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**GOVT PROPOSES RS. 100 CRORE GREEN CLIMATE FUND TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHALLENGES**

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Centre approves Rs 10,000-cr ATF price stabilisation fund

**UNI NEW DELHI:** In a major relief measure for the aviation sector grappling with soaring fuel costs amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, the union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support package of up to Rs 10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to facilitate Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price stabilisation for scheduled Indian airlines.

Announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had approved the creation of a Price Stabilisation Fund that would provide interest-free advances to OMCs, enabling them to offer more predictable fuel prices to Indian carriers operating both domestic and international services.

"The union Cabinet has approved one-time budgetary support not exceeding Rs 10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies to provide ATF price stabilisation support to Scheduled Indian Airlines for their domestic and international operations," Vaishnaw told reporters.

## RBI dismisses gold sale rumours

**MUMBAI:** Debunking reports of gold sale, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday said there is no change in the physical stock of gold, which remains unchanged at 880.52 tonnes.

The clarification from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) comes following reports that the RBI may have sold gold amounting to approximately USD 12 billion to shield its foreign-currency reserves from the impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia. "The RBI emphasises that these reports are not correct," the central bank said in a statement.

## Indian national killed in attack on Kuwait airport

**DUBAI:** An Indian national was killed in an attack that targeted Kuwait International Airport, officials said on Wednesday. In a post on X, the Embassy of India in Kuwait expressed its "deepest condolences at the tragic demise of an Indian national due to an attack on the airport in Kuwait today."

## Hry CM pays tribute to Late Chaudhary Bhajan Lal on his death anniversary

**CHANDIGARH:** Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini visited Adampur in Hisar district on Wednesday and paid heartfelt tributes to the late Chaudhary Bhajan Lal, former Chief Minister of Haryana, on his death anniversary.

The Chief Minister visited the Jan Prerna Sthal (Samadhi Sthal) of the late Chaudhary Bhajan Lal and offered floral tributes at his statue. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini also planted a sapling in the premises of the Samadhi Sthal as a mark of respect. On the occasion, Cabinet Minister, Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, former Member of Parliament, Sh. Kuldeep Bishnoi, Naliwa MLA, Sh. Randhir Panihar, former MLA, Sh. Dura Ram, former MLA, Smt. Renuka Bishnoi, former MLA, Sh. Bhavya Bishnoi, along with several dignitaries and a large number of local residents, were present.

# 17 foreigners among 21 dead in Delhi hotel fire; eight on ventilator

**AGENCY NEW DELHI, JUNE 3**

Seventeen foreign nationals were among the 21 people killed in the devastating fire at a hotel in Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Wednesday, with most of the victims reportedly hailing from Liberia, Nigeria, Mozambique and Bangladesh, officials said. Earlier in the day, at least 21 people were killed and more than 40 rescued after a massive fire broke out at Flourish Stay B&B in Malviya Nagar at around 8:48 am. Officials said over 15 foreign nationals were among the deceased. Addressing a press conference, Max Healthcare Group Medical Director Dr Sandeep Budhiraja said eight patients injured in the fire are currently on ventilator support and remain in critical condition. "Eight patients are on ventilators and undergoing treatment. The majority of them have suffered from asphyxiation injuries, which are caused by smoke inhalation. All of them have minor burns, not deep burns. One patient had burns of more than 25 per cent. He was on a ventilator, so we shifted him to the burn ward at Safdarjung Hospital. Five patients were stable and came with minor injuries," Budhiraja said. The doctor further said several patients suffered fractures after reportedly jumping from upper floors to escape the blaze. "These patients basically had two or three types of injuries: lung injuries, minor burns, and bone injuries. Because many patients claimed they jumped from high buildings, the resulting fractures were long bone fractures and pelvic bone fractures. One patient has a spinal injury and is undergoing neurosurgery," Budhiraja said. He added that both Indian and foreign nationals



were among the victims and said 18 of the deceased included nine men and nine women. Meanwhile, Chief Fire Officer (South Zone) Abhilash Kumar Malik said the Delhi Fire Service initially deployed seven fire tenders after receiving a call at 8:50 am, later increasing manpower and equipment as the scale of the incident became clear. "7 vehicles were initially dispatched, along with an Assistant Divisional Officer. However, as calls increased, we increased the number of vehicles and the officers' category. When our team initially arrived, they conducted firefighting and a search operation. We evacuated 39 people from there and transferred them to hospitals," Malik said.

## PM Modi announces Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia for next of kin, Rs 50,000 for injured

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia to the victims' families, and Rs 50 thousand to the injured in the fire incident in Delhi's Malviya Nagar that claimed 21 lives, while expressing grief for the victims' families. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be provided to the next of kin of each deceased, while those injured in the incident will receive Rs 50,000. "The loss of lives due to a fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi is tragic.

## CBSE clarifies students can use UPI, cards, net banking for re-evaluation payments



**NEW DELHI:** Amid reports that students were facing difficulties making payments on the Verification and Re-evaluation portal without accounts in State Bank of India (SBI), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, or Indian Bank, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday clarified that students are not required to hold accounts in these banks to complete the payment process. In a post on X, CBSE said candidates can use multiple online payment options, including UPI, net banking, credit cards, and debit cards through the designated payment gateways available on the portal. "Payment gateways of SBI, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda and Indian Bank are available on the Verification and Re-evaluation portal. Students need not have an account with these banks to complete payment but can use any of these payment gateways to make payments. Candidates may use the available online payment options - UPI, Net banking, Credit card / Debit card, through the designated gateways," CBSE said. The board further stated that as of 9:30 am on Wednesday, nearly 40,000 students had completed the application process through the facility without facing any issues. "As of 9:30 am today, nearly 40,000 students have availed this facility and completed the application process successfully without any issues. Please rely on official CBSE communications for correct information," CBSE said. The clarification came after Delhi Leader of Opposition Alishi alleged that students could make payments for re-evaluation applications only through accounts in SBI.

## DK Shivakumar sworn in as Karnataka's CM, leads new cabinet

**UNI BENGALURU, JUNE 3**

Shivakumar sworn in as Karnataka's 25th CM, leads new cabinet DK Shivakumar on Wednesday was sworn in as the 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka at a grand ceremony held at Lok Bhavan here, formally taking charge of a new Congress-led government in the state. Shivakumar also became the eighth Chief Minister from the Vokkaliga community, marking a significant political milestone as he assumed office amid a large gathering of national and state leaders, religious heads, and public figures.

Along with him, 13 ministers were sworn in, completing the first stage of cabinet formation. The event marked



the formal transfer of executive responsibility to the new Council of Ministers. The ceremony was attended by se-

nior Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Karnataka in-

charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Chief Ministers from several states also participated, underscoring the political significance of the occasion. The gathering included religious leaders, film personalities, sports persons and industrialists, with over 40 swamis present alongside notable personalities such as actor Ravichandran, actress Jayamala, actor Kichcha Sudeep, actress Ramya, former cricketer Venkatesh Prasad and industrialist Anil Kumble. Shivakumar's family members, including his mother Gowrama, wife Usha and children, were also present at the ceremony. In a departure from convention, the oath-taking ceremony was conducted facing east instead of the traditional west-facing orientation, following advice from spiritual.

## Three students convicted in Zakir Musa-linked terror case

**UNI CHANDIGARH:** A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has convicted three students associated with a terror module of the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) for waging war against the nation and orchestrating a terrorist conspiracy. The court will pronounce their sentences on June 4 via video conferencing, while a fourth accused, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, was acquitted due to a lack of sufficient evidence. The convicts, identified as Zahid Gulzar, Yasir Rafiq Bhat, and Mohammad Idris Shah, were found guilty under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act, and the Indian Penal Code, including

criminal conspiracy. The case dates back to October 10, 2018, when security agencies raided a hostel room at an educational institute in Jalandhar. The operation led to the recovery of an AK-56 rifle, a 30-bore Mauser, ammunition, and one kilogram of explosive powder, which forensic analysis later identified as a mixture of ammonium nitrate and aluminium commonly used in bomb-making. Following the initial recovery and sensing deeper cross-border ramifications, the investigation was subsequently handed over to the NIA. Investigations revealed that the convicted students were in direct communication with Zakir Musa, the slain chief of the AGH terrorist outfit.

## Nihangs begin 'Khalsa Tax' collection in Punjab over Himachal entry levy



**UNI CHANDIGARH:** Members of the Nihang organisation Tarna Dal on Wednesday began collecting what they termed a "Khalsa Tax" from vehicles entering Punjab from Himachal Pradesh, protesting against the entry tax imposed by the neighbouring hill state. The collection drive started near Kirtapur Sahib on the Kullu-Manali highway, where Nihang volunteers stopped vehicles and sought contributions from motorists. Tarna Dal leader Nihang Achhar Singh said the organisation was charging Rs 100 from cars and other small vehicles, Rs 200 from light commercial vehicles and between Rs 300 and Rs 500 from larger vehicles. He also announced plans to

stage a road blockade near Mor-da village on the same highway later in the day to intensify the protest against the Himachal Pradesh government's taxation policy. Responding to questions over the legality of the collection, Achhar Singh said the money would be used for "Sarbat da Bhala" (the welfare of all) and claimed that no vehicle owner would be forced to pay. He distinguished the move from toll collection by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), stating that highway tolls are linked to road construction and maintenance, whereas, according to him, Himachal Pradesh was imposing an unjustified burden on travellers.

## Punjab set to get BJP's double-engine government in 2027: Hry CM

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 3**

Expressing confidence in the Bharatiya Janata Party's growing political momentum in Punjab, Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said the state is poised to elect a BJP-led double-engine government in the 2027 Assembly elections. He asserted that under the leadership of newly appointed Punjab BJP President Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon, the party would further strengthen its grassroots presence and emerge as a credible vehicle for development, good governance and economic progress in the state.

The Chief Minister was addressing party workers and leaders after attending the programme held on the occa-



sion of assumption of office by Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon as Punjab BJP President at the Punjab BJP headquarters in Chandigarh.

Extending his congratulations and best wishes to the new state president, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon's organisational experience, public connect and commitment to the party's ideology would provide fresh impetus to the BJP's expansion in Punjab.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also performed Pooja. He said the Bharatiya Janata Party is an ideology-driven organisation where national interest and public service remain paramount. The BJP's commitment to nation-building and welfare-oriented governance, he added.

## SpI intensive revision drive: Political parties asked to support voter-mapping camps: Nidhi Kumud Bambah



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Nidhi Kumud Bambah, Additional Deputy Commissioner-cum-Additional District Election Officer, today held a meeting with representatives of various political parties at the district administrative complex to brief them on the Election Commission of India's revised schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. She urged party representatives to cooperate fully with the election department to ensure the exercise is conducted transparently, fairly and smoothly. Bambah said the Election Commission has issued a revised SIR timetable for Punjab. According to the updated schedule, the draft electoral rolls for the district will be published on 3 August 2026, and claims and objections will be received from 3 August to 2 September 2026.

## District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, DLSA Amritsar conducts inspection of Central Jail Amritsar; reviews welfare measures and interacts with inmates and internees

HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR, JUNE 3

In pursuance of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India, 2024 AIR SC 5201, and in compliance with Rule 29.22 of the Punjab Jail Manual, Ms. Jatinder Kaur, Ld. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Amritsar, accompanied



by Sh. Amardeep Singh Bains, Secretary, DLSA Amritsar, along with officers and officials of the Civil Administration and Jail Administration, conducted an inspection of Central Jail, Amritsar on 03.06.2026. During the visit, the inspection team undertook a comprehensive review of the jail premises, including barracks, wards, kitchen, hospital, transit camp and other buildings within the jail complex. Particular at-

tention was paid to the quality of food being served to inmates, standards of hygiene and sanitation, healthcare facilities, security arrangements, discipline and overall living conditions within the institution. Ms. Jatinder Kaur personally interacted with male and female inmates lodged in Central Jail, Amritsar, as well as with the internees housed in the Transit Camp situated within the jail premises.

## Bibi Nitu Singh and Bibi Jaspreet Kaur Araicha Meet Sukhbir Badal in Chandigarh

AMRISH ANAND DORAHA, JUNE 3

Bibi Jaspreet Kaur Arraicha, President of Istri Akali Dal from Payal constituency, along with Akali Dal's prominent leader Bibi Nitu Singh and their supporters, met Shiromani Akali Dal President S. Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Union Minister Biba Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and National President of Istri



strengthening of the party organization, expansion of the Shiromani Akali Dal base in Payal constituency.

# Classified

### PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈਂ ਸੋਹਣੀ ਰਾਣੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਸੋਹਣੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਬੋਕਰਾਨਾ ਰੋਡ ਗਲੀ ਨੰ. 2 ਨਵਾਂਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਤਹਿ: ਨਵਾਂਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸ.ਭ.ਸ. ਨਗਰ ਬਿਯਾਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਅਣਵਿਆਹੁਤਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਰਾਜਨ ਕੋਰਾ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੋਲ-ਅਚੋਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 63372

ਮੈਂ ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਨਵਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੇਨੋਵਾਲ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਵਿਆਹ ਤੋਂ ਜਨਮੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਸੁਖਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਤੇ ਲੜਕੀ ਨਵਜੋਤ ਕੌਰ ਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਵਿਆਹ ਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਅਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਇਹ ਤਿੰਨੋਂ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤਿੰਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੋਲ-ਅਚੋਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 63372

ਮੈਂ ਅਮਿਤ ਚਾਵਲਾ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਲਸ਼ਨ ਦਾਸ ਚਾਵਲਾ ਵਾਸੀ ਨਜਦੀਕ ਬਗਲਾ ਮੁਖੀ ਮੰਦਿਰ ਪੁਰਾਣੀ ਕਾਂਟਨ ਸਿਲ ਮਾਲਕੋਟਲਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮਾਲਕੋਟਲਾ ਬਿਯਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਕਨਕ ਚਾਵਲਾ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੋਲ-ਅਚੋਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 63372

ਮੈਂ ਮੁਕੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ S/O Jangir Singh R/O #553, W.No-6, Dashmesh Nagar, Malerkotla, Distt. Malerkotla declared that my Son Harpreet Singh and his Wife Parmjit Kaur is out of my control, So I disown with them from my moveable & immoveable Property. If anybody dealing with them at his/her own risk. 63372

ਮੈਂ ਲਕਸ਼ਮੀ ਦੇਵੀ W/O Shankar Bahadur R/O H.No.6, Harjeet Da Veraa, St.No.11, Near Singh Sabha Gurudwara, New Moti Nagar, Jamalpur Awana Distt. Ludhiana declare that my son Sunny Sharma is out of my control. So I disown with him from my moveable/immoveable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk. 63372

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I, Hamraj S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o Near Old Water Tanki, PO Siwan Distt Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Hamraj To Hamraj Arya. Concerned Please Note. 84451

I, Parveen S/o Rajender Singh R/o Village Belerkha, Tehsil Narwana & District Jind (Haryana)-126116 have changed my name from Parveen to Parveen Kumar. Concerned Please note. 84451

I, Neha Rani W/o Ajay Goyal R/o H.No 425, Sargoda Colony, Gali No 2, Jind Road, Kaithal (Haryana) Have changed My Minor Son's Name from First Baby of Neha Rani to Advay Goyal. Concerned Please Note. 84451

I, Joginder S/o Rajbir R/o Village Padla Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) - 136027 Have Changed My Minor son's Name From baby of priyanka To jatin. Concerned Please Note. 84451

I, Baljeet Singh s/o Krishan Singh R/o Village Bhagiwander Tehsil Tahwandi sabo Distt Bathinda(Punjab) have changed my name Baljeet Singh Massoun to Baljeet Singh. Please note. 60018

I, Service No Jc780645a Rank Sub Sanjeev Kumar Dharma S/o Surendra Singh R/o Fakarpur Road, Opposite Shiv Farm, Khekada, Baghat, Uttar Pradesh - 250101 Have Changed My Daughter Name From Somya To Soumya Dharma As Per Aadhar Card. 900028

I, Service No Jc780645a Rank Sub Sanjeev Kumar Dharma So Surendra Singh R/o Fakarpur Road, Opposite Shiv Farm, Khekada, Baghat Uttar Pradesh 250101 Have Changed My Son Name From Rakshit Dharma To Rakshit Kumar Dharma As Per Aadhar Card. 900028

I, Ranjana Jaswal C/o Sohan Singh Jaswal R/O Flat No. 17, Third Floor ,Shivalik Avenue, Sector-125, Kharar SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab-140301. have changed my name from Ranjana Devi to Ranjana Jaswal.All concerned noted. 100071

I, Darshana Devi W/o Ram Shah R/O Village Bhagu Wale Vate, Rattewal, Tehsil Balachaur, District S.B.S. Nagar, wish to state that my name has been recorded as Darshana Devi in the service records of my son, Deepak Kumar, Army No. 20012633P, Sepoy, 16 Dogra, The name Darshana Devi is incorrect and should be corrected to Darshana Devi. Darshana Devi and Darshana Devi is the same person. Concerned note please. 63372

I, Renuka Panwar, daughter of Rajendra Singh, residing at House No. 737, Sector 8, Urban Estate, District Karnal, have changed my name from Renuka Panwar to Renuka. In the future, I should be known by the name Renuka. 100046

I, Dharambeer Singh S/o Sh. Kansu Ram R/o Village Bapda Tehsil Ladwa Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name Dharambeer Singh to Dharambir. 989666

I, Lakhvinder Singh s/o Jagat Singh, resident Chhajpur(328) P.O. Urnai, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Lakhvinder Singh to Lakhvinder Singh. In future, I will be known by this name. 989666

I, Rakesh Kumar s/o Narain Dass Dera Bhag Singh Ward no.16 Tehsil Gulah ( Kaithal) Hereby declare that I want to change the name of my minor son from Baby Three of Sudesh devi to Jatin Kumar . I shall be solely responsible for any illegal activity if any carried out due to the change of name of my minor son. My wife Sudesh devi has no objection in changing the name of our minor son. 989666

I Army No JC-780701N Rank NB/Sub Name Muthusamy B C/o 6016(I) Armd Wskp C/o 56 APO affirm and declare That I am serving in Indian Army and presently posted with 6016 (I) Armd Wskp C/o 56 APO. That my son name was wrongly published in my service documents as M Ahavishanth instead of Ahavishanth M. That my son correct name as per my Matric Certificate, Aadhar Card and PAN Card is Ahavishanth M. I wants to change my son name from M Ahavishanth (incorrect Name) to Ahavishanth M (Correct Name) in my service documents. That, both name M Ahavishanth and Ahavishanth M pertains to one and the same person. Note All 989666

I, Ravinder Kaur mother of Kamajit Kaur, DOB: 11-03-1981, resident of VPO Haller, JALANDHAR PIN:144013, PUNJAB, INDIA, declare that my name is incorrectly written as Harbinder Kaur in my daughter passport. My correct name is Ravinder Kaur. All concerned please note. 524473

