

The Age of Truth Aryan Age Year 14, Issue 3 | Delhi, Thursday 3 July 2025 | 8 PAGES | ₹ 2.00



Khandelwal new Chief of

Delhi Gets DGCA Clearance for First-Ever Cloud Seeding Trials to



Rajasthan lease holder carried out illegal mining on Haryana



Real Madrid edges Juventus to move into Club World Cup





Markets Slip as

Investors Brace for Trump's Tariff Deadline

## Digital Tools Like Poshan Tracker **Revolutionizing Women and Child Welfare: PMO**

initiatives such as the Poshan direct benefit Tracker and transfers are reshaping the landscape of women and child welfare in India, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

In a recent post on X (formerly Twitter), the PMO highlighted the transformative impact of these tools, citing their role in delivering real-time and effective support throughout the country. The post was shared alongside an article by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, which showcases how the government has successfully used digital innovation to improve

Devi emphasized platforms like the Poshan Tracker, a grievance redressal system, and the direct transfer of financial benefits are making a tangible difference in the lives of women and children. She noted that technology is driving a significant shift — not only in nutrition and education but also in access to justice, dignity, empowerment.

The Minister explained that integrating technology into the Ministry's operations ensures that services reach even the remotest areas efficiently, transparently, and swiftly. These improvements



have expanded access to vital resources, including nutrition, education, legal protection, and

A flagship example is the Poshan Tracker, which supports the national goal of creating a healthier, well-nourished India. Anganwadi centres have been digitized under this initiative, functioning as modern community centres that bridge the rural-urban gap. The platform also offers modules Anganwadi workers to support early childhood education.

Recently honored with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence Public (2025),Administration Poshan Tracker enables real-time monitoring of nutrition data

through dashboards. It features innovations like geo-tagged Anganwadi centres and face recognition for Take-Home Ration distribution, ensuring both transparency and efficiency.

Devi also shared that under Saksham Anganwadi initiative, around Anganwadi centres have been integrated into the Poshan Tracker system. The platform now covers over 10.14 crore beneficiaries, including pregnant women, nursing mothers, children under six years of age, and adolescent girls, demonstrating significant progress in delivering services at the grassroots level.

#### Congress slams govt over allowing surge in cab prices the Modi government of

Delhi : The today the central



government's decision to allow cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber, and Rapido to implement dynamic pricing up to twice the base fare during peak hours, calling it a move that will further burden the common man.

In a post on social media platform X, Congress called the policy "bad news" for daily commuters and accused "burning a hole in the pockets" of ordinary citizens. "Do you also travel by Ola, Uber, or Rapido? If yes,

then there's some bad news you. The Modi government has allowed cab aggregators to charge double the base fare during peak hours.' It said, "During non-peak

hours, you will not be offered any relief in fare prices. In case of cancellation, a 10% penalty will be imposed on you". "The Modi government is leaving no stone unturned to burn a hole in your pocket. PM Modi's mantra is clear: loot the public as long as it lasts," the party added.

#### Rahul Gandhi marks 1 yr as LoP, reaffirms commitment to Constitution and people

New Delhi: Marking the completion of one year as Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi today highlighted his sharing



moments, personal experiences. and continued efforts to uphold the Constitution and amplify the voice of the people.

In a social media post, Gandhi highlighted the central themes of his tenure so far including defending presenting a clear economic vision for the country and connecting with citizens across diverse communities.

"As I complete one year the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. I am sharing with you the memories, experiences, and my ongoing fight to protect the Constitution," he wrote.

Gandhi invited the public to revisit his parliamentary speeches, which he said outline his vision for India's economy and shed light on the factors that led to the INDI alliance's success in the 2024 general elections.

He also underscored his extensive outreach efforts, citing interactions with a wide cross-section of society, from the conflict-affected people of Manipur to farmers, Anganwadi workers, and Dalit youth across the country.

Meanwhile, the Congress through a newsletter said that Rahul Gandhi had centered his role as LoP around "amplifying public concerns", especially those of the most marginalised communities. Over the past year, he has consistently highlighted critical national issues from advocating a nationwide caste census to demanding justice for the victims of violence in Manipur and fighting for the rights of Dalit youth, farmers and Anganwadi workers. According to Congress,

Gandhi's sustained advocacy compelled the government to significant actions, including ordering a nationwide caste census, fulfilling a long-standing demand for greater social justice; imposing President's Rule in Manipur, amid continued unrest violence in the state and withdrawing a controversial lateral entry notification. showcasing his effectiveness in holding the government accountable.

The party said Rahul Gandhi's first year in office was marked by extensive public engagement. He visited 16 states, held 18 press conferences, addressed over 60 rallies, took part in more than 35 official events delivered 16 speeches in Parliament, and participated over 115 interactions.

Looking ahead, the Congress said Rahul Gandhi will continue to lead with a "politics of love," grounded in constitutional values and democratic principles. The party emphasised that Gandhi's commitment to protecting India's democratic fabric remains firm.

"As Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi has been the voice of the 90 percent of those whose concerns have often been sidelined. He has brought their issues to the forefront of national discourse, both Parliament," the party said.

Moreover, the party also underlined that Gandhi's leadership would continue to focus on unity, justice, and accountability.

#### Quad nations strongly condemn Pahalgam attack, call for perpetrators, organisers to be brought to justice The foreign ministers reducing dependence on

Washington: The Quad alliance of India, United States, Japan and Australia issued stern condemnation of the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen while injuring several others. Meeting in Washington, the foreign ministers from all four nations called for immediate action to bring the perpetrators, organizers and financiers to justice. External Affairs Minister

Jaishankar joined US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japan's Takeshi Iwaya in expressing deepest condolences to victims families and demanding UN member states cooperate actively in pursuing those responsible for the attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Indo-

single-country sources. The nations expressed serious concerns about



ambitious four-pillar agenda covering maritime security, economic prosperity, emerging technology and humanitarian response. A significant development was the launch of the Ouad Critical Minerals Initiative at strengthening supply chain security and

activities in the East China Sea and South China Sea, condemning actions that seek to change the status quo through force or coercion. They specifically criticized dangerous maritime maneuvers, water cannon use and blocking

peace and stability.

The alliance addressed North Korea's destabilizing missile launches nuclear pursuit, weapons expressing grave concern over countries deepening military cooperation with Pyongyang. The Myanmar crisis received attention, with the Quad calling for ceasefire implementation cybercrime condemning operations trapping foreign

Looking ahead, nations announced plans for the first Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network training exercise and the launch of the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership in Mumbai. India will host the next Quad Leaders' Summit later this year, followed by Australia hosting the 2026 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

#### Govt allows cab aggregators to charge twice base fare during peak hours

New Delhi : The government has authorized cab aggregators to implement dynamic pricing that allows charging up to twice the base fare during peak hours, according to the Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines 2025 released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

regulations, companies must also offer fares at least 50 percent below the base rate during non-peak periods. governments have given three months to adopt these revised guidelines.

The base fare will be determined by

The guidelines ensure that drivers receive at least 80 percent of the total fare, with aggregators retaining the portion. remaining Passengers will only pay for the actual journey distance from pickup to drop-off point, except when rides are

Under ride-hailing

governments for different vehicle categories, and this rate must cover a minimum distance of three kilometers to include dead mileage - the distance traveled to reach passengers and without

BJP Calls Out Congress 'Hypocrisy'

shorter than three kilometers. Cancellation penalties

have been established for both drivers and passengers. If either party cancels without valid reason after confirming a booking, they face a penalty of 10 percent of the fare, capped at Rs 100. When passengers cancel, this fee is shared between the driver and the aggregator platform.

The new framework aims to create standardized pricing mechanisms while ensuring fair revenue distribution between drivers and ridehailing companies across

## Shivakumar will be CM in 2 months: Igbal Hussain

**Bengaluru**: In a major political statement likely to intensify leadership speculation in Karnataka, senior Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain today declared that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will "definitely" become the Chief Minister within the next two months, asserting it as a crucial step for the Congress party's future in the state. "Definitely, 200 percent he

will become Chief Minister. We will make him CM. Within two months, he will definitely become the Chief Minister," Hussain told UNI in an interaction. "The party needs dynamic leadership to sustain momentum and consolidate its prospects ahead of 2028." He warned that a change in leadership was not just desirable, but necessary for the survival of the Congress in Karnataka. "If the Congress party wants to survive and return to power in 2028, this change is essential. God promise, we need a good

administration, and this is the right time for our survival," he Hussain



Shivakumar's elevation not as a factional demand, but a strategic imperative backed by many legislators. "It is not only my opinion, it is the opinion of most of the MLAs. We have to think about our future and our party. Some people who are already in power may have different views, but we, at the grassroots level, are thinking about the party and the workers," he said. While strongly backing Shivakumar, Hussain also offered praise for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, making it clear that his call for change was not personal. "He (Siddaramaiah) is one of our best

leaders, no doubt. He has given good administration, service. I am very close to him, I am a fan of him. But we have given him sufficient time - in the last term and again now, with two and a half years offered by high command." Highlighting Shivakumar's relentless efforts in strengthening the party organisation, Hussain "He has made a wonderful contribution to the party. To build the party and bring this number (136 seats), he has struggled a lot. His efforts are immense — sky is the limit. This is the right time to give him a chance as Chief Minister to lead us into 2028."

His remarks come at a time when the Congress high command is facing growing pressure over implementation of a reported power-sharing formula between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, agreed upon after the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

#### Over Jamaat-e-Islami Alliance in Kerala New Delhi : The Congress leaders like Bharatiya Janata Party nas launched a fierce attack on

Congress for its acknowledged alliance Jamaat-e-Islami with during the recent Nilambur Assembly by-election in Kerala, accusing the party of maintaining double standards on secular values.

BJP Kerala State President Rajeev Chandrasekhar criticized Congress for openly with partnering organization he described as anti-democratic and anti-constitutional. The former Union Minister referenced a 2018 statement by Congress's own former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who had labeled Jamaat-e-Islami as "dangerous and antinational." Chandrasekhar

highlighted the irony of

Covid vaccine safe for heart, says Health

Ministry citing AIIMS, ICMR studies

Kanui Gandhi irequentiy displaying Constitution while forging simultaneously alliances with what he termed radical groups. The Nilambur seat falls within the Wayanad parliamentary constituency previously represented by Gandhi, making the alliance particularly significant for BJP's criticism.

BJPThe leader accused Congress of practicing appeasement politics, noting that while the party had historically received support from Jamaat-e-Islami in Kerala, these partnerships were previously kept hidden. He claimed that pressure from the organization forced Congress to openly acknowledge the alliance for the first time during the recent by-election, which

criticism security matters, Chandrasekhar recalled Congress's response to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the Batla House encounter, accusing the party of undermining security interests. He also condemned Congress MP Rajmohan Unnithan for referring to a Hamas leader as a "freedom fighter" after the individual allegedly attempted to radicalize

children in Kerala. The BJPleader concluded by accusing Congress of abandoning substantive discussions on development and governance in favor of religious appeasement strategies. He pointed to the party's governance challenges in states like Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh evidence of its declining political relevance.

# However, the Ministry

New Delhi: A day after Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah linked heartrelated deaths in Hassan district to Covid vaccine, the Union Health Ministry today rebut his claims saying that extensive studies by ICMR and AIIMS have conclusively found no such connections.

Siddaramaiah had on Tuesday said "hasty approval and distribution" of the Covid vaccine to the public could also be a reason for these deaths and urged everyone to visit the nearest health centre immediately for a check-up if they have symptoms such as chest pain or difficulty breathing, and not to ignore these signs.

trashed his observation, saying that the matter of sudden unexplained deaths has been investigated through several agencies in the country and these studies conclusively established that there is no direct link between Covid-19 vaccination and reports of sudden deaths.

The Ministry cited studies by the ICMR and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) saying that they have affirmed that Covid-19 vaccines in India are safe and effective, with extremely rare instances of

serious side effects. Sudden cardiac deaths

can result from a wide range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing conditions, and post-Covid complications, the Ministry said in a statement. The ICMR and NCDC

have been working together to understand the causes behind sudden unexplained deaths, especially in young adults between the ages of 18 and 45 years. To explore this, two

complementary studies were undertaken using different research approaches -- one based on past data and another involving real-time investigation.

The first study was conducted by ICMR's

National Institute Epidemiology (NIE) was titled "Factors associated with unexplained sudden deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India - a multicentric matched case control study," from May to August 2023 across 47 tertiary care hospitals in 19 states and Union territories, statement said. It looked at individuals

who appeared to be healthy but died suddenly between October 2021 and March 2023. The findings have conclusively showed that Covid-19 vaccination does not increase the risk of unexplained sudden deaths in young adults.

The second study titled "Establishing the cause in sudden unexplained deaths in young" is currently being conducted by the AIIMS, Delhi. This is a prospective study aimed at determining the common causes of sudden deaths in young adults. "Early analysis of data from the study indicates that heart attacks or myocardial infarction (MI) continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group," the statement said.

Importantly, no major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed compared when with previous years.

In majority of the

unexplained death cases, genetic mutations have been identified as a possible cause of these deaths. The final results will be shared once the study is complete. Together, these two

studies offer a more c o m p r e h e n s i v e understanding of sudden unexplained deaths in young adults in India. It has also been found that Covid-19 vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas, the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition and risky lifestyle choices does play a role in unexplained sudden deaths, the statement said.

Without naming the State

Karnataka Minister's statement on doubting vaccine's efficiency, the statement said "Scientific experts have reiterated that statements linking COVID vaccination to sudden deaths are false and misleading, and are not supported by scientific consensus.

"Speculative without conclusive evidence risk undermining public confidence in vaccines, which have played a crucial role in saving millions of lives during the pandemic. Such unfounded reports and could strongly claims contribute to vaccine hesitancy in the country,

public health." The Karnataka chief minister had said more than

thereby adversely impacting

20 people have died due to heart attacks in the past month alone in just one district of Hassan. In a post on X, he wrote: "The government is taking this matter very seriously. To identify the exact cause of these series of deaths and to find solutions, a committee of experts has been formed under the leadership of Dr Ravindranath, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, and they have been instructed to submit a study report within 10 days."

