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Mamata hits streets at Santiniketan to protest 'language

AAP Slams Delhi Education Minister Over'Defunct Computer Lab' Claim, Alleges Scam Plot



Gurugram Leads Haryana in Excise Revenue, Rakes in ₹ 3,875 Crore



Pant ruled out of England



Indian Stock Market

Closes Lower as Trade Deal Delays and FII **Outflows Weigh Heavy**

India will respond firmly to any act of terror

Rajnath warns Pakistan from Lok Sabha

Minister Rajnath Singh today issued a stern warning to Pakistan saying India had drawn a new "Lakshman Rekha" on terrorism and would respond firmly and unambiguously to any such act to destabilize our country.

Opening a discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, the Defence Minister said "India has not only showcased its military capability but also demonstrated its national morality, resolve, political acumen".

"Pakistan is a country built on double standards and falsehoods, and it is now being seen as a failed State. Through Operation Sindoor, India has shown the entire

to eradicate the evil game of terrorism from its roots," he

He stated that Operation

Sindoor symbolised India's strength, sending a clear message that "any harm to our citizens will not go unanswered. Reiterating his point, he

said that when it comes to security, India's leadership and system will act decisively, free from any external influence or hesitation.

"Our missiles will cross physical borders, and our courageous soldiers will crush the enemy's backbone," he warned.

Reiterating that the Government is committed to eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Rajnath Singh said, "In this context, there is an important point we must understand. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not random madness — there is a method to this madness. It is a well-

planned strategy. It is driven

by a "fundamental rage."

"Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not an act of madness — it is part of a calculated conspiracy. It is a deliberate process that uses terror as a political tool. This is not merely terrorism; it is a toolkit — a toolkit actively employed by Pakistan's



Pahalgam attack 'mastermind ' among

military and its agencies as a matter of policy. This toolkit stands in stark opposition to the civilised code of conduct that the rest of the world

chooses to uphold. It is the product of a radical ideology that leaves no room for tolerance".

He asserted that terrorism

After the Pahalgam's

has been institutionalised as a tool of its foreign policy. The world must no longer harbour any illusions about Pakistan's character, calling it a "nursery of global terrorism.

'The current situation in Pakistan is well-known. A nation that chooses to make terrorism a cornerstone of its foreign policy eventually becomes entangled in its own web," Singh stated.

Emphasising Pakistan has consistently supported terror networks elevated them to positions of national honour, "During Rainath said, Operation Sindoor, the world

funerals for terrorists, with even military officers in attendance. This is the same country that lacks the courage to confront Indian soldiers at the border and instead targets innocent civilians, children, and pilgrims." He said that Pakistan's

military and intelligence agency, the ISI, were using terrorism as a proxy war to destabilise India.

"I say this from the temple of democracy that those who dream of inflicting a 'thousand cuts' on India must wake up. This is the new India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership — an India that will go to any extent to fight terrorism."

He said, "A country like

near us in terms of size, capability, strength, and prosperity—how can there be a competition with such a nation? Competing with a country that relies on others for its very existence means lowering our own standards. Our policy is to take effective action against terrorism. Our opposition to Pakistan stems from their policy of terrorism".

The Defence Minister further said, "If we know how to extend a hand for the hope of peace, we also know how to uproot the hands that spread unrest. If we know how to make efforts for peace, we also know how to explain in the language that the wicked understand".

BSP chief Mayawati urges unity in Parliament on 'Operation Sindoor' debate

Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati today called for a united approach by all political parties during the Parliamentary discussion on underscoring the importance of rising above party lines when it comes to matters of national security.

As the discussion on 'Operation Sindoor' is set to begin in Parliament today, Mayawati appealed ruling party and the opposition to join forces in formulating a robust and effective strategy.

"The government and the opposition must work together so that no woman



loses her sindoor and no mother is left to mourn the loss of her son. This is the urgent need of the hour," she said in a statement issued on Monday morning. Extending support to the opposition's demand for a full-fledged discussion, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also emphasized the need for a constructive and meaningful dialogue throughout the ongoing session.

3 terrorists killed in Srinagar gun battle Srinagar: Security forces today achieved a major success when they shot

dead three terrorists, one of them suspected to be an alleged mastermind behind the Baisaran Pahalgam attack, in a gun battle in the upper reaches of Dachigam on Srinagar outskirts, top sources said.

success on a day when a debate on Operation Sindoor began in Parliament. While the encounter is being termed a major success,

officials have yet to confirm the identities of the three slain terrorists. Official sources said the

one of those killed is a

Pakistani terrorist Lashakr-e-Taiba Suleiman Baisaran attack, the Jammu



alleged mastermind behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 25 tourists and a local dead and brought India and Pakistan on the brink of a full-fledged war.

announced a Rs 20 lakh reward on anyone providing information about Suleiman, and two others.

Two other terrorists were also killed in today's operation in the Harwan area which was named by the Army as Operation Mahadev. The encounter erupted

this morning when joint teams of forces launched a combing operation in the area following an input that terrorists behind Pahalgam attack might have moved towards the Dachigam

The Army's Srinagarbased Chinar Corps said three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight.

Security forces have recovered a M4 and AK-47 rifles, grenades and other arms and ammunition during

sections of society, such as

directed the Registry to

In response, the Court

infants and senior citizens.

the death of two devotees.

The stampede took place around 2 am during the Jalabhishek ritual. According to initial reports, the chaos was triggered after an electric

Authorities stated that the electric wires snapped and fell onto a tin shed inside the temple complex after some monkeys jumped on

As panic spread among the devotees due to the electric shock and the resulting commotion, a stampede broke out. Upon receiving information about the incident, a large police force was deployed to the site. The injured were rushed to immediately Haidergarh and Trivediganj Community Health Centres via ambulances. critically injured referred to the district

District

Stampede at Ausaneshwar **Mahadev Temple leaves** two dead, 29 injured



Barabanki: A tragic incident occurred at the Ausaneshwar Mahadev Temple in Barabanki during the third Monday of the holy month of Shrawan, when a stampede broke out in the temple premises, leading to

A total of 29 other devotees, including women and children were also injured in the mishap.

current spread through the temple premises.

them, causing a short circuit.

hospital.

Tripathi and Shashank Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya, along with other senior officials, reached the spot to assess the situation. The DM confirmed the cause of the incident. stating that the broken electric wire had come into contact with the tin shed, leading to the current spread

and subsequent chaos. Among the deceased is Prashant (22), a resident of Mubarakpura, who died during treatment at the Trivediganj CHC. Another unidentified devotee also succumbed to injuries. Ten injured persons were brought to the CHC, out of which five in critical condition were referred for advanced

treatment. Eyewitnesses confirmed that the stampede ensued after rumors of electric current spread among the crowd, causing devotees to panic and rush for safety.

Authorities have since brought the situation under control, and two hours after the incident, the temple resumed normalcy, with devotees continuing to offer prayers and perform Jalabhishek in queues.

An investigation into the incident is underway, and officials have assured further safety measures to prevent such tragedies in the future.

INDO-US satellite NISAR will start scientific operations after 90 days

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, a collaborative Earth observation mission between the United States and India, is slated for launch on July 30 at 5:40 pm

The 2,400 kg satellite will be carried into orbit by ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Vehicle-F16 (GSLV-F16) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

However, ISRO has clarified that while the launch is imminent, NISAR's dedicated scientific operations will not begin until approximately three months after it is successfully placed in orbit. This initial period will be critical for

observatory.

extend 9 meters away from the satellite.

into distinct phases. Following the Launch Phase on July 30, the satellite will enter its Deployment Phase. This crucial stage involves the complex inorbit unfurling of NISAR's 12-meter diameter reflector, a key component developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which will

Subsequently, the mission will enter a 90-day Commissioning Phase, also known as "In-Orbit Checkout (IOC)." This period is solely dedicated to meticulously preparing the observatory for its scientific tasks. It will

Chennai: The highly preparing the advanced involve initial checks and calibrations of the satellite's According to ISRO, the core systems, followed by a along with all necessary NISAR mission is structured thorough engineering checkout of the payload and instruments Only after the successful

> completion of this commissioning phase will the Science Operations Phase commence, extending for the duration of the mission's life. During this phase, NISAR's science orbit will be precisely maintained through regular maneuvers, strategically minimize interference with scientific observations. Extensive calibration and validation (CalVal) activities will also be ongoing. The detailed observation plan for both the L-bandandS-bandinstruments,

engineering activities, being meticulously generated prior to launch through coordination between JPL and ISRO.

NISAR is poised to be a groundbreaking providing unprecedented, highresolution, all-weather, dayand-night data to observe Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses. This data is expected to revolutionizeourunderstanding of natural hazards like earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides, as well as providing critical information for studies on climate change, agriculture,

SC takes Suo Motu Cognisance of rising stray dog attacks, terms situation "Alarming"

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today took suo motu cognisance of a disturbing news report highlighting a sharp rise in stray dog attacks across urban and semi-urban areas, resulting in multiple fatalities, especially among young children and the elderly.

A bench led by Justice J.B. Pardiwala expressed deep concern over the "alarming and disturbing facts" presented in the report, which detailed a string of recent fatal dog bite incidents and rabies-related deaths.

Taking note of the growing public health threat, Pardiwala emphasized the urgent need judicial intervention, underlining the heightened risk faced by vulnerable register the issue as a suo motu writ petition and place the matter, along with the news report, before the Chief Justice of India for further

directions and appropriate

The move marks a significant judicial step towards addressing what the Court has identified as a pressing and potentially deadly public safety crisis.

Jammu Police cracks down against use of Chinese manjha, warns of tough action against suppliers, sellers

Jammu: Taking tough action, Jammu Police has launched a massive drive against the supply and sale of Chinese kite string or 'manjha', after a man riding a two-wheeler died when his throat was slit with a sharp Chinese 'manjha' in the city.

On Saturday, a 37-yearold man riding on a twowheeler with his wife, lost his life due to throat slit when hit by Chinese 'manjha', near Talab Tillo area in the heart of Jammu city.

Initiating stern action against the suppliers and sellers of such kite string, Jammu Police have launched a crackdown in the markets and seized stocks of Chinese 'manjha' and nylon thread ahead of Raksha Bandhan festival falling on August 9.

Kite flying is a tradition in Jammu on the occasions of Bandhan and Janmashtami.

'We have launched a strict drive against the sellers

of Chinese manjha and also seized Chinese and nylon thread in the markets," Vivek Shekhar, Superintendent of Police, Jammu North, told

The officer said, "For a small amount of profit, you cannot risk anybody's life. Chinese kite thread is fatal to human lives and people must understand that its use poses a risk to so many lives.

"We are spreading awareness and have also appealed to the people that if they have any information on its sale, share with us, and without disclosing identity, swift action will be taken against the culprits," said the SP North.

He said that posters and banners are being pasted across Jammu to make people aware of the dangers of using Chinese manjha.

Chinese manjha is a synthetic nylon kite string coated with abrasive materials like powdered

glass or metal, making it razor sharp. Kite flyers try to cut the strings of other kites during kite flying, and use sharp strings for the purpose.

However, the string poses serious risks to humans, animals, and the environment. The razorsharp string can cause deep pedestrians, cuts to motorcyclists, and even people looking out of car windows. There have been numerous reports of severe injuries and deaths, particularly during festive seasons when kite flying is common.

The sharp and strong nature of Chinese manjha also poses a grave threat to especially during birds, flight Superintendent of Police,

Jammu South, Ajay Sharma told UNI, "On the directions of the SSP Jammu, the drive has been launched against the supply and sale of the lifethreatening Chinese

"The Jammu District Magistrate has already issued an advisory in this regard and police are also taking several

not be spared." Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police, Jammu Headquarters, Irshad Rather told UNI, "There will



measures as per the law to prevent its sale," said SP

He revealed that FIRs have been registered, and some sellers have also been arrested. He added, "We have also written to the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries to convey to all the shopkeepers not to sell Chinese maniha. Anybody found involved in its sale will

be no lenient treatment for the sellers and suppliers. As a part of the crackdown, we have registered FIRs and arrested some of the

shopkeepers found selling

"Apart from the drive against this menace, we are also making people aware and appealing to them not to buy nylon 'manjha' and to boycott it in the larger

the maniha.'

said the SP Headquarters.

He said, "Action is not only being taken against the sellers but also against the suppliers in the neighbouring Punjab and the transporters as well."

Renowned surgeon, Dr Sanajay Bhasin told UNI, "The chemical used in the thread is very dangerous. When the trachea gets slit due to the manjha it gets damaged, and due to non supply of oxygen to the lungs, heart and brain, death occurs.'

"Chinese manjha is made from synthetic materials like or monofilament fishing lines, coated with glass powder or metal, making it extremely sharp and tough," he said. Dr Bhasin added that the manjha has high tensile strength, which allows it to cut through flesh and bone easily, causing severe injuries.

"When it comes into contact with humans or

lacerations, wing injuries, bone fractures, and even decapitation," Dr Bhasin added. He said that the use of

Chinese 'manjha' has been banned in India since 2017 (by the National Green Tribunal) due to its hazardous nature, but enforcement remains a challenge and many vendors continue to sell it, and users are often unaware of the risks. "Avoid using Chinese

manjha, and instead opt for traditional cotton manjha and let us promote safer kiteflying practices and protect humans," he added. Meanwhile, one of the

survivors of such an incident (name not disclosed), said, "I had my throat cut due to Chinese 'manjha' and it damaged my larynx (voice box) that contains the vocal cords.

"The soft tissues and cartilage located above the vocal cords was damaged and I lost my original voice," he stated. In some of the recent

cases, Jammu Police have registered FIRs for selling the banned 'Nylon Thread, Chinese manjha (Gattu)', in R S Pura, Janipur and Pacca Danga areas, and have so far arrested six persons and seized a number of rolls of the dreaded thread. In a public advisory, Jammu Police has appealed to not buy or use the 'gattu'

thread, report any sale or stock of such material to the nearest police station, parents are requested to monitor children during kite flying, and use only safe, cotton-based thread to avoid accidents. "Jammu Police remains

committed to ensuring public safety and urges the community to support such efforts by staying vigilant and cooperative," said the police spokesman.

J&K LG flags off 1st batch of Shri Buddha Amarnath yatra

Jammu: First Batch of Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims Flagged Off by J&K LG Manoj Sinha

Jammu, July 28 Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today flagged off the first batch of pilgrims for the annual Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp.

Wishing the devotees a safe and spiritually enriching journey, LG Sinha said, "The sacred journey to the abode of Mahadev is an enlightening experience. I truly believe this pilgrimage is a form of divine alchemy that unveils the secrets of life before the devotees.'

