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PG 02 Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Launches Major Reforms for Workers and Employment

PG 03 After brief storm relief, severe heatwave conditions forecast for Delhi

PG 06 New Delhi to Chandigarh Travel Time Set to Drop to Just Two Hours

PG 07 Pat Cummins Appreciates Team Bowlers After a Major Victory Against Bengaluru

PG 08 Piyush Goyal to lead business delegation to Canada to boost trade, CEPA talks

Fuel prices hiked again as global crude surge continues amid West Asia tensions

New Delhi : Petrol and diesel prices were increased once again across the country on Saturday, marking the third hike this month as rising tensions in West Asia continued to push global crude oil prices upward.

State-run oil marketing companies increased petrol prices by up to 87 paise per litre and diesel prices by up to 91 paise per litre, further adding pressure on household budgets and transportation costs.

In Delhi, petrol prices rose to around Rs 99.51 per litre, while diesel prices increased to nearly Rs 92.50 per litre.

With the latest revision, fuel prices have now risen by almost Rs 5 per litre during May after a Rs 3 hike earlier in the month followed by another increase of around 90 paise last week.

In Mumbai, petrol



prices crossed Rs 108 per litre, while diesel prices moved above Rs 95 per litre. Similar increases were recorded in Kolkata, Chennai and other major cities, with state taxes continuing to impact final retail prices.

The latest hike comes amid sustained volatility in global crude oil markets due to escalating geopoliti-

World wants to join India's growth journey - PM Modi

PM Distributes 51,000 Job Letters at 19th Rozgar Mela

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youth across various government departments and organizations during the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela. Addressing the new recruits via video conferencing, the Prime Minister asserted that India's young population is actively driving the nation's march toward becoming a developed country, or Viksit Bharat, by the year 2047. He emphasized that the Rozgar Mela reflects his government's steady commitment to empowering the Yuva Shakti by providing new employment opportunities and strengthening their specific role in nation-building.

Modi highlighted the growing global confidence in India, noting that the world is eager to partner with the country because



of its young talent and rapid technological advancements. He mentioned that sectors such as clean energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, and sustainable manufacturing are seeing massive expansion, which opens doors to a new economy. Furthermore, the Prime Minister pointed to visible transformations in rural India, where improved connectivity is creating fresh avenues for farmers, small traders, and students. He called upon the recruits to view public service as an instrument of national service and bring their global energy into governance. Modi also referenced agreements signed during his recent visits to the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy, stating that these partnerships come with a guarantee of a bright future for Indian youth. The mega recruitment drive took place at 47 locations across India, placing candidates in the ministries of railways, home affairs, health, financial services, and higher education, bringing the total appointment letters distributed under this initiative close to 12 lakh since its launch.

India-US Partnership Strengthens as PM Modi Meets Secy Rubio



New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive and productive talks on Saturday with the visiting US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. The high-level meeting focused on deepening collaboration in defense, trade, emerging technologies, energy security, and regional stability. Rubio briefed the Prime Minister on progress across strategic sectors and shared Washington's perspective on regional and global issues, including the evolving situation in West Asia. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's longstanding position favoring dialogue and diplomacy to resolve international conflicts peacefully, while conveying his warm greetings to US President Donald Trump.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gorr joined the meeting and described the inter-

Congress flags Forest clearance for coal mining in MP's Singrauli; SC allows activists to seek other remedies

New Delhi : Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday raised concerns over a coal mining project cleared in the dense forests of Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district, saying the area had earlier been marked as a "no-go" zone for mining due to its ecological sensitivity.

In a statement, Ramesh said the union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had "pre-

dictably cleared a proposal of the Modani empire to mine coal in the very dense forests of Singrauli district in MP" in May 2025. He added that the project covers around 7,000 acres that were "very much part of the 'no go' area for mining identified in 2011 because of the richness of the forests and also because of the presence of elephant corridors."

"Over 6 lakh trees will be clearfelled," Ramesh said.

The clearance was challenged by environmental activists before the National Green Tribunal. In April 2026, the NGT ruled that the petition was filed late and that the petitioners "should have approached the NGT earlier."



Ramesh noted that "as a result of this delay, the NGT declined to hear the challenge on substantive grounds."

The NGT's order was then taken to the Supreme Court. On May 21, 2026, the apex court heard arguments on the delay and "allowed the petitioners to withdraw the challenge and pursue other appropriate remedies available under the law," Ramesh said.

"This means that the issue remains open to challenge," he added. "It is to be hoped that such a matter, involving significant ecological and public interest concerns, continues to receive the sensitivity, scrutiny, and urgency it deserves from the High Court — and of course, the Supreme Court, which distinguished itself on the Aravalli issue recently." The "no-go" classification was introduced in 2011 to bar mining in dense forest areas and key wildlife corridors, including elephant routes. Singrauli, which straddles Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, is a major coal-bearing region and has seen long-running tensions between industrial expansion and forest conservation.

Iran Blames US and Israel After Global Nuclear Disarmament Talks Collapse

New York : The 2026 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) ended at the United Nations headquarters without the adoption of a final consensus document, exposing deep divisions among member states over nuclear disarmament, regional conflicts and the future direction of the global non-proliferation regime. The outcome marks the third consecutive failure of the conference process in the last 16 years, raising fresh concerns about the weakening credibility of one of the world's most important arms control agreements. The month-long conference brought together diplomats and representatives from nearly 200 countries to review implementation of the NPT, which is built around three key pillars — nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, negotiations remained deadlocked over disagreements involving disarmament commitments by nuclear powers, military conflicts

in West Asia, security guarantees and emerging strategic alliances. Following the collapse of the talks, Mohammad Hassani-Nejad Pirkouhi launched a strong diplomatic attack against the United States and its Western allies during Iran's closing remarks. He accused nuclear-armed countries of failing to honor their obligations under the treaty and said the absence of meaningful political will among major powers was responsible for the conference ending without consensus. Pirkouhi sharply criticised NATO and the AUKUS security partnership, claiming that nuclear-sharing arrangements violated the spirit and principles of international non-proliferation norms. He argued that powerful countries continued to modernise and expand their nuclear capabilities while demanding restrictions on others, creating what he described as a double standard within the global nuclear order. In an emotionally charged address, the Iranian diplomat also accused the United States and Israel of conduct-

FIR against UP Congress president Ajay Rai in Mahoba for making indecent remarks against PM Modi

Mahoba : An FIR has been filed against Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai at the Mahoba police station on Saturday for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The complaint was filed by advocate Neeraj Rawat, outgoing state Congress secretary Brijraj Ahirwar, and 30 other party supporters.

According to the complaint, Ajay Rai, who was on a visit to Mahoba yesterday, allegedly made derogatory remarks against PM Modi. A case has been registered at the City Kotwali police station, and an investigation has begun. The FIR has been registered as No. 0235 under Section 173B of the BNSS. The case has been lodged under Sections 126(2), 352,



196(1), 189(2), and 132 of the BNS. Police said that the investigation is underway. Yesterday, Ajay Rai, who had gone to Mahoba to meet the family of a rape victim, allegedly used derogatory and language against the Prime Minister.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders have condemned the remarks made by the Congress leader.

Army Cheetah helicopter crash-lands near Leh; three officers escape with minor injuries

New Delhi : Three Indian Army officers, including a senior commander, escaped with minor injuries after a Cheetah helicopter crash-landed in the high-altitude Tangtse sector of eastern Ladakh near Leh.

The incident took place on May 20 during an operational flight in the rugged mountainous terrain of Ladakh, one of the most challenging flying environments in the world. However, details of the mishap emerged only on Friday. According to officials, the helicopter was carrying Major General Sachin Mehta, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's 3 Infantry Division, while a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major were piloting the aircraft. All three occupants survived the crash and were able to walk away with only minor injuries.

The Army has ordered

a Court of Inquiry to ascertain the circumstances that led to the crash. Preliminary assessments are underway, though the exact cause of the incident has not yet been determined.

The Cheetah helicopter, a lightweight utility aircraft, has long been regarded as the backbone of India's high-altitude aviation operations. Capable of operating at some of the world's highest landing grounds and re-

mote forward posts, the helicopter has played a critical role in troop transportation, casualty evacuation, reconnaissance missions and logistics support in areas such as Ladakh, Siachen Glacier and the Northeast.

Derived from the French-designed Aérospatiale SA 315B Lama and manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Cheetah entered service decades ago

and earned a reputation for reliability under extreme weather and terrain conditions. Despite its proven operational record, the ageing fleet has increasingly faced maintenance and serviceability challenges, prompting efforts to replace it with newer-generation helicopters. The latest incident has once again drawn attention to the operational risks faced by Army Aviation pilots flying in extreme Himalayan conditions, where sudden weather changes, thin air and narrow valleys make helicopter operations particularly hazardous. Defence experts have repeatedly stressed the need for accelerated induction of modern light utility helicopters to gradually replace the ageing Cheetah fleet and enhance safety as well as operational capability in high-altitude regions.



Trump Holds Security Meeting and Considers Renewing Iran Strikes

Washington : US President Donald Trump held an urgent morning meeting with his senior national security team on Friday, signaling that Washington is seriously considering a return to military strikes against Tehran if ongoing negotiations fail. According to administration officials, Trump has grown deeply frustrated with the slow pace of diplomatic talks. This crucial White House meeting occurred just as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, traveled to Iran alongside a Qatari delegation in a last-ditch effort to broker peace and prevent a full-scale regional war. Field Marshal Munir is scheduled to hold a vital meeting with IRGC



commander Ahmad Vahidi on Saturday to discuss the deadlock.

The high-level security briefing at the White House included Vice President JD Vance, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Following the briefing, Trump altered his weekend schedule, cancelling his attendance at his

son Don Jr.'s wedding to remain at the White House during this critical period. While US officials describe the behind-the-scenes negotiations as an agonizing process with daily changes to draft proposals, Trump appears increasingly inclined toward a decisive military operation to declare victory. Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry and the semi-official Tasnim News Agency confirmed that no final agreement is close, reiterating that Tehran remains strictly focused on ending the war before discussing any broader global issues.

The escalating tensions have heightened concerns across the international community, with several Gulf nations and European powers urging both Washington and Tehran to avoid further military escalation that could destabilise the wider West Asian region. Diplomatic observers warn that any direct military action by the United States could trigger serious consequences for global energy markets, regional security and ongoing peace efforts involving multiple countries in the region.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Launches Major Reforms for Workers and Employment

Lucknow : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced a series of major decisions to improve worker welfare, boost skill development, and create better job opportunities across the state. Under these new directives, a special educational and financial assistance program for working children will be expanded to all 75 districts. The Chief Minister emphasized that workers are the greatest strength behind the economy and that the government is fully committed to ensuring they receive quality education, safe working environments, and a dignified life. The government is also upgrading its digital platform, which connects citizens with local skilled service providers like plumbers and electricians, making it more efficient and useful for government departments. Additionally, new structured support hubs and housing facilities will be built in major industrial cities to help migrant workers, alongside a new training institute and hostel in Kanpur for teaching construction trades.

The state's employment mission has also successfully secured a license to help young people find jobs both locally and internationally, with training programs already being set up for lan-



guages like Japanese and German. The administration of Uttar Pradesh has unveiled a comprehensive suite of policy decisions aimed at structurally upgrading worker welfare ecosystems, amplifying vocational skill development paradigms, and expanding global employment pipelines for its youth demographic. Presiding over a high-level review meeting in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the universal expansion of a specialized educational and financial assistance program, designed to support vulnerable working children, across all seventy-five districts of the state. The policy intervention seeks to systemati-

cally remove young demographics from hazardous or informal labor environments by substituting economic hardship with structured educational stipends. The leadership emphasized that the state's economic output is fundamentally anchored to the stability of its workforce, making the provision of dignified living standards, occupational safety, and academic access a primary governmental mandate. Simultaneously, the state is executing a major technical upgrade of its localized digital marketplace infrastructure, which functions to bridge the gap between ordinary citizens and certified, skilled service providers such as

plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. The modernized digital interface is being structurally integrated into the operational framework of various state government departments, mandates, and civic bodies to streamline public works procurement at the municipal level. By creating a transparent, verified repository of skilled domestic technicians, the platform aims to simultaneously regularize freelance artisanal wages and reduce transaction friction for consumers. This digital intervention represents a broader push toward formalizing the state's extensive unorganized service sector through robust data management.

To address the unique vulnerabilities faced by the massive internal migrant worker population, the state has authorized the construction of dedicated welfare transit hubs and subsidized rental housing facilities within primary industrial corridors. These incoming residential complexes will serve as centralized support centers, offering migrant laborers immediate access to legal aid, healthcare registries, and basic civic identification services under one roof. In tandem with these housing initiatives, the government has finalized blueprints for a premier construction trades training institute alongside an expansive residential hostel facility in the industrial manufacturing hub of Kanpur. This specialized academy will focus heavily on advanced civil engineering trades, modern masonry, structural steel fabrication, and mechanized construction technologies to elevate the competitiveness of local labor. In a major breakthrough for external labor mobility, the Uttar Pradesh State Skill Development Mission has successfully secured an official recruitment license from central authorities, enabling the body to act as a direct placement agency for international employment markets.

Two Individuals Arrested After Missing Young Girl is Found Dead in Tamil Nadu

Chennai : A tragic incident has come to light near Sulur in the Coimbatore district, where a 10-year-old girl who went missing on Thursday was found dead in a local pond on Friday evening. The young girl had left her home to visit a nearby shop but never returned, prompting her family and local villagers to launch an intense search. After a long search operation, her body was recovered from the water, and authorities suspect she was killed elsewhere before being dumped into the pond.

Local residents and family members staged intense protests through the night, demanding immediate justice and refusing to take the body until action was taken. By reviewing local security camera footage, the police discovered that the girl was last seen with a neighbor named Kartik on a two-wheeler, leading to his arrest along with an accomplice named Mohanraj. Government officials and top police chiefs have rushed to the area to oversee the investigation and comfort the family, promising that the culprits will receive strict and speedy punishment once the final medical reports confirm the exact cause of death.