I, Ranjit Kaur W/O Jasvir Singh R/O Vill. Maherna Khurd, Po. Ahmedgarh Distt. Malerkotla I Have Changed My Name To Ranjeet Kaur. 63372

I Reetu Sehgal R/O Late Navdeep Kumar Sehgal Vill Arif Ke, Teh & Distt Ferozepur I have changed my minor son name Japukeerat Sehgal to Japkeerat Sehgal. Please Concerned Note. 63372

I, Davinder Sandhu S/o Tarsem Singh R/O Vill. Gurditwala Po. Mallanwala Distt. Ferozepur declare that my given name is Davinder and my surname is Sandhu. 63372

I, Bholi Kaur D/o Ram Partap Singh R/O Vill: Dasaunda Singhwala Teh-Ahmedgarh Distt. Malerkotla-148020 have changed my name to Raj Kaur. 63372

I, Sushama Kanwar is legally W/O Of Army No. JC484054X, Rank NB Sub, Mool Singh of Unit 21 Rajput C/O 56 APO R/O at Village Dolat Singh Ki Dhani, PO Khera, Tehsil Bansur, District Alwar Rajasthan 301402, Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare That I have changed my name from Susma Kanwar to Sushama Kanwar due to variation in service documents of my husband. That Both names Susma Kanwar and Sushama Kanwar pertains to one and same person. Note All 989666

I No JC-406462W Sub Bhim Singh R/o Village Katesra, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak, (Haryana), Pin 124113. Declare that in my Army Service Record My Mother Name Mentioned MEVA DEVI Which is incorrect her Correct Name is MEVA. 9000A

I, Gul Sabba (Dop 11/03/2002) W/O Mohd. Ashfaq, House Number B03 897/3, Swastik Enclave Forest Hill Resort, Shivalik Vihar, Naya Gaon, Distt. SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab - 160103. Have changed my name KM Shabra and Correct date of birth 18/12/2001. 60013

I, Kamajit Kaur, DOB: 11-03-1981, resident of H NO 157-A HARDEV NAGAR, JALANDHAR PIN:144021, PUNJAB, INDIA, declare that my mother's name is incorrectly written as Harbinder Kaur in my passport. Her correct name is Ravinder Kaur. All concerned please note. 524473

I, Ravinder Kaur mother of Kamajit Kaur, DOB: 11-03-1981, resident of VPO Haller, JALANDHAR PIN:144013, PUNJAB, INDIA, declare that my name is incorrectly written as Harbinder Kaur in my daughter passport. My correct name is Ravinder Kaur. All concerned please note. 524473

I, Ranjit Kaur W/O Jasvir Singh R/O Vill. Maherna Khurd, Po. Ahmedgarh Distt. Malerkotla I Have Changed My Name To Ranjeet Kaur. 63372

I Reetu Sehgal R/O Late Navdeep Kumar Sehgal Vill Arif Ke, Teh & Distt Ferozepur I have changed my minor son name Japukeerat Sehgal to Japkeerat Sehgal. Please Concerned Note. 63372

I, Davinder Sandhu S/o Tarsem Singh R/O Vill. Gurditwala Po. Mallanwala Distt. Ferozepur declare that my given name is Davinder and my surname is Sandhu. 63372

I, Sahilpreet Kaur W/o Jaspal Singh Vpo. Butala Teh-Baba Bakal Distt Amritsar I have change my name from Sahilpreet Kaur to Kaur Sahilpreet. 63372

I Kashmir Singh S/o Daya Singh R/O VPO Jhatra, Tehsil Zira, Ferozepur 152028 (Pb.) have Changed My Name From Kashmir Singh to Kashmir Singh Sandhu. 63372

I Rankesh Kumar S/o Dewan Chand Kaushal R/o H.No. 3/49/2, Chabutra Mohalla, Teh-Banga, Distt. S.B.S Nagar-144505, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Rankesh Kumar to Rankesh Kaushal. 63372

I, Rajan S/o Nonu Pasvan R/o #613 First Floor A, Sector-8 W.No.13 Kharar Distt. Mohali Punjab (140301) have changed my name to Rajan Paswan. 63372

I, Ranjeet Singh Bhinder S/o Harjinder Singh R/o Vill. Mahiwal Distt. Moga have changed my name to Ranjeet Singh. 63372

I Jaspal Kaur Sidhu W/o Jasvir Singh, R/o Bhagta (Bathinda) have changed my name to Jaspal Kaur. 63372

I, Navreet Singh S/o Lakhvinder Singh R/o Vpo. Ghoman Teh-Batala Distt. Gurdaspur Pb, India, have changed my name from Navreet Singh to Singh Navreet. 63372

I, Dalbir Kaur Sekhon W/o Karamjit Singh R/o Guru Anagad Nagar Sangrur have changed my name to Dalbir Kaur. 63372

I, Poonam Pahuja W/o Yoginder Kumar D/o Om Parkash R/o 376-B, Vikas Nagar, Rajpura-140401, Distt Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name from Poonam Pahuja To Poonam. 63372

I, Jasjeet Singh S/O Lachhman Singh R/O Ghulal (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Jasjeet Singh. 63372

I Baljit Kaur W/O Gurtej Singh R/O Pittho Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Baljeet Kaur. 63372

I Anju Bala W/O Krishan Kumar R/O Gandhi Nagar, Rampura Phul Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Kavita Devi. 63372

I, Balbir Singh Sidhu S/o Gurdev Singh R/o Patti Sallo Vpo Badhni Kalan, Distt. Moga, 142037, Punjab, India, have changed my name to Balvir Singh Sidhu. 63372

I, Baljinder Kaur Sohi W/o Nazar Singh R/o Vill, Upal Kheri PO Haider Nagar Distt Malerkotla, have changed my name to Baljinder Kaur. 63372

I, Navreet Singh S/o Lakhvinder Singh R/o Vpo. Ghoman Teh-Batala Distt. Gurdaspur Pb, India, have changed my name from Navreet Singh to Singh Navreet. 63372

I, Poonam Pahuja W/o Yoginder Kumar D/o Om Parkash R/o 376-B, Vikas Nagar, Rajpura-140401, Distt Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name from Poonam Pahuja To Poonam. 63372

I, Rohit Kumar S/o Telu Ram R/o B-2/54/1 Fateh Nagar Nawanshahr Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt SBS Nagar have changed my name Rohit Kumar to Rohit Kumar Jangra. 63372

I, Davinder Sandhu S/o Tarsem Singh R/O Vill. Gurditwala Po. Mallanwala Distt. Ferozepur declare that my given name is Davinder and my surname is Sandhu. 63372

I, Bholi Kaur D/o Ram Partap Singh R/O Vill: Dasaunda Singhwala Teh-Ahmedgarh Distt. Malerkotla-148020 have changed my name to Raj Kaur. 63372

I, Harshdeep S/o Sanup Lal R/o Vill: Gujjarpur Kalan Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Harshdeep to Harshdeep Shemaar. 63372

I, Jasjeet Singh S/O Lachhman Singh R/O Ghulal (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Jasjeet Singh. 63372

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I, Harshdeep S/o Sanup Lal R/o Vill: Gujjarpur Kalan Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Harshdeep to Harshdeep Shemaar. 63372

I Sukhminder Kaur Godra W/o Baljinder Singh R/o Vpo Boparai Kalan Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Sukhminder Kaur. 63372

I, Hithero Known As Kuldeep Singh Khangura S/O Harchand Singh Residing At Vpo Aitana Tehsil Raikot Jagraon (Ludhiana) Punjab-141107, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kuldeep Singh. 63372

I Gurpreet Singh S/o Tarsem Singh R/o Village Salempura tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Gurpreet Singh to Gurpreet Singh. 63372

I Kulwant Singh Mangat S/o Nachhattar Singh Mangat R/o Village Swaddi Khurd Post office Bodawalwa Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Kulwant Singh. 63372

I Ramandeep Kaur Mangat W/o Kulwant Singh R/o Village Swaddi Khurd Post office Bodawalwa Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur. 63372

I hithero known as Babi W/o Karnail Singh R/o Vill-Fatehpur PO Kot Badal khan, Teh-Phillaur, Distt Jalandhar (Punjab) 144039, have changed my full name and shall hereafter be known as Sarbjit. 63372

I, Kalvendar Kaur W/o Jasveer Singh R/o Vill: Badwali Po. Morinda Distt. Ropar have changed my name to Kulwinder Kaur. 63372

I, Avtar Singh Dhillon S/o Ujjagar Singh Dhillon R/o VPO Harion Kalan, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Avtar Singh. 63372

I, Balvir Singh S/o Dev Singh R/o VPO Hawara Kalan, Tehsil Khamano (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Jasvir Singh. 63372

I, Jaskaran Singh Dhalwal S/o Jagtar Singh R/o Vpo. Blaspur (Moga) have changed my name to Jaskaran Singh Dhalwal S/o Jagtar Singh Dhalwal. 63372

I, Kamjeet Kaur W/o Raja Singh R/o Vill-Kalyan Sukha, have changed my name to Karamjit Kaur. 63372

I, Reema W/o Sh. Vishal Malhotra D/o Sh. Bishan Narain Khanna R/o H.No. 64, Dashmesh Colony, Rajpura Town, Distt Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Reema to Reema Malhotra. 63372

I Baljinder Singh Godra S/o Naranjan Singh Godra R/o Vpo Boparai Kalan Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Baljinder Singh. 63372

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## Saurabh Bharadwaj slams Delhi govt over fire safety failures after Malviya Nagar tragedy

**NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Delhi Government following the deadly Malviya Nagar fire that claimed 21 lives, alleging repeated failures in fire safety management, delayed emergency response, and lack of accountability. Referring to a series of recent fire tragedies in the capital, Bharadwaj said such incidents have become a recurring pattern without any concrete action being taken against those responsible. Citing a fire in Palam in February that killed nine people, including three girls, he alleged serious shortcomings in firefighting operations. "The government promised an investigation, but three months later the report has still not been made public," he said. He also recalled the Vivek Vihar fire incident, where nine people lost their lives, claiming that inadequate water supply and poor pressure hampered firefighting efforts. "No report came in that case either. Now another 20-21 people have lost their lives in Malviya Nagar," he said. Questioning the efficiency of the fire response system, Bharadwaj alleged that fire tenders often take between 45 minutes and one-and-a-half hours to reach incident sites.

## NEWS BRIEF

**Kejriwal expresses grief over 21 deaths in Malviya Nagar fire, warns of "continuous fire incidents" in Delhi**

**AGENCY**  
**NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday expressed grief over the fire tragedy in Malviya Nagar, Delhi, which claimed 21 lives, while also flagging what he described as "continuous fire incidents" in the national capital. In a post on X, Kejriwal said he prayed for the victims and expressed concern over the recurring nature of such tragedies in the city.

"I pray to God for the peace of the souls of those who lost their lives in the horrific fire in Malviya Nagar, Delhi. Today, such a massive incident occurred in Malviya Nagar. The tragic news of 20 people losing their lives... The continuous fire incidents in Delhi and the deaths of innocent people are extremely concerning," he wrote. According to Max Healthcare, of the 39 patients received at Max Hospital, Saket, 18 were brought dead, 15 are admitted in ICU, including 8 patients on ventilator support and in critical condition. Five patients with minor injuries were treated and discharged after primary care, while one patient was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital due to severe burns. Officials said the deceased include both Indian and foreign nationals.

Meanwhile, a team of forensic experts also reached the site as investigations were initiated into the cause of the fire. Furthermore, Jitendra Kumar, SDM, DDMA, South District, said rescue operations concluded at 12:12 pm. He added that fire started from the ground floor. "A total of 47 people have been rescued, and 21 people have died. The search and rescue operation concluded at 12:12 pm. The condition of 2-3 people is serious. There is a hotel located on the ground floor of the building. The fire department has not been able to confirm what caused the fire. The fire started from the ground floor," he told ANI. Locals described chaotic scenes as people were trapped inside the building and rescued with the help of residents and emergency teams.

# Police registers FIR for culpable homicide in Malviya Nagar tragedy



**NEW DELHI, JUN 3 (UNI)** Delhi Police registered an FIR under culpable homicide and other relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the devastating fire at a restaurant-cum-hotel in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, where 21 people, mostly African nationals, lost their lives on Wednesday.

The probe into the incident has revealed serious safety violations at Hotel Flourish Stay B&B, where a

massive fire broke out in a basement restaurant, Restaurant Lemon Green.

According to sources, the hotel allegedly had a common entry and exit point, raising grave concerns over evacuation safety. The building was reportedly accommodating around 40 guests in 25 rooms, despite having permission to operate only six rooms, indicating major violations of approved capacity norms. Officials further stated that the property

was functioning far beyond sanctioned limits, with unauthorised use of basement space for both restaurant operations and guest accommodation.

The fire is believed to have originated in the basement restaurant, which also contained around six rooms. The investigation is focusing on inadequate fire safety arrangements and restricted escape routes in the basement area.

A senior police official

said the first emergency call was received at around 8:48 a.m., following which police teams rushed to the spot and immediately launched rescue, evacuation and relief operations.

The blaze was brought under control with the help of eight fire tenders. Coordinated efforts by Delhi Police, Fire Services, and other emergency responders led to the evacuation of more than 40 people, who were shifted to nearby hospitals

for treatment.

Meanwhile, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, stated that 39 victims were brought to its Emergency Department. Of these, 18 were brought dead, while 15 remain admitted in the ICU, including eight on ventilator support in critical condition. Five patients with minor injuries were discharged after first aid, while one critically injured person was referred to Safdarjung Hospital. The hospital confirmed that both Indian and foreign nationals were among the victims.

Eyewitnesses said there was little time to react as the fire spread rapidly, triggering panic inside the building. Locals who rushed to the scene played a crucial role in rescue efforts before emergency services took full control.

Priti Sharma, a local resident, said panic spread after loud explosion-like sounds were heard from the building. "I heard multiple blast-like sounds and then screams from inside the building. People were shouting for help, and some were jumping from windows in a desperate attempt to save themselves. There was chaos all around, and residents rushed towards the building to help those trapped inside," she said.

## Complainant turns out to be mastermind in Rs 54.5 lakh robbery; 6 arrested



## AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Police North District on Wednesday cracked a purported robbery case involving Rs 54.5 lakh registered at Lahori Gate Police Station, revealing that the complainant himself was the mastermind behind the conspiracy. As per the release, "The case was reported on May 26, 2026, with the complainant alleging that Rs 54.5 lakh had been robbed. During the course of the investigation, police found inconsistencies in the complaint and subsequently expanded the probe.

"Through technical surveillance, analysis of CCTV footage, scientific examination of evidence and sustained field investigation, police uncovered that the alleged victim had conspired with his associates to stage the robbery. Following extensive interstate operations conducted across Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand, police arrested all six accused involved in the conspiracy. Police have recovered 50 lakh from the accused. Officials said the case was solved through meticulous investigation, scientific analysis and coordinated efforts by multiple teams. Further investigation is

underway. Earlier, at least 21 people have been arrested, with Delhi police rounding up 500 suspects during a massive 48-hour 'Operation Shashtra' in the national capital's Rohini, officials said. The initiative, 'Operation Shashtra', was launched on May 28 across the Northern Range, specifically targeting active criminals who use weapons to commit armed robberies and snatchings. Giving details of the crackdown, Joint Commissioner of Police (Northern Range) Vijay Singh stated that the coordinated operation involved extensive field deployment and targeted raids. Addressing the media here, Joint CP Singh said, "Under Operation Shashtra in the Northern Range, focused on Rohini District, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shashank Jaiswal, his Additional DCP, and their teams worked with all police stations, the Special Task Force, and special units. Launched on 28 May, the mission targeted active weapon-using criminals. He further added that the scale of the operation involved a large mobilisation of police personnel to sweep the district. "Around 150-200 officers.

## 76% of Delhi area heat-stressed for six or more years: Report

## AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** About 76 per cent of Delhi's area remained heat-stressed for six or more years between 2015 and 2024, with a majority of construction sites, marketplaces and schools located in areas experienc-

cent of construction projects are located in areas where land surface temperatures crossed the 45 degrees Celsius threshold at least once between 2015 and 2024, while 77 per cent are in areas witnessing recurring extreme heat. About 84

mapped in the city are located in heat-stressed areas. It identified 35 wards, including Matiala, Kakraula, Narela and Chandni Chowk, as having "very high" to "high" cumulative vulnerability.

According to the report, 153 of Delhi's 272 wards have more than 75 per cent of their area exposed to recurring heat stress, while 82 wards have more than 90 per cent of their area under heat stress. Seventeen wards have their entire area under heat stress. The report said Delhi faces a deepening crisis from rising temperatures, with "feels-like" temperatures reaching as high as 52 degrees Celsius in 2025.

It noted that 25 heat-related deaths were reported in the city in 2024 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, while independent reports put the number at more than 55. It added that Delhi is shifting towards a "new and warmer normal", with increases observed in both annual average maximum and minimum temperatures over the past four decades.

per cent of the 643 mapped marketplaces, including major mandis, are situated in areas experiencing recurrent heat stress, while 76 per cent of mapped informal settlements housing nearly 1.32 million people are located in heat-stressed localities, it said.

The report also found that 80 per cent of the 1,066 schools

ing recurring extreme heat, according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The report, titled "Making Delhi Heat-Resilient: A Roadmap with the Focus on Vulnerable Groups", said that 98.72 per cent of Delhi's total area crossed the heat-stress threshold at least once during the decade. According to the study, 92 per

## Centre approves scheme to reduce air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, promote cleaner mobility

## AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a landmark two-year scheme aimed at reducing air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region and promoting cleaner mobility. The scheme will be funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

It will be implemented in collaboration with the participating States and Union Territories of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Briefing the media on the decisions of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the scheme seeks to incentivise owners of trucks and buses registered in the Delhi-NCR region that comply with BS-IV or earlier emission norms to replace them with BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, or electric vehicles (EVs).



"The scheme is expected to significantly reduce vehicular emissions and contribute to improved air quality across the Delhi-NCR region," he said. The scheme seeks to accelerate the transition to cleaner transport technologies and has a total financial outlay of Rs.9,585 crore, including Rs.5,041 crore from the Central Government and an estimated Rs.1,601 crore in tax concessions from the participating States. Air pollution in the Delhi-NCR remains a

severe public health challenge, particularly during the winter months. As per the report "Source Apportionment of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) in the NCR" prepared by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), published in August 2018, the transport sector contributes 14% of PM 2.5, 40% of Carbon Monoxide (CO), and 63% of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions in the Delhi-NCR.

