



Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

Year 13, Issue 342 | Delhi, Friday 13 June 2025 | 8 PAGES | ₹ 2.00



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Air India plane with 242 on board crashes

Near Ahmedabad airport



Ahmedabad: An Air India flight bound for London with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon.

Sources said the aircraft lost contact within minutes of takeoff and went down in the Meghani Nagar area. Rescue operations were on. National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) teams were brought in from Gandhinagar.

The Air India flight, a Boeing Dreamliner 787, crashed in a densely populated area near the airport. Immediately after the crash, local residents rushed to the area to help with rescue efforts.

According to Air India, there were 169 Indian nationals, 53

British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals on board. There were 12 crew members.

Air India in a post on X, said "Flight AI171, operating Ahmedabad-London Gatwick, was involved in an incident 12 June 2025." It said Air India continues to ascertain the details.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu and directed them to ensure that all necessary support is extended immediately and has asked to be kept regularly updated on the situation.

The Civil Aviation Minister informed the Prime Minister that he was rushing to Ahmedabad to oversee rescue and relief operations on the ground.

Air India chairman N Chandrasekaran said, "With profound sorrow I confirm that Air India flight AI171 operating Ahmedabad-London Gatwick was involved in a tragic accident today. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the families and loved ones of all those affected by this devastating event. At this moment our primary focus is on supporting all the affected people and their families. We are doing everything in our power to assist the emergency response teams at the site and to provide all necessary support and care to those impacted.

"Further updates will be shared as we receive more verified information. An emergency centre has been activated and support teams have been set up for families seeking information," Chandrasekaran said in a statement.

The airliner crashed outside the perimeter of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport after taking off from runway 23.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the aircraft issued a MAYDAY call shortly after departure but stopped responding to further communications. Eyewitnesses

reported seeing thick, black smoke rising from the crash site.

The Civil Aviation Minister said 'Shocked and devastated to learn about the flight crash in Ahmedabad. We are on highest alert. I am personally monitoring the situation and have directed all aviation and emergency response agencies to take swift and coordinated action. Rescue teams have been mobilized, and all efforts are being made to ensure medical aid and relief support are being rushed to the site.'

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel rushed to Ahmedabad from Surat to assess

the situation.

Ahmedabad airport officials announced cancellation of several flights. As a result, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, is currently not operational. "All flight operations are temporarily suspended until further notice," a spokesperson for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel airport said.

The airport has advised passengers to check with their respective airlines for the latest updates. "We request your cooperation and patience as authorities manage this evolving situation," the spokesperson added.

President, PM express grief over Air India crash in Ahmedabad

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed deep sorrow over the tragic crash of Air India flight AI171, which went down shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon.

In a post on X, President Droupadi Murmu said she was "deeply distressed" to learn

about the incident and called it a "heart-rending disaster."

"I am deeply distressed to learn about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. It is a heart-rending disaster. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected people. The nation stands with them in this hour of indescribable grief," the President said.

Meanwhile, Modi also

conveyed his anguish, calling the tragedy "heartbreaking beyond words". "The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it," the Prime Minister said.

He further added, "Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are



working to assist those affected".

The Air India flight bound for London with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport.

Sources said the aircraft lost contact within minutes of takeoff and went down in the Meghani Nagar area.

169 Indians, 61 foreign nationals aboard London-bound AI flight

New Delhi: The 242 passengers on board the ill-fated Air India flight AI171 that crashed on Thursday afternoon in Ahmedabad, included 169 Indian nationals, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals.

The flight from Ahmedabad to London

Gatwick, carrying 242 passengers and 12 crew members, including two pilots, crashed after take-off.

On its social media handle X, Air India said that the injured were being taken to the nearest hospitals.

"Flight AI171, from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, was involved in an

accident today after take-off," Air India said in a post on X.

"The flight, which departed from Ahmedabad at 1338 hrs, was carrying 242 passengers and crew members on board the Boeing 787-8 aircraft. Of these, 169 are Indian nationals, 53 are British nationals, 1 Canadian

national and 7 Portuguese nationals," it said.

It further said, "We have also set up a dedicated passenger hotline number 1800 5691 444 to provide more information."

Air India is giving its full cooperation to the authorities investigating this incident, the Aviation Company said.

Jakhar expresses grief over former Gujrat CM Rupani's demise



Chandigarh: Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Thursday expressed grief over former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani's demise in an Air

India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Jakhar wrote on "X" that he was extremely saddened and heartbroken to learn about Rupani's death.

Jakhar said his contributions as Gujarat CM would be cherished forever, adding that he was a humble and compassionate human being and grassroots leader.

"I have had the fortune of being associated with him as he was in-charge of Punjab BJP," Jakhar said.

Some past sordid AI plane crashes

New Delhi: A UK bound Air India Boeing with 242 people on board that crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon, has brought back sordid memories of plane mishap tragedies.

The most important was the one on January 24, 1966, in which the father of India's nuclear programme Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha was killed. Dr Bhabha was on

board Air India Flight 101, a Boeing, when it crashed near Mont Blanc in a controlled flight terrain while trying to land at Geneva Airport. All 106 passengers, including Dr Bhabha, and 11 crew members died in the crash. A misunderstanding between Geneva Airport ATC and the pilots about the aircraft position near the mountain was said to be the official reason of the crash.

On January 1, 1978, Boeing 747 of Air India Flight 855 crashed into the Arabian Sea after takeoff from Mumbai. All 213 people on board were killed. The aircraft was bound for Dubai but lost control due to instrument failure combined with pilot disorientation.

On June 21, 1982, Air India Flight 403 crashed at Bombay airport. Seventeen people were killed.

On May 22, 2010, Air

India Express Flight 812 overshot the runway at Mangalore and plunged into a gorge. The aircraft was bound for Dubai but lost control due to instrument failure resulting in 158 deaths.

On August 7, 2020, Air India Express Flight 1344 from Dubai skidded off the runway at Kozhikode Airport during heavy rain. The aircraft broke into pieces. Twenty-one people on board were killed.

'Tragic major catastrophe': Russian Ambassador to India says on Ahmedabad plane crash

New Delhi: Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov on Thursday described as a 'tragic



major catastrophe' the Air India plane crash with 242 people on board near Ahmedabad airport.

"Heartbreaking news is coming from Ahmedabad. My heartfelt sympathy to the families and near ones of the victims and to all Indian people and the government of India over this tragic major catastrophe," he said.

Aircraft crashed immediately after take-off: DGCA

New Delhi: The London-bound Air India flight 171 crashed immediately after it took off from Ahmedabad Airport around 1.39 pm on Thursday afternoon, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has said. The ill-fated flight took-

off from runway 23 and was carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members, including two pilots. The DGCA reported that shortly after departure, the aircraft made a “MAYDAY” distress call, signaling a life-threatening emergency. However, despite

multiple attempts by Air Traffic Control (ATC) to re-establish communication, the aircraft did not respond. The aircraft fell to the ground outside the airport perimeter shortly thereafter, resulting in a catastrophic crash. Heavy black smoke emanating from the crash

site was seen, indicating the severity of the incident. The aircraft was under the command of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, a seasoned pilot with 8,200 flying hours. He was assisted by co-pilot Clive Kunder, who has 1,100 hours of flying experience, said the DGCA.



Mumbai hospital keeps beds ready for Ahmedabad plane crash victim

Mumbai : The National Burns Centre, a specialised facility for the treatment of burn-related injuries in neighbouring new Mumbai city has kept beds ready in view of the crash of an Air India plane in Ahmedabad, a senior official said. While talking to UNI Dr Sunil Keswani, medical

director of the hospital said “Considering the seriousness of the Ahmedabad-London flight crash incident, we have kept 20 beds ready on our own”. He said so far no one has contacted the hospital, but during a disaster it is their routine practice. The hospital is run by Indian Burns Research Society.

Ill-fated Boeing aircraft that crashed near Ahmedabad had a packed schedule

New Delhi: The Ill-fated AI-171, the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft that crashed soon after take-off in Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon, was delivered to Air India in January 2014. Assigned the call sign VT-ANB, the aircraft, operating as AI 423, had arrived in Ahmedabad from Delhi at 11.14 a.m. The aircraft had in the early hours of the morning successfully completed a Paris-Delhi flight, landing at IGIA airport at 1.34 a.m. From then and until nearly 10 am, when it took off for

Ahmedabad, the aircraft was on the tarmac and would have been subjected to engineering and flight safety checks. Considered one of the safest commercial aircraft in the world, the first Dreamliner had entered service with Air India in 2012. The ill-fated aircraft first flew in December 2013 and entered service with Air India in January 2014. From London, the aircraft was scheduled to operate as AI 146 to Goa later today, and would have returned to Delhi Friday afternoon.

Ahmedabad plane crash: Bollywood celebrities express their condolences over incident

Mumbai: Hours after the tragic crash of Air India aircraft near Ahmedabad’s Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport during takeoff on Thursday, Bollywood personalities and celebrities shared their shock over the incident on their respective social media handles. “Shaken by the news of the Air India flight crash that took place shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad. The weight of such tragedies is impossible to put into words. Praying deeply for

the passengers, the crew, and every family waiting for answers tonight,” wrote actor Janhvi Kapoor in her Instagram story. Bollywood actor Sunny Deol said in a post on X, “Devastated by the news of the plane crash in Ahmedabad. Praying with all my heart for survivors — may they be found and receive the care they need. May those who lost their lives rest in peace, and may their families find strength in this unimaginable time.” Randeep Hooda said, “Heartbreaking to hear

about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected. Hoping for survivors and strength for the rescue teams. May the departed rest in peace, and may their families find the strength to endure this immense loss.” Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt, Parineeti Chopra and other celebs have also responded to the tragic accident, praying for strength for the families of the passengers. Akshay Kumar expressed his disbelief

over plane crash in Ahmedabad, and wrote, “Shocked and speechless at the Air India plane crash. Only prayers at this time.” Alia Bhatt called the Air India plane crash “devastating”. “My heart aches for all the passengers and crew... thoughts and prayers with everyone on board and their loved ones.” Taking to X, film director and producer Karan Johar wrote he is devastated by the news of the Ahmedabad plane crash.

‘Absolutely shocked to hear about Air India flight crash at Ahmedabad’: BRS Working Prez

Hyderabad: BRS working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) on Thursday expressed deep shock to hear about the Air India flight crash at Ahmedabad. “Absolutely shocked to hear about the Air India flight crash at Ahmedabad. My deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the passengers and the crew who lost their lives in this tragic crash,” KTR said on platform “X”. Condolences to the families of the medical students who lost their lives due to this unfortunate and very tragic accident, he said it is so heartbreaking that this plane crashed into the Medical College hostel. “Praying for the speedy recovery of all those injured,” he tweeted.

Odisha CM saddened by Air India Ahmedabad–London plane crash

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident involving the Air India Ahmedabad–London flight. In a post on X, Majhi said, “My thoughts and prayers are with all the passengers, crew members,

and their families during this difficult time.” “I earnestly pray to Lord Shri Jagannath for the safety and swift recovery of everyone affected,” he added. The Chief Minister further said that Odisha stands in solidarity with the people of Gujarat and all those impacted by this unfortunate event.



MP CM expresses deep sorrow over Ahmedabad plane crash

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed deep sorrow over the horrific plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday. In a post on X, Yadav prayed to the Almighty for the safety of all passengers and crew members on board. The Chief Minister described the news of the crash as

“extremely saddening and heart-wrenching”. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party’s state president and Lok Sabha MP Vishnudatt Sharma cancelled all his programmes in the wake of the crash. Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari also condoled the incident on social media.



In a post on X, he said, “Distressing news received about the Air India B787 Dreamliner plane crash, which was flying from Ahmedabad to London’s Gatwick Airport! I pray to God for the safety of the passengers!”



Stalin expresses shock over Ahmedabad Air crash

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed deep shock over the Air crash in Ahmedabad with 242 people on board on Thursday. “Deeply shocked by the horrifying crash of Air India Flight AI171 in Ahmedabad with 242 people on board”, he wrote on X. “My thoughts are with everyone affected and the families of those on board”, he said. “Hoping every possible effort is underway for rescue and relief”, he added.

Telangana CM expresses shock over plane crash

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed profound shock and sorrow over the crash of Air India Flight AI171, soon after take-off from Ahmedabad en route to London. In a message here on Thursday, Revanth said that, according to initial reports,

there were over 200 passengers on board. He offered prayers for the safety and well-being of all passengers and crew members involved in the incident. The CM urged the Central Government to undertake swift and effective relief measures to support the victims and their families.



