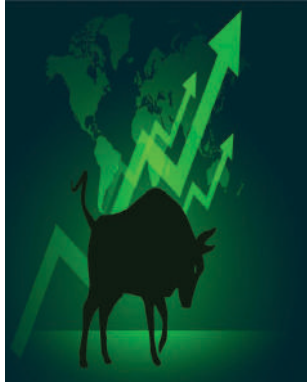




The Age of Truth

Aryan Age

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We've pushed back 330 illegal foreigners, none of them has returned: Assam CM


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Metro to India Gate, T1, and Kalindi Kunj




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Cleanliness, yoga to help realise dream of Viksit Bharat: Haryana CM



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BCCI revises India's 2025 home cricket schedule



PG 8

Sensex up by 256.22 points

Past 11 years India witnessed rapid change leading to progress, ease of living: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that with 'collective participation' of 140 crore people and backed by good governance during his tenure, India witnessed rapid transformation across diverse sectors leading to progress and 'Ease of Living'.x

As he completes eleven years in office on Monday, the Prime Minister said India has not only become the fastest-growing major economy but also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.

It was on this day in 2014, Modi took oath as the Prime Minister for the first time.

"Powered by the blessings and collective participation of 140 crore Indians, India has witnessed rapid transformation across diverse sectors with clear focus on good governance and transformation. Guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the NDA Government has delivered pathbreaking changes with speed, scale and sensitivity," he posted on social media platform X.

From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been people-centric, inclusive and all-round progress, Modi added.

He said his government prioritized people-centric, inclusive and all-round progress. The last eleven years have brought many positive changes and boosted ease of living, he said, adding that India today is not just the fastest-growing major economy, but also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.

He urged people to take part in a survey on the NaMo App on India's growth journey over the last 11 years and shared a link of a portal where anyone can take part in Jan Man Survey about India's growth journey over the last 11 years. "Your views matter the most ! Take part in this survey on the NaMo App and let us know how you view India's growth journey over the last 11 years

#11YearsOfSeva", the Prime Minister posted on X.

"Over the last 11 years the NDA Government has empowering our Nari Shakti. Ujjwala Yojana brought smoke-free kitchens to several homes. MUDRA

Bachao Beti Padhao ignited a national movement to protect the girl child. In all sectors, including science, education, sports, StartUps and the armed forces, women are excelling and inspiring several people,' the Prime Minister said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the 11-year tenure of Prime Minister Modi as a period of "unprecedented development" and "epoch-making political, social, and economic transformations."

Highlighting India's growing self-reliance in the Defence sector, Singh credited PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat for empowering the country to stand confidently among the world's top five economies. "India today stands well-equipped, confident, and

unwavering in its resolve to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs," he said in a series of tweets on social media platform X.

"These 11 Years of Seva have been a story of the realization of the dreams of our freedom fighters and Constitution makers-who envisioned a democracy that is not just political, but also social and economic in nature." He emphasized that under PM Modi's dynamic leadership, India is not merely progressing, but rising to claim its "rightful place in the comity of nations."

BJP President J P Nadda, in a press conference on the occasion said that over the past 11 years, a remarkable transformation has taken place. 'PM Modi has reshaped

the Indian political culture. In the past, politics was often driven by appeasement, aimed at preserving power.'

'Over the past years, we have brought transparency and built a forward-looking, futuristic administration. Past 11 years the Modi government had taken several bold decisions including removing Article 370 etc. Also, decisions were taken to strengthen India's economy.

However, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that past 11 years had harmed "Indian democracy, economy and the country's social fabric". In a statement on social media platform X, Kharge accused the BJP-RSS alliance of systematically weakening constitutional institutions and undermining their autonomy.



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday hailed the 11 years of the Modi government as a "golden period marked by unwavering resolve, tireless endeavour, and dedicated public service".

EAM in Brussels, holds talks with Belgium DPM and FM Maxime Prevot

Brussels: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is visiting Brussels, today met the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Belgium Maxime Prevot, during which he welcomed Belgium's support and solidarity with



India in combatting terrorism. In a post on X, the EAM also said that he appreciated the strong momentum of the bilateral engagement and the India-EU partnership.

"Pleased to meet DPM & FM @prevotmaxime at the start of my visit to Belgium.

"Welcomed Belgium's support and solidarity in combatting terrorism. "Appreciated the strong momentum of our bilateral engagement and the India - EU partnership. "Also held wide-ranging discussions on deepening our cooperation including in trade, investment, technology, defence & security, pharmaceuticals, clean energy and mobility."

Notably, EAM Jaishankar is visiting Belgium, the EU and France from June 8-14.

Besides meeting the DPM and FM Maxime Prevot, EAM would also meet the senior leadership of Belgium and interact with the members of the Indian community. The visit of the EAM to Brussels comes three months after the visit to India of Princess Astrid of Belgium, who had come at the head of a 300-member economic mission to India, and had held talks with PM Modi and the EAM.

Princess Astrid's team had comprised Foreign minister Maxime Prévot, Defence Minister Theo Francken, Flemish Minister-President Matthias Diependaele and

Belgian ambassador Didier Vanderhasselt. The two sides had discussed a wide range of issues during the meeting in March with PM Modi, including labour migration, pharmaceuticals, defence, diamonds, space exploration and green energy.

Interestingly, EAM's visit comes as fugitive Indian diamondaire Mehul Choksi, wanted in the PNB loan fraud case, is currently in a Belgian jail. He was arrested in mid-April on India's extradition request. India has an extradition treaty with Belgium.

Choksi, 65, along with his nephew Nirav Modi-who is in London awaiting extradition-is accused of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) of Rs 13,850 crore. India and Belgium share warm and friendly relations along with a very robust economic partnership. Today the collaboration between the two countries spans various domains like trade and investment, green energy, technology, pharmaceutical, diamond sector and strong people to people ties, a statement said.

During the visit to Brussels, EAM will be holding a Strategic Dialogue with the EU High Representative and Vice President Kaja Kallas, and will engage with the senior leadership from the European Commission and the European Parliament, besides interacting with think tank and media.

While in France, the EAM would travel to Paris and Marseille where he would be holding bilateral discussions with his counterpart Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Jean Noel Barrot and also engage with the senior leadership of France, and interact with think tanks and media. EAM would also participate in the inaugural edition of the Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue which is being held in the city of Marseille.

11 yrs of PM Modi's leadership have been 'golden period': Amit Shah

"The Modi government has proven that when leadership is clear, resolve is unwavering, and the intent is rooted in public service, new benchmarks of service, security, and good governance are established," Shah asserted.

Recalling the state of the nation in 2014, Shah noted that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office, the country was grappling with policy

paralysis, lack of leadership, and rampant corruption. The economy was struggling, and governance lacked direction.

He credited the Modi government's 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' philosophy for redefining the scale and speed of development over the past 11 years.

"Narendra Modi ji brought farmers, women, backward classes, Dalits and the deprived to the centre of

governance and created a work culture of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas instead of appeasement," the Home Minister said.

Enumerating the achievements in national security, Shah asserted that Naxalism is on the verge of collapse, peace has returned to Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, and India now responds to terrorism with unprecedented resolve-even

striking within enemy territory when necessary.

Looking ahead, Shah said that under Modi 3.0, "The new India is rapidly progressing towards development and self-reliance with the power of reform, perform and transform. This journey of making India number one in every field by bringing positive changes in the lives of the citizens will continue like this."

Indian astronaut to join ISS crew in historic Indo-US space mission on June 10



Bengaluru: In a landmark collaboration between India and the United States, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are set to launch a joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS) on June 10.

The historic mission marks India's first human spaceflight participation in an

ISS expedition, symbolising a significant stride in Indo-US space cooperation. The lift-off is scheduled for 5:52 PM IST, with a special YouTube Live stream beginning at 3:45 pm IST to mark the occasion.

"ISRO-NASA Mission to ISS. India heads to the International Space Station! Join the YouTube LIVE on June 10, 3:45 PM IST - liftoff at 5:52 PM!" ISRO announced on X platform on Monday.

The mission will see an Indian astronaut join the crew aboard the ISS, contributing to microgravity research, technology demonstrations, and space medicine experiments during the visit. This effort follows the signing of key space agreements and growing synergy between ISRO and NASA in the fields of satellite navigation, Earth observation, and deep space exploration.

The mission is being widely seen as a precursor to future joint efforts in lunar and interplanetary exploration under the Artemis Accord framework, to which India is a signatory. Space enthusiasts and citizens can watch the historic event live on ISRO and NASA's official YouTube channels.

Jyoti Malhotra's judicial custody extended



Hisar: YouTuber and travel vlogger Jyoti Malhotra's judicial custody was extended by another 14 days by a Hisar court on Monday. Jyoti, who was arrested on the charges of spying for Pakistan, was presented before judicial magistrate Sunil Kumar through video conferencing on Monday. The next date for hearing in the case is June 23.

PM Modi's achievements will be etched in golden letters: Nadda

New Delhi: As the Narendra Modi-led NDA government marked the first anniversary of its third-term on Monday, BJP National President JP Nadda described the economic and social strides in India under the Prime Minister's leadership as achievements that will be remembered in "golden letters".

Speaking at a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Nadda said, "The work done under Prime Minister Modi's leadership over the past 11 years has been exceptional and deserves to be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of history."

The BJP-led government also completed 11 years in office on Monday, having first come to power in 2014. Prime Minister Modi was sworn in for a third consecutive term

on June 9, 2024.

Calling the Modi Government "a people-led government", Nadda highlighted the transformation witnessed over the past decade.

He said, "India has undergone a remarkable transformation under PM Modi. He has reshaped the country's political ethos. Previously, politics was often centered on appeasement and power retention. Today, the Modi government stands as a people-driven administration."

Nadda emphasised that since 2014, the government has promoted transparency and established a forward-thinking, development-oriented governance model and asserted that the NDA is poised not only to complete this term but to return for another. He also hailed

measures like India rising to the fifth largest country, effective management of Covid, Operation Ganga and upliftment of the women, scheduled caste and tribes



among others.

Reflecting on the political shift post-2014 in the country's landscape, Nadda attacked the Opposition party Congress saying, "The Congress-led

government was plagued by corruption and negativity. But since PM Modi assumed office, we have moved from despair to hope. Today, the sentiment across the nation is:

'Modi hai toh mumkin hai.'

Nadda credited the Prime Minister for ushering in a performance-based political culture. "Eleven years ago, politics was driven by division and appeasement to

preserve power. With PM Modi, we've seen the emergence of a new political culture-one of accountability, transparency, and bold governance. A new normal has taken shape," the BJP Chief said.

He also pointed to decisions such as the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the abolition of triple talaq, amendments to the Waqf Act, demonetisation, and the Women's Reservation Bill as examples of the Modi government's decisive and landmark leadership.

"These are not just policy changes - they represent a shift in the way governance is envisioned," Nadda said. "This is the hallmark of the Modi government - bold, visionary, and people-centric."

He also praised India's response to terrorism under the current leadership. "After the Pulwama attack, PM Modi sent a strong message: 'You will have to pay for this mistake.' This led to the Balakot airstrikes. More recently in Madhubani, he said: 'You will be answered in a way that's beyond your imagination.' This strong posture has become the new normal in India's national security doctrine."

Responding to criticism from Rahul Gandhi regarding foreign policy and Operation Sindoor, Nadda remarked, "May God give him wisdom. His intentions are unclear. He claims to support the nation in all-party meetings, yet criticises the government while abroad. Such inconsistency is the hallmark of an irresponsible opposition."



Five killed, 7 injured as passengers fall off local train at Mumbra station

Mumbai: Five people were killed and seven others injured on Monday when at least 10 passengers fell off an overcrowded local train that was about to arrive at Mumbra railway station in Maharashtra from Kasara, said police.

Anil Shinde, senior police inspector of Mumbra police station, said the accident occurred around 9 am. "We rushed to the spot to find five people dead and 7 injured. The victims were rushed to the nearby Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital, Kalwa out of which the four injured went to Jupiter hospital on their own," Shinde added.

Authorities attributed the tragedy to severe overcrowding, with many passengers reportedly hanging onto the train doors at the time.

Railway officials and

police promptly arrived at the scene, and the injured have been rushed to nearby hospitals for medical treatment.

An investigation into the circumstances leading to the accident is currently underway.

The accident has disrupted local train services on the affected route. Further details are awaited as rescue efforts continue.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed sorrow over the accident. " I offer my heartfelt condolences to the deceased. The local administration is coordinating efforts on the ground. I pray to the Almighty for the swift recovery of the injured. The railway department has initiated an investigation to determine the exact cause of the incident," he said.

Why Narendra Modi govt not releasing caste census data, asks RJD

Patna: RJD on Monday asked the Narendra Modi government to make public the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) data as soon as possible and wondered why the government was reluctant to release all related data, despite being available as the then Manmohan Singh government had conducted the exercise in 2011.

National Spokesman of RJD Manoj Jha told media persons here that the Manmohan Singh government had conducted Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) in 2011, but despite having all related data, Narendra Modi was not releasing the same. It was surprising that the Narendra Modi government was so reluctant in releasing the caste census data, he added.

“During the regime of Grand Alliance government

in Bihar, report of caste survey conducted in the state, was placed in assembly and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced increasing the upper limit of reservation from 50 percent to 65 percent, besides 10 percent reservation for poor among upper castes “ RJD leader said adding that with this decision, reservation was increased by 16 percent for backwards and deprived in Bihar.

Due to the indifferent attitude of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this provision was not placed in the 9th schedule of the constitution to insulate it from judicial review, he pointed out.

Failure of Chief Minister Kumar in exerting pressure on Narendra Modi government to place the

increased reservation limit in 9th schedule of the constitution, proved costly



for backwards and deprived as Patna High Court scrapped it and matter was now pending in Supreme Court, he lamented.

Jha said that section 340 of the constitution made it mandatory for the government to release all data available with it. Keeping data of SECC on

hold by the government was sheer violation of the constitution and it would not

Pahalgam attack was in itself a matter of surprise. PM Modi had always been advocating against caste census, and the Central government had also made submission in the Supreme Court, maintaining the same views on the issue on so many occasions, he pointed out.

Jha said that leader of the opposition, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, had written a letter to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar requesting him to convene a special session of the Assembly to discuss the issue of raising the upper reservation limit beyond 65 percent for backwards and deprived but no reply of the letter had been received so far. A trend in the Nitish Kumar government had developed of not responding to any letter written by the leader of the opposition, he lamented.

Sonam, accused of husband Raja’s murder, found in UP’s Ghazipur

Ghazipur: Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of killing her Indore-based transport businessman husband Raja Raghuvanshi in Shillong, Meghalaya, was found in a distraught state in a dhaba located in Nandganj area of Ghazipur district in Uttar Pradesh, police sources said on Monday.