## NATION

Amarnath Yatra: 'Bam Bam Bhole' chants echo through

#### Preparations begin for 'Bahuda Yatra' of trinity of Sri Jagannath Temple



Puri: Preparations for the Bahuda Yatra (return car festival) of the holy Trinity of the Sri Jagannath Temple began today.

According to tradition, on the fifth day of the Rath Yatra, Mahalaxmi - the consort of Lord Jagannath upset over being left behind during the journey to Gundicha Temple, arrived there Tuesday night in a ceremonial procession. The ritual was conducted by servitors and priests, with the goddess carried in a decorated palanquin.

arrival, Upon entered the procession Gundicha Temple. From a distance, standing at the Jai Vijay doors of the Jagamohan, Mahalaxmi caught a glimpse of Lord Jagannath and symbolically ordered his return to the main temple.

Her Ajnamallya (divine order) was handed over to Lord Jagannath's servitors, directing them to make arrangements for the return journey. On her way back, she ritually damaged a piece of the Nandighosh chariot of Lord Jagannath - a symbolic act steeped in tradition.

Today, the chariots starting with Darpadalan of Devi Subhadra, followed by Taladhwaj Balabhadra - were skillfully pulled backwards for about 500 meters along the Badadanda (Grand Road). The chariots made a southward turn and then veered toward Nakachana Dwar, the exit gate of Gundicha Temple, popularly known as Dakshini Moda.

Devotees and police personnel together pulled the chariots and stationed them at Saradhabali, facing the main temple. The Nandighosh chariot of Lord Jagannath will be pulled tomorrow.

The Trinity - Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra - along Sudarshan, with

Ramakrushna, Madanmohan, will board the chariots on July 5 for their return to the main temple in the ritual known as Bahuda Yatra. Large numbers of devotees are Gundicha Temple to offer prayers. It is widely believed that having a darshan of the deities on the Adapa Mandap of the Gundicha Temple grants moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth). Devotees are also partaking in Mahaprasad (holy food offered to the deities) within

the temple premises.

OnthecrucialYettinahole drinking water project, the CM detailed the revised cost estimate now stands at Rs 23,251 crore, out of which Rs 17.147 crore has already

been spent. "Ân additional Rs 6,103 crore will be used to complete the project. Though primarily a drinking water project, we will also fill 50% of the lakes. The Gravity Main Canal is already 82–85% complete. A total of Rs 9,807 crore has been spent," he added Drinking water supply will reach Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, and Hassan within two years, he assured. In a major education welfare initiative, Siddaramaiah said, "The Labour Department will open one residential school for children of workers in every district, with Rs 1,175.25 crore sanctioned for construction. In addition, we have allocated Rs 10 crore to build two residential schools to coach candidates from backward communities for competitive exams, including the UPSC." He further announced a major boost to floriculture sector, stating, "Bengaluru earlier had the only hi-tech flower market. We are now establishing a new one in Chikkaballapur at a cost of

## Yatri Niwas as LG Sinha flags off first batch of pilgrims

Bhole' echoed in the air early this morning as the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims here from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas

Enthusiasm was visible among the devotees who boarded the buses for onwards journeys.

Chanting 'Bam Bam Bhole' and 'Har Har Mahadev', the devotees expressed happiness at the start of the yatra.

establishment of 60 RFID centres in five prominent districts within the Jammu

He also added that the yatra will be allowed only via road under proper regulation by the administration and security forces, adding that elaborate arrangements have been put in place in the Bhagwati Nagar Yatra camp, where the Yatris will arrive before leaving in convoys for Baltal and Pahalgam base

A total of 141 lodgment centres have also been established in Jammu Division with adequate civic amenities and security arrangements, while 52 langars and 60 RFID centres are made functional in Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban Districts, and five registration centres with a token centre at Saraswati Dham are also made operational in Jammu, he added.

However, the convoy was escorted by security forces from Jammu to the



## BJP yet to set ball rolling for new UP president

Lucknow: Even as new BJP presidents have been elected in the bordering states, Uttar Pradesh BJP leaders and workers are yet to get any information about the election of new President in the state.

Already delayed by over seven months, the ruling party is yet to set the ball rolling for the election of its new state president. The process for election of the new state President has been completed in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.

The tenure of the incumbent UP BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary ended earlier this year. However, the election was postponed as the party's central leadership was busy with the Delhi assembly poll. A senior party leader here

Wednesday confirmed that the election of new party chief will just be a formality as only the candidate finalised by the party high command

for the top post will file the nomination paper.

"Keeping in mind the Samajwadi Party's Pichda, Dalit and Alpsankhyak (PDA) formulation, the new UP BJP chief is most likely to be from the OBC or Schedule Caste (SC) category" he said.

Several UP Ministers and OBC leaders are frontrunner for the post.

He added "The new state president will be elected keeping in view the 2027 assembly polls in the state."

"The party is going all out to regain lost ground after its below par showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh. This was primarily due to shifting of OBC and Dalit votes to the Samajwadi Party's PDA formulation," the leader claimed.

But maintained that new party president will be elected by next month. "The compulsion of maintaining 50 per cent elected state presidents for electing the national completed by appointing new presidents in several states, so there no need for hurry in UP," another leader

BJP's central leadership has initiated the proceedings to complete the election process of state presidents of various states. Thereafter, the BJP will appoint its new national president.

According to the BJP's constitution, the party's national president could only be elected after completing the election process of 50 percent of its state units.

The term of BJP's incumbent national president JP Nadda ended in January last year, but the national executive committee in January 2024 extended his term till June 2025 in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

## First batch of Amarnath Yatris reach base camps in Kashmir

security measures, the first batch of the Amarnath Yatris with more than 4,500 devotees reached the Kashmir valley today, officials said.

The yatris were welcomed by locals, senior officials of police and civil administration at several places. The pilgrims were welcomed with garlands in Kulgam, Anantnag and Srinagar, the officials said.

The pilgrims will proceed toward the holy Cave shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji tomorrow via Pahalgam in Anantnag and in Ganderbal Sonamarg routes, officially beginning the 38-day yatra.

The officials said the pilgrims reached the valley through the Navyug tunnel in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district where they were welcomed by DIG south Kashmir Javid Iqbal Matoo, Kulgam Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan, senior BJP



society, trade fraternity, fruit growers, and associations.

While the pilgrims taking the Pahalgam axis were welcomed at Anantnag by officials, the yatris on their way to the cave shrine via the Baltal axis were welcomed at Pantha Chowk in Srinagar byDDC Chairperson Aftab Ahmed. Deputy Commissioner Akshay SSP Labroo, Srinagar Sundeep Chakravarthy and

Speaking on occasion, the DC said that the

significant spiritual journey and they are committed to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage with safety and comfort of all pilgrims. He added that the District Administration Srinagar along with Srinagar Police comprehensivearrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual Yatra and cater to the needs of the pilgrims. Officials along with locals welcomed the Pilgrims and prayed for smooth, safe and peaceful conduct of Shri

## Karnataka cabinet announces major decisions

Nandi Hills: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today announced a series of significant administrative, educational. and

decisions infrastructure following a high-level state



key renaming initiatives and major budgetary allocations for social welfare and water projects.

Addressing reporters after the cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said, "We have declared Bangalore Rural District as Bangalore North. We have changed the name of Bagepalli to Bhagyanagar." In a major gesture, he

added, "We are going to Bengaluru name University after the former Minister, Prime Dr Manmohan Singh. It will now be known as Dr Manmohan University." Siddaramaiah highlighted that the cabinet discussed 48 agenda items, collectively amounting to Rs 3,400 crore in sanctioned

Countering opposition criticism regarding fiscal constraints, he asserted, "The BJP repeatedly claims this government has no money. That is not true.'

Rs 141 crore.'

## Hemant Khandelwal new Chief of MP BJP

Bhopal: Hemant Vijay Khandelwal (60) was today chosen unopposed as the new President of the Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Khandelwal, the BJP MLA from Betul, was the only one to file nomination for the post during the nomination process held at the BJP Headquarters at Bhopal this morning in the presence of the election in-charge union Dharmendra Pradhan, election officer

Vijay Narayan Shejwalkar and election observer Saroj Pandey. MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav escorted Khandelwal to the stage, to file his nomination.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and outgoing state chief and Lok Sabha Member Khajuraho Vishnu Sharma proposed Khandelwal's name for the top slot. Born on September 3,

Yadav, Union Agriculture Minister and former CM from Dutt

Pradesh, Khandelwal was elected to the Lok Sabha from Betul in 2008, through a bypoll after the death of his father Vijay Khandelwal, who was till then the Lok Sabha Member. Hemant Khandelwal was the MLA from Betul from 2013 to 2018. He was again elected the BJP MLA from the seat in 2023. Hemant Khandelwal has been the Betul district BJP President, and the treasurer of the MP

BJP. Presently, he is the chairman of the Kushabhau Thakre Trust too. The official announcement Khandelwal's name as the new State BJP President is awaited from the BJP.

within the next 3–4 months. According to

#### lakh Chit Fund victims within 3-4 Months Bhubaneswar: Odisha to the district level, following

Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Chief Minister Mohan the Charan Majhi today directed instructions. officials to ensure that compensation is paid to disbursed Rs.47.07 depositors affected by crore to 1,26,137 the chit fund scam

Odisha CM directs compensation to five

sources from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the process of refunding chit fund money has been simplified and decentralized

Monsoon fury in Mandi: 10 dead,

Chief Accelerating the refund process, the state government has

> small depositors over the past year. It is noteworthy that

between 2014 and 2024, only Rs.119 crore had been refunded to 2,79,109 small depositors affected by the Chit Fund scam in the state.

#### Income Tax department inaugurates first-ever taxpayer hub in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: The Income Tax Department, Chandigarh, inaugurated the Taxpayer Hub at the Convention Hall here

The event was graced by Chief Guest Manpreet Singh, renowned national hockey four-time player and Olympian, along with Jyoti Kumari, Principal Director General of Income Tax (Admin and TPS), New Delhi, and Amrapalli Das, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Chandigarh.

According to an official statement, the Taxpayer Hub will remain open to the general public from July 2 to 4 at the same venue, offering a vibrant and interactive platform for tax-related education, public services, engagement.

The double Olympic medalist Manpreet, in his address, described the event as a vital platform for citizen engagement and awareness.



Heemphasizedhowtaxpayers contributions support essential public services such as sports, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. He specifically acknowledged that improved sports facilities including better equipment, training, and infrastructure are a direct result of taxpayer support, enabling athletes to excel at national and international levels. He urged citizens to pay their taxes honestly and expressed hope that the Taxpayer Hub

effectively educate and raise awareness

Amrapalli Das, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, stated that the initiative is more than an event. It is a platform for information, interaction, innovation, and inclusion. Aimed at educating and empowering taxpayers, the Taxpayer Hub promotes voluntary compliance and reflects the Department's taxpayer-friendly approach.

Over three days, it will feature interactive kiosks, seminars, grievance redressal stakeholder engagement, school outreach programs, and the active participation of officers acting as facilitators, not enforcers. The inauguration ceremony included the release of highlighting brochures services taxpayer awareness initiatives.

#### 34 missing amid landslides & cloudbursts **Shimla:** The death toll in confirmed from various parts Mandi district due to landslides and multiple cloudburst incidents on July missing; many are feared 1 has risen to 10, while 34

people remain missing, according to the latest report issued by the Himachal Pradesh State Emergency Operation Centre. The monsoon fury, which been consistently wreaking havoc in the state

for the past three years, has again brought devastation to several regions of Mandi, especially in the subdivisions of Karsog, Thunag, Padhar and Gohar. Between June 20 and July 1, the state has reported around 90 people either killed or missing in weather-related

According to the 32-hour situation report released at 8 am on July 2, 10 deaths were

of Mandi. As many as 34 people are officially reported recovered and 7 still missing.



washed away by flash floods. Five people have sustained injuries, and over 370 have been rescued or evacuated, with 11 still stranded.

Rescue teams from NDRF and SDRF have been deployed at Karsog, Gohar, and Thunag, where severe cloudbursts caused destruction of homes and public infrastructure.

Among the

affected areas are Siyani, Gohar reported 9 people washed away, with 2 bodies

Parwara and Talwara village reported two missing from a family, with one body recovered.Thunag Pakrair areas together account for 17 missing and two deaths.

Several locations including Kutti Bypass, Old Bazaar Karsog, and Bada in Gohar also reported fatalities and multiple missing cases.

Highway-305 blocked, and damage reported to 24 houses, 12 cowsheds, and one hydroelectric project, the state continues to grapple monsoon-triggered with destruction. Relief operations are underway but hampered by accessibility challenges in hilly terrains.

## **Worse than emergency: Sukhbir Badal** slams Kejriwal's crackdown on Akalis

Chandigarh: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today launched a scathing attack on former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of orchestrating a communal and politically motivated crackdown against the SAD and the Sikh community.

termed developments as "worse than the draconian days of the Emergency.'

Badal alleged that Kejriwal had committed "heinous sacrilege" by using police forces to prevent Sikh devotees including Akali from offering workers prayers at Gurdwara Sri Amb Sahib in Mohali this morning. Earlier in the day, Badal

large number of his party workers while protesting against what he called the false and vindictive case filed against senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia. "This is nothing but Kejriwal's vendetta politics driven by hatred for Punjabis, designed to divert attention from his government's corruption and loot in Punjab," he charged. According to Badal,

large contingents of police blocked Akali workers from visiting the Gurdwara and forcibly detained them. SAD leaders from Majha were reportedly prevented from crossing the Beas bridge, with police checkpoints set up across Punjab to stop them

from reaching Mohali. "Everything in Punjab is

the media from inside a



being directed by Arvind Kejriwal, a communal and non-Punjabi leader. These police cases are merely a smokescreen. The real issue is his hatred for Punjabis," said Badal. while addressing

dictatorial mindset, reviving

memories of the Emergency.

Today, just like then, Punjabis

- and especially Akalis - are

being "brutally suppressed". "Not even during the Emergency or the historic Jaito Da Morcha were Sikhs stopped from visiting their sacred shrines, but today Akali workers and I were prevented from paying obeisance at Gurdwara Amb Sahib." Calling the incident a "broad daylight murder of democracy, civil liberties, and human rights," Badal questioned the silence of further claimed, human rights advocates. "Kejriwal and his gang have "Where are the so-called shamelessly revealed their champions of human rights

the primary targets."

alleged

peaceful political dissent is

Badal

today," he asked.
"I am not afraid of repression personally resistance runs in my blood.