This tragic incident, which has deeply shocked the community near Sulur in the Coimbatore district, has drawn urgent intervention

from law enforcement and senior government officials. Following the discovery of the young girl's body in a local pond, police personnel immediately cordoned off the area to collect forensic evidence and preserve the integrity of the scene. Given the suspicious circumstances surrounding the timeline of her disappearance and subsequent recovery, the investigation was immediately escalated to a high-priority status under the direct supervision of senior district police chiefs.

The swift breakthrough in the case came after dedicated investigative teams systematically mapped out and reviewed closed-circuit television camera footage from commercial establishments and residential buildings along the route the victim was believed to have taken. The video evidence provided critical timestamps that pointed directly toward a local neighbor, identified as Kartik, who was spotted transporting the young girl on a two-wheeler shortly after she left her residence. Acting on this crucial lead, specialized police units tracked down and arrested Kartik, alongside an alleged accomplice identified as Mohanraj, to initiate formal custodial interrogation.

As the legal proceedings and questioning began, a tense situation unfolded out-

side as local residents and grieving family members gathered to voice their collective outrage and demand absolute accountability. The late-night demonstrations reflected the deep sorrow of the neighborhood, with protesters initially refusing to allow the body to be moved for further medical examinations until explicit assurances of strict judicial action were made by the state. To de-escalate the tension, senior administrative officials and top police commanders arrived at the site to personally engage with the family, extend their deepest condolences, and guarantee that the investigation would be conducted with absolute transparency and speed.

The case is now heavily dependent on the definitive findings of the comprehensive post-mortem examination, which is being conducted by a specialized team of forensic medical experts. This medical report is critical for establishing the exact cause, timing, and nature of death, which will form the legal foundation for the charges filed in court. Authorities have re-emphasized their commitment to building an airtight legal case against the accused, promising the public that no effort will be spared in ensuring a speedy trial and the strictest possible punishment under the framework of the law.

Odisha Government Assures Farmers of Plentiful Fertilizer Supply Amid Panic

Bhubaneswar : The Odisha government has assured farmers that there is an adequate stock of agricultural fertilizers available across the state, dismissing rumors of shortages and price hikes. Officials stated that despite ongoing political tensions in the Middle East, the monthly supply of essential fertilizers from the central government has remained completely smooth. To keep the distribution fair and honest, manufacturing companies have been told to send more than half of their stock directly to local cooperative societies.

To prevent any illegal activities, the state government has set up special block and district-level teams to inspect storage facilities and stop any black marketing or hoarding. Strict orders have been given to local authorities to ensure that agricultural-grade fertilizer is not illegally diverted for industrial uses like making plywood or animal feed, especially during non-cropping seasons. Furthermore, a new field program has been launched to encourage farmers to reduce their reliance on chemical products and explore organic farming methods instead.

The administration of Odisha has issued a comprehensive and highly definitive

reassessment regarding the availability of essential agricultural inputs, explicitly guaranteeing to the state's vast farming community that there is an entirely adequate and robust buffer stock of agricultural fertilizers positioned across all regional distribution nodes.

This critical announcement was intentionally designed by senior state administrators to swiftly counter and dismiss a growing wave of unsubstantiated rumors regarding imminent market shortages and artificial price hikes that had begun creating visible anxiety within rural communities. By taking a highly proactive public stance, the agricultural department successfully neutralized speculative panic-buying patterns, ensuring that the critical seasonal sowing schedules of local cultivators remain entirely unhindered by false marketplace anxieties or manipulated supply scares.

In a detailed breakdown of the macroeconomic factors influencing the domestic agricultural landscape, senior state officials explicitly clarified that despite the highly volatile and ongoing geopolitical tensions currently unfolding across the Middle East, the vital monthly supply pipelines of essen-

tial fertilizers flowing from the central government have remained completely smooth, unhindered, and predictable. The central allocation mechanisms have continued to function at peak operational efficiency, systematically delivering the required quantities of chemical compounds to state reservoirs without a single logistical delay or maritime interruption.

This consistent inflow of raw materials and finished products has allowed the state to maintain its strategic reserves at optimal levels, proving that global supply chain disruptions have failed to impact the local agrarian economy.

To guarantee that the incoming wave of essential agricultural resources is managed with the absolute highest standards of administrative fairness, equity, and transparency, the state government has issued legally binding directives to all fertilizer manufacturing corporations operating within its jurisdiction.

These manufacturing entities have been explicitly instructed and mandated to dispatch more than fifty percent of their entire monthly production and storage stock directly to local agricultural cooperative societies scat-

tered across the rural hinterlands. This deliberate supply-chain intervention effectively bypasses the traditional network of private wholesale distributors, ensuring that grassroots agrarian institutions possess direct, unimpeded, and prioritized access to the vital chemical inputs required by small and marginal farmers.

By shifting the primary distribution weight heavily toward state-backed cooperative networks, the administration is actively minimizing the structural opportunities for private market manipulation, price gouging, and artificial scarcity creation.

These local cooperative societies operate under strict state oversight, ensuring that every bag of fertilizer is sold precisely at the government-mandated maximum retail price, thereby insulating resource-poor farmers from exploitative economic practices.

This strategic reallocation of stock not only fortifies the financial security of vulnerable rural households but also strengthens the operational relevance and community trust of cooperative farming networks, which form the socio-economic backbone of Odisha's agrarian framework.

Uttar Pradesh Set to Build Massive New Government Office Complex in Lucknow

Lucknow : The path has been cleared for the construction of a new Uttar Pradesh legislature complex on a massive piece of land in the Gomti Nagar area of the state capital. The Lucknow Development Authority has officially issued a tender to select a consultant and an architect to handle the design and planning of this grand project. Companies interested in the project can submit their applications from May 23 until June 21, after which a detailed project report will be created to determine the final cost and the time needed for completion. The proposed site covers a total area of 245 acres, which includes 170 acres belonging to the Municipal Corporation and 75 acres owned by the development authority. This entire plot was previously leased to Sahara India, but the local government took back possession after the lease ended and terms were violated. The state government plans to build not just the Legislative Assembly here, but also the Secretariat, the Chief Minister's office, and various other government departments, which is why it is being called a complete complex. The location was chosen due to its excellent connectivity, and the state government has already set aside 50 crore ru-



pees in its recent budget to kickstart the project.

The urban landscape of Uttar Pradesh's capital is on the verge of a historic transformation as the administrative infrastructure undergoes a massive modernization phase. The long-anticipated path has been officially cleared for the design and construction of a brand-new, state-of-the-art Uttar Pradesh legislature and administrative complex on an expansive tract of land in the premium Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow. This monumental development project represents a significant shift in the state's governance blueprint, aiming to consolidate scattered bureaucratic operations

into a highly unified, efficient, and technologically advanced civic hub. The initiative reflects the state's growing economic ambitions and the pressing need for modern, high-capacity infrastructure to support its rapidly expanding administrative machinery. Taking the first major executive step toward turning this grand vision into reality, the Lucknow Development Authority has officially issued a high-profile global tender to select an expert consultant and a master architect. The chosen entities will be handed the profound responsibility of managing the intricate conceptual design, structural planning, and

environmental blueprints of this landmark project. According to the official notification, highly qualified infrastructure companies and architectural firms interested in bidding for the project can submit their formal applications from May 23 until June 21.

Following the rigorous evaluation of these competitive submissions, the selected firm will create a detailed project report to lock down the finalized cost projections and construction timelines. The physical scale of the proposed project is truly staggering, with the designated construction site covering a total continuous area of 245 acres of prime real estate.

Intense Heatwave Grabs Uttar Pradesh with High Temperatures and Power Cuts

Lucknow : Severe heatwave conditions continue to affect normal life across Uttar Pradesh, with nearly two-thirds of the state suffering from extreme sunshine, hot winds, and uncomfortable humidity.

The weather department has issued a top-level alert for extreme heat in several districts, including Banda and Prayagraj, where temperatures soared well past 46 degrees Celsius. The extreme weather has left streets and marketplaces completely empty during the afternoon as people struggle to stay safe.

The situation has become more challenging due to frequent power outages caused by overloaded electrical lines and transformer failures, leading to public protests in some neighborhoods. Even though the state government reported supplying a record amount of electricity, the intense heat makes it difficult to maintain steady power.

Weather experts have explained that humid winds



are making the outdoors feel even hotter than the actual recorded temperatures, and they warn that there will be no relief from this extreme heat for the next few days.

The administrative framework of Uttar Pradesh is currently confronting a profound civic and environmental challenge as an extraordinarily severe heatwave continues to heavily disrupt normal life across the vast territories of the state. According to recent meteorological observations, nearly two-thirds of the province is currently suffering under a punishing combination of extreme, unobstructed sunshine, blistering hot winds, and exceptionally uncomfortable indoor and outdoor humidity levels.

This intense atmospheric combination has transformed the daily routines of millions of citizens, presenting a complex public health scenario that tests the limits of municipal resilience, urban

ban planning, and emergency medical response systems across both urban and rural zones.

To formally warn the public and local administrative bodies of the escalating atmospheric dangers, the state weather department has officially issued its highest-level emergency alert for extreme heat across several highly vulnerable districts.

This top-tier meteorological warning has been focused with particular urgen-

cy on regions such as Banda and Prayagraj, where localized ambient temperature readings have recently soared well past the critical threshold of 46 degrees Celsius.

Such extreme thermal measurements represent an acute environmental hazard, prompting regional authorities to activate specialized disaster response protocols, coordinate with public health networks, and issue urgent advisory notices to help citizens minimize their direct exposure to the sun.

The immediate and highly visible consequence of this prolonged thermal onslaught has been the complete and eerie evacuation of public spaces during the peak hours of solar radiation.

Throughout the late morning and entire afternoon, normally bustling city streets, highly active commercial marketplaces, and dense transit hubs across the state are being left completely empty as people struggle to remain indoors to protect their physical well-being.

Over One Lakh Students in Odisha Gain Real-World Work Experience Under New Policy

Bhubaneswar : As part of the practical learning approach introduced by the National Education Policy, the Odisha government has successfully connected more than 1.18 lakh undergraduate students with internships and community service programs. This initiative is designed to give college students real-world exposure and a clear understanding of how public services and government bodies operate at the grassroots level. The six-week program is mandatory for students during their fourth semester and provides them with hands-on field training. Students are being placed across a wide range of fields, including government offices, local banks, health centers, schools, and non-profit organizations. Their performance, attendance, and weekly reports will earn them academic credits that count toward their final degrees. Education officials believe that these placements in both government and private sectors will help students understand how to apply their classroom knowledge to practical situations, significantly improving their future employment and business

potential.

The higher education landscape in Odisha is undergoing a massive transformation, driven by the structural and pedagogical shifts introduced under the National Education Policy. In a bid to move away from purely theoretical, rote-learning models, the state government has launched a massive experiential learning drive that has already successfully connected more than 1.18 lakh undergraduate students with internships and community service programs. This ambitious initiative represents a major milestone in the state's efforts to modernize its academic framework, ensuring that young graduates are not just degree holders but are also equipped with practical, real-world skills that make them highly competitive in the modern job market. By integrating field-based learning directly into the mainstream college curriculum, Odisha is actively bridging the traditional gap that has long existed between academic theory and professional reality. For decades, traditional undergraduate education focused primarily on classroom lectures and textbook examina-

tions, leaving many students unprepared for the complexities of actual working environments. The state's new approach ensures that students are pushed out of their academic comfort zones and into the dynamic sectors of society, where they can observe firsthand the nuances, challenges, and mechanisms of various professional fields before they even graduate. At the core of this initiative is a deep commitment to providing undergraduate students with comprehensive real-world exposure and a crystal-clear understanding of how public services, governance, and grassroots administrative bodies operate. Higher education officials emphasize that textbook descriptions of public administration or corporate operations cannot replicate the learning that happens when a student stands on the ground and observes these systems in real time. Through this immersive strategy, the government aims to demystify public processes and help students comprehend the intricate logistics, policy implementations, and community dynamics that define everyday governance in India.



After brief storm relief, severe heatwave conditions forecast for Delhi

New Delhi : The national capital is likely to witness a prolonged spell of intense heat over the coming week, with maximum temperatures expected to rise to as high as 45 degrees Celsius, and heatwave conditions forecast across several parts of the city, according to the latest weather outlook.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 41.1°C on Saturday, close to normal levels, while the minimum temperature settled at 28.4°C, remaining above normal.

Amid the scorching heat, very light to light rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and dust storms were witnessed in parts of Delhi today, providing temporary relief before temperatures climbed again.

Weather officials have forecast heatwave conditions at a few locations on Sunday, with the situation expected to persist at isolated places between May 25 and May 28.



During this period, daytime temperatures are likely to hover between 43°C and 45°C, significantly above the seasonal average.

The forecast indicates that maximum temperatures may increase by 2-3 degrees Celsius

over the next four days before easing slightly towards the end of the week. Night temperatures are also expected to remain elevated, ranging between 27°C and 31°C.

According to IMD data, the normal maximum temperature for the Safdarjung observatory

during the last week of May is around 40.2°C to 40.4°C. The forecast suggests temperatures will remain well above these averages for most of the week.

Authorities have warned that prolonged exposure to high temperatures could increase the risk

of heat-related illnesses, particularly among vulnerable groups such as infants, senior citizens and individuals suffering from chronic medical conditions.

Outdoor workers and people spending extended periods under direct sunlight are also at greater risk.

Health experts have advised residents to avoid unnecessary exposure during peak afternoon hours, wear loose-fitting light-coloured cotton clothing, cover their heads with hats, scarves or umbrellas, and maintain adequate hydration by drinking water frequently, even when not feeling thirsty.

Officials have also urged people to remain alert to fire hazards during the hot and dry conditions and recommended keeping fire extinguishers readily available in homes and vehicles.

The heatwave is expected to continue until at least May 28 before temperatures begin showing signs of moderation towards the end of the month.

Delhi Govindpuri double murder accused injured in police encounter, arrested

New Delhi : A man accused of committing a double murder of a mother and son in Delhi's Govindpuri area was apprehended after a brief gun battle with police in which he sustained a gun wound in his leg.

According to police, the operation was carried out by the Anti-Narcotics team of South-East District Police after receiving inputs about the accused's location in the Ghati Park area.

The accused, identified as Saurabh, had been absconding since the incident.

Police said the team surrounded the area after intelligence inputs and asked the accused to surrender. However, instead of surrendering, he allegedly opened fire on the police team. During the exchange of fire, the accused reportedly fired around four rounds at the police. In retaliatory action, police shot him in the leg, injuring him.

