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NEWS BRIEFS

Gang rape of law student: NCW member visits Kolkata college

KOLKATA: National Commission for Women (NCW) member Archana Majumdar on Sunday visited the South Kolkata Law College, where a student was allegedly gang-raped by three persons, including an alumnus. She claimed that the police could not provide her with the details of the whereabouts of the survivor. "The commission stands beside her," she said, maintaining that the NCW's mandate is to assist a survivor as long as she wants.

Four buried alive in Agra

UNI AGRA: Four people, including three women, were buried alive when they were doing digging work for the Chambal pipeline near Daulat Garh village in Fatehpur Sikri area on the UP-Rajasthan border today. Police said here that around a dozen women and men working at the spot met with the incident when a portion of the earth caved in when they were digging a pit. Some of the labourers were injured in the incident. All the deceased were native of nearby Uttu village under Fatehpur Sikri area.

Over 82% of MSMEs eye digital sales; offline marketplaces still preferred

NEW DELHI: As high as 82 per cent of micro and medium retailers want to adopt digital streams to boost their sales, but offline marketplaces remain their preferred channel, showing their strength. According to a survey report by the global technology firm Zoho Corporation, six out of ten Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) stated that they have adopted an omnichannel selling strategy, operating in both online and offline channels, with the majority (75 per cent) of them claiming this expands their reach and customer accessibility; 68 per cent of retailers reported an equal revenue share from both retail channels. "82 per cent of offline retailers want to go digital, the marketplace being the most preferred platform."

Delhi: 45-point action plan to rejuvenate Yamuna River

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Jal Board, under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has rolled out a 45-point action plan aimed at enhancing the capital's water infrastructure, upgrading sewerage networks, increasing transparency in tanker services, and rejuvenating the heavily polluted Yamuna River. The comprehensive plan, backed by a budget of Rs 9,000 crore, is targeted for completion by next year, a senior official confirmed. The campaign aims to provide the capital with clean water and a pollution-free Yamuna. Chief Minister Gupta is personally leading the efforts to rejuvenate the river, with close monitoring also being conducted.

Three killed, 50 injured in Puri stampede

AGENCY
PURI, JUNE 29

At least three persons, including two women, were killed and around 50 others injured in a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple in Odisha's Puri on Sunday morning, officials said.

The incident took place around 4 am when hundreds of devotees gathered near the temple to witness Rath Yatra festivities, Puri District Collector Sid-dharth S Swain said.

The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital, and the condition of six people is critical, he said.

"Out of the 50 injured, six people are still unconscious and their condition is very serious," an official of the medical facility, where they are undergoing treatment, said.

Chaos ensued after two trucks carrying materials for rituals reportedly entered the crowded spot near the chariots of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities, officials said.

Devotees in large numbers had assembled outside the temple since the early hours to catch a glimpse of the deities when the 'Pahuda' (cloth) covering their faces was to be removed, as part of the rituals, they said.

The deceased were identified as Basanti Sahu (36) from Bolagarh, and Premakant Mohanty (80) and Pravati Das (42) from Balipatna. In a post on X, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi sought forgiveness from devotees of Lord Jagannath for the stampede, and tendered an apology on behalf of his government for the incident.



"Due to intense eagerness among devotees to have a glimpse of Mahaprabhu... an unfortunate incident occurred because of the resulting jostling and chaos. I and my government seek forgiveness from all Jagannath devotees. We express our condolences to the families of devotees who lost their lives... pray to Mahaprabhu Jagannath to grant them the strength to bear this profound sorrow," Majhi said.

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Odisha Govt orders administrative inquiry

UNI

Bhubaneswar: With the tragic death of three devotees and at least fifty others injured in a stampede near Sri Gundicha Temple in Odisha's Puri during Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra during wee hours on Sunday sparking shock waves across the state and exposing the gaping holes in the efficiency of government machinery, Odisha Chief Minister has issued a statement tending apology and ordered an administrative inquiry and suspended two police officers of Superintendent of Police rank.

The corrective measures and cracking whips on the officers in the charge of Rath Yatra observance were very much on the cards given the fact the BJP Government in the state was on the line of fire due to the inordinate delay in the pulling of chariots, stampede-like situation and indiscriminate distribution of cordon passes during the nine-day annual festival of Lord Jagannath that commenced on Friday.

Two dead, 7 missing after Uttarakhand cloudburst, Char Dham Yatra suspended



AGENCY
DEHRADUNM, JUNE 29

At least two labourers were killed and seven others went missing after a cloudburst triggered a landslide in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district early Sunday.

The cloudburst washed away a labourers' campsite, where 19 workers were staying, near an under-construction hotel in the Silai area along the Yamunotri National Highway, officials said. While 10 workers were rescued, nine went missing.

Bodies of two missing labourers were recovered from the banks of the Yamuna River near Tiladi Shaheed Sma-

rak, about 18 km from the place where the landslide occurred, the news agency reported, citing Sub-Inspector Vikram Singh.

"There is an under-construction hotel near Silai. Adjacent to it, a new landslide zone has developed where no such incident had occurred before -- it was considered a safe area," Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya said in a video statement.

"The rubble cascaded down near the hotel and hit the labourers' campsite," he said.

Multiple teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), its state coun-

terpart, SDRF, and the police are involved in the rescue operations, Mr Arya said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said he is constantly in touch with the officials and prayed for everyone's safety.

Mr Arya also said the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand has been postponed for a day in light of heavy rainfall. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Uttarakhand for Sunday and Monday, warning of extremely heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning at several isolated locations. He also directed officials to curb the overcharging of food items.

Amit Shah rules out talks with Maoists, tells them to give up arms



HYDERABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday ruled out any talks with Maoists and said the cadre of the proscribed outfit should give up arms, surrender before police, and join the mainstream. Addressing a rally after inaugurating the National Headquarters of the Turmeric Board in Nizamabad in Telangana, Shah also said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is still raising questions on Operation Sindoor, should see the weak appearance of Pakistan to understand the effectiveness of the operation. "Congress asks (the Centre) to hold discussions with these people (Maoists). Our government's policy is 'no talk' with those who hold arms. Give up weapons, surrender, and join the mainstream," Shah said. He further said that about 10,000 people in the Northeast gave up weapons and joined the mainstream. They even contested elections held for positions ranging from the Taluk level to state assemblies. Similarly, more than 2,000 Maoists have surrendered in the past one and a half years. "Give up weapons and surrender. If you don't surrender, we have decided that before 31 March 2026, naxalism will be finished in this country," the Home Minister said.

95 cr people are benefitting from social security schemes: PM Modi

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 123rd Episode of Mann Ki Baat, hailed the International Labour Organisation (ILO) report that India's 64% population is getting social security. Around 94 crore citizens are now covered under at least one social protection benefit, with expectations to surpass the 100-crore mark upon verification of additional schemes. PM Modi highlighted that in India, 64 per cent of the population is benefiting from the social security schemes. The Prime Minister informed that the number was lower than 25 crore until the year 2025. "The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released a major report stating that In-

dia's 64% population is definitely getting social security... Nearly 95 crore people are benefitting from the social security schemes. This number was lower than 25 crores till 2015," PM Modi said. This marks a substantial increase from 19% in 2015. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recognized India's efforts, publishing its achievement on the ILOSTAT dashboard. India has witnessed a 45 percentage point surge in social security coverage over the past decade, positioning itself as the second-highest globally in providing social protection. Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), the e-Shram portal, and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have played a significant role in expanding social se-



curity coverage. The increase in social protection coverage is expected to strengthen India's global engagements, particularly in finalising social security agreements with developed nations.

Social security agreements with developed countries will ensure portability of benefits for Indian professionals working overseas. PM Modi also mentioned the World Health Organisation report, which has declared India free from Trachoma disease and asserted that the credit behind the achievement goes to India's health workers and "Jal Jeevan Mission". "WHO has declared Indian Trachoma-free country... This is the success of our health workers... 'Jal Jeevan' Mission has contributed to this", PM Modi said. The Prime Minister also highlighted the recent celebrations on International Yoga Day, in which lakhs of people from all walks of life participated. PM Modi said, "All of you must be filled with the energy of Yoga and memories of International Yoga Day."

Himachal: Landslide near Chakki Mor hit traffic movement on NH

UNI SOLAN: Following the landslide on Pinjore-Solan-Shimla national highway, the movement of all vehicular traffic came to a complete halt for some time today. Traffic remained completely closed from 6 am to about 8 am this morning. Meanwhile, railway traffic has also been affected due to triggering of landslide near Koti on the World Heritage Kalka-Shimla Railway Line, forcing the Northern Railway officials to suspend the train services on the Kalka-Shimla route after the fallen debris blocked the track. It may be recalled that continuous triggering of

landslide had earlier also hit smooth movement of vehicular traffic on the highway at Chakki mode two years ago. After that the Governor of Himachal Pradesh and other senior Congress leaders had also visited the spot and promised the people that the affected portion will be repaired within 45 days to ensure the smooth movement of traffic on highway, but the situation has not been improved even after a period of two years. Solan SP Gaurav Singh said that after receiving information about continuous fall of debris the hill, police teams have been immediately deployed, and machinery is also being used to remove the debris.

India welcomes monsoon eight days ahead of schedule

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

India welcomed the monsoon on Sunday, arriving eight days ahead of its expected onset date of July 8, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, covering the entire Delhi region, as per IMD. Meanwhile, low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts persisted over the same region at 0830 hrs IST today. The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6km above mean sea level. This is likely to move slowly west-northwestwards across North Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal &



Jharkhand during the next 2 days. Earlier in the day, the IMD issued an orange alert for multiple districts in Himachal Pradesh, as the state con-

tinued to witness heavy rainfall, particularly in Shimla, the capital city.

According to the Meteorological Centre in Shimla, an orange alert has

been issued for Shimla, Sirmour, Solan, Kullu, and Mandi, indicating the likelihood of heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over the next 48 hours. Additionally, yellow alerts have been issued for Kangra, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, and Chamba, forecasting light to moderate rainfall in these regions. IMD has warned of light to moderate rainfall at many places in the districts of Bilaspur, Solan, Shimla, Sirmour, Hamirpur, Mandi, and Kangra, with a few spells of intense to very intense rainfall likely to occur at isolated places. "Light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at a few places in the Districts of Kullu, Una, and Chamba," it added. Authorities stated that the alerts would help ensure preparedness in areas prone to flash floods and landslides.

First phase of census with houselisting operations to begin from April 1, 2026



AGENCY NEW DELHI: The houselisting operations for the forthcoming Census will begin from April 1, 2026, marking the start of the first phase of the decennial exercise, the Registrar General of India has said. In a letter to chief secretaries of states and Union Territories, Census Commissioner and Registrar General of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan said the Houselisting Operations and Housing Census shall begin on April 1, 2026. Before that the appointment of supervisors, enumerators and work distribution among them shall be done with cooperation from states and district administration, it said. The Census is a two-phase exercise -- in phase one i.e. Houselisting Operation (HLO), the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected. Subsequently, in the second phase i.e. Population Enumeration (PE), the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be collected which is scheduled for February 1, 2027, according to the letter. In the Census, Caste enumeration will also be done, a government statement had said. For Census activities, over 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors and around 1.3 lakh Census functionaries would be deployed.

NEWS BRIEFS

Inayat Group pre-launches 'Kingston Terrace Commercial Hub' on Patiala-Sangrur Road

BUREAU PATIALA: In a landmark development in the real estate sector, Inayat Group already a well-known name not just in Punjab but across North India, today pre-launched its ambitious project, the 'Kingston Terrace Commercial Hub', located on Patiala-Sangrur Road. The pre-launch ceremony was led by Inayat Group's Managing Director (MD), Sandeep Singh Mann, who was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Inayat. Providing project details, MD Sandeep Singh Mann shared that the 'Kingston Terrace Commercial Hub' is a 3.17-acre project approved by both RERA and PUDA. He further announced that several international brands have already partnered with the project, including Haldiram's, Domino's, V.W. Mart (which will operate 24/7), a Drive-Thru, Pyramid Club & Restaurant, Basant Ice Cream.

Chandigarh Police arrests three more in Rs. 2.5 crore digital arrest cyber fraud case

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

The Chandigarh Police Cyber Crime Cell has made a significant breakthrough in the ongoing investigation of a high-profile digital arrest cyber fraud case by arresting three more accused, taking the total number of arrests to eleven. The case pertains to FIR No. 64 dated 01.06.2025 registered under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 at PS Cyber Crime, Sector 17, Chandigarh.

The arrests were made under the supervision of Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, SP/ Cyber Crime, UT Chandigarh, with guidance from Sh. A Venkatesh, DSP Cyber Crime, and under the leadership of Ms. Eram Rizvi, SHO, Cyber Crime Police Station.

Details of the Accused:
Anurag alias Vikrant (23), S/o Shri Chaman Singh Abhijeet (24), S/o Late Shri Ishwar Singh Prashant Kumar (20), S/o Sompal Singh
Case Background:

The complaint was lodged by Ms. Sumit Kaur, a resident of Sector 10A, Chandigarh, who was duped of 2.5 Crores. On May 3, 2025, she received a call falsely claiming to be from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), alleging misuse of her SIM card and a criminal FIR in her name.

This was followed by a WhatsApp video call from a person pretending to be a police officer, showing fake arrest warrants and impersonating senior officials including a DIG of CBI and even a Supreme Court judge. Under pressure and in fear, she was coerced into transferring her life savings into fraudulent bank accounts for "verification" and to clear her name.

Role of the Accused:
Prashant Kumar was arrested on June 22 from Bijhori, UP, and confessed that his mobile number was used to operate an IndusInd Bank account created using someone else's



KYC. He received 54,000 for this role.

He further named Abhijeet and Anurag alias Vikrant as accomplices, with whom he met in Nashik, Mumbai, and Bhopal, and disclosed they were promised 15% commission per fraudulent account.

Based on his inputs, police raided multiple locations in UP, and arrested Abhijeet and Anurag on June 27, 2025. From them, police recovered multiple mobile phones and KYC documents used in the fraud.

Recoveries Made:
03 mobile phones with ac-

tive SIM cards
KYC documents and other incriminating material

Ongoing Investigation:

All three accused have confessed their roles. Police custody has been sought to further trace other members of the cybercrime syndicate and recover the defrauded money. Investigations are actively ongoing.

Public Advisory:
Chandigarh Police has urged the public to remain vigilant:

No police, CBI, or ED officer will ever ask for money or personal details over phone or WhatsApp.

Do not believe fake video calls showing arrest warrants or officials.

Never transfer money for verification, avoiding arrest, or resolving fake cases.

In case of doubt, contact your local police station or the Cyber Crime Helpline (1930).

Sanatan culture has united the nation for thousands of years: Paramjit Singh Gill

VERMA GURDASPUR: Sardar Paramjit Singh Gill, National Vice President of the Himalaya Parivar organization, said that the opposition alliance is a coalition of opportunists that lacks both principles and direction.

He pointed out that until recently, the leaders of the parties in this alliance were openly accusing each other on public platforms—calling each other corrupt—and now they are embracing one another, which clearly shows that this alliance is based on sheer opportunism.

Gill said that the leaders of the opposition have realized that the people of the country have rejected their alliance. As a result, many of these leaders are now targeting Sanatan Dharma (eternal Indian tradition) and attempting to play a



dirty political game in the name of religion. However, today's citizens are highly aware and will not fall into such traps.

He stated that it is the Sanatan culture that has kept India united for thousands of years, but now this opposition alliance wants to break it into pieces. According to Gill, by trying to destroy Sanatan culture, the opposition parties want to drag the country back by thousands of years. Earlier, these forces tried to attack Sanatan culture secretly, but now they are doing it openly—and Sanatan will definitely respond to such threats. Gill emphasized that every follower of Sanatan, in every corner of the country, must remain vigilant against such anti-national and anti-religious forces. He urged unity to confront and stop these elements so that their malicious intentions cannot succeed.

Dr. Prof. Harmandeep Sharma raises the name of Kishanpura Kalan in America

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA/KISHANPURA KALAN:

The talented daughter of former president of tournament committee Amarjit Amba, owner of a famous grocer's shop in Kishanpura Kalan, a large town of Moga district, Dr. Professor Harmandeep Sharma, wife of Dr. Arnav Bhomik, who is serving as a research assistant professor of Indian origin at the Agriculture and Technical State University in North Carolina, USA. In which Dr. Professor Harmandeep Sharma is an expert in conducting research from time to time, due to which Dr. Professor Harmandeep Sharma was honored by SAS Company CEO Dr. Jim Good-

night as a global leader in artificial intelligence by SAS 2025 Community Uplift. Giving information in this regard, Dr. Professor Harmandeep Sharma's father Amarjit Amba said that daughter Harmandeep Sharma has been progressive from the beginning, doing every work in a unique way and has been at the top during her studies. While the family is feeling very proud of Dr. Professor Harmandeep Sharma, Dr. Arnav Bhomik who has been settled in America for a long time, there is a wave of happiness in the town of Kishanpura Kalan, district Moga and the famous Amarjit Amba was congratulated by former District Education Officer Resham Singh Aulakh, former District President BJP Rakesh Sharma etc.



Final salute to theatre icon and beloved teacher Supinder Singh

SANJEEV TEJPAL MORINDA: A solemn tribute ceremony was held at Gurdwara Kotwali Sahib, Morinda, to honour the life and legacy of esteemed artist and educator Master Supinder Singh. The gathering witnessed participation from a large number of dignitaries, educators, artists, and social activists who came together to pay their respects.



Addressing the gathering, Rabinder Singh Rabbi, Director of Sajri Saver Art Centre (Regd.), Morinda, highlighted Master Supinder Singh's immense contribution to the world of theatre and performing arts from a very young age. He acted in and directed numerous plays such as Anhe Nishanchi, Chandni Chowk Ton Shihind Tak, Toa, Ikhlaiq Gumm Hai, Inquilab Zindabad, Uthsi Mard Ka Chela, Dhiyaan Wale Puttan Wale, Kudrat De Sabh Bande, Girgat, and also choreographed Dharti Punjab Di. His talent also extended to Punjabi cinema, with a notable performance in the film Jee Aayan Nu.

As a committed teacher and Cluster Head Teacher (CHT), Master Supinder Singh served the Kajoli cluster with dedication. Senior Congress leader Harminder Singh Lucky lauded his

efforts in using theatre as a medium to raise awareness against social evils, stating that his contribution to the cultural landscape remains invaluable. The ceremony was attended by Morinda Municipal Council President Jagdeep Kumar Bhatoa, councillors, educationists, union leaders, medical professionals, and social workers from across Punjab. All expressed deep sorrow over the loss and acknowledged his lasting legacy. Among the dignitaries present were: Jagdev Singh Bhatoa (President, Nagar Council Morinda), Harjeet Singh Sodhi (Municipal Councillor), Jasvir Kaur (Municipal Councillor, Kharar), Jasvir Singh Bhola (General Secretary, District Congress Mohali), Lachhman Singh (Nabipur, SCBC Union Punjab), Harpreet Singh Sandhu (Teacher Union Leader), Parminder Bharti (SCBC Teacher Union, Ropar), Sukhwinder Singh Chahal etc.

Residents of Opera Garden hold silent protest against builder

VICKY BHABAT ZIRAKPUR, JUNE 29

The residents of Opera Garden, a residential project developed by CCPL, held a silent protest for seven days against the builder's failure to provide promised amenities despite collecting Monthly Maintenance Charges (MMC) in advance. The ongoing construction, spanning over approximately 20 years, has caused immense inconvenience to the residents.

The key issues that led to the protest include:

- Lack of amenities: Promised facilities have not been provided to the residents.

