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## YUGMARG

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SPORTS FOSTER DISCIPLINE  
AND SELFCONFIDENCE  
AMONG YOUTH: CM

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SOCIETY CAN BE  
GUIDED TOWARDS  
A BETTER FUTURE  
ONLY BY  
FOLLOWING THE  
IDEALS OF GREAT  
SAINTS: CM

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CONGRESS-IMPOSED  
EMERGENCY WAS THE  
DARKEST CHAPTER IN  
INDIA'S DEMOCRATIC  
HISTORY: SANJAY TANDON

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## NEWS BRIEFS

Bittu appears  
before Punjab SC  
Commission,  
apologises for his  
remarks

CHANDIGARH: Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Wednesday appeared before the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission and submitted a written apology for his remarks during heated exchanges with police officers in Dhuri in May. Bittu had earlier issued a public apology for his casteist remarks. The Commission had asked the minister to appear before it to present his side of the matter. Bittu had failed to appear before the Commission on two previous occasions.

Supreme Courts of  
India, Russia sign  
MoU on judicial  
cooperation

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has signed an MoU with the top court of the Russian Federation in the field of judicial cooperation. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Chief Justice of the Russian Federation Igor Krasnov signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Moscow on Tuesday. Accompanied by a delegation from the apex court, CJJI Kant met the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

13 illegal  
Bangladeshi  
nationals identified  
in Gurugram

UNI PANCHKULA: Reinforcing its focus on national security and law and order, Haryana Police has launched a statewide verification drive to identify foreign nationals living illegally, under which Gurugram Police has detected 13 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly residing without valid documents, officials said today. All identified individuals will be deported following due legal procedure. Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), Gurugram, Hitesh Yadav, a team of Crime Branch Sector-39 conducted a special verification operation based on specific intelligence inputs regarding Bangladeshi-origin persons allegedly residing illegally at construction sites and slum settlements in Gurugram. During the operation, police teams carried out extensive checks at various construction sites and slum clusters and verified the identities and citizenship status of suspected individuals.

Chandigarh seeks  
MEA's help to stop  
auction of heritage  
furniture in France

CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh administration has sought the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to stop the auction of heritage furniture linked to the Union Territory scheduled to be held in Paris on June 25. In a letter to the MEA, a copy of which was released to the media on Wednesday, the administration said two furniture items listed for auction carry markings indicating that they belong to Panjab University and PGIMER, Chandigarh. Officials said the markings raise concerns that the items may have been removed and taken abroad without authorisation.

Opposition trying to defame me,  
says CM Mann over video rowBUREAU  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday said that a fake video was deliberately created and circulated to defame him after his political opponents failed to challenge the work being done by his Government for the people of Punjab. Pointing out that the opposition is misleading people in the name of religion and resorting to petty politics, the Chief Minister said that those who have no issue left against his Government are now trying to tarnish his image through fabricated propaganda.

Reposing complete faith in the wisdom of the Nanak Naam Leva Sangat, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that truth will ultimately prevail and he leaves the final verdict to the Sangat. and he will continue working tirelessly for electricity, water, roads, hospitals, Aam Aadmi Clinics and employment while the people deliver the final verdict.

In a video message, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "For the past few days, as part of a very cheap political conspiracy, fake videos of me have been circulated. When my opponents find themselves unable to challenge me on any other front, they try to defame me through religious issues."

Referring to a video that was recently circulated, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "A video was made viral in which neither the person's physical appearance, height, manner of walking nor body language matches mine. Yet, my political opponents tried to portray me as guilty. However, the people and the Sikh community saw the video and it was obvious to them



that it was fake." The Chief Minister said that the state government had the video examined by forensic laboratories, but now those laboratories are being targeted.

"Those who own and operate that laboratory are being targeted because the BJP, Akali Dal and Congress have united against me," he said.

Announces Rs. 10,000 monthly  
honorarium for Sarpanches from Aug 15

BATHINDA: Reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering village leadership, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday announced a five-fold increase in the honorarium of village Sarpanches, raising it from ₹2,000 to ₹10,000 per month with effect from August 15. During a Sarpanch Mili in Bathinda, the Chief Minister said that Sarpanches serve villages day and night and deserve dignity and respect for their invaluable contribution. Emphasising that the development of villages is the foundation of Punjab's progress, the Chief Minister assured that there is no shortage of funds for rural development and urged Sarpanches to ensure transparent utilisation of public money while leading the collective effort to build a prosperous and Rangla Punjab. Taking to X, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated: "Today, we have taken a major decision. From August 15, every Sarpanch in Punjab will receive an honorarium of ₹10,000 per month. Panchayats are the first step of democracy, and Sarpanches serve their villages day and night.

4 dead, 17 hospitalised after under-  
construction Kolkata warehouse collapsesAGENCY  
KOLKATA, JUNE 24

Four people died and 17 others were hospitalised after a three-storey under-construction warehouse in the Taratala area of west Kolkata collapsed on Wednesday afternoon, trapping several people underneath the rubble, a senior West Bengal health department officer said.

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, who visited the disaster site where rescue operations were underway, stated that about 18 others remained trapped under the rubble where coordinated rescue efforts were being made by state and central agencies, including the army. The collapsed warehouse is a leasehold property under the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in the city, an official said.

"So far, 21 people have been rescued; three of whom have perished. The others have been admitted to SSKM Hospital where all efforts are being made to provide them with adequate medical attention," the CM had said earlier,

following which the death toll increased.

Till reports last received, all the rescued people, believed to be workers at the construction site, were admitted to the Trauma Care Centre of the state-run SSKM Hospital, the condition of several of them was stated to be critical.

A multi-disciplinary team of doctors, involving neurologists, orthopaedics and general medicine experts, has been set up to attend to the injured patients who have suffered severe trauma, they added.

"The roof of the warehouse located on the Transport Depot Road near Brace Bridge in the Taratala area collapsed around noon. Some people were working at the site at the time of the incident," a Kolkata Police officer said. Massive chunks of iron beams and concrete crumbled during the construction, where several workers were engaged. Eyewitnesses at the site said they heard trapped victims crying for help from beneath the debris.

Air India flight briefly  
enters Pakistan airspace  
after technical snag

UNI CHANDIGARH: An Air India flight operating on the Delhi-Amritsar sector briefly entered Pakistani airspace on Monday night after experiencing a technical snag in its navigation system, official sources confirmed on Wednesday.

The aircraft, an Airbus A321 (Flight AI-463), safely returned to Indian airspace after being alerted by Pakistani Air Traffic Control (ATC) and later landed in Amritsar after a brief diversion back to the national capital.

According to airport and aviation sources, the flight departed from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 9:18 PM on Monday. Shortly into its journey toward Amritsar, the aircraft encountered a technical malfunction that disrupted its onboard navigation tools, causing the flight path to drift westward across the International Border into Pakistani territory.

"The deviation was promptly flagged by the Pakistani air traffic authorities, who coordinated with the flight crew to alert them of the airspace breach. The pilots immediately corrected their course and guided the aircraft back into Indian territory," a senior airport official stated on the condition of anonymity.

However, the operational challenges did not end there. By the time the aircraft approached Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport around 10:30 PM, the local airspace was experiencing high traffic congestion. Due to the lack of an immediate landing slot and operational constraints, air traffic controllers instructed the flight to return to Delhi.

## House-to-house enumeration under SIR to commence across Punjab from today

YUGMARG BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

The first phase of the house-to-house enumeration exercise under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will commence across Punjab from tomorrow i.e. June 25, 2026 and all the necessary preparations for the statewide enumeration drive have been completed. This was stated here today by Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mrs. Anindita Mitra.

During the press conference at Punjab Bhawan, the CEO informed that during the first phase, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit every household to distribute pre-printed enumeration forms. Besides assisting voters in filling up these forms, the BLOs will also revisit households to collect the duly completed forms.

Mrs. Mitra said that the house-to-house enumeration exercise will continue till July 24, 2026. She further informed that if a form is not received from any household, the concerned BLO will make up to three visits to collect it and will affix a sticker at the residence, recording details of the visit. She informed that 24,453 BLOs will undertake the enumeration of 2,14,61,043 electors across the state. At present, 1,84,61,581 electors have already been mapped, accounting for 86.02 per cent of the total electorate in Punjab. The Chief Electoral Officer said that as per the schedule notified by the Election Commission of India for the SIR exercise, the house-to-house enumeration will be carried out from June 25 to July 24, 2026, while the rationalisation of polling stations will be completed on July 24, 2026. The draft electoral rolls will be published on August 3, 2026, she added. She further informed that claims and objections

regarding the electoral rolls may be submitted.

## Haryana orders 24-hr rescue of bonded labourers

UNI  
PANCHKULA, JUNE 24

The Haryana government has directed all deputy commissioners, district magistrates, and other field officers to ensure strict implementation of the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Government of India for the identification, rescue, and rehabilitation of bonded labourers and the prosecution of offenders.

A spokesperson for the Haryana Labour Department said that a communication to this effect has been received from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

The revised SOP introduces strict



timelines and accountability measures to ensure prompt rescue of bonded labourers and speedy action against those involved in forced labour practices.

Under the revised guidelines, district authorities have been directed to ensure that rescue operations are con-

ducted within 24 hours of receipt of a complaint, while a release certificate must be issued within 48 hours where a rescued person is prima facie found to be a bonded labourer.

The spokesperson said the centre has mandated the formation of multi-disciplinary rescue teams comprising Executive Magistrates, police officers, labour officials, women officers, independent witnesses, social workers and vigilance committee members. Rescue operations cannot be delayed even if any member of the team is unavailable.

The SOP requires officials to immediately separate victims from employers or traffickers and conduct an on-the-spot inquiry under the supervi-

sion of the District Magistrate or Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

Authorities have been instructed to collect and seize all relevant evidence, including wage records, muster rolls, bond agreements, bank documents, travel papers, mobile phones and other material that may establish bonded labour practices.

According to the spokesperson, the revised guidelines also direct police authorities to register FIRs within 24 hours wherever offences are detected and to invoke all relevant provisions of law. Employers found guilty can face immediate arrest, while proceedings for recovery of unpaid wages and overtime dues from accused employers must also be initiated.

Lucknow fire: Ill-fated building which  
claimed 15 lives will be demolished on July 7

UNI LUCKNOW: The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Wednesday issued a demolition notice to the owners of the ill-fated building where 15 people were killed in a fire that broke out on Monday.

An investigation has revealed that the building that caught fire was illegal. A demolition order was issued in 2016, but the order was later rescinded.

LDA Vice-Chancellor Prathamesh Kumar stated that the building will be demolished on July 7. The building belongs to Virendra Shukla, owner of the Rameshwaram Institute of Technology and Management College.

The police have registered a case of culpable homicide and arrested four accused, including Virendra. Six LDA officers have been suspended. Notices have been sent to

the government against 18 officers.

Meanwhile, action has begun against illegal coaching institutes in Lucknow. The LDA team sealed Allen and Motion Graphics in Hazratganj and Paramount Coaching in Kapurthala. Their layouts were inconsistent with the standards, and there were no adequate fire safety arrangements. Earlier, on Tuesday, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and forensic team arrived at the scene to investigate the accident. The team examined the building. The SIT includes IPS Praveen Kumar and IAS officer Amrit Abhijit. The SIT collected evidence from the site in bags. The building that caught fire is located in the Aliganj area. The basement, ground, and first floors house a pet shop and a clinic. The second floor houses a library called Learning Space (for coaching) and Head Hopper Studio, which handles 3D art production.

Iran invites PM Modi to attend  
state funeral of KhameneiUNI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has extended a formal invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to be held in the first week of July, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday.

"The Iranian President has formally extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to attend the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei," sources said.

New Delhi was, how-

ever, yet to confirm the invite.

The funeral of Khamenei will start on July 4 and end with his burial in the holy city of Mashhad in northeastern Iran, which was also his hometown, on July 9.

The 86-year-old was killed on the very first day of Israel and US airstrikes on Tehran on February 28.

Khamenei had been serving as the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic for 36 years.

The funeral of the Ayatollah could not take place earlier as Iran was at war with the US and Israel.

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GURDASPUR (VERMA): Keeping in mind the intense heat of the routine, goldsmiths have decided to keep their shops closed for 4 days by organizing a special meeting. Giving detailed information in this regard, Munish Verma, the head of the Goldsmith and Sarafa Association, said that every year goldsmiths' shops are kept closed during the summer season. Therefore, this time also, keeping in view the increasing heat, goldsmiths' shops will remain closed till 27, 28, 29 and 30 June. He requested all the customers coming to buy gold not to come to buy gold during these four days because due to the shops being closed, they will face problems in the summer season. He said that in view of the intense heat, take care of your health and consume as much drinking water as possible.

NEWS BRIEF

MLA reviews construction of key road project worth Rs 7.28 crore



**DALJEET AJNOHA**  
HOSHIARPUR: MLA of the Chhabawal Assembly Constituency, Dr. Ishank Kumar, inspected the ongoing road construction work at village Bhullewal Gujran. The 8.05-kilometre-long road, being constructed at a cost of ₹7.28 crore, will connect the Hoshiarpur-Mahilpur Road to the Mahilpur-Jaipur Road via Singhpur, Chanthu Brahmana, Kalewal Bhaganat, and Bhullewal Gujran. During his visit to Bhullewal Gujran, Dr. Ishank Kumar reviewed the progress of the project and inspected the quality of materials being used in the construction. He directed the concerned officials to ensure that there is no negligence or delay in the execution of the work and that quality standards are strictly maintained.

Rayat Bahra University hosts prestigious achievers' Summit 2026



**MOHALI:** Rayat Bahra University celebrated academic excellence at its Achievers' Summit 2026, organized to honour students who secured an outstanding CGPA of 9.0 and above. More than 300 meritorious students were felicitated for their exceptional academic performance during the grand event, which brought together distinguished dignitaries, academic leaders, faculty members, proud parents, and students. The summit was graced by Gurvinder Singh Bahra, Chancellor, Rayat Bahra University, Avinash Rai Khanna, Former Member of Parliament, and Prof. (Dr.) Satish Kumar, Pro Vice Chancellor, Rayat Bahra University.

Portable toilets to ease public convenience in Pathankot: Shreejal Gupta



**SHARANJEET PATHANKOT:** Social activist Shreejal Gupta, under his "Revive the City" campaign, has launched an initiative to install portable toilets at key locations across Pathankot to improve public sanitation facilities. During a meeting with representatives of the trade body, Gupta discussed suitable sites for the installation of the portable toilets in busy market areas and public places. He said the lack of clean public toilets often causes inconvenience to women, senior citizens, visitors and daily-wage workers. Emphasising that a city's progress is reflected in its basic civic amenities, Gupta said the campaign would continue to focus on improving essential infrastructure.

Chandigarh traffic police conducts Road Safety Awareness Session for NCC Cadets at PG Govt College, Sector 11

SHASHI PAL JAIN  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

The Chandigarh Traffic Police, under the leadership of Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, IPS, Director General of Police, UT Chandigarh, and the guidance of Sh. Pushpendra Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, U.T., Chandigarh, Sh. Sumer Partap Singh, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police (Security & Traffic), and under the close supervision of Sh. Lakshay Pandey, DA-NIPS, DSP/Traffic (R&D) Road Safety, and Dr. Parvesh Sharma, Inspector, In-charge Chandigarh Traffic Police, Chandigarh Traffic Police organized a Road Safety Awareness Session for NCC Cadets at Post Graduate Government College, Sector 11, Chandigarh. A total of 350 NCC Cadets participated in the programme. The programme was graced by the presence of Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Police Administration Department (PU), Sub-Major Rajendra Singh, and Sub-Major Karan Singh, who actively supported the initiative. The session focused on creating awareness about the importance of road safety and adherence to traffic rules. The cadets were sensitized about the mandatory use of helmets while riding electric vehicles, the importance of respecting reserved parking spaces for PwD (Persons with Disabilities), and

Getting gender tested during pregnancy is punishable offence: Dr. Shelly Arora



**KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL,** JUNE 24  
Under the guidelines of Civil Surgeon Bathinda Dr. Tapinderjot Kaushal and the leadership of Senior Medical Officer Balianwali Dr. Shelly Arora, an awareness camp on PCPNDT Act and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was organized at Slum Area Dispensary Rampura Village. Dr. Shelly Arora said that getting or doing a sex test of the child during pregnancy is completely prohibited by law and is a serious punishable offence. The PCPNDT Act implemented by the Government of India Under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, testing, getting the sex of the fetus tested or providing information about it is a violation of the law and a provision of imprisonment and fine has been made for this. Addressing this awareness camp, Health Supervisor Gurpreet Singh said that both boys and girls are equal in society and girls are proving their ability in every field.

**Aman Arora pays obeisance at shrine of Baba Bhai Mool Chand Sahib along with newly elected Municipal Council office bearers and councillors**

SUMER GARG  
SUNAM, JUNE 24

Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora today paid obeisance at the sacred shrine of Baba Bhai Mool Chand Sahib in Sunam and offered prayers for the prosperity of the region, the well-being of its people, communal harmony, and the overall development of the city. Arora said that religious places convey the message of humility, service, and humanity, and play a vital role in keeping society united. On this occasion, the newly elected office bearers of the Municipal Council, Sunam, were also present with him, including Council President Manpreet Bansal, Senior Vice President Yadwinder Singh Nirman, Vice President Meena Rani, and other councillors. Describing the formation of the new team as a positive step towards the city's development, Aman Arora expressed confidence that the team would live up to the expectations of the people. The Cabinet Minister said that the newly elected office bearers and councillors had formally begun their responsibilities from today. Before assuming charge, the entire team visited this holy place to seek blessings so that Baba Bhai Mool Chand Sahib's grace would remain with them and Sunam would continue its path of progress. Aman Arora said that the government has been making continuous efforts for the development of Sunam city and that, with the cooperation of the new Municipal Council team, development works would gain further momentum. He added that record-breaking development works had been carried out in the city over the past four and a half years, and in the coming time, the pace of development would be accelerated twofold and fourfold. He further stated that the government remains committed to improving basic civic amenities, including roads, sewerage, sanitation, drinking water, and other public welfare services, with the aim of developing Sunam into a model city. The shrine's management committee extended a warm welcome to Cabinet Minister Aman Arora and all the office bearers of the Municipal Council. Committee members Mohan Sarup Joshi, Balbir Joshi, Surinder Modgil, Baldev Singh Joshi, Amarjit Singh Joshi, and Ajit Sarup Joshi honoured Aman Arora, Manpreet Bansal, Yadwinder Singh Nirman, Meena Rani, and other councillors by presenting them with mementos.