He was overpowered and taken into custody.

Officials said the injured accused was immediately shifted to a hospital, where his condition is stated to be stable. Police also recovered a weapon and ammunition from the spot. According to police, the accused was found sitting in the Ghati Park area and was allegedly under the influence of drugs at the time of the encounter. He had been on the run since May 20, after the double murder in Govindpuri. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the motive behind the killings and to check whether more people were involved in the crime.

Police officials said the investigation is also focusing on the accused's criminal background and possible links to drug-related networks, while further interrogation is expected to reveal additional details about the sequence of events leading to the killings.

Congress slams Centre over fuel price hikes, says Consumers denied benefit of past crude fall

New Delhi : The Congress on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to pass on the benefits of falling global crude prices to citizens for years, and of now shifting the burden of rising international energy costs onto consumers.

Speaking at a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress Research Department chairman Rajeev Gowda said the Centre had "consistently used fuel pricing as a political tool" and kept retail prices high despite favourable global trends over the past decade.

"There is a race going on between fuel and the rupee as to which will hit the century first," Gowda said, pointing to petrol prices nearing Rs 100 per litre and the rupee's slide against the US dollar.

He argued that when international crude fell sharply after 2014, especially during 2020-21, the government maintained high excise duties instead of cutting pump prices.

Congress leaders said taxes made up nearly 54 per cent of petrol prices and 49 per cent of diesel prices in Delhi at the peak in October 2021.

The party also asked why benefits from discounted Russian crude, available after the Russia-Ukraine conflict began in July 2022, were not passed on to consumers. Citing the windfall tax imposed in July 2022, Gowda said the government collected nearly Rs 25,000 crore in 2022-23 from windfall gains while private refiners gained from export margins.

"Oil marketing companies later posted huge profits, but consumers continued to suffer from high fuel and LPG prices," he said.

Congress leader Dolly Sharma said the party had repeatedly sought cuts in fuel and LPG prices amid persistent inflation.

The Congress alleged that fuel price cuts were often timed with elections and presented as relief delivered by the Prime Minister,

while hikes followed once polling ended. The party noted that petrol in Delhi rose by Rs 4.74 per litre between May 14 and May 23, 2026, from Rs 94.77 to Rs 99.51 per litre, with diesel up by a similar amount to Rs 92.49 per litre.

Warning of wider inflationary impact, the Congress said higher fuel costs would push up transport expenses and prices of essentials like vegetables, fruits, milk, and household goods. It cited recent milk price hikes by Amul and Mother Dairy as early signs of pressure.

On energy security, the party accused the government of contradicting its "Aatmanirbharta" push as import dependence grew. It said crude oil import dependence rose from 80.6 per cent in 2015-16 to 89.44 per cent in 2024-25, while domestic crude output fell from 36.9 million metric tonnes to 28.7 MMT in the same period.

Import reliance on natural gas and LPG had also

climbed, with nearly 60 per cent of India's LPG consumption now met through imports, the party claimed.

The Congress further flagged the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation's Krishna-Godavari basin gas project, alleging financial irregularities and referring to earlier Comptroller and Auditor General findings.

On fertilisers, it said India remained heavily dependent on imports for Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash, exposing the country to global price swings.

The party also questioned the state of India's strategic petroleum reserves. Referring to Prime Minister Modi's March address in Parliament, it alleged the Centre had downplayed the energy situation. "Two days after the Prime Minister's speech, an RTI reply revealed that India's strategic oil reserves were sufficient for only 10 days," the party claimed.

Raising foreign policy questions, Congress lead-

ers asked, "Why did the Modi government let India's dependence on crude and gas imports from the Middle East rise so rapidly and why did we not diversify our supplies?" They also asked about domestic gas output from the Krishna-Godavari basin and whether "President Trump's pressure to cut oil imports from Russia" had affected supply.

"Why has India's sovereignty been compromised through growing dependence and foreign pressures when the Prime Minister has been preaching atmanirbharta?" the leaders asked.

The Congress said it would continue to raise the issue in Parliament and across public platforms, demanding a transparent review of fuel pricing policy, a reduction in indirect taxes on petroleum products, and a clear roadmap from the government to reduce import dependence and protect consumers from global oil price volatility.

Delhi Police rescues family from fire in Shahdara



New Delhi : Three members of a family, including a one-year-old child, were rescued by alert personnel of Delhi Police from a fire that broke out in their house in Shahdara district due to suspected gas cylinder leakage.

"The swift response and bravery displayed by Shahdara Police personnel prevented a major tragedy and ensured timely rescue of the trapped family members. Their actions reflect the commitment of Delhi Police towards protecting lives and serving citizens beyond routine law enforcement duties," said Rajendra Prasad Meena, Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police, Shahdara.

According to police, beat staff comprising ASI Kuldeep, HC Rahul, Constable Vipin and Constable Sunny were on routine patrolling duty when they noticed the fire and rushed to the spot without waiting for backup.

On reaching the location, they found that three members of a family were trapped inside a smoke-filled room on the first floor of the building.

Displaying courage and presence of mind, the police personnel entered the affected premises and successfully rescued Arshad Ali (34), Arshana (28), and one-year-

old Arman Ali. All injured persons were immediately shifted to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital for treatment via an auto-rickshaw. They are under medical care, while further investigation into the incident is underway.

SC to hear next week plea against CBSE's three-language policy for Class 9 students

New Delhi : The Supreme Court today agreed to list next week a petition filed by parents and teachers from New Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida and Chennai challenging the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) new policy mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students.

The petition was mentioned before a Bench, comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi, by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who argued that the sudden introduction

of the requirement would disrupt students' preparation for Class 10 board examinations and place an unreasonable academic burden on them.

Rohatgi submitted that students who had so far been studying only two languages would now suddenly be required to learn an additional language at the Class 9 stage and appear in examinations in Class 10, creating confusion and academic chaos.

Taking note of the submissions, the Bench said that the matter would be listed for hearing next

week.

The challenge relates to a CBSE circular issued on May 15, bringing the "Scheme of Studies" in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.

The petition also raises concerns regarding the unequal impact of the policy on students from non-Hindi-speaking States and points to the absence of a clear assessment framework for the newly introduced third language.

Delhi Minister Parvesh Verma files defamation complaint against AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj

New Delhi : Delhi Minister Parvesh Verma has filed a defamation complaint against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, in a Rouse Avenue Court.

According to Praveen Kumar, Advocate for the complainant, the case was filed after Bharadwaj made some social media posts alleging Parvesh Verma's role in the S.S. Mota Singh School Trust.

Notably, a POCSO case has been registered against the staff of the school by the parents of a girl student.

In his tweets posted on May 15 and 16, 2026, Bharadwaj has alleged that Parvesh Verma has misused his position as a Minister to appoint his alleged associate as a Trustee in a private school Trust that holds assets worth nearly ₹500 crores and that the said Trust belongs to him.

Further through the tweets, Bharadwaj insinuated that Verma exercised influence in favour of the employees of the school run by the trust who are accused persons in a POCSO case. Parvesh Verma has taken serious exception to the allegations and served a

legal notice on AAP leader Bharadwaj, asking him to withdraw his tweets and tender an unconditional apology. However, despite the receipt of notice, the tweets were not withdrawn and nor was an apology tendered.

This led to the filing of the defamation case in the MP and MLA Court in Rouse Avenue Court Complex.

The case was listed today before Paras Dalal, Ld. ACJM who has accepted the case. He has fixed June 9 and 11 for recording of pre-summoning evidence of the complainant.

Devender Yadav flags severe water crisis in Delhi amid peak summer

New Delhi : Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav has raised serious concern over the worsening water crisis across several parts of the national capital amid the peak summer season, alleging that large sections of the city are struggling to access even basic drinking water despite repeated assurances from the authorities.

Yadav said the situation has become particularly critical in resettlement colonies, unauthorised settlements, slum clusters and several group housing societies, where residents are reportedly left with no option but to depend on private water tankers or expensive bottled water for daily needs. He also highlighted that the rising prices of essential commodities have further deepened the financial burden on low-income families, who are be-



ing forced to spend additional money just to secure drinking water. He further claimed that

in several areas, including Dakshinpuri in South Delhi, residents have been facing either highly irregular

supply or complete absence of piped water for days together, while in some cases the water being supplied is

allegedly unfit for consumption. According to him, residents living in multi-storey buildings are facing additional hardships, as they are compelled to manually carry tanker water to upper floors due to lack of proper supply systems.

Yadav criticised the Delhi Jal Board and the government for what he described as inadequate preparedness to meet the rising summer demand, alleging that repeated promises to improve water distribution and reduce dependence on tankers have not been fulfilled on the ground. He also referred to earlier election-time assurances regarding strengthening water infrastructure, including expansion of water treatment capacity and development of decentralised water supply systems, which he said remain incomplete or poorly implemented.

Editorial

A New Pandemic Warning!

Even as the world has yet to fully recover from the horrific crisis of COVID-19, a new outbreak of Ebola in Africa has once again shattered the global health system's sense of security. The warning issued by the World Health Organization declaring this crisis an international health emergency serves not merely as an alert for Africa, but as a wake-up call for all of humanity. With the lessons learned from the COVID-19 era still fresh in memory, fears are mounting that the world may once again be standing on the brink of a potential pandemic.

Acting without haste or hesitation and without waiting for the formal advice of an expert committee the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' (PHEIC). While global health experts have welcomed this unprecedented and swift action by the organization, the underlying reality behind this urgency is deeply concerning and unsettling. This is because the current outbreak is not caused by the usual 'Zaire' strain of the Ebola virus, but rather by a new strain known as 'Bundibugyo' a variant considered to be extremely rare and highly lethal. The historical record regarding this specific strain is extremely limited, and the scientific community currently lacks any concrete evidence to determine the extent to which existing vaccines and medical treatments will prove effective against this novel virus. Amidst this fog of uncertainty, merely issuing a warning of danger is insufficient; the global community must now unite and take action on a war footing otherwise, it will not take long for the framework of international health security to collapse.

As the current situation stands, the disease is spreading rapidly across the border regions shared by two nations: the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. According to official statistics as of May 16, 2026, the Ituri province of Congo has recorded 8 laboratory-confirmed cases, 246 suspected cases, and 80 suspected deaths. Even more concerning is the fact that two confirmed cases have been identified in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, with no apparent direct link between them. The fact that 8 out of the initial 13 samples tested positive combined with a rising mortality rate and the geographical spread of cases strongly suggests that the actual scale of the outbreak is likely many times larger than the reported figures. Ebola is a highly contagious and deadly disease that spreads rapidly through contact with a patient's bodily fluids or contaminated surfaces. With a mortality rate ranging between 25% and 50%, the Ebola epidemic that ravaged Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone between 2014 and 2016 infected over 28,600 people and claimed the lives of 11,325 innocent victims. With this tragic history looming large, the highly cautious and protective stance adopted by the World Health Organization must be deemed entirely appropriate.

However, this health emergency has a second and deeply distressing dimension inextricably linked to global politics and economic power struggles. This border region of Africa is already reeling under the impact of internal warfare, armed conflicts, and the mass displacement of civilians. Amidst such chaotic conditions, health workers face immense difficulties in reaching patients, creating a significant risk that numerous cases will go undetected and undiagnosed. The even greater tragedy is that precisely when the world is in dire need of the World Health Organization's robust support, this international institution is facing a severe financial squeeze. Due to the United States' withdrawal from the organization in January followed by significant funding cuts from powerful nations such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Britain the World Health Organization has been compelled to slash its 2026-2027 budget by approximately 8 percent. This financial drain has severely weakened disease diagnostic and surveillance systems in conflict-ridden regions like the Congo and Uganda, making it increasingly difficult to curb the undetected spread of viruses.

In light of these developments, the question of what lessons the world has truly learned from the COVID-19 crisis has once again come to the forefront. A glimmer of hope had emerged last May with the adoption of the 'Global Pandemic Treaty,' which was expected to bolster the world's health security architecture. However, due to U.S. opposition to the agreement and the parochial attitudes of wealthy nations, the treaty is now in jeopardy even before it has been implemented. During times of crisis, the world's affluent nations are refusing to provide poorer countries with medical resources, vaccines, and advanced technology or to engage in mandatory technology transfer. The deep-seated mistrust among developing nations persists, stemming from the inequitable distribution of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic and the manner in which poorer countries were left to fend for themselves. In their latest report, the World Bank and the World Health Organization's 'Global Preparedness Monitoring Board' have articulated a stark and bitter truth: "The world remains unprepared to confront any future major pandemic."

This new outbreak of Ebola is not merely a crisis confined to Africa; it serves as a grave warning to the entire world. In today's era of global connectivity, any virus can travel from one country to another in a matter of just a few hours. Consequently, investment in the healthcare sector, scientific collaboration, and international partnerships are no longer merely moral obligations; they have become essential means for the very survival of every nation. At this critical juncture, preventing the spread of the disease requires effective patient-tracing campaigns, adequate protection for healthcare workers, safe and dignified burial practices, and raising public awareness grounded in a scientific perspective. Until global disparities in healthcare facilities are eradicated and international organizations receive adequate funding, humanity will remain trapped in the snares of such insidious viruses.

To emerge from this crisis, the world must transcend its mindset of parochial nationalism and narrow economic self-interest.

If, while boasting of progress and technological prowess, we fail to safeguard basic healthcare facilities and the sanctity of human life, it would constitute a resounding defeat for the entire scientific community. If the world still fails to heed this lesson in time, future pandemics could prove far more catastrophic. If we are to save humanity, the time has truly come to prioritize concrete action over mere rhetoric. If we wish to bequeath a safe and healthy planet to future generations, the world must take a serious look right now at the scorching heat of this crisis burning in Africa and the looming threat of Ebola. Merely declaring a state of emergency or remaining passive observers will not suffice; we must forge a chain of decisive action by immediately providing funds and accelerating research into treatments and cures. For nature and viruses recognize no national borders; when a crisis strikes, it imperils the very existence of us all. If we do not learn this lesson even now, it is absolutely certain that the entire human race will have to pay the price for future pandemics.