- Construction inconvenience: Ongoing construction is causing disruptions and affecting the quality of life.

- Harassment: Residents, especially ladies and elderly, are facing trauma due to rough employees hired by the builder.



- Default on plan of action: The builder had provided a plan of action through a letter dated August 19, 2023, which has not been adhered to.

- No occupancy certificate: The builder has failed to obtain the occupancy certificate, which is affecting the residents' ability to pay property taxes to the government.

During the protest, the newly appointed General Manager from Opera Garden management, accompanied by his lawyer, Mr. Amit, visited the residents

on the fifth day and acknowledged the issues. However, the residents are not satisfied with the offer of providing amenities after paying up, as there is no account of the money already paid for promised amenities.

The residents are determined to seek action and have outlined a roadmap ahead, which includes presenting their grievances to the DC office. The residents urge the management of Opera Garden to take the first step to regain the lost trust of the residents.

CGC Jhanjeri hosts International Teaching Excellence Program 2025

TILAK RAJ

MOHALI: Chandigarh Group of Colleges, Mohali, Jhanjeri hosted the International Teaching Excellence Program (ITEP) 2025, academic event that brought together over 20 renowned scholars and educationists from more than 10 countries. Delegates from Australia, Canada, Mauritius, the UAE, South Africa, and several other nations convened at the CGC Jhanjeri campus to promote innovation in teaching, drive institutional excellence, and advance the development of globally competent citizens.



The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Mr. Deepak Anand, Member of Parliament (Mississauga-Malton, Canada), who congratulated the CGC team for organizing a truly global academic event. MP Anand emphasized the need for integrating international standards into educational systems and encouraged collaborative innovation in pedagogy. He lauded the initiative as a significant platform for fostering global academic partnerships and knowledge sharing. The multi-day event featured engaging workshops, interactive discussions, and high-level international dialogues focusing on contemporary education challenges and solutions. These sessions provided valuable insights into emerging teaching methodologies and highlighted the importance of intercultural exchange in shaping the future of education.

NSSO Regional Office, Chandigarh celebrates 19th statistics day

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

In recognition of the remarkable contributions made by Professor P.C. Mahalanobis in the fields of economics, planning, and the development of statistics, the Regional Office, Chandigarh of the National Statistical Office (NSO) celebrated the 19th Statistics Day, 2025 on 29th June at the Mini Hall, Kendriya Sadan, Sector-9, Chandigarh. The event marked the birth anniversary of the Father of Indian Statistics, Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis. This year's theme is "75 Years of the National Sample Survey."

The event was inaugurated by Shri Deepak Mehra, Deputy Director General, NSSO (FOD), RO Chandigarh, who shared insights



into the life and contributions of Prof. Mahalanobis.

On this occasion, Shri Pavitar Singh, Director (Retd.), Press Information Bureau (PIB), served as the Guest of Honour and high-lighted Prof. Mahalanobis's invaluable role in strengthening the Indian statistical sys-

tem. He also underscored the importance of statistics in everyday life.

Shri R.K. Mor, Additional Director, Department of Economic and Statistical Analysis, Haryana, provided an overview of the evolution of the National Sample Survey in India. Shri Vasudev Shar-

ma, Senior Statistical Officer (Retd.), shared personal experiences from the field and discussed challenges faced during data collection.

As part of the ceremony, participants offered floral tributes to Prof. Mahalanobis. The event also featured engaging activities, including a quiz competition, essay writing, and a poster exhibition.

A total of around 60 participants, comprising officers, officials, and university students associated with the field of statistics, attended and participated enthusiastically. The celebration successfully promoted awareness about the critical role of statistics in national development.

NIPCCD organises a special workshop on procedure in relation to CCL for members of board

SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, JUNE 29

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) under Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a Two Days Cross Learning Interactive Workshop on the subject 'Procedure in Relation to Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) for the Members of Juvenile Justice Boards' on 26th & 27th June, for the State of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territories of Chandigarh and Ladakh, at NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali (RCM). Sonali Kumari Assistant Director RCM NIPCCD being programme coordinator sensitized the participants how to deal with the CCL during the inquiry and the role of Members of Juvenile Justice Boards. Arvind Khurania Member JJB Kaithaland all the participating states also made presentation in the workshop through Power Point



Presentation on the Role & Responsibilities of JJB under section 8(3) of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 read with its Model Rules of 2016. The participating Members also discussed the problems faced by them in the working of Juvenile Justice Boards and the grey area and its solution. The workshop was

also addressed by panel experts Dr. Krishan Soni, Additional Director PGI, Sarita Roy SHO Chandigarh Police, Dr. Satinder Kaur, Dr. Madanjit K Sahota and Neil Roberts Advocate. The workshop was inaugurated by the senior faculty of NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali and was highly appreciated by the participants as well as by the panellists.

Prathm Team organizes summer camp at Kalsian School

RAIKOT (GOGI KMAALPURIYA) : Under the leadership of First Block Coordinator Madam Manpreet Kaur and School Headmaster Rajan Singh, a special summer camp was organized in the school for the all-round development of the students under Mission Samarth in the Government Elementary School of nearby village Kalsian. Students of different classes of the school participated enthusiastically in this camp and gained valuable experience by participating in informative activities. Giving information about this, the school headmaster Rajan Singh said that during the summer camp, various activities were organized for the school students, which included drawing, mehndi, sewing, cooking and dance. The students participated in the above activities with full enthusiasm. He said that the camp was entertaining for the students and will also prove to be very beneficial in the development of the children's personality. He said that the main objective of these activities was to highlight the hidden talent among the students and bring out their creativity. Madam Rupinder Kaur, volunteers Nazia, Amarjit Kaur, Shinder Kaur, Gurpreet Kaur, Harjinder Kaur, Bahadur Singh, Harpreet Singh etc. were also present on the occasion.



MRSPTU pays rich tribute to Maharaja Ranjit Singh on 186th death anniversary

ANIL VERMA

BATHINDA: Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, observed the 186th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, paying heartfelt tribute to the legendary Sikh emperor known as Sher-e-Punjab (Lion of Punjab).

In a solemn ceremony held on campus, MRSPTU Registrar Dr. Gurinder Pal Singh Brar, along with faculty and staff, offered floral tributes and reflected on the life, leadership, and contributions of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Dr. Brar described him as a visionary monarch who unified the warring factions and princely states of Punjab into a strong, secular Sikh Empire in the early 19th century.

Born on November 13, 1780, in Gujranwala (now in Pakistan), Maharaja Ranjit Singh passed away on June 29, 1839, in Lahore. His reign was marked by military excellence, good governance, and a deeply rooted commitment to religious harmony. By the end of his rule, his empire stretched from the Sutlej River to the Khyber Pass.

"Maharaja Ranjit Singh will always be remembered as a fearless warrior, a wise statesman, and a unifier of Punjab. He ruled with humility and ensured peace and coexistence among diverse communities," said Dr. Brar. He also highlighted the emperor's inclusive governance, which placed Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians in key positions of authority.

Dr. Brar expressed gratitude to the Punjab Government for establishing a university in the Malwa region named after Maharaja Ranjit Singh, underlining the institution's role in preserving the values and ideals of this iconic ruler.

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: A grand international event titled “African Mind Builders – Meet and Greet” was organized at Rayat-Bahra Education City. The event witnessed participation from representatives of various African nations who came together to exchange ideas on leadership, education, innovation,



and youth empowerment. Campus Director Dr. Chander Mohan served as the chief guest for the program. In his inspiring address, he highlighted the strengthening ties between India and Africa, and underscored the importance of global partnerships, cultural exchange, and providing young people with international exposure.

NEWS BRIEF

Abhi Sharma appointed as Director of Youth Development Board Punjab



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: AAP youth leader Abhi Sharma has been appointed as the Director of Youth Development Board Punjab by the Punjab government. There is a wave of happiness among Aam Aadmi Party workers regarding this. Meanwhile, Abhi Sharma, the newly elected Director of the Development Board Punjab, said that it is a matter of great pride for him that the party has shown its faith in me and provided me with a great opportunity to serve the youth. Therefore, I would like to thank the entire leadership of Aam Aadmi Party, including Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab In-charge Manish Sisodia, President Aman Arora, Executive President Sherry Kalsi, Punjab Youth President Manjinder Singh Lalpura, Chairman Parminder Singh Goldy, Cabinet Minister Punjab Lal Chand Kataruchak, Trust Chairman Vibhuti Sharma, Gurudev Lakhna, and sujanpur Incharge Amit Singh Mantu. Along with this, I also specially thank my young colleagues who supported me in every situation.

Central govt should expedite SGPC elections: Gaganjit Singh
RAJESHWAR PINTU DHURI: Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former MLA Gaganjit Singh Barnala has urged the Central Government to expedite the elections of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to ensure effective and accountable leadership of Sikh religious institutions.



Welcoming the widespread panthric support for the five-member committee constituted under the guidance of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Barnala extended gratitude to the Sikh community. He emphasized that the Panth now requires leadership that transcends personal or familial interests and functions purely in the service of panthic values, guided solely by the supreme authority of Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

Construction of overbridge in Dhuri to begin soon: Ravneet Singh Bittu

RAJESHWAR PINTU DHURI, JUNE 29

Union Railway Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu has announced that construction of a Road Over Bridge (ROB) near Level Crossing 62A in Dhuri city will commence within the next one year. Terming it a much-needed project, Bittu said the bridge will not only fulfill a long-standing demand of the people of Dhuri but also resolve the everyday commuting issues caused by the level crossing.

Bittu pointed out that Level Crossing 62A has long divided the city into two parts, creating daily hazards, delays, and inconvenience for residents. He added that the



prolonged wait of the public must end, and the Central Government has now decided to begin construction work within a year. The Union Minister held the Punjab Government and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann directly responsible for the neglect of Dhuri, despite it being Mann’s own assembly constituency. Bittu expressed

regret that no significant development had taken place in Dhuri over the past three and a half years. Instead of addressing legitimate public demands, the state government has resorted to false promises, hollow publicity, and political drama. He further remarked that the Chief Minister has failed to even establish a temporary

residence in Dhuri.

Bittu revealed that earlier today, just ahead of his scheduled visit, the Chief Minister posted a misleading and false tweet regarding the project, allegedly aimed at confusing the public of Dhuri. “This is a time for accountability, not theatrics,” said Bittu, adding that the people of Dhuri deserve genuine development, modern infrastructure, and improved facilities — not mere drama and social media gimmicks.

The Railway Minister confirmed that the blueprint for the ROB has already been prepared and initial approval has been granted by the Ministry of Railways. Technical processes are

progressing swiftly, and the Central Government along with the Railways will closely monitor the project to ensure there are no delays.

In conclusion, Bittu reassured the residents of Dhuri that the project reflects real commitment to development, not political spectacle, and will play a transformative role in the city’s future.

Present on the occasion were District President Dharminder Singh Dullet, General Secretary Pardeep Garg, Randeep Singh Deol, Jaswinder Rikhi, Arun Arya, Kamaljeet Garg, Vankesh Garg, Barjeshwar Goel, Bhupesh Jindal, Surinder Kumar Master, Raman Bansal, and others.

Goyal listens to problems of Nagar Panchayat Khanauri residents

SUMER GARG SANGRUR, JUNE 29

The Cabinet Minister to GoP, Mr Barinder Kumar Goyal while listening to the problems of people of nagar panchayat Khanauri area said, “The Punjab government is committed to resolve problems of people and no stone is left unturned for it. While giving a patient hearing to the issues, Mr Goyal directed the officials to resolve, problems on the spot”. He said that the Punjab government has fulfilled its promises in a phased manner. Large-scale development works are being done, which includes, roads, streets, street lights, parks, crematoriums and cemeteries, water drainage and schools. He said that no stone will be left unturned in the development of the constituency.

The minister said that work on every road is being



done. Apart from this, the Punjab Government was giving benefits of schemes to every eligible beneficiary. The historic decision of providing 300 units of free electricity has benefited the masses. Now people are getting the benefits of a large number of government services while sitting at home. He said that Punjab is the holy land of Gurus, Peers, Prophets where its people live with pride. But the evil scourge of drugs had gripped

the state and the society. Punjab being the international border state has become a drug route for drug smugglers.

The Punjab government was taking great measures to curb this menace. He suggested that the entire society should unite on this issue. People involved in drug dealing are being arrested on a large scale in Punjab. The Punjab government is determined to eradicate the scourge of drugs.

Monthly meeting of Doaba Kisan Committee Punjab District Pathankot



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: The monthly meeting of Doaba Kisan Committee Punjab District Pathankot was held at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Village Mirthal Tanda. Members from different units participated in the meeting. Various issues were discussed during the meeting. Giving information about the meeting, Daljit Singh Manjhpur, Mehar Singh Sandhu, Onkar Singh Devidas, Sewa Singh Naluga, Dr. Narinder Singh Ghiala said that the farmer brothers are facing the problem of urea fertilizer in the paddy season. The need for urea fertilizer is very important for the paddy and sugarcane crops at this time, but due to the wrong policies of the governments, urea fertilizer is not reaching the farmers. If a shopkeeper sells fertilizer, they also charge a higher price for the fertilizer and also provide unnecessary items, which is putting an additional burden on the farmer. Secondly, if urea fertilizer is supplied to societies built in villages, then some other commodity or Markfed feed is also being given along with it, which is becoming a huge problem for farmers. He appealed to the government to save farmers from this loot and to make urea fertilizer available to them on time and to sell urea in shops and societies at the rate fixed by the government.

'Yudh Nashian Virudh': 114 drug smugglers held with 4.1kg heroin, Rs. 9.6 lakh drug money

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

With the war against drugs “Yudh Nashian Virudh” waged on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state completed 120 days, Punjab Police on Sunday arrested 114 drug smugglers and recovered 4.1 kg heroin and Rs 9.6 lakh drug money from their possession. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 19,735 in just 120 days. The operation was conducted on the directions of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav simultaneously in all 28 Police districts of the state. Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member

Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs. Divulging details, Special DGP Law and Order Arpit Shukla informed that over 180 Police teams, comprising over 1100 police personnel, under the supervision of 85 gazetted officers have conducted raids at as many as 367 locations across the state leading to the registration of 77 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 399 suspicious persons during the day-long operation, he added. The Special DGP said that with the state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy— Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP)—to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of ‘De-addiction’ has convinced 54 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Lakhwinder Singh Lakha Dhillon appointed as President of All India Car Dealers Association Punjab



JS GILL JAITU: Lakhwinder Singh Lakha Dhillon, a prominent social worker from nearby Village Dabrikhana Distt Faridkot, has received the news of being appointed as the state president of All India Car Dealers Association Punjab. According to the information received, an important meeting was held at the office of All India Car Dealers Association for the appointment of the state president of Punjab under the chairmanship of All India President J.S. Niol, in which Lakhwinder Singh Lakha Dhillon was honored with the appointment letter of the state president of Punjab and the responsibility of organizing this organization for solving the problems of car dealers for the state of Punjab was entrusted to Lakhwinder Singh Lakha Dhillon. In this meeting, AICDA National President J.S. Niol handed over the responsibility by giving the letter of appointment. On this occasion, Delhi Pradesh President Lakesh Manjal and Haryana Pradesh President Chandra Khattar also extended their best wishes and appealed to strengthen the organization. The meeting was attended by National Senior Vice President Swaran Singh, Yash Sharma, Amarjit Singh Marwah, National Treasurer Gurjit Singh, National Secretary Neeraj Jain, Gurmeet Singh, Delhi Vice President Tejinder Pal Singla, Jasvir Singh Jassi, Kamaljit Singh, Jarnail Singh.

Speaker Sandhwa attends Mission 1313 blood donation camp as chief guest



SURENDER DAMDAMI KOTAKPURA: On the completion of 16 years of the formation of the famous blood donation organization PBG Welfare Club, the organization organized a massive blood donation camp under Mission 1313. In this camp, S. Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha, attended as the chief guest. In his address on this occasion, Speaker S. Kultar Singh Sandhwa said that blood donation is a noble donation and many precious lives can be saved by donating blood. He said that we should all donate blood to help the needy. He said that some people have this misconception that a person can become weak or sick by donating blood. He said that this is completely wrong and baseless. He said that a healthy person can donate blood after every 3 months and new cells start forming in the blood body only after 48 hours after donating blood. He said that blood donation not only gives a new life to a needy person, but also can provide many benefits to the human body of the donor. He said that in our country, children suffering from thalassemia are in dire need of blood. The lives of children suffering from such a disease depend on the blood donated by us.

406 Sewa Kendra services available at Patiala residents’ doorsteps: DC

RAKESH JINDAL PATIALA, JUNE 29

Under the ongoing doorstep delivery initiative of the Punjab Government, led by Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, citizens of Patiala can avail 406 services provided at Sewa Kendras from the comfort of their homes by simply calling 1076.

Sharing this information, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Preeti Yadav said that these services, spanning 26 government departments, are being actively delivered at citizens’ doorsteps. These include 73 services from the Agriculture Department, 46 from Home and Justice, 45 from Labour, 39 from Transport, 48 from Revenue, 37 from Health and Family Welfare, 12 from Local Bodies, 13 from Social Security, and 17 under the SANJH initiative. Designated representatives visit applicants’ residences to collect the required documents and later deliver the final certificates or service outputs upon completion. Dr. Preeti Yadav emphasized that this facility, has proven to be a major time-saver for citizens and enhancing both transparency and convenience. In case any documents are missing, applicants can easily arrange them from home. Service assistants



handle the full process, from collecting applications and photographs to delivering the final outcome to the citizen’s doorstep. She urged all residents to take full advantage of this hassle-free service by calling 1076 and accessing a wide range of government services from home. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Preeti Yadav informed that under this ongoing doorstep delivery service, citizens can access a wide array of services from their homes. These include the issuance, correction, and delayed registration of birth and death certificates; income and property certificates (including EWS); caste certificates (SC, BC, OBC, and General); residence and rural area certificates; and marriage registration.

CM Mann honours 12 Patiala students for NEET excellence

RAKESH JINDAL PATIALA, JUNE 29

Twelve meritorious students from Patiala district, who delivered exceptional performances in the NEET 2025 examination, were honoured by Punjab Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann for their academic excellence. This special felicitation ceremony was organised to acknowledge the perseverance and dedication of students who, despite studying in government schools, achieved remarkable success in one of the country’s most competitive medical entrance exams. District Education Officer (Secondary Education), Patiala, Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, said that this accomplishment is a testament to the high-quality education being imparted in



government schools under the guidance of Punjab Education Minister Mr. Harjot Singh Bains. He added that the achievements of these students would serve as a powerful source of motivation for others.

Deputy DEO Dr. Ravinderpal Sharma shared that the students’ preparation was supported through regular mock tests, doubt-clearing sessions, and psychological counselling conducted at the government level. He also

highlighted that Patiala district had shown exemplary performance in NEET last year as well, and that the positive trend has continued this year. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann congratulated the students on their success and extended his best wishes for their future academic pursuits. He also lauded the efforts of their parents, teachers, and school staff who played a crucial role in guiding them toward this success.