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**Surjit Singh Rakhra meets Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann**

TAPINDER SINGH  
PATIALA, JUNE 24

Former Cabinet Minister and senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Surjit Singh Rakhra met Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. During the meeting, they held detailed discussions regarding the overall development of the Samana constituency, public welfare schemes, and various important issues related to the area. Surjit Singh Rakhra brought several development-related matters and the needs of the people of the Samana constituency to the attention of the Chief Minister. Speaking on the occasion, he said that continuous efforts are being made to further strengthen the area's infrastructure, create better opportunities for youth, and provide improved facilities to the people. He added that the constituency would receive several major development projects in the near future. Also present on the occasion were his younger brother Charanjit Singh Dhaliwal, President of the Cycling Association of Punjab, and Gurpreet Singh from the Preet Group of Companies.



**Important discussions held in meeting of old students of Khalsa Senior Secondary School Welfare organization Kharar**

SHASHI PAL JAIN  
KHARAR, JUNE 24

The meeting of the alumni of Khalsa Senior Secondary School Welfare Organization Kharar was held at Khalsa School Kharar under the chairmanship of Rajwant Singh Kapoor President in which the events to be held in the school were discussed. According to the information received from Gunwant Singh General Secretary in this regard, this year, after the end of the school holidays, the organization will honor the first, second and third place students of class 8, 10 and 12 and will conduct two religious and one cybercrime-related lectures. He said that trees will be planted in the school grounds before the rains. After this, a scholarship will be issued to a talented student of the school. After discussing with the Principal, a light and sound show will be organized in a few days keeping in mind the martyrdom day of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji.



**International Yoga Day celebrated at GREF**



CHANDIGARH: 12th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal at the premises of the Himank Air Despatch Unit (GREF) in Chandigarh, under the leadership of the Commanding Officer, Sanjay Kumar Ujala. Those who present on the occasion were the Unit's Assistant Executive Engineer, Amit Anand Talwar, along with his family members, 12 Sardar Sahibs, 50 Jawans and 23 GREF CPLs (Casual Paid Labourers). Retired Subedar Major and Honorary Lieutenant Kamlakant Joshi of the Indian Army served as the

yoga instructor for the event. Captain Balram Singh was also present as a representative of HDFC Life. The theme for the 12th International Yoga Day was "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." This theme reflects India's ancient and holistic lifestyle, which promotes longevity along with a healthy, active and dignified life. During the event, participants practiced various Yogasanas and Pranayama, acknowledging the numerous benefits of yoga. Everyone pledged to make yoga an integral part of their daily routine to ensure a healthy, happy and balanced life.

On the  
**310<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom Day**  
of  
**THE GREAT SIKH GENERAL**  
**BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR JI**

Punjab Government  
led by  
**S. BHAGWANT SINGH MANN**  
pays glowing tributes to the legendary warrior.

His unparalleled sacrifice and rare valour to avenge the tyrannical forces unleashed by Mughal Empire shall ever remain inseparable part of the Sikh history.

**S. Bhagwant Singh Mann**  
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

KOTKAPURA (SURINDER PAL): Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kular Singh Sandhwan today inaugurated Mogha Burji at village Jalaleana, district Faridkot. He formally inaugurated the Machaki Minor. On this occasion, officials of the Irrigation Department, representatives of the village panchayat and farmers of the area were also present. On this occasion, Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kular Singh Sandhwan said in his address that the construction of canal at a cost of about Rs. 1.25 crore will benefit more than 719 acres of land. He said that earlier due to the canal being in a poor condition, water did not reach 25-30 percent of the land, but now the farmers are getting abundant canal water. Speaker S. Sandhwan said that the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is continuously striving to provide better irrigation facilities to the farmers.



**NEWS BRIEF**

**Gurpreet Singh Bhatti switches from BJP to Waris Punjab De**

**GURMINDER SINGH GREWAL KHANNA** : Senior BJP leader of Khanna area Gurpreet Singh Bhatti today joined Waris Punjab De in a function organised at Khanna by Bhatti and his supporters. He was welcomed in party fold by senior leadership of party including Manpreet Singh Ayal, Babu Tarsem Singh, MP Sarabjit Singh and others. In his address Ayal and other leaders stated that they are strengthening their party by including reputed and social personalities in the party and said that party will be strengthened with the inclusion of Bhatti into party fold. These leaders appealed other right thinking persons to join their party in the larger interests of state. Bhatti stated in his address that he will work with full force to strengthen their party in Khanna and other near adjoining areas. It is worth to say that Bhatti had Gud fan following in the area of Khanna and Fatehgarh Sahib apart from other areas and he had fought two state assembly elections but unluckily he lost both times. He said that he had joined the party in aim to strengthen the party without any pre-condition.

**Sultanpur Lodhi police arrest two in Jalandhar's Maqsudan firing case, recover pistols, cartridges, heroin and ice**



**ARVIND PATHAK SULTANPUR LODHI**: Sultanpur Lodhi police on Wednesday arrested two accused involved in the firing incident at the New Vegetable Market in Maqsudan, Jalandhar, and recovered two illegal pistols, 15 live cartridges, 100 gm of heroin and 20 gm of ice from their possession. Addressing a press conference Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Harinder Singh Gill, accompanied by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Dheerendra Verma said that on June 22, Sultanpur Lodhi police received a tip-off that Amandeep Singh, son of Gulzar Singh and a resident of Mohalla Karadgra, Sultanpur Lodhi, was present on Gazipur Road carrying illegal firearms. Acting on the information, a police team conducted a raid and arrested Amandeep. During the search, the police recovered a .30 bore pistol with a magazine and five live cartridges, besides a .32 bore pistol with a magazine and five live cartridges.

**Prominent Doraha businessman Uday Sharma's brother-in-law Rohit Sharma passes away; grief grips region**



**AMRISH ANAND DORAHA**: Rohit Sharma, brother-in-law of noted Doraha businessman and social worker Uday Sharma and associated with Adara Boutique, Doraha, passed away unexpectedly, triggering a wave of grief in the region. His last rites were performed at the Doraha crematorium on Tuesday evening, with his sons, G.D. Sharma and Kartik Sharma, performing the final rites. A large number of relatives, friends and well-wishers attended to pay their respects. Manoj sharma, Uday Sharma, Anil Sharma, Chandarkant Sharma, Former Haryana minister pandit Venod Sharma, Kalka MLA smt. Shakti Rani Sharma and Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma expressed condolences and paid tributes to the departed soul. Several social, religious and business organisations also shared the family's grief and prayed for eternal peace for the deceased. Rohit Sharma was remembered as a warm and respected personality whose demise has left a void in the community.

**Issues of non-resident Punjabis will be resolved in fair and time-bound manner: Dr. Ravjot Singh**

**GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24**

Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh today asserted that every issue concerning Non-Resident Punjabis will be addressed in a transparent, fair and time-bound manner. He said the Punjab Government is making sustained efforts to ensure the prompt and effective resolution of grievances faced by Punjabis living abroad.

Addressing Non-Resident Punjabis during the 'NRI Milni-2026' organised at Amity University, Mohali, Dr. Ravjot Singh said the objective of this special programme was to hear the grievances of NRIs and ensure immediate and on the spot action by the concerned authorities for their resolution.

A large number of Non-Resident Punjabis belonging to the districts of SAS Nagar (Mohali), Rupnagar, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib participated in the event. Prominent amongst those present were Secretary NRI Affairs, Mohammad Tayyab, ADGP, NRI Wing, Punjab, R.K. Jaiswal,



Commissioner, Patiala Division-cum-Chairman, NRI Sabha Jalandhar, Viney Bublani, Special Secretary, NRI Affairs, Amandeep Kaur, Deputy Commissioner, SAS Nagar Komal Mittal, SSP Rupnagar Maninder Singh and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

Interacting with the media, Dr. Ravjot Singh said that Punjabis settled abroad continue to maintain a deep bond with their roots, culture and heritage and have earned global recognition for both Punjab and India. He said that under the directions of Chief Minister S.

Bhagwant Singh Mann, every NRI-related matter is being heard and resolved in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner.

The NRI Affairs Minister informed that the department received a total of 26,828 complaints between January 2022 and May 2026, of which 25,870 have already been resolved. During the same period, 1,187 FIRs were registered and 1,451 accused were arrested. He said these figures highlight the Punjab Government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of Non-Resident Punjabis and ensuring timely justice. He said that the ma-

majority of complaints received from NRIs relate to property disputes, illegal occupation of land, documentary irregularities and matrimonial issues. Every year, nearly 5,000 to 6,000 complaints are received, with a substantial number being resolved either through mutual settlement or the due legal process. Dr. Ravjot Singh said that he is personally monitoring cases that have remained pending for a long time or where proceedings have been delayed. He said such matters are being reviewed regularly with the concerned officers to ensure their early disposal.

**Goyal inaugurates multi-crore bridges and lined watercourses in Faridkot**

**FARIDKOT, JUNE 24**

Punjab Water Resources Minister Sh. Barinder Kumar Goyal inaugurated several multi-crore development projects in the Faridkot Assembly constituency. He was accompanied by Faridkot MLA S. Gurdit Singh Sekhon.

Sh. Barinder Kumar Goyal inaugurated the newly constructed single-span steel bridges over the Rajasthan Feeder Canal on Talwandi Road, Faridkot and over the Sirhind Feeder Canal on the Faridkot-Kotkapura Road. He said that these bridges, constructed on two of the city's major arterial roads, have been built using modern engineering technology. The earlier bridges at these locations were nearly 60 years old and had become inadequate to handle the increasing volume of traffic, he added. He informed that the new bridges have a carriage-way width of 7.5 metres along with 1.2-metre-wide pedestrian pathways on both sides. Constructed at a total cost of Rs.38.16 crore, these bridges have significantly eased traffic congestion in Faridkot city and adjoining areas while providing safer



and more efficient connectivity to commuters, said the Cabinet Minister.

Thereafter, the Cabinet Minister inaugurated a canal outlet at village Hasan Bhatti and lined watercourses constructed for 21 canal outlets across the Faridkot Assembly constituency.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Barinder Kumar Goyal said that under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is continuously working to strengthen the state's irrigation infrastructure and safeguard the interests of farmers. He said that the construction of lined watercourses in the constituency has ensured efficient utilisation of canal water and will greatly benefit the farming community. He informed that under 21 development works, a total of 34.50 kilo-

metres of lined watercourses have been constructed in the constituency at a cost of nearly Rs.11.90 crore. These projects will directly benefit 780 acres of agricultural land. The lined watercourses will prevent water losses and ensure faster and more efficient delivery of canal water to fields, enabling farmers to access improved irrigation facilities. Sh. Goyal also inaugurated an underground pipeline project completed under the NABARD scheme at a cost of Rs.96.16 lakh. He said that the project has further strengthened the irrigation network by ensuring efficient and timely availability of water to farmers. He added that the Punjab Government is consistently implementing such initiatives to promote water conservation and make agriculture more productive and sustainable.

**Every child deserves opportunity to dream, learn and build better future : Dr. Baljit Kaur**

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24**

In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the lives of children in institutional care, Punjab has become the first state in the country to launch a structured Skill Development Programme for children residing in Observation Homes and Special Homes. The programme was formally launched today by Punjab Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur at the Observation Home for Boys, Faridkot.

Addressing the gathering, the Cabinet Minister said that this pioneering initiative reflects the Punjab Government's commitment to equipping children under institutional care with the skills, confidence and opportunities required to lead independent and dignified lives. The programme has been specially designed to address the dis-



tinct needs of children residing in different categories of Child Care Institutions.

For children in Observation Homes—who are provided temporary care, protection, counselling, education and rehabilitation—the training will focus on discipline, self-confidence, counselling support and employable skills.

For children in Special Homes, where long-term behavioural reform, rehabilitation and social reintegration are priorities, the vocational training will be integrated with a comprehensive reha-

bilitation plan. Dr. Baljit Kaur informed that in the first phase, 211 children—nearly 50 per cent of the total 420 children residing in four Child Care Institutions across Punjab—will receive vocational training in employment-oriented trades.

The selected courses include Hairdresser and Stylist, Smartphone Assembly Technician and Multi-Skill Technician, carefully chosen to align with emerging employment opportunities and enable children to acquire practical, market-relevant skills within a short period.

**Talwinder Dhindsa appointed GS of YC Barnala for 3rd consecutive time**

**BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA, JUNE 24**

Talwinder Singh Dhindsa has been given the responsibility of District General Secretary for the third consecutive time after winning the election in Youth Congress District Barnala. Congress leaders and workers expressed their happiness and congratulated him on this appointment.

Speaking on the occasion, Talwinder Singh Dhindsa thanked the party high command and senior leaders and said that he will fulfill the responsibility given by the party with full honesty and hard work. He said that Youth Congress will further strengthen the voice of the youth and will continue to struggle for the rights of the youth. He further said that keeping in mind the upcoming assembly elections, he will play an important role in the election campaign of Congress MLA Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon from Barnala and will work with full dedication to strengthen the party. On this occasion, MLA Kuldeep Singh Kala



Dhillon, Gurbir Singh Guri Bhat, Senior Congress Leader Punjab, Youth Congress Punjab General Secretary A.P. Dhillon, Former MC Bharpur Singh, Block President Surinder Pal Bala, Valaiti Puri, Nazir Khan, Amrik Singh, Prabhdeep Singh Dhillon, Tari Singh, Sinderpal Singh and other senior and Youth Congress leaders congratulated Talwinder Singh Dhindsa on the new responsibility and wished him a bright future. The leaders expressed confidence that under his leadership, Youth Congress will become stronger in Barnala district and will make a significant contribution in connecting the youth with the party.

**BLOs to conduct door-to-door voter verification drive from June 25 to July 24: ADEO Poonam Singh**



**KULWINDER KARWAL MANSALA, JUNE 24**

In accordance with the directions of the Election Commission of India, a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign is being undertaken across the district to ensure the registration of all eligible voters. As part of the initiative, Additional District Election Officer Poonam Singh, under the supervision of District Election Officer Navjot Kaur, held an important meeting with representatives of various political parties and appealed for their active cooperation in making the campaign a success. Addressing the meeting, Poonam

Singh informed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door visits in their respective jurisdictions from June 25 to July 24 to carry out voter list verification, corrections, and the registration of new eligible voters. She stated that BLOs will distribute enumeration forms during their visits, assist citizens in filling them out, and collect the completed forms to facilitate the revision process. The Additional District Election Officer also urged all recognized political parties to ensure that their appointed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) maintain close coordination with government-appointed BLOs.

**New chapter of service begins in Lions Club Barnala — Sanjeev Bansal becomes new president, huge medical camp announced on July 7**



**BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD)**: Giving new energy to the concept of service, dedication and social responsibility, the annual general house meeting of Lions Club Barnala was organized under the chairmanship of the current president of the club, Umesh Bansal.

This meeting not only became an opportunity to evaluate the achievements of the last two years, but also proved to be a historic platform to decide the future direction of the club. In the meeting, senior member of the club, Sanjeev Bansal, was unanimously appointed as the new president for the year 2026-27. Current president Umesh Bansal presented a detailed report of the social work done by the club during the last two years before the members in the meeting. He said that the club has taken many important steps in serving different sections of the society during this period.

He proudly informed that a charitable laboratory is being started soon in the club's building located on Sekha Road in collaboration with 'Barnala Welfare Club'.

**House-to-house enumeration process under special intensive revision (SIR) to begin in Amritsar District from today : Deputy Commissioner**



**HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR, JUNE 24**

In accordance with the directions of the Election Commission of India, a special campaign under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will commence in Amritsar district from June 25, 2026.

Disclosing this during a press conference, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Amritsar, Mr. Dalwinderjit Singh, stated that from June 25 to July 24, 2026, a total of 2,134 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit households across the district to distribute enumeration forms and

assist voters in completing them.

The District Election Officer informed that to successfully carry out the SIR exercise across the district's 11 Assembly Constituencies, the administration has deployed 11 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 22 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), 110 Additional AEROs, 213 Sector Officers, and 2,134 Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

He further stated that the rationalization of polling stations will be completed by July 24, 2026, while the draft electoral rolls will be published on August 3, 2026.

**Bharat Vikas Parishad holds protest march over stray dog menace in Morinda**

**SANJEEV TEJPAL MORINDA, JUNE 24**

Expressing concern over the growing stray dog menace in the city and the alleged inaction of the authorities, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Morinda, organized a peaceful protest march on Tuesday demanding immediate measures to address the issue.

The march, led by Parishad President Tek Chand Gopal and Secretary Jatinder Gumber, commenced from Shri Parshuram Chowk and passed through various markets and Vishwakarma Chowk before culminating at the Municipal Council office. Members of the organization, local residents and social activists participated in the protest and raised demands for ensuring public safety. During the march, a memorandum addressed to



the SDM, Morinda, was submitted through Municipal Council officials, seeking a permanent solution to the stray dog problem and the establishment of a dedicated dog shelter in the city. Addressing the gathering, Tek Chand Gopal, Jatinder Gumber, Harsh Kohli and Master Hakam Singh said that nearly two weeks ago an eight-year-old girl lost her life after being attacked by stray dogs in Garden Colony of Ward No. 1. Following the tragic incident, councillors, prominent citi-

zens and representatives of various social organizations had submitted memorandums to the administration and Municipal Council, urging immediate action to prevent such incidents in the future. They further stated that a memorandum had also been submitted to local MLA Dr. Charanjit Singh, requesting intervention in the matter. However, despite the passage of two weeks, no concrete steps have been taken to tackle the problem or establish a dog shelter, they alleged.

**Under SIR-2026, verification of voters will be done door to door from June 25: DC Dr. Himanshu Agarwal**

**RAKESH JINDAL PATIALA, JUNE 24**

District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Agarwal Patiala today held a special press conference with the media ahead of the door-to-door voter verification process for Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) starting from June 25. On this occasion, he shared detailed information about the entire process of SIR-2026, various stages and the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of political parties.

The District Election Officer said that as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the main objective of SIR-2026 is to make the voter lists more accurate, transparent and error-free. Under this, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will go door to door



from June 25, 2026 to verify the voters and collect the necessary documents.