'Million Minds Tech Park' and 'GREMI City Campus' in Ahmedabad

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today inaugurated the newly built 'Million Minds Tech Park' and 'GREMI City Campus' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi and several other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Amit Shah said that the event marks a major milestone in fulfilling Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for the future of India. He said that PM Modi's vision is that technology, innovation, knowledge, entrepreneurship, and high-skill based industries should also come to Gujarat. Shri Shah said Gujarat, which has led the country in several sectors since Independence, will also lead in the field of emerging technologies. He said that whenever Gujarat enters any sector with determination, it rapidly reaches the top ranks, and expressed confidence that the state would repeat the same success in this sector as well.

Shri Amit Shah said Gujarat has made an immense contribution to India's industrial development since Independence. He said that after Shri Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he consistently worked to give industrial growth a structured framework. He said Gujarat's journey since 2002 in areas such as industrial development, infrastructure, ease of doing business and entrepreneurship-led growth has successfully established the state's global identity.

Union Home Minister said many states have achieved industrial progress, but Gujarat stands apart because of its structured development model. He said He stated that the fundamental reason for this is that the Gujarati people have traditionally advanced with the qualities of entrepreneurship and courage, and the government, under the leadership of PM Modi, has



played a significant role in creating an infrastructure conducive to this. Shri Shah said infrastructure does not only mean physical infrastructure, but also policy support, financial arrangements, proactive governance and initiatives such as Vibrant Gujarat, which have earned global recognition.

Shri Amit Shah said Gujarat has performed exceptionally well in sectors such as manufacturing, engineering, pharmaceuticals, ports, logistics, green energy, industrial infrastructure and investments. He said the next objective is to bring Gujarat among the top three states in the service sector as well. For this, he added, tech parks like the newly inaugurated facility are essential to position Ahmedabad alongside Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Gurugram.

Union Home Minister said Prime Minister Modi has been giving major emphasis to tech parks and Global Capability Centres (GCCs) over the past few years as India's economic activities are undergoing rapid transformation. He said the 'Million Minds Tech Park', developed across 13.5 lakh square feet at a cost of nearly Rs. 1,100 crore, will in its first phase provide a state-of-the-art work environ-

ment for 9,000 highly skilled professionals. Shri Shah said that over



seven phases, with an investment of around Rs. 15,000 crore, the project is expected to generate more than 63,000 high-value jobs

over the next five years. This 65-acre tract of land will make a significant contribution to promoting high-skill jobs in Gujarat. He said that the project has allocated 50 per cent space for commercial use and also includes malls, hotels and residential spaces, reflecting the vision of a fully integrated tech park ecosystem.

Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated the Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute (GREMI) Campus. He said the institute is an important initiative for the country as the real estate sector has rarely been approached in a comprehensive manner. He said that environment, planning and town planning are closely linked with real estate development and emphasised that good cities cannot be developed without proper planning. The Modi Government's urban planning re-

batch, while the main campus near Thol Lake will be developed over 100 acres at an estimated cost of Rs. 500 crore. He said the institute will provide modern thinking and efficient leadership to the real estate sector across the country.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that AI and Deep Tech represent the economy of the future. He said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is emerging as a founder in several emerging sectors globally. Shri Shah added that youth working in areas such as robotics, quantum computing, semiconductors, AI, automation systems, cybersecurity, defence and space technology must be provided with the right ecosystem, infrastructure and opportunities. He said that both these

NID will now expand its reach to high-tech design sectors, including semiconductor chips



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today inaugurated the Innovation & Incubation Centre (IIC) at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi and several other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gather-

ing, Shri Amit Shah said that NID is an institution that connects creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Shri Shah said that traditionally, design is considered a discipline, but beyond that, it is also an art that presents things in a refined and meaningful manner. Shri Amit Shah said that NID was established with the understanding that every individual possesses some degree of design sensibility, but due to the pressures of daily life, many people with the poten-

tial to excel in design are unable to pursue it seriously. He said one of the objectives behind establishing NID was to provide a platform to people who possess an inherent inclination towards design and help bring their potential before society. Shri Shah said that in order to fully explore the potential of any field from a national perspective, it has to be accepted as a career. Whether it is songwriting, music or design, all these are forms of art, but they ultimately also

need to be accepted as professions. Shri Shah said NID was established in Gujarat so that the commercial potential of design and art could be explored to its fullest extent.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that NID must encourage refinement in the design sector. He said that while the establishment of the Innovation & Incubation Centre is a commendable initiative, it is equally important to connect youth choosing design as a career with opportunities that address their professional concerns and aspirations. He said a separate vertical would have to be created for this purpose because designers are experts in creativity, not necessarily in commercialization. Shri Shah said that in the coming years, NID will have to bring together professionals from both fields. Only then will India be able to fully explore the country's design potential and encourage young people to adopt design as a career without hesitation.

Shri Amit Shah said that design has importance in every sector. Even in the construction of a large industrial

park, there is a need for design. The discipline of design already exists in India; it only needs to be recognized and explored. We must move forward in the field of high-tech design, whether it is semiconductors or chips. All those areas where the quality, nature, and interest in de-



sign exist must be explored. The National Institute of Design should take up the task of connecting these areas with careers. A dedicated vertical should be created in all campuses to take this forward.

Shri Amit Shah said that significant efforts are also needed to ensure that design becomes an integral part of

every sector of society and daily life. Referring to Patan Patola, he said that those who have seen the traditional textile art would understand the extraordinary precision, detailing and scientific approach involved in its design, especially in the blending of colours. He said that

India already possesses such rich traditions of design and craftsmanship, but these need to be explored further. For this to happen, more young people must adopt design as a career. Shri Shah said that efforts should also be made to create awareness about the utility of design and to expand the sector further.

Cabinet approves Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of a modern Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar in Gujarat, a move expected to significantly strengthen India's maritime infrastructure and ship repair capabilities. The ambitious project will be jointly implemented by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited with a combined investment of Rs 1,570 crore.

The proposed facility is being developed as a brownfield project and will feature world-class infrastructure, including a 650-metre-long jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops, storage areas, and other associated marine facilities. The project is aimed at transforming Vadinar into a major ship repair hub on India's western coast.

Officials said Vadinar has emerged as a strategically advantageous location because of its natural deep draft, excellent maritime connectivity, and proximity to some of India's busiest commercial ports, including

Mundra Port and Kandla Port. Its location along key international shipping routes is expected to attract both domestic and foreign-flagged vessels for repair and maintenance operations.

The project is expected to fill a major gap in India's existing ship repair ecosystem. At present, the country lacks sufficient domestic infrastructure to undertake repairs of large vessels measuring over 230 metres in length. Due to this limitation, many large ships currently depend on foreign shipyards for repair and maintenance services.

Once operational, the Vadinar facility will be capable of handling vessels up to 300 metres in length, enabling India to undertake high-value repairs for large commercial ships within the country itself. This development is expected to substantially reduce dependence on overseas ship repair yards and help curb significant foreign exchange outflow.

The government believes the facility will improve the efficiency and turnaround time of ship repair operations along the western

coast, thereby enhancing the overall competitiveness of Indian ports and maritime trade infrastructure. Faster repair services closer to key trade routes could also reduce downtime for shipping companies.

Apart from strengthening strategic maritime capabilities, the project is also expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities. According to official estimates, the facility is likely to create around 290 direct jobs and nearly 1,100 indirect employment opportunities across sectors such as logistics, engineering support, fabrication, marine services, and ancillary industries.

The initiative is also expected to encourage the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the surrounding region. Ancillary industries involved in ship components, steel fabrication, electrical systems, painting, marine equipment supply, and technical services are expected to benefit from increased economic activity generated by the project.

The government highlighted that the

project would contribute significantly to skill development in the maritime sector. Specialised technical training and workforce development programmes are expected to emerge around ship repair and marine engineering operations, creating a skilled talent pool for the industry.

Industry experts view the project as an important step towards positioning India as a global maritime services destination. With international shipping traffic steadily increasing in the Indian Ocean region, the creation of advanced repair facilities is expected to strengthen India's role in global shipping and trade networks.

The partnership between Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited is being seen as a strategic collaboration that combines port infrastructure expertise with extensive shipbuilding and ship repair experience. CSL is already one of India's leading shipbuilding and maintenance companies with experience in handling complex marine projects.



Briefs :

Cuban Diplomats Visit Kurukshetra University to Build Major Academic and Sports Ties

Kurukshetra : Kurukshetra University welcomed a high-profile diplomatic delegation from the Republic of Cuba to establish a long-term partnership in the fields of engineering, pharmacy, biotechnology, and sports education.

The foreign delegation was led by the Cuban Ambassador to India, Juan Carlos Marsán Aguilera, alongside the Deputy Ambassador, Guadalupe de Regla Frometa Gómez. The university's Vice-Chancellor described the visit as a historic step toward making the campus more international, explaining that the partnership will open brilliant paths for students and researchers through global exposure and collaborative studies.

The detailed discussions centered around building student and faculty exchange programs, designing joint research projects, and introducing innovative teaching methods while honoring the friendly history between the two nations. In the engineering sector, both sides focused on sustainable development projects, including green energy, water safety, and electric vehicles.

For the pharmacy and medical fields, they explored joint drug development to tackle global health issues. Additionally, Cuba's world-famous strengths in boxing and athletics will be merged with the university's sports facilities to host joint training camps and advanced sports science seminars. A formal agreement is expected to be signed during the upcoming academic term to officially begin the programs.

Injured Food Delivery Biker Fights for Survival After Devastating Accident in Hisar

Hisar : A young Zomato food delivery rider named Surender is fighting for his life in a private hospital after being severely injured in a reckless hit-and-run incident a week ago. The tragic accident occurred on the Dabra Chowk flyover around 1:30 AM when a speeding black SUV rammed into two different motorcycles, both driven by food delivery workers. The other delivery rider, Sachin, died instantly at the scene, while Surender was rushed to the hospital with multiple severe body fractures, spinal cord damage, and internal injuries.

The local police post reported that the female driver of the SUV was traveling at a dangerous speed, dragging one of the bikes for nearly 100 meters before hitting the second worker and fleeing the scene without offering help. The driver has since been arrested and jailed for causing death by negligence after it was discovered she was driving without a valid license. Meanwhile, Surender's family is emotionally and financially broken, struggling to manage the daily hospital expenses of 20,000 rupees. His father-in-law, who works as a local magician, made an emotional appeal for help, stating that while he can make audiences laugh with tricks, he has no magic to save his dying relative. The family alleged they have received no financial support from the delivery company or the local administration, apart from a small donation from a social group.

Decomposed Bodies of Two Sisters Found Inside a Locked House in Ambala

Ambala : In a deeply disturbing incident, the dead bodies of two middle-aged sisters were discovered inside their residence in the Preet Nagar locality under mysterious circumstances. The deceased women were identified as Anjana, aged 40, and Manu, aged 45, who had been living together alone in the house for a long time. Because the bodies were found in a highly decomposed state, local police officers suspect that the two sisters passed away several days before anyone noticed.

The tragic situation came to light when a local resident washing his vehicle nearby noticed a terrible smell coming from the building and immediately alerted the neighborhood, who then called the police. Since no one answered the front door, the police had to break inside, where they found the rooms filled with scattered trash and poor living conditions. Local police officials stated that the neighbors had not seen any movement from



the house for nearly two weeks. The older sister had been suffering from mental health issues since her childhood, and her younger sibling was her sole caregiver. The bodies have been sent to the government hospital for an autopsy to determine the true cause of their deaths.

A deeply tragic and distressing incident has come to light in the Preet Nagar locality of Ambala, where the deceased bodies of two middle-aged sisters were discovered inside their locked residence

under highly mysterious circumstances. The discovery has cast a somber shadow over the entire neighborhood, raising critical questions about social isolation and the quiet struggles of vulnerable individuals within urban communities. Local law enforcement authorities have launched a comprehensive investigation to piece together the final days of the two women and unravel the sequence of events that led to this grim outcome. The deceased women have been

formally identified by the local authorities as forty-year-old Anjana and her older sibling, forty-five-year-old Manu. The two sisters had reportedly been living together alone in the Preet Nagar house for a very long time, maintaining a highly secluded lifestyle away from the active social fabric of the neighborhood. Their solitary existence meant that their daily routines were largely unnoticed by those around them, a factor that unfortunately contributed to the pro-

longed delay in the discovery of their passing.

When the police officers finally gained entry into the residence, they discovered that the bodies of both women were already in a highly decomposed state. Based on the advanced stage of decomposition, forensic experts and investigating officers strongly suspect that the two sisters had passed away several days—possibly even weeks—before anyone in the locality realized something was wrong. The physical state of the scene indicated a sudden and quiet end to their lives, far removed from any immediate medical intervention or external assistance. The heart-wrenching situation only came to light due to the alertness of a local resident who happened to be washing his vehicle in the vicinity of the building. While attending to his chores, the resident noticed an increasingly foul and terrible odor emanating from the cracks of the closed house.

Ten Students Injured After Adjacent Construction Wall Falls on School Building

Gurugram : A scary accident occurred in Faridabad when a wall of an under-construction building suddenly collapsed onto the roof of an adjacent private school, causing the school ceiling to break and trapping several children under the debris. The school staff acted quickly to clear the wreckage and rescue the trapped students. Out of the ten children who suffered injuries, four are reported to be in serious condition and are receiving medical treatment at a government hospital. As soon as news of the collapse spread, anxious family members rushed to the hospital and the school site to check on their children. The police also arrived quickly to secure the area, and the entire school was immediately evacuated to ensure everyone's safety. Local authorities are currently investigating the neighboring construction project to check if the builders were following the required safety guidelines and legal rules.

A deeply concerning ac-

cident occurred in Faridabad when a wall of an under-construction building suddenly collapsed onto the roof of an adjacent private school. The massive impact caused the school's ceiling to cave in, trapping several young children under a heavy layer of bricks, plaster, and broken debris. The sudden structural failure transformed an ordinary school day into a chaotic emergency scene within seconds, highlighting immediate concerns regarding infrastructural safety and regulatory compliance in construction zones near educational institutions. Following the sudden collapse, the school staff and management acted with great urgency and presence of mind to initiate immediate rescue operations before external help could arrive. Teachers and administrative workers rushed to the affected classroom, using their bare hands and available tools to clear the heavy wreckage and pull the trapped students out from under the rubble.

