



Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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Op Sindoor has become a symbol of India's Nari Shakti: PM Modi

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said "Sindoor" which symbolises feminine strength in the Indian culture and traditions has now become a symbol of India's valour.

"Operation Sindoor stands as a testament to the strength and valour of India's Nari Shakti," the Prime Minister said while addressing the Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Mahasammelan here, an official statement said.

"India is a land of deep-rooted culture and traditions, where sindoor symbolises feminine strength," emphasised Modi, mentioning that "even Lord Hanuman, immersed in devotion of Lord Ram, adorned himself with Sindoor, and it is offered in Shakti puja rituals. Sindoor

has now become a symbol of India's valour."

Referring to the attack in Pahalgam, PM Modi said that the terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians but also struck at the nation's cultural ethos and attempted to divide society. Most significantly, they challenged India's Nari Shakti and this challenge proved fatal for the terrorists and their handlers.

"Operation Sindoor is India's largest and most successful counter-terrorism operation in history," the PM emphasised, highlighting that Indian armed forces dismantled terrorist bases at locations where Pakistan's forces had never anticipated action.

He remarked that Operation Sindoor has sent a clear message that proxy wars through terrorism will not be tolerated.

He said that India will not only eliminate threats within its territory but will also ensure that a heavy price is paid by those supporting terrorists, and added, "Every Indian now echoes the same sentiment - if you fire bullets, you will face artillery shells".

"Operation Sindoor stands as a testament to the strength and valour of India's Nari Shakti," Modi asserted.

He highlighted the crucial role played by the Border Security Force (BSF) in this operation, noting that from Jammu to Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, a significant number of BSF women personnel were at the frontlines.

He commended their resolute response to cross-border firing and their active participation in command and control centres, as well as in eliminating enemy



positions.

Modi said the world is witnessing the capability of India's daughters in national defence. Over the past decade, the government has undertaken several measures to strengthen women's role in security forces.

"The doors of Sainik

Schools have been opened for girls, marking a historic step. In 2014, only 25 percent of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets were female, whereas today, their participation is increasing towards 50 percent," Modi said.

He lauded a landmark

moment as the first batch of women cadets passed out from the National Defence Academy (NDA) yesterday. He emphasised that women are now serving at forward positions in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. He also highlighted that women officers are showcasing their courage and leadership from fighter jets to the INS Vikrant warship, demonstrating their growing role in India's defence forces.

Highlighting a recent demonstration of courage by the women of the Indian Navy, referencing the Navika Sagar Parikrama, Modi noted that two brave women officers completed a nearly 250-day maritime journey, circumnavigating the globe.

He remarked that their achievement is a testament to the ability of India's daughters to conquer even the most

formidable challenges.

He underscored their growing role in safeguarding the nation, whether in anti-Naxal operations or countering cross-border threats. From the land of Devi Ahilyabai, he once again saluted the strength and determination of India's Nari Shakti.

He underscored the vision of women-led development being placed at the core of the nation's progress. He stressed that every major government initiative is centred around empowering mothers, sisters, and daughters.

While underscoring the government's continuous efforts over the past 11 years to economically empower women, Modi said, "Before 2014, over 30 crore women did not have a bank account. The government facilitated the opening of Jan Dhan

accounts for them, where funds from various schemes are now being directly transferred."

Emphasising the government's commitment to increasing women's participation in policy making, the Prime Minister highlighted the progressive steps taken over the past decade to achieve this goal. For the first time, India had a full-time woman Defence Minister and has a woman Finance Minister.

He further said that the representation of women from panchayats to Parliament has steadily increased, with 75 women currently serving as Members of Parliament. He also stressed the importance of further enhancing this participation, underscoring that the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam embodies this vision.

3,395 COVID cases in India



Chennai: The Union Health Ministry said on Saturday (today) that a total of 3,395 active COVID cases were reported in the country, including 189 in Tamil Nadu. A total of four deaths were reported in India since yesterday--with one each in Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. In an update with statistics, it said a 71-year-old male in Delhi died of Pneumonia, Septic Shock with AKI. In Karnataka, a 63-year-old male died of Septic shock with MODS, AKI with oliguria, Pneumonia with ARDS and Hyponatremia, while in Kerala a 59-year-old male, a known case of CAD admitted in HDU with left sided pneumonia, Type II Respiratory Failure, Sepsis, Septic Shock, newly detected DM, died. In Uttar Pradesh a 23 years old male died after he was admitted in AIIMS Rishikesh, with co-morbid conditions. Of the total COVID cases in India, Kerala topped the list with 1,336 (including an increase of 189 since yesterday) cases, followed by Maharashtra 467, Delhi 375, Gujarat 265, Karnataka 234, West Bengal 205, Tamil Nadu 185, Uttar Pradesh 117, Rajasthan 60, Puducherry 41, Madhya Pradesh 16, while other states reported single digit cases.

Cong demands clarity from govt on alleged fighter jet losses

New Delhi: The Congress while alleging a "lack of clarity" over the loss of fighter aircraft during the India-Pakistan conflict, has demanded the government come out clean on the issue.

"The fact that our fighter aircraft were downed is something the Government must stop denying," Telangana government minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said at a press conference here.

"The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) himself acknowledged this, and Air Marshal Bharti had mentioned it indirectly during his briefing alongside the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), noting that 'losses

are normal in combat," Reddy, a former fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force said.

Emphasising that the Congress stands firmly behind the Indian armed forces, Reddy said, "We support our armed forces in every endeavour and congratulate them. Our armed forces have done a great job and we are proud of them and salute them".

Supporting Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's concerns over the government's handling of the aftermath, Reddy pointed out that when Rahul Gandhi first questioned the government's narrative, the ruling BJP launched a



"negative campaign" against him, instead of addressing the concerns substantively.

Reddy alleged that the country must realise today that for some reason the government was not upfront with whatever happened.

He further said, "The other thing that needs reassessment by the government of India is that most of the firing in the four-day operation was done by respective countries from within their international borders; still, we lost our

aircraft. This needs serious reassessment of technology so that lessons are learnt and we improve in those aspects".

Reddy also questioned the alleged diplomatic sequence of the ceasefire, especially the role played by the US President Donald Trump.

"Why did the US President first announce the ceasefire through a tweet, and hours later DGMO Pakistan called up his Indian counterpart, and the ceasefire was agreed upon," he asked.

Demanding full transparency, Reddy asked the government to disclose every significant event that took place throughout the Indo-Pak operation.

Army Chief reviews operational preparedness in the Pargwal sector of Jammu

Jammu: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday reviewed the operational preparedness and lauded the role of ex-servicemen in Operation Sindoor during his visit to the Pargwal sector of Jammu.

Jammu-based Defence spokesman Lt Col Suneel Borker here said, "COAS General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed operational preparedness in J&K's Paragwal Sector and visited the Tiger Division where he commended troops for their outstanding performance in

Operation Sindoor".

He stressed the importance of staying agile and vigilant in response to evolving security dynamics.

The Army Chief also praised BSF's close operational integration with the Indian Army and lauded the bravery of Assistant Commandant Neha Bhandari and her team for defending forward posts in the Akhnoor Sector.

He also acknowledged the valuable contribution of ex-servicemen in supporting the armed forces during 'Operation Sindoor'.

Pune Court rejects Rahul Gandhi's plea on Savarkar lineage in defamation row

Mumbai: A Pune court on Saturday dismissed Rahul Gandhi's application seeking details of the maternal lineage of Satyaki Savarkar, the grand-nephew of Hindutva icon VD Savarkar, in connection with a defamation case filed against the senior Congress leader.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Amol Shinde ruled that the matter at hand concerns Rahul Gandhi's alleged defamatory remarks made during a speech in London, not the family tree of Satyaki Savarkar's mother, the late Himani Ashok Savarkar.

The court found no merit in Gandhi's request, stating that the complainant's maternal ancestry was

irrelevant to the proceedings and that no further investigation was warranted.



Advocate Milind Pawar, appearing for the Congress leader, had argued that the complainant's maternal lineage was necessary for the defence, as only paternal details had been provided. The court, however, rejected this argument outright.

In a related development, the court also turned down Satyaki Savarkar's plea to

cancel Gandhi's bail, noting that the grounds cited were insufficient. The judge observed that Gandhi had been granted bail with a permanent exemption from personal appearance and found no evidence that he was deliberately delaying the proceedings.

Satyaki Savarkar's defamation complaint stems from Gandhi's March 2023 speech in London, where the Congress leader allegedly claimed that VD Savarkar had written about beating up a Muslim man and feeling happy about it. The complainant has denied such claims, describing Gandhi's remarks as "fictitious, false, and malicious".

Landslide claims 7 lives including 4 kids, and 2 pregnant women in Arunachal

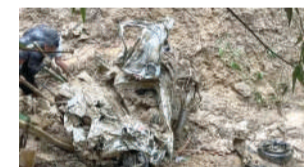
Itanagar: In a devastating incident, seven individuals, including four children and two pregnant women, lost their lives after their vehicle was swept off NH-13 by a massive landslide triggered by relentless rainfall.

The tragedy occurred on Friday night, approximately 3 km from Bana towards Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district, police said on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Shankar alias Saju Budi Aka (35) and his wife Tasum Budi Aka (25), who was 4 months pregnant, Kaching Budi Aka (8), Nicha Budi Aka (4), Jajum Yame (33), who was 7 months

pregnant, Tushum Yame (5), and Patiya Yame (7).

All were residents of Kitchang village, Bana, in Bichom district.



East Kameng SP Kamdam Sikom said, Seppa Police Station received a distress call reporting that a white Maruti Fronx had been swept downhill by a sudden landslide.

Responding with urgency, a police team was immediately dispatched to the site. Upon

arrival, locals informed the team that the vehicle carrying seven individuals had been forcefully pushed off the road and had plunged into a deep gorge, disappearing from view. The SP said that adverse weather severely hampered the rescue efforts with continuous torrential rain, fresh landslides, and extremely poor visibility made it nearly impossible to safely conduct search operations. At first light on Saturday, the rescue operation resumed with renewed determination and crucial support from local villagers.

After hours of strenuous effort, the wreckage of the vehicle was located

approximately 150 meters below the highway. The vehicle was found completely mangled, bearing the marks of a violent impact from the steep fall. Tragically, all seven occupants were found dead inside the vehicle. With great difficulty, the rescue team managed to retrieve the bodies from the mangled remains.

This heartbreaking incident has claimed nine lives in total, including two unborn children. Legal formalities are currently underway, after which the bodies will be handed over to their respective families, SP Sikom said, adding that further investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Siddaramaiah govt tried to free rioters: Union Minister Karandlaje

Bengaluru: In a sharp escalation of her attack against the Congress-led government in Karnataka, BJP MP and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Saturday accused the Siddaramaiah administration of attempting to shield and rehabilitate criminals by seeking to withdraw 43 serious criminal cases linked to communal violence, arson as well as attacks on police personnel in Hubballi-Dharwad.

Addressing reporters here, Karandlaje said the Congress government's move to drop the cases, including those which involved charges of rioting, attempted murder, and destruction of public property, was halted only after the High Court intervened.

"These 43 cases involved more number of accused. Had the High Court not stepped in, these criminals would have been out on the streets, ready

to target our youths again. What kind of government tries to protect such elements?" she asked.

Karandlaje alleged that the government's intent was clear: to appease vote banks by quietly clearing criminal records of politically aligned elements. She said the move not only undermined the morale of the police force but sent a dangerous message to lawbreakers that political patronage could override justice.

"We are seeing a dangerous collapse of law and order in Karnataka. In Hubballi-Dharwad, a police station was torched, shops were set on fire, and innocent people were assaulted. Instead of ensuring justice, the Congress cabinet moved to withdraw the very cases that were meant to bring the perpetrators to book," she added.

According to Karandlaje,

the Congress government had prepared a proposal to drop the



43 cases and place it before the Cabinet, but public outcry and a legal petition forced the Karnataka High Court to halt the decision.

The MP further questioned the silence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM

DK Shivakumar on the issue, alleging that senior ministers were either complicit or indifferent. She said this is the first time Karnataka has seen a government so determined to protect the guilty rather than the victims.

She also alleged that Home Minister Dr G

Parameshwara was himself embroiled in legal troubles related to the Ranya Rao case and was in no position to uphold law and order in the state.

Karandlaje linked the attempted case withdrawals to a broader breakdown in governance. "District ministers are not visiting the districts. The CM is holed up in Bengaluru or flies to Mysuru in a chopper. No reviews are being conducted, no accountability exists. Officials are operating without direction or fear of consequence," she alleged.

She warned that if such trends continue unchecked, Karnataka would become a haven for criminal elements emboldened by political protection. "This government is not for the people. It is for a select few — those with influence, those with muscle. The rest of Karnataka is being

left to fend for itself," Karandlaje said.

The Karnataka government has yet to issue a formal response to the High Court's intervention or to Karandlaje's allegations.

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday set aside the Government order, directing public prosecutors to withdraw 43 criminal cases registered/pending against persons accused of various offences including rioting, attempt to murder, stated to include highly influential persons including politicians, in breach of Section 321 of Criminal Procedure Code.

Among them were criminal prosecutions related to the Hubballi riots, where mobs allegedly attacked a police station, as well as cases involving serious charges such as attempt to murder, rioting, and assault on police officers.

MLA Abbas Ansari gets 2-year jail term in hate speech case

Mau : Abbas Ansari, MLA from Mau Sadar seat and son of former mafia Mukhtar Ansari, was sentenced to two years imprisonment along with a



fine of Rs 11,000 by a special court here on Saturday in a hate speech case, a prosecution officer said here.

Prosecution officer Haredra Singh said that the MP-MLA court of Judge Dr Krishna Pratap Singh convicted Abbas Ansari and his associate, Mansoor Ansari, in the hate speech case. After being convicted, both people were taken into custody by the police.

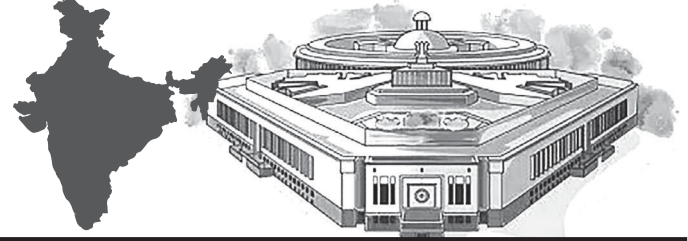
He said that Abbas Ansari was found guilty under various sections and sentenced to two years imprisonment

and a fine of Rs 11,000, added to the total amount of different sections.