DC directs plot owners to clear garbage by July 10 from their empty plots

PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR, JUNE 29

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal has issued strict directions to plot owners across the district to clear garbage and waste from their vacant plots by July 10, 2025, warning that non-compliance will invite stringent action. Dr. Aggarwal, while divulging details, said that heaps of garbage and stagnant rainwater in empty plots pose serious threats to public health as they attract harmful bacteria and insects, risking disease outbreaks, especially during the monsoon season. Issuing Magistrate orders under Section 163 of BNSS, Dr. Aggarwal has fixed the responsibility on plot owners



to maintain cleanliness on their properties to protect public health. He further directed that plot owners must construct boundary walls or fencing around their vacant plots to prevent illegal dumping of waste. Government departments have also been instructed to clear garbage from their vacant properties, including

unused pieces of land under their jurisdiction. The Deputy Commissioner has directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Urban Development) and Municipal Corporation Jalandhar to enforce these orders strictly within their areas, ensuring immediate action against violators. He also instructed these departments to initiate recovery procedures against plot owners if government agencies are required to clean these properties after July 10, 2025. Dr. Aggarwal emphasized that these orders have been issued purely in the interest of public health to protect citizens from diseases, particularly during the ongoing monsoon when vector-borne diseases can spread rapidly.

Ghaggar branch canal breach near village Kotra Lehal, crops damaged, department in hurry

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA, JUNE 29

A 20-foot long breaches out near village Kotra Lehal in the Ghaggar branch, which flows through Lehragaga city, at around 6 am Saturday. Due to this breaches large-scale damage has been caused to crops in nearby fields due to water ingress. After the canal breached, the department was in a hurry to fill the burst. Regarding this burst, where some farmers said that the poor condition of the Ghaggar branch canal is mocking the government’s claim of providing full water to every field. The canal department has neither improved its poor condition nor is its capacity taken into account while releasing water, due to which the farmers have to bear the brunt of the damage caused by it. Farmers affected by the breach, Gaggi Singh Kotra, Gurvinder Singh, Nazar Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Binder Singh etc., said that due to the breach of the canal, our crops have been flooded. They said that this canal broke around 5 am and this water has reached the Thade of Gaga village and Alampur. This water has damaged the



crops of moong, cotton, maize and cumin. Other farmers also said that this canal is weak in many places. Instead of doing the proper work of this canal, The department is trying to run it by tying it with ropes, which is not appropriate. The farmers said that this canal has not even been cleaned, due to which we are always afraid of the canal breaking. The farmers said that when the canal is empty, the administration does not pay attention to it.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Pakhwara in SLIET Longowal

RAVI GARG LONGOWAL:

Health Centre, SLIET Longowal, successfully observed ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Pakhwara’ during 12th-26th June 2025. During the above period multiple sessions were organised by health centre staff and anti-drug pledge was taken by all the participants. On the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on 26th June, a seminar was conducted to spread awareness against drug abuse. The biological, psychological, social consequences happening due to drug abuse were pointed out. Also, the prevention and treatment strategies were highlighted. All the participants took a pledge to make their campus drug free as well as raise awareness among the society. Prof. M.M. Sinha, Director In-Charge and Dean (Student Welfare), Prof. V.K. Kukreja, Associate Dean (Discipline), Dr. Gurjinder Kaur, Chief Warden (Girls Hostel), Dr. Rupesh Singh, Medical Officer, Dr. Sherrain Rattan, Counsellor, alongwith a large number of students, faculty and staff members participated in this seminar.



NEWS BRIEF

School buses in Bangana subdivision to undergo inspection on June 30

JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA: A joint inspection of all private and government school buses operating under the Bangana subdivision will be carried out on June 30. The inspection team will include the SDM of Bangana, Block Primary Education Officer, Deputy Director of Education, and the RTO from Una. The primary aim of the inspection is to ensure the safety of school children and to check compliance with transportation regulations. The team will thoroughly examine aspects such as bus fitness, driver credentials, insurance documents, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, emergency exits, and seating arrangements. The SDM has urged all school administrations to ensure that their school vehicles are presented at the designated inspection site on time along with all necessary documents. Given the monsoon season and associated road safety concerns, this inspection holds particular importance.

State School Lecturers Association congratulates Dr. Rajesh Sharma on being elected Chairman of Board

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Himachal Pradesh School Lecturer's Association's State President Ajay Negi, Chief Patron Lokendra Singh Negi, State General Secretary Inder Singh Thakur, Provincial Press Secretary Rajan Sharma, Lecturer's Association's State Chairman Surendra Pundir, Executive President Deep Singh Khanna, Vikas Ratan Varun Lakhanpal, former District President and Principal Vinod

Banyal, Satpal Vishisht Sanjeev Parashar, Rajpal Sirohi, Dinesh Kondal, Rakesh Malhotra, Rajiv Kaushal, Rajiv Sharma, Bihani Lal Sanjeev Saini, Rajesh Saini, Una District President Shashi Saini, Senior Vice President, Ram Kumar, District Press Secretary Satish Kalia, General Secretary Sanjeev Kumar, Atul Kumar, Sanjeev Dhiman, Tarun Kumar, Yashpal Dhiman.

Himachal Bhawan and Labour Welfare Board stand by grieving widow with financial aid

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, JUNE 29

When tragedy struck the family of Shakuntala Devi from Tathal village in Una district, the future looked bleak. Her husband Raman Kumar, a registered construction worker, lost his life in a tragic road accident — leaving behind a grieving family and the burden of uncertainty.

But during this dark chapter, the Himachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board emerged as a pillar of support. Recognising Raman Kumar's registration under the board, the family received 74.20 lakh in financial assistance — a much-needed lifeline that helped Shakuntala support her children's education and manage essential

State government to launch massive anti-drug campaign shortly: CM

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 29

To raise awareness against drug abuse, the Himachal Pradesh Police Department organized the 12th HP Police Half Marathon in Shimla on Sunday. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu felicitated the winners of the marathon, which featured participation in men's, women's, and senior citizens' (75+ years) categories.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed serious concern over the involvement of government employees in drug-related activities. He said that strict action has already been taken against 80 government employees facing legal proceedings so far. He said even police personnel have been found involved in drug trafficking activities and added that the state government is considering to amend the Police Manual to



ensure greater accountability within the force.

The Chief Minister said that the government is preparing to launch a large-scale anti-drug campaign in the near future. "Mapping is being conducted at the panchayat ward level to facilitate targeted intervention," he stated. The government is also

forming a Special Task Force to clamp down on drug trafficking and recruitment process is already underway. Additionally, 500 new posts will be filled in the Police department to strengthen enforcement efforts, he added. "Youth are the future of our nation, and protecting them from the menace of drugs is a collective

responsibility," said the Chief Minister, reiterating the government's policy of zero tolerance towards drug abuse.

The CM stated that the state is working on a two-pronged strategy, strict enforcement and a sensitive approach towards victims. The present government has implemented the PIT-NDPS Act, which was not enforced during the previous BJP government's five-year tenure. Under this Act, 40 detention orders have been approved, 36 of which were issued this year. The government has also demolished properties belonging to seven drug peddlers and is actively pursuing action against others, he added.

Furthermore, Sh. Sukhu said the state has passed the HP Anti-Drugs Act, which distinguishes between offenders and victims. The law adopts a rehabilitative approach towards drug users, aiming to bring them back into the mainstream of society.

3.27 crore OPD patients receive quality health services in two years

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 29

To assess the development of any society, community, state or nation, one must thoroughly examine the state of its education and health systems. The one that excels in these sectors, integrates modern technologies and embraces innovation are likely to be the most powerful and resilient economy of the future. Investments made on transforming crucial sectors like education and healthcare benefit generations for decades. With this in mind, Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while ensuring the judicious use of the state's resources, has prioritized the modernization of key sectors like health and education. Given the challenging geographical landscape in Himachal Pradesh, delivering healthcare services to people in remote villages requires extraordinary commitment and dedication. Within a brief tenure of two and a half years, the

government has taken various decisions and launched revolutionary schemes, resulting in widespread improvement and expansion of state-of-the-art healthcare services across the state. Currently, the state government is delivering quality healthcare to citizens at their doorstep through 2,926 government health institutions across Himachal. These include six medical colleges, three zonal hospitals, nine regional hospitals, 92 civil hospitals, 107 community health centers, 585 primary health centers and 2,116 sub-health centers, among others.

The government has its focus on need-based expansion of the capacities of the health institutions across the state, including remote areas. Civil Hospital Kaza in Lahaul-Spiti district has been upgraded from a 20-bed to a 50-bed facility. Civil hospitals in Sujampur, district Hamirpur, Sunni, district Shimla, and Haroli, district Una, have been upgraded from 50 to 100 beds.

Buddhist development plan will lead to renovation of Buddhist monasteries and ancient Gompas: Kiren Rijiju

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, JUNE 29

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju on Sunday laid the foundation stone of Keylong sewerage scheme, funded in a financial ratio of 90:10 by the Central and State Governments under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Kalyan Karyakram. Under this project, a modern sewerage system will be developed in Keylong at a cost of Rs 26.75 crore, which will benefit about 9600 people of Keylong and Billing villages.

While addressing the public meeting in Keylong, Kiren Rijiju congratulated



the foundation stone laying of the sewerage scheme. He said that its construction will significantly improve the condition of cleanliness and public health in the area. This scheme is being made possible by the joint efforts of the Ministry of Minority Affairs of the Central Government and the State Government, which will be

an important step towards strengthening the infrastructure in remote areas like Lahaul-Spiti. He said that in his four-day stay, he has visited Shimla, Kalpa to Keylong. He said that the Lahaul-Spiti district has been given the highest amount of funds by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in the entire country.

Governor flags off 12th Half Marathon with the theme 'Together We Defeat Drugs'

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 29

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla flagged off the 12th Half Marathon organized by the Himachal Pradesh Police Department from the Historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla, today. The event was held under the impactful theme "Together We Defeat Drugs." Speaking on the occasion, the Governor commended the enthusiasm of participants, especially the youth, despite heavy rains. He noted that people from all walks of life including children, youth, the elderly, and even differently-abled individuals participated in



the marathon, which is a commendable show of collective spirit against drug abuse. "The enthusiasm may take time, but we are determined to make Himachal a drug-free state," said the Governor. He emphasized that the campaign "Together We Defeat Drugs" must reach

every household, and lauded the police department for its committed efforts toward this goal. The Governor further stated that the sanctity and cultural pride of Devbhoomi Himachal would be restored, and drug abuse eradicated. He called upon every section of society to actively participate in such

awareness campaigns, noting that a united effort is the only way to eliminate the menace of drugs. On the occasion, the Governor administered an oath to the participants to stay away from all forms of intoxicants. Shri Shukla also inaugurated an exhibition set up by the State Police and signed the 'Signature Board' to mark his solidarity with the campaign against drug abuse. The marathon was divided into four categories: Half Marathon, Mini Marathon, Dream Run, and a special run for differently-abled participants. The winner of the Half Marathon will be awarded a cash prize of rupees 51,000.

Dr Bal Chander secures global patents for revolutionary blood analysis system

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, JUNE 29

In a landmark achievement in medical innovation, Professor of Pathology Dr. Bal Chander working with at Dr. R.P. Government Medical College, Kangra at Tanda, has been granted patents in India and the United States for his groundbreaking invention—the Blood Analysis System (BAS). The European Patent Office has also ratified its components and working processes, affirming its originality and global significance.

The BAS is poised to transform critical care and surgical medicine. Designed for ICU patients and those undergoing high-risk surgeries, this dynamic system offers real-time monitoring and correction of vital blood parameters



without drawing even a single drop of blood. Capable of continuously measuring levels of dozens of blood molecules and ions, BAS provides immediate, real-time data—far surpassing traditional lab testing, which often delays intervention by over an hour. Dr. Chander explains that "Using lab snapshots to understand a critically ill patient's condition is like trying to grasp the story of a three-hour

movie through a few photographs." His invention eliminates this gap, offering continuous, detailed insights into a patient's rapidly changing internal environment. Beyond monitoring, the BAS introduces a revolutionary correction system. It can selectively and simultaneously normalize abnormal levels of molecules and ions in the blood without the use of drugs or dialysis. This controlled mechanism opens new avenues for treatment that are both precise and non-invasive. The idea for BAS emerged from personal tragedy—after the untimely deaths of his teacher and a classmate from Sainik School Sujampur Tihra, Dr. Chander embarked on a mission to uncover the hidden causes through molecular-level analysis.

Namdev Samaj Mahasabha Himachal Pradesh general executive session concludes



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: The general session and election of the executive body of District Una of Namdev Samaj Mahasabha Himachal Pradesh was organized at Devi Mandir Amb. The President, Deputy Chief Secretary and other executive members of District Kangra and District Hamirpur of the Mahasabha took part in today's session. Apart from this, members of the Mahasabha related to District Una participated. The elections of the governing body of District Una were held in today's meeting. The notification related to the elections was issued on June 9, 2025, under which the elections were scheduled for June 29, 2025. In today's session, on behalf of Namdev Samaj Mahasabha Himachal Pradesh, Executive State President Anjan Keshav, General Secretary Anil Kumar, Vice President Chand Rani, Mast Ram Indoria, Baldev Namdev Pradhan from District Kangra, Krishna Kumar, Mrs. Bina Kumari and Satish Bhardwaj Pradhan from District Hamirpur, Kundan Rathore Secretary, participated. The program started with lighting of lamps, after which all the members present paid their tributes to the feet of Baba Namdev, after which Anil Kumar General Secretary conducted the stage and invited the speakers to present their views on the stage one by one, after which the election program for the formation of the new committee was started.

Ex Minister Ram Lal Thakur slams Rijiju, accuses BJP of misusing agencies against opponents

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, JUNE 29

Senior Congress leader and member of the State Coordination Committee, Ex Minister Ram Lal Thakur, launched a scathing attack on Union Minister Kiren Rijiju over his recent remarks. Thakur termed Rijiju's statement—"suggesting that most Congress leaders would be in jail if an undeclared emergency existed today—as shocking and baseless.

Former minister in a release asserted that the emergency Rijiju referred to was governed by constitutional procedures, unlike the current atmosphere under the BJP-led Central government, which he accused of adopting undemocratic tactics. "The BJP is misusing central agencies like the ED, CBI, and Income Tax Department to harass and defame political



opponents. This is not governance; it's political vendetta," Thakur said. He challenged the BJP to show moral strength instead of deploying coercive mechanisms to suppress dissent. According to him, the ruling party's obsession with targeting adversaries poses a serious threat to democratic values. Thakur also responded to Rijiju's comments during his Himachal visit, particularly his alarming observation about the dangerous terrain

of Triund (Taranda) Dhaak. "It's good that the Union Minister has now experienced the treacherous conditions locals face daily," Thakur remarked. Highlighting the region's dire need for infrastructure support, Thakur reiterated the Himachal government's long-standing request to the Centre. He urged Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to allocate adequate funds, keeping in mind the state's tough geography. He emphasized that better road connectivity and fare concessions for locals are essential not only for safety and mobility but also to boost tourism and uplift the local economy. He concluded by stressing that the Centre must act with sincerity and not partisan bias when it comes to development in hilly states like Himachal Pradesh.

PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' unites the nation: Sanjay Tandon listens in Shimla Rural



DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: The Shimla Gramin BJP Mandal organized a live listening session of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat at Tutu Bazaar, where BJP state co-incharge Sanjay Tandon was the chief guest. He was joined by Kangra MP Dr. Rajeev Bhardwaj, BJP state vice-president Sanjeev Katwal, Shimla Rural candidate Ravi Mehta, state media in-charge Kam Nanda, Mandal president Yashpal, Suman Garg, Pramod Kumar, Om Prakash, Manoj Verma, Sandeep Thakur, Ritug Raghuvanshi, Roshan Lal, and Ranaj Kumar others. Addressing the gathering, Sanjay Tandon said Mann Ki Baat is a unique initiative that has succeeded in emotionally connecting citizens across the country. He highlighted how Prime Minister Modi's leadership has brought the country together through thoughtful and inspirational conversations. Speaking on the 10th anniversary of International Yoga Day, Tandon emphasized the PM's message about the growing global embrace of yoga. "This year, the energy around Yoga Day was unprecedented," he said, referencing how three lakh people performed yoga on the Vizag beach, and over 2,000 tribal students did 108 Surya Namaskars for 108 minutes — a display of immense discipline and dedication.

Community hall will be built in Purana Kangra, Nishu Mongra

SANAJY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, JUNE 29

A community hall will be built in Purana Kangra city on the instructions of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. Apart from this, 10 lakhs will be spent on the road for the farmers in Kotkwa with immediate effect. These two big announcements were made on Sunday at the Ichhi office of Gaggal by District APMC and State President of Himachal Congress OBC Department Nishu Mongra. Nishu Mongra said that both these works will be completed soon. On Sunday, the people of Purana Kangra reached first to meet Nishu Mongra. The delegation raised the problem that there is a lot of difficulty due to the absence of a community hall in Purana Kangra. On



this, Mongra took immediate action and announced to build a community hall in Purana Kangra on priority basis. Mongra said that relief will be provided to the public by building a grand community hall. Mongra said that the historic Purana Kangra city is the heritage of our area. It is the duty of all of us to maintain its identity. After this, Nishu Mongra visited Nandehad Panchayat. This Panchayat has suffered heavy losses due to rain.

Many ditches, roads and drains have been damaged. Nishu Mongra instructed the departmental officers to get all these works done. Meanwhile, the farmers told Nishu Mongra that the road leading to the fields in Kotkwa has been badly damaged. On this, Mongra announced to give ten lakh rupees for this road. The work will be started soon. The farmers have expressed their gratitude to Nishu Mongra for this work.

NEWS BRIEF

Food Safety Team
Jalandhar collects 7
samples of food and drinks



JS SODHI
JALANDHAR: As part of the series of steps being taken to prevent adulteration of food and drink, the Food Safety Team Jalandhar collected 7 samples of food items during inspections in different areas of the city as per the directions of Commissioner Food and Drug Administration Dilraj Singh. Under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Dr. Harjot Pal Singh, the Food Team inspected various establishments related to food items in Mithu Basti and Basti Sheikh Road areas. During this, 7 samples of food items were collected for further inspection, which include edible oil, ghee, tea leaves, pumpkin etc. During this, the team also made food sellers aware of obtaining a license under the Food Safety Act according to their annual income. The Assistant Commissioner said that this inspection campaign will continue in the future to ensure safe and quality food for the city residents.

Heavy rainfall causes
mosque wall
collapse in Bilaspur



SAVITA
BILASPUR: Due to persistent rainfall in the town, rainwater mixed with sewer overflow led to the collapse of a boundary wall of the historic Beed Mosque in the Budhiya locality, causing major inconvenience to residents. The incident has blocked a key passageway, halting pedestrian movement through the area. Local residents, including Israr, Imran, Naseem, Zulfiqar, Islam, Iqbal, and Ashiq, expressed their frustration, saying they had repeatedly submitted complaints to the municipal authorities, urging the construction of a proper drainage system and repair of the alley near the old mosque.

Women sidelined in Hansi
grievance committee; new male
members dominate the list

MANMOHAN SHARMA
HANSI: The recent reconstitution of the District Grievance Redressal Committee by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's government has sparked dissatisfaction in Hansi, particularly over the exclusion of women from the committee. Despite the BJP's stated commitment to 33% reservation for women, not a single woman from Hansi has been included among the dozen new appointees. This omission has raised questions about the party's commitment to women's representation. Many women in Hansi are active participants in party events and programs, yet they continue to be overlooked in formal appointments. Ironically, names of two women — District Mahila Morcha President Neelam Jagra from Narnaund and Meena Sharma from Kheri Jalab — were included in the Hissar Grievance Redressal Committee. However, Hansi remains without any female voice in its district panel, undermining the BJP's declared stance on gender inclusion. The issue was highlighted during a BJP event held in Hansi to honour democracy warriors, where the turnout of women was notably high. The apparent disconnect between women's ground-level participation and institutional recognition was hard to ignore. Among those appointed from Hansi to the committee are BJP General Secretary Advocate Dharamveer Retariya, who has been reappointed for a second term. A known social activist, Retariya also heads the Lokhit Manch and is a regular participant in Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh programs.