He clarified that voters whose names are not mapped with the 2003 voter list will have to submit the required documents from the documents prescribed by the Election Commission so that their eligibility can be verified. He said that the BLOs will provide complete information regarding the documents to the voters and will also provide them

with all possible assistance if required. The Deputy Commissioner said that the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) is very important in this process. He said that the Booth Level Agents of political parties work as assistants to the election administration to ensure the accuracy of the voter lists. They have been specially briefed about the process of SIR-2026 so that they can assist the BLAs and eligible voters in their respective areas.

**Khanna police bust alleged self-staged firing case, 1 arrested**

**AMRISH ANAND DORAHA, JUNE 24**

In a major breakthrough, Khanna Police have uncovered an alleged self-staged firing incident registered at Doraha Police Station and arrested one accused, recovering a .32 bore licensed pistol, a magazine, one live cartridge and one empty shell from his possession.

The operation was carried out under the directions of Punjab DGP Dr. Gaurav Yadav and Senior Superintendent of Police, Khanna, Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia, IPS. The investigation was supervised by SP (Investigation) Pawanjit, PPS, DSP Payal Harmanpreet Singh, PPS, and SHO Doraha Inspector Akash Dutt. According to police, Jaswant Singh alias Cheema had lodged an FIR on January 25, 2026, alleging that



unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants had opened fire on his Innova vehicle near Gurthali bridge on the Doraha highway. He later named Guneet Bhatia and Chandan Bhanot in connection with the attack. However, during investigation, CCTV footage, call detail records and technical evidence revealed discrepancies in the complainant's version. Police found that the alleged attack had been orchestrated by Jaswant Singh Cheema and his associates following a property

dispute involving financial transactions worth crores of rupees. Based on the investigation, police arrested Laddi Rathore, a resident of New Kuldeep Nagar, Ludhiana. During interrogation, he allegedly confessed that the firing had been carried out using his licensed .32 bore pistol in connivance with Jaswant Singh Cheema and others to falsely implicate rival parties and evade repayment of money linked to a disputed property deal.

**Air Force school Pathankot students excel in under-15 Badminton championship**



**SUJANPUR (VERMA)** : Students of Air Force School Pathankot have once again brought pride to their institution by achieving remarkable success in the field of sports. Sharing the details, School Principal Aarti Bali stated that Ishan and Ridhima, both students of Class IX, delivered outstanding performances in the Under-15 Badminton Championship held in Pathankot and emerged as champions in their respective categories.

Throughout the tournament, both players displayed exceptional sporting talent, determination, discipline, and commitment. Their consistent performances enabled them to overcome strong competition and secure the championship titles. In recognition of their outstanding achievement, they were awarded the prestigious championship trophy along with certificates of excellence. The accomplishment has created an atmosphere of joy and pride among the school management, teachers, and fellow students. Everyone extended their heartfelt congratulations to Ishan and Ridhima and wished them continued success in their future endeavors.

**HFRI conducts training workshop for Eco Task Force personnel**

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA:** The Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, successfully concluded a two-day training workshop for personnel of 133 Eco Task Force (DOGRA), Kufri, Himachal Pradesh, and 129 Eco Task Force (JAK LD), Samba, Jammu & Kashmir. Organized under the supervision of Mrs. Manisha Thapliyal, Director, HFRI, the training was conducted by Dr. Sandeep

Sharma and other scientists and faculty members. The programme covered important topics including seed collection and nursery management, plantation techniques of forest species, forest fire mitigation, and the use of geo-tagging and KML files. The workshop was attended by newly recruited personnel of both Eco Task Force units. On completion of the training, participants were awarded certificates.

**Sports foster discipline and self-confidence among youth: CM**

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JUNE 24**

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while presiding over the concluding ceremony of International Pro Boxing Championship at historic The Ridge here late on Tuesday evening, said that this event was organized in the memory of former Chief Minister late Virbhadra Singh. He said that Virbhadra Singh was a towering figure of the Congress Party and his contribution was immense in the development of Himachal Pradesh.

Paying tribute to former Chief Minister, Sh. Sukhu said that this event would motivate the budding sportsperson to excel in



the field of sports. He said that sports foster discipline, build self confidence and promote a healthy spirit of competition among the

participants. He further said that these international events provide a unique opportunity to the athletes to witness international events thereby enhancing their skills and exposure.

International boxers from Sri Lanka, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Thailand participated in this event.

Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh, former Member of Parliament Pratibha Singh, MLAs Harish Janartha and Hardeep Bawa, Vice Chairman, HIMUDA Yashwant Chhajta, Mayor Municipal Corporation Shimla Surender Chauhan, Deputy Mayor Uma Kaushal and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

**Congress ends suspense over Kinnaur, Shimla Rural leadership in HP**

**UNI SHIMLA, JUN 24**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the appointment of Nigam Bhandari as District Congress Committee (DCC) president of Kinnaur and Hari Krishan Himral as DCC president of Shimla Rural in Himachal Pradesh after prolonged consultations, ending suspense and speculations.

The appointments bring to an end a nearly six-month-long process that began in January this year when the All India Congress Committee announced DCC chiefs for 11 districts, while keeping Kinnaur and Shimla Rural pending for further consultations.

Nigam Bhandari, a young and prominent Congress leader from the tribal district of Kinnaur, has built his

political career through the Youth Congress. He served as president of the Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress and later as National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress. Known for his strong connect with grassroots workers and youth activists, Bhandari has been actively involved in organisational campaigns and issues concerning tribal communities.

His elevation is being viewed as a move to strengthen the party's base in the tribal belt while promoting a new generation of leadership.

Hari Krishan Himral is considered one of the party's experienced organisational leaders in Himachal Pradesh. He has held several key positions in the Congress organisation, including party secretary and head of the training department.

Himral played an important role in coordinating election-related activities and was part of the Congress war room during recent electoral campaigns.

He was also recently appointed General Secretary (Frontal Organisations) of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee.

His appointment to the politically significant Shimla Rural district is seen as recognition of his organisational abilities and long association with the party.

With these appointments, the Congress has completed the constitution of all district committees in Himachal Pradesh under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan, an organisational restructuring exercise aimed at strengthening the party at the grassroots level ahead of future elections.

**Call to contribute towards making the electoral system more effective**



**SANJAY AGGARWAL**

**DHARAMSHALA:** Under the guidance of the Chief Electoral Officer of Himachal Pradesh, a one-day state-level thematic workshop on "Ease of Identification at the Ballot" was organized today at the Dharamshala. Officials from the Election Department, academicians, researchers, administrative officers, and national and international experts participated in the workshop. At the beginning of the event, Chief Electoral Officer Nandita Gupta extended a warm welcome to all participants, experts, and officials. In her welcome address, she emphasized that ensuring the seamless and accessible participation of every eligible voter is crucial for strengthening democracy. She stated that this workshop, organized with the aim of making the voter identification process simpler, more inclusive, and technology-enabled, would yield significant suggestions and innovations for future electoral processes. She called upon all participants to share their experiences and ideas to contribute towards making the electoral system more effective. The first technical session of the workshop focused on "legal provisions related to voter identification and issues concerning law and order."

**Congress has no moral right to lecture on Constitution: Suresh Bhardwaj**



**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA:**

Senior BJP leader and former minister Suresh Bhardwaj said that Congress has no moral right to lecture others on the Constitution, as the biggest attack on democracy and constitutional values was made by the party itself during the Emergency imposed on June 25, 1975. He said the Emergency led to the suspension of fundamental rights, censorship of the press, and the imprisonment of opposition leaders and thousands of political workers. Instead of accepting the Allahabad High Court verdict against then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Congress chose to impose Emergency and suppress democratic institutions, he alleged. Bhardwaj further stated that constitutional amendments made during the Emergency weakened democratic institutions and curtailed the powers of the judiciary. He also referred to the forced sterilization campaign carried out during that period. He said the BJP will observe June 25 as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" across the country to remind the younger generation about what it describes as the darkest chapter in Indian democracy. BJP Himachal Pradesh President Dr. Rajeev Bindal will address a programme in Shimla, while former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar will be the chief speaker at an event in Palampur on June 27.

**Piplu Fair opens in Una; Minister calls for united fight against drugs**

**KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, JUNE 24**

Himachal Pradesh Public Works and Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Wednesday inaugurated the three-day historic Piplu Fair-2026 at the Shri Narasimha Dev Temple complex in Una district, urging people to unite against drug abuse and social evils. The minister formally opened the district-level fair with traditional rituals, flag hoisting and cultural performances. Kulehar MLA Vivek Sharma and several dignitaries were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Singh said the Piplu Fair symbolises faith, culture, social harmony and



community unity. He said such events play an important role in preserving cultural heritage and strengthening social bonds. Expressing concern over the growing menace of drugs and social evils, the minister called for collective awareness and public participation to tackle these challenges. He urged people

to follow the ideals of their ancestors and contribute actively to the development of the state. Singh also appealed to Panchayati Raj representatives to play a proactive role in rural development and ensure that welfare schemes reach the grassroots level. Highlighting infrastructure development, he said the

state government had secured substantial financial assistance for road improvement and expansion projects in remote areas. He also announced Rs 20 lakh for the Tanoli-Balh Khalsa road and assured support for the expansion of the Balkarupi road. The first day of the fair featured cultural performances by Himachali folk singer Kaku Ram Thakur, drawing enthusiastic response from the audience. MLA Vivek Sharma said efforts were underway to make the fair larger and more attractive. He added that a new fairground was being developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 1 crore and the event is expected to be shifted there next year.

**"Say Yes to Life, Say No to Drugs": AIIMS Bilaspur leads call against substance abuse**

**AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY**

**BILASPUR:** Stressing the urgent need to combat the growing menace of substance abuse, Executive Director of AIIMS Bilaspur, Lt. Gen. Dr. Daljit Singh, has called upon citizens to actively support the "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) and contribute towards building a healthier and addiction-free nation. In a message issued on the occasion, Dr. Singh said that the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and other psychoactive substances has emerged as a major public health and social challenge, adversely affecting individuals, families and communities. He noted that substance abuse is linked to serious health complications, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, mental health disorders, liver ailments and premature deaths. Highlighting the vulnerability of youth to addiction due to peer pressure, stress and easy accessibility of intoxicants, he emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention and timely intervention. He said the success of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan depends not only on government initiatives but also on the active participation of parents, teachers, healthcare professionals, educational institutions and community leaders. Dr. Singh reiterated AIIMS Bilaspur's commitment to supporting the national campaign through health education, counselling, community outreach and capacity-building programmes.



**BJP to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' in state**

**UNI SHIMLA, JUNE 24**

BJP will observe June 25 as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' across Himachal Pradesh to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, with senior party leaders holding programmes, exhibitions and events to highlight what they termed as the "darkest chapter" in India's democratic history. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, senior BJP leader and former minister Suresh Bhardwaj alleged that the Congress had no moral right to lecture others on constitutional values as it was responsible for imposing the Emergency in 1975 and curtailing democratic freedoms. Bhardwaj said June 25, 1975, marked one of the darkest days in independent India's history when the then Congress government imposed Emergency,

suspended fundamental rights, censored the press and jailed opposition leaders and political activists across the country. He claimed that after the Allahabad High Court set aside then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's election, the Congress chose the path of Emergency instead of following democratic and constitutional norms. Senior opposition leaders, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani, Morarji Desai, George Fernandes and Chandrashekhar, were imprisoned under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), he claimed. The BJP leader further alleged that constitutional amendments enacted during the Emergency weakened democratic institutions by extending the tenure of legislatures, curbing judicial powers and attempting to shield certain elections from judicial scrutiny. He also criticised the

forced sterilisation campaign carried out during the period. Bhardwaj said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bharatiya Jana Sangh and other pro-democracy groups played a significant role in resisting the Emergency, with thousands of workers undergoing imprisonment in defence of democratic values.

Announcing the party's programmes, he said BJP state president Dr. Rajeev Bindal would be the chief speaker at a function in Shimla on June 25. An exhibition depicting events and documents related to the Emergency would also be organised on the occasion.

He said former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar would address a similar programme at Palampur on June 27. The party would also honour democracy activists and families of those who suffered imprisonment and persecution during the Emergency period.

**Regional investor awareness seminar organised in Shimla**

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JUNE 24**

A regional investor seminar for awareness (RISA) was organised today at the Himachal Pradesh State Secretariat, Shimla, under the joint aegis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the BSE Investors Protection Fund (BSE-IPF). The seminar aimed at enhancing financial literacy and promoting awareness about safe investment practices and the capital market among investors and government officials. Secretary (Finance, Planning, Economics and Statistics) Dr. Abhishek Jain, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Welcoming the participants, he underscored the importance of financial awareness and urged citizens to adopt informed and secure investment

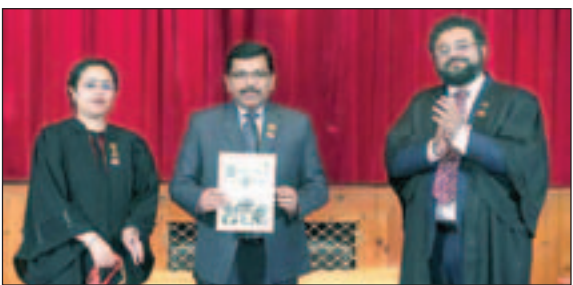
practices. Deputy General Manager, SEBI Northern Regional Office, Mridul Rastogi, delivered the keynote address and shared valuable insights on the capital market, investors rights and measures to safeguard against cyber frauds. Senior Vice President, BSE, Gaurav Kapoor, highlighted the investment opportunities available in the market and emphasized the importance of transparency in strengthening investors confidence. During the technical session, financial education expert Manjeet S. Dhillon provided practical guidance on the fundamentals of investing, risk management and financial planning, enabling participants to make informed financial decisions. Officers and employees of the Himachal Pradesh State Secretariat attended the seminar.

**Dr. Joseph Emmanuel joins Auckland House School for inaugural altiora discourse**

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JUNE 24**

Auckland House School marked a significant milestone in its 160-year history with the visit of Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive and Secretary of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), who joined the school community for The Altiora Discourse, a distinguished academic forum centred on the theme, "The Architecture of Academics in the Age of Acceleration."

The visit of Dr. Emmanuel, one of the country's foremost educational leaders, lent special significance to the celebrations and underscored Auckland House School's standing as an institution deeply engaged with contemporary educational



thought and practice. His presence provided an invaluable opportunity for meaningful dialogue between policymakers, school leaders, teachers, and students on the future of learning in a rapidly changing world. The day's proceedings also included the release of The Symposium of Ideas, an academic journal published to commemorate the school's 160th year. Conceived as a collection of scholarly reflections and educational perspectives, the journal represents Auckland

House School's commitment to intellectual engagement and its belief that schools must actively contribute to the discourse shaping the future of education. A highlight of the visit was a tour of Auckland House School for Boys, where Dr. Emmanuel interacted with students and faculty and gained insight into the institution's academic culture, learning environment, and commitment to holistic education.

**Dalhousie Cantonment discusses education infrastructure upgrade with MP**

**SUBHASH MAHAJAN DALHOUSIE, JUNE 24**

Efforts to strengthen educational infrastructure in the Dalhousie Cantonment area received a boost following a high-level meeting between Cantonment Board officials and Kangra-Chamba MP Rajeev Bhardwaj. Dalhousie Cantonment Board Chief Executive Officer J. Ashiq Hussain and nominated board member Vinod Mahajan met the Member of Parliament to discuss proposals aimed at improving and modernising educational facilities in the cantonment area. The meeting also focused on securing financial assistance for a proposed school building under the Dalhousie Cantonment Board. During the discussions, the officials sought the MP's support for expediting pending educational projects and requested assistance in mobilising funds through Central Government schemes and the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Fund. Rajeev Bhardwaj assured the delegation of his full support and emphasised that education and healthcare remained key priorities for the overall development of the region. He said



efforts would be made to facilitate the necessary approvals and financial assistance for the proposed initiatives. According to officials, the meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides agreeing to work together for the effective implementation of the proposed educational reforms. Meanwhile, local residents have appreciated the initiatives undertaken by CEO J. Ashiq Hussain since assuming charge a few months ago. Residents said he has been actively pursuing measures to improve civic amenities and accelerate developmental works in the cantonment area.

**Health department takes precautionary measures following migrant's death from rabies**

**UNI**

**HAMIRPUR:** The district health authorities have taken precautionary measures due to the spread of rabies in some parts of the Nadaun revenue sub-division of the district. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Atri said on Wednesday that the Health Department immediately took precautionary measures upon receiving news of the death of a man from Jammu—who had been residing in Bhalun village of Nadaun subdivision—due to rabies at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda. He said in a statement that following the confirmation of the death due to rabies, a health department team contacted the deceased's family, gathered detailed information about the case, and provided them with medical counselling. They were informed about the causes of rabies transmission, its symptoms, and preventive measures. Local residents have also been sensitised. The medical officer in charge of the Sera Primary Health Centre personally visited the village. The chief medical officer stated that necessary steps, in accordance with public health protocols, have been taken in Bhalun village as a precaution, and active surveillance has been ensured. He said that instructions have been issued to all ASHA workers and Health Department field staff to immediately report cases of dog or other animal bites in their respective areas and to promptly refer victims for anti-rabies vaccination. Adequate availability of anti-rabies vaccines has been ensured at all health centres in the district. Officials from the Animal Husbandry Department have been requested to examine suspected animals. The chief medical officer has also appealed to all district residents to seek immediate treatment at the nearest health centre and get vaccinated against rabies if bitten by a dog or any other animal.

**NIRMAL SAINI**  
**RADAUR:** Agriculture Department organized a farmer field school in Kandrouli village which was enthusiastically attended by farmers. Dr Sandeep Rawal, a scientist from Agricultural Science Center, Damla who attended event provided detailed information about direct seeding of paddy. He stated that direct seeding of paddy saves 20 to 30 percent of water, thereby preventing



groundwater depletion. Cost is also lower than the transplanting method. Crop matures and is ready for harvest earlier. Government also provides a subsidy of Rs. 4,500 per acre to farmers who direct seed paddy. Sanjeev Rathi, who holds additional charge of Block Agriculture Officer provided information on various government schemes, stating that government periodically runs numerous welfare schemes for farmers.