Within the transport sector, trucks and buses account for 36% of PM 2.5 emissions with only 3% of the total fleet. It is estimated that a single Pre-BS heavy-duty vehicle emits as much as 14 BS-VI compliant vehicles. Even a BS-IV vehicle emits 2.7 times more than a BS-VI counterpart. Hence, the newer fleet is expected to reduce the vehicular pollution substantially. An official release said that the scheme will benefit approximately 2.07 lakh (1.91 lakh trucks

and 16,329 buses) owners in Delhi-NCR (comprising Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh). For BS-III or older vehicles, scrapping at Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities is mandatory, while BS-IV vehicles may either be scrapped or sold outside NCR in non-NCAP cities and towns. Owners must then purchase and register a BS-VI or stricter norms compliant or electric vehicle within NCR. However, in Delhi, Light Goods Vehicles purchased under the scheme must be electric, while buses must be BS-VI CNG or electric only. Government vehicles are excluded from the scheme. The Centre will provide 5% interest subvention on loans for five years, monthly fuel vouchers worth up to Rs.4,800 depending on vehicle category, and lump-sum benefits for EV purchases or Certificate of Deposit trading. State governments will waive registration fees and grant up to 100% motor vehicle tax concessions for new vehicles and 50% for used vehicles for 10 years. State Government will also waive of pending liabilities on the old vehicles participating in the scheme.

## Kejriwal questions centre for falling Rupee

## AGENCY

**NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday questioned the Centre over the alleged offloading of some of India's gold reserve to protect the country's foreign-currency assets after the rupee continued to depreciate against US dollars. As of filing of this article the Rupee was valued at 95.691 to the US dollar a gain of 0.45%.

Reacting to a news article that claimed India's central bank may have offloaded part of its gold holdings to shield foreign-currency assets from the fallout of the Iran war, Kejriwal sought clarity from the government on the country's economic situation. In a post on X, the former Delhi Chief Minister asked whether the report was accurate and expressed concern over the implications of such a move.

"Is this news true? Is the country's gold being



sold? Has the government become so bankrupt? In the last 76 years, there have been many such occasions when the country was in a difficult situation. But the country's gold was never sold. Does that mean the situation is extremely bad? Why doesn't the government tell us anything?

What is the state of the country?" Kejriwal wrote. He further said, "Modi ji says that he will just pick up his bag and leave. But we have to stay right here, we have to live in this very country." The remarks came amid discussions over the RBI's monetary policy strategy ahead

of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting that began on June 3. The six-member panel is expected to deliberate on interest rates, inflation and broader economic conditions before the RBI Governor announces the policy decision on June 5. Meanwhile, a report by

SBI Research argued that the RBI does not need to raise the repo rate to tackle pressure on the rupee despite elevated crude oil prices and global uncertainties.

The report suggested that the central bank could instead rely on short-term interest rate tools and liquidity management measures. "So should there be repo rate hike? NO!" the report stated, while advocating a data-driven approach to monetary policy. SBI Research also recommended measures such as widening the interest rate corridor and using instruments like "Operation Twist" to address market volatility and support the rupee without increasing borrowing costs across the economy. The report projected India's GDP growth at 7.5 per cent for FY26, while cautioning that geopolitical developments could influence future economic outcomes and policy decisions.

## "Guilty will not be spared": Ashish Sood

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday said that the police is probing the matter of the Malviya Nagar fire which killed at least 21 people, saying that the building owner, if found responsible for alleged negligence, will be arrested. The Delhi Power minister asserted that an investigation has been launched, and that authorities would take strict action against those responsible with "no illegal building to be spared."

Speaking to reporters, Sood said the building owner would be held accountable if found negligent and that an investigation was underway to determine whether the establishment had obtained the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) and permissions to operate as a bed-and-breakfast (BnB) facility.

"The building owner responsible for negligence will be arrested shortly. We will not spare any illegal building or those found guilty," Sood said.

"The guilty will not be spared. We are probing whether the building had obtained a NOC and whether the required permission to run a BnB was secured," he added. Meanwhile, BJP leader Manoj



Tiwari described the incident as "very unfortunate" and said authorities were working to identify lapses that may have contributed to the tragedy.

"This is a very unfortunate incident. We have received information that a massive fire broke out in a restaurant operating within a hotel. According to the information available so far, 21 people have lost their lives. This is a matter of investigation, and we are continuously trying to rectify all shortcomings," Tiwari told news agency

Wasim Raja, a local resident who participated in rescue efforts,

said he and others rushed to the scene immediately after noticing the fire and used mattresses from a nearby shop to help people escape from the building.

"The moment the short circuit happened, we reached here. We were among the first to arrive. There is a mattress shop nearby, and we took mattresses from there and spread them on the road to help those jumping from the building," Raja said.

He added that local residents joined hands with firefighters and police personnel to rescue several people trapped inside.

BANGA (MANJINDER SINGH): Lecturer Amritpal Singh of School of Eminence, Banga was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by Deputy Commissioner-cum-Principal Census Officer Gulpreet Singh Aulakh for his outstanding services as a Supervisor during Census 2026 in Block Banga.



On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the dedication and hard work of all supervisors and enumerators engaged in this important national assignment. He highlighted the significance of census data in policy-making and development planning.

Expressing gratitude, Amritpal Singh thanked ADC (General) Sanjeev Sharma, Census Officer Vikas Kumar, Assistant Research Officer Sukhwinder Singh, District Statistical Officer Harmesh Kumar, Charge Officer Rajiv Sareen, and Technical Assistant Vinay Kumar for their guidance and support.

**NEWS BRIEF**

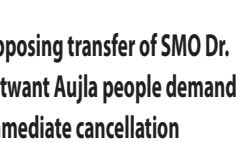
**Health check-up camps in four villages under 'Hriday' project**



**JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA**

MOGA: Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative 'HRIDAY Project' of LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL), Shramik Bharatiya Sansthan organized special general health check-up camps at villages Chak Singhpura, Roshanwala, Basti Bhate Ke and Aminwala. Around 390 people benefited from health services in these camps, which were organized with the aim of providing quality health services to the people of rural areas near their homes. During the camps, the patients were examined in detail by expert doctor Dr. Gaurav Dhamija and given necessary advice to prevent them from various diseases. Apart from this, more than 340 RBS (sugar) and Hb (anemia) tests were conducted free of cost, due to which health problems were identified in many people on time. Free medicines were also distributed to the needy patients on the spot.

**Opposing transfer of SMO Dr. Satwant Aujla people demand immediate cancellation**



**BALWINDER AZAD**

BARNALA: Strong resentment is being witnessed among the residents of Dhanaula and nearby villages following the transfer of Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Dr. Satwant Singh Aujla from CHC Dhanaula. Local residents and patients have urged the government to immediately cancel his transfer. Today, at Civil Hospital Dhanaula, patients and women from villages including Pandhera, Aspal Kalan, Kaleke, Kubbe, Dhanaula, Dangarh, Bhatlian and several other villages expressed their dissatisfaction. They stated that Dr. Satwant Singh Aujla is the only MD-qualified doctor at the government hospital in Dhanaula, and thousands of people from the region benefit from his medical services. His transfer to Government Hospital Bhadaur may create significant difficulties for patients seeking treatment in the future.

**PAU-FASC Gurdaspur conducts training cum demonstration on mat type nursery in paddy**



**VERMA GURDASPUR**

Under the aegis of the Director of Extension Education, PAU Ludhiana conducted training cum demonstration on Mat type nursery of Paddy at Village Veela Teja, Block Fatehgarh Churian, District Gurdaspur. During this camp, Incharge, FASC Dr Narinder Deep Singh (District Extension Specialist, S.M) focused on operational speed (10-12 acre/day), labour reduction, and time-saving benefits. Dr. Anil Khokhar (Agronomist) insinuated the working of seeder, automatic seeder, mat type technique, balance use of fertilizer, weed control and insect-pest management in paddy. Dr Sarvpriya Singh (DES Fruit Science) discussed current problems of field and Horticulture crops and emphasis on establishment of fruit and vegetable nutrition garden at backyard and free spaces surrounding the tube well. In this event more than 50 farmers were participated. Progressive farmer S. Prabhdeep Singh delivered a vote of thanks at the conclusion of the training camp, motivating fellow farmers to adopt sustainable and resource-saving farming techniques like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) and mechanized mat-type nurseries.

**Mann govt extends sehat scheme to lone residents, adds 17 treatments**

GAURAV GOEL  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 3

In a move expected to ease pressure on government hospitals and bring healthcare closer to thousands of patients, the Bhagwant Mann Government has allowed 17 additional medical procedures to be carried out at empanelled private hospitals under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY). The decision, coupled with the inclusion of individuals living alone in the scheme, marks a significant expansion of the state's universal health insurance scheme.

For countless families across Punjab, a hospital visit often means long queues, crowded wards and anxious waits for treatment. In an important step towards reducing that burden, the state government has broadened access to healthcare by permitting 17 medical procedures, previously restricted to government hospitals, to be performed at empanelled private institutions under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana. The decision has effectively shortened the list of procedures reserved exclu-



sively for government hospitals, opening the door for beneficiaries to seek treatment at a much larger network of healthcare providers. Health minister Dr Balbir Singh shared that the move will improve accessibility, particularly in districts where specialised services are scarce or government facilities are struggling with heavy patient loads. "This is expected to reduce pressure on major government facilities, shorten waiting times, and improve access to timely care," he said.

The newly approved procedures cover a wide range of medical specialties, which will help people get treated closer to their homes instead of travelling long distances to overcrowded tertiary hospitals.

In Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) care, patients can now undergo fracture setting of the nasal bone and adenoidectomy at empanelled private hospitals. These are common procedures that often require timely intervention, especially among children and accident

victims. General Surgery has witnessed one of the largest expansions. Procedures such as hydrocele operations, incision and drainage of abscesses, appendectomy, and both open and laparoscopic gall bladder surgeries have now been brought within the ambit of private hospitals participating in the scheme. For many patients, this could mean shorter waiting periods and treatment closer to home.

Women's healthcare has also received considerable attention. The expanded list includes medical termination of pregnancy beyond 12 weeks, hysterotomy, hospitalisation for antenatal complications, and examination under anaesthesia for minor girls, unmarried sexually inactive women and survivors of sexual abuse. These additions will help ensure more timely and accessible care for vulnerable patients. Similarly, eye care and orthopaedic services have been strengthened. Ophthalmology procedures such as pterygium excision and entropion correction can now be performed at empanelled private hospitals.

**Two linked to drugs and arms smuggling module held with 2.2kg heroin, 6 pistols**

HARPAL SINGH  
AMRITSAR, JUNE 3

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Commissioner Police has busted a cross-border illegal arms and drug smuggling module with the arrest of two accused persons and recovered 2.225 kg heroin and six sophisticated pistols along with 12 live cartridges from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday.

Those arrested have been identified as Sukhdev Singh alias Sukh (23), a resident of village Chicha in Amritsar and Harjinder Singh alias Jinder (37), a resident of village Lodhi Gujjar in Amritsar. Both arrested accused are habitual offenders with criminal cases relating to kidnapping and illegal possession of arms have already been registered against them.

The recovered pistols include one .30 bore (made in China), two 9MM Glock pistols (made in Austria), one



9MM Glock pistol (made in USA) and two .30 bore pistols (made in Turkey).

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused were in contact with cross-border smugglers and were allegedly receiving consignments of heroin and weapons via drones from across the border for further distribution to criminal elements in Punjab.

The DGP said that further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to identify other members associated with the network. Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar

said that acting on specific intelligence inputs, a police team apprehended accused Sukhdev alias Sukh and recovered 2.225 kg heroin from his possession. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused was actively involved in drug smuggling and had procured the heroin consignment for further distribution, he said. He said that during further investigation, police arrested another accused identified as Harjinder Singh alias Jinder and recovered four pistols from his possession. Based on the disclosure statement made by arrested accused Harjinder alias Jinder, police recovered two additional pistols from a location pinpointed by him, he added.

**India's youth should become job creators, not just job seekers, says Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at 'CU Scholars' Summit 2026'**



SHASHI PAL JAIN  
KHARAR, JUNE 3

"India's youth should not merely become job seekers but should rather become job creators. Numerous schemes such as Startup India, Stand-Up India, Skill India, Digital India, PM eVIDYA, SWAYAM, the National Digital Library, the Atal Innovation Mission, and PM Vidya Lakshmi are being implemented to empower the youth to become self-reliant. Rather than migrating abroad, youth should work for India's development," said Punjab

Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria at the inauguration of the third edition of Chandigarh University's 'CU Scholars' Summit 2026'.

Punjab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, inaugurated the Summit as the Chief Guest in the presence of Deepinder Singh Sandhu, Senior Managing Director, Chandigarh University and Prof (Dr) RS Bawa, Advisor to Chancellor of Chandigarh University along with other dignitaries. The CU Scholars' Summit 2026' kicked

off on with felicitation of top achievers of its admission-cum-scholarship entrance exam, Chandigarh University Common Entrance Test 2026 (CUCET 2026), as part of Chandigarh University's endeavour to give due recognition to talent and merit. This day CU Scholars' Summit 2026 is being attended by CEOs, Vice Presidents, industry leaders, Bollywood actors and renowned artists to share their thoughts with students to help them prepare for the changing job roles in the rapidly evolving industry.

**Police's citizen-centric policing strengthens public trust**

LUDHIANA, JUNE 3

Punjab Police is setting new benchmarks in modern-day policing by strengthening the bond between citizens and law enforcement while creating a safe and secure environment across the state. Ludhiana, Punjab's industrial hub, is emerging as a prime example of this citizen-centric approach, with leading industrialists and residents acknowledging the visible improvements in policing, community engagement and crime prevention initiatives.

Under the leadership of Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, Punjab Police has intensified efforts to ensure a crime-free atmosphere, earning appreciation from people across different sections of society. From swift action against criminal activities to strengthening community policing, the force has focused on building public confidence



and fostering a sense of security among citizens.

Ludhiana-based industrialist Anmol Sood highlighted the positive impact of policing on the business community and said, "Through business perspective, Punjab Police has helped us a lot to provide a sense of security."

Remember, there was an incident, when some goons tried to grab our land and the police reacted within minutes. This is just one example of many good works being done by the police. The kind of community policing being done here in Ludhiana is not only appreciable, but its outcome is also very helpful for the residents."

**Newly elected councilors honored during langar organized by Shri Bala Ji Langar Sewa Samiti**



KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI): A Bhandara was organized by the social service organization Shri Bala Ji Langar Sewa Samiti and Welfare Society at the local old grain market. On this occasion, the chairman of the committee, Deepak Goyal and president Karan Goyal Thekedar, said that the langar service was performed with great devotion and spirit of service by the family of Rajesh Kumar Gupta (LIC), in which the present sangat was served with great enthusiasm with potato puri and jaljeera langar. On this holy occasion, newly elected councilors from different wards of the city, Swatantra Joshi, Councillor Nippy Joshi, Councillor Anantdeep Singh (Roma Brar) and Councillor Ashu Garg Gappa, specially attended to seek the blessings of Lord Shri Bala Ji and to encourage this noble work of the society. On this occasion, the councilors present appreciated the service works of the society and said that wherever the society will assign our duty in social welfare and religious works, we are always present and ready for public service. During the function, Shri Bala Ji Langar Sewa Committee and Welfare Society President Karan Goyal, Chairman Deepak Goyal, Sushant Bansal, Vishal Chopra and Darpan Chopra warmly welcomed and expressed gratitude to all the councilors and dignitaries who arrived as special guests by presenting 'Siropas' to them.

**Political parties informed about the revised schedule of SIR**



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): The Election Commission of India has revised the schedule issued for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in Punjab and issued a new program, regarding which Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Amaninder Kaur gave detailed information to the representatives of all political parties today. During a meeting at the District Administrative Complex here, the Additional Deputy Commissioner informed the political parties that as per the newly revised schedule by the Election Commission of India, the initial publication of the voter list will now be done on August 3, 2026 instead of July 31, 2026. Similarly, claims and objections regarding the voter list will be received from 3 August 2026 to 2 September 2026. The process of disposal of the claims and objections received and the 'notice phase' will be completed from 3 August 2026 to 28 September 2026. He clarified that the schedule of all the remaining activities of this improvement campaign will remain the same. He said that from 25 June to 24 July 2026, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will go door to door to get the forms filled from the voters. The final voter list will be published on 1 October 2026.

**Khanna police honours personnel for exemplary service**



AMRISH ANAND  
DORAHA, JUNE 3

SSP Khanna Dr Darpan Ahluwalia, IPS, honoured police personnel who displayed honesty, dedication and exemplary performance in the discharge of their duties. The officials were presented with cash rewards as a mark of appreciation for their sincere service and commitment towards maintaining law and order.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Ahluwalia said dedicated and hardworking personnel

are the backbone of the police department and their contribution plays a crucial role in ensuring public safety and effective policing. He said recognising efficient officials not only boosts their morale but also inspires others in the force to perform their responsibilities with greater commitment and professionalism.

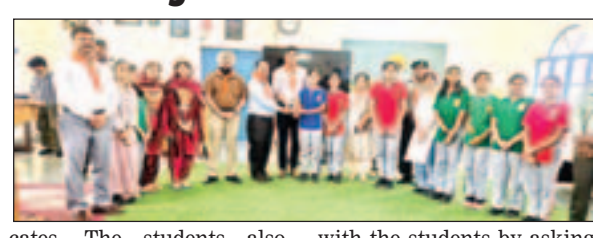
He further stated that Khanna Police remains committed to encouraging and appreciating officers and employees who serve with integrity, loyalty and devotion to duty.

**Three-Day Scouts and Guides camp concludes on grand note, outstanding students honoured**

BUREAU  
BATALA, JUNE 3

The three-day Scouts and Guides Training Camp organized at Bering School, Batala concluded with great enthusiasm and dignity. Deputy District Education Officer (DEO) Anil Sharma and District Guidance Counsellor Mukesh Verma attended the closing ceremony as chief guests. School Principal Abhishek Mitchell, State Secretary of Scouts and Guides Nitin Chaudhary, and Joint Secretary Hardeep Singh Saini extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests.

During the closing ceremony, students who displayed excellence in discipline, leadership, teamwork, community service, and various camp activities over the three days were honoured with mementoes and certifi-



cates. The students also showcased the skills they had acquired during the camp, impressing the guests and teachers present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Deputy DEO Anil Sharma encouraged students to respect their parents and teachers, adopt a disciplined lifestyle, and prioritize education. He stated that students are the future of the nation and should work diligently with dedication and a positive mindset to achieve their goals. On the occasion, District Guidance Counsellor Mukesh Verma interacted

with the students by asking questions related to the history, objectives, motto, and social service aspects of Scouts and Guides.

The students responded confidently and enthusiastically, earning appreciation for their awareness, knowledge, and commitment to scouting. In his motivational address, Mukesh Verma said that Scouts and Guides is not merely an organization but a powerful platform for developing character, leadership, self-reliance, discipline, patriotism, and a spirit of service among young people.

**Padma Shri Baldev Singh inspires young talent, calls for women coaches to strengthen girls' Hockey**

AJAY MALHOTRA  
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JUNE 3

Padma Shri awardee and former international hockey player and Coach Baldev Singh has stressed the importance of appointing more women coaches to encourage greater participation of girls in hockey and help India regain its dominance in the sport at the global level.