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the meticulous work done by Baba Amarnath and Buddha Amarnath Yatri Nyas, tourism de-



partment, district administration, other stakeholders and organisations serving langar."All necessary arrangements have been put in place for both the annual yatra and the Budha Amarnath Ji Mela, the accompanying festival," the Lieutenant Governor said. Speaking to media after the flag-off, LG Sinha said, "In the first batch, more than 1000 pilgrims from across the country set off for the holy yatra of Budha Amarnath Ji."Moreover, he said that approximately 3.77 lakh pilgrims have performed darshan at holy cave of Shri Amarnath ji till yesterday."I hope that pilgrims from across the country will also arrive to pay their obeisance at Shri Budha Amarnath and pray to Bholenath for the peace and progress of J&K and the nation," he said.

Mamata hits streets at Santiniketan to protest 'language terrorism'

Minister Mamata Banerjee today marched about 3 km from Santiniketan, the seat of poet Rabindranath Tagore, to protest the alleged linguistic terrorism on the migrant Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states.

Holding a portrait of Tagore, Banerjee, who led the march of hundreds of her followers, was flanked by her senior cabinet minister Firhad Hakim and Bolpur MP Satabdi Roy.

On July 21 during a Shahid Diwas rally in Kolkata, the CM had announced to renew the language agitation or Bhasha Andolon, from Birbhum. She said the language agitation would continue across the state until the 2026 assembly

The 3-km march from Santiniketan Guest House to Jamboni bus stand was, however, a silent rally in this rural area of district of Birbhum

Before proceeding to rural Bengal,



Banerjee accused the states ruled by BJP governments of unleashing a "linguistic terror" on Bengali-speaking people, alleging that they were manhandled by Delhi Police.

She also posted a purported video clip on social media X of a child and his mother, who she said were part of the migrant family from Chanchal in Malda, allegedly being assaulted by the Delhi Police.

"Atrocious!! Terrible!! See how Delhi Police brutally beat up a kid and his mother, members of a migrant fameven a child is not spared from the cruelty of violence in the regime of linguistic terror unleashed by BJP in the country against the Bengalis!" she said.

Ahead of her street protest, Banerjee held an administrative meeting for Birbhum district where she also expressed surprise that some 1,000 BLOs block level officers) were taken to Delhi for election-related training.

"This is surprising that though these BLOs are from the state government, neither the state government nor the chief secretary knew their assignment. The EC takes charge of a state administration once an election schedule is announced. But before that, you all are state government employees," The TMC has been campaigning

against SIR, saying a similar attempt would be made in Bengal to "remove

Army Chief stresses embracing emerging technologies for future-ready force during Leh visit

Srinagar: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi today underlined the need to embrace emerging technologies and continuously evolve to remain a future-ready force.

During his visit to the Fire and Fury Corps headquarters and Siachen Brigade in Leh, the Army chief reviewed operational preparedness and commended soldiers for their professionalism and exemplary service in the world's most challenging conditions. The Army Chief was addressing soldiers after visiting the headquarters of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps and the Siachen Brigade to review operational preparedness.

Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said that while addressing the troops, COAS underlined the need to embrace emerging technologies and continuously evolve to remain a future-ready force."COAS visited HQ Fire and Fury Corps & Siachen Brigade, to review the operational preparedness of the formation. COAS commended all ranks for their professionalism & exemplary service in the world's most challenging conditions," ADGP said on X. "Addressing the troops, COAS underlined the need to embrace emerging technologies and continuously evolve to remain a future-



force."General Dwivedi, yesterday, visited a forward post in the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield, and interacted with the brave soldiers of the 18 Jammu and Kashmir Riion he was once commissioned.The visit of Gen Dwivedi was emotionally resonant, as it brought the COAS back to the very battalion he was once commissioned into and had the hon-

Floods in six Odisha districts, over 11,000 people hit

Bhubaneswar: Incessant rainfall over the past few days has triggered flooding in six districts of Odisha, affecting more than 11,000 people.

Over 1,000 residents have been evacuated to shelter homes in the Mayurbhani and Balasore districts.

According to official sources, the flood situation has impacted the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Sundargarh, and Keonjhar. The state government has deployed NDRF, ODRAF, and Fire Services teams for rescue and relief operations.

Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, along with Special Relief Commissioner Deoranjan Kumar Singh, reviewed the situation yesterday with the District Collectors of the affected districts and senior engineers from the Water Re-

The Minister instructed the Collectors to expedite rescue and relief work, relocate vulnerable populations to safe shelters, and ensure the timely distribution of essential relief materials.

As per the Special Relief Commissioner, Balasore-the worst-hit district—has received five ODRAF teams, one NDRF team, and 26 Fire and Emergency Services teams.

Mayurbhanj has been allotted one ODRAF team and 23 fire teams. In Bhadrak, one ODRAF team, one NDRF team, and 13 fire teams have been deployed, while Jajpur district has received one ODRAF team and 14 fire

A total of 106 boats have been deployed across flood-affected districts for rescue and relief operations.

Reports reaching the State Control Room indicate that water levels in most rivers are receding, except for the Subarnarekha River in Balasore, which remains under close watch. Water levels in the Baitarani and Jalaka rivers are also decreasing.

Night surveillance has been intensified in all flood-affected regions.

The government has made arrangements for water purification, the supply of clean drinking water in forested areas, and has ensured adequate stocks of anti-venom to handle snakebite emergencies.Cooked food will be provided as needed until the situation normalises.

Additional Relief Commissioner Manish Agarwal has been deputed to oversee restoration and relief efforts in the Balasore, Bhadrak, and Jajpur dis-

Barabanki Temple tragedy: CM Yogi orders probe, announces ex-gratia

Lucknow Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered an investigation and expressed deep condolences over the tragic incident at the Ausaneshwar Mahadev Temple in Barabanki district today

The mishap, caused by an electrical fault around 2 am, claimed two lives and left several devotees injured. Taling prompt action, the Chief Minister announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the de-

In a post from the Chief Minister's Office on social media platform X, CM Yogi expressed grief over the loss of life and property. "The Chief Minister has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident at the Ausaneshwar Mahadev Temple and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," the

He also directed district officials to ensure proper medical treatment for the injured and expedite relief efforts. "CM has prayed to Lord Shiva for peace to the departed souls and a speedy recovery for the injured," the statement added.

Following the CM's directive, Ayodhya Division Commissioner Gaurav Daval and Inspector General Praveen Kumar visited the site for a detailed inspection.

> Police said following a drug seizure made on July 22 at a residence in Suangdoh village, Churachandpur district, police conducted a follow-up search at the same location. During the operation, they recovered Rs 39,33,300 in cash, which had been stashed in a bag. The money is suspected to be connected to the earlier drug haul. Investigations into the

Imphal: In a series of

across Manipur, the State Po-

lice and security forces yes-

terday have made multiple

significant arrests and sei-

zures, including unaccount-

ed cash, illicit liquor, and the

apprehension of active insur-

gent cadres from banned out-

operations

coordinated

matter are ongoing.

In a separate operation, security forces arrested an active member of a banned insurgent group from the Tentha Khunou Bazar area under Khongjom Police Station in Thoubal district.

Militants arrested, large

hauls of drugs, liquor seized

The individual was allegedly involved in extortion, issuing monetary demands, intimidation, and kidnapping in the region. A mobile handset was seized from his possession.

Three active cadres of a proscribed underground group were apprehended from various locations in Imphal East district. Two of them were intercepted in Huidrom village while reportedly heading to a brick field to collect extortion

money. Based on information obtained during questioning, a third associate was later arrested from Kairang Maning Leikai. Items recovered from them included a scooter, two mobile phones, a wallet containing Rs 700, and three identity cards.

In a separate action in Imphal East, another member of a banned group was arrested from his residential

In an anti-smuggling operation, police also arrested two individuals from the Mantripukhri area under Heingang Police Station. A total of 16,073 bottles of Indian Foreign Liquor (IMFL), comprising various brands, were recovered from their possession.

EOW arrests four in Revenue Fraud Case, Tehsildar among 3 still absconding

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), formerly known as Crime Branch Kashmir, today arrested four out of seven accused individuals in connection with an FIR pertaining to corruption, cheating, and tampering with revenue records.

Among the accused is a Tehsildar who remains absconding.An EOW spokesperson confirmed that Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz, named in the FIR, is currently evading arrest. Although she applied for bail, her plea was rejected by the Court of the Anti-Corruption Judge in Srinagar.

The case involves organized fraudulent activities, including false mutations and wrongful insertions in revenue records, causing significant financial loss and distress to gullible people in Srinagar and Budgam districts," the spokesperson the spokesperson

The four arrested have been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Bhat of Nowgam, Srinagar; Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni of Peerbagh, Srinagar; Shahnawaz Ahmad Rather of Padshahi Bagh, Srinagar and Shabir Ahmad Wani of Bagandar, Lasjan.

The EOW said that besides Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz, two other accused — Ashiq Ali (then Patwari, Balhama Srinagar) and Shamima Akhter of Gooripora Rawalpora — are absconding. Efforts are underway to apprehend them as per due process

An FIR under Sections 167, 420, 120-B of the RPC read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, was regis-

tered on July 7 against seven individuals, including two revenue officers, for their involvement in the case.

The EOW said that Nusrat Aziz is involved in four other FIRs-two registered with Crime Branch Kashmir and two with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Kash-The case was initiated

following a complaint by a woman alleging that she had purchased 5 kanals and 4 marlas of land at Balhama, Srinagar, for Rs 17 lakh per kanal from Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni. A total payment of Rs 88.4 lakh was made, including the transfer of two kanals of land at Gooripora, Rawalpora, in exchange.

However, after the sale, the accused allegedly retrieved the original sale deeds under the pretext of updating revenue records and returned them with forged Khasra numbers. Subsequently, a portion of the purchased land was forcibly occupied by a person claiming to have bought it from Riyaz Ahmad Bhat despite the land not legally belonging to him.

The EOW's preliminary investigation uncovered deliberate falsification of survey numbers in connivance with revenue officials. False mutations were allegedly executed by then Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz and then Patwari Ashiq Ali to fraudulently benefit Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, who later sold the disputed land illegally.

Earlier, on July 17, EOW teams had conducted raids at multiple locations across Srinagar and Budgam as part of the ongoing investigation.

Telangana govt observes sixth death anniversary of Jaipal Reddy

Hvderabad: The Telangana government observed the sixth death anniversary of former Union Minister and outstanding parliamentarian awardee S. Jaipal Reddy at Spoorthi Sthal, his memorial located on PV Narasimha Rao Marg, Necklace Road in Hyderabad.Telangana Legislative Council chairperson Gutha Sukender Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Tribal Welfare Minister Adluru Laxman Kumar, Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, former Supreme Court judge Justice Sudar-

Minister Seethakka accuses TRS of diverting funds meant for tribals

Hyderabad: Telangana Panchayat Raj, Women and Child Welfare Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka accused the previous government of diverting ST Sub-Plan funds that were meant for the welfare of tribal communities and warned the officials not to repeat past mistakes.She asserted that the current government is mulling a plan to increase budget allocations for hous-

ing schemes for ST families. The 7th Tribal Welfare Advisory Council meeting convened at Damodar Sanjeevaiah Welfare Bhavan in Masab Tank today under the leadership of Tribal Welfare Minister Adluru Laxman Kumar and Minister Seethakka.

While addressing the officials, Minister Seethakka came down heavily on the previous government, accusing it of diverting ST Sub-Plan funds that were meant for the welfare of tribal communities

"Because of such diversions, essential infrastructure like roads and bridges in tribal areas was neglected, leading to tragic instances such as pregnant women being forced to deliver without access to hospitals," she

"No government has the right to divert ST funds. Every rupee allocated must be spent within the same constituency and district it was sanctioned for. Transferring these funds to plain areas is unacceptable and leads to further marginalization of tribal populations," she asserted, adding that the current government is considering an increase in budget

allocations for schemes for ST families, many of whom still lack proper homes.

Minister Adluru Laxman Kumar pointed out that this was the first Tribal Welfare Advisory Council meeting held in five years. "The previous regime ignored this crucial platform meant for discussing tribal issues. We have called this meeting to directly hear your challenges and recommendations," he Laxman Kumar assured

the gathering that all sugges-

tions would be conveyed to the Chief Minister for necessary action. He also stressed the importance of paying bills for development works in a timely manner, adding that the delays and irregularities seen in the past will not be repeated under the current administration.

Officials were directed to focus on road and bridge construction in agency areas and ensure that ST sub-plan funds are not left unused or reallocated due to lack of contracts. "Our priority is to make sure that tribal welfare

is not compromised under any circumstances," he add

Deputy Speaker Ramachandra Nayak, Adilabad MP Godem Nagesh, tribal MLAs, MLCs, TRICOR Chairman Bellaiah Nayak, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Tribal Welfare Secretary Sarath, and other senior officials from the department attended the crucial meeting aimed at addressing the longstanding issues faced by the Scheduled Tribes (STs) across Telangana, an official statement said.

BJP slams Cong govt over anti-farmer policies

Bengaluru: Karnataka BJP president Vijayendra Yediyurappa launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led state government, accusing it of adopting anti-farmer policies and diverting funds meant for the welfare of

Scheduled Tribes (STs). Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru, Vijayendra alleged that ever since Chief Minister Sidda-

Scheduled Castes (SCs) and

ramaiah assumed office, several pro-farmer schemes initiated by the previous BJP government had been arbitrarily discontinued.

"Despite the Central government supplying adequate quantities of urea, the state has failed to implement a proper distribution mechanism, resulting in artificial shortages. This has forced helpless farmers to buy urea at exorbitant prices in the black market," he

The BJP leader further accused the Congress government of being indifferent to the plight of the farming community. "The Siddaramaiah government has proven to be anti-farmer. Their failure in ensuring timely and affordable access to fertilizers has severely affected agricultural activities across the state,"

he said. Highlighting concerns over alleged financial mismanagement, Vijayendra said that funds specifically allocated for the development of SC and ST communities had been diverted to unrelated schemes. "This diversion is a betraval of the marginalized sections, and BJP will raise this issue as a key agenda in the forthcoming elections," he declared.

Vijayendra reiterated the BJP's commitment to farmers and social justice



and vowed to intensify statewide protests unless

the Congress government reverses these decisions

Briefs:

Cong demands revival of stalled sports varsity

New Delhi: The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) has demanded the immediate construction of the longdelayed Delhi Sports University at Ghevra Mor in North West Delhi district, accusing both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of betraying Delhi's youth for nearly three decades. In a memorandum submitted to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the state Congress unit condemned the successive governments for failing to develop the university on 110 acres of land acquired in 1996-97. Senior spokesperson for the DPCC Naresh Kumar highlighted that despite the land acquisition for a sports school and university, no construction had begun in 28 years, leaving the site abandoned and

encroachments."The BJP has been in power in various forms — in MCD, at the Centre and now in Delhi. Yet despite including the Ghevra Sports University in their manifestos, they have failed to move even a stone. It's not incompetence — it's deliberate betrayal," he said. The Congress said the sports university had been operating from a makeshift campus in a Civil Lines government school for the past 5-6 years.Kumar pointed out critical flaws like Vice-Chancellor Karnam Malleswari not meeting UGC norms, non-existence of undergraduate or postgraduate programme and the faculty operating entirely on contract without permanent hiring.

