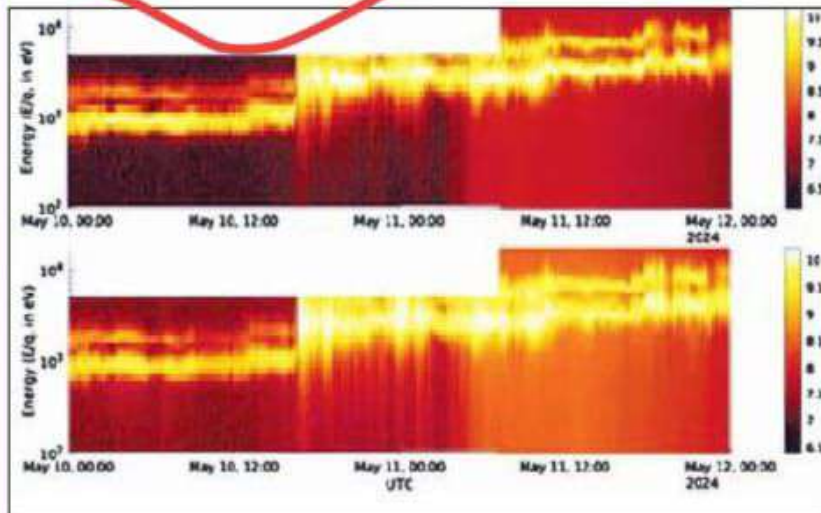


# ISRO's Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-2 capture signatures of recent solar storm



NEW DELHI, May 15 (ANI)

**THE** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) captured signatures of the recent solar eruptive events from Earth, Sun-Earth L1 Point, and the Moon.

ISRO mobilised all its observation platforms and systems to record the signatures of the powerful solar storm that impacted Earth on Saturday. Both Aditya-L1 and Chandrayaan-2 have made observations and signatures have been analysed.

The X-ray payloads on-board Aditya-L1 (SoLEXS and HELIOS) have observed the multiple X- and M-class flares from these regions during the last few days while the in-situ magnetometer (MAG) payload has also observed the events as it passed by the L1 point.

While the Aditya-L1 observes the Sun from the first Sun-Earth Lagrange point, the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has also captured the signatures of these solar eruptive events from the lunar polar orbit. XSM has observed many interesting phenomena associated with this geomagnetic storm.

The large solar flares (&gt; M5 class), manifested as spikes, are autonomously identified by the onboard logic of XSM, when the internal mechanism was activated to reduce the incident X-ray flux by bringing a filter in front of the detector, so as to prevent its saturation.

While the XSM primarily monitors solar X-rays, it has also provided information about the local high energy particle environment by means of counting the events

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# Southwest Monsoon to reach Kerala by May 31

NEW DELHI, May 15 (PTI)

**SOUTHWEST** Monsoon is likely to arrive over Kerala around May 31, setting the stage for the four-month rainfall season crucial for India's farm-based economy.

"This year, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to set over Kerala on May 31 with a model error of four days," the India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday.

"This is not early. It's near normal date as the normal date for onset of monsoon over Kerala is June 1," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said on

Wednesday.

Last month, the IMD had forecast above-normal rainfall during the June-September Southwest Monsoon season.

June and July are considered the most important monsoon months for agriculture as most of the sowing for the Kharif crop takes

place in this period.

One of the two factors favouring plentiful rain was a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), or a cooler than normal Indian Ocean in the east as compared to the west, which again helps bring rain to several States in southern India.



## India downplays US sanctions threat over Iran port deal

**Kolkata:** External affairs minister **S Jaishankar** said the Chabahar port would benefit the entire region and a narrow view should not be taken of it, after the US warned that any country having business dealings with Iran runs the "potential risk of sanctions".

Speaking in Kolkata Tuesday night, he said in the past, even the US has been appreciative of the fact that the Chabahar port has a larger relevance.

India Monday signed a 10-year con-

tract to operate the strategic Iranian port of Chabahar that will help New Delhi expand trade with Central Asia.



"We had a long association with the Chabahar port but we could never sign a long-term agreement. The reason was there were various problems... Finally, we were able to sort this out and we were able to get the long-term agreement done. A long-term agreement is necessary because without it we cannot improve port operations. And, port

operations, we believe, will benefit the entire region," Jaishankar said.

"I did see some remarks which were made, but I think it's a question of communicating, convincing and getting people to understand this is actually for everybody's benefit. I don't think people should take a narrow view of it. And, they have not done so in the past. If you look at the US's own attitude to Chabahar in the past, the US has been appreciative of the fact that Chabahar has a larger relevance. We will work at it," he said. ■

# Chabahar port will benefit entire region, says EAM

Foreign minister S Jaishankar said the Chabahar port would benefit the entire region and a narrow view should not be taken of it, after the US warned that any country having business dealings with Iran runs the "potential risk of sanctions". He said in the past, even the US has been appreciative of the fact that this port has a larger relevance. "We had a long association with Chabahar port but we could never sign a long-term agreement. Finally, we were able to sort this out and we were able to get the long-term agreement done. I don't think people should take a narrow view of it. They have not done so in the past." **FLAP OPP**

## Def min opposes Bibi, says against Israeli 'control' of Gaza post-war

**Jerusalem:** Israeli PM Netanyahu was publicly challenged over post-war plans for the Gaza Strip on Wednesday by his own defence chief, who vowed to oppose any long-term military rule by Israel over the ravaged Palestinian enclave.