**CHANDIGARH**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026**

**NEWS BRIEF**

**Recruitment for 75 new posts to address the shortage of specialist faculty in medical colleges**  
**SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA:** The government has taken a significant decision regarding the state's healthcare system and medical education. To address the shortage of specialist faculty (Assistant Professors) in five major government medical colleges across the state, the government has issued a formal notification for the creation and filling of 75 new posts. This move will not only shape the future of medical students but also ensure world-class treatment for patients in the state's hospitals. The newly created posts have been allocated to those major government medical colleges where a shortage of specialist faculty had long been felt. These include Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College (Tanda), Dr. Y.S. Parmar Medical College (Nahan), Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Medical College (Nerchowk, Mandi), Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (Chamba), and Dr. Radhakrishnan Medical College (Hamirpur). Prioritizing the treatment of complex diseases and addressing the ever-increasing number of patients, the government has approved these posts across 12 key departments. According to the details, posts will be filled in the following departments: Radio-diagnosis (13), Obstetrics and Gynecology (9), Pediatrics (8), General Medicine (6), General Surgery (5), Pulmonary Medicine (5), Cardiology (5), Microbiology (5), Psychiatry (5), ENT (5), Pathology (5), and Biochemistry (4). The most revolutionary and humane aspect of this government decision concerns the medical colleges in Nahan and Chamba. In view of the rising number of heart disease cases, the government has decided to establish Cardiology departments at both these colleges. Consequently, posts for Assistant Professors (Specialty) in Cardiology have been created at both colleges. In the future, patients from these remote areas will no longer need to travel to Chandigarh, Delhi, or other major cities for cardiac treatment and specialist consultations.

## 2,000 calls, cafe meet, fort plot: Pune Police reveal conspiracy in Ketan Agrawal murder

**AGENCY PUNE, JUNE 24**

The Pune Rural Police investigating the murder of businessman Ketan Agrawal have claimed that the alleged conspiracy to kill him may have originated during a visit to Lohagad Fort on May 31, officials said on Wednesday. According to investigators, Ketan Agrawal and accused Siya Goyal had visited the fort together on May 31, where she allegedly first conceived the idea of killing him after observing him sitting near the edge of the structure. Police further claim that an initial attempt to execute the alleged plan was made on June 14, when Siya reportedly tried to push Ketan off the fort. However, after the attempt allegedly failed, she raised an alarm about spotting a snake and later claimed that he had fallen accidentally during the



panic. The Police also claimed that the duo remained in constant contact over several months and allegedly exchanged over 2,000 phone calls. Officials further said that prior to the incident, Siya and Chetan allegedly met at a cafe where they discussed the plan and identified possible locations on the fort from where the victim could be pushed. Investigators have also claimed that Siya Goyal did not want to marry Ketan Agrawal and conspired with her

friend Chetan Chaudhary to eliminate him. The probe further suggests that both accused first met at a Diwali party last year and later developed a close friendship. The police suspect that Siya allegedly wanted more time for herself and was unwilling to proceed with the marriage despite pressure from her family. Police further claimed that although Siya had grown close to co-accused Chetan Chaudhary and liked him, she was also not prepared to

marry him at present. Investigators suspect that Siya allegedly wanted to eliminate Ketan Agrawal while continuing her relationship with Chetan Chaudhary. Police said Siya and Chetan first met during a Diwali party last year and later became close. Investigators claimed the two remained in regular contact over the past several months and allegedly discussed plans to kill Ketan. According to the probe, Ketan and Siya had visited Lohagad Fort on May 31, during which Siya allegedly first thought about killing him after seeing him seated near the edge of the fort. Police also suspect that an earlier attempt to kill Ketan was allegedly made on June 14, when Siya reportedly tried to push him off the fort. When the alleged attempt failed, she allegedly shouted about spotting a snake and later claimed the push was accidental.

## Historic decision of government to promote clean and green transportation: Jagmohan Anand

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 24**



MLA Jagmohan Anand said that the state government had taken a very revolutionary step towards curbing pollution and to protect environment in the National Capital Region of Haryana. The MLA has appreciated this decision of the government and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. He said that this decision of Haryana Government would prove to be a milestone for the secure future of the coming generations. The MLA said that under the able leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Haryana government was completely conscious and serious about the environment. As part of this commitment the government has taken a historic decision to give major relaxation in motor vehicle tax and registration fee on BS-VI, electric vehicles and CNG vehicles to promote clean and green transportation in the

NCR districts of Haryana. He said that under the new rules, consumers purchasing BS-VI, EV and CNG vehicles would get huge rebate in tax and registration fees, which would make buying these vehicles more affordable. He said that to reduce the pollution level in NCR, it was very important to introduce eco-friendly vehicles on the roads. This step will directly control air pollution. This decision not only meets the need of today, but also reflects our commitment to give a cleaner and better tomorrow to our future generations through environmental protection.

## Illegal colony bulldozed by DTP team in village Darra Khurd

**HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 24**

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that with the help of the district administration, demolition action was carried out in the illegal colony growing on approximately four acres in the village of Darra Khurd in Thanesar, a revenue estate. Under the leadership of the duty magistrate, the DTP team along with the police force removed the illegal construction of sewerage and DPC in the illegal colony. He said that according to the report of DTO Naveen Kumar, an illegal colony had emerged on approximately four acres of land in Darra Khurd village of Thanesar, which was under the Revenue Estate, after which the department had



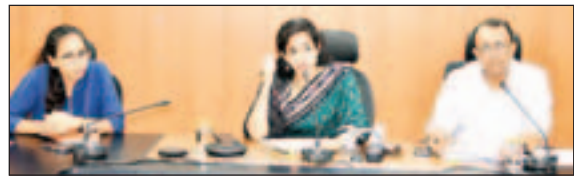
issued notices to landowners and property dealers under the HDR Act 1975, ordering them to obtain necessary permission. However, the landowners and property dealers neither stopped the construction in the illegal colonies nor obtained permission from the department. Acting on this, the District Town Planner Department has demolished the construction in these illegal colonies.

He warned people not to buy plots or undertake any construction work, lured by property dealers offering cheap plots. Furthermore, before purchasing land, they should obtain information about the legality of the colony from the District Magistrate's Office. All Tehsildars and Deputy Tehsildars should also follow government-issued instructions before registering a land plot. Anyone purchasing a plot in an illegal colony will face action by the District Magistrate's Office, with penalties of up to 50,000 rupees and a three-year sentence. He added that under the Deendayal Housing Scheme and the Affordable Group Housing Scheme, licenses are granted for up to five acres of land.

## Officials must take announcements made by Chief Minister seriously: DC Aparajita

**RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, JUNE 24**

DC Aparajita stated that all officials must take announcements made by Chief Minister seriously. No laxity in their implementation will be tolerated. Work should be initiated promptly on pending announcements and completion of ongoing projects should be expedited so that general public can benefit from them. Regular monitoring of each project must be ensured. DC was issuing these instructions to concerned officials on Wednesday while reviewing Chief Minister's announcements at Mini-Secretariat auditorium. She informed that a total of 405 announcements have been made by Chief Minister for



district so far; of these 276 have been completed, work is in progress on 84 and work has not yet started on 18. Meanwhile, 27 announcements have been deemed not feasible. DC expressed displeasure over slow progress of certain projects and directed concerned officials to complete work within a stipulated timeframe. A show-cause notice was issued to the District Sports Officer regarding delay in commencing construction of proposed Judo Hall in Songal village. While

reviewing proposed bypass construction project connecting Cheeka City to Patiala Road, DC directed that land acquisition verification process be completed quickly. Regarding renaming of Pundri-Dhand Road to 'Guru Brahmanand Marg', she instructed concerned department to contact their headquarters and ensure a speedy resolution to matter. Feedback was also sought from concerned departments regarding proposed women's college in Dhanauri village, water

supply project and drainage system. Officials stated that a revised layout plan for college has been requested and final drawings are yet to be received from architects' department. During review of the CCTV camera project in Fatehpur Pundri, officials reported that relevant tenders had been opened on June 23. DC directed concerned officials to commence work promptly. Similarly, she reviewed other projects including hall and e-library at Sanskrit University in Dhanauri, LUVAS center in Kyorak, and Guhla-Chanchak road. She instructed Assistant Commissioner (Under Training) Shivani Panchal to conduct site visits to assess actual status of several projects.

## Seva Trust UK (India) organises Women's Empowerment programme

**DALBIR SINGH MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 24**

Taking another significant step towards women's empowerment, Seva Trust UK (India) organized a special program today in Khedi Brahman, Kurukshetra. Pawan Mittal, District President of Seva Trust UK (India) was present as chief guest. Pawan Mittal stated that Seva Trust runs various programs for upliftment and self-reliance of women including sewing and embroidery centers, computer education, beauty parlor training and self-employment centers. He also informed that a multi-facility home, called Seva Dham, has been constructed in Saha village, Ambala, where numerous social amenities have been introduced at a cost of crores of rupees. He



informed that Seva Dham has been constructed on an area of 6655 square yards to help children suffering from the rare disease Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, so that these young lives can receive better treatment and support. Various skill development courses will also be conducted at Seva Dham, enabling women to establish their own employment. Providing information about program, Sunita Devi, a volunteer at Usha Sewing Center, stated that Seva Trust is organizing

women's empowerment programs at various locations. Through these programs, women, students and families of newborn girls are being honored. Vijay Panghal and Tejas Mittal, Trust's district media in-charges, stated that Seva Trust UK (India) is continuously active in field of social service. Trust regularly organizes blood donation camps, children's education, women's empowerment, self-employment, and other public welfare activities.

## St. Lawrence International School organises Training Programme on 'Art Integration'

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 24**

St. Lawrence International School, Pabni Road, Jagadhri, and Shahpur Road, Vyaspur, jointly organized an in-house training programme on "Art Integration" under the guidance of the School Chairperson, Dr. Rajni Sehgal. The programme commenced with the invocation of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The session was conducted by Ms. Pooja Batra, a CBSE Certified Resource Person. In his message, renowned educationist Dr. M.K. Sehgal emphasized that Art Integration makes teaching more effective, creative, and enjoyable. He stated that it is a powerful approach that promotes



expression, self-confidence, and the holistic development of students. During the training session, Resource Person Pooja Batra elaborated on the concept, objectives, and significance of Art Integration. She explained that, in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) and CBSE guidelines, integrating art with various subjects helps deepen students' understanding and ensures more meaningful and lasting learning. Through a variety

of activities and practical examples, she demonstrated how painting, music, dance, drama, handicrafts, and other art forms can be effectively incorporated into classroom teaching. The teachers actively participated in group activities, creative presentations, and hands-on exercises throughout the programme. Meena Rohilla also shared her views, stating that Art Integration plays a significant role in enhancing students' imagination, creative thinking, and interest in learning.

## Assandh SDM urges public cooperation for special electoral roll revision drive



**JAGBIR UPLANA ASSANDH:** Sumit Sihag (HCS), the Electoral Registration Officer and SDM of Assandh, stated that in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission of India, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are continuously carrying out the task of distributing enumeration forms and collecting necessary information door-to-door within the 23-Assandh Assembly constituency as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign. In this context, a meeting was held on Tuesday at the Sub-Divisional Officer's office with representatives of all political parties and BLAs from the sub-division regarding the SIR, during which necessary guidelines were issued. He informed everyone that the Election Commission of India is conducting the Special Intensive Revision-2026 (SIR) campaign with the aim of making electoral rolls more accurate, transparent, and reliable. The SIR campaign is a completely impartial, transparent, and rule-bound process. Its objective is not to remove the names of eligible voters but to make the electoral roll more accurate, updated, and error-free, and to include eligible voters in the list. This campaign is a process aimed at strengthening democracy.

## Training provided to Assandh constituency supervisors and BLOs on digitising enumeration forms



**JAGBIR UPLANA ASSANDH:** Training was conducted on Wednesday for supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of the Assandh Assembly constituency at the training hall of the PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Assandh. During the session, the BLOs were trained on the process of digitizing enumeration forms. In accordance with the directives of the Election Commission of India, BLOs in the 23-Assandh Assembly constituency are continuously carrying out door-to-door activities to distribute enumeration forms and collect necessary information as part of the special intensive revision campaign. The training program provided instructions on the digitization of these enumeration forms. XEN (UHBVN) Vishal Goyat, Election Kanungo Amit Kumar, Master Trainers Aditya and Sanjay Kamra, along with all supervisors and BLOs, were present on the occasion.

## State President Dr Archana Gupta to get grand welcome on June 26: Dr Asha Khedar

**MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR, JUNE 24**

Newly appointed State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr. Archana Gupta, will receive a grand welcome from party workers, office bearers and city residents upon her arrival in Hisar on June 26. This will be Dr Gupta's first visit to Hisar since becoming State President and there is a special atmosphere of excitement among BJP organization and workers. BJP District President Dr. Asha Khedar stated that extensive preparations have been made to welcome Dr. Archana Gupta. Welcome points have been set up at various prominent locations



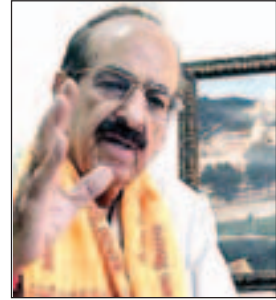
in city where party officials, workers, representatives of social organizations and common citizens will greet her. She stated that this visit by State President will further strengthen organization and infuse new energy into the workers. BJP district media in-charge Rajendra Sapra said that

welcome programmes will be organized at various places including Guru Ravidas Bhawan, Anaj Mandi Gate, Sant Namdev Bhawan, Cloth Market, Talaki Gate, Gurudwara Singh Sabha Nagori Gate, near Arya Samaj Mandir, Maharaja Agrasen Chowk and Bikaner Chowk to welcome Dr. Archana Gupta. He said that the main welcome and felicitation ceremony will be held at Maharaja Agrasen Bhawan at 10 am. Senior party officials, workers, representatives of various social and business organisations and a large number of city residents will be present and will felicitate newly appointed state president.

## Painful memories of horrific torture and brutal suffering of Emergency

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 24**

Senior BJP leader and National President of Central Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Northern India, Shiv Pratap Bajaj, who suffered torture during the Emergency, stated that June 25 will be observed as a black day, as innocent people were tortured to an extent that is difficult to describe in words. During the Emergency, people were arbitrarily thrown into jails. Police would drag them from their homes and subject to severe torture. Innocent citizens, victims of government atrocities, were imprisoned and no trials were even conducted. No records or proceedings were kept. A policy of repression and torture was adopted. Ninety-year-old Shiv Pratap



Bajaj, narrating his harrowing tale, said that he and his fellow Roshan Lal Duggal, Purma Chand Chawla, Bhagat Krishna Lal, Hakim Bool Chand, Kundan Lal Kohli, Daulat Ram Dabda, Malk Chand Dang, Om Prakash Kalra were all severely tortured during the Emergency. The then-station in-charge of Yamunanagar, Sukhdev Sharma, cunningly summoned us to the police

station, claiming to have a law and order discussion to maintain peace and order in the Yamunanagar area. As soon as we arrived, he brutally abused and pulled us off our chairs and benches, and he and other police officers locked us in the lockup. He began accusing us, along with other politicians, of spreading unrest in the area and instigating riots against the government. Without any paperwork, he imprisoned us all. Shiv Pratap Bajaj explained that since we had set up a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office in front of his residence, he took action against him and asked him for information about other regional offices, including special RSS pracharak Shiv Kumar.

NEWS BRIEFS

**HSMITC employees submit a memorandum to Union Minister Manohar Lal**



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:** HSMITC employees met Union Minister Manohar Lal at the PWD Circuit Rest House and submitted a memorandum outlining their demands. The Union Minister assured them that he would consider their demands sympathetically. The employees honoured Minister Manohar Lal by presenting him with a bouquet, a shawl, floral garlands, and a turban. The discussion regarding the memorandum was satisfactory; the Minister assured them that the written demands would be looked into promptly. Ashok Khattar, Kalu Ram, and Rajbir Singh (from village Banyani) provided special support on this occasion. The efforts of other employees—including Karan Singh, Dashrath Singh, Jai Mal Singh, Jabbar Singh, Harjit Singh Rathore, and Basant Singh—were also commendable.

**Society can be guided towards a better future only by following the ideals of great saints: CM**

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24**

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the lives of saints and great spiritual leaders serve as a source of inspiration for society, and it is only by following their teachings that the values of humanity, service, brotherhood, and spirituality can be strengthened.

The Chief Minister was addressing the congregation during a religious gathering held at Gurdwara Sri Gufasar Sahib, Rodewal, Patiala, Punjab on Wednesday. The event was dedicated to the 60th death anniversary of Baba Puran Das Ji Maharaj and the 12th death anniversary of Sant Baba Balwant Singh Ji (Sihode Wale).

Paying tribute to Sant Baba Balwant Singh Ji and Baba Puran Das Ji Maharaj, Sh. Saini said that both saints devoted their entire lives to religion, penance, public welfare, and service to humanity. Their efforts in constructing wells in water-scarce regions, establishing schools to promote education, and building gurdwaras stand as testimony to their role as social reformers.

He said that Sant Baba Balwant Singh Ji carried forward the great legacy of his Guru by making significant



contributions in the fields of humanitarian service, spiritual awakening, and education. He worked to connect the youth with religion and moral values and played an important role in establishing educational institutions.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab, which was once known as the food bowl of the nation and a driving force of development, has today lost its direction. The Punjab that gave the country outstanding sportspersons, brave soldiers, and industrialists who earned

global recognition is increasingly falling into the trap of drug abuse. The land that once inspired revolution now sees many of its youth facing uncertainty about their future.

Sh. Saini said that society today faces numerous challenges. To protect the younger generation from drug addiction, social evils, and violence, it is essential to adopt the ideals and teachings of saints. He urged the youth to embrace moral and spiritual values alongside modern education.

**Emergency dark chapter for democracy; history must not be forgotten: Ranbir Gangwa**



**DINKAR GAWRI HANSI, JUNE 24**

Haryana's Public Works and Public Health Minister, Ranbir Singh Gangwa, addressed a press conference on Wednesday at the local Public Works Department (PWD) rest house. MLA Vinod Bhayana and BJP District President Ashok Saini were also present on the occasion. Speaking at the press conference, Cabinet Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa stated that the Emergency imposed in the country on June 25, 1975, was the darkest chapter in the history of Indian democracy. He remarked that the then Prime Minister, in a bid to cling to power, trampled upon the basic spirit of the Constitution and plunged the entire nation into the fire of the Emergency. During that period, opposition leaders were imprisoned, press freedom was curtailed, and efforts were made to suppress the voices of ordinary citizens.