NEET-PG aspirants allotted far-off centres, IMA urges urgent action

New Delhi :The Indian Medical Association's youth wing — IMA Junior Doctors' Network (IMA JDN) — has called for the urgent intervention of the Ministry of Health and the National Board of Examinations (NBE) to address widespread distress over the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test PG, 2025, exam centre allocations. The exam is scheduled for August 3.Thousands of candidates, particularly those from economically weaker sections and rural regions, have reportedly been assigned centres hundreds of kilometres away from their home states. This has sparked anxiety among aspirants who say the additional travel and expenses could jeopardise their performance in the high stakes postgraduate entrance test.In a letter to Union Health Minister JP Nadda, the IMA JDN said, "This move is causing much concern, especially among the economically weaker sections, women, and those from remote or rural regions.

NGT Demands Answers on Plastic Waste Rule Violations by Tobacco Manufacturers

New Delhi: The (NGT) has intervened in a matter concerning the alleged widespread failure to enforce the Plastic Waste Management Rules-2016, specifically against manufacturers of pan masala and various tobacco products. A bench comprising NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel has issued notices to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and other relevant authorities, seeking their responses.The NGT's action comes in response to an original application that called for strict measures against manufacturers accused of flouting environmental laws. The petition highlighted blatant noncompliance with key regulations aimed at curbing the use of plastic in packaging harmful products.

AAP Slams Delhi Education Minister Over 'Defunct Computer Lab' Claim, Alleges Scam Plot

New Delhi: Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood's recent assertion that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government left behind not a single functional computer lab in Delhi schools has ignited a fierce political controversy. AAP leaders, led by Delhi AAP state president Saurabh Bharadwaj, have vehemently dismissed Sood's claim as a "desperate lie," alleging it is part of a larger conspiracy to justify a fresh procurement scam. Addressing a press con-

ference on Sunday, Bharadwaj accused the BJP-led government of deliberately discrediting the previous administration to create grounds for new purchases. This is either an attempt to defame the AAP government or a prelude to declaring existing computers as junk so that a new tender can be floated for fresh procurement," he stated, hinting at potential corruption.

To directly counter Sood's statement, made at a recent conclave, AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar conducted a surprise inspection at the New Kondli Government School. Bharadwaj presented videos from this visit, which he claimed showed students actively engaged in studying on functional com-



puters, directly contradicting the Education Minister's assertion. "The BJP's Education Minister claimed on record that not even a single computer lab was left functional by the AAP government. But videos from today's visit show students working on those very computers," Bharadwaj emphasized.He further referenced past inspections by former Education Minister Manish Sisodia, where videos of working computer labs in various schools were shared and are still available on social media. "Those videos are still on social media. The truth is, BJP has no intention of doing any work. That is

spreading lies about the previous government. Today, Ashish Sood's lie has been completely exposed," Bharadwaj asserted

Taking a direct jab at Sood's understanding of educational technology, Bharadwaj remarked, "When asked about computers, his only reference was giving a mobile phone to a two-yearold to distract them. An Education Minister should be capable of giving more informed examples related to computers."

Adding to the allegations, Bharadwaj raised concerns about administrative interference. He claimed that

later in the day, MLA Kuldeep Kumar was barred from entering a computer lab at another school. According to Bharadwaj, the principal cited an order from the Deputy Director stating that no MLA was allowed to inspect labs without written permission. "This clearly shows that fear has gripped Ashish Sood's ministry — they are scared that AAP MLAs will record videos of functional computers and expose the truth," he

The controversy highlights an escalating blame game between the AAP and BJP over the state of Delhi's government school infra-

Delhi High Court Upholds DU Professor's Compulsory Retirement in Sexual Harassment Case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has dismissed a writ petition filed by Professor Amit Kumar of Delhi University, affirming the university's decision to compulsorily retire him from service following findings of sexual harassment by the Internal Complaints Committee

(ICC). The court, in its judgment on July 17, underscored the seriousness of allegations made by students against a teacher, a relationship held in high regard in India.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, while presiding over the case, observed that the professor had been granted a fair hearing by the executive authority. The absence of a "speaking order" (a reasoned order) was deemed not significant enough to prove prejudice against the petitioner. The case originated from four complaints

received in 2018, three from students and one from an alumnus, alleging inappropriate messages with sexual innuendoes and unwelcome advances sent via Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. Professor Kumar denied the allegations, claiming misunderstandings and a conspiracy against him.

The ICC completed its evidence recording by May 2018 and unanimously found all four charges of sexual harassment to be proven, recommending compulsory retirement as the punishment. The court noted that any delay in the proceedings thereafter was solely attributable to the professor's conduct. In October 2018, the university's governing body accepted the ICC's recommendation after issuing a show cause notice and providing an opportunity for oral submissions, a decision subsequently approved by the Vice-Chancel-

Professor Kumar challenged the ICC's findings, its constitution, the inquiry proce-

Old Rajinder Nagar: A Year After Tragedy,

gutters and rainwater drains.

have significantly reduced wa-

terlogging, the area's economic

activity has not recovered. Raju,

a tea vendor of 25 years, lament-

ed, "Earlier, many

dure, and alleged violations of natural justice by the ICC, the Vice-Chancellor, and the governing body.

Justice Prasad rejected all contentions, stating, "Teachers shape the career of young aspiring students for a better future. The

act of sexual harassment done by

these very teachers, who are considered as our guides and mentors, against young female students who have just attained majority, has a deleterious effect on the psyche of such students. It is often seen that female students are reluctant to report of such misconduct and many students even drop out of colleges as they face ridicule and humilia-

The court deemed the contents of the WhatsApp and Facebook messages "so profane" that it refrained from reproducing them in the judgment. Justice Prasad further clarified that the constitution of the ICC and its inquiry committee adhered to Rule 7(7) of the POSH Rules, which specifies the requirement for a minimum of three Members of the Complaints Committee, including the Presiding Officer or Chairperson, to be present during an inquiry. He ruled that the procedure adopted by the ICC was "neither unreasonable nor arbitrary" and aligned with established legal guidelines.

Regarding the principle of fair hearing, the court found that the professor was given ample opportunities to present his case before the governing body, affirming no violation of the principle of audi alteram partem. This Latin legal maxim, meaning "hear the other side," ensures that no person should be judged without a fair hearing where each party can respond to the evidence against them. The court concluded by dismissing the

writ petition, stating that all issues raised had been answered against the petitioner.

Construction Labourer Dies After Fall at North Delhi Resort Site

New Delhi: 35-year-old construction labourer, identified as Mohan, tragically died on Sunday after reportedly falling from a height while working at a resort in north Delhi's Bakoli area. According to police

officials, the incident occurred on July 26 at the Palm Green Resort, where Mohan, a resident of Palm Green, Alipur, was enin construction gaged

He was immediately rushed to SRHC Hospital but was declared dead

upon arrival by doctors. 'We received information from SRHC Hos-

pital regarding a person

having been brought dead. The enquiry was assigned to ASI Ravinder," the police stated.

Preliminary investi-

gations suggest that Mohan sustained fatal injuries from the fall while performing his duties at the construction site. A case is being registered under appropriate sections of the law, and further investigation is currently underway to determine the exact circumstances leading to the fall and any potential neg-

Falls from height remain a leading cause of fatalities and severe injuries at construction sites

across India. Safety regulations under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (BOCW) of 1996 mandate provisions for protective gear like helmets and safety harnesses, and stipulate that any work above 1.8 meters must utilize guard rails, fall nets, or full-body harnesses. Construction sites are also required to implement sitespecific safety plans, conduct regular inspections, provide proper training, and ensure the use of appropriate equipment to mitigate such

UPSC Coaching Hub Struggles to Rebound year, Tania Soni (25), Shreya keepers confirm that footfall in Old Rajinder Nagar has dropped Yadav (25), and Navin Delvin

New Delhi: A year after a devastating flood claimed the lives of three UPSC aspirants in a basement library, Old Rajinder Nagar, once a bustling hub for civil services coaching in Delhi, is struggling to regain its former vibrancy. A ground visit to the locality, which garnered national attention for the tragic events of July 27, 2024, reveals a significant decline in physical enrollment at coaching centers and a palpable sense of lingering fear among students and residents. On that fateful day last

(28) drowned when the illegally housed library in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle flooded during heavy

The building's single biometric entry and exit system reportedly failed, trapping them inside. Today, the onceprominent Rau's Study Circle building, near Karol Bagh metro station, stands abandoned, adorned with "Available for Rent" posters – a stark reminder of the tragedy.

Local residents and shop-

came here for tea. That's how I made my living. Now, barely by nearly half. anyone shows up. I'm strug-While infrastructure imgling to survive. provements, including proper

Similarly, Vatsal, a shopkeeper, estimated a drastic shift in the demographic, stating that while students once constituted 70-80 percent of the crowd, they now make up only 20-30 per-

RPF Delhi Division Rescues Over 5,200 **Children Under "Operation Nanhe Farishte"**

New Delhi: As Indian Railways undergoes a major phase of modernization in the 21st century, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) is not only ensuring the security of railway property and passengers but is also taking on a vital humanitarian role. Among several key initiatives, "Operation Nanhe Farishte", launched by the RPF Delhi Division, stands out as a significant effort aimed at protecting vulnerable children.

Under this operation, RPF personnel actively identify and rescue children found in distress or suspicious circumstances at railway stations and onboard trains. These children often include runaways, missing persons, those separated from their families, or those at risk of child labour, trafficking, or other forms of exploitation.

To strengthen this effort, the RPF Delhi Division has established 30 Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) across its posts. These specialized units are trained to respond swiftly and sensitively to cases involving children, ensuring timely intervention and safety

Once a child is rescued, the RPF coordinates with District Child Welfare Committees or recognized NGOs working in the field of child protection. These organizations facilitate the safe handover of the child to their families or legal guardians.

Since the launch of the initiative in 2021, the RPF Delhi Division has successfully rescued over 5,200 children up to June 2025. This includes children who were lost, had run away from home, or were suspected victims of trafficking and child labour.

"Operation Nanhe Farishte" reflects the Indian Railways' evolving role as not just a transportation provider but also a proactive participant in addressing social issues and safeguarding the future of the nation's children. The success of the operation stands as a testament to the dedication and vigilance of the RPF and its unwavering commitment to public ser-

Cops trace missing woman, minor child after three months

Crime Branch team of the Delhi Police traced a 27-year-old woman and seven-year-old child, who were missing for the past three months from the Alipur area of the northwest district of Delhi, under "Operation Milap."The woman and her son went missing on April 13, prompting the police to register a general diary entry and launch a search operation. A reward of Rs 20,000 was announced for anyone who could give any information about the missing per-

Woman Head Constable Seema Kalyan, along with Inspector Sandeep Swami and ACP Narender Singh,

pects as part of the for their disappearance. investigation. Through scrutiny of 10 mobile numbers and tracking location data, the team pinpointed that the woman and her son were likely in the Meerut area of Uttar Pradesh. Based on this crucial lead, a raid party was formed, resulting in the recovery of both of them, said Harsh Indora, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Crime Branch.Following the rescue, the woman and the child were brought back to Alipur and handed over to the investigating officer for further procedures, he said. The

authorities are continu-

examined call detail re- ing their investigation to ensure cords (CDRs) of the vic- the safety of the victims and to tims and possible sus- apprehend those responsible

EDITORIAL



Dhankhar's resignation: New controversy?

A shocking incident that has created a new twist in the country's politics is the sudden resignation of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. This resignation, given on the first day of the monsoon session, has spread unease in Parliament as well as in the ruling clique. While discussions of a leadership change are already underway in the BJP, this development has exposed the internal conflict in the party. Many questions have also been raised about the decision-making ability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, who are at the center of power. Who will be the next Vice President now? There may be contradictory arguments on this. But Jagdeep Dhankhar has created another storm for politicians by resigning on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament, which is expected to be stormy. At a time when there is a fierce tug-of-war over who should be the next BJP president, what is really going on in the ruling clique with the sudden emergence of the Dhankhar case? It would not be surprising if such doubts arise. Chandrababu Naidu had already put the Centre in trouble by raising his voice against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision in Bihar with the justice of the thirteenth month of drought. There is a big conspiracy behind the haste with which Dhankhar resigned. Dhankhar was asked to resign and it seems that he had no choice but to give it. Since becoming the Vice President, Dhankhai has tried time and again to make it seem like he is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Hanuman' in Parliament by making controversial statements and actions. It certainly benefited Modi, but Dhankhar has become famous in the world. The way the Prime Minister worried about Dhankhar's health on social media made it seem that he and the Vice President had been at loggerheads for a long time. No matter how much he boasted that he was the special one of the Sangh, it was not hidden from anyone's eyes that Dhankhar was the Prime Minister's special choice as the Vice President. Dhankhar had shown his devotion to his master by the way he made Mamata Banerjee do anything as the Governor of West Bengal.

There is talk in political circles that there will still be some resignations from the government. The opposition is happy. No one will cry over Dhankhar's departure. He had not made any friends even in the ruling circle. If the Prime Minister is with him, who do we care about? This was his belief. He considered Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to be his rival. It was not hidden from anyone that Dhankhar, who was very ambitious, had his eyes set on becoming the next President. It was evident from his overall behavior that Dhankhar used to dream day and night about when President Draupadi Murmu would retire and when he would take her place. He was looking at how to please his leader in any way. As Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he also had the illustrious record of suspending almost all the opposition MPs.

Looking at the way decisions are taken between the BJP and the government, the Prime Minister himself takes the decision and Home Minister Amit Shah does the work of implementing it. If Modi himself has asked Dhankhar to resign, then something must have happened. It is unlikely that a leader like Dhankhar, who praises the Prime Minister, will suddenly exit in such a manner, when the overall experience is that even if the dead go to the crematorium, the leaders do not leave their chairs. Leaving the chair is not in Dhankhar's DNA. He had said last month that he will remain as the Vice President for two more years. The fact that the rulers are not even thinking of giving a simple farewell ceremony to Dhankhar clearly shows how much bitterness has arisen on both sides. The way the Dhankhar case has unfolded one message has definitely gone out that no one has trusted Modi-Shah. It was also hinted that the opposition parties will play a trick to bring another no-confidence motion against Dhankhar in this session. Dhankhar was the head of the Rajya Sabha of the channel Sansad TV. The employees there have recently gone to court against the treatment they received. There were reports that Dhankhar intended to replace 150 employees of this channel by giving coconuts to them and bringing in his own people. It is also said that Dhankhar incurred the displeasure of Amit Shah.