In a news conference, defence minister **Yoav Gallant** said that since soon after the conflict erupted on Oct 7, he had tried to promote a

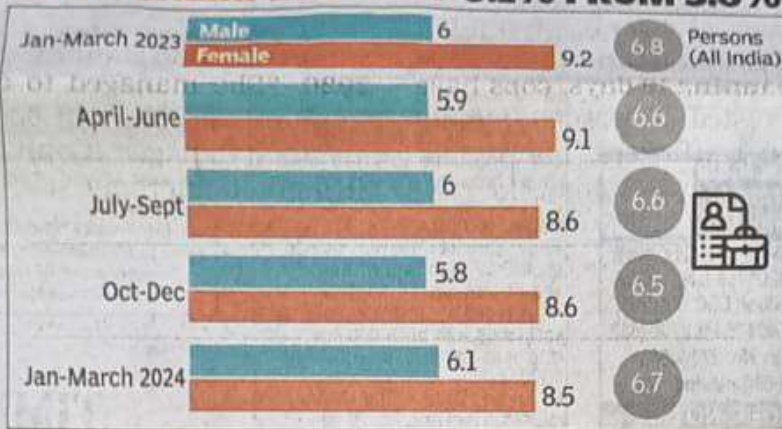


blueprint for an alternative Gaza administration made up of Palestinians. Those efforts "got no response" from various decision-making cabinet forums under Netanyahu, said Gallant, who comes from the PM's Likud party. "I call on the PM to announce that Israel will not rule over Gaza militarily," Gallant said. "An alternative to Hamas governance should be established ... Indecision will erode the military gains (of the war)."

Following Gallant's remarks, Netanyahu said that any move to establish an alternative to Hamas as the govt of Gaza required that the Palestinian Islamist group first be eliminated, and demanded this goal be pursued "without excuses". Earlier, Netanyahu said Israel, if it achieves its goal of dismantling Hamas' govt and military apparatus in Gaza, would retain overall security control over the territory. He has stopped short of describing this scenario as an occupation. REUTERS

# Urban joblessness up to 6.7% in FY24 Q4 from 6.5% in Q3

## MALE UNEMPLOYMENT 6.1% FROM 5.8%



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above in urban areas eased marginally to 6.7% in the Jan-March quarter of 2023-2024, from 6.8% in the same period last year, according to the latest official data released Wednesday.

Periodic labour force survey data showed that the rate inched up a tad in the Jan-March quarter from Oct-Dec quarter's 6.5%.

Joblessness rate, which had soared to double digit during Covid, has stabilised over the months as curbs to ward off the pandemic lifted and economic activity gathered momentum.

PLS data showed that joblessness rate for males increased from 6% in Jan-March 2023, to 6.1% in Jan-March 2024, while for females it decreased from 9.2% in Jan-March 2023, to 8.5% in Jan-March this fiscal. Unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among those in the labour force.

The survey results also showed that the labour force participation rate (LFPR) in urban areas in-

creased from 48.5% in Jan-March 2023 to 50.2% in Jan-March 2024 for those in the 15 years and above age group. While for men, the LFPR increased from 73.5% to 74.4% during this period, for women, it increased from 22.7% to 25.6%. LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

The worker population ratio (WPR) in urban areas increased from 45.2% in three months to March of 2023 to 46.9% in Jan-March this year for persons in 15 years and above category.

For men, it increased from 69.1% to 69.8% during this period and for women, it rose from 20.6% to 23.4% in Jan-March this fiscal. WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

The PLFS was launched by NSO to estimate employment and unemployment indicators (worker population ratio, labour force participation rate, unemployment rate) in the short time interval of three months for urban areas only in the current weekly status.

# Indian missions assisting in repatriation of mortal remains of killed retired Col in Gaza

NEW DELHI, May 15 (ANI)

**THE** Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday said that Indian missions in the UN and in Israel are assisting in bringing back the mortal remains of Colonel Waibhav Anil Kale (Retd), who was killed in Gaza while working as a UN staffer.

"Our Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and our Missions in Tel Aviv and Ramallah are extending all assistance in the repatriation of mortal remains to India and continue to be in touch with relevant authorities regarding the investigation into the incident," the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official statement. "We are deeply saddened by the death of Colonel

## In touch with relevant authorities on investigation into incident: India

NEW DELHI, May 15 (PTI)

**INDIA** on Wednesday said it is "deeply saddened" over the death of former Indian Army officer Anil Kale at Rafah in the Gaza Strip and is in touch with relevant authorities regarding the investigation into the incident.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and as well as its mission in Tel Aviv and Ramallah are extending all assistance in the repatriation of mortal remains of Kale to India.

Kale, 46, who retired prematurely from the Indian Army in 2022, joined the UN as a security coordination officer in the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) two months ago.

Waibhav Anil Kale (Retd), Security Coordination Officer in the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) in Gaza on 13 May 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his

family and dear ones," the statement also said.

Meanwhile, a deathly silence has descended on the Thane residence of Waibhav Anil Kale after his family members

received word of the killing of the former Indian Army officer, who worked for the United Nations in Gaza.

Kale (46) died while travelling in a vehicle to a hospital in the Khan Younis area from Rafah. Mugdha Ashok Kale, the aunt of the retired colonel, said she was still struggling to come to terms with the fact that he was no more. "When we heard about Waibhav, it came as a big shock. We still can't believe he is no more. We hadn't even seen much of him in the recent past. However, it feels he is still with us in spirit. Even though the bitter truth comes out eventually, our minds aren't ready to accept and reconcile with it. Hence, for us, Waibhav is still alive,"