Nitish expresses deep shock over plane crash in Ahmedabad

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed deep shock over the an Air India plane crashed soon after takeoff in Ahmedabad. In his condolence message posted on his social media account X on Thursday, Kumar said the crash was extremely sad and heartbreaking. He said, “I am deeply saddened by the news of the Air India plane crash. My condolences are with all the affected families in this hour of grief”. Terming the incident tragic, Kumar prayed for the well-being of the passengers and their families. A London-bound Air India flight carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed soon after taking off in Ahmedabad’s Meghani area near the city’s airport Thursday afternoon. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was also on board.



Mamata expresses shock over plane crash in Gujarat

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday expressed shock at the plane crash near Ahmedabad airport earlier today. “Stunned and profoundly shocked to know of the most tragic Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad today. It is the saddest news for all of us, and I convey my condolences to the victims’ families, even while we anxiously wait for

survivors’ details and pray for the survival of all,” the Chief Minister said on her X handle. The crash during take-off of the London-bound plane has shaken and deeply saddened her, she said. “While we do not know exact figures, media reports indicate that there were 242 passengers in the plane. I am praying to

God at this moment,” Banerjee said. Her nephew and Congress General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee said he was deeply anguished by the tragic crash of the Air India aircraft in Ahmedabad and demanded a thorough and transparent investigation.



India’s Covid case load touches 7,154; three deaths in past 24 hrs

New Delhi: India’s total number of Covid-19 cases has reached 7,154 as of 8 AM on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In the past 24 hours, 33 new infections have been confirmed, though case data from West Bengal is still awaited. Additionally, three new deaths linked to Covid-19 were reported in the last 24 hours: one from Madhya Pradesh and two from Maharashtra. These bring the total number of Covid-related deaths in

2025 to 77. On a positive note, more than 9,000 individuals have recovered from the virus so far this year. While several states have reported modest increases in active cases, Kerala remains the worst-affected, with 2,165 active infections as of Thursday. Other states with relatively high caseloads include Gujarat (1281), West Bengal (747), Delhi (731), and Maharashtra (615), based on data from the national Covid-19 dashboard. Health authorities have

attributed the current rise in infections to new Omicron sub-



variants — including JN.1, NB.1.8.1, LF.7, and XFC. These strains are noted for their high transmissibility but are causing

milder illness compared to earlier variants. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified them as “Variants Under Monitoring”, indicating that while they are not currently a serious threat, their progress should be observed closely. Covid-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has now transitioned into a seasonal pattern similar to the flu. Though no longer considered an emergency, the virus continues to circulate and may pose risks, especially to vulnerable populations.

Record booking in Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat

Jammu: The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has received a huge response with record bookings in the past six days, while seats have also been booked in advance for the next two weeks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6 officially flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat from Katra and dedicated the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (USBRL) rail link to the nation. “The train is completely packed for the next two weeks,” said a

railway official. “No seat is available till June 26 in two Vande Bharat Express trains running from Katra to Srinagar and vice versa,” he added. He added that seats have also been booked for the month of July, adding, “The annual Amarnath Yatra is starting from July 3, and a heavy rush is expected in view of that.” He said that apart from tourists and pilgrims, a large number of locals are also travelling by the rail that covers the distance in three hours.

Gehlot to students: Say no to drugs, yes to yoga

Bengaluru: Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot on Thursday made a clarion call to the youth of India to stay away from drugs and embrace yoga and physical activity, stating that their resolve and discipline will determine the country’s future and its path to becoming a developed nation. “Young people are the foundation of this country. If they take a pledge to stay away from drugs and adopt yoga and physical activity in daily life, India’s future will be bright, and we will move closer to becoming a developed nation,” Gehlot said, addressing students and dignitaries at an event organised under the “Yuva Shuddhibh Abhiyan”

initiative. The Governor was speaking at a joint programme spearheaded by the Ministry of AYUSH, Narcotics Control Bureau, HSS University, Vasya University, Indian Nurses Association and Addiction, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bhartiya Narsingh Allied Sangh and Disha Board Foundation. The campaign aims to promote a drug-free lifestyle through the integrated approach of yoga, awareness and rehabilitation. Congratulating all participating organisations, Gehlot lauded the campaign’s alignment with two key international observances—International Yoga Day on June 21 with

the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health”, and the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26. “In today’s technology-driven and materialistic age, mental stress, unhealthy lifestyles and rising addiction are major concerns. At such a time, the concept of ‘One Earth, One Health’ assumes special importance,” he said, adding that it reflects the interconnectedness of humans, animals, plants and the environment. The Governor underlined the deep connection between yoga and de-addiction, calling them twin pillars that strengthen both individual and societal well-being. He

said yoga not only improves physical and mental health but fosters self-control, which is essential to overcoming addictive behaviours. “Yoga leads to a peaceful mind, reduces stress and brings joy to life. In contrast,

substance abuse weakens both the body and the mind,” he said. Gehlot also highlighted the role of spiritual counselling and Rajyoga as effective tools in de-



addiction efforts, noting that many de-addiction centres have adopted yoga and spirituality as part of their core treatment. Sharing his own experiences as former Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Gehlot said he had personally visited de-addiction centres and witnessed their work. “Many drug peddlers stand outside schools and colleges and try to trap students by giving drugs for free. Once addicted, they begin charging money and exploit them,” he warned. The Governor stressed that youth vigilance and family involvement were both crucial. “I urge families to talk to children from an early age and make them

aware of the dangers of drugs. Addiction destroys health, breaks families, and ruins lives,” he said. Praising initiatives such as the MANAS State Helpline and new de-addiction centres, Gehlot said these reflected the government’s commitment not just to law enforcement but also to treatment, counselling, and rehabilitation. “Our ancient scriptures speak of the importance of yoga. Born on the sacred land of India, yoga is now uniting the world and promoting the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family,” he said. Calling yoga a blessing for humanity, Gehlot urged

all citizens to adopt it in their daily lives and encourage others to do the same. “I have personally experienced the positive impact of yoga and pranayama,” he added. Appreciating the scientific work being done to validate the effects of yoga, he expressed satisfaction that many programmes were being launched under the theme and that outstanding contributors were being honoured for their work. Concluding his speech, the Governor appealed to all present to “join hands for the cause of One Earth, One Health” and work collectively to build a healthier, drug-free society. “Let yoga be the path to a new India. Let youth lead this transformation,” he said.



Briefs :

Man stabbed to death after tiff in southwest Delhi

New Delhi : A 26-year-old man was stabbed to death in southwest Delhi's Kishangarh on Tuesday. Police have arrested the accused, a resident of Mizoram, who claimed that the victim and his girlfriend were arguing. When he tried to intervene, the victim allegedly assaulted him, prompting him to stab the victim in a fit of rage. The accused was identified as Lalhriatpuia, who currently lives in Haiderpur. Police got a PCR call around 1.12am on Tuesday. The victim suffered a head injury and was bleeding profusely. The injured man, identified as Parkash of Munirka, was declared dead in hospital. Parkash was in a relationship with a woman from Mizoram. "The woman is a friend of Lalhriatpuia's girlfriend," police said. On June 9, around 9.30pm, Parkash and Lalhriatpuia consumed alcohol and picked up Parkash's girlfriend. All three returned to Munirka. An altercation broke out between Parkash and his girlfriend, during which he assaulted her. When Lalhriatpuia intervened, Parkash hit him too, said deputy commissioner of police (southwest) Amit Goel. It seems Lalhriatpuia attacked Parkash in a fit of rage.

HC allows withdrawal of PIL on demolitions

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court on Wednesday allowed AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to withdraw his public interest litigation (PIL) challenging demolitions in the Batla House area, stopping short of issuing any order on its merits. A bench of Justices Girish Kathpalia and Tejas Karia declined to pass a general protection order, noting that such observations could prejudice the cases of individual litigants who might approach the court separately. Following the court's indication, Khan's counsel, senior advocate Salman Khurshid, opted to withdraw the plea. "The petitioner, a public-spirited individual, may inform local residents of their legal rights," the bench noted, adding that some affected persons had already approached courts and received relief. Khurshid argued that the land demarcation in question Khasra No. 279 was not carried out as per a Supreme Court directive and claimed the demolition drive threatened properties of innocent residents. However, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) maintained that the PIL was not maintainable in light of the Supreme Court's May 7 order directing the demolition of unauthorised structures on that plot.

FYUP: DU teachers oppose extra workload for 4th year

New Delhi: Delhi University's upcoming fourth year under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) has sparked fresh controversy after a university panel recommended no new faculty appointments to manage the added academic load. Instead, it asked existing teachers to absorb the extra work, prompting strong opposition from the teaching community. The Teaching Programme Committee (TPC), which met on June 10 at Daulat Ram College, suggested that all faculty take on additional teaching hours. It specified a minimum of five hours of teaching-related work daily and 14-16 weekly teaching hours per faculty, in addition to supervising student research. The committee also finalised orientation schedules for fourth-year students and directed departments to begin evaluating students' mentor-mentee booklets for recommendation letters.

Severe heatwave in Delhi, IMD issues red alert

New Delhi : Severe heatwave conditions persisted across several parts of Delhi for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue a red alert for Thursday. The IMD has also extended the heatwave advisory for the city and adjoining regions until June 13.

On Wednesday, the maximum temperature recorded at Safdarjung, Delhi's primary weather station, stood at 43.3°C — three degrees above the seasonal norm. The mercury soared even higher in other areas, with Aya Nagar logging 45°C, while Palam and Lodhi Road registered 44.5°C and 43.4°C respectively. The IMD categorizes a heatwave when temperatures reach 45°C or when readings exceed the average by more than 4.5 degrees.

The oppressive heat was compounded by rising humidity levels, which fluctuated between 73% and

31% during the day. As a result, perceived temperatures in parts of the city climbed to a scorching 50.8°C

Delhi, continues to endure intense heat stress. According to IMD weather scientist Krishna Mishra,



around 2:30pm and 51.9°C by 5:30pm. Light winds from the north and northeast, peaking at 10 kmph, offered little relief. Northwest India, including

"Severe heatwave conditions were observed in several parts of west Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and in pockets of Himachal Pradesh, south Haryana, and east

Rajasthan. However, only one Delhi station — Aya Nagar — reported official heatwave conditions on Wednesday."

The IMD anticipates similar temperature levels for the next two days, with a gradual decline expected from June 13 onwards. A yellow alert has been issued for Friday, forecasting isolated heatwave occurrences.

Looking ahead, meteorologists suggest that Delhi may receive relief starting June 13, thanks to the likely interaction of moist winds from the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. The forecast also includes a possibility of rain and thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds reaching up to 60 kmph by Friday.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category. The air quality index (AQI) rose to 245 on Wednesday, up from 217 the day before.

DU removes Manusmriti from Sanskrit course



New Delhi: Delhi University has officially decided to exclude the Manusmriti—an ancient Hindu text detailing laws and societal norms—from its academic syllabus. The announcement came via a post on the university's social media platforms.

In a tweet, the university clarified: "The University of Delhi will not include the Manusmriti in any of its courses."

The paper titled 'Dharmashastra Studies', a Discipline Specific Core (DSC) course under the San-

skrit Department where the text was listed as a recommended reading, has been removed."

The university also tagged multiple government officials in the announcement.

The initial inclusion of Manusmriti, often criticized for its outdated and discriminatory content, had triggered significant backlash. Notably, DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh had previously stated that any suggestions involving the addition of such controversial texts would not be accepted.

Safety first: Dwarka societies tighten fire norms

New Delhi: In the aftermath of a deadly fire at a Dwarka housing society that claimed three lives on Tuesday, several Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the area have initiated urgent reviews of fire safety protocols. Cooperative Group Housing Societies (CGHS) are issuing advisories and encouraging residents to adopt stricter safety practices, particularly concerning electrical usage and firefighting preparedness. Shortly after news of the tragedy spread, messages were circulated in neighboring societies urging caution. These emphasized maintaining operational firefighting equipment, proper handling of electrical appliances, and increased personal vigilance.

At Defence Officers Apartments in Sector 4, so-

cietty president and former Navy captain Krishan Kumar released an advisory around 11:30 am. He urged residents to avoid overburdening electrical circuits by limiting simultaneous use of multiple air conditioners. "People often run three or four ACs at once. The system needs intervals to avoid overheating or short-circuits," he said. Kumar also highlighted the need for periodic fire drills and consistent monitoring of fire and electrical systems.