Some judges of the Supreme Court had complained to the government about Dhankhar's unbridled statements and requested him to rein them in. In that, he seemed very insistent on impeaching Justice Yashwant Verma. On the one hand, Dhankhar's resignation has put the rulers in trouble, while on the other hand, the opposition has become silver. On the one hand, Dhankhar, who had vowed not to allow non-BJP parties to speak in the House, has been blown away like a fly in the ointment. and in the election to replace him, the opposition will fight the BJP. There is scope to believe that Dhankhar's successor could be a 'hoiba' like JP Nadda or Rajnath Singh. There has been talk in political circles that a new experiment is not possible in the current situation. Although the names of former Chief Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud and disgruntled Congress leader Shashi Tharoor are also being mentioned, the current situation is such that the ruling party, which has been scalded by milk, will drink buttermilk with gusto. Who should be the BJP president already? There is a tug-of-war between Modi-Shah and the Sangh on this issue when the Dhankhar case has come up. Even though high-ranking officials in the government have indicated that a new BJP president will be announced before the start of this session, nothing has happened, so there is a growing perception that something is amiss. Whispers are being heard in the party as to why Modi-Shah are so desperate about this. Parliament will be active next week because all the bitter and sweet things of the last two-three months will come to the fore in the discussion on Operation Sindoor It is a testing time for the government. As the curiosity about who will replace Dhankhar grows, the bitterness and distrust among the ruling elite has become more apparent. This will determine not only the direction of the Vice Presidential election, but also the direction of the upcoming political equations.

Centre takes multiple initiatives to improve Health, Hygiene and Well-being of Women

taken several initiatives for improving the health, hygiene and well-being of women and for enhancing their status in the country. Schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have helped reduce drudgery and time poverty of women and improved health outcomes. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, over 11.8 crore individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been constructed in the country. Similarly, the Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully provided tap water connections to around 15.6 crores households. To ensure easy access to sanitary napkins and good quality medicines at affordable price, Department of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers implements the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janausadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP), an important step in ensuring the health security for women. Under the project, over 16000 Janaushidhi Kendras have been set up across the country, which besides affordable medicines, provide Oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins named Suvidha at Rs. 1/- per

The Government also implements the 'Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene' among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years. The Scheme is supported by National Health Mission through State Programme Imple-



mentation Plan (PIP) route based on the proposals received from the States/ UTs. One of the major objectives of the scheme is to increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene. Under the scheme, sanitary napkin packs are provided to adolescent girls by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) at subsidized rates. Government also provides budget to the States/ UTs for Orientation of field level health workers and IEC activities for menstrual hygiene. In addition, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' has developed National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for creating awareness on it in rural areas as part of its overall interventions related to behaviour change on sanitation and hygiene aspects. To further support working

women and girls students, the Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) under the overarching Mission Shakti. It is a demand driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme, under which funds are released to the States and UTs for implementation of the scheme. The scheme aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommoda-

tion for working women and other women pursuing higher education or training in urban, semi-urban and also in rural areas where employment opportunity for women exists. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for running of Sakhi Niwas in rented premises for working women and for those women who are under training for job. Provision of Day Care Centre for children of the residents of the Sakhi Niwas is an important aspect of the scheme.

In addition, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Department of Expenditure (DoE) has allocated Rs.5,000/- crores to 28 States for construction of new Working Women Hostels under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme. DoE has approved construction of 254 working women hostels with a total capacity of 52991 beds in 28 States at a total approved cost of Rs.4,826.31 crore. Out of this, 1st instalment of Rs.3,147.66 crore has already been released to the States during 2024-25. These initiatives align with the larger goal of ensuring safety, dignity, and opportunity for women across India and are major steps towards realising the idea of 'Women led Development'.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Women and Child Development Smt. Savitri Thakur in Rajya Sabha in reply to a question.

Steps taken for the welfare of Siddi Tribe

starred question of Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey stated in a written reply in Rajya Sabha that Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya MahaAbhiyaN (PM JANMAN) has been launched for socio-economic development of 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 states and one UT including Siddi community in Gujarat. The mission aims to provide basic facilities to improve their socio-economic conditions such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in 3 years. These objectives are being met implemented by 9-line Ministries. PM JANMAN has total budgetary outlay of ₹24,104 Cr (Central share: ₹15336 Cr and State share: ₹8768 Cr).

Prior to launch of PM-JANMAN, for development of PVTGs including Siddi community in Gujarat, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was implementing scheme "Development of PVTGs" wherein funds were provided to the concerned State Government / UT on the basis of their proposals for Conservation cum Development (CCD) plans. These were to fill gaps in infrastructure and were demand driven. With the introduction of PMJANMAN Scheme the Development of PVTG Scheme has been discontinued and Ministry only provided committed liabilities till March 2025.

With reference to the Siddi community in Gujarat, the Siddi community is mostly settled in Talala taluka of Gir Somnath district of Gujarat state. Siddi community has been covered under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Adimjuth community. According to the survey of Siddi community in Gujarat, there is a total population of 12959. For the overall development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Adimjuth community, "MukhyamantriAdimjuth Sarvangi Utkarsh Yojana" has been implemented by the Gujarat Government since 2013. The scheme provides basic facilities including individual and community development works. In which individual works include housing, employment and community development works like roads, Anconstruction, health, education, milk house, multipurpose utility

center, electrification, ecotourism.

The amount of funds allocated for this purpose in the last five years is Rs.1490.83 lacs by the state government of Gujarat under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) MukhyamantriAdimjuth-Sarvangi Utkarsh Yojana.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)' extends financial support to 29 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in States/Union (UTs) based on the Annual Action Plan submitted by the States/UTs subject to the approval of the Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the Scheme, proposals relating to infradocumentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals, yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and tourism andorganisation of exchange visits by tribals are organised so that their cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated.

Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Gujarat and in coordination with other relevant stakeholders, has undertaken significant initiatives to promote the traditional art and culture of the Siddi community.Traditional Tribal Handicraft Mela Scheme:- Launched in 2016-17 by the Government of Gujarat and implemented by the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Gujarat. The scheme provides a platform for tribal artisans, including those from the Siddi community, to exhibit, promote, and market their handicrafts. Under this scheme, TRI organises five to six craft fairs annually in major urban centres across Gujarat to promote tribal culture and heritage. These fairs typically last between five and eight days and are held in major

cities throughout the state. Promotion of Siddi Dance (Dhamal) :- To promote the Siddi tribe's popular traditional dance form, Dhamal, TRI Guiarat has undertaken active measures to support its preservation and public recognition. The dance features prominently at Tribal Art and Craft Melas, thereby enhancing its visibility and appreciation. The Siddi troupe regularly performs at major government events, including Tribal Pride Day (9th August) and various cultural festivals. In the current year, the troupe was honoured to perform at the Statue of Unity

2019, TRI Gujarat provided Dhamal Dance Kits-com-

international Admouthments of Tribal Afvernment of India are Centrally Sponcheme 'Support to Research Institutes extends financial to 29 Tribal Renstitutes (TRIs) in mion Territories used on the Annual Plan submitted by s/UTs subject to the of the Apex Comaired by the Secrenistry of Tribal Afunder the Scheme, s relating to infrall needs, research & Documentation and Research: TRI Gujarat has documented a short documentary film depicting the strength of the strength of the support of uncleic of un-election and sustance of the search: TRI Gujarat has documented a short documenter of the search: TRI Gujarat has documented a short documentary film depicting the strength of the search is relating to infra-

search:- TRI Gujarat has documented a short documentary film depicting the social and cultural life of the Siddi community. Furthermore, TRI Gujarat has undertaken ethnographic research exploring the social, cultural, religious, and historical dimensions of the Siddi community, and has published books based on the findings of these studies.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 463 for 23.07.2025 by Shri GovindbhaiLaljibhai Dholakia regarding "Steps taken for the welfare of Siddi tribe"

Brief details of major schemes/programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the country:

DhartiAabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan: Hon'ble PM launched DhartiAabaJaniativa Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan on 2nd October, 2024. The Abhiyan comprises of 25 interventions implemented by 17line Ministries and aims to saturate infrastructural gaps in 63,843 villages, improve access to health, education, Anganwadi facilities and providing livelihood opportunities benefiting more than 5 crore tribals in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs in 5 years. The Abhiyan has total budgetary outlay of Rs.79,156 Cr (Central share: ₹56,333 Cr and State share: ₹22,823

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN): Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) on 15th November 2023, which is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. The mission with financial outlay of around Rs.24,000 Crore aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic

ing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved ac-



cess to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of un-electrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in time bound manner in 3 years.

Vikas Mission (PM-JVM): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PM-JVM), which has been designed through the merger of two existing schemes for the promotion of tribal livelihood, i.e., "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP" and "Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products/Pro-

The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP. Procurement and Marketing operation at pre-fixed MSP will be undertaken by the designated State Agencies in the event of the prevailing market price of the particular MFP item falling below the stipulated MSP. Simultaneously other medium and long-term issues like sustainable collection, value addition, infrastructure development, knowledge base expansion of MFP and market intelligence development will also be addressed.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalava to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish 440 EMRSs, one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). 288 EMRS schools were initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are be-

ing upgraded as per the new

model. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country.

Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution: Under the Proviso to Article 275(1) of Constitution, Grants are released to States, having ST population for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people. This is a Special Area Programme and 100% grants are provided to States. Funds are released to the State Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in the fields of education, health, skill development, livelihood, drinking water, sanitation, etc. Grant-in Aid to Volun-

tary Organizations working Tribes: Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry funds projects in the fields of education and health, covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, liveetc.Pre-Matric lihood, Scholarships to ST students: The scheme is applicable to students who are studying in Classes IX –X. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Scholarship of Rs.225/-per month for day scholars and Rs.525/-per month for hostellers is given for a period of 10 months in a year. Scholarship is disbursed through the State Government/UT Administration. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except North East and Hills States/UT like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Post Matric Scholarship to ST students: The objec-

tive of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Compulsory fees charged by educational institutions are reimbursed subject to the limit fixed by the concerned State Fee fixation committee and scholarship amount of Rs.230 to Rs.1200 per month, depending upon the course of study is paid. The Scheme is implemented by the State Govtory Administrations. Funding ratio is 75:25 between Centre and States for all States except NE and Hilly States/UT of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where it is 90:10. For UTs without legislature sharing pattern is 100% Central share.

National Scholarships for ST Candidates: The Scheme provides for financial assistance to selected students to pursue Post Graduation, PhD & Post-Doctoral study abroad. A total of 20 awards are given every year. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Parental/family from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum.

National Fellowship &Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students:

National Scholarship-(Top class) Scheme [Graduate level]: The objective of the scheme is to encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies in prescribed courses in any of the 265 institutions of excellence across the country like IITs, AIIMS, IIMs, NIITs, etc. identified by the Ministry. Family income from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum. Scholarship amount includes tuition fees, living expenses and allowances for books and computer. National Fellowship for

ST students: 750 fellowships are provided to ST students each year for pursing higher studies in India for MPhil and PhD. Fellowship is granted as per UGC norms.

Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs): Ministry extends support to the State Governments through the Scheme to set up new TRIs where it didn't exist and to strengthen functioning of existing TRIs to carry out its core responsibility towards Research & Documentations, Training and capacity building, promotion of rich tribal heritage etc. To preserve tribal art and culture, financial assistance is provided to TRI's to carry out various activities to preserve and promote tribal culture and heritage across the country through research and documentation, maintenance and preservation of art & artefacts, setting up of tribal museum, exchange visits for the tribals to other parts of the State, organizing tribal festivals etc. Funding under this Scheme is 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs on need basis with the approval of Apex Committee.

Briefs:

Gurugram civic body to launch mega drive to overcome sanitation crisis

Gurugram: As the millennium city struggles with sanitation crisis owing to migrant exodus, the Gurugram Municipal Corporation has decided to launch a cleanliness drive on a war-footing. Following a high-level level meeting with all stakeholders on Sunday, the Haryana Urban Local Bodies Commissioner Vikas Gupta said the city would be cleaned within three days as the MCG would double resources on ground

He announced not only the garbage dumped on streets would be lifted. but also the door-to-door collection would be stepped up. Gupta also ordered strict monitoring of solid waste disposal vehicles using GPS, curbing dumping from outside districts and finalising a construction and demolition (C&D) waste management plan. "We are committed to making Gurugram a model city.

The resources are there, now we need results," he said. Officials were instructed to ensure sector roads remain waste-free, increase public awareness, and collaborate with local councillors. A follow-up review will be conducted next week to assess progress, with the government promising zero tolerance for delays or negligence in sanitation duties

Residents of posh **Golf Course Road** area protest proposed **CNG** station

Gurugram: Residents of posh residential societies located near Golf Course Road took to streets on Sunday to protest against a proposed CNG station in their locality. They demanded the abortion of plan, claiming that the CNG station on the posh residential road would pose a threat to safety and quality of life. The residents met Badshahpur MLA and State Minister Rao Narbir and sought his intervention in the

They argued that the construction of a CNG station in such a densely populated and upscale area would pose significant safety memorandum submitted to the minister, they said the move would add to the already existing traffic congestion and lead to further deterioration of the fragile environmental health of the area. The protesters have appealed to the administration to reconsider the proposal and find an alternative location for the CNG

"This is a residential area, not an industrial zone. Opening a gas station here would invite fleets of heavy and commercial vehicles round the clock. This would block the road which is already congested most of the time. It will add to noise pollution and impact the health of the residents. It will also increase the risk of accidents and we will not feel safe to let our children out," said one of the protesters. Rao Narbir said he would take up the issue with departments concerned and ensure the residents' welfare was not compromised.

Anil Vij Commends Haryana Roadways Staff for Seamless CET Transport Arrangements

Transport Minister Anil Vij on Sunday visited the Ambala Cantonment bus stand and lauded the efforts of Transport Department officials and staff for their exemplary work in facilitating smooth travel for candidates appearing for the Common Eligibility Test (CET) across the state. The minister personally interacted with several candidates and roadways employees, expressing his satisfaction with the arrangements made to handle the large movement of examinees.

With over 13 lakh candidates appearing for the CET across four shifts in two days, Vij acknowledged the logistical challenges and praised the department for maintaining regular services even as the Teej festival and weekend travel created additional demand. "Despite the high volume of candidates and regular passengers due to the festival and weekend rush, we ensured no one faced inconvenience. I personally spoke to candidates, and their feedback showed



that they were happy with the transport arrangements," he

Vij boarded one of the buses during his visit, conversed with students who had travelled from different districts, and commended the drivers and staff who had reported on duty as early as 5 a.m. "Their dedication is truly commendable. They went beyond the call of duty to make sure every candidate reached their centre on time. Without their commitment, this massive exercise could not have been conducted so smoothly," he said.

Describing the CET as more than just an exam, Vij drew a cultural parallel, stating, "Festivals are celebrated with emotion and unity. In the same spirit, the CET was organised like a festival, with the cooperation of candidates, staff, and officials.