Chairman Garhi directs police to resolve SC
family issue within 72 hours, says commission
committed to rights of SC community

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, JUNE 29

Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission Chairman Jasvir Singh Garhi today reached here to investigate the alleged atrocities committed against a SC family in Tapa. He was accompanied by SC commission members Rupinder Singh Sital and Gulzar Singh. Chairman Garhi met the complainant and the other party. Talking to reporters, he said that Pritam Singh has accused some people of using derogatory casteist language against him. Mr. Garhi further said that it is a dispute over land/street access. Chairman Garhi directed the Barnala police officials to

Bar Council of India issues advisory against
unapproved online LLM programmes

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

In a decisive step toward preserving the credibility of legal education in India, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has issued a formal advisory against the proliferation of unapproved LL.M. (Master of Laws) programmes offered in online, distance, or hybrid formats. This advisory reinforces the exclusive regulatory role of the BCI and emphasizes compliance with existing legal and academic frameworks. The letter, authored by Justice Rajendra Menon, former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legal Education, was addressed to the Registrar Generals of all High Courts as well as the Supreme Court of India.



Copies of the letter were also circulated to universities and State Bar Councils to ensure compliance and initiate appropriate action. The advisory reiterates the binding authority of Supreme Court rulings, the UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2020, and BCI's own Legal Education Rules (2008 and 2020), under which LL.M. programmes must secure prior approval before being

conducted via non-traditional methods. Any deviation, it warns, threatens the standard, uniformity, and legal sanctity of postgraduate legal education across the country. Letter issued in this regards stated that, alarmed by the growing number of institutions offering programmes under alternative titles such as LL.M. (Professional), Executive LL.M., or M.Sc. in Cyber Law, the BCI has

Now anti-rabies vaccination and other services
started in Aam Aadmi clinics: Civil Surgeon

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, JUNE 29

The health services provided to pregnant women in the Aam Aadmi clinics set up by the Punjab government to provide health facilities near their homes were earlier increased and now oral cancer, anti-rabies vaccination, NCD (non-communicable disease) health services will also be available. Giving more information in the training session organized in this regard, Dr. Baljit Singh Civil Surgeon Barnala said that under the guidelines of the Punjab Government and the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Barnala Mr. T. Benith, the department is always working to improve the quality of health services in the Aam Aadmi Clinics under the Health Department Barnala. He said that so far, free OPD, free lab tests, free medicines,



free antenatal checkups, free ultrasound have been provided to the people in the Aam Aadmi Clinics and now free services of anti-rabies vaccination and family planning have been started. Dr. Gurbinder Kaur District Vaccination Officer cum Nodal Officer Aam Aadmi Clinic said that this training was organized to bring this increase in health services to the common people, in which all the medical officers of Aam Aadmi Clinic and clinical

assistants were given detailed training from the state. He said that in this training session, Dr. Parvesh Kumar District Family Welfare Officer, Dr. Ankush Jindal, Pediatric Specialist, Civil Hospital Barnala, Dr. Parikshit Jindal, Children's Specialist, CHC Dhanaula participated. During this training session, all senior medical officers, Kulwant Singh, District Program Manager, Harjit Singh, District BCC Coordinator, Gurbinder Singh, Dealing Aam Aadmi Clinic were present.

Krishna Narang becomes head of Shri
Siddhapeeth Shiv Vatika for 4th time

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, JUNE 29

The meeting of Shri Siddhapeeth Shiv Vatika and Pratap Kalyan Bhoomi concluded in the temple hall of Shiv Vatika. It was chaired by the Board of Patrons and Election Officer Shri Geeta Bhawan Temple head Kailash Bhagat, Indrajit Sardana, Kamal Ahuja and Shiv Shankar Pahwa. The main objective of the meeting was to elect the head of Siddhapeeth Shiv Vatika and Pratap Kalyan Bhoomi. This election meeting was called after the completion of the previous term of Executive Head Krishna Narang. First of all, General Secretary Bishamber Arora Ishpunani welcomed all the members on their arrival at the meeting. Treasurer Praveen Khurana and Varun Madan presented the account of the



works of the previous term of the current head Krishna Narang in front of everyone and presented the income and expenditure, in which the expenses of various works were passed by everyone. Before the election of the head post, many members of Pratap Kalyan Bhoomi expressed their views regarding the expansion of Shiv Vatika and Pratap Kalyan Bhoomi. After this, Rajkumar Mukhija and Suresh Alawadi praised the previous good work of Krishna Narang for the post of Pradhan and approved his name for the post of Pradhan again. All the members supported this

City residents-municipal council officers can avail benefit of Pb govt's scheme by paying property tax before July 31

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, JUNE 29

For those who have not paid the property tax of their house for the last many years, the Punjab government has brought a scheme under the one-time settlement scheme for paying property tax so



that they can easily pay their past due property tax without any penalty and interest. Giving more information in this regard, Municipal Council Executive Officer Vishaldeep Bansal, officers Gurkripal Singh, Sukhdeep Singh, Gurpreet Singh and

Dev Rishi said that those who have failed to deposit their house property tax by March 31, 2025, if they pay the entire principal amount in one lump sum by July 31, then under this scheme, all the fine and interest imposed on the said amount will be waived off till this period.

PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' direct
communication with public: Dhandha

SHALU PARMAR
KALAYAT, JUNE 29

Former Minister of State Kamlesh Dhandha said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' program was a unique initiative in the history of the country to connect with the public. Through this, citizens got information about the development and welfare schemes of the government. This program has become a strong link between the government and the public. Kamlesh Dhandha arrived as the chief guest on Sunday in the 'Mann Ki Baat' program broadcast at Lord Krishna School in village Batta of Kalayat. Here she was warmly welcomed by women, elders, youth and children. After this, everyone listened to the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi collectively. Mrs Dhandha appreciated the program. She said that



she would adopt the messages of public interest given in it in her life. She said that this program ensured public participation in deciding the direction of the country. She appealed to the villagers to take advantage of the government schemes and educate daughters. Take topics like cleanliness, environment and self-reliance seriously. Mandal General Secretary Sachin Sharma was the coordinator of this program

organized at booth number 38 of Batta. Kalayat Mandal President Rajiv Rajput, Balu Mandal President Narendra Julani Kheda, former Mandal President Mahipal Rana, Rajkishan Kaka, Ravindra Dhiman, Ramkumar Rana, Arun Rana, Naresh Sharma, Anil Prajapati, Rinku Prajapati, Satpal Kaushik, Pradeep Kaulekhan, Kushalpal, councilors, panchayat and block committee members were present on the occasion.

Saints to lay foundation of Darshan
Deori under Jhinda: Ladi

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, JUNE 29

On the occasion of Panchami festival on June 30, in the historic Nauvi Patshahi Sheeshganj Gurdwara of the city, under the leadership of Kar Seva Gurdwara Bangla Sahib Delhi Wale Chief Baba Bachan Singh, Baba Joga Singh Kar Seva Taraori, the construction of 12 rooms, a hall, a library and a new office will be inaugurated. Not only this, the foundation stone of the construction work of Darshan Deori to be built at the main gate of the Gurdwara will also be laid. Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee member representative Bhupendra Singh Ladi took stock of the preparations for the programme. He informed that on the occasion of



Panchami festival, Bhai Jaita Ji Yatri Niwas will be inaugurated in Sheeshganj Gurdwara on 30th June. The foundation stone of the construction of Darshan Deori will also be laid under the leadership of a large number of saints and great men including the head of the management committee Jagdish Jhinda. Member representative of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management

Committee Bhupendra Singh Ladi also gave directions to the officials of the committee to finalize the preparations. He informed that on the day of Panchami, thousands of devotees flock to the Gurudwara. A beautiful court of the Guru is decorated. Raggi groups from far-flung areas inspire the devotees to follow the path shown by the Gurus from morning to evening. Even today,

Panchami festival will be celebrated with great pomp. On the day of Panchami festival to be held on 30th June, the saints will inaugurate it and dedicate it to the Sangat in the presence of thousands of devotees. The head of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee Jagdish Jhinda will participate. Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee member representative Bhupendra Singh Ladi said that the congregation will not be allowed to face any kind of trouble in the Gurudwara premises. On this occasion, councillor representative Lakhwinder Singh Dhillon, Harmeet Bajaj Shanti, Manjit Singh, Ravi Saunkra, Gurpratap Virk, Amrit Khara and many others were present.

KU ensures transparent conduct of admission
2025 entrance examinations: VC

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 29

Kurukshetra University is conducting entrance examinations for the academic session 2025-26 with a focus on transparency, efficiency, and student-centric arrangements. As part of the ongoing entrance examinations for the academic session 2025-26, Kurukshetra University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva, conducted an inspection of multiple examination centres on Sunday to review arrangements and ensure the smooth conduct of the exams. During the surprise visit, Prof Sachdeva also inspected the control room setup, paper security measures, and interacted with the candidates to gather feedback. Sharing the details, Controller of Examinations, KUK, Dr.



Ankeshwar Prakash informed that the entrance test for the BA LLB programme had the highest number of applicants with 1,825 online registrations, and the exam was held at 8 designated centres. In addition to the entrance examinations for six different UG/PG courses conducted today, videography was carried out at each centre to ensure transparency. A total of 2,814 candidates appeared for the exams on Sunday. BA LLB

entrance exam was conducted across 8 centres with 1,482 candidates attending. Out of 1,825 applicants, this marks an attendance rate of approximately 81%. The high turnout reflects students' growing interest in pursuing legal education right after Class 12. Dr. Prakash further informed that during the afternoon session at 3:30 PM, 798 students appeared for the MBA (5-year integrated)/BBA Honours entrance exam.

Successful organisation of 2nd phase of
summer camp by Varitra Foundation

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JUNE 29

During the summer holidays, Varitra Foundation organised a summer camp in two phases at seven places in Karnal district. Its aim was to encourage the overall development of children. The first phase was conducted at five places from June 4 to June 8, while the second phase started from June 25 at Sector-33 (Kachhi Basti) and from June 27 at the Teacher Learning Resource Centre of Government School Nalvipar. More than 200 children participated in the first phase and more than 100 children participated daily in the second phase. Project Manager Manish said that through the camp, children got an opportunity to develop life skills like communication, self-



expression, group participation, creativity and imagination. The main activities in the camp were introduction through name-plates, traditional games and songs, finger painting, clay art and 3D paper craft, puppet making and stage performances by children, read-aloud based on books, educational games and children's songs and

participation activities like Bhel party in groups. Pratibha, Priyaka, Shivang, Asha, Munisha and six other volunteers played a special role in running the camp. On the closing day, a special exhibition and felicitation ceremony was organized at the Sector-33 centre, in which artworks and handicrafts made by the children were exhibited.

Youth backbone of nation, their
health crucial: Jagmohan Anand



MEGRAJ LUTHRA
KACHHWA: While inaugurating a two-day cricket tournament at the village mini-stadium, MLA Jagmohan Anand emphasized the importance of youth in nation-building, stating, "Youth are the backbone of any country, and the nation's future rests on their shoulders. Therefore, ensuring their good health is of utmost importance." He highlighted that sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness and well-being and added that the government has launched several initiatives focused on youth health and development. "The demand for a stadium in the village had been pending for many years. It is under the BJP government that this long-standing demand has finally been fulfilled," he said. Anand assured that all additional facilities requested by players in the stadium will be provided. The ongoing tournament features 24 teams from 16 villages, and the MLA announced a prize of Rs. 11,000 from his side for the team that secures the first position.

NEWS BRIEFS

Message of Karbala echoes in Sayyad Chapra as thousands attend Muharram Majlis

MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: A deep wave of devotion and mourning swept through Sayyad Chapra village in the Indri sub-division as thousands gathered for a Muharram majlis organised by Anjuman Yaad-gare Hussaini. The congregation paid heartfelt tributes to the martyrs of Karbala, especially Imam Hussain and his family, whose sacrifice remains a symbol of resistance against tyranny. Addressing the majlis, Maulana Jinaan Asgar Dehlavi recounted the harrowing events of Karbala, describing it as a painful saga of injustice inflicted on the Prophet Muhammad's family.

PM's stories of citizen contributions inspire the Nation: Nayab Saini

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

A mass listening event of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat' was held today in Gurugram. The occasion was graced by the presence of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Sh Jagat Prakash Nadda, Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini, BJP Haryana State President Sh Mohanlal Badoli and Minister for Industry & Commerce and Environment Rao Narbir Singh.

The event took place at the GNH Convention Center in Booth No. 4 in the Badshahpur Assembly constituency. Senior party leaders, local citizens, and BJP workers gathered to listen to the Prime Minister's address and engage in meaningful interaction.

Speaking to the media after the programme, Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini highlighted that 'Mann Ki Baat' showcases the inspiring stories of everyday citizens who contribute to the nation through their dedication and efforts. He said that the programme serves as a source of motivation for both the common man and future generations.



Following the broadcast, senior leaders also distributed Ayushman Cards to eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. This initiative aims to ensure that government welfare schemes effectively reach those most in need. The event was part of a broader effort to strengthen public engagement and trust. It witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of citizens and party workers. On this occasion, Chief Minister Sh

Nayab Singh Saini, along with BJP National President Sh JP Nadda and Environment Minister Rao Narbir Singh, planted saplings along the forest corridor developed by the Forest Department over the Badshahpur Drain near Vatika Chowk. He urged the people of Haryana to actively participate in the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, aimed at promoting environmental conservation. The Chief Minister said that under this initiative, every citizen should pledge to plant and nurture a tree in honour of their mother. He said that this noble effort will not only contribute to a greener Haryana but also play a vital role in addressing the challenges of climate change.

MLAs Tejpal Tanwar, Bimla Chaudhary, Mukesh Sharma, former MP and BJP Parliamentary Board member Dr. Sudha Yadav, DC Ajay Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya, former MLA Sanjay Singh, BJP District President Sarypriya Tyagi, Municipal Councillor Kuldeep Yadav and other dignitaries were also present on this occasion.

MLA listens people's problems and gives necessary instructions to officers for action



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 29

MLA Jagmohan Anand said that problems of people of Karnal are being resolved on priority. Anyone can meet him directly for his problem. He said that it is my endeavor that there should be direct communication between public and their MLA and problems of common people should be resolved as soon as possible. Like every Sunday, this time also MLA Jagmohan Anand reached among public in Chai Pe Charcha program. This program was organized at residence of former Chief Minister and Union Urban, Housing and Energy Minister Shri Manohar Lal in Prem Nagar. Senior BJP leader Bhagwan Das Aghi, Councillor Rajesh Aghi, Councillor Harjeet Singh Sandhu, Councillor Sudhir Yadav, BJP leader Darshan Singh Sehgal, Mohan Lodhi, Nishant Sharma and a large number of workers and common people were present in

the program. Program started with singing bhajans in name of Lord Shri Ram. MLA said that Karnal is my family and I am working with full dedication for people of Karnal with service as my concern. I am constantly among people so that common man does not face any problem. He also said that Karnal is also moving ahead in terms of development. Work will be taken forward on every proposed plan of development and work will also be done on new potential plans so that Karnal can develop completely. He said that work of accelerating pace of development in each ward is also going on by discussing with all members of Municipal Corporation. Responding to question of legalizing illegal colonies, he said that it is priority to provide basic facilities to every common man. Process of legalizing 26 colonies is going on and problems of people of Guru Nanak Pura are in cognizance and efforts are continuously going on for solution.

Meeting concludes for Guru Puja



NITIN SINGLA YAMUNANAGAR: Gita scholar Swami Gyana Nand Ji Maharaj's Guru Puja is being done since ages, where in India and abroad, Guru's disciple and disciple's devotion towards Guru is rooted in ultimate devotion. A discussion committee of Shri Krishna Kripa Seva Samiti was formed to prepare outline of divine satsang program to be held on July 5 at BN Mahal from 3 pm to 6 pm. Jyoti was lit by Pradhan Sandeep Bansal, Jitendra Gupta, Neeraj Kal, Dr Anil Chha Bada, Anil Mahindrar and was held at Sonu Punni's residence in Shri Nagar Colony. All service-minded members were asked to listen to Maharaj Shri's discourse and make their lives blessed. Kewal Krishna Saini of committee told devotees who want to make their lives blessed by taking initiation from Swami ji, can reach on time and take benefit of Guru Dev's worship.

Mahabharata-era pilgrimages in Kurukshetra set for grand revival under new roadmap

DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 29:

In a major push to promote religious tourism and heritage conservation, the Haryana government has unveiled a comprehensive plan for the revitalization of the ancient 48 Kos pilgrimage circuit associated with the Mahabharata era. The roadmap was finalized during the 82nd annual meeting of the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB), chaired by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and attended by Chief Minister Nayab Saini.

Key highlights of the plan include the beautification of the Jyotisar Gita Sthal, revered as the place where Lord Krishna delivered the Bhagavad Gita, and the grand redevelopment of the Sudarshan Chakra Chowk, located near the third gate of Kurukshetra University. The Chief Minister has issued clear directives

to identify neglected religious sites within the 48 Kos area and initiate their upkeep.

Sudarshan Chakra Chowk to be transformed into a grand landmark strategically situated on the route connecting Kurukshetra to Pehowa and Kaithal, the Sudarshan Chakra Chowk symbolizes divine justice and dharma. Despite its spiritual significance, the site has been in a state of neglect. As per CM Saini's instructions, the Chowk will be given a magnificent facelift, including the installation of an illuminated statue of Lord Krishna and a vibrant lighting setup. This will ensure that visitors entering Kurukshetra from both Kaithal and Pehowa are welcomed by a powerful religious symbol, reinforcing the city's spiritual aura.

Jyotisar Gita Sthal to get grand entrance and improved infrastructure



A new majestic gateway will be constructed at Jyotisar, enhancing the grandeur of the sacred site. Landscaping with lush greenery and multicolour lighting along the main road will enhance the aesthetics. A new parking facility is also being developed on the opposite side of the road to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims and tourists. CM Saini has instructed the preparation of a detailed project proposal for the gateway and surrounding beautification works.

Implementation underway, confirms oversight committee

Chairman of the 48 Kos Pilgrimage Oversight Committee, Madan Mohan Chhabra, confirmed that implementation of the development projects has already begun. He said that the elevated railway track passing near Sudarshan Chakra Chowk will further highlight its prominence, while colourful lighting will add to its splendour. Plans for the Jyotisar makeover are also in the works, as per the Chief Minister's guidance.

Heavy rainfall makes life difficult

PREETI SAINI SADHAURA : Due to heavy rains in hilly area since Saturday night, once again waterlogging was seen in Sadhaura and surrounding areas. Due to excess water in Nakti river in Sadhaura river overflowed

near bridge on road leading to Ismailpur. Heavy waterlogging in Kachcha Kila area including Sadhaura Government Model Sanskriti School and many houses of Shiv Colony made movement of traffic from Ramabagh Chowk Sadhaura to Kotla Road and Kachcha Kila was disrupted for several hours. There is a lot of anger among people due to lack of proper water drainage system. On other hand, if we talk about government offices, then Forest Range Office and Quarter Area near Sadhaura ITI become a victim of waterlogging in every rainy season. Here, residential quarters built for officers get filled with water up to two feet and due to waterlogging, road gets completely closed. Along with water, poisonous animals also enter inside.