Sonam Raghuvanshi, was missing since her husband’s murder in Shillong during their honeymoon trip. Raja Raghuvanshi, son of Indore-based transport businessman Devi Singh, was married to Sonam on May 11. “The couple reached Shillong on May 20 for their honeymoon. The couple disappeared on May 23 during sightseeing,” police said. Police sources said that after a lot of searching, Raja’s body was found in the jungles. While wife Sonam Raghuvanshi was missing. From the

condition of the body and the place where it was found,



it was speculated that he was murdered by Bangladeshis, police sources said. They said that along with this it was suspected that Raja might have gone to Bangladesh with his wife Sonam. “After a lot of searching, the police zeroed in on local guides of Shillong who told them that on May 23, three other people were also seen with Raja

Raghuvanshi and Sonam Raghuvanshi,” said a senior police officer. “On Sunday night, Sonam Raghuvanshi reached a dhaba located in Nandganj police station area of Ghazipur district around 2:30 am and took a mobile phone from the dhaba owner and called her brother Govind,” police said. Sources said that Govind immediately informed his acquaintance in Ghazipur. “As soon as the police got the information, a large force including Superintendent of Police (SP) E Raja reached the dhaba. “Sonam was found in a distraught/unconscious state. At present, she is not in a position to talk. On receiving the information of the incident, Raja’s family in Indore left for Ghazipur. On the other hand, Meghalaya Police also left for Ghazipur,” said a police officer.

26 cr people lifted out of poverty in 11 yrs of Modi govt: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

Hubballi: Marking the completion of 11 years of the Narendra Modi government, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday stressed that one of the most remarkable achievements of the administration has been lifting nearly 26 crore people out of multidimensional poverty.

Addressing the media, Joshi said that detailed press meetings and nationwide publicity campaigns would be organised to highlight the government’s transformative progress, especially over the last year of Modi’s third term.

“From 21.9 percent in 2013-14, multidimensional poverty has plummeted to just 5.18 percent today. This means that nearly 26 crore

Indians have risen above extreme poverty in just over a decade. Such a milestone is



unprecedented in India’s recent history,” Joshi said, emphasising that the data was corroborated by the World Bank.

He attributed this phenomenal success to the government’s wide-ranging welfare schemes, robust

economic expansion, accelerated infrastructure development, and increased job opportunities, particularly in the private sector.

Joshi further noted that only about 5 percent of the population remains below the poverty line, underscoring the sustained efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership to improve the socio-economic conditions of millions of Indians.

The Modi government’s 11-year journey has thus been marked by tangible progress in poverty alleviation and economic empowerment, setting a new benchmark in India’s development narrative.

Train incident unfortunate, the Railways has started inquiry: CM

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said the railways has begun a probe into the exact cause of the incident in which five train passengers died and seven were injured after they fell off an overcrowded local train.

Terming the incident as very unfortunate, the CM said the injured were admitted to Shivaji Hospital and Thane General Hospital and are undergoing treatment.

In a post on X, the CM said: “The incident of a total of eight passengers falling from a local train between Diva-Mumbra station and some of them lost their lives is very

unfortunate.

“I pay my heartfelt



tributes to them. We share the grief of their families.

“The injured were immediately admitted to Shivaji Hospital and Thane General Hospital and are undergoing treatment.

“The local

administration is coordinating. I pray to God that the injured get early relief.

“The Railway Department has started an investigation into the exact cause of this incident,” the CM posted.

Five people were killed and seven others injured on Monday when around 10 passengers fell off an overcrowded local train that was about to arrive at Mumbra railway station in Maharashtra from Kasara, said police.

Authorities attributed the tragedy to severe overcrowding, with many passengers reportedly hanging onto the train doors at the time.

Maha: Kalpana Chawla Space Academy launched in Pune

Pune: The Vidyanketan Education Trust on Monday launched the Kalpana Chawla Space Academy here.

Speaking at inauguration ceremony, Bharat Bhushan Joshi, a retired scientist of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said that no matter how advanced science has become, only five percent of the total information of the universe has been made available to humans till date.

In the coming period, it is the job of young scientists to bring the remaining information to light, there is a huge scope for the youth for this, he noted.

Not everyone has to become an astronaut like Kalpana Chawla, but one can contribute to the progress of humanity in any role such as an engineer, scientist, artist, he added.

Joshi advised students that to be successful in life, they should have a vision backed by continuous efforts.

The programme was attended by the president of the institute, Advocate Madhav Bhonde, vice president Narayan Bhargava, members of the institute’s executive committee and retired ISRO scientist Prof Jagdish Chandra Math and several others.



We’ve pushed back 330 illegal foreigners, none of them has returned: Assam CM

Guwahati: Iterating the BJP-led Assam government’s stern stand on Bangladeshi citizens entering or living in India illegally, state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday informed the Assembly that the government has pushed back almost 330 such unauthorised foreigners, and none of them has returned.

“It is not possible for them to return, and we are firm on this. And this pushback will be intensified, it will be expedited. The way illegal immigrants have entered the state from Bangladesh and Pakistan, we have to be more proactive to keep the state safe,” said Sarma. The Chief Minister was replying to a demand by opposition members, including Congress’ Debabrata Saikia and AIUDF’s Ashraful Hussain to discuss on the issue of National Register of Citizens (NRC).

While raising the issue, Saikia said that while the government has claimed to have pushed back illegal foreigners, some of them again entered Assam, making the government’s stand vague on the issue. The Chief Minister further informed the House that the state government has also decided to reinforce the Illegal (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950. “Under the Illegal Expulsion Act 1950, the District Commissioner, if he is reasonably convinced that a certain individual is a foreigner,

can remove that individual without referring a case to the Tribunal,” he said. The Chief Minister said the government has taken inspiration from former Chief Minister Bimala Prasad Chaliha, who had pushed back illegal immigrants. “We are taking inspiration from the good works of the Congress,” he said while referring to Chaliha, who was a Congress Chief Minister.

“There are two ways to identify illegal immigrants in Assam—one is the Tribunal and the other is the Illegal Expulsion Act 1950. There the word ‘push back’ is not there, but ‘remove’ is there,” he added. Expressing his concern over the issue, the Chief Minister further said that the government has found out almost 2600 Facebook accounts, which were operated from Islamabad, Riyadh and Saudi Arab. “They don’t even welcome Rahul Gandhi, but welcome one particular individual from Assam. And I have documents, within the next ten to 12 days I’ll provide some information about such accounts to the press,” he said. “These accounts post only on two occasions, either on Palestine or on Assam, nothing else. I am not saying that the Muslims of Assam are not indigenous. Indigenous is a secular definition. ... There is a big conspiracy and we must resist it through the process of law,” he added.



SJTA to insure devotees for Rs. 5 Lakh during Puri Car Festival

Puri: The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has announced that devotees attending the Puri Car Festival will be insured for a sum of Rs. 5 lakh against any mishap within the municipal area between June 26 and July 9.

Devotees need not worry about COVID-19, as the current variant is mild and there are only 49 reported cases (34 active) in the state, Health and family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said and advised individuals with COVID-19 symptoms to refrain from attending the Rath Yatra.

He added that over 300 doctors will be deployed at various hospitals to provide healthcare services to those in need.

The second high-level meeting for the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra, chaired by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, was held on Monday.

Arvind Kumar Padhee, Chief Administrator of the SJTA, informed the meeting that the construction of the three chariots at the construction yard is progressing steadily and as per schedule.

More than twenty lakh drinking water bottles will be provided to devotees during the festival. The meeting directed the concerned authorities to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity and potable water through pipelines.

According to railway officials, 365 special trains will operate to Puri from



various places and states during the festival. To facilitate this, 35 additional ticket booking counters and 10 ATMs will be installed.

Additionally, 250 extra passenger buses will be

arranged to cater to the needs of devotees.

AI-enabled CCTV cameras (250 in number) will be installed at strategic locations in the city, while interceptor vehicles and eleven cranes will be deployed along various routes to Puri to help prevent

road accidents.

An integrated master control room at Talabania will coordinate efforts among departments involved in the Rath Yatra.

To combat the heat, a large number of cool water sprinklers will be used during the pahandi (procession of the deities) and the pulling of the chariots. Air-conditioned rooms at PHCs and other hospitals will be available to treat sunstroke victims.

Scores of lifeguards will be deployed along Puri beach to prevent drowning incidents.

A sufficient number of police officers will be deployed to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the festival.

Puri District Magistrate Sidharth Shankar Swain informed the meeting that arrangements have been made for an estimated fifteen lakh devotees expected during the Rath Yatra.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan directed officials to complete their assigned tasks before the third and final preparatory meeting.

The meeting was attended by the Health and Welfare Minister, the Commerce and Transport Minister, the Minister of Culture, the Additional Chief Secretary, secretaries of departments connected to the Rath Yatra, the Superintendent of Police, MLAs, senior temple servitors, and citizens.

ED files chargesheet against Ex-SDCC Bank chief

Bengaluru: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed a chargesheet under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against RM Manjunatha Gowda, former President of the Shimoga District Central Co-operative (SDCC) Bank and Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank.

The complaint was filed before the Special Court (PMLA) on June 6 in connection with a Rs 62.77 crore gold loan fraud at the City Branch of SDCC Bank and a separate case of possession of disproportionate

assets worth Rs 3.95 crore, registered by the Lokayukta Police. Earlier, Gowda was arrested by the ED on April 9, for his alleged involvement in laundering the proceeds of crime. He is currently in judicial custody. In the course of investigation, the ED provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth approximately ₹13.91 crore belonging to Gowda and his wife, under the provisions of the PMLA. Further probe into the financial trail and associated transactions is underway.

Nitish will become CM again after Bihar assembly elections: Samrat

Patna: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Samrat Chaudhary on Monday said that the NDA government would be formed again under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, after Bihar Assembly elections slated for October-November this year.

Chaudhary told media persons here that NDA was all set to form the government after Bihar assembly elections to be held in October-November this year. Double engine government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar was a golden period and Bihar was



moving on fast track of development with rapid pace, meeting aspirations of people of the state, he added.

Deputy Chief Minister said that during RJD regime, Bihar was at lower strata in terms of

development and infrastructural facilities. Due to sustained efforts made by NDA government led by Chief Minister Kumar, Bihar had moved ahead from the period of darkness under the regime of RJD, which existed for 15 years since 1990, he added.

BJP leader said that Chief Minister Kumar had conducted a caste survey in Bihar and several measures were taken to provide relief to targeted sections after receipt of its report. RJD should explain in public whether any caste census

was conducted in Bihar during its regime, he asked.

Deputy Chief Minister parried a question relating to a statement of announcement made by Chirag Paswan that his party would contest all 243 seats in the assembly elections in Bihar, saying the Nitish Kumar government would again come to power after election. NDA would contest under the leadership of Chief Minister Kumar, he repeated while ducking the question on the announcement made by Chirag Paswan.

CM ordered Sosale’s arrest, Karnataka HC told

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Monday questioned the state’s conduct in the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede probe, following allegations that the arrest of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) Marketing Head Nikhil Sosale was carried out under the direct instruction of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, bypassing legal procedures and jurisdiction.

Hearing a clutch of petitions filed by RCB and event partner DNA Entertainment Networks seeking quashing of criminal cases related to the June 4 stampede, which claimed 11

lives and left 56 injured, Justice SR Krishna Kumar observed that it would be premature to conclude that RCB’s social media posts were the sole or primary cause of the tragedy.

Senior Advocate Sandesh Chouta, appearing for Sosale, alleged that his client was illegally arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) despite the case having been transferred to the Crime Investigation Department (CID). He claimed the arrest at Kempegowda International Airport in the early hours of June 6 was politically driven.

“This arrest was not supported by law. There was

no preliminary inquiry. The direction came from the Chief Minister,” Chouta told the Court. He further submitted that Sosale was not informed of the reasons for his arrest, nor was he presented with official identification or documentation at the time of arrest.

“At 4.30 AM, he was arrested by CCB officers, not CID. Only at 8.20 AM was any documentation given. The law requires badge, identity, and arrest memo to be produced,” Chouta added.

In response, Justice Krishna Kumar said the matter would be taken up on June 10 and asked the state to

submit its reply before deciding on interim relief for Sosale. The judge also



questioned the unequal treatment of different parties in the case. While interim relief from arrest had been extended to officials of the Karnataka State Cricket

Association (KSCA), the state was resisting similar relief to RCB and DNA.

“You have granted relief to KSCA. Why not them (RCB and DNA)? They are before the court,” the judge said, urging the state to adhere to a “gentleman’s

agreement” and instruct investigators not to arrest any other RCB or DNA officials until the next hearing on June 12.

Earlier, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty accused RCB of “recklessly” inviting the public to the IPL victory celebrations at Chinnaswamy Stadium by issuing three tweets on social media platform X, which he claimed had reached 13 crore users. The stadium, with a seating capacity of 33,000, saw nearly 5 lakh people descend on its gates, leading to the deadly stampede.

Shetty also argued that RCB announced the

celebrations in Ahmedabad without seeking permission from the state. “Your lordships are ignoring facts. The three tweets – they caused the stampede!” he submitted.

However, Justice Kumar remarked, “We are not in a position to say today that RCB/DNA or the government is more responsible... It is premature. They are only asking for protection.”

Senior Advocate CV Nagesh claimed that the Chief Minister himself had extended an open invitation to the public, not RCB. “I have not invited anybody. It was the Hon’ble Chief

Minister,” Nagesh argued.

This statement was met with strong objection by the AG, who termed it factually incorrect and insisted RCB’s tweets were the trigger.

Meanwhile, the court has also taken suo motu cognisance of the incident and is scheduled to hear the state’s status report on the stampede on June 10.

Justice Krishna Kumar reiterated that no further arrests should take place until the Court delivers a decision.

“When I am seized of the matter... don’t arrest anyone. Otherwise, there will be one more case,” he warned.



Briefs :

Teen stabbed after argument over music at wedding

New Delhi : A 15-year-old was critically stabbed by three men after an argument over playing music in North West Delhi's Swaroop Nagar. Police arrested one man. The incident occurred on June 5 after cops received information from the hospital about the admission of the victim in critical condition. "The victim sustained two stab injuries to the chest and one stab wound to the left thigh. He was admitted to the hospital in critical condition and was unable to give a statement," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Hareshwar V Swami. Preliminary investigation revealed that on the intervening night of June 4-5, the victim came to attend the wedding of his friend's sister in Swaroop Nagar. A dispute reportedly arose over the DJ music being played at the event. Three men were identified, who were friends of the bride's brother. One of them was apprehended while two are absconding. A knife used in the commission of the crime was recovered from the accused's possession. The accused is a resident of Timarpur and is unemployed.