But I strongly warn the government against targeting our peaceful workers," he declared.

He also pledged that the SAD would intensify its campaign against the AAP government's "loot, misrule, and political vendetta.' Referring to the planned protest in Ludhiana on July 15 against the alleged illegal grab of 40,000 acres of land, he said the SAD would resist "AAP's efforts to fill its coffers at the cost of Punjabis."

Badal called on all Punjabis to unite against Kejriwal's misrule and 'liberate Punjab from the grip of a Delhi-based party that has bankrupted the state and halted all development."

#### Mayawati opposes integration of primary schools by UP govt Lucknow: Bahujan

Samaj Party supremo Mayawati has opposed the Uttar Pradesh government's decision to integrate primary schools in the state.

In a statement here today, Mayawati said the decision taken by the UP Basic Education Council, which has closed a lot of schools under the guise of coupling/ integration of primary schools, is not justice to the easy and cheap government education system given to crores of children of poor people near their home.

'This action appears to inappropriate, nonessential and anti-poor. There is an appeal to the government that it should immediately withdraw this decision of its coupling/integration in the interest of poor students," she demanded.



further said, government does withdraw its decision, then our party wants to assure all the affected parents that the BSP, after the formation of the government in 2027, the old system will be restored in the state here after cancelling this decision."

However, she hoped that the UP government would consider changing its decision in view of the interest of education of the poor people.

#### Briefs:

#### with **Thunderstorms** Rain Likely in Delhi Today, Says IMD

New Delhi: The national capital began Wednesday with warm and humid weather, as the minimum temperature was recorded at 27.6°C, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Relative humidity at 8:30 am stood at 74%. The IMD has predicted thunderstorms accompanied by rain during the day, offering some relief from the heat. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 35°C.Meanwhile, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 85 at 9 am, placing it in the 'satisfactory' category, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). For context, AQI readings are classified as follows: 0-50: Good 51-100: Satisfactory 101-200: Moderate 201-300: Poor 301-400: Very Poor 401-500: Severe The current AQI reflects relatively clean air, likely helped by recent rainfall and favorable wind conditions.

#### **Delhi High Court Grants** Bail to Two in Parliament **Security Breach Case**

New Delhi :The Delhi

High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Neelam Azad and Mahesh Kumawat, two of the individuals accused in the December 2023 Parliament security breach, which triggered national outrage and raised concerns about legislative security.A bench comprising Justices Subramonium Prasad and Vaidyanathan Harish Shankar approved their bail on a personal bond of ₹50,000 each, along with two sureties of the same amount. As part of the bail conditions, the court has prohibited both accused from speaking to the media or posting anything on social media platforms related to the incident. Azad and Kumawat had earlier approached the High Court after a trial court denied them bail, prompting them to challenge that order. The case pertains to a serious security breach inside Parliament on the anniversary of the 2001 terror attack. During Zero Hour, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D allegedly leapt into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors gallery, releasing yellow smoke from canisters and raising slogans before being subdued by Members of Parliament.Simultaneously, Amol Shinde and Neelam Azad were accused of releasing coloured smoke and chantanti-authoritarian slogans such as "Tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside

#### CM Rekha felicitated by traders' association

the Parliament complex.

New Delhi: In a significant show of solidarity between Delhi's trading community and the state government, the (CAIT) on Tuesday organised a grand "Thanksgiving Ceremony" at Siri Fort Auditorium to honour Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The event marked a landmark moment in tradergovernment relations, drawing nearly 2,500 representatives from across Delhi's trade associations. The ceremony was organised to express gratitude to CM Gupta for her recent announcement over the removal of the requirement of police licensing for businesses and the formation of a dedicated Traders' Welfare Board decisions hailed by CAIT as historic and transformative for the city's commercial ecosystem.Addressing the gathering, CAIT National General Secretary and Chandni Chowk Praveen Khandelwal said, "CM Rekha Gupta's decisions will free traders from decades of bureaucratic harassment and create a transparent, business-friendly environment in Delhi.

## **Delhi Gets DGCA Clearance for First-Ever Cloud Seeding Trials to Tackle Pollutiona**

New Delhi: In a first for the country, the Delhi Government has secured approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to carry out cloud seeding trials aimed specifically at mitigating pollution. This marks the first time any Indian state has received aviation clearance for such an initiative focused on atmospheric cleansing.

The pilot trials are now scheduled to take place between August 30 and September 10, after experts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, and IIT-Kanpur revised the timeline due to the earlierthan-expected monsoon. The initial window, approved for July 4-11, was deemed less optimal for cloud formation.

Announcing the development, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said, "Cloud seeding has long been discussed but never implemented. After coordinating with 13 departments and securing the necessary approvals, Delhi is set to witness this historic

The targeted areas for the aerial operations include Alipur, Bawana, Rohini, Burari, Pavi Sadakpur, Kundli border, and parts of



the Eastern Peripheral Expressway-zones known for high pollution retention and conducive cloud presence.

The mission will be executed by a trained team from IIT-Kanpur's Aerospace Engineering Department, using a Cessna 206-H aircraft (VT-IIT) equipped with specialized cloud seeding systems. The technique involves releasing hygroscopic particles like sodium chloride beneath cloud layers to trigger rainfall, which in turn can help wash away pollutants from the air.

The DGCA's approval comes with strict operational guidelines. Flights must operate under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and avoid restricted or sensitive areas

unless separately authorized. No aerial photography or videography will be permitted, and coordination with Air Traffic Control will be mandatory to ensure compliance with aviation protocols.

Minister Sirsa noted that the goal isn't just immediate rainfall but the generation of valuable real-time data that could inform smog control strategies during Delhi's pollution-heavy months. "This mission will help us prepare for the October-December period when AQI typically deteriorates. We'll be sharing findings with pollution boards, researchers, and even courts for potential replication," he

He also took a swipe at previous governments for stalling similar proposals. "For ten years, cloud seeding remained a theoretical discussion. We completed the groundwork, approvals, and preparations in just four months. The aircraft is ready, the crew is trained, and we're moving ahead,"

he added. Part of the Environment Action Plan – 2025, the cloud seeding trial is being promoted as a testament to the Delhi Government's commitment to science-led policy. Sirsa credited Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a "Viksit

#### BJP has no clue how to govern, says AAP leader

New Delhi :The ready receiving monsoon show-(AAP) on Tuesday ers. "Who comes up with a plan launched a scathing at- for artificial rain in the middle of tack on Chief Minister monsoon? Even a village pan-Rekha Gupta's BJP-led chayat wouldn't approve such Delhi government, call- an idea. Here, it gets cleared at ing its latest measures the highest levels," he said. Ac-

-seizing old vehicles at cusing the BJP government of petrol pumps and conducting artificial rain during the monsoon - a recipe for chaos and proof of "gram panchayat-level" governance. Addressing a press conference, Delhi AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj mocked the BJP's handling of the Capital's pollution and infrastructure challenges. "This isn't governance, this is Phulera Panchayat-style administration," Bharadwaj said. Under the new policy, which came into effect on July 1, the Delhi Government has banned fuel for 10-year-old diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles, deploying AI cameras at petrol stations to check violators. Bharadwaj warned this move would spark altercations at fuel pumps between pump staff and vehicle owners. Even the Petrol Pump Owners' Association has called this policy impractical. The BJP has no clue how to govern," he said.Bharadwaj also ridiculed the decision to test artificial rainfall at the

neglecting real issues, he said: "Their so-called road repairs are nothing but sham. They patch tiny potholes, but ignore the major ones. For the next five years, they'll do nothing except blame Arvind Kejriwal for every-

#### Girl attempts suicide by drinking acid after 'sexual assault', lover arrested

New Delhi : A girl attempted suicide by drinking acid in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area after she was allegedly sexually assaulted by a man she was in a relationship with, police said on Wednesday. The man has been arrested. The accused, Md Rehan, allegedly sexually assaulted the girl on the pretext of marriage and blackmailed her with objectionable photographs, a senior police official said. He said the incident came to light on June 18, when an MLC (medico-legal case) report was received from Spinal Injuries Hospital stating that a girl had been admitted there after she consumed acid. A police team reached the hospital, but the girl was declared unfit for recording a statement at the time. The local crime team was deployed and the scene of the incident was examined, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said." An

Fuel Ban for Old

**Vehicles Enforced** 

**Across Delhi Under** 

Tight Surveillance

Delhi government on Tuesday began en-

forcing a ban on refu-

eling old vehicles

across the city, a sig-

nificant step aimed at

tackling the Capital's

chronic air pollution

crisis. The move tar-

gets petrol vehicles

over 15 years old and

diesel vehicles older

than 10 years, in line

with Supreme Court

directives. The crack-

down began at 6 a.m.,

with heightened se-

curity and coordinat-

teams stationed at

fuel stations through-

out the city. Nearly

350 petrol pumps

have been equipped

Number Plate Recog-

nition (ANPR) cam-

eras, backed by AI-

systems, to detect and

flag vehicles classi-

fied as End-of-Life

Vehicles (ELVs).By

already impounded

24 vehicles, includ-

ing 19 two-wheelers,

one three-wheeler,

and four cars, during

inspections carried

out at major fuel out-

lets - particularly in

South Delhi.

p.m., officials had

powered

enforcement

Automatic

alert

New Delhi : The

from her residence. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the girl was in a relationship with a man named Rihan and it led to emotional distress," the bour noticed her in pain said."Subsequently, the victim's mother lodged a complaint at Vasant Kunj (South) police station, accusing Rihan of sexually assaulting her daughter

acid bottle was recovered

DCP said. The girl was alone at home when she consumed acid. A neigharound 4:45 pm and rushed her to the hospital. On June 20, she was referred to Safdarjung Hospital for further treatment due to the severity of her condition,

He said the complainant also handed over her daughter's mobile phone, which contained voice recordings allegedly supporting the allega-

on the pretext of marriage

and blackmailing her

with objectionable pho-

#### **Operation Med-Max: NCB Dismantles Global** Online Pharma Drug Trafficking Network New Delhi: In a major nancial trail. The investigation

eration Med-Max, has led to the arrest of eight individuals in India, including suspects from Delhi, Jaipur, and Udupi.A senior NCB official revealed that the alleged mastermind of the syndicate is based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was responsible for overseeing finances and coordinating international drug shipments. Authorities are currently working to track other key players and map out the syndicate's fi-

crackdown on transnational revealed a highly organized drug smuggling, the Narcot- operation that utilized encryptics Control Bureau (NCB) ed communication platforms, has uncovered a sophisti- cryptocurrency transactions, cated international syndi- B2B marketplaces, and anonycate trafficking controlled mous drop shipping to smugpharmaceutical substances gle restricted pharmaceutical across four continents. The drugs — such as Tramadoloperation, code-named Op- from India to the United States,

Europe, and Australia. The probe began on May 25 with a vehicle stop near Mandi House in Delhi, where officials recovered 3.7 kg of Tramadol tablets from two B. Pharm graduates. Their interrogation led to further breakthroughs, including the discovery of a stockist in

time when Delhi is al-

## EDITORIAL



## Railways' relief!

Good news for lakhs of passengers travelling by train! The Railway Administration has decided to put an end to the fear of reservations and the uncertainty of ticket confirmation till the last minute. From July 1, the reservation chart for long-distance trains will now be published 8 hours in advance, not 4. This will be a big relief for the passengers who are planning.

In the last few days, the Railway Board has made one or the other decision. Along with a slight increase in fares in long-distance mail-express trains, the Railway Administration has made important changes in the ticketing system. The most important and in the interest of the passengers is the decision to publish the reservation chart 8 hours before the departure of the train instead of 4 hours.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav recently approved the proposal of the Railway Board in this regard and this decision has been implemented across the country from July 1. Most passengers prefer railways for long-distance travel in India. Indian Railways also has its own glorious history and culture. The Indian Railways network, which extends over 65 thousand km, is considered the fourth largest railway network in the

Indian Railways embraces the bustling urban centers and remote villages. The train that connects various regions of the Indian subcontinent creates countless stories of travel as it runs forward. The railway, which is the first choice for cheap, fast and safe travel, also provides employment to millions of hands.

One or the other feature of Indian Railways can be mentioned. But, in the current situation, while providing services to the passengers, the railway administration has to face criticism on many issues. Reservation in trains is a key issue. A few days ago, train reservations were opened for passengers going to Konkan on the occasion of Ganeshotsav. As soon as this reservation started, it was filled in just 3 minutes.

This caused a lot of disappointment to the servants who had been planning to go to Konkan for the last one and a half to two months. Every year, lakhs of servants have to endure this pain. Our metropolis had stated that this was happening because the number of tickets for certain trains running on the Konkan Railway route was very insufficient. Any long-distance journey requires planning.

Earlier, a train passenger could reserve a ticket for up to 120 days. The railway administration has reduced this limit by half and brought it to 60 days. Once a train ticket is reserved, the passenger's future plans are decided. Some want to go to their hometown, while others just want to travel. Accordingly, passengers have to make arrangements for accommodation, food, and travel at the designated place. For this, the issue of confirming the reservation is very important.

Many people travel by train with their families and friends. There are also women, children, or the elderly, in such cases, a big problem arises if the ticket is not confirmed. Because the journey is long-distance. Another problem is that the ticket has been purchased by spending money and the journey has to be made. But since the ticket is not reserved, there is no place to sit. In such a case, passengers on the waiting list travel in AC or sleeper coaches and are caught in the clutches of ticket inspection, it is assumed that they will have to pay a huge fine.

Moreover, the passenger has to pay the entire journey fare between the station from which he travelled and the station at which he was caught. It is allowed to travel only in general coaches with a waiting ticket. But passengers should not tell a different story of the general coach which is always full. The railway administration has given some relief to the passengers stuck in such a dilemma.

Earlier, the reservation chart was prepared only 4 hours before the departure of the train, due to which the waiting ticket holders had to wait till the last minute for the ticket confirmation. Now the reservation chart will be prepared 8 hours before the departure of the train. This will help reduce the uncertainty faced by the passengers in the waiting list. According to the new scheme. the reservation chart for trains departing before 2 pm will be prepared at 9 pm the previous day.