"MLA Abbas Ansari's election agent and associate, Mansoor Ansari, was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1000," he said.

During the 2022 assembly elections, Abbas Ansari, contesting from the Mau Sadar assembly seat, was addressing an election meeting at Pahadpura ground in the city area on the evening of March 3, 2022. During the address, he said that the administrative officers of the district will be stopped after the elections and taught a lesson. He said that no one will be transferred after the formation of the Samajwadi Party (SP) government. Everyone will be kept here, and accounts will be settled.

Taking cognizance of this matter, an FIR was registered at the city police station on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Gangaram Bind. Sadar MLA Abbas Ansari and others were accused in the case.



Five dead in Guwahati as rains trigger landslides in Assam

Guwahati: At least five people died in Assam capital Guwahati in the past 24 hours as incessant rain triggered landslides in different areas of the city.



been carrying evacuation of stranded people in different flood-affected areas. The situation turned bad in Guwahati where several areas witnessed floods and landslides due to the incessant rains in the last 48 hours.

Some residents of Guwahati reportedly abandoned their houses on Friday as the water level increased and inundated their houses. Hundreds of people are stranded in their houses in different locations in Guwahati after the localities are completely inundated.

BJP champion of inflation: Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the champion of inflation and its government should first reduce 'profiteering' and 'donations' and then talk about reducing inflation.



He said, "Every tax and donation is ultimately collected from the public. That is why 'BJP donations', apart from tax, become a double blow of the BJP on the public and also the reason for inflation. Now, economists should make a new mathematical formula to add 'BJP donations' to the selling price. If the BJP stops collecting donations, the prices of every commodity and service will automatically come down."

Flood devastates life in some parts of Manipur



Imphal: Large numbers of houses were completely inundated by floods as river banks caved in on Saturday at Khurai, Chekcon, and Khabam, especially in areas covered by the Imphal, Iri, and Nambul rivers, as heavy rainfall lashed the state and neighbouring states for the last few days.

Aditya Thackeray criticises Dy CM Shinde over tender process for Gaimukh Tunnel

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aditya Thackeray criticised Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the state government over the tendering process for the Gaimukh Tunnel project.



Addressing a press conference here today, Thackeray said that the court has taken a dig at the tendering process of the Gaimukh Tunnel. (On Friday, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) informed the Supreme Court that it has decided to scrap the tender process for the Gaimukh tunnel project and an elevated road project in "public interest".)

BJP slams Congress for misrule and false promises in Telangana

Hyderabad: BJP Telangana State General Secretary Dr Kasam Venkateswarlu launched a scathing attack on the Congress party and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing them of degrading governance and betraying public trust in Telangana.

Speaking at a press conference held at the party's state office on Saturday, Dr. Venkateswarlu claimed that the Congress government has turned out to be the biggest disaster for the state in recent times. He alleged that the much-publicised "six guarantees" promised by the Congress remain unfulfilled, and farmers are still awaiting the loan waiver and assurance schemes.

Helplines were issued by the authority and Assam Rifles as people were not able to move out of their houses. Most roads in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching districts have been flooded. Hundreds of people came out with bamboo and sandbags to protect the river embankments throughout the valley areas.

There are reports of overflowing of water to various parts at Wangkhei, Chekon, Kongba, Nambol, Bishnupur, Thangmeiband, Naoremthong, Iroishemba and other places, and many people have started preparing to move to safer areas. Agricultural lands in Bishnupur, Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, and Thoubal districts have been flooded. Fish farmers were informed that all the fish farms have been flooded; hence, there would be heavy loss this year. So far there is no report of any casualty.

India's military achievements, including the Balakot airstrikes. "While even Pakistan's leadership admitted their losses, Congress leaders remain blind to India's success," he said, adding that criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become a political stunt for Revanth Reddy and Rahul Gandhi. He also referred to the recent Miss World controversy in Telangana, demanding the public release of a report by a women IPS officers' committee investigating indecent behaviour by Congress-affiliated youth leaders during the event.

He said that at least this proves that the BJP government has accepted that the rampant inflation has broken the back of the public, and now if this record-breaking inflation is not stopped, then the public will start banging empty oil cans outside the houses of BJP leaders. The SP chief said that the BJP government should logically fix the cost-profit ratio of food items in favour of the public, meaning it should decide on public interest that no food producer will earn profit more than a certain percentage, but for this, the BJP government will first have to take an oath that it will not collect 'BJP donations' at least from food companies because when it collects donations from companies, the companies consider the money collected as part of the cost and



Allahabad HC has become model for all HCs of country: CJI Gavai

Prayagraj: Chief Justice of India Justice (CJI) Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai on Saturday said that the Allahabad High Court has become a model for all the High Courts of the country. After inaugurating the multi-level parking and air-conditioned chambers for advocates built for Rs 680 crore in the Allahabad High Court premises, CJI Justice Gavai said that the name of Allahabad High Court is written in golden letters in the judicial field.

not available anywhere in the world, let alone other countries. We are also taking care of the litigants. Arrangements are being made for the litigants. The citizens of the country come for justice. His complete care is taken in the High Court," he said. He said that this parking lot has been made by demolishing 12 bungalows of the judges. "Leaving the bungalow is not a trivial matter. He also expressed gratitude to the judges here for this," he said. The CJI said that the speech given by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar once was an address that gave direction to the country. "Today we are moving towards one person, one vote and one value. Baba Saheb warned that till we are able to remove the economic

inequality in the country, we will not be able to establish democracy in the country," he said. He said that in the rule of law, apart from the bar and the bench, the litigant also plays a big role. "His facilities should also have been taken care of. The client who comes to the High Court to plead his case will not have to sit under a tree. The pace of justice should increase. It is expected that everyone will work in accordance with the Constitution made by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said. Justice Gavai said that before 1973, when there was a conflict between fundamental rights and fundamental duties, priority was given to the fundamental rights. "But in 1974, the Keshav Nath Bharti case came in which the principle of basic structure was given. It has been 50 years following this principle. We cannot move forward without taking the bar and the bench along. This construction work is ideal for all High Courts. Inspiration can be taken from this," he said. On this occasion, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, along with Supreme Court Justices Suryakant, Justice JK Maheshwari, Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Manoj Mishra and Justice Pankaj Mittal, Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Arun Bhasali, along with all the judges, court officials, bar officials, ministers, MPs, MLAs and a large number of advocates were present.

International Yoga Day to be organised across all govt hospitals in UP

Lucknow: In a bid to promote holistic health and well-being, the Uttar Pradesh government will organise International Yoga Day programmes across all government hospitals on June 21. Acting on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, the Health Department has directed all the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and the Chief Medical Superintendents (CMSs) to begin preparations and awareness campaigns without delay. Principal Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma said that as per the directives of the CM, a letter has been issued to all CMOs and CMSs and directives have been given to ensure the organisation of Yoga Day in all the district hospitals, community health centres, primary health centers and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs of the state. "A roadmap for organising these events is being prepared in advance to ensure maximum participation," he said. He said that this year's theme will be 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'. He said that the main aim of Yoga Day is to raise awareness about the benefits of yoga for improving overall health and lifestyle. He said, "In UP, regular yoga sessions are already being held at all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to support people's physical, mental and spiritual well-being. On June 21, special yoga events will be organised at all these locations as part of this ongoing effort." Sharma said that in order to help more people take part in International Yoga Day, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs will provide general yoga protocol skills to interested participants at the local level. "The Ministry of AYUSH, along with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, will also offer online training for yoga instructors," he said.

Indian start-up produces indigenous checkout systems for ISRO, defence

Thiruvananthapuram: Tachlog Private Limited, a startup-turned-company based in Technopark, is all set to commercially produce and deliver its indigenously developed checkout systems to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence sector. The product, branded as DatoScoop, has been designed and developed entirely in-house as part of the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative. "Tachlog plans to deliver the commercial version of DatoScoop to major clients, including ISRO in June," said Pratheesh V Nair, CEO of Tachlog. Speaking at

Technopark's official vodcast, 'Aspire: Stories of Innovation,' Nair said checkout systems are critical components for Space and Defence sectors. DatoScoop, one of Tachlog's flagship products, is a highly capable data acquisition system, equipped with options for customisation. It is currently in use by ISRO as a checkout system for testing their indigenously developed gyro sensors. The checkout systems currently used by ISRO and the Defence sector are bulky, hard to handle and expensive- typically costing between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 1 crore. DatoScoop was

envisioned as a compact, efficient and affordable handheld alternative to these systems. "We have already sold almost 20 units of them to ISRO. Since its demand is high, we are bringing out the upgraded DatoScoop commercially," he said. The company has upgraded the product by consistently investing in each stage of development. DatoScoop records data from a Unit Under Test/ Device Under Test, which follows a command response protocol. The device is capable of converting and saving the data in a human readable form. It is a standalone four-channel data capture system with isolated inputs and high-speed drivers. It is currently available on GeM, the Government of India's e-marketplace portal. Noting that the company is ready to adopt new technologies, Nair said Tachlog is planning for



bigger projects for Defence and Space sectors. Nair said his journey with the company was a learning experience, propelled by the robust ecosystem in Technopark where they were able to make collaborations for scaling up their product. Founded in 2013, Tachlog had a key role in the development of the rugged COTS computer used in the Relocatable Robotic Arm Manipulator Technology Demonstrator (RRM_TD), a mission recently executed successfully by ISRO. In this turnkey project, Tachlog was responsible for circuit design and successfully delivered a flight-qualified control board. Moreover, Tachlog contributed to the development of robotic arm controller of the ISRO's half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra.' Its responsibilities in this mission include flight board layout, flight card wiring, test code generation and the electrical bring-up of the system. Tachlog's R&D division is actively exploring new opportunities in Edge AI-based IoT solutions, with the team currently developing several intellectual property rights. In recognition of Tachlog's contributions to ISRO's space missions,

IISU (ISRO Inertial Systems Unit) honoured the firm at the IISU Industry Meet 2024. Tachlog is fundamentally a design house specialising in embedded application development. The company manages end-to-end development of embedded systems, from concept through to completion. In addition to the space sector, Tachlog is actively involved in other domains such as healthcare, agriculture and consumer electronics. Its dedicated R&D division is well-equipped to address complex industrial requirements, ensuring high performance and reliable solutions.



Briefs :

13-Year-Old Girl Found Murdered in Dwarka's Dabri

New Delhi : A 13-year-old girl was found murdered at her rented accommodation in southwest Delhi's Dabri on Thursday. Police are yet to identify and arrest the killer. According to police, PCR received a call reporting the death of a minor girl on the third-floor terrace of a rented residence in the Dabri area at around 1.45 pm. Police teams, including crime and forensic, inspected the scene. Police said the body was sent to a hospital for postmortem, and now the CCTV footage from the area is being reviewed. While no signs of sexual assault were found in the initial analysis, the investigating officers are awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the cause of death, said police. "In the preliminary investigation, the teen's mother claimed that when she returned home, she found her daughter lying dead at the terrace of the three-storey building. She immediately alerted the landlord, who then called the police. The mother told police that she found her daughter with her hands tied, and a dupatta knotted around her neck," a senior police officer said. The deceased had been living in the rented accommodation with her mother, elder sister, and brother for the past month and a half. She was a student of Class VIII at a school in Janakpuri.

Ex-MLA Kishore Samrite gets 6 months in jail for threatening to blow up Parliament

New Delhi : A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former Madhya Pradesh legislator Kishore Samrite to six months in jail for issuing a bomb threat to Parliament in 2022 over unmet demands. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the ex-MLA. Special Judge Vikas Dhull, who pronounced the sentence, emphasised the seriousness of the act, noting that the threat targeted Parliament—India's apex democratic institution. "It is the sanctum of democracy, where matters of national importance are debated with dignity. Threatening to destroy it with dynamite and sending a suspicious substance along with the letter is an alarming act that calls for a fitting punishment," the judge stated. Samrite, a former MLA from Lanji in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, had sent a parcel to Parliament on September 16, 2022. The package included a suspicious powder, a copy of the Constitution, the national flag, and a 10-page letter listing 70 grievances directed at the government. In the letter, he threatened to bomb the Parliament on September 30 if his demands were not met.

1.3k university students get scholarships; CM says committed to quality education

New Delhi : Over 1,300 students from various Delhi universities were awarded scholarships under a special disbursement programme organised by the Delhi govt at Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGTUW), Kashmir Gate, on Friday. The flagship initiative, led by the Directorate of Higher Education, aims to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged yet meritorious students pursuing higher education. A total of 1,305 students will directly benefit from this scholarship drive, marking a significant step toward inclusive access to quality education in the capital. Delivering a message ahead of the event, chief minister Rekha Gupta said, "As your CM, I am proud to highlight the remarkable strides our govt has made in just the first 100 days.

Health ministry seeks report on preparedness for Covid-19 by June 2



New Delhi : With Covid-19 cases once again on the rise across India, the Union Health Ministry has urged several states and union territories—including Delhi—to implement preventive strategies. The country has reported over 3,000 active infections, with the majority—more than 90%—concentrated in Ker-

ala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

In a letter dated May 29, Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava addressed chief secretaries and administrators, highlighting a seasonal surge in respiratory illnesses caused by pathogens such as Influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and Respiratory

Syncytial Virus (RSV). The letter noted a steady uptick in acute respiratory illness (ARI) cases in certain areas, largely attributed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The infections remain predominantly mild, associated with Omicron subvariants JN.1, XFG, and LF 7.9, which typically lead to symptoms like fever, cough, and sore throat that usually resolve without complications.

States and UTs have been directed to evaluate the preparedness of healthcare infrastructure at all levels—district, sub-district, medical colleges, and tertiary facilities. This includes ensuring sufficient diagnostics, medicines, PPE kits, isolation wards, oxygen availability, critical care beds, and ventilators. Mock drills must be conducted to test oxygen delivery systems,

with a detailed report on actions taken to be submitted by June 2.

The ministry has also reinforced adherence to existing testing protocols. As per operational guidelines, all Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases and 5% of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases must be tested. Positive SARI samples are to be sent to regional Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) for genome sequencing. District surveillance teams are instructed to closely observe ILI/SARI trends, track the proportion of SARI among reported cases, and regularly update relevant data portals.