Absconding for over 10 years, man held for kidnap-robbery

New Delhi : A 37-year-old man involved in a dacoity and abduction case dating back to 2014 was arrested in Loni. The accused was identified as Rakesh, a resident of Kishan Ganj, Delhi. Police received information indicating that Rakesh was hiding near Delhi border in Loni. However, his frequent changes of hideouts complicated efforts to locate him. "Rakesh was arrested in Chaman Vihar, Loni," police said. During sustained interrogation, he admitted his involvement in the dacoity and abduction that took place in Jhandewalan on the night of Dec 26, 2014. He disclosed that he, along with 5-6 accomplices, robbed the driver of his money and mobile phone by threatening him with dire consequences. After about two hours, the driver was abandoned near Dhaula Kuan, while the accused fled with the mini truck and goods.

Fire erupts at restaurant in Khari Baoli, no casualties

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a restaurant in Khari Baoli on Sunday. Upon receiving the information, local police, along with five fire tenders, reached the spot. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control within half an hour. The fire started in the restaurant's chimney. There were no reports of any casualties. The cops are currently investigating the cause of the fire. According to the fire department, they received a call around 12:08 pm on Sunday afternoon reporting a fire at a restaurant in Fatehpuri Chowk, Khari Baoli.

Gogi gang member arrested in Rohini

New Delhi: A 26-year-old member of the Gogi gang, wanted in multiple cases of extortion, assault, and arms offences, was arrested from Rohini on Friday. The accused was identified as Sachin Khatri, alias Shinni, a resident of Bakner village in Narela. Police said Khatri was involved in at least four criminal cases, including an extortion-related firing incident in Sept last year, in which he and an associate opened fire at a woman's house in Narela with the intent to extort money. In another case, he was part of a gang that looted Rs 5 lakh from a property dealer's office in Alipur after demanding Rs 1 crore, allegedly on the instructions of an associate who is reported to have fled abroad.

Metro to India Gate, T1, and Kalindi Kunj

Delhi to get 3 new metro corridors worth Rs 11,150 crore



New Delhi : The central government has given priority to the development of three new metro corridors in Delhi — from R K Ashram to Indraprastha, Aerocity to Terminal-1, and Tughlakabad to Kalindi Kunj. Together, these projects span just over 16 km and involve a projected investment of approximately ₹11,150 crore.

These proposals were recently assessed by the National Planning Group (NPG) as part of the PM GatiShakti initiative, which is focused on coordinated infrastructure planning. The projects are expected to be submitted to the Union Cabinet soon for final approval.

Among the three, the R K Ashram-Indraprastha stretch is the longest and will be constructed entirely underground. It will include nine stations, namely Indraprastha, Bharat Mandapam, Baroda House, India Gate (close to C-Hexagon), the new Common Central Secretariat (CCS) complex on Kartavya Path, Central Secretariat, Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum (near Rakabganj Gurdwara), Shivaji Stadium, and R K Ashram

Marg. According to sources, this corridor will effectively create a loop linking the Green Line (Indralok-Indraprastha route), the Blue Line, and the Janakpuri West-R K Ashram Marg corridor. It is also expected to ease congestion at Rajiv Chowk station. Officials added that the new station near India Gate would provide a secure and convenient transport option for visitors, reducing dependence on private transport.

Currently, India Gate's closest metro access point is Central Secretariat, requiring either a walk or a rickshaw ride for visitors. The new line will also provide quicker access to 10 major central government office buildings proposed along

On humanitarian grounds, HC grants interim bail to woman with cancer

New Delhi: Taking a compassionate stance, the Delhi High Court has granted interim bail to a woman battling cancer, recognising the critical nature of her health condition. The petitioner, identified as Jyoti, is facing prosecution in a narcotics case registered by the Delhi Police Crime Branch under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. She approached the High Court seeking interim relief on medical grounds after a lower court declined to extend her earlier bail. In its June 4 order, the High Court acknowledged that Jyoti suffers from a terminal illness requiring immediate medical intervention. "Considering the applicant's severe and life-threatening medical condition, and the humanitarian health crisis at hand,

this court finds merit in granting interim bail," the bench stated.

Jyoti was granted interim bail until June 15, 2025. The court directed her release on a personal bond of ₹1,00,000 along with a surety of equal value, to the satisfaction of either the trial court or the jail superintendent. Additionally, the court asked the state to verify Jyoti's medical records and submit a status report by June 13, the next date of hearing.

Previously, the trial court had granted her interim bail from May 19 to June 5, 2025, based on her medical status. However, her plea for an extension was turned down after the court noted that she had also filed a regular bail application, which remains pending before the High Court.

5-km tunnel to link Mahipalpur to Mandela Marg, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announces approval

New Delhi : Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Sunday that Delhi is beginning to experience the advantages of a "double-engine government," following the Centre's approval for a 5-kilometre tunnel aimed at easing traffic between South Delhi and the (NCR).

The planned tunnel will connect Shiv Murti-Mahipalpur on the Dwarka Expressway to Nelson Mandela Road near Vasant Kunj, creating a signal-free corridor that is expected to decongest several busy stretches. Following a recent meeting with Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Gupta said the Centre had greenlit infrastructure projects totalling ₹24,000 crore, targeting traffic decongestion and pollution control across Delhi and nearby areas. Among these initiatives is the proposed 5-km tunnel, which will be built by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) at a projected cost of ₹3,500 crore. Designed with two underground tubes — each dedicated to one direction of travel — the tunnel will feature three lanes in each tube. Modern safety and operational systems such as ventilation, fire safe-



ty mechanisms, emergency exits, cross-passages, CCTV surveillance, and control rooms will also be included in the infrastructure. Gupta said that the tunnel is expected to significantly ease traffic flow on Nelson Mandela Road, Mahipalpur, and Rangpuri, while also reducing the burden on key arteries like Dhaula Kuan, Rao Tula Ram Marg, and NH-48 in the Mahipalpur area. Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, South Delhi MP, described the project as transformative for local commuters. He noted that the tunnel would offer a direct, signal-free route connecting South Delhi, Dwarka, and Gurgaon — helping to eliminate bottlenecks on NH-48 during peak hours.

Bidhuri added that the

tunnel would serve as a crucial link between central and eastern parts of Delhi and several major roadways including the Delhi Expressway (NE-5), NH-44, NH-10, Delhi-Jaipur Highway (NH-48), and the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway (NH-709B). The integration with the Urban Extension Road (UER) and Dwarka Expressway is expected to smoothen vehicular movement across these corridors and bring down pollution levels. Gupta said that all technical clearances and paperwork for the project are nearing completion, and construction is expected to commence early next year. Calling it a "stepping stone for the Delhi of tomorrow," she emphasised the government's focus on building a cleaner, traffic-free city.

Blaze at Dilshad Garden e-rickshaw charging station kills two; including 60-year-old man

New Delhi : A devastating fire broke out late Sunday night at an e-rickshaw charging point in Kodi Colony, Dilshad Garden, claiming the lives of two individuals, including a 60-year-old man.

The incident occurred around 11:32 pm and quickly intensified, prompting an urgent response. Four fire engines were dispatched to the location,

and firefighters worked for over an hour to bring the flames under control, finally extinguishing the blaze by 12:35 am on Monday.

Originating on the ground floor of the building, the fire spread rapidly, consuming two e-rickshaws and a motorcycle parked nearby. The flames also posed a serious threat to the adjoining residential

structure, which comprises a ground floor and three upper levels, spanning approximately 25 square yards.

Two people, identified as 24-year-old Sashi and 60-year-old Bablu, sustained severe burn injuries. Despite being rushed to the hospital, both succumbed to their injuries shortly after arrival.

Authorities have not yet determined the cause of the fire, and an investigation is underway to establish the events that led to the tragedy.

The rapid escalation of the blaze highlights growing safety concerns around electric vehicle charging infrastructure in densely populated areas.

Delhi horror: 9-year-old stuffed into suitcase after rape, dies

New Delhi : A nine-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted and murdered in northeast Delhi's Dayalpur on Saturday, police have said. She was found in a suitcase, barely breathing, and died later.

Police said that the suspect a neighbour, who is currently on the run.

Cops got a PCR call at 8.41pm on Saturday regarding the sexual assault on the girl. On reaching the spot, the Dayalpur police team learned the girl had been taken to a hospital by her father. She was in an unconscious state and was declared brought dead at the hospital.

A senior police officer said that doctors at the hospital observed visible injuries to her face and suspected sexual assault. The crime and forensics teams have inspected the spot.

"A tragic incident of rape and murder of a minor girl has taken place in po-



lice station Dayalpur, north-east Delhi," DCP, north-east, Ashish Kumar Mishra, said in a social media post on X.

"The deceased and the accused belong to the same community; the accused lives near the deceased's house and is still absconding. All the teams of Delhi police are working determinedly for strong action."

Police said that the girl left her home around 7pm on Saturday to take ice to her grandmother who lived about 20 houses away. Her mother said that she had

asked the daughter to run the errand before heading to a relative's house for dinner. Initially, the mother wasn't concerned as her daughter typically returned quickly. However, when 20 minutes passed and there was no sign of her, the woman called her mother, who said the girl had not arrived at her home.

The family began searching the neighbourhood. According to the girl's mother, neighbours reported seeing her go up a five-storey building about

7-8 houses away. The girl's 45-year-old uncle said that they were then told by a neighbour that a man living on the second floor of that building had dropped his keys and asked a few local children to bring them upstairs.

"No one had helped him at the time, but maybe she did," he said.

Upon investigating, they found the man outside his second-floor apartment, which was locked from the outside. "When we asked if she was inside, he denied any knowledge of her whereabouts, even confidently suggesting that we can check the premises, but then claimed he didn't have the keys," he said. The family grew suspicious and insisted on checking inside the man's house, police said. The man offered to retrieve keys from another residence, and the girl's 12-year-old cousin accom-

panied him. However, when neither returned promptly, the family decided to break the lock themselves.

Inside, they found a suitcase. "When we opened it, we were shocked to find our girl stuffed inside, barely breathing," the uncle said. The family said they rushed the girl from one hospital to another in desperation, but she ultimately did not survive.

The street where both the accused and the victim live has limited CCTV coverage with only a few cameras installed by residents ahead of the building where the girl was found.

A case under sections 103 (murder), 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in persistent vegetative state of victim) and 6 of the POCSO Act has been registered.

The area saw a heavy security deployment. Roads were barricaded.

New push to reclaim Yamuna: Treated water, sewer fixes & riverfront plans

New Delhi : The Delhi government has launched a multi-pronged strategy to rejuvenate the Yamuna River by targeting pollution sources and improving environmental flow. The plan, recently presented by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to a high-level panel that included Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, and other senior officials, focuses on actions across Delhi and neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. A key element of the strategy involves enhancing Yamuna's environmental flow. Uttar Pradesh's irrigation department will divert treated water from the Yamuna Canal to the river through the Okhla sewage treatment plant's outlet. This is expected to be operational by February 2026. In Agra, 43 drains will be intercepted by May 2027 under a project managed by UP Jal Nigam, for which tenders are being floated. Additionally, 500 cusecs of water will be redirected from

the Upper Ganga Canal using existing infrastructure. In Delhi, the Jal Board is set to initiate a gap analysis by appointing a survey agency this month, focusing on all drainage and sewerage zones. Based on these findings, detailed project reports and implementation plans will be finalised by December, following evaluations by September. Meanwhile, the Central Pollution Control Board will audit all sewage treatment plants and drain outfalls by July to identify operational shortcomings.

Currently, 22 drains in Delhi discharge directly into the Yamuna. Of these, nine have already been intercepted, while two (Delhi Gate and Sen Nursing Home) are partially managed and will be fully tapped by December 2027. Two more drains are under active remediation, with completion targeted by year-end. The remaining seven are scheduled for interception by the end of 2027.

Responsibilities for managing

the drains have been divided among key civic bodies. The irrigation and flood control department will handle maintenance, desilting, and removing encroachments. The Delhi Jal Board will manage both untreated sewer discharge and some treated water outflows. The Public Works Department will oversee stormwater drains, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi will take charge of solid waste, colony runoff, and privately discharged silt. Each agency must prepare site-specific action plans by October.

One of the significant steps under consideration is channeling treated wastewater through closed conduits instead of open drains, to maintain river flow quality. Additionally, the completion of three large dam projects—Renukaji, Lakhwar, and Kishau—will improve water availability in the Yamuna basin during dry months. Delhi currently operates 13 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) serving 17 officially recognised in-

dustrial zones. However, 27 unregulated industrial areas lack such facilities. A comprehensive plan to address this gap is expected by December. Furthermore, third-party audits, supervised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and CPCB, will monitor industrial discharges from non-conforming zones in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh, and Sonapat. To manage septage and dairy waste, the MCD has been tasked with either setting up biogas plants or phasing out dairy units by June 2027. Sludge management plans for sewage treatment plants will be drawn up by August 2027.

The total budget for this ambitious river clean-up over the next three years is estimated at ₹10,087 crore. Major allocations include ₹3,515 crore for sewerage infrastructure, ₹2,000 crore for an additional 500 MLD sewage treatment capacity, ₹1,400 crore for drain management, ₹1,100 crore for floodplain conservation.

Editorial

Economy to accelerate but inflation to be monitored

A significant decision by the Reserve Bank of India is likely to give a new direction to the country's economic picture. By cutting the repo rate by half a percentage point, the Reserve Bank has made home loans, auto loans and personal loans cheaper. This has created an atmosphere of hope in the general public as well as in the industrial sector. This decision is expected to create new jobs, increase trade and more money in the pockets of the common man, and the economy will flourish anew.

The Reserve Bank of India took a big decision on Friday. It reduced the repo rate, i.e. the interest rate at which banks lend, by 0.5, i.e. half a percentage point, to 5.5 percent. Such cuts have been made in the last three meetings, and the total reduction has been one percent. This will make home loans, auto loans and personal loans cheaper. This will benefit the general and middle class. In the last financial year, the growth rate of the economy had come down to 6.5 percent, which is the lowest in the last four years. It is hoped that this decision will revive the economy and improve the standard of living of the common man.

There is enthusiasm in the industry due to this decision of the Reserve Bank. Small and big entrepreneurs, especially small and medium enterprises, will get cheap loans and tax concessions. This will give impetus to factories, shops and businesses. The manufacturing sector can grow by 10-12 percent. This means that new jobs will be created and money will circulate in the market. There is also an atmosphere of joy in the housing sector. With home loans becoming cheaper, it will now be easier to buy your dream home. This will boost the construction sector and jobs will also increase in the related sectors. After the Reserve's decision, the stock market saw a rise on Friday and Monday. The Sensex and Nifty went up by 2-3 percent, because investors have faith in this decision. But in the commodity market, that is, the market for raw materials and goods, prices may increase for some time, but experts are saying that stability will gradually come.