He noted that democratic institutions were weakened during the Emergency, and several constitutional amendments were enacted solely to benefit those in power. Cabinet Minister Ranbir Singh

Gangwa emphasized the importance of remembering this history to prevent the recurrence of such events in the future. He observed that while some political parties today speak of saving the Constitution, their own history is replete with instances of violating constitutional norms. Gangwa stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to observe June 25 as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Constitution Murder Day) is a tribute to the "Democracy Warriors" who struggled and endured imprisonment and torture during that era. Addressing the issue of drinking water supply for Chainat village during the press conference, Cabinet Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa clarified that the government's priority is to ensure the village receives an adequate and regular supply of drinking water. He assured that Chainat village would not face any water shortage. He mentioned that alternative arrangements are being made to supply water from the Bhakra Canal; an independent water supply pipeline is being laid, and separate arrangements for electricity are being put in place.

**MLA Jagmohan Anand fills enumeration form under SIR**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 24**

MLA Jagmohan Anand filled out the enumeration form this afternoon at his camp office in Sector-13 in the presence of the Booth Level Officer (BLO). By handing over the necessary documents and completing the process, he ensured his participation in this significant national campaign. The MLA stated that the SIR campaign does not involve deleting the vote of any valid voter; rather, it is a process to purify the electoral roll by removing duplicate entries and ensuring fair elections. He appealed to the people of Karnal to participate enthusiastically in the SIR campaign and verify their voter details. He also urged eligi-



ble citizens who have not yet obtained a voter ID card to immediately contact their BLO or the election office to get themselves registered as voters.

He humbly requested all citizens to extend their full cooperation and fill out the enumeration form on time whenever a BLO visits their home or establishment, or when asked

to do so. The accurate and complete information provided by you will prove extremely useful for future planning, administrative arrangements, and various tasks related to the public interest. He remarked that this is not merely a formal procedure but also a duty of a conscious and responsible citizen. Through our active participation, we must provide accurate information to the BLOs so that an error-free electoral roll can be prepared. Let us all cooperate with the district administration, the BLOs, and their entire team, playing an active role in making this important campaign a success. Your cooperation is a significant step towards building a strong administration and a developed India.

**Beneficiaries of Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana urged to complete verification promptly**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 24**

Karnal, June 24: In accordance with the directives of the Haryana Government, the Karnal Municipal Corporation is accelerating the verification process for beneficiaries of the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana. Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma stated that, pursuant to the letter issued by the Haryana Government, the verification process for beneficiaries of the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana will be completed by holding ward committee or 'Area Sabha' meetings in all wards. The government's objective is to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach genuine and eligible beneficiaries in a transparent manner.

He mentioned that previously, the work of verifying ben-



eficiaries of the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, widow pensions, and old-age pensions had been initiated through 'Area Sabha' meetings across all wards of the Municipal Corporation area. However, the meetings had to be postponed due to the failure to meet the required quorum. He stated that to ensure the smooth completion of the verification process, ward-wise lists of beneficiaries have

been provided to the chairpersons, members, secretaries, nodal officers, and clerks of the respective ward committees. The concerned officials and staff are engaged in verifying the identity and eligibility of the beneficiaries. He remarked that this verification process is a significant step towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the government's welfare schemes.

Through this, an accurate record of eligible beneficiaries will be prepared, and the future implementation of the scheme can be made more effective. The Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Corporation Commissioner appealed to all beneficiaries of the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana to contact their respective ward committees and complete their verification. Only with the cooperation of the beneficiaries can the verifica-

**Helping Hands installed a cold water cooler near the old post office for relief of public**

**KARAMBIR LADWA:** The Helping Hand organization of Ladwa installed a cold water cooler near the old post office on the city's main road. The cooler was inaugurated by Usha Anand. This will provide cold drinking water to shopkeepers, passersby, and motorists in the area during the summer.

The organization's president, R.D. Arora, stated that shopkeepers and drivers in the area had expressed the need for a cold water cooler. The organization installed this water cooler in response to public demand. He added that the organization has installed three water coolers so far this summer and three were installed last year. Thus, a total of six water coolers have been installed at various locations in Ladwa city, providing continuous access to cold water. Vinod Khurana, the organization's patron, emphasized that along with installing water coolers, regular maintenance is also essential. He appealed to nearby shopkeepers and the public to cooperate in their cleaning and maintenance. He added that if a water cooler malfunctions, the community is responsible for getting it repaired immediately or notifying the organization's officials.

He explained that installing a water cooler costs approximately Rs70,000, which is funded by social workers in the public interest. Vinod Khurana, Raman Anand, Ravi Arora, Amit Mehta, Ravikant Bedi, Gopi Raheja, Raju Anand, Raju Girdhar, Sushil Kohli, Opinder Singh, Goldy Pujara, Vikas Madan, Goldy Madan, Darshan Popli, Dr. Parveen Mehta, Rajbir Fauji, Bitu Dhingra, Rinku Arora etc. were present on the occasion.

**Vikas Agarwal appointed the youth district president of Agarwal Vaishya Samaj**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:** Expanding the youth wing of the Agarwal Vaishya Samaj, Vikas Agarwal has been appointed Karnal District President. Gaurav Mittal as District General Secretary and Amit Garg has been appointed District Treasurer. Upon his appointment, Vikas Agarwal expressed his gratitude to the Agarwal Vaishya Samaj's state president, Ashok Buwaniwala, youth state president, Himanshu Goyal, in-charge Navdeep Bansal, co-in-charge Hariom Agarwal and state general secretary Vikas Bansal.



Agarwal Vaishya Samaj forward. He will tour the entire Karnal district to connect youth with the Agarwal Vaishya Samaj. He stated that the Vaishya Samaj has always been a strong pillar of the country's economy, business and social service. Through hard work, honesty and entrepreneurship, this community has made significant contributions to nation-building. Therefore, the time has come for the Vaishya Samaj to continue its traditional entrepreneurial activities and take strong steps towards political participation by learning to fight.

He stated that an emphasis will be placed on increasing the Agarwal Vaishya Samaj's political participation. Youth play a crucial role in strengthening any organization. Consequently, he will make every effort to bring the

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA TARAORI, JUNE 24:**

Scientists from the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) and the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal, conducted an awareness programme on natural farming under the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' at a renowned Sahiwal cattle breeding farm in Tarawadi.

The programme was chaired by progressive farmer Ram Singh Chaudhary and attended by a large number of farmers from the region.

During the event, farmers were educated about the importance of soil and water testing every three years, balanced use of fertilisers, and natural nitrogen fixation through pulse crops. Demonstrations were also conducted on the benefits of natural farming, the role of indigenous cattle, and the use of social media for promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr Dinesh Yadav, Principal



Scientist, appreciated the efforts of progressive farmers Naresh Chaudhary and Ram Singh Chaudhary, along with Market Committee chairman Randeep Chaudhary, for their contribution to the conservation and improvement of indigenous livestock and the promotion of natural farming. He emphasised the importance of mixed cropping systems for sustainable farm management.

Dr Saket Niranjan, Princi-

pal Scientist, said indigenous cows play a crucial role in advancing natural farming practices and stressed that agriculture and animal husbandry are complementary sectors.

Senior Scientist Dr Ravindra Singh Shekhawat explained the benefits of balanced fertiliser use and pulse cultivation in improving soil fertility and reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers. He also urged farmers not to sell agricultural land

for short-term financial gains and instead preserve it for future generations.

Principal Scientists Dr Rahul Bahl and Dr Sindhu Sareen also addressed the gathering and encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and natural farming methods. The scientists said the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, is being conducted nationwide until June 30 through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, research institutions and state agriculture departments. The campaign aims to protect soil health, reduce excessive use of chemical fertilisers and promote sustainable agriculture. It is linked to major government initiatives such as the Soil Health Card Scheme and Per Drop More Crop programme, which encourage balanced nutrient management, natural farming and water conservation.

**Indigenous cows play key role in promoting natural farming, say scientists**

**Heavy vehicles continue to move on the bridge, safety angles are broken and removed**



**JITENDER KAUSHIK BARWALA:** Continue movement of heavy vehicles on the Tangri River bridge on the Mouli-Barwala road has caused concern among local residents. It is reported that the district administration, keeping the bridge's capacity and safety in mind, installed iron angles on both sides of the bridge to prevent heavy vehicle movement.

However, unknown individuals broke these iron angles and dropped them to the side again allowing heavy vehicles to cross the bridge without any hindrance. Locals say that the constant movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge could compromise its safety and strength and could lead to a major accident in the future.

According to residents, the administration installed iron angles to prevent heavy vehicles from using this route but after the angles removed the rules are being blatantly ignored. The continued movement of vehicles on the bridge has created a fear of accidents among residents. Local residents have demanded that the district administration and the relevant department investigate the matter, identify those who breached the bridge's safety angles and take strict action against them.

**Two-day water distribution camp and community feast to be held in Taraori on Nirjala Ekadashi**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA TARAORI, JUNE 24:**

A two-day chilled water distribution camp (chhabel) and community feast will be organised on Municipal Road in Tarawadi on June 25 and 26 to mark the occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi.

The organisers said the initiative aims to provide relief to commuters, devotees and local residents amid the prevailing heatwave while promoting the spirit of community service and charity.

Social workers Shunish Rana, Munish Parvez Rana and Vipin Chhabra said Nirjala Ekadashi holds special significance in the Hindu calendar and that offering water and food to people on the occasion is considered a virtuous act.

They said chilled drinking water would be served continuously during the two-day programme and arrangements would also be made for distributing food to visitors and passers-by.

Preparations for the event have already begun, and a large number of volunteers are expected to participate in the service activities. The organisers said special attention would be



paid to cleanliness, drinking water arrangements and the convenience of devotees at the venue.

They added that with temperatures remaining high, the water distribution camp would provide much-needed relief to people travelling through the area.

The organisers appealed to residents to participate in large numbers and contribute to the service initiative. They said such events help strengthen the values of social harmony, compassion and community service.

Local residents welcomed the initiative, stating that water distribution camps and community feasts during the summer season not only offer relief from the heat but also promote the message of humanity and collective welfare.

**Special Cell team arrests man of snatching things on highway posing as fake saint**

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR:** Police spokesperson said that Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal has issued strict instructions to district police to crack down on crime and criminals. Acting under these instructions, Special Cell team successfully arrested a man accused of snatching things on highway while posing as a fake saint. Accused turned out to be Amir Chand not a Baba, but a resident of Deha Basti. Accused was produced in court and remanded to custody. In-charge Raman Chandel stated that his team received a tip-off that a young man was wandering suspiciously near Bank Colony turn. Based on this tip, a team consisting of Sub-Inspectors Satish Kumar, Makhan, Surendra, Gaurav, and Kuldeep was formed. Team arrived at scene and apprehended accused. He was identified as Amir Chand, son of Talab Nath, a resident of Deha Basti, Dadhwa. When accused was questioned, he revealed incident of snatching from a doctor on highway. Accused was produced in court and taken on remand. Police are investigating matter. In-charge Raman Chandel stated that on June 14, a doctor from Panchkula was traveling to Dehradun for some work. Accused, disguised as a sadhu, was standing on side of the Karera Khurd highway. He stopped doctor's car on pretext of asking for water. After engaging him in conversation, he snatched his chain and fled to other side of highway. By time doctor realized what was happening, accused had already fled. Police registered a case of snatching based on doctor's complaint and a special staff team succeeded in arresting accused.



**Nilokheri MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi celebrates birthday at Mata Bala Sundari Dham**



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:** Nilokheri MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi celebrated his birthday with religious fervour at Mata Bala Sundari Trilokpur Dham, where he offered prayers and sought blessings for the prosperity of the region and the well-being of its residents.

Accompanied by family members, supporters and local residents, the MLA paid obeisance at the shrine and participated in special prayers at the temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Kabirpanthi said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the people and would continue working for the development of the constituency and the welfare of its residents.

A community feast (bhandara) was also organised in the temple premises to mark the occasion. A large number of devotees participated and received prasad, while volunteers assisted in serving visitors throughout the programme.

People present at the event extended birthday greetings to the MLA and wished him good health and a long life. Several attendees said Kabirpanthi remained actively involved in addressing public concerns and contributing to the development of the area.

The programme witnessed the participation of social workers, supporters, prominent citizens and devotees. The temple premises resonated with religious chants throughout the event.

## EDITORIAL

## Uddhav Thackeray-what next for Balasaheb's son?

In politics, it can never really be an endgame. So, are the devastating developments in Shiv Sena (UBT) the end of the road for party chief Uddhav Thackeray—the son of the man who started it all six decades ago, the late Balasaheb Thackeray? Considered an introverted politician, especially when compared to the aggressive line followed by the "original" Shiv Sena and his father, many believe that the "humble and modest" Uddhav was perhaps never really cut out for cutthroat politics. For much of his early life, he remained out of the spotlight, preferring wildlife and aerial photography over public life. His cousin Raj Thackeray was widely seen as more of a chip off the old block, resembling Balasaheb Thackeray in temperament and political style. Uddhav took control of the party in January 2013 after the death of his father and also inherited the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance—one of the oldest and most enduring ideological coalitions in Indian politics, spanning three decades before its collapse in 2019 over power-sharing issues between the two. Observers say breaking up with the BJP was perhaps Uddhav's biggest mistake. After breaking up with the BJP, he formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government with the Congress and the NCP to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra—a decision that reshaped Maharashtra politics and the fortunes of his party. But since the first split in 2022, when he lost the government, MLAs, and the "Bow and Arrow" party symbol to Eknath Shinde, he has been battling a perception war over who carries the Balasaheb's legacy. Observers say more than when leaders like Chhagan Bhujbal, Narayan Rane, or Raj Thackeray left, what hurt Uddhav most was when Shinde jumped ship to become Chief Minister with the support of the BJP and, later, the hawkish faction of Sharad Pawar's NCP. Unlike earlier departures led by individual leaders, the Shinde revolt directly challenged his leadership and the party's political future. On Monday, Shinde dealt another devastating blow, taking away six of Uddhav's nine Lok Sabha MPs. With rumblings also among Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs and no control over local bodies, especially the BMC, observers say Uddhav's uncertain future now depends on how he navigates the upcoming electoral battles with a shrinking support base. His immediate challenge will be whether he can rally remaining supporters, reinvent the party's grassroots outreach, and show that he still holds the Thackeray legacy.

## Bangladesh's balancing act: Delhi or Beijing?



The red-carpet welcome extended to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the Chinese port city of Dalian Monday night carried significance beyond diplomatic protocol.

China is Bangladesh's largest trading partner, and is also the largest source of development funds. Rahman is expected to tie up a number of projects and also possibly discuss the purchase of J-17 fighter jets during crucial discussions with the Chinese leadership team.

The carefully orchestrated trip ensured that Rahman's first stop on this trip was Kuala Lumpur, followed by a conference at Dalian before moving on to more substantive

talks at Beijing so as not offend New Delhi, which too has invited the Premier for a visit.

"What will be important will be the optics that the Chinese create as also the substantive matters which Premier Rahman discusses during his trip in meetings with China's Prime Minister Li Qiang and President Xi Jinping," Riva Ganguly Das, former Secretary-East in the Ministry of External Affairs told UNI while pointing out that Bangladesh's Prime Minister is also expected to visit Delhi later this year.

Diplomats believe the sequence of Rahman's diplomatic visits is not only to balance between Delhi and Beijing but to reinforce what officials describe

as a "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, where Dhaka seeks diversified partnerships and avoids aligning itself exclusively with any major power.

However, beyond the symbolism, the economic and strategic concerns which prompted this trip makes it an important one.

Bangladesh is currently pursuing more than \$4bn in direct Chinese funding while broader proposals worth over \$9bn remain are also under consideration by Beijing-backed institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank.

Among the projects under discussion with the Chinese are the long-delayed Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project, the expansion of Mongla Port which Indians had earlier modernised and a Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Anwara near Chattogram.

The industrial zone will include, roads, port facilities and utility networks, besides flatted factory estates. Once completed, Anwara Industrial Zone could become one of the most significant manufacturing hubs linked to China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Asia.

Beijing, which has already built a naval base for Bangladesh, near Chittagong, the country's largest port, also wants to get a toe-hold at Mongla, the second largest port as the other Chinese-built Pyara port, has proven to be a failure for hydrological challenges.

Defence analysts believe that with investments in two ports at the centre of the Bay of Bengal, China could have far more say in the region than ever in the past.

Rahman's trip is expected to produce around a dozen agreements covering electric

vehicle technology, renewable energy, banking cooperation and potentially even a currency swap arrangement.

Such measures fit neatly into China's broader efforts to internationalise the renminbi and deepen economic integration across the developing world.

However, the most consequential development may not be economic at all. Bangladesh is believed to be finalising a \$2.2bn purchase of 20 Chinese J-10CE fighter aircraft. Once completed, the acquisition would represent the largest upgrade of Bangladesh's air force in decades and make the country only the second South Asian operator of the platform after Pakistan.

"Why Bangladesh wishes to invest in a costly fighter jet platform when it faces no military threat from any country and certainly none from us remains a mystery," said top defence ministry officials.

However, they pointed out that with modern radar arrays every move by a J-17 or similar 4th generation jet can be tracked starting with take-off. "The purchase will nevertheless also mean deepening of cooperation on training and logistics between Bangladesh-China and Pakistan, the other user of this platform," officials said.

Bangladesh sits adjacent to India's vulnerable Siliguri Corridor—the narrow land bridge linking mainland India with its north-eastern states.

The prospect of advanced Chinese-origin combat aircraft operating near this strategically sensitive region and of close cooperation in logistics and training with Pakistan and China, both of whom have fought wars with India, inevitably raises concerns within the security establishment.

Relations between Bangladesh and India have cooled noticeably since the political transition that followed Sheikh Hasina's departure from office in 2024. Disagreements over trade, visas, extradition issues and border management have created a degree of mistrust during the previous Yunus regime that was largely absent during the Hasina era.

Both Bangladeshi and Indian diplomats hope that with the coming of the Tarique Rahman era, the relations between New Delhi and Dhaka will be on an upswing.