Trusted Bookshop Employee Arrested for Kidnapping His Employer's Twelve-Year-Old Son

Sirsa : A local shop worker allegedly masterminded the kidnapping of his employer's 12-year-old son and demanded a massive ransom of 70 lakh rupees. The main suspect, named Saurabh, had been working at the book vendor's shop for three years, earning the complete trust of the family, and was regularly responsible for driving the young boy to his evening tuition classes. Police investigations revealed that Saurabh had spent over a week planning the entire crime alongside three local youths.

The incident occurred when Saurabh was taking the boy out on a motorcycle. A small car suddenly blocked their path, and three masked men bundled both the child and the worker inside, covering their eyes. The kidnappers then placed a WhatsApp call to the boy's father, forcing the child to speak to create emotional pressure for the ransom money. To avoid any suspicion, the worker pretended to be an innocent victim and even faked being knocked unconscious so the boy wouldn't realize his involvement. After receiving a complaint, the police tracked the suspects' locations, forcing

the panicked kidnappers to abandon the child and the worker near a village before fleeing. The police safely rescued the boy, arrested the worker at the scene, and are now hunting for the other three suspects.

The quiet town of Sirsa was recently shaken by a shocking breach of trust when a local shop employee allegedly masterminded the kidnapping of his own employer's twelve-year-old son.

The suspect, who had managed to embed himself deeply within the family's daily routine over several years, allegedly used his inside knowledge to orchestrate a high-stakes abduction plot. This alarming incident has sent shockwaves through the local business community, serving as a stark reminder of how easily deep personal and professional trust can be exploited for criminal gain.

The primary suspect behind the entire operation has been identified as a young man named Saurabh, who had been employed at the victim's book vending shop for the past three years. Over this extensive period of employment, Saurabh had

worked diligently to win the complete confidence and trust of the business owner and his family members. He was treated less like a temporary hired hand and more like a dependable extension of the household, which ultimately granted him unrestricted access to the family's private schedules and vulnerabilities.

Because he had earned such a high level of trust, Saurabh was regularly entrusted with the vital responsibility of driving the employer's twelve-year-old son to his evening tuition classes. This recurring task gave the employee a perfectly predictable window of time every single day where he was entirely alone with the young boy outside the safety of the family home. Recognizing the vulnerability of this routine, the worker began viewing the innocent child not as a responsibility to protect, but as an opportunity to secure a massive financial payout.

Detailed police investigations conducted after the rescue revealed that this was far from a spontaneous crime, as Saurabh had spent more than a week meticulously planning every aspect

of the abduction. To execute his elaborate plan without drawing immediate suspicion to himself, the employee recruited three local youths from the area to act as his physical enforcement team. Together, the group map out routes, discussed timing, and coordinated how they would handle the logistics of taking the child and making the subsequent demands.

The carefully planned criminal operation was set into motion on a regular evening while Saurabh was transporting the twelve-year-old boy on a motorcycle toward his tuition center. As they traversed a calculated section of the route, a small car suddenly veered in front of them, completely blocking their path and forcing the motorcycle to a sudden halt. Before the child could comprehend what was happening, three masked men jumped out of the vehicle and aggressively approached the duo.

In what appeared to be a chaotic and violent struggle, the three masked accomplices quickly bundled both the young child and the shop worker into the back of the getaway car.

Major Financial Fraud Accused Arrested by Enforcement Directorate in Gurugram

Gurugram : The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a businesswoman named Nowhera Shaik from Gurugram for her alleged involvement in a massive investment scam worth over 3,000 crore rupees connected to the Heera Group of companies. She was found hiding in a local stay facility under a false identity card with the help of an associate. After her arrest, she was taken to Hyderabad and presented before a special financial court, which sent her directly to jail. Investigating teams discovered that her company collected money from more than 1.7 lakh investors across the country by promising huge annual returns of around 36 percent, but the business failed to give back the profits or the original investment. Instead, the money was allegedly moved into personal accounts to buy valuable properties. The accused had previously failed to cooperate with property auctions ordered by the Supreme Court and even tried to confuse the local courts by falsely claiming that she had already surrendered to prison authorities. The Enforcement Directorate has executed a major breakthrough in its ongoing fight against financial crimes by ar-



resting a prominent businesswoman from Gurugram. The individual, identified as Nowhera Shaik, was apprehended for her alleged central role in a massive, nationwide investment scam linked closely to the Heera Group of companies. The financial watchdog had been tracking her movements as part of a multi-state investigation, culminating in a highly coordinated operation that brings one of the country's most high-profile corporate fraud cases back into the judicial spotlight. The scale of the alleged financial irregularities is staggering, with investigators estimating the total value of the investment scam to be worth over 3,000 crore rupees. This immense valuation places the Heera Group case among the largest Ponzi-style schemes investigated by central agencies in recent times. By target-

ing the leadership of the group, the Enforcement Directorate intends to dismantle the financial network that allowed such a massive accumulation of unauthorized public deposits to occur over several years without proper regulatory oversight. Prior to her high-stakes arrest, the businesswoman had successfully managed to evade law enforcement agencies by hiding inside a local stay facility located in Gurugram. To ensure she remained undetected by local police intelligence, she was found using a false identity card that masked her true profile during her stay. Investigating teams revealed that she was actively receiving assistance from a close associate, who helped facilitate her logistics, secure the accommodation, and maintain her cover while she was on the run.

High Court Rules Against Automatic Extensions for Preventive Arrests without Independent Review

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the government cannot mechanically extend an individual's preventive detention simply because an independent advisory panel has given its initial approval. The court made it clear that the confirming state authority must independently examine each case, evaluate whether the continuous imprisonment is actually necessary, and specifically explain the exact duration for which the person must be held in custody.

While dealing with a legal challenge brought under anti-drug laws, the judge explained that holding an individual in jail based on mere suspicion before a proper criminal trial takes place is a serious contradiction to democratic freedoms and personal liberty. However, the court acknowledged that such preventative laws are sometimes necessary tools to protect national security and public peace before a major crime takes place. Even so, the court warned that these safety rules must never be used as a tool for government tyranny, and any official extension order must be transparent, written with clear reasoning, and prove that independent thought was applied rather than acting as a simple rubber stamp.

The legal landscape surrounding personal liberty and administrative overreach has been significantly clarified by a landmark judgment from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. In a



decisive ruling, the court declared that executive authorities cannot mechanically or automatically extend an individual's preventive detention based solely on the fact that an independent advisory panel gave its initial approval.

This decision establishes a critical judicial safeguard, emphasizing that state authorities must continuously exercise independent oversight rather than relying on prior approvals as a blank check for prolonged confinement.

The ruling fundamentally alters how administrative detentions will be handled moving forward, ensuring that the state cannot bypass its ongoing duty of evaluation. The court made it explicitly clear that the confirming state authority is legally obligated to independently examine the specific merits of each case whenever an extension is considered. Officials must actively evaluate whether continuous imprisonment remains a strict necessity under the current circumstances, rather than relying on outdated justifica-

tions or treated as a routine bureaucratic exercise.

Furthermore, the High Court mandate dictates that any valid order of extension must explicitly detail and explain the exact duration for which the individual is to be held in custody. By requiring a defined and justified timeline, the judiciary aims to eliminate the systemic danger of indefinite or open-ended detentions that lack clear parameters. This aspect of the ruling forces administrative bodies to be precise, structured, and deliberate in their calculations, ensuring that the deprivation of freedom is never treated as an indefinite default state.

The significant judicial intervention arose during the detailed consideration of a specific legal challenge brought under stringent anti-drug legislation, where preventive clauses were actively invoked. While reviewing the case, the presiding judge took the opportunity to address the deeper constitutional and philosophical implications of detaining citizens without a standard judicial trial.

Several Senior Doctors in Haryana Face Strict Actions Over Lack of Duty Care

Chandigarh : The Haryana Health Department has decided to start serious disciplinary actions against five senior medical officers, including a Civil Surgeon and two Principal Medical Officers, for being careless in their administrative duties. This decision comes shortly after four other doctors were suspended for not improving the gender ratio in their assigned regions. The top health administration has directed the medical head office to prepare official charge sheets against these individuals by May 25.

The senior doctors facing these inquiries are stationed across different regions including Faridabad, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, and Ballabgarh. The actions are being taken under official civil service rules that handle major misconduct, which means the accused individuals could face serious consequences such as losing their salary increments, missing promotions, being forced to retire early, or being permanently dismissed from service. The local medical association stated that they are currently looking into the specific details of the case before sharing their stance.

The administrative landscape of public healthcare in Haryana is witnessing a major enforcement drive as the state health department initiates strict disciplinary proceedings against five senior

medical officers, including a Civil Surgeon and two Principal Medical Officers, following reports of chronic carelessness and persistent lapses in their administrative duties. The sudden, sweeping crackdown signals a shift in the government's tolerance for operational inefficiencies, emphasizing that leadership roles within the medical sector carry absolute responsibility for the smooth execution of public health mandates. This latest regulatory push comes on the immediate heels of a separate administrative action that saw four other doctors placed under suspension for failing to adequately monitor and improve the gender ratio within their assigned regions. The top health administration, acting with rapid urgency, has issued direct instructions to the medical head office to draft and finalize formal charge sheets against the five newly accused senior officers. A strict deadline has been set, requiring all official paperwork, behavioral reviews, and formal allegations to be compiled and delivered to the state headquarters for final review. The senior doctors currently caught in the crosshairs of these administrative inquiries are distributed across several major districts of the state, indicating that the accountability drive spans multiple regional jurisdictions. Official reports

indicate that the targeted officers are stationed in key medical complexes and administrative centers across Faridabad, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, and Ballabgarh. By targeting multiple regions simultaneously, the state government is sending an unambiguous message to all district medical heads that proximity to major urban hubs or remote setups will not shield them from close performance audits. The aggressive legal and administrative actions are being initiated under specific provisions of the civil service rules designed to handle major professional misconduct and severe dereliction of duty. Because these rules are reserved for significant institutional failures, the accused medical officers find themselves facing severe career-altering consequences if the charges are proven true. Depending on the depth of the proven negligence, potential penalties include the complete forfeiture of salary increments, the withholding of future professional promotions, or even the immediate implementation of forced early retirement. In the most severe scenarios permitted under the governing civil service framework, the department can proceed with the permanent dismissal of the guilty individuals from public service entirely. Such a drastic measure would effectively strip the senior officials of their state pensions, medical benefits,

and professional standing, acting as a massive deterrent to others in the healthcare system. The severity of these potential punishments underscores the state's view that administrative laxity at the highest levels of healthcare directly jeopardizes public welfare. Meanwhile, the local chapter of the medical association has adopted a cautious, highly observant approach to the unfolding situation, choosing to refrain from immediate public protests or defensive statements. A representative from the association stated that they are currently dedicated to examining the granular, specific details of each individual case before officially sharing their organizational stance. While the association is built to protect the professional rights of its members, representatives acknowledged that maintaining public trust in the healthcare apparatus requires a careful balancing of worker rights with institutional accountability. The broader context of this administrative crackdown reveals a concerted effort by the state's top health leadership to overhaul the operational efficiency of government hospitals and rural clinics. Senior health officials note that a breakdown in administrative supervision quickly trickles down to patient care, leading to issues like absent personnel, non-functional medical equipment, and poorly managed emergency services.

New Delhi to Chandigarh Travel Time Set to Drop to Just Two Hours

Gurugram : Commuters will soon say goodbye to long hours spent stuck in crawling traffic on the old Grand Trunk Road, as the new Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway nears its final completion. This multi-crore high-speed highway network is specially designed to give travelers a fast and smooth alternative to the heavily congested traditional routes.

By linking together advanced projects like the Dwarka Expressway, the Urban Extension Road, and the KMP Expressway, the government is delivering a continuous, traffic-light-free route allowing legal speeds of up to 120 kmph.

For years, driving from Gurugram to Chandigarh meant navigating unpredictable bottlenecks and heavy cargo trucks near Panipat and Ambala, turning a straightforward trip into an exhausting five-to-six-hour journey. The new expressway will completely bypass these problem areas, shortening the total driving time down to approximately two hours. Beyond benefiting travelers heading to Chandigarh, the massive infrastructure project will eventually cut travel time to Amritsar



past for commuters traveling the holy pilgrimage trip to Katra to about six hours. Despite construction being slowed down by regional flooding earlier, work has regained speed and major sections are on track to open for traffic.

The grueling experience of spending long hours stuck in crawling traffic along the old Grand Trunk Road will soon become a thing of the

past for commuters traveling the holy pilgrimage trip to Katra to about six hours. Despite construction being slowed down by regional flooding earlier, work has regained speed and major sections are on track to open for traffic.

to the heavily congested traditional routes that have slowed down motorists for decades.

To achieve this level of efficiency, the mega infrastructure project relies on an intricate web of connectivity that links together several advanced, modern roadway initiatives. By systematically integrating the Dwarka Expressway, the Urban Extension Road, and the Kund-

li-Manesar-Palwal Expressway, the government is creating a continuous, uninterrupted transit corridor. This masterfully planned network completely eliminates intersection bottlenecks and traffic lights, allowing vehicles to maintain a legal and consistent top speed of up to 120 kmph across vast distances.

For many years, undertaking a road trip from Guru-

gram or New Delhi to Chandigarh meant navigating highly unpredictable bottlenecks, dense local traffic, and a heavy influx of slow-moving cargo trucks. Major congestion nodes near industrial hubs like Panipat and transit cities like Ambala frequently turned a straightforward drive into an exhausting five-to-six-hour ordeal.

These persistent delays not only drained the energy of travelers but also resulted in massive fuel wastage and severe logistical inefficiencies for commercial transport.

The newly constructed expressway addresses these historic pain points by completely bypassing these notorious, crowded urban problem areas altogether. By charting a fresh, greenfield alignment away from heavily populated city centers, the highway ensures that long-distance commuters are never forced to compete with slow-moving local traffic. This deliberate separation of transit routes is the primary factor that will drastically shorten the total driving time between the national capital region and Chandigarh down to approximately two hours.

Second Food Delivery Rider Dies Following a Serious Road Accident in Hisar

Hisar : A tragic hit-and-run accident that took place near the Dabra Chowk flyover has claimed its second victim, a Zomato food delivery worker named Surender, who passed away at a local hospital after fighting for his life for a week. Another delivery worker, Sachin, had died instantly at the scene when a speeding black SUV crashed into both of their motorcycles on the night of May 15.