If you have taken a home loan, your monthly installment will now be reduced. For example, if you have taken a home loan of Rs 50 lakh for a period of 20 years, you will have to pay about two to four thousand rupees less every month. Since auto loans and personal loans will also be cheaper, it will be possible to meet new car or other needs. This decision will make more money available to banks, which will increase their ability to lend. As a result, demand in the market will increase and the economy will strengthen. The Reserve Bank has estimated the growth rate for 2025-26 at 6.5 percent, but experts believe that this rate can go up to 7 percent. New industries, jobs and housing construction will give a boost to the economy. Additional liquidity (money) of Rs 2.5 lakh crore will be available to banks in the country. This will make it easier to lend.

New businesses may start and consumer spending will increase. But there are also some challenges. Some experts believe that rising raw material prices may make food grains, fuel and other items more expensive. This may cause some inconvenience to the common man. Also, the reduction in interest rates on bank deposits will result in lower returns for savers, which may reduce their spending. Senior citizens who depend on the interest on these deposits for their livelihood may be affected to some extent. Some experts have taken a cautious stance on this interest rate cut decision. According to them, this will benefit big industries and the rich more, but the common man will have to face inflation. If food grains and fuel prices increase, the budget of the middle class and ordinary families may collapse. They are of the opinion that the government and the Reserve Bank should take concrete steps to control inflation. Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra has advised the central government to provide tax breaks, social welfare schemes and encourage private investment. This will benefit the common man and the middle class. The government should improve the supply chain to keep food and fuel prices stable to keep inflation under control. Emphasis should be placed on schemes and tax breaks that create new jobs. Subsidies and schemes should be accelerated to increase spending in rural areas and cities. This will avert the risk. This decision is a ray of hope for the common man. Cheap loans will make it easier to meet house, car or other needs. New jobs will increase income and money will circulate in the market. But the government and banks should keep an eye on inflation so that there is no pressure on the daily expenses of the people. If they save, the interest on bank deposits may decrease, but the people can take advantage of this by taking cheap loans or investing in business. The rate cut has given new hope to the common man and the economy. The hope behind this decision is that India's economy will regain momentum due to cheap loans, new jobs and increasing demand. There is enthusiasm in industry, housing and the stock market and this will benefit everyone. But it is necessary to keep an eye on inflation and global uncertainty. If the government takes Malhotra's advice and protects the interests of the common man, these policies will be successful. This will increase the opportunities for the common man to buy his dream house, new car or start a business, and as India moves towards a five trillion dollar economy, the common man will also benefit directly from this growth. It is hoped that this growth should not only increase the wealth of a handful.

The decision to cut the repo rate will not be limited to numbers, but will have a direct impact on the lives of the common man. Buying a house, buying a car or starting a small business will now be easier. Jobs will increase, demand in the market will increase and the share of the common man in the country's economic growth will increase. However, along with this opportunity, the government should implement a cautious and balanced policy, keeping in mind the risks of inflation, interest rates on bank deposits and volatility in the global market. If it succeeds, this can be a big step that strengthens the dreams of the common man, not just a rate cut.

‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’

The ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’ has successfully reached its halfway mark, engaging with millions of farmers across the country. On the 8th day of the campaign, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, held an interaction with the farmers in Punjab. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Agriculture Minister, Govt of Punjab, Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, along with several scientists and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Chouhan emphasized that the campaign aims to bridge the gap between agricultural research and the farming community by translating scientific knowledge from "lab to land." As part of this initiative, agricultural scientists visit villages with prior knowledge of local conditions and engage with farmers accordingly, offering customized guidance on improving productivity based on soil nutrients, climate, and appropriate crop varieties. Farmers are also educated about pest control and proper use of agrochemicals. The information gathered during these interactions is being used to steer research in directions that meet the actual needs of the field.



Highlighting his personal involvement, the Minister shared that he drove a tractor in the fields to better understand the practical challenges faced by farmers. He reiterated that future agricultural policies would be formulated based on the grassroots-level data collected during this campaign.

Paying tribute to the contribution of Punjab's farmers, Shri Chouhan said that Punjab has long served as the food bowl of India. He recalled the days when India had to depend on low-quality

wheat imports under the PL-480 agreement and credited the Green Revolution for ending this dependency. He lauded the spirit and dedication of Punjab's farmers, commending their invaluable efforts and congratulating them for their role in the nation's agricultural progress.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over the record-high wheat production achieved this year and noted similar achievements in rice, maize, groundnut, soybean, pulses, and oilseeds. He emphasized that

India is now self-reliant in food grain production and continues to make significant strides in agricultural productivity.

Discussing modern techniques, Shri Chouhan underlined the benefits of direct seeding of paddy (DSR) as a water- and cost-efficient alternative to traditional transplanting methods. He shared farmers' feedback that the yield remains consistent while significantly reducing labour and input costs. The Minister also stressed the importance of balanced pesticide use,

noting that excessive application not only raises costs but also adversely affects crop quality.

He remarked that Punjab's fertile land is suitable for a wide variety of crops, including horticulture, and there is immense potential for producing export-quality fruits and vegetables. He called for collective efforts to tap into these opportunities and boost the sector.

Shri Chouhan outlined six key objectives for Indian agriculture enhancing productivity, reducing production costs, ensuring fair prices, compensating for crop losses, encouraging diversification, and preserving natural resources for future generations.

He also welcomed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's decision to revoke the Indus Waters Treaty, terming it a just and timely move. He noted that the treaty had adversely affected farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir, and expressed hope that India's water resources would now be used for the benefit of its own farmers.

Concluding his remarks, the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to farmers, stating that serving them is his highest duty. He added that the true fulfillment of his role as Agriculture Minister lies in enhancing agricultural production and ensuring the prosperity of the farming community.

“Prosperous farmers and a developed agriculture is our goal”



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan met farmers in Punjab today as part of the ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’. He visited farmlands to review crops and their production, and also toured a factory that manufactures agricultural machines in Amargarh, Patiala, where he inspected various farming tools and equipment.

Present at the event were Punjab Agriculture Minister Shri Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Director General Dr. M.L. Jat, Punjab Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Secretary of Punjab agriculture department Dr. Basant Garg, and other scientists and officials.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Chouhan said, “Prime Minister Shri Naren-

dra Modi's vision is for a Viksit Bharat, and we are working tirelessly with that goal in mind. Our mission is to build a glorious, prosperous, and powerful India. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. In the fourth quarter of last financial year, the country achieved a growth rate of 7.5%, with agriculture contributing to 5.4% of it. Agriculture still accounts for over 18% of the Indian economy, and remains the source of livelihood for 50% of our population.”

Outlining the key objectives for agriculture, he said: Ensuring food security for 1.45 billion people Providing nutritious food along with food security Making farming profitable for farmers Establishing India as a global food basket “I bow again and again before the soil of Punjab. The farmers of Punjab have played a ma-

move even further – our aim is to make our farmers prosperous and achieve complete development in the agriculture sector,” Shri Chouhan said.

He emphasized the need to increase production while reducing production costs. He stressed on the importance of high-quality seeds and directed ICAR scientists to develop heat-resistant seeds suited to changing climate conditions. He also called for research-based and climate-adapted farming.

“We must adopt the latest techniques and methods in agriculture to increase yields while reducing labour and costs. Machines are now available not only for harvesting but also for planting. Multipurpose harvesters are providing significant cost

export them. Indian basmati rice is in high demand abroad. However, we must

transforming agriculture requires decisive actions and problem-solving. “Machines developed through our innovations are now proving effective both domestically and internationally. During my recent visit to Brazil, I observed their use of modern machines in agriculture, but farming condi-

tions in India and abroad differ significantly. Indian

ing should be such that farmers can purchase them without financial burden.”

Talking about subsidies, Shri Chouhan remarked, “Subsidies should be given only to those who are truly eligible.”

Concluding his address, he said that further discussion on mechanization will be held in depth, and that collaboration with industry stakeholders will help steer this in a new direction. “I am pleased that India is now manufacturing agricultural machines capable of competing globally. Every agricultural issue will be addressed after consulting with our farmer brothers and sisters, so that India can move forward and guide the world.”

and labour benefits to farmers,” he said. Shri Chouhan said that



farms are generally smaller than those in other countries.”

Modi Government's 11 Years Marked by Bold Decisions, Futuristic Reforms

As the Modi Government completes 11 years in office, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh described the journey as one of “bold decisions, futuristic reforms and transformative governance,” asserting that these years have redefined India's development narrative and restored public faith in the system.

In an exclusive interview, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the past decade has seen the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi setting new benchmarks in decision-making by prioritizing long-term national interest. “Whether it was the rollout of GST, the push for Digital India, or the opening up of strategic sectors like space and atomic energy to private players, each initiative has been driven by the vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive India,” he said. He also pointed to the Department of Biotechnology's (DBT) expanded role in fostering innovation, particularly in vaccine development, genetic research, and bio-entrepreneurship, as part of the broader science and technology thrust that has positioned India as a rising global tech hub.

One of the standout features of the Modi era, the Minister noted, has been the seamless integration of traditional governance goals with modern technology. “Under Modi's

leadership, sectors like space, atomic energy, and biotechnology received unprecedented push. The global recognition India enjoys today in these fields is a direct result of consis-



tent support and visionary policies,” he noted. Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that space technology, once limited to rocket launches, is now improving daily life through applica-

tions like telemedicine, agricultural weather updates, and online education. “Science is no longer confined to labs—it's simplifying life, and that's the true essence of innovation,” he



remarked. He also highlighted transformative initiatives such as the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity, which redefined service delivery across the country. Equally

impactful, he said, was the Swachh Bharat Mission, which evolved into a mass social movement, cutting across political lines and reshaping public behaviour.

The Minister also drew attention to Special Campaign 4.0, an initiative aimed at promoting cleanliness, efficiency, and responsible disposal practices within government offices. “Under this campaign, departments not only cleared massive backlogs of files but also turned e-waste into valuable resources,” he said. In one such instance, obsolete electronic equipment was dismantled and recycled to recover precious materials, while thousands of square feet of office space were freed by clearing junk and redundant inventory. “This isn't just cleanliness—it's systemic efficiency. What was once waste is now wealth,” Dr. Jitendra Singh said, adding that such efforts have brought a culture of order and accountability into government functioning.

The Minister also spoke about administrative reforms, stating that bureaucratic accountability and ease of governance have significantly improved. “Performance-based assessment and lateral entry have brought a cultural change in administration,” he said, citing Mission Karmayogi as a major structural reform.

Further underscoring the government's commitment to social security, Dr. Jitendra Singh spoke about progressive pension reforms benefiting women.



Briefs :

‘One Nation, One Election’ will save national resources: Haryana minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa

Chandigarh: Haryana Public Works Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa said the idea of “One Nation-One Election” is a positive step towards saving the country’s resources, enhancing administrative efficiency and making the democratic process more streamlined. The minister was addressing students and teachers at a seminar on the topic of “One Nation-One Election” organised at Om International University, Hisar, yesterday.He said such discussions encourage awareness among youth and foster a spirit of participation in policy making. Gangwa further said “One Nation-One Election” would strengthen the administrative structure. On this occasion, university’s Vice-Chancellor, faculty members, researchers and a large number of students were present. The minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of Radha-Krishna Temple, a symbol of faith and devotion, at Badopatti village in Hisar district. He said temples were not only places of worship, but also centres for promoting social unity, harmony and cultural values.He said the construction of Radha-Krishna Temple would not only strengthen the religious faith of villagers, but also inspire future generations to walk on the spiritual path. Gangwa also gave Rs 11 lakh from his discretionary fund for the temple’s construction. He said the government was making continuous efforts for the all-round development of villages, along with the preservation and promotion of religious sites.

The minister urged villagers to support the temple’s construction with a spirit of mutual brotherhood and cooperation.

Civic body officials to get drains cleaned in Yamunanagar

Yamunanagar: Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta conducted a surprise inspection of drains falling in the area of the Municipal Corporation, Yamunanagar-Jagadhri. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) instructed Municipal Commissioner Akhil Piani to complete the cleaning of all drains before the arrival of the monsoon. The DC instructed officials of the Municipal Corporation to get drains cleaned soon so that people did not face waterlogging issues during the rainy season.He further instructed officials to remove dirt and silt from drains and clear plants and weeds growing nearby. He also told officials to clean dirt accumulated on banks of drains. “I instructed all officials to complete arrangements for water drainage before the onset of the monsoon. I also instructed officials of the Public Health Department to clean sewers with sewer cleaning machines so that the problem of waterlogging does not arise anywhere in the twin cities,” the DC said. District Public Relations Officer Dr Manoj Kumar, Chief Sanitation Inspector Harjeet Singh, Vinod Beniwal.

Plastic waste managements units coming up in Sirsa villages

Sirsa : Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, plastic waste management units are being set up in vil-lages across six blocks in Sirsa district to manage the growing problem of plastic waste in the rural areas. So far, four blocks have com-pleted the selection of vil-lages where these units will be established. These in-clude Kharia village in Ra-nia block, Rasulpur in Sirsa block, Panniwala Mota in Odhan block and Ganga village in Dabwali block. The selection process is still underway for two re-maining blocks Nathusari Chopta and Ellenabad and will be completed soon.

Once these units are ready, they will be operated by women from local self-help groups. To support daily waste collection, dustbins will be installed outside each house in the village. A private agency will be hired to collect waste regularly. The col-lected plastic will be pro-cessed into plastic pellets, which will be supplied to the PWD for use in road construction. Work on the



units has already started in two villages. In Kharia, the construction of the plastic waste management unit is in its final stage, with only the installation of machin-ery remaining. In Rasulpur, the work began nearly four months ago, but stopped af-ter building a shed. The construction has now re-sumed with work on the boundary wall. In the other two selected villages, the tendering process is at pres-ent going on to begin con-struction soon. According to officials of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), once these units are ready,

they will be operated by women from local self-help groups. These women have already received training in Nilokheri, Karnal. To sup-port daily waste collection, dustbins will be installed outside each house in vil-lage. A private agency will be hired to collect waste regularly. The collected plastic will be processed into plastic pellets, which will then be supplied to the Public Works Department (PWD) for use in road con-struction. According to of-ficials, 20 per cent of the material used in new roads will consist of these recy-

cled plastic pellets. As per a government survey, each rural household produces around 2.5 kilograms of plastic waste every year. By recycling this plastic and using it for infrastructure, the initiative not only aims to reduce pollution, but also supports sustainable development.Kharia vil-lage sarpanch Maya Devi shared that their village had a population of around 11,000 people and over 80 per cent of the unit’s con-struction work had been completed. She said, “Soon, dustbins will be placed at every major street corner, and he trained women from the village’s self-help group will take charge of managing the unit.”Sukhwinder Singh, who is in charge of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) in Sirsa, confirmed that the project was pro-gressing steadily. “With four blocks already having selected villages and work underway, the district is moving closer to effective plastic waste management at the village level,” he said.