Public health messaging should continue to promote hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and discourage spitting in public. High-risk groups—

Delhi reports first Covid fatality in current surge; woman had intestinal obstruction

Delhi has reported its first Covid-19-related death amid the recent uptick in infections, officials confirmed on Saturday. The deceased was a 60-year-old woman who had tested positive for the virus.

As per data from the health department, the city currently has 294 active Covid-19 cases. Officials noted that the woman had been suffering from an acute intestinal obstruction following a laparotomy, and her

Covid diagnosis was considered incidental to her primary condition.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, addressing concerns earlier on Thursday, said that 19 Covid patients are presently admitted to hospitals in the capital. She reassured the public, saying, "There is no cause for panic. The Delhi government is fully alert, and all hospitals are well-equipped to manage the situation."

such as the elderly and immunocompromised—are advised to avoid poorly ventilated or crowded spaces and use face masks when necessary. Individ-

uals showing respiratory symptoms should self-monitor and seek medical help promptly if severe symptoms like chest pain or difficulty in breathing arise.

3 year old girl killed by negligently driven car in northwest Delhi

New Delhi : A tragic incident unfolded in northwest Delhi's Bawana on Friday, where a three-year-old girl lost her life after being struck by a speeding Creta car. The child had accompanied her mother to the factory where she worked and was playing outside when the accident occurred. No arrests have been made so far, police said. The girl, a resident of Pooth Khurd, was with her 25-year-old mother at a factory located in DSIIDC Sector 3. According to the mother's statement to the police, the accident happened around 3 p.m. while the child was playing near the roadside just outside the factory gate. The mother said that when she stepped out to feed

her daughter, a white Creta car with a Delhi registration came speeding towards them. The vehicle, reportedly being driven recklessly, veered off and struck the child before fleeing the scene.

Bystanders quickly gathered, and the injured child was rushed to a local hospital in Pooth Khurd. However, doctors declared her dead upon arrival. The medical report confirmed that the girl died due to injuries sustained in a road accident.

Police officials, including PSI Amit and a crime team, arrived at the site to collect evidence and photograph the scene. Based on the mother's account, foren-

sic findings, and medical confirmation, a case has been filed under Sections 281 (rash driving on a public road) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigating teams have been formed, and CCTV footage from the area is being reviewed to identify the driver and reconstruct the incident.

This incident adds to a series of similar tragedies involving minors. In March, a two-year-old girl died after a car allegedly driven by a 15-year-old ran her over in Delhi's Paharganj. Similarly, in December, a 17-year-old behind the wheel injured several people, including a 7-year-old, in Adarsh Nagar.

Police arrest neighbor for murder of 13-year-old girl during robbery in southwest Delhi

New Delhi : Two days after a 13-year-old girl was murdered in Southwest Delhi's Dabri, police arrested the accused, identified as Mohammad Anas, a neighbour of the victim. According to the police, Anas went to the girl's house to steal, but when she saw him, he strangled her and stole a mobile phone and tablet. He sold the stolen items to another person to fund his drug addiction. Police traced the buyer, who revealed that Anas sold him the phone, leading to the accused's arrest.

Police said the murder was reported on Thursday, and during the inquiry, officers found that a few



electronic items, including a mobile phone and a tablet, were missing. "Technical surveillance led to the stolen mobile, and the mobile's user disclosed that he got this phone from one Anas (23). He was caught and confessed that he killed the girl." Deputy Commission-

er of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said the accused lives in the second house next to the deceased's family, being a neighbour. He planned to steal from the house and broke into it.

"Upon seeing him, the girl panicked and raised an alarm. The accused, out of fear and apprehension of being caught, strangled her and decamped with a mobile and a tablet," police said.

According to police, the PCR received a call reporting the death of a minor girl on the third-floor terrace of a rented residence in the Dabri area at around 1.45 PM on Thursday. In the preliminary investigation, the teen's mother claimed that when she returned home, she found her daughter lying dead on the terrace of the three-storey building. She immediately alerted the landlord, who then called the police.

Restoration of Kamla Nehru Ridge to check waterlogging

New Delhi : In a significant step towards ecological restoration, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched an initiative to convert a natural depression in Kamla Nehru Ridge into a water body by channeling rainwater from surrounding waterlogged zones such as Malka Ganj and Civil Lines into this depression through a system of pipelines.

An official noted that a similar initiative in Rohanara Bagh had successfully revived its lake and alleviated flooding, reinforcing the decision to replicate the model in Kamla Nehru Ridge.

In addition to the water body project, the LG expressed concern over the deteriorated state of pathways, open-air gym facilities, boundary infrastructure, and heritage

structures like the 'Bonta'. He reviewed recent upgrades, including biodegradable jute carpeting on walking trails, and urged the timely completion of remaining works.

Addressing broader monsoon-related issues, Saxena instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite solutions for chronic waterlogging. He specifically called for the installation of rainwater harvesting infrastructure, recommending three-foot-wide pipelines from nearby footpaths into the Ridge to facilitate rainwater flow into the ecosystem, aiding both conservation and groundwater recharge.

The LG also directed the repair of footpaths

along Rajpur Road and Delhi University to a standard width of two metres, along with additional civic enhancements. These include tree trimming, fixing manholes, repositioning obstructive electric poles, and clearing overgrowth, deadwood, hanging wires, and redundant cables along the Ridge's perimeter.

All the outlined tasks are to be completed within a week, officials confirmed.

This visit builds on Saxena's earlier inspection of the Ridge on March 21, when he advocated for environmentally sustainable upgrades such as jute matted walking tracks and other measures to strengthen the area's ecological resilience.

Drunk teen ignored pleas to slow down before Delhi's Janakpuri crash that killed two, injured three

New Delhi : A fatal road accident in West Delhi's Janakpuri has claimed two lives and left several others seriously injured after a 19-year-old driver, allegedly intoxicated and speeding at over 100 kmph, lost control of his car in the early hours of Thursday. The incident occurred around 3:30 a.m. when the car, being driven by Harsh—a resident of Pochanpur in Dwarka—struck a bicycle carrying two labourers, Aneesh Ansari (45) and Kuldeep (28). Ansari later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, while Kuldeep remains critically injured.

Police investigations revealed that Harsh had been returning from a party in Gurgaon and was under the influence of alcohol at the time. The car was reportedly moving at more than double the permissible speed for the area. A friend accompanying him in the front seat told authorities that he had repeatedly urged Harsh to slow down, but the warnings went unheeded.

After hitting the cyclists, the car veered off the road and rammed into a roadside shanty where a family was asleep.

Lakhs homeless in Delhi, little planning on their relief

New Delhi : Amid the city's bustling roads, under flyovers and across crowded pavements, thousands of Delhi's homeless continue to live in harsh conditions—barefoot, unsheltered, and vulnerable. Despite multiple government schemes and night shelters, a large segment of this population still sleeps on the streets, facing hunger, weather extremes, and insecurity.

Many among the homeless are migrants drawn to Delhi in search of better opportunities, only to end up on footpaths and under tarpaulin sheets. While schemes like the Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) and Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) under the National Urban Livelihood Mission offer some support, the city continues to fall drastically short in providing adequate housing and rehabilitation.

Dr Indu Prakash Singh, a member of Delhi's State Level Shelter Monitoring Committee, in his inputs to the UN-Habitat global report, cited an August 2024 survey that counted over 1.56 lakh people sleeping outdoors between 11 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. He estimates the



homeless population in Delhi to exceed three lakh. Vulnerable groups include women, children, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, the mentally ill, and those recovering from addiction.

"Delhi has more shelters than most cities globally," Singh said, "but we still fall short by nearly 90% of the shelter requirements set by the Master Plan for Delhi, 2021."

While Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) provides shelters along with food and medicines, officials admit that many people return to the streets. "We rescue 40-50 people every day," one DUSIB official said. "Many use night shelters but leave by morning. Others never come at all."

He highlighted the shortage of manpower and stressed the need for employment in home states to reduce distress migration. DUSIB has

also proposed skill-based training to promote self-reliance among the homeless.

Residents and experts echo the need for long-term, sustainable solutions. Suchita Kacker Meena, a local resident, said: "The answer lies in more shelters, jobs, and meaningful rehabilitation." Others pointed to the need for coordinated policy-making and a shift from temporary fixes to deeper, systemic change.

Sunil Kumar Aledia, from the Centre for Holistic Development, called for a five-year housing plan, similar to earlier planning models, to bring marginalised communities into the mainstream and integrate them into Smart City goals.

The Supreme Court, in a February 2025 hearing, also questioned the sustainability of welfare through freebies, asking whether job creation might be a more impactful alternative.

According to Dr Singh, homelessness is not merely a lack of shelter—it is the outcome of poverty, unemployment, and insufficient government commitment. "This is not a crisis of money," he said. "It's a crisis of care."

Editorial

Global distrust!

US President Donald Trump has once again created chaos in the international trade arena in the name of 'Liberation Day'. Just 24 hours after a federal court declared his tariff policy unconstitutional and suspended it, an appeals court temporarily allowed him to implement the same tariff policies. These developments not only raise questions about the internal system of the US, but also create distrust in the role of the US in global trade.

US President Donald Trump was temporarily allowed to continue imposing tariffs (duties on imported goods) under emergency powers on Thursday. On Wednesday, a separate federal court had suspended Trump's proposed 'Liberation Day' tariffs. Immediately after that, in a day of rapid legal developments, a federal appeals court in Washington allowed Trump to impose expanded tariffs on foreign imports. The US Federal Circuit Court of Appeals has temporarily stayed the decision of a lower court. This means that the tariffs announced on April 2, which Trump had named 'Liberation Day'; It has been made clear that it will remain in force even during the government's appeal. The court had observed that Trump's imposition of tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act violated constitutional limits on the president's powers. The court had also noted that granting unlimited tariff powers to another branch of government is tantamount to improperly granting legislative powers to the other branch of government. Meanwhile, the Trump administration had challenged the decision to suspend the tariffs in federal court. The US Federal Circuit Court of Appeals accepted the Trump administration's petition.

Here, I brought about a ceasefire to prevent the conflict between India and Pakistan. For this, we used trade. I told the leaders of both countries that we would trade, we would make a deal. I told them that trade was better than firing missiles. They listened to me and stopped the war, claims that US President Donald Trump had recently made while speaking at an event about investments in Saudi Arabia. The funny part is that the trade war that Trump has started within a few weeks of taking office in America was being heard in the US Trade Court. The Commerce Secretary in Trump's government, Howard Lutnick, also presented the same position of his leader in the court. He supported Trump's unpopular tariff policy, saying that this policy stopped the India-Pakistan war. The court publicly mocked Trump. The court did not say anything about Trump's claim of stopping the war. In fact, Trump does not have the authority to make the noises that Trump is making regarding tariffs. The court told him that this authority lies with the US Congress. Of course, the court lifted the stay on Trump's decision the next day. However, this is the first time in history that a court has taken such a step against any president. On Thursday itself, Trump was dealt another blow by his alleged friend. Elon Musk resigned from Trump. There is no doubt that Musk is a sharp businessman. In fact, the reckless actions he had taken a few months ago had raised suspicions about him. But Trump turned on him. Otherwise, he would not have resigned from Trump. Whether it's this incident or his personal criticism of Kamala Harris during the presidential campaign or his rude statements about former President Joe Biden, his own private life and the scandals surrounding it, Trump is fundamentally unworthy of becoming President of the United States. Yet the reason Trump has reached there is because there is now an atmosphere in the world where a large group of people who value moderation, understanding, and inclusion have emerged, and they sympathize with such individuals and their irresponsible actions.

However, such a mess does not last long. It should not be run like that because if it does, whatever experiments these small-minded people do in the short term will be permanent. Trump is the head of the most powerful country in the world. He has unlimited powers. Despite this, the politics of vacillation and collusion he is doing has not only changed his own; but an atmosphere of distrust has also been created in the world regarding America. This person can take any irrational decision at any moment. Even after doing so, the world has come to the conclusion that there is no permanence in which he will stick to it. He accepted the tax policy as it was. He prepared its chart and showed it to the world and everyone was amazed. Later, he himself suspended it and started talks with other countries to make a trade agreement. He announced that he would mediate in the Russia-Ukraine war and even called the Russian President a fool. He constantly refers to the Prime Minister of India as My Dear Friend Modi and also calls India the Tariff King. They are constantly trying to discredit India.

The highest point of this is the comparison between Pakistan and India. Recently, Trump has taken a new step. He makes unflattering accusations on camera against heads of state who visit him, and this part of the meeting or discussion is also broadcast. After doing this with Ukrainian President Zelensky, he did the same thing with South African leader Ramaphosa. Since no previous US president, Clinton, Bush, Obama or Biden, had done such outrageous things, America had a certain dominance.

Donald Trump's behavior during his presidency and his extreme, inconsistent and irresponsible decisions have severely damaged America's global image. From tariff decisions like 'Liberation Day', false claims of an India-Pakistan ceasefire to making on-camera accusations against heads of state, his actions were not befitting a superpower like America. Even though the courts have slammed his tariff policy, it is more dangerous that his political style has been given temporary approval. It is now necessary to realize that the world needs stability and wisdom, not sensationalism.

"The AI Wingman: How Smart Tech is Revolutionising Fundraising"

When we hear the term Artificial Intelligence, our minds often jump to dystopian sci-fi fantasies—robots with glowing eyes, rogue machines, or even emotionally complex systems like in Her. But the truth of AI today is far more grounded and practical. As demonstrated at the India Fundraising Conference (IFRC) 2024, AI is less about replacing humanity and more about enhancing human capacity. Ekhlaque Bari, founder and CEO of XDO-TO, set the tone at the event by addressing the fear many still feel around AI. He pointed out that the real question isn't whether AI will replace us—but whether we'll choose to work with AI or try to survive without it. In the world of nonprofit fundraising, this distinction is already making a big difference.