In Sector 23's Prabha Apartments, president Madhu Kumar recounted a recent fire scare caused by a short-circuit at the society's main electricity meter. "Thankfully, our guards and residents managed to control it with 22 fire extinguishers before the fire brigade arrived," she said.

AAP slams demolition in Bhoomiheen camp, DDA defends action



New Delhi: A demolition operation was carried out at the Bhoomiheen Camp in Kalkaji on Wednesday morning amid a strong police presence. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) condemned the action, labelling it a "targeted attack on the marginalised." The party accused the BJP-led government of going back on Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's recent assurance that "not a single jhuggi would be touched."

Local MLA Atishi criticised the move, saying the poor had been betrayed. "Just three days ago, CM Rekha Gupta promised that no jhuggi would be demolished and no poor person would be rendered homeless. Yet today, with heavy police cover, the entire Bhoomiheen Camp has

been demolished, leaving thousands without shelter," she said. Responding to the criticism, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said the drive targeted encroachers who were not eligible for rehabilitation. It clarified that the eviction was part of an ongoing in situ slum redevelopment

initiative in Kalkaji. Eligibility was determined based on criteria set in the 2015 rehabilitation and relocation policy approved by the then Delhi government and administered by DUSIB. As per the policy, only households listed in the voter rolls from 2012 to 2015 and possessing one of 12 valid doc-

uments—such as a driving licence, passport, electricity bill, or bank passbook—were considered for alternative housing. Additionally, their names had to appear in the voter list at the time of the housing survey. Residents who used their jhuggis for commercial purposes, were minors, or lived on upper floors without a separate ration card dated before January 1, 2015, were deemed ineligible for relocation. The DDA also said affected individuals had the option to appeal their ineligibility before an Appellate Authority. Between November 2022 and May 2023, the DDA said 1,862 qualifying families from Bhoomiheen Camp were resettled in (EWS) flats at Kalkaji Extension.

Ordinance on school fees favours private schools, claims AAP

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday accused the BJP-led Delhi government of favoring private schools through a newly approved ordinance on fee regulation, describing it as a deceptive move aimed at misleading parents. The BJP has yet to respond to the allegations.

The controversy centers around an ordinance passed by the Delhi Cabinet on Tuesday that grants the government authority to penalize private schools with fines of up to ₹10 lakh for breaching fee norms. The ordinance also allows the government to revoke a school's right to propose fee hikes. Education Minister Ashish Sood announced that the cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, had approved the Delhi School Education (Transparency

in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Ordinance, 2025, which will now be forwarded to the President for approval via the Lieutenant Governor.

AAP's Delhi state president, Saurabh Bharadwaj, criticized the ordinance, calling it a deliberate move to benefit private institutions while sidelining the interests of parents. He described it as a "blatant abdication of governance," alleging that the law was crafted in a manner that heavily favors school managements.

Bharadwaj pointed out that, prior to this, schools were required to obtain clearance from the Directorate of Education before implementing any fee hike. "Since April 1, private schools have been raising fees unchecked and without approval.

Editorial

Invitation to India by challenging Khalistanism!

Defying pressure from Khalistanists, Canada's new Prime Minister has extended a special invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the G-7 summit. This invitation has come as a huge shock not only to India but also to anti-India groups in Pakistan, China and the West. This is being seen as a new beginning of rapprochement in India-Canada relations and is being seen as a concrete sign of India's acceptability on the international stage. This year, the two-day G-7 summit is being held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15 to 17, 2025. With 2 weeks left for the summit, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone to attend the summit. Of course, Prime Minister Modi accepted it. During this time, there was a discussion on strengthening bilateral relations between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. Modi also congratulated Carney on his election victory. He thanked them for inviting him to the G-7 summit. He expressed his hope that India and Canada will work together with renewed vigor under the guidance of mutual respect and shared interests and said that he was eager to meet at the summit. This invitation has come as a major blow to India's critics in Pakistan, China, Europe and the US, along with a few opponents in India. The G-7 group was formed in 1975. It is a group of major countries that dominate the global economy, financial institutions and markets. It includes the US, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Britain and Canada. With a share of more than 60 percent of the global economy, this group has always maintained a grip on the global market. It is an informal platform that brings Europe and America together. Initially, the purpose of the establishment of the G-7 group was to confront the restrictions imposed on oil exports by oil-producing countries. Over time, the G-7 group began to play a decisive role in addressing new economic challenges in an open economy. Earlier, Russia was also a member of this group, but after the invasion of Crimea in 2014, Russia was expelled from this group. Since this group does not have any permanent headquarters, the G-7 member countries take turns chairing the summit every year. The United Nations, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund also participate in this conference. For the last few years, India has been consistently invited to this summit as a special guest. Whether the country holding the presidency is France (2019), America (2020), Britain (2021) or Germany (2022), Japan (2023), Italy (2024), or as an invitee, India has been attending the summit as a must-attend member of the G-7. Narendra Modi has been receiving this honor as Prime Minister for the last 10 years. Even during the Corona period, Prime Minister Modi attended this conference in America through video conferencing.

This year, Canada is holding the presidency of the G-7. Sikh separatists had openly threatened the Canadian government that they would not tolerate India being invited to the G-7 summit. After this threat, there was doubt whether Canada would invite India to the summit or not. The background to this opposition was the shooting death of Canadian citizen and Khalistan supporter Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara in 2023. Alleging that the Indian intelligence service was involved in this murder, the then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Liberal Party of Canada) had made serious allegations against India. Since then, India-Canada relations have deteriorated significantly. Justin Trudeau, who failed to deal with the problems of rising inflation, unemployment, crime, and immigration, was facing immense anger in domestic politics. It is said that Trudeau bombarded India with accusations to divert the attention of the countrymen from these issues, unfortunately, the then Joe Biden government in the United States also supported him. During this period, Khalistanists also tried to incite the farmers' movement in India. The day of the assassination of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was celebrated in broad daylight in Canada, rallies were held against the Indian ambassador and other officials, their photos were put up, and death threats were also made. In the backdrop of all these developments, India strongly condemned the Trudeau government for supporting the Khalistanists while rejecting Trudeau's allegations. Moreover, the ambassador and high commissioner in Canada were also recalled. Finally, Justin Trudeau, who made false accusations against India without any evidence, had to suffer the consequences of his actions. He had to lose the post of Prime Minister within the next year. In fact, India-Canada relations were not always this bitter. During the tenure of the then Prime Minister Stephen Harper, trade and bilateral relations between India and Canada were cordial. But Trudeau, in his selfish politics, ruined these relations in the name of pleasing a small group of pro-Khalistanists. But not much was achieved. As soon as Donald Trump became the President of the United States, he vented his old anger by imposing a 25 percent tariff on Canada. The export tax on steel and aluminum has broken Canada's back. Most of Canada's trade depends on the United States. But, since Trump came to power, the Canadian economy has been hit hard by Trump's policies. The Russia-Ukraine war has divided the world into two groups. Donald Trump has created instability in the global market. For the last two years, some Indians have been in Canadian jails in the Nijjar murder case. Due to this, reactions were being recorded from all over the world on whether Canada would invite India or not. After Operation Sindoor, no country openly stood by India at the global level. There is a section that believes that if Canada had not invited India, India's image would have been weakened globally. All of them have received an answer with an invitation from Canada. Along with India, countries like South Africa, Australia, Ukraine, Mexico etc. have also received invitations to this conference, but the world is talking only about India. Inviting India, the world's fifth largest economy, to the G-7 50th anniversary summit, further highlights India's position in global economic politics. In fact, the honor that this invitation has given to India's global image is not just a diplomatic success, but also an assurance of India's growing international influence.

‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’



Under the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan interacted with farmers in Telangana.

He first visited Mansonpally village in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district to interact with farmers, followed by a Kisan Chaupal at Ramachandraguda village. During the interactions, farmers informed the Minister that they are adopting diversification and integrated farming practices, which have helped boost both their production and income. After the Kisan Chaupal, Shri Chouhan addressed the farmers at a programme organized in Mangalpally, Ibrahimpatnam. Shri Chouhan remarked that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and farmers are its soul. He said, "I am wholeheartedly committed to fulfilling the responsibility entrusted to me by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Today marks the completion of the first year of his third term in office, and I extend my

warm congratulations and heartfelt wishes to him."

He further emphasized that the prosperity of farmers is the government's foremost objective. He accentuated that advanced agriculture and economically empowered farmers are vital for building a developed India. Agriculture continues to be the primary source of livelihood for nearly half of the country's population and contributes 18% to the national GDP. In the fourth quarter of this year, the sector recorded a growth rate of 5.4%, a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of Indian farmers. "Our farmers have performed exceptionally, but we must continue to strive for even greater achievements," he stated.

The Minister outlined four key objectives that require focused efforts mainly, ensuring national food security by maintaining sufficient grain reserves; guaranteeing fair prices for farmers' produce; providing nutritious food to the country's 1.45 billion popula-

tion; preserving soil fertility and ensuring sustainable agriculture for future generations.

Shri Chouhan stated that the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan was launched with a spirit of collective participation. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between lab to land, ensuring that scientific research reaches farmers directly. To facilitate this, 2,170 teams comprising 16,000 scientists have been deployed to visit villages and disseminate region-specific agricultural knowledge. Recommendations on best practices and crop varieties are being tailored based on local soil fertility, climatic conditions, and regional requirements.

"The farmer is the true scientist," remarked Shri Chouhan. "Accordingly, I have directed agricultural scientists to actively listen to the practical challenges faced by farmers and to align their research efforts to address these real-world issues."

He underscored the government's commitment to establish-

ing millets (Shri Anna) as a globally recognized grain. "I am confident that the Indian Institute of Millets Research in Telangana will play a pivotal role in leading this global initiative," he added. He also called for enhanced research to promote palm oil cultivation in Telangana.

Shri Chouhan expressed his appreciation for the innovative farming practices observed in Ranga Reddy district. He highlighted successful initiatives such as intercropping of palm and papaya, cultivation of tomatoes and flowers, and the development of nurseries by local farmers. "One farmer shared that he is earning up to ₹3 lakh per acre. We are working diligently to remove every obsta-

borders, in addition to providing adequate storage facilities.

Special emphasis is also being placed on enabling small and marginal farmers to derive greater benefits. Integrated farming models are being actively promoted to ensure increased productivity and income.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Chouhan affirmed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts to transform Indian agriculture are being carried out with unwavering dedication and urgency. "We are formulating policies that will ensure maximum benefit for our farmer brothers and sisters," he assured.

Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agri-



cle in the path of your prosperity," he stated.

He further noted that the government is committed to making successful international agricultural research accessible to Indian farmers. He announced the launch of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), under which the central government will bear the transportation costs for tomato, potato, and onion produce sold across state

culture and Farmers Welfare; Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Agriculture Minister, Telangana; Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Member of Parliament; Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy, Member of Legislative Assembly; Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) Director General (ICAR), scientists, and officials from both the central and state governments also graced the occasion.

World Food Safety Day celebration at NIFTEM-K

National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K), an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), concluded a meaningful two-day observance of World Food Safety Day 2025 with a series of impactful initiatives aimed at strengthening food safety awareness and promoting scientific engagements. Themed "Food Safety: Science in Action," the events showcased NIFTEM-K's commitment to ensuring a safer food ecosystem through grassroots outreach and expert dialogue.

On June 6, in collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), NIFTEM-K organized a comprehensive food safety awareness workshop for over 100 street food vendors and small business operators from Delhi NCR and Sonipat. Led by the Department of Interdisciplinary Science, NIFTEM-K, the workshop educated participants on critical food hygiene practices, including the importance of personal hygiene and sanitation, protecting food from flies, rodents, etc, and adhering to safe food handling procedures. Vendors were also informed about the necessity of obtaining proper licenses and adherence to statutory requirements to ensure the legality and credibility of their food businesses. A highlight of the workshop was live demonstration of rapid adulteration testing kits developed by NIFTEM-K for milk and milk products, spices and tea. At the conclusion, participating vendors were awarded certificates for participation in the programme, reinforcing their role in upholding food safety standards and boosting consumer confidence. The session was illuminated by the presence of Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director NIFTEM-K, and Head of the Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences, who personally addressed the participants with the concept of "Thoda Kam" and "Eat Right" for a healthier tomorrow. He emphasized on

a very prominent role of food vendors in public health and highlighted their responsibility in delivering safe and clean food to the public. Dr. Oberoi noted that food safety begins at the grassroots and encouraged participants to adopt best practices in their daily operations. Dr. Oberoi also suggested that he will discuss with CEO, FSSAI to see if some of the food street vendors from Sonipat district can be trained jointly by NIF-

Shri Mukul Gupta, National Resource Person (FoSTaC), facilitated interactive training sessions covering a broad spectrum of food safety topics, starting from basics of hand washing, use of portable water, SOPs for washing utensils, basic pest control measures to rationale behind refrigerated storage, etc.