Ambala police launch ‘Maidan’ campaign against drug abuse

Ambala : To tackle the menace of drug addiction, the Ambala range of the Haryana Police have initi-ated a campaign “Maidan” (Mission against drugs and narcotics). Under this cam-paign, special teams in Am-bala range (Ambala, Kuruk-shetra and Yamunanagar districts) have been formed to visit drug-affected vil-lages and conduct a door-to-door survey in collaboration with gram panchayats, local residents and social or-ganisations. The teams will ob-tain information about peo-ple involved in narcotic smuggling and drug addicts. Local NGOs, doctors and motivators will be involved to strengthen

de-addiction efforts. In-dividuals, who have given up drugs, will be involved in the campaign as brand ambassa-dors so that they can share their experiences and inspire others. As per spokesman of the Police Department, Pan-kaj Nain, IG, Ambala Range, held a meeting with mem-bers and nodal officers of teams formed for Maidan, to chalk out a strategy regard-ing the campaign. Directions were issued to teams to take



action against people in-volved in drug smuggling. As part of the campaign, people hooked to drugs would be identified and be helped shun the habit. Be-sides, people would be made aware of ill effects of drug addiction.

Youngsters would be in-volved in sports and cultural activities and other measures would be taken to create a drug-free society.

The spokesman said reg-ular meetings would be held and feedback taken to evalu-ate the progress of the cam-paign and make changes as per the requirement to make the drive a success.

Pankaj Nain informed that teams had been briefed

and provided the required in-formation so that they could identify drug-affected per-sons and provide them assis-tance.

He said, “Local NGOs, doctors and motivators will be involved to strengthen de-addiction efforts. Individu-als, who have given up drugs, will be involved in the cam-paign as brand ambassadors so that they can share their experiences and inspire oth-ers.”

“Together, we can build a healthy and safe society. During the campaign, an ap-pel will be made to the peo-ple to cooperate with the Po-lice Department in tightening the noose around drug smug-glers.

NHAI begins work on Rs 30-crore service lane in Ambala Cantt

Ambala : Energy, Trans-port and Labour Minister Anil Vij announced that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has com-menced work on construct-ing a new service lane on the railway overbridge (ROB) in front of Shastri Colony, lo-cated along GT Road in Am-bala Cantonment. This ser-vice lane is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 30 crore. Once completed, com-muters will be able to cross the overbridge via the service lane without merging onto the main GT Road. Addition-ally, a new service lane will be built on the overbridge for vehicles traveling from Delhi to Ambala Cantonment, near the Padav police station.

Meanwhile, Vij held a meeting with officials from NHAI regarding the project and instructed them to com-plete the work swiftly. He also directed that the con-necting road coming from the Railway Colony under the ROB be constructed as per established standards. Vij ex-plain-ed that currently the ser-vice lane from Delhi ended in front of the Padav police sta-tion, after which vehicles must merge onto the GT Road to continue towards the bus stand. With the new con-struction, the service lane will extend beyond the police station and connect with the existing service lane section further ahead.

Similarly, for vehicles heading from Ambala Can-tonment towards Delhi, the current service lane merges onto the GT Road. Now, a new lane will be constructed over the railway line, con-necting with the service lane leading to Shastri Colony. Service lanes on both sides of GT Road will allow local ve-hicles to cross the railway overbridge without needing to drive on the main GT Road, easing congestion.

Vij said the piling work had already commenced ad-jacent to the railway over-bridge. The authority has set a timeline of around 1.5 years for completing the project.

Ambala Cantt gets sewage treatment plant

Ambala : In order to pre-vent the release of harmful pollutants into the environ-ment and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases in Am-bala Cantonment, Haryana Cabinet Minister Anil Vij to-day inaugurated a (STP) con-structed at a cost of Rs 15



crore at Babyal in Ambala Cantonment. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the Cabinet Minister said this plant was connected to about 140-km-long sewage line passing through several col-onies and provide facility to about 15,000 households. The plant has been designed

and constructed with latest sequencing batch reactor technology, according to the requirements of next 25 years. The treated water will be released in Tangri.He said besides Sector A, B, C and D of Defence Colony, Tundla Mandi, and Kalareheri, the

STP will be beneficial for the Defence enclave, Boh, Anand Nagar, Dalipgarh, Babyal, Krishna Nagar, Shyam Nagar, Arjun Nagar, and other nearby colonies. The minister said a 370-km sewage line was being laid at a cost of Rs 341 crore from Ka-lareheri to Machonda.

Beautification work of Yamunanagar's Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk begins

Yamunanagar : The Municipal Corporation Yamunanagar-Jagadhri (MCYJ) will carry out beautification work of Ya-munanagar’s main Sha-heed Bhagat Singh Chowk. The MCYJ has demolished this chowk and started construction work to give a new look to it. As per authorities of the MCYJ, the new chowk will be more attractive and beautiful than the old one. According to infor-mation, on the instruc-tions of Mayor Suman Ba-hamani and MCYJ Commissioner Akhil Pi-lani, the civic body is try-ing to give twin cities, a beautiful, clean and at-tractive look. The authori-ties have decided to beau-tify all chowks in the twin cities.

As per available infor-mation, the foundation stone of this chowk was laid by Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Dass

Arora on January 9, 2025, but its construction work started now. An amount of Rs 15.65 lakh will be spent on the construction of this chowk. “By August 30, 2025, residents of Ya-munanagar will get a new chowk. This chowk will be more beautiful and at-tractive than the old chowk. There will also be a provision of lighting at this chowk,” said Mayor Suman Bahamani.

“The old chowk was demolished on Thursday night. The new chowk will be built in a perimeter of seven metres,” the Mayor said. “Our effort is to beautify the twin cities Yamunanagar and Jag-adhri,” the Mayor said. She said after Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, Maharana Pratap Chowk, Madhu Chowk, Pyara Chowk and other chowks of the twin cities would be given a beautiful and at-tractive look.

Yamunanagar DC inspects flood protection work

Yamunanagar : Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta conducted a surprise inspection of flood protection work at several places in Yamu-nagar district. During in-spection, he instructed of-ficials of the Irrigation and Water Resources Depart-ment to complete the pro-tection work on time.

The Deputy Commis-sioner, along with Irrigation Department officials, con-ducted a surprise inspection of the flood protection work at Sherpur village of Chhachhrauli block, Khan-nuwala, and Chintpur vil-lages of Vyaspur (Bilaspur) block and on the Som river near the bridge of Chhachhrauli town.

He directed the officials to ensure that all flood pro-tection work is completed by June 20, before the arrival of



monsoon.

He said in the 56th meet-ing of the Haryana State Drought and Flood Relief Control, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini had ap-proved 40 flood protection works in Yamunanagar dis-trict. He further said all flood protection works were in progress.

During the inspection, villagers told the Deputy

Centre committed to welfare of poor: Manohar Lal Khattar

Karnal : Union Power and Housing Min-ister Manohar Lal Khattar today asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was com-mitted to the welfare poor in the spirit of Antyo-daya Mission.

The BJP’s double engine government has undertaken unprecedented development in the country and Haryana. A transparent and pro people-centric government system has been put in place in the country. Addressing a workshop in the Karnal Lok Sabha constitu-ency, organised in connection with comple-tion of 11 years of the Modi government at the Centre, the Union Minister claimed that the

Bharatiya Janata Party’s double engine gov-ernment had undertaken unprecedented de-velopment and growth in the country and Haryana during the past 11 years.

“A transparent and pro people-centri-c government system has been put in place in the country leading to ease of living for the common man,” the Union Minister asserted. Prominent among those present on the oc-casion included Krishan Lal Panwar, Panchay-ats and Development Minister, and Arvind Sharma, Co-operation, Heritage and Tourism Minister, Kanwar Pal Gujjar, former Haryana minister, and Sanjay Bhatia, former Member of Parliament from Karnal.

Deadline for start-up incentive schemes extended to Sept 30

Chandigarh : Haryana Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh said in today’s era of infor-mation technology, the state government has implemen-

ed the Start-up Policy to pro-mote self-employment of youth in the industrial sector. Under this policy, various in-centives are provided to start-ups in the state. Rao

Narbir Singh said the Indus-tries Department had decid-ed to extend the deadline for submitting applications un-der several schemes such as lease rental subsidy.

Rahul Gandhi’s visit sets ball rolling for faction-ridden Cong’s revamp

Gurugram : Leader of Oppo-sition Rahul Gandhi’s June 4 visit to Haryana, the first after the Con-gress’ surprise and unexpected defeat in the October 2024 Assem-bly polls, has set the ball rolling for the revamp of the faction-ridden party in the state.In fact, during his over three-hour deliberations with senior leaders, part of the “Sanga-than Srujan Abhiyan”, a campaign aimed at internal party rejuvena-tion, Rahul was both honest and forthright. By acknowledging be-fore the Congress top brass that internal factionalism has stalled organisational restructuring for over 11 years, Rahul delivered a strong message to the party big-wigs to keep differences aside to help rebuild the party organisa-

tion.The one-point agenda of the twin meetings was the upcoming elections of 22 District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents, a vital link between the party leader-ship and grassroots workers. Se-nior leaders were told in no uncer-tain terms to “to keep in check their inflated egos”, respect party discipline and refrain from airing grievances publicly. Otherwise be-prepared to face the music, this was Rahul’s loud and clear mes-sage. With nepotism ruling the roost in the Congress over the years, the grand old party has turned the new leaf in the election to the DCC presidents. In a first, it has set up a new institutional mechanism under which it is con-ducting election purely on merit



from a grass-roots level workers. Under the new system, the Con-gress has appointed 22 AICC ob-

servers and 90 PCC observers to supervise the election process. Till 2014, the DCC presidents were

hand-picked by the state unit chief and the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party, leaving a lot of discretion with two leaders, large-scale nepotism and ultimately throwing merit out of window. Now, after consultations with the district-level leaders, the observ-ers will prepare a panel of six lead-ers in the age group of 35-55 for each district with the entire elec-tion process to set to be completed by June 30. In fact, the observers have already taken feedback from grassroots workers in Kurukshetra and Ambala districts. “The elec-tion of the DCC chiefs after taking feedback from the grassroots workers portends well for the Congress. It will go a long way in rejuvenating the Congress and

help it play the role of a construc-tive Opposition in a more effective way,” Aftab Ahmed, Nuh MLA, asserted.Rampant factionalism has proved to be Congress’ ‘Achil-les’ heels over the years with the party paying a heavy price in the October 2024 Assembly elections, in which it was favourite to win the elections. However, the BJP sprang a surprise by winning 48 seats as against 37 by the Congress in the 90-member Haryana As-sembly.Though former CM Bhu-pinder Singh Hooda is the tallest Haryana Congress leader with a majority of Congress MLA owing allegiance to him, his leadership has constantly been challenged by senior leaders and MPs like Ku-mari Selja.



Cleanliness, yoga to help realise dream of Viksit Bharat: Haryana CM



Kurukshetra : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said that with cleanliness and yoga, the country would move towards realising the dream of ‘Viksit Bharat’ at a rapid pace. The Chief Minister,

while addressing a review meeting organised with various institutions regarding the state-level International Yoga Day celebrations, said that a grand and historic event would be organised on the occasion of Yoga Day in Kurukshetra.

Preparations began with the launch of a cleanliness campaign on May 27 and daily yoga classes are underway for the grand event on June 21.

“Yoga is not associated with one person or ideology. It is been adopted by people across the world. Yoga is our heritage and it keeps us healthy. But over the years, people have started taking medicines to cure minor diseases when those diseases can be easily controlled with yoga. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of yoga at the United Nations, 177 countries agreed to it and today, yoga derived from our land, has reached every person in the

world,” the CM said.

The Chief Minister urged officials of institutions, NGOs, business organisations and other social and religious organisations present at the meeting to play their role in making the programme successful. He further said, “A target of over one lakh people performing yoga on June 21 in Kurukshetra has been set and the arrangements are being made accordingly.

The Brahma Sarovar and Mela Ground have been divided into 103 sectors. Out of these, 64 sectors have been made at Brahma Sarovar and 37 sectors at the Mela Ground and surrounding areas. Arrangements have been

made for 1,000 yoga practitioners to do yoga in every sector. Nodal officers and volunteers will be deployed in each sector to ensure a smooth event.”

He said the theme of International Yoga Day this year is ‘One Earth, One Health’. The Haryana Government has added ‘Yoga Yukt, Nasha Mukta Haryana’ slogan with it. The CM said, “The young generation is the strength and future of this country and if we want to save our youth from drug addiction, we have to connect them with yoga. Drug addiction in youngsters is harmful to society and the progress and development of the

country.”

The Chief Minister administered oath to the people present at the meeting to adopt yoga in life, to stay away from addiction and to inspire others.

Haryana Yog Aayog Chairman Dr Jaideep Arya said on June 21, about 10 lakh yoga practitioners in the state would sow medicinal plants and more than one lakh people in Kurukshetra will set a world record by doing yoga together.

At the meeting, former state minister Subhash Sudha, Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh, Superintendent of Police Nitish Agarwal and several other officials were present.

Yoga protocol training held at Kurukshetra University

Kurukshetra : A yoga protocol training programme was organised by the Directorate of Sports, Kurukshetra University, at the new multipurpose hall on Saturday. This event was held in preparation for the International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled to be held on June 21 on the banks of Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra. Addressing participants at the programme, Kurukshetra University Vice-Chancellor Prof Som Nath Sachdeva emphasised that yoga was a vital pathway to achieve a disease-free and healthy life. Prof Sachdeva highlighted that the prime objective of the 11th International Yoga Day was to raise global awareness about the physical and mental health benefits of

Yoga and to promote its widespread adoption. Prof Sachdeva underscored the importance of integrating yoga into daily life for holistic well-being and called on all deans, directors, heads of departments, university officials, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students and researchers to actively participate in the International Yoga Day

celebrations at Brahma Sarovar. The training was conducted by yoga assistant Manjeet Singh and Prof Nirupama Bhatti of Kurukshetra University. Meditation training was given by Dr Jaideep Arya, Chairman, Haryana Yoga Commission. On the occasion, tree plantation was also held by the Vice-Chancellor and other guests.

celebrations at Brahma Sarovar. The training was conducted by yoga assistant Manjeet Singh and Prof Nirupama Bhatti of Kurukshetra University. Meditation training was given by Dr Jaideep Arya, Chairman, Haryana Yoga Commission. On the occasion, tree plantation was also held by the Vice-Chancellor and other guests.