Three-day teacher training program organized in Jayaram Public School



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: A three-day teacher training program was organized at Smt. Kesari Devi Lohia Jayaram Public School with inspiration of Brahmaswaroop Brahmachari, head of Shri Jayaram institutions operating across country and chairman of Shri Jayaram Shikshan Sansthan. School Principal Anju Agarwal welcomed special expert guests Pinky Panthriya, Lovelyna and Saurav Saini by giving them a bouquet on attending program. On first day of training program, emphasis was laid on various dimensions to make teaching skills effective. In training session, teachers were told ways to provide education through latest teaching techniques and activities. Kiran Gaur, Meenakshi, Monica Mehta, Mamta Sharma, Ranjana Sharma, Anurag, Shivangi and all staff members were present on inauguration According to Principal, this training program will help teachers to improve their skills and provide better education to students.

Kanya Poojan monthly Bhandara organized at Govindanand Ashram

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA, JUNE 29

Shri Govindanand Thakur of Pehowa organized a Kanya Poojan monthly Bhandara at ashram today under guidance of Mahamandaleshwar 1008 Swami Vidyagiri Maharaj, Shrimahant Banshi Puri Maharaj and Mahant Sarveshwari Maharaj and in presence of patron of ashram, Shrimahant Banshi Puri Ji Maharaj. He said that for the past several years, on second Sunday of every month, hundreds of girls are worshipped in ashram premises in form of Maa Bhagwati and along with fruits, dakshina, summer and winter clothes, shoes and books for education are distributed to needy girls from time to time. He informed devotees about importance of worshipping girls and earning merit by serving cow and inspired them to follow path of truth and told that a person who walks on path of truth remains stress-free as well as disease-free. Girls who came to ashram were worshipped and Bhandara Prasad was distributed. Devotees received blessings from



Shrimahant Banshi Puri Maharaj and Mahant Sarveshwari Giri Ji Maharaj.

Police hold checking campaign keeping a close watch on suspicious persons

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI PEHOWA, JUNE 29

Police is running a checking campaign by setting up blockades to keep an eye on suspicious persons and to ensure compliance of traffic rules. It is often seen that drivers commit a crime on a motorcycle or other vehicle without a number plate. At same time, some youths ignore traffic rules by applying black film on their vehicles. On one hand, due to non-compliance of traffic rules by drivers, road accidents increase, on other hand, criminals also take advantage of it. As per orders of Superintendent of Police Kurukshetra Nitish Agarwal, special checking campaigns are conducted by setting up blockades from time to time. Under checking campaign, vehicles are thoroughly checked by setting up blockades across district and suspicious persons are kept under surveillance. DSP Pehowa, Nirmal Singh said that with the aim of keeping an eye on suspicious persons and ensuring compliance of traffic rules, curbing illegal vehicles and preventing road accidents,



a campaign was launched by district police on Saturday. Superintendent of Police had ordered all Police Station Managers/ Traffic Managers to check suspicious vehicles. Superintendent of Police said that special campaigns should be conducted against drivers driving without number plates, with a cloth tied over their mouths and those driving vehicles with black films and action should be taken as per rules. Complying with orders, Kurukshetra Police conducted a special campaign.

PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' inspires BJP workers in Yamunanagar: Suman Bahmani

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 29

The 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat was broadcast live on Sunday at Booth No. 80, Shakti Kendra, Vishwakarma Mohalla, in Yamunanagar. The event saw enthusiastic participation from BJP workers and local representatives, creating an atmosphere charged with inspiration and patriotism.

Municipal Mayor Suman Bahmani, who attended the event along with District General Secretary Krishan Singla, Councillor Manu Singla, Shakti Kendra Pramukh Jatin Khetarpal, Booth President Yogesh Rajput, and a large number of workers, said that Mann Ki Baat was not just a conversation, but a reflection of the nation's



collective consciousness and a symbol of thoughtful nation-building.

She praised the programme as an effective tool of mass communication and citizen engagement, saying that it motivates every Indian to contribute towards the betterment of the country. In this edition, Prime Minister Modi spoke on vital topics such as environmental conservation,

public participation, self-reliant India, and digital innovation. He also urged the youth to uphold the values of cleanliness, service, and cultural ethos.

Participants at the venue listened attentively and engaged in meaningful discussion on the issues raised by the Prime Minister. Mayor Bahmani lauded the dedication and commitment of the party workers,

calling it the backbone of the BJP. She added that such interactions are forging stronger links in the journey toward a self-reliant and developed India.

At the conclusion of the programme, all present pledged to draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's message and reaffirmed their commitment to social service and organizational development.

Nation tuned in to PM Modi's 123rd 'Mann Ki Baat': Vidushi Rai

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA, JUNE 29

Barara BJP Mandal Vice President Vidushi Rai said that the entire nation attentively listened to the 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio show Mann Ki Baat on Sunday. In Barara's booth number 219, a gathering of women led by Vidushi Rai assembled to participate in the live broadcast of the programme.

Rai highlighted that Prime Minister Modi addresses the nation through Mann Ki Baat on the last Sunday of every month, using the platform to celebrate exemplary individuals from diverse fields — including social workers, progressive farmers, talented students, and skilled professionals — and to discuss public welfare schemes, policies, and values that strengthen the nation.

She noted that this episode particularly emphasised the global success and significance of International Yoga Day. "The Prime Minister shared how, in just ten years, Yoga has transformed into a powerful tool for empowerment and wellness,



spreading from India to the entire world," she said.

PM Modi had remarked that this year's Yoga Day saw unprecedented enthusiasm globally, with millions participating in events across the world on June 21. "Each year, the celebration grows in scale, showing that more and more people are embracing Yoga in their daily lives," he said.

On the occasion, Anu Bakhshi welcomed Booth President and Mandal Vice President Vidushi Rai and briefed the assembled women about various public welfare schemes being run by the government. The programme concluded with positive discussions on community engagement and nation-building inspired by the Prime Minister's message.

EDITORIAL

New milestone in India's space odyssey

If Rakesh Sharma's historic spaceflight nearly 41 years ago aboard a Russian Soyuz was a small baby step for India in its space odyssey, Shubhanshu Shukla's achievement today — becoming the first Indian astronaut to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS) — is a giant leap for the country's ambitious space exploration goals. Much has changed in the last four decades as India is now a leading space-faring nation, having successfully launched missions to the Moon and Mars and proved its mettle in satellite launching capabilities. If there is any one scientific area where India has been consistently top-notch in its performance, it is space exploration. Be it harnessing satellite technologies for societal good or exploring new frontiers in the solar system, Indian scientists have been second to none. As a result of a series of stellar achievements, India has earned a place at the high table of elite space-faring nations. Group Captain Shukla has made the country proud by piloting the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, a collaboration between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), European Space Agency (ESA) and SpaceX. During the two-week mission, the crew would conduct 60 scientific experiments, including seven designed by ISRO which paid \$59 million to secure a seat for Shukla on Ax-4 and his training. The experiments, covering a wide range of areas, are expected to enhance knowledge of biological processes in microgravity to guide strategies for long-duration space missions. This mission holds much more than a symbolic value for India as the country prepares for its manned mission, Gaganyaan.

The hands-on experience that Captain Shukla will gain during this trip will help India in its human space flights. ISRO is planning to launch the first-ever human space flight in 2027 and has announced ambitious plans to set up a space station by 2035 and send an astronaut to the Moon by 2040. The learnings from Axiom-4 — both technical and physiological — will be vital to calibrate life-support systems, crew conditioning protocols, mission duration strategies, and microgravity experiment execution under real space conditions. Though citizens from about 50 countries have been to space so far, only three countries actually can send humans to space — the United States, Russia and China. Very soon, India will be the fourth. Shukla could very well have been on an Indian mission, powered by an Indian rocket and travelling in an Indian spacecraft. He, along with three others, were selected as astronauts for an Indian mission. The fact that the Axiom-4 mission materialised ahead of India's Gaganyaan mission provided an excellent opportunity for ISRO to gain first-hand experience in space travel. The entry into human spaceflight is about national pride, scientific leadership, and technological sovereignty. Axiom-4 demonstrates that India is no longer just launching payloads but also launching people and ideas into space. It is also a key player in space diplomacy.

India's manufacturing sector poised for leap



platforms for export facilitation. Plug-and-play parks--pre-approved and infrastructure-ready--are highlighted as

"India's manufacturing sector is undergoing a structural shift. Our findings indicate a strong alignment between infrastructure investment, policy clarity, and industry intent. According to our survey, 88 per cent of manufacturers are scaling up due to infrastructure-led confidence, and over 95 per cent report improved logistics access through government-backed programs," said Gautam Saraf, Executive Managing Director, Mumbai & New Business, Cushman & Wakefield.

India's manufacturing landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, fueled by robust infrastructure development and supportive government policies, as revealed in a recent report by Cushman & Wakefield named Elevating India's Manufacturing Resilience: Charting the Path to Self-Reliance.

Based on a survey of 94 senior leaders conducted by Cushman & Wakefield across the manufacturing and logistics sectors, including CEOs, plant heads, and supply chain managers, the report highlights strong industry optimism. Notably, 88 per cent of

respondents plan to expand operations, driven by infrastructure projects like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, and the National Industrial Corridor Development. Additionally, 95 per cent reported improved access to logistics, while 94 per cent of large enterprises credited infrastructure upgrades as central to their growth strategies. "India's manufacturing sector is undergoing a structural shift. Our findings indicate a strong alignment between infrastructure investment, policy clarity, and industry

intent. According to our survey, 88 per cent of manufacturers are scaling up due to infrastructure-led confidence, and over 95 per cent report improved logistics access through government-backed programs," said Gautam Saraf, Executive Managing Director, Mumbai & New Business, Cushman & Wakefield.

Policy initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the National Logistics Policy (NLP) are also shaping business decisions. Over 40 per cent cited these policies as having a significant impact, with MSMEs particularly benefiting from

improved connectivity and ease of doing business, acknowledged by 77 per cent of all respondents. Despite these advancements, critical challenges persist. High logistics costs, low warehousing capacity (0.2 sq. ft. per urban resident vs. 47.3 in the U.S.), minimal domestic value addition (17 per cent vs. China's 25 per cent), and skill gaps, especially in MSMEs, threaten long-term competitiveness.

To address these, the report outlines a five-pronged strategy: plug-and-play industrial parks, multimodal logistics networks, skill development programs, MSME reform, and digital

transformative, with the Union Budget 2025-26 allocating ₹2,500 crore for 12 such parks. With 81 per cent of companies planning to expand in the next two to three years and 70 per cent ready to move into Tier II and III cities, the report underscores the urgency of continued infrastructure investment. "India's manufacturing is at an inflection point," said Gautam Saraf, Executive Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield. "The alignment of policy, infrastructure, and private sector intent offers a clear pathway to global competitiveness."

Govt revises biomass guidelines to boost bio energy and ease of doing business



The Centre has revised guidelines for the Biomass Programme under Phase-I of the National Bioenergy Programme to promote cleaner energy solutions, ease of doing business, and accelerate the adoption of biomass->biomass technologies across the country, according to a statement.

"The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued revised guidelines for the Biomass Programme under Phase-I of the National Bioenergy Programme, applicable for the period FY 2021-22 to 2025-26. These amendments aim to promote

cleaner energy solutions, ease of doing business, and accelerate the adoption of biomass->biomass technologies across India," the statement said. Under the new framework, Ministry has simplified several processes, such as cutting down on paperwork and easing approval requirements, which will enable the industry especially MSMEs to enhance their production. These changes align well with improvement of stubble management and India's broader goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2070, the statement added. One of the major highlights of the revision is technological

integration by enabling the use of IoT-based monitoring solutions or quarterly data submissions instead of expensive and high-tech systems like SCADA. This cost-effective step promotes digital monitoring and accountability, especially for smaller business operators. The guidelines also encourage significant simplification of documentation requirements. Developers of briquette and pellet manufacturing plants will no longer be required to submit a number of documents related to clearance matters. This change will save time, and promote ease of doing business. In a move to enhance operational flexibility, the earlier requirement for a two-year briquette or pellet sale contract has been replaced with a general sale agreement. This change will allow project developers to respond more dynamically to market conditions without being constrained by long-term contracts, as per the Ministry's statement.

Navigating Change: Highlights, Implications, and reactions



deeds and appointed managers. Under British rule, confusion arose due to differences with English property laws, leading to the 1913 Mussalman Waqf Validating Act. Post-independence, the 1954 Waqf Act empowered State Waqf Boards and set up tribunals. However, issues such as illegal land claims and misuse of power persisted. Earlier properties used as mosques or dargahs over a long time were treated as Waqf even without any document. To address these concerns, the UMEED 2025 Bill, standing for Unified Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development, was introduced to improve transparency, close legal loopholes, and clarify property ownership under the Waqf system.

Under the new Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, only written Waqfs with clear ownership are valid; older Waqfs by usage remain unless disputed. Only Muslims practising Islam for 5+ years can create Waqfs; non-Muslims are excluded. District Collectors will now survey Waqf land, improving speed and accountability. Section 40 is revised-only government officers can declare land as Waqf, reducing misuse. Muslim-made trusts under the Indian Trusts Act will now not be treated as Waqf. Inheritance rights must be respected before creating Waqfs, especially for women. Claims on government land by Waqf Boards will be reviewed by senior officials, with final decisions resting with the government. Waqf Tribunals will now be led by a District Judge; High Court appeals are allowed within 90 days. CEO posts are now open to all, and two non-Muslims will serve in an administrative role on Waqf Boards not related to religious functions.

The Muslim community, comprising approximately 14% of India's population, has expressed apprehension regarding the Act's implications. Many fear that the removal of 'waqf' by user could result in the loss of historically significant properties lacking formal documentation. Protests, including symbolic

gestures like wearing black armbands during prayers, have been organised nationwide. Several political parties have labelled the Act as an attack on the constitutional rights of Muslims, expressing concerns over potential state overreach into religious affairs. Community Leaders have warned that the inclusion of non-Muslim members on waqf boards could lead to increased encroachments on waqf properties, affecting mosques and educational institutions.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025 signifies a substantial transformation in the governance of waqf properties within India. While the government underscores the importance of modernisation and inclusivity, the opposition raises concerns regarding religious autonomy and the potential infringement of property rights. As legal challenges are anticipated, the long-term implications of the Act on India's secular framework and the rights of minorities remain uncertain.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025 marks a pivotal shift in the management of waqf properties in India, ushering in a new era of state oversight and reform. While the government champions the legislation as a step toward transparency, modernization, and inclusivity, critics warn of deeper implications. Concerns over religious autonomy, the erosion of minority rights, and potential encroachments on constitutionally protected property rights have sparked intense debate.

With legal scrutiny on the horizon, the Act's long-term influence on India's constitutional commitment to secularism and the equilibrium between governmental oversight and religious rights is poised to shape critical legal and societal discourse in the years ahead.

By:- Aakriti Singh, Age - 20
College-UJLS, Punjab University
2nd year

POEMS

Evidence of adequate means of financial support

I needed money. There's no poetic way to say this. Even so, when you touched my face, brought my cheeks to the nook of your neck, I burrowed into it—a firefly seeking shelter from winter, far underground. Then,

you told me there's no application form that can hold the entirety of a life, because our days constantly spill like wine. Imagine that, you said, apricot tones all over the page!

you told me about your ferns, bejeweled with jade dew, their coiled fiddleheads full of unfulfilled, twirling futures, and I forgot about my fixation with earning people's respect, among other things for which I'd been told it was proper to plead until granted.

you told me, if immigrants could enrich a country, you didn't want to know our melting point and whether we would shine brighter than gold.

you told me how I could stop confusing belonging with belongings, good with goods, by sharing the way our hearts continue to beat resilient, even without an assurance of worth.

you told me there can be solace in a dead end, in knowing the sea still collapses, still runs and soars carrying its broken shells, somewhere out there. And then, you buried a kiss in the dark earth of my hair. I believed it all. What else could I do?

By:- AE HEE LEE

Good touch and bad touch: Empowering children with awareness and confidence

In today's world, educating children about the concepts of good touch and bad touch is essential for their safety, emotional well-being, and self-respect. As crime rates against children rise, empowering them with age-appropriate knowledge helps protect them from abuse and builds a foundation for healthy relationships throughout life.

Understanding Good Touch and Bad Touch Good touch refers to physical contact that makes a child feel safe, happy, and loved. Examples include hugs from family members, high-fives with friends, pats on the back, and holding hands with a parent. These touches are usually given by trusted individuals and create positive emotions, reinforcing a sense of security and

belonging. Bad touch, on the other hand, is any physical contact that makes a child feel uncomfortable, scared, or confused. This can include unwanted touching of private parts (the areas covered by a swimsuit), forced hugs or kisses, touches that hurt, and any contact that is kept a secret. Bad touch often comes from someone the child knows, which makes it even more important for children to recognize and respond to inappropriate behavior.

Why Early Education Matters Teaching children about good and bad touch from an early age helps them understand their own bodies and the concept of personal boundaries. Early education lays the groundwork for recognizing inappropriate behavior and



empowers children to respond assertively. It also fosters open communication between children and their caregivers, creating a safe space for children to report any uncomfortable experiences.

How to Teach Children About Good and Bad Touch

Start Early: Introduce the concepts using simple, age-appropriate language. The sooner children learn, the better they can protect themselves.

Use Clear Language: Teach children the correct names for body parts and

explain what areas are private. The "swimsuit rule" is a helpful tool—explain that the areas covered by a swimsuit should not be touched by others except for necessary care by parents or doctors.

Encourage Open Communication: Create a safe environment where children feel comfortable expressing their feelings and asking questions. Revisit the topic regularly to reinforce learning.

Teach Emotional Awareness: Help children recognize how different touches make them feel—whether safe and happy or uncomfortable and scared. Encourage them to trust their instincts.

Establish a Safe Circle: Identify a group of trusted adults (parents, teachers,

relatives) whom children can approach if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Practice Assertiveness: Teach children to say "no" firmly to unwanted touch and to immediately report it to a trusted adult.

Role-Playing: Use role-playing scenarios to help children practice responding to different situations involving touch.

Use Books and Resources: Age-appropriate books and materials can help children understand complex concepts in a child-friendly way.

Building Confidence and Self-Worth: Educating children about good and bad touch not only protects them from abuse but also nurtures their self-worth, respect, and empowerment. Children who understand these concepts

are more likely to assert their boundaries, respect others' boundaries, and maintain healthy relationships throughout their lives.

Conclusion Teaching children about good touch and bad touch is a crucial step in safeguarding their well-being. By starting early, using clear language, and fostering open communication, parents and educators can empower children with the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves and seek help when needed. This awareness is the foundation for a safer, healthier future for every child.

By:- Sandeep Kaur
State Award Winner ETT Teacher GPS
KAMMOMAJRA KHURD

NEWS BRIEF

Monthly sugar check-up camp held in Dharamkot



GURDEEP SINGH BHULLAR DHARAMKOT: Dharamkot Blood Donors Club and Welfare Society and Niranjan Das Grover Memorial Welfare Society Dharamkot organized a monthly sugar check-up camp. This camp was organized at Gurdwara Baba Jiwan Singh Rajindra Road Dharamkot. In this camp, Dr. Surinderpal Juneja Torrance company also provided free medicines to diabetic patients and Baba Manga Ji Hazur Sahib wale provided free eye medicines. Free sugar check was done by Robin Lab. This time the camp was organized by Advocate Paramjit Singh Markanda, a senior member of the Blood Donors Club and Niranjan Das Grover Memorial Welfare Society and Project In-charge, on the death anniversary of his mother, Smt. Shakuntala Rani. Various diseases were discussed in the camp. People were made aware on this occasion.