The police have already caught the female driver responsible for the crash, stating that she was driving recklessly without a license and has been jailed under severe charges. The family of the deceased delivery worker, who leaves behind a wife and two young children, shared that they struggled to arrange nearly 4 lakh rupees for his medical emergency. Surender used to work exhausting 12-hour shifts daily as the sole breadwinner for his home.

His family mentioned that they have not received any financial help from the delivery company yet, and apart from a small donation from a local social group, no financial assistance has come from the local administration either. A tragic hit-and-run accident that took place near the Dabra Chowk flyover in Hisar has claimed its second victim. Surender, a young

Zomato food delivery worker who had been fighting for his life in a local private hospital for a week, succumbed to his severe injuries. The devastating collision had already resulted in the immediate death of another delivery worker, Sachin, on the night of May 15, making this a double tragedy for the local gig economy workforce. The catastrophic incident occurred around 1:30 AM when a speeding black SUV rammed into two different motorcycles, both driven by food delivery professionals fulfilling late-night orders.

According to the local police post, the female driver of the luxury vehicle was traveling at a dangerous speed, dragging one of the motorcycles for nearly 100 meters before striking Surender and fleeing the scene without offering assistance. The driver has since been apprehended and jailed under severe charges, including causing death by negligence, after investigations revealed she was operating the vehicle without a valid driving license. Surender's passing leaves behind a grieving wife and two young children who are now facing a bleak and uncertain future. As the sole breadwinner for his household, he regularly worked exhausting 12-hour shifts to support his family.

High Court Rules Vehicle Owners Do Not Need to Pay Extra for Older Registration Transfers

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has announced that vehicle owners who possess older registration numbers do not need to pay any extra fees when upgrading to the official "HR" prefix series, even if they hold a special or preferred number. The court canceled a previous state government order from 2019 that forced citizens to pay fresh charges if they wanted to keep their preferred numbers in the updated series.

The state government had argued that since the old registration series was completely canceled, citizens were required to apply for new numbers and pay for any special selections. However, the high court clarified that only the central government has the ultimate legal power

to create rules regarding the validity and renewal of vehicle registration marks. The judge concluded that while the local government has the right to replace old series numbers, it cannot demand extra money from vehicle owners for this transition.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has delivered a major relief to vehicle owners by ruling that no extra fees can be charged for transferring older registration numbers to the current series. The court officially struck down a 2019 notification issued by the Haryana government, which had forced citizens to pay fresh, hefty fees to retain their preferred or special registration numbers under the updated "HR" prefix system. This decision brings a standardized

approach to vehicle registration management, directly curbing unauthorized financial demands on the public.

The legal dispute arose after the state government argued that because the oldest registration series had been entirely canceled to streamline administrative records, vehicle owners were obligated to re-apply and pay current rates for any special or preferred number selections. The state maintained that the transition to the new system essentially invalidated the old markers, treating the transition as a completely new registration request. This stance faced immediate resistance from vehicle owners who had already paid for their preferred numbers under previous legal frameworks.

However, the High Court clarified the division of legislative powers, pointing out that only the Central Government holds the ultimate legal authority to formulate rules regarding the validity, structure, and renewal of vehicle registration marks under the Motor Vehicles Act. The presiding judge concluded that while the local state government possesses the administrative right to replace outdated series for uniformity, it does not have the legal backing to demand extra money from citizens for this mandatory transition. The ruling ensures that vehicle owners, who have already complied with registration laws cannot be repeatedly penalized financially for systemic updates.

Gurugram Claims Top Position in School Education Quality Rankings Once Again

Chandigarh : Gurugram has successfully retained its top rank in school education quality across Haryana by scoring 375 out of 600 total points, achieving a commendable rating in the latest performance grading report released by the Union Ministry of Education. Panchkula followed closely behind in second place with 373 points, while Karnal and Jind secured the next spots. The annual assessment checks more than 70 different indicators across multiple sections, including student learning results, classroom methods, school safety, basic infrastructure, digital tools, and administrative smoothness. On a broader scale, Haryana managed to hold onto its balanced performance category, putting it



on the same level as states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand. The top-performing districts like Gurugram have excelled by successfully introducing automated attendance tracking, smart classrooms, and modern computer facilities. On the other hand, southern districts like Nuh scored the lowest due to poor basic testing results in math and lan-

guages, a high number of students assigned to each teacher, and low student retention rates in high schools. Despite the challenges, other southern districts like Faridabad, Rewari, and Palwal showed significant improvement compared to the previous academic year.

The educational landscape of Haryana has witnessed a major performance

evaluation with the release of the latest district-level performance grading report by the Union Ministry of Education. In this highly anticipated annual assessment, Gurugram has successfully retained its top position across the state, showcasing its robust school education infrastructure and progressive academic management. By scoring 375 out of a total of 600 points, the corporate and technological hub has achieved a commendable rating, validating its ongoing efforts to modernize public and private schooling systems alike. Following closely in the competitive ranking, Panchkula secured the second position by accumulating an impressive 373 points, missing the top spot by a razor-thin margin.

Major Transformer Fire Sparks Long Power Outage and Halts Metro in Gurugram

Gurugram : Large parts of Gurugram were plunged into darkness for hours after a main electrical transformer at a major power station caught fire, disrupting local rapid metro services and causing great frustration to thousands of commuters. The sudden breakdown left numerous residential areas completely without electricity late into the evening. With night temperatures hovering around a stifling 45 degrees, residents were left sweating in the dark and took to internet platforms to criticize the outdated infrastructure of the electricity department. The power failure struck during a busy part of the day, causing train delays and leaving office-goers stranded near commercial hubs like Cyber City. The rapid metro acts as a vital transport link for daily workers, connecting them directly to the main Delhi Metro line at the Sikanderpur station. Special engineering teams were rushed to the spot to repair the damage, restore the power grid, and get the trains

moving safely again. Authorities are currently investigating whether the fire was sparked by an electrical short circuit, an internal technical failure, or extreme overloading caused by the intense summer heat. A major fire broke out at a critical power substation in Gurugram, causing a massive disruption that plunged large parts of the city into darkness and brought local rapid metro services to a sudden halt. The electrical failure occurred during peak commuting hours, leaving thousands of office-goers and daily commuters stranded across the city's commercial hubs. The incident caused widespread frustration as the loss of electricity rapidly trickled down from transit networks to dense residential neighborhoods late into the evening. The breakdown became particularly grueling for local residents as night temperatures hovered around a stifling 45 degrees Celsius, creating immensely uncomfortable conditions inside homes without power. As fans

and air conditioning units cut out, citizens flooded social media and online forums to express their anger over the blackout, sharply criticizing the electricity department's infrastructure for failing to handle seasonal demands. The combination of intense heat and a lack of basic power supply left large pockets of the city sweating in the dark for several hours. In addition to domestic discomfort, the power failure dealt a severe blow to the city's public transportation network, specifically targeting the Rapid Metro system. Trains ground to a halt and stations were plunged into partial darkness just as thousands of workers were trying to head home from business districts like Cyber City. Because the Rapid Metro serves as a vital transit artery that feeds directly into the main Delhi Metro network at the Sikanderpur interchange station, the disruption created a massive backlog of commuters who had no alternative way to continue their journeys.

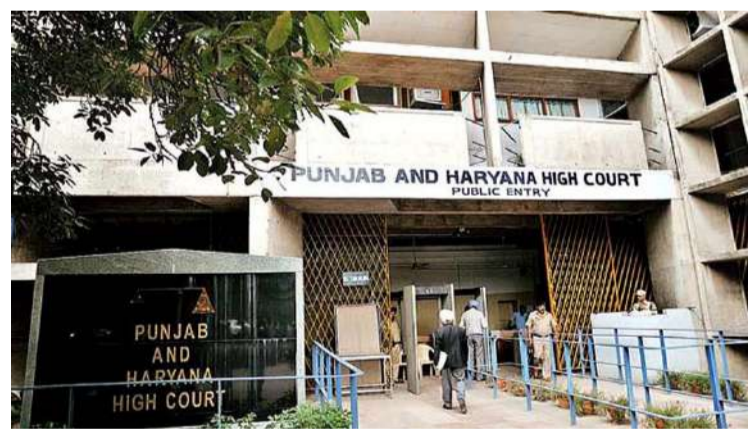
High Court Directs Police Investigation into a Ten-Year-Old Airline Job Scam

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered the immediate registration of a criminal case regarding a decade-old corporate fraud involving fake job offers made under the name of Vistara Airlines. The high court set aside a lower court's old decision from 2015 that had slowed down the legal process by treating the company's request as a private complaint rather than a standard police investigation. The high court clarified that serious crimes cannot simply be handled as private complaints when a deep police inquiry is necessary.

The airline originally discovered that an IT manager had misused his access to company systems to create fake email addresses and send forged job appointment letters to hopeful candidates.

The employee allegedly copied the signatures of senior executives and managed to trick one victim into paying nearly 19 lakh rupees for a fake job.

The high court noted that gathering complex digital evidence, tracking computer data logs, checking internet addresses, and investigating



bank accounts are tasks that require specialized police powers, which is why a proper criminal case must be filed.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has issued a definitive directive ordering the immediate registration of a formal criminal case regarding a decade-old corporate fraud involving fake job offers distributed under the brand name of Vistara Airlines. This major judicial intervention effectively revives a long-delayed legal battle against employment fraud,

signaling that the passage of time will not shield white-collar criminals from rigorous law enforcement scrutiny. By clearing away old procedural bottlenecks, the high court has paved the way for a thorough investigation into a highly sophisticated deception that targeted vulnerable job seekers.

The high court's decision explicitly set aside a lower court's ruling dating back to 2015, which had significantly slowed down the legal process by treating the airline company's grievance as a mere private com-

plaint rather than a standard police investigation.

The upper judiciary clarified that serious, multi-layered corporate crimes cannot simply be handled as private disputes when the situation clearly demands the expansive investigative machinery of the state police. This procedural correction ensures that the full weight of public law enforcement can now be brought to bear on the fraudulent scheme.

The roots of the airline scam date back ten years, when Vistara Airlines originally discovered that an internal IT manager had systematically misused his specialized access to company systems.

The employee allegedly leveraged his technical privileges to create fake email addresses that closely mimicked official corporate accounts, which he then used to send forged job appointment letters to hopeful candidates.

By exploiting the prestigious reputation of the aviation brand, the insider managed to deceive applicants who believed they were entering a legitimate corporate hiring pipeline.

Government Issues Warnings to Farmers for Early Paddy Farming in Yamunanagar

Yamunanagar : The local agriculture department has started taking action against farmers who are violating water conservation laws by planting paddy crops too early in the season. During a recent field inspection at Naharpur village, agriculture officers discovered five farmers who had already planted paddy across 13 acres of land well ahead of the permitted schedule. The department has served official notices to these farmers, giving them a five-day dead-

line to remove the early crops themselves.

According to local environmental laws, preparing paddy fields before May 15 and moving the crops to main fields before June 15 is strictly banned in the state to protect rapidly declining underground water levels. Senior agricultural officers warned that strict penalties will be applied if the farmers do not comply with the warnings. They also requested the farming community to cooperate with the mid-June

timeline to support water preservation efforts across the region.

The agricultural landscape of Yamunanagar is currently witnessing a significant enforcement drive by the local administration to ensure strict compliance with ecological regulations. In an effort to curb the unsustainable depletion of vital natural resources, the local agriculture department has officially initiated strict disciplinary actions against farmers who are actively vi-

olating water conservation laws. The crackdowns specifically target individuals who have chosen to plant their paddy crops far too early in the seasonal cycle, disregarding the ecologically backed timelines established by the state government to protect the region's fragile water table. This regulatory push was catalyzed during a recent, highly systematic field inspection conducted by senior agriculture officers in the rural belt of Naharpur village. During

their rounds through the agricultural tracts, the inspection teams actively discovered five distinct farmers who had already completed the full transplantation process of paddy across a collective total of thirteen acres of land. This premature cultivation was carried out well ahead of the legally permitted schedule, representing a direct challenge to the state's ongoing environmental preservation mandates and forcing immediate administrative intervention.

In response to this clear violation of the agricultural code, the department acted swiftly by drafting and serving official legal notices directly to the five defaulting landowners. These formal warnings explicitly provide the farmers with a strict five-day deadline to personally uproot and remove the illegally planted early crops from their respective holdings. By giving the violators a brief window to rectify the situation themselves, the administration is offering a

chance for voluntary compliance before deploying heavy state machinery to clear the fields by force.

The legal framework governing this intervention is rooted deeply in local environmental laws that have been specifically tailored to address the acute groundwater crisis plaguing the region. According to these statutory guidelines, preparing paddy nurseries before May 15 and moving the young crops into the main fields before June 15 is strictly banned across

the entire state. These dates were not chosen arbitrarily but are based on decades of hydrological data indicating that premature planting drastically accelerates the evaporation and waste of underground water reserves.

Senior agricultural officers monitoring the Yamunanagar region have issued an unambiguous warning stating that severe legal and financial penalties will be applied if the farmers choose to ignore the five-day deadline.



Pat Cummins Appreciates Team Bowlers After a Major Victory Against Bengaluru

Mumbai: Sunrisers Hyderabad achieved a dominant 55-run victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their final league match of the cricket season, leaving team captain Pat Cummins highly pleased with the performance. During the media interaction after the game, the captain praised his batsmen for setting a massive target and complimented his bowlers for executing their plans perfectly on a very good batting pitch. Even though Bengaluru tried their best to chase down the big score, Hyderabad used clever bowling changes to secure the massive win.



The domestic cricketing landscape witnessed an absolute masterclass of high-octane entertainment as Sunrisers Hyderabad locked horns with Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. The highly anticipated encounter, which served as the final league match of the season for both franchise heavyweights, lived up to its immense pre-game billing by delivering a spectacle filled with batting fireworks and clinical execution. Emerging from a sequence of intensely contested matches, the Hyderabad squad stepped onto their home turf with a clear mandate to assert dominance and build vital momentum ahead of the high-stakes knockout stages. The electric atmosphere in the stands perfectly mirrored the urgency on the pitch, setting the stage for a classic encounter.