Continuing the celebrations on June 7, NIFTEM-K hosted a thought-provoking



TEM-K and FSSAI and are provided with the rapid detection kits, basic paraphernalia and modern carts, who can later become role models for other vendors. This chain reaction can help bringing in a drastic change in the way these food street vendors prepare and deliver food. Shri Ankeshwar Mishra, Joint Director (Training), FSSAI-HQ, also addressed the gathering and lauded NIFTEM-K's continued efforts to promote food safety education at the community level.

webinar focused on the critical role of science in food safety. In his welcome address, Dr. Oberoi asserted that science must extend beyond the laboratory and become an integral part of public health policy and everyday practice. He stressed the urgency of proactive food safety measures, cautioning that the next public health crisis might be a silent, foodborne epidemic. He also advocated for the inclusion of food safety principles in school curricula and proposed the devel-

opment of stainless steel food carts, low-cost rapid testing kits, and enhanced research on foodborne pathogens and contaminants. He emphasised on establishing a Centre for food safety and authenticity at NIFTEM-K with support from FSSAI in conducting cutting edge research to help FSSAI formulate robust food standards, especially for emerging contaminants. The webinar featured insights from several distinguished experts. Dr. Iddya Karunasagar, Advisor, NITTE University, Bengaluru, discussed the essential components of risk analysis—assessment, management, and communication—and emphasized that testing alone cannot ensure food safety, unless supported by good practices across the food chain. Dr. Rajan Sharma, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-NDRI, Karnal, presented rapid detection kits for milk and milk product safety developed at NDRI and also emphasised on the importance of food safety, especially in perishable commodities like milk and milk products. Professor Afrozul Haq, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Manipur International University, explored the current scenario of food safety in India, focusing on allergens and their relation with food safety and optimal consumption of vitamins, reflecting on the adverse effects of hypervitaminosis on health. Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director, Tea Board spoke on the safety concerns in tea processing, highlighting how contaminants can enter during production stages and commended NIFTEM-K's role in developing detection kits for pesticides and artificial colors in tea. The two-day program concluded with a unified call to action: to make food safety a continuous national priority embedded in policies, education, research, and public consciousness. NIFTEM-K reaffirmed its role as a national leader in driving food safety through innovation, awareness, and capacity building, committed to creating a safer and healthier food environment for all.

QCI Commemorates World Accreditation Day 2025

The Quality Council of India (QCI), the national custodian of accreditation in India, commemorated World Accreditation Day 2025 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

QCI, through its constituent boards—the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)—partners with global bodies such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to align India's quality and conformance infrastructure with international benchmarks.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of the revamped NABL Portal, which is aimed at streamlining the accreditation process and enhancing digital accessibility, particularly for laboratories and MSMEs.

Reinforcing industry-wide commitment to quality, the event also featured Gunvatta Samarpan—a unique initiative that encourages organisations to publicly



pledge adherence to accredited standards across sectors.

This year's theme, "Accredita-


tion: Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)", underscored the strategic role

accreditation plays in enhancing competitiveness, market access, and credibility for MSMEs. The

event opened with key messages from leadership and the release of a thematic video, setting the stage for dialogue on quality, innovation, and sustainable growth in the MSME sector.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, IAS, underlined the importance of accreditation in enabling Indian SMEs to access both domestic and global markets. He noted that certification and assessment bodies are crucial to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat @2047, by upholding quality, supporting exports, and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

Chairperson, Quality Council of India (QCI), Shri Jaxay Shah, in his keynote address, stated that accreditation is a gateway to global trust. He emphasized its role in helping MSMEs align with international standards, reduce rejection rates, boost productivity, and access new markets.



Briefs :

Degree of doctor posing as cardiologist found fake

Gurugram: The cardiologist degree of Dr Pankaj Mohan Sharma, who performed over 50 heart surgeries in over 8 months at the Heart Centre of the Badshah Khan Civil Hospital, Faridabad, has been found to be fake. Following the revelation, a fresh case has been registered against Pankaj Mohan Sharma; Dr N Pratap Kumar, CMD of Meditrina Hospital Private Limited, which operates the Heart Centre on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis; HR head Dalip Nair; centre head Piyush Srivastava; Mandeeip; and Haryana centre head Ajay Sharma at SGM Nagar Police Station. Dr Pankaj Mohan, director of KP Heart and Skin Centre, had received information that someone was fraudulently using his name to provide cardiology services at the heart centre operating within the District Civil Badshah Khan Hospital under PPP mode. Dr Sharma came under scrutiny after social activist and advocate Sanjay Gupta filed a police complaint on April 11, alleging that Sharma had acquired additional degrees using forged documents. Cardiologist Dr Pankaj Mohan also formally alerted CMO Dr Jayant Ahuja about the issue in a written communication dated April 21. An FIR had earlier been registered against Dr Sharma at the NIT, Faridabad, Police Station. According to the preliminary investigation, the accused had been operating under a stolen identity, using the National Medical Commission (NMC) registration number assigned to the legitimate cardiologist Dr Pankaj Mohan. He had been hired by Meditrina Hospital, which manages the Heart Care Centre at Badshah Khan Civil Hospital, in July last year. According to the centre, Dr Pankaj Mohan Sharma worked from July 18, 2024 to February 5, 2025, and, during that time, had seen over 4,100 heart patients.

Officials directed to complete drain cleaning work in Rohtak by June 20

Rohtak: Rohtak Divisional Commissioner PC Meena has directed officials concerned that the remaining cleaning work of all drains in the district be completed on schedule by June 20. He also conducted inspections of various drains across the district along with administration officials and issued necessary instructions for cleaning. During inspection, officials from the Irrigation Department informed Meena that most drain cleaning work had already been completed, and the rest would be finished by the set deadline. Meena inspected the Rohtak link drain near the IG residence, which had a capacity of carrying 300 cusecs of water. This drain benefits not only Rohtak city, but also the nearby villages of Mayna, Kanheli and Shimli. Officials reported that the internal cleaning of this drain had been completed. Following this, he visited the mechanical workshop and instructed that all pump sets must remain functional.

2 cyber fraudsters nabbed by Nuh cops

Gurugram : The Nuh cyber police have arrested two cyber criminals and seized fake SIM cards, mobile phones and other evidence of fraud from their possession. Two separate FIRs have been registered at Bichhor and Nuh Cyber Police Stations. The Nuh cyber police have arrested two cyber criminals and seized fake SIM cards, mobile phones and other evidence of fraud from their possession. Two separate FIRs have been registered at Bichhor and Nuh Cyber Police Stations. According to the police, during patrolling on Tuesday, information was received that a cyber-fraudster was waiting for a ride on the Nai-Hathan village road at Tir-wada turn. The police took immediate action and detained the accused, identified as Musharraf alias Gulzar, a resident of Naheda village in Nuh district. Another cyber fraudster, identified as Adil Hussain, a resident of Papdi village in Nuh district, was arrested from Nuh. Two mobile phones were also seized from his possession.

Massive blaze guts scrap warehouse near Pataudi

Gurugram : A massive fire broke out in a scrap warehouse located in Jamalpur near Pataudi on Wednesday afternoon. The fire spread rapidly, but employees working inside managed to escape and save their lives. However, most of the goods stored in the warehouse were reduced to ashes. By evening, the fire was yet to be brought under control. As of Wednesday evening, fire brigade teams were on-site attempting to extinguish the blaze, though the cause of the fire has not yet been determined. A senior fire officer stated that the fire broke out around 2.30pm at a scrap warehouse near Jamalpur village. “Flames and thick black smoke caused panic across the area, prompting locals to rush out of their homes,” he said. The warehouse reportedly contained large quantities of scrap along with other flammable materials such as plastic, rubber and wood, which allowed the fire to grow rapidly. Employees in the warehouse narrowly escaped the blaze. Upon being alerted, fire brigade team from Pataudi and Manesar rushed to the scene, deploying more than six fire engines initially. “Currently, 15 fire engines have been dispatched to the site. If needed, additional vehicles will be sent. We are trying to bring the fire under control. Due to the smoke, nearby residents experienced breathing difficulties and the administration evacuated the surrounding areas as a precaution. We hope to control the fire as soon as possible,” said Fire Officer Lalit Kumar.



Structures razed at three illegal colonies in Yamunanagar dist

Yamunanagar : A team of the Town and Country Planning Department carried out demolition drives in three unauthorised colonies. These unauthorised colonies were being developed on 11 acres of land, falling in the urban area of Jagadhri. District Town Planner (DTP) Rajesh Kumar said the teams of their department carried out demolition drives in three unauthorised colonies at Jagadhri city and Nabh village falling under Jagadhri tehsil of Yamunanagar district. He said the teams demolished kutcha roads, damp proof courses (DPCs), sewerage lines and water pipelines built in these illegal colonies. “As per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta, demolition has been carried out at unauthorised colonies in Yamunanagar district,” the DTP said. He said notices were issued to defaulters as per the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, but they did not follow the departmental orders. He said land owners did not take the necessary permissions before setting up these illegal colonies. So, structures were razed in these illegal colonies, he said.



Parliamentary committee reviews welfare measures for SCs

Chandigarh : The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, under the chairmanship of Faggan Singh Kulaste, conducted a study visit in Chandigarh on Wednesday. During the visit, discussions were held with Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi and other senior officers of the Haryana Government regarding the socio-economic and educational conditions of Scheduled Castes in Haryana. The implementation of various Central and state-sponsored schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes was discussed during the meeting. Cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, along with enforcing environmental sustainability measures were also discussed by the committee. Members of the committee present at the meeting included Anil Firojiya, Mallu Ravi, Pratima Mondal, Arun Kumar, Chandra Shekhar, Alfred Kannangi Arthur, Devendra Pratap Singh, Mithlesh Kumar, Phulo Devi Neta and Jagannath Sarkar. Senior officers of various state departments were also among the attendees of the meeting.

Govt targets greener future with launch of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign

Chandigarh : The Haryana Government has launched an ambitious green initiative, — ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0’ (EPMKN 2.0) 2025-26 — aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability through extensive plantation drives and robust public participation. The state’s action plan was reviewed at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, where senior officials stressed on aligning the campaign with key national missions and ensuring effective coordination at the district level. During the meeting, Rastogi emphasised that EPMKN 2.0 would be implemented using a “Whole of government” and “Whole of society” approach. He said the campaign would align closely with national flagship schemes such as MGNREGA, Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities Mission and the National Green Highways Mission. “This convergence is expected to maximize both impact and outreach, fostering ecological sustainability through collective action,” he said. He also underscored the importance of conducting a thorough review of last year’s plantations to ensure their sustained upkeep and growth and submit a report in this regard. The 2025-26 campaign will place a major emphasis on massive plantation activities, with a particular focus on school-led initiatives through Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE, under the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL). The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of involving youth and students, stating that “Instilling environmental responsibility at an early age will have long-lasting societal benefits.” In addition to schools, the State Forest Department (SFD), Urban Local Bodies and the horticulture and public works departments and the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran, along with community organisations and volunteers, will actively participate in the plantation drives. These activities will target riverbanks, canal bunds, Amrit Sarovars and other water bodies, in line with this year’s “Catch the rain 2025” theme under the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan. To ensure effective on-ground implementation, Chief Secretary Rastogi instructed all Deputy Commissioners to form District Plantation Committees. These committees will be responsible for identifying plantation sites, assessing land availability, preparing plant demand and finalising coordination plans. Each department at the district level has been asked to submit data on available lands suitable for plantation and to collaborate closely with nurseries to meet sapling requirements. They were also directed to prepare a plan regarding the aftercare of planted saplings under the scheme. The Forest Department has confirmed that 1.81 crore saplings are available for this year’s plantation drive across 200 government nurseries in 22 districts of the state. To facilitate access to this information, the department released a “Booklet on Forest Nurseries” on the World Environment Day 2025. Details of nursery locations and available planting stock are also accessible on the department’s website — haryanaforest.gov.in. The state will utilise technology for real-time monitoring of plantation activities. Data from school plantations will be captured through a microsite on the Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE portal (DoSEL). All other plantations by the Social Forestry Department (SFD) and other departments will be uploaded on the Meri LiFE portal — https://merilife.nic.in — which is managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Chief Secretary also directed district administrations to launch intensive social media campaigns to promote eco-conscious messaging under EPMKN 2.0. Students will be mobilised to hold plantation drives within and around their schools, colleges and university campuses, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in local green initiatives. Anand Mohan Sharan, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests and Wildlife, informed that last year, the state planted 1.87 crore saplings, with 52.21 lakh in the urban areas and 134.44 lakh in the rural regions.

