toward them in the Hebron area. At Al-Ahly Hospital in Hebron, the baby's father told Associated Press reporters that a bullet struck the car's windshield before piercing his hand, then his son and wife.

# Netanyahu To Seek Re-Election In 1st Israeli Polls Since Hamas Attack

Tehran, 10 June : Benjamin Netanyahu will seek re-election this year, his party announced on Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump said he wasn't sure if the Israeli prime minister would stand again. In a brief statement, Netanyahu's Likud Party said he would run in the election and, God willing, he would win. The election has not yet been formally announced but must be held by October.

Earlier, ABC News Chief Washington Correspondent Jonathan Karl posted on X that Trump had told him he did not know if Netanyahu would stand. "I don't know, he's had an amazing career. Does he want to continue?" the journalist quoted Trump as saying.

The Israeli election will be the first since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, the country's worst security failure, which precipitated Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu has faced a tumultuous term since returning to power in December 2022 at the helm of the most right-wing coalition in Israeli history. He faced mass anti-government protests before the wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

Polls have repeatedly indicated that his coalition would fail to win a majority at the next election. A poll published by the Jerusalem-based Israel Democracy Institute think tank on June 9 said that 61% of the Israeli public believe he should not run.

However, polls also show that a

potential coalition of opposition parties would fall short of a parliamentary majority unless they form a coalition with Arab parties, which some opposition leaders have ruled out. US and Israeli officials say Trump and Netanyahu, who launched the Iran war together in February, still have a close relationship, though it has at times seen strain, including in recent weeks as Trump has demanded Israel curb military action in Lebanon



while Washington negotiates a peace deal with Tehran.

Last week, Trump acknowledged calling Netanyahu "fucking crazy" in a hot-tempered phone call, though he also said they get along well. He has repeatedly called on Israel's president to pardon Netanyahu over outstanding corruption charges that Netanyahu denies.

The Pentagon has not offered

any rationale on why the women, or any of the other six people, were removed from the promotion list.

Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said on social media this week that "military promotions are given to those who have earned them" and that the Pentagon "will never consider the colour of a service member's skin or their gender as a factor in promotions." The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request

was directed by then-Navy Secretary John Phelan, an appointee of President Donald Trump, to "recommend for promotion the best qualified officers within their respective competitive category."

The order from Phelan, who later abruptly departed his post in April, said the board should consider an officer's performance, competence and character, among other traits, as part of those qualifications.

It also said that given China's prominence in the Trump administration's National Defence Strategy, "special consideration shall be given to officers who have excelled in their knowledge of the political-military affairs and US strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and operational contingency planning for Indo-Pacific war plans."

Hegseth has long argued, without offering evidence, that women in the military benefit from preferential treatment and are not suited for combat roles. "For too long, we've promoted too many unformed leaders for the wrong reasons based on their race, based on gender quotas, based on historic so-called firsts," Hegseth told hundreds of military leaders in September. Phelan's order said the Navy cannot discriminate based on criteria such as race and sex, and it specifically noted that "this guidance shall not be interpreted as requiring or permitting preferential treatment of any officer or group of officers on the grounds of race, religion, colour, sex."

The board that selected the initial slate of 31 officers for promotion

seeking further comment.

The Navy's process for choosing which officers to promote to the one-star rank has been relatively constant and transparent over the years. The service convenes a group of officers, called a promotion board, that examines the records of eligible officers and chooses the most qualified.

The board that selected the initial

## High Demand, Slow Output: Why Patriot Missiles Supply Can't Keep Up With Wars

Moscow, 10 June : Patriot missiles are among the world's most sought-after air defence weapons. They can be launched within seconds to intercept incoming threats, but building one is a much slower process. In fact, getting a new Patriot interceptor from the factory floor to military stockpiles can take more than two years, as per a report by The Wall Street Journal.