The Indian Railways has also clarified that this change will be implemented in a phased manner to ensure that this process is carried out smoothly without any hindrance. Many passengers travel from remote areas and suburbs to reach important railway stations. Such passengers will know the status of their tickets 8 hours in advance. If necessary, such passengers will get more time to cancel the ticket or make alternative travel arrangements.

Apart from this, the railway administration is developing a modern passenger reservation system. The current system has the capacity to reserve 32 thousand tickets per minute. The new system will have the capacity to reserve 1.5 lakh tickets per minute. Similarly, the capacity of ticket enquiry will increase tenfold from 4 lakh to 40 lakh per minute. This modern passenger reservation system is expected to come into service by December

Not only this, from the end of July, Tatkal tickets will be reserved only after OTP-based authentication on the IRCTC website and app. The rail travel experience starts with ticket reservation. The steps taken by the railway administration to make the ticket booking process even easier and more transparent are certainly welcome. It is expected that if the fear of confirmed tickets is eliminated, the further train journey of the passengers will also be hassle-free.

The Railway Administration has taken important steps for the convenience of passengers, from technical improvements in the ticket reservation process, to increasing the ticket enquiry capacity and transparency in the reservation system. There is no doubt that these efforts to improve the travel experience will receive a very positive response from the passengers. There is no doubt that this improvement will be a relief for travel, there is no doubt about it!

## First-Ever National Workshop on Pension Disputes

aimed at reducing pensionrelated legal disputes and ensuring swifter justice for India's growing population of retired government employees, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today, while chairing the first-ever "National Workshop on Pension Litigation" organized by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare at Vigyan Bhawan here, said that in no case should the vital energies of our elder citizens be allowed to be consumed inconsequentially for avoidable reasons because they may be "retired from government service but not retired from service to the nation"

Addressing a packed hall of senior officials, legal experts and pension administrators, Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined the Centre's firm commitment to pensioners' welfare, while also drawing attention to the mounting pressure on government finances due to litigation. He noted that with over 60 lakh pensioners today — a figure that now exceeds the number of serving Central Government employees — the challenges of pension administration have entered a new phase that requires urgent institutional coordination and systemic reforms.

"Pension-related litigation often arises from misinterpretation of rules, and unresolved grievances can lead to unnecessary hardship for senior citizens," Dr. Jitendra Singh said. Currently, over 300 pensionrelated cases are pending in various forums, with nearly 70% before Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT). The Minister acknowledged that the Government is impleaded in nearly all of these cases, indicating the systemic nature of the prob-

"Litigation is usually the last resort, not the first,' the Minister said, cautioning against underestimating the grievances of pension-

ers. He also reflected on how, in many cases, both winning and losing parties in tribunals often appeal further, underlining the depth of discontent and the challenge of resolution. To address these con-

cerns, the workshop focused on legal training for nodal officers, stronger real-time coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs, and the potential use of technology cluding AI-driven dashboards and repositories to improve decision-making and case tracking.

However, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that no algorithm can replace human empathy and administrative sensitivity. "AI can assist, but welfare must be guided by intelligence of the humane kind," he remarked.He ended on a poignant note, calling for a mindset shift in how retirees are viewed: "They may retire from government service, but not from serving the nation."

As part of the workshop



launched a set of key publications and initiatives aimed at enhancing awareness and grievance redressal mechanisms related to pension matters. These included a Compendium of Case Studies on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, and a Booklet on last year's Special Campaign on Family Pensioners' Grievances. He also formally launched the Special Campaign 2.0, a month-long nationwide drive dedicated to resolving pending grievances of family pensioners and super senior pensioners. These initiatives are expected to support capacity building,

promote best practices, and

sections among pensioners. Joining the workshop virtually, Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani stressed the need for a structured national approach to management, litigation with a special focus on pension disputes. He proposed an ambitious target of achieving "zero pension litigation" by 2028 through anticipatory administrative measures, timely grievance resolution, and a culture of accountability. Emphasizing the unique nature of pension litigation compared to other service-related legal matters, he advocated for the adoption of mediation and conciliatory mechanisms as viable alter-

natives to adversarial proceedings. The Attorney General also highlighted chronic delays in processing pension claims — particularly for armed forces personnel — and called for the use of digital tools to improve real-time coordination between nodal officers, law officers, and his office. He proposed establishing a digitally connected standing platform to monitor and manage litigation across departments. "Pursuit of happiness," he said, "should extend to our retirees," urging all stakeholders to work collectively to ensure that pensioners are not left to navigate legal complexities in their twilight years. Earlier in the day, Secretary of the De-

Srinivas, outlined the rationale behind convening the National Workshop, stating that the initiative was conceived to strengthen the capacities of nodal officers, streamline administrative processes, and reduce avoidable pension-related litigation. He emphasized the need to address recurring legal disputes, eliminate anomalies in notifications, avoid contempt cases, and build a robust knowledge management system. Highlighting recent reforms, Secretary pointed to the launch of the CCS Pension Rules, NPS Rules, and Pension Extraordinary Rules in 2021 as key legislative milestones. He noted the digital empowerment of pensioners, including the integration of pension portals with banks and the submission of over 4.6 crore Digital Life Certificates. Citing the Department's experience of being party to nearly 6,000 pension-related court cases, he stressed the urgency of efficient legal coordination and earlystage policy vetting. The Secretary also announced upcoming initiatives, including inter-ministerial consultations on the CCS Unified Pension Scheme Rules 2025 and a monthlong national family pension awareness campaign

Pensioners' Welfare, V.

starting July 1. The plenary session of the workshop was graced by a distinguished panel of dignitaries, including Sec-(Ex-Servicemen Welfare), Dr. Niten Chandra; Secretary (Law), Dr. Anju Rathi Rana; Learned Additional Solicitor General, Shri Vikramjit Banerjee; Member (A), CAT Delhi, Dr. Chhabilendra Roul; and Joint Secretary (Pension), Shri Dhrubajyoti Sengupta.

## Lifestyle and Pre-Existing Conditions identified as key factors

The matter of sudden unexplained deaths has been investigated through several agencies in the country. These studies have conclusively established that there is no direct link between COVID 19 vaccination and the reports of sudden deaths in the country.

Studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) affirm that COV-ID-19 vaccines in India are safe and effective. with extremely rare instances of serious side effects. Sudden cardiac deaths can result from a wide range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing conditions, and post-COVID complications.

The ICMR and NCDC have been working together to understand the causes behind sudden unexplained deaths, especially in young adults between the ages of 18 and 45 years. To explore this, two complementary

studies were undertaken using different research approaches—one based on past data and another involving real-time investigation. The first study, conducted by ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), was titled "Factors associated with unexplained sudden deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India – A multicentric matched case-control study." This study was carried out from May to August 2023 across 47 tertiary care hospitals in 19 states and Union Territories. It looked at individuals who appeared to be healthy but died suddenly between October 2021 and March 2023. The findings have conclusively showed that COVID-19 vaccination does not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death in young adults.

The second study, titled "Establishing the cause in sudden unexplained deaths in young," is currently being conducted by the

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AI-IMS), New Delhi with funding and in collaboration with ICMR. This is a prospective study aimed at determining the common causes of sudden deaths in young adults. Early analysis of data from the study indicates that heart attacks, or myocardial infarction (MI), continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group. Importantly, no major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed when compared with previous years. In majority of the unexplained death cases, genetic mutations have been identified as a possible cause of these deaths. The final results will be shared once the study is com-

Together, these two studies offer a more comprehensive understanding of sudden unexplained deaths in young adults in India. It has also been revealed that COVID-19 vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas, the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition and risky lifestyle choices does play a role in unexplained sudden deaths.

Scientific experts have reiterated that statements linking COVID vaccination to sudden deaths are false and misleading, and are not supported by scientific consensus. Speculative claims without conclusive evidence risk undermining public confidence in vaccines, which have played a crucial role in saving millions of lives during the pandemic. Such unfounded reports and claims could strongly contribute to vaccine hesitancy in the country, thereby adversely impacting public health.

The Government of India remains committed to evidence-based public health research to protect the well-being of its citizens.

## **ICAI** Foundation Day

"In the past eleven years, India has risen from the eleventh to the fourth largest economy in the world. Our GDP has more than doubled—from USD 2.1 trillion in 2014 to USD 4.3 trillion in 2025" said Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, here today.

"We have recently overtaken Japan and are poised to become the third-largest economy by 2030, overtaking Ger-

The Minister remarked, highlighting the nation's resilience during global headwinds and the critical role played by bold policy reforms, extensive social welfare schemes, and sound financial management.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri was addressing the 77th Foundation Day of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, celebrating a decade of transformation marked by unprecedented economic growth and social progress under the Government of India.

Under the flagship social initiatives, Shri Puri noted, over 27 crore citizens have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty, nearly four crore houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and 15.4 crore rural households now enjoy piped water through the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Ayushman Bharat has expanded health coverage to over 70 crore individuals with a ₹5 lakh insurance benefit, rein**Chief Guest** 



forcing India's commitment to inclusive development, the Minister added.

The Minister emphasized India's success in attracting global investment, with USD 748 billion of foreign direct investment inflows between 2014 and 2025—an increase of 143% over the previous decade—and the expansion of source countries from 89 to

Landmarks in policy reform, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Production-Linked Incentive schemes, the Goods and Services Tax,

Direct Benefit Transfers, and the elimination of over 25,000 compliances and 1,400 obsolete laws, have strengthened the nation's business land-

The transformation in tax administration underscores India's evolving financial culture: annual Income Tax Returns filed grew from 3.6 crore in FY 2013-14 to 8.5 crore in FY 2024-25, with 95% processed within 30 days. Each return, each rupee of tax collected, translates into tangible benefits—LPG connections for mothers, medicines for the

poor, electricity for rural homes, pensions for the elderly, and employment opportunities for yoth.

Vice-President, ICAL

India's banking sector has witnessed a historic turnaround, with gross non-performing assets of Scheduled Commercial Banks dropping from 14.58% in FY 2017-18 to below 3% in FY 2024-25. The digital economy's backbone, the Unified Payments Interface

Now handles nearly 50% of real-time digital transactions globally, serving over 500 million active users. Fintech adoption stands at 87%, compared to the 67% global average, facilitated by India's universal digital identity and access through Aadhaar and mobile services.

Shri Puri also spotlighted the Ministry's flagship Prad-han Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which has delivered over 16.5 crore LPG connections since 2014, empowering women, reducing indoor air pollution, and promoting public health. The growing market capitalization of Oil & Gas PSUs-nearly doubling to ₹8.79 lakh crore since 2014—reflects the sector's robust performance and the trust of investors.

Looking ahead, the Minister called on chartered accountants to embrace artificial intelligence and advanced analytics, automating routine tasks to focus on strategic advisory roles and harnessing datadriven insights for more effecdecision-making. "Embracing AI is no longer optional.

It is essential for staying competitive and innovative in today's evolving financial world," he noted.

In closing, Shri Puri urged the ICAI community to uphold transparency, efficiency, and accountability as India marches towards a developed nation by 2047.

"On this special day, remember that your profession has the power to protect and sustain our economy. Your dedication is vital for building Viksit Bharat."

#### Briefs:

**Police Commissioner** reviews law and order in Bahadurgarh

Jhajjar: Rajshree Singh, Commissioner of Police, Jhajjar, convened a meeting with the DCP, ACPs, Station House Officers (SHOs), and police post in-charges in Bahadurgarh town here on Tuesday to review law and order. During the meeting, she directed all officers and staff to exercise extra vigilance, noting that Bahadurgarh, being an industrial area bordering Delhi, attracted workers from different states. She emphasised the need for verifying the identities of newcomers and urged company owners and landlords to conduct police verification before hiring employees or renting out property. This, she said, was essential, as criminals often hid in such areas or used these as escape routes. Given the NCR connection and industrial profile of the area, the Commissioner stated that the police responsibilities were more here. She instructed all officers to perform their duties with full dedication and conduct thorough checks of suspicious persons and vehicles through checkpoints. Rajshree also emphasised prompt handling of complainants at police stations and posts to ensure swift justice. She stressed on the role of the police in safeguarding the youth

#### Another initiative to improve sex ratio park rallies

from drugs and crime

through awareness

campaigns.

Chandigarh: In a renewed push to improve the sex ratio in Haryana, the Health and Women and Child Development Departments have launched an intensified statewide 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign. As part of this initiative, awareness rallies and marches are being organised in public parks across the state. Each rally displays banners featuring the sex ratio of the respective district, aimed at fostering public engagement and strengthening the social message of valuing the girl child. Additionally, the Women and Child Development Department is also undertaking campaigns on social media handles of all Deputy Commissioners to amplify the message. Harvana's sex ratio improved to 906 from January 1 to June 30, 2025 — up from 904 in the corresponding period last year. This information was given today during the weekly meeting of the State Task Force (STF) for Improving Sex Ratio in Haryana, which was chaired by Sudhir Rajpal, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare. The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to curb illegal abortions and further improve the sex ratio.Rajpal mandated intensified enforcement against illegal abortions, with a clear directive for officials to pursue strict punitive action, including cancellation of licence for doctors found complicit. In one such recent case, a hospital in Hisar had its MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) licence revoked.He directed

officials to organise

disadvantaged areas.

in economically

birth registration camps

## 12 years on, Rohtak villagers await allocation of plots

Rohtak: Nearly 750 residents of Kharawar, Baliyana, Nonand and Kheri Sadh villages in Rohtak district, whose land was acquired by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) for the development of residential sectors, have been waiting for the draw of lots for allocation of plots for which they had applied about 12 years ago.

The villagers have made more than 200 representations to the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, HSIIDC Managing Director and also met the top state authorities personally, but have got only assurances so far.

We had applied for the allotment of residential plots in Phase III of the HSI-IDC project at Rohtak in 2013. After more than a decade, we were told to deposit 10% amount, which we did in

However, it has been more than a year since we deposited the said amount, but the draw of plots is yet to be conducted," said Puran Singh Baliyana, a farmer leader-cum-social activist who has been pursuing the matter. Mohit Sindhu of Kheri Sadh village, who has also been raising the demand of the farmers, said the local administration and the state authorities concerned were aware of the matter and had been assuring them that the draw of lots for the allotment of plots would be conducted soon, but still it was hanging fire for a

The villagers have demanded that the draw of lots should be conducted at the earliest as per the notification of the said project and in accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy of the Haryana Government issued in 2010. Contacted for his comments.