Electrician killed in AC compressor explosion

Gurugram : An electrician died after a compressor exploded while he was working at Carrier Air Conditioning Refrigeration Company in Gurugram. The family of the deceased has accused the company of negligence and demanded a thorough investigation. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as 28-year-old Ghanashyam, a resident of Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. In the complaint filed by his brother, Radheshyam, it was stated that Ghanashyam had been checking the compressor on Tuesday evening when it exploded. The loud blast reportedly caused panic among the workers. Ghanashyam sustained critical injuries and was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him dead. “Ghanashyam had warned the company management several times about the poor condition of the equipment and negligence in safety standards. Their negligence cost the life of my brother,” said Radheshyam in his complaint.



Without consent, our land given to pvt contractor for storing sand: Growers


Karnal : Farmers, under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), continued their dharna for the eighth consecutive day in Mustafabad village on Wednesday. The protesters alleged that the authorities had, without informing them, attempted to hand over their agricultural land to a private mining contractor for storing sand. The growers claimed that nearly 24 acres of fertile land belonging to around 10 farmers was being taken without their consent or prior notice. They fear that storing sand on their land would adversely affect soil fertility. The protesters alleged that they were never informed or consulted before the land was allotted. The district administration has fixed a lease amount of Rs 1 lakh per year for farmers to lease out land to sand contractors, but farmers are unwilling to do so. “Our land is being forcibly taken from us for storing sand, which will adversely affect soil fertility. We do not want to give our land for this purpose, but authorities are allotting it to a mining contractor,” said Sumit Choudhary, a farmer. Sumit added that this would pose a threat of accidents since several dumping vehicles would ply through the area which, he noted, houses a government school and an Anganwadi centre. He said the protesting farmers would approach the National Green Tribunal to save their land.

Saini lays stone of 225-bed hospital

Jhajjar : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of a 225-bed modern hospital at Jatela Dham in Majra here on the occasion of the 225th Nirvana Day of Swami Nitinand Ji. He also inaugurated the Swami Nitinand Ashram Gausihala and planted saplings to promote environmental conservation. The CM announced that he would give Rs 31 lakh from his discretionary fund for the hospital. Cabinet Ministers Arvind Sharma and Krishan Kumar Bedi also gave Rs 11 lakh each from their discretionary funds. Extending greetings on the occasion of Purnima, Saini said Jatela Dham had become a remarkable confluence of faith, service and environmental commitment. He described Jatela Dham as a centre of spiritual consciousness. The CM said the hospital would not just be a structure of concrete and cement, but a true temple of humanitarian service. Once operational, it will provide essential healthcare to the people of the area, benefiting not only Jhajjar but the surrounding regions as well. Every district in Haryana will soon have modern, well-equipped hospitals,” he added. Saini said Haryana was the first state in the country to provide free medicines for Hepatitis B and C. Highlighting environmental efforts, the CM praised Jatela Dham’s decision to plant 82,125 saplings. “The government is also highly committed to environmental protection. Under the ‘Ek Ped Maa ke Naam’ campaign launched by Prime Minister Modi, Haryana exceeded its first-phase target by planting over 1.87 crore saplings.

Civic body catches 5 stray cattle

Yamunanagar : The Municipal Corporation, Yamunanagar-Jagadhri (MCYJ), caught five stray cattle from Sector 18 in Jagadhri falling under Ward No. 7 of the civic body today. After catching the cattle, they were sent to gaushala in Jagadhri by the MCYJ. Before sending them to gaushala, cattle were tagged, so that they could not be released from gaushala illegally. The MCYJ has so far caught 149 cattle this year and sent them to gaushalas after tagging. According to information, a team led by Chief Sanitary Inspector (CSI) Harjeet Singh reached Sector 18 to catch stray cattle. The team caught five stray cattle roaming in various areas of this sector. The CSI said on directions of Mayor Suman Bahamani and MCYJ Commissioner Akhil Pilani, the civic body was running a drive to catch stray cattle in twin cities Yamunanagar and Jagadhri. “We will continue this drive until each and every stray cattle is caught from twin cities of Yamunanagar and Jagadhri,” the CSI said. He said residents of the twin cities should click photos of stray cattle roaming in the MCYJ area and send them to the WhatsApp number 7082410524 along with their address and location. He said after getting information, the team of the MCYJ would reach the spot and catch the stray cattle. As per available information, the MCYJ has formed separate teams under the leadership of CSI Harjeet Singh in zone 1, CSI Vinod Beniwal in zone II.



HAU Registrar, security officer booked for assault on students

Hisar : The Hisar police today registered a case against eight officials of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), including Registrar, Chief Security Officer (CSO) and a professor, in the incident of attack on students who were staging a demonstration for restoration of stipend for meritorious students. The accused are identified as five security guards, Registrar Pawan Kumar, professor Radheshyam and CSO Sukhbir Singh — under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) including Sections 110, 190, 191(2), 191(3), and 351(3), which are related to assault, unlawful assembly and causing hurt. According to the FIR lodged by Deepanshu, a B.Sc (Hons) first-year student, their protest began peacefully and causing hurt. escalated when security guards identified as Bijender, Anoop, Jagmesh Poonia, Narender and Suman allegedly launched an assault, which was carried out by Prof Radheshyam, Chief Security Officer Sukhbir Singh and a group of university security guards. Deepanshu claims he was hit on the elbow with a stick by the Registrar and struck on the head by the professor. The incident took place when students were staging a sit-in outside the Vice-Chancellor’s office, demanding the restoration of stipend and better hostel facilities. After a clash at the VC office, the students later gathered at the VC residence late in the night where they were assaulted again, the students alleged. The FIR states that the Registrar, Pawan Kumar, allegedly ordered an assault, which was carried out by Prof Radheshyam, Chief Security Officer Sukhbir Singh and a group of university security guards. Deepanshu claims he was hit on the elbow with a stick by the Registrar and struck on the head by the professor.





Leadership restructuring: Cong holds consultations in Rohtak, Jhajjar, Rewari

Rohtak : In a bid to restructure the party at the district level, Congress observers have launched an intensive consultation process in Jhajjar, Rewari and Rohtak over the past two days, engaging with party workers, local leaders and key stakeholders to gather feedback on the appointment of new district presidents. On Wednesday, senior Congress leaders, including former MP and CWC member Jagdish Thakur, former MLA Rao Dan Singh and party leader Vardhan Yadav, held discussions with Jhajjar MLA Geeta Bhukkal and other local leaders and workers in Jhajjar. Thakur underlined the party's commitment to an open and inclusive process. "The new district president will be selected through consultation — not behind closed doors — with inputs from workers, party leaders, traders and the gen-



eral public," he said. Thakur stressed that the chosen candidate should be "a strong, assertive leader aged between 35 and 55, capable of representing the public voice and strengthening the party at the grassroots." In Rewari, Central observer BM Sandeep, along with state observ-

ers Suresh Gupta, Sunder Lal Batra and Parag Sharma, led similar interactions with local Congress functionaries. "Discussions focused on the selection of two district presidents — one each for urban and rural areas. Observers collected suggestions and emphasised that

only loyal and non-controversial workers with wide support would be considered," said party sources. BM Sandeep said, "The objective is to consult with former members of district and state committees, ex-MLAs and ministers to shortlist suitable candidates."

Former minister Capt Ajay Singh Yadav confirmed that many aspirants have expressed interest. "Observers will hold one-on-one meetings with these candidates. A panel list will be prepared based on input from former MLAs, MPs and representatives from Youth Congress, NSUI, Mahila Congress and Seva Dal. Six names each from urban and rural sectors will be sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi for final selection," he said. Former ministers Jagdish Yadav and ML Ranga, and former MLA Chiranjeev Rao also participated in the Rewari meeting.

In Rohtak, consultations were held on Tuesday under the leadership of senior Congress leader and former Youth Congress national president BV Srinivas, who was welcomed by Rohtak MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra and other observers.

DLF project sparks outcry in Aravallis, activists protest outside minister's home

Gurugram : The DLF Group has landed in controversy over the alleged felling of nearly 2,000 trees across 40 acres of land in DLF Phase 5, Gurugram, reportedly to develop a new real estate project. Residents and environmental activists claim the builder is "destroying the Aravallis" and have launched protests and official petitions seeking an immediate halt to the activity. Representatives of the Aravalli Bachao citizens' movement staged a protest outside Forest Minister Rao Narbir's residence. Though the minister was unavailable, his staff assured protesters that action would be taken by the weekend. The citizens have also written to the Chief Minister, Union Minister for Environment Bhupendra Yadav and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) appointed by the Supreme Court. An online sig-



nature campaign has been launched to gather wider support. "They are destroying the Aravallis. Around 2,000 trees will be axed in this patch. If they bought the land, then we say the sale was illegal and needs to be investigated," said Vaishali Rana Chandra, trustee of Aravalli Bachao. "We've been sharing visuals of reckless felling and land levelling with forest authorities, but they claim

it's not forest land. Anybody can look at the visuals and see that it is. Gurugram cannot afford more tree loss for luxury residences with Aravalli views." Despite repeated attempts, DLF has not issued an official statement. However, a senior company official, speaking off the record, claimed the land was private property and that all due permissions had been obtained for development.

Plastic glasses left after 'chhabeeels' on road acocern for green activists, MC

Kurukshetra : To provide relief to commuters travelling in scorching heat, social and religious organisations organise 'chhabeeel' at various locations in the city as well as on state and national highways. However, the use of single-use plastic glasses and later dumps of used glasses along the roadsides have drawn criticism from environmental activists. Executive member of Green Earth NGO Dr Naresh Bhardwaj, said "It is good to see people offering water and food to commuters in hot weather conditions to provide them

relief, but the use of single-use plastic items have been a matter of concern. After the 'chhabeeel' and Langar, a huge quantity of single-use plastic items including glasses, plates and spoons can be seen dumped along the road and in the drains. Though the district administration had launched drives to take action against the vendors selling and using the banned items, still it is being used openly." "Not only during 'chhabeeels', but the religious organisations, fast-food cart operators and banquets are also flouting the directions. Instead of us-

ing the single-use plastic, environment-friendly items, including should be used. The organisations can use steel utensils to offer water in 'chhabeeel' as it will serve their purpose without causing harm to environment. We have raised the matter in the past too with the local administration and we demand that appropriate directions must be issued by the authorities concerned in this regard", he added. Not only the NGO but the usage of plastic glasses has been a matter of concern for the Municipal Council authorities too. While on one hand,



the municipal council is conducting sanitation drives and awareness camps to improve the sanitation

conditions ahead of the upcoming state level International Yoga Day celebration, on the other hand, the

use of single-use plastic continues unabated. An official in the municipal council said a huge quantity of single-use plastic went into the drains causing blockage and it resulted in waterlogging during the rainy season. Though inspections were being conducted in the markets and the vendors were being sensitised not to use single-use plastic, people continued to use the banned items which was a matter of concern. District Municipal Commissioner Satinder Siwach, said, "The use of single-use plastic is not allowed and regular

checking will be organised in the city area. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being organised and challans are also being issued by the sanitation branch. A state-level International Yoga Day event is also scheduled to be held in Kurukshetra in which over 1 lakh people are expected and to improve the sanitation conditions, a special cleanliness drive is being run with the support of the National Highways Authority of India on the National Highway, Kurukshetra Development Board, Haryana

Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran and Public Health Engineering Department."

"Amid all activities, it has been observed that some organisations organise 'chhabeeels' along the roadside and then a huge quantity of plastic glasses are left on the roads which has been a matter of concern. Directions have been issued to the sanitation branch to motivate such people not to use plastic-glasses else action will be taken. They should adopt environment friendly products for the good cause", he added.