Key accused held in Rohtak murder case

Rohtak : The Rohtak police on Sunday claimed to have solved the murder of Anil, a resident of Ritoli village here and uncle of alleged gangster Ankit alias Baba, with the arrest of a key accused. Anil was shot dead by unidentified assailants while riding his motorcycle in his native village on June 1.

The arrested accused, Deepak, a resident of Madodi Jatan village, was produced before a local court which remanded him to two days of police custody for further interrogation. The police revealed that Deepak has a criminal background with over six cases registered against him across police stations in Sonapat, Rohtak and Delhi. “The murder is believed to be the result of an ongoing rivalry between two parties – of Ankit Baba and Himanshu Bhau -- in Ritoli village. The long-standing enmity has led to repeated confrontations and violent inci-



dents. In light of this, the police are making all possible efforts to maintain peace in the village,” said a spokesman of the district police.

He maintained that the murder was planned by several individuals including Bhumit and Manish Dholia from Mokhra village; Deepak and Mohit from Madodi Jatan; and another Deepak from Madina village, Rohtak. The plot was allegedly orchestrated by Himanshu alias “Bhau,” who is currently residing abroad, he added. Inspector Kuldeep Singh, in-charge

of the CIA-1 unit, stated that a murder case was registered at Shivaji Colony police station on June 1 based on a complaint filed by Anil’s brother Sunil. “Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the hideout and arrested Deepak on Saturday. The remaining suspects are still at large and efforts are on to apprehend them,” he said.

The Ankit Baba-Himanshu Bhau gang rivalry has claimed several lives over the years, making Ritoli a focal point of gang-related violence in the region.

Insanitation, encroachments ruffle Rohtak residents

Rohtak : Insanitary conditions prevail in most parts of Rohtak city, with heaps of garbage along roads and streets becoming a common sight. Several pockets of posh colonies and Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) sectors are in the grip of gross insanitation, while the condition of the old town localities is even worse. People keep on dumping garbage at certain points almost round the clock, while sanitation workers collect and take it away only once or twice a day. Moreover, people dump waste on the ground due to unavailability of dustbins, which presents an ugly picture. Stray cattle and dogs rummaging garbage for food worsens the scenario,” laments Kulvir Singh, a resident of Sector 2, Rohtak.



Amit Sharma, a resident of Suncity Township, maintains that apart from the authorities concerned, residents who dump garbage anytime and anywhere were also responsible for the prevailing situation. Residents should realise their responsibility and dump domestic waste at designated places in a proper manner so that it does not cause inconvenience to the people as well

as sanitation workers,” he said. Apart from insanitation, rampant encroachments also cause grave inconvenience to residents. Shopkeepers often keep their goods and boards in front of their shops, causing inconvenience to residents and commuters. Residents also encroach upon roads and streets by constructing ramps and parking their vehicles, leaving limited space for the

movement of vehicles.

Sanitation campaigns and anti-encroachment drives are run by the local municipal authorities from time to time, but these provide only short-term relief to residents.

Contacted for comments on the issues, Rohtak Municipal Corporation Commissioner Anand Kumar Sharma asserted that an anti-encroachment drive had been launched and residents were also being challaned for littering. Questioned about the short-term effect of such campaigns, Sharma said they would continue the drive for a longer time and also run an awareness campaign to make residents aware of their responsibilities and valuable contribution in maintenance of cleanliness and order in the city.

1,200 take part in ‘Ambala Integrity Run’

Ambala : Lt Gen Rajesh Pushkar, General Officer Commanding, Kharga Corps, flagged off the “Ambala Integrity Run” from Kharga Stadium here on Sunday. The run, organised by Olive Green International School, honoured the Indian armed forces commitment and celebrated the success of Operation Sindoor.

As per defence spokesperson, the event witnessed participation of around 1,200 serving soldiers, veterans and locals, including schoolchildren, showcasing unity and solidarity.

This collective effort aims to inspire the younger generation.

The run reflects citizens’ gratitude towards the armed forces dedication and service.

Structures razed in unauthorised colony of Yamunanagar village



Yamunanagar : A team of the Town and Country Planning Department carried out a demolition drive in an unauthorised colony at a village in Yamunanagar district. The team demolished damp proof courses (DPCs) and a network of kutchra roads in the said unauthorised colony. District Town Planner Rajesh Kumar said they detected an unauthorised colony, which was being developed in the revenue area of Chanda Khedi village, falling under Bilaspur tehsil of the district.

He said that this unauthorised colony fell in a controlled area where no plotting or construction work could be carried out without taking necessary permissions from the Town and Country Planning Department.

He said as per the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Parth Gupta, they with the help of Duty Magistrate (Naib Tehsildar of Bilaspur), the SHO of Bilaspur and the team of State Enforcement

Bureau carried out a demolition drive in the said unauthorised colony. “Our team demolished the kutchra roads and DPCs in an area of about four acres of the illegal colony,” said Kumar. He said notices were issued to the defaulters as per rules under the Controlled Area 41 of 1963. “The defaulters did not comply with the departmental orders.

The land owners and other involved persons did not take necessary permissions before setting up the illegal colony. Therefore, an action of demolition was taken in this illegal colony,” said DTP Rajesh Kumar. Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta has appealed to the general public that no one should buy or sell any plot in any illegal colony.

He said if any person was found carrying out construction work in the illegal colony, he himself would be responsible for it as the district administration would continue its action of demolition in the unauthorised colonies.

Farmers split over removal of pipelines from canals in Sirsa

Sirsa : A major water dispute has erupted in the Ghaggar region of Sirsa, following the removal of pipelines from canals linked to the Ghaggar river. Farmers are split over the issue while some are calling for the immediate removal of illegal pipelines, others are asking the government to halt the process until proper alternatives for irrigation are in place. In a letter to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Sirsa MP Kumari Selja raised concern over the ongoing removal of pipelines. She said the move had created serious problems for farmers who depend on these seasonal canals for irrigation. Selja requested that the decision to remove pipelines be reconsidered and necessary repairs to canal embankments be completed before the onset of monsoon to avoid crop damage from potential flooding.

Tensions are rising in Shekhupuria, Karamgarh, Sahuwala and Panniwala Mota villages. Farmers from these tail-end villages claim that despite removal of hundreds of illegal pipelines from canals, many still exist in their area. They say water does not reach their fields because farmers in starting villages are using illegal pumps and pipelines to draw more than their share of water. These villagers allege that farmers in upper villages are being protected by political leaders, which is why their illegal water connections have not been removed.

“If the government is serious about equal water distribution, why are only some pipelines being removed?” asked a farmer from Sahuwala village. The issue first began when farmers from end-point villages complained to the authorities that they were not getting rainwater due to illegal structures built upstream. In response, the Irrigation Department began re-

moving unauthorised pipelines, motors and solar-powered connections using earthmoving machines. Now, uneven enforcement has created furor among those affected by water shortage.

Selja emphasised that the original purpose of these canals in Sehdeva, Mammar and Rattakhera villages was to ensure water for irrigation in fields at such distant villages. She urged the CM to not only provide fair solution for all farmers, but also prioritise embankment repairs before arrival of heavy rain. She said timely government action was essential to prevent damage and restore farmers’ trust in the system.

A farmer from the Karamgarh village said as monsoon approaches, the need for a balanced and transparent solution becomes more urgent so that all farmers, regardless of location or influence, get their fair share of water.

order and the threat from the mining mafia. Gautam said the government had zero tolerance to illegal mining and the issue would be looked into and an investigation conducted on-the-spot. A representation has been sent to the CM seeking an inquiry into the matter. It seeks to highlight the manner in which these illegal bridges have been built and are used

by miners to extract sand as well as the impact it will have on the course of the Yamuna and its fragile ecosystem. Opposition leaders have decided to up the ante, especially in light of the BJP last year making the Yamuna the centerpiece of its political campaign in the fight for nearby Delhi. “The BJP government’s hypocrisy stands exposed. It talks about sav-

Bhiwani man kills teenaged children, attempts suicide

Hisar : A man, identified as Subhash, 40, strangled his two teenaged children to death before attempting suicide at Dhanana village of Bhiwani district. The victims, Basant (17) and Aarushi (16), were both Class XII students. Subhash is currently undergoing treatment at PGIMS Rohtak and stated to be out of danger. Police sources informed that Subhash mixed sleeping pills into mango shake and gave it to his children. After they were unconscious, he strangled them with a rope. He then consumed poison in an apparent suicide attempt and tried to hang himself from a ceiling fan when a neighbour noticed commotion inside the room and raised an alarm. The neighbours rushed to his house and took him to the hospital. Police sources said that Subhash’s wife, Saroj, died under suspicious circumstances about a month ago and he was upset after the incident. Subhash



blamed his parents for pushing him into mental distress alleging that his mother’s behaviour resulted in the death of his wife. He revealed he had been contemplating suicide ever since Saroj’s death on May 8, but couldn’t bear the thought of leaving the children behind. Sadar police station SHO Narender Kumar said that the children’s grandmother has lodged a formal complaint in the incident and the police had registered a case of murder against Subhash. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination and the investi-

gation is on, he said. In another incident, a man killed his father over a land dispute in Dhani Mahu village of Bhiwani district yesterday. The accused, identified as Prakash, reportedly attacked his 75-year-old father Bansi with a brick, causing his death on the spot.

According to the police, Prakash was enraged over the distribution of family land and had been in conflict with his father for some time. The situation took a violent turn when Bansi refused to comply with his son’s demands.

‘Illegal’ bridges come up on Yamuna to aid sand mining; green warriors see red

Gurugram : Temporary bridges have been built on the Yamuna around Palwal in Haryana so that sand miners can get even closer to the riverbed, leaving local residents irate and environmentalists fuming. The “illegal” bridges, which have reportedly come up without official approval or environment clearance, are being used by illegal miners to carry equip-

ment deep into the river to excavate sand and transport it. Contracts for sand mining have been awarded in Palwal, but local sarpanches and environmentalists say none of the contractors has allegedly obtained environmental clearance. Villagers have approached state minister and Palwal MLA Gaurav Gautam to apprise him of their concerns regarding law and

order and the threat from the mining mafia. Gautam said the government had zero tolerance to illegal mining and the issue would be looked into and an investigation conducted on-the-spot. A representation has been sent to the CM seeking an inquiry into the matter. It seeks to highlight the manner in which these illegal bridges have been built and are used

by miners to extract sand as well as the impact it will have on the course of the Yamuna and its fragile ecosystem. Opposition leaders have decided to up the ante, especially in light of the BJP last year making the Yamuna the centerpiece of its political campaign in the fight for nearby Delhi. “The BJP government’s hypocrisy stands exposed. It talks about sav-

ing the Yamuna but is killing it in connivance with sand miners. Who allowed these bridges to be built? How come no official, minister or BJP leader sees this despite many complaints? The CM visited Palwal but had nothing to say about sand mining, a key issue here,” said former Haryana minister and Congress leader Karan Dalal. Dalal has demanded that

the permissions granted for sand mining be reviewed. “On the one hand, Haryana seeks to revive lost ecosystems with projects like Green Wall and on the other, this is what is happening on the ground. The mining in the Yamuna, which is being legalised now, will not just kill the river but also destroy villages along its banks.

Land dispute turns ugly, man stabbed to death during panchayat in Panipat

Panipat : A 35-year-old man was stabbed to death and his younger brother seriously injured during a panchayat held to resolve a dispute over 2.5 acres of land in Chhichhrana village on Sunday. The accused was a cousin of the deceased. The deceased, Sunil (35), and his brother Anil (32), were attacked with a sharp weapon after a heated argument broke out between them and their cousin Jaipal, alias Rinku. The accused allegedly stabbed Sunil and Anil multiple times. Due to which Sunil died at the spot while Anil sustained serious injuries. Jaipal fled the spot after committing the crime. Villagers said Subhash and Ramchander were real brothers. Sunil and Anil were the sons of Ramchander while Jaipal was the son of Subhash. The relationship between the two brothers soured as Jaipal reportedly started demanding the share of the land that belonged to Ramchander.



ing over the past two months. A panchayat was organised at a temple in the village to resolve the dispute between the two families. Both the families along with prominent people from the village and several relatives of both the families gathered at the panchayat to resolve the issue amicably.

As the heated argument ensued between both the families and there seemed no headway, an angry Jaipal left the panchayat midway.

After some time, he reportedly returned with a knife and stabbed his cousin Sunil multiple times, Pradeep alleged. Anil tried to save his brother, but Jaipal also attacked him, he added. While Sunil died at the spot, Anil sustained serious injuries, he said.

Jaipal and his father Subhash fled the spot. DSP City Rajbir and the SHO visited the spot to inquire into the matter. SP Bhupender Singh said a case had been registered against the accused. Prima facie the reason behind the murder seemed to be a land dispute.

“The teams are on the job and some persons have been rounded up. The accused would be arrested soon,” the SP said.



NZ's Fox wins Canadian golf championship in marathon playoff

Ottawa : Ryan Fox ended a marathon final round at the RBC Canadian Open as the New Zealand journeyman birdied the fourth play-off hole to defeat American Sam Burns at the 114th national championship in Ontario.

The 38-year-old Auckland native, the overnight co-leader, sank a 17-foot putt on the last hole of regulation for a 66 to get to 18-under 262 at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley (North Course) to force the playoff on Sunday.

Burns, who finished around 90 minutes before the final group, had closed with his low round of the year, an eight-under 62, to move to the top of the leaderboard.

As both players missed key putts that would have ended it during the first three holes of sudden death, all contested on the 576-yard, par-five 18th hole, on the fourth attempt Fox put his second shot to within eight feet of the flag which had



been moved after the second extra hole.

Burns, however, could not answer as his third shot rolled off the green forcing him to settle for a par.

Fox then made two putts to seal the win, his second career PGA Tour title after winning in Myrtle Beach last month.

"It was tough. I hit some great shots down the stretch in regulation. Probably got a little lucky on that putt on 18 in regulation, snuck in the left door," said Fox who

earned 1.8 million U.S. Dollars for his 19th win worldwide since turning pro in 2012.

Fox said Burns "let him off the hook" when the Louisiana native missed a five-foot putt on the first playoff hole that would have given him the win.