The Managing Director of the HSI-IDC, Dr Yash Garg, said the applications and documents submitted by the villagers were being examined and the draw of lots for the allocation of plots would be conducted soon.

The examination of documents is in the final stage and the draw of lots shall be conducted within a month," he said.

## Hooda accuses BJP govt of protecting mining mafia

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Monday launched a sharp attack on the state's BJP-led government, accusing it of openly shielding illegal mining operations and causing massive revenue losses. The state government itself is giving protection to illegal mining and the mafia. Examples of this can be seen from Chhachhrauli to Palwal," Hooda said, citing a recent incident in Chhachhrauli as a glaring example of administrative collusion.

He alleged that a dumper filled with illegally mined soil was seized by the police and kept at the local police station. However, it was later taken elsewhere, emptied and the now-empty dumper



sion," Hooda asserted. He said illegal mining along the Yamuna stretches across multiple districts from Yamunanagar to Palw-

examples of no action being

taken against illegal mining

and administrative collu-

al — and that the mafia continues to operate without fear of action. "In Palwal, many temporary bridges have been built on the Yamuna to extract sand illegally. It is evident that neither any official nor environmental approval was taken for these illegal bridges," Hoo-

He further alleged that

da claimed.

ing is not only costing the state thousands of crores in revenue, but also contributing to environmental disas-

"Such illegal mining had led to the floods in 2023, as the flow of the river was altered due to the illicit extraction of sand," Hooda said. "When the water rushed in from higher elevations in the north, it ended up inundating residential ar-

He recalled that during the 2023 floods, the Congress had raised its voice against both the illegal mining activities and the government's negligence.

"We took to the streets and raised these issues in the Assembly," he said.

## **Education Dept stays execution of reversion** orders of 330 elementary school headmasters

Rohtak: The Directorate of School Education (DSE) has stayed the implementation of the reversion orders issued on May 27, under which 330 Elementary School Head Masters (ES-HMs) posted at various government schools across the state were reverted to their previous posts, citing wrongly granted relaxation in eligibility criteria. The operation of this order has been stayed till further orders in light of pending representation submitted by several affected ESHMs. The DSE has now in-

structed all District Elementary Education Officers (DEEOs) not to take any further action on the orders unless specific instructions are issued by the department. This comes as a major relief to the affected ESHMs, as the DSE stated that the mat-



ter is currently under exami-

A formal communiqué regarding the stay was issued by the Director General, Elementary Education, to all DEEOs on Monday. Rohtak DEEO Diljeet Singh has confirmed the development.

The May 27 orders stated that Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs)/ Language Teachers serving in government schools were considered and promoted to the post of ESHM from time to

It came to the notice that

certain SC/BC candidates were inadvertently granted relaxation of 5% in their BA degree marks during the promotion process, based on the instructions issued by the Chief Secretary on July 16,

"However, upon clarification from the Chief Secretary, it was confirmed that this letter only pertains to relaxation in marks to candidates of reserved categories for the purpose of admissions to educational institutions and not to provide relaxation in promotion in any department of the state. The Chief Secretary's office also clarified that under GAD instructions, dated March 15, 1983, relaxation in qualification and experience is granted at the time of direct recruitment only when the sufficient number of candiare not available," read the

The order further maintained that accordingly, the department re-examined the promotion cases of such SC/ BC candidates through the committee (s). Upon review, it has been found that several candidates were wrongly granted relaxation in eligibility and were thus promoted in contravention of the applicable service rules, hence they were reverted to their substantive posts of TGT/C&V with immediate

Among the ESHMs. several had either superannuated or were deceased. In such cases, the DEEOs concerned were directed to immediately undertake pay refixation in accordance with applicable rules and instructions as the reversion was not applicable to them.

#### SIT formed to probe 'assault' on Dalit woman

Kaithal: Kaithal Superintendent of Police Astha Modi has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the alleged physical assault of a 27-year-old Dalit woman at Siwan police station. The SIT, headed by DSP Sushil Prakash, has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive inquiry and submitting a detailed report at the earliest. The move follows the registration of an FIR against unidentified police personnel under Sections 115 and 127(2, 3, 5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The woman has alleged that she was assaulted inside the police station on June 30, leading to serious injuries.According to sources, the woman had gone to the station in connection with a missing case involving a 17-year-old girl when the incident occurred. While the FIR mentions "unidentified" officers, local sources claim the woman had named specific personnel in her written complaint. Addressing the media, DSP Bir Bhan said, "The SIT has been constituted by the SP to investigate the matter in a fair and transparent manner. We have registered a case and the SIT will question the police personnel concerned about the incident."

SP Astha Modi said neither the woman nor her husband had named anyone specifically in their complaint but had mentioned four police personnel, including a woman officer. "An SIT would inquire into the case from all angles," she said.

Earlier on Monday, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Preeti had directed the police to submit a detailed report on the matter after a delegation of villagers from Siwan approached her with a formal

## Govt hikes financial assistance for wedding of girls from EWS families

Chandigarh : Harvana Government has increased the financial assisprovided under Mukhyamantri Vivah Shagun Yojana, enhancing support for the wedding of girls from economically weaker sections. As per a proposal approved by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday, families from backward classes with an annual income of up to Rs 1.80 lakh will now receive Rs 51,000 up from the earlier

amount of Rs 41,000 — on the occasion of their daughters' weddings.

Sharing this information, an official spokesperson said, "The objective of the Mukhyamantri Vivah Shagun Yojana is to provide



financial assistance for the wedding of girls from economically weaker sections. With the latest revision, backward class families living below the poverty line will now receive Rs 51,000 as 'Kanyadaan'." In addition, female sportspersons of any category will also receive Rs 51,000 as assistance for their own wedding. The scheme further extends to differently abled couples, where either the husband or wife is physically challenged, offering them Rs 51,000 as support.

Families belonging to Scheduled Castes, Vimukta Jatis and Tapriwas communities will continue to get Rs

The government is also offering Rs 51,000 for the

71,000 under the scheme.

vorced, orphaned or destitute women — provided they did not receive the benefit during their first mar-

Furthermore, if both members of a newly married couple are physically challenged, they too are entitled to the Rs 51,000 benefit.

To avail of the scheme's benefits, marriages must be registered within six months. "The application process is designed to be user-friendly and straightforward, ensuring eligible applicants can easily access the benefits," the spokesperson

#### 2 Hafed managers suspended in Ambala

Ambala: Two managers of Hafed posted in Ambala have been suspended with immediate effect for alleged negligence in the procurement of sunflower seeds at the ket. Action has been taken against Ritu Bala and Vijay Dhillon.

Deputy Commissioner Ajay Singh Tomer today said that registration of an FIR had also been recommended against all people involved in the matter. As per information, a stock of sunflower seeds packed in gunny bags was found in the grain market, but the market committee secretary and District Manager (Hafed) claimed to have no information about it. No gate pass was issued for the stock that arrived

failed, helping them recover

and sustain their livelihoods.

The awareness programme

was attended by subject ex-

pert Rakesh Kunt, Quality

Control Inspector Amit Ku-

mar, State Coordinator of



in a truck at the market.

Members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) had sought an inquiry into it. Following the complaint, the DC formed a committee led by SDM Ambala City to conduct a probe. After the committee submitted its report, both the managers were suspend-

SDM Darshan Kumar

said, "An inquiry was conducted and the negligence of the officials have come to light. The record of commission agents will be checked and the sales and the registration of farmers on the portal will be verified. An FIR has also been recommended in this matter as the involvement of some more people has also come to

register for the scheme by

submitting documents such

as land ownership records

(fard and khasra number),

Aadhaar card, bank pass-

book copy, crop sowing cer-

#### Haryana Speaker reviews preparations for national urban local bodies conference

Gurugram: Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan on Tuesday visited the ICAT campus in Manesar to review preparations for the country's first national urban local bodies conference, to be held on July 3 and

After reaching the venue, Kalyan reviewed in detail all aspects — such as parking, food management, traffic management, arrival and exit routes, seating arrangements, program management, lift capacity and testing. The Speaker said it was a matter of pride for Haryana that the state had got the opportunity to host the national-level conference.

"During the conference, delegates coming from various states across the country will be introduced to Haryanvi culture. The representatives from each state will be welcomed as per Haryanvi tradition. Helpdesks are being set up at the venue to provide them necessary information. Through the conference, Haryana will get an opportunity to showcase its administrative efficiency, cultural identity and excellent city management," said Kalyan. DC Ajay Kumar said all major preparations related to the event had been completed, and the remaining technical arrangements would also be completed on time.

#### Kurukshetra varsity launches auto appeal system portal Kurukshetra: Kuruk-

shetra University, in a step towards streamlining student services, launched an (AAS) portal on Tuesday. Vice-Chancellor Som Nath Sachdeva, during the launch of the portal, said the initiative was a strong step towards realising the goals of Digital India, and ensuring good governance. The portal

would provide students regardless of their locationtransparent, fast, and easily accessible services, Sachdeva added. Controller of Examinations Ankeshwar Prakash said, through the portal, students would be able to digitally access services and information related to inter-university migration certificates, provisional

certificates, and other academic services. The process of issuing migration certificates had been fully digitalised, and accessible on the university's website. Prakash added. Now, in accordance with the directions of the state government, the service had been integrated under the Right to Service

## Crop insurance week begins, farmers urged to enroll under PMFBY by July 31

Sirsa: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched the ninth Crop Insurance Week from July 1 to July 7 to raise awareness among farmers about the (PMFBY). The initiative aims at informing farmers about the benefits of crop insurance and encourage maximum enrollment to protect them against potential crop losses due to natural disasters, pests, or other unforeseen circumstances. A programme was held in the training hall of the local agriculture department, where a large number of farmers from the district participated on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sukhdev Singh, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Sirsa, stated that the campaign was being conducted under the directions of the Centre.

He stated that crop in-

surance provided critical fi-

nancial assistance to the

farmers when their crops

pany Vijaydeep, and District Coordinator Vikas, who interacted with the farmers and explained the details of the scheme.Dr Sukhdev Singh further said as per the Haryana Government's notification, the Agriculture Insur-Company authorised to operate the

the Kharif 2025 season. The crops covered under the scheme include paddy, cotton, bajra (millet), maize, and moong (green gram). The last date for enrollment

scheme in Sirsa district for



Agriculture Insurance Comunder the PMFBY is July 31. For Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders, the scheme is optional. If a KCC holder wishes to change the crop, they must inform the bank by July 29. Those who wish to opt out of the scheme must submit a written request to their bank by July 24.The non-loanee farmers can also

tificate and proof of registration under the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal. They can visit their nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to complete the process. CSC in-charges have been directed to upload all documents to the official portal and ensure farmers' mobile numbers and email IDs are correctly entered for direct communication from the insurance company.Dr Sukhdev Singh appealed to all farmers in the district to insure their crops on time and take full advantage of the government-supported scheme. For more information, the farmers are encouraged to contact their Block Agriculture Officer or representatives of the Agriculture Insurance Company.

## Rajasthan lease holder carried out illegal | 4 builders fined Rs 4.88 cr for illegal mining on Haryana land, FIR registered

holder from Rajasthan has been booked for illegally mining stone on Haryana territory, following a joint inspection by the Mining Department, Forest Department and Haryana State Enforcement Bureau at Pathrali village in Ferozepur Jhirka tehsil, Nuh district. According to the complaint filed by Surendra Singh, Assistant Mining Engineer (Mines and Predictions), the inspection was carried out on June 29 at Khasra No. 43. The team included Assistant Mining Engineer Sohit Kumar, Forest Range Officer Rakesh Kumar, ASI from Harvana State Enforcement Bureau Nuh, Halka patwari Parvez Alam and Sakil, a representative of the gram panchayat.

During the visit, officials discovered that stone mining activity was being carried out inside Haryana territory by a lease holder from Udayalkabas village, Rajasthan. "Investigation by officials of the Forest Department and Mining De-



partment revealed that this mining was done by Pawan Kumar Jain, owner of lease number 698/2003 and resident of Ward No. 12, Ferozepur Jhirka," Singh said in his complaint.

The lease holder had neither erected boundary pillars nor left a buffer zone, violating multiple safety and environmental norms.

'The lease holder has neither installed boundary pillars nor left a buffer zone and nor have safety standards been followed," Singh added.

Ferozepur Jhirka SDM Lakshmi Narayan confirmed that the Mining and Forest Departments submitted their joint report to the Enforcement Bureau, which led to an FIR being registered on Monday at the Haryana State Enforcement Bureau Police Station, Nuh.

In another case, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Gurugram, on Monday arrested Latif, a resident of Basai Meo village, in connection with a case involving the construction of illegal roads in the same village.

The ACB has already ar-

the case. A cash reward of Rs 50,000 each has been announced for the arrest of three absconding suspects Shabbir, Shaukat, and Hanip alias Hanna, all residents of Basai Meo.

rested four other accused in

## water extraction in Gurugram

Chandigarh: The Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA) has fined four builders Rs 4.88 crore for illegal water extraction in Gurugram. The BPTP Complex (now Countrywide Promoters Pvt Ltd) was fined Rs 2.12 crore, Ramprastha Promoters and Developers Pvt Ltd Rs 1.10 crore, VS Realprojects Pvt Ltd Selfie (AMB Square) Rs 1.22 crore, and Neocentra Rs 44.28 lakh. As per the inquiry report filed by the Chairperson of HWRA, Keshni Anand Arora, to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), along with the fine, the seizure of borewells and reported sump wells existing at the project proponents' sites was also ordered.

The NGT is hearing the matter related to the illegal extraction of groundwater by builders in Gurugram, in violation of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) guidelines. The tribunal had formed a Joint Committee, which confirmed the illegal extraction of groundwater by the builders in November 2023.

The next hearing before the NGT is July 7. The HWRA has issued 1,702 notices to several units in Haryana, in which 106 tube wells were dismantled by May 31.