In attempt to get pending compensation, man builds wall in middle of state highway

Kurukshetra : The commuters travelling on the Kurukshetra-Pehowa state highway on Tuesday faced an avoidable inconvenience after they found a wall being built on the road. Demanding adequate compensation for his land acquired for the state highway, a farmer along with his family members attempted to block the road by building a wall on it. Balwinder Singh and his family reached the state highway with bricks and labour, and started building a wall. Balwinder and his family have been struggling to get adequate compensation for the land through which the state highway is passing.



As per advocate of aggrieved party Mithun Attri, Balwinder and his family had 22-marla land. In 2010, Balwinder got the demarcation of his land done and came to know that a road, built years ago, was passing through it and he was not compensated for his land acquired. Based on the demarcation, a case was filed in the Pehowa court. In 2013, the court ordered the government to either provide compensation or return the land, but no action was taken by the government. In 2014, an execution plea was filed, and in 2018, the court gave the possession of the land to the aggrieved party. The government then moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court. In 2023, the government's case was dismissed and at that time the aggrieved party had blocked the road in a similar way. The government again filed a fresh application in the sessions' court and recently, it, too, was dismissed last month. Soon after getting information, the police and officials from the PWD (B&R) reached the spot and attempted to persuade the aggrieved party.

However, this time the aggrieved party refused to accept the requests and claimed that even in 2023, the then Pehowa SDM had given assurance of resolving the issue, but the government had move to sessions court. After finding no positive response, the police officials swung into action and detained four people from the spot and got the bricks removed.

Later, an FIR was registered against five identified and some unidentified people for blocking the state highway. Officials of the PWD (B&R) on Tuesday had claimed that the aggrieved person had approached the court and a compensation of over Rs 5.50 lakh was provided to

him. However, Balwinder Singh was dissatisfied with the amount and approached the court again, which ordered the department to give more compensation to him. The matter was pending and recently dismissed by the court. He was assured that as per the court's directions and norms, rightful compensation would be given, but Balwinder Singh chose to block the state highway which was wrong. As per information, officials of the PWD (B&R) are expected to meet Kurukshetra Deputy Commissioner on Thursday to discuss the matter. Meanwhile, the advocate of the aggrieved party said they would approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court against the government. Political parties and farmer union have also expressed displeasure over action against the aggrieved party. JJP leader Dr Jaswinder Khehra today reached the site with the aggrieved party and said that despite getting court's orders in favour, a family was struggling to get its rightful compensation.

Despite deaths, deportations, migration craze lives on

Gurugram : Hisar The tragic death of 20-year-old Sahil from Nandgaon village in Bhiwani district has once again brought to fore the persistent and perilous dream of foreign migration among Haryana's youth. Just a month after reaching Canada on a study visa, Sahil reportedly drowned in a lake, leaving behind a heartbroken family. "We invested everything in his dream of going abroad," said his uncle Mukesh. "The family sold land and his father Harish, a retired Army man, poured in his entire retirement savings to raise Rs 40 lakh. We don't believe the drowning theory. There could be foul play." Despite the trauma of deportations, tragedies and rampant frauds, the desire to migrate abroad remains strong among the youth of Haryana. Recently, 333 Indians deported from the USA included 110 from Haryana alone — yet this has done little to stem the flow. After a brief pause, immigration agents are back in business — just more careful now. The USA has been dropped from our list; we're now focusing on Canada and European countries," revealed an industry insider. Even with growing awareness, cases of immigration fraud continue to rise. In Hisar, police arrested an agent who took Rs 26 lakh from two youths by promising them German visas. In Jind, a woman lost Rs 50.75 lakh after being duped by agents who promised to send her two sons abroad. A couple lost Rs 17.45



lakh on false promises of study and migration. In Sirsa, four youths paid Rs 30 lakh for jobs in Germany but were instead sent to Armenia and Dubai. In many cases, families have sold ancestral land, taken heavy loans or spent lifelong savings — only to be cheated. Responding to the growing menace, the Haryana Government enacted the Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Act, 2025, aimed at cracking down on unregistered and fraudulent travel agents. "All travel agents in the state must register within three months of the Act's enforcement and renew it every three years. Police verification is mandatory," the Act states. Viola-

tors face imprisonment of two to seven years and heavy fines. A police spokesperson said, "People must approach only government-approved agencies for visa services and avoid falling into the trap of fraudsters." Between 2021 and 2023, illegal immigration routes — popularly known as the donkey route — saw a surge among youth from Kailash, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Hisar and Ambala. Many used risky paths through Central America and Eastern Europe to enter countries like the USA, Canada and Australia illegally. In 2023, Haryana Police formed a (SIT) to combat immigration fraud. The SIT registered 1,500 FIRs.

Two 'illegal' clinics busted in Panipat

Karnal : In a major crackdown on unauthorised medical practices, a joint team of the Health Department and the CM's flying squad raided two private clinics in Panipat city on Tuesday and found several irregularities. Both clinics were found operating without valid permission or registration in Panipat city.



During raid at one clinic, a man identified as Shabir Ali was found sitting on the doctor's examination chair. On inquiring, Ali admitted that he was running the clinic. When asked about Dr Kajal (BAMS), whose name was mentioned on the board at the clinic, Ali told raiding team members that she was his daughter who got married to a Saharanpur resident in November 2024. The inspection team recovered a large stock of allopathic medicines, including multiple used injectable drugs, raising further concerns about illegal possession and distribution of medicines. Shabir Ali

failed to provide any document or medical degree authorising him to practice at the clinic. Based on a complaint filed by Dr Vishal, Medical Officer, Government District Hospital Panipat, a case was registered against Shabir Ali at the Model Town police station under Sections 18(a)(i) and 18(c) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Section 34 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the police

Former MLA Surjakhera, associate sent to ED custody in Rs 170-cr scam

Panchkula : In a major development in the Rs 170-crore money laundering case linked to Haryana Shabri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), a Special PMLA Court in Panchkula on Tuesday remanded former MLA and ex-Account Assistant Ram Niwas Surjakhera in five days of Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody. Ram Niwas was arrested on Monday, June 9, at 9 pm by the ED's Chandigarh Zonal Of-

fice-I, along with Sunil Kumar Bansal, the former Senior Accounts Officer of HSVP. Both officials are accused of orchestrating a "deep-rooted financial conspiracy" during their tenure in the state's urban development body (formerly HUDA). The court granted ED a five-day custodial remand, shorter than the 14-day period initially sought. Advocate SPS Parmar, representing Ram Niwas, op-

posed the plea and argued, "The arrest is illegal and unjustified." However, the court sided with the ED's contention that custodial interrogation was "essential to trace the money trail, confront the accused with evidence and prevent tampering with official documents." According to the ED's remand application, over Rs 100 crore was allegedly withdrawn in cash and routed through third-party bank

accounts. These accounts were often opened under the guise of "compensation settlements," with unsuspecting individuals lured into sharing personal banking details. The ED alleges that Ram Niwas directly collected cash from such intermediaries and routed illegal proceeds to accounts held by himself and family members. The case stems from an FIR registered on March 7, 2023, by the Sector-7 Police

Station, Panchkula. The complaint, filed by Chaman Lal, Chief Accounts Officer and DDO at the HSVP headquarters, alleged that between 2015 and 2019, a fraudulent bank account was used to conduct Rs 70 crore worth of suspicious debit transactions.

Crucially, this account was absent from HSVP's IT and cash branch records, raising red flags about internal complicity.

Bahadurgarh turns into garbage dump as sanitation workers' strike enters Day 9

Jhajjar : Bahadurgarh, a bustling industrial town on the Haryana-Delhi border, has turned into a garbage dump.

Piles of garbage can be seen across the city amid the ongoing strike by sanitation workers engaged through a contractor by the Bahadurgarh Municipal Council (MC). Workers have been on strike for the last nine days, demanding immediate release of their

pending wages. According to them, they have not received their wages for the past three months, leaving them with no choice, but to stop work.

In the absence of these workers, garbage collection is being handled by regular municipal staff and contractual workers appointed by the state government. However, heaps of waste continue to pile up along main roads of the industrial town,

highlighting the worsening sanitation crisis. "Over 300 workers have been engaged by the contractor for lifting waste."

We all are now on strike due to the non-release of our wages for the past three months. Majority of us depend entirely on this income to survive.

Until our wages are paid, we will not return to work," said Anil, one of the leaders of protesters. Savi-

ta, a street vendor selling clay utensils along Jhajjar Road, expressed deep frustration over the situation. "The stench from the garbage near my shop has become unbearable. We are forced to run our shops from because we have no other means of earning livelihood. The MC must either resolve workers' demands or find an alternative to lift waste every day," she said. Local residents echo the

same distress. Sunil, who lives near Railway Road, painted a grim picture. "It's becoming impossible to live here. Garbage is everywhere — outside our homes, shops and even near schools. The foul smell is overwhelming. We're worried about outbreaks of disease, especially among children and the elderly. Stray dogs and cows rummage into trash, worsening the mess," he said.



Manchester City makes late Reijnders signing in time for Club World Cup

London : Manchester City completed the club's fourth signing of the summer with the announcement that Dutch international midfielder Tijjani Reijnders has joined from AC Milan.

Reijnders costs 46.5 million pounds (63 million U.S. dollars) and has agreed a five-year deal.

The 26-year-old arrives soon after City completed the signing of Rayan Cherki from Olympique

Lyon, and the club insists he will be able to play in the forthcoming FIFA Club World Cup, although the announcement of his arrival was made after the transfer window closed on Tuesday evening.

City coach Pep Guardiola has also seen left back Rayan Ait Nouri and goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli added to his squad in a



busy start to the summer.

"I am ecstatic to be signing for Manchester City: City are one of the biggest teams in the world, with the best coach, world-class players and outstanding facilities," said Reijnders on the club web-

site on Wednesday.

"Under Pep Guardiola, City have won so many titles and I want to help keep that going with a lot more success in the coming years," added the player who has already won 22 caps for the Netherlands.

With the signings of Reijnders and Cherki, Guardiola will hope to have covered the departure of Kevin de Bruyne, while Ait Nouri should give balance at left back after arriving from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Real Madrid coach Alonso names 34-man squad for Club World Cup

Madrid : New Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso has named a 34-player squad for the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup in the United States. Alonso has included several players recovering from injury, such as Eder Militao, Dani Carvajal, Ferland Mendy, Antonio Rudiger and Eduardo Camavinga.

The former Bayer Leverkusen manager has also called up new signings Dean Huijsen and Trent Alexander-Arnold, along with 10 players from the club's B-team.

Real Madrid also announced that Alexander-Arnold will be officially presented to the press on Thursday at the club's Valdebebas training ground. The team is set to fly to the U.S. on Thursday.

Real Madrid opens the tournament against Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal on June 18 in Miami, followed by matches against Mexico's Pachuca on June 22 and Austria's RB Salzburg on June 27.

Full Squad: Goalkeepers: Thibaut Courtois, Andriy Lunin, Fran Gonzalez, Sergio Mestre. Defenders: Dani Carvajal, Eder Militao, David Alaba, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Lucas Vazquez,



Fran Garcia, Antonio Rudiger, Ferland Mendy, Dean Huijsen, Youssef, Jacobo, Raul Asencio, Fortea, Diego Aguado. Midfielders: Jude Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga, Fede Valverde, Luka Mo-

dric, Aurelien Tchouameni, Arda Guler, Dani Ceballos, Chema, Victor Munoz, Mario Martin. Forwards: Vinicius Jr., Kylian Mbappe, Rodrygo, Endrick, Brahim Diaz, Gonzalo.

Kartal overpowered by Anisimova in Queen's last 16

London : Britain's Sonay Kartal missed the chance to reach a home quarter-final when she suffered a tough defeat by American Amanda Anisimova at Queen's.

World number 50 Kartal was overpowered by the eighth seed in just one hour and five minutes, losing 6-1 6-3 on Wednesday.

Kartal had secured the biggest win of her career on Monday against world number 16 Daria Kasatkina.

But a third win over a top-20 player in her career - and a second in the west London tournament - proved a bridge too far.

Anisimova will not have won over much of the British crowd so far at

Jodie Burrage in the first round and now wildcard Kartal, the BBC reported.



Anisimova faces compatriot Emma Navarro in the last eight after the third seed saved a match

point before beating Beatriz Haddad Maia 1-6 7-6 (7-4) 6-3 earlier on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Australian Open winner Madison Keys cruised to a comfortable 6-3 6-2 victory over qualifier Anastasia Zakharova to book her place in the quarter-

finals. Earlier, Emma Raducanu and Katie Boulter's crowd-pleasing doubles partnership came to an end after two matches with defeat in the last eight.