The growing demand is putting pressure on manufacturers as conflicts in different parts of the world continue to consume existing supplies. The United States, Ukraine and several US allies are all relying on Patriot systems, creating a long line of customers waiting for deliveries. To meet rising demand, the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin recently agreed to significantly increase production of the PAC-3 MSE, the latest Patriot interceptor model. The goal is to produce around 2,000 missiles annually. However, reaching that level will take time, with the company not expecting to hit

the target until the end of the decade.

One major reason is the complexity of the supply chain. A Patriot missile is made up of parts sourced from hundreds of companies. Lockheed works with more than 400 suppliers, and many of those businesses also provide compo-



ponents for other military programmes. That means increasing production of Patriot missiles often affects other defence projects competing for the same materials and parts.

Some components are particularly difficult to replace. Certain electronic systems inside the missile rely on older technology that is no longer widely pro-

duced, forcing manufacturers to source specialised equipment from overseas suppliers.

Another challenge involves the missile's seeker, the device located in the nose section that helps the interceptor find and track incoming targets. Production of this key component currently comes from a single Boeing facility, creating another bottleneck in the manufacturing process. Companies across the supply chain are now trying to speed things up. Boeing says it has introduced more robotic equipment and expanded its supplier network to increase seeker production.

L3Harris, which provides rocket motors, is also working to expand manufacturing capacity. Still, industry executives say producing more missiles is not simply about building more of one part. "You need the whole ecosystem to line up," L3Harris Chief Executive Chris Kubasik said at a recent investor conference, as quoted by WSJ.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visits the National Historical Museum, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

## Pakistan Army Helicopter Crashes During Take-Off In PoK, All On Board Dead

Washington, 10 June : A Pakistani army helicopter crashed near the city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir due to a technical fault, the military said on Wednesday, adding there were no survivors.

"An Mi-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Muzaffarabad today during take-off due to technical fault," the military's media wing said in a statement. "All personnel on board embraced Shahadat (martyrdom)," the military added, without specifying the number of people killed.

There has been a heavy security presence in recent days in Muzaffarabad after members of a protest movement said they would hold demonstrations shortly after the local government banned the group under anti-terror laws.

Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, who suffers from an incurable lung disease, has been placed

on a waiting list for a lung transplant, ushering in a period of great uncertainty regarding her health.

Mette-Marit, 52, was diagnosed in 2018 with a rare form of pulmonary fibrosis that causes breathing difficulties, which has repeatedly forced her to take sick leave or scale back her official duties. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past six months, Are Holm, a lung specialist at the Oslo University Hospital Rikshospitalet, told a press conference Friday afternoon.

"We can see that there has been a significant increase in scar tissue in her lungs over the past year. And lung function tests show that her lung function has declined considerably in the last three months alone," Holm told reporters.

Scarring of the lungs, known as pulmonary fibrosis, occurs when the alveoli (tiny air sacs) and the tissue between them become damaged

and thickened, stiffening the lung and thereby hindering the passage of oxygen into the blood. "This is dangerous," Holm said. This is why she was "being placed on the waiting list for a lung transplant", he added.

To be placed on the list, one must be sick enough -- it is reserved for patients who are believed to have only about a year to live without a transplant -- but still in sufficiently good condition to handle such a major procedure and recover.

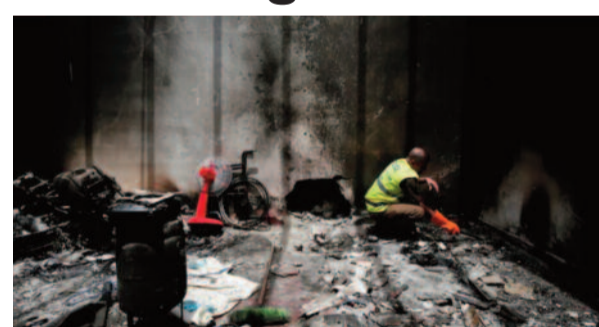
For an operation to go ahead, a compatible donor must first be found, meaning a lung of the right size and blood type to avoid organ rejection, and the patient must be the sickest one on the list.