Fundraising has always been a deeply complex and resource-hungry function. Fundraisers are often expected to be researchers, writers, relationship managers, and analysts—all rolled into one. AI steps in not to take over these roles, but to assist. It's the sidekick that helps nonprofits navigate everything from donor research and proposal creation to analysing donor behaviour and tailoring communications. With AI's support, fundraisers can fo-

cus more on what truly matters—building human connections and telling powerful stories. The real magic lies in generative AI. Unlike traditional AI that

you only need to refine for voice and context. That's not science fiction anymore; it's today's reality. But to get the most out of AI, users need to sharpen their ap-

needed, how to present the information, and what limits to follow. Ekhlaque Bari echoed this with a handy acronym—PROMPT—guiding users to structure inputs

By reviewing donor emails, survey responses, and social media interactions, AI can detect how donors feel, spot warning signs of disengagement, and help tailor com-

and summarise meetings. Perplexity supports credible research. Tools like HeyGen and DALL·E 3 enable content creation with text-to-video and text-to-image functionalities, while Opus simplifies content repurposing for social media. These aren't futuristic gadgets—they're already making a difference.

Still, all this convenience comes with responsibility. Nonprofits must approach AI use with transparency and ethics, especially when handling donor data. Clear policies, consent, and human review are essential. Whether it's drafting internal memos or analysing donor sentiment, there's always a line between helpful automation and misuse. Risk levels vary depending on data sensitivity, but thoughtful oversight can help organisations stay on the right side of that line. AI is still evolving, and its long-term impact on fundraising—and the world—remains to be seen. But for now, its role is clear: not to erase the human touch, but to strengthen it. When used wisely, AI allows fundraisers to focus on conversations instead of copywriting, on impact instead of admin. It's not about replacing fundraisers. It's about making them more strategic, more creative, and more impactful than ever before.



thrives on structured data like spreadsheets, generative AI handles unstructured data—like text, images, and audio. This makes it a powerful ally in crafting communications. Imagine getting a first draft of a donor report or fundraising proposal instantly—one that

proach. At IFRC 2024, Nick Scott from the Centre for Responsible Union AI introduced a smart framework for crafting effective prompts. It's not enough to ask AI a vague question—you need to tell it what role to play, what goal to aim for, what kind of expertise is

with clarity, context, and purpose. One of the most exciting applications of AI in fundraising is in donor stewardship. Josh Hirsch from Fundraise UP highlighted how AI-driven sentiment analysis is helping organisations better understand donor engagement.

munications accordingly. This means nonprofits can respond in a more human and timely way—at scale. Fundraisers are already turning to AI tools to ease their workload. Tools like ChatGPT assist with drafting messages and reports. Otter AI helps transcribe

'Ancient stitched ship'



The Indian Navy formally inducted and named the Ancient Stitched ship as INSV Kaundinya today at a ceremonial event held at Naval Base, Karwar. The

Hon'ble Minister of Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat presided over the event as the Chief Guest, marking the culmination of an extraordinary project that celebrates India's rich shipbuilding heritage.

INSV Kaundinya is a stitched sail ship, based on a 5th century CE ship depicted in the paintings of Ajanta Caves. The project was initiated through a tripartite agreement signed in Jul 2023 between the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy, and M/s Hodi Innovations, with funding from the Ministry of Culture. Following the keel laying in September 2023, the vessel's construction was undertaken using a traditional method of stitching by a team of skilled artisans from Kerala, led by master shipwright Shri Babu Sankaran. Over several months, the team painstakingly stitched wooden planks on the ship's hull using coir rope, coconut fibre and natural resin. The ship was launched in Feb 2025 at Goa.

The Indian Navy played a central role in the project, overseeing the design, technical validation, and construction process. With no surviving blueprints of such vessels, the design had to be inferred from iconographic sources. The Navy collaborated with the shipbuilder to recreate the hull form and traditional rigging, and ensured that the design was validated through hydrodynamic model testing at the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras,

and internal technical assessment.

The newly inducted vessel incorporates several culturally significant features. Her sails display motifs of the Gandaberunda and the Sun, her bow bears a sculpted Simha Yali, and a symbolic Harappan style stone anchor adorns her deck, each element evoking the rich maritime traditions of ancient India. Named after Kaundinya, the legendary Indian mariner who sailed across the Indian Ocean to



Southeast Asia, the ship serves as a tangible symbol of India's long-standing traditions of maritime exploration, trade, and cultural exchange.

Inducted as an Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV), Kaundinya will be based at Karwar. The ship will now embark on her next historic phase, involving preparations for a transoceanic voyage along the ancient trade route from Gujarat to Oman, scheduled for later this year.

Leading with Purpose: How Strong Boards Shape Resilient Nonprofits

In today's ever-evolving nonprofit landscape, challenges abound—but so do remarkable opportunities. Philanthropic interest is increasingly gravitating toward evidence-backed initiatives that promise meaningful, transformative change. Against this backdrop, robust governance becomes not just an operational requirement but a moral imperative. Strong governance signals credibility, builds trust, and reassures funders, partners, and communities that an organisation is built to last.

At the core of effective governance are values that do more than define an organisation—they shape its public image, internal culture, and long-term impact. A capable board doesn't just oversee operations; it actively champions strategic thinking and sustainability. By keeping sight of both near-term objectives and the broader vision, it empowers leadership teams to stay focused and agile. Transparency, meanwhile, is the invisible thread that binds trust within and beyond the organisation. When decisions are made openly and with accountability, a culture of ethical leadership takes root—one where stakeholders feel informed, valued, and engaged. Similarly, when a board remains connected with its ecosystem—listening, learning, and responding to evolving needs—it re-

inforces credibility and fosters deep, lasting relationships.

A truly resilient board also understands the importance of independence. While fiduciary responsibilities lie with core members, drawing on the wisdom of external advisers can infuse fresh perspectives and offer invaluable mentorship to leadership. This layered approach strengthens governance structures and increases the organisation's integrity.

For governance practices to fil-

ter through all levels of an organisation, clarity is key. Each stakeholder—be it a board member, executive leader, or program staff—must understand the boundaries and responsibilities of their role. A well-defined structure minimises confusion, prevents overreach, and allows the organisation to operate smoothly and effectively.

Reflection, too, is an essential trait of a committed board. Self-assessment and open feedback loops are not academic exercises; they're

catalysts for continuous improvement. Whether through capacity building, immersive learning, or upskilling, boards that stay curious and committed to growth tend to lead with greater wisdom and foresight.

Governance also benefits from specialisation. Creating focused committees—for example, on audit, risk, or ethics—ensures critical issues are handled with consistent diligence. These committees offer both depth and focus, helping

boards pre-empt risks and uphold the organisation's mission with greater rigour.

Technology and AI, once considered optional, are now indispensable tools in modern governance. When used thoughtfully, they offer insights that enhance decision-making and responsiveness. Generative tools can surface patterns in donor engagement, track impact metrics, or even flag early warning signs of risk. But embracing tech must go hand-in-hand with safeguarding data—especially when nonprofits work with vulnerable populations. Strong governance must protect not just operations, but people.

Every organisation will encounter governance challenges. What distinguishes resilient boards is how they respond. Clear compliance practices are the compass that prevents these challenges from escalating into reputational damage. Boards that willingly examine themselves—who aren't afraid to course-correct or initiate internal reform—model the very accountability they ask of others.

Leadership, after all, is most powerful when it leads by example. A board that embodies transparency and ownership sets the tone for the entire organisation. It nurtures a culture where accountability is expected—and embraced.

Defining Your Nonprofits Purpose and Mission





HARYANA

Briefs :

How Odh community in Haryana is redefining celebration

Sirsa : In a progressive move to curb substance abuse and promote cultural values, the Odh community has unanimously decided to ban serving of alcohol at wedding ceremonies. Guests will now be welcomed with dry fruits instead of liquor, an initiative that leaders hope will inspire other communities to follow suit. The announcement was made during a large community gathering on Saturday, where Suresh Odh, national president of the Odh community, introduced the proposal for alcohol free wedding events. The motion was passed with full support, as attendees raised their hands in agreement. The event was attended by numerous sarpanches, office-bearers and dignitaries from several villages. Suresh Odh emphasised on the critical role of youth in nation building and warned that addiction can erode the strength of the country. He urged all sections of society to help eliminate alcohol from social events and called this a step toward safeguarding future generations. Dinesh Mangal, president of the Haryana unit of the Odh community, echoed this sentiment. He called on families to keep youth away from drugs and instead encourage their involvement in education and sports and get employment. He stressed on the importance of instilling strong values so that the younger generation respects elders and upholds the dignity of women. Makhn Singh, the community's state media in-charge, explained the practical motivations behind the decision. He said alcohol consumption at weddings often leads to conflicts and even crimes, contributing to a wider culture of addiction. He said the resolution by the national and state leaders of the Odh community was a necessary and responsible decision, not just for their own people, but for society as a whole.

Scientists, agri experts reach out to farmers

Karnal : With the launching of "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" in Haryana by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to transform agriculture at the grassroots level, scientists and agriculture experts of various ICAR institutions, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department, (KVKs) have stepped out of their laboratories and offices and are reaching out directly to farmers across the state. They are not only providing first-hand knowledge about modern agricultural practices, but also taking feedback from farmers on the challenges they face. The campaign, launched on May 29 by the Chief Minister, is part of a nationwide mission announced by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It will continue till June 12. The aim is to bridge the gap between scientific research and farm-level implementation, ultimately contributing to 'Atmanirbhar Krishi' (self-reliant agriculture). Led by ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) and supported by scientists from other ICAR institutes, (KVKs), ATMA and the Department of Agriculture.

Media plays a crucial role in nation-building, says Haryana CM



Rohtak : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini emphasised on the pivotal role of media in nation-building since India's independence while describing media freedom as a cornerstone of a strong democracy and a reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's progressive vision. The CM was speaking as the chief guest at the annual convention of the Haryana Union of Working Journalists (HUWJ), held in Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) here on Friday. Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra, former minister Manish Grover, Rohtak Mayor Ram Avtar Valmiki, Baba Kapilpuri Ji Maharaj and Health University Vice Chancellor Prof HK Aggarwal were among those present at the event. On the occasion of National Hindi Journalism Day, the CM extended his

greetings and best wishes to all journalists and saluted their contributions, referring to them as the "sentinels of the pen". He also praised journalists who use their pen in service of the nation. Addressing the gathering, CM Saini acknowledged the legacy of Maharshi Narad Muni, often considered the first journalist, and honoured the sacrifices of Guru Arjan Dev on his martyrdom day, as well as paid tribute to the birth anniversary of Arut Maharaj. Highlighting the contribution of journalists during India's freedom struggle, the CM noted that journalists were the true thought leaders who guide society in a new direction. "Media is effectively fulfilling its role as the fourth pillar of democracy," Saini said, while adding that the Haryana Government was taking significant steps to

safeguard the interests of the media. The Chief Minister stressed that the media plays a vital role in spreading awareness about government welfare schemes and in fostering public consciousness. He encouraged journalists to practice ethical journalism while informing the public about the government's effective functioning. He assured that the state was providing a media-friendly environment to ensure journalists could write fearlessly in the interest of society. Manmohan Kathuria, president of the HUWJ, welcomed the Chief Minister and put forth several demands on behalf of the journalist community. Among the key demands was the implementation of a cashless medical scheme for journalists. In response, the CM an-

nounced that a notification regarding the scheme would be issued shortly to ensure its execution without any delay. He also assured the gathering that the remaining demands would also be given serious and sympathetic consideration. Saini also announced a grant of Rs 21 lakh for the HUWJ and felicitated journalists who demonstrated outstanding work across various fields of journalism. Senior Journalist Ajay Malhotra conducted the stage, while Lokesh Jain and Baljeet Singh presented a vote of thanks. BJP district president Ranbir Dhaka, Divisional Commissioner PC Meena, ADGP Y Purn Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Dharmaendra Singh, Chief Minister's Media Advisor Rajiv Jaitley and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

MLA inaugurates Maharaj Aroot Chowk in Sonapat



Sonepat : MLA Nikhil Madan and Mayor Rajiv Jain on Friday inaugurated Maharaj Aroot Chowk near the Sector 27 police station here. Several dignitaries from Sonepat's Punjabi community attended the event. Madan said, during his tenure as Mayor, the Rashriya Punjabi Mahasabha and many organisations associated with the Punjabi community of Sonepat had submitted a memorandum to him for the construction of the chowk. Taking cognisance of this, he had passed a proposal for the construction of Maharaj Aroot Chowk in the General House meeting of the municipal corporation. He expressed happiness over the completion, and inauguration, of the chowk, stating that it was a moment of pride for the entire 36 baradari and the Punjabi community. "Lord Aroot Maharaj is believed to be a descendant of King Luv, son of Lord Rama. It is narrated in history that with the blessings of Lord Parashuram, Aroot Maharaj established a grand kingdom named Aroot Kot on the banks of the Indus," Madan said. Maharaj Aroot was a just ruler during whose reign people, notably the poor, were heard, he added, stating that it was a great privilege for him to dedicate the chowk to the great Maharaj Aroot. He, and Mayor Rajiv Jain extended their best wishes to the entire Punjabi community.

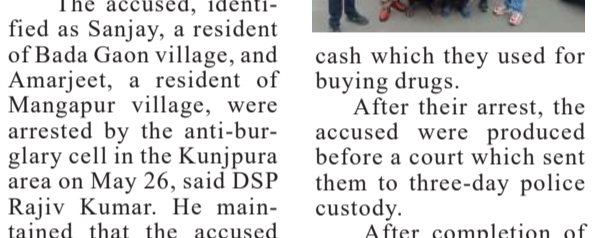
Books instil values, shape responsible citizens: Haryana DGP Shatruijeet Kapur

Kaithal : Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatruijeet Kapur inaugurated the 18th Sardar Patel Police Library at Police Lines in Kaithal on Thursday, calling it a revolutionary step toward a "knowledge renaissance" across the state's police lines. Currently, 18 such libraries are operational across Haryana, with five more under construction in Nuh, Hajaraj, Hisar, Rewari and Palwal. The 19th library in Jind is ready for inauguration. DGP Kapur emphasised the power of books in shaping character and instilling moral courage in the youth. "Books give children the courage to call wrong as wrong. They instil values and shape responsible citizens," he said. Highlighting the broader vision behind this initiative, Kapur said libraries were being established in all Police Lines across Haryana to ensure access to modern knowledge resources. He also proposed organising inter-school competitions among DAV Police Public Schools to promote holistic development, including sports participation.