The Britons lost 6-2 7-5 to top seeds Lyudmyla Kichenok and Erin Routliffe in front of a packed court one at Queen's, which is hosting a women's event for the first time in 52 years.

India will be well prepared but we know where we want to get to as Test team: McCullum

London : England head coach Brendon McCullum believes India have arrived well-prepared and full of belief for the upcoming five-match Test series but his team is also clear about where it wants to be in the eagerly-anticipated showdown beginning June 20 in Leeds.

The series will kick off India's new World Test Championship cycle.

"They're an outstanding cricketing nation, who will come here with high hopes, and we are looking forward to seeing them," McCullum told 'Sky Sports Cricket'.

England on the other hand have just completed a whitewash of the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series. Their focus now shifts to the

red-ball format as they gear up to take India and also prepare for the Ashes later this year.

"It's important the guys refresh. We know where we want to get to as a Test team." England will be without tearaway pacer Mark Wood, who has been ruled out of at least the first three Tests due to injury. Fellow quick Jofra Archer will also miss the opening Test, while Gus Atkinson is still recovering from a hamstring strain. Despite the setbacks, McCullum remains confident in England's bowling options.

"There are some quality bowlers that are unavailable, but we have a nice, varied bowling attack with Chris Woakes, Sam Cook, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Josh



Tongue for the high-pace element," the former New Zealand skipper said.

"We have Shoaib Bashir, who is growing in Test cricket every day. We know we are going to be tested against India, and they will arrive prepared," he added.

India begin a new era after Test retirements of

veterans Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and R Ashwin.

The team will be led by Shubman Gill and features a youthful lineup including Sai Sudharsan and Yashasvi Jaiswal. England all-rounder Jacob Bethel has been recalled and McCullum was all praise for the 21-year-old.

"Bethell has a good life in front of him. For a 21-year-old, he's got a real poise, and that allows him to go out there and be present and show off his flair and talent," McCullum said.

"The world is his oyster. He's already becoming a leader in the dressing room which is what you want," he added.

McCullum also mentioned Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett as talents to look forward to. "Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett have reminded me of Duckett and Zak Crawley in the Test game. We know how good Duckett is, but the power that Smith possesses is amazing." "These guys are fearless, and if you add the craft, then you hope you end up with a rounded player."

Karun Nair reflects on Team India recall, gets special message from KL Rahul

London : Indian batter Karun Nair, who is making his return to the national side after eight years, opened up on his recall to the Team India and also received a special message from his ex-Karnataka teammate and close friend, KL Rahul, who will also be part of the Indian squad for England series along with him. Nair could get his first Test appearance in eight years, as India aims for a smooth transition from seniors like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin during a five-match Test series against England away from home. Nair is the only second triple centurion in Indian cricket after legendary opener Virender Sehwag.

Nair's inclusion comes at a transitional phase on the back of a dream domestic season last year. The dream season for Vidarbha star concluded with the 863-run season in Ranji Trophy 2024-25, with an average of 53.93, four centuries and two fifties in 16 innings across nine matches.

His best score of 135 came in the final and his team emerged victorious. During the warm-up unofficial Tests for India A against England Lions, he scored 259 runs in three innings, including a



double ton. A massive highlight of his season was the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day tournament, where he top-scored with 779 runs in nine matches and eight innings at a stunning average of 389.50 and a strike rate of 124.04, with five centuries and a fifty and best score of 163*. He played a massive role in his team's run to the finals, where they lost to his former team, Karnataka.

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 competition, Nair made 255 runs in six innings, averaging 42.50 at a strike rate of 177.08, with three half-centuries and the best score of 77. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals. Nair had last played a Test for India in March 2017 against Australia and did not get any chances as his

form tapered off after a triple ton against England at Chennai in 2016. He has played six Tests overall, having made 374 runs in seven innings.

Speaking about his return to the national set-up, Nair said in a video posted on Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) X handle, "Feels very special, very grateful, very fortunate to be able to get this opportunity again. Really looking forward to grabbing this opportunity with both hands. I am sure there will be a lot of feelings, ones I cannot express right now. It will be a special feeling."

KL said that he has known Nair for a long time and is well aware of his time in UK, grinding it out in county cricket.

"The months he spent here in UK playing cricket and how hard, how lonely it was and for him to be able to do all of that and come back into the team is special for him, his family and friends like us who have seen his journey. It is really inspiring. We hope his experience and learning from county cricket here will hold him in good stead and he plays Test matches," he added.

Nair represented Northamptonshire in County Championship in 2023 and 2024 seasons, scoring 736 runs in 10 matches and 14 innings at an average of 56.61, with two centuries and four fifties and best score of 202*.

The series will be held from June to August 2025, with matches scheduled at Headingley in Leeds, Edgbaston in Birmingham, Lord's and The Oval in London, and Old Trafford in Manchester. India's Test squad for England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

Gautam Gambhir hails Karun Nair's "never-give-up attitude"

Beckenham : Ahead of India's five-Test series against England in UK, head coach Gautam Gambhir and newly-appointed Test captain Shubman Gill gave an inspiring huddle talk, during which Gambhir heaped praises on batter Karun Nair's "never-give-up" attitude which helped him make a return to Test side after eight years. The tour to England will kickstart India's ICC World Test Championship cycle for 2025-27, but also a new era, with their senior stars Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli having retired from Tests and spin bowling all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin having retired from international cricket as well. The first Test will be held at Leeds from June 20 onwards.

In the video posted on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) website, Gambhir spoke about Nair, saying, "Comebacks are never easy. Someone who has made a comeback after seven years had a phenomenal last year. Last year, no matter the runs you have got, and most importantly, that never-die attitude, never-giving-up attitude, that is something which has got you back into the team. That is something which is inspiring for this entire world. Welcome, Karun." Nair's inclusion comes at a transitional phase on the back of a dream domestic season last year. The dream season for Vidarbha star concluded with the 863-run season in Ranji Trophy 2024-25, with an average of 53.93, four centuries and two fifties in 16 innings across nine matches. His best score of 135 came in the final and his team emerged victorious. Dur-

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779 runs in nine matches and eight innings at a stunning average of 389.50 and a strike rate of 124.04, with five centuries and a fifty and best score of 163*.

He played a massive role in his team's run to the finals, where they lost to his former team, Karnataka. In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 competition, Nair made 255 runs in six innings, averaging 42.50 at a strike rate of 177.08, with three half-centuries and the best score of 77. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

Gambhir also hailed Sai Sudharsan, the star Gujarat Titans (GT) opener who won the Orange Cap for most runs and the 'Emerging Player' award in the Indi-

an Premier League (IPL), scoring 759 runs in 15 matches at an average of 54.21, with a century and six fifties.

"We will make sure you have a very successful red-ball career as well," he added.

In 29 first-class matches, Sudharsan has made 1,957 runs in 29 matches and 49 innings, averaging 39.93, with seven centuries and five fifties.

Gambhir also welcomed pacer Arshdeep Singh, who has so far been exceptional in white-ball cricket for India. He is already India's top T20I wicket taker with 99 scalps in 63 matches and has taken 14 wickets in nine ODIs.

"I want to welcome Arsh, who has been phenomenal with the white ball cricket, I am sure, with the red ball in your hand, which is still there. I am sure you are going to make it count." Gambhir also welcomed Gill and vice-captain Rishabh Pant to the leadership group. He said that there are two ways of looking at the tour, either noticing the absence of star senior players or taking it as an opportunity to do something really special for the country.

"When I look around, I think the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something special. I think if we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting, not every day, but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have an unbelievable team. So make sure we start that from today only. I think start enjoying playing for the country because there is no bigger honour," he added.

Sreeja Akula's Jaipur Patriots qualify for semi-finals after win over PBG Pune Jaguars

Ahmedabad : Undefeated Sreeja Akula propelled Jaipur Patriots to their first Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) semi-finals, following their 9-6 victory over PBG Pune Jaguars in the penultimate league stage game of Season 6 on Wednesday. With their win, Jaipur Patriots accrued a total of 41 points and climbed to the second spot in the table, three behind leaders Dempo Goa Challengers. Meanwhile, PBG Pune Jaguars were put out of the reckoning for the playoffs,

with only one berth remaining ahead of tomorrow's final league stage match between U Mumbai TT and Dabang Delhi TTC, as per a press release from UTT. Staged under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and promoted by Nijraj Bajaj and Vita Dani, IndianOil UTT continues to grow as a premier professional league. All 23 ties, over 16 action-packed days, will take place at Ahmedabad's EKA Arena. Jeet Chandra kicked things off in

thrilling fashion for Jaipur Patriots, blocking out Anirban Ghosh's counter-punching style to secure a 2-1 win. Dutchwoman Britt Eerland followed with a similar flair, taking the first two games before Pune's Reeth Rishya took the third on Golden Point. These tight wins gave Jaipur a critical buffer heading into the mixed doubles, where Jeet and Eerland responded to an early setback and a 0-1 deficit to take games two and three 11-6, 11-7. Their victory mathemati-



cally confirmed Jaipur's spot in the semi-finals, marking their first-ever qualification into UTT's final four.

Grealish's Club World Cup exclusion opens door for Man City exit

London : Jack Grealish looks to be on borrowed time at Manchester City after the club left him out of its squad for the forthcoming Club World Cup.

The 29-year-old player who joined for a British record 100 million pounds in the summer of 2021 from Aston Villa, has two years left on his contract, but after slipping down the pecking order with Pep Guardiola's team last season, making just 32 appearances in all competitions, with most of those as a substitute, it now seems clear he has no future at the club. City's four summer signings, goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli, left-back Rayan Ait-Nouri

and midfielders Tijjani Reijnders and Rayan Cherki have all been named in the squad, along with Rodri Hernandez, although Mateo Kovacic misses out through injury and James McAtee has chosen to play for the England Under-21 side in the European Championships. Kevin de Bruyne has also not been included, even though his contract with City doesn't expire until the end of June, when he will move to Napoli. Everton and Newcastle United are both reported to be interested in Grealish, although his high wages are a problem for any club looking to take him from the Etihad Stadium



MARKET

BSE Sensex	
Close	81,691.98
Percent change	-1.00%
Previous close	82,515.14
Open	82,571.67
High	82,661.04
Low	81,523.16

Nifty 50	
Close	24,888.20
Percent change	-1.01%
Previous close	25,141.40
Open	25,164.45
High	25,196.20
Low	24,825.90

Nifty 500	
Close	23,046.45
Percent change	-1.25%
Previous close	23,337.85
Open	23,363.50
High	23,370.30
Low	23,009.65

Nifty Next 50	
Close	23,046.45
Percent change	-1.25%
Previous close	23,337.85
Open	23,363.50
High	23,370.30
Low	23,009.65

Nifty 100	
Close	25,511.55
Percent change	-1.15%
Previous close	25,807.10
Open	25,834.00
High	25,852.55
Low	25,459.50

Nifty Bank	
Close	56,082.55
Percent change	-0.67%
Previous close	56,459.75
Open	56,480.90
High	56,611.05
Low	55,968.50

Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	58,440.85
Percent change	-1.6%
Previous close	59,388.15
Open	59,444.00
High	59,447.75
Low	59,447.75

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Apollo Hospital	6,996.50	1.00
Dr Reddys Labs	1,362.70	0.86
Bajaj Finserv	2,028.80	0.79
Asian Paints	2,219.40	0.48
Tech Mahindra	1,644.40	0.42

Top Losers

Company	Current	% Loss
Tata Motors	715.35	-2.86
Shriram Finance	668.05	-2.62
Trent	5,627.50	-2.58
Titan Company	3,452.70	-2.51
Coal India	392.70	-2.34

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Aug 05	97,823.00	1,119.00 1.16
Silver Jul 04	105,773.00	381.00 0.36
Crudeoil Jun 18	5,771.00	40.00 0.70
Naturalgas Jun 25	307.50	7.60 2.53

Sensex tanks by 823.16 points

Mumbai : BSE Sensex in a volatile trade on Thursday tanked by 823.16 pts to settle at 81,698.91 amid feeble global cues. Investors are assessing the trade deal between the US and China while monitoring tensions between the US and Iran, which have pushed oil prices higher. National Stock Exchange (NSE) too slumped 253.20 points to settle at 24,838.40.

The Sensex opened at 82,571.67 against its previous close of 82,515.14 and plunged to an intraday low of 81,523.16. It recorded the day high of 82,661.04.