In its order dated April 23 this year, the NGT observed that despite the violations, the state authorities had not

dialysis centre at Chaurasia

The NGT Bench, headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava, said, "The latest reply, dated April 22, 2025, filed by the CEO, Haryana Water Resource Authority, only mentions that the show-cause notices dated March 4, 2025, and the



reminder notice dated April 9, 2025, were issued. In fact, to ascertain if the borewells exist with due permission, only the permission was required to be verified.

The order further said the tribunal was surprised that a simple exercise had taken about one-and-a-half-years, and till now, action against illegally borewells had not been completed. "By delaying the action, in fact, the Respondent Authorities have permitted/ allowed illegal extraction of groundwater from borewells."

The NGT directed Arora to hold an inquiry into the delay.

Arora, in her inquiry report, noted that BPTP Ltd had, in its reply to the notice, denied all allegations of dewatering, however, the Joint Committee had found seven tubewells in their complex, and dewatering activity was observed. The committee had found that no sewage connection had been provided to the unit and treated water was used within the unit premises for gardening/flushing, etc. She added that as their NOC application was incomplete, they were afforded 17 opportunities in writing on various dates, and reminders were also issued through online mode

Ramprastha Promoters and Developers had submitted an application for NOC for dewatering in November 2023, but no proper Impact Assessment Report was submitted. It was necessary to obtain permission from relevant government offices for the disposal of dewatered water in the drain.

In the case of VS Realprojects, the committee noted that one tube well and one sump well were located within the complex, while two electrified tube wells were situated outside. These were deemed necessary to be sealed.

No one from M/s Neocentra apeared for a personal hearing before the HWRA, although its application for an NOC was pending.

## HAU students call off 21-day dharna



Hisar: The agitating students of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) called off their 21-day dharna on Tuesday night after reaching an agreement with the district administration. The breakthrough came after the local MLA arrived at the protest site and formally announced that the students' key demands would be accepted. The announcement followed a meeting between student representatives and district officials, which both sides described as constructive. The students expressed satisfaction with the outcome and welcomed the administration's assurances.

The protest began on June 10, following an inci-

dent in which university officials and security personnel allegedly assaulted students who were peacefully demonstrating on the campus. The incident triggered widespread anger, prompting hundreds of students to stage a prolonged sit-in. According to sources, the government has agreed to initiate an inquiry into the conduct of the Vice-Chancellor and the assault on the students. While several other demands—such as the transfer of the Chief Security Officer and a few other university officials—have reportedly been accepted, insiders indicated that the Vice-Chancellor is unlikely to proceed on leave, which had been the students' primary demand.

#### Govt targets 3,400 MBBS seats by 2029: CM Saini successful operation of a free

Chandigarh: Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today announced that the state aims to increase the number of MBBS seats to over 3,400 by the year 2029, as part of a comprehensive push to expand medical education and healthcare infra-

Speaking at a National Doctors' Day event hosted by the Derabassi Medical Association in Chandigarh, Saini said the government was committed to providing better facilities to doctors and ensuring high-quality healthcare for citizens. "In 2014, Haryana had

only six medical colleges. Today, that number has risen to 15, with nine more under construction," he said. "As a

cording to the police.

result, MBBS seats have increased from 700 in 2014 to 2,185 now. Our target is to



DGP lauds STF, says 100 gang members arrested so far

raise it to over 3,400 by 2029." The Chief Minister praised the Derabassi Medical Association for its service to humanity, noting the

Chandigarh: The Special Task Force (STF) of Hary-

ana Police has achieved success in its operations against

organised crime between January 1 and June 29. It ar-

rested 58 criminals with rewards on their head, 101 gang-

Extending his greetings on Doctors' Day, Saini said, "Doctors are the faithful servants of humanity. This year's theme, 'Caring for the caregivers behind the mask'. reminds us to value their contribution not just professionally, but emotionally and socially." He recalled the selfless service of doctors during the Covid pandemic, saying, "While the country indoors, doctors stood by their patients wearing PPE kits and staying away from their families.'

To further strengthen healthcare, the CM said the number of postgraduate (PG) medical seats in Haryana has been increased from 289 to 1,043, along with 155 PG diploma seats. The state has recruited 3,798 doctors since 2014 and extended the retirement age for doctors from 58 to 65 years.

#### flyover, safety concern for commuters in Karnal Karnal: Even before the Popli, a resident. "If left unattended, this could lead to

Soil erosion on NH-44

monsoon has fully arrived, worrying signs of damage have emerged on the stretch of the National Highway-44 in Karnal city limits, raising serious concerns about commuters' safety and quality of infrastructure. At several points on

slopes of flyovers on the NH-44 soil erosion has been reported from the sides of bridges and concrete slabs appear cracked or broken, creating potential hazard for thousands of commuters who ply on this crucial route

One such alarming site was spotted near the Namastey Chowk flyover, where the soil supporting the edges of the structure has visibly washed away and slabs have collapsed, exposing gaps and weakened zones. The residents and daily commuters who noticed the damage expressed concerns over the condition of the highway.

"Rains have just started, and the damage is already this severe. What will happen when there is heavy major structural damage or even accidents," said Jagjeet Singh, another resident.

The scene from multiple locations along the NH-44 stretch shows erosion around the flyovers and underpasses. The residents and commuters demanded immediate action from the authorities.

Considering the situation, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials have directed the contractor to carry out a thorough inspection of the whole stretch and repair wherever it is required. A senior official of the NHAI confirmed that they had taken immediate note of the issue. The contractor had been instructed to inspect the full stretch and initiate repair work wherever necessary.

"Safety of commuters is our top priority. The contractor has been directed to inspect the stretch and repair work has been directed wherever signs of erosion, slab damage, or collapse have been witnessed," he

## Three dumpers involved in mining activity submerged in Yamuna

Karnal: Three dumpers were submerged due to a sudden rise in water levels in the Yamuna river following days of rainfall. These were pulled out of the Yamuna after a long operation of seven hour. The incident occurred in Dhakwala village, located on the Haryana-Uttar Pradesh border, adjacent to the Yamuna. The area saw a sudden influx of water on Monday, due to which the vehicles involved in mining work were trapped there, alarming locals.

As per eyewitnesses, the dumpers were parked near the river bank when the water level began rising unexpectedly. Within some minutes, the vehicles were surrounded by water and began to sink. "It was dark and raining. People rushed to help. No one expected the river to rise so quickly," said a local. A sevenhour-long rescue operation was launched overnight, with earthmoving machines deployed to pull out the stranded vehicles from water. The operation, which continued into



the early morning hours, was successful in retrieving all three dumpers. Meanwhile, Irrigation Department officials clarified that while water levels in the Yamuna had increased, there was no threat of flooding at

"Around 25,000 cusecs of water are at present flowing through the Yamuna. The flow is well within the controlled range, and there is no cause for panic," said Sanjay Rahar, Superintending Engineer (SE), Irrigation

#### sters/gang members, and 178 heinous offenders. Comman resources, the STF has not only dismantled criminal pared to the same period in 2024, 100 criminals, 29 strongholds but also positioned itself. The STF Haryana gangsters/gang members, and 227 heinous offenders is becoming more capable, vigilant, and advanced. In the were arrested, indicating that the STF struck much deeper coming times, it will emerge as a model unit for crime at gang networks, resulting in reduced gang activity, accontrol across the country. Through its strategic vision, technological proficiency, and courageous operations, Director General of Police (DGP) Shatrujeet Kapur the STF has proven how a strong, dedicated, and modern stated that the STF was a symbol of their commitment to police force can play a decisive role in the fight against combating organised crime in the state. He praised the Crop insurance scheme proves beneficial

STF for its commendable and inspiring work against

gangsters, narcotics networks, and interstate crime syn-

dicates, even beyond state boundaries. "Leveraging mod-

ern technology, analytical capabilities, and dedicated hu-

#### Yamunanagar : Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam guests. Singh Rana on Tuesday said

the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has proven highly beneficial for farmers across the state, with claims worth over Rs 32 crore disbursed in Yamunanagar district alone. The Minister was addressing a state-level programme organised by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department to mark Fasal Bima Saptah (Crop Insurance Week) in Radaur town. Also present were Director of Agriculture Raj Narayan

years covering waste col-

lection and management

had already been floated

and would be opened soon. "We are committed to keep-

ing the city clean under all

teams are monitoring the

situation to ensure timely garbage removal from roads," he assured.

Kapil Nagpal, Munici-

Multiple

circumstances.

Kaushik and Joint Director Rajeev Mishra as special

"The scheme ensures that farmers pay minimal premiums and receive maximum compensation in case of crop damage," Rana said, adding that lakhs of farmers have already benefited under PMFBY. He highlighted that claims can now be filed through an online system, simplifying the process for farmers. He also clarified that crop insurance is voluntary for those with bank loans, while non-loanee farmers can independently opt into the scheme.



Currently, three insurance companies are implementing the scheme across Haryana, the minister said. "I urge all farmers to

complete their crop insurance before July 31, either at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or through their mobile phones," Rana said.He

also used the occasion to promote natural farming practices, urging farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable

"If yields fall short under natural farming, the government will compensate farmers based on the five-year average yield," he assured.

techniques.

Calling for greater farmer participation in policy improvements, the minister invited farmers to submit practical suggestions for improving agricultural practices. "The government will consider and implement the best recommendations," he promised.

#### Contracts expire, Rohtak MC takes over garbage lifting

Rohtak: Heaps of garbage were seen at several locations across Rohtak city on Tuesday following the expiry of contracts with two private firms responsible for door-to-door garbage collection and waste removal from the city's dumping points. The contracts ended on June 30, prompting the municipal corporation (MC) authorities to arrange alternative measures for garbage collection and disposal in all 22 municipal wards.

Piles of waste were spotted along the Radio Station-Prem Nagar Road, Mata Darwaja, the Old ITI area and at various points on Jhajjar Road, Sonepat Road and Jind Road, attracting stray animals and

spreading a foul odour in surrounding neighbourhood "the Rohtak municipal area has been divided into two zones, with two separate agencies handling door-to-door garbage collection and the lifting of waste from dumping points until Monday. From Tuesday, the entire operation is being managed by the municipal corporation itself with the help of previous agencies," said a municipal councillor. He noted that since it

was the first day after the contract's expiry, the situation could worsen in the coming days if the work was not assigned to a private agency soon, hence the authorities should expedite the tender allotment work.

Anand Sharma, Commissioner of the municipal corporation, stated that the process was underway to issue a short-term tender for three months to handle door-todoor collection and waste removal.

"The tender will be opened on July 4. Until then, the corporation is taking temporary steps to public inconvenience. Fifteen additional tractor-trailers have been deployed to lift garbage from dumping points while manpower and other resources are also being deployed by existing agencies

and the municipal corporation to collect garbage from municipal wards," he said. Sharma added that a long-term tender for five

pal Councillor from Ward 7, said no vehicle from the private agency came to his ward on Tuesday for doorto-door garbage collection. However, the municipal corporation authorities had deployed some sanitary workers to manage the waste. "The MC Commissioner has assured us that a tender for the work will be released soon," he added.

## power to club over entry row Ambala: Power Minister Anil

Vij on Monday ordered the suspension of an Executive Engineer (XEN) of the Electricity Department for allegedly misusing his authority to disconnect electricity supply to a private club in Ambala Cantonment after he was denied entry due to dress code violations. The action came after Shalainder Khanna, chairman of Central Phoenix Club, submitted a written representation to the minister, detailing the incident that occurred on Monday night.

According to the club chairman, XEN Harish Goel of UHBVN, Yamunanagar, arrived at the club with friends, but was denied entry into the bar area due to inappropriate attire, including shorts and slippers, which



Vij suspends XEN for cutting

violated the club's dress code. The club has well-established rules. Entry is not allowed in inappropriate attire. The staff politely asked him to comply with the guidelines," Khanna stated.

However, the officer reportedly

club's power supply was disconnected, prompting suspicion among staff. Later, Goel allegedly called the club's manager to inquire about the power status, which raised further concern. The Central Phoenix Club is a prestigious institution in Ambala. Last night, an XEN from Yamunanagar came in inappropriate attire. When stopped at the entrance as per club rules, he got the power disconnected and even called the manager to flaunt his authority," said Minister Anil Vij. "Such behaviour is unacceptable

from a public servant. I have directed that he be suspended immediately, and an explanation has been sought from him," the minister added.

## Aryan Age Delhi, Thursday, 03 July 2025

## Poor England slump to second T20 defeat by India

**Bristol**: A poor all-round performance from England saw India take a 2-0 lead in the five-match T20 series with a convincing 24run win here.

England dominated the opening powerplay as India slipped to 31-3 - including Saturday's centurion Smriti Mandhana for 13 - but contributions of 63 apiece from Jemimah Rodrigues and Amanjot Kaur led a brilliant recovery to 181-4 on Tues-

The pair added 93 for the fourth wicket as England lost control of the middle overs, before Richa Ghosh's unbeaten 32 boosted the innings at the death.

In reply, England's alltoo-familiar batting frailties were exposed once again as they failed to recover from an early wobble to 17-3, eventually scrambling to 157-7 after Tammy Beaumont's 54 and a cameo of 35 from Sophie Ecclestone.

Openers Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Sophia Dunkley fell in the first two overs and captain Nat Sciver-Brunt was caught at mid-on for 13, before Beaumont's counterattacking knock kept England in the game with 106 needed from the final 10

But Beaumont's run-out in the 12th over shifted the game back in India's favour and Amy Jones - who added 70 for the fourth wicket with Beaumont - and Alice Capsey both followed shortly after in the 15th, dismissed by the left-arm spin of Shree Charani.

23-ball Ecclestone's knock ensured England finished with some respectability but with many of the same mistakes repeated from the thrashing at Trent Bridge, the new leadership of Sciver-Brunt and Charlotte Edwards is being put to the test by a rapidly improving India who are building plenty of confidence going into their home 50-over World Cup in the autumn, according to a

If India's dominance at Trent Bridge was lit up by Mandhana's individual class. this innings required an allround team effort after their powerhouses - Mandhana herself and captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was returning from injury, both fell

cheaply. **England** experimented with Capsey's off-spin for the first over, which conceded 11, but seamers Lauren Bell and Lauren Filer dragged the control back brilliantly.

seeds, including China's

Olympic champion Zheng

Qinwen, crashed out of the

first round at Wimbledon in a

day of upsets and soaring

temperatures. Zheng, the No.