The DGP recommended the installation of Chakravayuh structures in all government and private schools to promote strategic thinking and physical fitness among students. He said these libraries were not just buildings, but living ideas that served as pillars of welfare for police families. Kapur also led a tree plantation drive on the police campus to promote environmental awareness. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Karnal Range, M Ravi Kiran, described the library as a convergence of modern knowledge, faith and culture. Inspector General (Enforcement) Kuldeep Yadav lauded the role of books in preserving civilisation. Kaithal Superintendent of Police Astha Modi said the library had been established in a densely populated area near the Kaithal Police Lines, which housed around 200 police quarters with over 850 residents. With 1,322 police personnel stationed in Kaithal, the library was expected to serve as an ideal knowledge hub for police families and surrounding communities, Modi added. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, the Sardar Patel Police Library includes nine computers, a fully air-conditioned reading room for 40 people, an LED screen and access to over 25,000 e-books provided by the Worldreader Organisation. Books are available in Hindi, English and Punjabi, covering a range of topics including general knowledge, history, science, literature and exam preparation.

Two held for tubewell cable thefts

Karnal : With the arrest of two persons, the Karnal police claimed to have cracked 15 cases of thefts targeting tubewell equipment in the rural areas. The accused, identified as Sanjay, a resident of Bada Gaon village, and Amarjeet, a resident of Mangapur village, were arrested by the anti-burglary cell in the Kunjpora area on May 26, said DSP Rajiv Kumar. He maintained that the accused were involved in theft cases specifically targeting tubewell wires and starters. "They conducted reconnaissance during the day and committed thefts in the night," the DSP said, while adding that both accused were drug addicts, and sold stolen items for



cash which they used for buying drugs. After their arrest, the accused were produced before a court which sent them to three-day police custody. After completion of the remand, they were sent to judicial custody on Friday, the DSP said. During interrogation, the accused confessed that they committed thefts. The police recovered Rs 60,000 in cash, which they had earned by selling the stolen equipment.

Can't deduct parole from actual sentence: HC strikes down state formula

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the period spent on parole cannot be deducted from the actual sentence undergone by a prisoner for the purpose of premature release. Justice Harpreet Singh Brar clarified that 'actual sentence' refers to the real time spent behind bars—including time as an undertrial and as a convict—while the parole period can only be deducted from the total sentence. The ruling comes as a significant setback for the state's interpretation of the Punjab Good Conduct of Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1962. In its decision, the Bench observed that the formula devised by the state-level committee in its meeting dated March 16, 2020, which treated the parole period as a deduction

from actual sentence, was illegal and beyond comprehension. "The formula prescribed in meeting dated July 16, 2020, is held to be invalid, being in direct contravention of Section 3(3) of the Act of 1962. The parole period shall only be subtracted from the total sentence and not from the actual sentence. Actual sentence shall only mean the real time spent by a prisoner in the prison premises," Justice Brar further asserted that any relief granted under the 1962 Act could not be used to the prisoner's detriment, and held the state's action of deducting parole from actual sentence as impermissible. Ordering immediate compliance, the Court directed the State to reassess petitioner-convict's case, by subtracting the parole availed from the total sentence and not the actual sentence, within four weeks.

Eight of nine accused in NDPS cases convicted last month in Karnal district

Karnal : In a major push against drug-related crimes, the Karnal district reported a strong conviction rate under the NDPS Act, with eight out of nine cases resulting in passing of sentence against the accused during the month of April. The data was shared during a review meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee held at the Mini-Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh. Pankaj Saini, Deputy Director, Prosecution-cum-District Attorney, informed that nine cases registered under the NDPS Act were decided in April, of which convictions were secured in eight cases, while one accused was acquitted. Besides, four new cases were registered under the Act in May, he said. The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to

work in coordination to make Haryana a drug-free state. Superintendent of Police (SP) Ganga Ram Punia also encouraged officials to make joint efforts to achieve the goal. During the meeting, the health authorities shared that at present, eight de-addiction centres were operating in the district of which one was government-run, seven private and one provisional private. In May, seven of these centres were inspected. The authorities said 10 high-risk villages in terms of drug abuse had been identified.

One more arrested in teenage girl murder case

Kaithal : The Guhla police have arrested one more accused in a shocking case of murder of 15-year-old girl which was shown as a road accident. Earlier, five persons, including the mother of the victim, were arrested in this case. The sixth arrested accused has been identified as Mithun, alias Mithu, a resident of Hansumajra. The main accused in this case Laddi of the same village is absconding. The police claimed that efforts were on to arrest him. "Earlier, accused Mithun was on the run. Now, he has been arrested. So far, we have arrested six people, including mother of the teenage girl, Rekha, Rajesh, Ranjeet and Ranjeet Singh. A Zero FIR was initially filed at Radaur and later transferred to Guhla police station." "Earlier, accused Mithun was absconding. Now, he has been arrested. So far, we have arrested six people, including mother of the teenage girl, Rekha, Rajesh, Ranjeet and Ranjeet Singh," a spokesperson said. A Zero FIR was initially filed at Radaur and later transferred to Guhla police station, he said. Sub-Inspector (SI) Vijender Singh and his team members investigated the case and arrested the accused, he said. The

spokesperson said that a man from Yamunanagar district filed a complaint on May 19, in which he stated that his wife left home with their daughter, saying they were going to a satsang in Kurukshetra, he said. The next day, when he called his wife, she said they were still at the satsang and would return the next day. Later, she returned home and claimed that the girl had died in a road accident, the spokesperson said. The family performed her last rites, believing the story. However, the mother's changing of statements regarding the incident raised suspicion. During the rasam kriya ritual on Sunday, the mother confessed the crime. She revealed that Rekha from Bakana village, her co-worker in the factory, introduced her to Laddi of Hansumajra in Kaithal. She developed a physical relationship with him. Later, Laddi threatened to expose the affair unless she brought her daughter to him. Rekha also pressurised her to agree, the spokesperson said. On May 19, on the pretext of going to satsang, she and Rekha took the girl to Laddi's house. There, she gave the girl a powder given by Laddi. Later, Laddi entered the girl's room, and after hearing her screams, they rushed in. Laddi gave them another dose, which they forced the girl to swallow. The girl began foaming at the mouth, the spokesperson said.

Dispute over forest land delays key development projects in Sirsa

Sirsa : A long-pending land dispute is blocking key development works in Sirsa city. The issue centres around land on both sides of the old National Highway-9 (NH-9), which is currently marked as "Notified forest land". Due to this classification, the Municipal Council (MC) needs permission from the Forest Department before starting any construction even basic work like laying tiles, installing water pipelines or building roads. Sirsa MP Kumari Selja has written to Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav, asking the Central Government to de-notify this land and hand it over to the Municipal Council. In her letter, she stated that the land does not have dense forest or green cover and keeping it under the forest category was blocking urban development. She said this legal requirement caused unnecessary delays and many important projects worth crores were pending in the city. Selja also urged the minister to remove such forest tags on land in the urban areas, especially along roads, at the policy level. She requested amendments in forest laws to prevent cropping up of such issues in the future, while stating that the matter directly affected public convenience and the quality of the urban life.



Surender Bhatia, secretary, Sirsa Nagrik Parishad, said, "The dispute between the Municipal Council and the Forest Department has been going on for nearly 10 years. Every time construction begins, the Forest Department intervenes and often slaps fines or even files criminal cases. In one such instance in 2017, the department halted tile-laying from Maharana Pratap Chowk to Sangwan Chowk, stating that the work was being carried on protected forest land without prior approval." He said, "A major storm-water drainage project has also been stalled. The Municipal Council needs 2.186 hectares of forest land for this project, stretching from the district e-library on Barnala Road to Rangoi Nala. The Forest Department raised serious objections over the project, stating the civic body did not have legal approval to the start work. The department also asked the council to pay Rs 89.34 lakh as compensation, while stating that no work could be initiated without this payment and official clearance through the Central Government's portal." In another case, the Municipal Council had requested allotment of 3.18 acres for widening a road heading from Ambedkar Chowk to Bhatia Colony. But the Forest Department refused permission, stating that Centre's approval was not granted and mandatory documentation was missing. The Forest Department has already imposed a fine of Rs 5.45 lakh on the Municipal Council for unauthorised construction on its land near Dabwali Road.

Haryana Sikh panel writes to SGPC, seeks land to build 'serai' in Amritsar

Kurukshetra : The Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) has sought a piece of land in Amritsar from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to build a 'serai' for the pilgrims of Haryana who visit the Golden Temple. During a recent visit to the Golden Temple, the working committee and General House members of the HSGMC, led by its president Jagdish Singh Jhinda, visited a couple of sites for the 'serai'. Expressing concern over the inconvenience faced by the pilgrims of Haryana, HSGMC chief Jagdish Singh Jhinda has sent a letter to SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhani seeking the allotment of either a lodge or land to the HSGMC. HSGMC chief Jagdish Singh Jhinda told The Tribune, "A large number of pilgrims from Haryana reach Darbar Sahib and other historic gurdwaras to pay obeisance. They prefer to stay in 'serais' but they face a lot of inconvenience in getting accommodation. Through a letter, we have brought the issues in the knowledge of the SGPC chief and have sought allotment of a lodge near Darbar Sahib." "If a lodge is not available, then the SGPC must provide land to the HSGMC free of cost so that a 'serai' could be built for the pilgrims of Haryana. During a visit to Darbar Sahib, we visited a couple of sites where a 'serai' can be built. The historic shrines of Haryana were earlier under the control of SGPC. The HSGMC also has a right in the properties of the SGPC. We are not asking for any major share in property, but the SGPC should give a land where a 'serai' with at least 200 rooms can be built for the pilgrims.

Haryana CM Nayab Saini lays stone of nine projects worth Rs 61 crore

Rohtak : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced a matching grant to the Gaur Brahmin Vidya Pracharini Sabha for the construction of Campus-III educational institutions in Pehrawar village here.

He further said that the state government would provide a matching grant exceeding the amount collected by the society for these institutions. In addition, one of the state's major parks would be named after Lord Parshuram.

The Chief Minister made these announcements during a state-level function held at Pehrawar village here on Friday to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Parshuram. He also announced a grant of Rs 51 lakh stating that other demands submitted would be forwarded to the relevant departments for feasibility assessment, and efforts would be made to prioritise and fulfil those.

Earlier, the CM inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for nine projects worth Rs 61.23 crore. This includes laying the foundation stones for five projects worth Rs 54.26 crore and inaugurating four projects worth Rs 6.97 crore. Describing Lord Parshuram as a mighty warrior, a scholar of the Vedas and a great social reformer, Saini said despite being a Brahmin, he took up arms to eradicate injustice and unrighteous-



ness. "The life of Lord Parshuram teaches us that only the balance of knowledge and strength can lead society in the right direction. Haryana has always been a land of valour, knowledge and rich traditions. Lord Parshuram had said that even taking up arms to protect religion is a form of penance," he added.

The CM further stated that with the inspiration of Lord Parshuram, brave soldiers under the leadership of the Prime Minister destroyed terrorist hideouts in Pakistan. "Lord Parshuram destroyed injustice not for personal gain but for the welfare of society and the protection of religion. Inspired by this spirit, our armed forces, under the leadership of Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi, carried out Operation Sindoor after the cowardly incident in Pahalgaon, targeting terrorist hideouts in Pakistan which persisted since 2013, has been resolved. The government has also approved 100 BAMS seats at the Gaur Brahmin Ayurveda College and classes have commenced. A postage stamp in the name of Lord Parshuram has been issued and land has been allotted for a Brahmin dharamshala in Karnal," he added.

Cooperative and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma welcomed the CM. BJP state president Mohan Lal Kaushik, ministers Krishan Lal Panwar, Mahipal Dhandra, Ranbir Gangwa, Gaurav Gautam were also present on the occasion.

Parshuram. The longstanding land dispute of the Gaur Brahmin College in Pehrawar village, which had persisted since 2013, has been resolved. The government has also approved 100 BAMS seats at the Gaur Brahmin Ayurveda College and classes have commenced. A postage stamp in the name of Lord Parshuram has been issued and land has been allotted for a Brahmin dharamshala in Karnal," he added.

Cooperative and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma welcomed the CM. BJP state president Mohan Lal Kaushik, ministers Krishan Lal Panwar, Mahipal Dhandra, Ranbir Gangwa, Gaurav Gautam were also present on the occasion.

Advocates free to draft deeds, licence not needed under Registration Act: HC

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that advocates are not required to obtain licence from an authority designated under the Registration Act for drafting documents such as sale deeds, adoption deeds, wills and certificate of sales after charging fee.

"The Advocates Act does not require any advocate to -- for the purpose of drafting sale deeds, adoption deeds, wills and certificate of sales etc on charging a fee -- obtain any licence from the authority designated under the Registration Act," Justice Kuldeep Tiwari ruled.

Quashing the administrative directions issued by Sonapat Joint Sub-Registrar and Tehsildar, Justice Tiwari further ruled: "The petitioner, who is advocates enrolled with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, and they are not required to obtain any licence from the competent authority established under the Rules of 1961 to work as deed writers." The Bench added the petitioners/advocates also did not require any permission to sit/work in the compound of the revenue authorities. The directions came after the advocates challenged the Joint Sub-Registrar and Tehsildar's

well perform the work of deed writing on hire basis." The Bench also made it clear that requiring advocates to obtain a licence under Punjab Document Writers Licensing Rules, 1961, would "undermine the independence of advocates, whose act and conduct can only be governed by the Advocates Act."

Justice Tiwari categorically ruled: "The petitioner/advocates are not required to be put under jurisdiction of any authority and they are not required to obtain any licence from the competent authority established under the Rules of 1961 to work as deed writers." The Bench added the petitioners/advocates also did not require any permission to sit/work in the compound of the revenue authorities. The directions came after the advocates challenged the Joint Sub-Registrar and Tehsildar's

order directing, among other things, that only deed writers with Collector's permission were allowed to work on the tehsil premises. The administrative directions had also imposed restrictions on setting up stalls, requirement of permission letters and display of fee. After hearing rival contentions and going through the documents, Justice Tiwari ruled: "The petitioners, who are advocates enrolled with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, and also are members of the District Bar Association, Sonapat, can well perform the work of deed writing on hire basis...The directions encapsulated in the impugned administrative order do not pass the test of legality. Therefore, the impugned administrative order is set aside, being illegal". Before parting with the order, Justice Tiwari directed that advocates already working as

deed writers and having kiosks or tin sheds in Sonapat tehsil/revenue complex would be considered for allotment after the proposed 200 chambers for architects, draftsmen, deed writers etc were constructed in the Mini Secretariat. Justice Tiwari further ordered that a list of eligible advocates would be prepared by the authority concerned. "The list shall be maintained by the office of Deputy Commissioner concerned and copy thereof shall also be maintained by the office of the District and Sessions Judge concerned and by the Chairman, Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh," the Bench directed. To ensure transparency in the allotment process, the court ordered the constitution of a committee comprising the Deputy Commissioner, District and Sessions Judge, and an authorised representative of the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, apart from the Sub-Registrar concerned.