SP Surendra Singh advises people to be conscious of cyber criminals

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Superintendent of Police Surendra Singh Bhauria advised the common man to be conscious of cyber criminals. He said that in today's modern era, cyber criminals were also making people a victim of cheating by adopting new methods day by day. He said that cyber thugs have now adopted a new method of cheating, which has been named 'Jump Deposit'. The Superintendent of Police said that people using UPI app while doing online transactions can now empty their account in a few minutes through this technique. The Superintendent of Police said that in the jump scam, cyber thugs first transfer a small amount to your account like Rs 2000 and this amount really came to your account and you also got its text message or notification in this regard but the real game started after notification. The Superintendent of Police said that cyber criminals have prepared a system setup of technically automatic amount extract, when you went to the UPI app to check the balance, then at the same time a large amount from your account got transferred to the account of cyber thugs and your account will be torrential. He said that as soon as the credit came to your account did not check the balance immediately, because cyber criminals were sitting for ambush on your bank account, as soon as you click on the text message or notification on the phone to check the balance in your bank account, you can be a victim of cyber fraud. The Superintendent of Police said that do not click on any type of text message, notification or other links on the phone for 15 to 20 minutes.



BJP govt's policies have put Haryana on path of development: Kabirpanthi



KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI: MLA of the constituency, Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has made historic progress in the direction of development, transparency and good governance in the last 11 years. Keeping in mind the interests of every section, many schemes have been implemented, whose benefits are reaching the last person standing in the queue. During this, he called upon the workers to take the achievements of the Modi government in 11 years to every house. MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi was addressing the public meeting organized at Donkal Chaupal. Former Sarpanch Devendra Rana, Block Committee member Sunil Kumar, Mahipal Lagian, Mahindra Buddhist and other villagers welcomed him with flower garlands. The programme was organised by Sant Kabir Das Jagriti Mission and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Sabha Gondar. MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi said that the policies of the Modi government have put Haryana on the path of development. Infrastructure, education, health and employment opportunities have been advanced in rural and urban areas.

Withdraw hike in electricity rates, demands Arvind Gurjar

ROHIT LAMSAR TARAORI: Arvind Singh Gurjar, youth Halqa president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chadhuni group) from Nilokheri, has strongly criticised the BJP government in Haryana over the steep hike in electricity tariffs. Calling it a "cruel joke on the poor", Gurjar demanded immediate rollback of the increased rates. He said that the public, already reeling under the burden of inflation, was expecting some relief, but instead, the BJP government has added to their woes. "People are suffering from long hours of power cuts in this scorching heat, and now their electricity bills have suddenly shot up fourfold," he said. Gurjar claimed that households that previously paid Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000 monthly are now receiving bills of Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000. He further criticised the imposition of fixed charges by power corporations, pointing out that consumers with a 10 kW connection are now being charged an additional Rs. 750 every month at Rs. 75 per kW. "Previously, the slab-wise tariff ranged from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 6.30 per unit, but now, for users with loads above 5 kW, the rate has jumped to Rs. 6.50-Rs. 7.50 per unit," he said, adding that even within existing slabs, per-unit rates have gone up by 20 to 40 paise.



INLD will launch protest against hike in electricity bills on July 1

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) party has started a state-wide agitation against the big hike in electricity rates. District President of the party Anil Tanwar Kyodak informed that INLD party would hold a strong protest on July 1 at Shakti Bhawan (Sector-6) in Panchkula. This protest will be led

by the National President of the party Abhay Singh Chautala. Along with him, National Principal General Secretary Prakash Bharti, INLD State President Rampal Majra, MLA Aditya Devi Lal, MLA Arjun Chautala, Organization Secretary Umed Lohan, and senior officials of the party including women and youth wing and hundreds of workers

will also be present. Anil Tanwar said that inflation was already at its peak in the state, in such a situation, the BJP government has directly attacked the pockets of the people by increasing the electricity rates from nine per cent to 30 per cent. He said, "Where earlier the electricity bill used to be Rs 900, now the same bill will be of Rs 3600.



Haryana govt implements scheme of grid connected solar power plant

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 29

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sonu Bhatt said that the Haryana government has implemented a scheme to set up a grid connected solar power plant in all government buildings to increase energy conservation and solar energy through the Department of Haryana and HAREDA. He also informed that grid connected solar power plants would be set up by the state government at 75 per cent grant in the registered Scheduled Castes and Backward Class Dhamshalas of the district. Twenty-five per cent of its amount will be borne by the organization concerned. In these Dhamshalas, solar power plants up to 5 kw without battery bank will be set up. You will get benefits on the basis of the first come first served of this scheme. It is mandatory for interested social institutions to be

Shri Ram Katha Utsav at Shri Sanatan Dharma Mandir concludes

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 29

Shri Ram Katha Utsav organised at Shri Sanatan Dharma Mandir Kunjpura Road concluded on Sunday with loud chants of Jai Shri Ram. Hundreds of devotees took religious advantage of the five-day festival. They listened to Shri Ram Katha and pledged to follow it. MLA Jagmohan Anand and MP representative Kavindra Rana specially participated. They bowed their heads on the Vyas Peetha and sat with the devotees and listened to the tales of Lord Shri Ram. Prasad was distributed by organising a daily bhandar by the organisers. Katha Vachika Kanishka Bharti said that in the eyes of Lord Shri Ram, a person is big or



small not by work but by conduct. That is why he made friends with those people whom people considered untouchable. Whom no one adopted. Lord Shri Ram believed that if you keep your conduct pure, you will get success in life. The world will benefit. A person's vision makes him great. It is also said in Ramcharitmanas that Lord Shri Ram does not like people with deception and fraud.

registered on the mirror portal of NITI Aayog. He informed that grid connected solar power plants would be set up at government and non - government Gurukul, working women's hostels, orphanages, old ashrams, old

ashrams, balgriha, Nari Niketan, Natural Hospital, Red Cross Institutes and charitable institutions at 50 per cent grant. The amount of 50 per cent will be given by the concerned organization. Solar power plants up to 50 kw without

Due to negligence in flood prevention work, farmers ruined: Shyam Sundar Batra



R K KASHYAP CHHACHHRAULI: Rainy rivers are in spate due to rain in the mountains. Many villages are in the grip of flood due to the Som and Pathrala rivers overflowing in Yamunanagar. Congress leader Shyam Sundar Batra visited many villages affected by the floods. He said that this time also thousands of acres of crops of farmers have been destroyed due to the water of the rainy river entering many villages of the district. Despite continuous warnings and forecasts of the Meteorological Department, effective measures for flood prevention were not taken by the administration, due to which the situation went out of control. Result - Farmers are once again forced to see the standing crops in their fields drowning. Congress leader Shyam Sundar Batra said that due to rain and the rise of rivers in dozens of villages like Khanuwala, Lopiyo, Tihano, Hadoli, Khanpura, Khanpuri, Baloli, Saini Majra, Urjani, Yakubpur, water reached the fields and residential areas. In many areas, water has entered the houses as well. The crops of the farmers who had cultivated sugarcane, paddy, maize and vegetables have been completely destroyed.

Shri Ram Katha Utsav at Shri Sanatan Dharma Mandir concludes



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Shri Ram Katha Utsav organised at Shri Sanatan Dharma Mandir Kunjpura Road concluded on Sunday with loud chants of Jai Shri Ram. Hundreds of devotees took religious advantage of the five-day festival. They listened to Shri Ram Katha and pledged to follow it. MLA Jagmohan Anand and MP representative Kavindra Rana specially participated. They bowed their heads on the Vyas Peetha and sat with the devotees and listened to the tales of Lord Shri Ram. Prasad was distributed by organising a daily bhandar by the organisers. Katha Vachika Kanishka Bharti said that in the eyes of Lord Shri Ram, a person is big or small not by work but by conduct. That is why he made friends with those people whom people considered untouchable. Whom no one adopted. Lord Shri Ram believed that if you keep your conduct pure, you will get success in life. The world will benefit. A person's vision makes him great. It is also said in Ramcharitmanas that Lord Shri Ram does not like people with deception and fraud.

INLD is party of farmers, labourers and working class: Phool Singh



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: A meeting of the farmers cell of Indian National Lok Dal was held on Sunday at Jat Bhawan in Sector-12. The state president of the cell, Phool Singh Manjoora, presided over the meeting. Announcing the Karnal district executive of the cell, Naresh Ghanghas Rangrutikhera has been made the district president and Rampal has been made the senior vice president. Along with this, Harpreet Singh, Choudhary Sundar Mann, Jile Singh, Pradeep Raman, Kuldeep Sandhu and Lucky have been given the responsibility of vice presidents. Shamsher Singh Dabar, Ramphal, Rajbir, Praveen Road, Mukesh Mann, Dharambir, Manjeet Goyat and Anil have been made general secretaries and Jagbir Singh, Sham Singh, Rinku, Surendra, Naresh Rana, Ranbir Bairagi, Jarnail Singh, Ballu Mangalaura and Gurvinder Virk have been made secretaries. Rajesh Picholia has been made Assandh constituency president, Shravan Four has been made Gharanda constituency president, Sukhchain Singh Lagar has been made Nilokheri, Harpal Singh Dabri has been made Karnal, Rajkumar Raju has been made Indri constituency president.

Grand Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath held in Kaithal; lakhs participate in divine procession



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: The 18th grand and divine Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath was organised in Kaithal on June 28 by ISKCON Kurukshetra and ISKCON Prachar Samiti Kaithal. The procession was led by Shrimaan Sakshi Gopal Das Ji, president of ISKCON Kurukshetra, who explained the spiritual significance of pulling the Lord's chariot as mentioned in the Brahma Purana, stating that doing so absolves devotees of lifetimes of sins and grants them a place in Vaikuntha. The yatra began with a ceremonial start by MLA Aditya Surjewala, Municipal Council Chairperson Surbhi Garg, senior advocate Mandeep Singh, councillor Paramjit Kaur, and others, who performed traditional rituals like breaking coconuts, sweeping the Lord's path, and pulling the sacred ropes. As per tradition seen in Jagannath Puri, where the King himself performs the sweep before the chariot, Aditya Surjewala honoured this practice in Kaithal as well. Throughout the route, devotees welcomed Lord Jagannath, Baladev, and Subhadra Maharani with offerings, prasad, and joyous devotion. Devotees from Ludhiana created elaborate rangolis on city streets, and the path ahead of the chariot was strewn with rose petals and cleaned by volunteers.

Farmers demand widening and reconstruction of road

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: The farmers of Karnal town have demanded the Haryana government to widen and reconstruct their dilapidated road. Chaudhary Shakti Singh said that the Haryana government has built roads by paving the kutcha johars in almost all the villages across the state, but the question to be considered is why the about three kilometer long kutcha gohar located in Khasra number 2748 of the revenue record going to the fields of farmers cultivating agricultural land located in the municipal corporation limits has not been paved yet. He said that on the demand of the farmers of Karnal town, the Municipal Corporation had built a road on about one kilometer of this gohar from Anand Vihar Church Chowk to Kanhaiya City in the year 2016 as per the instructions of the then Chief Minister Manohar Lal, and paved it, but now this road has completely crumbled and broken and the concrete or stones prick the feet of pedestrians. The road has become so narrow that two four-wheelers cannot pass through it at the same time, while in the revenue records this Johar is very wide. Shopkeepers on the road and people on both sides of the Kachha Gohar ahead of it have made illegal encroachments. Farmers Chaudhary Shakti Singh, Balwan Singh, Suresh Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Vikram, Sudhir, Ravindra, Sandeep Chauhan, Suryadev, Abhishek, Vikrant, who do farming on their ancestral land, have demanded from the Haryana government that Khasra number 2748 be marked and illegal encroachments be removed and the road should be widened and reconstructed as soon as possible.



Anti Corruption Foundation creating awareness through Satyanishtha pledge

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 29

Anti Corruption Foundation of India is continuously making efforts for a corruption free India in which mainly Satyanishtha Pledge Campaign is being carried out across the country. National Supremo of the Foundation Narendra Arora while participating in Satyanishtha Pledge Ceremony said that Satyanishtha Pledge Campaign is being run across the country under which common people are made to take oath of honesty and are asked to fill forms. He said that Satyanishtha Pledge Campaign is being propagated across the country to live a life with truth and honesty and to follow the



law of the country. Under this campaign, forms are filled by making people take oath of honesty in educational institutions, government and private offices and other premises. Narendra Arora said that any big campaign should start from oneself and if we ourselves become honest then we will neither give bribe nor take bribe and will also get those who demand bribe caught. In the Integrity Oath Ceremony, specially the Foundation's National Chief Director Ashok Bajaj, National Director Rajni Bajaj, State Director Haryana Dr. Ashish Sangwan and State Vice Chairperson Haryana Dr. Rashi Mann filled the forms for taking the oath of integrity.

Service to humanity is true devotion to God: Sumit Narwal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: A free medical and blood donation camp was organised today in the government school of village Chochda by Virk Hospital and Sumit Narwal Welfare Foundation. In this medical camp, Dr. Ashutosh and his team from Virk Hospital, a specialist in bone and joint diseases, conducted free check-up of patients suffering from these diseases and provided medicines. In this free medical camp, apart from free blood sugar test, BMD test which checks the strength of bones was also done free of cost. On this occasion, cricketer and social worker Sumit Narwal said that service to man - service to Narayan is true devotion to God, and when a needy person is helped, that service becomes equal to service to Narayan himself.

India's Most Powerful 160 CC Motorcycle - Tvs Apache Rtr 160 Now With Dual Channel Abs

MANDI: TVS Motor Company (TVSM), a global leader in the two-wheeler segments, today unveiled the 2025 TVS Apache RTR 160. This new version is its boldest yet, featuring dual channel ABS for enhanced safety. The 2025 TVS Apache RTR 160 is OBD2B compliant and introduces dual channel ABS, delivering enhanced safety and control. The motorcycle offers best-in-class performance and precision handling, making it a true standout in its segment. Equipped with features that cater to the evolving demands of today's riders, the TVS Apache RTR 160 combines cutting-edge technology, refined design, and enhanced capabilities. The TVS Apache RTR 160 offers a peak power output of 16.04 PS at 8,750 rpm and a torque of 13.85 Nm at 7,000 rpm.

Final Call for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow: Your Idea Could Be the Next Big Solution

CHANDIGARH: Across cities and classrooms, from the heart of New Delhi to the bylanes of Kolhapur, thousands of students have stepped forward with one bold belief — "I can solve for tomorrow." Now, as the last leg of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow roadshows draws to a close, the countdown begins for India's young changemakers to turn their ideas into action. June 30 is the final day to apply for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow — a national innovation competition for 14-22-year-olds that has already ignited a movement across the country. Launched on April 29, 2025, the programme empowers students across India with design thinking tools, mentorship from Samsung and IIT Delhi experts, investor connects, prototyping support, and a chance to win INR 1 crore.

Bold Experience, OG Flavor, Zero Sugar: Thums Up Xforce Thunders Loud and Proud

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Thums Up Xforce, the latest sensation from the house of India's iconic billion-dollar homegrown brand, Thums Up, has disrupted the zero-sugar drink category, bringing the most thunderous experience of consuming a zero-sugar beverage to the young consumers. Before its launch, Thums Up Xforce generated massive buzz with over 100,000 pre-bookings. Since debuting in March, it has quickly made its strong presence felt in India's Diet and Light beverage category. Smelli Chatterjee, Category Head – Sparkling Flavours, Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia, said, "Our strategy with Thums Up Xforce is all about responding to changing consumer behaviors, especially the rising demand from young adults for bold, authentic experiences without settling or compromise. By innovating within our homegrown brand, we're extending Thums Up's legacy and stepping confidently into the fast-growing zero-sugar category. This consumer-first mindset helps us lead the market with a product that truly connects, while meeting the evolving lifestyle preferences of today's generation."

Samsung to Launch New Foldables on July 9 in New York

CHANDIGARH: For years, Samsung has designed its devices around what people truly need, such as better performance, sharper cameras and smarter ways to stay connected. And, with Galaxy AI, it goes beyond what devices can do — it's about how people interact with them. As AI rapidly becomes the new user interface, it's redefining our relationship with technology. No longer just a collection of apps and tools, the smartphone is evolving into a smart companion that understands user intent and responds in real time. This transformation moves us from reaction to anticipation — where, as AI becomes the UI, intent becomes instant. The next-generation Galaxy devices are being reimaged around a new AI-powered interface, supported by breakthrough hardware built to unlock their full potential. This future is already unfolding, and the best of Galaxy AI and Samsung craftsmanship is about to be unveiled. On July 9, Samsung Electronics will host Galaxy Unpacked in Brooklyn, New York to launch its next foldables.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Culminates Environment Month 2025

CHANDIGARH: Reinforcing its commitment to environmental stewardship across the value chain, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today marked the successful culmination of Environment Month 2025, under the theme 'Sustainable Resource Management Drive' through 'Zero-Base Thinking' including plastic elimination efforts. This year's edition featured a series of impactful initiatives aimed at embedding sustainability into every facet of the organisation — from green logistics to promoting resource-conscious behaviour and driving community sensitization on environment protection. Engaging over 3,100 participants, the initiative united employees, partners (suppliers, dealers) and community members in collective commitment to sustainable practices — both within the workplace and across the broader community.

Credila Financial Services Limited files UDRHP-I with SEBI

GURUGRAM: Credila Financial Services Limited, ("the Company") an Indian education finance company focused on providing education loans to Indian students pursuing higher education in India and overseas has filed its UDRHP-I with SEBI. The Company plans to raise funds through initial public offering. The total issue size aggregating up to Rs. 5,000 crores comprises of fresh issue of equity share aggregating up to Rs. 3,000 crores and offer for sale of Equity Share aggregating up to Rs. 2,000 crores of face value of Rs. 10 per equity share. The Offer for sale of equity share aggregating up to Rs.2,000 crores (face value of Rs.10 each) comprises of up to Rs. 950 crores by Kopvoorn B.V. ("Promoter Selling Shareholder") and up to Rs. 1,050 crores by HDFC Bank Limited ("Other Selling Shareholder"). Founded in 2006, the company is a leading education finance company in India across multiple parameters according to industry report. The Company proposes to utilise the Net Proceeds towards augmenting capital base to meet Company's future capital requirements arising out of growth of its business and assets. A Pre-IPO Placement of the specified securities may be undertaken by the company, in consultation with the BRLMs, prior to the filing of the Red Herring Prospectus with the ROC for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹500 crore ("Pre-IPO Placement"). The Pre-IPO Placement, if undertaken, will be at a price to be decided by the company in consultation with the BRLMs.



Aspire for her hosts Sheexports in Bengaluru: Global insights, local inspiration

BENGALURU: Aspire For Her, in collaboration with SEED and powered by Payoneer, successfully hosted the SheExports cohort in Bengaluru. SheExports is a flagship initiative to empower Indian women entrepreneurs for global expansion. Payoneer (Nasdaq: PAYO), the global financial technology company empowering the world's small and medium-sized businesses to transact, do business, and grow globally. Aspire For Her is a community-first organization that aims to add a million women to the workforce by 2025 and 10 million by 2030.

Held at Yutori, Safina Plaza, the event themed "Ready to Scale Globally?" gathered over 50 women entrepreneurs to explore digital, collaborative, and cross-border pathways to scale. Aspire For Her is adding a million women to the economy by 2025 and their focus on women entrepreneurs has won multiple awards including from the UN Women.