5 seed in the women's singles

draw, suffered her third con-

secutive first-round exit at

the grass-court Grand Slam,

falling to Czech doubles spe-

cialist Katerina Siniakova

7-5, 4-6, 6-1 yesterday. The

match was played as London

endured its hottest day of the



The latter dismissed Shafali Verma with an unplayable short ball that reared up and pinned the opener on the glove to be caught behind, Em Arlott had Mandhana well caught at mid-on by Bell before Harmanpreet pulled a poor delivery to short fine leg.

But Rodrigues, who came in at three, settled into her knock with exceptionally judged running between the wickets and putting the pressure on England's fielders before unveiling an array of ramps over the keeper and her movement around the crease completely threw England's bowlers off their

Amanjot took a backseat in the partnership, but when Rodrigues was dismissed thanks to Dunkley's flying catch at cover off Bell, Amanjot stepped up with her maiden T20 fifty and with Ghosh - who was inexplicably dropped by Beaumont on 12 - took the game away from England.

Bell was exceptional for her 2-17 but India were smart with their targets, taking 43 from Arlott's four overs, 42 from Filer's extra pace and Linsey Smith struggled again with 37 conceded from three wicketless overs.

Faced with a competitive total on a sluggish surface, there was a feeling of inevitability around how England's innings would unfold, and it started to unravel almost immediately. Dunkley was run out at

the end of the first over by Deepti Sharma before she then dismissed Wyatt-Hodge from the first ball of the second, bizarrely striking the ball straight to mid-off as the opener now has just one run from her past four T20 in-

Sciver-Brunt fell in the fourth over but Beaumont, recently recalled to the T20 side after a couple of years in and out, seemed to learn from India's batters and shifted around the crease efficiently to force the spinners

year, with temperatures sur-

passing 33 degrees Celsius."I

should have done better in

my service games," said

Zheng, who was broken

twice after leading 5-3 in the

opening set."I don't think the

surface is a challenge for me.

I just felt that I should raise

my level in my service games

today."Siniakova, 29, a 10-

time women's doubles Grand

Slam champion, will face

four-time major winner Nao-

mi Osaka in the second

round.Second-seeded Coco

off target with eight fours and a six, batting with her trademark swagger and a determined look to steer her side

But she was called through for a risky single from Jones, and Sneh Rana at point pulled off an exceptional piece of work to summarise India's noticeable improvement in the field, swooping and throwing in one movement while still on her knees, with bowler Radha Yadav whipping off the bails as Beaumont's fullstretch dive left her just short of her ground.

From there, it was a procession. Another soft dismissal for Capsey saw her chip Shree Charani to cover for five, Jones was caught and bowled four balls later and despite Ecclestone and Arlott's entertaining seventh-wicket stand of 47, the result was already a foregone conclusion.

England are without Heather Knight's middle-order stability, but the repetitive manner of these defeats are a concern with the World Cup approaching and only three 50-over matches to come beforehand.

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt said, "I thought we started off well in the powerplay with three wickets. Every bowler that came on was really focused on that but then they got a big partnership, which we didn't adapt to as quickly as we'd

"Some positives - Lauren Bell bowled a brilliant four overs and everyone really stuck to the task and tried to grind it out so the effort was really there.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said, "It was a good win for us. It's something special to see.

"We stay positive, see how many runs we can put on the board and see how our bowlers can contribute.

"It's a long time before the T20 World Cup. At the moment our main focus is on

Pegula were also

knocked out of the women's

singles on a day filled with

surprises.Gauff, the reigning

US Open champion who

won last month's French

Open, was beaten 7-6 (3),

6-1 by Ukraine's Dayana

Yastremska."I'm obviously

disappointed how the result

went today," said Gauff,

21."Dayana started off play-

ing strong. I think I couldn't

find my footing out there to-

day." Gauff, a three-time

## Real Madrid edges Juventus to move into Club World Cup quarterfinals

Miami: Gonzalo Garcia's second-half header lifted Real Madrid to a 1-0 victory over Juventus on Tuesday, securing the Spanish side a place in the FIFA Club World Cup

The breakthrough came in the 54th minute when Trent Alexander-Arnold delivered a precise cross from the right, allowing Garcia to nod home from close range. The 21-year-old now has three goals and one assist in four tournament matches.

Persistent rain in the Hard Rock Stadium area eased shortly before kickoff, avoiding further delays after earlier weather disruptions during the tournament.

Juventus made six changes to its starting lineup, with Kenan Yildiz, Francisco Conceicao and Randal Kolo Muani replacing Nicolas Gonzalez, Teun Koopmeiners and Dusan Vlahovic in the



Real Madrid welcomed back star forward Kylian Mbappe, who was named as a substitute after having missed the group stage with

Despite Madrid controlling early possession, Juventus carved out the sharper chances. Yildiz in-

tercepted a pass and surged through midfield to slip Kolo Muani through on goal, but the French forward lifted his effort over the bar. Yildiz threatened again minutes later, forcing a corner with a deflected shot.Jude Bellingham nearly opened the scoring for Matus goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio produced a reflex save to deny him from Alexander-Arnold's cutback. Di Gregorio kept his side in the match with another close-range stop to deny Federico Valverde just before halftime.

The Italian keeper continued his strong performance after the break, parrying efforts from both Bellingham and Dean Huijsen, but was finally beaten by Garcia's decisive header.

Garcia made way in the 68th minute for Mbappe, who made his Club World Cup debut.Late saves from Di Gregorio kept Juventus in contention, but the Serie A side failed to find an equalizer against Madrid's disciplined defense. Real Madrid will face either

Borussia Dortmund or Monterrey - who play later Tuesday night - in Saturday's quarterfinal in New

Dortmund. Real Madrid to meet

and Juventus in the round of

16.In Atlanta, Guinea inter-

national striker Serhou

Guirassy struck two first-half

combination in the 24th min-

ute as the center-forward ca-

ressed a first-time shot past

Andrada after Adeyemi's

layoff.Former Real Madrid

defender Sergio Ramos had a

gilt-edged chance to equalize

in the 91st minute but headed

inches wide following Erick

Aguirre's cross.The result

means Dortmund will face

Real Madrid in New Jersey

on Saturday for a place in the

last four while Monterrey

bows out."I think I could

have scored at least three

goals but I'm happy to have

helped the team win,'

Guirassy said."It was diffi-

cult, they are a good team

with experienced players. I

think we had a very good first

half; the second half was a

little bit harder, but our mind-

set was tough."The 29-year-

old said the Bundesliga club

would be ready for the chal-

## Wolves swoop to make Strand Larsen loan permanent

London: The Wolverhampton Wanderers have moved quickly to turn striker Jorgen Strand Larsen's loan from Celta Vigo into a permanent deal.

The 25-year-old Norwegian spent last season on loan from the Spanish side and despite Matheus Cunha capturing most of the headlines, he finished the campaign with an impressive 14 goals in 35 appearances.Strand Larsen has agreed to a fouryear contract until the end of June 2029, with the club moving to seal the agreement the day after his loan expired. Four of his goals arrived in a six-match

winning run that saw the club climb away from the relegation zone after the arrival of Vitor Pereira as first team coach.

"It's been a good first season in the Pre-

mier League," said Stand Larsen, who was pleased at his rapid adaptation to the league."I've been able to take the steps quite earlier than I've done before. Previously when I moved to a new country, I've needed more time to get into it and score

"As a striker, the team need you to score the goals and be on the end of the crosses, so to score 14 goals - and come back after my injuries and a little dip of form - it was a good season for me in that respect," he added, saying Pereira was responsible for his excellent second half of the season."Since Vitor and his staff came in, I scored eight goals, and seven goals in seven or eight games, so it was a good end

## All-rounder Amanjot eager to contribute more for India

Amanjot Kaur scored her first T20I fifty as India notched up another impressive win to go 2-0 up in the T20I series against England. Fresh from a massive 97-

run win over England in the first T20I at Nottingham, India continued their successful run in the series, with a 24-run win in the second T20I as well, despite being in trouble early in the game on Tuesday.

Having lost three quick wickets, including that of the previous match centurion Smriti Mandhana, the visitors came back in the match courtesy of half-centuries by Jemimah Rodrigues and Player of the Match Amanjot

fourth-round finisher

Wimbledon, added, "I really

do want to do well here. I'm

not someone who wants to

write myself off grass this

early in my career, but I defi-

nitely need to make changes

ifI want to be successful

here."Pegula, meanwhile,

was stunned by Italy's Elisa-

betta Cocciaretto 6-2, 6-3 in

just 58 minutes. In the men's

draw, No. 3 seed Alexander

Zverev of Germany fell 7-6,

6-7, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 to France's

Arthur Rinderknech.

Kaur.Speaking after hitting her first-ever T20I fifty, Amanjot credited Rodrigues for giving her crucial advice during their 93-run partnership that helped India finish their first innings on 181/4.

"The credit goes to Jemi

(Rodrigues), the way she paced her innings. She told me to stay on the wicket," she "The wicket was quite damp and slow, compared to

the one in Nottingham and we planned to take it deep," Amanjot said. "We wanted to get going in the 16-18th overs and Ri-

cha (Ghosh) finished well too," she said.

Amanjot also picked the crucial wicket of the England

skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt, that helped stifle the hosts' chase. The all-

rounder added that she wants to contribute more for the country, an ICC "It is the first of many

(50s). I am being called an all-rounder. But I'd still say that I am the purest of the batters and purest of bowlers,' "My plan (against Brunt)

was very simple. I wanted to keep it on the stump and bowl. We knew 170 was a par total on this wicket," Aman-

Amanjot added that the new-look Indian team had come well-prepared for the T20I series.

lenge of confronting the 15time European champions. "I expect a very tough game. Real Madrid want to go through so it will be a tough game but we will be prepared," Guirassy added.

Ramos, who joined Monterrey on a free transfer in February, praised his teammates and said his side deserved to advance. "Everyone who saw to-

night's game realizes that this team gave its all," the 39-year-old former Spain international said. "Things sometimes don't

go the way you want them to. We had tons of chances, we didn't know how to take ad-

#### in Club World Cup last eight New York : Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid will clash in the FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinals after eliminating Monterrey

goals as Dortmund secured a 2-1 win over Monterrey yesterday.Guirassy opened the scoring in the 14th minute when he played a slick onevantage of them like in other two with Karim Adeyemi games. It's sad to leave a before side-footing a low ef-Club World Cup, but today fort that beat Argentine goaleveryone feels proud of how keeper Esteban Andrada at we represented Rayados." his near post. The Mexican In Miami, Gonzalo Garside was undone once more cia continued his prolific by the Adeyemi-Guirassy

scoring form as Real Madrid edged to a 1-0 victory over Juventus. Garcia broke the deadlock in the 54th minute when he soared to meet Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross with a powerful header past Michele Di Gregorio.

The 21-year-old, who had never started for Real Madrid before this competition, has now scored three times and provided one assist in the United States.

"I'm very happy with my goal but especially with the way we fought as a team to reach the quarterfinals," said the Real Madrid youth academy graduate.

"I always try to be in the area and in a position to score, whether that be with my head, my knee or what-

Real Madrid dominated for long periods and could have put the result beyond doubt long before the final whistle if not for the heroics of Di Gregorio, who made 11

The Spanish club also had Kylian Mbappe back from illness, with the forward coming on in the 68th minute for his first appearance of the tournament. Juventus manager Igor Tudor said his team had suffered in the sweltering South Florida

"It's disappointing but we have to keep in mind the quality of the opponent, the conditions and the tiredness of the players," the former Croatia international defender said

## Head, Nissanka & Pretorius prosper in ICC Men's Test Player Rankings

Five top-10 seeds fall in first-round upsets at Wimbledon

Dubai : Travis Head, Pathum Nissanka and Lhuan-dre Pretorius have all made huge gains in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings after their match-winnings efforts with the bat this past week.

Left-hander Head has gained three places to move back into the top 10 for batters after scores of 59 and 61 in a lowscoring first Test of the three-match ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series against the West Indies in Bridgetown that Australia won by 159

Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka has galloped 14 places to 17th after scoring 159 in Sri Lanka's innings and 78 runs victory in the second Test against Bangladesh that helped win the WTC series 1-0 while debutant Pretorius has entered the rankings in 68th position after the left-hander struck 153 runs as South Africa defeated Zimbabwe by 328 runs in Bulawayo to take a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series.

There were also huge gains for other



South Africa batters in the latest weekly update, but regular captain Temba Bavuma not featuring in the Bulawayo Test meant that he ceded ground to India's Rishabh Pant, who is now in sixth position, just one below his career-best ranking of fifth that he had attained in

Wiaan Mulder (up 17 places to 56th) and Corbin Bosche (up 15 places to 59th) of South Africa and Zimbabwe's Sean Williams (up two places to a career-best 15th) have also progressed after notching centuries in Bulawayo while Craig Ervine's scores of 36 and 49 have lifted him four places to 48th.