Samadhan Shivirs: Over 5,900 complaints filed in Sirsa district

Sirsa : The Sirsa's district administration has received a total of 5,934 public complaints through Samadhan Shivirs, the CM Window, and other channels, prompting Deputy Commissioner Shantanu Sharma to instruct all departments to speed up resolution efforts and avoid unnecessary delays. During the weekly review meeting held on Friday, Sharma said out of total complaints, 587 were still under process, 134 had been reopened for review and 334 were rejected. The rest, he claimed,

were resolved. He urged department heads to take direct responsibility and closely monitor complaints linked to their offices. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that public grievances must be resolved within a fixed time frame and warned officials against any kind of negligence. He said delays not only affect basic services, but also reduce people's access to benefits under various government schemes. The state government has mandated the holding of Samadhan Shivirs every Monday and

Thursday at the district and sub-divisional levels, aimed at addressing citizen complaints. These public grievance camps are held between 10 am and 12 noon. According to Sharma, these camps are an effective way for the people to directly interact with officials and raise their concerns. Officials present at the meeting included Additional Deputy Commissioner Lakshet Sareen, Zila Parishad CEO Dr Subhash Chandra, Superintendent Engineer Rajendra Sabharwal and other senior staff.

Hisar farmers allege fertiliser shortage for kharif crops

Hisar : Farmers have raised concerns over the ongoing crisis related to the non-availability and black marketing of DAP fertiliser, which is required for the sowing of kharif crops. The Pagri Sambhal Jatta Kishan Sangharsh Samiti said the farmers had raised the issue with the state government, and also submitted a memorandum to Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana, but despite repeated attempts, they were unable to procure DAP from cooperative societies.

that the crisis was worsening as DAP was reportedly being sold on the black market. In the letter submitted to the government, they alleged that they were being denied the fertiliser through official channels as some private agents and middlemen were selling it on higher rates. Demanding immediate intervention by the government to ensure fair and adequate distribution of DAP, they called for restriction on the unauthorised movement of the fertiliser out of the district. They have also opposed the condition of purchasing

other products like nano-DAP, DAP plus, or urea with a bag of DAP, which they claimed was being forced upon them by some dealers. The farmers urged the government to ensure easy access of fertilisers to the needy farmers without unnecessary formalities or restrictions. Surender Arya, an activist of the samiti, said they had demanded the formation of a special inquiry committee to investigate the allegations and take strict action against those involved in the black marketing of fertilisers.

Contracts extended with 84% rate increase, reveals RTI activist

Panipat : It has been revealed through the Right to Information (RTI) that the two companies which allegedly colluded with MC officials and caused a loss of over Rs 15 crore to the government, have been given an extension in cleaning contracts by increasing the rates by 84%.

The MC had allotted the sanitation tenders to the companies after dividing the city into four zones on May 13, 2022, and the contracts ended on May 12 last year.

It was revealed in an RTI sought by PP Kapoor of Samalkha, who demanded a high-level CBI inquiry into the matter. The company owners and 12 MC officials were booked by the Anti-Corruption Bureau following the inquiry report of the CM flying squad for causing losses to the exchequer. However, no accused has



been arrested so far and no officials have been suspended after the registration of the case on May 2. The government has also not cancelled the sanitation contracts, Kapoor stated.

On the basis of the RTI reply, he said the Panipat MC had allotted sanitation tenders worth Rs 3.55 crore per month to IND Sanitation

Solution Private Limited for zone 1 (ward 1- to 7) worth Rs 88.70 lakh per month and zone 2 (ward 8-14) worth Rs 94.90 lakh per month; and Puja Consultation for zone 3 (ward 15-20) worth Rs 84.36 lakh per month and zone 4 (ward 21-26) worth Rs 82.36 lakh per month on May 13, 2022.

As per the tender document, the contracts ended on May 12, 2024, and the MC had to call a fresh tender. But the MC did not invite any fresh tenders and the same tenders were extended to June 30 last year.

At a meeting of the sub-committee of the Cabinet on June 25, under the chairmanship of CM Nayab Singh Saini, the contract was enhanced up to July 31, and later was extended until December 31, Kapoor alleged.

Long-term visa application of Pakistani woman to be decided within 3 weeks: HC



Chandigarh : Amidst cross-border tensions, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the competent authority at the Centre to decide within three weeks the application of a Pakistani woman seeking a long-term visa to stay in India with her husband.

The couple, who had solemnised marriage in India, was caught in a maze of paperwork, with their future hanging in limbo. The woman's husband, Sonu Masih, under the circumstances approached the court through counsel Jatinder Singh Gill, alleging that "indolent and lackadaisical approach" by the authorities concerned in processing her application pending since July 2024.

In his petition placed before Justice Kuldeep Tiwari's bench, the husband was seeking directions to the Union of India and other respondents to consider application dated July 11 last year submitted by his wife for grant of long term visa "and to decide the same most expeditiously".

Referring to the contentions raised in the petition, Justice Tiwari observed: "Now indolent and lackadaisical approach of the competent respondent amongst the respondents in not deciding his application propelled him to file the instant petition for seeking mandamus upon the authority concerned". As the matter came up for hearing, Justice Tiwari issued notice of motion to the respondents, which was accepted by advocate Saigeeta Srivastava while assisting Additional Solicitor-General of India Satya Pal Jain. He, in turn, submitted that he would have no objection in case the high court passes a direction for deciding the application in the time-bound manner.

"At this stage, this court deems it apt to dispose of the instant petition with a mandamus upon competent respondent, amongst the respondents, to consider the application and make an endeavour to decide the same within three weeks from passing of the order," Justice Tiwari concluded.

Sikh museum to be built in Kurukshetra: CM

Kurukshetra: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today said that the government is working to strengthen the Sikh-Hindu brotherhood in the state by following the teachings of Guru Arjan Dev. The CM, after paying obeisance at Gurdwara Baoli Sahib in Pehowa, said, "To preserve the memories and teachings of the Gurus, a Sikh museum will be built on three acres in Kurukshetra and it will take the teaching to the Gurus to the young generation."



He had reached here to pay tributes on the occasion of the 419th martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev. The CM said, "The

martyrdom to Guru Arjan Dev will continue to inspire us for ages to struggle and sacrifice against injustice, exploitation and oppression."

He also served sweetened water to people by performing sewa at a chhabeel. The CM also listened to the grievances of some people present at the gurdwara and also directed the officials to resolve the issues.

Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president Jagdish Singh Jhinda, Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh, SP Nitish Agarwal, BJP district chief Tajender Singh and several BJP leaders were present on this occasion.

Hoax bomb threat at Haryana Secretariat, CM Saini's residence in Chandigarh

Chandigarh : A bomb threat received via email on Friday afternoon sent shockwaves through Chandigarh's high-security zone, prompting the immediate evacuation of the Haryana Civil Secretariat and the official residence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The alert, flagged by the Haryana Criminal Investigation Department (CID), warned of a possible

bomb blast and even suggested a fideyaen (suicide) attack. In response, a large-scale security operation was launched involving the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Chandigarh Police, and specialised bomb disposal squads from the Chandigarh and Haryana Police. The entire area around the Secretariat and the Chief Minister's resi-

dence was cordoned off. For several hours, sniffer dogs and bomb detection teams scoured the buildings but no explosive device was found, following which the threat was confirmed to be a hoax. The police are investigating the On May 22, an email warning had led to the temporary evacuation of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. That too had proved to be a false alarm.

Pollution board issues show-cause notices to Panipat MC

Panipat : The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has served show-cause notices on the Panipat Municipal Corporation for the non-compliance of pollution norms by five sewage treatment plants (STPs). The Yamuna enters Panipat from Rana Majra village and covers a 33 km area up to Rakshera village of the district, after which it enters Sonapat.

As per data, the capacity of the STPs is over 168.8 MLD, and the total discharge

from the city is over 100 MLD. According to HSPCB's reports, 78 MLD sewage reaches the STPs for treatment while the remaining 22 per cent sewage is directly discharged into the drain numbers 1 and 2, leading to the Yamuna.

The STPs of the capacity 100 kilo litre per day (KLD) or more than 100 KLD are in the 'red category'. The pollution board has served notices on the MC under Section 44 of the Water Act, 1974, and revocation of Consent to Op-

erate and imposition of environmental compensation for non-compliance.

According to the sources, the board officials inspected the STPs recently and observed several shortcomings, like the SBR aeration basins were not functioning properly; the sludge bulking/accumulation was visible, indicating improper sludge generation; the MLSS value was very high and dissolved oxygen level was not being maintained properly; methane gas was

neither flared up nor being used for power generation; and the flow meter was not installed at outpass and bypass mechanism.

The shortcomings revealed that the STPs are not working properly and partially treated effluent is being discharged into the Yamuna through adjoining drains, the notice reads.

Bhupender Singh Chahal, Regional Officer, HSPCB, said the notices were served on the basis of the inspections.

Haryana's Shreeti tops arts stream as first women NDA cadets pass out

Chandigarh : As the first batch of 17 women cadets marched out of the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakvasla today, Division Cadet Captain Shreeti Daksh from Haryana stood out as she topped the arts stream.

This apart, Haryana has the highest number of female cadets who trained at the academy since their induction three years ago.

Speaking to the media after the passing-out parade, Shreeti, who was awarded a trophy, said she belonged to Haryana but studied in Noida before joining the NDA. Her father, Wing Commander Yogesh Kumar Daksh (retd), was a helicopter pilot in the Indian Air Force and is now working with a private aviation firm. Her elder sister is a flying officer in the Air Force. She herself has opted for the Army and will be proceeding to the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun for pre-commission training.

During her training at the NDA, Shreeti was assigned to the Hunter Squadron, the same unit of which her father was a part when he was a cadet. She had also excelled in academics during school, scoring 97 per cent in Class X and 99 per cent in Class XII. The first batch of women cadets joined the NDA in August 2022 as part of the 148th course. This was the outcome of directives issued by the Supreme Court. The batch had an initial strength of 19, with 10 for the Army, six Air Force and three for the Navy. A total of 336 cadets of the 148th course stepped out of the NDA during the Spring Term-2025 parade and will be joining the academies of their respective service for the final leg of

training before becoming officers.

The parade was commanded by Academy Cadet Captain Udayveer Singh Negi, who topped the B-Tech stream and was awarded the President's Silver Medal for standing overall second in the merit list. Having opted to join the Navy, he would be the fourth-generation soldier in his family. His grandfather and father have commanded the Third Battalion of the Third Gorkha Rifles. His father has been decorated with the Shaurya Chakra and the Sena Medal.

The President's Gold Medal for standing first in the overall order of merit was awarded to Battalion Cadet Adjutant Prince Raj, while the President's Bronze Medal for standing third went to Battalion Cadet Captain Tejas Bhatt. Reviewing the parade, Gen VK Singh (retd), Mizoram Governor who had served as the Army Chief from March 2010 to May 2012, termed the event as a symbol of women empowerment, embodying not just women's development but women-led development.

From the entry of the first batch in 2022 till its passing out today, Haryana had the highest number of 35 women cadets (28 per cent) in the tri-service academy, according to information shared by the Ministry of Defence with Parliament earlier this year.

A total of 126 women from 17 states and UTs across the country have joined the NDA so far. Uttar Pradesh is second on the list with 28, followed by Rajasthan (13) and Maharashtra (11). Punjab sent five women cadets and Himachal Pradesh four. Several states have no representation.



MI's legacy faces PBKS dream run in IPL Q2

Ahmedabad : The stakes couldn't be higher. The lights at Narendra Modi Stadium are ready to blaze, and the roar of over a lakh fans will rise as Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians lock horns in Q2 encounter for a place in the IPL 2025 final.

But amid the drama and unpredictability that defines T20 cricket, one quiet, clinical force looms large — Jasprit Bumrah. The seasoned MI pacer, with 18 scalps at a stingy economy of 6.36, has been in menacing form and could well be the difference in Sunday night's Qualifier 2.

Mumbai are surging into this clash on the back of a dominant 20-run win over Gujarat Titans in the Eliminator. With five titles to their name, they are no strangers to pressure — and this current unit, under the leadership of Hardik Pandya,

looks locked in.

The batting lineup is humming. Rohit Sharma found rhythm at just the right time, scoring a composed 81 off 50, while Jonny Bairstow, thrust into the spotlight as Will Jacks's replacement, wasted no time — hammering 47 off 22 balls and setting the tone early.

Suryakumar Yadav, meanwhile, continues to defy cricketing logic with 673 runs at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 167.83.

Tilak Varma, Hardik, and Naman Dhir add steel to the middle order, while Deepak Chahar could come in as the Impact Player to make early inroads with the ball. Bumrah's deadly precision and the left-arm swing of Trent Boult give MI an edge with the new ball, but Mumbai will still be wary of their unsettled fourth bowling option, with Richard

Gleeson underwhelming last game. Punjab, on the other hand, are nursing fresh scars. Their 101 all-out collapse against RCB in Qualifier 1 was a brutal reality check after a consistent season. Now, they must dust

Arya (431) have formed one of the league's most exciting young opening pairs. Captain Shreyas Iyer has been the glue in the middle, scoring 516 runs with trademark poise.

They'll need much more



themselves off and step into a ground where playoff inexperience and scoreboard pressure can swallow teams whole.

Still, PBKS have match-winners. Prabhsimran Singh (517 runs) and Priyansh

though — Josh Inglis, Marcus Stoinis, and Shashank Singh must rise to the occasion. Inglis' explosive 73 against MI in the league stage was a turning point then — can he repeat it now, when it matters most?

Their bowling, led by Arshdeep Singh, carries the weight of expectation. Kayle Jamieson stepped up with a tidy spell in the last game, but the absence of Yuzvendra Chahal continues to sting. If Harpreet Brar and Azmatullah Omarzai can contain, PBKS might yet script an upset.