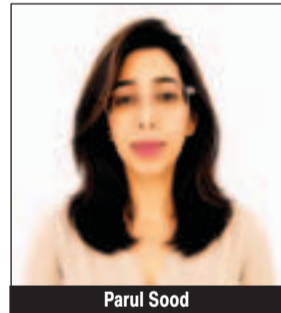
However, there is also the historical precedent of Begum Khaleda Zia's rule when relations reached a nadir and India accused Bangladesh of exporting terror modules and allowing rebels from India's northeast to set up camps and safe houses on its soil.

For Rahman, the challenge is therefore not simply to attract investment but to prevent economic and defence cooperation with China from becoming synonymous with "strategic alignment".

Bangladesh's leaders are keenly aware that their country's prosperity depends upon maintaining productive ties with both Asian rising superpowers. China is a critical source of capital and infrastructure financing, while India remains indispensable for geography, connectivity, trade and regional stability.

The success of Rahman's first overseas tour will ultimately be measured not by the number of memoranda signed in Beijing but by whether Dhaka can continue convincing both China and India that engagement with one does not come at the expense of the other.

## AI in the classroom: Friend or Foe for Students?



Parul Sood

valuable educational tools. AI represents the next stage in this evolution. Like previous innovations, it has the potential to enhance learning if used wisely.

One of the strongest arguments in favor of AI is its ability to personalize education. Every student learns differently. Some grasp concepts quickly, while others require additional explanations and examples. AI-powered tools can provide customized learning experiences by adapting content to individual needs.

AI also promotes accessibility in education. Students in remote areas or those with limited access to educational resources can use AI-powered platforms to gain knowledge and guidance. Language barriers can be reduced through translation tools, while students with disabilities can benefit from AI-driven assistive technologies. Another significant advantage is increased productivity. Students can use AI to summarize lengthy texts, organize notes, generate study plans, and clarify difficult concepts. By handling repetitive tasks, AI allows students to devote more time to critical thinking and creativity.

However, the growing dependence on AI also raises serious concerns. Critics argue that excessive reliance on AI may weaken essential skills such as analytical thinking, problem-solving,

and independent learning. If students routinely use AI to generate assignments without understanding the content, the educational process becomes superficial.

Academic integrity is another major concern. The ease with which students can obtain complete essays, solutions, and code snippets creates opportunities for plagiarism and unethical practices. If left unchecked, such misuse can undermine the credibility of assessments and qualifications.

The solution is not to ban AI from classrooms. Such an approach would be unrealistic and counterproductive. Students must learn how to interact with these technologies effectively and responsibly. Instead of restricting access, educational institutions should focus on teaching responsible AI usage. The debate should not focus on whether AI is a friend or a foe. The real question is whether students are being taught to use AI responsibly. When guided by ethical principles and supported by effective teaching practices, AI can become a powerful friend that enhances learning, expands opportunities, and prepares students for the future.

Author: Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science Engineering Chandigarh University, Gharuan, Punjab



Amarnath Saxena

While rain related damage to a vehicle's exterior is often visible, the greater risk during the monsoon season may lie beneath the bonnet. Driving through waterlogged roads can allow water to enter critical engine systems, disrupting the engine's combustion process and affecting its performance.

In certain situations, water ingress can lead to a condition known as hydrostatic lock, where the engine's compression cycle is

interrupted because water, unlike air, cannot be compressed. This can result in damage to key internal components such as pistons and connecting rods, often leading to expensive repairs and extended vehicle downtime.

The growing prevalence of urban flooding and waterlogging has made this risk increasingly relevant for vehicle owners.

Industry data indicates that motor insurance claims rise by nearly 33% during the monsoon season, largely due to engine and electrical damage. Yet, despite the heightened exposure, only around 20% of vehicle owners opt for engine protection add ons, leaving a significant majority of about 80% vulnerable to expensive vehicle repair.

**Understanding Engine Protect Cover** Engine Protect Cover is an optional add on available with motor insurance policies that is designed to address engine related damage

arising from water ingress subject to policy terms and conditions. While a comprehensive motor insurance policy provides broad protection against various risks, this add on focuses specifically on the vehicle's engine, one of its most critical and expensive components. In the event of water entering the engine system, Engine Protect Cover may provide coverage for repair or replacement of internal engine parts affected by the damage, subject to policy terms and conditions. It may also extend to situations involving hydrostatic lock, where water disrupts the engine's normal compression process and causes damage to internal components. Depending on the insurer and policy terms, the cover may also include expenses related to associated consumables such as engine oil, lubricants, coolants, and other fluids that need replacement following water related engine

damage. The relevance of Engine Protect Cover becomes particularly evident during the monsoon season, when waterlogged roads and urban flooding increase the likelihood of water exposure. By addressing engine specific risks that can result in substantial repair costs, the add on complements the overall protection offered by a motor insurance policy.

**How This Applies to Electric Vehicles** While Engine Protect Cover is primarily associated with internal combustion engine vehicles, protection against water related damage is equally relevant for electric vehicles. EVs rely on high value components such as electric motors, battery systems, and power electronics, which can be costly to repair or replace if affected by water ingress. Today, several insurers offer EV specific add ons that provide coverage for electric motors, battery

related systems, charging equipment, and other critical components, depending on policy terms and conditions.

For vehicle owners, the key takeaway is that while the source of risk may differ between ICE vehicles and EVs, exposure to water related damage remains a common concern. As vehicle technology evolves, insurance protection is increasingly adapting to reflect the growing value and complexity of modern automotive systems. Engine Protect Cover and EV specific protection add ons have emerged as targeted solutions to address these evolving risks. By extending coverage to some of the most expensive and technologically advanced components of a vehicle, these add ons complement standard motor insurance and reflect the changing realities of vehicle ownership in an era of extreme weather and advanced automotive technology.

## Intermittent fasting matches traditional diets in weight loss benefits

Intermittent fasting may be just as effective as traditional calorie-restricted diets for helping people lose weight, according to a comprehensive new review published in The BMJ. The study suggests that certain fasting methods, such as alternate-day fasting, might offer slightly greater benefits. However, researchers caution that longer-term studies are needed to confirm these effects. The findings come amid rising global concern about obesity.

As of 2022, the World Health Organisation estimated that around 2.5 billion adults worldwide were overweight, and nearly 900 million were classified as obese. Obesity significantly increases the risk of chronic illnesses like type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and high blood

pressure. Intermittent fasting, an eating pattern that involves cycles of fasting and eating, has grown in popularity as an alternative to traditional calorie-counting diets. However, questions have remained about whether it is equally effective or more beneficial in the long run.

To address this, researchers reviewed data from 99 randomised clinical trials involving more than 6,500 adults, most of whom had pre-existing health conditions and an average BMI of 31. The studies lasted anywhere from three to 52 weeks, and covered a variety of intermittent fasting styles, including: Time-restricted eating (e.g., 16:8 method) Alternate day fasting (24-hour fast every other day) Whole day fasting (e.g., the 5:2



diet) All forms of intermittent fasting and continuous calorie restriction resulted in small weight reductions

compared to diets with no calorie control. Among the fasting types, alternate-day fasting

showed the most notable, though still modest, advantage, producing slightly more weight loss than calorie restriction and

other intermittent fasting strategies. Compared to continuous calorie restriction, alternate-day fasting led to an average additional weight loss of 1.29 kg. It also outperformed time-restricted eating and whole-day fasting by 1.69 kg and 1.05 kg, respectively.

However, these differences did not meet the minimum threshold of 2 kg, which the study defined as clinically significant for individuals with obesity. In terms of cardiometabolic health, alternate-day fasting appeared to reduce total and LDL ("bad") cholesterol more effectively than time-restricted eating. Conversely, time-restricted eating was associated with a slight increase in cholesterol compared to whole-day

fasting. No notable improvements were observed in blood sugar levels or HDL ("good") cholesterol for any fasting method. Notably, weight loss was mainly seen in studies lasting less than 24 weeks. Among longer trials (24 weeks or more), benefits were only evident when comparing structured diets to unrestricted eating patterns.

The authors acknowledged several limitations, including high variability between the types of fasting, small sample sizes in many studies, and overall low to moderate confidence in the evidence. Nevertheless, this review is among the first to offer a broad comparative view across all major diet strategies using rigorous methods. "The current evidence provides some indication that

intermittent fasting diets have similar benefits to continuous energy restriction for weight loss and cardiometabolic risk factors," the study authors concluded, emphasising the need for longer-term research.

A linked editorial from experts in Colombia noted that the strength of any dietary plan may lie as much in structure and professional support as in the specific method used. They highlighted that alternate-day fasting should not be viewed as a replacement but as a complementary option in personalised nutritional care. "Focusing on sustainable changes over time is essential," the editorial stated, adding, "Intermittent fasting can play a role within a holistic, patient-centred approach to nutrition."

**ARVIND PATHAK**  
**SULTANPUR LODHI:** Punjab Police have arrested two alleged associates of a gangster in connection with the recent firing incident at the New Vegetable Market in Maqsudan, Jalandhar, and recovered illegal weapons, ammunition and narcotics from their possession, officials said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference, Superintendent of Police (Investigation)

Harinder Singh Gill, accompanied by Assistant Superintendent of Police Dheerendra Verma, said the arrests were made following a tip-off received on June 22 regarding the movement of an armed suspect on Gazipur Road in Sultanpur Lodhi. Acting on the information, a police team apprehended Amandeep Singh, a resident of Sultanpur Lodhi, and recovered a .30 bore pistol with a magazine and five live cartridges, along with a

.32 bore pistol, a magazine and five live cartridges. During interrogation, Amandeep allegedly disclosed that one of the weapons belonged to his associate Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, a resident of Taharpur village in SBS Nagar district. He further told investigators that the .30 bore pistol had been used in the firing incident at Maqsudan's New Vegetable Market, in which a man identified as Monu Puri sustained a bullet injury to his leg.

## NEWS BRIEF

**Youth Congress appointment: Babbar felicitated by social leaders**



**HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR:** Newly appointed Punjab Youth Congress General Secretary Shobhit Babbar was felicitated by Employees Welfare Association Chairman Pandit Rakesh Sharma and Advocate Karan Puri here on Tuesday. Congratulating Babbar on his appointment, Sharma presented him with a bouquet of saplings and stressed the importance of environmental conservation. He said trees and plants play a vital role in maintaining a clean and healthy environment and urged people to contribute towards a greener future by planting more trees. Sharma also encouraged Babbar to work for the welfare of the youth while discharging his new responsibilities and to promote awareness about environmental protection. He said leadership should be guided not only by social welfare but also by a commitment to preserving nature.

## CM Saini appeals to people of Punjab to make right choice for their children's future, Punjab's prosperity and building of Viksit Bharat

**YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24**

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, addressing the people from the sacred land of Sri Muktsar Sahib, called upon Punjabis to reclaim their lost glory and move towards making Punjab the number one state in the country through development, good governance and politics guided by national interest.

Paying obeisance to the First Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, all the Guru Sahibs, Sahibzadas and great personalities, the Chief Minister said that the holy land of Sri Muktsar Sahib stands witness to the unparalleled sacrifices of Chali Mukte, Bhai Maha Singh Ji and Mai Bhago Ji. He said that Punjab and Haryana share a common culture, language and emotional bond. He said he had come before the people of Punjab not as the Chief Minister of a neighbouring state but as a younger brother and a well-wisher. He said that the people of Punjab had earlier given opportunities to the Congress and



later to the Aam Aadmi Party, but neither met the expectations of the people. He accused Congress of corruption, dynastic politics and obstructing development, while alleging that the Aam Aadmi Party had turned Punjab into a political laboratory and failed to fulfil its promises. The Chief Minister said that the Aam Aadmi Party had made tall promises in Punjab, but today every section of society was

asking where the promised change was. He pointed out that the promise of providing Rs. 1,100 per month to women had not been fulfilled even after four years. In contrast, he said, the Haryana Government had begun providing Rs. 2,100 per month to women from poor families under the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, with crores of rupees already transferred directly into

beneficiaries' bank accounts.

He questioned the AAP government in Punjab over issues relating to drug abuse, crime, illegal mining, financial mismanagement and deteriorating law and order. He said that Punjab's youth were struggling to find employment and that thousands of young people were being compelled to seek illegal routes to migrate abroad. He said that the most serious crisis facing Punjab was the growing menace of drugs, which had devastated many families and endangered the future of the youth. Sh. Saini said that incidents of drug trafficking, gang wars, extortion and crime had created an atmosphere of fear among ordinary citizens. He said that traders, industrialists and common people were worried about their security and that criminals no longer appeared to fear the law. Speaking on farmers' issues, the Chief Minister said that the Haryana Government was procuring 24 crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

## Northern Railways and Indus Towers strengthen women's hygiene access

**YUGMARG BUREAU AMBALA, JUNE 24**

Indus Towers, one of the world's largest telecom infrastructure companies, in partnership with Northern Railways, has installed 500 sanitary napkin vending machines under its CSR program, Nari Samman. Deployed across 175 railway stations in the Delhi, Firozpur, Ambala, Moradabad and Lucknow divisions, the machines are equipped with IoT-enabled monitoring and have dispensed approximately 3 crore sanitary napkins to date. The initiative ensures round-the-clock availability and free access to sanitary napkins for women travelers. The Nari Samman program is implemented under Indus Towers' flagship CSR initiative, Pragati, which focuses on building a sustainable ecosystem of awareness, access, and community support. The program is aligned with the Government of India's efforts to improve menstrual health awareness and access to sanitary products through the Menstrual



Hygiene Scheme (MHS) under the National Health Mission, reinforcing national priorities around women's health and gender sensitive public infrastructure. Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey, General Manager, Northern Railways, said, "Indian Railways serves millions of passengers every day, including millions of women and girls who depend on the network for work, education and healthcare. Ensuring their comfort, safety, and dignity remains a priority for us. This collaboration with Indus Towers is an important step towards making public spaces more inclusive and supportive for women. It reflects our commitment to embedding meaningful social outcomes within public infrastructure."

## One more accused arrested in attack on CIA team; narcotics recovered



**NIRMAL SAINI RADAUR:** Police have arrested another accused in connection with the attack on an Assandh CIA team at Deha Basti in Chhotabans village and recovered 6.5 grams of a narcotic substance from his residence. Station House Officer Rajesh Rana said the accused, identified as Sukhbir, was taken on police remand and brought to the village for reconstruction of events and collection of evidence related to the case. With this arrest, the number of accused apprehended in the case has risen to three, while efforts are continuing to trace the remaining suspects. According to police, the CIA team had recently visited Chhotabans village to arrest Rajendra, who is allegedly involved in narcotics trafficking cases. During the operation, Sukhbir and his associates allegedly attacked the police team and helped Rajendra escape from custody. The SHO said Sukhbir has around a dozen criminal cases registered against him and has previously been involved in incidents related to assaulting police personnel and disturbing public order.

## MC offices to remain open during holidays for property tax scheme

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR:**

The Municipal Corporation has decided to keep all its offices and Citizen Facilitation Centres (CFCs) open during the upcoming three-day holiday period to help residents avail themselves of the Haryana Government's one-time property tax settlement scheme, which offers a 100 per cent waiver of interest on outstanding dues. Mayor Suman Bahmani said the corporation had taken the decision to ensure that taxpayers do not face any inconvenience in depositing property tax or obtaining No Dues Certificates (NDCs) before the scheme's June 30 deadline. Although June 27, 28 and 29 fall on government holidays, all three Municipal Corporation offices and CFCs will function as normal working days. Property tax collection and NDC-related services will continue uninterrupted during this period. The Mayor said a large number of property owners are seeking to take advantage of the interest waiver scheme and have also submitted objections related to property IDs and tax records. To facilitate timely disposal of such cases, officials and employees associated with the NDC and property tax branches have been directed to remain present in their offices throughout the holiday period. Bahmani urged residents to avoid last-minute rush and utilise the holiday period to clear their dues. She said the scheme allows complete waiver of interest on property tax arrears accumulated between 2010-11 and 2024-25, provided payment is made by June 30.



## 558 BLOs of district will go door to door to conduct special intensive revision of voter list: DEO



**KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA:**

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, a special campaign is being started in Barnala district from tomorrow, June 25, regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list. Giving information in this regard, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh IAS said during a press conference at the District Administrative Complex that from June 25 to July 24, 558 BLOs (Booth Level Officers) of the district will go door to door to give the voter count forms and get them filled. Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh said that the names of the voters whose voter count forms will be filled will be recorded in the primary voter list to be published on August 03. He clarified that if any voter is deprived of filling the form for any reason during this one-month long process, then there is no need to panic because this process will continue even after this, under which claims and objections will be taken from August 03 to September 02, during which voters will be able to get their vote by filling Form No. 06 and submitting any of the 12 proofs specified by the Election Commission. He said that after this entire process, the final publication of the voter list will be done on October 01.

## House owner ends his life after minor altercation with tenants



**KARAMBIR LADWA:**

A tragic incident has come to light in village Lohara of Ladwa block, where a house owner ended his life by hanging himself from a tree standing in the fields. On getting information about the incident, Ladwa police reached the spot and the body of the deceased was taken down from the noose and sent for postmortem. After the incident, a wave of mourning ran through the entire village, while the police have seriously started investigating the matter. According to information, last night Pratap Singh, a resident of village Lohara, committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree standing in the fields. On getting information about the incident on Dial-112 and Ladwa police reached the spot. The deceased's son, Mandeep Singh, has alleged that a few days ago, a minor altercation and dispute occurred with the tenants living in his father Pratap Singh's house. During the dispute, the tenants levelled serious allegations against his father. The family says that Pratap Singh was deeply hurt and mentally disturbed by these allegations.

## AAP forms full-fledged committee in Doraha MC; Anmol Sharma elected president



**AMRISH ANAND DORAHA:**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday constituted a new team for the Doraha Municipal Council, with young leader Anmol Sharma being elected president and S.Kawaljit Singh Bittu assuming charge as senior vice-president. The election process, held in the evening, was followed by celebrations among party workers and residents, who welcomed the newly elected office-bearers with garlands and distributed sweets. Punjab Cabinet Minister S.Hardeep Singh Mundian congratulated the new team and said Mr. Sharma, son of former Municipal Council president Mr.Sudarshan Sharma Pappu, had remained closely associated with public service. He said the party's emphasis on encouraging young leaders and assigning them responsibilities would further strengthen democratic institutions.