This collective effort is what

led to the event's grand suc-

He also inspected the bus stand's reception counter. checked the attendance register to assess staff participation, and appreciated the management of services throughout the district. His visit included an inspection of the Jan Seva Roti Bank. where nutritious meals were being served at just ₹5—a

CET aspirants and regular passengers alike.

Earlier in the day, the Cabinet Minister tuned in to the 124th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' along with BJP workers at booth number 136 in Shastri Colony. Speaking to reporters after the programme, he endorsed the PM's "Vocal for Local" call, stressing that local manufacturing and self-reliance are key to India's develop-

also welcomed NCERT's recent initiative to include stories of India's bravery in school curriculums, terming it a positive step towards instilling patriotism and pride in young minds. Anil Vij's visit not only

underscored the crucial role of public transport in statelevel competitive exams but also highlighted the importance of coordination between departments, public services, and the community in executing large-scale events with efficiency and

Pick-and-Drop Facility Eases CET Exam Day for Specially-Abled Candidates in Jhajjar

Jhajjar: The second and final day of the Common Eligibility Test (CET) in Jhadistrict concluded smoothly on Sunday, with authorities receiving praise for their inclusive arrangements, particularly the dedicated pick-and-drop service for specially-abled candidates. All 14 designated centres operated without disruption, as district officials stayed actively engaged in monitoring and managing the examination process.

District officials ensured a seamless experience for thousands of aspirants, with special attention given to the needs of those with physical disabilities.

Deputy Commissioner Swapnil Ravindra Patil and DCP Logesh Kumar visited several centres during both morning and evening shifts, inspecting arrangements firsthand and interacting with staff to ensure protocols were being followed.

One of the standout features of this year's CET in Jhajjar was the implementation of a government-supported transportation facility for specially-abled candidates. Acting on state government directives, the dis-

administration contacted all such candidates in advance to coordinate their travel.

With prior consent, vehicles were dispatched to their homes, ensuring safe and timely travel to and from the examination centres. Village secretaries played an active role in the process, arriving at candidates' homes as early as 3 a.m. to assist them. A spokesperson for the

district administration stated that nearly 50 speciallyabled candidates from across the district availed themselves of the service. The move was widely

appreciated by beneficiaries, many of whom said the arrangement not only removed the logistical stress of travel but also boosted their confi-Anita, a resident of

Chhuchhakwas village, said it was the first time she truly felt seen and supported by the government. "They picked me up from my home and dropped me back after the exam. It made me feel respected," she said.

Rubal from Birohar added, "Without this service, many of us wouldn't have been able to appear for the

exam. It gave us a new sense of hope

Harsh from Achhej village and Sita from Sehlanga echoed similar sentiments, expressing gratitude for the dignified and thoughtful sup-

port extended to them. "This made the exam day stress-free. We could focus on the test without worrying about how to reach the centre," said Harsh.

Deputy Commissioner Patil emphasized the state's commitment to inclusivity and equitable opportunity. "This is not just a service but a reflection of our social responsibility.

Every citizen deserves access to opportunities, and we are dedicated to removing any barriers that stand in the way," he said.

The success of the pickand-drop initiative in Jhajjar has not only enhanced participation among speciallyabled candidates but has also set a benchmark for inclusive governance in competitive examinations. The initiative underlines

the state's broader vision of ensuring that public services reach every segment of society, especially those who need it the most.

Four Killed in Tragic Head-On Collision **Between Car and Truck in Hisar**

Hisar: A devastating road accident claimed the lives of four individuals late last night near Nangthala village in Hisar district, sending shockwaves through the local community. The accident occurred when a Creta car and a fertiliser-laden truck collided head-on along the Agroha-Barwala road, resulting in a horrific crash that left the car completely mangled. According to preliminary information, the truck was en route from Agroha to Barwala, while the Creta was travelling in the opposite direction, from Barwala towards Agroha. The two vehicles reportedly collided with great force, leaving no time for evasive action. The impact was so severe that it rendered the car unrecognisable, with its front portion crushed beyond repair.

Local residents who heard the loud crash rushed to the scene and alerted the authorities. A police team soon arrived and took control of the situation. Emergency responders retrieved the bodies from the wreckage and sent them to Agroha Medical College for postmortem examination. Initial reports suggest that three of the deceased were residents of Kirodi village, while the fourth hailed from Rajli village, both situated within the district. However, officials have yet to release the confirmed identities of the victims. The sudden loss of lives has plunged the affected villages into mourning, with family members and locals expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy.

Many questioned the safety of the road stretch, which has previously seen multiple accidents due to high-speed traffic and poor visibility during night hours. Police officials have

launched a formal investigation into the incident.

They are examining various factors, including possible negligence, road conditions, vehicle speed, and mechanical failure. Efforts are also being made to trace the exact sequence of events that led to the fatal collision.

Authorities have urged motorists to exercise caution, especially on highways and during late hours, to avoid such deadly mishaps.

The incident has once again raised serious concerns about road safety in the region and the need for improved traffic monitoring and preventive measures to

Karnal Couple Struggles to Rebuild Life After Harrowing 'Donkey Route' Ordeal arranged Rs 70 lakh-most-

Karnal: Five months after being deported from the United States, a 35-year-old farmer and his wife from a village in Karnal's Assandh block are still haunted by the trauma of their ill-fated journey through the infamous "donkey route," a perilous and illegal path used by many to enter the US in search of better opportunities. Their story is one of shattered dreams, betrayal, and a slow struggle to piece life back together after an ordeal that has left deep emotional and financial scars.

tober 2024, when the couple was lured by the promise of a safe, 15-day passage to the US, followed by secure employment. With no prior experience of international travel, they trusted an agent from their own village who assured them of a seamless migration. In pursuit of the American dream, the couple

It all began in early Oc-

ly borrowed from relatives—and began their journey on October 3, carrying \$4,40,000.

However, their hopes were quickly dashed. Instead of a smooth transition, the couple was detained in Mumbai for 18 days before being flown to the Netherlands on October 21. There, they were stranded for two days with no guidance or assistance. On October 23, an agent in the Netherlands demanded an additional Rs 15 lakh to continue the journey. Desperate and vulnerable, the couple complied, with their family in India transferring the money that same

From there, the couple was swept into a harrowing journey across multiple countries—Ecuador, lombia, Panama, Costa Rica, and eventually Mexico. Along the way, they endured

unimaginable hardships, including starvation, danger-ous jungle treks, degrading travel conditions, and repeated extortion. At one point, they were forced into a crammed canter truck with 47 other migrants, facing severe health and safety risks.

"We were show dreams of a better life," the man said, his voice trembling. "But what we went through was nothing short of a nightmare." After months of grueling travel, their journey came to a crushing end on February 4, when they were apprehended by US border authorities. Twelve days later, on February 16, they were deported back to India-defeated and devastated.

Now back in their village, the farmer has returned to working the land, leasing a small plot to earn whatever he can to repay his massive from relatives and friends, and now I'm working day and night to pay it back. My brothers have helped me survive this," he said. But while he tries to manage the financial fallout, the emotional toll remains overwhelming. "We can't forget the horror of what we went through. It still plays in our minds," he

Despite the trauma, the couple has found a small measure of relief in the efforts of local authorities. The Karnal Police acted swiftly on their complaint, arresting two people involved in the trafficking racket and helping recover Rs 49 lakh so far. Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia confirmed the developments, stating, "A case was registered on February 18 under Section 24 of the Immigration Act and Sections 316(2) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Two accused

Rohtak PGIMS study finds 26% miscarriage rate in hepatitis C+ mothers

Rohtak: A recent study conducted by the Department of Medical Gastroenterology in collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the PGIMS, Rohtak, has revealed several critical insights into the impact of hepatitis on maternal and familial health."The study has reported a 26 per cent miscarriage rate among pregnant women with hepatitis C who came to the PGIMS for treatment. Additionally, a 13 per cent familial prevalence was observed in patients with hepatitis B who were thoroughly investigated and treated as per medical protocols. Family members testing negative for hepatitis-B were promptly vaccinated to prevent further transmission. The study also identified sexual transmission rates of 5–6 per cent for both hepatitis B and C," said Dr Parveen Malhotra, Senior Professor & head, Department of Medical Gastroenterology.

Malhotra, who is also the in-charge of model treatment centre (MTC) at the PGIMS under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), shared that the centre has treated over 26,000 hepatitis C patients and 12,000 hepatitis B patients free of cost, all without waiting periods. The initiative, driven by a dedicated 20-member team, had saved crores of rupees for economically challenged patients.

"Following sincere and dedicated efforts by Dr Pushpa Dahiya, Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Dr Vani Malhotra, Nodal Officer for the NVHCP, vertical transmission of hepatitis B has been nearly eliminated in over 500 pregnant women with hepatitis B. The achievement has been made possible through the timely initiation of antiviral therapy during pregnancy, along with the mandatory administration of hepatitis B immunoglobulin and vaccination to newborns immediately after birth," he claimed.

Malhotra said, "Our department, a high-volume hepatitis care facility, caters to around 80 patients daily, offering free treatment for both hepatitis B and C. Services include antiviral medications, viral load testing, biochemical tests, endoscopy, fibroscan, and inpatient care when required. Detection efforts have also been strengthened. On an average, more than 70 new cases of hepatitis B and C are diagnosed monthly among blood donors." He pointed out that in another preventive measure, hepatitis B vaccination had been extended to 8,000 healthcare workers, with a total of 24,000 HBV vaccine doses already received at the PGIMS, Rohtak. The campaign is being led by Dr Varun Arora, Professor of community medicine

"Every year, World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28 to raise public awareness about hepatitis. The theme for this year is "Let's break it down". The PGIMS, Rohtak, plays a pivotal role in the initiative through its MTC. The commendable support of UHSR Vice-Chancellor Prof HK Aggarwal, PGIMS Director Dr SK Singhal and Blood Bank in-charge Dr Gajendra Singh continues to empower the institution's ongoing mission to control and eliminate viral hepatitis," Malhotra concluded

Conch-blowing, Vedic mantras to connect students with tradition at Rohtak university

Rohtak Maharshi University (MDU) is set to host a threeday "Deeksharambh Utsav" from July 28 to 30 at Tagore Auditorium to welcome newly admitted undergraduate students. For the first time, the event will begin with the blowing of the conch and chanting of Vedic mantras, connecting students with India's ancient educational and cultural heritage.

The festival will symbolise the formal beginning of students' academic and cultural journey at the uni-Vice-Chancellor Prof Rajbir Singh will inaugurate the event. At a preparatory meeting held here on Sunday, he reviewed the arrangements with university officials and the organising committee, directing them to ensure a dignified and inspiring celebration.

Prof Harish Kumar, Dean, Academic Affairs, said a special 'guest student gallery' would allow existing students to also attend and draw inspiration from the sessions.

first approach, he added. "The Utsav will feature

the students would also be briefed on the university's

have been arrested.

Welcome gates and selfie points will be installed to create a vibrant and memorable environment for the newcomers. The event reflects the MDU's strong academic culture and student-

motivational speakers and life coaches, who will guide students on life skills, goal setting and personal growth. Various departments and faculties will introduce students to the university's academic structure, resources, evaluation methods, research opportunities and career prospects," said the

Prof Rajbir Singh said

infrastructure, including the library, sports facilities, cultural platforms and cocurricular activities. Notably, the event will be managed by the MDU's students, promoting leadership and organisational skills."The Utsav will instil confidence, purpose and a sense of identity in the students, while also fostering

ty," the VC added. Dean Students' Welfare Prof Sapna Garg outlined the programme and shared the university's vision to make Deeksharambh Utsav an annual tradition.

pride and emotional con-

nection with the universi-

proctor Prof Randeep Rana, professor of practice Sunil Jaglan, and Deputy Director (PR) Dr Naveen Kumar also contributed key inputs at the meeting.

CET Held Peacefully Across Kurukshetra, Panipat, and Sonepat; Police Win Praise for Support

Kurukshetra: The Common Eligibility Test (CET) was conducted smoothly across multiple districts in Haryana, including Kurukshetra, Panipat, and Sonepat, with thousands of candidates appearing amid tight security arrangements and significant support from the Haryana Police. In Kurukshetra, the examination spanned two days and four shifts, witnessing the participation of 37,415 candidates. The district administration had made extensive preparations to ensure that the exam was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. According to Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh, the second day of the exam also went off without any

incidents. A total of 18,563 out of 20,572 registered candidates appeared in both sessions held on the final day. During the first session of the second day, 9,309 out of 10,356 candidates appeared, while 9,254 out of 10,216 candidates were present for the second session. Authorities ensured that all centres functioned efficiently. A total of 41 examination centres were set up across 30 different locations in Kurukshetra to accommodate the large number of candidates. These included urban and rural zones to reduce travel pressure on candidates.

The Haryana Police played a vital role in facilitating a smooth examina-

tion process. Not only were

security arrangements in place, but police personnel actively assisted candidates in reaching their centres on time. Kurukshetra SP Nitish Agarwal shared one such incident where a candidate had mistakenly gone to the wrong examination centre. As the entry window was closing, a traffic police rider promptly transported the student 4 km to the correct location, ensuring their timely entry. Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) of Haryana Police's Dial 112 were stationed across key areas in the city. In another case, a woman from Delhi who couldn't locate her exam centre contacted the emergency helpline and was taken there immediately by an ERV team.

Another instance involved a girl who was unwell on the day of the examination. The police ensured she received timely medical assistance from a nearby doctor and later brought her back to the centre to allow her to complete her test. Over 10 candidates who were running late due to various issues were escorted by police teams to their respective centres. Their timely intervention was appreciated widely by candidates and their families.Apart from general candidates, the authorities made special arrangements for more than 100 PwD (Persons with Disabilities) candidates. Police and volunteers helped these candi-

dates travel from their

homes in Pehowa, Shahabad, Jhansa, Ismailabad, and Ladwa to the centres.

More than 400 police personnel were deployed in Kurukshetra for the examination. Out of these, 135 were specifically assigned to traffic management duties to ensure a smooth flow of vehicles around the cen-

Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh praised the efforts of all government employees and security personnel involved. officers and employees worked with dedication and hard work for the smooth conduct of CET. The candidates and their families expressed satisfaction after seeing the arrangements," she said

Kurukshetra varsity celebrates Haryanvi traditions with Hariyali Teej Utsav

Kurukshetra: The vibrant festival of Hariyali Teej was celebrated with enthusiasm on Sunday at the Harvana Dharohar Museum, located on the campus of Kurukshetra University (KU). The event highlighted the rich cultural heritage of Harvana and brought together members of the university community to mark the occasion with traditional

Kurukshetra University Vice-Chancellor Som Nath Sachdeva attended the celebration as the chief guest. In his address, he described Teej as a reflection of Haryana's deep-rooted traditions, spirituality, and Indian values. He said the festival plays a vital role in keeping cultural customs alive and relevant in today's modern era. Teej is observed on the

third day (Tritiya) of Shukla

Paksha during the month of Shravan, according to the Hindu calendar. Sachdeva pointed out that the festival is also a reminder of environmental consciousness and women's empowerment, both of which are central to its celebration. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor remarked that the onset of the monsoon season adds charm to the festivities, as the earth wears a "green veil" and communities come together to enjoy traditional folk songs, swings, and festive

Gurugram Leads Haryana in Excise Revenue, Rakes in ₹3,875 Crore Amid Policy Debate

again emerged as the undisputed leader in Haryana's excise revenue collection, earning the moniker of the state's "booze capital." According to the Excise and Taxation Department, the city alone contributed ₹3,875 crore in excise revenue from liquor licences in the current financial year— 27% of the total state collection. This puts Gurugram at the top of the list, followed by Faridabad with ₹1,696 crore and Sonipat at ₹1,066 crore. Rewari and Hisar trailed behind with ₹654 crore and ₹615 crore respectively.