Ahmedabad has made its preferences clear — bat first and bat big. Six of the seven matches here in IPL 2025 have been won by the team setting a target. With recent totals soaring above 230, both captains will have their eyes on that toss.

Clear skies and dry heat are expected, with no rain on the radar. Expect a full-throttle contest under the lights. The last four meetings are split 2-2, with Punjab winning their most recent clash on May 26.

Yet, as the tension tightens and the floodlights flick-

er on, the balance may tip toward the franchise that's lived through nights like these — Mumbai, with the nerveless Bumrah at their spearhead, look the safer bet. But cricket, especially T20, rarely reads the script. And for Punjab, the story of their season isn't over yet.

Predicted Playing XIs:

Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh, Josh Inglis (wk), Shreyas Iyer (c), Nehal Wadhwa, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Harpreet Brar, Arshdeep Singh, Kyle Jamieson

Impact Player: Yuzvendra Chahal, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Musheer Khan

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya (c), Naman Dhir, Raj Bawa, Mitchell Santner, Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, Ashwani Kumar

Impact Player: Deepak Chahar.

Ecuador names Valencia, Plata in squad for World Cup qualifiers

Quito : Brazil-based forwards Enner Valencia and Gonzalo Plata have been included in Ecuador's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Brazil and Peru despite injury concerns, the Ecuadorian football federation said. Internacional's Valencia has missed the Porto Alegre club's past six games due to a hamstring strain, while Flamengo's Plata has been sidelined since April with a knee injury. "They are in a complicated situation but they are currently in the process of recovering," Ecuador manager Sebastian Beccacece told reporters on Friday. The Argentine coach recalled Leonardo Campana and Angelo Preciado, who missed Ecuador's last double header of qualifiers in March with injuries. As expected, the 28-man squad includes Brighton left-back Pervis Estupinan, Paris Saint-Germain center-back William Pacheco and Bay-

er Leverkusen defender Piero Hincapie. Ecuador will meet Brazil in Guayaquil on June 5 and Peru in Lima five



days later. Beccacece's men are currently second in the 10-team South American group with four qualifiers remaining. The top six teams will automatically qualify for next year's World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada while the seventh-ranked side will dispute a playoff. Ecuador squad: Goalkeepers: Hernan Galindez, Moises Ramirez, David Cabezas, Gonzalo Valle Defenders: Pervis Estupinan, Cristian Ramirez, Xavier Arreaga, William Pacheco, Piero Hincapie, Joel Ordonez.

WADA president vows to keep calling out U S anti-doping system flaws



Warsaw : World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka vowed to continue speaking out forcefully about what he sees as serious flaws in the American anti-doping system, following his re-election to a third and final term as head of the global watchdog.

Banka, a former Polish sprinter and Minister of Sport and Tourism, along

with China's former Winter Olympic champion Yang Yang, was re-elected during a virtual Foundation Board meeting on Thursday.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) later, in a social media post, called it the "ultimate 'bait and switch,' first promising governance reforms following the Russian anti-doping scandal and then quietly changing the rules the second the world looked away."

On Friday, WADA's president responded to USADA's criticism. "I'm not particularly surprised that such words were said in the USA," Banka told Polish

outlet Sportowe Fakty. "Representatives of this country actually tried to undermine my leadership in WADA and attempted to change the leader. The American government stopped its contribution to WADA, lost a representative on the board of our institution and ultimately also influence on the elections."

"I'll continue to speak boldly about the shortcomings of the American anti-doping system," he added.

"Large and highly developed Western countries love to lecture us all. They love to talk about how the anti-doping system should look, but when we look at

their solutions, it turns out that the biggest problem is with them," he said.

"This applies to the US, for example, but also to Germany. When we had the case of 23 Chinese swimmers, they were the loudest, but they don't pay attention to how big a problem they have with their own national systems," Banka explained.

Banka and Yang were originally elected as WADA's president and vice president at the 2019 World Conference on Doping in Sport. Both will begin their new three-year terms on Jan. 1, 2026, and serve until Dec. 31, 2028.

Top players advance as Zheng cruises into French Open last 16

Paris : Paris Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen of China advanced to the women's singles Round of 16 at the French Open for the second time, as top seeds continued to shine at Roland Garros.

The eighth seed spent under 90 minutes on Friday to beat 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-4 in their first career meeting, marking her second appearance in the last 16 at Roland Garros after her breakthrough run in 2022.

"I was born in China in a really hot place, which is called Wuhan. So I handled the hot weather quite well," Zheng said in her post-match interview.

"Last year, when I played the Olympic Games, it was hotter than this. So actually I like this condition, but I want to say thanks to all the crowd who suffered here under the sun today with me."



Zheng also praised her young opponent. "I want to say congrats to the opponent because I feel she played really well, and I think we pushed each other to play our best tennis. And sometimes we had really good points. It was not an easy match."

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus also continued her strong showing with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Serbia's Olga Danilovic, advancing into the

tournament's fourth round for the third consecutive year.

Four-time winner Iga Swiatek of Poland overcame a spirited challenge from Romania's Jaqueline Cristian in straight sets, stretching her tournament's winning streak to 24 matches.

"I'm just happy that I was super solid in the last game and didn't give any free points," said Swiatek. "It was a great match and I think it was pretty entertaining. We both played nice. I'm happy I'm through and happy with the performance." Last year's finalist Jasmine Paolini of Italy prevailed 6-4, 6-1 over Ukrainian lucky loser Yulia Starodubtseva for her ninth straight win on clay. "The first few games were tough," said Paolini. "I had to adjust a little bit with the conditions, but then I felt better on court. Happy to be in the fourth round here in Roland Garros."

India women's football team suffer narrow defeat against Uzbekistan



Bengaluru : India suffered a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, in the first of two FIFA International Friendlies here.

After a goalless first half, Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva

the Uzbekistan forward with her physical presence, allowing Panthoi to snatch the ball.

With the score level, India coach Chettri brought striker Pyari Xaxa into the game instead of Manisha Naik, thus pushing Grace

into midfield. The move seemed to have been working in the initial stages of the second half, as India began to enjoy long bouts of possession in the Uzbekistan half. However, it also left them more susceptible to a counter-attack, which resulted in the deciding goal.

Maftuna Shoyimova, who was freed down the left flank, sent in a pinpoint cross into the India box, as Diyorakhon tapped it in from close range in the 56th minute, to give her side the lead.

Diyorakhon had a chance to double the lead on the hour mark when she tried to volley another cross, this time from the left, but the forward could not connect with the ball, as Panthoi plucked it out of the air.

India went searching for the equaliser with Pyari being the focal point. Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi sent in a looping cross from the right, which was headed goalwards by Pyari. However, the header lacked power and rolled wide with around 20 minutes to go.

Sumati Kumari, advancing down the right wing, sent a low cross to Pyari in the closing stages. The Indian striker trapped the ball and pulled the trigger from the edge of the box. However, Jonimqulova did well to produce a diving save to keep India out.

The two sides will meet in the second FIFA International Friendly at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence on June 3.

Bopanna-Pavlese beat local favourites to enter third round

Paris : India's Rohan Bopanna and Czech partner Adam Pavlese showcased resilience and tactical prowess to edge past France's Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia 6-2, 7-6(5) in a gripping second-round men's doubles encounter at the French Open on Court 14. The Indo-Czech duo dominated the opening set, leveraging their powerful serves and strategic net play to secure a 6-2 lead. Bopanna's experience and Pavlese's agility were evident as they broke the French pair's

serve twice, capitalising on early opportunities.

However, the Frenchmen, buoyed by the home crowd, mounted a formidable comeback in the second set. Doumbia and Reboul tightened their service games and applied pressure on returns, leading to a closely contested set that culminated in a tiebreak.

Despite the momentum shift, Bopanna and Pavlese maintained composure, clinching the tiebreak 7-5 and sealing the match in straight sets.

Statistically, the match

was evenly poised. Bopanna and Pavlese recorded 8 aces to the French duo's 5 and had a slightly higher first-serve win percentage at 72% compared to 68%.

Both teams converted three break points, but the Indo-Czech pair's ability to win crucial points, especially in the tiebreak, made the difference.

This victory marks a significant step for Bopanna and Pavlese as they advance to the third round, continuing their quest for a maiden Grand Slam title together.

England's stellar cast scale maiden milestones in WI win

London : Amy Jones' first-ever century and Linsey Smith's five-for on ODI debut set up a mammoth win over West Indies for Nat Sciver-Brunt and co.

Coming on the back of a comprehensive T20I series sweep against the West Indies, England registered another impactful performance with a 108-run win against the same opponents in the opening ODI on Friday.

Among the key performers for the hosts were the opening duo of Tammy Beaumont and Amy Jones, who scored scintillating tons, and ODI debutant Linsey Smith, returning with a five-wicket haul.

Jones, who was opening for England in the ODIs for the first time since 2019, added 222 runs with Beaumont for the first wicket.

The seasoned campaigner with 98 ODI appearances went on to score her first century in the format, scoring 122 runs off 121 deliveries and was named the Player of the Match, an ICC report said.

"It's pretty special. I've played a fair few games now without one so to tick that off is a brilliant feeling," Jones told Sky Sports.

"I was so excited when Lottie (head coach Charlotte Edwards) first had that thought and shared with me that opening could be an option.

"I've obviously done it in the past - while Lottie was in the team, in fact - and so it has come full circle. To have her backing and have that partnership with Tammy, it means a lot."

Having posted 345/6 on the board, England's bowlers managed to halt the Windies at 237, with left-arm spinner Linsey Smith leading the charge with a five-for.

Closing with figures of 5/36, Smith opened up on a remarkable ODI debut, "It's pretty surreal. Today feels like a bit of a blur but I guess initial feelings are pretty over the moon."

"One, to make my debut. Two, to put in a performance and help the team win, so I'm pretty proud of myself right now. But there's another game coming up quickly and we want to win the series as well."

"I know for quite a while I only played T20 and I knew deep down within me that I wanted to play every format and really push my case for that."

The Nat Sciver-Brunt-led side will next meet the West Indies in the second ODI on June 4 in Leicester.

Paolini powers into Roland Garros fourth round

Paris : Italy's Jasmine Paolini eased into the fourth round of the French Open with a commanding 6-4, 6-1 victory over Ukraine's Yulia Starodubtseva in the third round on Saturday IST on Court Philippe-Chatrier. The 12th seed was in complete control throughout the 70-minute encounter, dominating on both serve and return to advance without dropping a set. Paolini capitalised on all five break point opportunities she created, while Starodubtseva could only convert two of her three chances. Despite neither player hitting an ace, it was Paolini's superior consistency and precision that proved decisive. The Italian won 68 per cent of her first-serve points and 53 per cent on second serve, outshining her Ukrainian opponent, who managed 44 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

Paolini also showcased her defensive prowess, winning 25 receiving points compared to Starodubtseva's 19, and secured 12 games in total to her opponent's five. The Italian surged ahead in the second set, winning five games in a row to close out the match.

The win marks Paolini's best run at Roland Garros, and she will now look to continue her strong form as she enters the second week of the tournament.

Karun Nair's unbeaten 186 against Lions pushes India Test case

London : India batter Karun Nair pushed his case for a Test recall against England by scoring 186 not out for India A on day one of the first unofficial Test against England Lions.

The 33-year-old famously scored 303 not out against England in Chennai in 2016, only to be dropped three Tests later after six matches.

Nair, who has played county cricket for Northamptonshire since his last international, has been included in India's squad for the upcoming Test series and dominated a youthful bowling attack in Canterbury.

The right-hander was dropped on 89 and 134, but put on 181 with Sarfaraz Khan and 177 unbroken with Dhruv Jurel on Friday.

Sarfaraz, a surprise omission from India's Test squad, made 92 and Jurel, who was included, ended the day on 82 not out. Test

opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was caught behind off 19-year-old Hampshire seamer Eddie Jack for 24.

The pick of the Lions bowlers was left-arm Josh Hull, who made his England debut in the third Test against Sri Lanka last year, the BBC reported.

He had India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw for eight and Sarfaraz caught down the leg side.

The four-day match continues on Saturday and is followed by a second unofficial Test from June 6 in Northampton.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes and new India Test skipper Shubman Gill are in the respective squads for the second match as they prepare for the highly anticipated five-Test series which begins on June 20 at Headingley.

New mum Sciver-Brunt was set to miss Windies series

London : England's Nat Sciver-Brunt was set to miss the ongoing West Indies series on maternity leave before being made captain, says her wife Katherine.

Sciver-Brunt, 32, was named captain in April, a month after her son, Theo, who was carried by former England bowler Katherine, was born.

"Nat was entitled to four months' maternity leave, not being the birth mother," Katherine Sciver-Brunt told BBC Test Match Special.

"She took three weeks of that because England wanted her back for this series."

"That was a huge sacrifice because those first eight

weeks are so hard.

"No-one would usually go back after three weeks, and Nat was pre-arranged to not play in this tournament and come back for the India series which starts on June 28."

Theo was with Sciver-Brunt during the T20 series which concluded on Monday and the first one-day international on Friday in Derby, where Katherine was working as a commentator for the BBC.

The matches were England's first under the all-rounder and new coach Charlotte Edwards, who were appointed after Heather Knight and Jon Lewis

were sacked amid the fallout from last winter's Ashes defeat. Katherine travelled alongside England while pregnant throughout the March. Had she gone into labour while Nat was at the tournament in India, her wife would not have made it home in time for the birth. Nat is the

first mother to play for England since Arran Brindle, who played her last interna-

tional in 2014. "There were talks of a stand-in captain coming in for this series and that was a hard question for England," Katherine Sciver-Brunt said.

"But ultimately Lottie [Edwards] wanted Nat and I couldn't deny her that opportunity towards the back end of her career. "If I was unhappy or wasn't sure, Nat would not have done it. She is selfless in that way and that is why she makes such a good captain." Sciver-Brunt's comments come after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced an update to its maternity policy on Friday.

Previously England

players were guaranteed their full salary for the first 13 weeks post-childbirth and a percentage thereafter but they will now receive 12 months' fully paid leave, plus an automatic contract extension and support with childcare and breastfeeding facilities. County players will get six months' paid maternity leave plus the contract extension. Nat had egg freezing treatment last summer and said she would like to carry a baby after her cricket career. "When you talk about giving birth, it takes more than a year to get your body back into fitness and revert back to what you were," Katherine said.