## Center of excellence should be established in Kurukshetra for education of Vedic knowledge and modern management: DC

**HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 24**

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that state government has decided to establish a Center of Excellence in Kurukshetra, land of Gita for education of Vedic knowledge and modern management. This center will be an integrated institute of Vedic agriculture, traditional trades, craftsmanship and modern management systems, which will be basis of our holistic thinking. This center will be established in village Mathana, Kurukshetra under Haryana Agricultural University. State government has allocated Rs. 150 crore for this purpose. DC was inspecting the site for center to be built in village Mathana on Wednesday. DDPO Vikas, BDPO Rubal and other concerned officials were present with him. He said that this center has been named Sukrit. It will include skill development and management, entrepreneurship, agriculture, research,



innovation and technology. Youth will be offered courses ranging from diplomas to graduates, postgraduates and PhDs in agriculture-related subjects. He stated that this Center of Excellence will foster a creative environment in state and generate employment and self-employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. It will also open new dimensions of skill development and adapt our rich traditions to a modern environment.

## Through her divine life, Mother inspired millions to attain spiritual peace: BK Jyoti

**KARAMBIR LADWA, JUNE 24**

BK Jyoti, director of the Ladwa Brahma Kumaris University Service Centre, relayed the moving teachings of Sister Nematashwari Jagadamba Saraswati, saying that through her divine life provided millions of others with spiritual peace, moral values and inspiration for a spiritual life. She left her mortal body on June 24, 1965, but her ideals and teachings continue to guide humanity even today. BK Jyoti was addressing a gathering at the Ladwacenter on Wednesday to commemorate the 61st death anniversary of Mateshwari Jagadamba Saraswati (Mamma), the first Chief Administrator of the Brahma Kumaris. The brothers and sisters present at the Sukhdhamcenter remembered Mateshwari's life, sacrifice, penance and divine service, paying tribute to her. On this occasion, BK Jyoti Didi and Geeta Behen shed light on



Mateshwari's life and paid heartfelt tribute to her. Following this, all the brothers and sisters present remembered Mamma and offered floral tributes. Shikha Behen recited a beautiful poem on the life of Mateshwari Jagadamba. At the end of the program, everyone resolved to adopt the spiritual values demonstrated by Mateshwari in their lives. Many brothers and sisters including Nirmal Singh Bhai, Budhram Bhai, Ramgopal Bhai, Mamachand Bhai, Satpal Bhai, Rajkumar Bhai, Urmila Sister, Rekha Sister, Anjali Sister, Rashmi Sister were present in this meeting.

## Punjab Congress confident of winning all three Barnala seats: Hina Kawde



**KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA:**

The Congress Party is fully prepared to contest the next elections in Punjab and looking at the enthusiasm of the people of the state, it can be said with certainty that the people of Punjab have made up their minds to put the Congress Party in power in Punjab this time. These views were expressed by All India Congress Committee Secretary and Barnala district co-incharge for the Punjab Assembly elections, Hina Madam Hina Kawde while talking to reporters after addressing a meeting of leaders and workers of Barnala, Mehal Kalan and Bhadaur assembly constituencies in Barnala. Madam Hina Kawde said that the Congress high command has given her the responsibility of 30 constituencies of Punjab, including three constituencies in Barnala district. People are ready to oust the Aam Aadmi Party from power in the upcoming assembly elections, soon the Congress high command will enter the Punjab election fray with a team of senior leaders.

## Gangwa accuses opposition of politicising Chanot water issue; 7 grievances resolved at Panipat panel meeting



**RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT:**

Haryana Cabinet Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa on Wednesday accused opposition parties of politicising the drinking water issue in Chanot village of Hisar district, alleging that villagers were being misled for political gains. Addressing reporters after chairing a meeting of the District Grievance Redressal Committee at the District Secretariat here, Gangwa said the state government had already decided to provide drinking water to Chanot village through an alternative arrangement and had laid a separate pipeline for the purpose. Explaining the issue, the minister said funds under the AMRUT Scheme are meant for urban areas, while the Jal Jeevan Mission is designed for rural regions. Since the pipeline passing near Chanot village was laid under the AMRUT Scheme, water could not be supplied to the village through it under the existing norms, he said. He alleged that opposition parties were attempting to exploit the issue for political purposes instead of presenting the facts before villagers. Earlier, presiding over the grievance committee meeting, Gangwa said the Haryana government was committed to ensuring timely and impartial redressal of public grievances and that no injustice would be allowed against any citizen.

## BJP observes 'Black Day', recalls Emergency period at Karnal press conference



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:**

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday held a press conference at its Karnal district office to mark June 25 as "Black Day" and highlight the events surrounding the Emergency imposed in 1975. The press conference was addressed by BJP district president Praveen Lathar in the presence of Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, district general secretary Manav Puri, district media in-charge Dr Ashok Kumar, IT cell chief Vikas Rana, Pawan Walia and Naresh Prajapati. Speaking to mediapersons, Lathar described the Emergency imposed between June 25, 1975, and March 21, 1977, as a dark chapter in India's democratic history. He alleged that the decision was taken to safeguard political power rather than to address any national emergency. He further criticised the Congress government of the time, alleging that constitutional institutions, civil liberties and freedom of expression were curtailed during the period.

## Ramlal Thakur seeks probe into LADA fund utilisation, raises Sri Naina Devi Temple Trust distribution issue

**AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR:**

Senior Congress leader and former minister Ramlal Thakur on Wednesday launching a sharp attack on his own Congress the government and district administration, demand a high-level inquiry into the utilisation of Local Area Development Authority (LADA) funds and the alleged delay in distribution of benefits by the Sri Naina Devi Temple Trust. Addressing a press conference at Bilaspur Circuit House, Thakur alleged that mining-affected areas in the district are being denied their rightful share of development benefits despite bearing the environmental and social impact of large-scale mining activities. He claimed that while a substantial portion of mining revenue was earlier earmarked for local development, the allocation has been reduced over the years, adversely affecting affected panchayats. "LADA funds and Mining Revenues have become the discretionary fund of the administration", he alleged. Questioned the reported purchase of high-end vehicles from LADA funds for official use, he alleged that resources meant for roads, drinking water schemes, education and other public welfare projects were being diverted for administrative conveniences. "Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to order an impartial investigation and fix accountability, he urged.



**NEWS BRIEF**

**Amazon to expand Now to over 300 cities and build India's largest 'delivery in minutes' network**

**SHIMLA:** Amazon today announced its plans to build India's largest 'delivery in minutes' network by scaling Amazon Now, its ultra-fast delivery within minutes, to customers in over 300 cities across the country. Amazon Now has become the fastest-growing e-commerce business unit in Amazon India's history with orders having doubled every quarter since launch. Amazon will scale up its specialized fulfillment infrastructure to offer the largest selection of products to customers across the country – when they need them – tens of thousands of products delivered in minutes or a few hours, a wider selection of over one million within the same day, over four million the next day and millions more with unlimited, free & fast Prime Delivery.

**JUMPP Secures NPCI Approval, launches UPI services**

**CHANDIGARH:** As India's digital finance ecosystem rapidly evolves towards more intuitive financial experiences, JUMPP India's first AI-powered conversational fintech platform focused on simplifying investing and wealth creation, has announced the integration of UPI payment capabilities within its app following its approval as a Third Party Application Provider by the National Payments Corporation of India. The development marks a significant milestone in JUMPP's evolution from a conversational finance and wealth management platform into a full-stack financial super app. With this launch, JUMPP moves closer to becoming a single destination where users can not only track and plan their finances, but also act on them through payments, investments, and money management tools. JUMPP already enables users to access wealth-building options such as Digital Gold, Mutual Funds, and SIPs within the app. With the integration of UPI, the platform now brings everyday payments into the same ecosystem.

**Amazon Beautyverse 2026 concludes as its biggest-ever beauty celebration**

**SHIMLA:** Ahead of Prime Day, Amazon India successfully concluded the third edition of Amazon Beautyverse, its largest beauty event to date, bringing together over 2500 attendees, including Prime members, over 1500 creators, leading beauty brands and celebrities such as Ananya Panday, Jacqueline Fernandez, Shilpa Shetty, Sonakshi Sinha, Mira Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor and many more. Kicking off with a landmark projection on Mumbai's iconic Worli Sea Link, Beautyverse 2026 celebrated the evolving beauty landscape through immersive brand experiences, expert-led sessions, creator-powered storytelling and trend showcases spanning ingredient-led skincare, premium beauty and global beauty innovations. For the first time, Amazon extended the experience nationwide through a dedicated Beautyverse storefront on Amazon.in.

**KFC's double chicken dynamite puts noodles between crispy chicken**

**CHANDIGARH:** India has always had a love for unusual food combinations – ones that feel unexpected (and shocking) at first and then win you over after the first bite. From street-side innovations to food experiments for YouTube, unlikely pairings have a way of finding their way into India's hearts. KFC India taps into this instinct with the launch of the all-new Double Chicken Dynamite, where two worlds collide to create a new menu offering that is pure madness. The all-chicken no bun burger has two crispy Zinger filets loaded with drool-worthy Korean noodles, signature spicy mayo & cheese and is topped with bold spices, creating a mad combination that's crunchy, cheesy and unapologetically indulgent. Whether you are a chicken lover, a noodle lover, or simply someone who believes great food happens when rules are broken, the Double Chicken Dynamite is here to prove that sometimes.

**Shriram Farm Solutions Launches Advanced Seed, Crop Protection and Nutrition Solutions to Enhance Farm Productivity**

**FAZILKA :** Shriram Farm Solutions, a division of DCM Shriram Ltd., unveiled a new range of advanced Crop Protection, Specialty Plant Nutrition and Vegetable Seed products aimed at empowering Indian farmers with innovative agricultural technologies. The launch event in Chandigarh witnessed the participation of key channel partners from the region who gathered to explore the company's latest offerings. At Shriram Farm Solutions, innovation is not just a goal – it is our promise to every farmer we serve. These new launches mark a significant step towards redefining modern agriculture by delivering advanced seed, crop protection and nutrition solutions that help growers achieve better crops and better futures," said Sanjay Chhabra, Executive Director and Business Head, Shriram Farm Solutions. Strengthening its Crop Protection portfolio, the company introduced Shriram Senkusha and Shriram Zarwin, developed using patented global technologies. Shriram Senkusha, a Japanese innovation.

**Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India release the fifth edition of the '500 Most Valuable Non-State-Run Companies in India'**

**CHANDIGARH:** — Burgundy Private, Axis Bank's Private Banking Business, and Hurun India, today released the 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500, the fifth edition of the list of India's 500 most valuable companies. These are collectively valued at \$3.4 trillion, reflecting a corporate landscape where scale is matched by broader entrepreneurial participation, stronger fundamentals, and a widening footprint beyond traditional growth centres. Commenting on the launch, Anika Dhot, Group Head – Cards, Payments and Wealth Management, Axis Bank, said: "Burgundy Private is delighted to partner with Hurun India once again as we celebrate India's 500 most valuable companies. The 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 report reflects a phase of steady evolution in India's corporate landscape, where companies are building scale even as they adapt, invest through cycles, and find new ways to stay relevant. What is increasingly evident is how the drivers of value creation are becoming more varied, with momentum extending beyond traditional centres into a wider, more diverse set of businesses and markets.

**Shriram Farm Solutions Launches Advanced Agricultural Solutions to Boost Farmers' Productivity**

**KURUKSHETRA :** Shriram Farm Solutions, a division of DCM Shriram Ltd., has introduced a new range of advanced crop protection, specialty plant nutrition and vegetable seed solutions aimed at enhancing farm productivity and supporting modern agriculture. The launch event in Chandigarh saw the participation of key channel partners from across the region. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Chhabra, Executive Director and Business Head, Shriram Farm Solutions, said, "Innovation is our commitment to every farmer. These launches reflect our vision of delivering advanced technologies that help growers achieve better crops and a more prosperous future." The company expanded its crop protection portfolio with Shriram Senkusha and Shriram Zarwin, featuring patented global technologies for effective pest and disease management. It also launched Shriram Firmplus and Shriram Symbio to improve crop quality and soil health.

**SIR: BLOs to provide enumeration forms door-to-door from June 25 to July 24, 2026: DC**

**SUMER GARG SANGRUR:** Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Sangrur, Ms. Poonamdeep Kaur, addressed a press conference to inform the public about the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI), New Delhi, regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls in Punjab. She also briefed the media about the various scheduled activities to be undertaken under the SIR-2026 programme.



Under the programme, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit households from June 25, 2026 to July 24, 2026 and provide an Enumeration Form to every voter whose name is already included in the electoral roll. Certain voter details will already be pre-filled in these forms.

The BLOs will also assist voters in filling out the Enumeration Forms. Voters will be required to submit a recent photograph along with the form. However, no other documents will be collected at this stage.

If a house is found locked during the field visit, the BLO will leave the Enumeration Form along with an information slip containing the BLO's contact details and will paste a sticker outside the house indicating the details of the visits made for collecting the form. BLOs will make at least three visits to such households during the specified period to collect the completed forms.

As per the SIR schedule, the draft publication of the electoral roll will be made on August 3, 2026. Claims and objections will be accepted from August 3, 2026 to September 2, 2026. These will be disposed of by the concerned Electoral Registration Officers between August 3, 2026 and September 28, 2026, following which the final electoral roll will be published on October 1, 2026.

To facilitate voters and provide information regarding the SIR process, a help desk has been established at the District Election Office, Sangrur.

The District Election Officer further stated that during a meeting held with political parties on June 23, 2026, they were requested to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to ensure the smooth completion of the revision

process. She appealed to all voters in the district to extend full cooperation to the BLOs and election staff so that the electoral rolls can be made more accurate and transparent.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Sangrur, Mr. Ankur Mahindru, and Election T Tehsildar, Mrs. Parmjit Kaur, were also present on the occasion.

**From Poolside Recovery to Gully Cricket: Yuvraj Singh, Abhishek Sharma and Naman Dhir Show What It Means to Stay Your Way with Airbnb**

**CHANDIGARH/JALANDHAR/AMRITSAR :** After Yuvraj Singh's viral "Sharam Karo" reel publicly called out his protégés for never doing anything for him, Abhishek Sharma and Naman Dhir responded the only way that made sense — they surprised him with a Goa Airbnb holiday. No itinerary, no reservations, no agenda. And that, it turns out, was entirely the point. What unfolded was a quiet portrait of modern travel done right. The new Airbnb film captures the duo winging it entirely; negotiating a perfect food day through their Airbnb host, requesting kadhi chawal and then attempting to take full credit for it, and ending the holiday with a spontaneous game of gully cricket with the Airbnb staff. No landmarks. No to-do list. Just the right people in the right space. Speaking about the collaboration, Yuvraj Singh said, "Everyone has a style that's uniquely their own and the best travel experiences are no different. What I love about Airbnb is that every home has a character, a soul to it. It doesn't try to be everything to everyone. When the boys brought me to Goa, the stay felt like it was made for exactly the kind of trip we wanted - unhurried, personal, ours. That, for me, is what makes a trip truly memorable."

The collaboration is part of Airbnb's Stay Your Way campaign, which celebrates travel experiences shaped by personal passions, friendships and the freedom to do more of what you love. Whether it's switching off with friends, enjoying your favourite comfort food or turning an ordinary afternoon into a cricket match, the campaign highlights how no two trips need to look the same.

**Hero MotoSports Team Rally Celebrates 10 Years of Global Rally Racing Excellence**



**CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA:** Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, celebrated the 10th anniversary of Hero MotoSports Team Rally at its Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT), Jaipur, marking a decade of India's rise on the global rally racing stage. This milestone celebration brought together top racing stars

including, 2024 FIM World Rally-Raid Champion (W2RC) Ross Branch, South America's Nacho Cornejo, South African rally-raid and motorcycle rider Michael Docherty, and India's motocross and superspacer rider Shlok Ghorpade, alongside India's pioneering professional women bikers Somya "Moksha" Chaudhary.

**Aprilia Channels Iconic Heritage To Transform The Tuono 457 Special Edition As The Ultimate Street Machine**

**CHANDIGARH,** Today, Aprilia India announces the 2026 Special Edition Tuono 457, a machine refined for the everyday rider who demands precision, character, and absolute reliability. Introduced on World Motorcycle Day, this

diverse realities of Indian commuting. Available in the striking Mamba Black and Puma Grey, the special edition is an evolution of the original concept, focused entirely on elevating comfort and rideability. With a contemporary aesthetic and updated hardware, it once again redefines its category, establishing itself as the technical benchmark for the naked segment and the clear leader among twin-cylinder motorcycles. Designed for motorcyclists who prioritize real-world usability and high-level riding satisfaction, this Aprilia is the fastest machine in its class. It is a motorcycle that understands the needs of the modern rider, offering a balance of punchy performance and effortless control.



new iteration pays homage to the legendary 2006 Aprilia Tuono 1000R, a motorcycle that earned its reputation by mastering the street. By leveraging the proven, responsive 457cc parallel-twin platform, Aprilia has crafted a motorcycle designed specifically to conquer the

Thanks to innovations developed by Aprilia's engineering team, the special edition Tuono 457 sets a new standard for high-performance street machines. Here are the key upgrades.

**INALSA Reimagines Air Frying with SteelChef DW5.5, Combining Trusted Stainless Steel with Modern Technology**

**AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR, :** INALSA, one of India's established home appliances brands, has announced the launch of the SteelChef DW5.5 Air Fryer. With an MRP of ₹13,999, the product is currently available exclusively on Amazon at a special launch price of ₹5,999, offering consumers savings of up to 60%. As consumers become more mindful of the materials used in everyday cooking, stainless steel continues to remain a trusted choice in Indian kitchens. Long valued for its durability and familiarity, the material is now influencing appliance preferences as well, with more households seeking stainless steel components in their products they use regularly.