Speaking at the Summer Hockey Camp organized by the Mehar Baba Charitable Trust at the ITI Hockey Ground in Bassi Pathana, Padam Shri Baldev Singh said that modern training methods, quality coaching, and improved sports infrastructure are essential for producing world-class players. He noted that women coaches can play a crucial role in building confidence among



female athletes and creating a more supportive training environment.

In the presence of International Hockey player Baldev Singh Randhawa, Trustee Harkiran Kaur Mejie, Coach Hans Raj, Wazir Chand, Tejinder Singh and Jasbir Singh Bajwa, Baldev Singh Shabbad shared valuable insights on fitness, discipline, technical skills, and game strategy. He encouraged the participants to remain

dedicated to their goals and work consistently to achieve success at national and international levels. He also highlighted that immense sporting talent exists in rural areas and small towns, which can flourish if provided with the right guidance and opportunities. Managing Trustee Hasan Singh Meji highlighted the Trust's efforts to promote hockey at the grassroots level through coaching camps, training facilities.

**Sports teams to be formed in drug hotspot areas to keep youths safe: DC**

ANANTDEEP KAUR  
BATHINDA, JUNE 3

Sports teams will be formed in the drug hotspot areas of the district wherein youngsters will be engaged in tournaments to keep them away from drugs.

Deputy Commissioner Mr Rajesh Dhiman said this while presiding over meeting of NCORD (narco coordination center) held here today. Laying emphasis on childhood level intervention to save youth from dreaded web of drugs, Deputy Commissioner said that police have already identified drug hotspot areas in the district. Along with District Sports Office (DSO), the police will form teams of games such as volleyball, handball, basketball etc that will not only help children stay attuned with games but



also raise them into healthy and confident individuals. Deputy Commissioner directed that similarly the addicts undergoing treatment at various government and private de-addiction and rehabilitation centers should be associated with mindful activities such as meditation. This shall not only help them in treatment, but also create calmness within. SP City Narinder Singh added that during the month of May, Bathinda police have registered 144 cases of NDPS and ar-

rested 187 accused. Police have recovered 1.640 kg of heroin, 121.90 kg poppy, 6403 pills and capsules, 1.01 kg ganja and Rs 8.25 lac drug money.

He added that there are total 27 drug hotspots in the district from which 49 FIRs have been registered and 62 have been arrested. Besides this, the police and the education department have held number of drug addiction awareness activities such as seminars, lectures, slogan writing and painting competitions.

**Hoshiarpur beat Fatehgarh Sahib by 6 wickets in U-19 Inter-District clash**



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Hoshiarpur's Under-19 cricket team registered a convincing six-wicket win over Fatehgarh Sahib in the Boys' Under-19 Inter-District Tournament organized by the Punjab Cricket Association.

HDC A secretary Dr. Raman Ghai said the two-day match began with Fatehgarh Sahib, who won the toss and elected to bat first, posting 139 runs in their first innings. Mayank Yadav contributed 24 and Samarpreet scored 23. Hoshiarpur's bowlers were impressive: vice-captain Harshit Nanda took five wickets, captain Aryan Arora claimed three, and Chirag Kumar picked up two. Hoshiarpur managed just 104 in their first innings, trailing by 35. Sidarth Rana scored 22, Arsh Chauhan 18, Pragnay Sharma 23 and Prithvi Singh 12.

In the second innings, Hoshiarpur's bowlers tightened up and bundled out Fatehgarh Sahib for only 111. Aryan Sharma top-scored with 36 and Sarvangun added 18. Chirag Kumar led the bowling with five wickets, Harshit Nanda took three, while Aryan Arora and Krishan Walia took one wicket each.

**ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR:** Farmers in Hamirpur have urged the government and administration to resolve difficulties arising from restrictions on the sale of diesel and petrol in bottles, cans, and other containers at petrol pumps. Advocate Pradyuman Singh, Legal Advisor of Himachal Pride Foundation and a Punjab and Haryana High Court lawyer, expressed support for the farmers and said he would raise the issue with the Union

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through email. If the matter remains unresolved, he said he would personally take it up in New Delhi. During a meeting held on the issue, farmers stated that the restriction on supplying fuel in containers has severely affected agricultural activities. They explained that tractors, seeders, and other farm machinery are often difficult to transport repeatedly to fuel stations, making field operations challenging.

## AYUSH Department reviews preparations for International Yoga Day

**KISHORI LAL BAINS AMB, JUNE 3**

The AYUSH Department organized a review meeting at the AYUSH Health Centre, Bhanjal, to ensure the successful and participatory observance of International Yoga Day (IDY) 2026. The meeting was chaired by Sub-Divisional AYUSH Medical Officer, Amb, Dr. Rajesh Sharma. All Ayurvedic Medical Officers from Amb and Gagret subdivisions attended the meeting. Dr. Sharma issued detailed guidelines for the upcoming Yoga Day celebrations and directed officials to intensify awareness campaigns and promotional activities in their respective areas. He emphasized the regular organization of pre-IDY activities and Yoga Break sessions in



government and private offices, educational institutions, panchayat-level bodies, and community centers to spread awareness about the benefits of yoga among all sections of society. The meeting also reviewed preparations for the main International Yoga Day event scheduled for June 21. Responsibilities were assigned to officials, and stress was laid on ensuring maximum public participation through

awareness campaigns involving local representatives, voluntary organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, and the general public. Dr. Sharma described yoga as India's invaluable heritage and a powerful tool for promoting a healthy lifestyle. He said regular yoga practice strengthens physical health, improves mental well-being, and contributes to spiritual growth.

# Education Minister reviews progress of key education reforms

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JUNE 3**

Education Minister Rohit Thakur today here chaired a review meeting with senior officers of the Education Department to assess the progress of ongoing programmes and reforms in education sector.

The Education Minister said that the present state government has accorded the highest priority to the education sector and has introduced several significant reforms that are yielding positive results. He stated that the government is now planning to introduce Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes for students who have completed their bachelor's degrees.



Under this initiative, students will get opportunities to work with various industries while receiving a stipend. It will enable them to enhance their skills and improve their employment prospects.

He said that the government is also planning introduction of foreign language courses at the college level, which would help students acquire global

language skills and create employment opportunities in international markets. Highlighting the success of the B.Voc. initiative, Shri Thakur said that the initiative has received an encouraging response from students. In view of its success, the government is planning to introduce four additional courses under the programme.

Rohit Thakur said that in accordance with the budget announcement, the government has increased the honorarium of SMC teachers, Mid-Day Meal Workers, Water Carriers, Computer Teachers and Multi-Task Workers working under the Education Department by Rs. 500 per month. Reviewing the performance of students in the HPBOSE examinations, the Minister said that the results of Class 10 and Class 12 would be analysed in detail. He directed the officers to ensure accountability and stated that annual increments of consistently poor-performing teachers could be withheld. He also stressed the importance of regular biometric

attendance and salary deductions would be considered in cases of persistent non-compliance. The Minister said that 1,131 various categories SMC teachers were appointed through LDR category. LDR process for 714 PGT and 102 DPE posts would be conducted shortly, while the process for Computer Teachers would be taken up after the necessary amendments to the R&P Rules. He also directed the department officials to expedite the recruitment process for thousands of vacant teaching posts that have been sent to the Rajya Chayan Aayog and the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission.

## Akash Bhardwaj of Gram Panchayat Tayudi, District Unna received gold medal



**AVINASH CHAUHAN AMB:** Akash Bhardwaj, son of retired spokesperson, advocate and social worker Sham Dulari, who hails from a small village panchayat Tayudi in Unna district, Himachal Pradesh, was honored with a gold medal and a certificate of merit by the Honorable Governor and Chancellor of Rajasthan Government, Haribhau Bagde, in the third convocation ceremony held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, for securing the gold medal in L.L.M. Criminology and first position in the entire state of Rajasthan. State and Central Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal was also present in this program, along with Honorable Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Higher Education Minister of Rajasthan Government, Shri Premchand Bairwa and Dr. Nishtha Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Jaipur and Deputy Commissioner, Jaipur, judges and advocates were also present. In this program, Akash Bhardwaj was honored with a gold medal and a first merit certificate and was honored for his achievement. Akash Bhardwaj said that the important contribution in achieving this achievement was made by his mother Sham Dulari, who is herself a retired teacher, advocate and social worker, and his sister Shikha Bhardwaj, an advocate serving in Amb Court.

## Cases against Lawyers: Sukhu government's panic and dictatorship, says Vishav Chakshu

**SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA:** The Sukhu government of Himachal Pradesh has presented a new example of its dictatorial nature. By registering cases against lawyers who were staging peaceful protests regarding their legitimate demands, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has made it clear that he has no intention of listening to the voice of the people; rather, he only knows how to suppress it. Terming this act a "murder of democracy," Advocate Vishav Chakshu the State BJP's Co-in-charge of Media stated that filing cases against lawyers instead of listening to their grievances reflects the Sukhu government's panic and dictatorial mindset. The Chief Minister fears that the voices rising against him might grow louder; hence, he has resorted to filing FIRs. Advocate Chakshu remarked, "The Congress party has always been an enemy of democratic values. Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency; today, the Sukhu government is imposing a 'micro-emergency' in Himachal. By filing cases against the very people who uphold the Constitution and the law, the Sukhu government has demonstrated its hatred for justice." He added, "This is highly condemnable and unfortunate. Lawyers serve as the mirror of society. When the mirror itself reflects the government's flaws, the government attempts to shatter that mirror. However, the BJP stands firmly with the lawyers."



# Congress has lost the semi-final of power and is no longer fit to play the final: Randhir Sharma

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, JUNE 3**

BJP Himachal Pradesh Media In-Charge Randhir Sharma said that the results of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Body elections have clearly reflected the mood of the people of Himachal Pradesh. The electorate has delivered a decisive verdict against the Congress government and has overwhelmingly supported the Bharatiya Janata Party, indicating a strong desire for political change in the state.

Sharma said that the Congress government made repeated attempts to delay these elections. Various excuses, including delimitation, roster-related issues, administrative



restructuring and procedural hurdles, were cited to postpone the polls. The government was fully aware that it had lost public confidence and would face a humiliating defeat if forced to go before the people. Eventually, following judicial intervention, the elections were conducted and the results exposed the ground reality. He stated that out of the four Municipal Corporations in the state, BJP secured clear majorities in three major corporations —

Mandi, Dharamshala and Solan. Similarly, BJP-backed candidates emerged victorious in 12 out of 22 Municipal Councils and 18 out of 25 Nagar Panchayats, demonstrating widespread public support across urban Himachal. Randhir Sharma further said that the Zila Parishad elections delivered an even stronger mandate. BJP-supported candidates won 144 out of 250 seats, while Congress was reduced to just 60 seats. In Bilaspur, Congress failed to open its

account. Even in the Chief Minister's home district, the party performed poorly. In several districts, Congress was restricted to one or two seats, reflecting the growing public anger against the government. He added that BJP-backed candidates also dominated the Block Development Committee (BDC) elections. Out of 1,769 wards across the state, BJP-supported candidates won 1,109 wards, while Congress remained confined to 477. More than 65 percent of Pradhans and Up-Pradhans elected across the state are associated with BJP ideology and support base. Sharma said these results are not merely electoral victories but a direct vote of no-confidence against the Congress government.

## Rajeev Rana accorded secretary-level status by Himachal govt

**DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA:**

The Himachal Pradesh Government has granted Secretary-level status to Rajeev Rana, Member of the State Backward Classes Commission (OBC Commission), through an official notification. Under the notification, Rana will be entitled to facilities, protocol, and service benefits equivalent to those of a Secretary-level officer. The move is being viewed as a significant step toward strengthening the institutional role of the State Backward Classes Commission and enhancing representation of backward classes in the state. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and the state government, Rajeev Rana said the recognition is not merely a personal honor but a tribute to the aspirations and rights of millions of backward-class families in Himachal Pradesh. He reaffirmed his commitment to promoting social justice, equal opportunities, and safeguarding the constitutional rights of backward communities. Rana added that the Commission will continue to work for the welfare of backward classes, focusing on education, employment, social security, and political participation, while effectively presenting community concerns before the government.



## Bilaspur leads Digital Census drive; Citizens urged to complete self-enumeration by June 15

**AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, JUNE 3**

The Census-2027 campaign was formally launched in Bilaspur on Tuesday with Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar calling upon residents to actively participate in the nation's first fully digital census and complete their self-enumeration before June 15. The launch ceremony was held at Bachat Bhawan in the Deputy Commissioner's office complex in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Om Kant Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Rajkumar, senior officials, and representatives associated with census operations. Marking the beginning of the campaign, Rahul Kumar personally entered his details on the self-enumeration



portal and encouraged citizens to follow suit. He stated that residents can register themselves and their family members online through the self-enumeration portal from June 1 to June 15, making the census process more transparent, efficient, and citizen-friendly. He emphasized that Census-2027 is not merely a population count but a crucial exercise that forms the foundation for future planning, resource allocation, and development

initiatives in sectors such as education, healthcare, housing, roads, drinking water, and social welfare. The Deputy Commissioner informed that the first phase of the census, comprising House Listing and Housing Census, will be conducted from June 16 to July 15, followed by population enumeration in the second phase. Around 1,130 enumerators have been deployed across Bilaspur to ensure comprehensive coverage of every household.

## Six Ministers elected during first session of 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

**SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, JUN 3**

On the first day of the first session of the 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Charter of the Tibetans in Exile, six candidates were elected as members of the 17th Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). This Article stipulates: "The duly elected Sikyong, after taking the oath of office, shall submit to the Tibetan Parliament a list of candidates required for his Kashag, providing their names and personal details, and shall clarify their eligibility for confirmation in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of this Charter. If the candidates receive unanimous approval from the Parliament to be confirmed as Kalons



(Ministers), no further issue arises. However, in the absence of unanimous approval, a secret ballot regarding each candidate shall be conducted by the members present in the House, and any candidate securing at least 50 percent of the votes shall be declared an elected Kalon." Subsequently, the Sikyong shall appoint as Kalons those

candidates who have been approved by the Tibetan Parliament, either unanimously or by securing at least 50 percent of the votes. If all or any of the candidates proposed by the Sikyong fail to secure the requisite votes, the Sikyong shall submit a new list of candidates to the Tibetan Parliament in accordance with the aforementioned procedure.

## DJJS highlights inner beauty and women's empowerment at Amb event

**AVINASH CHAUHAN AMB, JUNE 3**

Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan (DJJS) organized a large spiritual and cultural program on the theme "Matri Shakti Tubhyam Namah" at Ramlila Amb, Una, under the women's empowerment project Santulan. This grand event showcased the true and divine nature of women through satsang and various spiritual activities. Addressing the large gathering, Sadhvi Renu Bharti, a disciple of Sarv Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji, clarified that in this materialistic age, humans have come to consider external appearance and physical beauty as their everything, whereas true and eternal beauty lies in one's inner values, high thoughts, and spiritual purity. Citing the example of the Treta Yuga, she explained that when



Shurpanakha, arrogant about her beauty and youth, approached Lord Shri Ram, she was scorned. On the other hand, Mata Shabari, an elderly exile, won Lord Ram's heart with her inner beauty and unconditional devotion. The Sadhvi narrated a profound story about Lord Parashurama's mother, Renuka Ji, explaining that her purity and spiritual energy were so strong that she could easily

fill even a wet, raw clay pot with water. But one day, a momentary erroneous thought destroyed her ascetic power and purity. This incident reminds us how essential constant purity of mind is. Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of good company, saying that a life partner should be like Radha Ji's friend Vishakha, who always encourages one to connect with God and spirituality.

## Congress protests over NEET Paper leak in Hamirpur

**ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR, JUNE 3**

The District Congress Committee staged a protest at Gandhi Chowk in Hamirpur over the NEET paper leak case, accusing the Central Government of jeopardizing the future of students and demanding strict action against those responsible. Congress leaders called for a fair and impartial investigation into the alleged leak and submitted a memorandum to the President of India through the Deputy Commissioner. They also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally accountable for the controversy. District Congress President Suman Bharti Sharma said repeated



paper leak incidents have put the future of millions of students at risk and exposed serious shortcomings in the examination system. She alleged that the government has failed to take effective measures to prevent such incidents and ensure transparency. Sharma stated that the NEET paper leak has brought embarrassment to the country and has caused immense stress among students. She expressed concern over reports of

mental trauma and suicide cases linked to examination-related pressures. The protest was attended by Bhoranj Block Congress President Vijay Banyal, Agriculture Marketing Board Chairman Kuldeep Pathania, former MLA Anita Verma, Puneendra Verma, and several other Congress leaders and workers, all of whom demanded stringent action against the accused and the resignation of the Education Minister.

## Special Gram Sabhas to be held in all Gram Panchayats of Kangra District

**SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA:**

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026, special Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) will be organized in all Gram Panchayats of Kangra district on June 5, 2026. Issuing orders in this regard, Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa stated that these special Gram Sabhas are being organized in accordance with the directives of the Department of Panchayati Raj, Himachal Pradesh, as well as the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Water Resources) of the Government of India. The Deputy Commissioner informed that, marking the conclusion of the public awareness programs conducted from June 1 to June 5, 2026 under the "Clean Village, Safe Climate" campaign special discussions will be held during these Gram Sabhas regarding environmental conservation, sanitation, solid and plastic waste management, water conservation, and the promotion of safe hygiene practices. Furthermore, emphasis will be placed on ensuring the active participation of the local community. He added that during these special Gram Sabhas, deliberations will focus on community-level efforts aimed at protecting water sources, conserving catchment areas, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, preserving traditional water sources and bodies, monitoring drinking water quality, managing greywater, and safeguarding drinking water sources from pollution. Additionally, future action plans under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 will also be discussed.



**KISHORI LAL BAINS**  
UNA: Special Gram Sabha meetings will be organised in all gram panchayats of Una district on June 5 to mark World Environment Day and promote awareness about environmental protection and cleanliness. Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal has issued the necessary directions in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner said the meetings aim to strengthen the

sense of collective responsibility towards environmental conservation in rural areas and encourage greater public participation in sustainability initiatives. Discussions will focus on environmental protection, sanitation, waste management and responsible social behaviour. During the meetings, participants will deliberate on the role of families, local institutions and communities in the scientific and

effective management of solid and plastic waste. Special emphasis will be placed on waste segregation, reducing the use of single-use plastics, composting organic waste and enhancing cleanliness initiatives at the local level. The Gram Sabhas will also focus on ensuring active public participation in maintaining cleanliness in villages, public places and water sources.

NEWS BRIEF

**DC administers oath of office to newly elected District Council member Pal Singh Dadupur**



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:** In auditorium of Mini Secretariat, Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dr Anand Kumar Sharma administered oath of office and allegiance to Pal Singh Dadupur, elected member in by-election for District Council Ward No. 10. DC congratulated and wished newly elected member Pal Singh Dadupur and Panchayat Officer Kanchanlata was present. By-elections for Panchayati Raj institutions in district were held on May 10 in which Pal Singh Dadupur emerged victorious in by-election for District Council Ward No. 10.