The NSE registered a day's high at 25,196.20 and a day's low at 24,825.90.

Mid-cap declined by 1.52 pc and the Small-cap fell by 1.38 pc. The market breadth was Negative. On the BSE, 1,289 shares rose and 2,722 shares fell. A total of 140 shares were unchanged. All sectoral indices the Session in the Red with Realty by 2.19 pc, utilities by 2.18 pc, Oil & Gas by 2.10 pc, Teck by 2.07 pc, Consumer Durables



by 2.02 pc, Industrial by 1.98 pc, Energy by 1.76 pc, Auto by 1.71 pc, FMCG by 1.24 pc, Health Care by 1.04 pc, IT by 1.04 pc, Telecom by 0.93 pc, and Bankex by 0.82 pc. 30 scripts, 3 advanced while 27 declined. Notable loser were Tata Motors by 2.91 pc to Rs 714.80,

Titan by 3,446.50, Eterenal by 2.32 pc to Rs 251.00, Tata Steel by 2.36 pc to Rs 152.75, M&M by 2.30 pc 3,011.15, Power Grid 2.27 pc to Rs 288.75, and LT by 2.15 pc to Rs 3,605.75. Gainers were Asiana Paints by 0.79 pc to 2,226.00, Bajaj Finsv by 0.60 pc to Rs

2,024.45, and Tech Mahindra by 0.36 pc to Rs 1,644.00. Rising tensions in the Middle East weighed on markets globally. Major Asian and European markets suffered significant losses during the session on signs of rising tensions between the US and Iran.

No fee to be charged for UPI transactions, clarifies finance ministry

New Delhi : The finance ministry has said no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on transactions through Unified Payments Interface platforms. "Speculation and claims that the MDR will be charged on UPI transactions are completely false, baseless and misleading," the ministry said on X on Wednesday. "Such baseless and sensation-creating speculation causes needless uncertainty, fear and suspicion among our citizens. The government remains fully committed to promoting digital payments via UPI," it said. MDR is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via digital means. The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount.

The ministry's clarification came following some reports that the government is planning to impose MDR on large-ticket UPI transactions. Meanwhile, transactions through UPI touched a



record high of Rs 25.14 lakh crore in May, recording a growth of 5 per cent over the preceding month, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The UPI transactions' value was Rs 23.94 lakh crore in April. In terms of volume, 1,867.7 crore transactions were done in May against 1,789.3 crore in the previous month. NPCI said the value of the transactions last month was 23 per cent higher as compared to Rs 20.44 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Bharat Biotech partners with GSK to develop a next-generation Shigella vaccine candidate

Hyderabad : Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), a global leader in vaccine innovation and manufacturing, announced on Thursday that it has partnered with GSK plc, a global biopharma company, for the ongoing development and potential use of the Shigella vaccine candidate, altSonflex1-2-3.

Shigellosis is an acute human inflammatory disease of the large intestine caused by Gram-negative Shigella. Watery diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps and pain, and bloody and mucus-filled stools characterize it.

The agreement marks a critical step in the advancement of this promising vaccine, targeting Shigellosis—a severe form of bacterial diarrhoea that disproportionately affects children under five in low- and middle-income countries, Hyderabad-based BBL said in a release here.

This collaboration reflects Bharat Biotech's continued commitment to global public health and equitable vaccine access.

The in-licensed candidate, altSonflex1-2-3, has already shown encouraging results in early-stage clinical trials.

A Phase 1 study conducted in Europe demonstrated a favourable safety profile and strong immune response, while subsequent Phase 2 trials in Africa, including vaccination of 9-month-old infants—the primary target population—reported no safety concerns.

Interim results from 2024 confirmed that the candidate met its pre-set immunogenicity goals. The altSonflex1-2-3 vaccine candidate, developed by GSK and now advancing through a strategic collaboration with Bharat

Biotech, represents one of the most advanced Shigella vaccine candidates globally. With no licensed Shigella vaccine currently avail-



able and rising antimicrobial resistance, this candidate stands out for its broad serotype coverage, innovative Generalized Modules for Membrane Antigens (GMMA)-based platform, and robust early clinical results.

It has already demonstrated a strong safety and immunogenicity profile in both European and African trials, including in the primary target population of 9-month-old infants.

Now entering Phase 3 trials under Bharat Biotech's leadership, altSonflex1-2-3 is poised to become the first scalable, affordable, and globally accessible vaccine to combat this urgent public health threat. GMMA technology is an innovative platform that uses bacterial outer membranes to deliver the O Antigen to the immune system. This novel approach allows for high-yield production with a simple and cost-effective manufacturing process, offering a pathway to create affordable vaccines for underserved populations.

BBL Executive Chairman Dr. Krishna Ella, said, "As the market leader in vaccines for diarrhoeal infections, including rotavirus,

typhoid, polio, non-typhoidal salmonella, cholera, and paratyphi, Bharat Biotech is proud to partner with GSK to develop a next-generation Shigella vaccine candidate, for a severe form of bacterial diarrhoea affecting millions of children under five. With no approved vaccine currently available and antimicrobial resistance on the rise, there is an urgent need for scalable, science-backed solutions focused on low and middle-income countries. This collaboration combines our strengths in innovation, manufacturing, and global health commitment. The use of GMMA technology reflects our mission to deliver accessible vaccines that protect and improve lives worldwide." As part of this agreement, Bharat Biotech will lead the further development of altSonflex1-2-3, including Phase 3 clinical trials, regulatory advancement, and large-scale manufacturing. GSK will continue to support the programme by assisting with clinical trial design, securing external funding.

Zuno General Insurance launches India's first crash detection-enabled Motor Cover

Mumbai : Zuno General Insurance has launched India's first real-time crash detection feature to its flagship Zuno Smart Drive car insurance.

This enhancement provides instant roadside support and accelerates claims processing, reinforcing Zuno's position as a leader in innovative, customer-centric insurance provider.

With this new addition, Zuno Smart Drive moves beyond just rewarding safe driving. The advanced mobile telematics system embedded in the Zuno app detects crashes automatically and alerts the Zuno support team triggering real-time roadside assistance, initiating a claims process and aid

without requiring customer initiation. This saves critical time during emergencies—ensuring help arrives when it is needed the most.

Zuno GI, a pioneer in usage-based insurance, has already introduced Zuno Smart Drive with India's first built-in Pay How You Drive feature at no additional cost, rewards customers based on real-time driving behaviour. By tracking metrics such as speed, braking, and consistency, the platform encourages responsible driving habits. Customers receive rewards for maintaining high driving scores, which also translate into policy renewal discounts, making safer driving financially re-



warding. Zuno Smart Drive requires no special setup or device. It works directly through the Zuno app, providing users with personalised driving insights, real-time risk assessment, and a transparent view of how their behaviour impacts both safety and savings. This approach not only em-

powers customers with greater control over their premiums but also encourages a culture of responsibility on the road.

With its newest upgrade, Zuno Smart Drive supports, rewards, and protects in real-time. Zuno continues to raise the bar for what motor insurance can

offer in today's connected world—smart, supportive, and centred around the customer.

Speaking about this customer-first innovation, Shanai Ghosh, MD & CEO, Zuno General Insurance, said, "At Zuno, our goal is to turn insurance into a proactive safety partner. Zuno Smart Drive is an insurance that watches out for you, supports you in critical moments, and puts your safety first. With real-time crash detection, we're taking a decisive leap forward—moving from reactive support to proactive safety. It's a powerful example of how technology and empathy can come together to transform customer experience."

Renalix launches world's first indigenous AI-based Smart Hemodialysis Machine

Pune : Renalix Health Systems Pvt. Ltd., a pioneering technology innovation company in renal care, has launched RENALYX – RxT 21, the world's first fully indigenous, AI and cloud-enabled smart hemodialysis machine with real-time remote monitoring and clinical connectivity facility.

RENALYX – RxT 21 will make dialysis affordable and accessible to a larger population and bridge the demand-supply gap in the renal care across semi-urban and rural regions.

Completely designed and manufactured in India, RENALYX – RxT 21 leverages latest technologies including cloud-based tele-nephrology platforms to offer safety and quality care to kidney patients, end-stage renal disease (ESRD) pa-



tients especially those with cardiovascular, pulmonary and acute kidney injury-related issues, said release today.

RENALYX – RxT 21 makes Renalix the sixth company globally and first in India to produce an advanced dialysis machine with EU CE certification.

Renalix has plans to invest INR 800 crores in the next four years to build the manufacturing capacity of 5,000 machines by FY25-26 and will develop additional capacity of 1500 machines by FY27-28.

The company also has plans to manufacture consumables indigenously.

Canara Bank reduces Repo Linked Lending rate to 8.25 pc in line with the RBI MPC

Hyderabad : Canara Bank on Wednesday announced a reduction in Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) from 8.75 per cent to 8.25 percent (applicable on its assets portfolio linked to External Benchmark rate), following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) announcement cutting the repo rate by 50 basis points, from 6.00 percent to 5.50 percent, in the latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

This marks the third consecutive rate cut by the RBI in 2025, signalling.

A supportive stance towards economic growth amidst easing inflation. The revised lending

rates will be effective from June 12, 2025, the bank said in a release.

The RLLR has been reduced by 0.50 percent (50 basis points), directly reflecting the decrease in the RBI's repo rate.

This move will lower borrowing costs for customers with loans linked to RLLR.

Depending on their loan terms, customers may benefit from reduced EMIs (Equated Monthly Installments) or a shorter loan tenure.

Canara Bank, with a commitment to provide better banking experience to its customers, has offered the due benefits to borrowers by reducing RLLR.

Duty on crude edible oils cut to 10%

New Delhi : The Centre on Wednesday reduced the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude edible oils namely crude sunflower, soybean and palm oils from 20% to 10% resulting in the import duty differential between crude and refined edible oils from 8.75% to 19.25%. This adjustment aims to address the escalating edible oil prices resulting from the September 2024 duty hike and concurrent increases in international market prices.

An advisory has been issued to edible oil associations and industry stakeholders to ensure that the full

benefit of the reduced duty is passed on to consumers. "A 19.25% duty differential between crude and refined oils helps to encourage domestic refining capacity utilisation and reduce imports of refined oils. Import duty on edible oils is one of the important factors that impacted landed cost of edible oils and thereby domestic prices," a government statement said.

By lowering the import duty on crude oils, the government aims to reduce the landed cost and retail prices of edible oils, providing relief to consumers and helping to cool overall inflation.



The reduced duty will also encourage domestic refining and maintain fair compensation for farmers.

The revised duty structure will discourage the import of refined Palmolein and

redirect demand towards Crude Edible Oils Especially Crude Palm Oil, thereby strengthening and revitalizing the domestic refining sector, officials said. They said the policy intervention

not only ensures a level playing field for domestic refiners but also contributes to the stabilization of edible oil prices for Indian consumers.

A meeting with leading Edible Oil Industry Associations and industry was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution and advisory issued to them to pass on the benefits from this duty reduction on to consumers.

This decision comes after a detailed review of the sharp rise in edible oil prices following last year's duty hike.

Mercedes-Benz launches first-ever India-inspired Mercedes- MG G 63 'Collector's Edition'

Mumbai : Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Thursday announced the launch of a new benchmark in bespoke automotive craftsmanship—the Mercedes-AMG G 63 'Collector's Edition'.

Designed exclusively for the Indian market, highly customised and limited to only 30 units, this rare edition offers AMG G 63 collectors a chance to own this automotive icon in a truly personalised avatar.

Jointly configured in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI), the AMG G 63 'Collector's Edition' reflects the brand's focus on bringing highly personalised and exclusive top-end.

Luxury products for the discerning Indian customers. This special edition combines the legacy of the mighty AMG G 63 and its driving performance with thoughtful, edition-specific customisations that cater to the re-

efined tastes of Indian luxury car buyers, fulfilling their wish of personalising their desired AMG G 63.

The exterior design is elevated with two bespoke India-specific colours—a vibrant MANUFAKTUR Mid Green Magno and a MANUFAKTUR Red Magno. These unique hues celebrate India's cultural richness while maintaining the G-Class's iconic silhouette.

Edition-specific personalisation features include a customised grab handle personalised with the customer's name. This is the first time an AMG G 63 edition features a personalised 'made to order' grab handle with the customer's name. The 'Collector's Edition' features a spare wheel cover with an edition-specific logoplaque insert marked with "One of Thirty". In addition, the 'Collector's Edition' features a distinctive exterior protective strip with embedded insignia.