The impressive figures have silenced critics of the state's new excise policy, which was initially met with skepticism.

The department reported a historic 13.25% growth in revenue this year, calling it a clear indicator of the policy's success. One of the most high-profile instances showcasing this boom came from Gurugram's Golf Course Road, where the liquor vend at Bristol Chowk was auctioned for a staggering ₹98.6 crore. This is a



increase from the ₹49.3 crore the same vend fetched under last year's policy. The successful bid was made by G Town Wines Company under the revised 22-month licence period introduced in the latest excise framework

In total, the state issued licences for 2,388 retail liquor outlets by auctioning off all 1,194 excise zones, each with two shops. The auction process generated a record-breaking ₹14,342

crore in revenue, nearly doubling the ₹7,025 crore collected the previous year. Excise and Taxation Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh credited the growth not only to the policy's structure but also to administrative reforms.

"This year's auction process concluded ahead of schedule in July, unlike last vear's that extended into August. The early and transparent completion reflects improved efficiency

governance," Singh and

Interestingly, the excise boom is not confined to urban hubs.

Several rural districts like Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Hisar and Panipat saw a significant surge in revenue compared to previous years. Yamunanagar, once marked by low participation in auctions, recorded a sharp rise in revenue to ₹439.88 crore—up from ₹237.81 crore last year. The

rural upswing to better law enforcement and targeted crackdowns on criminal networks, which it claims boosted investor confidence and streamlined the auction process

Despite the celebratory tone adopted by state officials, not everyone is applauding the figures. Noted businessman and columnist Suhel Seth stirred controversy with remarks aimed at the state's priorities.

Speaking at a recent event, Seth criticised Gurugram's urban planning, accusing the government of focusing more on liquor vends than on basic infrastructure. "We have more liquor vends than functioning traffic lights, and more bars than schools," he said, drawing attention to the city's uneven development and lack of civic account-

As the excise revenues soar, the debate around development Haryana's model intensifies-balancing record-breaking financial gains with growing concerns about social impact and public welfare.

Verification drive targeting minority, CM needs to act: Congress Nuh MLA

Gurugram : Training guns at "double engine" government in Haryana senior Congress leader and Nuh MLA Aftab Ahmed has called the ongoing Bangladeshi immigrant verification drive in the state an attack on the minority communities from Bengal and Assam. Ahmed warned of a severe hit to Gurugram's image as a secular global city if the podrive continues. lice's Ahmed, who has moved to the state DGP against alleged unfair treatment of migrants by Gurugram and Faridabad police, said that people who kept the cities moving were being unfairly targeted and harassed under the pretext of identifying illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi immigrants. "Look at the videos. They are being treated worse than animals. Pulled, thrashed, thrown into vehicles, and held for days together? Why? When somebody has all valid documents like an Aadhar card, then why target them? Or does this government not value its own identification? The sad part is that people who have left their native states and are doing menial jobs, cleaning the city, are being targeted.



We have approached the state DGP to rein in their cops, or we will take to the streets," said Ahmed.

It may be noted that Gurugram police, which has suspended the 'detention' of suspects, claimed that nobody has been harassed and that the videos being circulated to create panic are fake

"We are acting as per law and ensuring nobody is harassed. There is not even a single instance of the same," said an official spokesperson of Gurugram police. Ahmed said that nobody in Haryana thought that the things they heard happen in Maharashtra would happen there.

"People are being sin-

gled out on the basis of religion and language. While one person from the same area of Bengal, speaking the same language, and having the same documents is spared for being of the majority faith, the minority one is being harassed.

The CM needs to step in and stop this. Haryana is not Maharashtra, and we will not let it become one," added Ahmed.

He said that hundreds of minority migrants were reaching out to them for help and were desperate to leave the city forever. Ahmed has asked the CM to visit areas like South City, where Bengali families living for 20 years have fled.

Vikas Barala Dropped from Haryana Law Officers' List Amid Stalking Case Controversy

Chandigarh: The Haryana government has withdrawn the name of Vikas Barala—accused in the 2017 high-profile stalking and attempted abduction case involving Varnika Kundu-from the newly issued list of law officers. Just ten days after his appointment as Assistant Advocate General (AAG) was made public, the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government reversed its decision, following widespread criticism and internal dissent within the party. Barala, son of senior BJP

leader and Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala, was among the 97 law officers appointed by the office of the Advocate General (AG) earlier this month. The appointments had been formally approved by then-Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on July 18. However, sources in the Home Department confirmed that Barala has now been informed he will not be joining, and his appointment has been rescinded

The decision comes in the wake of a strong public backlash, amplified by a social media post from Varnika Kundu, the complainant in the 2017 case. Varnika, daughter of former IAS officer V.S. Kundu, had posted a sharp rebuke on Instagram, condemning the appointment of an individual still facing charges in a case involving sexual harassment and attempted kidnapping. Her post quickly gained traction and added pressure on the government to reconsid-

The issue sparked a divide within the BJP in Haryana. While some party leaders argued that the pending case should disqualify Barala from any such appointment, others contended that ongoing legal proceedings should not automatically bar

a candidate from being considered. However, it was also acknowledged that Barala's inclusion was likely influenced by his father's political stature and connections with the central leadership of

Party insiders admitted the controversy had dented the government's image, particularly given the ruling party's own flagship campaign "Beti Bachao, Beti Senior leaders, speaking

on condition of anonymity, criticized the timing and optics of Barala's appointment. "It is not just about legality; it's about the message we send. We claim to empower women, yet we allow the appointment of someone accused in such a serious case. It was damaging, and thankfully it has been reversed," said one of them.

The appointment process itself had followed an advertisement for 100 law officer posts issued by the AG's office earlier this year. A five-member committee headed by the AG had finalized the list of selected candidates, which included Vikas Barala. However, the pressure from both civil society and sections of the ruling party forced the government to roll back the controversial move.

The epiode has sparked fresh debate on merit, accountability, and ethical standards in public appointments—especially when individuals facing serious allegations are considered for positions of public trust. As the case against Vikas Barala continues in the courts, his brief and now-revoked inclusion on the state law officers' list remains a cautionary tale of how public perception and moral responsibility weigh heavily in political decisions.

Eight-Month Pregnant Woman Completes CET in Bhiwani with Police Support, Defying Pain and Heat

Hisar: In a remarkable demonstration of courage and determination, an eightmonth pregnant woman, Sanjeeta from Hansi town, successfully completed the Common Eligibility Test (CET) on Sunday in Bhiwani, despite experiencing severe physical discomfort during the examination. Sanjeeta was appearing for the CET at the Government Girls Senior Secondary School in Bhiwani when she began experiencing abdominal pain midway through the paper. The pain, according to doctors, was likely triggered by a combination of intense heat and physical stress. As soon as information about her condition reached the authorities, Bhiwani City SHO Satya Narayan Sharma and his police team sprang into action. An ambulance and a medical team were immediately dispatched to the examination centre to assess

necessary assistance. On arrival, the police and health officials found Sanjeeta determined to complete her exam. Despite her physical discomfort, she refused to leave the centre without finishing the paper, displaying extraordinary resilience in the face of adversity. The police team stayed stationed at the exam centre for more than two hours to monitor her condition and ensure her safety. An ambulance and health personnel remained on standby during this entire period, prepared for any emergency that might arise. Once Sanjeeta completed her exam, she was carefully escorted to the Bhiwani Civil Hospital for a medical evaluation. Doctors examined her and found her condition stable. They stated that the discomfort was primarily due to exhaustion and exposure to high temperatures. Following treatment and rest, Sanjeeta's condition

improved and she was discharged from the hospital later the same day. Doctors confirmed there were no complications and praised her bravery for enduring the pain to complete her examination. The episode drew attention not just for Sanjeeta's courage, but also for the coordinated response from the police and health authorities. Their swift action, calm handling of the situation, and willingness to support a vulnerable candidate reflected the human face of public ser-

Speaking after the incident, Sanjeeta thanked the Bhiwani police and medical team. She said knowing that a team was present and ready to support her gave her the mental strength to stay composed and finish her exam.

Her family also expressed deep gratitude toward the local authorities. They said that the support extended by the police and

health officials not only helped Sanjeeta through the crisis but also reassured them during a stressful time.

SHO Satya Narayan Sharma commended Sanjeeta's resolve. He said the police are always prepared to help ensure that all candidates, no matter their circumstances, are able to appear for their exams safely and without undue stress.

"Our team was alerted to the situation and responded immediately. We are glad we could help and even more pleased that Sanjeeta is safe and healthy," Sharma said. "This is what we are here for

— to serve the people.' Sanjeeta's story quickly went viral on social media, with people from across the state praising her strength and willpower. Many described her as a symbol of courage, especially for women who balance personal challenges while striving

for career goals.

Privileges Committee to Examine Scuffle Involving Thanesar MLA; Notices Issued to BJP Leaders, MC Official

two months after a heated scuffle broke out during an official meeting of the Thanesar Municipal Council, the Haryana Assembly's Committee of Privileges has stepped in to formally investigate the matter. The panel has issued notices to four individuals-three local BJPaffiliated persons, including the husband of a municipal councillor, and an official from the Thanesar Municipal Council—following a complaint filed by Thanesar Congress MLA Ashok Aro-

The incident, which occurred on May 23, involved MLA Ashok Arora and Narinder Sharma, the husband of BJP councillor Parveen Sharma. The confrontation erupted during a

Municipal Council meeting over the presence of unauthorised individuals. According to MLA Arora, the participation of non-elected individuals in official proceedings violated council protocols and led to the heated exchange.

Arora pointed out that a

formal letter had previously been issued by the executive officer of the Municipal Council stating that relatives of elected women councillors should not be allowed to attend meetings. Despite this, unauthorised persons were present during the session. The MLA raised an objection, citing the letter, which eventually led to a verbal and physical altercation with Narinder Sharma. Arora later lodged a com-

plaint with the Harvana As-

ferred the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

The committee, in its no-

tice to Narinder Sharma, stated that the issue pertains to a potential breach of privilege of a sitting MLA and will be taken up for formal examination on August 5 at the Haryana Assembly Secretariat. Sharma has been directed to respond to the show-cause notice and to present any documents or evidence he wishes to submit in his defence. Similar notices have also been issued to two other men related to women municipal councillors and to the Executive Officer of the Municipal Coun-

Speaking about the issue, Ashok Arora reiterated that the matter stemmed

taining decorum and official protocol during council meetings. "I had gone there to attend an official municipal meeting, not a private gathering. The presence of unauthorised individuals who misbehaved with me constituted a serious breach of protocol. Though a police complaint was filed, no action was taken. Hence, I took

the matter to the Assembly

Speaker," said Arora.

from his insistence on main-

He further added that, out of the many unauthorised attendees, he had named three individuals in particular who were directly involved in the misconduct. "The Privileges Committee is now examining the case, and I believe appropriate action should be taken against those who disrupted the sanctity of a government

the situation and provide any

meeting," Arora said. As a mark of protest, the MLA has declared that he will not attend any future meetings of the Thanesar Municipal Council unless stringent measures are taken to bar unauthorised individuals from entering such official events. "Until the decorum of official proceedings is ensured, I will refrain from participating," he affirmed.

The case has stirred political tensions locally, with opposition and ruling party supporters taking opposing stands on the incident. The upcoming hearing before the Committee of Privileges is expected to be closely watched, as it could set a precedent for conduct and protocol within municipal bodies across the state

Two Policemen on CET Duty Injured in Hit-and-Run Accident in Gurugram

ing incident early Saturday morning, two traffic police personnel on duty for the CET (Common Entrance Test) were seriously injured after a speeding car rammed into their motorcycle on MG Road near the M3M build-

The accident, which occurred around 5:30 am, involved constable Rohit and Kaushal, an HKRN employee, both assigned to manage traffic for smooth CET oper-

According to police sources, the two were patrolling the stretch between IFF-CO Chowk and MG Road on a motorcycle to regulate early morning traffic flow for the examination day.

As they approached the M3M building, a red Kia Sel-

tos car-reportedly speeding—hit their two-wheeler from behind with great force, causing both riders to fall and suffer serious injuries.

Immediately after the collision, the car driver fled the scene without offering help or stopping. Passersby rushed to the injured policemen's aid and called for medical assistance.

They were initially taken to Paras Hospital for emergency first aid before being shifted to Park Hospital for more comprehensive treat-

The incident has sparked concern among the police ranks, especially since the officers were on duty to support a major public examination. DCP (Traffic) Rajesh Mohan visited the injured policemen at the hospital to check on their condition and assured that the matter is being taken seriously.

An FIR has been registered at DLF Phase 2 police station, and efforts are underway to trace the absconding vehicle and its driver. CCTV footage from the area is being reviewed, and teams have been deployed to track down the red Kia Seltos in-

volved in the hit-and-run. The accident has highlighted the risks police personnel face while ensuring public service duties, especially during large-scale events like the CET.