**Janwadi Mahila Samiti demands stringent punishment to the doctor for sexual assault of minor girl**

**MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR:** The Janwadi Mahila Samiti (JMS) has expressed deep outrage over the sexual assault of a minor girl by a doctor at a government hospital in Kurukshetra district, Haryana and has demanded the harshest punishment to the perpetrator. It is noteworthy that the accused, Dr. Shailendra Sharma, raped a 15-year-old girl admitted to a government hospital in Kurukshetra for treatment of stomach pain, within the hospital premises. Dr. Shailendra Sharma had previously been jailed in 2017 for allegedly raping a woman by injecting her with sedatives but was later acquitted. Despite this, Dr. Shailendra Sharma was appointed as a consultant on a contract basis at the Kurukshetra government hospital by the BJP government after his retirement, resulting in the victimization of an innocent girl. Dr. Shailendra Sharma previously held positions as a senior medical officer at government hospitals in Kaithal and Kurukshetra and is said to have close ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP government.

## SC forms expert committee to reassess definition and protection of Aravalli Range

AGENCY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

The Supreme Court has set up a five-member High-Powered Committee to formulate a uniform definition and demarcation of the ecologically sensitive Aravalli Hills and Range for regulating future mining activities. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice Vipul M Pancholi directed the committee to submit a conservation report by August 31. Constituting the expert committee, the bench observed that matters affecting ecological conservation and sustainable development cannot be resolved without informed expert evaluation, and entrusted the committee with reassessing the existing framework relating to the Aravallis. It said that any future action must be based on scientific assessment and aligned with the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development. The committee will be



headed by Kanchan Devi, Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, as per a May 25 order, which was made online on Tuesday. The apex court noted that expert evaluation was required to examine concerns that the current definition of the Aravalli Range—limited to land within 500 metres between two or more Aravalli hills—may significantly reduce the extent of protected areas. It observed that such a narrow interpretation

could classify ecologically linked regions as "non-Aravalli" areas, potentially opening them up to mining and other environmentally harmful activities. The committee has also been directed to examine concerns that only 1,048 of Rajasthan's 12,081 Hills satisfy the prescribed 100-metre height criterion, potentially leaving a vast number of Hill formations outside the ambit of environmental protection. Highlighting the

ecological fragility and biodiversity significance of the Aravalli region, the top court said the Committee must objectively evaluate whether the proposed measures could lead to environmental impacts that may be irreversible or difficult to remedy. It stressed that any final decision should be grounded in scientific assessment and aligned with the principles of environmental conservation and sustainable development. "It must be emphasised that decisions of such far-reaching consequence ought not to be taken without the benefit of expert evaluation. The proposed Committee would be expected to objectively assess the implications of the measures contemplated and assist this Court in determining whether their implementation may give rise to ecological, environmental, or other consequences that may subsequently prove difficult, if not impossible, to reverse," the order stated.

## MLA Jagmohan Anand congratulates Dr Archana Gupta on becoming BJP president of Haryana



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 3**

MLA Jagmohan Anand said that BJP had taken a strong step towards women empowerment by giving the command of state president to Dr. Archana Gupta. This decision of the central leadership has boosted the morale of other women workers of the party. He congratulated Dr. Archana Gupta on taking charge and said that the party organization would be further strengthened under her able leadership. The MLA said that Bharatiya Janata Party has today become the number one party globally and has also become the most popular party in India by making its Chief Ministers in 17 states. After the recent election

of the National President of Bharatiya Janata Party, now the elections of various state presidents have also started. In this process, state presidents of four states were announced, in which Haryana BJP State General Secretary Dr. Archana Gupta was given the command of BJP State President. Dr. Archana Gupta has taken charge of the state president on Wednesday. MLA Jagmohan Anand said that the decision by BJP National President Nitin Naveen and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to make Dr. Archana Gupta the President of BJP Haryana Pradesh was not just a change of post, but a historic and inspirational step towards women empowerment.

## Third day of the national camp of Sarvadesi Arya Veer Dal

**HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 3**

The third day of the Sarvadesi Arya Veer Dal national camp, held at Gurukul Kurukshetra under the holy inspiration of Acharya Devvrat the Governor of Gujarat and a prominent proponent of Vedic culture, was imbued with Vedic rituals, discipline and the spirit of nation-building. More than 400 Arya Veers, who came from various parts of the country, were formally trained in Agnihotra (sacrifice) according to Vedic tradition. In this special training session, organized under the guidance of Acharya Nandkishore the camp's chief director, the Aryaveers were given detailed information about the



method of Yagya, its spiritual and scientific significance and its usefulness in daily life. On this occasion, Somuni Ji, Swami Sachchidanand Ji, Head of Veda Promotion of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Haryana, Rohtash Arya, Ma. Krishnapal Arya, and senior physical education teacher Sandeep Arya provided significant support in the training. In his address,

Acharya Nandkishore stated that Agnihotra is the world's most sacred ritual, detailed in the Vedas. He explained that Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of the Arya Samaj, in his immortal book, Satyarth Prakash, encouraged every Aryan to perform yagya daily. Yagya is not only a means of personal progress, but also a means of welfare for all living beings and the environment.

## Kaithal-based astrologer Swami Dayanand Sabri honoured with 'Indo-Japan Astrology Excellence Award' in Tokyo



**SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL:**

Another milestone has been achieved in the field of Indian Vedic science and astrology. Renowned astrologer Swami Dayanand Sabri of Kaithal was honoured with the Indo-Japan Astrology Excellence Award at the recent International Symposium on Indian Vedic Sciences held in Tokyo, Japan. This honour was bestowed upon him for his exemplary service in spreading Indian Vedic science globally. Scholars from around the world participated in this grand international event held in Tokyo, Japan on May 29. It is a proud moment for India that Swami Dayanand Sabri received this prestigious honour at this forum. The organizers praised his work, saying that his dedication to astrology and his persistent efforts have brought new recognition to the relevance of Vedic science on an international level. Swami Dayanand Sabri has been solving people's problems through astrology and Vedic knowledge for years. He has always worked to establish astrology as a scientific approach, not just a tradition.

## Youth dies in road accident on NH-703



**JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA:**

Gurpreet Singh, son of Gurjant Singh, a resident of village Machhike, died in a horrific road accident near village Machhike on NH-703 Moga-Barnala road. According to information, Gurpreet Singh suffered serious injuries after being hit by a vehicle, due to which he died on the spot. As soon as the information about the accident was received, Bilaspur Police Post In-charge Pritam Singh along with his police team reached the spot and started investigation into the matter. The police took the body of the deceased into their possession and sent it to Civil Hospital Moga for postmortem. The entire Gram Panchayat and a large number of villagers were present on the occasion of this tragic incident. On hearing the news of the sudden death of the youth, a wave of grief swept through the village of Machhike. The family members are in a bad mood and there is a sad atmosphere in the entire area.

## 10-Day annual training camp of 14 Haryana Battalion NCC Commences at Sarasvati Vidya Mandir, Jagadhri

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 3**

The 10-day Annual Training Camp of 14 Haryana Battalion NCC, Yamunanagar commenced at Sarasvati Vidya Mandir, Jagadhri under the able supervision of Commanding Officer Col Pankaj Pareek and Administrative Officer Lt Col Kumud Maini. A total of 506 NCC cadets from various schools and colleges are participating in the camp. The camp aims to instill discipline, leadership qualities, patriotism, teamwork, and social responsibility among the cadets through a series of military and personality development activities.

The successful conduct of the camp is being ensured with the dedicated assistance of Subedar Major Jaswant



Singh and Battalion Havildar Major Shukla. The camp administration and training activities are further supported by Associate NCC Officers Major Geeta Sharma and Manisha Rawat.

The team of Care Taker Officers comprising Neelam, Sarika, Kalpana, Rajat Dewangan, and Anshul is actively coordinating the welfare and management of the participating cadets. Valuable support is also

being provided by Second Officers Gurdwinder Singh and Sanjeev Nagara. During the camp, cadets will undergo drill training, weapon training, map reading, field craft, obstacle training, yoga, physical fitness sessions, cultural activities, personality development lectures, and various competitions designed to enhance their leadership and organizational skills.

## SIR of Electoral Rolls to begin from June 5; BLOs to conduct door-to-door voter verification: DC

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 3**

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Dr Anand Kumar Sharma has said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls will commence from June 5. He directed all concerned officials and employees to carry out the revision process with complete transparency, seriousness and within the prescribed timelines to ensure an error-free voter list.

Dr Sharma issued the directions during a meeting held at the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat to review preparations for the Special Intensive Revision-2026. Prior to the meeting, Haryana Chief Electoral Officer A. Srinivas addressed deputy commissioners across the state through video



conferencing and issued necessary guidelines regarding the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to ensure strict compliance with the Election Commission's directions. He said awareness activities should be undertaken through villages, urban local bodies, panchayats, educational institutions and social organisations so that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls. He also informed that citizens can contact the Election Commission's toll-free helpline number 1950 between 7 am and 9 pm for

any information or assistance related to voter registration and electoral services. Dr Sharma stated that July 1, 2026, has been fixed as the qualifying date for the revision exercise. He urged all Indian citizens attaining the age of 18 years on or before July 1 to ensure their names are included in the voter list. Citizens can also use the BLO App to connect with and schedule calls from their designated Booth Level Officers (BLOs). As per the schedule, training of BLOs and distribution of required materials will be conducted from June 5 to June 14.

## Gurnam Singh Saini expresses his gratitude to CM for his appointment

**DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA:**

Gurnam Saini, the newly appointed Chairman of the Haryana Land Reforms Corporation, visited Chandigarh to express his gratitude to Chief Minister Naib Saini upon his appointment. Expressing his gratitude to the Chief Minister for his appointment, he stated that he would fulfil the responsibility entrusted to him by the government with utmost honesty. During their meeting at the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh, Gurnam Saini honoured the Chief Minister by presenting him with a shawl. On this occasion, Chief Minister Naib Saini congratulated Chairman Gurnam Saini and urged him to work among the farmers and work for their welfare, and to present their problems and concerns to the government for resolution. The newly appointed Chairman Gurnam Saini stated that by appointing him to this position, the Chief Minister has enhanced the prestige of the entire society. He will never tarnish this prestige; instead, with the Chief Minister's blessings, he will work to disseminate the state government's policies and the Chief Minister's work to the public. Farmers are overjoyed at Gurnam Singh Saini's appointment as Chairman. On this occasion, Chairman of The Kurukshetra Central Cooperative Bank Subhash Saini, Director Suresh Pal and many people from the society were present.



## Citizens urged to actively participate in Census 2026: DC



**KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA:** Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal has appealed to all residents of Una district to actively participate in the first phase of Census 2026. He said the census forms the foundation of balanced and comprehensive development, with the data collected playing a vital role in planning future development projects, welfare programmes and the expansion of public infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner informed that the first phase of Census 2026 in Himachal Pradesh will be conducted from June 16 to July 15. To facilitate public participation, a self-enumeration facility has also been introduced. Citizens can submit details of their households online through the census portal from June 1 to June 15. He said the self-enumeration initiative is an important step towards increasing public participation in the census process. After successfully submitting information online, citizens will receive a unique self-enumeration ID, which should be shared with the enumerator during the door-to-door survey.

## Devotees gather for Shaheedi Week Gurmat Samagam

**AMRIK SINGH CHOWK MEHTA, JUNE 3**

Under the guidance of Damdami Taksal Chief and Sant Samaj President Sant Gi. Hamam Singh Khalsa, after the commencement of the 42nd Shaheedi Jor Mela dedicated to the sacred memory of all the martyrs of the third Ghallughara of June 1984 at Gu. Gurdarshan Prakash Mehta, the evening Gurmat Samagam was held with great devotion on the second day of the Shaheedi Week today. During this, thousands of devotees who reached Damdami Taksal paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed their devotion by bowing down in the Guru Ghar. The large turnout of devotees in the Shaheedi Samagam was a clear



proof that even today there is immense love, respect and dedication in the hearts of the people towards the great martyrs of the Sikh community. At the commencement of this evening's Gurmat Diwan in the Diwan Hall of Gurdwara Sahib, the Jatha of Hazuri Raagi Bhai Shubhdeep Singh of Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib connected the Sangat with the Guru's feet by singing the beautiful and spiritually rich words of Gurbani. Later,

Sant Giani Hamam Singh Khalsa, while continuing the ongoing serial story, narrated the important context related to the life of the sixth Guru Ji recorded in the Gur Pratap Suraj Granth in a very emotional and spiritual manner. Talking about the historical events related to the Ghallughara massacre of June 1984, he said that Sikh history is full of martyrdoms, struggles and unparalleled sacrifices made for the protection of religion.

## Arni University establishes AI & Robotics Centre of excellence

**SANJEEV MAHAJAN NURPUR, JUNE 3**

Marking a significant milestone in technical education, innovation, and skill development, Arni University, Indora, has established a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics Centre of Excellence in collaboration with Sirena Technologies Private Limited, Karnataka. This initiative is being regarded as a major step toward connecting regional youth with future technologies and preparing them for global employment opportunities.

The Centre, established on the university campus, is the first and most unique initiative of its kind within a radius of approximately 150



kilometers. It will provide students with hands-on training in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Data Science, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Python Programming, Automation, and other emerging technologies. Students will also gain opportunities to work on live projects, receive industry exposure, participate in research activities, undertake internships, and develop startup ventures. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this

collaboration was signed by Dr. Manish Kumar Srivastava, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Arni University, and Ms. Akanksha Anand, Director of Sirena Technologies Private Limited. This partnership will contribute significantly toward realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" by empowering youth with advanced technological skills. In another visionary step, Arni University has decided to integrate AI and Python-based modules into nearly all academic programs.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Agrawal Vaishya Samaj strongly condemned casteist remarks made by INLD district president

**RAHUL KOHLI**  
YAMUNANAGAR: Ashish Mittal, Yamunanagar District President of the Agrawal Vaishya Samaj, strongly condemned the casteist remarks made publicly by INLD's Rohitak District President Nafe Singh regarding the Rohitak Deputy Commissioner. He said that using derogatory and abusive language against any community was against democratic values, social norms and the spirit of the Constitution. Ashish Mittal said that while a person might have personal displeasure with an official, employee, public representative, or political party, dragging an entire community along with its caste into such a dispute or disagreement was extremely unfortunate and condemnable. The words of individuals active in public life have a wide impact therefore, they should exercise extreme restraint in their language and conduct. He said that in this entire incident, which occurred in the presence of INLD MLA Arjun Chautala, it is the party's responsibility to take cognizance of the derogatory remarks.



## Govt proposes Rs. 100 crore green climate fund to tackle climate challenges

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 3**

Haryana Forest and Environment Minister Rao Narbir Singh said that climate change has emerged as a serious challenge before the entire world. Countries across the globe, along with international organisations, are promoting research and innovation to find effective solutions to this growing concern. He said that in a major step towards making Haryana more climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable, the State Government has proposed the establishment of the 'Haryana Green Climate Resilient Fund' with a seed provision of Rs. 100 crore in the Budget for 2026-27.

The Minister said that a State-level World Environment Day programme will be organised in Gurugram on June 5, 2026. During the programme, various initiatives being undertaken by the State Government for environmental conservation, green development and climate change mitigation will be highlighted.

Rao Narbir Singh said that the theme for this year's World Environment Day is "Inspired by Nature—For Climate, For Our Future." The theme

emphasises reducing the impact of climate change, conserving and restoring ecosystems, promoting clean energy, adopting sustainable lifestyles and strengthening global cooperation for a secure future.



He said that the proposed Green Climate Fund will play an important role in promoting zero-emission vehicles, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water conservation, urban greening, climate-resilient agriculture and nature-based solutions across the state.

The Minister further said that the Haryana Government has launched a special mission-mode initiative to make the 313-kilometre stretch of the Yamuna River passing through the state pollution-free. Under the mission, which will be chaired by the Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, efforts will be made to enhance sewage treatment capacity, prevent the discharge of untreated waste, ensure real-time monitoring of industrial units, conserve riverbanks, develop green belts and promote groundwater recharge.

He said that by 2026-27, scientific treatment of all drain water flowing into the Yamuna will be ensured, to achieve the goal of a clean and pollution-free river.

Expressing confidence in these initiatives, Rao Narbir Singh said they would give a new direction to environmental conservation in Haryana and help the state move rapidly towards sustainable, inclusive and green development. He also appealed to the people to make environmental protection a part of their daily lives and avoid the use of single-use plastic.

## World Bicycle Day: 'Mera Gaon Mera Mission' recalls its 'Ride a Bicycle, Save the Environment' campaign

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 3**

On World Bicycle Day, social organisation Mera Gaon Mera Mission recalled its long-running "Ride a Bicycle, Save the Environment" campaign, highlighting the growing need to promote cycling as an eco-friendly and healthy mode of transport.

Karnal, once known as a city where bicycles were a common means of transport and which later earned Smart City status, has witnessed a sharp decline in bicycle usage over the years. The city's shared bicycle initiative launched by the Municipal Corporation also failed to sustain momentum after the Smart City designation.

Members of Mera Gaon Mera Mission said the organisation launched its cycling awareness campaign in 2015 and took it to schools, educational institutions and social organisations across several states, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Delhi. More than 50,000 people reportedly signed pledge forms committing themselves to using bicycles. The campaign received support from political leaders, including the then Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, legislators, ministers, Members of Parliament, doctors and educationists.

The organisation also attempted initiatives such as a



"Car-Free Tuesday" and "No Car Day" in Karnal. However, these programmes could not continue due to opposition from some sections of the public. Campaign members Shailender Jain and Sukhbir Tyagi said students were encouraged to adopt cycling as a pollution-free means of transport that helps save fuel, reduces accident risks and promotes a healthier lifestyle. Children who began using bicycles regularly during the campaign were also recognised and honoured by the organisation.

They expressed concern that cycling has become increasingly difficult due to the lack of dedicated cycling infrastructure in the city. They stressed the need for proper bicycle tracks in Karnal to encourage more people to use bicycles for daily commuting.

Campaign members Kuldeep Singh and Naresh

Saini said schools should play a greater role in creating awareness about cycling so that children choose bicycles over motorised vehicles and remain physically and mentally fit.

They noted that while most children learn to ride a bicycle as their first vehicle, it often disappears from their lives as they grow older and shift to motor vehicles. They said cycling remains one of the most effective ways to improve health, maintain fitness and protect the environment.

Health experts also support regular cycling, saying it helps maintain physical fitness, control weight, strengthen bones and muscles, reduce the risk of heart disease and lower stress levels. Cycling is also known to improve mood and boost energy levels.