"I'd almost given him that. We had a couple scrappy holes there, and then to hit the shot I hit on 18 on the fourth playoff, it was pretty surreal. It's the best shot I've ever hit in my life.

BCCI revises India's 2025 home cricket schedule

Mumbai : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday released the revised itinerary for the Indian international home season and the South Africa A tour of India in 2025, with key venue changes affecting both men's and women's fixtures.

According to the updated schedule, India's senior men's team will take on West Indies and South Africa in a series of Tests, ODIs, and T20Is at home. The much-anticipated IDFC First Bank Test series against the West Indies will begin on October 2, 2025, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, while the second Test, initially planned for Kolkata, has now been shifted to Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi.

Similarly, the first Test against South Africa, scheduled for November 14, will now take place at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, instead of New Delhi. The second Test will be played in Guwahati, followed by ODIs in Ranchi, Raipur, and Vi-

sakhapatnam, and T20Is across Cuttack, New Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow, and Hyderabad.

Due to ongoing pitch and outfield revamps at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium, the ODI series

Chandigarh, while the third and final ODI will be held in New Delhi.

On the 'A' tours front, South Africa A will play two multi-day matches and three one-day games against India A. While the red-ball matches will go ahead at the BCCI



between India Women and Australia Women has been relocated. The first two matches will be played at the New PCA Stadium in New

Centre of Excellence (COE), Bengaluru, the one-dayers have been moved from Bengaluru to Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in

Rabada receives high praise ahead of WTC Final

London : Kagiso Rabada's teammates believe there is no better fast bowler to have in their ranks ahead of one of the cricketing nation's most important ever Test matches.

The spearhead is second in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings, behind only Jasprit Bumrah, but

a number of Rabada's teammates are adamant he is the perfect asset in their World Test Championship Final aspirations – not to mention quite relieved he's on their team and they don't have to face him.

"KG's the best bowler in the world," wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne confidently declared, speaking exclusively to the ICC before the World Test Championship decider, which starts at Lord's on Wednesday.

"Without a doubt, he's the best bowler in the world and I think he's one of those guys that always wants to do it on the big stage and you don't get any stages bigger than this, so I think he's going to be massive for us," Verreynne said.

Those sentiments were echoed by fellow team mate David Bedingham, who looks forward to seeing what Rabada can deliver on the unique Lord's wicket, which always offers opportunities for accurate bowlers.

"I genuinely think he's the best bowler in the world," said Bedingham.

"He's played here (Lord's), he's taken wickets here before, so him going well will go a long way to us winning the whole thing.



He's an amazing person... and he makes our jobs a lot easier. He's the leader of our attack," Bedingham said.

As South Africa look to end their ICC silverware drought, their players are hyper aware it'll be crucial that their stars relish and handle the high pressure environment that comes on stages of this magnitude.

"Rabada gets up for the really big moments," opener Aiden Markram said.

"He wants to lead from the front and he takes a lot of guys with him on that journey. So, obviously

a big player for us, but he's (also) been complemented really well in the bowling department by everyone else and they've, sort of, found a way to work really well together," Markram said.

"No doubt he's the leader of the attack, but he pulls guys with him and guys tend to follow," he said.

Also speaking exclusively to ICC Digital, batter Tristan Stubbs added that Rabada will be in peak damage-inflicting form when he's handed the rock at Lord's. "He's an amazing bowler and he's fresh and ready to go," Stubbs

said. "I'm happy he's on my team," Stubbs added.

Rabada earned a spot on the Lord's honour board the last time the Proteas played a Test at the hallowed venue, as South Africa beat England by an innings and 12 runs in August, 2022. The fast bowler compiled a first innings return of 5/52 off 19 overs – and seven scalps for the match. "I remember the wicket was quite busy," Markram continued.

"We were in the slip cordon and we were on edge the whole time, because it felt like every ball you could get a catch. But, (Rabada) bowled really well," he said. "He used the (Lord's) slope and various angles really well, broke partnerships when there was a partnership to break and did what he does... so special to have been on the field," Markram said. As wicket-keeper, Verreynne is uniquely poised to witness what makes Rabada the star he is – or in his words, a 'different beast'.

The 28-year-old was behind the stumps when his team-mate took that special five-for at Lord's a few years ago, "Any game that he plays in, any team that he plays for, KG with the Proteas badge, and I think especially in white kit, is a different beast," Verreynne said.

"I know how much Test cricket means to him and I know how much he loves this current team and this space, so putting all of those things into his performance, I think he'll be a massive threat," Verreynne added.

Mumbai Falcons ready to face Bandra Blasters in T20 Mumbai semifinal

Mumbai : SoBo Mumbai Falcons warmed up for the knockout stage with a facile win against Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs in its last T20 Mumbai league stage tie at the Wankhede Stadium here.

The five-wicket win – set up by Ishan Mulchandani's second fifty of the season and his crucial partnership with captain Angkrish Raghuvanshi, who took over from Shreyas Iyer for Sunday night's game – was SoBo Mumbai Falcons' fourth win in five

league games. Eagle Thane Strikers were the only other team to win four league games.

It means that the Falcons will take on NaMo Bandra Blasters in the second semifinal on Tuesday under lights at the Wankhede Stadium. And the Falcons' troupe – led by Shreyas and Raghuvanshi and ably guided by Team Principal Vikrant Yeligati – has all the bases covered heading into the business of the tournament.

As he showcased during his 99-run partnership

with Raghuvanshi at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday night, Ishan Mulchandani was in sublime touch. With 147 runs, he is the Falcons' highest run-getter of the tournament. Similarly, Siddharth Raut continued his exploits with the new ball as the seasoned pacer has justified his billing of the leader of the pace pack.

Add to that the fact that the allrounder duo of Vinayak Bhoir and Akash Parkar – who had a four-wicket haul against Aakash Tigers – are in top gear underlines that the Falcons are

a well-oiled machine that's raring to go at full throttle against the Blasters. Both Bhoir – the left-arm spinner and left-handed batter – and Parkar, the big-hitter and a right-arm pacer, have had at least one notable contribution both with the bat and the ball.

While the seasoned duo has maintained the balance of the team, the Falcons have also unearthed the find of the tournament in Harsh Aghav. The young batter has the ability to dominate the bowlers with textbook shots.

Paraguay has nothing to lose against Brazil: Alfaro

Sao Paulo : Paraguay manager Gustavo Alfaro has said that his side will approach its crucial World Cup qualifier against Brazil with the belief that a place on the sport's grandest stage is within reach. Paraguay, which last featured at the World Cup in 2010, is third in the 10-team South American group with 24 points, two ahead of fourth-placed Brazil. The top six teams will qualify directly for next year's showpiece in the United States, Mexico and Canada while the seventh-ranked side will earn a playoff spot. "These are the kinds of matches in which we have everything to win and nothing

to lose," Alfaro said on Sunday ahead of Tuesday's clash at Corinthians Arena in Sao Paulo. "Brazil is always a difficult opponent but at the same time we know that if we win we could get the outcome that we've been striving for. It's a dream that has been put on hold for 15 years," he added. Paraguay is unbeaten in nine games since Alfaro replaced Daniel Garnero as manager last August. While accepting that Brazil would pose a stern test under new head coach Carlo Ancelotti, the Argentine expressed confidence that his team had the mindset to overcome the five-time world champions.



Sinner & Alcaraz thriller proves rivalry here to stay

Paris : A first major final between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, the two best players in the world, always promised to deliver.

But even the most optimistic could not have anticipated it would reach the heights it did during a breathtaking five hours and 29 minutes.

The two generational talents played out an instant classic at Roland Garros, in which Spain's Alcaraz recovered from two sets down – and saved three championship points – to retain his French Open title after a fifth set match tie-break.

Alcaraz is only the third man to win a major final after saving a championship point since the Open era began in 1968.

It was a fifth major triumph for Alcaraz, 22, who has now shared the sport's past six major titles with Italy's world number one Sinner, 23, according to a BBB news.

Sunday's blockbuster, which broke the record for the longest French Open final in history, was the first Grand Slam men's final to feature two players born in the 2000s.

If any doubt remained, this was confirmation of the dawn of a new era in men's tennis.

For more than two decades the men's game was dominated by Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

But Djokovic, the only remaining active member of the trio, admitted he could have played his last French Open after his latest bid for a standalone record 25th Grand Slam title was ended by Sinner in the semi-finals.

As the excitement surrounding Alcaraz and Sinner's rivalry entered the

stratosphere in Paris on Sunday, the question of who could rise up and fill the void at the end of the 'Big Three' era has been answered.

Seven-time major winner Mats Wilander, who won the previous longest Roland Garros final in 1982, said on TNT Sports: "Fe-



derer and Nadal played a couple of good finals, but nothing comes close to this.

"I thought: 'This is not possible - they're playing at a pace that is not human.'"

"These are two of the best athletes the human race can put forward and they happen to be tennis players. I'm not speechless often, but what a wonderful day."

This was the first meeting in a major final between two familiar foes who have become the standout performers on the ATP Tour.

Italy's Sinner, who served a three-month doping suspension between February and May, has shown remarkable consistency over the past 20 months, losing just 10 of 121 matches since the Beijing Open in September 2023. But half of those defeats have come in his past five meetings with Alcaraz. In fact, Sinner has lost just three of his past 50 matches – all to Spaniard. "I think every rivalry is different," said Sinner. "Back in the

days, they played different tennis. Now it's very physical, but you cannot compare. "I was lucky enough to play against Novak and Rafa. Beating these guys, it takes a lot.

"I have the same feeling with Carlos and some other players. It's very special. I'm happy to be part of this."

Alcaraz, who will begin his Wimbledon title defence in just three weeks, now leads the head-to-head with Sinner 8-4. In becoming the first man to win his first five Grand Slam singles finals in the Open era, Alcaraz ended Sinner's perfect record in major finals and his pursuit of a third-straight slam.

"Every match I'm playing against him is important," Alcaraz said.

"This is the first match in a Grand Slam final. Hopefully not the last because every time we face each other, we raise our level to the top.

"If you want to win Grand Slams, you have to beat the best tennis players in the world."

With seven of the past eight slams going to Alcaraz and Sinner – a streak of dominance punctuated only by Novak Djokovic's 24th major title at the 2023 US Open – it remains to be seen if any other players can challenge the newly established status quo.

Usman Khawaja quizzed on Australia's opening debate for Lord's

London : Australia batter Usman Khawaja is not concerned by who will win the nod to partner him at the top of the order during the ICC World Test Championship Final and is instead focused on making his own solid contribution with the bat during the Ultimate Test at Lord's.

Khawaja has been a mainstay at the top of Australia's batting order for the entire World Test Championship cycle, but the experienced left-hander has had a variety of partners as opener in recent times since the retirement of long-time teammate David Warner.

The Aussies have tried Steve Smith, Nathan McSweeney, Travis Head and Sam Konstas alongside Khawaja since the retirement of

Warner from Test cricket at the start of last year and the reigning World Test Championship winners are even considering promoting usual No.3 Marnus Labuschagne up the order for the one-off Test against South Africa.

Both Labuschagne and Konstas are in London and in a head-to-head battle to fill the role as opener against the Proteas, but Khawaja didn't want to be drawn into the debate about who his partner might be when the one-off Test commences in North London on Wednesday.

Khawaja spoke with ICC Digital at Lord's on Sunday and the opener suggested the uncertainty about his opening partner at the World Test Championship Final wasn't providing any distraction for him in the lead-up to



the contest. "Not really, to be honest," Khawaja said when asked about whether the lack of clarity on who will open with him at Lord's affects his mindset. "Opening is so tough... I'm worried about how the ball is going to bowl to me and what I need to do," he said. "The opposite, whoever's opening with me is thinking exactly the same. Then we're kind of in the middle working together how we're going to blunt out

this attack," Khawaja said.

"It doesn't really change my game too much. If anything, the change was probably a little bit quieter without Davey. But for me, it's just about what I need to do for my team and then where I need to work with my partner while I'm out there," he said. Just how Khawaja fares during the World Test Championship Final will be pivotal to Australia's chances, with the left-hander having made the most runs for the side during the current cycle with a total of 1,422 runs prior to the Lord's clash.

And while Khawaja knows he is closer to the end of his career than the start, the 38-year-old believes he is still at the top of his game and has no immediate thoughts of retiring while

he's still contributing to the side.

"To me, age is irrelevant," Khawaja stated.

"If I'm still enjoying my game, still training really hard, I'm still scoring runs, still contributing to the team where I can, I've still got the hunger," he said.

"I don't really think of anything as different, but I'm very open. I'm really just enjoying my cricket at the moment. Everything that has a beginning has an end," Khawaja said.

"I don't know when that end will be, but for me it's all about staying in the moment, enjoying it one Test match at a time, one series at a time. And when it's time to hang up the boots, I'll gracefully do that, whatever it be," he added.

Liverpool midfielder Elliott to consider future at club

London : Liverpool midfielder Harvey Elliott has said he does not want to be "wasting years" in his career and this summer will weigh up whether to stay at the club.

The 22-year-old, who is part of the England squad for the European Under-21 Championship in Slovakia this summer, was limited to 18 Premier League appearances for Liverpool last season, 16 of them as a substitute.

His only two starts came in defeats at Chelsea and Brighton after the Reds had already secured the Premier League title in manager Arne Slot's first season in charge.

Overall, Elliott played 28 games in all competitions, which included six starts as he totalled five goals and three assists in 822 minutes of action.

In comparison, he made 53 appearances, including 27 starts, in the 2023-24 campaign when he scored four goals and provided 11 assists, the BBC reported.

"It's just a situation that me and the team have to have a conversation



about because I'm coming into an age now where I'm 22, I'm going to be 23 next season," said Elliott when asked if he is considering leaving Liverpool.

"I don't really want to be wasting years on my career because it's a short career. You don't know what's going to happen."

"I need to reflect. I need to see if I'm content in doing what I'm doing

and how can I improve as a player because that's the most important thing.

"I just want to improve and be the best possible version of myself. If that's to go somewhere else, then it's a decision that I'm going to have to make and I just need to see what happens."

"Nothing makes me want to leave. I love the club, I love the fans, the team. I support them as well. But

most importantly, it's just about what's best for my career."

Liverpool are trying to sign attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen this summer which could further limit Elliott's chances of first-team football.

Elliott, who was sidelined for about three months when he suffered a broken foot in September, added: "After my injury, I think it was always going to be hard, but I'd hoped I would have got some more opportunities - but football is football."

Elliott, who joined Liverpool as a 17-year-old from Fulham in July 2019, returned from injury in December.

He hoped scoring a late winner in the first leg of a last-16 Champions League tie at Paris-St-Germain in March would be a turning point for him, but it proved not to be the case.