A high-impact panel featured: Andrew Collister is Consul at the Australian

Consulate-General in Bengaluru, and a career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He is a champion for Australia as a trade destination and is a strong supporter of women's entrepreneurship. Santani, Founder, Retail Design Solutions has been working for over 2 decades across 1500 projects, 200 brands and 3 continents in creating inspiring retail and hospitality spaces. Pavithra YS is the Founder and Managing Director of Vindhya e-Infomedia, a unique Impact

FPIs on course to become net buyers in India for third month

NEW DELHI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are on course to become net buyers in Indian stock markets for the third straight month in June. In January, February, and March, they have been net sellers all through. Since April, they turned net buyers in Indian equities. Latest data made available by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) showed that FPIs had bought stocks worth Rs 8,915 crore in June so far. In April and May, the FPIs had accumulated stocks worth Rs 4,223 crore and Rs 19,860 crore, respectively. FPIs had fueled the latest bull run in the stock market, after a sharp slump. As per definition, Foreign Portfolio Investment involves an investor buying foreign financial assets. "Declining dollar is always a positive for emerging market equity; this encouraged FPIs to buy in India. FPI buy figure for June, including buying through the exchange and primary market and others category, through 27th stood at Rs 8915 crores," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. "FPIs were buyers in financials, capital goods and realty stocks and were sellers in FMCG, consumer durables and IT. FPI buying has imparted strength to largecaps helping the Nifty and Sensex to scale new highs for 2025."

MSMEs play an important role in economic development, employment and innovation

LUCKNOW. FICCI FLO Lucknow Chapter celebrated MSME Day 2025 at Hotel Clarks Avadh today. On this occasion, small and medium women industrialists raised issues such as digital infrastructure, skilled workers, market access and lack of funding. Ground support was demanded from the government in technology, supply chain, data security and skill development, so that the MSME sector can become empowered and self-reliant. The program started with lighting of lamps. The program called She Means Business was the main attraction of the day, in which there was a panel discussion on women entrepreneur leadership and MSME schemes. In today's panel discussion Jaiba Sarang, Founder, iThink Logistics, Mumbai said that if you want to do business, then you have to extend your hand to get help. Challenge brings opportunities for you. Shruti Chand, Founder, Narika, Bangalore said that the turning point in your life should inspire you



to become self-reliant. Second, think big and work to achieve it. Third, keep upgrading yourself for your development. Shivangi Singh, Deputy Commissioner, DIC, Lucknow, said that the state government is working on a large scale for MSMEs. She said that today before changing the mindset of education and business, it is necessary to change the mindset of the society to encourage women entrepreneurs. FICCI FLO National

Senior Vice President Pooja Garg said that there are about 6.4 crore MSMEs in India, which play an important role in economic development, employment and innovation. In this informative program, FICCI FLO Lucknow Chairperson Vandita Agarwal said that the purpose of this day is to highlight the contribution of these enterprises and recognize their role in the sustainable development goals of the governments.

Particularly encouraging has been the enthusiastic response from women, farmers and youth at village-level kiosks and Bina Shrivis, reinforcing that trust in insurance is best built through local, personal engagement. Building trust in rural and semi-urban areas begins with presence and accessibility. PNB MetLife has adopted a hands-on approach by organizing enrolment camps, financial literacy workshops and dispatching Bina Vans to remote regions. Collaborations with local institutions such as HP Gramin Bank, along with leveraging their Banca partnership with Punjab National Bank by boasting a strong network of 300 plus branches in the state have significantly bolstered outreach.

PNB MetLife strengthens Insurance Awareness movement in HP

SHIMLA: Insurance Awareness Day serves as a timely reminder of the importance of securing one's financial future. In today's evolving socio-economic environment, insurance goes beyond just offering protection; it is a vital financial planning tool. It encourages disciplined savings, supports key life milestones such as education, marriage, retirement and plays a critical role in long-term financial stability. According to Mohit Bahuguna, Chief Distribution Officer, Partnerships & Group, PNB MetLife, observing this day provides an opportunity for individuals to reassess their financial preparedness and recognize the role of insurance in meeting both short- and long-term goals.

PNB MetLife has been at the forefront of promoting insurance awareness in regions like Himachal Pradesh with a strong focus on community-centric engagement. "Through School Connect Program, the company has reached over 4,000 students across Una, Hamirpur and Mandi, introducing the concept of financial security in simple, relatable terms. These efforts were designed to spark important conversations about life insurance within households. PNB MetLife has also deployed Bina Vans to over 20 remote locations, bringing insurance awareness directly to underserved communities. These grassroots efforts were further amplified through statewide multimedia campaigns, resulting in over 9 million digital impressions.

Aakash Institute Chandigarh Celebrates Stellar NEET & JEE 2025 Results



CHANDIGARH: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, has once again exhibited its academic excellence by empowering students to rise above challenges and emerge as true problem solvers. Despite the increased difficulty level and changes in the NEET UG 2025 examination pattern and format, AESL students across the country showcased yet again stellar performances, guided by the institute's focused problem-solving approach. Notably, students of Aakash Institute Chandigarh were felicitated for getting top tanks in NEET UG 2025 and JEE Advanced 2025.

Aakashians have bagged 5 ranks in Top 10 of NEET UG 2025 namely AIR 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. There are 35 rankers from

Aakash in Top 100 and 11 Aakashians have become State Toppers in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Daman and Diu. Says Mr Deepak Mehrotra, MD and CEO of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), "At Aakash, we teach our problem solvers how to adapt to new situations. That's why we have so many top rankers this year too. NEET 2025 format was not just different, it was tough too. But be it new formats or new challenges, Aakashians have proven yet again, that when you learn the skill of problem solving you can ace any test."

15 Aakashians from Chandigarh became top scorers including Adhiraj Singh

Panag who secured AIR 103, Aarav Goel secured AIR 169. Other outstanding achievers are Sonali (AIR 255), Dipesh Malik (AIR 313), Aarzo Ahiwalla (AIR 371), Paras Yadav (AIR 381), Kartikay Goyal (AIR 412), Yuvraj Ghai (AIR 435), Damanpreet Singh (AIR 450), Garima Gauri (AIR 491), Poushika Uppal (AIR 618), Manan (AIR 636), Hazim Javid Kirmani (AIR 663), Himanshi (AIR 729), Harshit Saini (AIR 829), and Gopesh Sharma (AIR 872) have secured top All India Ranks amongst others in NEET UG 2025. In JEE Advanced 2025, from the North Region, Keshav Bansal (AIR 382), Japeet Singh (AIR 878), Saldar Hayat Khan (AIR 908), and Abhisar (AIR 1066) have secured top All India Ranks.

Rass & Ravy Unveil A Heartfelt Ballad "Forever Mine", exploring the Serenity and Depth of True Love

AMRITSAR:— Acclaimed Punjabi music producer Rass and rising Artist Ravy collaborate to drop their upcoming single "Forever Mine". A heartfelt ballad that captures the depth of true love, Forever Mine is a journey through starlit skies, quiet conversations, and the kind of connection that transforms the ordinary into something magical. Rooted in emotion and layered with dreamy melodies, the song explores love as a peaceful and gentle promise that only



grows stronger with time. Known for producing hits for Prem Dhillon, Ekam Sudhar, and Sardar Khehra, Rass's Forever Mine hints at the beginning of a bold new era as he steps into the spotlight with his own music. For Ravy, this track marks another powerful step in his evolving journey as a composer and lyricist—one who crafts melodies with feeling and pens lyrics that linger long after the music fades. Both Rass and Ravy were born and raised in Punjab, where their roots in music were first planted. Now based in Canada, the duo brings the depth of their heritage and the freshness of a global sound to everything they create. Forever Mine isn't just a track—it's a statement from two artists who are proudly carrying their culture forward while carving out their space on an international stage. Producer Rass shares his experience creating Forever Mine, "This song is all about love that's calm, grounding, and real, something I think a lot of us crave. Working with Ravy has been inspiring; his voice brings a certain sincerity that made this track what it is." "Forever Mine is a feeling. When Rass first played me the beat, I instantly connected with the emotion behind it.

Young Swimmers Shine on Day 3 of AGI Swimming Championship



BUNNY SODHI JALANDHAR: Around 62 young swimmers took part in the third day of the AGI Swimming Championship at the pools of Jalandhar Heights 1 & 2 on 66 Foot Road. Most participants were under-10 and under-15 age groups. General Arun Khanna, Chief Administrative Officer of AGI, expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic participation. Sardar Sukhdev Singh, Managing Director of AGI Infra Ltd., reaffirmed AGI's commitment to

supporting youth and promoting sports for better health. In the boys under-10 (25m) category, Sahib, Vaan, and Jasmer stood out. Among girls under-10, Anahat won first place. In the under-15 girls category, Avanshi and Arzoo led their respective heats. In boys under-15 (35m), Aakash, Aarav Chawala, Aditya, Lovish, and Arsh won top positions in their respective heats. The championship continues to witness strong community support and excitement.

Shree Shyam Karuna Foundation organises community kitchen to welcome the rainy season

PANCHKULA: Shree Shyam Karuna Foundation organized its 171st Anna Bhandara, or 'Community Kitchen' here, in which nutritious food was served to the needy. The 'Community Kitchen' was orga-



nized under the supervision of social worker Amitabh Rungta, president of the Foundation. Rungta said that Ayurveda emphasizes on dietary adjustments for health during the rainy season. He said that one should make a dietary change to focus on healthy food and beverage intake this season. He further said, "According to Indian culture and ethos, the rainy season

is the time to bring positive changes in food habits. In this season, we should change our diet and take a pledge to make this 'positive dietary shift' a part of our regimen for all times to come." Rungta said, "We should drink enough water and eat only as much food as we need, this will keep both mind and body healthy." Rungta said that the rainy season also has a great significance in

'Sanatan Dharma'. It is an important time not only for nature but also for human life and spiritual practices, he said. Dozens of charitable workers associated with the foundation participated enthusiastically in the holy work of organizing the Bhandara and played an important role in making the social initiative a success.

Over 82% of MSMEs eye digital sales; offline marketplaces still preferred

NEW DELHI: As high as 82 per cent of micro and medium retailers want to adopt digital streams to boost their sales, but offline marketplaces remain their preferred channel, showing their strength. According to a survey report by the global technology firm Zoho Corporation, six out of ten Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) stated that they have adopted an omnichannel selling strategy, operating in both online and offline channels, with the majority (75 per cent) of them claiming this expands their reach and customer accessibility; 68 per cent of retailers reported an equal revenue share from both retail channels. "82 per cent of offline retailers want to go digital, the marketplace being the most preferred platform for sales," the report added. According to the report's findings, the Indian retail sector is undergoing a dramatic transformation, with 60 per cent of businesses planning to adopt AI and ML by 2030 to stay competitive, and 44 per cent betting on AI-powered personalisation to enhance the shopping experience for their customers.

PNG Jewellers Taps into High-Growth Lightweight Jewellery Segment with New Brand 'Lifestyle'



PNG Jewellers, one of India's most trusted jewellery houses with a legacy spanning over 192 years, proudly announced the launch of its contemporary sub-brand Lifestyle by PNG in Pune today. The launch marks a significant step in PNG's evolution as it connects with the next generation of jewellery buyers through lightweight, design-forward fine jewellery for everyday wear. Crafted in 18K and 22K gold, Lifestyle is tailored for the modern, style-conscious woman aged 25–40, someone who chooses jewellery not just for tradition or gifting, but as an extension of her style. From meet meetings and casual outings to pre-festive get-togethers and micro-celebrations, Lifestyle offers versatile, mini-

malist pieces that blend sophistication with ease. Lifestyle will launch two stores, one each at Kharadi and Wakad in Pune on 22 June 2025, to be inaugurated by celebrated actress Sai Tamhankar. The lightweight fine jewellery market in India has witnessed a strong upward trajectory, driven by rising gold prices, the evolving role of women as primary jewellery buyers, and a growing desire for practical, design-rich pieces that suit contemporary lifestyles. With the 14K and 18K gold segment now accounting for a significant share of daily-wear jewellery purchases, brands that deliver authenticity, affordability, and digital convenience are set to lead this transformation.

5 warning signals of heart failure to look out for

JHAJJAR: Heart failure is a serious condition where the heart can't pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. It's important to recognize the warning signs early, as early diagnosis and treatment can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life. While heart failure can develop slowly, some symptoms might appear suddenly or worsen over time. Being aware of these signals can help you to seek medical attention at the right time.

Dr. Dixit Garg, Consultant Intervention - Cardiology, Manipal Hospital, Gurugram advised, "If you experience one or more of these warning signals, it's essential to consult. Early diagnosis and management of heart failure can help slow its progression, manage symptoms, and improve your long-term health and well-being. While medications and lifestyle changes can manage early-stage heart failure, advanced cases may require procedures

like angioplasty, valve repair, or even device implantation, such as an ICD or CRT."

Warning signs to watch for: Shortness of breath: If you are experiencing shortness of breath during physi-



cal activity or even while lying down, it could be a symptom of heart failure. This happens due to a shortage of oxygen in the body.

Fatigue and weakness: Sudden or unexplained fatigue, even without engaging in rigorous physical activity, is a sign to

look out for. This may be accompanied by swelling in your legs, ankles, or feet.

Persistent cough: Heart failure can also be indicated by a cough that won't go away. Watch out if you choke up pink or white mucus with spots of blood.

Weight gain: Fluid build-up can often cause rapid weight gain and swelling in the belly region, even though your appetite may have reduced significantly. Memory issues: You may start experiencing confusion suddenly or have difficulty remembering things.

Dr. Dixit Garg, Consultant Intervention - Cardiology, Manipal Hospital, Gurugram, regularly visits Jhajjar to offer consultations to patients suffering from heart failure. He will be available for OPD consultation every Friday between 11 AM - 1 PM at Medicare Hospital and Trauma Center, Jhajjar.

After Creating History with Guinness World Record, Save Earth Mission Announces Grand Global Vision Unveiling in India

CHANDIGARH/JALANDHAR:— Following its historic feat of planting over 500,000 trees in just 1 hour under the banner of 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam', Save Earth Mission has captured the world's attention and inspired a global climate awakening. The Guinness World Record-breaking campaign, which saw massive participation across India, was celebrated internationally and featured on prestigious media platforms including Forbes, Fox, Business Insider, and leading national and international TV networks. Now, Save Earth Mission is going global. The organization



has officially announced its biggest international event yet — the Save Earth Mission Global Vision Unveiling — a monumental gathering that will mark the launch of Save Earth Mission's global strategy to plant 30 billion trees by 2040 and guide the world toward net zero carbon emissions. The event will take place on July 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM IST at the iconic GIFT City Club in Ahmedabad, India. "This is a proud moment not only for India but for the entire world. The people have spoken, and Ahmedabad has emerged as a symbol of global climate solidarity," said Sandeep Choudhary, President - India Chapter, Save Earth Mission. "This global announcement marks a major leap in Save Earth Mission's journey — a platform where the organization will unveil its expanded roadmap and rally international chapters toward a unified climate goal. With leaders, representatives, and volunteers from across the Save Earth Mission global network expected to attend, the event will set the stage for country-wise plantation drives, new global collaborations, and an accelerated push toward reforestation and sustainability. The location was finalized through a global public voting process, where shortlisted cities — including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Goa, Bangkok, and Ahmedabad — were presented to the Save Earth Mission global community. With the highest number of votes, Ahmedabad was selected as the host city, positioning India as the epicenter of this next chapter in climate action.

NEWS BRIEF

Young Aussie all-rounder on verge of T20 world record during MLC 2025

New Delhi: Australian all-rounder Mitchell Owen is on verge of a world record, as with one more 'Player of the Match' award during the ongoing Major League Cricket (MLC), he will join Bangladesh legend Shakib al Hasan as player with most successive POTM honours in T20 cricket. While representing Washington Freedom in the fourth consecutive POTM against San Francisco Unicorns, taking a brilliant 5/17 to reduce the opponents to 157/9 in their 20 overs in pursuit of 170 runs. However, he scored a first-ball duck with the bat. One more will help him join Shakib as the player with the joint-most-successive POTMs in T20s, with a total of five, as per Wisden. Previously, against the Los Angeles Knight Riders, he scored a quickfire 43 in 16 balls (three fours and four sixes) to successfully chase down 214 runs and had bowling figures of 0/47. Before this, against the Texas Super Kings, he first took 3/33 with the ball, following it with a 52-ball 89 (eight fours and five sixes) to chase down a massive 221 runs. Against MI New York, he took 1/29 and scored a fiery 60 in 26 balls, with five fours and five sixes to chase down 189 runs for his side to earn the POTM honours.

"I think it's likely he'll play": Andrew McDonald reflects on Steve Smith being fit for Australia's second Test against West Indies

New Delhi: Following the compound fracture Steve Smith sustained during the World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lords, He is on track to be fit for Australia's second Test against West Indies in Grenada. Smith has spent the last week in New York, where he has had a net against a tennis ball, according to ESPNcricinfo. Australia head coach Andrew McDonald expects Smith to be ready to return at No. 4, which is likely to see Josh Inglis drop out of the XI. "It's really about functionality around the finger rather than anything else. There'll be no risk to the long-term health of that finger. He'll return, and I think it's likely he'll play. Leading into the next game, he'll have the main session two days out," Andrew McDonald said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. Smith suffered the injury, dropping a catch offered by Temba Bavuma on the third day at Lords, McDonald reflected on the decision to keep Smith at No. 4, citing his ability to stabilise the position and their value to the team, despite the option to move him higher in the batting order.

Rugby Premier League Final Preview: Chennai Bulls to lock horns with Delhi Redz in high-stakes title clash

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], June 29 (ANI): After two weeks of adrenaline-gushing action, intense tackles and spectacular tries, it all comes down to the inaugural Rugby Premier League (RPL) grand finale as the Chennai Bulls take on the Delhi Redz in what promises to be a fiery battle for Sunday. Chennai Bulls enjoyed a dominant 31-12 win over Bengaluru Bravehearts in the semi-final, but it was not so straightforward for the Delhi Redz side. They managed to defeat table-toppers Hyderabad Heroes 14-7 in a match that went right down to the wire, before Patrick Odongo scored a last-second try for the Redz, as per an RPL press release. Chennai Bulls are in an incredible vein of form with the likes of Terry Kennedy, Joseva Talacolo and Va'aufauese Apelu-Maliko playing an exceptional brand of rugby. Indian players such as Aryan Dixit, Muhammad Jasim EP, and Shahinawaz Ahmed have made their presence felt. Statistically, the Bulls are overall second in the league when it comes to tries, conversions, points scored, and tackles made with 37, 25, 235 and 181, respectively.

Diksha Dagar, Vani Kapoor in top 10 at Amundi German Masters

Hamburg: Diksha Dagar and Vani Kapoor were the pick of the Indians at the Amundi German Masters after the second day, with Avani Prashanth also making the cut, three of the nine Indians who teed up this week at the Green Eagle Golf Course, according to a release from Ladies European Tour (LET). Diksha played an even par round to slip from the top five but was inside the top 10 at tied 8th in the standings as Vani played 3-under 70 to move into the top 10, and she is also placed at tied 8th. The only other Indian to make the cut was Avani Prashanth, who played a round of 1-over 74 to end the day tied 43rd. Prashanth made two birdies, one bogey and one double bogey. Tvesha Malik (74-76) missed the cut by one shot as the cut fell at 3-over, while other Indians missing out were Sneha Singh (78-79), Amandeep Dral (78-79), Hitaashree Bakshi (79-81), and Vidhatri Urs (93-87). At the same time, Neha Tripathi retired after the first round.

"We lived the dream": Pant, Axar celebrate one-year anniversary of India's memorable T20 WC title win



AGENCY NEW DELHI : Wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Axar Patel celebrated the one-year anniversary of India's famed T20

World Cup 2024 triumph in Barbados. On June 29, 2024, India lifted the coveted T20 World Cup title for the first time in 17 years. After putting up a competitive 176/7 on the

board, India flirted with danger and floundered in its approach to follow the blueprint for successfully defending the total. However, the Rohit Sharma-led side stayed in

the contest to deny the Proteas with a seven-run triumph. Pant took to Instagram and posted a picture of himself lifting the title and wrote, "What a moment".