## Govt has gifted projects of elevated railway track and a bypass to Kurukshetra: DC Meena

**HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 3**

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that the government has bestowed the citizens of Kurukshetra—the revered land of the Gita and a world-renowned tourist destination—with the gift of major infrastructure projects, such as an elevated railway track and, more recently, a bypass. The construction work for this elevated railway track is set to be completed within the next few days. Necessary directives have been issued to ensure the timely completion of this construction work. The government has made concerted efforts to provide a comprehensive range of high-level amenities—including waiting rooms and restrooms—for the benefit of tourists and devotees

at the smaller railway station situated along this elevated track.

On Wednesday, Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena inspected the elevated railway track project currently



under construction at the Thanesar railway station (the smaller station). Prior to this, Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena took stock of various arrangements at the Thanesar railway station, including the track under con-

struction, the newly built waiting rooms and restrooms, power supply systems, passenger movement routes, station traffic management, and other facilities tailored to the needs of tourists. During this inspection, the Deputy Commissioner issued several necessary directives to officials from both the Railway Department and the local administration. Furthermore, police officials were specifically instructed to review and ensure effective traffic management arrangements on the main thoroughfare, particularly in light of the potential for congestion during train arrival and departure times.

DC Meena affirmed that the under-construction track has been thoroughly inspected.

## Renu Bala Gupta Immersed in spiritual consciousness; Swami Gyananand bestows blessings

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 3**

Renu Bala Gupta—Mayor of Karnal and President of the All India Council of Mayors—reaped the benefits of a spiritually charged atmosphere by participating in the divine ceremonies of \*Gita Gyan\*, \*Gita Dhyana\*, and the \*Shrimad Bhagavat Katha Mahapurana\*, held at the Shri Krishna Kripa Dham Narottam Bhawan in Haridwar. Present alongside her on this occasion was Brij Gupta, the former Acting District President of the Karnal BJP. Both paid their obeisance at the holy feet of the revered Gita Manishi Mahamandaleswar Swami Gyananand Maharaj and received his blessings. Overwhelmed by the sacred

darshan of Maharaj Shri, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta stated that the close company and spiritual guidance of saints provide a new direction to human life, guiding



an individual along the path of service, dedication, and virtuous conduct. She remarked that the divine discourses and inspiring words of the revered Maharaj Shri have motivated her to under-

stand and internalize the significance of Dharma, Bhakti, and human service with even greater depth. In today's busy and materialistic era, the message of the Gita and the Bhagavat inspires society to embrace moral values and a positive outlook on life. She affirmed that the grace of Lord Shri Hari and the close association with saints and sages infuses life with positive energy, inner peace, and spiritual consciousness. Such sacred events serve to strengthen moral values, harmony, and spiritual awareness within society. Expressing her gratitude to the organizing committee and the community of saints, she noted that such religious and cultural events play a pivotal role in passing on the glorious heritage of the Indian \*Sanatan\* tradition to the new generation.

## Department takes strict action against illegal water connections in Barara and Adhoya

**JAIBEER RANA THAMBER**

**BARARA:** In light of rising temperatures and a potential drinking water crisis, the Public Health Engineering Department has launched a special drive against illegal and unauthorized water connections in Barara city, Adhoya Hindwan, and Adhoya Musalmana. Departmental teams conducted door-to-door inspections of water connections and issued notices to consumers found utilizing water in violation of established regulations. The campaign was led by Junior Engineer "Deepak Rana". He stated that the department's primary objective is to ensure the provision of clean and adequate drinking water to every household. To achieve this, it is imperative to curb illegal connections, prevent the misuse of drinking water, and put an end to water wastage. He added that the department is continuously conducting such drives across Haryana against such connections, and notices are being issued to those found violating the rules. Deepak Rana explained that during inspections, if any consumer is found utilizing a domestic water connection for non-domestic purposes—such as commercial activities or other unauthorized uses—action will be initiated against them in accordance with the rules. Such consumers will first be served a notice, granting them an opportunity to regularize their connection within a stipulated time frame. Failure to rectify the situation within the allotted time may result in the disconnection of the supply, in addition to the imposition of fines. Appealing to the residents of the area to cooperate in water conservation efforts, he stated: "Every single drop of water is invaluable. All citizens should use water strictly according to their needs and refrain from establishing any form of illegal connection or engaging in water theft, so that a regular and adequate supply of drinking water can be ensured for every family. During the campaign, the departmental team also engaged in raising public awareness regarding water conservation. Officials confirmed that this inspection drive will continue uninterrupted in the coming days. Strict action will be taken against any individual found to be involved in maintaining illegal connections or misusing drinking water.



## National forum charts new direction for urban development; mayors from across India share experiences

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 3**

The 117th meeting of the All India Mayors' Council commenced on Wednesday in Rishikesh amid the serene surroundings of the Ganga and the spiritual landscape of Uttarakhand. The event brought together mayors from across the country to deliberate on the future of urban development, governance and civic infrastructure.

The inaugural session was attended by Pushkar Singh Dhami and All India Mayors' Council president and Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta. Other dignitaries present included Uttarakhand Urban Development Minister Ram Singh Kaida, Rishikesh Mayor Shambhu Paswan, council general secretary Ashutosh Varshney, Cabinet Ministers Prem Chand Aggarwal and Subodh Uniyal, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami stressed the importance of planned urban development, improved sanitation



systems and the effective implementation of smart city initiatives. He said that in the face of rapid urbanisation, there is a growing need to make civic services more modern, transparent and citizen-centric.

During various sessions of the conference, mayors from different parts of the country shared experiences from their respective cities and exchanged ideas on strengthening urban administration, infrastructure development and service delivery systems. Discussions also fo-



ocused on innovative practices and governance models that could help shape future urban policies.

Speaking at the meeting, Renu Bala Gupta said such national platforms not only facilitate the exchange of ideas but also help generate new ap-

proaches to urban development. She emphasised that when mayors from across the country come together, practical solutions to civic challenges and effective administrative models emerge, benefiting cities nationwide.

She further said that guidance from experienced leadership and public representatives plays a crucial role in making cities stronger, cleaner and more self-reliant. Gupta also underlined the need for empowering urban local bodies to enable more efficient governance and sustainable development.

Chief Minister Dhami praised Renu Bala Gupta's leadership and organisational abilities, stating that under her guidance, the council has successfully created a meaningful platform for mayors to exchange ideas on urban development, good governance and innovation. He said the council is playing an important role in strengthening local bodies and advancing the vision of smart, clean and self-reliant cities.

## 'Shri Krishna Kathamrit' organised at Hindu A.S. Senior Secondary School

**PRITI SAINI SADHAURA, JUNE 3**

Under the aegis of the Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sanshan, a programme titled 'Shri Krishna Kathamrit' is being organised at the Hindu A.S. Senior Secondary School in Sadhaura. During the inaugural day of the event, Sadhvi Jayanti Bharti—a disciple of Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji—stated that the personality of Lord Shri Krishna is immensely vast and transcendental. By drawing lessons from His exemplary life, human beings can elevate their own lives to greatness. She explained that the message regarding the establishment of \*Dharma\* (righteousness) embodied in the character of Lord Shri Krishna transcends the boundaries of every era, age, and nation. It offers a solution to all the problems plaguing the modern age. Expressing concern over the current state of society, she remarked that today, the inner consciousness of every individual is shrouded in darkness; it is enveloped by the gloom of ignorance. Whenever ignorance prevails within the human being, human society becomes devoid of humanity. Human beings begin to lose their humane qualities. Vices such as unrighteousness, oppression, immorality, and corruption begin to rear their heads in society. This is precisely why our ancient sages and



seers offered this prayer to the Supreme Reality: "O Lord, dispel the darkness within us, so that, by attaining the light of knowledge, we may make our lives beautiful." As long as a human being remains afflicted by the deep darkness of ignorance, their holistic development remains impossible. Darkness not only confuses us but also instills fear. In the presence of light, everything becomes clearly visible; neither confusion nor fear remains. Just as external darkness is dispelled by external light, similarly, the inner darkness of ignorance is annihilated by the inner light of knowledge. The attainment of this knowledge is possible only by taking refuge in a Satguru who can manifest that divine light within the human being.

## SDM Anubhav Mehta holds meeting of special intensive revision with officials and representatives political parties

**KARAMBIR LADWA:**

A special meeting regarding the special intensive revision was held at the Ladwa SDM office on Wednesday, chaired by SDM Anubhav Mehta. Representatives of political parties and officials from local departments attended the meeting. SDM Anubhav Mehta met with representatives of political parties and shared detailed information. All parties should create their own booth-level agents and submit the list to the election office. A booth-level agent can add one additional member. A political agent can submit up to 50 forms per day. He stated that the agents will scrutinize the voter list issued by the election office to check for any family's votes being divided between two booths, any missing voters, or any voter's vote being doubled. Following this, they will assist the BLO in other ways. Any information can be provided to the BLO, RO, and DEO.

Anubhav Mehta stated that a special in-depth revision will be conducted for 197,911 voters in the Ladwa Assembly constituency from June 15 to July 14. Citizens can participate in this special in-depth revision process through both online and offline processes. For this revision, BLOs will visit every household in the district to collect forms. Citizens can submit forms to BLOs themselves, or through booth-level agents of political parties. He also appealed to citizens for their cooperation in the special in-depth revision. He stated that young people who turn 18 by June 30 can register for a new vote starting July 1. All BLOs will receive training from the department from June 5 to June 14. Following the training, the special in-depth revision will be conducted from June 15 to July 14. During the training, they will be instructed on which forms each voter must fill out and how. Tehsildar Navam Dhanra, Naib Tehsildar Balkar Singh, Naib Tehsildar Geeta Ram, BDPO Rubal, BDPO Vinod Kumar, Market Committee Secretary Sant Kumar, Election Kanungo Suresh, along with representatives and officials of political parties were present in the meeting.

## District-level yoga session on June 7 to convey message of healthy life: CTM Himanshu Chauhan

**DINKAR GAWRI HANSI, JUNE 3**

As part of the series of events being organised to mark International Yoga Day, a district-level yoga session will be held in the auditorium of SD Women's College, Hansi. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Krishan Bedi, will attend the event as the Chief Guest. Additionally, MLA Vinod Bhayana, former Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu, and BJP District President Ashok Saini will also be present as special guests. CTM Himanshu Chauhan informed that the district-level yoga session will commence at 6:30 AM. Officers and employees from various government departments, representatives of social organizations, students from educational institutions, and a large number of citizens are expected to participate in the event. The CTM stated that du-



ties have been assigned to officers and employees from various departments to ensure the successful and well-organised execution of the program. All concerned officials have been instructed to discharge their responsibilities with complete sincerity, dedication, and punctuality to ensure the event concludes successfully. He further mentioned that the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HSVP) has been designated as the nodal department

for the event. The nodal department is currently ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place. Essential provisions—including seating arrangements, drinking water, sanitation, medical assistance, security, and traffic management—are being made for the yoga session.

CTM Himanshu Chauhan noted that students from various government and private schools will also participate in the event and engage in a collective yoga session. Under the guidance of yoga experts, participants will practice various asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques. The objective of the program is to raise awareness among citizens regarding yoga and to inspire them to adopt a healthy and balanced lifestyle. The CTM appealed to all citizens of the district to participate in the event in large numbers, thereby making this campaign to take yoga to every individual a success.

## EDITORIAL

UPI hits new high in May 2026  
with 23.2 billion transactions

The Unified Payments Interface continued its dominance in India's digital payments landscape with record volumes in May 2026, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India. The May numbers show UPI processed 23.2 billion transactions worth Rs 29.9 trillion during the month, keeping it far ahead of other payment rails. The NPCI data highlights UPI as the primary driver of digital transactions. The May 2026 data puts UPI transactions at 737.79 million per day on average, with a daily transaction value of Rs 84,423 crore, or Rs 0.84 trillion. The month-to-date figures capture the full strength of UPI adoption across retail, merchant and P2P payments. The May performance underscores UPI's role as the backbone of India's digital economy. With 23,201.93 million, or 23.2 billion transactions in a single month, UPI accounts for the bulk of real-time payments, far exceeding other systems tracked by NPCI. For context, IMPS recorded 358.10 million, or 0.36 billion transactions worth Rs 6,95,701 crore, about Rs 6.96 trillion. NPCI noted that the total UPI numbers published exclude Credit Card on UPI and Credit Line on UPI accounts, meaning actual usage is even higher once those segments are included. The continued month-on-month jump from April to May reflects growing consumer trust, deeper merchant acceptance, and expansion of UPI Lite and UPI for feature phones. The May 2026 figures come as digital payments get integrated into everyday spending, from small-ticket grocery purchases to large-ticket bill payments. UPI's real-time, low-cost infrastructure has made it the default choice for consumers and businesses alike. NPCI's ongoing upgrades on security, fraud prevention and cross-border UPI links are expected to support the next phase of growth. With FY27 underway, UPI's scale in May sets the tone for another year of strong adoption. The system's ability to handle more than 700 million transactions daily while maintaining stability has been key to its success. May's Rs 29.9 trillion throughput reaffirms UPI's central position in India's payments ecosystem.

If India is to realise its dream of emerging as a major global player in the semiconductor sector, it needs to reassess its core strengths and craft suitable strategies. The stark reality is that the country imports 90-95% of the semiconductors it uses today, and the domestic demand is projected to exceed \$240 billion by 2035. India spent nearly \$150 billion importing semiconductor products between 2017 and 2025.

In this scenario, it would be imprudent to reinvent the wheel and end up as an also-ran in the global race, particularly in the face of the widening gap between demand growth and limited domestic capability.

Given the complex nature of the industry and the changing geopolitics surrounding it, the Centre must favourably look into a wide range of suggestions made by the NITI Aayog to make India an indispensable player in the global semiconductor value chain. One of the important recommendations made by the think tank is that India must stop trying to catch up with global leaders in cutting-edge semiconductor manufacturing and instead focus on areas where it can become irreplaceable within the global chip supply chain.

It has been rightly argued that we should move away from the race to build the world's most advanced chips and focus instead on advanced packaging, system integration and manufacturing scale. Winning the semiconductor race will not be easy if India continues to run the existing race; instead, it should shift gears and target becoming the ecosystem player



that the global semiconductor industry cannot run without.

India's semiconductor demand is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 19%. This demand is expected to be driven by electronics manufacturing, rapid expansion of data centres, increasing semiconductor content in vehicles, particularly electric vehicles and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), and the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across consumer

and enterprise applications. Given the rising demand, excessive dependence on imported chips poses risks not only to economic growth but also to national security, as many semiconductor components used in defence systems are sourced from abroad.

The global chip supply chain is currently undergoing massive geopolitical pressure as the United States and its allies are trying to reduce their dependence on Chinese

semiconductor players and their markets. Though India traditionally had a strong base for the semiconductor design industry, hardware manufacturing has remained elusive. Over the last two decades, several consortia made multiple attempts at chip-making, but things never worked out.

It is estimated that India will require between \$135 billion and \$180 billion in capital expenditure over the next decade to build

infrastructure for semiconductor manufacturing, packaging, design and related ecosystem capabilities. The Centre must consider NITI Aayog's key recommendations, including setting up National Fab Academy, semiconductor-focused engineering curriculum, large-scale technician training programmes and a global talent initiative, to attract experienced semiconductor professionals.

## US job openings jump to 7.6 million in April as hiring, separations ease



US job openings rose sharply in April to 7.6 million, a gain of 731,000 over the month, while hiring and overall separations both eased, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Tuesday. The data suggests demand for labour remains strong even as worker movement in payrolls cooled.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "the number of job openings increased to 7.6 million in April," with the job openings rate rising to 4.6 per cent. Over the year, openings were up by 520,000. The increase was driven largely by professional and business services, which added 668,000 openings, offsetting a decline of 135,000 in finance and insurance.

Hiring activity softened during the month. The BLS said "the number and rate of hires decreased to 5.1 million (-419,000) and 3.2 per cent, respectively, in April," with hires little changed across all industries. Total separations, which include quits, layoffs and discharges, also declined. "In April, the number and rate of total separations decreased to 5.0 million (-399,000) and 3.1 per cent, respectively." The retail trade saw the biggest drop at 136,000 fewer separations. Within separations, quits held steady at 3.0 million, or a 1.9 per cent rate, while layoffs and discharges were little changed at 1.7 million, or 1.1 per cent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that quits are generally

voluntary separations initiated by employees and can serve as a measure of workers' willingness to leave jobs. "Quits were little changed in all industries," the agency said. Layoffs and discharges decreased in retail trade by 88,000, but were otherwise little changed.

The report also broke down trends by establishment size. For firms with 1 to 9 employees, the job openings rate increased while hires and separations rates showed little change. For the largest establishments with 5,000 or more employees, the quits rate increased, but job openings, hires, layoffs and discharges, and total separations rates showed little or no change.

## India set to emerge as one of world's key AI, hyperscale infrastructure markets

India is poised to emerge as one of the world's most important AI and hyperscale infrastructure markets, driven by rapid expansion in data centre capacity, rising artificial intelligence workloads and strong policy support, according to Knight Frank India's latest report.

The report noted that India's data centre sector has entered a defining phase of expansion, with live IT capacity across the country's seven primary markets surpassing 1.6 GW by the end of 2025. "India's data centre industry is entering a once-in-a-generation infrastructure cycle," the report said, adding that the growth is being driven by "AI-led digital transformation, hyperscale cloud expansion, sovereign data requirements and proactive policy support."

The report highlighted that India added 371.5 MW of live capacity in 2025, following 361.6 MW added in 2024, reflecting a sustained growth cycle supported by strong demand from hyperscalers and AI-led workloads.

Cumulative colocation lease activity reached 2.06 GW in 2025, with AI emerging as a key demand driver. "AI-related colocation leasing alone reached 348 MW during the year, more than doubling compared with 2024," the report



said. It added that "nearly 20 per cent of total demand" is now linked directly to AI-related workloads, underlining the structural shift in demand patterns across the sector. Knight Frank India observed that the sector has transformed from a fragmented infrastructure base into a strategic asset class. "The sector, which has evolved from a fragmented infrastructure ecosystem into a strategic

institutional asset class over the last decade, is now witnessing unprecedented momentum," it said.

On regional growth, the report said Mumbai continues to dominate the market, accounting for nearly 47 per cent of India's total live capacity.

"Mumbai retained its position as India's largest and most mature data centre market," the report said, while

also noting the emergence of Chennai and Hyderabad as key growth hubs supported by subsea connectivity and AI-focused infrastructure demand.

Hyderabad, in particular, is rapidly emerging as an AI infrastructure hub, with global cloud providers expanding their presence and new hyperscale regions expected to go live in the coming years. The report also highlighted large-

scale investments and project announcements in Tier-II cities, including Visakhapatnam, which is witnessing gigawatt-scale development plans backed by major global and domestic players. "Visakhapatnam and Jamnagar signal India's next wave of AI infrastructure growth," the report said, pointing to multi-billion-dollar investments and planned AI-focused campuses.

According to Knight Frank, regulatory and policy developments such as data protection rules and sovereign AI initiatives are also reshaping demand for domestic infrastructure. "The implementation of India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules... marks one of the most significant structural demand drivers for the data centre sector," it noted.