Speaking on the launch, Mr Jitendra Chauhan, CEO of INALSA said: "The strong response to our DuoSlim Air Fryer reinforced a growing consumer focus on healthier lifestyles and smarter cooking solutions. As these expectations evolve, we felt there was an opportunity to create a product that combines modern technology with trusted materials. Air fryers have transformed everyday cooking, but the materials used inside them have largely remained unchanged. With the SteelChef DW5.5, we have brought ₹5304 stainless steel into the heart of the cooking experience, delivering a solution that is modern, convenient, and designed for everyday use." Following the launch of the Nutri Fry DuoSlim, INALSA has expanded its air fryer portfolio with the introduction of the SteelChef DW5.5, bringing a new focus on material innovation to the category. The appliance offers a 5.5-litre cooking capacity suited to everyday family meal preparation and is powered by a 1600W heating system that supports eight cooking functions, including frying, baking, grilling, and toasting. These modes allow households to prepare a wide range of dishes using significantly less oil than conventional frying methods. For greater cooking control, the appliance features adjustable temperature settings from 80° to 200° C alongside a variable timer that runs up to 60 minutes. The appliance incorporates an S304 food-grade stainless steel cooking pan and stainless steel separators across all contact areas, ensuring that every surface involved in the cooking process is made from a material with a well-established record in Indian kitchens.

**RG Hospitals Launches RG Institute of Robotic Surgery with Advanced da Vinci Xi Surgical System**



**LUDHIANA:** Strengthening its commitment to delivering advanced, technology-driven healthcare, RG Hospitals today announced the launch of the RG Institute of Robotic Surgery, equipped with the globally renowned da Vinci Xi Surgical System. The institute marks a significant step forward in expanding access to robotic-assisted surgery in Punjab and neighbouring regions, bringing the benefits of precision-driven, minimally invasive procedures closer to patients. The launch reflects the growing role of robotic technology in modern surgical practice and RG Hospitals' vision of making advanced surgical care more accessible. Designed to enhance a surgeon's capabilities, the da Vinci Xi Surgical System offers superior three-dimensional HD visualization, enhanced precision, greater dexterity, tremor-free instrument control, and improved manoeuvrability during complex procedures. Its advanced features, including wristed instruments, flexible port placement, and fluorescence-guided imaging capabilities, enable surgeons to navigate intricate anatomical structures with greater accuracy. These capabilities allow complex procedures to be performed through smaller incisions, often resulting in reduced pain, minimal blood loss, less scarring, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery for patients.

**AI+ Expands Nova Series with Nova 2 Neo 5G and Nova 2 Pro 5G**



**AMRITSAR-AI+ :** Smartphone has expanded its Nova lineup with the launch of the Nova 2 Neo 5G and Nova 2 Pro 5G. Instead of a conventional product unveiling, the company introduced the devices through a unique community-focused event titled "India's Got Nova," hosted by comedian Samay Raina and technology expert Rajiv Makhi. The launch event featured audience participation, live product demonstrations, debates and real-world challenges, offering attendees a hands-on understanding of the new smartphones. The launch followed AI+ Smartphone's Open Review Program, which allowed reviewers, journalists and members of the technology community to test and evaluate the devices before their commercial release. The Nova 2 Neo is aimed at first-time smartphone buyers and budget-conscious consumers, while the Nova 2 Pro targets content creators and professional users seeking enhanced performance. Both devices run on Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS and come equipped with AI-powered features designed to improve user experience. According to the company, the smartphones will be available through Flipkart and selected retail outlets. With the new Nova series, AI+ aims to strengthen its presence in the Indian smartphone market by offering accessible pricing, modern design and reliable performance.

**Amazon India to Host 10th Prime Day from July 4-6 with Mega Deals and New Launches**

**AMRITSAR:**—Amazon today announced that the 10th edition of Prime Day 2026 will run from 12:00 AM on July 4 to 11:59 PM on July 6, offering 72 hours of deals, savings, new launches and blockbuster entertainment—all curated for Prime members. As part of the 10-year milestone, Amazon is giving Prime members access to exciting offers across Categories with '10th Anniversary deals' along with additional 10% savings on payments using SBI and Axis Bank credit card and EMI transactions. With the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card, Prime members will get unlimited 5% cashback. Abhinav Agarwal, Director - Prime, Amazon India, said, "From new launches and blockbuster entertainment to great deals delivered fast, Prime Day has always been about celebrating our members, sellers and brand partners. As we mark the 10th edition of Prime Day, this milestone makes the celebration even more special reflecting a decade of delivering shopping, savings and entertainment across Bharat. We are excited to bring our Prime members an even superior experience this year with the biggest launches, special never-seen-before anniversary deals, incredible AI experiences, blockbuster entertainment and more. throughout the 10th edition of Prime Day." This Prime Day, members will get exclusive access to more than 500 new products along with lowest prices of the year and never-seen-before deals from top Indian and global brands such as OnePlus, Samsung, Lego, Adidas and Allen Solly, amongst others along with products by Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs). To mark the 10th edition of Prime Day in India, Amazon is offering a limited-period Anniversary offer to new members—a flat INR 500 off on annual Prime membership (INR 1,499) at just INR 999, Prime Lite at just INR 599/year (from INR 799) and Prime Shopping Edition (PSE) at just INR 299/year (from INR 399), making Prime Day access available at every price point. As Prime Day turns 10 in India, Amazon is celebrating the members who made it possible with 'Prime Playback,' an AI-powered personalized video that captures a Prime member's unique journey—shopping milestones, savings highlights and streaming favorites. This unique AI experience will be available to select Prime members starting June 18 on Amazon.in.

**Bank of Baroda Offers Up to 6.25% Interest for NRIs Under FCNR(B) Deposit Scheme**

**Lu** Resident Indians (NRIs) under its 'bob Legend FCNR(B) Deposit Scheme', offering returns of up to 6.25% per annum. Under the s deposits, 4.75% p.a. on British Pound Sterling (GBP) and Australian Dollar (AUD) deposits, and 3.75% p.a. on Euro (EUR) d Indian community, providing a range of tailored banking and investment solutions for NRIs. In addition to competitive returns, the scheme customers to access liquidity when required while continuing to earn attractive returns on their investments. The bob Legend FCNR(B) Deposit Scheme is designed to help NRIs grow their wealth securely while benefiting from convenient banking services and flexible financing options.

**Advanced Endoscopic Brain Surgery at Paras Health Panchkula Helps 1-Year-Old Avoid Lifelong Shunt Dependency**

**PANCHKULA:** In a significant pediatric neurosurgical breakthrough, Paras Health Panchkula has successfully treated a one-year-old child suffering from severe hydrocephalus using an advanced minimally invasive brain surgery, helping the infant avoid lifelong dependence on a ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt. The one-year-old child was brought to Paras Health Panchkula with a progressively enlarging head and delayed developmental milestones. Clinical evaluation and MRI scans revealed



hydrocephalus caused by aqueductal stenosis, a blockage that disrupts the normal flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within the brain. Although the family had been advised conventional VP shunt surgery after seeking multiple medical opinions, a detailed assessment by Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Senior Consultant – Neurosurgery, determined that the child was a suitable candidate for Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy (ETV). This minimally invasive procedure restores natural CSF circulation and eliminates the need for a permanent shunt implant. The procedure was successfully performed by Dr. Sharma and his team. During surgery, a miniature endoscope was introduced into the brain's ventricular system, where a small opening was created in the floor of the third ventricle. This new pathway enabled trapped cerebrospinal fluid to bypass the blockage caused by aqueductal stenosis and circulate naturally around the brain, relieving pressure without requiring a lifelong implant. Commenting on the case, Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Senior Consultant – Neurosurgery, Paras Health Panchkula, said, "For decades, VP shunts have been the cornerstone of hydrocephalus treatment, but they often come with patients, especially children, to a lifetime of device dependence, regular monitoring, and the risk of multiple revision surgeries.

**Amazon India Announces the 10th Edition of Prime Day**

**SHIMLA:** Amazon today announced that the 10th edition of Prime Day 2026 will run from 12:00 AM on July 4 to 11:59 PM on July 6, offering 72 hours of deals, savings, new launches and blockbuster entertainment—all curated for Prime members. As part of the 10-year milestone, Amazon is giving Prime members access to exciting offers across Categories with '10th Anniversary deals' along with additional 10% savings on payments using SBI and Axis Bank credit card and EMI transactions. With the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card, Prime members will get unlimited 5% cashback. This Prime Day, members will get exclusive access to more than 500 new products along with lowest prices of the year and never-seen-before deals from top Indian and global brands. To mark the 10th edition of Prime Day in India, Amazon is offering a limited-period Anniversary offer to new members—a flat INR 500 off on annual Prime membership (INR 1,499) at just INR 999, Prime Lite at just INR 599/year (from INR 799) and Prime Shopping Edition (PSE) at just INR 299/year (from INR 399), making Prime Day access available at every price point.

**Whirlpool Unveils 360° Bloomwash Pro 11kg: No. 1 In Cleaning Performance Powered by 6th Sense**

**CHANDIGARH :** Whirlpool of India Limited, a pioneer in home appliances, today announced the launch of its highly anticipated 360° Bloomwash Pro 11kg top load washing machine. Engineered for No. 1 in Cleaning Performance and powered by advanced intuitive technologies, this premium machine is specifically designed to meet the evolving demands of today's busy households, particularly the 'weekend warriors' who tackle high-volume laundry in fewer, more efficient cycles.



The time starved modern household often leaves the laundry chores for the weekend which means multiple wash cycles to be operated over the weekend leaving little or no time for other activities. The new 360° Bloomwash Pro 11kg solves for this hassle of multiple cycles by offering a larger capacity machine that effectively reduces the washing cycles required by an average urban household, delivering the scale and efficiency this modern consumer seeks. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Nakul Tewari, Vice President - Marketing, Whirlpool of India Limited, said, "The urban consumer today is extremely time starved juggling between work, home responsibilities and commute. Consequently, chores like laundry are getting pushed out to the weekend resulting in multiple loads to be run over the weekend. The consumer today is seeking solutions which make their otherwise hectic lives convenient. The 360° Bloomwash Pro 11kg top load washing machines address this key consumer need - washing machines with larger load capacity - allowing families to manage their laundry efficiently, reclaim valuable weekday time, and also enjoy their weekends.

**Shriram Farm Solutions Launches Advanced Agricultural Solutions to Boost Farmers' Productivity**



**HISAR :** Shriram Farm Solutions, a division of DCM Shriram Ltd., has introduced a new range of advanced crop protection, specialty plant nutrition and vegetable seed solutions aimed at enhancing farm productivity and supporting modern agriculture. The launch event in Chandigarh saw the participation of key channel partners from across the region. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Chhabra, Executive Director and Business Head, Shriram Farm Solutions, said, "Innovation is our commitment to every farmer. These launches reflect our vision of delivering advanced technologies that help growers achieve better crops and a more prosperous future." The company expanded its crop protection portfolio with Shriram Senkusha and Shriram Zarwin, featuring patented global technologies for effective pest and disease management. It also launched Shriram Firmplus and Shriram Symbio to improve crop quality and soil health. Additionally, the Shriram 2628 Hybrid Tomato Seed was introduced to offer superior yield.



## NIILM University launches integrated law programmes with BCI approval

**SANJAY SHARMA  
KAITHAL, JUNE 24:**

NIILM University has announced the commencement of admissions to its School of Law for the 2026-27 academic session following approval from the Bar Council of India (BCI) for its law programmes.

The university has opened admissions for BA LLB, BBA LLB (Hons.), B.Com LLB (Hons.), LLB and LLM

courses. The newly introduced BBA LLB (Hons.) and B.Com LLB (Hons.) programmes are designed to provide students with an integrated understanding of law, business management and commerce, expanding their career prospects in both legal and corporate sectors.

University officials said the programmes have been developed to meet the growing demand for professionals with ex-

perience in legal as well as business-related disciplines. Graduates will have opportunities in areas such as corporate law, banking, taxation, legal consultancy, public administration and multinational organisations, in addition to traditional legal practice.

The School of Law offers practical training through facilities such as moot courts, mock trial exercises, legal aid clinics and internship pro-

grammes aimed at exposing students to real-world legal and professional environments. The university said students would also benefit from guidance provided by experienced academicians, senior advocates and legal experts.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Devender Singh Dhull said the institution's objective was not only to award degrees but also to prepare competent and socially responsible legal professionals

committed to constitutional values, justice and ethics.

He said the integrated programmes would equip students with the skills required to meet evolving global and professional challenges while enhancing their competitiveness at national and international levels. The university has begun the admission process for the 2026-27 academic session, and interested candidates can apply through the university campus or online mode.

## Congress-imposed emergency was the darkest chapter in india's democratic history: Sanjay Tandon

**YUGMARG BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24**

Senior BJP leader and party's National Council Member Sanjay Tandon, while addressing a press conference at the BJP Chandigarh office in Sector 33 today ahead of June 25, being observed as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', said that the Emergency imposed by the Congress government under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi remains one of the darkest and most controversial chapters in India's democratic journey.

Tandon said, "June 25 - 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', is a grim reminder of Congress's subversion of the constitution & civil liberties."

"The youth must know the truth about the Congress Party's authoritarian character & the emergency it imposed in 1975," he said.

Tandon said the Congress leadership's decision to impose the Emergency in 1975 severely weakened democratic institutions, curtailed civil liberties and placed unprecedented pressure on the Constitution and the rule of law.

"It is important, particularly for the younger generation, to understand what transpired 51 years ago, why the Congress government chose the path of Emergency, and how democratic institutions came under un-

precedented pressure. Today's youth deserve to know the truth about non-democratic and authoritarian character of the Congress and how it subverted India's democratic fabric," he said.

Referring to the political developments of 1975, Tandon noted that on June 12, 1975, the Allahabad High Court set aside the election of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He said that in a healthy democracy, such a verdict would ordinarily lead to resignation and an appeal before the Supreme Court. Instead the Congress government led by then PM Indira Gandhi attempted to alter constitutional provisions even before the judicial process had run its full course.

"Efforts were made by Indira Gandhi and the Congress leadership to place the elections of the Prime Minister, President, Vice-President and Speaker of the Lok Sabha beyond judicial scrutiny. These developments raised serious questions about the sanctity of democratic institutions and constitutional accountability," Tandon said.

He further stated that following developments in the Supreme Court on June 24, the Emergency was declared across the country on June 25, 1975, under Article 352 of the Constitution.



### Young Studios Unveils the upcoming Punjabi film JOBAN RUTTEY, Introducing the Versatile Gurii Khattrra, Hitting Cinemas on March 5, 2027

**MOHALI:** Young Studios is proud to announce its upcoming Punjabi feature film, Joban Ruttey, set for a worldwide theatrical release on 5th March 2027. The announcement marks the beginning of an exciting cinematic journey and introduces the versatile and promising talent Gurii Khattrra in a significant role.

Directed by the acclaimed filmmaking duo Tru Makers, Joban Ruttey promises to deliver a compelling story packed with emotion, entertainment, and powerful performances. The film is penned by renowned writer Bhindi Tolawal, whose storytelling has earned appreciation for its depth and relatability among audiences.

The project is being developed by Claps & Ledger, with Arun Sharma serving as the line producer, ensuring smooth execution and high production standards throughout the filmmaking process. Backed by Young Studios, the film reflects the banner's commitment to bringing fresh concepts and quality entertainment to Punjabi cinema.

With a talented creative team and a strong vision behind the project, Joban Ruttey is expected to be one of the most anticipated Punjabi releases of 2027. The film aims to connect with audiences through its engaging narrative, memorable characters, and authentic storytelling. The official announcement poster has already generated curiosity among cinema lovers, while the introduction of Gurii Khattrra has further heightened excitement around the project. More details regarding the cast, music, and production schedule will be revealed in the coming months. Joban Ruttey releases in cinemas worldwide on 5th March 2027.



### Aditya Rikhari, Ruhaan Malik & Ravator Strike an Emotional Chord with 'Meri Saansein'

**MOHALI:** Popular singer-songwriters Aditya Rikhari and Ruhaan Malik have joined hands with music producer Ravator for their latest single, Meri Saansein. The emotional song talks about love, loss, memories, and the hope of reconnecting with someone special.

Meri Saansein beautifully captures the feelings people experience when they miss someone who once meant everything to them. With touching lyrics, soulful vocals, and soothing music, the song creates a strong emotional connection with listeners.

Aditya Rikhari, known for hit songs like Ae Ajanabee, Paro, Samjho Na, and Jaana Samjho Na, continues to win hearts with his relatable songwriting and heartfelt music. Sharing his thoughts on the song, Aditya said that Meri Saansein is very close to his heart because it reflects the memories and emotions that stay with us even when someone is no longer around. Ruhaan Malik said he instantly connected with the song's emotional depth and honesty. He believes listeners will relate to its raw feelings and make the song their own. He also praised Ravator for bringing the project together and creating a perfect blend of both singers' voices.

Talking about the track, Ravator said his goal was to create music that supports the emotions of the story while allowing the vocals and lyrics to shine naturally.



### Rahul Vaidya and Vivian Dsena flip the culinary game as tasters on COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'

**CHANDIGARH:** The kitchen captures new culinary experiments on COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment', as the show spices things up with a flavourful twist. This weekend, the pressure doubles and the jokes fly higher when Rahul Vaidya and Vivian Dsena take charge as tasters. The opening Mango Sticky Rice challenge demands the perfect harmony of sweetness, flavour, and presentation, but in true Laughter Chefs style, cooking quickly takes a back-seat to high-voltage drama. Mangoes go missing, tempers flare, and accusations fly as Tejaswi Prakash points fingers at Ankita Lokhande for allegedly stealing her prized fruit.

Meanwhile, Arjun Bijlani is left fuming as ingredients mysteriously vanish from his counter, pushing patience to the edge. Tejaswi and Ankita lock horns once again, this time not over food, but over lipsticks during touch-ups. Adding fuel to the frenzy is Krushna Abhishek, who becomes the latest gossip mill topic, giving everyone fresh material for leg-pulling. With all this hilarity, the competition heats up with a Veg Kolhapuri challenge, raising the stakes and the spice levels. As Rahul Vaidya and Vivian Dsena step in to taste the dishes, the kitchen atmosphere shifts dramatically with tighter scrutiny on every plated dish. Sharing his experience, Rahul Vaidya says, "Stepping onto the Laughter Chefs set as a guest taster was an absolute riot, and it gave me a completely new perspective! I've always been on the chaotic, sweating side of the kitchen as a participant, but sitting in Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi ji's shoes made me realize just how demanding this job really is."



**Government of Haryana**

## Heartfelt Tributes to the Great Warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji on his Martyrdom Day

June 25, 2026

"Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji has etched his name in history not only as a great warrior but also as an administrator deeply sensitive to the common people. I bow in reverence at his feet and pray that, drawing inspiration from his life, we may serve society and the Nation."

- Narendra Modi

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