Authorities have also called for increased vigilance and stricter enforcement to prevent reckless driving, especially during high-traffic public duty

CRPF Jawan Shot Dead in Sonepat; Kanwar Yatra Clash Suspected as Trigger

Sonepat: In a shocking incident, a 29-year-old CRPF jawan was shot dead in his native village Kheri Damkan in Sonepat district around midnight on Sunday. The deceased, Krishan, had returned home on a one-month leave from his posting in Chhattisgarh to be with his wife, who had recently given birth to their son just three days before the tragic event. According to police reports, the murder appears to have stemmed from a recent altercation during the Kanwar Yatra. Krishan, along with a group of youths from his village, had gone to Haridwar to participate in the religious pilgrimage and return with the holy Kanwar. During the journey, a dispute

broke out between Krishan and another group from the same village, which, though seemingly resolved, may have led to simmering tensions and eventual violence. The incident occurred around 1 a.m. when a few youths from the village allegedly called Krishan outside his home. As he stepped out, he was shot at close range. His family, alerted by the sound of gunfire, rushed outside only to find him lying in a pool of blood. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Gohana Sadar police arrived at the scene shortly after receiving a call at around 1:30 a.m. As per initial findings, the assailants have been identified as Ajay and Nishant, both residents of the same village. They reportedly fled the scene after the shooting and are currently absconding. ACP Rishikant of Gohana confirmed that an FIR has been lodged based on a complaint filed by the victim's father, Balwan Singh. "Initial investigations suggest that the murder was linked to the prior clash during the Kanwar Yatra, but the real motive will be confirmed only after the arrest of the accused and a thorough probe," said the ACP. He added that Krishan had been serving in the CRPF for the past 11 years and was respected in his community. Four police teams, including Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) units and personnel from the Sadar police station, have been formed to track down the accused. Raids are underway in multiple locations, and authorities have expressed confidence that the culprits will be apprehended soon. The cold-blooded killing of a serving soldier on home leave has left the village and surrounding areas in shock. Locals are demanding swift justice for the bereaved family, particularly given the brutal nature of the attack

and the background of what should have been a peaceful religious journey. The incident also raises concerns about growing rivalries and violence connected to what are meant to be spiritual pilgrimages.

Workshop on road safety held in Kaithal

on the road safety rules and provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act was organised recently at Ashoka Leyland Driving Training Institute,

Arvind Khurania, panel advocate and master trainer, DLSA, Kaithal, said the workshop was organised under the guidance of District and Sessions Judgecum-Chairman District Le-Services Authority (DLSA), Kaithal, Subhas Mehla; and under the supervision of Kanwal Kumar,

Chief Judicial Magistrate-



cum-DLSA Secretary.

Khurania delved into beneficial provisions for road accident victims and those who assisted them including Good Samaritan

protections, cashless treatment during the 'golden hour', increased compensation for hit-and-run victims. and simplified claims pro-

Three drown in canal in Bahadurgarh

dent, three members of a family, including a man and his two nieces, drowned in a canal passing between Rohad and Mandothi villages in the Bahadurgarh area on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Sunil (28), Ragini (10), and Urmi (7). The incident occurred

Jhajjar: In a tragic inci-

last evening when Sunil went to the canal to wash clothes, accompanied by his nieces. While playing near the water, the girls reportedly slipped and fell into the canal. In a desperate attempt to save them, Sunil jumped in after them but drowned as well.

rent Indian team setup. "This team's character is being built on efforts like those. His fighting spirit has in-

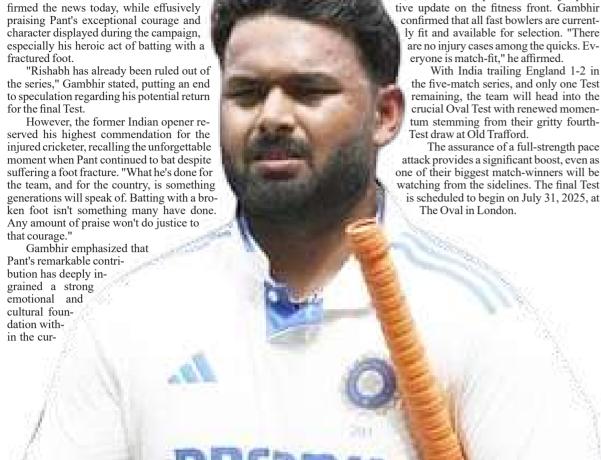
While Pant's absence will undoubtedly be

felt, the Indian camp received a major posi-

spired the entire group," he added.

Pant ruled out of **England series: Gambhir**

Manchester: In a significant blow to India's prospects, star wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has been officially ruled out of the remainder of the ongoing Test series against England. India's head coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed the news today, while effusively praising Pant's exceptional courage and character displayed during the campaign, especially his heroic act of batting with a



England defender Bronze hides her broken leg to help team win Euro 2025

England defender Lucy Bronze revealed that she had been playing the 2025 UEFA Women's European Championship with a broken leg after helping her

side retain the title on Sunday night following a nail-biting penalty shootout win against Spain.

The 33-year-old played 598 minutes in the tournament, and will be remembered for slamming home the decisive penalty in the quarterfinal win against Sweden after she had got her team back into the game with a 79th-minute goal, with England two goals down and seemingly heading out.

That game also saw her tightly pulling strapping ing a break in play in the closing minutes, but she was still able to play in the semifinal win over Italy.

Bronze also played 105 minutes of Sunday's final before suffering a knee injury that forced her off in tears. After Chloe Kelly scored the decisive goal in the shootout, Bronze made a shock admission that she had been playing with a broken leg.

"I actually played the whole tournament with a fractured tibia, but no one knew," said Bronze in a postgame interview

"That is why I got a lot of praise from the girls after the Sweden game because I have been in a lot of pain," she continued, showing her in-

credible commitment.

"If that's what it takes to play for England, that's what I'll do - they know that. We inspire each other by playing through things like that and it got us to the end," said

England coach Sarina Wiegman confirmed Bronze had played with a broken bone.

"The whole team has a great mentality but she has a crazy mentality, it's unbelievable," said Wiegman.

Uganda wins Pearl of Africa Cricket T20 Series 2025

Uganda: Host Uganda won the Pearl of Africa Cricket T20 Series 2025 after beating the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by eight runs in the final at the Entebbe Cricket Oval on Sunday.Going into the match, Uganda was comfortably leading the standings with five wins.

The hosts batted first and scored 170/7 in 20 overs. The UAE side attempted the chase but collapsed to 162/9 in 20 overs.

The pairing of Alpesh Ramjani and Raghav Dhawan was instrumental for Uganda, with scores of 61 and 56 runs respectively

For the UAE, Ethan D'Souza topscored with 32 runs, while Muhammad Zohaib and Muhammad Wassem contributed 30 and 5 runs, respectively. "We tried to play tight and only lost out in the later stages of the match. The Series have helped us get a lot of match practice," said UAE's Ethan D'Souza.

Uganda's head coach Abhay Shar-



ma said that he was very proud of his players who won all the six matches. 'We played well, and the Series have helped us a lot," said Sharma. Uganda's second team only lost to Namibia's second team in a match that did not carry world ranking points.

În an earlier fixture, Kenya defeated Nigeria by 6 wickets. Kenya, led by Sachin Gill, chased Nigeria's 113/9 in 20 overs and scored 116/4 in 19.1 overs. Gill scored 35 runs off 42 balls, while Rakep Patel contributed 33. Nigeria's captain, Systever Okpe, scored a team-high 35 runs, and Abdulmumuni Mohammed added 26. Uganda finished the series with 12

points, followed by the UAE in second place with 6 points. Kenya was third with 4 points, and Nigeria finished with no points. Uganda's and Namibia's second teams did not score any The teams used this series to pre-

pare for the upcoming ICC T20 Men's World Cup Qualifier in September.

India Finishes Strong at World **University Games with 12 Medals**

Germany: India concluded its 2025 FISU World University Games campaign in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany, a commendable 12-medal haul, comprising two golds, five silvers, and five bronzes

The final day saw India add three more medals to its tally, including a silver for Ankita Dhyani in the women's 3000m steeplechase and bronze medals in the men's 4x100m relay and women's race walk. Ankita Dhyani, who only began steeplechase late last year after competing in the 5000m at the Paris 2024 Olympics, delivered a stellar performance, clocking a personal best of 9:31.99 to secure silver. Finland's Ilona Mononen took gold (9:31.86), while Germany's Adia Budde earned bronze (9:33.34)

The women's 20km race walk team, composed of Sejal Singh, Munita Prajapati, and Mansi Negi, collectively earned a bronze with a time of 4:56:06. China claimed



gold (4:28:51) and Australia

In the men's 4x100m relay, the quartet of Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, and Dondapati Mrutyum Jayaram secured bronze with a time of 38.89. The Republic of Korea won gold (38.50), and South Africa took silver (38.80).

These Sunday medals brought India's athletics tally to five, adding to the silver medals won by Praveen Chithravel (men's triple jump) and Seema (women's 5000m) on Saturday.

Beyond athletics, India

shone in compound archery, with Sahil Rajesh Jadhav silver (4:31:20) in this event. winning individual gold and Parneet Kaur taking individual silver. India also secured mixed team gold, men's team silver, and women's team bronze in compound archery.

The Rhine-Ruhr 2025 Games also saw India make history in other sports. A bronze in mixed team badminton marked the country's first-ever medal in the sport at the World University Games. In tennis, Vaishnavi Adkar's women's singles bronze made her the first Indian woman to medal in tennis at the Games.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant are the best team in Indian football: Deepak Tangri

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan Super Giant midfielder Deepak Tangri highlighted the Kolkata giants' rich legacy over the years and believed it was a dream come true for him to represent the Mariners.Tangri joined MBSG in 2021, and he has been a crucial player for the club. He has featured in 66 Indian Super League (ISL) games and won two League Shields and two ISL Cups during his four-year stint with the club.

The 26-year-old, born in Punjab, began his football career at Chandigarh FA and then joined the MBSG youth academy. Tangri shed light on his journey from the youth setup to the senior

"Earlier, I was at the academy in Durgapur, and then we used to come to the MBSG ground. I'd look at the dressing room, the jerseys, and see the fans at the MBSG ground; it gave me

I wanted to play here as well," Tangri said.

"I was at Chennaiyin FC, and when I got an offer from MBSG, my parents and I were happy. It was also my dream to wear that jersey and to represent it, because football has a whole different passion here in Kolkata. MBSG are the best team in Indian football, the fans are the best, and the atmosphere is amazing," he told MBSG

From donning the green and maroon jersey to experiencing consistent success with Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Tangri has experienced the ultimate high for a boyhood fan-turned professional, the highlight of which came last season when the Mariners did the double.

Jose Molina, took charge of the team ahead of the 2024-25 season and Tangri underscored how the Spaniard's key tweaks made so



much difference.

"Our coach has been a top-level player and coach, so he always tells us what's right and what's wrong. And when it comes to discipline, he always emphasises it," he shared."During the preseason under the coach, we had really good training with the ball. There was a lot of improvement, especially in midfield, with more passing, through balls, and long balls. For that, the coach made all midfielders train on how to look back before receiving the ball and improve their vi-

sion and passing. That helped a lot throughout the season," he added.

Tangri highlighted MB-SG's strong bench strength and individual bonding between the players as a key factor in their historic double-winning 2024-25 campaign. Speaking in context, the midfielder remarked, "Even if some people are just sitting on the bench and others are playing, it's all the same. Like, the coach knows if one player is out, someone else will step up and do the same job. That's why we win

"Every player knows

what to do and what not to do. Even if you get a card, you still have someone on the bench ready to play. That's the best part about our team and the environment we have, both on and off the field, which is great. We just stay like brothers, and the vibe in the dressing room is always top-notch," he added.The midfielder also expressed his gratitude to the Mariners' faithful who always stood by the team.

"Our fans, whether we're going through tough times or good times, are always there for us. They motivate us and are always cheering for us, doing everything for us, so that itself is a big motivation," Tangri said."We take that to heart and want to give something back to them, too, since the club shares such a strong bond with them. Those things matter a lot," he signed off.

Pakistan eager to keep momentum rolling ahead of World Cup

Karachi: Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has urged her side to keep the winning momentum going as they get set to embark on a tour of Ireland next month ahead of the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

The Asian team will be looking to continue their unbeaten run in 2025 when they travel to Europe later this week for a three-match T20I series against Ireland which commences in Dublin on August 6.

The series will provide Pakistan some much needed match practice ahead of the 50-over World Cup in India and Sri Lanka from the start of October as the side attempts to add to their current winning streak courtesy of their unbeaten run at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournament earlier this

Pakistan won all five of their matches at the Qualifier event on home soil - including an impressive 38run over Ireland - to book showcase with Sana leading the way with a total of 12 wickets across the tourna-The conditions Paki-

stan will face in Dublin will likely be different to what they experienced in Lahore, but Sana wants her side to attack the matches against Ireland with the same amount of vigour to ensure they maintain their winning streak."Despite the difference in conditions, batters are confident and since our Qualifiers went well, we are going into the series with confidence," Sana said.

"We are looking to continue that momentum and looking forward to do well — along with developing the T20I side as well," she

Opener Muneeba Ali was one of Pakistan's star performers during the Qualifier event in April, with the talented left-hander hitting a pair of half-centuries on the way to amassing a total of 223 runs across the tour-



nament at an average of 44.60. That run of with the bat at the Oualifier saw Muneeba rise to a careerhigh rating on the current ICC Women's ODI Batter Rankings and the 27-yearold is hoping to continue that rich vein of form in Ireland and at the World Cup later this year, an ICC report said."Despite the difference in formats between the Irish

tour and the World Cup, we

are looking to focus on

T20Is and work on 50-over

format game alongside as

well," Muneeba said.

"We have identified here we were lacking in the Oualifiers tournament, and have tried to overcome that (during the training camp) and build upon the positives from that tournament," she

Pakistan squad to face Ireland: Fatima Sana (c), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi, Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Tuba Hassan and Waheeda Akhtar

Sangita Basfore to assist AFC Women's Asian **Cup Australia 2026 Final Draw in Sydney**

New Delhi: The draw for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 will be conducted at the Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday at 14:30 IST.

India will be represented by coach Crispin Chettri and midfielder Sangita Basfore in the draw ceremony. Sangita, who scored a sensational brace against Thailand in the final Qualifier, will have the privilege of being one of the three draw assistants alongside Australia's Tameka Yallop and Korea Republic's Jeon Yu-gyeong. For the 21st edition of Asia's biggest women's national team event, twelve teams will be divided into three groups of four each. India were one of the eight teams that secured their place in the tournament via the qualifiers, joining hosts Australia, and the top three finishers from the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 — China PR, Korea Republic, and Japan.

Scheduled to take place from March 1 to 21, 2026, the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 will be staged across Sydney, Perth, and the Gold Coast, including in stadiums that witnessed the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, as the tournament returns Down Under for the first time since 2006.

Runners-up in 1980 and 1983, India will make their first appearance in the tournament since 2003 after a historic qualification campaign saw the Blue Tigresses emerge as toppers of Group B of



the Qualifiers, defeating Thailand, Iraq, Timor-Leste, and Mongolia earlier this

For the pot allocations for the Final Draw, the seeding is based on the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking (as of

June 12). India, ranked 70th, are placed in Pot 4, and will be drawn against either Australia, Japan, or DPR Korea from Pot 1, China, Korea Republic, or Vietnam from Pot 2, and Philippines, Chinese Taipei, or Uzbekistan from Pot 3.

Pot allocations for the Final Draw (FIFA Rankings in brackets):

Pot 1: Australia (15), Japan (2), DPR Korea (9) Pot 2: China PR (17), Korea Republic (21), Vietnam (37) Pot 3: Philippines (41), Chinese Taipei (42), Uzbekistan (51) Pot 4: IR Iran (68), India (70), Bangladesh (128) The draw will be streamed live on the AFC Asian Cup YouTube Channel.