Despite strong momentum, the report flagged execution challenges, particularly around power availability, transmission capacity and regulatory approvals, even as capital commitments continue to rise. At the same time, major global and domestic firms have announced large investment plans in India's data centre ecosystem, reinforcing long-term confidence in the market's growth trajectory.

## Study shows how allergies differ in urban, rural children

Scientists discovered that a previously uncharacterized subset of immune cells may play an important role in the development of allergy illnesses and explain disparities between urban and rural populations.

The study sheds light on how the immune system develops in early life and why urban children are more prone to allergies than rural children. Led by researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) Department of Pediatrics, including MD/PhD student Catherine Pizzarello and senior author Kirsi Jarvinen-Seppo, MD, PhD, the study uncovered a unique subpopulation of T cells known as helper 2 (Th2) cells with distinct molecular characteristics. T-cells are the foundational immune cells that fight off infections, but there is evidence that this

specific subtype is recognizing certain foods as allergenic and attacking them, according to Jarvinen-Seppo. "These pro-allergic T cells are more inflammatory than anything previously described in this context," said Jarvinen-Seppo, chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at UR Medicine Golisano Children's Hospital. "They were found more frequently in urban infants who later developed allergies, suggesting they may be a predictive biomarker or even a mechanistic driver of allergic disease."

The study compared blood samples from urban infants with those from infants in a farming community, specifically the Old Order Mennonites (OOM) of New York's Finger Lakes region—known for their low rates of allergies. Researchers



found that while urban infants had higher levels of the aggressive Th2 cells, OOM infants had more regulatory T cells that help keep the immune system in balance and reduce the likelihood of allergic responses. While additional research is needed to identify a possible cause, Jarvinen-Seppo speculates that differences in the development of the gut microbiome between the two populations, and more exposure to "healthy" bacteria in rural children, may be a factor.

"The farming environment, which is rich in microbial exposure, appears to support the development of a more tolerant immune system.

Meanwhile, the urban environment may promote the emergence of immune cells that are primed for allergic inflammation," said Jarvinen-Seppo. The

work is part of a broader, NIH-funded investigation into how early-life exposures influence long-term immune outcomes. In 2023, Jarvinen-Seppo's team received a \$7 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to study environmental, microbiome, and immune differences between OOM and urban infants.

The goal is to continue this foundational work to uncover protective factors that could be translated into preventive therapies, including probiotics or microbiome-supporting interventions. "If we can identify the conditions for this disparity between the different T cell subpopulations, we can potentially find solutions in allergic disease development," Jarvinen-Seppo said.

**3 criminals arrested for duping shopkeeper**

**JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA:** Police have arrested three individuals for allegedly duping a shopkeeper of a necklace worth rupees five thousand by fraudulently paying him via Google Pay. One of the arrested suspects is a habitual offender with several previous theft cases against him. Ashok Kumar, a shopkeeper on Barara Railway Road, had complained that on May 10th,

some unknown men rented a necklace worth Rs 5000 from his shop. The accused were to pay a total of six thousand rupees, including a Rs 5000 security deposit and Rs 1000 rent. The accused transferred Rs 6000 via Google Pay and fled with the necklace. However, the money never arrived in the shopkeeper's account, prompting him to file a police complaint. The police registered a case

and, during investigation, arrested the main accused Harsh alias Tanda, a resident of Dhurla village, Hardeep alias Deep, also from Dhurla, and Nitesh alias Nishu, a resident of Jathlana, Yamunanagar, and produced them in court, from where they were sent to judicial custody. Police investigation has revealed that the main accused Harsh alias Tanda is a notorious and habitual criminal.

**NEWS BRIEF**

**MC Barnala organises public welfare fair to provide benefits of welfare schemes and create awareness**



**KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA:** Under the guidance of Director Local Government Department Punjab and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Barnala Harpreet Singh, a public welfare fair was organized in Municipal Corporation Barnala to provide benefits of government welfare schemes and create awareness. In this fair, information was given about the benefits of eight government schemes to the street vendors under the PM Swayamidhi and Swayamidhi to Samridhi schemes. On this occasion, City Mission Manager Shubham Bansal, associated with the scheme, said that the P. It has been 6 years since the launch of PM Swayamidhi Yojana. This scheme is continuously working to make the beneficiaries self-reliant, in which the first loan of Rs 15,000 for one year, the second loan of Rs 25,000 for one and a half years and the third loan of Rs 50,000 for three years is being provided to the street vendor with the help of banks.

**UPITS-2026 to further strengthen UP's identity on the global trade map**

**YUGMARG BUREAU LUCKNOW, JUNE 3**

Lucknow: As another major step towards making Uttar Pradesh a trillion-dollar economy under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2026 is being organised.

After the success of its previous three editions, the event has now become a major platform connecting the products, services, technologies and innovations of Uttar Pradesh with the global market. Through this, industries, MSMEs, startups and the export sector in the state are expected to get new opportunities.

More than 2,400 exhibitors are expected to participate in UPITS-2026, while over 550 international buyers from 85 countries are likely to attend. In addition, more than 1.50 lakh domestic B2B buyers and around 4.50 lakh general visitors are expected to be present. The event will not only help take the state's products to the global market but will also give new heights to investment and business partnerships.

During the trade show, more than 4,000 Memorandums of Understanding



(MOUs) are likely to be signed, with an estimated value of over Rs 3,200 crore.

Apart from this, potential business leads and enquiries worth more than Rs 13,500 crore are also expected to be generated. This is likely to provide wide benefits to the state's MSMEs, ODOP units, exporters and entrepreneurs.

This mega event, to be organised across around 1.10 lakh square metres of

exhibition area, will also showcase the Yogi government's industrial, export and investment promotion policies.

According to departmental officials, the event will play an important role in making the state more attractive for national and international investors and in realising Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of a trillion-dollar economy.

**NFR's rail-borne maintenance vehicle to strengthen infrastructure up-keep in challenging terrains**

**YUGMARG BUREAU MALIGAON, JUNE 3**

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has further enhanced its infrastructure maintenance capabilities with the induction of a Rail-Borne Maintenance Vehicle (RBMV), designed to undertake critical track and engineering maintenance activities with greater efficiency, precision and safety. The newly procured vehicle will play a vital role in supporting maintenance operations across difficult and strategically important railway sections, particularly in the under-construction and challenging Bairabi-Sairang railway project in Mizoram. The advanced maintenance vehicle is equipped with modern features that enable transportation of men, materials and maintenance equipment directly to work sites located in remote and inaccessible areas. The vehicle is also fitted with specialized lifting and handling arrangements, allowing railway personnel to carry out track-related works, replacement of components and emergency restoration activities in a safe



and time-bound manner. Its deployment will significantly reduce dependence on conventional methods of maintenance and improve overall operational efficiency. The Bairabi-Sairang section, which traverses hilly terrain and presents unique engineering challenges, requires robust maintenance support for ensuring safe and reliable railway operations. The induction of this Maintenance Vehicle will facilitate the same during inspections and infrastructure upkeep activities. The vehicle will also be useful in carrying out preventive

maintenance, thereby helping to minimize disruptions and enhance asset reliability. Safety remains the foremost priority for NFR. The deployment of this modern maintenance vehicle is expected to strengthen safety standards by providing railway personnel with a dedicated and efficient platform for undertaking maintenance works under demanding field conditions. The improved mechanization of maintenance activities will also reduce manual handling of heavy equipment and materials, thereby enhancing workplace safety and productivity.

**Ramesh Kumar assumes charge as Additional General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway**

**YUGMARG BUREAU MALIGAON:**

Ramesh Kumar, an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), has assumed charge as the Additional General Manager (AGM) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) on 1st June, 2026. Shri Kumar is a Civil Engineering graduate from Govind Ballabh Pant University, Nainital and belongs to the 1991 batch of IRSE. He joined Indian Railways in November, 1992 and possesses more than three decades of rich and diverse experience in railway infrastructure development, construction, maintenance and project management. During his distinguished career, Shri Kumar has held several important assignments in South Eastern Railway, Railway Land Development Authority (RLDA), Railway Board and Northeast Frontier Railway. He served in various capacities including Assistant Engineer and Divisional Engineer in South Eastern Railway, Deputy Chief Engineer for the Tamluk-Digha New Line Project in West Bengal, Joint General Manager in Railway Land Development Authority (RLDA) and Director (Land & Amenities) in Railway Board. Prior to assuming charge as AGM of NFR, Shri Kumar was working as Chief Project Director/Station Development, Northeast Frontier Railway, where he was associated with various station redevelopment and Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) projects. He has extensive experience in station redevelopment, new line construction, land management and arbitration matters. He also served as Chief Engineer/Construction for the Dimapur-Kohima New Line Project and has worked in key positions related to construction and infrastructure development in the ghat sections of Chakradharpur Division as well as other important infrastructure projects across Indian Railways.



**Dr Kaustubh Sharma reviews security grid, says Punjab Police to remain on high alert**



**AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB:**

Punjab Police has intensified security arrangements across the state in view of Ghalughara Week, with senior officers closely monitoring the situation to ensure peace and public safety. Addressing mediapersons at Badali Ala Singh, ADGP Dr Kaustubh Sharma said the police force remains fully vigilant and prepared to respond swiftly to any security challenge. Dr Sharma stated that the police checkpoint established at Badali Ala Singh operates round the clock, with personnel deployed in two 12-hour shifts to maintain uninterrupted surveillance and security. He emphasized that constant monitoring at strategic locations is a key component of the state's security framework during the sensitive period. Highlighting the role of technology in policing, the ADGP said CCTV cameras installed at the checkpoint are being continuously monitored from the control room in Fatehgarh Sahib. This real-time surveillance enables authorities to detect and respond promptly to any suspicious movement or activity. "The foremost priority of Punjab Police is to maintain law and order and provide a safe and secure environment to citizens," Dr Sharma said.

**Protest against closure of Doordarshan Kendra held**



**MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR:**

On 124th day of Haryana Doordarshan Kendra Hisar Bachao Jan Sangharsh Samiti protest, Indra Singh Malik Pradhan said that closure of our Doordarshan Kendra Hisar is not given any priority by the media, especially the anchors of Doordarshan Kendras and government does not care about it even because of lack of news sometimes. However, jobs and promotions of those Doordarshan employees, including anchors, are not only getting reduced but they will also be completely eliminated. Then only private channels can bring them into a state of slavery by giving them arbitrary salaries and very strict conditions. Entire journalism may be in danger because owners of private media are in favor of economic dictatorship. Then you keep on obeying them, professionalism will end, for which all of you current media and especially the anchors will be responsible. Therefore, do not let such a history be created and give space in your programs strongly for the immediate restoration of Hisar, which is only Doordarshan Kendra of Haryana. Avoid kind of journalism Shrivastava is doing. Nothing will happen to the politicians, you people will definitely be branded as betrayers of your profession.

**Cong workers celebrate Randeep Surjewala's birthday with enthusiasm at Kisan Bhawan**



**SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL:**

Birthday of Indian National Congress General Secretary and MP Randeep Singh Surjewala was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Kisan Bhawan. MLA Aditya Surjewala and Sudip Surjewala along with Congress workers celebrated birthday by cutting a cake and distributing laddus. A sweet water stall was also set up for passersby in front of Kisan Bhawan, a tradition that continues every year. Aditya Surjewala, while sharing his thoughts on Randeep Singh Surjewala's birthday, said, "Today is birthday of Indian National Congress General Secretary and MP, former Cabinet Minister, and my father, Randeep Singh Surjewala." On this day, Randeep Surjewala's fans and workers across Kaithal and entire state celebrate his birthday with great enthusiasm. From very beginning, Congress workers have made this day special by organizing blood donation camps, Chhabeel events and food distribution, and wishing him a long life. Many prominent Congress leaders and workers wished Randeep Surjewala on his birthday at the event. Present on the occasion were Congress District President Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand, Congress District President Zora Singh Sinand, Ramniwas Mittal, Ashwini Shorewala, Suresh Garg Chaudhary, Kaviraj Sharma, Surendra Ranjha.

**YS School student Shivang wins gold medal in under-11 category in District Chess Championship**

**KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA:**

YS School's talented student Shivang has brought glory to the school and his family by winning the gold medal in the under-11 category by performing brilliantly in the District Chess Championship, Barnala. Shivang gave a tough fight to all the competitors by displaying his unparalleled strategy, concentration and sportsmanship during the competition and won the title of the winner. His achievement has created an atmosphere of happiness and pride in the school. The school management, including the Direct Shri Darshan Kumar MD Varun Bharti, teachers and classmates, congratulated Shivang on this great success and wished him a bright future. This achievement of Shivang is also a source of inspiration for other students and proves that with hard work, discipline and dedication, every goal can be achieved.



**International Employment Festival in accordance with vision of MP Jindal: Dr Manish Mishra**

**DALBIR SINGH MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 3**

Giving information after a review meeting regarding grand organization of International Employment Festival under guidance of MP Naveen Jindal, Dr Manish Mishra, Vice President and Head of Skill Development Department of Naveen Jindal Foundation, stated that many eminent personalities from fields of society, education, spirituality, politics, and skill development will participate in "International Employment Festival - New Opportunities - New Directions" program to be organized by Naveen Jindal Foundation on June 4 at Club House in Jindal Global City, Sector 29, Kurukshetra. Haryana BJP State President Dr. Archana Gupta will be chief guest, while Haryana Legislative Assembly member, former Minister of State and renowned social worker Savitri Jindal will be present as special guest. Former Minister Subhash Sudha and Sardar Jagwinder Singh



Virk will grace event as special guests. It will be chaired MP Naveen Jindal who launched this innovative initiative to connect youth with employment skill development and international opportunities. He stated that spiritual luminaries, including Param Pujya Brahmawarup Brahmachari Ji Maharaj, President, Seth Naurang Rai Lohia Jayaram Girls College, and Param Pujya Dr. Swami Shashvatnand Giri Ji Maharaj, Niranjani Akhara will also offer their blessings.

**Voter list is pillar of democratic process, its updating strengthens credibility of election process: DC**

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 3**

Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Preeti, while giving information about Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in state by Election Commission of India at press briefing in District Secretariat auditorium on Wednesday, stated that people are being made aware of Special Intensive Revision of Voter Lists-2026, based on eligibility date of July 1, 2026. She informed that there are a total of 918,682 voters in four assembly constituencies of the district, of which 697,000 voters have been mapped.



District's map percentage is 75.87. She said that voter list is cornerstone of democratic process and its accuracy and updating strengthens transparency and credibility of election process. Therefore, all officers involved in revision work should discharge their duties with utmost seriousness and responsibility. District Election Officer stated that under this program, process

of adding, amending and resolving objections to eligible voters will be completed according to scheduled dates. Qualifying date for Special Intensive Revision Program is July 1 and preparation, training and printing will run from June 5 to June 14. Door-to-door surveys by BLOs will be conducted from June 15 to July 14 and rationalization of polling stations will be completed by July 14.

**GGs Public School, Sangrur students take part in summer camp**



**SUSHIL GOYAL SANGRUR:**

During the on-going summer vacations, students took part with full enthusiasm and energy in the summer camp, organised at General Gurnam Singh (GGs) Public School, Sangrur. In this camp, the children got an opportunity to learn various sports, creative activities, and new skills. Under the Bharatiya Bhasha Camp, directed by CBSE, students also presented educational and cultural performances related to both Punjabi and Gujarati languages. During the camp, students enhanced their skills by participating in activities like coding, personality development and communication skills, dance, dramatics, painting, swimming, cricket, table tennis, hockey, football, and basketball. School Principal Dinesh Dev Thapliyal said that summer camps play an important role in the all-round development of children. Their aim is to channelise children's energy in a positive direction, develop their social abilities, promote mental and physical activities, and cultivate interest in creative work instead of mobile games.

**ADGP Kaustubh Sharma inspects Badali Ala Singh Police Station, reviews security measures**



**AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB:**

In a bid to further strengthen law and order and reinforce security arrangements across Punjab, Additional Director General of Police (Security) Dr Kaustubh Sharma, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Badali Ala Singh Police Station in Fatehgarh Sahib district on Tuesday. Accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Shubham Aggarwal, IPS, the ADGP undertook a detailed review of the functioning of the police station and assessed the overall security scenario in the area. During the visit, he inspected the operational status of CCTV cameras installed within the police station to ensure effective surveillance, transparency and security management. Dr Sharma also visited various police checkpoints established in the region and reviewed the deployment and preparedness of police personnel.

**IGP Faridkot Range and SSP Moga conduct surprise check at Thana Kot Ise Khan and Naka Point Kamal Ke**



**JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA:**

IGP Faridkot Range and SSP Moga conducted Kot Ise Khan police station and Naka Point Kamal Ke in Moga district today. During this, the security arrangements of the police station, the performance of CCTV cameras, wireless communication system, emergency sirens and other security arrangements were reviewed in detail. During the checking, the records of the police station, the property and the performance of the police personnel were also inspected. The officers interacted with the staff and motivated them to maintain promptness, discipline and proper behavior with the people. After this, a visit was made to Naka Point Kamal K and the blockade arrangements, barricading, checking process of deployed police personnel and vehicles was reviewed. The personnel posted on duty were instructed to seriously check suspicious persons and vehicles and to remain alert at all times. IGP Faridkot Range and SSP Moga said that such checks and inspections will continue continuously to further strengthen the law and order situation in the district and ensure the safety of the people.

**Free Fibro Scan Test camp organised at Nirmal Hospital**

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR:**

A free Fibro Scan test and general health check-up camp was organized on Wednesday at Nirmal Hospital, Yamunanagar. During the event, a large number of people underwent examinations of their livers. Patients at the camp were examined by a team of specialists who had arrived from Chandigarh. Dr. Nirmal Singh explained that, in recent times, cases of fatty liver and other liver diseases are rising rapidly due to alcohol consumption, poor dietary habits, obesity, and diabetes. Consequently, undergoing timely screening is extremely important. He noted that Fibro Scan is a modern diagnostic technique that allows for the assessment of fat accumulation and fibrosis in the liver, entirely without pain. He further informed that, typically, the cost of this test ranges from approximately Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 4,500; however, with the aim of facilitating the public and raising awareness, the test was provided free of cost during this camp. Dr. Nirmal Singh also shared that Nirmal Hospital, Yamunanagar, offers facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory ailments, asthma, and lung-related diseases. During the free medical camp, patients were also screened for respiratory issues and asthma, and necessary medical advice was provided.



NEWS BRIEF

Tata Motors Launches the All-New Intra V40

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, today accelerated its push in alternate fuel mobility with the launch of the all-new Intra V40, reinforcing its leadership in the fast-growing small commercial vehicle and pickup segment.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Expands Presence in Haryana with New Branch in Hisar

HISAR: Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), a leading housing finance company and a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has expanded its footprint in Haryana with the launch of a new branch in Hisar, as part of its broader plan to expand its pan-India distribution network.