From the moment the coin landed in favor of Sunrisers Hyderabad, captain Pat Cummins made a decisive statement of intent by electing to bat first on a sur-

face that resembled a pristine highway. The decision paid immediate dividends as the Hyderabad opening combination launched a relentless, calculated assault on the Bengaluru bowling attack right from the Powerplay overs. Displaying a breathtaking array of modern cricketing shots, the top-order batsmen systematically dismantled the opposition's field placements, sending the ball sailing into the stands with remarkable consistency. The calculated aggression at the top of the order

laid an incredibly solid foundation, allowing the middle-order enforcers to maintain a relentless scoring rate throughout the initial phase. The primary architect of this monumental batting display was explosive opener Ishan Kishan, who put on a spectacular exhibition of clean hitting to completely paralyze the Bengaluru bowling strategy. Walking off the field with a phenomenal 79 runs off just 46 deliveries, the dynamic left-hander showcased exactly why he is considered one of the most destructive forces in modern short-format cricket. His innings was beautifully punctuated by eight crisp boundaries and three towering sixes, forcing the opposition captain to continuously alter his field layouts in a desperate bid to stem the flow of runs. Kishan's ability to seamlessly anchor the innings while simultaneously accelerating the scoring rate provided his teammates with the ultimate cushion to play with absolute freedom.

Complementing Kishan's brilliance was the young sensation Abhishek Sharma, who provided an absolute lightning-fast start at the opposite end by blasting a fiery 56 runs off a mere 22 balls.

Exciting Mixed Martial Arts Matches Thrill the Audience in Mumbai

Mumbai: The ISF Amateur MMA Fight Night brought great excitement to a lively crowd of spectators during an event held in Borivali. The sports evening served as an important platform for upcoming local fighters to show off their physical strength, competitive spirit, and technical martial arts skills inside the cage. The opening fights set a very high energy for the rest of the night as the athletes competed fiercely.

In the initial matches, Neeraj Vishwakarma displayed a very disciplined and controlled performance to win his bout against Sushrut R. Salunkhe, which was quickly followed by Jashraj Gohil earning a victory over Atharve Tiwade using clever movements. Another highly competitive fight saw Akash Kharde defeat Nafees Shaikh by taking advantage of key moments in the ring. The exciting night came to a close with a fantastic final match where Sumit V. Kolekar defeated Harsh Singh, ending the sports event on a high note amid massive cheers from the crowd.

The Indian mixed martial arts landscape continues to witness a steady rise in popularity, providing an essential platform for grassroots talent to develop their skills. The recent ISF Ama-

teur MMA Fight Night, hosted in the bustling suburb of Borivali, Mumbai, served as a prime example of this growth, drawing a dedicated audience of martial arts enthusiasts.

The evening was designed to showcase the technical proficiency, physical conditioning, and competitive spirit of up-and-coming local athletes who are aiming to make their mark in the sport. Events of this nature are becoming increasingly crucial for establishing a structured pathway for amateur martial artists in the region. The fight card kicked off with an energetic atmosphere, as the opening bouts set a highly competitive tone for the rest of the night. In the early matchups, the fighters demonstrated a strong understanding of fundamental disciplines, combining striking techniques with grappling and cage control.

The audience was treated to a display of tactical awareness as each athlete attempted to impose their preferred style of combat. These initial contests highlighted the rigorous training regimens that local academies are implementing to prepare their students for organized competition.

Among the standout performances of the preliminary

card, Neeraj Vishwakarma secured a well-earned victory over his opponent, Sushrut R. Salunkhe. Vishwakarma's approach was characterized by a highly disciplined defensive guard and measured counter-striking, which allowed him to control the distance and tempo of the bout. By refusing to rush into dangerous exchanges, he systematically accumulated points across the rounds, neutralizing Salunkhe's offensive bursts. The judges ultimately rewarded his tactical composure and precision, marking a successful outing for the young martial artist.

The momentum continued into the subsequent matchups, where Jashraj Gohil faced off against Atharve Tiwade in a contest that tested both fighters' agility and footwork. Gohil managed to distinguish himself by utilizing clever lateral movements and quick feints to create openings in his opponent's defense.

This fluid movement pattern made it difficult for Tiwade to establish a consistent rhythm or land clean combinations. Gohil's ability to slip strikes and immediately respond with accurate counters allowed him to walk away with a clear victory, earning praise for his ring generalship.

Major National Chess Tournament Begins with Top Players in Mumbai

Mumbai: The exciting fourth season of the All India Chess Masters has officially started at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture located on Pedder Road. This special classical chess tournament is recognized by the international chess federation and is scheduled to run for several days until May 28. Organized by the Mumbai Chess Centre, the competition follows a strict eight-round setup where players get 90 minutes each, along with an extra 30 seconds added for every single move they make.

The competitive event features some of the highest-rated chess players in the country, with Shreyansh Somaiya leading as the top-seeded player, followed closely by other talented competitors like Aditya Shardul Kadam, Reyaansh Venkat, Gaurang Bhandari, and Yash Kapadi. This championship has successfully brought together a great mix of highly experienced players and enthusiastic young talents from different states, proving that the popularity of competitive chess is growing rapidly across India.

The domestic chess landscape in India continues to witness a spectacular era of growth, a phenomenon vividly illustrated by the launch of a highly prestigious intellectual battle in the financial capital. The exciting fourth season of the All India Chess Masters has officially commenced its itinerary, turning the focus of the national chess community directly toward South Mumbai. Hosted at the iconic Russian Centre for Science and Culture situated on the bustling Pedder Road, the venue has transformed into an arena of intense mental warfare. The tournament stands as a crucial fixture in the domestic circuit, drawing a massive amount of attention from grandmasters, enthusiasts, and media representatives who track the strategic evolution of the sport.

This special classical chess tournament is fully recognized and rated by the International Chess Federation, providing the participating athletes with a valuable opportunity to improve their official global standing and accumulate crucial rating points. The multi-day championship is scheduled

to run for several consecutive days of intense competition, with the grand finale and prize distribution set to take place on May 28. Because every single match directly impacts international rankings, the atmosphere inside the playing hall remains incredibly solemn and focused. The event stands as a testament to the structured development of classical chess, which requires a profound level of patience and endurance compared to shorter formats. The flawless execution of this major national event is handled by the Mumbai Chess Centre, an organization that has earned a stellar reputation for fostering competitive excellence and managing high-stakes tournaments. In alignment with international standards, the organizers have structured the competition around a strict and demanding eight-round setup, utilizing the Swiss-system format to ensure fair and competitive pairings across the days. This rigorous layout ensures that every player must maintain their absolute peak mental concentration over a prolonged period, as a single tactical miscalculation in

any round can completely derail their chances of securing the championship trophy.

To ensure the matches reflect the highest standards of deep strategic planning, the tournament utilizes a classic, demanding time control matrix for every game. Each player is allocated a base time of 90 minutes to complete all their moves, providing ample opportunity for deep calculation, positional maneuvering, and complex endgame planning. Furthermore, the modern digital chess clocks are programmed with an extra 30-second increment added automatically for every single move made from the very start of the game. This incremental setup prevents players from losing purely due to time panic during intense endgame scrambles, ensuring that pure merit and tactical superiority decide the ultimate outcome.

The competitive lineup for this fourth edition features some of the highest-rated and most formidable chess minds in the country, raising the overall standard of the competition to elite levels.

Indian Women's Cricket Team Heads to England for the World Cup Tournament

Mumbai: The Indian women's cricket team was recently seen at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport as they boarded their flight to the United Kingdom. The team is traveling to play a series against England, which will serve as their final preparation before the major ICC Women's T20 World Cup starts on June 12. The grand tournament is being organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The official squad for this important tour was selected earlier in the month during a special meeting at the cricket headquarters, which included team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and head coach Amol Muzumdar. Before the main tournament begins, the Indian team will play three T20 matches against England from late May to early June, followed by official warm-up games starting on June 6. India faces a challenging road ahead in the tournament, as they have been placed in a tough competitive group alongside strong teams like Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands.



The excitement surrounding women's cricket has reached an all-time high as the highly anticipated summer season officially kicks into gear on European soil. In a major logistical and competitive milestone, the Indian women's cricket team was recently spotted navigating the terminal gates at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. Dressed in their official travel blazers and carrying the immense hopes of a cricket-crazy nation, the elite athletes boarded their long-haul flight destined for the United Kingdom. This high-profile departure marks

the initiation of a grueling, multi-month campaign that will test the physical and mental limits of the country's finest cricketing talents as they seek global glory.

The immediate purpose of this extensive overseas journey is to participate in a highly competitive bilateral white-ball series against a formidable England side on their home turf.

This upcoming bilateral contest is widely considered to be an absolute necessity, serving as the definitive final preparation matrix for the Indian squad before the pressures of the big stage take over. By playing in local

conditions ahead of time, the team management hopes to acclimate the players to the unique weather variables, outfield speeds, and pitches characteristic of the British Isles. Facing a top-tier opponent like England in their backyard provides the ultimate trial by fire for both seasoned veterans and newly integrated domestic prodigies.

All of this intense physical preparation is strategically pointed toward a singular monumental goal, which is the fast-approaching ICC Women's T20 World Cup, scheduled to officially commence on June 12.

Indian Railways Wins the Intense National Kabaddi Championship Title

Vadodara: The grand finale of the 72nd Senior National Kabaddi Championship concluded with high energy and dramatic matches as the best teams in the country competed for the top prize. In the first intense semi-final match, the team from Maharashtra showed great control and a solid defense to comfortably defeat Uttar Pradesh with a final score of 49 to 36. Maharashtra kept a steady lead throughout the entire game to earn their well-deserved spot in the final round. The second semi-final match between Indian Railways and Chandigarh became the most dramatic game of the tournament, ending in a perfect tie during regular time. The winner had to be decided through special extra raids, where Indian Railways managed to stay calm under immense pressure and narrowly won the tie-breaker. In the final match, Indian Railways put on a magnificent display of teamwork and powerful moves to defeat Maharashtra by 49 to 31, officially making them the new national champions of the tournament.



thrilling chapter as the grand finale of the prestigious 72nd Senior National Men's Kabaddi Championship officially concluded. The highly anticipated tournament, which brought together the absolute finest athletic talent from across the country, wrapped up its itinerary amidst an atmosphere of electric energy and high-stakes drama. Held at the

state-of-the-art Sama Indoor Complex located in the vibrant city of Vadodra, Gujarat, the multi-day sports event served as a true battleground where established veterans and hungry young prospects collided for the ultimate domestic crown. Every single fixture leading up to the final day added to the mounting excitement, keeping sports enthusiasts thoroughly glued

to the action. The final phase of the championship featured a spectacular lineup of top-tier teams, each having navigated a grueling series of group stages and highly competitive knockout matches to earn their place. Among the standout squads, the powerhouse teams representing Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, and the formidable institutional side of the

Indian Railways managed to outlast their competitors to book their slots in the semi-final stage. The sheer concentration of star power on the mats ensured that the concluding matches would be nothing short of legendary, with multiple Pro Kabaddi League icons stepping up to represent their respective states and organizations. Fans packed the indoor stadium to maximum capacity, eagerly anticipating a masterclass in tactical raiding and robust defensive maneuvers. The competitive action on the final day kicked off with the first intense semi-final match, which pitted a heavily favored Maharashtra squad against a highly resilient and dangerous team from Uttar Pradesh. From the very moment the opening whistle blew, the athletes from Maharashtra demonstrated an exceptional level of mat control, dictating the overall pace and tempo of the game with absolute authority. Their raiding department fired on all cylinders, consistently breaking through the opposition's lines, while their defensive unit formed an impenetrable wall that left very little room for Uttar Pradesh's attackers to exploit.

This year, the event is doing something even more wonderful by inviting over 200 children with special needs, including 100 visually impaired students from the National Association for the Blind who will be accompanied by hearing buddies. Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar spoke about the upcoming match, saying that playing in front of a stadium completely filled with cheering children is a deeply emotional experience that brings an incredible and unique energy to the players.

Huge logistical planning has been put in place to make

Wankhede Stadium to Welcome 20,000 Children for a Special Cricket Match

Mumbai: The famous Wankhede Stadium is getting ready to host a very special event this Sunday during the cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals. Through the Education and Sports for All initiative, which is run by the Reliance Foundation and led by Nita Ambani, more than 20,000 underprivileged children will get to watch the game live from the stands. These young fans are coming from various simple backgrounds, tribal areas, and small villages across Maharashtra and Gujarat, creating a beautiful message of hope and bringing people together through sports.

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Huge logistical planning has been put in place to make

sure all the children travel safely and enjoy a memorable day celebrating education and sports. The domestic cricketing calendar is gearing up for an emotionally charged and socially impactful spectacle at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

The historic venue is preparing to open its gates for a highly distinct initiative during the upcoming marquee clash between the Mumbai Indians and the Rajasthan Royals. Under the structural framework of the Education and Sports for All initiative, a massive crowd of more than 20,000 underprivileged children will fill the stands to watch the elite athletes compete live on the field.

This massive gathering is designed to use the profound popularity of franchise cricket to create a memorable, inspiring experience for youths who rarely get to witness such grand spectacles in person.

The sweeping community outreach program operates under the dedicated stewardship of the Reliance Foundation, an organization long championed by its visionary leader, Nita Ambani. For several consecutive seasons, the foundation has leveraged high-profile sports fixtures to advocate for holistic child development, equal educational

access, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle among marginalized communities. By dedicating an entire stadium layout to young students, the initiative seeks to transcend the traditional commercial boundaries of modern sport, converting a standard league match into a profound vehicle for social inclusion.

The leadership group views this annual stadium takeover as a core component of their long-term philanthropic roadmap. The demographic profile of the young spectators traveling to South Mumbai reflects an incredibly diverse and extensive logistical network spanning multiple regions.

The invited children originate from simple socioeconomic backgrounds, remote tribal hamlets, and far-flung rural villages situated across the expansive territories of Maharashtra and Gujarat. For the vast majority of these rural students, traveling to a bustling metropolis like Mumbai and entering a world-class sporting facility represents an absolute first-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Bringing these geographically separated communities together under a unified sporting banner sends a powerful, beautiful message of national unity, collective hope, and shared joy.