# Goalkeeper Kepa

#### switches Chelsea for Arsenal in what is still a world record transfer for a goalkeeper.Al-

London: Arsenal has completed the signing of goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga from Chelsea after paying his five-million pound (6.8 million US dollar) release 30-year-old moves to north-London to provide backup and compe-

David Raya, who is currently first choice with the club that finished last season second in the Premier League.He joins Arsenal after iressing last season on loan at Bournemouth, after spending the 2023-24 campaign at Real Madrid.A product of the Athletic Club Bilbao youth system, Kepa joined Chelsea for 80 million euros (94.3 million US dollars) in the summer of 2018.

tition to fellow Spaniard,

clause.The

though he made 163 appearances for Chelsea in all com-

substitutes' bench and sending him on loan in the last two seasons."I'm really, really happy to be here, really



petitions, Kepa never really convinced at the south-London club and after two seasons as first choice, with Chelsea signing Edouard Mendy to relegate him to the

excited and looking forward to what is coming," Kepa told the Arsenal website after his move."The ambition that is shown in this club, when I talk with (coach) Mikel (Arcoach) Inaki Cana, shows me their desire to win... I think we are so close to winning and, hopefully, altogether, we can achieve it," he said. Arteta also expressed his satisfaction at signing a fellow Basque. "We are really happy to have Kepa joining us. He is a player we know, having come up against him many times in recent seasons. He brings a wealth of experience, which his teammates will benefit from, and he has a real hunger to win.""Kepa works hard and will elevate our levels. I know he will fit in perfectly, already knowing some of his teammates, and we are really excited about his future with us," said the Arsenal coach.

and

83,4

83,935.01

BSE Sensex		
Close <b>09.69</b>	Percent chenge -0.34%	
97.29	Open 83,790.72	

83,150.77

	Close	Percent chenge
25,45	3.40	-0.35%
Previou	s close	Oper
25,54	1.80	25,588.30
	High	Low
25,60	08.10	25,378.75

Nifty 500	
Close 47.25	Percent chenge -0.29%
us close 15.45	Open 23,653.05
High	Low

23,463.85

	,
Close	Percent chenge
68,729.80	-0.29%
Previous close	Open
68,930.20	68,980.90
High	Low
69,144.85	68,335.15

Nifty Next 50

Close	Percent chenge
26,068.05	-0.34%
Previous close	Open
26,156.10	26,198.90
High	Low
26,223.20	25,987.20

Nifty 100

Ni	Nifty Bank	
Close 56,999.20	Percent chenge -0.80%	
Previous close 57,459.45	Open 57,558.20	
High 57,628.40	Low 56,833.80	

Close	Percent chenge
59,667.25	-0.14%
Previous close	Open
59,750.05	59,795.05
High	Low
59,864.75	59,361.60

Nifty Midcap 100

### Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Tata Steel	165.88	3.64
JSW Steel	1,059.90	2.94
Asian Paints	2,419.40	2.11
UltraTechCement	12,436.00	1.85
Maruti Suzuki	12,622.00	1.45

#### Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Shriram Finance	676.90	-2.81
HDFC Life	789.70	-2.49
IndusInd Bank	857.65	-2.44
Bajaj Finserv	2,007.90	-2.23
Larsen	3,596.80	-1.91

#### Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Aug 05	97,282.00	31.00 0.03
Silver Jul 04	105,901.00	-46.00 -0.04
Crudeoil Jul 21	5,678.00	63.00 1.12
Naturalgas Jul 28	292.50	2.50 0.86

#### **UP sets benchmark in** e-governance-driven industrial growth

23,6

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government is setting new benchmarks in industrial development, with a strong focus on digital transformation and egovernance

The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is leveraging technology to modernise civic amenities in industrial areas, positioning the state as a leader in the 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative.

Officials here on Wednesday said through the Nivesh Mitra portal, entrepreneurs now have access to 37 types of services online. Over the last five years, both the number of online applications and their prompt resolution have seen consistent growth. In 2024-25 alone, 9,719 applications were processed, reflecting a nearly 60% increase from 6,094 in 2020–21

This progress is further validated by investor satisfaction. In 2024-25, the feedback score for Nivesh Mitra reached 96.63%, a significant improvement from previous years. The land allotment process has also been made more transparent and time-bound, with mega industrial units now receiving allotments within just 15 days. The general e-auction process timeline has also been halved, from

## Markets Slip as Investors Brace for Trump's Tariff Deadline

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended Wednesday's session in the red, weighed down by investor caution ahead of a critical US tariff deadline reaffirmed by President Donald Trump.

Lingering global uncertainty triggered a riskaverse sentiment among market participants, causing indices to retreat from early highs.

The BSE Sensex, which climbed to an intraday peak of 83,935.29, lost traction later in the session and closed at 83,409.69 — down 287.6 points or 0.34%. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty also declined, shedding 88.45 points or 0.35% to settle at 25,453.4.

"Investor sentiment is being shaped by global cues, especially with the looming US tariff decision creating unease," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. He noted that while near-term caution prevails, focus is gradually shifting to the upcoming Q1 earnings season, where expectations are running high.

Nair also highlighted that India's strong macroeconomic indicators and rising government spending continue to lend underlying support to the

Among the day's major laggards on the Sensex were Bajaj Finserv, L&T, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, and Bharat Electronics. In contrast, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, Ultra-Cement, Maruti Suzuki, and Sun Pharma emerged as top

gainers

Broader market indi-

listed on the NSE stood at ₹5.35 trillion.

ces down.

The total market capitalisation of companies

gas, and media sectors dragged the broader indi-

Despite the declines, the India VIX — a gauge of market volatility dipped by 0.66% to 12.44, indicating slightly lower investor anxiety compared to previous ses-

Meanwhile, gold prices remained range-bound as traders awaited key US economic data. Comex gold fluctuated between \$3,327 and \$3,340, while on the domestic front, MCX gold traded in the ₹97,000–₹97,400 range.

"Gold is likely to stay within ₹96,500 to ₹97,850 as the market factors in potential dollar weakness and key US figures like the Non-Farm Payrolls, ADP jobs data, and unemployment rates," said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Secu-

## **Coal Ministry to Unveil RECLAIM** Initiative for Mine Closures This Week

New Delhi: The Ministry of Coal is preparing to roll out a new initiative, titled RECLAIM, later this week. Designed as a framework for community engagement and development during the closure of mines, the initiative seeks to restore local ecosystems and support the livelihoods of communities that have historically depended on mining activities.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, will formally the RECLAIM launch framework on Friday. The programme represents a crucial step towards ensuring a fair and sustainable transition for populations living in mining regions.

Developed by the Coal Controller Organisation in collaboration with the Heartfulness Institute, the RECLAIM framework is tailored to guide communities through the process of mine closure and beyond. It lays out a structured, practical model to embed community involvement throughout the closure process, offering actionable tools, templates, and proven methodologies specifically adapted to the Indian landscape.

Key aspects of the initiative include promoting gender equality, incorporating the perspectives of vulnerable groups, and coordinating with local governance bodies such as Panchayati Raj Institutions. This ensures that the closure process remains inclusive, equitable, and

According to the min-



istry, the ultimate goal of the RECLAIM framework is to support communities in navigating the shift from mining-based economies toward ecologically restored environments and livelihoods

In tandem with this framework, the government is tightening regulatory standards for coal mining operations to better safeguard environmental resources. The updated mining guidelines will now require companies to inte-

grate specific actions for environmental restoration, land remediation, and natural regeneration directly their operational plans. These revised protocols are intended to minimize environmental degradation, address public concerns, and encourage rigorous water quality monitoring. Additionally, public sector coal enterprises have been advancing their sustainability efforts through the effective adoption of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Accredited Compensatory Afforestation guidelines. These actions are boosting forest cover and contributing to the country's broader environmental and climate carbon credits.

#### India's ETF Market Sees 5X AUM Surge, Retail Folios Grow 11-Fold in 5 Years: Report

ces mirrored the bench-

marks' trajectory. The

Nifty Midcap100 slipped

0.14%, while the Nifty

Smallcap100 shed 0.41%.

consumer durables, auto,

IT, pharma, and health-

care managed modest

gains. However, realty,

financials, banks, oil &

performance,

In terms of sectoral

Mumbai: change-Traded Fund (ETF) landscape in India has witnessed explosive growth over the past five years, with (AUM) multiplying over fivefold and retail participation expanding significantly, according to a report released on Wednesday by Zerodha Fund House.Between March 2020 and March 2025, the total AUM in ETFs jumped approximately 5.5 times, reaching ₹8.38 lakh crore. This segment now accounts for nearly 13% of India's ₹65.74 lakh crore mutual fund industry — nearly double the 7% share held in 2020. The data underscores the rising popularity of ETFs among Indian investors. The number of retail folios investing in ETFs saw a dramatic rise during the same period, growing from about 23 lakh to a staggering 2.63 Retail investors now repre-



lios, suggesting heightened awareness and confidence in ETF products across the retail segment."This surge signals a transformational phase for Indian ETFs, driven by increased retail adoption and broader product offerings,' said Vishal Jain, CEO of Zerodha Fund House.Retail AUM alone tripled during the five-year span, climbing from ₹5,335 crore to more than ₹17,800 crore. At the same time, the total number investors has also nearly tri-

with an aggregator must

receive at least 80% of

the fare collected.

such as silver-backed funds introduced in 2022, have expanded the investment landscape, catering to diverse inpreferences. However, equity ETFs remain the dominant category, consistently contributing nearly 80% to the total ETF AUM since 2020. Trading activity has also seen significant acceleration. ETF trading volumes surged from ₹51,101 crore in FY 2019–

#### **Elon Musk's Starlink Expands to Sri** Lanka, Inches Closer to India Launch

Delhi: Musk's satellite-based internet venture, Starlink, officially commenced operations in Sri Lanka on Wednesday, marking another milestone in its South

Asian expansion. Sri Lanka becomes the third nation in the region following Bhutan and Bangladesh — to gain access to Starlink's satellite internet services. The development was announced by the company on X (formerly Twitter), where it shared: "Starhigh-speed, low-latency internet is now available in Sri Lanka!"

This move comes as Starlink edges closer to launching its services in India. Last month, the company secured a critical telecom license from India's Department of Telecommu-

nications (DoT), bringing it one step closer to rolling out operations nearly three years after submitting its initial applicatiThe final hurdle before Starlink can begin providing internet in India is formal clearance from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe). A draft Letter of Intent (LoI) has already been issued, and service activation is expected once both parties sign the agreement. Reports indicate that Starlink could go live in India within the next two months.Starlink delivers broadband connectivity through a network of low-Earth orbit satellites currently the largest such constellation in the world, with

over 6,750 active satellites. The service is designed to deliver high-speed internet with minimal latency, making it ideal for rural and remote regions where conventional broadband infrastructure is limited or un-

available. In Asia, Starlink is already operational in several countries, including Japan, Mongolia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Yemen, and Azerbaijan. On a global scale, the company now serves users in over 100 countries, offering both fixed-location and mobile internet solutions.

Starlink's residential offerings are typically divided into two categories: Residential Lite, aimed at users with lower data consumption, and a standard Residential plan tailored for families or high-usage households.

## 2x Surge Pricing During Peak Hours hailing platforms such as have been granted per-

Ola, Über, and Rapido mission to charge up to twice the base fare during peak hours, under updated regulations issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Previously, these aggregators could only levy dynamic pricing up to 1.5 times the base fare. The revised guidelines — titled Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 — aim to create a balanced framework that addresses passenger safety, driver earnings, and business viability.

The new rules also al-

charge a minimum of 50% of the base fare during non-peak hours. The base fare itself will be defined by each state government based on vehicle category and class, and it must apply to a minimum travel distance of 3 kilo-

This provision accounts for dead mileage the distance a driver travels without a passenger to reach the pickup location.

However, passengers will not be charged separately for dead mileage unless the ride distance is less than 3 km. In all other cases, the fare will apply only from the pickup point to the final drop-off

Ola, Uber, Rapido Can Now Apply Up to

States have been en-

couraged to implement updated norms

The remaining 20% rapido

monthsTo promote fair compensation, the guidelines stipulate that drivers who own their vehimay be retained by the

platform. Payments to drivers can be made daily, weekly, or bi-weekly, depend-

In instances where the vehicle is owned by the aggregator and operated by a driver, the driver's minimum share of the fare is set at 60%, while the aggregator can keep up to 40%.

The guidelines also introduce new rules around ride cancella-

If a driver cancels a trip after accepting it without a valid justification, a penalty amounting to 10% of the estimated fare — capped at ₹100 will be imposed. The same penalty will apply to passengers who cancel rides without valid rea-

## ITI Ltd bags orders worth Rs 88 cr

ited, India's first PSU established after Independence and a pioneer in telecom manufacturing, has secured multiple contracts worth approximately Rs 88 crore across Odisha and Chhattisgarh to bolster digital infrastructure and e-governance initiatives.

In Odisha, the Cuttack Development Authority has awarded ITI Limited two significant contracts.

crore, involves the procurement and installation of CCTV surveillance systems and traffic signal setups at various locations in Cuttack. This includes supply of cameras, software with analytics and ANPR systems, and maintenance for five

The second contract, worth Rs 23.05 crore, is for implementing a Land Intelligence Management

System through based applications. This includes mapping of properties using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) in the Bidanasi Development Project Area and CDA Plan Area.

In Chhattisgarh, ITI Limited has won a contract worth Rs 11.72 crore from the Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS) for implementation and upgradation of WLAN/LAN infrastrucHoD Bhawan in Nava Raipur.

Commenting on the development, ITI Limited Chairman and Managing Director Rajesh Rai said, "We are very glad to bag these new contracts from the Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. These projects will help strengthen digital infrastructure and support efficient citizen services."

He added, "Our team

is excited and motivated to deliver ahead of schedule. We believe our work will significantly aid the state governments in delivering best-in-class egovernance."

ITI Limited is also executing several other projects, including the Aaple Sarkar Seva Kendra (ASSK) initiative in Maharashtra and a campus-wide Wi-Fi and LAN deployment for Sambalpur University in Odisha.

#### Alekta Solutions unveils 'Pinaka', a next-gen Al-powered SaaS platform in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Alekta Solutions, the USheadquartered technology consulting and product development firm, marked a major milestone in its global expansion strategy with the pre-launch celebration of its flagship SaaS platform, 'Pinaka', at the exclusive 'Pinaka Stellar' event held in Hyderabad. Founded in 2016 by seasoned tech entrepreneur 'Shravan Kumar Bele', Alekta Solutions has rapidly emerged as a forward-thinking technology partner, with a strong presence in the US and growing operations in Asia, the IT company said in a release here today. The company's latest innovation, Pinaka, represents a strategic leap in empowering businesses worldwide through technology-led

transformation. Pinaka is a next-generation, AI-powered SaaS platform that seamlessly integrates Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Point of Sale (POS), fintech solutions, and AI-driven business intelligence.Designed to provide business owners and enterprise leaders with unified control, operational efficiency, and real-time insights, Pinaka is poised to serve a diverse range of sectors including retail, hospitality, and multi-location enterprises. Speaking at the event, Mr. Shravan Kumar Bele, Founder & CEO of Alekta Solutions, said "With Pinaka, we are introducing a product that is not only technologically advanced but also deeply aligned with the practical needs of modern businesses.