Nifty Next 50

MARKE

BSE Sensex	
Close	Percent chenge
0,891.02	-0.70%
evious close 1,463.09	Open 81,299.97
High	Low

MILLY 30	
Percent chenge -0.63%	Close 24,680.90
Open 24,782.45	Previous close 24,837.00
Low 24,646.60	High 24,889.20

Nifty 500	
Close 16.95	Percent chenge -0.73%
14.80	Open 22,967.40

22,818.15

23,0

Close 66,768.90	Percent chenge -0.56%
Previous close 67,146.65	Open 67,023.00
High 67,566.65	Low 66,678.30

All Indiana	
Close 25,285.00	Percent chenge -0.62%
Previous close 25,442.10	Open 25,387.75
High 25,510.10	25,251.40

Nifty 100

Tilley Ballik	
Close 56,084.90	Percent chenge -0.79%
Previous close 56,528.90	Open 56,215.10
High 56,578.40	Low 55,997.45

Nifty Bank

INIIL	Willy Midcap 100	
Close 57,519.35	Percent chenge -0.84%	
Previous close 58,009.45	Open 57,912.90	
High 58,446.90	Low 57,409.65	

Nifty Midcan 100

Top Gainers

81,557,41

Company	Current	% Gain
Shriram Finance	633.45	2.86
Cipla	1,572.00	2.58
Hero Motocorp	4,291.10	1.43
HUL	2,441.60	1.08
SBI Life Insura	1,850.50	1.00

80,776.44

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Kotak Mahindra	1,966.60	-7.44
Bajaj Finance	880.50	-3.64
Wipro	250.05	-3.53
IndusInd Bank	802.05	-2.63
Bharti Airtel	1,890.30	-2.46

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Aug 05	97,890.00	71.00 0.07
Silver Sep 05	112,947.00	-105.00 -0.09
Crudeoil Aug 19	5,771.00	123.00 2.18
Naturalgas Aug 26	274.60	1.20 0.44

Indian Stock Market Closes Lower as Trade Deal Delays and FII Outflows Weigh Heavy

stock market experienced another day of downward momentum, settling in negative territory on Monday. Concerns surrounding a potential delay in the crucial India-US trade agreement and persistent outflows from Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) significantly impacted market sentiment.

The Sensex concluded the session at 80,891.02, marking a decline of 572.07 points or 0.70 per cent. It commenced the day in the red at 81,299.97, compared to its previous close of 81,463.09, and further slumped to an intraday low of 80,776.44 due to widespread selling pressure, particularly in the IT sec-

Similarly, the Nifty ended lower at 24,680.90, shedding 156.10 points or 0.63 per cent. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, attributed the cautious domestic market sentiment to a disappointing set of Q1 earnings, the



ongoing delays in the India-US trade agreement, and continued FII outflows

In stark contrast, global markets largely maintained a positive stance, buoyed by favorable US-EU trade developments that were perceived as less concerning than initially anticipated, Nair added.

Looking ahead, upcoming monetary policy decisions from the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan, alongside the trajectory of domestic quarterly

earnings, are expected to be pivotal in determining the nearterm market direction.

Among the Sensex constituents, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Titan, TCS, HCL Tech, SBI, Tata Steel, Eternal, Axis Bank, and Mahindra and Mahindra were the prominent losers. Conversely, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, and ICICI Bank managed to close the session in the green.

Broader market indices

also felt the selling pressure, with Nifty 100 falling 157 points (0.62 per cent), Nifty Midcap 100 dropping 490 points (0.84 per cent), and Nifty Smallcap 100 settling 229

points lower (1.26 per cent). Sectoral indices mirrored the overall market downturn. Bank Nifty declined by 444 points, Nifty Fin Service closed 192 points down, Nifty IT dropped 253 points, and Nifty Auto ended the session 88 points lower.

The Indian Rupee also reflected the subdued market sentiment, trading weaker by 0.10 per cent at 86.65 against the US

Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities highlighted that the week ahead is anticipated to remain volatile, with key global triggers including the August 1st trade deal deadline with the U.S. and significant U.S. data releases. He expects the rupee to trade within a range of 86.25-

State Governments Step Up to Boost **India's Rare Earth Exploration Amid** China's Export Ban: SBI Report

New Delhi: In response to China's recent ban on rare earth magnet exports, active participation from Indian state governments in encouraging rare earth exploration and processing is poised to significantly contribute to regional economic development and self-sufficiency in critical mineral value chains, according to a report released by SBI Research on Monday.

The report highlights In-

dia's vulnerability in this sector, noting that imports of rare earth magnets have averaged \$249 million over the last four years, with FY25 recording the highest at \$291 million. Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor at State Bank of India, stated, "Our analysis indicates sectors impacted by ban are - Transport Equipment, Basic Metals, Machinery, Construction and Electrical and Electronics. Both domestic production and exports will be impacted."To address this critical dependency, the Indian government launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025, allocating a total of Rs 18,000 crore for the period 2025-31. This mission aims to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

The SBI report emphasizes that creating domestic value chains for critical minerals necessitates strong state government involvement. Many states have already initiated this by issuing Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) for the auction of Exploration Licenses (EL).

Odisha has emerged as a

frontrunner in this regard. Its Industrial Policy Resolution 2022 specifically recognizes rare earth minerals-based value-added products as a priority sector. Furthermore, the Odisha Government has approved an Rs 8,000 crore titanium facility in Ganjam, signaling a push to boost high-tech manufacturing.

Critical mineral value chains are seen as a potential source of regional economic development, particularly given the expanding digital and green economies. The Indian government has identified approximately 30 minerals as critical for the nation's economic security.

The SBI report also points out the business opportunity for banks in this evolving landscape. "India will invest in exploring and acquiring critical mineral assets in resource-rich countries. PSUs and private firms will be supported through funding, guidelines, and inter-ministerial coordination. Accordingly, critical minerals are an important business opportunity for banks that requires exclusive policy focus and strategic direction within banks," the report stated.

While acknowledging that disruptions in rare earth supply could impact the financial exposure of banks to affected sectors, the report also offers a nuanced perspective: "However, it should be kept in mind vulnerability is also a function of available inventory of rare earth and disruption is not immediate uniformly across

More clarity, pro-investor rules boost MF trust as retirement vehicle: ICRA Analytics

Kolkata: Enhanced transparency and investor protection regulations have boosted investors' confidence in mutual funds as a retirement vehicle, ICRA Analytics said today. The Assets under Management (AUM) of Retirement Mutual Funds has increased by 226.25 per cent in the last five years to touch Rs 31,973 crore in June 2025, up from Rs 9,800 crore in June 2020.

Increasing awareness about the importance of financial planning among people and the need to build a corpus for retirement coupled with higher life expectancy and the surge in healthcare costs seems to be encouraging the aging populations in India to increasingly look for retirement-focused investment products, including mutual funds.

fund is a specialised solution-oriented mutual fund whose objective is to ensure that the investor has a comfortable and secured post-retirement life. Such funds have exposure to both equity and debt where the equity

segment fosters wealth appreciation while the debt segment ensures wealth preservation and stability



A retirement mutual fund helps provide a regular stream of income when one monthly income and comes with a lock in period of 5 years or till retirement, the report said.

"Equity mutual funds have captured significant inflows due to optimism about market recovery and growth, which is appealing for longterm retirement portfolios. This apart, enhanced transparency and investor protection regulations have boosted investor confidence in mutual funds as a retirement vehicle," Ashwini Kumar, senior vice president and Head Market Data, ICRA Analytics, said.

The total number of folios under such schemes has increased by 18.21 per cent at 30.09 lakh in June 2025, up from 25.46 lakh in June 2020. The number of schemes, which stood at 24 in June 2020, has increased to 29 in June 2025. The average compound annualized returns on these funds stood at 6.79 pc, 15.72 pc and 14.64 pc for a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year period respectively. The rise of userfriendly digital platforms retirement investing more accessible. "These tools offer personalized portfolio recommendations based on age, risk tolerance, and retirement goals, encouraging more participation," Kumar

Jio platforms deploy 10 active network slices to boost performance

New Delhi: Aayush Bhatnagar (chief technology development officer, Jio Platforms Limited) announced on his LinkedIn post that Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) deployed 10 active network slices on its 5G network. Bhatnagar posted "Network slicing is no longer just a concept - it's live nationwide, powering real-world applications.'

"With Jio platforms' robust 5G SA(Standalone) Core and Network Slicing Platform (NSP), now 10 active networks are in production, optimized for scale, performance, and reliability," Bhatnagar added in his LinkedIn post.

The post also stated that these network

slices are purpose-driven and specially designed for the industries, including Internet of Things (IoT), gaming, Airfiber (Fixed Wireless Access), and mission-critical services.Bhatnagar stressed the capabilities of network slices and stated in his post about the

He highlighted that every slice is carrying real-world traffic, and these are powered up by the Jio Network Slicing Platform.

Network slicing refers to the fundamental capability powered by 5G SA architecture. It allows service providers to build endto-end networks fulfilling requirements

TCS to lay off about 2 per cent of its workforce

sultancy Services (TCS), India's prominent IT service provider, has revealed plans to cut about 2 percent of its global workforce over the next year.Almost 12,000 vees working in difemp ferent capacities will be impacted by this restructuring decision. The IT giant cited this layoff move as part of its effort to become a "Future-Readv" organisation.Reportedly, the cuts are underway and might affect people,

including the non-client-facing managers, project leads, and legacy tech specialists. Moreover, those who are unable to evolve their skill could also be impacted. The IT giant has taken such a decision with an aim to transform its operations for future technologies to meet the requirements of next-gen.TCS said in a statement, "TCS is currently on a journey of becoming a future-ready organization. The process needs shifts on major fronts, in-



cluding investment in newtech areas, entering new markets, building new partnerships, and adopting a next-gen working approach."The

reskilling and redeployment initiatives and pointed out that only those employees will be shown the door whose deployment may not be feasible. TCS also highlighted that the decision to lay off is not taken due to the productivity gains from AI.Industry analysts are of the view that job cutting by TCS reflects the transition of the Indian IT industry in which some roles will be controlled by AI adoption.

Adani Green's energy sales surge 42 pc in Q1, operational RE capacity reaches 15.8 GW

Ahmedabad: Green Energy Ltd's (AGEL) energy sales surged 42 per cent (year-on-year) in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY26) to 10,479 million units, as operational renewable energy (RE) capacity grew 45 per cent to 15.8 GW which continues to be India's largest, the company said on Monday.

While revenue growth increased by 31 per cent (onyear) to Rs 3,312 crore, EBITDA also went up by 31 per cent to Rs 3,108 crore.

According to the Adani Group company, cash profit surged by 25 per cent (onyear) to Rs 1,744 crore in the quarter. "During Q1 FY26,

Google on Monday said that

it has launched the (GNI) AI

Skills Academy, in collabo-

ration with the Indian Insti-



we added 1.6 GW of greenfield renewable energy capacity, bringing our total increase to 4.9 GW over the past year — an achievement unmatched in India's transition toward clean energy," said Ashish Khanna, CEO of Adani Green Energy.

(IIMC) here. According to

the company, the new initia-

tive is aimed at equipping

Indian newsrooms with the

"Our investments in the massive RE development at Khavda in Gujarat as well as other resource-rich sites are delivering results both in terms of superior operational performance and industrybest EBITDA margins," he said, adding that the company is on track to achieve its 2030 target of 50 GW RE capacity -- with at least 5 GW of hydro pumped storage along with battery storage.
Strong revenue, EBIT-

DA, and cash profit growth are primarily backed by robust greenfield capacity addition, deployment of advanced RE technologies, superior plant performance and deployment of new capacities in resource-rich sites in Khavda (Gujarat) and Rajasthan."Further, battery storage is also a key part of our future strategy. We remain committed to supporting national energy transition and security ambitions as well as maintaining our ESG leadership, highlighted by our top rankings in the FTSE Russel ESG assessment and recognition at the Reuters Global Energy Transition Awards 2025," Khan-

AGEL has consistently generated electricity exceeding the overall annual commitment under the power purchase agreements (PPA). In Q1 FY26, AGEL's PPAbased electricity generation was 31 per cent of the annual commitment. The company is developing a massive 30 GW renewable energy plant at Khavda in Gujarat. This is spread over an area of 538 sq km, almost 5 times the city of

Samsung Secures Record-Breaking \$16.4 Billion Chip Order, Reportedly from Tesla

Seoul: Samsung Electronics announced on Monday a monumental 22.8 trillion-won (\$16.4 billion) order to supply semiconductors to an undisclosed major customer. This landmark deal, a foundry contract slated for completion by December 31, 2033, represents the largest chip order ever secured by the South Korean tech giant.

While Samsung cited "management confidentiality" for not revealing the client's identity or the specifics of the deal in its regulatory filing, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, later confirmed on his social media platform X that Samsung will manufacture Tesla's next-generation AI6 chip at its new semiconductor plant in Texas. Musk also indicated that the stated \$16.4 billion is a "bare minimum" and that the actual output could be "several times higher," and that Samsung has agreed to allow Tesla to assist in maximizing manufacturing efficiency.

This massive contract accounts for 7.6 percent of Samsung's total revenue of 300.9 trillion won last year and is expected to provide a much-needed boost to its foundry division. The foundry business has been striving to narrow the gap with global



industry leader Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

Samsung's foundry division has faced challenges, with its operating profit failing to meet market expectations in the second quarter due to sluggish performance. Earlier this month, Samsung Electronics estimated an operating profit of 4.59 trillion won and sales of 74 trillion won for the second quarter. The significant order, especially for advanced AI chips, is seen as a crucial step in the division's recovery and a signal that Samsung's 2-nanometer process technology, poised for mass production, is achieving viable yields.

Following the

nouncement and the subsequent revelation of Tesla as the likely client, shares of Samsung Electronics surged. The stock rose significantly, outperforming the broader KOSPI's decline.

In related news, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met with Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong last year to discuss trade and investment issues, particularly amidst ongoing trade negotiations between Seoul and Washington. This meeting highlights the broader context of South Korea's efforts to reach a trade agreement with the United States to reduce reciprocal tariffs before the August 1 deadline.

Google introduces Al Skill Academy in India

knowledge and tools they need to thrive in an AI-powered future."Continuing our commitment to collaborate news organisations across India and bring them Google's best-in-class technology, we're excited to announce the launch of the

Google News Initiative AI

Skills Academy in collaboration with the (IIMC), Department of New Media," the tech giant said in a statement. This will be a 10-week, hybrid training series, which is designed to equip newsrooms and media educators with foundational AI understanding and practical skills.

Participants will learn to leverage Google's AI tools like NotebookLM, Gemini, AI Studio and Pinpoint to streamline workflows, boost efficiency, and free up valuable time for deeper and more creative research and in-depth, diverse storytell-

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