Piyush Goyal to lead business delegation to Canada to boost trade, CEPA talks

New Delhi : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead a senior Indian business delegation to Canada to strengthen bilateral trade, investment flows, and strategic cooperation across key sectors, while giving renewed momentum to ongoing Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations.

The engagements are scheduled in Ottawa on May 25 and a two-day programme in Toronto from May 26-27, a Commerce Ministry statement said here on Saturday.

The visit carries forward the mandate given by PM Modi and his Canadian counterpart during PM Mark Carney's visit to India in March 2026, and seeks to impart renewed momentum to bilateral engagement



across trade, investment, energy, technology, and people-to-people ties.

A central focus of the discussions is the India-Canada CEPA. The Terms of Reference for the agree-

ment were signed during the March 2026 leadership meetings, followed by two negotiation rounds, first held virtually in March and the second concluded on May 8, 2026. During this visit, a

further round of negotiations will be conducted in Ottawa from May 25 to 29, the statement said.

Both sides are working towards an early conclusion of a balanced and mutually

beneficial CEPA by end of 2026, with a shared ambition to expand bilateral trade to CAD 70 billion (approximately INR 4.65 lakh crore) by 2030. Bilateral trade stands at USD 8.5 billion in FY25, with significant potential for expansion across sectors.

The delegation will engage with Canadian counterparts on multiple sectors, including technology, artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, aerospace and defence and food-processing and agritech.

In these areas, India and Canada possess highly complementary strengths and opportunities for joint investment, research and development (R&D), and supply chain partnerships are important.

Oben Electric plans 25 Telangana showrooms by FY27 as Hyderabad tops Rorr Evo bookings

Hyderabad : Oben Electric, on Friday announced plans to expand its footprint across Telangana with 25 showrooms by the end of FY27, driven by strong demand for its newly launched Rorr Evo electric motorcycle. The Bengaluru-based company said Hyderabad has emerged as the highest booking market in the country for the Rorr Evo since its launch on April 30, 2026, and is expected to contribute nearly 10 percent of the model's nationwide sales. As part of the expansion drive, Oben Electric showcased the Rorr Evo in Hyderabad on Friday.

The company currently operates five showrooms in Telangana located at Kondapur, Warangal, Secunderabad, Karimnagar and RC Puram. The company said the Rorr Evo has received over 25,000 bookings within 15 days of launch, making it one of the fastest-selling electric motorcycles in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Harshvardhan Deshmukh, Vice President (Sales and Network Development), Oben Electric, said the motorcycle is being offered at an introductory price of ₹99,999 (ex-showroom) for the first 10,000 customers, after which it will be priced at ₹1,24,999. The model is available in four colours. Deliveries are scheduled to commence from June 2026, while the online booking portal remains open for customers to

avail the introductory pricing, he said.

The motorcycle is powered by a proprietary IPMSM motor delivering 9 kW peak power and 250 Nm of wheel torque. It features a 3.4 kWh LFP battery with an IDC-certified range of 180 km, acceleration from 0 to 40 kmph in three seconds and a top speed of 110 kmph. Additional features include fast charging from 0 to 80 per cent in 90 minutes, an eight-year battery warranty, a 5-inch TFT display, OTA software updates, navigation geo-fencing, remote immobilisation and emergency SOS support. Deshmukh said the company has raised close to ₹300 crore so far and plans to raise another funding round under Series B during Q2 FY27. He said Oben Electric operates a vertically integrated 3.5-acre manufacturing facility in Bengaluru with an annual production capacity of one lakh units, where it manufactures motors, batteries and electronic management systems in-house. The company claimed its products have achieved 99 per cent localisation and highlighted its use of LFP battery technology aimed at improving safety, durability and operational efficiency in electric two-wheelers.

Deshmukh said motorcycles account for nearly 68 per cent of India's two-wheeler market, underlining the country's strong long-term demand for performance-oriented motorcycles.

JSW Paints unveils its protection-led campaign with JSW Halo

Mumbai : JSW Paints today unveiled its new campaign for JSW Halo, its luxury paint portfolio powered by Advanced Defense™ technology. The launch signals the brand's evolving vision for modern homes — from paints that not only beautify homes but also actively protect them, enabling consumers to live more freely and confidently.

Today's homes are more dynamic than ever — spac-

es that constantly adapt to work, family, celebrations and self-expression. Consumers today seek solutions that not only elevate aesthetics but also protect their homes from germs, stains, dirt and everyday wear.

Built on this insight, JSW Paints introduces its new protection-led platform, "Suraksha ke Sang Jiyo Apne Rang," reimagining paint as an invisible enabler that empowers people

to live freely within their homes.

At the heart of the platform is JSW Halo with Advanced Defense™ technology, combining luxury aesthetics with protection against 40 different types of germs to help create healthier, more beautiful living spaces. By seamlessly blending beautification with protection, JSW Halo redefines the role of paint for the modern Indian home.

The campaign film captures this philosophy through intimate, playful and beautifully imperfect moments of everyday life.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rohit Talwar, CMO, JSW Decorative Paints, said: "People want to live freely in their homes without constantly worrying about maintaining them. JSW Halo with Advanced Defense™ transforms paint from being a passive back-

drop into an active enabler of everyday living. This campaign reframes protection as a source of confidence - empowering more expressive, carefree and uninhibited living."

Russell Barrett Chief Creative Experience Officer - TBWA Lintas said "Most paint brands talk about walls. We chose to talk about the people between them. That's the disruption. When you feel truly safe,

you let your guard down. While life gets messy, playful and gloriously imperfect, JSW Paints keeps its guard up. Protecting homes from germs, fading, scuffs and everyday chaos."

With this launch, JSW Paints is redefining what paint means in consumers' lives, moving beyond aesthetics to create solutions that beautify, protect and enable people to live life to the fullest. Through JSW

Halo and its wider protection-led portfolio, the brand is shaping a more progressive and future-ready narrative for the category. Timed with the Indian Premier League season, the integrated campaign will be amplified across With this launch, JSW Paints is redefining what paint means in consumers' lives, moving beyond aesthetics to create solutions that beautify, protect and enable people to

live life to the fullest. Through JSW Halo and its wider protection-led portfolio, the brand is shaping a more progressive and future-ready narrative for the category. Timed with the Indian Premier League season, the integrated campaign will be amplified across television, digital and social platforms to drive strong consumer visibility and engagement.

'We have many shared interests': Rubio highlights growing India-US convergence

Washington : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday underlined the strengthening ties between India and the United States, saying the two countries are closely connected through common democratic values and strategic interests.

In an interview with CNN-News18, Rubio said cooperation between New Delhi and Washington has continued to expand, especially under the Q u a d

framework. He noted that India is playing an increasingly important role on the global stage and will host the upcoming Quad foreign ministers' meeting in Delhi. Rubio, who arrived in India for a four-day visit, said the Quad remains a crucial platform for regional cooperation. He pointed out that the first major meeting he chaired as Secretary of State was also a Quad meeting, reflecting the importance

Washington places on the grouping. According to him, India and the

US are working together on several regional and strategic matters due to their many shared priorities. Addressing an event at the US Embassy Support Annex in New Delhi, Rubio also praised the strong equation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

He said the relationship between the two leaders began during Trump's first term and has continued to grow stronger during his second tenure. Rubio described both leaders as focused on long-term goals and said their personal understanding has helped strengthen bilateral relations. He added that while many developments may not always attract public attention, cooperation between the two countries has steadily expanded in meaningful and lasting ways over the past year.

Highlighting economic ties, Rubio said Indian companies have invested over \$20 billion in the United States, further deepening commercial engagement between the two nations. His remarks come as India and the US continue to enhance cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, investment and security.

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Ammann India Launches CPB36 Concrete Boom Pump Under Ammann Elba Brand

Mumbai : Construction equipment manufacturer Ammann India has launched the CPB36 truck mounted concrete boom pump under its Ammann Elba brand, marking the company's entry into the concrete boom pump segment in India.

Manufactured at the company's Gujarat facility, the CPB36 has been developed for Indian construction conditions and is aimed at infrastructure, industrial, commercial and residential projects. The equipment offers a vertical reach of 35.8 metres, horizontal reach of 32 metres and a maximum theoretical output of 100 cubic metres per hour.

Ammann India Managing Director Dheeraj Panda said the launch reflects the company's focus on bringing advanced concrete equipment solutions tailored for Indian jobsite requirements, helping con-



* Launch marks Ammann India's entry into the concrete boom pump segment, expands its concrete equipment portfolio
* CPB36 Truck Mounted Concrete Boom Pump with proven Elba European engineering

tractors improve productivity and reduce operational costs.

The CPB36 features a four-arm roll fold boom, intelligent PowerSense con-

rol system for fuel efficiency, IP68-rated wireless remote controls, X-frame outrigger system for compact urban sites and IoT-enabled telematics with re-

mote diagnostics support. The company said the pump is now commercially available through its nationwide network of 23 sales and service offices.

Declining FII ownership relates to India's evolving weight in MSCI emerging markets index of past years: N ArunaGiri

New Delhi : N ArunaGiri, CEO of TrustLine Holdings, said that to understand the sharp decline in Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) ownership, one has to look at the broader context and how India's weight has evolved in MSCI emerging markets in previous years.

ArunaGiri said that FII ownership in Indian-listed equities has fallen to a 14-year low of around 14.7 percent, compared with the 18 percent level seen a few years ago. But simultaneously, India's

weight in the MSCI emerging market index has declined from over 20 percent about two years ago to 12 percent (plus) currently.

The 'MSCI emerging market index' is the premier financial benchmark that measures the equity market performance of large- and mid-cap companies across 24 developing nations.

"Seen in the backdrop, the fall in FII ownership in blue-chip stock appears to be less about a shift from large blue-chip stocks to the broader market within India and more a

consequence of larger global allocation trade by foreign investors. This is a very important distinction to understand," said ArunaGiri.

He pointed toward the reallocation of FII capital away from India towards markets such as Taiwan and Korea, where compelling AI-led investment narratives emerged (especially semiconductor chip-based).

The changing weights within the MSCI EM index reflect this trend quite clearly, with Taiwan and Korea witnessing a meaning-

ful increase in index weights, even as India's share has steadily declined in the MSCI EM Index.

"With valuations turning increasingly attractive, there are early signs of foreign investors selectively returning to Indian markets, going by positive flows in the last three trading sessions despite worsening geopolitical tensions, currency and oil price pressure points."

India's valuation premium over other emerging markets, which at one point had widened to

nearly 100 percent, has now moderated to around 66percent.

Simultaneously, the rupee trading near all-time lows could also make Indian assets attractive from a currency appreciation perspective over the medium term.

"The recent inflows should therefore not be interpreted as a full-fledged comeback by FIIs, but more as the beginning of a tactical re-entry trade, driven by improving relative valuations and signs that the worst of the selling pressure may already be behind," he added.

Chennai, Kamarajar Ports achieves historic milestone in combined record cargo throughput

Chennai : The Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) achieved an unprecedented milestone for the 2025-26 financial year, registering a combined record cargo throughput of 107 million metric tonnes (MMT).

Addressing a press conference here last evening, Chennai Port Authority Chairman S. Viswanathan and KPL Chairperson and Managing Director Irene Cynthia said the Chennai Port individually managed 57.90 MMT, achieving massive growth across its

'4C' categories, including an all-time high container traffic of 1.9 MMT and 204,165 automobile units.

Parallely, KPL handled 49.08 MMT, led robustly by 25.72 MMT of coal and an 18.86% surge in automobile handling to 191,825 units.

They said this phenomenal growth was heavily supported by operational excellence, with KPL completing Capital Dredging Phase VI

at Rs. 440 crore to become 'Cape Compliant'



with an 18-meter draft. Vessel turnaround times also saw stark structural upgrades under the 'One Nation One Port' process, slashing logistics delays and documentation complexities across the EXIM trade ecosystem.

Sting that financially the combined operating incomes soared past Rs. 2,400 crores, they said the Chennai Port secured a historical

operating income of Rs. 1,185.01 crore along with its best operating ratio in two decades (55.14%), while KPL generated an outstanding Profit After Tax of Rs. 596.03 crore and an operating ratio of 25.48%.

Demonstrating high commitment to future-readiness, the entities deployed a combined capital expenditure of Rs. 992 crores. Alongside modernization, both ports championed sustainability and social responsibility.

Key eco-initiatives in-

cluded multi-megawatt shore-to-ship power infrastructure, STQC GIGW 3.0 website-quality certification for Chennai Port and massive CSR allocations totaling over Rs. 19 crores toward advanced healthcare, education and drinking water facilities.

Looking forward, the ports are scaling infrastructure via mega-projects like the Rs. 1,424-crore Multi-Modal Logistics Park at Mappedu and new DBFOT terminals to drive long-term maritime resilience.

Balaji Amines Commissions India's First Commercial DME Production Plant

Solapur : Balaji Amines Limited has commissioned India's first commercial-scale Dimethyl Ether (DME) production plant at its Unit-IV facility in Chincholi MIDC, Solapur. Commercial production began on May 20, making the company the only manufacturer of DME at a commercial scale in the country.

DME is regarded as a clean alternative fuel that can be blended with LPG. Several European countries already use LPG blended with up to 20 percent DME. The new plant has an annual production capacity of 1,00,000 metric tonnes, with the project's core technology sourced from an overseas company.

Managing Director D. Ram Reddy said the project is an important step toward India's energy self-reliance. He noted that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently introduced a new IS code allowing blending of up to 8 percent DME with LPG and urged public sector oil marketing companies to support implementation

of DME blending programmes.

Reddy said growing uncertainty in the global energy sector has increased the need for alternative fuels and added that wider DME adoption could help reduce India's LPG imports and save foreign exchange. He also said the company initially plans to supply DME to the aerosol industry and other commercial sectors where it can be used as a heating fuel.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Whole-Time Director N. Rajeswar Reddy, Senior General Manager Govind Menchekare and GM Vinay Durgam.

Balaji Amines also said it is expanding its presence in the EV battery chemicals sector. The company currently produces Dimethyl Carbonate (DMC), used in EV battery electrolytes, with an annual capacity of 15,000 metric tonnes, and has also developed EV battery-grade N-Methyl Pyrrolidone (NMP) solvents for India's upcoming gigascale EV battery projects.