There is therefore no guarantee that Mette-Marit will be given priority, the doctor noted, but added that the waiting time for a lung transplant had become significantly shorter in recent months.

## Sri Lanka Says Spy Chief 'Directed' 2019 Easter Bombings That Killed 279

Colombo, 10 June : Sri Lanka's public security minister told parliament Wednesday the nation's intelligence chief directed the 2019 Easter Sunday attack, in the first official statement linking him directly to the bombings that killed 279 people. Minister Ananda Wijepala said Major General Suresh Sallay, who was arrested in February on accusations of "aiding and abetting" the attack, had identified a Catholic church to be bombed.

Sri Lanka's worst single terror attack against civilians involved bombings against three upmarket hotels in the capital, two Roman Catholic churches and an evangelical Protestant church outside



Colombo.

"Investigations have revealed that Retired Major General Tuan Suresh Sallay conspired with and strategically directed Islamic extremists until they carried out the attacks," Wijepala said.

"Just three weeks prior to the attack, Sallay met Muslim men to obtain details

of the location and the congregation," the minister added.

Sallay, through his lawyer, has denied any involvement.

Wijepala said Sallay was admitted to hospital Sunday after launching a hunger strike while being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Opposition activists have been demonstrating in the capital demanding his release from custody.

Following Sallay's interrogation, investigators have prevented court orders preventing former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa from leaving the island.

Sallay was appointed head of the State Intelligence Service (SIS), the country's main spy agency, in 2019, soon after Rajapaksa became president. He also headed the military intelligence unit prior to taking over the SIS.

British broadcaster Channel 4 reported in 2023 that Sallay was linked to the Islamists who carried out the suicide bombings and had met them prior to the attack.

## OpenAI Says It Has A Plan To Ensure AI Benefits Everyone, Not Just A Few

In a new blog post, OpenAI says artificial general intelligence should empower billions of people rather than remain concentrated

Moscow, 10 June : As the race to build artificial general intelligence (AGI) accelerates, OpenAI has laid out its vision for what should happen once such systems become a reality: their benefits should be shared by everyone.

In a blog post titled "Built to benefit everyone: our plan," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Chief Scientist Jakob Pachocki argue that AGI-AI capable of performing most cognitive tasks humans can has the potential to become one of the most transformative technologies in history. The company says that if this future arrives, its benefits should not be limited to a small group of companies or governments but made accessible to billions of people.

According to OpenAI, widespread access to highly capable AI systems would enable individuals to solve problems, start businesses, make scientific discoveries and create new products at a scale that was previously impossible. The company compares this potential shift to earlier technological revolutions that dramatically expanded productivity and economic opportunity.

The blog also presents a broader vision of intelligence becoming an abundant resource, with the cost of accessing it continuing to fall over time. In that scenario, people around the world could use AI much like they use electricity or the internet today—as a fundamental tool that powers work, creativity



and innovation.

OpenAI argues that history shows transformative technologies often disrupt existing industries while simultaneously creating new

opportunities. While acknowledging that AI will reshape many jobs, the company says broader access to advanced systems could allow more people to participate in and

benefit from the resulting economic growth rather than concentrating those gains among a small number of players.

The post comes at a time when competition among AI companies is intensifying, with firms such as Google, Anthropic and xAI racing to build increasingly capable models. Debates around AI safety, regulation and control have also become more prominent as progress accelerates.

While the blog does not lay out a detailed roadmap for achieving its vision, it serves as a statement of OpenAI's broader philosophy: if AGI transforms the world as many expect, it should be built to benefit everyone, not just a privileged few.

The Russian president said that operational requirements and value rather than external political pressure would guide India's decisions of defence procurement. He also stressed that Moscow's defence cooperation with India was not dependent on changing political conditions. "Our cooperation with India, just like with all other partners of ours, is not subject to the political environment," Putin said. "We can't be dictated, 'Do not deliver that to India.' Nobody can dictate us." He added that Russia would continue to stand by agreements reached with New Delhi. "We will always stand true to commitments given to our partners, especially countries such as India," Putin said.