Elliott was a half-time substitute against Southampton in Liverpool's next game before the second leg of the tie against PSG, which the Reds lost on penalties.



BSE Sensex	
Close	Percent change
82,445.21	0.31%
Previous close	Open
82,188.99	82,574.55
High	Low
82,669.00	82,369.24

Nifty 50	
Close	Percent change
25,103.20	0.40%
Previous close	Open
25,003.05	25,160.10
High	Low
25,160.10	25,077.15

Nifty 500	
Close	Percent change
23,330.55	0.71%
Previous close	Open
23,165.10	23,308.65
High	Low
23,335.35	23,254.55

Nifty Next 50	
Close	Percent change
68,843.50	1.25%
Previous close	Open
67,992.85	68,351.10
High	Low
68,861.70	68,246.85

Nifty 100	
Close	Percent change
25,779.45	0.55%
Previous close	Open
25,638.80	25,795.35
High	Low
25,800.25	25,721.40

Nifty Bank	
Close	Percent change
56,839.60	0.46%
Previous close	Open
56,578.40	57,049.50
High	Low
57,049.50	56,792.70

Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	Percent change
59,674.95	1.13%
Previous close	Open
59,010.30	59,388.60
High	Low
59,709.75	59,322.35

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Jio Financial	304.25	3.49
Kotak Mahindra	2,138.20	3.13
Bajaj Finance	9,607.50	2.52
Trent	5,913.50	2.36
Axis Bank	1,219.90	2.12

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Eternal	256.84	-1.92
ICICI Bank	1,434.80	-1.71
Titan Company	3,533.90	-0.73
M&M	3,087.40	-0.61
Adani Ports	1,467.10	-0.31

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Aug 05	96,834.00	-202.00 -0.21
Silver Jul 04	106,085.00	626.00 0.59
Crudeoil Jun 18	5,568.00	34.00 0.61
Naturalgas Jun 25	318.20	-7.50 -2.30

Sensex up by 256.22 points

Mumbai : Continuing its upward streak for the fourth straight session, BSE Sensex on Monday rose by 256.22 pts to settle at 82,445.21 tracking Positive cues from global peers

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) advanced by 100.15 pts to 25,103.20

BSE Sensex on Monday opened at 82,2574.55 up by 385.56 pts. Sensex rose to the day high of 82,669.00 and recorded day low of 82,369.24

The NSE registered a day's high at 25,160.10 and a day's low at 25077.15.

All sectoral Indices except Realty which was down by 0.11 pc ended the session on positive note with Utilities being the top gainer up by 1.65 pc

Other gainer were Power by 1.43 pc, Oil & gas by 1.12 pc, IT by 1.02 pc, Energy by 0.93 pc, Financial by 0.86 pc, Bankex by 0.69 pc, Capital goods by 0.73 pc, health care by 0.62 pc Industrial by 0.72 pc and auto by 0.48 pc

The mid-cap rose 1.03 pc and the Small-cap moved up by 1.19 pc.



In 30 scrips, 21 advanced while 9 declined.

Top five gainers were Kotak Bank by 3.20 pct to 2,138.55, Bajaj Finance by 2.63 pc to Rs 9,620.00, Axis Bank by 2.24 pc to Rs 1,222.00, Bajaj Finsv by 1.66 pc to 2,022.45 and Indus Bank by 1.60 pc to Rs 836.95

Top Five loser were Eternal by 1.89 pc to Rs 257.00, ICICI

Bank by 1.68 pc to Rs 1,434.95, Itian by 0.76 pc to Rs 3,534.00, M&M by 0.52 pc to Rs 3,089.00 and Adani Ports by 0.21 pc to Rs 1,467.00

The market breadth was positive. On the BSE, 2,805 shares rose and 1,400 shares fell. A total of 130 shares were unchanged.

European markets traded

lower on Monday as global investors remained cautious ahead of the upcoming US-China trade talks, which are expected to take place in London.

Asian stocks ended higher as investors awaited trade discussions between the United States and China and reviewed the latest economic data from China and Japan.

Massive infra development stimulating rapid economic growth of J&K: LG

Jammu : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday laid the foundation stone of Dhusneri Polyfilm Limited Industrial Unit in Dohlian Jattan Village in Kathua.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the Chairman, Dhusneri Group of Industries, Chandra Kumar Dhanuka, all the members of the Dhusneri group, officials of J&K Industries Department and the District Administration and conveyed his best wishes for the upcoming state-of-the-art BOPP Production unit in Kathua.

He said the project will create thousands of jobs for local youths, foster local economic upliftment and create massive business opportunities in the surrounding rural areas.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that, in the last few years, J&K has witnessed a completely new work culture focussed on Industrial growth that benefits all sections of society.

“Massive Infrastructure development is stimulating rapid economic growth of J&K, which will soon become the principal market of north, a manufacturing hub and a competitive provider of services,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Young and Skilled work force of J&K is our strength and they will drive the future growth of our economy.

“We are witnessing an era of rising aspirations. Our youth are dedicated to creating a vibrant and industrious society and they have taken their destiny into their own hands and

are shaping a brighter future for UT,” he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment to decentralizing the industrial infrastructure and creating opportunities in underdeveloped regions of J&K UT.

“Unless industries are established, development will remain a dream. Due to the progressive Industrial Policy, regions like Jammu, Kathua, Samba are achieving new milestones in the industrial sector.

From policy initiative to implementation on the ground, incredible achievements have been made for Industrial growth of J&K. We have placed special emphasis on industries that will empower the local economy.

Transparent governance has improved management of resources. The rule of law has ensured that all stakeholder institutions, including government officials, are accountable,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the people to remain aware of the nefarious designs of the Adversaries who are making desperate attempts to disrupt Jammu Kashmir’s flourishing economy, industries and tourism sectors and trying to divide the society on religious lines.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the significant contribution of Dhusneri Group to India’s manufacturing sector.

Spread over an area of about 300 kanals in Dohlia Jattan village, the project, targeted to be commissioned in 2026, will be constructed in two phases with a combined installed capacity of 1,28,400 TPA, and will generate 1000 employment opportunities.

L&T Finance completes acquisition of Paul Merchants Finance's gold loan business

Hyderabad : L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), on Monday, announced the completion of transfer of gold loan business of Paul Merchants Finance Private Ltd. (PMFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Paul Merchants Ltd., to LTF. LTF is one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India.

The acquisition includes PMFL’s 130 branches, around 700 employees, and the business transfer of its gold loan book size of Rs 1,350 Crore to LTF, the company said in a release.

Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO of LTF, said, “In line with our five-pillar strategy of enhancing customer acquisition, we continuously endeavour to expand our existing product offerings in a synergistic and contiguous manner.”

“LTF has one of the largest rural franchises of around 1.6 crore rural customers, and hence, this acquisition is a natural, contiguous cross-sell product extension of our business. Our rural workforce of 20,000 feet-on-street will provide an immediate force multiplier,



enabling active generation of gold loan leads within our existing customer base. This is a significant strength that sets us apart from the competition,” Roy added.

Earlier this calendar year, LTF had announced the proposed acquisition of gold loan business undertaking of PMFL, marking its entry into gold loan business. The gold loan franchise will be an addition to LTF’s portfolio of secured loan products.

This acquisition is not just about expanding our offerings; it’s about solidifying our position as a comprehensive financial partner for our customers across the country,” Roy said. Sat Paul Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director of PMFL, said, “We are confident that the customers and employees transitioning to LTF will continue to thrive under its leadership and expansive ecosystem.”

Audi A4 Signature Edition launched in India priced at Rs 57.11 lakh

Mumbai : Luxury car manufacturer Audi launched the Audi A4 Signature Edition in India on Monday, featuring exclusive design elements that elevate its premium appeal and sophistication.

The Audi A4 Signature Edition starts at Rs 57,11,000 (ex-showroom). Commenting on the launch, Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, said, “The Audi A4 has been one of the best-selling sedans in our line-up, combining dynamic performance with sophisticated elegance. With the launch of the Signature Edition, we’re offering our customers a chance to own an even more exclusive variant, distin-



guished by bespoke styling elements that elevate its premium appeal.”

The Audi A4 Signature Edition is crafted for discerning customers who value refined aesthetics and seek to make a sophisticated statement through their

choice of vehicle, he added.

The Signature Edition features distinctive styling enhancements, including the elegant Audi rings entry LED lamps, exclusive Audi rings decals, and dynamic wheel hub caps that create a striking visual presence.

One Point One Solutions acquires majority in TECHSCIENT.AI

Mumbai : One Point One Solutions Limited, a publicly listed leader in Business Process Management (BPM) and digital transformation services, on Monday announced the acquisition of a majority stake in TECHSCIENT.AI Private Limited, an emerging AI-first no-code automation firm specialising in autonomous software engineering.

The strategic acquisition is aimed at enhancing One Point One’s AI-powered transformation capabilities and positioning it as a front-runner in India’s rapidly evolving digital transformation landscape.

TECHSCIENT.AI is a deep-tech company focused

on no-code workflow automation, generative AI applications, and intelligent process orchestration. Its proprietary platform enables enterprises to design and deploy scalable AI-driven workflows without manual coding, driving significant operational efficiencies across various sectors.

“With this acquisition, 1Point1 enhances its strategic focus on AI-powered transformation,” said Akshay Chhabra, Promoter and Director, One Point One Solutions. “TECHSCIENT.AI’s autonomous AI capabilities represent a pioneering shift in BPM. By integrating their advanced solutions into our ecosystem, we are en-

abling enterprises to automate complex operations, optimise costs, and scale at unprecedented speed.”

The acquisition will enable One Point One to embed TECHSCIENT.AI’s autonomous AI engine within its BPM framework, thereby optimising customer management, back-office operations, and workflow automation.

The combined teams will co-develop scalable solutions tailored for industries including BFSI, healthcare, fintech, e-commerce, and logistics.

The transaction is expected to be completed by September 30, 2025.

Founded by Akshay

Chhabra, One Point One Solutions Ltd. is a full-stack solutions provider offering services in BPO, KPO, IT, digital transformation, and analytics. The company operates centres across major Indian cities and international locations including the USA, UK, Europe, and the Middle East.

With a workforce of over 5,600 professionals, One Point One delivers services across customer support, sales, collections, tech helpdesk, medical summarisation, litigation, and more. The company has been leveraging generative AI and intelligent automation to enhance the value delivered to over 50 clients globally.

Atria Renewable launches community rooftop solar campaign in Bengaluru

Bengaluru : In a major boost to community-led green energy adoption, Atria Renewable on Saturday launched a community-centric rooftop solar campaign in Bengaluru, aimed at accelerating residential solar adoption through innovative micro-cluster models and same-day installations under the Centre’s PM Surya Ghar Yojana.

With a strong portfolio of over 500 MW of clean energy projects, Atria is tapping into neighbourhood trust networks — including Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), local communities and friends — to drive the collective installation of rooftop solar systems, ensuring affordability, accessibility and climate action at the grassroots.

Branded under the theme “Bangalore Deserves Better,” the initiative is designed to promote group-based installations for enhanced cost-efficiency and collective environmental impact. The company’s micro-cluster model en-



ables homeowners within the same locality to sign up together and receive subsidised rooftop solar units with streamlined implementation.

“At Atria, we have always believed in the power of clean energy to drive meaningful change not just at the individual level, but at the community level,” said C.S. Sunder Raju, Chairman

and Director of Atria Group. “This campaign empowers citizens to take immediate climate action, with added support from government schemes like the PM Surya Ghar Yojana.”

The scheme offers central subsidies of up to ₹78,000 to households installing rooftop solar systems, making adoption economically viable for Bengaluru’s urban and semi-urban households.

Founded in 1960, Atria was India’s first private entity to generate hydroelectric power and has since evolved into a major player in solar and wind energy. Its latest rooftop push aligns with national targets, as India’s rooftop solar capacity is projected to grow from 17.6 GW in 2025 to 41.52 GW by 2030, according to Mordor Intelligence.

Industry experts note that Bengaluru’s high residential density and strong civic participation make it an ideal candidate for such decentralised energy campaigns.

Better Nutrition set to cross Rs 100 cr revenue mark

New Delhi : Better Nutrition, India’s first biofortified food brand, is poised to surpass ₹100 crore in revenue in FY 2026-27 across its group businesses, having achieved a striking 5X year-on-year growth. The milestone comes amid the brand’s rapid expansion and growing appeal as a clean-label staple in Indian households.

Since its breakout appearance on Shark Tank India Season 4 in February, Better Nutrition has scaled nearly 10-fold, growing

from ₹10 lakh to over ₹1 crore in monthly revenue in just six months of launch. Its cumulative monthly run rate has crossed ₹2.5 crore, supported by a production rate of nearly 150 tonnes per month.

Co-founded by Prateek Rastogi and Aishwarya Bhatnagar, the company began with biofortified atta and rice enriched with iron, zinc, and protein, and has now expanded into dals and cooking oils.

“We are not trying to be flashy or momentary —



we’re building something foundational,” Rastogi said, stressing the brand’s aim to address India’s nutrition gaps through everyday sta-

ples rather than supplements or fads. Bhatnagar added, “Our goal is to democratize health. We’re fortifying the food that already feeds India

Rapido expands its footprint in AP by launching services in 14 cities

Vijayawada : Rapido expands its Footprint in Andhra Pradesh, with the launch of services in 14 new cities, including Ongole, Vizianagaram, and Eluru. Rapido, India’s leading ride-hailing platform, is expanding its operational coverage across Andhra Pradesh with the launch of its Bike Taxi and Auto services in 14 new cities.

With this strategic expansion into Ongole, Vizianagaram, Eluru, Madanapalle, Machilipatnam, Chittoor, Srikakulam, Bhimavaram, Gudivada, Narasaraopet, Nandyalu, Tenali, Tadepalligudem, and Tadipatri, Rapido now offers its

app-based mobility solutions in every district of the state.

This milestone strengthens its position as Telangana’s go-to platform for convenient, affordable, and accessible first and last-mile travel. The move is also aligned with Rapido’s larger goal of reaching 500 cities across India, underscoring its commitment to transforming local transportation.

As one of India’s largest contributors to the gig economy, Rapido has already created over 9 million jobs nationwide. Through this expansion, the company is aiming to generate 1 lakh new job opportunities and

empower residents with economic independence and flexible earning potential.

Rapido currently facilitates over 4 million rides daily, solidifying its position as the country’s leading ride-hailing platform. With this launch, residents can now rely on the Rapido app to book quick, affordable, and convenient rides—whether commuting to work, accessing nearby public transit hubs, or running errands across town. “We’re happy to introduce Rapido’s services in Andhra Pradesh, making dependable transportation more accessible and improving the way people move around their cities.