Axar shared a video of himself celebrating the trophy success with his teammates and captioned it, "One year ago, we lived the dream."

In the pulsating final of the marquee event, India and South Africa landed in Barbados unbeaten, with hopes of ending the quest on a memorable note. The coin spun in India's favour during the time of the toss, and Rohit decided to put South Africa in a position to chase.

After India was reduced to 34/3, batting maestro Virat Kohli and Axar raised a priceless 72-run partnership before the latter was dismissed on 47(31). Virat continued to extend his stay at the crease and switched through gears after celebrating his half-century.

With his enchanting strokeplay, he blew away the South African bowling unit and returned with 76(59). Shivam Dube's swift 27 from 16 deliveries propelled India to 176/7.

In reply, Quinton de Kock (39) and Heinrich Klaasen (52) decimated India's hopes of winning the title. With the equation down to 26 off 24 deliveries, a spirited pace bowling performance came to India's rescue.

Daren Sammy fined for ICC Code of Conduct breach against Australia



DUBAI, JUNE 29 (UNI) West Indies head coach Daren Sammy has been fined 15% of his match fee for a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct during the second day of the first Test that the visitors clinched by 159 runs, courtesy Josh Hazlewood's stunning 5-43 in Bridgetown. The sanction relates to comments made by Sammy during a media interaction at the end of Day 2, where he criticised one of the match officials in reference to mul-

tiples incidents throughout the day's play. The 41-year-old was found to have violated Article 2.7 of the Code, which pertains to "public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in an International Match or any Player, Player Support Personnel, Match Official or team participating in any International Match." As a result, one demerit point has also been

added to Sammy's disciplinary record, his first offence in a 24-month period. Sammy admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Javagal Srinath of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, after the charge was levelled by on-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Nitin Menon, third umpire Adrian Holdstock, and fourth umpire Gregory Brathwaite. Level 1 offences carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum of a 50% match fee fine, along with one or two demerit points. West Indies were thumped by the visiting Australian side by 159 runs after the home side lost all ten wickets in the final session on Day three, while chasing the 301-run target in a game that was filled with twists and turns.

"He set a very good atmosphere around": Prasidh Krishna hails Shubman Gill's Test captaincy

AGENCY LEEDS: Following the loss against England in the first Test of the five-match series at Headingley, India's right-arm seamer Prasidh Krishna shared his thoughts on newly appointed Test skipper Shubman Gill where he said the young middle-order batter had a "very good atmosphere" in the dressing room. Speaking on Gill's captaincy and leadership skills at the press-conference, Krishna said, "I think he did a pretty good job. All of us saw how he rotated the bowlers, made sure everybody had enough breaks, brought in people at the right kind of spells, he saw opportunities and brought in the right kind of bowlers. All of that was great and knowing him, he set a very good atmosphere around. He's been speaking to all of us, we always go in with a plan and the communication is happening there." Gill joined the elite list of



Indians, which includes Sunil Gavaskar, Virat Kohli, Vijay Hazare and Dilip Vengsarkar to score 100 on Test captaincy debut. He achieved this feat in his outing against England on Day 1 of the first test of the five-test match series on Friday at Leeds Headingley. This is also the start of the 2025-27 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle

for both nations. Gill also completed 2000 runs in test cricket, the batter took 60 innings to achieve this feat. Both Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli completed 2000 test runs in their first match as captain. Gill is the 23rd player to score a century in a debut innings as captain and the fourth youngest among those behind Herbie Taylor, Alastair Cook, and Steven Smith. Gill brought up his 100 in 140 deliveries in an innings peppered with 14 boundaries as he kept India steady. This was his sixteenth century in test, and he also has seven fifties to his name. Alongside Gill, Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal also scored a brilliant century. He was dismissed by England skipper Ben Stokes right after Tea on Day 1 for 101 runs; his innings included 16 fours and a six. Further, the pacer spoke about the five-wicket loss which his team faced in the first test against the Three Lions at the Leeds, Headingley. "The dressing room is still nice and happy and very, very motivated. Like I said, we came here knowing what this opportunity meant for all of us and even in the game today, we might have looked quiet at some stages but I think we still had a plan.

Leather hunt, some redemption, wasted chances: A look at India's winless Test journey in Birmingham

AGENCY EDGBASTON : Team India will play their second Test of the five-match tour of England at Edgbaston in Birmingham, where they have yet to secure a win. The match at Birmingham will kick off on Wednesday. Team India trails by 0-1 in the series, failing to defend 371 runs against a Ben Duckett-charged England during the first Test at Leeds. The left-hander poured a heavy dosage of reverse sweeps on Team India's plans, completing the Three Lions' second-best run chase in Tests. Indian fans and players alike would not like to see their record at Edgbaston, where they are yet to win a match. Seven out of eight matches have been lost, while one has ended in a draw. In their previous match at Edgbaston back in July 2022, the rescheduled fifth

Test of the 2021 series, India, under stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah, looked like a highly proud unit till the fourth innings. With centuries from Rishabh Pant (146) and Ravindra Jadeja (104) taking India to 416 from a shaky situation of 98/5 and pacers firing all cylinders, a defeat looked certain for England chasing 378 runs as they slipped to 109/3 despite a century partnership between openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley. However, centuries from Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root left India searching for answers, hunting for red cherry in every corner of the ground. The hosts pulled off their highest-ever run-chase in Tests and showed the Indians what the hype of their 'Bazball' school of cricket under skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum was all about. The series ended in a 2-2



draw. During the 2018 tour, the biggest story was that of a superstar making up for a major career slip-up in England during his initial years. Questioned about his ability against moving deliveries of James Anderson and Stuart Broad, Indian skipper Virat Kohli defended, survived edges and half-chances and drove to perfection, scoring his first Test ton in England, a blistering 149, a major chunk of which was made along with the tail end. With a loud roar and a kiss to his wedding ring, the 'King Kohli' gave it back in style. However, despite his lone warrior batting effort and the sheer excellence of his bowlers, particularly Ishant Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin, the team could not chase down 194, being bundled out for 162 despite Virat's second-innings fifty, which helped England take a 1-0 lead.

You tell me, don't want to look: Rohit recalls Suryakumar's catch check moment in T20 WC 2024 final



NEW DELHI: Seasoned opener Rohit Sharma took a trip down memory lane and reminisced about the torrent of emotions Indian players experienced when Suryakumar Yadav's match-defining catch to dismiss David Miller was being reviewed by the third umpire in last year's T20 World Cup final against South Africa.

On June 29, 2024, India ended its 17-year-long T20 World Cup drought at the expense of South Africa's heartbreak. India's dwindling 177-run defence found a new life after a spirited performance from the pace troika of Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya in the death overs.

The equation came down to South Africa 16 runs short in the last over with Miller on strike. Pandya bore the responsibility of steering India past the finish line. He began his over with a wide full toss that Miller dispatched down the ground through the aerial route.

Suryakumar sprinted to his left from long-off and grabbed the ball. He lobbed it in the air as momentum took him past the boundary rope and then came back inside the field to complete a catch that determined the fate of the title. "Even after [the catch], the

umpires sent it up to the third umpire, and it was being checked whether Surya caught the ball or not, and everyone's hearts were in their mouths. I thought it had gone [for a six]. Because I was at [long-on], I was standing opposite Surya. I was already thinking '10 needed off five balls', but then I saw that it's coming to Surya," Rohit told JioHotstar. "It would have taken a blinder to take that catch. It would have taken a lot of effort to take that catch. Because when it was in the air, it looked like it'll cross the rope easily. But the way the wind was blowing, that pulled the ball a little bit into the ground, I think," he added. Rohit revealed that during the check conducted by the third umpire, he had a word with Suryakumar and told him that he didn't have it in him to look at the big screen for the decision. "I was standing with Surya when they were checking the catch, and I told him 'You only tell me [if it was a catch or not], I don't want to look [at the big screen]'. 'No, no, I caught it.' But then I saw him on the side telling someone, 'Maybe, I don't know. But I caught it,' he said. "And then they showed the zoom camera, and when the ball or feet touch the boundary rope, it moves, but nothing happened.

"Not thinking about how many players have won three Wimbledons in a row": Carlos

AGENCY LONDON: Defending Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz said that the idea of completing a hat-trick of this prestigious Grand Slam is not on his mind, and he just wants to lift the trophy on grassy surfaces where "the most beautiful tennis" is played. Alcaraz will kickstart his Wimbledon campaign against 38-year-old Fabio Fognini in round one from Monday. The stars are aligned for Alcaraz, as far as



Bjorg set a record that several future legends have attempted to emulate, but failed. Between 1978 and 1980, he captured the French Open and Wimbledon titles in a calendar year three times in a row. Speaking ahead of his tournament opener as quoted by Wimbledon's official website, Alcaraz said, "I am coming here thinking that I really want to win the title. I really want to lift the trophy.

Jaideep Ahlawat dons 'antagonist' avatar for 'The Family Man' season 3



As the filmmakers Raj and DK's most loved series 'The Family Man' is returning with the third season and with some new faces. Yes, you read it right. The upcoming season features Jaideep Ahlawat and Nimrat Kaur in pivotal roles. Jaideep will be seen as an antagonist, locking horns with Manoj Bajpayee. On Friday, the makers unveiled the first glimpse of the show.

Returning in pivotal roles this season are Priyamani (Suchitra Tiwari), Sharib Hashmi (JK Talpade), Ashlesha Thakur (Dhriti Tiwari), and Vedant Sinha (Aharv Tiwari), among others. Creators, directors, and writers, Raj & DK shared their vision for Season 3, "With each season, we challenge ourselves to elevate the story, scale, and performances, making them even more entertaining than the last. We're grateful for our fans' support. Season 3 will push Srikanth and his team to their limits, plunging them into a world of intense danger and personal challenges that will profoundly shake their bonds, all while Srikanth simultaneously grapples with a new family dynamic. They'll face off against formidable new nemeses, and we're thrilled to announce that Jaideep and Nimrat will be joining our cast as these exciting antagonists. "In the series created by Raj and DK, Manoj Bajpayee plays Srikanth Tiwari, a middle-class man leading a double life as an intelligence officer for the Threat Analysis and Surveillance Cell (TASC), a fictional division of the National Investigation Agency.

Selena Gomez confirms return to 'Wizards Beyond Waverly Place' as guest star for season 2

Selena Gomez is making her long-awaited return to the 'Wizards of Waverly Place' universe, confirming that she will guest star in season 2 of the Disney Channel sequel series, 'Wizards Beyond Waverly Place'. In a social media post, Gomez revealed the exciting news, saying, "Just feels right..." alongside a photo of her sitting on the iconic set while holding a wand, much to the delight of fans who have been eager to see Alex Russo back on screen, who also serves as an executive producer on 'Wizards Beyond Waverly Place', made several guest appearances in the first season. During those appearances, she introduced her brother, Justin Russo (played by David Henrie), and his family to Billie (Janice LeAnn Brown), a young and rebellious wizard-in-training. Billie requires Justin's help to safeguard the future of



Marion Cotillard, Guillaume Canet announce separation after 18 years



The much-loved French couple Marion Cotillard and Guillaume Canet have decided to part ways after being together for 18 years, reported E! news. As per the publication, their representatives confirmed the news to the French news agency Agence France-Presse. "After 18 years together, Marion Cotillard and Guillaume Canet have decided to separate by mutual agreement. This decision was made with mutual goodwill."

The Oscar-winning actress and the actor-director, who first shared the

screen in the 2003 romantic drama Love Me If You Dare, started dating in 2007. They are parents to two children-Marcel, 13, and Louise, 8.

In their statement, Marion and Guillaume said they wanted to share the news themselves to stop any "speculation, rumors and risky interpretations." They also asked the public to respect their privacy and especially protect the privacy of their children. "By demonstrating transparency through this press release, Marion Cotillard and Guillaume Canet also express their desire that their private

lives," the statement added, "especially those of their two children, be respected." The couple's relationship began shortly after working together on-screen and has lasted through nearly two decades of work and family life. They welcomed their first child in 2011 and their second in 2017. Both Marion and Guillaume are big names in international cinema. Marion won an Academy Award for her role as Édith Piaf in La Vie en Rose (2007). She has also appeared in hit films like Inception (2010), The Dark Knight Rises (2013), and Allied (2016).

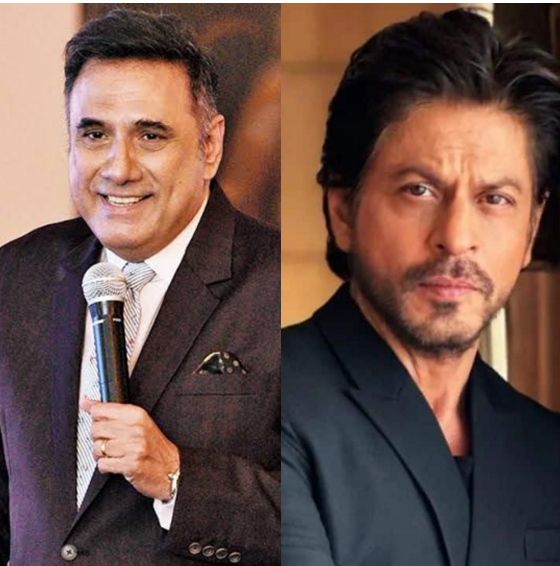
Anupam Kher joins hands with Excel Entertainment for his directorial 'Tanvi The Great'

Legendary actor Anupam Kher has joined hands with Excel Entertainment, led by producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, for his directorial 'Tanvi The Great'. Ritesh and Farhan have come on board as the global distributors for the film. Announcing his collaboration, Kher on Instagram on Saturday wrote, "Behind every great story are those who dare to believe in it and those who step in to take it even further. Today, that belief turns stronger with #ExcelEntertainment joining our journey. One of Indian cinema's most passionate storytellers, their support in Tanvi's journey will strengthen our dream to take her story far and wide globally. Thank you dearest @faroutakhtar and @ritesh_sid and above all #AnilThadani for your faith, support and appreciation!"

Farhan and Ritesh also expressed their excitement. Ritesh Sidhwani said, "Tanvi The Great is a film that resonates deeply with universal emotions and the power of the human spirit. We're honoured to partner with Anupam Kher Studios to bring this moving story to audiences across the globe." Farhan Akhtar added, "The vision and passion behind Tanvi The Great are truly inspiring. We at Excel are excited to support this beautiful film and help it find the audience it deserves worldwide." The movie boasts a powerful ensemble cast with names like Anupam Kher, Iain Glen, Boman Irani, Jackie Shroff, Arvind Swami, Pallavi Joshi, Karan Tacker, M Nasser, and debutant Shubhangi. Directed by Anupam Kher, with music by Oscar-winner MM Keeravani, Tanvi The Great is produced by Anupam Kher Studios in collaboration with the NFDC. The global distribution is handled by AA Films, led by Anil Thadani and Excel Entertainment. Tanvi The Great releases on July 18.



Boman Irani on Shah Rukh Khan's rare X-Factor and the joy of sharing a set with him



Boman Irani has worked alongside some of the finest names in Indian cinema and his admiration for his co-stars Shah Rukh Khan comes with a sense of genuine warmth and awe — not just for the star's screen presence, but for the man he is. "Some people just light up the screen the moment they walk in — Shah Rukh is definitely one of them," Boman shares. "I've seen extremely handsome men and stunning women who somehow don't translate onscreen. And then there are people like Shah Rukh — who carry that rare X-factor. The energy shifts the moment he enters a room."

But what truly stayed with Boman wasn't just the charisma, it was the quiet empathy SRK brings with him, no matter how busy the day or how large the crowd. "He's deeply empathetic," Boman says. "On set, yes — people are in awe of 'Shah Rukh Khan'. But he always takes the time to smile, to talk to everyone. He's so driven and focused, but he also believes that filmmaking isn't just about getting the work done — it's about enjoying the process."

For someone like Boman, who thrives on collaboration and the creative energy of a good set, SRK's presence and warmth left a deep impression. "He's smart, quick, and incredibly articulate. But what I really admire is how he makes people around him feel — included, heard, appreciated." Looking back, Boman calls it one of the most memorable experiences of his career. "Being around him is an experience in itself," he says with a smile. "He really is the complete package."

On the work front, Boman Irani has been receiving praise for his directorial debut The Mehta Boys. The film, co-written by Boman and Oscar-winning writer Alex Dinelaris, marks a new chapter in his creative journey and has been lauded for its emotional depth and nuanced storytelling.

Amitabh Bachchan celebrates one year of 'Kalki 2898' release



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan celebrated one year of the release of his film 'Kalki 2898 AD'. On Friday, Vyjayanthi Movies on X wrote, "We started with a dream...and you turned it into an epic. Celebrating 1 YEAR of #Kalki2898AD...Thank you to the audience. This journey is yours as much as ours #1YearForKalki2898AD #1YearForKalkiKARNAGE @SrBachchan @ikamalhaasan #Prabhas @deepikapadukone @nagashwin7 @DishPatani."

Big B retweeted the post on X and wrote, "my honoured privilege to be asked to be a part of it .. one that I admired and respected the blessings of Vijayanti films and the elders that ran and connected with it .. ever to be a part of it any day again, IF THEY WERE TO EVER TO ASK ..."

Vyjayanthi Movies replied to the tweet. "@SrBachchan.... Sir, It's a true blessing for us to be part of your journey and to celebrate your greatness. You've inspired our lives in ways words can't express. #Kalki2898AD #1YearForKalki2898AD," they replied.

Set in a post-apocalyptic world in 2898 AD where nature has vanished and darkness prevails, 'Kalki 2898 AD' marks the first instalment in the Kalki Cinematic Universe. The film follows the journey of Bhairava, a bounty hunter, as he navigates this dystopian future. Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Prabhas, Kamal Haasan and Disha Patani feature in the film. Actors Vijay Deverakonda, Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur have cameos in the film.

Neil Nitin Mukesh pens adorable birthday wish for his 'guiding light' Nitin Mukesh

Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh penned an adorable birthday note for his father and veteran singer Nitin Mukesh. On Friday, Neil posted a beautiful picture of his parents on Instagram and wrote a heartfelt birthday wish. Calling Nitin 'guiding light, mentor and God', he wrote, "Happy 75th Birthday, PAA @nitin-mukesh9. Today is your special day, and I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and love for everything you've done for me. You are the most selfless human being I know. You're not just my father; you're my guiding light, my mentor, and my God. Your wisdom, kindness, and unwavering support have shaped me into the person I am today." "I'm so grateful for the values you've instilled in me, for the sacrifices you've made for our family, and for being a constant source of strength and inspiration. You're the best father in the world, and I feel blessed to have you in my life," he added. Neil concluded with a sweet words that read, "Here's to many more years of love, laughter, and adventure together! I love you more than words can express. Happy 75th Birthday, PAA."

Sophie Chaudhry reacted to the post and commented, "Biggest hug and happy bday uncle." Meanwhile, on the work front, Neil was last seen in the musical drama 'Hai Junoon- Dream, Dare, Dominate'. Directed by Abhishek Sharma, Hai Junoon- Dream, Dare, Dominate is led by Jacqueline Fernandez as Pearl and Neil Nitin Mukesh as Gagan, alongside Sumedh Mudgalkar, Siddharth Nigam, Yukti Thareja, Aryan Katoch, Priyank Sharma, Kunwar Amar, Mohan Pandey, Elisha Mayor, Sanchit Kundra, Sanatana Roach, Devangshi Sen, Anusha Mani, Bhavin Bhanushali, Amav Magoo, and Yukti Thareja in pivotal roles.



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