Sony Launches BRAVIA 71i with True RGB Technology in India

LUDHIANA/CHANDIGARH: Sony India has unveiled its latest premium television series, BRAVIA 71i, introducing innovative True RGB technology to the Indian market.

23 AESL Jalandhar Students Qualify JEE Advanced 2026; Ishmit Singh Secures AIR 519

JALANDHAR: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), one of India's leading test preparation institutes, has announced an impressive performance by its students from Jalandhar in the JEE Advanced 2026 examination, the results of which were declared today.

Pepsico India introduces Adrenaline Rush

LUDHIANA/AMRITSAR: Pepsico India is strengthening its leadership in the energy drinks category with the launch of Adrenaline Rush, its premium international energy drink brand.

Punjab's IRM India Affiliate-Licensed Global Centre for Enterprise Risk Management Opens at Chitkara University

PUNJAB/ CHANDIGARH: In a significant step towards strengthening India's resilience and global competitiveness, the Institute of Risk Management (IRM) India Affiliate has established its third Global Centre for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) at

PlatinumRx Closes 10 Lakh Users, Helps Indians Save ₹128 Crore on Medicine Bills

INDIA: PlatinumRx, a leading platform for affordable branded-generic medicines, has achieved a major milestone by serving over 10 lakh unique patients across India and enabling cumulative savings of more than ₹128 crore on medicine expenses.

Pernod Ricard India Unveils 'Royal Stag Barrel Select Reserve Whisky'

MANDI: Royal Stag Barrel Select from Pernod Ricard India proudly announces the launch of its newest variant: Royal Stag Barrel Select Reserve Whisky. Designed for the discerning few who seek distinction and depth in every sip, this new expression is a testament to the brand's relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to innovation in Indian whisky.

Sanjay Tandon announces World Cycle Day Rally to promote CPL and healthy living

CHANDIGARH: On the occasion of World Cycle Day being observed globally on June 3, UT Cricket Association (UTCA) Founder President and Chairman of the UT Sports Advisory Council, Sanjay Tandon has announced a special Cycle Rally aimed at promoting both physical fitness and the upcoming fourth edition of the Chandigarh Premier League (CPL).

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Balwinder Verma Elected President of Press Club Zirakpur 8004

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Punjab BJP to Gain New Momentum Under Kewal Singh Dhillon: Sanjeev Khanna

ZIRAKPUR, JUNE 3 (MUKESH CHAUHAN): BJP State Secretary and Halka Derabassi In-charge Sanjeev Khanna has hailed the appointment of Kewal Singh Dhillon as the new Punjab BJP President, describing it as a historic moment that will provide fresh direction and renewed energy to the party across the state.

TRAI Assesses Mobile Network Quality Across Palampur City and Chandigarh to Palampur Highway Route under HP LSA

PALAMPUR: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Palampur City and Chandigarh to Palampur Highway Route under HP LSA, during the month of March 2026, for information of general telecom consumers.

Administrator reviews preparations and infrastructure upgradation plans for Asian Relay Athletics Championship



CHANDIGARH: The Governor of Punjab and Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria today visited the Athletics Track Sports Complex, Sector 7, Chandigarh to review the preparations and proposed infrastructure upgradation plans for hosting the Asian Relay Athletics Championship 2027, scheduled to be held in Chandigarh in May 2027.

During the visit, the Administrator reviewed the existing facilities at the sports complex and discussed various development works being planned by the Chandigarh Administration to successfully host the prestigious international championship. He emphasized the need for adequate seating arrangements to accommodate a large number of spectators and directed officials to ensure the construction of strong and durable sheds over the seating areas for long-term public convenience.

IndiGo Suspend Manchester Flights from August 31 Amid Rising Costs

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: India's leading airline, IndiGo, has announced the temporary suspension of its flights to and from Manchester, United Kingdom, effective August 31, 2026, citing prolonged airspace restrictions, rising operational costs, and an increasingly challenging business environment.

India-U.S. Agricultural Cooperation Gains New Momentum Through Dialogue Led by IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani

CHANDIGARH: In a significant move aimed at deepening agricultural collaboration between India and the United States, an important dialogue was held under the leadership of IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani. The engagement gained further prominence as the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), headquartered in Washington, D.C., hosted a delegation from PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) led by Sanghani.

Balwinder Verma Elected President of Press Club Zirakpur 8004



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## Are Jagadhatri and Shivaay finally getting married for real? Sonakshi Batra and Farman Haider say...

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's Jagadhatri has been making headlines for its gripping storyline and engaging twists. The show recently achieved a significant milestone by completing 200 episodes, a testament to the immense love and support it has received from viewers. Over the years, audiences have especially connected with the unique bond shared by Shivaay (Farman Haider) and Jagadhatri (Sonakshi Batra). Unlike conventional television love stories, their journey has been built on trust, companionship, sacrifice, and unspoken emotions, making them one of the most loved on-screen couples. Recently, lead actors Farman Haider and Sonakshi Batra sparked curiosity among fans after sharing a picture on Instagram that has everyone talking. In the picture, we see Shivaay is about to apply sindoor to Jagadhatri, leaving viewers wondering what lies ahead for the beloved duo.



For those unfamiliar with their story, Shivaay and Jagadhatri's marriage was never a traditional one. The two had pretended to be husband and wife to enter the Deshmukh mansion. Shivaay claimed his rightful place as Mahesh Deshmukh's son, while Jagadhatri entered the mansion to uncover the truth behind her mother's death, a mystery that was deeply connected to the Deshmukh family. Their marriage was therefore a part of a larger mission, allowing them to gain access to the house and uncover hidden secrets. However, the recently shared picture featuring Shivaay and Jagadhatri has raised several questions. Is a grand wedding on the cards? Has their relationship evolved beyond the mission that first brought them together? The image has certainly left fans intrigued and eager to know what happens next. Speaking about the upcoming storyline, Sonakshi Batra who plays the lead role of Jagadhatri shared, "Jagadhatri and Shivaay have stood by each other through every storm, every challenge, and every sacrifice."

## Pizzeria & Co Opens Fourth Outlet in Solan, Marks Grand Entry into Himachal Pradesh

SOLAN: Pizzeria & Co, the fast-growing pizza and café brand from the house of Rolls Nation, has inaugurated its fourth outlet in Solan, marking its first-ever presence in Himachal Pradesh. The expansion is being seen as a significant milestone in the company's growth journey. With over 15 years of experience in the food and beverage industry and a strong commitment to quality, the brand has earned a distinct identity among customers through its hand-crafted pizzas, innovative menu offerings, refreshing beverages, and vibrant dining experience. Speaking on the occasion, Founder Uday Deep and Brand Owner Neha Karagwal said, "The opening of our first outlet in Himachal Pradesh is a moment of pride and excitement for the entire team. After successfully establishing three Pizzeria & Co outlets and building Rolls Nation into a brand with more than 80 outlets, we are delighted to bring our unique food experience to the people of Solan. This expansion further strengthens our commitment to quality, taste, and customer satisfaction."



The new Solan outlet has been designed to provide a modern and welcoming atmosphere for families, students, and food enthusiasts. Customers can enjoy an extensive range of signature pizzas, delicious side dishes, shakes, and café-style offerings prepared using premium ingredients and standardized recipes. The company said it plans to further strengthen its presence across North India in the coming years, with a strong focus on innovation and delivering an exceptional customer experience. The grand opening ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, food lovers, and well-wishers, who warmly welcomed the brand to the city. With this new beginning in Himachal Pradesh, Pizzeria & Co has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering exceptional taste, quality, and service while continuing its vision of becoming one of India's most loved café and pizza brands.

## "I got so much relatability in this story": Neetu Kapoor reflects on her 'Daadi Ki Shaadi'

Actor Neetu Kapoor opened up about her latest release 'Daadi Ki Shaadi', expressing delight over the entire team's efforts. Speaking to ANI, Neetu shared, "I am so happy. Everyone has worked so hard and made it with so much love. Everybody was so involved. Reflecting on the film's story, Neetu Kapoor also reflected on how she has friends, among whom many are happy with their children, while others don't get a chance to meet their kids. "When I heard this story, I started thinking about how many friends I have. Some friends are very happy with their children, while some of my friends are very sad. Their children don't meet nowadays. They are very busy in their lives. So, remembering all that, I got so much relatability in this story," she added. Director Ashish R Mohan highlighted how he finalised Neetu Kapoor for the role of 'Daadi' in the film. "It was the longest. We were looking for Daadi. It is then that a director friend suggested Neetu ma'am's name. Within 15-20 seconds, I got a call from Kapil's team about casting Neetu Ji. I said to lock it because something divine has come," he continued. Actor Deepak Dutta shared how he could immediately relate to the film's story. "My parents are no more in this world. I lost my father when I was 8 years old. I lost my mother just few years back, almost 6-7 years back."

## Vi Sustains Subscriber Growth Trend In April

LUDHIANA: TRAI has released the subscriber data for the month of April 2026. Continuing the positive momentum seen since February 2026, Vi added 53,257 subscribers in April 2026, taking its total subscriber base to 19,85,38,052 representing around 15.61% of the country's mobile telephony users. The company had earlier reported net subscriber additions of 21,927 subscribers in February 2026 and 1,02,899 subscribers in March 2026. Vi witnessed subscriber additions across nine circles, including Assam (added 4488), Bihar (added 17192), Delhi (added 94300), Gujarat (added 170343), HP (added 3176), J&K (added 4399), North East (added 847), Odisha (added 12780), Punjab (added 7996), UP East (added 1,99,895). Vi added 3,35,148 rural subscribers across the country in April. The continued subscriber additions are in line with Vi's focus on attracting quality customers through sustained network investments and differentiated product offerings. During the Q4FY26 earnings call, while highlighting improvements in all key performance metrics CEO Abhijit Kishore noted "... Gains from the capex investments and network rollout are now clearly visible." Vi CEO highlighted in the earnings call that the improving subscriber trend is closely linked to stronger 4G coverage and expanding 5G presence across markets. In line with his comment, Vi reported a significant YoY increase of 2.5 Million 4G/5G subscribers to 128.9 million. Vi postpaid subscriber base also grew by 17.58% to 30.1 million in FY26, and today has the highest postpaid base in the industry.

## Calling all adventurers: Royal Enfield announces the himalayan base camp — Ladakh edition

CHANDIGARH: Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle segment, announces the inaugural Himalayan Base Camp - Ladakh Edition. Transcending the traditional format of festivals or events, this is a convergence of riders, seekers, climbers, overlanders, and those for whom adventure is not a weekend escape but a way of moving through the world. Set at 11,480 feet in Leh, Ladakh, Royal Enfield returns to its spiritual ground to curate something that belongs to this terrain by moving beyond the handlebars, and building a sanctuary for the Adventure mindset. A three-day immersive community confluence, the Himalayan Base Camp is



set to host the largest migration of adventure seekers through curated expeditions, skill-based workshops, expert-led sessions and hands-on challenges across adventure travel, adventure sport and adventure lifestyle — participants don't watch. They do. Built around the spirit of accessible adventure, where people will shape the experience: not as an audience, but as active co-creators of what adventure looks like in this place and at this altitude. From motorcycling and overlanding to cycling, kayaking, bouldering and mountaineering and more, there is something unique as well as familiar for every adventure aficionado. Mohit Dhar Jayal, Chief Brand Officer, Royal Enfield, said: "The Himalayan Base Camp is a rendezvous point for all adventurers, regardless of whether they are driven by horsepower, willpower or their own two feet. The program combines action, instruction and a variety of expeditions that will take adventurers out of their comfort zone - and bring them back to base with a whole new set of skills and experiences."

NEW DELHI

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# Lifestyle

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## Film's title 'Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata' inspired by PM Modi's words: Kangana

Actor Kangana Ranaut has said the title of her upcoming film 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' has been inspired by the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The name Bharat Bhagya Vidhata was given by the Prime Minister in 2025. He named the specially-abled as 'Divyangjan'. He also changed the name of the scheme for widows to 'Kalyani'. The workers who make things with their hands were named 'Vishwakarma'. In the same manner, he named the labourers as

'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata'. This touched our hearts, and thus we wanted to keep it as our title," Kangana said at the film's trailer launch. The actor also highlighted that Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is scheduled to watch her film on June 9. "We want many women to come forward and support this film. Eventually, this story is of every Indian. Everyone is a hero. Also, I think if the Prime Minister watches the film, it will be a good message for everyone," Kangana said. The trailer of Kangana Ranaut starrer 'Bharat Bhhagya

Viddhaata' was unveiled on Tuesday, offering a powerful and deeply moving glimpse into a story inspired by true events.

It traces the story of ordinary people who rose with extraordinary bravery to save over 400 lives in the face of unimaginable terror. Headlined by Kangana Ranaut, the film shifts the spotlight from celebrated heroes to nurses and ward boys who became the nation's quiet saviours when it mattered most. Inspired by real-life incidents, the trailer underlines

a chilling truth: without them, the system would collapse in a single day. Kangana Ranaut is seen portraying the character of a staff nurse, an everyday woman whose dedication often goes unnoticed. Presented by Dr Jayantilal Gada (PEN Studios), the film is produced by PEN Studios, Manikarnika Films, and Paramhans Creations, in association with Eunoia Films LLP and Floating Rocks Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' is slated to release in theatres on June 12, 2026.

## 'Ishq Mastana' song from 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' unveiled

The new song 'Ishq Mastana' from Intiaz Ali's directorial 'Main Vapas Aunga' was unveiled on Tuesday. Ishq Mastana captures the essence of a Panjab that dances, sings, and embraces life with a spirit that remains unchanged across generations. Set against the backdrop of life before Partition, the song captures a world where every gathering felt like a celebration. Beneath its energy lies a fascinating musical landscape where Panjabi folk blends seamlessly with the jazz and swing influences that once echoed through undivided India. Ishq Mastana serves as a tribute to that era, a moment suspended in music, where laughter came easily and feet never stopped tapping. The song features Vedang Raina in a joyous, carefree avatar alongside Sharvari, highlighting their effortless chemistry and youthful ener-



gy. The track also offers glimpses of Naseeruddin Shah and Diljit Dosanjh, adding to the excitement surrounding the film. Sung by the evergreen Mohit Chauhan along with Nargis and Pooja Tiwari, composed by the legendary A.R. Rahman, and penned by the profound Irshad Kamil, Ishq Mastana is an uplifting musical experience that blends tradition with modernity.

The release of Ishq Mastana also arrives as a special treat on Vedang Raina's birthday, making the occasion even more memorable for fans. Produced by Birla Studios and Applause Entertainment along with Mohit Choudhary and Shibaish Sarkar of Window Seat Films, 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' is scheduled to release in theatres on June 12.

## Bollywood Dance Legacy Takes Center Stage on India's Best Dancer Season 5 as Judges revisit its golden history

CHANDIGARH: The premiere of India's Best Dancer Season 5 on Sony Entertainment Television celebrating India Wala Dance turns into a nostalgic celebration of Bollywood's dance legacy as the judges and host revisit the evolution of dance in Indian cinema.

During the discussion, host Harsh asked the judges, "Vo kaunsi pehli Bollywood film thi jisme dancing ki pehli jhalak dikhai di thi?"

To this, Jaaved Jaafari replied, "According to me it was Aalam Chhapla, it was a fantastic dance movie." The conversation continued as Harsh turned to Terence Lewis and asked, "Terence Sir aap kuch kehna chahenge?"

Responding, Terence Lewis said, "Agar sirf industry ki baat kare toh Vyjayanthimala was one of the best. Jo South ke heroines hain, chahе Hema Malini ho, Sridevi ji ho, Vyjayanthimala ho, unka technique aur training bahut kamaal ka tha. Unhone classical training ki wajah se Bollywood dance ko aag level par le gaye. Phir jab Madhuri Dixit aayi toh ek nayi raunak le aayi, unka expression amazing tha. Aur Karisma Kapoor ne toh itna filmy touch diya hai."

Adding to the discussion, Harsh stated, "Main bata deta hoon, Hindustan ki pehli film jisme dancing ki pehli jhalak dikhai di thi woh film thi Alam Ara, jisme Prithviraj Kapoor ji the. Tab unhone yeh nahi socha hoga ki aage chalko unki great-granddaughter Karisma Kapoor Bollywood dance ka chehra ban jaayegi."

The nostalgia continued as Jaaved Jaafari added, "I remember Prithviraj Kapoor ji, and after that Raj Kapoor ji, Shashi Kapoor ji, all of them had an incredible screen presence and personality. Prithviraj Kapoor ji, in particular, had one of the most impressive personalities and physique." The episode beautifully blends nostalgia, and admiration, celebrating how Bollywood dance has evolved through generations and continues to inspire today's performers. Don't miss India's Best Dancer Season 5, starting June 6th on Sony Entertainment Television, and streaming on Sony LIV.



## Kriti Sanon reveals she followed strict diet for her role in 'Cocktail 2'

Fans have been raving over Kriti Sanon ever since her look from 'Cocktail 2' was unveiled. And now with the launch of the film's trailer on Tuesday, the excitement among her admirers has risen a notch higher. From showcasing her toned physique to effortlessly carrying stylish ensembles, Kriti's look as Ally presents her in one of her most glamorous and captivating avatars yet. While Kriti makes the look appear effortless on screen, achieving it was anything but easy. The Mimi star followed a strict diet to get into shape and fully embody her character. Speaking at the trailer launch, Kriti said, "For the first time in my life I was on a strict diet and that too in Italy. I think Shahid can vouch for a fact that I was extremely cranky and hungry all the time. I mean everything was worth it." Have a look at Kriti's character here. The movie is directed by Homi Adajania and is written by Tarun Jain and Luv Ranjan. The music of the film is composed by Pritam. Maddock Film shared the trailer on their YouTube handle on Tuesday. Kriti shares the screen space with Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna in the film. The almost three-minute trailer of the film features a tale of chaos, confusion and heartbreak between three friends,

Kunal (Shahid Kapoor), Diya (Rashmika Mandanna) and Ally (Kriti Sanon). In the trailer, the lead cast were seen travelling, where the trio explore their friendship and different aspects of their relationship, including a possibility of a threesome. In



some sequences of the trailer, Kriti Sanon was seen flirting with Shahid Kapoor while the actor appears to be in a relationship with Rashmika Mandanna. The situation takes a downturn when the lady duo starts fighting over Shahid Kapoor. Cocktail 2 (2026) is a standalone spiritual sequel. It is not a direct sequel to the 2012 original Cocktail which featured Saif Ali Khan, Diana Penty and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles. The movie is slated to release in theatres on June 19.

PARTAP WORLD SCHOOL

Defence Road, Pathankot, Punjab  
Pre-Nur to XII Std (All Streams)

UNIFORM KA SAPNA?

JOIN PWS  
NDA ACADEMY

WRITTEN EXAM, SSB

DEDICATED NDA BATCHES

82889-99303

AC HOSTELS, WORLD CLASS FACILITY