Hyderabad registers home sales worth Rs 4000+ crore in April '25: Knight Frank India report



Hyderabad : Hyderabad saw a downward revision of 12 percent year-on-year (YoY) despite the cumulative value of homes registered in April '25 remaining firmly above the Rs 4,000 crore value, according to the latest residential property registrations report released by Knight Frank India.

While a slight marginal 4 percent dip was also recorded in the value of the properties registered in April 2025, registrations of homes priced above Rs 1 crore grew by 2 percent YoY, accounting for 20 percent of total registrations in April 2025, up from 17 percent last year, the report revealed.

This signals a continued trend in preference for premium homes across the Hyderabad region, which includes Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Rangareddy, and Sangareddy districts.

The Rs 1+ crore category, while remaining the smallest by volume at 20 percent, contributed 51 percent to the total value of registrations in April '25.

Upon analysis, it was noted that there has been a shift in the average prices in this category by almost 11 percent.

The cumulative value of homes in Rs 1+ crore increased by 14 percent YoY compared with April 2024.

Majority of the registered properties in Hyderabad were concentrated in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 square feet (sq ft), accounting for 67 percent of all registrations, the report stated.

Units sized >2,000 sq ft accounted for 18 per cent of the total registrations as compared with the 15 per cent registered during April 2024.

At the district level, Rangareddy accounted for 48 percent of property registrations, followed by Medchal-Malkajigiri (36%).

Hyderabad district contributed the remaining 15 percent of total registrations.

The weighted average price of transacted residential properties witnessed a YoY increase of 6 per-

cent during April 2025.

Among the districts, Rangareddy experienced the most increase of 9 percent YoY.

Beyond the concentration of bulk transactions, homebuyers also purchased plush properties that are larger and offer superior amenities.

The top five deals in April 2025 involved properties valued above Rs 7 crore.

Three of these transactions were recorded in West Hyderabad, while two were in Central Hyderabad. Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "Hyderabad's residential market recorded a marginal decline in monthly sales volume in April 2025, reflecting a short-term moderation in transaction activity. However, the sustained demand for premium homes—especially those priced above Rs 1 crore, which now contribute significantly to overall registration value—continues to demonstrate the market's underlying strength. This evolving buyer preference toward larger, higher-value homes indicates growing confidence in Hyderabad's long-term liveability and economic potential".

Swan Energy logs record Rs 6,884 crore income in FY25

Mumbai : Swan Energy Limited has reported its highest-ever income and profitability for the financial year ended March 31, 2025, with consolidated income rising by 35 per cent to ₹6,884 crore and profit after tax (PAT) surging by 49 per cent to ₹874 crore.

The company had posted an income of ₹5,100 crore and PAT of ₹586 crore in FY24.

The diversified Indian conglomerate, with interests in textiles, real estate, oil and gas, shipbuilding and heavy fabrication, also saw its EBITDA rise sharply by 90 per cent to ₹1,804 crore in FY25, as against ₹951 crore in the previous fiscal.

The EBITDA margin improved to 26.2 per cent from 18.6 per cent a year earlier.

According to the company's regulatory filing, the improved financial performance was driven by significant debt reduction following a ₹3,320 crore Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP), successful commissioning of shipyard operations under Swan Defence and Heavy Industries (SDHI), and progress across its real estate and energy verticals.

SDHI, formerly Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd, resumed operations

and delivered three refits ahead of schedule for the Indian Coast Guard. The company has also signed strategic MoUs with major shipbuilding players.

In the real estate segment, the company's flagship residential project Cardinal One in Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru received its Occupation Certificate, with over 90 per cent of the units sold.

In the LNG business, subsidiary Triumph Offshore Pvt Ltd sold its Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) 'Vasant-1' for around \$399 million. The onshore LNG terminal at Jafrabad, Gujarat is nearing completion, with long-term regasification agreements secured with public sector undertakings including GSPC, BPCL, IOCL, and ONGC. Commenting on the results, Managing Director Mr Nikhil Merchant said the financial year marked a significant milestone in Swan Energy's journey. "Our highest ever revenue and profitability reflect the strength of our diversified business model and prudent financial management," he said. He added that the groundwork laid across verticals, including new energy and shipbuilding, has positioned the company well to capitalise on emerging opportunities.



NDR Warehousing forays into Kerala with Rs 250-crore investment



Kochi : Marking its foray into Kerala as a leading provider of industrial spaces and logistics infrastructure, NDR Warehousing has acquired around 16 acres of land in Aluva to build nearly five lakh square feet of Grade-A storing space, taking forward the company's promise made at the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS) held here in February. The plots have been acquired under two SPVs: NDR Storewell Warehousing LLP (8 acres) and NDR Space Private Limited (8.39 acres).

With a proposed investment of Rs 250 crore in FY25, the project will be a state-of-the-art semi-to-fully-automated facility, leveraging high-precision mechanical systems to optimise inventory and stock management. Industries Minister P Rajeev visited the site and held discussions with top NDR officials. "This project is an example of the government's continuous efforts to attract high-quality investments and create an environment conducive for industrial growth," he noted.

The facility is coming up amid a growing demand in FMCG, pharmaceutical, and third-party logistics in the region.

The NDR project will create employment for 150 to 200 skilled professionals, besides around 25 unskilled workers, contributing to local economic growth and industrial development.

Certified by EDGE, the project will go by the norms of sustainable development, according to senior officials of the four-decade-old NDR, based in Chennai.

The Aluva facility will set new benchmarks in Kerala's logistics sector, offering scalable and modern infrastructure to support the state's evolving supply chain needs, said NDR Chief Executive Officer Raj Srinivasan. NDR Warehousing is evaluating the future development of a commercial or mixed-use facility as its long-term vision for the region, he added.

"Kerala's strategic location, rising consumption demand, and improving infrastructure make the state a key market for modern warehousing," Raj noted. "Our investment in Aluva is a long-term commitment to supporting Kerala's industrial and logistics ecosystem. This facility will enable our clients to operate efficiently in southern India while creating tangible value for the local community."

The 1986-founded NDR offers modern infrastructure that addresses Kerala's expanding distribution network needs. The company partners with global brands by offering cost-effective supply chain solutions, reinforcing the country's position as a logistics hub.

Adani Gangavaram Port wins Platinum Award in Environmental Excellence

Visakhapatnam : Adani Gangavaram Port, on Friday said it has won the Platinum Award in Environmental Excellence at the 9th APEX India Green Leaf Awards 2024.

This award recognizes the port's outstanding

achievements in sustainability, innovation, and best environmental practices, the Port Said said in a release here.

It also recognises Gangavaram Ports state-of-the-art green infrastructure.

The award highlights

Adani Gangavaram Port's continuous efforts in promoting sustainable port operations through various environmental initiatives, including air and water quality management, waste reduction and recycling programs, green belt development,

and energy efficiency measures include the implementation of continuous ambient air quality monitoring systems, fully mechanized cargo handling, integrated truck tarpaulin facilities, mechanized road sweeping, and the complete ban

on single-use plastics within the port premises.

The port's proactive approach to environmental protection aligns with its vision of fostering sustainable economic growth while preserving natural resources for future generations.

Proposed 50 pc hike in US steel, aluminum import tariffs to be significant bearing on India's steel exports: FIEO Prez

Hyderabad : Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Saturday expressed concern over the recent announcement by the US President to double import tariffs on steel and aluminium from 25 to 50 percent, citing potential disruption to India's steel and aluminium exports, particularly in value-added and finished steel products and auto components.

While reacting over the development, FIEO President S C Ralhan stated in a statement that the proposed increase in US steel and aluminium import tariffs will have a significant bearing on India's steel exports, especially in semi-finished and finished categories like stainless steel pipes, struc-

tural steel components and automotive steel parts. These products are part of India's growing engineering exports, and higher duties could erode our price competitiveness in the American market. India exported

The US is among the top destinations for Indian steel manufacturers, who have been gradually increasing marketshare through high-quality production and competitive pricing.

The FIEO President

around US 6.2 billion Dollar worth of steel and finished steel products to the US in FY2024-25 including a widerange of engineered and fabricated steel components and about USD 0.86 billion of aluminum and its prod-

ucts. The US is among the top destinations for Indian steel manufacturers, who have been gradually increasing marketshare through high-quality production and competitive pricing.

The FIEO President

said, "while we understand that the decision stems from domestic policy considerations in the US, such sharp increases in tariffs send discouraging signals to global trade and manufacturing supply chains.

Kotak Mahindra Bank announces leadership transition



Mumbai : Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank announced on Saturday that Shanti Ekambaram, Deputy Managing Director, will be retiring from her role effective October 31, 2025, upon completion of her current term.

Shanti has been with the Kotak Group since 1991 and has played a pivotal role in shaping the Group's growth and evolution of the institution over the past three decades, said a press statement issued by the bank here.

She has led several of the Group's most strategic businesses, including Investment Banking, Capital Markets, Corporate Banking, Treasury, 811 and Consumer Banking.

The Bank also announced that Paritosh Kashyap, currently Group President and Business Head - Wholesale Banking Group, will be appointed as Lifetime Director (Executive Director) and Key Managerial Personnel, subject to regulatory approvals.

May sees record Rs 19,860 crore FPI inflow, highest in 2025: NSDL



New Delhi : Foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) in Indian markets hit a new high in May 2025, according to data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), as reported by ANI. During the month, net FPI inflows totaled ₹19,860 crore, marking May as the most significant month for foreign investment so far in 2025.

Between May 26 and May 30, foreign investors continued their buying streak, contributing net inflows of ₹6,024.77 crore. While most trading ses-

sions during that week saw positive inflows, Friday stood out with a net outflow of ₹1,758.23 crore.

Despite May's strong performance, the overall FPI trend for 2025 remains in the red. From January to May, cumulative outflows reached ₹92,491 crore. However, the resurgence in May hints at a potential rebound in foreign investor sentiment.

This renewed activity coincides with a weakening US dollar and favorable movements in Indian equity markets. India's solid macroeconomic fundamentals continue to make it an attractive destination for global investors, although capital flows remain vulnerable to global headwinds.

Although the year began on a cautious note, May's significant inflows could signal a possible change in direction—pro-

vided the broader international environment remains stable.

Earlier in the year, FPIs offloaded equities worth ₹3,973 crore in March. January and February also saw sizeable sell-offs amounting to ₹78,027 crore and ₹34,574 crore, respectively.

On the final trading day of May, Indian markets ended slightly lower, reflecting mixed global cues. The Sensex dropped by 182 points (0.22%) to close at 81,451.01, while the Nifty 50 slipped by 83 points (0.33%) to end at 24,750.70.

Robust GDP growth in FY25 because of good domestic consumption & government investment: Economists

New Delhi : The robust GDP numbers of the Indian economy in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2025 are because of good domestic consumption, government investment, and relatively lower dependence on exports, say experts reacting to the numbers. Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomeric Valuations and Ratings said "India's economy rose by 6.5 per cent in FY 25, in line with the estimates making it once again the world's fastest-growing major economy. This strengthens the thought that India is once again one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Growth outlook has remained robust because of the domestic consumption, govt investment and relatively lower dependence on exports."

India's economy grew by 7.4 per cent in the January-March quarter (Q4) of FY25, beating expectations and marking the strongest quarterly growth of the fiscal year. This was a sharp rise from the 6.2 per cent recorded in the previous quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had forecast 7.2 per cent growth for Q4 and 6.6 per cent for the full FY25 in its last monetary policy meeting. For FY26, the central bank has projected 6.5 per cent growth, citing expected improvement in private consumption and steady investment activity.

Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Leader, Economic Advisory at PwC India, noted that the 6.5% growth for FY25 is a strong outcome despite global headwinds. He said "The manufacturing growth has printed weak and it is a matter of concern, especially given the trade-related disruptions and global economic slowdown expected in FY26".

Banerjee also pointed out that Gross Fixed Capital Formation rose by 8.8 per cent, possibly due to increased private capex, as government capital expenditure did not rise significantly over the previous



year.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO of CBRE India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa, said the growth beat expectations and showed resilience. He credited the rise to strong domestic demand, a recovery in rural markets, and activity in the industrial sector.

He said "The growth highlights strong domestic demand, rural market recovery, and an active industrial sector. The economy's adaptability is evident in the broad industry growth".

He also noted that growth in the construction and financial sectors has helped the real estate market by boosting investments and homebuyer confidence.

Madhavi Arora, Chief Economist at Emkay Global Financial Services, said the Q4 growth partly reflects back-loaded government spending, mainly through public capital expenditure.

She noted that capital formation remained steady, but FY26 could face challenges due to global uncertainties affecting investment sentiment and softer urban income weighing on private consumption.

Overall, experts agree that India's economic growth in FY25 has been resilient, driven by domestic factors, though risks remain for the upcoming year due to global and domestic challenges.

Metropolitan bank branches lose ground in credit, falls to 58.7% from 63.5% in five years: RBI

New Delhi : According to the (RBI) latest report, the proportion of total credit managed by bank branches in metropolitan areas dropped to 58.7% as of March 2025, down from 63.5% five years earlier. This trend has been attributed to more rapid expansion in lending activity within non-metropolitan regions, including rural, semi-urban, and urban areas. The report highlighted that while metro branches experienced a decline in their share of credit, they re-

mained dominant in attracting deposits. In March 2025, these branches reported a year-on-year deposit growth of 11.7%, outpacing rural, semi-urban, and urban branches, which grew by 10.1%, 8.9%, and 9.3%, respectively. For the financial year 2024-25, the overall pace of bank credit growth slowed to 11.1%, a notable dip from 15.3% in the previous year. Similarly, deposit growth eased to 10.6%, compared to 13% in FY24. Shifts in deposit preferences

were also observed, influenced by rising interest rates on term deposits. The proportion of savings deposits declined to 29.1% by March 2025, down from 30.8% a year earlier and 33% two years prior. All banking categories witnessed a reduction in credit growth during FY25, with private sector banks experiencing the steepest drop. Their credit expansion fell to 9.5%, after consistently maintaining growth rates above 15% over the past three years. Growth in per-

sonal loans, encompassing sectors such as housing, education, vehicle financing, credit cards, and consumer durables, decelerated significantly to 13.2%. Nonetheless, this segment's contribution to total credit increased, making up 31%. Within this category, loans for consumer durables and miscellaneous personal needs accounted for about one-third. Loans bearing interest rates above 11% represented 47.4% of personal lending, a decrease from 50.3% the year before.